



TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 8/11/2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

Roll Call and Consent Agenda

Jocelyn Muzzin opened meeting and Karen Fogas performed roll call for voting members. Quorum was reached (attendance attached). As a point of clarification, Elaine M. announced that while attendance for every individual and organizational member in attendance is recorded, only the members (both organizational and individual) who have active voting status are called during roll call. For many members present at this meeting, they are having their attendance recorded but won't be called for roll call until the next meeting when they have reinstated voting privileges. Per the TPCH Governance Charter, organizational and individual members of the continuum have voting privileges when they have attended two of the preceding three General Council meetings.

Motion: To approve the current agenda and the minutes from May 12, 2022, General Council meeting. Made by Shannon Fowler, seconded by Tim Kromer.

Motion passes with 23 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed.

Community Celebrations

Jocelyn M. invited attendees to share organizational or other celebrations. Laurie Bernard from the New Spirit Lutheran Church shared that a Homeless Blessings event will be happening at the church on Old Spanish Trail and Camino Seco from 9-11am on Saturday August 13, 2022. She reported that these events happen on the second Saturdays of each month and provide hot meals, tarps, backpacks, clothing, and shoes to those in attendance.

Regular NOFO and Special NOFO

Karen Fogas shared that the supplemental NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) specifically targeting those who are unsheltered and with severe service needs was released in June and is due October 20, 2022. Karen F. reported that the Continuum of Care Board has adopted a set of funding areas to prioritize that included Supportive Services Only (SSO) navigation, SSO street outreach, permanent supportive housing (PSH), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) management, and Continuum of Care (COC) planning.

Karen F. mentioned that the www.tpch.net website will soon detail the many deadlines that currently exist for the Supplemental NOFO, and later will release the details and timelines for the annual competitive NOFO. Existing grantees have all indicated that they want to renew their projects, but any interested applicants who want to apply for new projects should reach out to the collaborative applicant at tpch@tucsonaz.gov to get more information on the process. Karen F. added that the supplemental NOFO applications are due September 19th, 2022 and the regular NOFO application will likely be due on September 1, 2022, but there will be more details to come.

Jocelyn M. noted the significant amount of work that goes into the competitive NOFO process and celebrated both the HMIS and CoC lead for their work that will happen in the next two months. Laurie Bernard wanted to hear more about the NOFO process and what it entails. Karen F. answered that since the City of Tucson is the collaborative applicant that is recognized by HUD (the Department of Housing and Urban Development), the nationwide NOFO requires

the collaborative applicant to run a local competition process for organizations in the community to apply to. Then, the collaborative applicant reviews and ranks applying projects to be compiled in the larger consolidated application to HUD by September 30th for the regular NOFO, and October 20, 2022 for the Supplemental NOFO. Karen F. further clarified that once the local competition is concluded the continuum votes to send its projects in the larger consolidated application to HUD, HUD makes funding decisions for each community.

TPCH Updates

Karen F. mentioned that the FUSE (Frequent User Systems Engagement) Initiative is working to address an overlap of systems use for the criminal justice system, the public health system, and the homeless response system. Currently, the HMIS Lead is working to review the first round of comparable data for healthcare, corrections, and housing services to identify if there is considerable overlap between the homeless response system and these other community-based systems. Karen F. reported that the first data matches are in process now between Pima County Justice Services data and our own HMIS data. Then, health systems data will be added later, and will be done in a way that is compliant with HIPAA (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996). This will be done in a way to protect privacy. The goal is to indicate whether people have been utilizing these systems simultaneously and hope to carve out a system of housing and supportive services for a hundred individuals in our community as a pilot to demonstrate that with intervention and housing, people can break out of cycles of system involvement and homelessness. Karen F. shared the flier for the upcoming forum as a formal launch of the FUSE Initiative throughout the community.

The unsheltered homelessness forum will be co-hosted by the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness and the City of Tucson on Monday, August 15, 2022, and Tuesday, August 16, 2022 to gather input for the upcoming Supplemental Funding opportunity, but also to chart a general community plan to address unsheltered homelessness. There will also be additional listening sessions scheduled to follow up on this forum to gather more feedback from the community. These listening sessions are intended to gather expertise from providers, people with lived experiences of homelessness, and systems design staff working closely on the initiative.

