



TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 2/10/2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

Roll Call and Consent Agenda

Daniela Figueroa opened meeting and Karen Fogas did roll call to voting members. (Attendance attached).

Motion: To approve the current agenda and the minutes from November 18, 2021 General Council meeting.

Motion passes with 19 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed.

Community Celebrations

Daniela F. celebrated the continuum's decision to post pone the PIT count due to community concerns. Today, TPCH was approved for the alternative data sets.

Update on TPCH Activities and Financial Overview

Karen F began by sharing that the Coordinated Entry Equity Initiative begins on February 15, 2022, and shared a small reminder for those who would like to join; TPCH has a fully staffed Continuum of Care Team with the new addition of two Project Coordinators: Elaine MacPherson and Mayra Gamez; City of Tucson Job Fair scheduled for March 8, 2022; Critical Time Intervention Training scheduled for April 6, 13, and 20.

Karen F. also shared the following financial updates:

Planning Grant Budget ranging from 10/1/21 – 9/30/22 – with an award amount of \$247,593 and total spent to date of \$102,813.74; General Fund balance of \$36,522.01 as of February 2022.

Committee and Coalition Updates

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Ivey Higuera reported the completion of the learning collaborative with C4 Innovations course; Ivey H. also shared the completion of the outreach for people with lived experience and the compensation for their participation within the Continuum of Care. Ivey H. expressed DEI community wanted to partner up with System Performance Evaluation Committee and VI-SPDAT to discuss the possibility of adding subcategory sections to help collect data and get a better view of how it is impacting and if it's impacting successfully, some of these subcategories are sexuality, race, and gender. Ivey H. expressed DEI committee's main goal was to assist individuals maintain their housing and for that, a deeper look at data is needed.

CoC Program Grant Committee – Tim Kromer reported that Program Grant Committee has been reviewing the quarterly data and understanding the agencies that are performing and seeing multiple ways to provide some aid towards those agencies that are not performing. Tim K. expressed the possibility of providing some type of training to those agencies, but Program Grant Committee is really focusing on finding the best way to assist them. Tim K. expressed the two common data points agencies are struggling with are: exits to permanent supportive housing and increase in income.

Coordinated Entry Committee – Melissa Benjamin provided a small update on reviewing policies for coordinated entry that were put on place during the pandemic. These interim policies are being reviewed by Coordinated Entry Committee to decide whether some of these policies should be made permanent or stay as interim. Melissa B. also shared that the committee is working on updating their annual plan to determine what are the next tasks to complete.

HMIS Committee – Valerie Grothe reported that HMIS committee is currently focusing on data quality improvement – she mentioned the committee is having a bit of a delay due to the Housing Inventory Chart/Point-in Time Count (HIC/PIT). Valerie G. shared the committee is working on building a forum called: Listening Sessions for Providers. This will allow providers to talk about the issues they're having when using HMIS; some of these issues could be such as entering data, running reports, HMIS users/admins training, and others. Valerie G. also shared the idea for outreach workgroups – just different ways to tackle issues and improve data quality.

System Performance Evaluation Committee – Kristy Snowden reported updates on the HMIS monitoring update – the deadline for the report was extended due to Covid cases rising again; this was done to allow HMIS and SPEC's better coordination for a successful submission. Kristy S. shared an update on a tool that SPEC is developing to compile collective data in order to improve performance within the Continuum of Care.

Youth Action Committee – Victoria Tullercash reported that the main goal the committee is trying to accomplish is for the YAC committee to quarterly convene with other partners around the community; this is due to the YDHP project and the agencies working under it – just to get a better feel for what is going well and sharing some feedback. Victoria T. shared the YAC committee is learning how to apply for grants. YAC committee is also working on building an onboarding video for upcoming YAC members so they will be able to have a grand overview of what Youth Action Committee is all about.

