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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Executive Committee

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### September 24, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs: Dia Barney and Linda Kot

<b>Next Meeting:</b> October 29, 2009, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., Pantano Room Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop
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<b>Report to TPCCH General Meeting</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ ACEH Conference Update</li><li>■ TPCCH Annual Conference Report</li><li>■ HPRP Presentation</li><li>■ Veterans Stand Down Presentation</li></ul> |
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Steve Nelson and Beth Carey requested edits to the FMR section of the August 27<sup>th</sup> minutes. Steve moved to accept the August 27<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. Jodie Barnes seconded. **Motion passed.**
2. **Housing First and Vulnerability Index.** Leslie Carlson reported and distributed a handout about the organization Common Ground's Vulnerability Index. The index is an interview tool based on public health research. It includes a scoring method that assesses a homeless person's risk of early mortality, and is used by a number of communities that use the "housing first" model of homeless services to prioritize the admission into housing of the most vulnerable individuals. Common Ground has targeted 50 U.S. cities that reported 1,000 or more unsheltered people in their homeless counts in an effort to recruit them to use the tool and to offer technical assistance for its use. Phoenix and Tucson are among those cities.

She noted that Becky Kanis of Common Ground will be the morning keynote speaker at the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (AZCEH) October 26-27<sup>th</sup> conference in Phoenix. She said that AZCEH/Common Ground hope that her talk will promote participation in use of the Vulnerability Index. She reported that staff members of the housing authorities of seven Phoenix-area municipalities and the head of Arizona's veterans program have already agreed to attend. A private session with Becky Kanis is being set up with these individuals plus, hopefully, city council members and business leaders. It appears, she said, that the City Phoenix is favorable to using the index.

  - **Next step.** This topic will be added to the General Council agenda in the context of a short report on the ACEH Conference program.
3. **Volunteer of the Year Nomination.** Participants discussed whom TPCCH might nominate for the AZCEH "Volunteer of the Year" award, and reached consensus to nominate Jill Rich.
  - **Next step:** Linda will ask Don Blascak to write a nomination for Jill.
4. **Gallegos Basic Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Project.** Linda Kot reported that she has emailed the schools' co-chairs about the idea of collections for TPCCH activities. Sylvia Cuestas reported that the Emergency Services Committee discussed the inquiry, decided on specific collections ideas, and asked that Sylvia and Joe Zelinka of Comin' Home contact the teachers to do a presentation and set up a competition among classes.
  - **Next steps:** Sylvia and Joe will follow up with the Emergency Services Committee recommendations.

- 5. Invitations to Meeting with Executive Directors (EDs).** Linda reported. The meeting is set for October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m. in the City Services Complex. She distributed a list of potential invitees and asked for feedback and additions. TPCH and its future will be discussed. The need for programs to submit accurate data for the community's Housing Inventory Chart will be emphasized. Linda asked for input into the invitation list. Participants provided information that they had on hand.
- **Next step. a.)** Linda will double check the grantees/sponsor projects list to ensure completeness.
  - b.)** Committee members will email additional suggestions and contact information to Linda at [lkot@primavera.org](mailto:lkot@primavera.org).
- 6. Offer from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.** The Primavera Volunteer In-kind Coordinator Tim Rogers brought the church's offer to better utilize a separate building they own by, perhaps, doing a year-round shelter two nights weekly, including transportation. Participants discussed the offer; whether it might interfere with Project Hospitality; and whether other uses, such as making the building Summer Sun site or storage for the Salvation Army toy drive. Consensus was to suggest a meeting with the Emergency Services Committee
- **Next steps. a.)** Members will send any additional suggestions to Linda.
  - b.)** Linda will respond to the offer and suggest the meeting.
- 7. HPRP Update.** Gary Bachman and Jodie reported. HPRP contractors have been selected. Contracts are being signed and certificates of insurance naming the City of Tucson as co-insured specifically for this contract gathered. The deadline for responses is September 28<sup>th</sup>. Leslie Carlson and Joanne Basta will be the consultants and evaluation team. It is possible, but unlikely, that the announcement could be made tomorrow at the TPCH Annual Conference. Implementation is expected by the third week in October.
- 8. Committee Updates.** Dia Barney reported. Most committees had no specific items to bring before the General Council.
- **Discharge Planning.** This committee did not meet this month, and needs to review the community discharge plan.
  - **Education.** The committee would like to present on the results of the annual conference.
    - **Next step.** A 10-minute conference report will be added to the October General Council agenda.
  - **Homeless Youth.** This committee will report on plans for the November 14<sup>th</sup> youth event. .
  - **Membership.** Jodie reported that the committee has decided to ask committee chairs to report monthly which committee members are active and which are not.
 

