
TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Continuum of Services Committee

October 26, 2005 Minutes

Co-Chairs: Beth Carey & Nancy Panico

Next Meeting: November 30, 2005; 10:30 AM SAAF, 375. S. Euclid Avenue, Tucson

Recommendations for TPCH agenda:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ None |
|--|

Report to TPCH General Meeting:
--

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Share information and updates concerning the committee timeline, first quarter goals and strategies, and the Contractor RFP. |
|--|

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

1. Question from Discharge Planning Committee

- David Shapiro, Chair of the TPCH Discharge Planning Committee, had a special request to share. He explained the work of the Discharge Planning committee, and said they are currently looking into obtaining feedback from ex-offenders within a year of their release date, in terms of the effectiveness of information and resources.
- Specifically, they would like to know: what information ex-offenders are getting, how helpful the information is, how helpful have the community resources been during the transition, and if there are thoughts about the resources or existing gaps.
- The group is trying to determine the best way to develop and conduct this assessment, and contacted the Continuum of Services committee (and the Executive Committee) to see if the questions for their target population (i.e., ex-offenders who have been out within one year), could be part of a larger survey/instrument of which the Continuum of Services committee may be involved.
- The committee discussed existing surveys, including two earlier community surveys that have been performed. It was suggested that the Discharge Planning committee may want to develop and conduct their own separate survey so that questions do not get buried or omitted in a broader survey, and the results can be more meaningful for their specific purpose (e.g., Homeless Youth committee's survey).
- Comments/Suggestions on broadening locations beyond transitional housing:
 - Assign volunteer interviewers to specific locations to collect survey information
 - Have case managers conduct the interview's introduction
 - Self-addressed, stamped envelope returns have a low response rate
 - Primavera would be happy to be involved
 - Work with parole and have an outsider present to conduct interview (e.g., one day with five interviewers at parole offices)
 - HMIS could participate, with the addition of more questions (although there are some concerns about others' usage of the system, qualitative responses, and how exiting is voluntary)
 - Contact COSA, an informal group of agencies that meet monthly, for assistance
 - Contact Darrell Peoples, Chair of Homeless Youth committee, for information
 - If committee members have later comments to share, contact David at shapiro@gainusa.com.

2. Review of October TPCH General Meeting

- The presentation of the four HMIS-related votes at the October meeting of the general council was compared to a litmus test – in particular, Vote #2 which did not pass and concerned TPCH making a commitment to HMIS participation.
- The discussion at the general council meeting provided good information and enabled people to start talking openly about HMIS. It further assisted in the identification of those in strongest opposition, and John has scheduled one-on-one meetings with members of these agencies. Members found Vicki Vandreeel's comments at the general council meeting to be quite helpful, and ADOH has money to help fund some related initiatives.
- The committee will let the proposed commitment sit in November, reformulate it, and present it again at a later time (after others have begun participating in the system and can attest to its benefits). It was further suggested that the operating kinks be better worked out to make it easier for those not HUD-funded to get involved. Concerns of domestic violence programs and confidentiality were also raised.

3. Committee Timeline

- The one-page, 2005-2006 Committee Timeline, prepared by Barbara, Melissa, and Beth, was distributed and reviewed. There are five sections that individual members need to take on and oversee. (Although the committee as a whole oversees the process, it would be beneficial to have individuals assigned the responsibility of follow-up on the various tasks).
- Member Assignments:
 - Street Count: Mary Pat, Barbara, Mary
 - Continuum Application: Nancy, Melissa, Jodie
 - Goals & Strategies 2006: Melissa (involves creating the process and working with consultant)
 - Goals & Strategies 2005: Involves recording and reviewing them; follow-up to see if completed
 - Beth: Oversee entire committee
 - Dorothy: She is only contracted through January, yet will do what she can to help

