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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Tucson Homeless Connect Committee

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### April 8, 2010 Minutes

Convener: Don Blascak

<b>Next Meeting:</b> May 13, 2010, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. City of Tucson, room TBD
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<b>Report to TPCCH General Meeting</b>
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| ■ Event preparations proceeding |
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Glenn Fournie moved and Patricia Scott-Lopez seconded that the minutes of the March meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
- 2. New Volunteers.** Participants welcomed Deborah Montgomery of University Family Care Outreach, Catherine “Cathy” Silvas of CODAC, and Crystal Hart of the Giving Tree Outreach Program.
- 3. February 2010 statistics.** Don Blascak distributed a summary of statistics from the February event (attached) showing a total of 224 individuals served at the event. Participants noted that registration responses regarding their current sleeping situation were scattered and should be reduced to a few categories.
  - **Next step.** Patti will email the CPSA sleeping situation categories to the committee chair for possible use on the registration forms.
- 4. Next Event.** Participants reviewed preparations as follows.
  - **Venue/Arrangements.** Trinity Presbyterian Church has approved the facility’s use for the next event. The Tucson Police Department has agreed to reduce police presence at the event. Don paid for embroidery of 15 of the 43 donated red hats that guests were reluctant to take because the red is a gang color. He will provide them to identify committee members and volunteers at the next event.
  - **Potential event conflicts.** The July event will not conflict with the Sunnyside School District’s C.A.R.E. Fair because this year’s event was cancelled.
  - **Banners.** There are currently 11 bilingual, single-sided vinyl banners. Don asked whether to have the printer re-print them on the second side. Consensus was to do so.
    - **Next step.** Don will have the sign backs printed.
  - **Funding.** Don noted that approximately \$2,600 will be available from funds raised for the February event. Don recommended requesting \$2,000 from the TPCCH general fund. Wayne Steele noted that he is requesting food sponsorship from Trinity Presbyterian Church. The American Red Cross cannot provide an additional \$1,500 for July because the terms of the grant that they received for events require funds to be expended on events actually held before the grant ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Glenn reported that the Southern Arizona Procurement Fair has again agreed to donate \$500. He will ask all of the donors who committed a total of \$1,500 for the last event to donate again.
    - **Next step.** Committee will review a budget at the next meeting.
  - **Providers.** Rick Sumner reported by email that the providers subcommittee is on task. Don noted that he has not yet completed arrangements for issuing low income bus passes in connection with the next event, but has secured agreement for their issuance once round-trip transportation is arranged.
    - **Next step.** Don will seek to arrange round-trip transportation to the photo location for event guests needing low-income bus passes.

**Next event cont'd.**

- **Documentation.** Also see “February 2010 statistics”. Don urged that the committee continue developing empowering strategies for the event. He would like the committee to consider dividing the services selection on the registration form into sections of enabling versus empowering services. Participants discussed how to do this, but were unable to reach consensus on a precise division of services.
- **Volunteers.** Don reported that Lori Block is on track recruiting and coordinating volunteers.
- **Food Coordination.** Don has asked Debbie Purdom of Caridad-de Porres to provide a quote for the cost of a turn-key operation for lunch. Glenn noted that the City of Tucson employees have agreed to pay for and prepare breakfast, purchasing the food through Caridad. The city employees are holding a raffle to raise funds. Don noted that more funds will be needed for water at the July event.
  - **Next step.** Deborah will approach Sparkletts about a water donation.
- **Resources.** Wayne Steele provided an inventory of items for THC at TPC by email. Pre-event sorting of donations and preparation of comfort kits will be done the day before the next event. It was agreed that guests can pick up resources early, and then stay and eat, but may not go through the resources line twice. Volunteers will control this with signage and verbal communication. Cathy Silvas noted that her church’s youth group may be available to help with resources.
- **Media/DVs.** Don noted that the veterinary services provided a wonderful media “hook” and asked participants to discuss whether a new hook is needed. Glenn suggested earlier news releases. He has spoken with Channel 13 regarding pre-event coverage. Consensus was that earlier and more aggressive outreach to the media – as well as homeless people – is needed.
- **Communication and online services.** Stan Hamnett and Marc Blascak reported by email that they are already making arrangements.
- **Transportation.** Don noted that an additional van will be needed for the round-trip transportation for bus IDs. The Salvation Army and Gospel Rescue mission have committed to providing vans.
  - **Next step. a.)** Don will request two vans from AAA Transportation.
  - b.)** Crystal Hart and Cathy Silvas will check on other vans that might be used.
- **Clothing.** Liz Lane plans to use the male/female demographics of the February event to ensure that sufficient clothing is available in the White Shepherd van for the July event, Don said.

**3. Next meeting.** Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:00 a.m.

- **Next step.** Glenn will seek a room reservation.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Glenn Fournie	City of Tucson	glenn.fournie@tucsonaz.gov
Crystal Hart	The Giving Tree Outreach	cannhart78@yahoo.com
Deborah Montgomery	University Family Care	dmontgomery@uph.org
Patricia Scott-Lopez	CPSA	patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org
Catherine Silvas	CODAC	csilvas@codac.org
Wayne Steele	Community member	tucson35@yahoo.com
Liza Watts	American Red Cross	ewatts@redcrossarizona.org