
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Tucson Homeless Connect Committee

January 14, 2010 Minutes

Chair: Don Blascak

<p>Next Meeting: February 4, 2010, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. City Sentinel Bldg., Pantano Room 320 N. Commerce Park Loop</p>

<p>Report to TPCH General Meeting</p>
--

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Fundraising successful |
|--|

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Stan Hamnett moved and Glenn Fournie seconded that the December minutes be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
- 2. Chair's report.** Don Blascak reported.
 - **Banners.** There has been no response from Skrappys' banner maker. To ensure having banners, Don will purchase 18x36" reusable banners as follows: medical (two or more), shelter, ID assistance, employment, veterans, youth, and HIV testing.
 - **Signage.** A list of participating providers for signage must be completed by February 8th or 9th. City graphics will develop a sponsor "thank you" sign.
 - **Title Sponsor Designation.** CPSA has allotted \$2,000 and may bring their banner.
 - **Food sponsor.** Liza Watts reported that the American Red Cross will contribute 300 comfort kits each for the next two events, plus \$1,500 for food and beverages. Lori suggested that they be named "food sponsor."
 - **VASH Update.** Glenn reported that another 80 Veterans Administration Supported Housing (VASH) vouchers will be distributed through the City of Tucson. The VA will do the eligibility screening. The VASH program would like to have a table at the next event.
 - **Animal Care.** Pima Animal Care has agreed to participate, but may be unable to spay and neuter due to already-scheduled surgery that day. They will provide vaccinations and are considering providing licenses. Don asked if the event could budget for 15 licenses if the county is unable to provide the licenses pro bono. Consensus was that this is possible. Don will ask the county to waive any late fees. Mark Pollinger will provide three crate kennels, and Rick Sumner two.
 - **Phones.** Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans (TSVS) will provide cell phones, minutes cards, and a supervisor to oversee phone usage.
 - **Homeless Court.** Judge Pollard will attend from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the usual location.
 - **US Census.** The US Census has asked for a table.
 - **MVD Transport.** AAA Transportation has dedicated a 15-passenger van for round-trips to the MVD from 8:30 a.m. on. The round driver will make continuous round trips at this event, rather than waiting for each group to return.
 - **ODF.** Don has spoken with the Operation Deep Freeze (ODF) participants, and plans to call ODF for the evening of the event. It is uncertain whether ODF can be called for a second night.
 - **Barbers/Chairs.** Great Cuts will have two or three stylists and bring chairs. Don will pick up an additional three chairs.
 - **Triage Experts.** Don noted that it is important to recruit more social service referral and triage experts and to keep them in place at the triage table. Stan offered two of his staff. Rick Sumner noted that he will try to get permission to borrow the Primavera Foundation's Information and Referral (I&R) book for use

- 3. Fundraising.** Lori noted that at least \$5,300 is available in addition to the American Red Cross food donation. Glenn reported that Wells Fargo has said that they will donate, but not how much. Desert Diamond Casino is considering a donation. Commerce Bank is providing water. Participants reached consensus that any funds remaining from this event will be rolled over to the next event. Maryann Beerling obtained \$2,000 from CPSA. Target has a freeze on cash donations, but will donate items and provide volunteers. Consensus was to request recyclable bags.
- **Next steps. a.)** Every purchaser will submit receipts to Lori, even if they are donating the items.
 - b.)** Lori will write “thank you” letters to the sponsors.
- 4. Resources.** Glenn presented an inventory of available resources that included those previously reported by Wayne Steele as being stored at Trinity Presbyterians Church. Tucson Electric Power has done a city-wide donation campaign. It appears that there will be little need to purchase additional items. Everything has already been sorted. It was suggested that some of the toothbrushes and toothpaste be located with the dentist for distribution there.
- Lori asked that all receipts for items purchase be submitted to her, even if they are intended as a donation. This allows for a thorough report of the donations in-kind.
- **Next step.** Everyone who purchases items for the event will submit receipts to Lori, even if they are donating the items.
- 4. Providers.** Rick Sumner reported. Responses have been low to date. The provider workgroup members will send second email reminders and phone invited providers. A few providers have said they cannot commit because of budget and staff. He noted that only one veterans group, TVSV, has so far agreed to participate. Gospel Rescue Mission, Primavera, and Omega House will provide beds for event guests. He has not heard from the Salvation Army. Don noted that they have agreed verbally to provide beds plus a van driver. Jackson Employment Center and Primavera Works will attend.
- Jeff Burnham reported that the University’s van clinic may be unable to participate as planned due to budget cutbacks and a staff retirement. He has verbal commitments from El Rio Clinic, dentist Dr. Billie Holbrook, and COPE Health Promotions. Wingspan/Eon has agreed to attend. He has the name of a nurse who contacted COPE Health Promotion to volunteer, and will ask her to help with triage. A COPE recovery specialist may be able to help with service triage and referral. Jodie Barnes reported that she is speaking with a podiatrist, who is considering volunteering; and that Jason has contacted an optometrist who is considering participating. Don asked whether reading glasses could be purchased if they are not donated. Jodie noted that Target sometimes has reading glasses for \$1 and may be willing to donate some.
- Don reported that the youth agencies at the latest TPCCH Homeless Youth Committee sounded enthusiastic about participating. Patty reported that she has not yet received responses from any of the youth agencies.
- Participants discussed whether the City could provide SunTran ID service at the event. The SunTran ID costs \$1.50 and the bus pass, \$12. Stan and Rick noted that Gospel Rescue Mission and the Primavera Foundation could provide the low-income letter needed to obtain the Sun Tran ID. Consensus was that the budget could afford to provide \$1.50 per guest ID support.
- **Next steps. a.)** Don will copy the previous provider layout to Rick.
 - b.)** Lori will update the event flyer for distribution to the TPCCH list serve.
 - c.)** Don will ask the SunTran ODF contact whether SunTran can provide ID service
- 5. Documentation.** Documents need to be reviewed needs to be done. He suggested that perhaps enabling and empowering services should be grouped to help the committee understand how many clients are choosing each. Stan noted that his employee Bill will be available for data entry.
- Participants discussed whether to create a referral form, and noted that it might be helpful as a reference, but could not ensure guests of any special attention.
- **Next step.** Lori will update the volunteer packet for distribution.

