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# TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

## Emergency Services Committee

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### November 2, 2011 Minutes

Chair: Sylvia Cuestas

<b>Next meeting:</b> December 7, 2011, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26 <sup>th</sup> St.
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<b>Report to General Council</b>
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| ■ Winter shelter preparations ongoing; additional 10,000 FEMA blankets to be ordered |
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#### TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Don Blascak moved and Jerry Brillo seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
2. **Winter Shelter Preparations.**
  - **Congregational programs.** Don reported. At his last review, bed nights pledged were 1,841 for Project Hospitality (PH) and 1,443 for One Step Beyond (OSB). He has since received pledges for an additional 96 bed nights. Fully pledged nights are 41. Nights with more than 20 beds are 23. There are only 10 nights with no beds. Two congregations have not yet reported. Two new congregations are considering joining the effort. Grace St. Paul Church offered to lend shelter workers to other churches that do not have enough workers. He has delivered cots and blankets to those congregations that begin hospitality before December 6<sup>th</sup>. If nights with no beds remain when winter shelter begins, congregational program participants would be housed at the Salvation Army hospitality House.
  - **Orientations/notifications.** Kim Ward and Jerry Brillo reported that 10 agencies and 34 case managers participated in the Project Hospitality orientations. Dia Barney said that COPE had some confusion because the housing case managers who attended thought that every COPE-defined case manager needed to attend the orientations. Kim said that the referrals will come through an oriented case manager and one point of contact is established and she thought it would be for the entire agency. Dia Barney said that she is unsure whether that would work for this individual employee (whom, she said, thought that she was liaison for her site only). If said employee does not feel able to handle being agency-wide liaison, Dia offered to act in that capacity. She noted that she and the other COPE housing staff member distribute Operation Deep Freeze (ODF) information throughout the agency, and that each COPE site has signs to indicate whether ODF is “on” or “off”.

Tomorrow the Salvation Army will orient this year’s winter shelter employees.

Participants discussed overall notifications regarding ODF on weekends. It was noted that the new Crisis Response Center needs to be added to both notification and weather watchers lists. Dia suggested adding ODF “on” and “off” notification to the TPCH website.
  - **Transportation.** SunTran has committed to providing ODF transportation this season. Jerry said that one Salvation Army van is available throughout the season. He has listed known dates when a second van is needed by not available. Most are in January and February. Kim said that she has asked the various Salvation Army corps leaders about availability of their vehicles. AAA Transportation has asked for a written proposal for a subcontracted vehicle that the committee could sublease. Kathleen noted that Cars4Vets is still interested in working with the committee. Don noted that there are only four congregations that have their own vans for transporting guests.
    - **Next steps. a.)** Kim will draft a letter to AAA Transportation with a suggested meeting date and send to Sylvia for review.
      - b.)** Kim will send a copy of the dates needing transportation to Pam Moseley, who will explore an opportunity with a local health center.

- **Clinic/Van of Hope.** Kim reported that the Van of Hope manager has presented a tentative schedule for providing clinic services at ODF. The additional visits suggested are more than satisfactory, she said, and would be in addition to the existing Hospitality House Van of Hope service schedule.
- **Overflow shelter.** Kim reported that Temple Corps has committed to providing ODF overflow shelter for 60 men as needed. Combined with the Hospitality House's 91 beds, the maximum ODF beds available would be 151. They expect to house women and children at Hospitality House. Yoli Hasler noted that the Salvation Army's FEMA funds for motel vouchers must be expended by November 30<sup>th</sup>. They do not currently expect to receive more motel voucher funds after that date.

Yoli said that PH participants should be guaranteed a bed in-house when no bed nights are pledged, but that – because some beds are reserved for them, Sullivan Jackson Employment Center clients, and women and children – she is concerned that and that there may not be enough beds to meet demands on ODF nights when no congregations are participating in PH. She said that she has sometimes used some of the 15 available transitional housing beds for overflow, but that 11 of those beds are currently occupied.

Participants discussed the supply and demand for beds during the winter shelter season and whether it will be possible to accommodate every referral. Participants discussed that preference for open PH beds should be given to clients who attend every night. Clients who drop out of PH would go to the bottom of the PH waiting list.

Brother David Buer expressed concerns, especially about a sufficient number of beds for women and children. Six congregations accept women and families, Don said. David said that he continues to plan for a continuous winter shelter for men. It will be at a new location.

Jerry said that Salvation Army staff plan to contact PH-referred clients a week before the program begins to let them know how the program works; the requirement for case management, and program rules.

Lt. Diana Lopez noted that many of the clients who call 911 cannot be accepted at ODF and are eligible to be transported by the Crisis Response Center to detox services. Sylvia noted that the Gospel Rescue Mission and Primavera shelters also accept clients and may be able to assist with overflow.

- **Next step.** Jerry and Don will address the challenges of finding sufficient beds on ODF nights when no congregational beds are available in the weekly coordination meetings.

3. **Blankets.** Don noted that 4,357 blankets, the equivalent of one truckload, were distributed through October 28<sup>th</sup>. Compass Health Care and the Salvation Army are well stocked on boxes of blankets. The Gospel Rescue Mission took 100 boxes and should be well-supplied for the near future. Yoli said that she has not yet ordered another 5,000 blankets, and asked whether she should order 10,000 instead. Consensus was that 10,000 will be needed.

Jerry reported that TEP does not have the equipment to move the storage trailer located at their facility. The Salvation Army has a truck that can accept a container, and may be able to transport the container. If they cannot, Jerry said, he has an estimate of \$150 to move the trailer commercially.

- **Next steps. a.)** Lt. Lopez will arrange pick-up of blankets for Tucson Police Department patrol cars.  
**b.)** Yoli will order an additional 10,000 blankets.

4. **New Business/2012 Street Count.** Pam Moseley let the committee know that the 2012 Street Count Workgroup has set the next homeless street count for Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> (surveying for the night of January 24<sup>th</sup>) and asks for the committee assistance in identifying any shelters that do not participate in HMIS so that these can be covered by Street Count volunteers. Don noted that the Tucson Homeless Connect Committee found that Trinity Presbyterian Church is not available for January 25<sup>th</sup>, and cannot accommodate a joint effort with the Street Count. Combining the events at the Dunbar Cultural Center would be challenging for the planning process and add approximately \$1,000 to the event cost.

5. **Next Meeting.** Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Attendance**

<b>Name</b>		<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>
Dia	Barney	COPE	dbarney@copebhs.com
Don	Blascak	American Red Cross	dblascak@comcast.net
Jerry	Brillo	Community advocate	jbsaret@aol.com
David	Buer, ofm	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@redcrossarizon.org
Lt. Diana	Lopez	Tucson Police Department	diana.lopez@tucsonaz.gov
Pam	Moseley	Pima County CDNC	pamela.moseley@pima.gov
Brad	Thayer	Primavera Foundation	bthayer@primavera.org
Kim	Ward	Salvation Army	kim.ward@usw.salvationarmy.org