
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Emergency Services Committee

January 20, 2010 Minutes

Co-chairs: Jim Kuzdal, David Buer

Next Meeting: February 17, 2009, 10:00-11:30 am Sullivan-Jackson Employment Center 400 E. 26 th Street
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Report to TPCH General Meeting December 10th
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■ n/a

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Minutes.** Wendy Heiden moved and Jill Rich seconded that the minutes of the December meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
- Winter Shelter Review.**
 - Operation Deep Freeze.** Kathleen Joy reported. Last night was the eighth night to date of ODF. Fifty-two men were housed. The ninth ODF night follows this evening. Weather forecasts indicate that ODF may need to be called on Friday. To date, there have been no referrals for AAA Transportation from TPD, and only one from a medical clinic. Women have not yet been accommodated because the Fellowship Hall has not been made available by the corps officer in charge. This cannot be changed without that officer's permission. Kathleen noted that an individual who was already on a 90-day bar for verbal abuse of staff attempted to participate, but was not allowed, and then coaxed off the property without police assistance.

Participants discussed whether persons under a ban by the Hospitality House should be allowed to participate in ODF, as was done in some previous years. They discussed issues of humane conduct; staff protection and police involvement, plus liability (organizational and personal) both for guest misbehavior and any possible injury to guests turned away. It was noted that following the host agency's national risk management standards is important, but that perhaps admission to ODF could be handled on a case-by-case basis. The manner and degree of offense for which a prospective guest was barred could be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Staff might allow in those who do not have a restraining order or zone restriction. They would then alert the offended staff to the offender's presence. Staff could also alert the offending guest to their Hospitality House bar and that they will be asked to leave and the police called if they repeat the offense Kim Ward noted that she has the authority to send home a staff member with pay if that individual feels threatened. Consensus was to allow Salvation Army staff to proceed on a cases-by-case basis.

Don noted that Salvation Army staff were managing four different programs last night and did so well.
 - Project Hospitality (PH).** Don Blascak reported that PH is operating well.
 - One Step Beyond.** Don Blascak reported. One church comes off February 1st, and then two churches come on. St. Cyril's will host seven, and St. Andrew's 10 homeless veteran's case managed by the Veterans Administration.
- Blankets.** Kathleen has made contact with the Department of Defense contact and is completing the paperwork for immediate shipment of an additional 5,000 blankets. They will be on their way as soon. About 9,000 blankets remain at the St. Vincent de Paul warehouse.

- 4. Continuous Shelter Update.** Brother David Buer reported. Five of nine planned weeks have been completed. Five men have been asked to leave (two for bringing alcohol). All left willingly. One later requested a second chance, and behaved himself. Guests appear to be getting a good night's rest. The average number of men housed is 35, with one night at 60. Three volunteers are on duty nightly.

Don noted that he visited both ODF and the continuous shelter last night. He felt that both would have been subject to closure by the Tucson Fire Department because of hazardous layout and violation of the 40-square-foot per person standard, some of which was caused by guests moving their cots. He added that some of the continuous shelter guests appeared to him to have obtained alcohol on their trip from Holy Family Church to the shelter. Kathleen noted that ODF numbers are down while continuous winter shelter numbers are increasing; and that her guests have suggested that there is a transfer from the Salvation Army to the continuous winter shelter. Brother David noted that he is encouraging people to go to the Salvation Army, but transportation is a challenge to which there is no current solution.

- 5. Budget.** Lori Block noted that it appears the City of Tucson will reduce the current year's winter shelter funding by 20%. She has not heard what will happen with our DES contract and projects that overall funding for ESC programs may be down as much as 8%-10% this year. The FEMA board meets in early February and we should know about that funding source by our next meeting. She suggested that each participating entity accept a 14% over last year's amount except Compass. Compass generally received \$1,000 yearly to house ODF detox clients. Because there have never been more than five in a year, and there are sometime none, she suggested that Compass' funding be cut to \$500. Participants discussed whether each service provider would be able to sustain the planned cut, and concluded that, if not, committee members will need to negotiate suitable arrangements.

TPCH's winter shelter efforts have been granted \$17,000 new dollars from the Arizona Department of Housing for motel vouchers for women and children through November 2010. A tracking system and procedures are needed. She, Kim, Kathleen and Jennifer Andersen of New Beginnings for Women and Children are working on these. This will not be renewed next year.

She suggested that if the Arizona Department of Economic Security does not cut their contribution by 10% as anticipated, and or additional FEMA money is granted, that those funds go to purchase supplies and to Caridad de-Porres for sack lunches to be prepared for Operation Summer Sun. There is currently only \$600 available for that expense.

Budget noted that a vote on an updated budget is impractical at this time, as the budget keeps changing. There were no objections to this plan but there was no representative from Compass Health Care or Comin Home at the meeting.

- 6. Old Business.** Don passed a sign-up sheet for the remaining days in which to conduct visits to congregations.

7. New Business.

- **ODF Night for PIT Counts.** Don moved that ODF be called for one night only for the night of the point-in-time counts, Tuesday, January 26th regardless of weather. Sylvia Cuestas seconded. He noted that ODF will be called for two nights if the weather so dictates. **Motion passed.**
- **Blanket Thank-you from TPD.** Jim Rizzi reported that the Tucson Police Department (TPD) has been distributed blankets provided by TPCH, and thanked the committee and TPCH for same.
- **ODF Calls.** Jim Rizzi noted that so far, the TPD has received one call for transport on a non-ODF night; and two during the day. These callers were referred to the Salvation Army.

- 8. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 17th, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26th Street.

Attendance

Name	Organization	Email
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Brother David Buer	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia Cuestas	Sullivan-Jackson Employment Center	scuestas@pima.gov
Diana Figueroa	Primavera Foundation	dfigueroa@primavera.org
Kevin Gillooly	Tucson Police Department	kevin.gillooly@tucsonaz.gov
Wendy Heiden	La Frontera	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Kathleen Joy	Salvation Army	kathleen.joy@uswsalvationarmy.org
Jim Kuzdal	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Jill Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Jim Rizzi	Tucson Police Department	jim.rizzi@tucsonaz.gov
Kim Ward	Salvation Army	kim.ward@uswsalvationarmy.org