

**CoC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 9, 2023**  
**9:00 am**  
**WTAMU Downtown Amarillo SBAC Conference Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

The meeting was called to order at 9am by President Steve Smart

**Members Present:** Steve Smart, Jason Riddlespurger, Joyce Knight, Juan Maldonado, Meg DeJong-Shier, Kay Pechin, Virginia Williams-Trice, Debra Lamb, Susan Webb, Rachel Scott, Lilia Escajeda, Kraig Stockstill, Michael Johnson, Dr. Shanna James, Julie Cleveland, Susan Webb

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion was made by Jason Riddlespurger to approve the board meeting minutes of January 12, 2023, seconded by Kraig Stockstill and passed unanimously by board membership.

Jason also motioned to approve the general meeting minutes of January 12, 2023, seconded by Lilia Escajeda and passed unanimously by board membership.

**Lead Agency Updates**

Jason reported:

- Sarah Pagni with HUD offered to conduct a CoC Governance training for the Board. He wanted our thoughts. The training could be during a board meeting on an even month to allow for more time. The training would be done by Zoom. Discussion was held and those present liked the idea of training so that we use our time wisely and within HUD Guidelines. Jason will set up a month for the training.
- The Community development Department was continuing to work with the consultants to develop the coordinated entry process and the proper usage of HMIS.
- The design elements for Transformation Park are going exceptionally well. It is a great start but will need to expand in the future.
- The annual January Point in Time count was conducted. Numbers are still being verified, but the count of people is expected to go up following the trend across the country with aid for the homeless going down.
- Homeless Heroes, Inc. is planning on building tiny houses for homeless veterans in north Amarillo. Potter County offered land free for the Homeless Heroes project. Jason suggested we invite Tiffaney Belflower to speak to the board. A concern is the community may be confused by the Homeless Hero Project and Transformation Park.

**Housing First Presentation**

Virginia reported on Healthy Data Systems-HMIS information from the national convention she attended in 2022.

- HMIS is rich and valuable in information that will assist our agencies helping the homeless. Upon learning what and how the HMIS system works she realized how little we are using of the HMIS system and how we are missing out on information that can help our agencies run more efficiently, know where to target their dollars and use the information to gain more funding so desperately needed in Amarillo. The numbers gained will paint a better picture for need, growth and sustainability to funders and to HUD
- Proper use of HMIS is a requirement for CoC Funding. We need to reach out to agencies to participate and help them understand that their participation will help the homeless and the entire city. Cooperation from all agencies is necessary for healthy growth in helping the homeless population.
- Homelessness is a city wide need not individual agencies.
- The HMIS system will help provide racial equity throughout the agencies populations. Homeless population demographics are different from city demographics. HMIS will identify disparities to get to the heart of the problem.

- City wide proper use of HMIS will make more information available to all our agencies. Data is power, the Coc website would be great for dispersal of the information.
- We need to spread the word to all the agencies working with the homeless to please take advantage of the HMIS training provided free of cost and every month for agencies who use HMIS. As a community we are not scratching the surface of the capability of HMIS. If we can get community buy in we will be linked to tools to help solve problems. We need to make it easy for agencies to use and not make it another system to duplicate workload. HMIS is capable of being the only data entry system you may need.
- Virginia also provided a flyer with a QR Code to access presentations from the

Jason reported there is a mandatory HMIS user meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> Times 9-10:30, 11-12:30, 1-2:30.

Steve brought up having a Case for Support for the CoC. Meg volunteered to try and put one together, Steve and Joyce will send her examples of a Case for Support.

### **Committee Reports**

Monitor and Scoring-no report.

Grievance-no report

Point in Time-Jason reported in Lead Agency

HMIS Advisory-Virginia willing to chair.

Ending Veteran Homelessness-Lois may be taking over for Teena Hall

Ending Youth Homelessness-Joyce will reach out to Sonja.

Gap Analysis-nothing to report.

Education-nothing to report.

Policy and Procedure-Jason and Kraig are continuing to meet.

Shelter-nothing to report.

Beans and Cornbread-Steve reported that Amarillo Area Foundation is still in the game and that maybe it needs to be something different. Currently there is no money in the fund at AAF. We may approach Clay with a proposal for a new project-maybe through the Giving Tuesday Campaign.

### **Board Member Approval**

Rusty Donelson's Board Membership was discussed at length. From the discussion a motion was made by Kraig and seconded by Juan to not approve Rusty as a board member. He will continue to be a member of the CoC. The board voted unanimously to pass the motion.

Steve and Virginia will talk with Rusty.

Juan motioned to adjourn, Jason seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 10:38am.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Knight  
Secretary