
TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

General Council

April 14, 2011 Minutes

Co-chairs: Steve Nelson, Lisa Griffin

Next Meeting: May 12, 2011, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., Rillito-Sabino Rm., Sentinel Bldg., 320 N. Commerce Park Loop

TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Barbara Montrose requested several corrections to be provided in writing. Stan Hamnett moved and Phyllis Russell seconded that the minutes be accepted as amended. **Motion passed.**
 - **Next step.** Barbara will provide the changes to the administrative coordinator. (Changes provided immediately following the meeting.)

2. **Presentations.**
 - **Co-chairs' presentation.**
 - ◆ **Exhibit 1 preparation/CoC consultants.** Since last month, the City of Tucson has added \$9,0000 – to be spent by June 30th – to the \$20,000 provided by Pima County for contracting with continuum of care consultants and preparing the TPCB Exhibit 1
 - ◆ **City funds for website and social media.** The City has also provided \$5,000 – again to be spent by June 30th – to the \$20,000 provided by Pima County for contracting with continuum of care consultants and preparing the TPCB Exhibit 1.
 - ◆ **Federal budget and human services.** Steve Nelson reviewed the most recently passed continuing budget resolution's appropriations for homeless and related services. The resolution is finalized and will be sent to President Obama. Although the resolution froze or reduced funding for some critical homeless –related budget items, it increased others and may allow for the publishing of HEARTH Act regulations and implementation of the act.
 - ◆ **51 homes.** Lisa Griffin reported. During four days 108 volunteers interviewed of did data entry on more than 400 people, of which 188 medically vulnerable, 3% higher than the national average. Volunteers included persons experienced in homelessness and volunteers from the Phoenix area brought by the Arizona Departments of Veterans Services and Economic Security plus the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness. The 51homes Community Report will be tomorrow, 10:00 a.m., at Temple Emmanuel, 225 N. Country Club. There will be a more formal presentation next month.
 - ◆ **Nominating workgroup.** Nick Jones reported. He, Susanna Rodriguez and Don Blascak reviewed the current Executive Committee members and their terms, and presented the following slate.

2011–2012 TPCB Nominating Workgroup for Executive Committee Recommendation

EC Members	Elected/term year	Population/issue represented	Position	Status	term status
Lisa Griffin	2010 - 2011	Youth	Vice Chair	Accept/Vice Chair	One more term
David Roun	2010 - 2011	Behavioral Health	Member	Accept	One more term
Marty Twohill	2010 - 2011	Veterans	Member	Accept	One more term
Sylvia Cuestas	2010 - 2011	Faith based	Member	Accept	One more term
Steven Nelson	2010 - 2011	Employment/County	Chair	Accept/Chair	One more term
Stan Hamnett	2010 - 2011	Shelter	Member	Accept	One more term
Kelly Evans	2011-2012	Domestic Violence	Member	Accept	2011 - 2013
Kevin Jackson	2011-2012	Special Populations	Member	Accept	2011-2013
Susanna Rodriguez	2010 - 2011	City	Member	Accept	2011-2013

Barbara Montrose noted that all nominees must be from among current voting members, and that Emerge does not current appear to be a voting member. Several others agreed.

Presentations cont'd.

