

New Business cont'd.

- **Weed & Seed Report/Grant Opportunity.** Dave noted that the Weed and Seed program, a neighborhood collaboration of police, parole, and probation professional plus case managers and others from organizations working with ex-offenders, met recently. The program identifies and works with high crime neighborhoods to “weed” out gangs and other factors contributing to crime, and “seed” positive programs that can help prevent crime. He noted that there will soon be a notice of funding availability for “second chance” monies from the Department of Justice for which Weed & Seed and other organizations may wish to apply, perhaps after checking with other communities about successful programs.

Participants discussed the extra challenges that ex-offenders currently face due to state budget cuts that have eliminated most Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) programs for transition and the economic crisis. Several noted that they are seeing more ex-offenders seeking services. Suggestion for approaches included that the following are needed for ex-offenders: a social services network among Arizona Communities; a Correctional Transitions Center; training in survival skills and stress management; training and/or outreach regarding the fact that the Crime-free Housing Amendment is not supposed to limit an ex-offenders ability to rent; housing and/or rental assistance for newly released ex-offenders; and additional drug and mental health treatment plus job development for ex-offenders; and better organization among and involvement of faith communities in working with ex-offenders. Consensus was that the current situation will result in an increase in crime if more isn't done, and that the committee should direct a letter of concern for public safety and crime prevention with suggestions to ADC Deputy Director Charles Flanagan.

- **Next steps:** a.) Participants will email suggestions to Dave at shapiro@gainusa.com .
b.) Dave will draft the letter.

6. Next Meeting. Tuesday, March 24th, CPSA, 100 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 300.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Betty Bitgood	Hope of Glory Ministries	betty@tucsonhope.org
Tom Conkright	HOPE, Inc.	tomconkright@hopetucson.org
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