
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Tucson Homeless Connect Committee

June 11, 2009 Minutes

Convener: Don Blascak

Next Meeting: June 25, 2009, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Santa Cruz Room, Sentinel Building 320 N. Commerce Park Loop
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Report to TPCH General Meeting

■ n/a

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Minutes of the May 28th meeting were accepted by consensus.
- 2. Church Intern.** The committee welcomed Erin Buckner, who is interning at Trinity Presbyterian Church for the summer and will act as an additional liaison with the committee.
- 2. Timelines.** Don reported. He has spoken by phone with those members who have recently been unable to attend committee meetings, but have specific assigned tasks. All are aware of and working on those tasks. All areas appear to be progressing consistent with the planned timelines.
- 3. Provider Solicitations and Responses.** Jeff Burnham and Patti Scott-Lopez reported on health care and behavioral health providers, Positive responses have been received from: El Rio; Marana Health Center, Dr. Billie Holbrook, dentist; Open Inn; Our Family Services; and COPE's women's center. Negative responses were received from: La Frontera RAPP, which will have only three staff that day; Mercy Care Advantage, which has recently merged with Aetna; Pima Health, short of budget and staff; Compass, who will be revisited regarding their negative; and the UA Mobile Clinic, which has replied that they would like to participate annually. A number of providers are undecided or have not yet responded.

Jodie Barnes reported on government entities. The Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) will be there with same offerings and needs as before. The Social Security Administration agreed to send two representatives. They need two laptops. Settle will make the ICH laptop available. DES Family Connections will again attend. Final date for providers to respond is June 25th.

Rick Sumner continues working with shelters, housing programs, and plus veterans assistance programs, but was unable to attend today.

Don is still working on dedicated MVD transportation, and has confirmed Homeless Court Judge Pollard (11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.), barbers, and the White Shepherd clothing van.

 - **Next steps. a.)** Provider subcommittee members will keep working to encourage participation, and will assist Rick if needed.
 - b.)** Don will contact Lori Block regarding the Carondelet contact for community outreach and work on appropriate follow-up.
 - b.)** Jeff will follow-up with COPE's HIV testing and acu-detox units and the St. Elizabeth of Hungary podiatry van.
 - c.)** Jodie will call her Compass contact with an invitation.
 - d.)** Jodie will check whether Leslie can again lend a laptop for the SSA.
- 4. Documentation and Forms Review.** "Save the date" and event street outreach flyers have been distributed. Participants reviewed the forms needs, which are complete; and which need work.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Provider subcommittee will give Don one- or two-word services descriptions of each agency's services so that he may complete an alphabetical providers/ services guide.
 - b.)** Jodie will follow up on provider instructions draft and distribute.

Documentation and Forms Review, Next Steps cont'd.

- c.) Don will check whether Gospel Rescue Mission will again do certificates of appreciation.
- d.) Leslie Carlson will make additions to the registration form.
- e.) Committee will consider whether a medical or other referral form for agencies that will not be present will is needed.

5. Selected Activities Review.

- **Expert Community Consultants.** Don noted that his wife, Bonnie Demorotski, has agreed to be one of the community referral experts, to be located in the medical services area, and is recruiting another helper.
- **Vans.** Three vans are available. Another van for MVD round-trips is needed. Salvation Army personnel are working on obtaining the latter from AAA Transportation. Veronica Soto of COPE Health Promotions may be able to loan one, according to Jeff. Glenn reported that the City's Parkwise said "no" on using Ticet buses.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Patti will follow-up with COPE.
 - **b.)** Don will check with Comin' Home about the use of a van.
- **Media.** Don asked participants to think about a unique hook to use with the media during the 14-day period immediately before the event, when coverage and public service announcements will be available. Asking successful participants from previous events to be available for interviews was suggested.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Participants will ask successful formerly homeless acquaintances if they are willing to be interviewed.
 - **b.)** Leslie Carlson will write the news release and perform media contacts.
- **Volunteers.** Lori Block reported through Don that she is signing up volunteers.
- **Donations.** Lori has received a \$250 donation from Gary Kippler. New Beginnings for Women and Children will donate 100 breakfast items. Jodie reported that Charles is baking peanut butter cookies for the event. Don and participants thanked Glenn Fournie for arranging a \$500 donation from the Southern Arizona Procurement Fair.
- **Food.** Don will ensure that Caridad-de Porres does not provide a tuna casserole again.
- **Resource Items.** Don reported that he will purchase 100 P38 military can openers at Miller surplus; and that he has 200 bars of soap; 40 bottles of sunscreen; 100 water bottles from Interfaith Community Services; 41 water bottle comfort kits purchased at Walgreens; and 150 chap sticks. He will have Senior Smiles education material in English and Spanish, plus 50 pound of dog food broken into five-pound bags, and 25 pounds of cat food likewise divided for distribution. Outstanding needs include: toothpaste, dental floss, and deodorant. Don will request comfort items from the American Red Cross, as well. He will ask Lori Block to have 300 bus passes if possible. Approximately 15 cases of water are currently available. Many more needed.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Committee will review the quantity of items at the next meeting, and purchase additional if needed.
 - **b.)** Erin will check on the possibility of storing water at Trinity prior to the event.
 - **c.)** Don will check on socks.
 - **d.)** Glenn will try to organize a donation drive through his City department, and city-wide if allowed.

- 6. Next Meeting.** Thursday, June 25th, 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.; Pantano Room, City Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop. Consensus was to reschedule meetings after June 25th to begin at 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Jodie Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Erin Buckner	Trinity PC USA	erin.trinity@gmail.com
Jeff Burnham	COPE	jburnham@copebhs.com
Glenn Fournie	City of Tucson	glenn.fournie@tucsonaz.gov
Patricia Scott-Lopez	CPSA	patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org