- **Aging out of foster care.** Tyson Gillespie of Intermountain Centers for Human Development (ICHD) and Rose Diaz of Arizona Child Protective Services' Young Adult Services Program presented on the services available in Arizona to youth who age out of foster care (summary attached). ICHD is the CPS-contracted local provider of young adult services.
- **Pima County Supportive Housing Inventory.** Pat DeVito and Josh Hope presented. Because a number of supported housing complexes in the area recently closed, Pima County and the City of Tucson are concerned about the current supportive housing stock, condition of the units in that stock, and the requirements for accessing those units. They asked members to supply information on their housing so the county can begin a capital needs assessment of shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supported (PSH) housing units in order to understand and address the supply and need. Steve suggested looking at PSH first because the HEARTH Act places emphasis on rapidly moving homeless people into permanent housing, which may result in less funding for shelters and transitional housing. Donna Bleyle noted that it likely will be important to evaluate transitional housing with an eye to converting it to permanent housing. Steve added that emphasis on prevention and crisis response system re-tooling are also needed.
- **Giving Tree reorganization.** Giving Tree Outreach Program Executive Director Rodney Williams presented. He noted that he is aggressively leading an effort for change and transparency within his organization. He eliminated work requirements for clients and co-ed shelter upon becoming director; is working with the board to reevaluate their core mission; and insisting that the board take charge of policy and fund raising while he implements policies and delivery of services. He is committed to acting with fairness and respect toward both clients and other local organization, he said. He noted that the board has changed the target clientele to children and their guardians, but plans to continue working with single men and women currently in service who participate actively in case management.
- **SunTran Workgroup update.** Karen Caldwell presented. The workgroup has met several times with city transportation staff. The city has agreed to again accept referral letters from non-profit agencies. They have created and will distribute – in a pilot project – their own numbered forms. Agencies will record the number and the individual served with each referral. The idea is to comply with the city code and allow for auditing the process. The city insists upon having picture IDs to ensure that the applicant has not transferred the referral. They are willing to accept digital pictures made by the agencies for individuals who do not have state-issued IDs. The city plans to start the pilot program after their legal department and the transportation director approve the referral form. Council members and their staff have been very supportive. Neither the start date nor the pilot project participants has been selected. The Tucson City Council rejected the recommended 50% increase in economy fares, and held the increase instead to 25%.
- **Tucson Homeless Connect update.** Rich Sumner reported. The most recent event was held at March 4th Dunbar Auditorium due to renovations at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The new site allowed separation of services by type. Two persons left the event knowing that they would soon move into housing. A total of 213 people registered. The event provided: 199 bus passes at exit; IDs for 40 people; 84 haircuts; and licenses for five dogs and two cats. He said that the committee would like additional assistance and urged participants to join. The next event is set for Friday, July 29th but may be re-scheduled to avoid overburdening providers who also serve a Veterans Stand Down set for the end of June. The committee soon will request TPCH funding support for the coming year.
- **TPCH Social Media Committee proposal.** Stan Hamnett gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing TPCH 's current and potential uses of the TPCH website and social media; described the mission of a proposed Social Media Committee, and moved that “TPCH form a new committee with the responsibility to manage the TPCH website and all activity related to social media. The new Committee will be named the Social Media Committee.” Kevin Jackson seconded.

Barbara questioned how establishing such a committee would integrate with changes to accommodate HEARTH and comply with the TPCH voting approval process. Participants asked many other questions leading co-chair Steve Nelson to table the motion until May per TPCH Operating Policies.

- **Next steps. a.)** Stan will answer questions from any members who have them, and will reserve a room for a meeting regarding the proposed Social Media Committee.
- b.) The General Council will reconsider the motion at the May meeting.

3. Committee Reports.

- **PTEH.** Linda Kot reported. The public awareness campaign video is still in production. It should be available to screen at the June General Council. She noted that, as originally presented by contractors LP&G, the campaign includes a landing page to which individuals can respond to the campaign to donate, volunteer and/or learn more. The committee has held extra meetings, gathered input, and created a form (distributed with the meeting reminder) for gathering listings for the landing page. On behalf of the committee, she moved “That the TPCH web site includes a ‘landing page’ for the public awareness campaign that will link web page visitors to homeless services agencies that are seeking volunteers and donations by providing a web link and phone number. TPCH will offer to include every homeless services agency in Pima County that is able to ensure good follow-through with the volunteer or donor, as demonstrated by being able to respond within two business days to a person who offers to volunteer or donate.” Beth Carey seconded.

