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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## General Council Meeting

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### April 9, 2009 Minutes

Co-chair/convener: Linda Kot

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 14, 2009, 3:00-4:30 p.m.  
Rillito-Sabino Rm., Sentinel Building  
320 N. Commerce Park Loop

1. **Minutes.** Steve Nelson offered the correction of the spelling of Fred Karnes' name. Nick Jones moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Val Quadros seconded. **Motion passed without opposition or abstention.**
  
2. **Presentations.**
  - **Chairpersons' report.**
    - **Handclaps.** Linda offered appreciation to: Dia Barney and Ellen Noble for participating in "HUD 101: How to Calculate Rents", a web-based train the trainer seminar (They will present trainings locally.); and to Susanna Rodriguez, for initiating, and Levonne Gaddy, for approving, an additional \$5,000 to support PTEH Implementation.
    - **Bus Passes.** Linda reminded participants that TPCB has matching funds for transportation. Apply to Lori Block at [lori.block@ichtucson.org](mailto:lori.block@ichtucson.org) or submit your receipts promptly if you already have an approved application.
    - **CDBG/Annual Plan and HPRP.** The CDBG Annual Plan allocates \$1.2 million of CDBG and ESG funds to Human Services, crisis assistance programs. The plan does not include any general funds, which were over \$2.2 million last year. This is a huge cut to City Human Services funding. Please write to the City Council to express concern about cuts affecting our most vulnerable citizens. Go to [www.tucsonaz.gov/csd](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/csd) and "what's new" to see the annual plan and comment form. Comments should be sent to Ron Koenig, [ron.koenig@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:ron.koenig@tucsonaz.gov). Your responses will be attached to the plan sent to council.  
The city website "what's new" also has the plan and feedback form for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) funds. There will be a second public hearing on this plan on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 in this building. .
    - **Operating Policy Workgroup.** Volunteers were requested for this annual review. Don Blascak Steve Nelson and Stan Hamnett volunteered. Additional volunteers are welcome. The workgroup was asked to look specifically at committee chair terms and review guiding principles.
    - **Committee Chair Elections.** Linda reminded committees to elect their chairs this month.
  - **Hope Mart Center/Shield Foundation Housing Renovation.** Tim Blanchat, president, introduced the Shield Foundation ([www.theshieldfoundation.org](http://www.theshieldfoundation.org)), and its recently founded affiliate, the Shield Foundation-Arizona (Beatriz and Ramon Bohon). He described their efforts to provide foreclosed homes to homeless and needy people, especially the elderly, at rates equal or lower than rents. He noted that Pinnacle Property Solutions purchases foreclosed home mortgages in bulk, and then donates some homes to the foundation. Shield is focusing attention on areas most affected by foreclosures, including Arizona. They are beginning with one home here to see how to best work in the area. They are working with Hope Mart (Susan Renna); have recruited experts and a grant writer; and are reaching out to create collaborations.

**Presentations cont'd.**

- **Community Food Bank.** Gretchen Garman, education and advocacy coordinator for the Community Food Bank (CFB) presented about current CFB policies, and the resources that CFB staff has developed to help offset the January 1<sup>st</sup> reduction to only one food box per family monthly. She distributed resource documents, which can also be accessed at [www.communityfoodbank.org](http://www.communityfoodbank.org). All resources are available in English and Spanish, and updated as changes are submitted, she said. Gretchen noted that CFB also has a free table that includes produce, as well as a public value market (grocery store), and an agency market for non-profits. Gift certificates may be purchased. Food stamps, cash and debit cards (no checks) are accepted. Gretchen offered to do presentations on local nutritional resources for agencies requesting a presentation, and also recommended that case managers and clients consult [www.arizonaselfhelp.org](http://www.arizonaselfhelp.org).

- **Next step.** Gretchen will email the resource lists for posting and distribution.

- **ACEH Advocacy Report.** Leslie Carlson reported. ACEH has rescheduled its “speak out for ending homelessness” event at the state capital from April 16<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m. due to schedule conflicts. The purpose is to speak against balancing the budget at the expense of low-income and homeless people.
- **2009 Street Count.** Laurie Mazerbo presented a detailed summary of the 2009 Homeless Street Count on the morning of January 28<sup>th</sup>, the pilot studies conducted as part of the count, and the use of rural food bank requests by self-identified homeless persons to represent homeless numbers in areas of Pima County that couldn't be directly observed.

In brief, a total of 1,373 individuals were observed with 724, or 55%, deemed chronically homeless by observation. That total is 24% more than in 2008 despite the fact that Operation Deep Freeze was in effect the preceding night. The observations were made by 139 volunteers, 59% more than in 2008, of which 10% were homeless or formerly homeless. The percentage of chronically homeless was down from 65% to 55%. A significant change was that 119 homeless youth, 992% more than last year, were observed. This is fewer than area agencies experience, and greater than the proportional increase in volunteers. Youth homelessness may be increasing. Mary Pat Sullivan noted that this year's higher percentage of younger volunteers may have helped in identifying homeless youth. Kathleen Joy added that the Salvation Army Hospitality House has had a significant increase in the number of 18-21-year-old males sheltered.

