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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## General Council Meeting

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### June 11, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs: Dia Barney, Linda Kot

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, July 9, 2009 3:00-4:30 p.m., Rillito-Sabino Rm.  
Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

1. **Minutes.** Susanna Rodriguez moved and Eric Cross seconded that the May minutes be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
2. **Presentations.**
  - **Chairpersons' Report.**
    - **Handclaps.** "Thank you's" were extended to Beth Carey for chairing the May meeting; and to Don Blascak for the providing the "handclapper"
    - **Change in committee reporting.** To streamline meetings committees chairs are asked to specify in advance whether they will need their usually allotted three minutes. If they have no significant reporting items, beginning next month the agenda will include the committee's next meeting information in lieu of a report.
    - **PimaCountyHousingSearch.org.** The co-chairs reminded participants to use this resource to search for affordable housing. Many different factors, including rental amount and special populations, can be used in the search. Professionals can register for special social service tools to aid their searches. Contact Gary Bachman, [gbachman@csd.pima.gov](mailto:gbachman@csd.pima.gov), or Val Quadros, [vquadros@lafrontera.org](mailto:vquadros@lafrontera.org), to obtain log-in privileges.
  - **2010 Census.** Laura Cummings and Jesse Nino presented the Census 2010 "Community Partner" program to publicize the importance (such as obtaining appropriate levels of funding) of census participation in March 2010. The census will be done primarily by a mailed 10-question form, available in Spanish appropriate to our region March 17-19, 2010 with advance letters before and reminders to return the questionnaires afterward. They described the procedures for verifying maps and address nationwide, and noted that special procedures will be used for post office boxes; "group quarters" such as jails, prisons, nursing home, and assisted-living facilities; and homeless persons. The homeless population count will be at end of March over a three-day period. The Census Bureau is contacting community partners to help locate hard-to-count populations that require a more targeted outreach. TPCCH is invited to form a "complete count" committee, as area governments did through the Pima Association of Governments (PAG). Laura offered to train committee members to develop an action plan; design outreach strategies; hold events and/or have activities and create promotional materials if desired. Linda Kot volunteered Joy Wilcox of the Primavera Foundation, who is working with the PAG Complete Count Committee, to head the TPCCH work group and liaison with PAG. A list for volunteers was circulated.

Participants discussed the fact that the Annual Homeless Street Count is done the last week in January according to a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development mandate, and that doing another such count in March seems repetitive.

    - **Next steps. a.)** Census Bureau personnel will relay to upper management the concerns about repeating a homeless count in a short period of time.
    - b.)** Linda will ask Joy Wilcox to convene the TPCCH Complete Count Work Group and liaison with PAG.
  - **ACEH Advocacy Report.** Jacki Taylor presented. She encouraged TPCCH members to engage in immediate and strenuous advocacy with the Arizona Budget Coalition or individually to favor the Governor's budget, despite flaws, over that of the Arizona Legislature's leadership because the governor's budget is much more favorable to health, human services, and housing. She noted that the Governor's budget preserves the Arizona Housing Trust Fund, and the DES safety net. She urged individuals to phone the governor with a request to veto the current legislative budget proposal, and to

**Presentations cont'd.**

join the Service Employees International Union's (SEIU) phone bank to connect citizens for budget advocacy. Sign-up sheets for the SEIU phone bank were circulated.

- **Next step.** TPCCH Administrative Coordinator will forward the list of volunteers to co-chairs and Jacki.
- **Operating Policies Workgroup.** Steve Nelson reported. Their meeting is scheduled. They will work both on operating policies and on the guiding principles in relation to interagency relations and client relations, and in recognition of the collaborative agency approach outlined in legislation that recently reauthorized the McKinney-Vento act. Susanna Rodriguez noted that she has an email out to committee chairs to update what their committee descriptions for the HUD application, and will share the final descriptions (due June 17<sup>th</sup>).
  - **Next step.** The CoS Committee will share final committee descriptions with the Operating Policies Workgroup and the TPCCH website.
- **Education Efforts Workgroup.** Don Blascak reported. They noted that education is conducted throughout the organization, and recommended that language be developed to emphasize that education is the responsibility of each committee, and that the Education Committee is available to assist and/or consult on education efforts.

