
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Emergency Services Committee

August 25, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs: Jim Kuzdal, David Buer

Next Meeting: September 22, 2009, 10:00-11:30 am Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 22 nd Street
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Report to TPCCH General Meeting September 10th
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| ■ Summary of Summer Sun and status of winter shelter programs. |
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TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Minutes of the July meeting were accepted by consensus.
- 2. Summer Sun.** Bro. David Buer reported statistics from the St. Francis cooling centers. They have operated for 56 days, serving a total of 3,032 guests with an average daily attendance of 54 (45 men and 9 women). The larger Inner City Harvesters location averaged 61 guests daily, while the Holy Family site averaged 47 guests. Caridad-de Porres provided pro bono 2,845 sack lunches. Neither site had any incidents requiring a call to police. The St. Francis cooling centers end for the year on Friday.
Wendy Heiden reported that from March 1st to August 15th, when they ended their summer sun effort, RAPP had 30 guests daily, also without police calls. Don Blascak noted that he has delivered more than 200 cases of water to the sites. Wendy thanked CPSA for giving RAPP approximately 160 cases of water.
- 3. Winter Shelter Review.**
 - **AAA Van Services.** Don reported. Drafts of both the contract and transportation procedures for AAA to provide transportation for the TPCCH winter shelter program have been completed and await review and signing. AAA has also agreed to accept occasional calls from 911 to deliver Operation Deep Freeze (ODF) guests to Temple Corps. It is unclear whether they will require reimbursement. The plan is to also do an insurance agreement to cover this transportation by September 1st. All arrangements should be complete before the winter shelter programs begin.
 - **Taxi Transport Proposal.** Lt. Jim Rizzi accepted copies of the drafts to use in setting up procedures with the Tucson Police Department and the 911 dispatcher to allow for dispatching the taxis to transport ODF guests. Don noted that if AAA wishes to be reimbursed for the taxi services, it may be possible for the Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless to provide reimbursement because the demand for that type of transportation has been historically low. Jim emphasized that the police will run a check to determine if the caller has outstanding felony warrants. They will also give callers all usual options in case of an emergency.
 - **Continuous Winter Shelter Proposal.** Brother David reported that pastors of two Assembly of God churches have indicated willingness to host a continuous winter shelter for a period of time, possibly two months. Inner City Harvester (which plans to change its name to Central City Assembly of God) would allow use of both its sanctuary and adjacent office building, accommodating 50-55 cots. Flowing Wells Assembly of God is approximately twice as large. Formal meetings with the churches representatives should be set up.
Participants discussed issues including: intake; volunteer staffing; meals; funding; equipment transportation and storage; memoranda of understanding or contracts with the churches for insurance purposes; and insurance. Don noted that the winter shelter programs budget has a 6% decrease this year; and includes no funds to Summer Sun efforts. Also, the budgeted amount for Salvation Army assistance is \$82,000, which will cover only 30 days of the program, leaving two-thirds of the program un-funded if the Salvation Army is to manage all intakes and feed guests.

Continuous Winter Shelter Proposal cont'd.

Brother David said that the primary costs would be contributions to the churches to cover their utilities and insurance, and that the churches may undertake the feeding. He noted that Most Holy Trinity Church has taken over the soup patrol and expressed a desire to help with shelter feeding. Inner City has requested \$700 for utilities. He is providing \$250 to Holy Family for feeding from funds he raised for Summer Sun. He added that a start on continuous shelter appears achievable with the length of time negotiable.

Jill Rich asked if an overflow shelter would still be needed. Brother David said that with both shelters open, there should be a total of 125 beds. Kathleen Joy noted that last season's average attendance on ODF nights was 85 with a high of 105. The highest recorded ODF attendance was 160. Logistical challenge is equipment, can't transport all the cots.

- **Next step. Brother David** will set up an initial meeting among the pastors and himself, Don, Jill, Kathleen, and Kim Ward.
 - **Update on Projects.** Don reported. Bed nights pledged to date are: 140 for One Step Beyond (OSB); and 2,039 for Project Hospitality. Total pledged bed nights are 2,039. A number of congregations that usually participate have not yet reported. There are approximately 80 cots at the Salvation Army for distribution to churches who do not have cots. There are another 40-60 cots at congregations that participate annually. ODF has approximately 200 mats. Fifty sturdier cots are on order and awaiting shipment. Money is set aside for them. These will replace cots that fail each year.
4. **Blankets.** Kathleen reported 15,000 blankets were delivered a month ago and approximately 2,500 were left over from the previous year. Jill noted that this means this is fewer blankets than were used last year.
 5. **Old Business/Committee Description.** Participants reviewed the existing TPCH Operating Policies, and decided upon "The Emergency Services Committee evaluates, plans for, organizes and implements seasonal shelter efforts plus disaster preparedness and response programs, including Operation Deep Freeze, Project Hospitality, One Step Beyond, Summer Sun and others. Short descriptions of each program will be added for the website.
 - **Next Step.** Settle Madden will add the individual program descriptions to the committee's description and forward to the co-chairs for approval.
 6. **New Business/Blankets/Mats.** Mark Jensen reported that his program has approximately 500 military blankets and 150 cold weather military ground mats which he is willing to donate to local homeless programs.
 - **Next step.** Jim Kuzdal will arrange for storage at SVDP until distributed.
 7. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 22nd, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26th Street.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Name	Organization	Email
Don Blascak	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	dbalscak@comcast.net
David Buer, OFM	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Anna Garcia	Arizona Housing & Prevention	hotteller03@yahoo.com
Wendy Heiden	La Frontera	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Mark Jensen	SAVAHCS	mark.jensen2@va.gov
Kathleen Joy	Salvation Army	kathleen.joy@usw.salvationarmy.org
Jim Kuzdal	St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Jim Rizzi	Tucson Police Department	jim.rizzi@tucsonaz.gov
Kim Marie Ward	Salvation Army	kim.ward@usw.salvationarmy.org
Joe Zelinka	Comin' Home	jdzelinka@cominhome.org