Participants discussed recruiting area school districts' McKenney-Vento representatives to become active again with TPCH. They will become especially important as the HEARTH Act's new definition of homelessness is implemented. Consensus was that the Homeless Youth Committee should contact the representatives.
- 9. Old Business.**
- **ADOH Funding.** Linda reported that she has received notification from the Arizona Department of Housing that a \$35,000 funding contract is being prepared to support the TPCH Continuum of Care (CoC) Consultant for the coming fiscal year. Linda noted that this year's contractor has already used up the billable hours, but will follow through to comply with the deliverables of the contract. A similar situation occurred last year. Consensus was to re-structure next year's CoC consultant contract to avoid this.
    - **Next step.** Steve will work on contract changes.
  - **Churches as Shelter.** Jodie reported Don Blascak is in the process of obtaining appropriate information, and will probably meet soon with the head of city code enforcement.
  - **Street Count Updates.** Co-chairs are getting together with Laurie Mazerbo to discuss doing the 2010 Street in connection with Community Outreach Service Alliance (COSA), and hope to present a plan to the CoS Committee next month.
  - **CoC Registration Process.** TPCH is registered.

**Old Business cont'd.**

- **Pima County Housing Website and HPRP.** Gary Bachman asked that the website presentation be delayed until the HPRP is implemented. Leslie asked that 45 minutes of the October meeting be allocated for an HPRP presentation. Participants discussed whether this should be a separate presentation, and decided to ask for a 15-minute presentation. HMIS will have training for data entry. There will be a specialized training for case managers at a later date.
  - **Next step.** A 15-minute presentation on HPRP will be put on the October 8<sup>th</sup> agenda.
- **Operating Policies Work Group.** Steve reported that individual workgroup members have accepted responsibility for re-writing specific policies sections that need amendment, but are not yet prepared to presentation the updated policies to the General Council.
- **Hand Claps.** Handclaps were suggested for the HPRP recipients; and for the Education Committee for the annual conference.
- **Next Meeting Site.** Participants discussed where to meet in October, and agreed on the City Services Center.
  - **Next step.** Jodie will obtain a room reservation.
- **Basket Brigade.** Linda noted that a Mr. Chris James has contacted TPCCH regarding finding outreach workers to deliver items collected specifically for people on the street at holiday time. Participants discussed how to best work with him, whether he may wish to provide these items at overflow shelter; and whether there was value in encouraging him to work on a project at a time of year when items are not usually collected, such as Tucson Homeless Connect or Street Count.
  - **Next step.** Co-chairs will ask Lori Block to contact Mr. James about collaboration.
- **Proposition 200.** Linda reported that the Primavera Foundation board passed a resolution opposing the City of Tucson's Proposition 200. She requested that Primavera's advocacy coordinator be given 10 minutes to present on this issue. Consensus was to grant this.
  - **Next step.** A 10-minute presentation on Proposition 200 will be placed on the October General Council agenda.

**10. New Business.**

- **Stand Down.** Steve requested time on the General Council agenda to do a presentation on the October 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Veterans Stand Down. He noted that the presenting collaborators are working to transition from the Viet Nam-era Stand Down concept to an event more targeted to veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, where there are no secure areas. This veteran population, he said, returns with different needs, including an increased rate, 39.4%, of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) and a population that includes 14% females stationed in combat areas. He noted that they received a donation of six cell phone booths and unlimited minutes to anywhere for the whole weekend for the veterans' use.

**9. Next Meeting.** Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the City Services Center, room TBD.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

Gary Bachman	Pima County	<a href="mailto:gary.bachman@pima.gov">gary.bachman@pima.gov</a>
Jodie Barnes	City of Tucson	<a href="mailto:jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov">jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov</a>
Dia Barney	COPE	<a href="mailto:dbarney@copebhs.com">dbarney@copebhs.com</a>
Beth Carey	SAAF	<a href="mailto:bcarey@saaf.org">bcarey@saaf.org</a>
Leslie Carlson	Implementation Coordinator PTEH	<a href="mailto:lacarlson@cox.net">lacarlson@cox.net</a>
Sylvia Cuestas	Christian Faith Center	<a href="mailto:sylvia.cuestas@pima.gov">sylvia.cuestas@pima.gov</a>
Linda Kot	Primavera Foundation	<a href="mailto:lkot@primavera.org">lkot@primavera.org</a>
Steven Nelson	Jackson Employment Center	<a href="mailto:steve.nelson@pima.gov">steve.nelson@pima.gov</a>
Mary Twohill	SAVAHCS	<a href="mailto:martin.twohill@va.gov">martin.twohill@va.gov</a>