
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Emergency Services Committee

September 8, 2010 Minutes

Co-chairs: Sylvia Cuestas, Jill Rich

Next Meeting: October 13, 2010, 10:00-11:30 am Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26 th St.
--

Report to TPCCH General Meeting September 10th
--

- | |
|---|
| ■ Motion to form workgroup to explore alternative winter shelter proposal |
|---|

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Minutes.** Jim Kuzdal moved and Lori Block seconded that the minutes of the August meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
- Summer Sun.** Brother David Buer reported that the St. Francis' Cooling Centers operated for 56 days, June 16th-August 20th, and were open each day of the week except Sundays. The centers served a total of 2,714 guests with an average of 42 men and 6 women daily. Two dozen volunteers worked with the centers.
Don Blascak noted that he has distributed 255 cases of water. Celeste Reynolds noted that 144 cases were also provided by the Salvation Army for a total distribution of approximately 412 cases of water. Lori noted that another 11 cases of water have been donated by Desert Hills Lutheran Church. Jill Rich noted that four cases of sunscreen remain, of which one each will go to RAPP and Hope of Glory Ministries.
- Winter Shelter Preparations/Letter to EDs.** Participants discussed which agencies' executive directors (EDs) need to receive the prepared letter, and provided lists from previous years to the Salvation Army participants.
Don reported that bed nights pledged for congregational shelter programs to date are: Project Hospitality, 2,271; One Step Beyond, 1,186; and total bed nights, 3, 457. Three congregations have not yet responded. To date, 53 nights have 30 beds pledged each; 18 nights have 20 or more beds each; and there are no nights without beds pledged.
 - **Next step.** Salvation Army staff will merge and email the letters this week.
- Blankets.** Don reported that the distribution log shows 356 boxes of blankets distributed to date. A few boxes were distributed but not recorded, so that approximately one truckload of boxes is gone. Two truckfuls of boxes have been ordered but not delivered, putting the effort at risk of having too few blankets for the winter shelter season. Don urged that everyone be sure to log each distribution; and that St. Vincent de Paul employees not distribute small quantities of blankets outside of the scheduled times.
Distribution limits. Don noted that one agency that does not operate – not working with the committee as a subsidiary storage and distribution site – has taken 54 boxes of blankets to date. Participants discussed how to fairly limit the number of boxes that an agency which are not acting as storage and subsidiary distribution centers fairly so that all agencies are treated equally. It was suggested that the committee establish categories and limits for each to go into effect immediately and remain in effect until delivery of additional blankets or in case of emergencies. Categories could be: 1.) subsidiary distribution centers; 2.) licensed shelters; 3.) outreach to homeless persons; and 4.) public services and others. Proposed limits could be: categories 1 and 2, unlimited; category 3, 20 boxes; and category 4, 10 boxes. Lori so moved, and Don seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Blankets cont'd.

Supply of blankets. Yoli Hasler reported that she has not heard back from FEMA regarding the anticipated delivery of 5,000 blankets. She asked whether she should order another 5,000. Consensus was “yes”.

- o **Next steps. a.)** Settle Madden will include the new distribution limits in the Thursday, September 9th TPCH Weekly Announcements.
- b.)** Yoli will email FEMA and continue other efforts to determine when the ordered blankets will arrive.

- 5. Alternate Winter Shelter Proposal.** A motion to establish a workgroup to explore feasibility of the alternate winter shelter proposal discussed at the August meeting is on tomorrow’s General Council agenda. Participants discussed possible sites for the proposed single-site alternative effort, and dividing the feasibility workgroup – if approved – into smaller groups to explore specific aspects of the proposal, such as facilities; congregational participation, procedures, and funding.
- 6. Next Meeting:** Weekday, October 13th, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Sullivan Jackson Employment. The following meeting was set for Wednesday, November 10th at the same time and location.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Name	Organization	Email
Lori Block	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Don Blascak	Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless	dblascak@comcast.net
David Buer, OFM	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia Cuestas	Christian Faith Center / Jackson Employment	scuestas@pima.gov
Yoli Hasler	Salvation Army	yoli.hasler@usw.salvationarmy.org
Wendy Heiden	La Frontera	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Jim Kuzdal	St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Celeste Reynolds	Salvation Army	celeste.reynolds@usw.salvationarmy.org
Jill Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net