Members of the Youth Action Committee as well as other core team members with lived expertise have already been participating in the Coordinated Entry Equity Initiative, to replace the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) with a new tool that better addresses racial equity in the homeless response system.

The statewide data warehouse initiative, a collaboration between several continua and other stakeholders in Arizona, has hired Green River to manage the process of developing policies and procedures around the use and sharing of data. This data will be reviewed by attorneys, who will also review the scope of work as the cohort decides which data to share and how. This cohort has also identified at least one source of funding to sustain this coordinated effort long term. The goal is to coordinated data throughout the state to improve continua of care to better serve individuals. The initiative will continue throughout 2023.

Committee and Coalition Updates

Continuum of Care Program Grant Committee –

Tim Kromer, Chairperson of the CoC Program Grant Committee, reported that the committee has been working hard the past few quarters to move past just reviewing data to also bring in organizations who are performing higher and lower than average for the purpose of skill sharing. Tim K. reported that the top two performing agencies who have excelled in the metrics of percentage of adults who have increased income from entry to exit and the percentage of adults

who have exited to permanent housing destinations met with lower performing agencies so the group could share successes and challenges with each other and establish best practices. With these in mind, the committee can make recommendations for how to assist programs who are struggling with tools to promote best practices, such as manuals.

Coordinated Entry Committee –

Melissa Benjamin, Chairperson of the Coordinated Entry Committee, reported that the committee reviewed and updated case conferencing procedures, worked with Arizona Complete Health to ensure individual being served are also closed out on the By Name Lists with the goal of shortening the length of time homeless in the community. The committee also has started the process of translating Coordinated Entry project entries into Spanish, created a list of translation services for each access points, and have posted some bilingual resources on the website. The committee also worked with agencies who were struggling to follow the coordinated entry policies and procedures to identify and overcome barriers in managing the coordinated entry process. The committee also created two new workgroups: one to address suggested policy changes from C4 Innovations, a consulting firm who conducted a systemic assessment of racial equity in the Continuum of Care, and one to create policy updates related to inter-partner violence. The committee also voted in Valerie Grothe as the new Vice Chair. The committee will also update expectations for outreach contacts, collaborate more closely with the Coordinated Entry Equity Initiative, and finish reviewing the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures on the regular annual basis. The group is also collaborating with the Youth Action Committee to update and send the Minor Youth Transfer Policy to the CoC Board for approval.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee –

Simikka Milligan, Vice-Chairperson of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee reported that the committee has new leadership under Cat Polston as committee chair and Mikka Milligan as Vice Chairperson. The committee also switched meeting schedules from the second Mondays from 1-2:30 pm to the second Wednesdays from 10:30am-noon. This was to improve attendance and quorum. The new DEI committee members participated in a DEI onboarding with CoC lead staff to immerse themselves in the concept of Targeted Universalism and how to apply those principles to our continuum. Due to low committee attendance of the past few months and resultant interruptions to the work plan, several items were left undone and needed revisiting. Both as an entire committee and in small workgroups, members have met to review the TPCH written standards recommendations, identified a small set of key action items to address from the C4 innovations recommendations, and initiated a workgroup with the Youth Action Committee to address suggested changes to the TPCH Governance Charter

The first two meetings of the program year, the July and upcoming August meetings will have been primarily spent in smaller workgroups to revisit the DEI strategic plan that was crafted in the middle of 2021. The group has taken lots of time and paid special attention to identifying which of those action steps can be done in the next year, and which can be done in the next three years. Then, committee officers will build out a yearly plan to incorporate those action items into their meeting agenda. Committee leadership is also interested in collaborating with the YAC to build out the framework for a lived experience council for the continuum. The committee is currently working off of the DEI Strategic Plan Built out in 2021 to reformulate their annual action plan for the year.

