
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

General Council Meeting

August 9, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs: Linda Kot, Dia Barney

Next Meeting: Thursday Sept. 10, 2009, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Rillito-Sabino Rm., Sentinel Bldg., 320 N. Commerce Park Loop

1. **Minutes.** Leslie Carlson offered a correction to the PTEH Task Force portion of the July minutes. Wayne Steele moved to accept the minutes as amended. Stan Hamnett seconded. **Motion passed.**

2. **Presentations.**
 - **Co-chairs Report/Handclaps.** The co-chairs offered congratulations and hand claps to: Pima County for constructing their first green building, the new Jackson Employment Center; and the Tucson Homeless Connect Committee for another successful event
 - **HPRP.** Linda Kot reported that the City of Tucson and Pima County put together a Design Group to offer recommendations for the implementation of funding for the joint City/County plan for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The joint City/County HPRP effort will receive a total of \$3,597,770, of which 60% must be spent within the first two years of the three-year program. To qualify for HPRP assistance, persons or families must be at or below 50% of the area's median income (AMI) either homeless or near homeless; and have a high probability of success if assisted. The HPRP money is for families who "but for" this assistance would be homeless. Other recommendations from the Design Group included a cap of \$8,000 in assistance per household during a 12-month period. and paying no more than two (2) months back rent.

As the Design Group has envisioned it, the HPRP team should include three (3) resource specialists, one of whom will be assigned to rural communities, and two (2) contract specialists.
 - Pima County has taken the lead on implementation of a website which will allow applicants and/or case managers to determine the applicant's eligibility. The site will refer those who are ineligible to other programs. Linda noted that there has been an excellent team effort between the City and County, and among the many agencies working within the design group.

Jodie Barnes noted that there will be a request for proposal (RFP) process in the next two weeks to fill these positions. Only non-profits organizations may apply. The chosen agency or agencies must provide the funds for HPRP implementation and be reimbursed. Reimbursement may be requested weekly. The successful proposer will probably spend approximately \$90,000 per month. HMIS must be used to track program clients and expenditures.

- **Tucson Homeless Connect Update.** Don Blascak reported, and distributed flyers for the October 24th HopeFest. He thanked event donors: Trinity Presbyterian Church; Target Stores; Southern Arizona Procurement Fair; Tucson Electric Power; Tucson Iron & Metal; Great Western Bank; Ed Reis; Caps & More Embroidery; AAA Transportation; Richard Spaulding; Tucson Women’s Foundation/Tucson Community Foundation Staff; Commerce Bank; First-Rate Second Hand Thrift Store; Goodmans Office Solutions; Silverado Technologies; Bank of the West; El Rio Golf Course; Monica Dennis; Joyce Alcantar; Jewish Community Relations Council; Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau; Charles Ambrose; Red’s Beauty Supply; The Architecture Company; and Great Clips. The event was presented at a total cost \$3,529, of which \$2,000 was pledged by TPCH. The committee will budget even more tightly in the future.

Don reviewed the demographics of the third Tucson Homeless Connect. There were a total of 120 volunteers, 30 service providers, and five vans providing transportation. A total of 284 homeless guests registered. Of those, 52 received Arizona ID cards provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles and paid for by ICH. Data on age, marital/partnered status; child-rearing status; ethnicity; veteran’s status; and disability were also tracked. The committee hopes to track trends by comparing the demographics of the events through time, and also to track how many guest choose empowering services versus enabling services.

He noted that the committee members are “unbelievable” and he couldn’t be more pleased with their work. The next event is tentatively set for Friday, February 19, 2010 with a change to cooperate with the Street Count possible if integration details can be worked out.

The next planning cycle begins October 22. The committee hopes to shorten the cycle and have fewer meetings and more events. Next cycle starts Oct. 22. Will continue to invite Census 2010 to local events.

Steve Nelson noted that the next Veterans Stand Down is set for same weekend as HopeFest in order to share services.

- **Operating Policies Workgroup.** Deferred in favor of contract renewals.
- **Annual Contract Renewals.** Co-chairs noted that the Executive Committee has reviewed and approved the contracts for the administrative coordinator (100 hours monthly) and PTEH implementation coordinator (52 hours monthly) as well as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless. Participants discussed whether copies should be distributed, and the current operating policies language regarding contract approvals, which requires a General Council vote. Nick Jones moved and Steve Nelson seconded that the General Council approves the Executive Committee’s acceptance of said contracts and MOU.

