**AZ HOARDING TASK FORCE**

December 9, 2010

Granite Reef Senior Center, Scottsdale

Lori Walberg, therapist, representing the Time Out workshops, announced that there will be a conference on Hoarding slated for May 17th. The conference will take place at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library (3839 N. Drinkwater, Scottsdale 85251) and will generate 6 CEU’s for a $50 registration fee that includes lunch. Mark Odom, LCSW & Hoarding Specialist from California, will be there to present as well as an attorney group from Tucson talking about Hoarder’s Rights. More information and a flyer will be distributed as it becomes available, but other topics will include:

* Diagnosis
* Symptoms
* Effective intervention
* Family Issues
* Panel Discussions

The Group broke up into subcommittees for updates and information to add to the group’s website [www.AZHoarding.com](http://www.AZHoarding.com).

ORGANIZTION: No one from the organization committee was in attendance. The group decided that there should be a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and perhaps an advisory board. This would lead to more accountability as a group and the possibility of obtaining grant funding. Linda Buscemi volunteered to be the Vice-Chair, and Anthony Pagliuca and David Rosenthal were nominated in absentia.

ANIMAL ISSUES: This subcommittee discussed pursuing possible legislation and working on meeting with local judges and board of director members for mental health associations to get them involved. The group also suggested a peer support group (hoarding recovery program). It was stated that having someone that has dealt with hoarding speak at May’s conference would be helpful. Other ideas included a Blog for family members, mandatory sentencing to mental health services rather than code enforcement fines, and the need to have a professional liaison over peer led support groups.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: This subcommittee discussed dementia and how it relates to hoarding. They also stated that once hoarding starts, there are a lot of safety issues. People with hoarding issues are refusing hospice care because they don’t want someone in their home. It was mentioned that petitioning needs to be put on the website. It was offered that Goodwill or St. Vincent de Paul could have social workers trained in hoarding.

RESOURCES: It was stated that there should be links to organizations on the website as well as brief descriptions of what they can do to help with hoarding. It was also mentioned that the Code Enforcement League, AZBO for building safety, and information on obsessive compulsive disorders should be included on the webpage. An e-mail blast will be sent out to all AZ HOARDING TASK FORCE participants requesting information from their organizations.

SELF HELP: In addition to the OCD support groups, also add publications, professional organizers, step-by-step instructions, lists of places to donate, information on biohazard disposal, and add KEYWORDS to the homepage.

Future Business:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 10th.

E-mails will follow with more requests for board nominations and other information.