Coordinated Entry Equity Initiative –

Mikka M. also reported out for the Coordinated Entry Equity Initiative, which is working in tandem with the DEI Committee and a core team of providers, lived experts, and some HUD coaches to replace the VI-SPDAT tool currently being used. The next steps for this initiative include reviewing prioritization factors in our coordinated entry process and analyzing data to

see the disproportionalities in the system. Mikka M. reported that the key successes in this initiative have been a strong and diverse core team who has met consistently, support from HMIS who are providing more technical support. The initiative will continue to review the current VI-SPDAT and will further explore the factors affecting prioritization, and discuss how prioritization factors will be incorporated, changed, or added into the new assessment. Some conversations that the initiative will attempt to answer is whether this new assessment will be score-based, entirely based on factors, or will otherwise amend the current dynamic prioritization process. To best navigate these challenges, the core team will identify core team leadership, network with other communities with the core team and identify a work plan that will extend past the end of the initiative.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Committee – Megan Sanes, Chairperson of the HMIS Committee, reported the committee released, reviewed, and compared the HMIS Consumer Satisfaction survey results. The committee also reviewed and approved the FUSE (Frequent User System Engagement) data matching process, and have been completing listening sessions. In the next four months, the committee hopes to complete HMIS Listening Forum Sessions, review the FUSE Data Matching Results, expand trainings available on HMIS, including the development and delivery of an APR (annual performance report) annually, and create the end-User HMIS Data Dictionary Desk Guide.

System Performance Evaluation Committee -

Lori Kindler, Chairperson of the committee, reported that in the past quarter SPE Committee has elected Ana Lucero from YOTO (Youth on Their Own) as Vice Chair, and brought on Chaelee Chavez as a new member. Lori K. reported that the committee formed a workgroup to create a data review policies and procedures and voted on it this past week and will be sending this to the board in the next month. The committee also completed the DEI data collection table that collects and disaggregates data on race, ethnicity, gender, and the presence of one or more disabilities to be reported on twice annually and which will be reviewed by SPEC. The committee also worked with the HMIS lead to address ESG (Emergency Shelter Grants) outcomes and the committee hopes to create data summaries of their review, and will be working on this in their next meeting.

Youth Action Committee –

Keona Rose, co-chair of the committee reported that the YAC has appointed new co-chairs and brought on new members. Adam Renegar and Keona Rose were elected as co-chairs of the YAC, one member is currently in the onboarding process, another person about to be onboarded. The YAC has re-engaged YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project) grantees in the Homeless Youth Coalition, which is again mandatory as the YAC attempts to implement its CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) process. The committee also met with the HUD TA (Department of Housing and Urban Development Technical assistance) staff to discuss successes and challenges of implementing Coordinated Community Plan outlined in the demonstration project and have dug into this CCP to reestablish community wide goals and align the YAC annual plan with goals that are yet to be met. Guests have regularly been attending the YAC to learn about the process of youth leadership as they attempt to create their own, such as from Arizona State University and the Homeless Youth Connection. In the next few months, the YAC is focused on recruiting additional members and on enhancing participation in the Homeless Youth Coalition. The YAC will also be collaborating with CoC lead and DEI Committee on building out a framework for a proposed Lived Experience Council. YAC hopes to make progress on the other delayed goals of hosting Quarterly Convenings which were postponed and building a social media platform and creating promotional materials to recruit more members.

Homeless Youth Coalition -

Keona Rose, member of the coalition also reported out on the activities of the Homeless Youth Coalition. Keona R. reported that the coalition has met to share resources & hear from external youth providers and has been actively working with the YAC to explore how youth-serving organizations can set up Youth Action Boards for clients to oversee their programming. Keona R. listed upcoming projects of the Homeless Youth Coalition to include a McKinney Vento liaison outreach video in coordination with the YHDP Education Change Team, a proposed Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process for YHDP Grantees, and a collaboration with the HMIS and Coordinated Entry Committees to add the Minor Transfer Youth Policy to the Coordinated Entry policies and procedures toward the goal of better training caseworkers within DCS (the Department of Child Safety), the juvenile justice system, and medical settings. In the next 4 months the HYC will increase attendance from the community so the space can become more collaborative and appoint new coalition officers.

