

---

# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## General Council Meeting

---

### February 12, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs: Dia Barney, Linda Kot

<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Thursday, March 12, 2009, 3:00-4:30 PM Rillito-Sabino Rm., Sentinel Bldg., 320 N. Commerce Park Loop</p>
--

1. **Minutes.** Gary Bachman noted that the minutes should read that he spoke with interest groups in Washington, D.C. that were in communication with the Obama transition team, rather than with the team itself. Mary Pat Sullivan moved, and Kevin Jackson seconded that the January minutes be approved with this amendment. **Motion passed without objection or abstention.**

2. **Presentations.**

- **Chairpersons' Report.**

- **Handclaps.** The Co-chairs offered congratulations to Street Count Co-chairs Mary Pat Sullivan and Laurie Mazerbo plus the volunteers who completed the 2009 Homeless Street Count; and to the City and County on receipt of \$10 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Funds.
- **Census Bureau Request.** Co-chairs asked Steve Nelson to explain a request received from the U.S. Census Bureau for a list of all places where homeless persons may be found in order that they may be included in the 2010 census. A response is required by February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Steve noted that providing this information will assist in attracting appropriate funding to our area. Mary Pat suggested that we work with the Census Bureau staff member who was a Street Count observer to submit a comprehensive list from TPCH. Mary Pat moved that TPCH identify itself as the point of contact for the Census Bureau in regard to homeless persons, Jodi Barnes seconded. **Motion passed without objection or abstention.**
- **Hunger Clean-up.** On Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> students from the University of Arizona will join the Annual Hunger Cleanup sponsored by the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness. Students will volunteer to perform community service at different sites while raising money for the hungry at home and abroad. Some examples of projects include; painting shelters, cleaning community kitchens and food pantries, planting community gardens, or other service projects that could be completed between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Some of the money raised will be donated to one local organization that has a need. Anika Ahmad-Post has provided an electronic form for requesting volunteer help.
  - \* **Next Step.** Information about the Hunger Clean-up will be distributed in the TPCH weekly announcements.
- **Executive Directors Meeting in March.** In March, Pima County's Margaret Kish, with help from Primavera Foundation Executive Director Peggy Hutchison, plans to bring together all the executive directors of TPCH member agencies to discuss their visions for TPCH's future and their ideas about how TPCH should go forward in terms of organizational structure. The co-chairs will keep members posted about plans for the meeting, and asked that members encourage their executive directors to attend.
- **Committee Recruitment.** It was noted that the TPCH Membership Committee is short one member from the general membership. A functioning membership committee is important because it verifies who has voting rights, and who is a member to fulfill HUD reporting requirements in Exhibit 1. The committee also recruits and welcomes new members. Mary Pat volunteered to join the committee. Her addition was accepted by consensus.

It was also noted that the following committees are seeking new members.

The Education Committee, which puts on the annual conference. Linda noted that new Primavera Foundation employee Elva de la Torre has agreed to join. It was noted that, at one time

**Chairperson's presentation –Committee Recruitment/Formation cont'd.**

the committee had discussed changing its name to the Conference Committee. Co-chairs asked that the committee revisit that issue and report back to the General Council.

The Discharge Planning Committee, which has recently lost several members due to their promotions, also requested additional members.

Jodie Barnes noted that encouraging committee participation is part of the Membership Committee's responsibility, and has been a challenge due to the recent loss of a member.

