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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Emergency Services Committee

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### July 7, 2010 Minutes

Co-chairs: Sylvia Cuestas, Jill Rich

<b>Next Meeting:</b> Wednesday, August 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2010, 10:00-11:30 am Sullivan Jackson Employment Ctr., 400 E. 26 <sup>th</sup> St.
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<b>Report to TPCH General Meeting July 8<sup>th</sup></b>
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| ■ Updates on Project Summer Sun and blankets |
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Brother David Buer moved and Wendy Heiden seconded that the minutes of the June meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**

2. **Summer Sun updates.** Brother David reported. The St. Francis cooling centers are operating six days weekly and averaging 50-60 guests per day. He noted that he visited RAPP yesterday, and that people are very grateful for the sack lunches, as are the St. Francis Centers' guests. He noted that Flowing Wells Assembly of God loaned the effort a trailer for storing cots when they're not in use.

Jill noted that she recently provided 100 sunscreens to the Primavera Foundation and 500 lip smoothers for Tucson Homeless Connect. She has ordered a few more cases of sunscreen. Donations drop-offs at Long Realty are going well.

Yoli Hasler reported that water donations to the Salvation Army are down this year despite media coverage for the plea and of delivery in parks. Don Blascak noted that he has collected and distributed 160 cases of water, more than ever before at this point in season. He said that he has collected numerous sunscreen and hats as well.

Wendy noted that La Frontera RAPP would like to increase the number of sack lunches it receives daily from 30 to 50 because people have been going away empty handed. Jill said that the cost to do so through the end of the Summer Sun August 31 would be \$1,737, which is available from FEMA funds that must be spent before November 30<sup>th</sup>. This would leave \$1,562 of FEMA monies still to spend by the deadline. Wendy said that RAPP only serves lunches through July 31. Don moved to supply RAPP with 50 lunches daily through the end of their program. Kim Ward seconded. **Motion passed unanimously**

Don noted that he is working with St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on a plan to augment sack lunches. That church's sandwich squad wishes to change locations, and he has suggested RAPP and the Sonora House.

3. **Winter Shelter.**

- **2010-2011 season preparations.** Kim reported that the prior season billing is completed, and Yoli Hasler and Celeste Reynolds made aware of procedures for winter shelter record keeping. She expressed many thanks to Lori Block for assisting with billing completion. She noted that it is a challenge to have a new winter shelter manager each year; and that educating Yoli and Celeste to the process will help. She plans to post the position soon, and is doing outreach for suitable candidates at meetings and events that she attends.

Don reported that, to date, bed night pledges are 2,109 for Project Hospitality, and 206 for One Step Beyond, for a total of 2,315 bed nights. Thirty-eight of 93 season days are fully subscribed; with only two days having no beds pledged. Eleven congregations have yet to report.

**Winter Shelter cont'd.**

- **Letter to Executive Directors.** Sylvia and Jill completed the letter alerting agency executive directors (EDs) to needs and concerns about case management in winter shelter programs. Kim plans to send it in early August. She will follow up with phone calls to EDs to arrange a schedule of trainings at major agencies.
4. **Blankets.** Don reported that 10,000 blankets were recently received, and another 5,000 should arrive within a week. There are only approximately 2,000 blankets remaining from last year. The St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) warehouse is nearly full. They plan to divert the next shipment to Caridad-de Porres to unload as many blankets as possible, and to store the remainder at SVDP if necessary. A large number of volunteers will be needed, because there is no fork lift – or room for one – at Caridad. Brother David and Wendy offered to bring helpers from the nearby Holy Family cooling center (if operating that day) and RAPP respectively. Once the final shipment is received, there should be 17,000-18,000 blankets on hand.
- Participants discussed whether to order more blankets. It was noted that storage would need to be arranged first. One truck holds enough blankets to fill 2,200 square feet of space, Don said. Consensus was to order another 5,000 blankets.
- **Next steps.**
    - a.) Yoli will request another 5,000 blankets.
    - b.) Sylvia will set up a blanket pick-up schedule for the last three Fridays of August, 12 -3 p.m.
    - c.) Don will check on the current location of the storage trailer formerly parked at TEP.
    - d.) Kim will check how many square feet of storage the Salvation Army might provide.
5. **Old Business/Poverello House.** Brother David noted that after one and one-half years of Poverello House operation, two neighbors (one the neighborhood association president) complained to the city about the facility's presence. They were accused of being a "soup kitchen" and presented by the City of Tucson with an order to cease & desist. That order has been delayed until July 25<sup>th</sup>, and a code review begun. Attorney Scott Gibson and George Petit of Councilwoman Ulich's office are assisting Poverello. He asked for members' support and prayers.
6. **New Business.**
- **TPCH Bonus Project.** The 'Frontiers' bonus project supported housing project for youth submitted with the continuum of care's 2009 HUD application was funded with \$446,006 as of July 6<sup>th</sup>. Frontiers is a joint CPSA and Open Inn effort.
  - **Heat-related illness brochures.** Aaron Pacheco has a few remaining and is willing to share. It was suggested that he bring them to General Council meeting tomorrow.
7. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:30 a.m. The following meeting will be Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, same time. Both will be at the Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Jerry Brillo		jbsaret@aol.com
David Buer, ofm	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia Cuestas	Christian Faith Center	sylvia.cuestas@pima.gov
Yoli Hasler	Salvation Army	yoli.hasler@usw.salvationarmy.org
Wendy Heiden	La Frontera RAPP	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Jim Kuzdal	SVDP	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Aaron Pacheco	Pima County Health Department	aaron.pacheco@pima.gov
Celeste Reynolds	Salvation Army	celeste.reynolds@usw.salvationarmy.org
Jill Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Kim Ward	Salvation Army	kim.ward@usw.salvationarmy.org
Joy Wilcox	Primavera Foundation	jwilcox@primavera.org