

**TUCSON PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS
CONTINUUM OF SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Wednesday May 24, 2006

Members in Attendance

Steven Nelson, Jackson Employment Center
Mary Ochoa, DES/FAA
Barbara Montrose, CPSA
Patricia Carnes, Compass Health Care
John Mott, ATC/ HMIS
Linda Kott, Primavera
Susanna Rodriguez, COT
Beth Carey, SAAF
Mary Pat Sullivan, Comin' Home
Susan Trentham, CoC Consultant

Beth Carey moderated the meeting.

New Business

Steve and Barbara will be going to the NAEH conference. Other TPCH members are encouraged to attend.

Barbara arranged a meeting with Buck Baggit, a lobbyist for the Corporation for Supportive Housing, to occur on June 22. Buck will provide us with information on proposed changes to McKinney-Vento funding.

Barbara pointed out that under the old leadership a contact list of TPCH members was updated yearly. With new agency representatives and new people there is a need for an updated list to facilitate communication between members.

Selection of Committee Co-Chairs

Beth Carey and Linda Kott were selected to co-chair the committee. Thanks to Nancy Panico for her leadership in the 2005-2006 year!

Arizona Evaluation Project Update

Barbara announced there would be a DES sponsored meeting in Casa Grande on June 6 with representatives from Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Pima County, and the Rural Continuum. The meeting will be an opportunity to discuss progress and future goals for the project. TPCH representatives are concerned about the viability of the project.

Plan to End Homelessness Update

Steve offered to share a CD recording of a lecture he attended at the ICEH national meeting, "Tools for Innovation in a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness" by Tom Collins. Jackson Employment Center received an Innovator of the Year award at that conference. Steve also offered another resource paper, "Ending Chronic Homelessness Through Employment and Housing." Let Steve know if you would like the e-mail link to this document.

HMIS Update

John Mott passed out a year-to-date report (based on the government's fiscal year July 1st to June 30th.) This report is what he sends to the Arizona Department of Housing data warehouse every month. There are agency specific things in the back, such as average program length of stay. John is providing the report as a disclosure so TPCCH knows what is sent. ADOH requests all three continuums provide this information every month.

Mary Pat stated that the agencies need help in finding out exit information. CoC has about 50% complete data on where their clients go when they leave.

Steve pointed out that emergency shelter versus transitional housing is a different ballgame. If we look at our shelter people showing up in transitional and are reporting where they are winding up in another part of the system, we would have much more complete data. A lot of clients like to shelter-hop, and if they stay in emergency housing it costs us a lot of money.

John Mott stated that a major focus for this year is addressing the issue of duplication in reporting. Getting organizations to not duplicate their data has been a challenge because of the misunderstanding between reporting clients versus program enrollment. Pat stated that agencies are paid by the number of admissions, not the number of people. John further clarified that an agency can report the same person as a program entry 15 times instead of entering the same client 15 times and throwing off the numbers of people served used to count clients. Beth stated that if we can work within the agencies to make sure they're not duplicating data, that's a good start.

Debrief Continuum of Care Homeless Programs Application Process

Susan submitted the CoC 2006 Application to D.C. One of the positive things about the process was the project applicants were very responsive, and Susan expressed gratitude for that.

Brief feedback included the following:

- Logic model was being limited
- 1-800 info number did not have complete information
- Delay of response from HUD personnel when questioned.
- The new online Q & A posting that was updated every 2 weeks was somewhat helpful.

Initial suggestions for improving next year's process included:

- Ask HUD to set up an info team with the specific purpose of answering questions during the times of the year applications are due. At the very least on online bulletin board for sharing questions between applicants would be helpful.
- Identify who the contact person is for each agency at the beginning of the process.
- Set up process for training and accountability related to the Exhibit 1 goals so they can be reported accurately the next year.

Susan will bring her notes on the application process to the next meeting to be covered more in depth.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm. The next meeting will be held Wednesday June 28 at 10:30 a.m. at SAAF, 375 S. Euclid Ave.