
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Homeless Youth Committee

January 9, 2009 Minutes

Co-Chair/convener: Irene Timms

Next Meeting: February 6, 2009, 9:00 – 10:00 pm Youth On Their Own, 1443 W. Prince Rd.
--

Report to TPCCH General Meeting
--

■ n/a

TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Minutes of the December meeting were accepted by consensus.

2. **Agency Updates.**

- **Youth on Their Own (YOTO).** Jeremy Sewer reported that the YOTO holiday party went very well with a total of 350 attendees, including YOTO participants, their guests, board members, and members of the host church. Each participant received one or more gifts from donations. The Olive Garden donated the food.

On March 7th YOTO will host its major fund raiser “Top of the Town” at Ventana Canyon Resort.

Nine participants graduated high school in December.

- **Our Family Services (OFS).** Laurie Mazerbo reported. She noted that Olive Garden also donated food for the Common Unity Program (CUP) holiday party. Our Family Services and YOTO are preparing a joint application to the Community Development Block Grants program for case management of homeless youth, an activity for which funds have recently decreased. They experience many common referrals and think that this will be a strong joint proposal. OFS receive state funding and is concerned regarding the current Arizona fiscal crisis.

Laurie noted that OFS housing currently has only one studio apartment open for a single individual. She noted that some CUP program participants have exited the program, and there is a waiting list, but that they are accepting referrals for young women ages 18-21 with babies because not all waiting list individuals will join the program. Phone 293-3015 to refer.

- **La Paloma.** Jacque Green reported that they received many donations through radio station KLPX’s toy drive plus gift trees at Casey’s Hair & More. All kids, including those in foster and in-home services received holiday gifts. La Paloma also has concerns regarding their funding and the state budget because many of their services are contracted by the Arizona Department of Economic Security. They have begun a College Corner, with a computer work station, background files, and staff assistance for students in service who are researching colleges. They will hold an open house for the College Corner the last Monday of January, the 26th.

La Paloma is current writing a joint grant with Flowing Wells schools to provide presentations and open houses to help school counselors better understand the needs of highly mobile foster kids. They are also launching www.kidsaid.org from the La Paloma website.

- **Tucson Preparatory School.** Lucia Ortiz reported. They have been working with CODAC providing individualized instruction and counseling for 25 students with juvenile offenses who intensive attention. CODAC lost funding for that site, so the effort is seeking a classroom where these 25 students can continue their program. The space or spaces will be needed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- 3. Interagency Program Training Day.** Irene reported that they plan to have the invitation letter seeking the schools' commitment to attend for committee review in February. Each participant should report on their contacts at that time. Laurie Mazerbo noted that she received an email about the next meeting of the local schools' McKinney-Vento representative
- **Next step:** Laurie will forward the email to TPCH Administrative Coordinator, who will forward to committee members.
- 4. November 2009 Homeless Youth Event.** The committee has selected November 14th as the date for this year's event. Irene noted that finding a venue has been the greatest challenge in the past. A location in areas frequented by homeless youth is needed. She suggested that the committee check with The Living Room, a faith-community funded effort to encourage youth expression and art. The Living Room is volunteer-run, across from Brooklyn Pizza on 4th Ave. Jeremy also suggested the Dry River Collective at Main and University in the Dunbar Neighborhood. (Tucson PREP holds graduations there.). Consensus was to do the event from 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- **Next steps:** a.) Laurie will research how to get in touch with The Living Room management.
b.) Jeremy will check with Dry River Collective about the availability of that date.
- 5. Update on Every Teen Phone Home.** Jacque Green reported. The committee met yesterday. They are still looking for a host site for their fund raiser. The Rialto Theater has provided several possible dates. They are in discussion with OFS to act as the effort's fiduciary. The tentative plan for the event is: 7:00-7:30 p.m. reception; 7:30 p.m.-speaker (maybe a local dignitary); 8:00-9:30 p.m., performance by the C.A.S.T. (Clean and Sober Theater) followed by questions and answers with C.A.S.T. members and homeless youth; and 9:45-10:30 p.m., a band performance. They hope to keep the ticket costs to \$15 or \$20 tickets each and admit persons age 12 and under free. They plan to distribute free tickets to all homeless youth serving organization so that homeless youth can attend free. They may use an intermission to sell donated items.
- The current plan is to do the event in late April or May. They hope to raise \$5,000 to purchase and distribute phone cards.
- 5. Update on YAG Website.** The next meeting of the youth resources group is Thursday, January 14th at 3:30 p.m. at Intermountain, 7820 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 100. The group seeks as many people as possible, especially youth, to attend.
- 6. Homeless Street Count Update.** Laure reported. The annual Street Count is Wednesday, January 28th from 5:00 to 7:30 a.m. One training for volunteers remains, this Tuesday, January 13th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Martha Cooper Library, one block east of Columbus Boulevard and two blocks north of Speedway. More volunteers are needed. This is a small commitment for one day. All volunteers work in teams. The event's purpose is to count the number of homeless persons who spent the night outside of shelter. The resulting numbers will be available and useful to all.
- This year, there are two added parts to the Street Count. Tuesday evening January 26th, Open Inn will keep its resource center open from 4:00-7:00 p.m., and provide free two-ride bus passes and hot cocoa, to homeless youth who come to be counted. She asked that members encourage their clients whom they know are homeless to attend. The morning of the Street Count, Primavera Resource and Referral will open early to count adult homeless.
- She asked that if members cannot volunteer for the morning of the count, they provide any information they have or can obtain regarding where homeless camps, etc. are located and provide that information.
- **Next steps:** Committee members will email any known sites to info@tpch.org or settle.madden@tpch.org to help Street Count teams find and count homeless persons.

8. New Business. Irene noted that the Tucson Police Department has formalized a Gang Unit. They are working with New Beginnings Treatment Center, Inc., Victory, Teen Challenge, and another faith community to bring former gang member and inspirational speaker Nicky Cruz, author of “Run Baby Run” to town for a free event in February. They are seeking a venue and asking local organizations to bring all of their clients to the event. This event will cost approximately \$22,000 total. The sponsors still need to raise \$7,200 to complete that total. If you can help, contact Jeanne Klopfenstein, fund raising chair, at jklopfenstein@nbtinc.com of (520) 293-8085.

10. Next Meeting. Friday, February 6th, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Youth on Their Own, 1443 W. Prince Road.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Jacque Green	La Paloma Family Services	jacque@lapalomakids.org
Laurie Mazerbo	Our Family Services	lmazerbo@ourfamilyservices.org
Lucia Ortiz	Tucson Preparatory School	lortiz7@yahoo.com
Jeremy Serwer	YOTO	jserwer@yoto.org
Irene Timms	La Paloma Family Services	irene@lapalomakids.org