
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Homeless Youth Committee

March 6, 2009 Minutes

Co-Chair/convener: Irene Timms and Lisa Griffin

Next Meeting: April 3, 2009, 9:00 – 10:00 pm Open Inn, 630 E., 9 th Street

Report to TPCCH General Meeting
--

■ n/a

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by consensus.
- 2. Interagency Program Training Day.** Irene reported that the La Paloma Foster Care Training Room may be used for the training day. It can hold holding up to 70 persons. Irene distributed a draft call for presenters to agencies. The letter was accepted by consensus. Lisa noted that she is in contact with DES group home representatives, and suggested that they be invited to the training.
 - **Next step.** Committee members will mail the agency name, contact name, and mailing address for any youth-serving agencies not already identified by the committee to Irene@lapalomakids.org.
- 3. Update on Tucson YAG.** Lisa reported. The www.tucsonyag.org website is up and running, going well, and receiving good input from agency peer coordinators. It includes photos and artwork by clients. Mike Richardson offered to take photos and get photo releases of homeless youth over age 18 for use on the site. The site will have links to agencies' websites. Lisa and Jessica Kat of Intermountain co-chair the committee that put the site together and are currently serving as webmasters. Kathy Woodridge asked if the website would be an appropriate place to display documentaries that some of her program participants are making this summer. Lisa replied "yes".
 - **Next step:** Committee members will regularly submit to the site updates to service information, hours of operation, and upcoming for the calendar.
- 3. November 2009 Homeless Youth Event.** Alice Krohn provided background info on the Nov Runaway and Homeless Youth awareness month. She noted that the event is designed to raise awareness in a fun way. Discussion noted that: the event would also help downtown homeless youth who don't know about Open Inn and other services; some youth don't wish to come into service; and that some outreach workers have noted a particularly negative attitude among youth this year, increasing drug use; and increased numbers of traveling youth.
 - **Skrappy's.** Kathy Woodridge reported that Skrappy's now has a new 10,000 square feet home at 191 E. Toole (Toole and 6th Avenue across from Ronstadt Transit Center) with secure lease and certificate of occupancy. Skrappy's would like to be home to another "Home Is Where The Art Is" on the chosen date, Saturday, November 14th event, 6:00-9:00 p.m. This will leave the adjacent city/county parking lot available for guests to use. Opening of Skrappy's will be in phases because this is an old building that needs some renovation. They hope to begin classes April 1st, and to be fully running by August 1st. The building will

November 2009 Homeless Youth Event, Skrappy's cont'd.

hold 355 on top floor. They have a bathroom, and will offer showers. There is manpower for installations of a washer and a dryer, and a new stove. They are seeking donations of each.

Kathy suggested that participants check out the website www.couchsurfing.com, a worldwide network for making connections between travelers and the local communities they visit.

- **Next step. a.)** Kathy will reserve the parking lot

5. Old Business.

- **ET Phone Home.** Irene reported. That committee has been unable to mount a large fundraiser. All venues explored were too expensive. The event has been tabled and plans for it will be revisited in one year.
- **Thank you, youth participants.** Lisa thanked all participating youth for their participation, and emphasized that the committee greatly values their perspective and input. Mike noted that he was homeless for three years, and said that more outreach is what's needed. He stated that homeless youth's needs include need food, clothes, socks, soap, towels, toothbrushes, and tooth paste, and round-trip bus passes for destinations that they are difficult to reach on bicycles. He reported approximately 50 youth hanging out at the main library. He said that low income IDs for obtaining reduced-rate monthly bus passes would also be helpful.
- **Outreach refresher course.** Participants discussed the idea of having an outreach refresher course, perhaps including CPR training, and occurring in several short sessions. Open Inn peer coordinators agreed to design the course. Kathy stated that Skrappy's can provide the site.
 - **Next steps. a.)** The youth will outline the course for discussion at the April meeting
 - b.)** Mike will check whether the American Red Cross might provide a CPR instructor at not cost.

6. New Business.

- **AIDS Awareness Event.** Ana Clemans noted that tomorrow from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. there will be a National AIDS Awareness Day event for Native Americans, women, and children at Pima Community College West Campus on Anklam Road, including food and entertainment. If food is left over after lunch, they would like to donate it to the youth hanging out at the Main Library. Mike offered to transport the food. His cell phone is 808-5803.
- **TPCH Transportation Funds.** Settle Madden reminded participants that TPCH has a program to match transportation funds (bus passes, taxi vouchers, and gas cards) that agencies spend up to \$500. To apply, contact Lori Block at lori.block@ichtucson.org.
- **Safe Place Week.** Alice noted that March 15th-21st is Safe Place Week, and distributed the Arizona Governor's proclamation of same. She noted that she is picking up a similar proclamation from the Tucson Mayor today. On March 18th, 4:00-7:00 p.m., there will be a showing of the documentary "Out in the Cold" with follow-up discussion at Eon Youth Lounge. On March 21st, there will be an awareness and entertainment event beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Living Room. Kathy noted that Skrappy's is discussing holding an art event also on March 21st from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. so that participants will have time to attend the later event.
 - **Next step.** Participants who would like one of their facilities to become a Safe Place should contact Alice Krohn at akrohn@openinn.org,

New Business cont'd.

- **Increasing Homeless Youth Population.** Kathy noted that she is seeing an increase in the number of homeless youth who are children of undocumented immigrants. These youth are either citizens or were left behind when parents were deported because they and/or their family believed that was the best option for them.
- **Juvenile Justice and Focus Groups.** Kathy noted that she is working with the Burns Institute of Oakland, California as the adult sponsor to form a group on juvenile justice issues because of concern that many low- and medium-risk youth, such as shoplifters, are spending a minimum of two weeks in juvenile detention. That costs the community approximately \$175 daily versus \$50 daily for community supervision. She said that her experience is that most of these are youth of color.

She noted that she is also working with a University of Michigan researcher doing two-hour focus groups on homeless youth. During the summer they hope to also do groups on homeless adults.

- **Next step.** Persons interested in working with these groups will contact Kathy at Skrappys@hotmail.com.

10. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be Friday, April 3rd at Open Inn, 630 E. 9th Street.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Ana	Clemans	Sin Puertas	aclemans@thepartnership.us
Chris	Coco	Open Inn	chriscoco@gmail.com
Jessica	Dyer	Open Inn	lunchbox606@netzero.com
Lisa	Griffin	Open Inn	lgriffin@openinn.org
Joe	Haro	Our Family Services	jharo@ourfamilyservices.org
Matt	Jones	Open Inn	mjones@openinn.org
Alice	Krohn	Open Inn	akrohn@openinn.org
Lucia	Ortiz	Tucson Preparatory School	lcortiz@yahoo.com
Elaynia	Parker	Giving Tree	blessedservantoftruth@cox.net
William	Parker	Giving Tree	goodnaturedlandscaping@yahoo.com
Brandon	Rawls	Open Inn	brawls@openinn.org
Mike	Richardson	Open Inn	
Jeremy	Serwer	Youth On Their Own	jserwer@yoto.org
Irene	Timms	La Paloma Family Services	irene@lapalomakids.org
Kathy	Woolridge	Skrappy's	scrappys@hotmail.com