

CoC Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
Sharing Hope Ministry, 2300 SW 7th, Amarillo, TX 79106

The Meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Chair Steve Smart.

A quorum was not established. While we waited for more members to arrive, Lilia spoke about her availability to provide financial education classes in English and Spanish. She offered some helpful materials regarding financial aid for college, building wealth, and the monetary system. She states she is also willing to provide translation of documents into Spanish.

Shanna states she toured Randall County and Potter County jail. She states that, upon release, women get information on how to access local resources from Sharing Hope. She states that men receive nothing. She would like to coordinate with the CoC and possibly create an informational packet to distribute to men upon their release. She would like to reach out to the general membership and possibly create a committee that can work on this project. She states it is very important that homelessness not be criminalized.

Steve mentioned that a new 87 bed faith-based re-entry transitional housing project in Odessa.

A quorum was established at 9:19 am.

Members Present: Julie Cleveland, Lilia Escajeda, Shanna James, Michael Johnson, Kay Pechin, Rachel Scott, Steve Smart, Kraig Stockstill, Stefanie Rodarte-Suto, and Virginia Williams Trice

Members Absent: Meg DeJong-Shier, Joyce Knight, Juan Maldonado, Rudy Montano, Audrea Rea, Jason Riddlespurger, Susan Webb, Jim Womack

Also Present: Caressa Pena

Approval of Minutes: Kraig made a motion to approve the minutes of the July board meeting with corrections and the motion was followed up with a 2nd by Shanna. The motion passed. Minutes of September general membership meeting will be reviewed at next month's meeting.

Lead Agency:

Stefanie announced that Sara was assigned to provide TA HUD assistance in the future. Sara will help us in achieving compliance with HUD requirements.

She announced that the CoC NOFO application is open and accepting applications through 5 pm on August 18, 2023.

The numbers from the July PIT count are still being calculated.

Steve wanted to know if there are any specific questions to ask the HUD TA rep? The Amarillo Area Foundation offers training. Stefanie states we need to focus on HUDs equal opportunity training for LGBTQ+, BIPOC and people with disabilities. Steve states that most applications for funding will ask about steps that are being taken to ensure equal opportunity to services. He states whoever does the training needs to be able to be impartial and not biased.

Shanna states that Refugee Services of Texas has closed and many of the people she encountered during July's PIT count did not speak English.

Lilia states that she can provide training on building your credit to become possible homeowners. She states it is important to avoid payday lenders and to use banks instead.

Gap Analysis committee: Kay reports that the committee has not met.

Ending Veterans homelessness: Chris Israel is no longer with vetstar. The committee met and there is nothing to report. They are in a transition with employees right now and need to hire some people.

Education Committee: She will be focusing on a few health programs, breast cancer health, and education on mammograms. She will be giving a presentation to the next general membership meeting.

Policy and Procedure: The committee is waiting on TA assistance to see how that will shape the direction of the policy and procedures.

Grievance Committee: Meg states there have been no meetings or items to review.

Scoring, Ranking Committee: The committee will be meeting in early September to review all NOFO applications. Kelly was the chair of the committee but since she is no longer on the board, there will be a new member added to the committee. Kraig will contact Juan to calendar something soon.

Ending Youth Homelessness: still needs a chair.

HMIS Committee: Committee has not met. Virginia states she has given out her availability but has not attempted to schedule a meeting.

Discussion Items:

Steve states that we need to have a better system as we prepare for each board meeting. He prefers to discuss it when Joyce is in attendance. He suggests we discuss at the next board meeting. He asked if there are any discussion items that need to be added to the next agenda.

Decriminalization: will remain on the agenda while legislation is currently being voted upon in the state government.

David Martin will be the new pastor of the CME church.

Kay states she is leaving Amarillo and will no longer be on the board. The board wishes her well as she moves back home to Indiana! Kay states someone from her office will possibly take her place on the board. She is not sure who that person will be at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.