- **Advocacy Committee Formation.** The co-chairs noted that it has been suggested that TPCH consider forming an advocacy committee. Participants discussed this possibility, and how advocacy/education might be appropriately addressed. Consensus was that individual and agency members should be aware that their ongoing advocacy is needed. Steve Nelson moved to table the idea for further discussion. Jodie Barnes seconded. **Motion passed with one objection.**
- **Request for letter of support.** Nick Jones requests letters of support for the Old Pueblo Community Services' Veterans Administration per diem programs application. Contact Nick at [nickjones@helptucson.org](mailto:nickjones@helptucson.org) if you wish to provide one.
- **Possible budget cuts/new funding workgroup formation.** The co-chairs noted that the idea has been presented of forming a TPCH workgroup to explore how to deal with current and upcoming budget cuts, especially because TPCH funds from the city and county are at risk. Mary Pat suggested that this idea be referred to the executive directors meeting. It was also suggested that the executive directors be asked how they would see supporting the Implementation and Administrative Coordinator positions if TPCH's funding is cut or ends.
- **Administrative coordinator's extra hours.** The Executive Committee had approved extra hours this month for the administrative coordinator due to Street Count and Tucson Homeless Connect needs. Those hours were exceeded, and the administrative coordinator offered to volunteer them, but the Executive Committee wished to pay for them. Every effort will be made to adjust future months within the fiscal year to account for the overage. If necessary, the Executive Committee will decide whether the General Council should be asked to supplement from the general fund.
- **ACEH Membership.** TPCH's membership in the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) is due. Mary Pat moved to approve \$200 from the general fund to pay for ACEH membership. Steve seconded. **Motion passed without objection or abstention.**
- **Street Count Report.** Mary Pat complimented co-chair Laurie Mazerbo, the approximately 140 volunteers, and survey sites Open Inn and Primavera R&R for their good work. Organizations providing volunteers included: City of Tucson; Comin' Home; Corpus Christi Church; Department of Veterans Services; DES; Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless; Jackson Employment Center; JK Electric; La Paloma Family Services; La Frontera Center, Inc.; Old Pueblo Community Services; Open Inn; Our Family Services; Primavera Foundation; SAAF; SAVAHCS; Sin Puertas, Pima Prevention Partnership The Giving Tree; University of Arizona, plus an observer from the U.S. Census Bureau. She noted that St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Caridad/de Porres provided meeting space. The Primavera Foundation brought in volunteers from the University of Arizona Peace Corps Fellows and Social Justice League.

This year's count included several new features. The number of unduplicated persons who self-identified as homeless at Pima County's rural food banks was included, as were results from survey sites at Open Inn (to better identify homeless youth) and Primavera R&R. Volunteers identified three new quadrants where homeless persons have been observed, but these could not be surveyed this year.

Despite the fact that the count occurred the morning after an Operation Deep Freeze night, the overall number was up 22%.

Laurie noted that only 22 homeless youth were counted at Open Inn, and that far more youth than in previous years were seen on the streets. She added that one Street Count team was told they were unwelcome at a labor hall, but obtained an estimate from a job seeker who was not homeless that 50% of the persons, all male, at each of the three halls he visited that morning appeared homeless; and that convenience store personnel were very helpful in reporting on and directing volunteers to places where homeless people were.

The Street Count Wrap-up Luncheon is set for Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at Caridad/de Porres, 845 N. Main Avenue.

**Street Count Report cont'd.**

Mary Pat presented the workgroup's motion to request up to \$300 from the TPCH general treasury for salad & pizza for the wrap-up. Sharon Francis and Susanna Rodriguez seconded. **Motion passed without objection or abstention.**

- **Next step.** The co-chairs and administrative coordinator will prepare a narrative draft of the Street Count Report for the February CoS Committee meeting.
- **Point-in-time (PIT) Shelter Survey Report.** Linda noted that Mattie Lord and Andy Hall have reported that some of the area's PIT shelter survey reports are still outstanding. Please send them in immediately. Still due are reports from Comin' Home, Old Pueblo Community Services, The Giving Tree, and Gospel Rescue Mission. It was reported that the Giving Tree executive director does not wish to send a survey in because it asks for the shelter addresses, and they shelter domestic violence victims.
  - **Next step. Linda Kot** will follow regarding the address reporting requirement with Andy Hall and Libby Wright of the Giving Tree.
- **ACEH report.** Dan Massey reported. He noted that advocacy efforts succeeded in preserving the homeless line item in the lottery fund for 2009, although the money is not dispersed until year's end. He said that they are concentrating on preventing further Arizona Department of Housing budget cuts, which might be \$20.7 million from the budget plus \$ 12.2 million from housing trust fund. They are also opposing a proposal to redirect unclaimed properties funds to the general treasury instead of the housing trust fund. This would eliminate the housing trust fund's income. On Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m., there will be a hearing in the State Senate Appropriations Committee about the state's 2010 budget. The State House Appropriations Committee will meet on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. regarding this budget proposal.