Sylvia Cuestas asked who would be responsible for any liability in case something would go wrong with collection of donations. Linda noted that the landing site directs the visitor to individual agencies, who would accept donations or volunteers and the liability for doing so. Discussion continued until Patti Caldwell called for the question. **Motion passed with 13 in favor, five opposed and CPSA and Old Pueblo Community Services abstaining.**

- **Executive Directors Workgroup.** Barbara reported that the meeting for member Chief Executive Officers (CEO) and Executive Directors (ED) is set and moved “That a budget not to exceed \$500.00 be approved for the cost of printing the materials and purchasing the food for the CEO/ED community conversation to discuss the HEARTH Act of 2009”. Patti Scott-Lopez seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
 - **Continuum of Services.** Jennifer moved on behalf of the committee “that the firm of LeCroy & Milligan be accepted as the Continuum of Care Consultant for the HUD Homeless Assistance Grant for FY2011 and all related services needed to produce such a product not to exceed \$29,000.00”. Mary Pat Sullivan seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
 - **HMIS.** Don Logue reported. There were trainings yesterday. The Pima County Community Action Agency has decided to participate in HMIS. The committee will have the 2010 calendar year HMIS report posted to the TPCH website soon..
 - **Tucson Homeless Connect.** Discussed during presentations.
 - **Conference.** Olivia Gutzman reported. The committee is finalizing tracks and breakout sessions for the 2011 conference. Art Center Design College students are working on potential program cover designs.
 - **Emergency Services.** Sylvia Cuestas reported. Blankets are available and more are on order. Email Don Blascak, Sylvia or info@tpch.org if your agency needs blankets. The committee will soon kick off the Summer Sun program. Sylvia was elected chair and Jerry Brillo vice chair, for 2011-2012.
 - **Homeless Youth.** Kevin reported. The second *Home Is Where the Art Is* event was held, but was not as well attended as hoped because of the rain.
 - **Membership.** Mary Pat Sullivan reported. The committee is carefully tracking who is near gaining or losing voting privileges. They are confident that membership will continue to grow, and eager to encourage participation by the many organizations active in committee work that do not regularly attend General Council.
 - **Discharge Planning.** The committee is currently working on updating the *Guidelines on Getting Out*.
4. **Old Business.** Donna Bleyle noted that the current TPCH fiduciary has a contract with the state, which means that a procurement process will likely be required to re-award funds intended for TPCH’s use when a new fiduciary is chosen. She noted that it is important that TPCH select this fiscal agent promptly to minimize the risk of the state being unable to provide funding for TPCH’s emergency winter shelter efforts.
5. **Next Meeting.** Thursday, May 12th, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Rillito-Sabino Room, Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop..

