
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Emergency Services Committee

February 17, 2010 Minutes – DRAFT

Co-chairs: Jim Kuzdal, David Buer

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 9:00-10:30 am Sullivan Jackson Employment Center 400 E. 26 th Street

Report to TPCH General Meeting March 11th

■ n/a

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Jill Rich moved and Sylvia Cuestas seconded that the minutes of the January meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
- 2. Continuous Shelter Review.** Brother David reported that the effort provided 2,628 bed nights in 62 nights with an average of 42 guests per night. Due to a carefully slow start at spreading the word about the new shelter's availability, the first 31 days saw an average of 29 guests, while the second saw an average of 56 guests per night. Thirty-six different volunteers worked with the effort, including a Buddhist monk, three friars, secular Franciscans, a nurse, Flowing Wells Assembly of God congregants, and volunteers from eight Catholic parishes plus the Soup Patrol. The FWAG pastor, staff, and volunteers expressed to him that they are pleased with the effort and willing to do it again.

He noted that the costs of the effort included: \$2,100 for bus tickets; \$1,500 for the church's utilities and miscellaneous expenses; \$ 600 for port-a-potties; and \$500 for supplies. The total cost was \$4,700 for a cost of \$1.79 per person night.
- 3. Winter Shelter Review.** Don reported. He suggested that next month, the committee put together a smaller group to review the winter shelter programs for empowering rather than enabling.
 - ODF.** Don noted that case management opportunities need to be improved. Participants discussed how to improve the case management. Ideas presented included recruiting social services student interns to work at ODF; making in-person requests for outreach case managers; and training for both interns and outreach case managers. Outreach to existing case managers has traditionally resulted in appropriate referrals to Project Hospitality, Jill noted. Don also suggested looking at ODF system in the context of this year's continuous shelter effort.

Don suggested that the issue be elevated to the TPCH Executive Committee with a request for a presentation to the General Council to request additional case management help with ODF.

The 17th day of ODF has been completed. The 18th day will be Friday, February 19th for one night only.

Participants discussed what appeared to be inconsistency in the notification of ODF being "off", and agree to place reviewing procedures for notifications on the review agenda.

Participants discussed training of ODF workers. Don and Jill offered to share their preparation and through the American Red Cross to train those workers. Consensus was to accept the offer and integrate such training into the ODF preparation timeline. Participants also discussed doing worker recruitment earlier this year to allow for additional preparation of the workers.

Don noted that the Carondelet Health Network has \$400,000 over the next (four?) years and is discussing building something, perhaps a "homeless village" as well as planning to begin a mobile health clinic in the next month or so. He asked that they be invited to participate with TPCH in planning for shelter.

Winter Shelter Review cont'd.

- **Project Hospitality (PF).** Don noted that PH needs better case management. This year, there appeared to be lessened case management. The bed requirement was lowered this year to 30 from 45, and beds were still left empty. He noted that consequences, such as a warning for missing a night, and removal from the program for absences, needs to re-started or reinforced. Kathleen noted that the Primavera Foundation, La Frontera, and a few other agencies did an excellent job of maintaining their case management on those PH guests who continued to participate.
 - **One Step Beyond.** Don and Kathleen noted that the VA's internal control of case management of their clients is consistent and working very well.
4. **Blankets.** Kathleen noted that the request to the Department of Defense has been submitted, and is awaiting fulfillment of the needs of the Haiti earthquake disaster. The order includes instruction to call Jim Kuzdal before delivery. Jim recently physically counted the blankets resulting in a total of 7,020 as of February 12th. Yesterday, 10 boxes were transferred to Crossroads Mission in Nogales. TPCCH will continue to distribute to entities throughout southern Arizona. Don noted that they can account for distribution of 13,000 blankets
- Jim noted that he prefers notice of blanket delivery a week ahead of time, or at least notification when the truck is loaded. He noted that he could use some assistance in reorganizing the pallets and boxes of blankets to create appropriate space for the next blanket delivery.
- **Next step.** Kathleen will continue to follow-up regarding the expected time of blanket delivery.
5. **Budget.** The City of Tucson and Arizona Department of Economic Security have not cut the TPCCH winter shelter budget. The status of FEMA funds remains unknown. Kathleen noted that there were a number of donations to assist winter shelter, and allow the established budget to be used for hiring workers.
6. **New Business.** Kim noted that she has been approached by a group of 10 active-duty National Guard volunteers who would like to complete a four- to six-hour charitable project by March 5th, and requested ideas, which included assisting with PH, Tucson Homeless Connect, and blanket reorganization.
- Don suggested that the next agenda concentrate specifically on the items that need to be addressed and resolved over the summer for winter shelter as well as for the Summer Sun effort.
- **Next step.** Kim will create an email with details of how these volunteers can be available and forward for distribution to the TPCCH list serve.
7. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 16th, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26th Street, pending the ability of Brother David to participate.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Name	Organization	Email
Brother David Buer	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Sylvia Cuestas	Christian Faith Center	scuestas@pima.gov
Yoli Hasler	Salvation Army	yoli.hasler@usw.salvationarmy.org
Wendy Heiden	La Frontera	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Kathleen Joy	Salvation Army	kathleen.joy@usw.salvationarmy.org
Jim Kuzdal	SVDP	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Jill Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Kim Ward	Salvation Army	kim.ward@usw.salvationarmy.org
Joy Wilcox	Primavera Foundation	jwilcox@primaver.org