The main conclusion was that the 24% increase in homeless persons combined with a 3-year decrease in chronically homeless lends weight to predictions of a sharp increase, particularly among first-time homeless people.

Mary Pat moved that TPCH adopt the presented results as the official 2009 unsheltered homeless figures. Steve Nelson and Eric Cross seconded. **Motion passed without opposition or abstention.**

- **Next step.** Official 2009 Street Count results will be posted at [www.tpch.org](http://www.tpch.org).

- **Nominating Work Group.** Nick Jones reported. The group has had one preliminary meeting. They suggested that a representative of veterans should be added to the Executive Committee, as allowed by TPCH Operating Policies. Nick moved to add a Veterans Administration representative to the Executive Committee. Steve Nelson and Eric Cross seconded. **Motion passed without opposition or abstention.**

Nick noted that Linda Kot has agreed to stand for election again, and that two members, Don Blascak and Kevin Jackson, are completing two consecutive terms. Participants offered their appreciation.

- **Next step.** The workgroup will issue a slate before the next General Council meeting.

### 3. Committee Reports.

- **HMIS.** Mary Beth Landis-Jantzen reported. After five months of operation, there is 100% implementation of all HUD grantees. Users are trained and entering data for all 23 grants, 20 agencies, and 79 programs. Community bed coverage is at 68%. More than 2,000 unduplicated clients have been entered into the system. Meeting participants offered a round of applause to Don Logue and Scott Rich, representatives of system administrators Symmetric Solutions.

Karen Caldwell reviewed the governance protocol document approved by the HMIS Committee, and moved that TPCH adopt the protocol as presented. Steve Nelson seconded.

**Motion passed without opposition or abstention.**

The next HMIS Committee meeting is Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30 p.m. at SAAF.

- **Education.** Eric Cross brought forward the committee's motion to change its name from Education Committee to "Conference Committee". Mary Pat seconded. Participants discussed the motion and community education needs. Don Blascak noted that part of TPCH's mission is to educate and that other committees do community education in various ways, including Tucson Homeless Connect. **Motion failed with two abstentions.**

Consensus was that more discussion of TPCH education is needed. Volunteers for a workgroup were requested. Don, Mary Pat and Eric volunteered.

Eric noted that designs for the 2009 conference program cover by Tucson Art Center Design College students will be available for consideration at next month's meeting.

- **Next step.** The Education Workgroup will meet and report at next month's meeting.

- **Emergency Services Committee.** Don reported. The committee is searching for storage for the 15,000 blankets being ordered for the 2009-10 winter shelter season. They are currently compiling a list of Summer Sun respite sites to begin May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have a respite site available, please submit your information to [info@tpch.org](mailto:info@tpch.org) for publication and to ensure delivery of water and other donations. St. Mark's Presbyterian Church and Charlie Bowker's congregation in Green Valley will be collecting water, sunscreen and hat donations. St. Andrew's Presbyterian and St. Odilia's Catholic Churches also usually collect these donations.

Don presented framed blanket plaques in recognition of their service to Kathleen Joy for the management and staff of the Salvation Army Hospitality House. Plaques for the Gospel Rescue Mission and St. Society of Vincent de Paul will be presented when representatives are present. Don cites especially the "unbelievable coop" from volunteers and staff of these agencies in helping to store and move from one location to another the FEMA blankets.

- **Tucson Homeless Connect.** Don reported. The committee is seeking the date for the 2010 Street Count in order to set a Tucson Homeless Connect event in conjunction with it. They will work with the Street Count workgroup to maximize the effect of the two events. Homeless Connect will closely follow the count in order to make the most of volunteers.

The committee has received guest, service provider and volunteer feedback from February's event. It was overwhelmingly positive. The committee has decided, based on feedback, to develop a group of community resource consultants (seasoned case managers or social workers) to refer guests to the most appropriate agencies. Volunteers are requested.

- **Continuum of Services (CoS).** Susanna reported. At the previous meeting, participants discussed timelines for this year's application process, which will probably start in May or June. She encouraged anyone receiving Supported Housing Program (SHP) funds to participate in the committee. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Pantano Room of the Sentinel Building.
- **Discharge Planning.** Betty Bitgood noted that the next meeting is Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at CPSA, 100 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 300. Teleconference participation is available.