Built for Zero Coalition –

Jocelyn M. reported that the committee collaborated with the Coordinated Entry Committee to propose changes to the case conferencing procedures and are currently working on an incentive structure to encourage one-hundred percent participation in case conferencing by all projects receiving referrals in HMIS. The coalition is tracking attendance and hoping to meet one hundred percent participation by the end of the year. Six members of the coalition were present at the national conference in Chicago, Illinois to meet with other communities on best practices, and in the next four month are using this networking and collaboration to build out a landlord incentive model that is being replicated across the country. The coalition has begun a community-wide navigator workgroup with the goal of engaging and recruiting landlords to rent to people navigating our homeless response system. This involves diversion, public housing programming, and other available funds to better support this effort. The coalition has also been exploring the utility of a hypothetical database to track real time availability of rental units for folks who have been referred to a housing opportunity, for them to use to find which landlords and management companies have openings and whether those entities will rent to folks with various barriers. Jocelyn M. noted that the group hasn't gotten far enough in this effort yet to look at platforms, but that whichever platform is chosen needs to be able to be updated in real time. This distinguishes this tool from the current Pima County Housing Search website, since things are changing daily, and those searching for housing need updates in real time.

Community Outreach Coalition –

Brandi Champion reported that over the past four months, the coalition has changed their meeting times from the fourth Tuesday to the second Tuesday of the month. The coalition continues to do collaborative outreach every Wednesday, and participating agencies go out to encampments to do triage on those living in the encampment. A recent goal has been to incorporate those outreach and encampment spots into the outreach effort, and in meetings have been identifying hot spot sites for practitioners to focus on. As the City of Tucson Housing First team reframes some of its Homeless Protocol program work, the coalition may adjust by coordinating teams to certain areas. The outreach coalition also will be working closely with the navigation team coordinated through the Built for Zero Coalition. Staffing is increasing for the Housing First team, and that will help to augment outreach efforts being incorporated into the coalition's annual action plan and targeted outreach initiatives. Brandi C. also recommended that anyone wanting to get a hold of Tucson Police Department Officer Jack Julsing, who leads the City of Tucson's Housing Outreach Team (HOT) will soon be going on paternity leave, to instead reach out to the Housing First team for anything related to Homeless Protocol.

Progress Update to the TPCH Strategic Plan

Karen F. reported that a progress report to the 2020-2025 Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness has been posted to the TPCCH website. The Continuum of Care lead staff examined progress in each section the report to look at where the community is at that plan at the midpoint. One of the challenges was that shortly after the plan was created, the COVID19 pandemic started, so the vision of the plan and its anticipated accomplishments changed dramatically. Even with the pandemic, accomplishments on each of the core strategies are as follows:

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.
- Participating in HUD's Coordinated Entry Equity Demonstration with intent of replacing VI-SPDAT tools and improving assessment process.

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.

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.
- Developed Housing Attempt to Locate (HATL) coordination strategy with local law enforcement, awaiting implementation in September 2022.

Plan Actions Underway

- Safe, legal sleeping environments for unsheltered persons currently under consideration with City of Tucson Mayor and Council.

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
- Hosted Critical Time Intervention training series
- Developed Housing Attempt to Locate (HATL) coordination strategy with local law enforcement, awaiting implementation in September 2022.

Plan Actions Underway

- Further potential expansion of TPCH Online Training Center in partnership with other CoCs and Pima County.

Two attendees wanted more information regarding the Housing Attempt to Locate strategy and what caused it to be suspended. Karen Fogas reported that the end of the legislative session without passing of a bill that would have criminalized homelessness (SB1581) is what allowed HATL to be reinstated. Had the bill passed, or should it pass in the future, HATL could again be suspended since a core element of its strategy is the expectation that local law enforcement should not arrest folks who are sleeping outside in areas that are not designated as encampment sites. The bill in question would effectively criminalize homelessness in any area not deemed the encampment site, so had that bill become law, HATL would be an untenable strategy since the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness and the Tucson Police Department do not intend to arrest Tucsonans for sleeping outside when there are no beds available for them elsewhere.