Homeless Youth Coalition – *No representative present to report on coalition progress.*

Built for Zero Coalition – Jocelyn Muzzin, share a brief summary of what Built for Zero collaborative is – group of community members and agencies that focus on process improvement in the coordinated entry system with the goal of increasing housing placements and ending the veteran and chronic homelessness in our Continuum of Care. Jocelyn M. shared that during the last quarter the coalition has been updating the policies and procedures for case conferencing. This was based on the coordinated entry cohort that was attended last year and the input that was received and shared. Jocelyn M. also shared that during the last quarter HMIS partnered up with community solutions to improve some of the data related to people experiencing chronic homelessness back to January 2021 – this was done to make sure data was up to date. Jocelyn M. shared that the current number for people experiencing chronic homelessness is 716 and 174 for veterans experiencing homelessness as of December 2021. She also shared the involvement with two other cohorts with community solutions: System Flow cohort – this focuses on decreasing the length of time veterans are experiencing homelessness as well increasing the housing placements. Shift lab cohort – focuses on reducing the number of individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness. Jocelyn M. also shared they continue looking at their annual plan and the next activities they need to work on for the next 12 months.

Community Outreach Coalition – Brandi Champion began sharing that the community outreach coalition is continuing to work on community collaboration with other agencies and organizations

that have outreach navigation staff. Brandi C. shared that she has been seeing positive change as agencies are more active at attending and participating during the outreach navigation meetings. Brandi C. invited agencies that have outreach navigation staff to participate during those outreach meetings.

Maintaining Momentum to End Homelessness

Jason T. stated that the following update will be on activities related to the TPCP Strategic Plan. Jason T. praised the HMIS lead for creating reports to assist with this update and mentioned that in the next couple of months there will be more publicly available reports. These reports will be tied with the unique way in which the Point in Time Count will be measured this year in the absence of an in-person count.

Jason T. did an overview of the four key strategies identified, and read through a slideshow that contained information for all four strategies:

1. Strategy 1: Address root causes of homelessness through system and policy change
2. Strategy 2: Fortify the housing safety net to meet community need
3. Strategy 3: Improve quality of life among people experiencing homelessness throughout the region.
4. Strategy 4: Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the CoC in addressing homelessness.

Jason T. spoke of the plan actions complete and underway for each strategy:

Strategy 1: Address root causes of homelessness through system and policy change.

Plan Actions Complete

- Established set-aside beds at non-congregate shelter facilities for hospital and behavioral health discharge
- Increased legal services to reduce and mitigate eviction through Pima County Emergency Eviction Legal Services and Step Up to Justice Eviction Legal Clinic
- On-demand training provided related to Fair Housing and Equal Access
- Launched streamlined self-referral assessment portal and social outreach campaign for homelessness prevention
- Expanded Coordinated Entry and Housing Navigation services at City of Tucson, CBI, and OPCS
- Implemented dynamic prioritization within Coordinated Entry

Plan Actions Underway

- On-demand training content under development related to assistance and services for non-citizens.
- Affordable housing developments, including projects targeting persons experiencing homelessness, currently under solicitation through City of Tucson/Pima County American Rescue Plan funding.

Strategy 2: Fortify the Housing Safety Net to Meet Community Need

Plan Actions Complete

- Low-barrier language added to City of Tucson ESG shelter agreements prohibiting sobriety requirements and other barriers.
- Launched Youth Homelessness Demonstration Projects including dedicated navigation and diversion services.

- Adopted Coordinated Entry policy changes to allow for telephonic assessment making housing assessment accessible throughout the region (continued work to provide stationary and mobile in-person assessment).
- Coordinated distribution of ERAP and homelessness prevention resources.
- Implemented transfer policies to allow movement to higher levels of supportive housing as needed.
- Implemented permanent supportive housing move-on strategy.
- Disaggregated system reporting data to illuminate disparities and trends in the experiences of homelessness by various groups.
- Conducted Racial Equity and LGBTQ+ Equity training series.

Plan Actions Underway

- Low-barrier language being added to City of Tucson and Pima County ESG policies and procedures.
- Coordination with Tribal Housing agencies regarding participation in the Continuum of Care and access to CoC funds beginning.
- Selected to participate in HUD's Coordinated Entry Equity Demonstration with intent of replacing VI-SPDAT tools and improving assessment process.

Strategy 3: Improve quality of life among people experiencing homelessness throughout the region.

Plan Actions Complete

- Community emergency shelter funding increased by \$3M+ with focus on low-barrier, non-congregate shelter projects.
- Provided on-demand harm reduction training related to opioid overdose prevention.

Plan Actions Underway

- Developed Housing Attempt to Locate (HATL) coordination strategy with local law enforcement, awaiting final approvals in January 2022.
- Safe, legal sleeping environments for unsheltered persons currently under consideration with City of Tucson Mayor and Council.
- Applied for HUD Coordinated Entry funding to support improved integration of domestic violence resources and triage within Coordinated Entry system, and to increase availability of housing dedicated for survivors of domestic abuse (currently awaiting HUD decision).

