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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Discharge Planning Committee

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### March 24, 2011 Minutes

Chair: Betty Bitgood

<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> April 28, 2011, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Hope, Inc., 1200 N. Country Club Road</p>
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<p><b>Report to TPCCH General Meeting</b></p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Guidelines updates in progress; additional members encouraged to join</li></ul> |
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Chairmanship.** Betty Bitgood noted that Co-chair Dan Haley has had to resign due to the press of his professional duties. Next month a chair and vice chair will need to be elected for the coming fiscal year.
2. **Minutes.** Betty noted that the minutes of the October meeting were approved on December 5<sup>th</sup>. There were no meetings in November, January or February.
  - **Next step.** Betty will forward electronically the committee's December minutes to the TPCCH administrative coordinator for formatting and consideration at the April meeting.
3. **Role of committee.** Reviewed the committee's role and need to elect a chair and vice chair for the coming year. The current TPCCH Operating Policies describe the committee as follows:

**Discharge Planning Committee:** The purpose of the Discharge Planning Committee is to advocate for and provide education to young adults exiting foster care and individuals being discharged homeless from hospitals, jails, prisons and other institutions. The committee is responsible for developing and distributing a resource list appropriate to each population served.

4. **Hospital discharges.** Betty reviewed the planned letter to hospital emergency room social workers and administrators. Participants discussed, and reached consensus to change the wording to include that the requested meeting's purpose is "to explore how we can work together to address these concerns and any other mutual issues."
  - **Next steps.** a) Shauna Hickem will email her discharge planning nurse's contact information to Betty.
    - b.) Betty will forward the revised letter to the TPCCH Executive Committee for approval by the General Council.
5. **Aging out of foster care.** Tyson Gillespie, director of transitional and support service for Intermountain Centers for Human Development, reviewed the history and scope of services available for children and youth aging out of foster care through Intermountain's Transitional Independent Living Program, and distributed an English/Spanish pamphlet describing the program and who is eligible. He noted that the state's recent economic difficulties have reduced some services available through Intermountain. Intermountain currently works on life skills and transitional training for youth ages 16 (up from a previous 13) to 21 while still in care. They no longer have the few apartments they maintained for in-service youth ages 18-21, although they continue to provide case management and support programs.

To the information in the pamphlet, he added the following. An 18-year-old still in high school can remain in his/her placement, with the care provider receiving reimbursement until the youth graduates. A discharge planning staffing is generally done for each youth about to age out of foster care. The benefits

**Aging out of foster care cont'd.**

of remaining with Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS), and the different programs available are generally presented at that staffing. Youth who elect to remain in service are their own guardians; retain the same case manager (unless they desire a change); and may be eligible for a subsidy of \$725. Such eligibility requires them to work their case plan, have safe and stable housing, have no legal issues, be in school or looking for a job/working; and to keep all their expense receipts to turn in to their case manager. He noted that youth who decline to remain in CPS service are given information on applying for the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) program through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), and information on services available through Intermountain Foster care youth are eligible for the following: case management referral, specialty family unification program of Section 8; financial assistance to pay for housing, clothing, and education, transport, and work-related costs, (but no child care, debt or restitution costs) which is not part of the stipend.

He noted that youth who did not stay with CPS or left before turning 21 can return to services until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. They start by contacting Intermountain, who will work with them for 60-90 days during which time they can retain the option to return to services or not.

He noted that youth who can prove they were in foster care in other states, and tribal members, are eligible for many services. The youth does not necessarily have to have aged out of foster care. Youth out of the home after age 16 are eligible for some type of assistance.

Chafee Act funding funds all TILP and subsidy program nationwide. There is a state match, including the financial assistance. There is separate portion of services under the Social Security Act to fund post-secondary education for former foster care youth.

Tyson distributed business cards and asked participants to contact him with questions regarding for services a youth they serve may be is eligible.

He noted that other resources for former foster care youth are the In My Shoes mentorship program and a University of Arizona group for former foster care youth.

- **Next step.** The committee will seek to arrange a presentation at the TPCH General Council.

**3. Guidelines updates.** Participants discussed the next issue of the Guidelines on Getting Out, agreed to keep it the same size as in previous years, accepted responsibility for updates as follows.

- Employment, Food & Drop-in Centers: Patty Eaglen
- Health/Dental: Shauna Hickem
- Public Behavioral Health: Linda Saxon
- Emergency Shelter & Transportation: Betty Bitgood
- Transitional Housing & Family Matters: Sally Hueston
- Domestic Violence & Independent Housing: Clark Dyer (in absentia)
  - **Next step.** Participants will bring completed updates to the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**6. Next meeting.** Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30 p.m., HOPE, Inc., 1200 N. Country Club.

- **Next step.** Each participant will seek to bring two new members to the next committee meeting.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

Name		Organization	Email
Betty	Bitgood	Hope of Glory Ministries	betty@tucsonhope.org
Patty	Eaglen	Primavera Foundation	peaglen@primavera.org
Tyson	Gillespie	Intermountain Centers for Human Development	tysong@ichd.net
Shauna	Hickem	El Rio Broadway Clinic	shaunah@elrio.org
Sally	Hueston	Hope, Inc.	
Linda	Saxon	Arizona Department of Corrections	mibeli@msn.com