
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Plan to End Homelessness Subcommittee

February 19, 2009 Minutes

Chair/convener: Charlie Bowker

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2009 – 1:30-3:00 pm, Pantano Rm., Sentinel Bldg., 320 N. Commerce Park Loop

Report to General Council

■ n/a

TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Linda Kot moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Lori Block seconded. **Motion passed.**
2. **Implementation Coordinator Report.** Leslie Carlson reported. The 2009 Homeless Street Count preliminary report shows a 22% increase over the previous year in the number of homeless persons observed. It should be noted that number of volunteers was increased by 50% over the previous year, and this may account for some of the increase. Tucson Homeless Connect was completed successfully on February 13th.

She noted that a number of local agencies have already received funding cuts from the Department of Economic Security and have begun staff layoffs and service cuts. Additional cuts are underway, and there are reports that state unemployment insurance payments are lagging weeks behind. Emergency shelter programs have been cut 3.9% and transitional housing cut by 7.6%. Leslie suggested that it might be useful to do a summary of the impacts of these cuts on Pima County. Linda suggested that creating an impacts summary should be suggested at the planned Executive Directors meeting.

Linda noted that the idea for the executive directors meeting sprang from the TPCH retreat. The retreat put forward options for TPCH's future, which member agency executive directors need to consider. The economic crisis and budget cuts have added to that meeting's planned agenda the questions of whether TPCH should move to fee-based membership, and how to evaluate, communicate and deal with the impacts of the current economic crisis and budget cuts on Pima County. The TPCH CoC Consultant position is in danger given that it is paid for by the ADOH, which has been severely affected by state budget cuts.

Leslie shared the information that she received regarding the American Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) provision of \$1.5 billion for homeless prevention and re-housing, which is to be directed to cities, counties, and states. Consensus was that community dialog to develop a coordinated strategy for using funds will be needed. Leslie stated that TPCH, agency executive directors, and the PTEH Task Force may each have a role to play.

Participants discussed that these things are likely to cause additional homelessness, and make a major impact on what needs to be done to implement the Plan To End Homelessness.

Leslie reported briefly on the morning's housing symposium, "A Call to Action", which had broad community participation. The need for affordable housing and a regional plan for achieving it were discussed. The likely impacts of the Arizona Legislature's severe cuts to the Arizona Department of Housing, which has provided a major means of providing affordable housing, were not discussed.

- **Next steps:** a.) Leslie will email the news release about the ARRA to committee members.
b.) Leslie will also present this information to the PTEH Task Force.

3. **Tucson Homeless Connect (THC).** Lori Block reported. The February 13th THC went well, and served 215 people for \$1,700. Identification was provided for 45 people. She suggested that the committee consider whether to recommend more THC events to help with this crisis until some of the ARRA money comes in. Hope Fest, which had planned two events this year, will only be doing one. Two Veterans Stand Down events are expected, but assist only veterans.
- o **Next step.** Lori will take the idea to the THC Committee.
4. **PTEH Task Force Update. Leslie reported.**
- **Next meeting.** The Task Force's next meeting is Friday, March 6th, 7:00-8:30 a.m., at the Carondelet Foundation, 120 N. Tucson Boulevard.
 - **Meeting agenda.** Leslie distributed a draft agenda, developed with co-chairs Jude Magers and Michael Pollard, for the next Task Force for participants' review and feedback. The Task Force will be provided updates on recent events, and changes in the homeless population. Presentations on the local prevention system and the system for assisting those who have become homeless are next. Presentations will focus on identifying weaknesses in these systems; and how to determine whether activities are effective. Discussion on Task Force areas of interest to focus on follows the presentations.
5. **Next meeting:** Thursday, April 16th, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Pantano Room, Sentinel Building, 320 Commerce Park Loop.

Attendance

Lori Block	ICH	lori.block@ichtucson.org
Charlie Bowker	Family Promise? Or ICH	bowksaz@msn.com
Leslie Carlson	Implementation Coordinator PTEH	lcarlson@cox.net
Gail Gibbons	DES	ggibbons@azdes.gov
Linda Kot	Primavera Foundation	lkot@primavera.org