Attendance

Name		Organization	Email
Jennifer	Andersen	New Beginnings for Women & Children	jandersen@nbwtucson.org
Dia	Barney	COPE	dbarney@copebhs.com
Danielle	Bentley	La Frontera	dbentley@lafrontera.org
Donna	Bleyle	DES State Homeless Coordinator	dbleyle@azdes.gov
Lori	Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
David	Buer, ofm	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Karen	Caldwell	Primavera Foundation	kcaldwell@primavera.org
Patti	Caldwell	New Beginnings for Women & Children	pcaldwell@nbwtucson.org
Beth	Carey	SAAF	bcarey@saaf.org
Martha	Casteñeda	Comin' Home	execdir@cominhome.org
Debra	Charles	TMM Family Services	
Sylvia	Cuestas	Living Faith Christian Center	sylvia.cuestas@pima.gov
Kaycee	DeDios	Arizona Housing & Prevention Services	kayceededios@yahoo.com
Patricia	DeVito	Pima County	Pat.devito@pima.gov
Rose	Diaz	CPS-Arizona Young Adult Program	rosediaz@azdes.gov
Kelly	Evans	Emerge!	kellye@emergecenter.org
Ricardo	Fernandez	Our Family Services	rfernandez@ourfamilyservices.org
Ray	Figuroa	Sin Puertas, Pima Prevention Partnership	
Tyson	Gillespie	Intermountain Centers for Human Development	tysong@ichd.net
Gil	Goodman	Gospel Rescue Mission	gil@grmtucson.com
Lisa	Griffin	Open Inn	lgriffin@openinn.org
Olivia	Gutzman	CPSA	olivia.gutzman@cpsa-rbha.org
Stan	Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	stanhamnett@gmail.com
Wendy	Heiden	La Frontera	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Shauna	Hickem	El Rio	shaunah@elrio.org
Josh	Hope	Pima County Intern	
Kevin	Jackson	Wingspan	kjackson@wingspan.org
Nick	Jones	Old Pueblos Community Services	nickjones@helptucson.org
Kathleen	Joy	American Red Cross	kjoy@redcrossarizona.org
Linda	Kot	Primavera Foundation	lkot@primavera.org
Jim	Kuzdal	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Don	Logue	Symmetric Solutions	dlogue@symmetricsolutions.org
Chayo	Long-Mendez	Hope, Inc.	chayolongmendez@hopetucson.org
Barbara	Montrose	CPSA	barbara.montrose@cpsa-rbha.org
Steven	Nelson	Sullivan Jackson Employment Center	steve.nelson@pima.gov
Lucia	Ortiz	Tucson Preparatory School	lcortiz@yahoo.com
Scott	Rich	Symmetric Solutions	
Susanna	Rodriguez	City of Tucson	susanna.rodriguez@tucsonaz.gov
Efrain	Romero	Sullivan Jackson Employment Center	eromero@pima.gov
Phyllis	Russell	Esperanza en Escalante	prussell@eeeveterans.org
Patti	Scott-Lopez	CPSA	patricia.scott-lopez@cpsa-rbha.org
Mary Pat	Sullivan	Community member	mpsullivan110@yahoo.com
Rick	Sumner	Primavera Foundation	rsumner@primavera.org
Rodney	Williams	The Giving Tree Outreach Program	rodney@thegivingtree.org

Voluntary Foster Care for Young Adults 18-20 yrs.

Information can be found at: <https://www.azdes.gov/main.aspx?menu=150&id=1942>

If A Child Is Placed In Foster Care

All foster homes and other facilities used by CPS to provide temporary out-of-home care are licensed by the state and supervised by an assigned licensing worker. Foster parents are trained to provide care and to work with CPS and family members toward the goal of family reunification. CPS case managers visit regularly with children and foster families to ensure that the necessary services, including medical care, are being provided and to monitor the child's progress. Whenever possible, children needing protection are placed with members of their extended family. Placements with relatives may occur during the period of temporary custody or at a later time. Relatives providing such placements must agree to a background investigation, a home evaluation and sign an agreement with CPS that specifies the conditions of placement.

The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB)

When a child is placed outside his/her own home, the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) reviews the case within six months of the original date of placement and every six months after that while the child remains in out-of-home care. The function of the FCRB is to review the case plan, and progress toward its goals and objectives and to make sure the child is receiving good care. The FCRB is made up of community members who are appointed by the juvenile court judge in each county. They are not employed by DES or by the court. The FCRB makes recommendations to the court about individual cases but has no decision-making authority. The court considers the recommendations of the FCRB with other information such as evidence and testimony from parents, case managers and attorneys.

Voluntary Continued Foster Care for Young Adults 18 Through 20

Young adults who reach the age of 18 but still desire foster care placement (including Independent Living Subsidy) and case management services through the state may sign an agreement to continue receiving these services, up to their 21st birthday. The agreement must complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and assure acceptance of personal responsibility for preparing for and transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. This means that the agreement must reflect the young adult's goals, and what actions the young adult will take to meet his/her goals. For example, if the young adult has a goal of completing high school, he/she will be responsible for attending classes and completing homework, participating in tutoring or other services/support necessary to meeting the goal.

All young adults who are in the custody of the department, in an approved out-of-home placement (i.e., ILSP, group care, foster home, relative placement, unlicensed relative or non-relative placement) when they turn 18 are eligible to remain in continued out-of-home care under the supervision of the department during the period of the agreement.

