
TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Continuum of Services (CoS) Committee

March 23, 2011 Minutes

Co-chairs: Jennifer Andersen, Mary Pat Sullivan

Next Meeting: April 27, 2011, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Pantano Room, Sentinel Bldg., 320 N. Commerce Park Loop

Report to General Council

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| ■ All PIT Shelter Count results submitted; PIT Street Count results in analysis and interpretation |
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TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Barbara Montrose asked that the words “shelter-plus-care” be removed from the February minutes’ reference to the units that CPSA will provide for the 51homes campaign. Steve Nelson moved and Linda Kot seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. **Motion passed.**
- 2. PIT Shelter Count draft results.** Andy Hall of the Arizona Department of Economic Security distributed copies of preliminary results of the Tucson/Pima County area’s 2011 point-in-time shelter (PIT) count and the 2010 shelter count. He noted that there may be some changes in the 2011 preliminary results because a few discrepancies remain to be reconciled or analysis completed. He added that domestic violence numbers are included in these preliminary numbers, and could be noted separately from homeless numbers. At least one local categorization appeared to be in error. Jennifer Andersen, Barbara, Pam Moseley and Mary Pat Sullivan volunteered to be an analysis workgroup to help analyze and ensure accuracy of local reporting.
 - **Next step. a.)** Barbara will follow up on what appears to be an error in categorization of clients.
 - b.)** The workgroup will meet to review the local numbers and housing capacity reported.
- 3. PIT Street Count draft results.** Laurie Mazerbo and Sylvia Cuestas presented, and distributed preliminary numbers as reported by the individual sites and teams. They noted that there were many changes in the street count from the previous year: methodology (interviews rather than observation); geography (about 52% of the area previously surveyed); and a lower number of volunteers (partly because Census 2010 provided two dozen volunteers last year). Laurie noted that the numbers were low compared to previous years. Included were 70 veterans and 66 youth. Some youth may not be reported in the final count based on their interview answers. Steve noted that HUD has an approved formula for estimating an unsheltered count based on the PIT shelter count results, and offered to run the formula for the analysis effort. It was noted that Maricopa County has used a formula in reporting its unsheltered population for a number of years.

Feedback from the street count debriefing included the following. The interview process was difficult for volunteers, even experienced outreach workers, except at feeding sites. The interview process would be eased by providing respondents with some courtesy in return, such as bus passes or breakfast coupons. The process could be more comprehensive if there was a co-occurring event or events. Steve noted that he has asked Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans to consider holding a Stand Down timed to draw in veterans for appropriate counting. Teams also noted that they felt their assigned areas were too large.

Sylvia and Laurie suggested that the committee consider recommending that the Street Count Workgroup become a standing committee in order to ensure that the process goes smoothly and enough volunteers (up to 300, perhaps) can be recruited. Barbara suggested that the workgroup simply continue and ask for status as a standing committee when the TPCCH operating policies are next reviewed.

Mary Pat Sullivan noted that it would provide better data if the same data sought in through the street count were gathered at Tucson Homeless Connect, Veterans Stand Down events, and the 51homes campaign.

PIT Street Count draft results cont'd.

The committee agreed to assist the Street Count Workgroup with data analysis and interpretation. Steve suggested that the committee and workgroup seek in academia for assistance in the interpretation, especially at the University Of Arizona (UA), a land grant institution with a mission of public service.

- **Next steps. a.)** Steve will use the PIT shelter count numbers to generate expected street count numbers for comparison.
 - b.)** Pam Moseley will check with the UA's Drachman Institute to determine who should be asked to assist with the street count numbers.
 - c.)** Resulting numbers will be correlated and analyzed by the workgroup and committee.

- 4. Needs assessment.** Andy said that the Arizona Governor's Commission on Homelessness and Housing (which, he said, does not have a member from Pima County) has tasked him with preparing an assessment of the needs regarding homelessness in the state by the end of May. He added that he believes that the needs are best assessed by the continuums of care in each area of the state. Participants discussed how best to provide the area's needs assessments and reached the conclusion that the Tucson/Pima County Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) is the most recent document explaining our area's needs and should be used as guidance. It was acknowledged that HEARTH Act implementation will change everything and that the commission understands that.
 - **Next steps. a.)** Beth Carey will forward a copy of the Con Plan to Andy.
 - b.)** Andy will contact the committee if he has any more questions.

- 5. Old Business/LeCroy & Milligan update.** Steve reported. The City of Tucson has added \$9,000 to be spent by June 30, 2011 to the \$20,000 made available by Pima County for contracting with the past two year's continuum of care consultants, LeCroy & Milligan. There have been two meetings with the consultants, and they are currently adjusting a previously prepared timeline and list of tasks/responsibilities to incorporate the additional funding, the spending deadline, and the need to input data to the HUD Data Exchange (HDX) and initiate the first stages of strategic planning together.

- 6. New Business.** Steve noted that the U.S. House of Representatives has voted to discontinue funding to the Neighborhood Stabilization Grants Program and decrease Community Development Block Grants with its latest continuing resolution to fund federal operations. CDBG. Last time dropped \$4 billion in programs.

- 7. Next Meeting.** Wednesday, April 27th, 8:30-10:00 a.m., Pantano Room, City Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop. .

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Name		Organization	Email
Jennifer	Andersen	New Beginnings for Women & Children	jandersen@nbwctucson.org
Beth	Carey	SAAF	bcarey@saaf.org
Sylvia	Cuestas	Living Faith Christian Center	scuestas@pima.gov
Andy	Hall	DES	jahall@azdes.gov
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Laurie	Mazerbo	Our Family Services	lmazerbo@ourfamilyservices.org
Barbara	Montrose	CPSA	barbara.montrose@cpsa-rbha.org
Pam	Moseley	Pima County	pmoseley@pima.gov
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Mary Pat	Sullivan	Community member	mpsullivan110@yahoo.com