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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Emergency Services Committee

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### December 15, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs: Jim Kuzdal, David Buer

<b>Next Meeting:</b> January 20, 2010, 10:00-11:30 am Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26 <sup>th</sup> Street
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<b>Report to TPCCH General Meeting January 14<sup>th</sup></b>
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■ n/a
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Jill Rich moved, then Don Blascak and Joe Zelinka seconded that the minutes of the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**

2. **Blankets.** Don reported that the FEMA blankets are being distributed rapidly locally and throughout Southern Arizona. He estimated that that 9,500-10,000 remain at the St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) warehouse with a possible 5-10% error rate out of 17,250 when the season began. Don suggested, and later moved the following: that blanket distribution be changed the first and third Fridays of each month, from 12:00-3:00 p.m., beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>. He offered to oversee distribution at those times. Joe Zelinka seconded. **Motion passed.**

Don He suggested a limit of eight boxes per agency per visit to stretch out the supply. He noted that the current supply is less than what was distributed last year, and asked whether the committee should make an emergency requisition for 5,000 additional blankets. There is enough space to accommodate them, and there will be four-to-five weeks until delivery. Participants discussed the issue, and reached consensus to order 5,000 more blankets immediately and increase next year's order to 20,000 blankets. Don so moved. Sylvia Cuestas seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Next step.** a.) The blanket distribution schedule change will be published to the TPCCH list serve.  
b.) Kathleen Joy will order 5,000 additional FEMA blankets immediately.

3. **Continuous Winter Shelter.** Brother David announced that Flowing Wells Assembly of God (FWAG) will start a 60-day continuous winter shelter for men tomorrow. The FWAG pastor and onsite caretakers (present but not signed-in) expressed their enthusiasm. Feeding will be at Holy Family Catholic Church Monday through Friday. On Saturday, a soup supper will be served at Estevan Park. On Sunday, FWAG will provide supper, and guests may remain until the shelter is set-up. Bus passes for guests and other expenses will be paid for by donations through the Franciscans. Volunteers will drive from Holy Family to FWAG to set up cots. Overnight supervision will be provided by volunteers, including Brother David and La Frontera Sonora House staff members, who will volunteer three nights weekly. Lori Block noted that she spoke with George Petit in the City Ward 3 Office. He reported that there have still been no questions or protests from the concerned neighborhood association.

Don noted that he is unsure that the effort has completely satisfied City requests, and expressed concern that the effort lacks: neighborhood approval (versus lack of opposition); specific ward or city approval; TPCCH General Council endorsement; ongoing funding; paid staff; volunteer training; procedural documents; and in-house shelter rules. He moved that the 60-day continuous emergency shelter not be included in the TPCCH winter shelter program this year. Joe Zelinka seconded. Discussion included that this will allow for experience, building upon lessons learned, TPCCH approval and additional funding sources to be sought before next year's season. Jim Kuzdal noted that the committee does not have authority to accept the effort on behalf of TPCCH. General Council action is needed. This motion will demonstrate the committee's responsibility to TPCCH and TPCCH's responsibility to its funding sources. Lori noted that the Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless Board of Directors voted to provide liability insurance for the effort, and that this will remain in place regardless of whether the motion passes or fails. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Winter Shelter Programs.**

- **Congregation Visits Schedule.** Don noted that each of the 26 congregation participating in Project Hospitality (PH) or One Step Beyond (OSB) should receive at least one visit each season, and passed out the sign-up sheet for those visits. Call Cindy McCullough at 622-5411 to be certain that the congregation you have signed to visit is in fact participating on the night that you chose. Kathleen said she visited Temple Emanuel last night, the food was excellent, and everything was in very good order.
- **OSB Guest Scheduling.** Clarissa Garcia noted that she has been impressed with the hospitality of the churches participating in OSB, and the guest veterans really appreciate the kindness and treatment with dignity. She noted that it is difficult for some of the guests who have to work in the evenings to check into the Salvation Army on time, and asked if some type of accommodate could be made. Kathleen noted that if the scheduler knows that she is indexing people who work late on PH, they try to either keep them in house or put them to a close-in congregation. Therefore, some people who would normally go to congregations have to stay at the Salvation Army to be sure of transportation.
  - **Next step:** Clarissa will contact the transporting agency about transportation schedules and/or consider transferring some OSB clients to Project Hospitality.

**5. Old Business.**

- **Homeless Memorial.** Diana Figueroa noted that the Annual Homeless Memorial is this Friday at 4:00 p.m. in the far northwest corner of Evergreen Cemetery.
- **Street Count.** Sylvia Cuestas reported that more volunteers are needed. The annual street count will be held Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:00 p.m. There will be volunteer trainings December 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, and January 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:30a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Caridad-de Porres.

**6. New Business.** Lori noted that there remains \$1,350 designated for winter shelter in the TPCH General Fund. It was originally intended to buy blanket storage, which has been donated by SVDP. She moved that the \$1,350 be given to the Salvation Army to fund family motel vouchers. Kathleen noted that the Salvation Army spent almost \$12,000 between March and August to shelter 129 adults and 119 children in hotels/motels plus another \$10,000 in emergency ASC money within a 10-week period. All funds for that purpose are exhausted. Sylvia seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**7. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>
Lori Block	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Don Blascak	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	dblascak@comcast.net
David Buer, OFM	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia Cuestas	Christian Faith Center / Jackson Employment	scuestas@pima.gov
Diana Figueroa	Primavera Foundation	dfigueroa@primavera.org
Clarissa Garcia	SAVAHCS	clarissa.garcia@va.gov
Wendy Heiden	La Frontera	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Kathleen Joy	Salvation Army	kathleen.joy@usw.salvationarmy.org
Jim Kuzdal	St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Jill Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Joe Zelinka	Comin’ Home	jdzelinka@cominhome.org