Requirements

The young adult must sign an agreement with the department which complements their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and which assures acceptance of personal responsibility for preparing for and transitioning from adolescence to adulthood.

The assigned CPS or YAP Case Manager will assist the young adult in the development of the agreement by providing information on available resources which will support their transition to adulthood. The information provided will include options/opportunities to support the desired living arrangement, education, training, employment, and counseling, as well as other support resources such as mentorship.

Young Adult's Rights and Responsibilities:

The young adult will demonstrate personal responsibility for preparing for and transitioning from adolescence to adulthood by working cooperatively with the CPS Specialist and:

- maintaining enrollment in, or enrolling in an educational, vocational training or employment program of their choice;
- participating in the educational or employment training program of their choice by attending classes and earning credits;
- preparing for financial self-sufficiency by participating in employment or employment readiness activities of their choice, which may include paid employment, volunteer work or other activities defined in the case plan that will assist the youth to strengthen their employability;
- identifying their physical and mental health needs and participating in health services, including mental health services of their choice (Youth who choose to not participate in health services recommended by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist or other qualified physical or behavioral health professional, must identify other strategies they will implement to address their behavioral and/or physical health needs.);
- identifying and maintaining a safe living arrangement of their choice which will allow for continuous daily living skill development and practice;
- participating in activities or services to assist in the development of permanent connections with supportive adults; and
- maintaining contact with the assigned CPS Specialist, immediately reporting any actual or anticipated changes to their living arrangement, education, training or employment or health status.

CPS Specialist Responsibilities

The CPS Specialist is responsible for working cooperatively with the young adult and providing the young adult and caregiver with information on any services, support and other opportunities which will support the young adult's desired living arrangement, education, training, employment and counseling needs.

The CPS Specialist will:

- Facilitate the development of an agreement for continued care which reflects the young adult's personal goals and clearly documents those services and supports necessary to assist the young adult to achieve positive outcomes including permanent connections with supportive adults.
- Ensure all authorizations for payment of the cost of care and other services are in place prior to the young adults 18th birthday.
- Ensure the young adult has an original birth certificate, social security card, and state identification card.
- Provide the young adult with adequate family history, including medical history information, including any photos, letters or other family history available in the case record. (If the CPS Specialist believes a portion of the information may be harmful to the young adult, therapeutic intervention/assistance will be requested, as appropriate to meet each young adult's needs.)

Education Support and Assistance

The Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children, Youth and Families have two [Education Specialists](#) that focus on improving education outcomes of children who are in the custody of the state of Arizona. Education assistance is provided to youth in foster care who have been identified as likely to reach the age of 18 while in foster care. The program, known as the Arizona Young Adult Program (AYAP) or Independent Living Program (ILP), is also available to those who:

- Are former foster youth living in Arizona,
- Are under 21 years of age,
- Were in a state or tribal foster care system at age 16 or older, or
- Were adopted from a state foster care system at age 16 or older.

Finishing high school should be the top priority. Making sure the student is on track to graduate is best accomplished through minimal school change. Encourage the student to request assistance for any academic barriers/ struggles. Federal legislation, such as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, assists foster youth in placement transitions. Special Education assistance provides assessments and annual reviews to identify strengths and weaknesses regarding education. Students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) will often receive accommodation to assist with AIMS testing. With or without an IEP, students are able to request tutoring from their school for AIMS and the Department of Education provides sample AIMS tests to assist students.

Earning a GED is an alternative from the traditional high school setting. Taking the GED preparation classes may be of assistance.

The [Department of Education](#) will provide you with a list of testing center to obtain your GED along with the requirements.

After Care Services

Young adults who were in out-of-home placement in the custody of the department or a licensed child welfare or tribal child welfare agency while age 16, 17 or 18, but have not reached the age of 21, may receive transitional living support services through an individualized, written agreement which complements their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and which assures acceptance of personal responsibility for preparing for and transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. Financial assistance and support is available in the areas of counseling, housing, employment and education etc. Community based contractors are available statewide to assist you to meet your personal self-sufficiency goals. Young Adults who exited Arizona State foster care system at age 18 or older may also apply to [re-enter](#) the DCYF Voluntary Continued Foster Care for Young Adults Age 18 through 20 program via the TILP provider, but may not remain in care past their 21st birthday.

