
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Emergency Services Committee

November 30, 2009 Special Meeting Minutes

Convener/co-chairs: David Buer, ofm

Next Meeting: December 15, 2009, 10:00-11:30 am Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26 th Street

Report to TPCCH General Meeting December 10th

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| ■ Decision on continuous winter shelter to be made December 15 th |
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TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Minutes of the November 18 meeting were deferred.
 - **Next step.** Kim Ward will forward November 18 minutes notes to Settle Madden for formatting.
2. **Continuous, 60-day Winter Shelter Presentation.** Brother David presented the following.
 - **Transportation.** The Holy Family Catholic Church (intake/feeding site), La Frontera Sonora House (possible transportation providers), and Flowing Wells Assembly of God (FWAG, proposed shelter site) are within a walkable three miles of each other. Holy Family and FWAG are within two or three blocks of the #10 Sun Tran bus route. Scheduled bus arrivals and departures offer two opportunities each evening and morning for overnight guests to move from the 6:30 p.m. Holy Family meal to the 8:30 p.m. FWAG shelter opening, and leave FWAG after 6:00 a.m. La Frontera Center's Sonora House is still considering providing transportation. The cost to provide two-ride bus passes for 50 men daily for 60 days would be \$3,000. Brother David believes that, if necessary, he could use existing Franciscan charitable contributions to support this cost, although cost-sharing through contributions from other sources and/or a negotiated discount from Sun Tran would be preferable.
 - **Meals.** Holy Family currently provides five meals weekly meals (four hot and one bagged). Holy Trinity Catholic Church has expressed willingness to provide meals on the other nights. The current plan is for guests to ride the bus to Casa Maria for breakfast. Brother David will continue seeking breakfast alternatives.
 - **City/Neighborhood Relations.** Brother David stated that he interpreted an email from a City of Tucson Liaison after committee members met with City representatives as approval for the continuous winter shelter effort pending consent of the Holy Family and Flowing Wells Assembly's respective neighborhood associations (NAs). He received word from the Ward 5 office that there not yet been any negative response to their electronic mailing to the local NA about the effort.
 - **Staffing.** Brother David noted that he is personally committed to staff the continuous shelter. La Frontera Center Inc. has agreed to provide staff for two or three nights. Although the FWAG live-in caretaker was recently in a motor vehicle accident and in intensive care (although expected to recover without paralysis), a couple is set to assume live-in caretaking at FWAG and to support the continuous shelter. Volunteers can also be used.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Brother David will email Jill Rich the full name and hospital to which to address the committee's wishes for the FWAG caretaker's recovery.
 - **b.)** Jill will send a "get well" card from the committee.
 - **Bedding/Capacity.** Brother David noted that he currently has 25 cots. Don Blascak stated that 25 cots from the winter shelter programs could also be used, although no mats are available. The FWAG space appears to have the capacity to accommodate 50-75 individuals.
 - **Schedule.** The current plan is to start the 60-day shelter December 16th and operate through February 16th with meals at Holy Family at 6:30 p.m. and shelter at FWAG, 8:30 p.m.-6:00 a.m., with cleanup from 6:00 a.m.-7:00 a.m.

Continuous, 60-day Winter Shelter Presentation cont'd.

- **Back-up Plan.** The back-up plan to use the Central City Assembly of God (formerly Inner City Harvesters) Church, which can accommodate no more than 50.

3. Continuous, 60-day Winter Shelter Discussion. Participants discussed the information presented and noted the following.

- **Transportation.** Although a person can walk from feeding to shelter sites in about one hour, consensus was that guests should not have to walk. Walking guests could be at risk or pose a liability to those offering shelter. It may be possible for agencies to contribute bus passes to this effort. TPCH fiscal agent Lori Block negotiates with SunTran regarding bus transportation, and should be asked to contact SunTran regarding possible discounts. AAA Transportation, which is providing van transport for Project Hospitality and taxi rides for late-comers to Operation Deep Freeze (ODF), will not provide transport for this shelter. Anyone calling 911 for such transport will be directed only to the ODF shelter and only when ODF is in effect. Communications about the continuous shelter effort must take this into account.
 - **Next step.** Brother David will ask Lori Block to negotiate for a bus pass discount.
- **Meals.** Consensus was that meals for each evening should be arranged before sheltering begins.
- **City/Neighborhood Relations.** All participants had not seen the email that followed the city/committee meeting. Don Blascak noted that when he saw it, it seemed to him more a recap of the meeting and following actions than consent to the shelter effort.
 - **Next step.** Brother David will forward the email to committee members for review.
- **Staffing.** Consensus was that additional staffing and case manager visits must be arranged.
- **Bedding/Capacity.** Consensus was that, although the space could shelter more, nightly capacity should be limited to 50 to avoid safety and neighborhood issues. Any excess capacity will probably occur on inclement nights and should be accommodated through ODF. A small number of exceptions might be made as needed if only a few more extra individuals seek shelter on a non-ODF night.
- **Schedule.** Don noted that the time planned for guest release, 6:00 a.m., is often the coldest part of the night and expressed a desire that the shelter could close later.
- **Back-up Plan.** Don noted that he would greatly prefer to use Center City Assembly, despite its smaller capacity, so that intake, feeding, and shelter could occur together or in very close proximity, and the effort could benefit from that church's experience as a cooling center. Brother David noted that that church has not yet communicated that they are prepared to begin a continuous winter shelter effort.
- **Name/Communications.** Participants noted that it will be important to distinguish this continuous shelter effort (which is not dependent on weather conditions) from the other three winter shelter efforts that TPCH and this committee help organize. They asked how this effort's availability would be communicated. Brother David noted that the effort would be initially communicated by word of mouth through the Holy Family free meals. It was noted that the effort could be named for the host church with that congregation's consent.
 - **Next step.** Work will continue and a final decision be made at the December 15th meeting.

4. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 15th, 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	dblascak@comcast.net
David Buer, OFM	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia Cuestas	Christian Faith Center / Jackson Employment	scuestas@pima.gov
Jill Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Kim Marie Ward	Salvation Army	kim.ward@usw.salvationarmy.org
Joe Zelinka	Comin' Home	jdzelinka@cominhome.org