Motion passed with one abstention.

- **Next step.** Operating Policy Workgroup will review and clarify the operating policy language regarding the contract/MOU approvals process.
- **Homeless Schoolchildren Update.** Leslie Carlson reported. She noted that TPCH’s annual point-in-time counts of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people have always provided a general estimate of the number of local homeless persons. However, consensus has been that those counts do not completely represent the actual total. This year the Arizona Department of Education asked schools to generate a point-in-time count of both homeless and doubled-up school children. The state Homeless Office in the Department of Economic Security has begun including those numbers in the state’s annual homelessness report. Leslie presented an updated estimate including those numbers. It showed 4,997 homeless persons in Tucson and Pima County. It was noted that this would seem to indicate an unmet need for 2,000 beds.

Attendees offered a hand-clap to Andy Hall of the Homeless Office for persisting in getting this information.

- **ACEH Advocacy Report.** Linda reported for Jacki Taylor. Yesterday the Arizona Senate defeated efforts to put a proposed sales tax increase before voters and passed a budget nearly identical to that of June 30, much of which the Governor vetoed. The Department of Economic Security (DES) Office of Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices is being dissolved as part of the budget cuts at DES, but the office's positions and contracts remain in place. Several Arizonans attended the recent National Coalition to End Homelessness Conference, during which they were able to meet with Arizona Congressional representatives. Local attendees will be asked to report at the next General Council.

3. Committee Reports

- **Continuum of Services.** Jennifer Andersen reported. The committee continues working on the next HUD application, which should be available no later than October 24th. She distributed a list for organizations to use to report the number of new units developed for the homeless since this time last year or anticipated to open within the next six months, and to record any specific target populations within the homeless community for which those units were developed. This is to help with the application's housing inventory and with requests for additional funding.
The next meeting is Wednesday, August 26th, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Pantano Room, Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.
- **Discharge Planning.** The next meeting is Tuesday, August 25th, 2:30-4:00 p.m., CPSA, 100 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 300 or by phone, 618-8899 or toll-free 1-800-959-1063 and ask for extension 8890.
- **Education.** Eric Cross reported. The 2009 TPCH Annual Conference, *Navigating through tough times*, is September 25th. Taking a lead from the ACEH, there will be no registration at the door. Registration and a breakout sessions schedule are currently available online at www.tpch.org and were distributed with today's weekly announcements. Registration is also available by fax, mail, and email. Registrants are asked to select their sessions in order to allow for efficient conference day registration and appropriate room assignments. The early bird deadline for registration at \$55 is August 28th, and saves \$10. From August 29th through the September 18th cutoff, registration is available at \$65.
The Holiday Inn Palo Verde has kept costs down and offered free tables for the conference's resource fair. Eric moved that the contract for annual conference services with the Holiday Inn Palo Verde be approved. Stan seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
Eric noted that \$1,600 in conference sponsorships has been pledged since Monday, and additional sponsorship opportunities are available. Please phone Eric at 327-4505 ext. 1125 to get your sponsorship in.
The next meeting is Monday, August 24th, 3:30-5:00 p.m., COPE 85 W. Franklin Street.
- **Emergency Services.** Brother David Buer reported. The Summer Sun shelter effort is going well with 12 sites operating. The sites which he oversees are averaging 55 persons each day. He thanked Caridad-de Porres for providing the many sack lunches for the effort. The committee continues to work on the three tiers of winter shelter, Operation Deep Freeze, One Step Beyond (OSB), and Project Hospitality (PH). To date, they have received pledges of 140 bed nights for OSB, and 1,771 for PH for a total of 1,911 bed nights pledged.
The committee is also considering having a set period of time for nightly shelter during the winter, and working on locating funding to make that possible.
The next meeting is Tuesday, August 25th, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26th Street.

Committee Reports cont'd.

