
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Emergency Services Committee

May 21, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs: Don Blascak, Jill Rich

Next Meeting: Friday, June 19, 2009, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Realty Executives, 1745 E. River Rd., Suite 245

Report to TPCCH General Meeting June 11th

■ n/a

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Punctuality.** Co-chair Jill Rich requested that members be on time for each meeting.
- 2. Minutes.** Don Blascak moved and Kathleen Joy seconded that the April minutes be approved as presented.
Motion passed.
- 3. Summer Sun Program.** Jill reported that press releases were sent yesterday. Don noted that he has received only 15 cases of water to date. He distributed five cases each to Pavorello House, Sonora House, and RAPP. He noted that AVIVA donated 35 baseball caps that are available to distribute. Jill noted that she has sunscreen to distribute. Kathleen and Mark Jensen accepted the cases for the Hospitality House and Veterans Stand Down respectively.
- 4. Winter Shelter Program.**
 - **AAA Van Services Update.** Don distributed a draft dispatch procedure for potential use by the AAA dispatchers and requested committee and Salvation Army review to ensure that the procedures would be appropriate to the actual use of vans for winter shelter programs. When the procedures are final, they will be presented to AAA by committee representatives. Kathleen noted that AAA representatives reviewed the list of drop-offs and pick-ups from winter 2008-09, and said there would be no problem with the multiple locations. Gasoline reimbursement would need to be negotiated by ICH as fiscal agent.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Members will provide Don with feedback on the draft agreement. .
 - **Year-round Shelter Update.** Brother David reported that he and Lori requested a meeting, as advised, with Hank Atha and were referred by Atha's office to meet with Art Eckstrom, who has not yet replied to the request. Lori noted that they will continue to look for other potential locations. Brother David said that he will be out of town through June 18th, but then would like to proceed aggressively to find a location. Participants discussed potential locations, and how they might be obtained. Jim Kuzdal noted that the Society of St. Vincent DePaul (SVDP) will be razing a building on 6th Avenue, and would entertain a partnership with another or other non-profits to develop a shelter. Kathleen and Joe Zelinka noted that they are seeing a change in the local homeless population with an increase in homeless families, and need for family shelter. Mark Jensen noted that they are also seeing a need for programs for people who do not have substance abuse issues, or who occasionally drink but are excluded from some shelters by "no tolerance" policies and need a "harm reduction" model of shelter.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Lori and Brother David will seek the recommended appointments and report.
 - **b.)** Kathleen will check whether the Salvation Army's South Corps building may be available.
 - **Congregations.** Don reported that one new congregation has agreed to participate, and he expects 31 congregations to be involved during winter 2009-2010.

5. Blankets. Don reported that he continues seeking storage for blankets, and is working with Victory Assembly of God on the issue. Empty space for possible blanket storage needs to be assessed at SVDP and the Salvation Army. He also is working on movement of the mini-mobile from Temple Corps. The move requires emptying the unit, having the rental company move it, and then re-filling the unit with blankets. Kathleen reported that she has obtained the City of Tucson letter of intent regarding FEMA blanket, and prepared the letter for the Department of Defense, but needs the appropriate fax number to which to send the request. Joe suggested talking with Tucson International Airport (TIA) regarding using empty hangar space for blanket storage.

- **Next step. a.)** Jill will forward the fax number for ordering FEMA blankets to Kathleen.
- **b.)** Joe will follow-up with his contacts at TIA

6. Old Business.

- **Tucson Homeless Connect (THC) Update.** Don reported. The third event, and second of this year, is set for Friday, July 17th. The committee is interested in trying to present three events annually.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Kathleen will approach AAA Van Services regarding providing some of the THC transportation.
 - **b.)** Mark will check whether some comfort kits may be available from the Veterans Administration. He will check on and relay the appropriate point of contact for direct approach by the committee.
- **FEMA.** Lori noted that approximately \$14,000 of FEMA money, restricted to mass shelter purposes (including food, cots, and supplies) only remains to be spent by September 30th. Jill said that all remaining sunscreen is obligated as of today, and more is needed. Lori suggested spending \$3,000 for sunscreen; \$3,000 to replace old cots; and \$8,000 for emergency shelter program food from Caridad-de Porres. Don so moved. Mark seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Lori noted that in the past grants were written only for winter shelter programs. She asked the committee for permission to change application the wording to reflect “year-round seasonal shelter” in order to write in dollars for summer sun supplies. Participants agreed. Lori noted that emergency shelter funding traditionally comes from FEMA, the City of Tucson, and Arizona’s Department of Economic Security, all of which expect to cut funding 10% for next year. Participants and their agencies must plan how to provide the same service for less money.

An application for the new FEMA dollars, due June 4th, might help. A total of \$249,000 is available city-wide. Consensus was that Lori should apply on behalf of the committee for up to \$10,000 to supplement the Summer Sun program; and that they urge agencies that supply family shelter apply for funds to for funds for that purpose.

7. New Business.

- **Walgreens Discount.** Kathleen noted that Walgreen’s has offered the Salvation Army a discount on water to donate to \$3.50 on a case of 24 as well as a number of convenience foods. She has about 50 cases of water on hand currently. She will let members know which stores are participating when she receives the list.
- **ARC Blood Drive.** Jill noted that through May 31st, she is coordinating an American Red Cross (ARC) blood donation drive daily, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at Temple Emmanuel, 225 N. Country Club Boulevard. Each donor will receive a free pair of flip flops and good food after their donation. Donors should make an appointment by phoning Jill at (520) 349-0174.
 - **Next step.** TPCH Administrative Coordinator will add the blood drive to the TPCH weekly announcements.

8. Next meeting: Friday, June 19th, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Realty Executives, 1745 E. River Road, Suite 245.

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
Diana Figueroa	Primavera Foundation	dfigueroa@primavera.org
Anna Garcia	Arizona Housing & Prevention	hotteller03@yahoo.com
Mark Jensen	SAVAHCS	mark.jensen2@va.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
Joe Zelinka	Comin' Home	33c@comcast.net