Young adults who were in out-of-home care in the custody of the department, a licensed child welfare agency or tribal child welfare agency on their 18th birthday, but have not reached the age of 21, may additionally receive assistance with room and board costs. Funds may not be used for room and board payments for youth who left their out-of-home placement and were no longer in the custody of the department prior to their 18th birthday.

Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP) Providers & Services to Youth

Intermountain Centers for Human Development

7820 E. Broadway, Ste 100

Tucson, AZ 85710

Mail: PO Box 17749

Tucson, AZ 85731-7749

Tyson Gillespie or Jessica Kat

Tysong@ichd.net; jkat@ichd.net

Office: 520-721-1887, ext. 56

Cell: 520-358-1414

The AZDES has contracted with the agencies listed to provide transition services to eligible youth. The eligible youth is age 16 or older, a ward of the county or tribal court and identified as "likely" to reach the age of 18 while in out of home care, under the jurisdiction of the county or tribal court. Services include:

- Life skills assessment and training, (group, 1:1)
- Educational and vocational assistance,
- Assistance in applying for the Education and Training Voucher
- Assistance in locating/maintain housing, including some direct financial assistance
- Counseling
- Employment support, i.e. assistance in development of pre-employment skills resume writing, job search, etc.
- Financial assistance - a limited amount of funding is available to assist with costs related to education, employment, housing and other areas related to self-sufficiency for youth 18 to 21.
- [Our Family Services](#)
- [Open Inn](#)

Termination of Services

The Arizona Young Adult Program has many services and opportunities available to help you develop the skills and connections you will need to make a smooth transition to adulthood. The program does require that the services provided **complement** your own efforts towards becoming self-sufficient. This means that you must be trying to help yourself by actively participating in things like school, training, therapeutic and health services, etc.

Here's what the policy says:

Participation in the Independent Living Program or in voluntary continued out-of-home care will be concluded when the young adult has:

- reached the age of 18 and does not desire continued services; or
- reached the age of 21; or
- made a voluntary decision to withdraw from the program; or
- generally demonstrated non-compliance with or refusal to meet the requirements of the case plan.

The department shall not terminate voluntary foster care services until all requirements are satisfied, including the case plan staffing, grievance/complaint process and development and implementation of an appropriate discharge plan.

The department shall not transition a young adult to a state of homelessness.

For more information on termination of services, click on the policy manual link and go to [Chapter 16, Section 5, "Conclusion of Participation in the Voluntary Program."](#)

Re-Entry into Voluntary Foster Care

Teens and Young Adults who left the Arizona state foster care system at age 18 or older, may request to re-enter foster care, anytime prior to their 21st birthday. All foster care services end on the person's 21st birthday.

Re-entering foster care means the DCYF (Child Protective Services) will assign a case manager to help you create a case plan, arrange needed services and monitor your progress. All services provided must complement your own efforts to become self-sufficient. You must work cooperatively with your case manager in order to benefit from services, which may include long-term case management and support, a monthly living stipend, and coordination of services.

You may request re-entry by contacting the local Transitional Independent Living Program (after care) provider. The TILP contract provider will initially work with you to resolve immediate housing, mental health, employment or other crises, confirm your desire to return to DCYF care, and arrange a meeting with the local Re-Entry coordinator to ensure a smooth transition back into care.

If you change your mind, and decide that you really do not want to return to care, you can still receive assistance from the TILP provider, who will work with you to identify goals and services to get you back on track. This type of assistance is available until you turn 21, on and as needed basis. Keep in mind that services provided must complement your own efforts to become self sufficient.

Teen Resources: <https://www.azdes.gov/main.aspx?menu=150&id=1946>