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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Tucson Homeless Connect Committee

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### July 8, 2010 Minutes

Convener: Don Blascak

<b>Next Meeting:</b> Thursday, July 15, 2010, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 University Blvd.
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<b>Report to TPCCH General Meeting</b>
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| ■ Event planning continues; budget met; more providers |
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Glenn Fournie moved and Jodie Barnes seconded that the minutes of the June 24 meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
- 2. Meeting schedule.** The next meeting is the walk-through of Trinity Presbyterian Church, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. at the east entrance. This will be followed by set-up and resource preparation all day July 29<sup>th</sup>, and the event July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 3. Review of previous next steps.**
  - **Flyers.** Maryann Beerling sent a box containing three thousand, double-sided half-page flyers.
  - **AAA Transportation/ Low-income bus IDs.** Don Blascak reported. The company will provide two vans, one each dedicated to transport event guests to the Department of Motor Vehicles and the City of Tucson Services department for state and low-income bus IDs respectively.
    - **Next steps.** Don will see City of Tucson personnel to complete preparations for providing event guests with low-income bus passes.
  - **ARC bags.** The American Red Cross will provide as many large bags for event guests to use in transporting resources as they have on hand.
  - **Homeless Court.** Judge Pollard has confirmed that he will see event guests 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
  - **ERV, water and breakfast.** Don has asked the ARC to provide an emergency response vehicle to serve water and breakfast, and it appears that they will do so.
  - **Littletown queries.** Patti Scott-Lopez reported that her inquiries revealed that there are many low-income persons but not many homeless individuals in Littletown. Jodie noted that she lives on the mid-east side of town and that there are a number of homeless people in that area who need services. Discussion also included whether transportation should be provided from/to the northwest side. Deborah Montgomery said that she talked to an eastside food bank representative who said that they receive requests from 40-50 homeless persons monthly. Don noted that there is one transportation stop at Ajo and Palo Verde. Lori suggested getting flyers out to these areas and see whether this draws people to the event.
    - **Next steps.** Jodie will inquire about homeless people northwest of town with her contact at Marana Health.
  - **Barbers and chairs.** At this time, three chairs and two barbers are confirmed. El Rio Health Clinic will attend and check guests for lice before haircuts. No one from Great Clips.
    - **Next step.** Patti, Jodie and Liza Watts will each ask a hair cutter that they know to volunteer to cut hair at the event.

**Review of previous next steps cont'd.**

- **Veterinary care.** Pima Animal Care Center has agreed to attend. Don plans to meet with PAWS on Saturday morning, and hopes for a “yes”.
- **Final budget match.** A total of \$1,200 has been received since the previous meeting. Lori noted that this should cover expenses, and leave the committee with \$3,000 toward the next event. Jodie noted that she recently spoke with a UA doctor who could provide volunteer eye screenings and wound care, but said that they cannot provide their mobile health clinic due to budget cuts and operating expenses. They offered to bring that mobile clinic if the committee could contribute \$300-\$400 to defray expenses. Consensus was to accept the eye and wound care assistance, but not to set the precedent of paying to have a provider present. The Mobile Health Village may not be ready to attend and provide services.

**1. Provider status updates.**

- **Subcommittee Report.** Rick provided the committee chair with a provider response spreadsheet by email. Don reviewed the 29 providers already noted on the spreadsheet, and participants confirmed additions. Committed, ending with a total of approximately 40 providers.

New providers include Rescued Helpers, which pairs homeless people with canines as therapy and currently has one house open that can accommodate 5-7 people.; Southern Arizona Legal Aid, which has confirmed attendance; possibly the Arizona Bar Association, which is seeking someone to be available; the Tucson Orthopedic Institute, which will provide service until 11:30 a.m.; the Pima Community College Respiratory Therapy program, which plans to have students do respiratory screenings; and Cool Smiles, which will provide dental screenings.

It was noted that the Social Security Administration and Marana Health Center will need Internet service.

The deadline for provider responses is July 16<sup>th</sup>.

- **Next steps.**
  - a.) Don will complete site layout prior to the walk-through.
  - b.) Lori will check with the Southern Arizona Health Village for the Homeless representative about whether their van will be there.
  - c.) Liza will follow up on getting the TSVS cell phones and service for the guests' use.
  - d.) Committee will ask all attorneys present to coordinate their efforts for maximum effect.
- **Guest entrance.** The guest entrance will be up the ramp into Fellowship Hall. The ERV will serve coffee, water, and burritos.
- **Communication.** Internet and radio providers have been contacted. It's not yet certain whether Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans (TSVS) can again provide cell phones for guests to use. Consensus was that if TSVS or retailers are not able to provide cell phones, the committee will explore purchasing phones and minutes for guests' use. Stan agreed to oversee cell phones and their services.

**3. Transportation.** There will be two vans from AAA. It appears that Comin' Home will not provide a van for this event, as they do not have a driver, but other van providers are assisting.

- **Communications with drivers.** Members will provide the cell phone numbers of their van drivers to Don to ensure communication with drivers.
- **Bus IDs.** One person needs to be assigned to conduct the income self-disclosure for persons seeking low income bus IDs and to escort them to the van.
- **St. Andrews, St. Paul's vans.** Don noted that St. Paul's and St. Andrew's churches have offered their vans, but that their drivers really don't know where to assemble both. He suggested that St. Paul's offer be deferred, and St. Andrew's accepted if Marana Health Center says that enough people will assemble at their clinic to warrant transportation from there.

**Transportation cont'd.**

- **Giving Tree vans.** The Giving Tree asked that the committee provide bus passes for their clients. Don noted that the agency has 14 vans and suggested that they should stick with their original plan to transport their own clients. Other agencies do not request or receive bus passes for transportation to the event, and setting such a precedent would be unworkable. Committee member Crystal Hart is currently not working with the Giving Tree.
  - **Police.** Don noted that the former Tucson Police Department (TPD) representative to TPCH had agreed that TPD would be less visible and reduce their presence at the next event. However, that individual has been reassigned, so he is unsure whether the TPD presence will be reduced.
    - **Next step.** Don will contact TPD regarding their planned presence.
4. **Risk Management.** Don noted that a greater-than-usual number of children are expected at this event. The committee discussed how to keep the children safe and ensure proper event flow. Participants discussed that small children must be escorted, but that the event must be welcoming to homeless youth. Consensus was that all children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Next step.** Don will ensure that there are signs noting that children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
5. **Media.** Deferred.
6. **Forms translation.** Consensus was that registration and exit forms should be completed by July 16<sup>th</sup> in order to allow time for translation to Spanish before the event.
7. **Next Meeting.** Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Boulevard, ease entrance.

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
Glenn Fournie	City of Tucson	glenn.fournie@tucsonaz.gov
Stan Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	shamnett@grmtucson.com
Deborah Montgomery	University Family Care	dmontcomery@uph.org
Patricia Scott-Lopez	CPSA	patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org
Liza Watts	American Red Cross	ewatts@redcrossarizona.org