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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Emergency Services Committee

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### June 19, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs: Don Blascak, Jill Rich

<b>Next Meeting:</b> Monday, July 13, 2009, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Realty Executives, 1745 E. River Rd., Suite 245
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<b>Report to TPCH General Meeting July 9<sup>th</sup></b>
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■ n/a
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Jim Kuzdal moved and Brother David Buer seconded that the May minutes be accepted as presented. **Motion passed.**
2. **Summer Sun Program.** Jill Rich noted that she has two cases of sunscreen. One will be allotted for Saturday's Stand Down. Don Blascak reported that he has more than 100 hats to split between Stand Down and Summer Sun; two cases of water to distribute today; and 10 cases promised for Tucson Homeless Connect. He has been delivering water to city parks three times weekly. Kathleen Joy noted that the Salvation Army will begin water, bandage kits, snacks, and flip-flops distribution on June 29<sup>th</sup>. They will share all donated items with the Summer Sun program. Brother David Buer reported that the Franciscans' Summer Sun shelters will open tomorrow, provide coverage 12-4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and operate through the end of August. Jackson Employment Center (JEC) clients will assist as volunteers. Joe Zelinka noted that Comin' Home also delivers water to parks.
3. **Winter Shelter Review.**
  - **AAA Van Services.** Kathleen reported that she will make an appointment today for the week of June 29<sup>th</sup> to finalize details. It appears that AAA is eager to begin, and to also provide round-trip transportation from Tucson Homeless Connect to the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division.
    - Lt. Jim Rizzi suggested that perhaps persons who call 911 for Operation Deep Freeze (ODF) transportation be routed through cabs instead of transported by Tucson Police Department (TPD). The 911 dispatcher would issue the cab driver a voucher (to include a tip based on the zone from which the person is transported) to be given to and tracked by Salvation Army personnel. Statistics on the number of ODF clients transported by TPC were not available, but Kathleen noted that the number is low. It is unknown whether AAA would provide such a service, or where funds for it may be found. Participants noted that people may be more willing to seek shelter if not transported in police cars. Consensus was that the idea is sound, but the budget needs to be estimated and funds located. TPD would check whether a caller has outstanding warrants, but arrest only for serious crimes, not minor misdemeanors.
      - **Next step. a.)** Lt. Rizzi will start the discussion within TPD of using this process.
      - **b.)** Committee will attempt to estimate a budget and find funds.
  - **Year-round Shelter Proposal.** Brother David Buer reported. The key issue for a continuous winter shelter is finding an easily accessed, central site to hold up to 120 persons. The old JEC cannot be cost-effectively brought up to building codes, and County plans to raze the building and sell the lot. A building for sale near the southeast corner of Drachman and Oracle was suggested.
    - **Next steps. a.)** Kathleen will check the building's address, and then relay it to Don and Jill.
    - **b.)** Jill will check on the suggested building.

**Winter Shelter Review cont'd.**

- **Winter Shelter Programs.** Don reported that ordering 50 cots from Sports Warehouse at \$50 each (versus the \$75 list price) to upgrade and replace older cots. This will result in the program having between 120 and 130 sturdy aluminum cots. To date, congregations have subscribed 1,156 bed nights for Project Hospitality (PH) and One Step Beyond (OSB). A total of 4,000 bed nights are needed. Kathleen noted that she reviewed statistics yesterday. OSB provided approximately 1,300 bed nights, and PH approximately 2,000 bed nights last year. Thirteen agencies provided case management. Don noted that case managers visit the OSB congregation sites, and have a record of success in getting participants into stable lives and housing. Kathleen noted that medical care is provided through volunteers at the Salvation Army. Carondelet is considering donating staff to those clinics. Dr. Lee Pierson, who does Salvation Army’s Children’s Camp exams, wishes to participate in the next season’s Winter Shelter clinic. Kathleen added that she has hired several former seasonal ODF workers as permanent staff, and will have them trained on HMIS to build an experienced staff base for the coming season.
  - **Next steps.** Members will forward contact details for medical volunteers to Lori Block at [lori.block@ichtucson.org](mailto:lori.block@ichtucson.org).
  
- 4. **Blankets.** Kathleen reported that blankets are ordered and receipt of the order confirmed. Delivery was requested no earlier than the end of July to the St. Vincent de Paul warehouse. Distribution by request continues year-round. Joe noted that many homeless people use the blankets for ground pads during summer.
  
- 5. **Old Business.**
  - **Stand Down.** Sylvia Cuestas and Joe Zelinka distributed flyers for tomorrow’s Stand Down for homeless veterans at the Allen Army Reserve Center.
  - **Tucson Homeless Connect Updates.** Don reported. The next event is Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and University Boulevard. The next committee meeting is on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. Provider response is good to date, although not as high as for the February event.
  - **Family Homelessness.** Kathleen reported seeing a sharp increase in homeless families. Salvation Army provided 159 family bed nights through motel vouchers last month, and sheltered more in-house. They served 403 families last year. She has increased her funding request to FEMA by \$20,000 because of this. She works with Primavera Foundation to place families. Jill added that she can provide Warm Up America blankets for families moving into their own places.
  
- 6. **Next meeting.** Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Realty Executives, 1745 E. River Road, Suite 245. Consensus was to move the meeting to the Jackson Employment Center in August.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

Name	Organization	Email
Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
David Buer, OFM	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia Cuestas	Christian Faith Center	scuestas@pima.gov
Diana Figueroa	Primavera Foundation	dfigueroa@primavera.org
Anna Garcia	Arizona Housing & Prevention	hotteller03@yahoo.com
J. McFarland	Community	
Lt. Jim Rizzi	Tucson Police Department	jim.rizzi@tucsonaz.gov
Kathleen Joy	Salvation Army	kathleen.joy@usw.salvationarmy.org
Jim Kuzdal	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Jill Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Rosalinda Salazar	University Family Care	rsalazar@ufc.org
Joe Zelinka	Comin’ Home	jdzelinka@cominhome.org