
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Tucson Homeless Connect Committee

June 24, 2010 Minutes

Convener: Don Blascak

Next Meeting: July 8, 2010, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. City of Tucson
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Report to TPCCH General Meeting
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■ n/a

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Glenn Fournie moved and Rick Sumner seconded to approve the minutes of the June 10th meeting as presented. **Motion passed.**
- 2. Review of meeting schedule:** Upcoming meetings will be: July 8th, 8:30 a.m. at City of Tucson; July 15th, 8:30 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church; July 29th, afternoon set up at Trinity; and the event on July 30th at Trinity.
- 3. Review of previous next steps.** Don Blascak reported.
 - **TPCH Funding.** At its June meeting, the TPCCH General Council allotted \$4,000 for the coming year to this committee to use presenting the Tucson Homeless Connect events.
 - **Double-sided signs have been received.**
 - **Bus ID procedures.** Don is waiting on word whether an AAA van will be available to transport low-income bus pass ID seekers, and will finalize the bus ID procedures as soon as he has that answer. Rick said he has learned that copies of the guests' income verification are self-disclosures and will not need to be copied and archived. Leslie Carlson recommended highlighting this service in the news release.
 - **Translations.** Translations of registration and exit forms have been awaiting a decision whether changes are needed. Leslie Carlson suggested that information regarding type of services could be analyzed without changes to the form, and that the committee ask other communities that present Homeless Connect events whether and how they have tried to analyze their data in regard to ending homelessness. Consensus was that translation of the existing forms can proceed when forms are done.
 - **Food.** Jodie Barnes submitted a written update. She and Lori have communicated with Caridad-de Porres, and ordered lunch for 500 plus 50 sack lunches. Caridad will deliver the breakfast ingredients to the church the day before the event, at a slight cost savings from the last event. Glenn reported that La Mesa Tortillas has donated 600 frozen tortillas. These need to be stored. Consensus was to ask Caridad to store them.
 - **Resources status.** The Summer Sun effort will provide two cases each of sunscreen and lip balm. Don will purchase P38 can openers. Maryann said that flip-flops, towels, washcloths, undershirts, briefs for both men and women in all sizes, hats, body powder, tampons, some diapers, and many more cases of water are needed. She noted that the Red Cross is donating 250 carry bags, but that more are needed. Rick said that he will bring a case of Census 2010 hats. Don said that he has additional ones to bring as well. Rick will bring 400 pairs of socks. Glenn noted that he bought 30 kids comfort bags from Raytheon, and will request another 40 cases of water from donors.
 - **Direct services/continuous support.** See "Translations".

4. Preparations Review.

- **Provider status.** Jodie Barnes reported by email. She and son Jason have contacted all health care providers, received several positive responses and will continue to follow up. The Social Security Administration had previously confirmed for July 23rd, but has not yet confirmed for July 30th. The Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles is definite, but the Arizona Department of Economic Security is not. Patti Scott-Lopez confirmed that COPE will provide HIV testing.

Don noted that the Pima County Health Department plans to have preparedness materials on site that are suitable for vulnerable populations, including homeless people. He has invited Homeless Court Judge Pollard, who will set his own hours, and PAWS, but has had no answer from the latter.

Rick said that he attended a health fair Deborah Montgomery's invitation and connected there with the woman who heads the Pima Community College Respiratory Therapy Program. That program head is working to have PCC get nursing program students at the event to do blood pressure checks and respiratory evaluations, and teach about respiratory health. Cool Smiles dental services, which were recently approved to provide AHCCCS services for children, is working to have their van at the event for dental screenings. Cool Smiles also accepts adults covered by AHCCCS for dental emergencies and has a sliding fee scale for them. There has been no response yet from the Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System.

Patti reported positive responses from the youth and behavioral health providers with the exception of COPE's women's center and Compass, which had not responded. Maryann Beerling phoned and confirmed Compass' participation.

Leslie asked if the registration forms could list services instead of the providers; and if she could have a list of services for both the forms and media communications. The providers subcommittee agreed. Two weeks before the event was set as the cutoff date for finalizing the forms.

