

---

# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Tucson Homeless Connect Committee

---

### August 20, 2009 Minutes

Convener: Don Blascak

<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> October 22, 2009, 8:30-10:00 a.m. Santa Cruz Room, Sentinel Building 320 N. Commerce Park Loop</p>
--

<p><b>Report to TPCCH General Meeting</b></p>
---

<p>■ n/a</p>
--------------

### TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Stan Hamnett moved and Jodie Barnes seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as presented. **Motion passed.**
- 2. Next and Latest Events.**
  - **Date/Combine with 2010 Street Count.** Don proposed a date of February 19, 2010. Committee discussed whether there would be an advantage to the proposal to hold the event in conjunction with the annual street count. Leslie Carlson noted that she has read of some communities that hold an early morning event with coffee and/or breakfast as well as services in conjunction with their street count. Discussion included moving the event to Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> if the Arizona Department of Economic Security would agree to allow Tucson to do it on that date; and that doing the two events together may overstress volunteers while providing only the advantage of asking a question regarding chronic homelessness. Consensus was to leave the date on February 19<sup>th</sup> for the time being.
    - **Next steps. a.)** Leslie will check with the Arizona Department of Economic Security regarding the possibility of doing the 2010 Street Count on Friday, January 29, 2010.
    - **b.)** Questions regarding chronic homelessness will be added to the Homeless Connect registration form.
  - **Meetings.** Don suggested having fewer meetings and more virtual communications, of which all committee members would receive copies. The meetings for the next cycle would be: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup>; December 17<sup>th</sup>, January 7<sup>th</sup>, and February 4<sup>th</sup>. Consensus was to hold the meetings 8:30-10:00 a.m. Consensus was to proceed with this plan.
  - **Budget.** Don noted that the event costs were more than initially anticipated, but was still within budget. Lori noted that TPCCH allotted \$2,000 and contributions brought the total donated to \$3,600, of which \$3,522 were spent. In brief, she said, it costs approximately \$10 per person to hold the event. Charlie Bowker noted that the Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless (ICH) would like to become more involved with the event by providing funds, doing fund raising, and recruiting volunteers. He would like to ask the ICH board to make Tucson Homeless Connect its main project for 2010. Participants received the idea enthusiastically and agreed. Don noted that some committee members have also suggested seeking commercial sponsorship.

Glenn Fournie noted that the local Hadassah has agreed to adopt the event for a month (directing all donations for the month to the event).

    - **Next step.** Lori will prepare a budget for the event based on an approximate cost of \$10 per person served.
  - **Attendance/Venue.** Participants discussed whether the event will grow to 400 or more persons, and if this would cause it to outgrow Trinity Presbyterian Church. Don noted that regulating the guest inflow through careful timing of van pick-ups could extend the viability of the current venue. Consensus was that the next two events can most probably be held at the church.

- **Service Locations.** Participants discussed how guest flow and service delivery at the event can be improved. The waiting, eating and DMV staging areas were noted as awkward.
  - **Remaining Appreciation Certificates.** Don noted that many certificates of appreciation were not distributed in July. He is finishing distribution and asked committee members ensure that the certificates are handed out at the next event.
3. **Event Feedback.** Leslie reviewed volunteer and service provider feedback. Participants also added ideas. Suggestions included the following.
- End the event at earlier, perhaps at 1:00 p.m.
  - Provide more guides. Too many guests appeared lost.
  - Set up phone stations or provide phone cards for follow-up phone calls.
  - Provide a better, cooler area for HIV testing.
  - Provide more health screening services and help with eyeglasses.
  - Move PCs to the center of room. Some providers had difficulty with Internet connectivity in the niches.
  - Have more youth friends flyers and awareness
  - Display service names rather than program names.
  - Use banners rather than small signs.
  - Provide a podiatrist
  - Control line cutters
  - Provide more privacy for filling out forms
  - Place sign-in.
  - Provide more haircuts.
    - **Next step.** Leslie will continue compiling the presentation of event data.
4. **Committee Changes.** Don would like more pre-assigned volunteers in specific areas, such as in resource sorting and distributing, which continually recruited throughout the day of the previous event. Participants accepted leadership of area assignments as follows.
- Lori and Jodie – food and food volunteers ( Jodie will continue as government liaison with providers subgroup.)
  - Charlie Bowker – guest guides
  - Leslie and Phyllis Lim – media and distinguished visitors --
    - Next steps. a.) Don will ask Debbie Purdom of Caridad to increase her participation in the food management.
    - b.) Committee will check on the possibility of tenting and seating for food service in the Trinity courtyard.
4. **MEDIA.** Don noted that he was happy with the most recent events’ coverage, but thinks there needs to be more cultivation of media. He would like to emphasize the participation by HUD and the City of Tucson. Leslie suggested getting encouraging more Pima County participation.
5. **Empowering Versus Enabling.** Don distributed a list of guest choice broken down by which improve a client’s condition for progress versus those that provide temporary comfort without advancing the client toward overcoming homelessness. He suggested tracking whether there is any change in the percentage of guests seeking one versus the other type of services. He suggested reviewing previous event forms to seek if there is any trend, and asked participants to review the list and the discussion in terms of validity. Charlie suggested working with a data manager familiar with homelessness to develop statistical chronicity.
- **Next step.** Committee members will review the list for appropriate categorizations.
6. **New Business: Breakfast.** Glenn asked the committee to consider serving breakfast instead of just backed goods at the next event. He believes he could get donations of the ingredients if we are allowed to use the church kitchen. Lori noted that this might help with guest flow.

7. **Next Meeting.** Thursday, October 22, 2009, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m., location, address.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

Jodie Earll Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Charlie Bowker	ICH	bowksaz@msn.com
Jeff Burnham	COPE Homes Program	jburnham@copebhs.com
Leslie Carlson	Implementation Coordinator PTEH	lcarlson@cox.net
Glenn Fournie	City of Tucson	glenn.fournie@tucsonaz.gov
Stan Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	shamnett@grmtucson.com
Wayne Steele	Community member	tucson35@yahoo.com