4. Street Count Preparations

- Beth had a meeting the next day in Phoenix regarding the statewide approach to the shelter/street count, and Victor needed some input from the committee.
- In terms of what day to do the street/shelter count, the committee said it could be done like last year, some time mid-week, and just needs to be done at the end of the month.
- Other Comments:
 - Are there better methods in finding homeless families and chronic homeless? (count where we see people; know where they are; use school liaisons)
 - Confusion on what chronic homeless is and on defining services; need more thorough explanation on sheets
 - There are not good numbers on county jail/prison system
 - In some areas, there are the same people over and over; not sure if others see them. Need to check these places.
 - Get the "Sunnyside person" involved, who is quite knowledgeable
 - Can the timeframe (5-7 a.m.) be opened some because last year we ran out of time – or make the observed spaces smaller?

5. Review of First Quarter Goals and Strategies

- The Goals Chart was distributed for the committee's review. Page one bullets with stars indicate areas in which the group noted in the summer that they should be involved, and stars within the charts represent items that occur within the first half of the year.

- **HMIS Report:** It was suggested that a monthly percentage report of the agencies enrolled in HMIS would be beneficial to present to the general council during the committee’s report. It is important for people to hear of the successes, and this is one way to share it. **John will bring both an aggregate report and one with the list of involved agencies to the committee to review.** For now, he will determine the most meaningful definition of “adequate participation/enrollment” for its purpose. Yet in the future, John would like the group to have a “What is meaningful” discussion.
- Among the list of goals and strategies, there is nothing glaring, and the listed items are now occurring. COMPASS and Salvation Army are two agencies not on the list. **Beth will contact John at Salvation Army, and Jodie will contact Craig Lees at COMPASS. Mary Pat and Beth will also talk with Bill Magnotto about sending Sharon Kraych to Continuum of Services meetings.**
- Melissa will follow-up with Primavera concerning the receipt of quarterly reports (Goal #1).
- Ten-Year Plan Committee’s preliminary report will assist with Goal #2. The two committees will have a joint meeting in March, as their committee work impacts the Continuum of Services committee.
- It would be helpful to include on the list the name of a contact individual to go with the organization listing on the chart (especially to those who are new and do not know who specifically to contact).
- Regarding the last bulletin on the last page (i.e., assisting applicants in accessing SSI and SSDI), Mary reports that this is almost done and it will be soon). Also mentioned: the SOAR program training in September and the “Train the trainers” meeting in January (Georgia Fitzsimmons is the contact person).
- **Add Final Column to Chart entitled, “Progress” that will allow the group to track accomplishments.**
- Under “Other Homelessness” Goal #2: Include Social Worker Legislative day in Phoenix (usually in January), and go as TPCH members. **Mary Pat will find out more about it.**
- Have training or workshop on Exhibit 1 with a recognition breakfast (i.e., “Fun with Exhibit 1”), and training on next year’s goals. Make it focus upon TPCH/the whole continuum.

6. Contractor RFP 05-06

- Beth reported that the final Contractor RFP has been sent out to different groups. She noted that due to concerns, it was changed back to one position (not two components). She asked members to share it with others. Beth, Jodie, and Mary Pat offered to review applications and provide screening process before sending them to the Executive Council.

New Business:

-- None at this time.

Attendance

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email</i>
Beth Carey (Co-chair)	SAAF	bcarey@saaf.org
Mary Ochoa	DES/DBME	maryochoa@azdes.gov
Nancy Panico (Co-Chair)	Open Inn	npanico@openinn.org
Jodie Earl Barnes	City of Tucson	jodie.barnes@tucson.az
John Mott	ATC/HMIS	jwmott@arizonatc.com
Dorothy LaBrasseur	TCWC	Dorothy@tucsoncenters.com
Melissa Wieters	Primavera	mwieters@primavera.org
Mary Pat Sullivan	Comin’ Home	mpsullivan@cox.net
Dave Shapiro (Guest)	Pima Comm. College	shapiro@gainusa.com