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# TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

## Plan to End Homelessness Subcommittee

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### April 23, 2009 Minutes

Chair/convener: Charlie Bowker

<b>Next Meeting:</b> June 11, 2009 – 1:30-2:45 p.m., Pantano Rm., Sentinel Bldg. 320 Commerce Park Loop
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<b>Report to General Council May 14<sup>th</sup></b>
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■ n/a
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### TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Correction of the economic stimulus legislation acronym and addition of Gail Gibbons email address were offered. Amended minutes of the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted by consensus.
- 2. Implementation Coordinator Report.** Leslie Carlson reported. During March, she focused on four areas: the PTEH Task Force; community needs and plan development for forthcoming Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program funds; attending the faith-based Housing Symposium; and advocacy to keep Pima County Health Department TB testing downtown to best serve the homeless persons in the area who need TB cards to stay in shelters. She noted that County Supervisor Richard Elías' staff alerted him to the proposed move, and that he put the issue on the County Board of Supervisors agenda. After discussion and community advocacy, the Health Department agreed to keep testing downtown and move only the TB treatment clinic to the Ajo Way/ Country Club Boulevard area. She noted that Supervisor Elías understood the time and transportation difficulties the move would pose for homeless persons. His awareness and action emphasize how important it is to keep elected officials well informed.
- 3. PTEH Task Force March.** Leslie reported. At its March meeting the Task Force identified the following areas as important for immediate focus:
  - Establishing a “road map” for quick, easy information about homeless and near-homeless services. This concern is being addressed in the city/county plan for the use of Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) funds.
  - Improving homeless persons' access to identification documents. Finding funding for the document fees is a challenge.
  - Streamlining emergency assistance eligibility across programs and providers. Leslie and Gail Gibbons met with the Arizona Department of Economic Security's (DES) Marco Liu to discuss the idea and benefits of streamlining assistance program eligibility. Gail spoke with Judith Fritsch of the DES Phoenix Office of Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices, who favors adding a microchip with common eligibility documentation to the EBT cards that DES issues to benefit recipients. The information could be accessed only through appropriate card readers by service providers, preserving the card holder's privacy.
  - Providing health care for homeless and near-homeless persons. Jude Magers and a representative of the Carondelet Foundation have submitted a proposal to a major donor for a mobile health clinic. That mobile clinic would go to locations where homeless and low income people reside, provide assistance, and relieve pressure/reduce costs on hospital emergency rooms. Operation would include evening hours to complement day time services offered through El Rio. Still to be addressed are shelter and care for homeless persons who need medical respite care, and a way to provide shelter for those who are not yet clean and sober.

**PTEH Task Force cont'd.**

Lori Block noted that the medical clinic previously held Mondays and in conjunction with Operation Deep Freeze at the Salvation Army will change its schedule this fall to Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday to improve continuity. Leslie mentioned that there is also a small, volunteer-run Monday night free clinic in South Tucson.

Leslie shared and reviewed with participants the agenda for the Task Force's next meeting, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 a.m. at the Carondelet Foundation offices.

Leslie noted that there will be a tour May 28<sup>th</sup> of the Phoenix Human Services Campus, which others may wish to join.

- o **Next steps. a.)** Leslie will email details of the Phoenix Human Services Campus tour to committee members.
- b.)** Committee members will continue to support Leslie and the Task Force in their work.

4. **HPRP.** Leslie reported that since the committee last discussed the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) Funds, the City and County sought community input, and have moved forward to create a joint plan for the \$3.5 million-plus HPRP funds that they will receive. Leslie detailed one component of the plan, a homeless services website, which would help address the Task Force's concern about creating a "road map" to services. The HPRP program will also be required to record program services data in the TPCH HMIS system..

The HPRP plan will be presented in a public meeting tomorrow, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sentinel Building.

Leslie urged committee members to comment on the plan, and include their praise to the City and County for working collaboratively together and with the community.

5. **Next meeting:** Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-2:50 p.m., Pantano Room, Sentinel Building, 320 Commerce Park Loop.

**Attendance**

Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson
Charlie Bowker	ICH	bowksaz@msn.com
Leslie Carlson	Implementation Coordinator PTEH	lacarlson@cox.net
Gail Gibbons	DES	ggibbons@azdes.gov
Linda Kot	Primavera Foundation	lkot@primavera.org
Felice Stewart	Community member/Holy Resurrection	felicestewart@aol.com