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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Tucson Homeless Connect Committee

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### December 17, 2009 Minutes

Convener: Don Blascak

<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> January 14, 2010, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Room TBD, Sentinel Building 320 N. Commerce Park Loop</p>
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<p><b>Report to TPCCH General Meeting</b></p>
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<p>■ n/a</p>
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- 1. Minutes.** Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by consensus.
- 2. Providers.** Rick Sumner, Jodie Barnes and Jeff Burnham presented. Invitations will go out after the New Year's holiday. The previously designed provider packet will be updated and implemented, and will include the certificate of appreciation as well as the exit/feedback survey. Only handwritten thank you would remain to do afterward. The invitation letter will include an addition to ask what the committee can do to assist those who reply "no" to participate in the future. Leslie Carlson agreed to continue to do the forms.

The Arizona Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) has agreed to reserve the date and attend.

Don noted that there are some specific providers who do not fall into the agency or government categories. Lori Block's daughter will coordinate the hair stylists. Don will obtain barber chairs. Some towels and shampoo are left over from the previous event. Lori noted that Great Clips can supply only three stylists, and six are desired. The church has given permission for the presence of dogs and Dog food & shots contact Ken James, Pima County Animal Control. Mark Pollinger has offered to bring crates. Rick said that he can also bring a couple of crates.

Jeff reported that he has contacted dentist Dr. Billie Holbrook and the Lion's Gift of Sight program. He has received verbal confirmation from El Rio Health Center (blood pressure, blood sugar, and head lice checks); sent a "save the date" reminder to the University mobile health care clinic; and is receiving no responses to his messages to the St. Elizabeth of Hungary clinic. He plans to call Theresa Allison, the medical contact for Catholic Social Services. He is also working on testing for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. An extra station for those tests will be needed at the upcoming event.

Social Service triage experts are still needed.

Lori noted that she has spoke with two places that agreed to do 10-item comfort kits. She suggested that they do 50 kits each, but does not have a firm commitment on that number. She suggested that hats and gloves be purchased soon with the \$3,050 already raised.

- **Next steps. a.)** Don will invite Judge Pollard; check on obtaining three more hair stylists; check with Ken James of Pima County Animal Control on their ability to provide vaccinations, and licensing at the event; obtain dog food; and prepare a blanket plaque for the MVD.

**b.)** Jodie will call a podiatrist of her acquaintance plus Comin' Home regarding participation and northwest side transportation respectively.

**c.)** Stan Hamnett will check with his contacts re: podiatry and ophthalmology, and seek a Gospel Rescue Mission (GRM) case manager to be a social service triage expert.

- 3. Transportation Coordinator.** Stan volunteered his employee West as transportation coordinator. Rick will assign one of the Primavera Foundation's drivers to assist. A van from Comin' Home may be assigned to do pick-ups/drop-offs northwest of Tucson. Consensus was that arrival schedules should be staggered in order to avoid crowding and waits for service; and that, if possible, the MVD driver should drop-off ID seekers, and return for the next group rather than waiting for each group to finish before returning to the event.

  - **Next step.** Don will contact West about staggering the arrivals schedule.
- 4. Volunteers.** Early volunteers are needed to do the donation sorting and comfort kit assembly.

  - **Next step.** Committee members will seek early volunteers.
- 5. Donations.** Stan reported that he found \$100 in his GRM that he can donate to the February event. He suggested that toothpaste, and possibly some knit caps be added to the purchase list.
- 6. Meals.** Participants noted that they have already discussed serving breakfast burritos then going directly into lunch service. Breakfast could be prepared in the church's kitchen for around \$200. Lunch through Caridad-de Porres would run about \$1,500. Don's said he is concerned about keeping food hot during an expanded lunch service. Jodie noted that this will be easy if they work out of the church kitchen. Volunteers will clean up afterward.

  - **Next steps. a.)** Jodie will check on donation of the tortillas.  
**b.)** Lori will seek to borrow warming trays to keep food hot.
- 6. Signage.** Rick noted that he is preparing a list of needed signs and banners. The banners will not be especially large because so many are needed. Participants discussed what categories were needed and reached consensus that it would be best to keep them simple and specific, such as "HIV testing" and "blood pressure checks" instead of just "medical", although categories such as "employment" and "youth services" would need to be broad. Services will be more spread out this time, so the need in Trinity Hall will not be a great. It was noted that there should also be signs for "parking" and "MVD assembly".

  - **Next step. a.)** Don will ask if AAA transportation can provide MVD transport.  
**b.)** Don will do the signs when the list is complete.
- 7. Communications.** Stan reported that he will try to get dedicated radio system for the van drivers, and to secure more than six radios from Creative Communications. He is working on changing locations for the MVD so that they can use their own Internet connection. He has wireless router to for the event. The event plans to borrow cell phones from Veterans Stand Down, and will need to buy the air time for them. Participants discussed how to regulate cell phone calls and prevent phone theft and reached consensus that a room with a single exit should be assigned for cell phone usage.

  - **Next step.** Stan will look into the possibility of using a Magic Jack at the event to allow phone calls.
- 8. Old Business.** Don and Rick asked participant to review and make suggestions about the feedback forms.
- 9. New Business.** Phyllis Lim noted that she is retiring from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and will remain in Tucson. She noted that her assistant Debbie Thomas will be the only permanent Tucson HUD staff until Phyllis' successor is named, but will be available for administrative tasks and, possibly, to help at the event. She said that she hopes to be at the event as a private citizen. Participants expressed their opinion that beginning Tucson Homeless Connect would have been difficult without her and that she was instrumental in the event's ongoing success.

**10. Next Meeting.** By consensus, the next meeting was changed to Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. That meeting will be an across-the-board review of the planning for the next event. The following meeting will be February 4<sup>th</sup>.

1. **Next step. a.)** Jodie will reserve rooms for the next two meetings.
- b.)** Settle Madden will update the event timeline to reflect the meeting change and forward to the committee.

**Attendance**

Jason Barnes	UA	jaso2515@yahoo.com
Jodie Earll Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.gov
Jeff Burnham	COPE Homes Program	jburnham@copebhs.com
Stan Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	shamnett@grmtucson.com
Phyllis Lim	HUD Tucson Office	phyllis.e.lim@hud.gov
Rick Sumner	Primavera Foundation	rsumner@primavera.org