

Amarillo CoC (CoCTX611) Board Meeting Minutes
February 8th, 2024
WTAMU Harrington Hall, 720 S Tyler St, Amarillo, TX 79101

Meeting was brought to order at 9:02 am by President Kraig Stockhill and a quorum was established.

Members in attendance: Jason Riddlespurger, Juan Maldonado, Shanna James, Kraig Stockhill, Sgt. Rudy Montano, Michelle Shield, Julie Cleveland, Virginia Williams-Trice, Audra Rea, and Meg DeJong-Shier

Others Present: Samantha Hernandez, Samantha Gonzalez, Carissa Pena

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Rudy Montano to approve the minutes of the January board meeting and was seconded by Juan Maldonado. Motion to approve January minutes was passed.

Lead Agency Report:

- Technical Assistance Update – They have been connecting well with technical assistance group.
- Executive Committee (Kraig, Shanna, and Meg) are scheduled to meet with the technical assistance group from HUD later today.
 - Discussion about standing committees: Patrick from technical assistance states that we do not need to have a single standing committee. Create what you need and use it when you need to.
- PIT Count: Good number of volunteers. Terrible Day (Weather). Numbers are down (Will be available in a few weeks.) Not Accurate reflection.

Committee Reports:

Shelter Committee: Michelle Shield

- Met last Friday: report a good turn out. Notable absences: Faith City, Agape.
- Meet once a month (first Friday of month at 9 AM)– information sharing and chance to gain feedback. Potential for agencies to help one another when needed.
- Rotating hosting (Onsite experience, knowledge): Martha’s House will host next.
- Needs updated list of contacts at all shelters (First Friday of every month)
- Important News from Committee:
 - Salvation Army: Dinner now at 5:30pm (was 4:30pm). (New Kitchen Supervisor) Need to be active client.
 - Safety, Security and Compassionate Care training also had Narcan Drug overdose training: Narcan distributed.

Education, Training & Outreach: (Shanna)

- Education/Training: nothing confirmed for March

Outreach-

- Recruitment: digital, paper flyers to be created to advertise for General Meeting – (Meg to create): Shanna to create a Facebook event.

- Reach out to Media to see if there is interest in writing a story about CoC.
 - Shanna: Amarillo Globe
 - Audra: Channel 10
- Increasing communication with VA: Verlene Dickinson will be coming to future general membership meeting.
 - Audra discussed the fact that there are housing vouchers available for veterans, but difficult to allot as VA prefers to operate in Potter and Randall County. PCS would be willing to commit to providing transportation if VA is willing to be involved.
 - Kraig to schedule meeting with Lois (With Audra and Jason) to increase collaboration with CoC and address potential of working with clients outside of Potter and Randall.

Decriminalization and Housing Advocacy: (Meg)

- Criminalization – Start in March?
- Under advocacy: Texas Apartment Association – lobbying for eviction across Texas. Will be making life more difficult for our clients
- Legal Aid- Kay Moved, Tina promoted to head (Michelle to reach out)

Board Training/Education:

- LSA presentation: Carrissa Pena
 - Longitudinal Systems Analysis (10/1/22 – 9/30/24)
 - Three reports that the Lead agency provides contribute to final report to Congress: PIT, LSA, HIC = AHARA Annual Homeless Assessment Report. This report helps Congress who they will provide money to.
- LSA focuses on Household and 3 system performance measures
 - Length of time homeless
 - Exit destinations
 - Returns to homelessness
 - Household types – AO (Adult only) AC (Adult with at least one child) CO (Children only household)
 - Include data from Emergency Shelters (ES) Transitional Housing Shelters (TH) Rapid Re-Housing Projects (RRH) Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
 - What’s not included: Street Outreach, Homelessness Prevention
- Some trends that are concerning:
 - Housing Inventory (All Shelters have bed available) and
 - Lack of information regarding Exit Destinations.
- Improving data quality will be main area for focus for Carissa in upcoming year

Motion by Shanna James to have Carissa Pena present information about LSA to General Membership in March. Seconded and approved.

Policy Revisions:

- Diversity and Equity Statement:
 - Concern was issued by Meg regarding length.
 - Resolved in maintaining statement as is.

- Motion to approve and publish statement made by Audra Rea. Seconded: Juan Maldonado – Diversity and Equity Statement approved.

Other Business:

- HUD webinar on equity and racial – Adura Rea (2/7/24)
 - Meg is going to see if presenters can create presentation for CoC
- Survey about PIT count – sent out to general membership and volunteer
 - Need time to allow Stephanie to process data
 - Discussion regarding a formalized PIT organization committee to prepare and organize for January 2025 as we will no longer hold a midyear PIT count
 - Next PIT count – include feedback to general membership.
- HUD recommendations:
 - Vulnerable populations not being represented on Board.
 - LGBTQIA school, VA, youth – how to address while keeping board a manageable size?
- Call to encourage board members to participate in PIT count in future.

Upcoming Events:

Amarillo Public Health – Black History Month February 29th (Health and Resource Fair)

FSS – English and Spanish Domestic Violence support

- Online lunch time support
- Youth support group with domestic violence
- Self-Care events
- Food Pantry for survivors

Lunch and Learn on January 20th. Amarillo Housing First, DWC, AISD families in transition

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Meg DeJong-Shier
Secretary – CoCTC611

Please add coctx611@gmail.com and coctx611@amarillo.gov to your address books and remit all future correspondence to this email.