

CoC Board Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
WTAMU Downtown Amarillo SBAC Conference Room 1st Floor

The Meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Vice Chair Kraig Stockstill.

Members Present: Julie Cleveland, Meg DeJong-Shier, Lilia Escajeda, Shanna James, Michael Johnson, Kay Pechin, Audra Rea, Jason Riddlespurger, Rachel Scott, Kraig Stockstill, Susan Webb, Virginia Williams-Trice (remotely) and Caressa Pena

Approval of Minutes: May minutes were not available at the time of the meeting, so they will be reviewed at next Board meeting.

Jason announced that he will be requesting additional help from HUD rep Sara Pagni. She will provide guidance on CoC Policy, Procedure and Coordinated Entry.

Caressa announced that the next PIT count will take place on July 28, 2023. Volunteers will be needed. Training for the volunteers will be announced soon. Donations are needed and a flyer was provided for circulation.

Meg announced that she will type up a summary description of the PIT count to assist Audra in explaining the PIT count duties while recruiting volunteers.

Amarillo will be mapped out and volunteers will be given a designated area to engage homeless individuals. Every volunteer will be teamed up and sent to their designated area. They can go by foot or by car, whatever their preference.

Shanna suggested having Ryan Francis from Amarillo College come and speak about Amarillo College programs and the workforce. She hopes to have him speak about job opportunities in the July meeting.

Regarding policy and procedures, there have been 2 items put before the board regarding board membership and general membership. Kraig suggests that these items be put to a vote at the general membership meeting in July.

Shanna mentioned that Amarillo Resource Network is a non-affiliated group that has been started. They work with 211 to circulate information regarding resources and funding opportunities and the possibility of collaborating with other area organizations to provide services to the homeless community. She also would like more communication within area organizations by the people who do the "hands on" work with the community. So that people are instructed and referred to the organizations who can provide the services and avoid creating barriers to services.

She has been focusing on people being released from incarceration and looking at gaps and perceptions of gaps that these individuals could be experiencing.

The board discussed the average homeless person's journey through the system and how they navigate without falling through the cracks.

Kraig is a co-chair of implementing a diversion center to divert the homeless away from incarceration and toward mental health and/or substance use resources. A group is providing consultation and assistance in developing diversion centers. And the information they learn could be useful to the CoC.

There will be a tour of Randall County Jail on Tuesday, June 13 at 3:30. Email Shanna if you would like to attend.

Legal Aid is having a law conference on July 21st. They are looking for partners to join their resource fair. It will be at WTAMU Downtown in the basement. Amarillo Health will be providing immunizations. Contact Kay if you would like to be involved. Attorneys will be there to speak to the community. Lilia said she would like to educate on financial awareness and how to avoid payday lenders and have good fiscal responsibility.

The floods have left a number of people in need of housing. PCS has some funding available, but the money will be used for Hereford residents.

Mark Oualline gave a presentation on the pros and cons of the CoC becoming a 501 (c) (3). Non profit status would give the CoC the ability to fund raise, and there are also tax benefits for the people giving donations.