

---

# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Executive Committee

---

### February 26, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs/convener: Dia Barney

<b>Next Meeting:</b> March 26, 2009, 3:00 – 4:30 pm Location TBD
---

<b>Report to TPCCH General Meeting</b>
--

- |                  |
|------------------|
| ■ Budget report. |
|------------------|

### TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Don Blascak moved, and Beth Carey seconded that minutes of the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
- 2. Budget review.** Beth Carey presented the current budget status as of January 31, 2009 as prepared by the fiscal agent. A total of \$11,288, minus the allocation for the Street Count debriefing voted on in February, is available in the general treasury. The general treasury actually contains over \$17,000, but \$6,000 of that amount is allocated.
  - **Next steps: a.)** Beth will request a column indicating the percentage of amount spent versus expected year-to-date expenditures instead of one that indicates the percentage of the entire year budget.
  - **b.)** The fiscal agent will present the budget at the General Council meeting.
- 3. Advocacy (ACEH, PAFCO).** Beth presented. She researched the issue through a number of sources, including the Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network's "Nonprofits, Voting, & Elections" booklet. It is clear that non-profits, including 501c3 organizations, are allowed to advocate in areas that are central to their mission, program priorities and core values. Steve Nelson noted that advocacy on behalf of the homeless is part of TPCCH's stated mission. Consensus was reached that: co-chairs should be able to respond on behalf of TPCCH to advocacy requests with immediate reply deadlines; and that all advocacy must be accompanied by a statement that all city, county, and state representative members have abstained from the advocacy position in accordance with law.
  - **Next step:** Motion to allow TPCCH co-chairs to respond on behalf of TPCCH to advocacy requests with immediate reply deadlines with a reply that includes the statement that all city, county, and state representative members have abstained from the advocacy position will be included in the March General Council Agenda.
- 4. Letters of Support.** Participants discussed the issue of requests to TPCCH for letters of support for members' grant applications. Consensus was that the TPCCH Membership Committee can provide letters verifying voting or general membership, but should not provide letters of support for individual programs, particularly when more than one member agency may be competing for the same grant funds.
- 5. 2008 CoC Awards.** Beth reported. The 2008 Continuum of Care Awards were announced. All renewals were re-funded. All leasing projects received a 4% cost-of-living increase. Two of the three SHP renewals received decreased funding due to the decrease in the Pima County Fair Market Rental Rates. The City of Tucson's SHP project, however, had an increase in the number of units and, therefore, an increase in total funding. The total award was \$6,634,304, an increase of \$24,517 over last year's awards. The two new projects submitted, a Rapid Re-housing and a Samaritan Bonus Project, were not funded. TPCCH has had its Samaritan Bonus Project funded in every previous year in which it applied. The 2008 HUD application scores and scoring threshold criteria have not yet been released, therefore the reason that this year's

**2008 CoC Awards cont'd.**

Samaritan Bonus Project was not funded is unknown. That reason could be either that the TPCH continuum application did not meet the scoring threshold, or that the project itself did not meet HUD's criteria. The Rapid Re-housing Project was one of more than 200 applications, of which only 23 pilot projects were funded.

- **Next steps.** The CoS Committee will follow up with HUD on the application score and the reason that the Bonus Samaritan Project was not funded.

4. **Executive Directors Meeting.** Dia reported that she and Linda Kot today drafted a letter to Pima County's Margaret Kish requesting that she put together a meeting of area homeless services agency executive directors.
5. **Tucson Homeless Connect Recap.** Don Blascak reported, and briefly reviewed the number of persons served individually by the 30 service providers at the February 13<sup>th</sup> event. There were a total of 215 registrations; 208 exit interviews; and 204 bus passes distributed. Final statistics are still being compiled. The actual expenses were approximately \$1,700, of which \$750 were spent on food, and \$315 to provide identification for 45 persons. There were also many in-kind donations.

Media coverage was very good. Both daily newspapers, the Tucson Weekly and television Channels 4 and 9 covered the event.

Steve noted that Sylvia Cuestas called from the event and scheduled eight intakes at Jackson Employment Center for the next business day, of whom seven presented.

Don noted that the committee met this morning, and discussed how to fine-tune the event and better serve more persons (particularly the newly homeless), more often. They plan to seek title sponsors, and consider doing the event three times yearly. He noted that ICH is considering doing fund raising for the event. The committee is still debating how to tie the event to the street count and still avoid duplications. The committee is also considering how and whether to tie the event to the Annual Conference.

- **Next step:** a.) Don will do an after-action report on the event.  
b.) A slide show of the event will be presented as the March General Council assembles.