**3. Committee Reports.**

- **Continuum of Services.** Susanna Rodriguez reported. The committee most recently reviewed the most recent HUD Exhibit 1 and updated responsibilities for data to be included in and suggested needed revisions to the next Exhibit I. They are also in the process of reviewing and ensuring the accuracy of the TPCCH Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)
  - The next meeting is Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Sentinel Building.
- **Discharge Planning.** Settle Madden reported. The committee has finalized the emergency shelters list for hospital emergency room social workers, and will distribute it this month. They have begun updating the "Guidelines to Getting Out".
  - The next meeting is Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2:30-4:00 p.m., at CPSA, 100 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 300, or by conference call.
- **Education.** Eric Cross reported. The committee welcomed two new members at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The committee continues working on the September 25<sup>th</sup> conference. Pima County Board of Supervisors Chairman Richard Elias is confirmed as the plenary keynote speaker. There will be 12 breakout sessions on the Plan to End Homelessness; community helping events; HMIS; Social Security; DES; the status of resources for elders, ex-offenders, and youth; mental health court; nutritional assistance; substance abuse; and transitional housing. Most presenters are confirmed. Only pre-registration will be accepted this year. Due to economic trends, the committee expects sponsorships to be smaller than in previous years. Additional sponsorships will likely be needed. Members are asked to forward sponsor suggestions to the Eric at [ecross@codac.org](mailto:ecross@codac.org).
  - The next meeting is Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde, 3550 S. Palo Verde Boulevard.
- **Emergency Services.** Don Blascak reported. To date, 575 bed nights are pledged for Project Hospitality (PH), with recruiting for One Step Beyond to begin soon. The plan is to recruit for 30 PH beds per night this year, based on last year's occupancy. Water donations for the Summer Sun efforts are low. He noted that he has delivered approximately 50 cases of bottled water to date, and has a reserve of 10 cases. He requested additional donations.
  - The next meeting is Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Realty Executives, 1725 E. River Road, Suite 245.
- **HMIS.** Mary Beth Landis-Jantzen reported. Both basic and specialized training is being offered this week. There will be no basic training in July. Additional basic training will be scheduled beginning in August. The system administrators will conduct specialized workshops for each HUD collaboration in July; dates to be announced. There are currently more than 4,000 clients in the TPCCH HMIS system. The committee will complete procedural and security standards for HMIS when the final HUD and government standards are available. System administrators are currently meeting with the PTEH Implementation Coordinator regarding what type of information TPCCH will need and how to use it.

**Committee Reports cont'd.**

They will develop continuing training for APRs and other uses accordingly. Don Logue noted that additions to the system to meet HPRP reporting requirement will be needed soon. He and Scott Rich will meet with city and county to determine how to roll out these new features, as well as how to the data requirements for preparing HUD application Exhibit 2s. He noted that TPCH's ability to participate in the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report will depend on the results of HIC compilation.

- **Homeless Youth.** Irene Timms reported. All arrangements are in place for the Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> Inter-agency Training Day. The committee thanks Don Blascak, Katie Demorotski, and the Olive Garden for providing lunch. Tables and Chairs are needed. Please contact Irene at [irene@lapalomakids.org](mailto:irene@lapalomakids.org) or Lisa Griffin at [lgriffin@openinn.org](mailto:lgriffin@openinn.org) if you can provide tables or chairs.

The next meeting is Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-10:30 a.m. at Sin Puertas, 1475 N. Oracle Road.

- **Membership.** Jodie Barnes reported. The committee needs a new chair, and another representative from the Executive Committee. Kevin Jackson and Jodie will meet soon to send letters reminding agencies recently absent from meetings of their need to participate.
- **PTEH Committee.** Leslie Carlson reported. Members were updated on the PTEH Task Force May meeting, and then reviewed the 2008-09 Goals and assessed progress. Four of seven goals were accomplished. The other three are ongoing efforts. They reached consensus that it is appropriate to update the PTEH and report progress to make clearer what still needs to be done and where priorities lie. They discussed a framework for doing so, and will present it at July 9<sup>th</sup> PTEH Task Force meeting. They elected Anna Wheeler, PREP Program Manager, as the 2009-2010 chair.

The next meeting is Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-2:45 p.m., in the Rillito-Sabino Room of the Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

- **Tucson Homeless Connect.** Don Blascak reported. The committee met this morning. They have 17 confirmed providers with two weeks remaining until the response deadline. They are working to fill gaps among medical providers. Media releases will go out 14 days before event. The event has received grants of \$500 through Jodie Barnes and Glenn Fournie, and \$250 through Lori Block.

