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# TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

## Discharge Planning Committee

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### October 20, 2011 Minutes

Chair: Betty Bitgood

<b>Next Meeting:</b> November 17, 2011, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Primavera Foundation, 151 W. 40 <sup>th</sup> Street
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<b>Report to TPCH General Meeting</b>
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| ■ No motions |
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Minutes.** Wayne Steele moved and Patty Eaglen seconded that the minutes of the September meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
- Alternatives Program for Ex-offenders.** Diana Figueroa of Old Pueblo Community Services and Sonya Hernandez of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation presented. The Alternatives program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to target the reentry population at risk for AIDS over a five-year period. They have just completed the first year.

People who qualify are age 18 or older and have a history of incarceration and substance abuse (other than alcohol only). It includes six one-on-one counseling sessions with Sonya as well as counseling and case management with Diana. Topics covered are health, drugs, alcohol, sex, relapse prevention, and treatment. Participants also receive information on health safety, AIDS prevention, testing, treatment and more as well as needed referrals. At intake completion, clients receive a 10-ride bus pass and a \$10 Target gift certificate. After each following session, the participants receives another 10-ride bus pass and an incentive item such as a backpack, water bottle, watch or backpack (all of which have the program name on them). If the participants are unable to come to either the OPCS or SAAF offices, Diana and Sonya can go to them.

They are cleared to give presentations and classes in state and federal prisons; and will give presentations in shelters as well.

Their program is one- half of *Alternatives*. The other half is called *Shield*, and is peer-oriented. *Shield* maintains a Facebook presence. Diana and Sonya have not advertised their services in this way because they have a high volume of referrals already from Adult Parole.

Anyone who wishes to self-refer should phone because Diana and Sonya are often out.

They hope soon to begin mobile HIV testing – at any location where they can provide a confidential space – in the near future.
- Turn Your Life Around (TYLA).** Cheryl Holland introduced TYLA, which provides outpatient treatment and recover support and services. They provide a recovery specialist as well as masters-level counselors, employment skills, group meetings and many other supportive services (including faith-based if desired) to people who wish to remain clean and sober. Their services include a cooperative free program *Unity* (funded through SAMHSA) with COPE. Unity participants do not need to be COPE members. TYLA is funded by donations and fees for some services and has only one small grant. They have thrift store run by a DES program called ARBOR, and provide clothing support to 18 clients monthly. They are state-licensed and work with the local courts. They do not currently have housing, but do referrals, although there is a possibility that they may accept responsibility for an existing sober living facility.
  - Next step.** Cheryl will bring written materials on TYLA programs to the next meeting.

**4. Old Business.**

- **Guidelines distribution update.** Pam Moseley noted that Pima County made the *Guidelines* available at the recent Tucson Meet Yourself. A more thorough accounting of numbers distributed and remaining was deferred.

- **Hospital contacts update.** Pam noted that Mary Carter emailed the Northwest Hospital contact to her and that she forwarded it to Betty, whose computer was not working at the time. Betty said that Sally Hueston also provided additional updates for Northwest and Oro Valley Hospitals. Patty noted that she called upon Tucson Medical Center.

Kathy Hall reported that she has offered to make presentations on the pilot medical respite care to local hospitals, but is finding them very busy. She will, however, seek to help the committee arrange presentations to staff at St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s Hospitals. The initial pilot medical respite project at Primavera actually ends in December, she said, but they plan to continue and hope to expand to include women in the coming year. Behavioral health clients have been challenging, Kathy said. They are seeking beds for people with behavioral health challenges. The new Crisis Response Center was suggested, although it was noted that they provide only behavioral health care, not skilled nursing. Kathy noted that the project can send out skilled nurses.

Linda Saxon met with the head of the health workers, Jill Kerr, at the University Of Arizona Medical Center (UAMC) South and informed her about the committee and the resources available. They are still settling into the new place and would like more contact in January.

- **Next steps.** a.) Betty will compile an email list of hospital contacts and begin sending regular resource updates to them, including items such as the information on the *Guidelines*, shelters, and *Van of Hope* schedule.
  - b.) Linda Saxon will send contact information for BEST, the northwest evaluation team to Betty so that they can be included in these messages.
  - c.) Committee will follow up with UAMC South in January.

- **Aging out of foster care.** Pam reported that she emailed the Children’s Action Alliance who referred her to Child Protective Services (CPS) to learn how many children are again out of foster in Pima County on a monthly and annual basis, and how many do not accept post-foster care services. Knowing the dimensions of the issue is important in deciding how to address the foster care discharge issue. Patty noted that she attended the most recent Homeless Youth Committee and found that they also feel frustrated in attempts to engage CPS personnel with the committee. Betty reported that she found a list of post-foster-care programs on the CPS website, [www.azdes.gov/dcyf/ilp](http://www.azdes.gov/dcyf/ilp) . It was noted, however, that in some cases, there are no CPS funds for the listed programs.

- 5. **New Business/Sex offenders.** Participants noted that there is still a concern about housing for sex offenders, especially level 3 offenders, who are not accepted at most housing programs. It was noted that Serving Jesus with Joy and Lanier Enterprises assist sex offenders on a case by case basis.

- **Next step.** Patty will arrange a presentation by a police officer who works with sex offenders.

- 6. **Next Meeting.** Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Primavera Foundation, 151 W. 40<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Attendance**

Name		Organization	Email
Betty	Bitgood	Hope of Glory Ministries	betty@tucsonhope.org
Patty	Eaglen	Primavera Foundation	peaglen@primavera.org
Diana	Figueroa	SAAF	dfigueroa@helptucson.org
Kathy	Hall	SAHVH/Carondelet	kathy.hall@carondelet.org
Michelle	Harper-Brule	Primavera Foundation	mharperbrule@primavera.org
Sonya	Hernandez	SAAF	shernandez@saaf.org
Cheryl	Holland	Turn Your Life Around	caholland@tylahelps.com
Pamela	Moseley	Pima County CDNC	pamela.moseley@pima.gov
Linda	Saxon	ADC	mibeli@msn.com
Wayne	Steele	Community advocate	tucson35@yahoo.com