- **Media.** Participants discussed areas to highlight in approaching the media, including: technology; volunteers; expansion; efficiency of a one-day, one-stop event; congregational involvement; and innovation, as well as which reporters may be most receptive.
- **Communications.** Stan confirmed that he will coordinate with Simply Bits and Creative Communications on Internet and radio services respectively.
- **Outreach Plan.** Leslie reported that she, Cathy Silvas and Crystal Hart and an intern met to discuss methods, activities and timeline. They concluded that personal communications are best. They would like to encourage effective personal communication by making sure that agencies' staff know and can effectively talk about the event. Consensus was to photocopy and distribute 1,000 of the half-page flyers, double-sided in Spanish and English, and distribute them. The Giving Tree has agreed to put them in the sack lunches they give out. The outreach team will ask Brian Flagg to do the same at Casa Maria. The flyers will also be given out at the TPCCH General Council in July.

Crystal agreed to communicate the event to the ministries group with which she works, and will coordinate additional pick-ups by a Giving Tree van, with driver, from Eastland Park to the event.

Rick and Patti reported that they have already given the half-page flyers to their outreach workers, who are distributing them. Participants discussed a number of potential sites for outreach flyer distribution, including: Victory Assembly of God; the Sober Church; Church on the Street; Holy Family; Life in Christ; Inner City Harvesters; Hope of Glory Ministries; Living Water; Southside Presbyterian Church; and others.

Leslie expressed concern about guests standing in line in the heat. Don noted that the Fellowship Hall (which seats 84 persons) is available for those waiting to register, and that the pick-up schedules are staggered to prevent long lines. Consensus was that most guests will not sit down for fear of losing their place in line; that burritos could be served in the line; and the Red Cross's Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) could be asked to distribute chilled water bottles.

Potential changes to the outreach flyer, which was recently redesigned were discussed. Consensus was to leave the flyer as it now is. It was noted that the flyers state the event ends at 1:00 p.m. rather than the planned 1:30 p.m. Maryann noted that some guests begin their visit with lunch and can't then obtain resources, and suggested that the flyer closing time remain at 1:00 p.m. while the resource crew and providers stay until 1:30 p.m. (with the resource crew possibly later), and that a sign noting that the resource line may be accessed after lunch be placed at registration.

Provider review/outreach plan cont'd.

- **Next steps. a.)** Lori will have 1,500 copies of a double-sided (Spanish/English) flyer printed.
 - b.)** Maryann will cover the copying cost.
 - c.)** Outreach team will do mass flyer distribution beginning the week of July 6th and weekly thereafter, and slate addition of flyers to sack lunches for the day before the event.
- **Transportation.** Don distributed the preliminary pick-up and drop-off schedule, and requested feedback on the best pick-up times to ensure staggered entry to event registration. Participants discussed outreach and round-trip transportation to Littleton, on the city’s southeast side. Providing bus passes for that transportation was suggested, and it was noted that there is no way to ensure that distributed bus passes would be used to attend Tucson Homeless Connect.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Patti will seek input from Littleton outreach workers about area residents’ needs and likely attendance.
 - b.)** Leslie will explore whether a second Giving Tree van could provide transport for the Littleton area.
 - c.)** Don will check whether the Salvation Army South Corps, which ministers to Littleton, could provide transport.
 - d.)** The Casa Paloma pick-up will be combined with the nearby Primavera Foundation’s Homeless Intervention and Prevention (HIP) pick-up; and Rick will talk ensure that Casa Paloma clients know to catch a van at HIP.
- **Funding.** Glenn noted that responses to requests for financial donations have been slow. There is \$500 from the Southern Arizona Procurement Fair plus \$400 from the city. Another \$250 is in process. Maryann noted that she is confident of another \$1,000 donation (and later emailed that it had come through). Consensus was that another \$1,000-\$2,500 is needed.
 - **Next step.** Committee will address any needed budget adjustments at the July 8th meeting.

4. Next Meeting. Thursday, July 8th, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m., City of Tucson. \

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Maryann Beerling	Compass Affordable Housing	maryann.beerling@compassaffordablehousing.org
Dan Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Leslie Carlson	Implementation Coordinator PTEH	lacarlson@cox.net
Glenn Fournie	City of Tucson	glenn.fournie@tucsonaz.gov
Stan Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	shamnett@grmtucson.com
Deborah Montgomery	University Family Care	
Patti Scott-Lopez	CPSA	patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org
Wayne Steele	Community member	tucson3@yahoo.com
Rick Sumner	Primavera Foundation	rsumner@primavera.org