The next meeting is Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30a-12:00 p.m. in the Pantano Room of the Sentinel Building. The final meeting before the event will be July 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

**4. Old Business/Announcements.**

- **Sign-in Reminder.** Co-chairs reminded participants to sign in before leaving.
- **Census Workgroup and Call-in Reminder Sheets.** Co-chairs reminded those who can volunteer that these sign-up sheets would be available at the front table after the meeting.
- **Comin' Home Presentation.** The Co-chairs presented a blanket plaque to the staff and client volunteers of Comin' Home for outstanding help in coordinating storage and moving of FEMA blankets.

**5. New Business / Announcements:**

- **Intern From Australia.** Stan Hamnett introduced Amy Garden of Canberra, Australia, who is doing an internship with the Gospel Rescue Mission as well as one at a Syracuse, New York men's shelter while working on her social services degree. Amy noted that in Australia she works in a 12-bed crisis shelter, which she considers "the best job in the world."
- **Birth Certificates.** Betty Bitgood noted that DES no longer obtains birth certificates on behalf of applicants for services. Stan noted that Gospel Rescue Mission obtains certificates for their clients only.
- **Veterans Stand Down.** Steve Nelson reported. The next Veterans Stand Down will be Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Allen Center. The benefits staff from the Phoenix Veterans Administration will be available to discuss benefits of the new GI Bill. He understands that this provides veterans who are students a \$1,400 monthly stipend, tuition, and \$1,000 yearly for books. It appears, but is not yet verified, that a post-9-11 veteran may transfer benefits to a spouse or child if desired. He encouraged all post-9-11 veterans – even if not homeless – who want to be certified for new GI Bill to attend Stand Down. Comin' Home will be transporting attendees to the Motor Vehicle Division, and Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans will pay for IDs. There will also be housing agencies staff available to assist vets who aren't eligible for VA housing but may qualify for shelter plus care and/or permanent supportive housing.

6. **Next Meeting.** Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Rillito-Sabino Room, Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

### Attendance

Jennifer	Andersen	New Beginnings for Women & Children	jandersen@nbwctucson.org
Jodie	Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov
Cheryl	Bassey	Friendship Missionary Baptist Church	cbassey@pima.gov
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
Leslie	Carlson	PTEH Implementation Coordinator	lacarlson@cox.net
Mike	Carmack	Transitional Living Communities	macarmack@yahoo.com
Pat	Carnes	Compass Health Care	pcarnes@compasshc.org
Eric	Cross	CODAC	ecross@codac.org
Kelly	Evans	Emerge	kellye@emergecenter.org
Anna	Garcia	Arizona Housing & Prevention	hotteller03@yahoo.com
Amy	Garden	Gospel Rescue Mission intern	amy.garden@hotmail.com
Jacque	Green	La Paloma Family Services	Jacque@lapalomakids.org
Stan	Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	shamnett@grmtucson.com
Earnest	Hearn	Faith Based	Ehearn46@hotmail.com
John A.	Hudson	Pima County CDNC	jhudson@pima.gov
Mark	Jensen	SAVAHCS	mark.jensen2@va.gov
Kathleen	Joy	Salvation Army	kathleen.joy@usw.salvationarmy.org
Linda	Kot	Primavera Foundation	lkot@primavera.org
Mary Beth	Landis-Jantzen	SAAF	mjantzen@saaf.org
Don	Logue	Symmetric Solutions	dlogue@symmetricsolutions.com
Mark	Ludwig	Arizona Department of Housing	markl@housingaz.com
Michael	Mandel	Primavera Foundation	mmandel@primavera.org
Dan	Massey	ACEH	
Laurie	Mazerbo	Our Family Services	lmazerbo@ourfamilyservices.org
Red	Mehle	Transitional Living Communities	
Steve	Nelson	Jackson Employment Center	snelson@pima.gov
Jesse	Niño	US Census Bureau	/com./co.3118@census2010.gov
Lupe	Olea	COPE Community Services	
Val	Quadros	La Frontera Center	vquadros@lafrontera.org
Scott	Rich	Symmetric Solutions	hmissupport@gmail.com
Susanna	Rodriguez	City of Tucson	susanna.rodriguez@tucsonaz.gov
Phyllis	Russell	Esperanza en Escalante	prussell@eee.tucsoncoxmail.com
Mark	Salcido	Old Pueblo Community Services	marksalcido@helptucson.org
Mary J.	Stoute	Friendship Missionary Baptist Church	maryapple@aol.com
Mary Pat	Sullivan	Comin' Home	mpsullivan@cominhome.org
Jacki	Taylor	ACEH	jtaylor@aceh.org
Irene	Timms	La Paloma Family Services	irene@lapalomakids.org