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# TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

## Emergency Services Committee

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### August 10, 2011 Minutes

Chair: Sylvia Cuestas

<b>Next Meeting:</b> September 7, 2011, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26th St.
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<b>Report to TPCH General Meeting</b>
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| ■ Project Summer Sun continues; Winter Shelter preparations are underway |
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Wendy Heiden moved and Kim Ward seconded that the minutes of the July meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
2. **Project Summer Sun 2011.** Wendy Heiden reported that the RAPP cooling center has stayed busy during the entire season and is receiving daily sack lunches from Caridad and donated water from CPSA. She noted that Debbie Purdom of Caridad has inquired whether FEMA funds have been granted to pay for the lunches. At this time, the local FEMA board is scheduled to meet on August 18th-19th, with a plan to consider extending the time that grantees have to spend funds as well as to decide upon grantees.

Don Blascak reported that 152 cases of water have been donated to date, with 109 of those coming from Desert Hills Lutheran Church in Green Valley. With RAPP receiving water from CPSA and the Salvation Army receiving water through its own donations drive, most of the supply has gone to Sonora House and the Franciscans' cooling center and Poverello House. He will continue to recruit donations of water, sunscreen, socks, hats, etc.

Brother David Buer said that the Franciscans' cooling center has operated for 38 days with an average of 49 daily guests (42 men and seven women). They also receive Caridad sack lunches. He said that the average was decreased by the week during which the center was required by a usage conflict to move from its congregational home to the nearby House of Neighborly Service.

3. **Winter Shelter.**

- **Congregational programs.** Don reported that shelter bed nights pledged to date are 1,343 for One Step Beyond (OSB), and 1,597 for Project Hospitality (PH), for a total of 2,940 bed nights. Nineteen congregations have pledged bed nights to date. Nine congregations have yet to pledge. There are 19 nights with 30 beds available; 26 nights with 20 or more beds available; and 20 nights with no beds available. He has sent out a second call for bed night pledges – along with a chart of available dates and bed needs – to all congregations that have traditionally participated. He noted that the current statistics are typical for this time of the year.

Participants discussed the need for more active case management for PH guests and how to obtain it thus helping all PH guests move forward from homelessness. Suggestions included that: several committee members could be available for educating agency workers; the education effort should be regularly scheduled each year; case workers could be required to attend a mandatory education session before being allowed to be refer to Project Hospitality; there be a mandate that a case manager visit with each Project Hospitality client at least one week before the program's end to ensure their opportunity to work to move on; and that each Project Hospitality guest be required to provide a weekly "chit" from their case manager to obtain shelter that week.

- **Next steps. a.)** Kathleen and Sylvia will request time at the TPCH Annual Conference to orient all attendees to the need for case management..

- b.)** Jerry and Sylvia will draft a plan for educating case managers and outreach workers to begin October 1st.

4. **Transportation and budget.** Jerry Brillo noted that Sylvia and he met with Salvation Army personnel before the committee meeting and discussed the winter shelter efforts' need for alternative transportation and a dedicated winter shelter case manager. AAA Transportation will no longer be sending cabs to take homeless telephone callers to the 911 system to the Operation Deep Freeze overflow shelter or a detox center or to congregational programs. Don noted that the budget distributed this week to be voted upon by the General Council is fixed by the funders. He suggesting canceling the rented mini-mobile storage unit, and move the TPCH-owned storage unit (which is now empty) to another location. Participants discussed the option, but did not conclude a plan for it.
- o **Next steps. a.)** Sylvia will contact Comin' Home to see if they will again provide compensated transportation for One Step Beyond clients.
    - b.) Salvation Army personnel will consider how the alternative needs caused by the above changes may be met.
    - c.) Salvation Army personnel will contact SunTran immediately to request and confirm their provision of bus transportation for Operation Deep Freeze.
5. **Blankets.** Yoli reported that four trucks have arrived since Friday, July 29th and delivered a total of 15,000 FEMA blankets. Jim Kuzdal added that an unexpected fifth truck dropped off a few pallets of blankets several days ago. All blankets are stored in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul warehouse with the exception of 20 boxes delivered to and 11 pallets picked up by the Salvation Army and a truckload picked up by Gospel Rescue Mission.
- o **Next step.** Don and Jim will establish a schedule for agencies to pick up blankets starting next month.
6. **New Business.** Tucson Police Lt. Fabian Pacheco noted that he has become the commander in charge of TPD's gang interdiction section, and will be replaced as TPCH liaison by Lt. Diana Lopez.
7. **Next Meeting.** Wednesday, September 7th, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26th Street.

Submitted by Settle Madden

#### Attendance

Name	Organization	Email
Don Blascak	Community advocate	dblascak@comcast.net
Jerry Brillo	Community advocate	jbsaret@aol.com
Bro. David Buer	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia Cuestas	Living Faith Christian Center	sylvia.cuestas@pima.gov
Yoli Hasler	Salvation Army	yoli.hasler@usw.salvationarmy.org
Wendy Heiden	La Frontera RAPP	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Kathleen Joy	American Red Cross/Americorps	kjoy@redcrossarizona.org
Jim Kuzdal	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	jkuzdal@svdptucson.org
Lt. Fabian Pacheco	Tucson Police Department	fabian.pacheco@tucsonaz.gov
Kim Ward	Salvation Army	kim.ward@usw.salvationarmy.org