ACEH is also advocating bringing back General Assistance, which, Dan said, was a very small cut serving only 1,700 people with up to \$173 per month.

ACEH is trying to coordinate training pilot programs throughout Arizona for direct service providers, and needs feedback as to what kind of training your staff needs. Please submit your ideas. Mary Pat noted that staff could be trained on the difference in handling first-time homeless versus chronic homeless persons and families. Pat Carnes suggested specific training for helping homeless persons with jobs, and those in de-tox who are effectively homeless, but do not meet the HUD definition. Steve noted that job loss is the biggest contributor to homelessness today, and that the National Alliance to End Homelessness predicts a minimum of 1.5 million more homeless persons in the next two years of recession.

Additional suggestions may be emailed to [jtaylor@azceh.org](mailto:jtaylor@azceh.org) .

**3. Committee Reports.**

- **HMIS.** Karen Caldwell reported. Eric Cross stepped down as co-chair due to other commitments. Mary Beth Jantzen was elected the new co-chair. The latest groups added to the HMIS system were the Primavera men's, emergency family, and Greyhound shelters plus Giving Tree shelters. About 14 or 15 persons attended this month's HMIS User Group session on APRs. The system has reached its purchased 60 licenses. No more licenses will be bought until the new budget year (beginning in April). The committee requests that agencies check whether all licenses issued to them are being used, and give back those that are not being used so that they may be reassigned. The County is still working on the governance protocol laying out the roles and responsibilities of all participants. The committee hopes to discuss and distribute that protocol prior to the next General Council meeting. The next committee meeting is Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at SAAF, 375 S. Euclid Avenue.
- **Emergency Services.** Deferred due to co-chair helping to set up Tucson Homeless Connect.
- **Continuum of Services.** Susanna Rodriguez reported. There will be no SuperNOFA this year. The CoC grants will be issued separately and are tentatively listed as set for release in May or June. The Committee and the CoC Consultant are starting now to work on the information needed for the upcoming application. The next meeting of the full committee is Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. at SAAF, 375 S. Euclid Avenue.
- **Discharge Planning.** Betty Bitgood noted that the committee is working on updated shelter information for emergency room personnel. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at CPSA, 100 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 300.

**Committee reports cont'd.**

- **Education.** Olivia Gutzman reported and distributed conference evaluation reports. The evaluations were extremely positive overall. The committee is soliciting suggestions for a keynote speaker, and has the tracks and breakout sessions approximately 60 to 70% mapped out. They have confirmed the participation again of the Arizona Design College to create a program cover, as well as a logo for Tucson Homeless Connect. The next meeting is Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m., at COPE, 85 W. Franklin Street.
- **Homeless Youth.** Lisa Griffin reported. She distributed information on the Tucson Young Adult Guide, [www.tucsonyag.org](http://www.tucsonyag.org), which has new logo. The committee creating the site hopes to have all information gathered to date input to the website by the end of the month. The guide asks that each youth serving agency provide help by inputting their information directly at the site, and helping keep events in the site's calendar up to date. The Homeless Youth Committee's next meeting is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at Open Inn.
- **PTEH.** Leslie Carlson noted that the committee will meet next on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Cactus Room, Santa Rita Building, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop. The PTEH Task Force will meet again on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Tucson Homeless Connect.** Jodie Barnes and Settle Madden reported. More than 30 service agencies and 80 volunteers are set to provide one-stop services at Trinity Presbyterian Church tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The University of Arizona Mobile Clinic will be there.

**6. New Business / Announcements.**

- **Arizona Veterans Stand Down.** Steve noted last weekend's Arizona Veterans Stand Down in the Phoenix area expected about 450 guests and got 743 for the three-day event. There were only 450 cots. Nearby shelters helped out. There was a special component for women. They followed the Tucson lead and added an ID component.
- **Hope Fest.** The Hope Fest tentatively scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> at Hi Corbett Field has been cancelled because all the sponsorship funds were not in place.
- **Hope Shelter Fund Raiser.** Betty noted that there will be a fund raising dinner on April 18<sup>th</sup> at El Conquistador Resort for the planned, faith-based Hope Shelter, to include a medical respite component. All are invited.