**Committee Reports cont'd.**

- **Homeless Youth.** Lisa Griffin reported. The group has decided to complement the new [www.tucsonyag.org](http://www.tucsonyag.org) website with a poster and pamphlet of resources for youth not interested in case management. Open Inn and Skrappy's will work together on the project. The next meeting is Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at Open Inn, and will be devoted to further planning for interagency training.
  - **Membership. Nick Jones reported.** The committee is getting ready to put together membership presentation packets, and to send out letters to those not participating at the level needed to retain voting membership. They also hope to begin the mentor program soon.
  - **PTEH.** Leslie Carlson reported. The next meeting is Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Pantano Room, Sentinel Building. She added that PTEH Task Force members are actively working on a number of things, including becoming acquainted with and developing expertise on the HPRP funding. The local plan for HPRP funding will be presented on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. She offered thanks to the City and County for doing a united plan.
4. **New Business.** Betty Bitgood noted that Hope of Glory Ministries is getting many referrals from TPCH members for services that they do not (and haven't previously) provided. She asked whether there is a way to get out information about what each agency does in order to avoid sending people to the wrong place. Several participants noted that this is what the I&R resource book is intended to do. Don asked if a matrix of services could be developed. Steve noted that there is a matrix put together by HUD of how various recover programs line up at [www.hudhre.info](http://www.hudhre.info)
5. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Rillito-Sabino Room, Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

Gary	Bachman	Pima Count CDNC	gary.bachman@pima.gov
Betty	Bitgood	Hope of Glory Ministries	betty@tucsonhope.org
Tim	Blanchat	The Shield Foundation	tblanchat@theshieldfoundation.org
Don	Blascak	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	dblascak@comcast.net
Lori	Block	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Beatriz	Parada-Bohon	The Shield Foundation-Arizona	bparada4@comcast.ent
Ramon	Bohon	The Shield Foundation-Arizona	
George	Bolter	The Shield Foundation	gbolter@theshieldfoundation.org
David	Buer, ofm	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Karen	Caldwell	Primavera Foundation	kcaldwell@primavera.org
Beth	Carey	SAAF	bcarey@saaf.org
Leslie	Carlson	PTEH Implementation Coordinator	lacarlson@cox.net
Pat	Carnes	Compass Health Care	pcarnes@compasshc.org
Eric	Cross	CODAC	ecross@codac.org
Sylvia	Cuestas	Christian Faith Center	scuestas@csd.pima.gov
Kelly	Evans	Emerge!	kellye@emergecenter.org
Jan	Daley	LeCroy & Milligan Associates	jdaley@lecroymilligan.com

**Attendance cont'd.**

Jane	Friedrichs	DES Family Connections	jfriedrichs@azdes.gov
Lisa	Griffin	Open Inn	lgriffin@openinn.org
Mary	Gunderson	New Beginnings for Women & Children	
Olivia	Gutzman	CPSA	olivia.gutzman@cpsa-rbha.org
Earnest	Hearn	Faith-based volunteer	Ehearn46@hotmail.com
Decio	Hopffer	Tucson Police Department	decio.hopffer@tucsonaz.gov
John A.	Hudson	Pima County	john.hudson@pima.gov
Kevin	Jackson	Wingspan	kevingarretjackson@gmail.com
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
Margaret	Kish	Pima County DNCCD	mkish@csd.pima.gov
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
Mark	Ludwig	Arizona Department of Housing	markl@housingaz.com
Bill	Magnotto	La Frontera	bmagnotto@lafrontera.org
Laurie	Mazerbo	Our Family Services	lmazerbo@ourfamilyservices.org
Steve	Nelson	Jackson Employment Center	snelson@pima.gov
Lucia	Ortiz	Tucson Preparatory School	lortiz7@yahoo.com
Elaynia	Parker	Giving Tree	4kids@dakotacom.net
William	Parker	Giving Tree	goodnaturedlandscaping@yahoo.com
Reneé	Peyton	Pima County Health Department	renee.peyton@pima.gov
Val	Quadros	La Frontera Center, Inc.	vquadros@lafrontera.org
Susan	Renna	Hope Mart Center/Shield Foundation	susan.renna@gmail.com
Jill	Rich	American Red cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Susanna	Rodriguez	City of Tucson	susanna.rodriguez@tucsonaz.gov
David	Roun	CODAC	droun@codac.org
Phyllis	Russell	Esperanza en Escalante	prussell@eee.tuccoxmail.com
Mark	Salcido	Old Pueblo Community Services	
Patti	Scott-Lopez	CPSA	patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org
Brian	Smith	COPE	bsmith@copebhs.com
Mary Pat	Sullivan	Comin' Home	mpsullivan@cominhome.org
Cecilia	Torres	The Shield Foundation-Arizona	cst42@hotmail.com
Steven	Wind	LeCroy & Milligan Associates	steven@lecroymilligan.com
Joe	Zelenka	Comin' Home	