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# TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

## Homeless Youth Committee

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### May 6, 2011 Minutes

Co-chair/convener: Kevin Jackson

<b>Next Meeting:</b> June 3, 2011, 9:00 – 10:30 p.m., JTED, 8727 E. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street
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<b>Report to General Council</b>
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| ■ No motions. |
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Minutes of the April meeting were approved by consensus with the correction of the monthly amount that the Pima Foundation for youth can provide to \$100 and the addition of an extra “e” to a “c” in Lynn Parente’s email address.
2. **New “Frontiers” Housing at Open Inn.** Clarissa DuBose and Hector Martinez distributed flyers about and reported on the new “Frontiers” housing project for youth ages 18-24 with an official diagnosis of serious mental illness (SMI) and/or Substance Use Disorder (SUD). There are 22 units. Of which 21 are for unaccompanied youth and one for a single parent with up to two children. Eligible clients must have the appropriate diagnoses; be homeless by HUD guidelines (which include being in emergency housing); and enrolled in CPSA and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Open Inn can assist with the diagnosis and AHCCS application.

Clients must also be able to locate their own apartment and live independently. CPSA pays for the units, provides inspections and verifies fair market rental rates. Clients with income must pay 30% of income toward rent. Clients without income all rent paid by CPSA. Once qualified for Frontiers, participants are encouraged to work with Sullivan Jackson Employment Center or the Project STEP employment program. Youth aging out of foster care may start the application process before they age out. Once they are part of “Frontiers”, participants have permanent housing through CPSA if they signed their lease before age 24. The first client has already been housed and is doing well.

Pam Moseley noted that CPSA is also attempting to spend down their Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) program block grant funds for youth needing substance abuse treatment who do not qualify for AHCCCS. The funds expenditure is on deadline.

- **Next step.** Pam will email committee members information on the available CPSA funds. .

3. **Old Business.**

- **Youth Guide.** Kevin noted that there have been many recent changes in available youth resources, and that he will soon send out the PDF of the youth guide produce about five years ago for updating. Participants should review it and submit their changes and additions. The current plan is to distribute the updated version electronically to be printed as needed, unless and until funds for printing can be found.
- **Resource cards.** Kathy Wooldridge noted that Skrappy’s has updated and will be reprinting and distributing the “Know Your Rights” cards for juvenile offenders. They are also working on a curriculum for educating neighborhoods and youth on being in the court system. Lynn offered to help with these materials. Kathy said they hope to continue meeting monthly with juvenile probation (although their previous liaison has left) and to institute a mentorship program, “Probation Pals”, in which youth who have been through the courts help newly-arrested youth deal with arrests and the courts.
- **Transportation.** Participants discussed the ongoing transportation challenges for low-income bus riders and the upcoming changes in fares and low-income IDs for bus riders, including the expected use of 24-hour (rather than two-ride) bus passes that can be recharged through the Internet.

- **School Liaisons.** Kevin noted that the committee is eager to engage and exchange information with additional McKinney-Vento school liaisons. He provided background on the McKinney-Vento Act and subsequent HEARTH Act changes regarding homeless regarding children and youth.

Dani Tarry noted that the numbers of unaccompanied youth are rising and include many citizen children of undocumented immigrants who have returned to their country of origin. She said that TUSD feels that they identify only about one-half of students who are homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. TUSD identified 1,900 homeless youth this year, but suspects that there may be up to 4,000 in the district.

They believe the undercounting may result from inadequately specific questions on the annual mandatory forms that parents or guardians fill out on each student. They are rewriting these questions to help better identify homeless families and students. She plans to train all the front line school workers to appropriately ask these questions in a culturally sensitive way. They will avoid the word “homeless”, to which many people (especially Spanish speakers) do not respond or relate. She noted that mobility among schools is very high among homeless youth. She is training school personnel to understand – and convey – that homeless children do are entitled to remain at and have transportation to their original school.

Participants discussed that school personnel need to emphasize that immigration status is not of concern, and that the schools’ only concern is to ensure that the student receives an education.

- **Election of 2011-2012 Chair and Vice-chair.** Deferred

#### 4. New Business.

- **Access to Condoms.** Pam said that she researched the difficulties that some agencies reported obtaining condoms from the northwest outlet of the Pima County Health Department. She was told that policies have not changed, and that the issue must have been a misunderstanding.

Stephanie Smith noted that her manager told her that cases of condoms are to be distributed only to Kino Youth Center clients (or agencies) in conjunction with Kino Youth Center educational material and presentations by their health educator. The center does some screening for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) other than HIV and syphilis, and provides related services at the center and events that the health educator attends. They work with the Theresa Lee Center to provide complete STD testing. Stephanie said that she would work with the Health Department’s northwest center to see how to best distribute condoms. Kevin noted that Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) representatives plan to join the committee and advise on education and prevention resources next month. Stephanie offered the Kino Teen Center’s services to other agency clients and to host the next Homeless Youth Committee meeting.

- **La Paloma College Workshops.** Trynia Kaufman noted that she leads college preparatory and financial literacy workshops for youth during June and July.
  - **Next step.** Trynia will email the flyers to [info@tpch.org](mailto:info@tpch.org) for distribution to the committee and the TPCH list serve.
- **TPCH Annual Conference.** John relayed from Lisa Griffin the TPCH Conference Committee’s request for speakers on youth homelessness trends at the TPCH Annual Conference Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and agencies that want to table 1-2:15 p.m. Email [lgriffin@openinn.org](mailto:lgriffin@openinn.org) .

5. **Next meeting.** Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00-10:00 a.m., Kino Teen Center, 2801 E. Ajo Way. (Meeting moved to JTED, 8727 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, per April plan.)

Submitted by Settle Madden

**Attendance**

<b>Name</b>		<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>
Kaycee	DeDios	Arizona Housing & Prevention Services	kayceededios@yahoo.com
Clarissa	DuBose	Open Inn	cduose@openinn.org
Kevin	Jackson	Wingspan	kjackson@wingspan.org
Trynia	Kaufman	La Paloma Family Services	trynia@lapalomakids.org
Hector	Martinez	Open Inn	hmartinez@openinn.org
Joyce	Morgan	Crisis Response Network	joyce@crisisnetwork.org
Pam	Moseley	Pima County CDNC	pmoseley@pima.gov
John	Orr	Open Inn	jorr@openinn.org
Lucia	Ortiz	Tucson Preparatory School	lcortiz@yahoo.com
Lynn	Parente	Pima County Juvenile Probation	lynn.parente@pcjcc.pima.gov
Shante	Ruiz	Intermountain CHD ILP	sruiz@ichd.net
Vanessa	Sircy	Stand Up For Kids	vesircy@gamil.com
Kim	Sisson	Stand Up For Kids	kim.sisson@comcast.net
Stephanie	Smith	Kino Youth Center	lynn.parente@pcjcc.pima.gov
Amber	Stricker	Our Family Services	astricker@ourfamilyservices.org
Dani	Tarry	TUSD	danielle.tarry@tusd1.edu
Jesse	Washburn	Youth On Their Own	jwashburn@yoto.org
Kathy	Wooldridge	Skrappy's	skrappy's@hotmail.com