**6. Committee Reports.**

- **Emergency Services.** Don noted that FEMA blankets are being moved from Tucson Electric Power on Ina Road because that facility is being renovated to become a back-up emergency response center for brown-outs and black-outs. The Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, and Caridad de Porres are storing the blankets. Gospel Rescue Mission and St. Vincent de Paul have provided trucks and movers for the transfers. Project Hospitality (PH) and One Step Beyond (OSB) end on Saturday. One congregation pulled out of OSB for the final night, but – because of low attendance – all participants will be accommodated at the Salvation Army Hospitality House. Operation Deep Freeze continues through March, but it currently appears that there is little probability of it being called again this year.
- **Membership.** Jodie reported. The committee now has four members. They are unsure whether all notifications to those who appear about to lose voting membership have gone out. They hope to meet again soon.
  - **Next steps.** a.) Jodie will try to determine whether notifications were sent.  
b.) TPCH Administrative Coordinator will send friendly email reminders to those who need to attend the March General Council to maintain voting status.
- **CoS.** The committee has reviewed the CoC Awards and HUD's planned feedback sessions. Susanna Rodriguez will ask the local HUD office to host TPCH's participation in those sessions. The committee asks the Executive Committee to schedule a report by Jennifer Anderson on the recent National Alliance to End Homelessness Family Homelessness Conference either this month or in April. The committee will call at the March General Council for TPCH member volunteers to provide input to the city and county regarding how to use the homelessness prevention funds being allotted by the economic stimulus package, as requested by the City's Ron Koenig.

- **HMIS.** Kevin reported. The committee is currently reviewing the HMIS Participants Agreement, and plans to distribute final draft to the TPCH list serve for review and a vote at the April General Council meeting.
- **Discharge Planning.** Settle Madden reported. The committee is updating the Emergency Shelters list for emergency room social workers. Participants discussed the expected effects of budget cuts on ex-offender reintegration. They decided to compile members' public safety concerns and suggestions for a letter to Arizona Department of Corrections Deputy Director Charles Flanagan.

## 7. Old Business.

- **PIT Shelter Survey.** Dia Barney reported. She spoke with Libby Wright of the Giving Tree this morning. Libby stated that she had turned in "something." Dia noted that Libby also brought up some concerns about inappropriate treatment by a boarding home of another agency's client, but would not identify client or boarding home, and questioned why "she should cooperate with TPCH when TPCH is not cooperative with her." Discussion noted that this would be in reference to the fact that the Giving Tree shelters are not listed in the "Need Help" brochure due to concerns about the standard of shelter, and the sheltering of minors without the required license.
  - **Next step.** Dia will make a memorandum for the file of the conversation.
- **Settle's Responsibilities. Participants discussed whether the administrative coordinator** should provide administrative support for the PTEH Task Force. Consensus was that, because the Task Force is independent of TPCH, her responsibilities should not include its support.
- **Open Meetings & TPCH Agenda Posting.** Jodie reported. She noted that she researched the issue, and said that because TPCH is not an appointed body, it shouldn't be required to post its agenda open meeting laws. Discussion revealed consensus that the executive committee will continue to meet earlier to allow TPCH to post the General Council agendas for openness and public education.
- **HUD Homeless Prevention Funds.** Steve reported. The allocations of ARRA homeless prevention funds were finalized today. The City will receive \$2.534 million, and the County \$1 million. Of these amounts, 60% is required to be spent by September 2011. He urged that all members give their input to the planning process for using these monies, especially in regard to assisting the first-time homeless, who don't know how to behave on streets. He added that two of the Tucson Homeless Connect referrals to Jackson Employment were individuals who became first-time homeless that week as result of foreclosure

## 9. General Council Agenda

- **Elected Representatives Presentation.** Michelle Cross of Representative Grijalva's office and Gabe Zimmerman of Representative Giffords' office have asked to make a presentation to General council regarding economic stimulus funding and what may be done with it.
  - **Next step.** The presentation will be placed on the agenda
- **ACEH Presentation. Given the current economic crisis, Jacki Taylor of the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness has asked for a standing 10 minute presentation to discuss advocacy issues and activities. Consensus was to schedule the presentation.**
  - **Next step:** The standing ACEH presentation will be scheduled.
- **Susan Renna and Gretchen Garmen.** These representatives of a program that is purchasing foreclosed houses and renovating them for domestic violence victims have asked to make a presentation to the April General Council.
  - i. **Next step:** The Renna/Garmen presentation will be scheduled for April's General Council meeting.

## 10. Request for Hand Claps. Handclaps were suggested for:

- Mark Ludwig for HMIS matching funds.
- THC Committee for successful event.

## 11. Next Meeting. Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

**Attendance**

Jodie Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov
Dia Barney	COPE Community services	dbarney@copebhs.com
Don Blascak	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	dblascak@comcast.net
Beth Carey	Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation	bcarey@saaf.org
Kevin Jackson	Community member	kevingarrettjackson@gmail.com
Steven D. Nelson	Jackson Employment Center	snelson@pima.gov