Strategy 4: Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the CoC in addressing homelessness.

Plan Actions Complete

- Coordinated with Department of Housing, Department of Economic Security, City of Tucson, and Pima County to develop shared investment strategies for CARES Act funds.
- Expanded the role of persons with lived experience and increased BIPOC representation in CoC funding selection panels.
- Hosted Rapid Rehousing 2.0 Best Practices training series.
- Funded Supportive Housing Management training series for community agencies.
- Provided on-demand legislative advocacy training and current legislative session priorities.
- Increased member benefits to include TPCH Online Training Center
- Produced Striving Toward Racial Justice and Data Report on the Prevalence and Experiences of Homelessness

Plan Actions Underway

- Developed Housing Attempt to Locate (HATL) coordination strategy with local law enforcement, awaiting final approvals in January 2022.
- Further potential expansion of TPCH Online Training Center in partnership with other CoCs.
- Hosting Critical Time Intervention training series

Correction from earlier mention of Critical Time Intervention Contract: FUSE initiative

Karen F. clarified that earlier in the presentation, she noted that she mentioned the contract to provide Critical Time Intervention as costing \$80,000. She corrected this announcement, clarifying that in fact the contract she intended to cover was one with Old Pueblo Community Services (OPCS) for \$80,000 to bring FUSE to our community. FUSE is the initiative that helps to identify and bring forward the people who are using some of the more expensive systems in our community who don't hit our assessment entry to receive services.

Defining the Characteristics and Training Needs of A Skilled Homeless Response Work Force

Karen F. introduced this small group discussion exercise as an intention to bring value to the community and the continuum by identifying training needs for the workforce. Karen F. described the activity as one generating feedback around what kinds of training needs our community has. Room facilitators were Daniela F., Jocelyn M., Jason T., Karen F. and Emma H.

New Business/Announcements

When the breakout sessions concluded, Karen F. committed to preparing a review of the results of the breakout sessions in an upcoming meeting to be determined. Daniela F. reminded attendees that the next General Council meeting would be on Thursday, May 12, 2022, and encouraged folks to register.

Meeting adjourned at 4:34pm.

February 10, 2022 GENERAL COUNCIL ATTENDANCE – quorum established

First Name	Last Name	Organization
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Amity Foundation</i>
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Arizona Children's Association</i>
Patty	Scott-Lopez	Arizona Complete Health
Name?		Arizona Youth Partnership
Lori	Kindler	Arizona Serve
Kayla	McGee	Banner University
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Community Bridges Inc.</i>
Zoe	Cooknboo	Community Food Bank
Jason	Thorpe	City of Tucson
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Community Partnership of Southern Arizona</i>
Kristy	Snowden	Compass Affordable Housing
Pam	Mosely	Arizona Department of Economic Security
Ed	Sakwa	Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse
Pat	Beauchamp	Esperanza en Escalante
Dia	Nonaka	Hom Inc.
Valerie	Groethe	La Frontera Center

<i>Absent</i>		<i>New Spirit Lutheran Church</i>
Melissa	Benjamin	Our Family Services
Phil	Pierce	Old Pueblo Community Services
Yvette	Gonzales	Pima County
Cheryl	Richard	Pima Council on Aging
Mark	Morales	Primavera Foundation
Luis	Ortega	Southern Arizona Aids Foundation
Phil	Davidson	Salvation Army
Jocelyn	Muzzin	Southern Arizona VA
Shannon	Fowler	University of Arizona SIROW (Southwest Institute for Research on Women)
<i>Absent</i>		<i>TMM Family Services</i>
Ana	Lucero	Youth on Their Own
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Sonoran Prevention Works</i>
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Inside Out Network</i>
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Community Investment Corporation</i>
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Gospel Rescue Mission</i>
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Family Housing Resources</i>
<i>Absent</i>		<i>Arizona Housing Coalition</i>
Tim	Kromer	Interfaith Community Services
Betty	Bitgood	Hope of Glory Ministries
Victoria	Tullercash	Youth Action Committee
Marcos	Crespo	Pio Decimo Center
Sylvia	Chavez	AZ Department of Education
Rizzo	Cruz	Goodwill of Southern Arizona
Individual:		
Art	Gage	
Stephanie	Santiago	

Prepared by Mayra Gamez and Elaine MacPherson