
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Tucson Homeless Connect Committee

August 12, 2010 Minutes

Convener: Don Blascak

Next Meeting: To Be Determined (Held October 14, 2010)

Report to TPCH General Meeting

- Record attendance and increased number of families, children at July 2010 event.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Minutes of the July 8th meeting were accepted by consensus at the July 15th meeting. No minutes of the July 15th meeting were prepared, as the meeting was devoted to an event site walk-through.
- 2. July event review.**
 - **Preliminary statistics.** A total of 292 adults registered; 252 completed exit forms. Workers distributed a total of 252 bus passes. Other statistics on services include: 48 haircuts performed; six dogs licensed; 15 animals treated; 61 Arizona ID cards (a record number) purchased for guests; 300 comfort kits given; and 15 kid's care kits given.

Maryann Beerling noted that the attendance numbers may be quite a bit higher, because only one of many couples registered while the other watched the children. Also, children not counted on the registration form. Consensus was that some persons also bypassed registration. Maryann added that all of the resource volunteers agreed to help at the next event. It was also noted that some guests asked for soda and/or for more children's activities.

Leslie Carlson said that registration data has not yet been entered into a database, and that doing this would be an appropriate task for a student intern in sociology or anthropology.

Consensus was that the event was very successful overall.

 - **Next steps. a.)** Don Blascak will follow up regarding actually issuing low income bus passes at the next event.
 - b.)** Leslie will seek interns to do data entry.
 - c.)** Committee will present the next Tucson Homeless Connect in February 2011.
 - **New facility needed.** Trinity will undergo expansion soon, A new site is needed for future events and supplies storage. Don found that nine Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) schools buildings are empty and available for lease or sale. Glenn Fournie noted that Tucson Electric Power offered to provide two days of free electricity for events in those facilities. The committee would need to cultivate the neighbors around any school used to avoid objections to the event. Don added that this type of site could also be used for Veterans Stand Downs, and might provide a path toward more frequent one-stop events and/or be combined with a single-site winter shelter program.
 - **Supplies and inventory.** Don noted that some of Trinity's homeless comfort items, including a case of inexpensive flashlights, were apparently mixed up with this event's supplies. Lori Block said that the committee has \$1,362.63 to carry over to the next event, and suggested that it would be appropriate to give Trinity a \$100 check to replace the misplaced items. The idea was unanimously accepted. Don added that Aviva Children's Services can store committee inventory until November if an alternate storage location is not found before those items must be moved.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Glenn will ask Wayne Steele, a Trinity member, to inventory remaining items.
 - b.)** Committee will provide Trinity with a \$100 check to replace misplaced items.
 - **Providers and their feedback.** Patti Scott-Lopez offered the following statistics and feedback from providers. Sullivan Jackson Employment Center received 28 queries and set four appointments. The doctors and nurse practitioners of University Physicians Hospital saw 40 guests and helped handle one emergency. Southern Arizona Legal Aid spoke with 13 guests and did two intakes. The Social Security Administration saw 15; Stand Up for Kids, 8; Our Family Services, 15; Wingspan, 17; dentist Dr. Billie

Providers and their feedback cont'd.

Holbrook, 25; and Gospel Rescue Mission, 16 of whom eight were taken into shelter. In addition, Primavera Foundation took one person into shelter; completed six housing applications; and responded to multiple queries for employment with Primavera Works, and to one request for a mailing address. RAPP did 17 acti-detox sessions and signed up two persons for Projects in Assistance of Transition from Homelessness (PATH) services. The Salvation Army spoke with 15 guests, but did not report whether any went into shelter.

She added that 15 persons signed up to get low income bus passes later. Some guests expressed dissatisfaction that they could not receive passes on the event day. Don confirmed the plan was to provide same-day, low-income IDs. He believed that he had an understanding with the city to certify guests' income for that purpose. event day.

Jodie noted that the physician's asked for additional scheduling notice. It was noted that the El Rio Health Center personnel were unhappy to be moved, but that the physicians requested their help doing vital signs before they saw guests.

- o **Next step.** Don will follow up regarding actually issuing low income bus passes at the event
- **Publicity.** A timely press release and follow-through did not generate as much media coverage as previous events did. It was noted that a number of articles and segments regarding homelessness were printed or broadcast shortly before the event. This may have reduced media interest in covering the event.
- **Event staffing.** It was noted that a number of returning volunteers skipped the just-in-time training sessions and were confused about what to do because of changes in procedures and locations. Consensus was that returning volunteers should be urged to attend training for each individual event so that they will be aware of any changes, especially changes due to a new location.

Participants discussed the use of homeless persons as hired helpers during the event, and reached consensus that such helpers need to be identified prior to the event date.

Don noted that, because of changes in the programs at the Primavera Foundation, Rick Sumner is no longer able to head the providers' workgroup. Lori volunteered to head the providers' workgroup and help seek a new volunteer coordinator. Participants discussed Jodie Barnes agreed to continue to coordinate the food as part of the providers' workgroup. Participants discussed how to best fulfill planning and event staffing needs and reached consensus on the following next steps.

- o **Next steps. a.)** Don will update and refine event job descriptions.
- b.) Committee will recruit members to fill these job descriptions.
- c.) The committee will seek members who are or were formerly homeless.

4. Next Meeting. To be determined, possibly on the second Thursday of October.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Jodie Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.org
Maryann Beerling	Compass Affordable Housing	mbeerling@compassaffordablehousing.org
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Charlie Bowker	ICH	bowksaz@msn.com
Leslie Carlson	Implementation Coordinator PTEH	lacarson@cox.net
Glenn Fournie	City of Tucson	glenn.fournie@tucsonaz.gov
Deborah Montgomery	University Family Care	dmontgomery@uph.org
Patricia Scott-Lopez	CPSA	patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org