**7. Next meeting.** The next meeting is Thursday, March 12th, 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the Rillito-Sabino Room, Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

Gary	Bachman	Pima County CDNC	<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>
Betty	Bitgood	Hope of Glory Ministries	<a href="mailto:betty@tucsonhope.org">betty@tucsonhope.org</a>
Karen	Caldwell	Primavera	<a href="mailto:kcaldwell@primavera.org">kcaldwell@primavera.org</a>
Beth	Carey	SAAF	<a href="mailto:bcarey@saaf.org">bcarey@saaf.org</a>
Leslie	Carlson	PTEH Implementation Coordinator	<a href="mailto:lacarlson@cox.net">lacarlson@cox.net</a>
Pat	Carnes	Compass Health Care	<a href="mailto:pcarnes@compasshc.org">pcarnes@compasshc.org</a>
Liz	Crump	Our Family Services	
Sylvia	Cuestas	Christian Faith Center	<a href="mailto:scuestas@csd.pima.gov">scuestas@csd.pima.gov</a>
Sally	Dodds	LeCroy & Milligan Associates	<a href="mailto:sally@lecroymilligan.com">sally@lecroymilligan.com</a>
Kelly	Evans	Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse	<a href="mailto:kellye@emergecenter.org">kellye@emergecenter.org</a>

**Attendance cont'd.**

Sharon	Francis	La Frontera	sfrancis@lafrontera.org
Levonne	Gaddy	City of Tucson	levonne.gaddy@tucsonaz.gov
Anna	Garcia	Arizona Housing & Prevention	hotteller03@yahoo.com
Gail	Gibbons	DES	ggibbons@azdes.gov
Jeff	Goers	The Giving Tree	jeffbgo@yahoo.com
Lisa	Griffin	Open Inn	lgriffin@openinn.org
Mary	Gunderson	New Beginnings for Women & Children	mgunderson@nbwctucson.org
Olivia	Gutzman	CPSA	olivia.gutzman@cpsa-rbha.org
Diane	Haeger	El Rio Health Center	dianeh@elrio.org
Stan	Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	shamnett@grmtucson.com
Kevin	Jackson	Our Family Services	kjackson@ourfamilyservices.org
Mary Beth	Landis-Jantzen	SAAF	mjantzen@saaf.org
Mark	Jensen	SAVAHCS	Markjensen2@va.gov
Nick	Jones	Old Pueblo Community Services	nickjones@helptucson.org
Kathleen	Joy	Salvation Army	kathleen.joy@usw.salvationarmy.org
Linda	Kot	Primavera Foundation	lkot@primavera.org
Jim	Kuzdal	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Don	Logue	Symmetric Solutions	dlogue@symmetricsolutions.com
Mattie	Lord	Arizona Department of Economic Security	mlord@azdes.gov
Don	Massey	Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness	
Laurie	Mazerbo	Our Family Services	lmazerbo@ourfamilyservices.org
Rosanna	Mendoza	TMM Family Services	
Barbara	Montrose	CPSA	barbara.montrose@compass-rbha.org
Steve	Nelson	Jackson Employment Center	snelson@pima.gov
Lucia	Ortiz	Tucson Preparatory School	lortiz7@yahoo.com
Reneé	Peyton	Pima County Health Department	renee.peyton@pima.gov
Val	Quadros	La Frontera Center, Inc.	vquadros@lafrontera.org
Theresa	Ragsdale	Primavera Foundation	tragsdale@primavera.org
Jill	Rich	American Red cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Scott	Rich	Symmetric Solutions	hmissupport@gmail.com
Susanna	Rodriguez	City of Tucson	susanna.rodriguez@tucsonaz.gov
Phyllis	Russell	Esperanza en Escalante	prussell@eee.tuccoxmail.com
Patti	Scott-Lopez	CPSA	patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org
Brian	Smith	COPE	bsmith@copebhs.com
Mary Pat	Sullivan	Comin' Home	mpsullivan@cominhome.org