
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Emergency Services Committee

April 30, 2009 Minutes

Co-chairs: Don Blascak, Jill Rich

<p>Next Meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2009, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Realty Executives, 1745 E. River Rd., Suite 245</p>
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<p>Report to TPCCH General Meeting May 14th</p>

<p>■ n/a</p>

TOPICS DISCUSSED

5. **Minutes.** Minutes of the March meeting were approved by consensus.
6. **Winter Shelter Review.**
 - **AAA Van Services.** Kathleen Joy reported. She has been in talks with AAA Transportation regarding transporting the Project Hospitality and One Step Beyond clients to congregations during the winter shelter season. They have emailed that their goal is to offer the vehicles and drivers for the service at no cost. Local representatives are negotiating with company owners on whether they will be able to cover the fuel costs. If they cannot, the winter shelter program would need to do so. Lori Block noted that \$2,500 of last year's budget was for fuel. Because van rental and drivers' wages would not be needed if AAA Van Services provides transportation, there would be significant savings.
 - **Next step:** Kathleen will put the AAA representatives in touch with the co-chairs and Lori to finalize details.
7. **Summer Sun Program.** Participants reviewed the draft site list with incomplete youth shelter information Kim Ward noted that the replacement Hospitality House, slated to open in 2010, plans to offer sun respite although they cannot currently do so. Jill offered sunscreen for those who need it to distribute.
 - **Next steps:** a.) Settle Madden will complete the list.
b.) Jill Rich will confirm donation drop-off sites and convey to Settle.
c.) Jill will do the news release on the donations program for Summer Sun.
8. **Blankets.** Kathleen noted that she was waiting for a delivery address to specify before putting in the FEMA blanket order for 2009-2010. Jim Kuzdal asked her to use the St. Vincent de Paul warehouse address. Kim asked about the future disposition of the mobile mini now on the Salvation Army and whether there should be lease agreement for mini mobile storage.
 - **Next step:** Kim will check with Don Blascak on the future of the mobile mini storage unit.
9. **Old Business.**
 - **Election of 2009-2010 Co-Chairs.** Brother David Buer and Jim Kuzdal were unanimously elected co-chairs of the committee for the coming year.
 - **Continuous Winter Shelter Proposal.** The proposal is to establish a winter shelter, independent of weather, that would be open to men continuously for three or four months annually. Lori and Brother David met with Jackson Employment Center Director Efrain Romero to tour the current center and assess suitability for that purpose new Center is completed. The 6,000-square-foot building has capacity for 100 cots and three bathrooms (five toilets, two urinals) plus two showers in a currently unused area. There is space for blanket storage. Doors of the many small rooms could be removed for smaller sleeping areas to control noise and transmission of colds. Pima County owns the building, which needs repairs. A source of renovations funds has not been identified.

Continuous Winter Shelter Proposal cont'd.

Efrain suggested that committee representatives meet with the County's Hank Atha, South Tucson Mayor Jennifer Eckstrom, and the Board of Supervisors' Ramon Valdez.

Lori estimated that, Operation Deep Freeze, a continuous shelter budget (utilities; two staff for 6 a.m.-6 p.m. operation; the use of volunteers plus already-budgeted Hospitality House personnel; food at \$4 daily per person (FEMA rate) from Caridad/de Porres; and supplies) would be approximately \$80,000 for four months. FEMA allots winter shelter programs \$30,000 annually (More is supposed to come in soon.), leaving \$50,000 to be raised. The largest unknowns would be rent and insurance, which would be an addition to what ICH already carries.

Participants discussed the issues, including insurance, sources of volunteer renovation assistance (possibly Tucson Electric Power and Make a Difference Day groups), the possible presence of asbestos in some of the area's buildings; a request to the Pima County for nominal rent; and how to accommodate extra men when weather is inclement. Lori suggested that the building should be inspected, its modification needs identified, and donations of goods and services sought to meet those needs. Jim suggested that the cost of modifications might total \$40-50,000.

- **Next step.** Lori and Brother David will seek the recommended appointments and report.

10. New Business.

- **Veterans Stand Down.** Mark Jensen reported. The next Stand Down will be a one-day event Saturday, June 20th, approximately 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Army Reserve Center (Allen Hall) on Silverlake.
 - **Next step.** Mark will distribute flyers for the event when plans are finalized.
- **Meeting Location.** Consensus was to meet at Realty Executive next month and consider the new Jackson Employment Center and Primavera conference rooms for the future.
- **Flip-flop drive.** Kathleen noted that the Arizona Department of Economic Security has let her know that they have been doing a flip-flop drive and send the Salvation Army a large quantity of flip-flops donated by Old Navy Stores. These can be distributed through the Summer Sun effort.
- **"Swine" Flu.** Don Blascak noted that the committee needs to consider social distancing measures to prevent flu transmission; and that a Red Cross surveys shows that volunteers will not turn out to operate shelters if a pandemic is declared. He noted that outbreaks of "swine" or "Mexican" flu in two more countries will raise the Pandemic Alert Level to 5.

11. **Next meeting:** Thursday, May 21st, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Realty Executives, 1745 E. River Road, Suite 245.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Name	Organization	Email
Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
David Buer, OFM	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia Cuestas	Christian Faith Center	scuestas@pima.gov
Diana Figueroa	Primavera Foundation	dfigueroa@primavera.org
Anna Garcia	Arizona Housing & Prevention	hotteller03@yahoo.com
Lt. Decio Hopffer	Tucson Police Department	decio.hopffer@tucsonaz.gov
Mark Jensen	SAVAHCS	mark.jensen2@va.gov
Kathleen Joy	Salvation Army	kathleen.joy@usw.salvationarmy.org
Jim Kuzdal	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Pam Parrish	CPSA	pam.parrish@cpsa-rbha.orgf
Jill Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Kim Marie Ward	Salvation Army	kim.ward@usw.salvationarmy.org
Joe Zelinka	Comin' Home	33c@comcast.net