
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Emergency Services Committee

December 10, 2008 Minutes

Chairs: Jill Rich and Don Blascak

<p>Next Meeting: January 6, 2009, 10:00-11:30 am 1745 E. River Road, Suite 245</p>

<p>Report to TPCCH General Meeting December 13th</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Project Hospitality presentation■ Vote on blanket policy |
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TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by consensus.
2. **Operation Deep Freeze (ODF).**
 - **Preparations.** Don noted that a mini-mobile has been placed at Temple Corps and all items stored at the National Guard have been removed. Everything is ready for the first night of ODF. It currently appears that there will be no need to call ODF through Sunday night. He noted that a number of case managers have signed up for ODF coverage.
 - **TPD role in transport.** Tucson Police Department (TPD) Lt. Decio Hopffer said that he would like clarification on the transportation protocol for intoxicated homeless individuals during ODF, specifically whether these individuals should be transported to Compass, to the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, or both. Participants discussed the issue and reached consensus that the destination for intoxicated individuals seeking ODF shelter should be based on their veteran's status.
 - **Next step:** Lt Hopffer will ask TPD officers to take intoxicated individuals who accept transport to detox and have veterans ID cards to the VA Hospital, and to take those who don't have veterans ID cards to Compass.
3. **Winter Shelter Programs.**
 - **Project Hospitality (PH).** Don distributed the list of congregations participating in the programs, and asked committee members to sign up for courtesy visits to each congregation at least once during the season. Jill Rich reported that the efforts at Temple Emmanuel are going well.

Don noted that there is some confusion among local case managers about whom to refer to Project Hospitality. He noted that the appropriate persons to refer are those who do not currently have a shelter bed of a stable "home" base. Case managers are to continue working with the guests. The goal is to help the guests move on to transitional housing and self-sufficiency. There will be a presentation on Project Hospitality at tomorrow's General Council meeting.

He also noted that one church experienced either vandalism or un-cleaned explosive illness in its bathroom. Consequently, all guests are currently being read a statement about respecting their host's property.
 - **One Step Beyond (OSB).** OSB has the same objectives for veterans. Mark noted that his OSB beds are full, and he has a waiting list. Kathleen noted that there is a waiting list at the Salvation Army as well, but that some participants do drop out, and they are still accepting referrals.

4. **Blankets.** Don noted that this body in November passed two motions: one that blankets are to be given to all who are cold; and that no blankets would be distributed to those who do not observe this policy. Don noted that TPCH has no regulatory authority to deny blankets. He noted that the following re-worded policy will be presented to the General Council for a vote tomorrow: *It is TPCH's policy that FEMA blankets are to be provided to all persons who are cold without restriction. Each agency agrees to this policy by accepting blankets for distribution,*

Participants discussed what next year's need may be, and agreed to wait for an inventory to decide on the amount to order. Participants reported that they are going fast.

- **Next step: a.)** Blankets will be inventoried.
- b.) Committee will discuss the number of blankets to order for the coming year at the January meeting.

5. Old Business.

- **Blanket denial.** Jim Kuzdal reported that he spoke with the executive director of the agency whose house manager reported that they denied blankets to those who were intoxicated or high. He said that the Executive Director told him this was not the case and would not be the case in the future.
- **Family Housing.** Kathleen reported that two families have graduated into apartments from Salvation Army in the past week
- **Poverello House.** Brother David Buer reported that the Poverello House day program for homeless men is going well. They are still seeking to build up to 10-12 guests daily. There is zero tolerance for intoxication. Caridad provides lunches and they also serve any soup remaining from the previous night's soup patrol

6. New Business.

- **Homeless Memorial.** Diana Figueroa noted that next Friday December 19th is the annual interfaith Homelessness Memorial will at the west end of Evergreen Cemetery at the County Plot from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.
- **Unusual TB Case.** Don reported on a man with challenging medical problems and loss of memory, who has TB in remission and under treatment, cannot obtain ID, and is in need of stable housing. The individual is 80 or 81 years old. He asked that participants consider how the man might be placed in a housing situation where his medical treatment, with which he is cooperative, can be managed. Kathleen and Kim Ward noted that they have worked with him, but that the Salvation Army is unable to manage his ongoing medical needs.

7. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 6, 2009, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Realty Executives, 1745 E. River Road, Suite 245.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Name	Organization	Email
Don Blascak	ICH	dblascak@comcast.net
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Mark Jensen	SAVAHCS	mark.jensen@va.gov
Robert "BJ" Johnson	La Frontera R.A.P.P.	rjohnson@lafronter.org
Kathleen Joy	Salvation Army	kathleen.joy@usw.salvationarmy.org
Jim Kuzdal	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Jill Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net
Kim Ward	Salvation Army	Kim.ward@usw.salvationarmy.org