Update on TPCH Activities and Financial Overview

Karen Fogas reported that the General Fund Balance as of August 2022 was: \$37,865.37. Karen F. also went over the FY2022 Budget, which was sent to and approved by the Continuum of Care Board. This budget is listed below.

Personnel

Salary	\$145,040
Fringe Benefits	\$ 87,024

Professional Services

Printing	\$ 4,593
Conference Registrations	\$ 3,500
PIT Count / Gaps Analysis	\$ 9,999
Web Hosting & Management	\$ 9,999
Training/Consultancy	\$ 15,484

Travel

Airfare, Baggage, Ground Transport	\$ 6,700
Accommodations	\$ 4,440
Per Diem	\$ 2,704

Operating

Lived Experience	\$ 14,400
Software/Subscriptions	\$ 11,374
Memberships	\$ 200
Supplies	\$ 3,209
Postage	\$ 400

Subtotal	\$319,066
Award	\$319,066

New Business and Announcements

Karen F. reported that some may have noticed that there were going to be updates on TPCH Governance and Written Standards, but because the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee wanted to take a more intentional look at what the impact of those changes might be. Thus, updates to the TPCH Written Standards and Governance Charter will happen at the next General Council meeting in November.

Shannon Fowler wanted to announce the release of the Request for Proposals for the in-kind grant opportunity for LGBTQ+ equity and inclusion technical assistance & consulting. Shannon F. noted the opportunity will be available to three different agencies, and that the application is due on August 17, 2022 by 11:59pm Arizona time.

August 11, 2022 GENERAL COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

Quorum established with 23 of 30 voting members present. *An asterisk indicates voting status for this meeting.

Organization Represented	Individual(s) Present
AZ Department of Economic Security*	Pam Mosely
Arizona Serve*	Lori Kindler
Arizona Youth Partnership*	Kira Cathey
City of Tucson*	Brandi Champion
Community Bridges*	Elisa Guzman
Community Food Bank*	Zoe Cookenboo
Compass Affordable Housing*	Maryann Beerling
Direct Advocacy and Resource Center	Mickie White
Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse*	Lorie Aldecoa
Esperanza En Escalante*	Phyllis Russel
Family Housing Resources	Meghan Heddings
Goodwill	Lance Meeks, Marci Rojas
HOM, Inc. *	Dia Nonaka
The Homing Project	Kris Olson -Garewal
Hope of Glory Ministries*	Betty Bitgood
Interfaith Community Services*	Tim Kromer
New Spirit Lutheran Church*	Laurie Bernard
Novel Bookkeeping LLC	Carrie Naughton
Old Pueblo Community Services (OPCS) *	Philip Pierce, Anna Billings
Our Family Services (OFS) *	Melissa Benjamin, Chaelee Chavez, Megan Sanes
Pima County*	Yvette Gonzales
Pio Decimo	Marcos Crespo
Primavera Foundation*	Karen Caldwell, Denise Lopez
Salvation Army*	Steven Adams, Yoli Hasler
Sister Jose	Penny Buckley
Southern Arizona Aids Foundation (SAAF) *	Andrea Bedoy, Christopher Charles
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System*	Jocelyn Muzzin, Peter Reding
Tucson Federal Credit Union	Miguel Cruz
University of Arizona SIROW*	Shannon Fowler
Youth On Their Own*	Diego Coronado
AZ Department of Economic Security	Pam Mosely
Arizona Serve	Lori Kindler
Arizona Youth Partnership	Kira Cathey
Non-member individuals/Individual Members Present	
Steph Santiago*	
Simikka Milligan	
Steven Nelson*	
Amanda Sampsel	
Bob Purvis	
John Roldan	
Joyce (Jade) Arditti, Ph.D.	
Keona Rose	

Ray Vermeal
Steph Santiago
Simikka Milligan
Steven Nelson

Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

Minutes prepared by Elaine MacPherson

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