

CoC Board Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Sharing Hope Ministry, 2300 SW 7th, Amarillo, TX 79106

The Meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by President Steve Smart.

Members Present: Steve Smart, Joyce Knight, Jason Riddlespurger, Meg DeJong Shier, Virginia Williams-Trice, Susan Webb, Michael Johnson, Susan Webb, Shanna James, Excused: Kraig Stockstill, Juan Maldonado, Audra Rea, Rachel Scott, Lilia Escajeda, Julie Cleveland, Rudy Montano
Also Present: Caressa Pena, Vanessa Robinson, Anna Gonzales

Approval of Minutes: Jason made a motion to approve the minutes of the September board meeting, seconded by Meg, motion passed unanimously.

Jason made a motion to approve the September General Meeting, seconded by Shanna, motion passed unanimously.

Lead Agency:

- Jason informed the board that the annual winter PIT count will be Friday, January 26, 2024. He wanted to get the word out early so that we can secure many volunteers as this count is a 24-hour period. This date falls within the range of dates recommended by HUD.
- The July count showed the number to be quite a bit lower. The count did not cover a 24 hour period. It cannot be compared to the January count since they were not done uniformly. He does not want to publish the numbers as it may give the public the wrong idea since they were not done the same. He will send out a chart of the numbers for the board to see.
- The city will make a Save the Date to send out to seek volunteers.

Gap Analysis committee: no report other than looking for a new chair.

Ending Veterans homelessness: No report but are meeting regularly, it is a challenge for Lois to make the meetings.

Education Committee: Shanna is reaching out to many different agencies who might want to present at our general meetings or form a North Heights Panel discussion for a meeting. A few that she is hoping to engage are: Dr. Priscilla Correa of WT. Melody Graves of the Amarillo Black Chamber, Elijah Demerson, Smile Big, Atag, Barbara Gann, Prep Academy, Angel Safe House for Women out of prison, representatives of the LGBTQ group from WT, Elite 101, and Chip Chandler

Policy and Procedure: Nothing new to report

Discriminalization Committee: Meg has done the foundation work and will report at the next meeting. Virginia will send her a PowerPoint Presentation on decriminalization.

Grievance Committee: nothing to report.

Scoring, Ranking Committee: nothing to report.

Ending Youth Homelessness: still needs a chair.

HMIS Committee: nothing new

Discussion Items:

Code of Conduct

The board was concerned about an unauthorized email that went out from a CoC member to a vast number of CoC members. Some of the board members heard from different agencies and people concerned about the email and why they received it. Some even expressed concern about being associated with the CoC because of the email and its contents.

While the board recognizes that everyone has a right to their opinion the CoC is an advocacy group and not an activist group.

Negativity only hurts the very people we are trying to help. Education of the public is key. We need to work together to make collective change.

The board decided we need to establish a Code of Conduct for the proper behavior of our members. The emails of our members also need to be protected.

Something will be presented at the next general meeting. This statement will be stated at every meeting.

Virginia announced Amarillo Housing First training opportunity for CEUs. The topic is Safety, Security, and Compassionate Care-October 21, 2023, 10-noon at AHF.

The meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Knight
Secretary