6. Volunteers. Glenn noted that Tucson Electric Power (TEP), Target, and the City of Tucson have agreed to recruit volunteers. Lori noted that she could use one or two assistant volunteer coordinators. Maryann reported by email that she would like to use Trinity Hall all day before the event to prepare the resources. She would like three additional volunteers for sorting that day. She also asked that resources not be withheld until exit because some people must leave early. Consensus was that “exit” is when the individual is done, and that guest may take resources when they need to leave. Glenn reported that he has sufficient volunteers. Lori noted that most volunteers don’t respond until a week before the event, and believes that they will be fine. Stan suggested a pool of “gofers” with a supervisor to dispatch these volunteers to where they are needed.

Volunteer trainings will be 4:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:30 a.m. Friday morning as was done at the previous event.

7. Walk-through. Consensus was that walk-through should be scheduled.

- **Next step.** Don will schedule a walk-through of Trinity Presbyterian Church before the event.

8. Food Coordination. Jodie had to leave early. Lori agreed to work with Jodie on breakfast. The plan is to use the church kitchen to cook eggs and build burritos of eggs, salsa and cheese, then wrap the burritos in foil, and distribute in Fellowship Hall, 8:30-10:30 a.m. and follow with lunch, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Granola bars and fruit will be available all the time. Glenn said that he has volunteers who specifically asked to help with breakfast and food distribution. Don asked Liza to see whether a Red Cross emergency response vehicle (ERV) could serve coffee and burritos to those waiting in line. With Commerce Bank contributing 15 cases of water, another 15 are probably needed.

- **Next step.** Liza will check with the Red Cross on the ERV availability.

9. Media, Publicity & Distinguished Visitors. Deferred.

10. Communications. Stan noted that he plans to obtain 12 radios. Communication with the van drivers will continue to be by cell phone. Several laptops are needed for service providers.

- **Next steps. a.)** Glenn will see if some of the City laptops may be borrowed.
- b.)** Settle Madden will bring the ICH laptop for provider use.

11. New Business/Provider Lounge. Rick suggested that there be an area designated for the providers to take a quick break. Participants discussed how to enact this. The library might be used if no food is brought in or careful preparations made to ensure there would be no chance of spillage. The Jim Hein room downstairs was used last time for a recovery meeting, but will probably be used this time for guests’ cell phone calls.

12. Next Meeting. Thursday, February 4, 2010, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m., City Resource Campus, room TBD.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Jodie Earll Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucsonaz.gov
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Jeff Burnham	COPE	jburnham@copebhs.com
Stan Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	shamnett@grmtucson.com
Glenn Fournie	City of Tucson	glenn.fournie@tucsonaz.gov
Patricia Scott-Lopez	CPSA	Patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org
Rick Sumner	Primavera Foundation	rsumner@primavera.org
Liza Watts	American Red Cross	ewatts@redcrossarizona.org