
TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Emergency Services Committee

March 9, 2011 Minutes

Co-hairs: Jill Rich, Sylvia Cuestas

Next Meeting: April 13, 2011, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26 th Street

TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Lori Block moved and Sylvia Cuestas seconded that the minutes of the February meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**

2. **Winter shelter.**

- **Congregational programs.** Don Blascak reported. Beds available for the season for Project Hospitality (PH) were 2,428 and for One Step Beyond (OSB) 1,315 for a total of 3,744 beds. Of those beds, 84% were filled in PH and 73% in OSB.

Don noted that he generally begins recruiting bed nights for the coming winter shelter season in May. He can delay start of recruiting to allow for a change in the winter shelter program. He noted that two new congregations have volunteered, and he will go ahead and brief them as to the existing shelter program.

Don recommended that a number of cots be purchased for replacements either for a continuing or new program. He will begin recovering cots from congregations that don't store them – and taking inventory of those cots stored at congregations – next week. He noted that Caridad-de Porres can no longer store cots now that it is affiliated with the Community Food Bank.

Don noted that, as often occurs, there were several instances of late delivery or pick-up of clients, and several of direct release from congregations because no van came to pick up guests. There seemed to be confusion in AAA after the most experience employee left as to who was doing what. Trinity missed a scheduled night due to lack of transportation, Don said it was due to his computer crash. He noted that some congregations complained that their numbers were lower than expected. They do not seem to understand that some case managed guests choose not to come on certain nights, he said. He noted that case managers/social workers did not attend PH, but that visits to OSB sites were very consistent.

Jerry noted that Compass was unable to provide transportation to detox, and the winter shelter program paid for it – a good investment because people who agree to go to detox tend to walk away if they are not picked up promptly.

- **Operation Deep Freeze.** Jerry Brillo reported that 2,321 people were served on 32 nights, averaging 72 persons per night, including women who were kept at the Hospitality House. A total of 18 people were sent to Compass Health Care for detox. Compass provided no follow-up on those individuals. There was previously ongoing case management at Compass to refer individuals to further treatment.

Because the budget is for 30 nights, the effort may be over budget, Lori Block noted. The Salvation Army has billed only through December, said Yoli Hasler.

Yoli noted that a total of 25 people were turned away on the last two nights, and that Temple Emmanuel took a number of people who would otherwise have been turned away.

Participants discussed the need for TB cards in congregational programs and whether guests without TB cards could be sent to congregational sites when congregational attendance would otherwise be low. Sample guidelines for shelter management of TB control were distributed and reviewed.

- **Next step.** Jerry will check how many of the 72 average persons housed nightly were women.

Winter shelter continued

- **Independent continuous shelter.** Brother David Buer reported that the men's shelter at Flowing Wells Assembly of God received 47-48 guests per night on 60 nights, indicating that perhaps at least 121 people total needed shelter. The women's shelter remains open through this Friday, March 11th, and hosts 10-12 guests nightly.

In consideration of how many people might need shelter in an alternative plan, Jerry noted that the historical highest ODF attendance was 96. Brother David said his highest was 58 men, and that he was unsure of the highest attendance in the women's shelter. It was noted that a total of 200 to 220 persons might need to be accommodated on the coldest nights when congregational programs are included.

3. **Blankets.** Don reported that approximately 7,500-8,000 FEMA blankets remain in storage with another 5,000 blankets on order. He plans an inventory in the next few weeks. Brother David noted that the Most Holy Trinity Church's Soup Patrol continues through the end of April and is giving out FEMA blankets nightly.

Participants discussed how many additional blankets to order for the next season, and noted that the winter shelter storage unit is still at TEP but available at any time. They reached consensus to ask agencies to pick up and store blankets immediately in order to free up storage capacity.

- **Next step.** Yoli will phone her contact to discuss the best time to order, and whether it is possible to order 25,000 blankets but have them delivered in several shipments.

4. **Alternate winter shelter proposal workgroup.** Participants today discussed staffing and fund raising. They agreed to work at the April meeting on a draft report that they hope to present to the TPCH General Council in May.

5. **New Business.** Yoli suggested that the committee invite a representative of Compass Health Care to meet with the committee and discuss their policies in order to avoid misunderstandings and improve the referral of detox clients. Consensus was to do this.

- **Next step.** Yoli will invite a Compass representative to meet with the committee.

6. **Next Meeting.** Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26th Street, with the following meeting on May 18th at the same time and place.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Name		Organization	Email
Lori	Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Don	Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
Jerry	Brillo	Salvation Army	jbsaret@aol.com
David	Buer, ofm	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia	Cuestas	Sullivan Jackson Employment Center	scuestas@pima.gov
Yoli	Hasler	Salvation Army	yoli.hasler@usw.salvationarmy.org
Wendy	Heiden	La Frontera	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Jim	Kuzdal	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Jill	Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Kim	Ward	Salvation	kim.ward@usw.salvationarmy.org