- **HMIS.** Karen Caldwell gave a brief report of the housing program demographics entered into the HMIS system July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009. The total of unduplicated clients was 3,136, of whom 31% were in emergency shelter; 32% in transitional housing; and 27% in permanent supported housing. They continue working on achieving complete bed coverage. The system is now at 80% overall, and meets transitional and permanent housing requirements for participating in the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. However, it has not reached the qualification mark in emergency shelter. Our continuum earns points on the annual HUD application if we qualify on bed coverage and participate in AHAR.

Next Thursday, August 20th in the Kino Service Center at 1:00 p.m. , there will be a demonstration of ServicePoint[®] version 4.06 incorporating HPRP requirements; followed at 2:00 p.m. by a demonstration of the planned ServicePoint[®] version 5.0 to be rolled out in early 2010. The next committee meeting follows from 3:00 p.m-4:30 p.m.

- **Homeless Youth.** Lisa Griffin reported, and delayed the planned motion on creating a TPCH banner until additional quotes on the banner are received. The next meeting will be Friday, August 21st, 1:00-2:30 p.m. at Skrappy's.
- **Membership.** Jodie Barnes reported. The four members looked closely at both General Council and committee meeting attendance, and will be mailing letters to those who are not complying with the requirements for voting membership.
- **PTEH.** Leslie reported. The committee deferred today's meeting in favor of today's committee chair training until Wednesday, September, 2nd, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Pantano Room, Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.
- **Tucson Homeless Connect.** The next meeting is August 20th, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Santa Cruz Room, Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

4. Old Business.

- **HUD Roundtables.** Steve Nelson and Nick Jones reported on the discussions regarding the HEARTH Act. There was much discussion of the changes in definitions.
 - **Next step.** A further report on the roundtables will be included in the September General Council agenda.

5. Next Meeting. Thursday, September 10, 2009, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Rillito-Sabino Room, Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Jennifer	Andersen	New Beginnings for Women & Children	jandersen@nbwctucson.org
Jodie	Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov
Dia	Barney	COPE Community Services	dbarney@copebhs.com
Betty	Bitgood	Hope of Glory Ministries	betty@tucsonhope.org,
Don	Blascak	American Red Cross	dblascak@comcast.net
Lori	Block	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	lori.block@ichtucson.org
David	Buer, o.f.m.	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Karen	Caldwell	Primavera Foundation	kcaldwell@primavera.org
Leslie	Carlson	PTEH Implementation Coordinator	lacarlson@cox.net

Attendance cont'd.

Pat	Carnes	Compass	pcarnes@compasshc.org
Eric	Cross	CODAC	ecross@codac.org
Sylvia	Cuestas	Christian Faith Center	scuestas@pima.gov
Elva	DeLaTorre	Primavera Foundation	edelatorre@primavera.org
Kelly	Evans	Emerge	kellye@emergecenter.org
Anna	Garcia	Arizona Housing & Prevention	hotteller03@yahoo.com
Gail	Gibbons	DES	ggibbons@azdes.gov
Lisa	Griffin	Open Inn	lgriffin@openinn.org
Stan	Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	shamnett@grmtucson.com
Wendy	Heiden	La Frontera Center, Inc.	wheiden@lafrontera.org
John A.	Hudson	Pima County CDNC	jhudson@pima.gov
Kevin	Jackson	Wingspan/Eon	kjackson@wingspan.org
Mary Beth	Landis-Jantzen	SAAF	mjantzen@saaf.org
Nick	Jones	Old Pueblo Community Services	nickjones@helptucson.org
Linda	Kot	Primavera Foundation	lkot@primavera.org
Jim	Kuzdal	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Laurie	Mazerbo	Our Family Services	lmazerbo@ourfamilyservices.org
Rosanna	Mendoza	TMM Family Services	rrodriguez@tmmfs.org
Barbara	Montrose	CPSA	barbara.montrose@cpsa-rbha.org
Steve	Nelson	Jackson Employment Center	snelson@pima.gov
William	Parker	Giving Tree	4kids@dakotacom.net
Wayne	Steele	Community Member	tucson35@yahoo.com
Martin	Twohill	VA Homeless Program	martin.twohill@va.gov
Steven	Wind	LeCroy & Milligan Associates	steven@lecroymilligan.com
Joe	Zelinka	Comin' Home	jdzelinka@cominhome.org
Mark	Zero	American Red Cross	mzero@redcrossarizona.org