



Amarillo Continuum of Care (CoCTX611)
General Meeting Minutes
May 9th, 2024
WT Harrington Academic Hall – Room 189
720 S. Tyler Street, Amarillo, TX 79101

Meeting was brought to order at 10:04am am by Kraig Stockhill

Everyone attending the meeting introduced themselves and identified agency representing.

Routine Agenda Items:

Lead agency report – City of Amarillo representative (Jason Riddlespurger)

Jason announced that the lead agency will be updating and/or revamping their websites. The goal is to make the websites more user friendly for both clients as well as local agencies.

The lead agency successfully submitted the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) to HUD.

Jason concluded with announcing that the lead agency is currently in the process of moving HMIS services to a new vendor. This is a transition that will take several months and the lead agency will be providing additional information and training as appropriate.

Agency Spotlight – Cenikor

Cenikor provided a brief overview of services provided at various locations throughout Amarillo. Also discussed a specific addiction recovery program that targets those who are currently homeless. Information regarding this program's eligibility criteria and how to apply was provided.

New Business and Discussion Agenda Items:

Justice Forum – Kraig & Shanna

Kraig and Shanna provided a brief synopsis of the Justice Forum which was created by Panhandle Behavioral Health Alliance (PBHA) in 2022. The overall purpose of this collaboration effort was to address the mental health needs of individuals as they interact with the justice system or are discharged from the justice system. The results have been two initiatives: the Divergent Center and Re-Entry Support Program.

The divergent center will begin operation in summer of 2024 and will provide those with mental health issues which are contributing to their criminal behavior with an alternative location then jail. By providing a safe location where those in mental health crisis can decompress and potentially receive services and case management.

The re-entry support program is currently in development with the hope to be implemented before the end of 2024. The goal is to provide support for those with mental health issues as they are

transitioning back into the community after an incarceration. Objectives includes, but are not limited to, ensuring clients are quickly established with mental health care providers and continue with therapy and/or medications after discharge.

Anyone interested in participating in either of these initiatives were encouraged to contact PBHA, specifically Shree.

Old Business or Agenda Items Needing Discussion:

Kraig announced that there was a total of 81 attendees at this general membership meeting! This highlights the desire of the community to address homelessness. Attendees were encouraged to continue to recruit more members to attend future meetings.

The next general membership meeting will be Thursday, July 11th.

Several announcements were made regarding community needs and news:

- Audra (PCS) – There will be a bridge builder event next week. The purpose is to help PCS identify gaps in their services
- Seth (Cenikor) – Announced the Big Texas Rally which will be a community event on September 7th, 2024 at the SW Church of Christ located on 45th and Cornell Street. Highlighted that music, food trucks, and activities for families including a 5k race will be available. He also made a call for volunteers. Their next planning meeting will be May 21st at noon (At the SW Church of Christ)
- Raymond (Faith City Mission) – Announced that the emergency women’s shelter will be officially opening May 27th. The capacity of this program is 22 women. All were invited to an open house event on May 24th.
- Texas Panhandle Center announced their 4th annual mental health day celebration. It will be at the new location which is 6600 Kilgore Drive from 11:30am – 2pm. There will be giveaways, food trucks, and the ability to network. All are invited.
- Amarillo Public Health:
 - The HIV outreach team was highlighted.
 - On Monday Martin Road Clinic will be doing free vaccinations (with \$40 gift card) from 11am – 1pm
 - On May 18th, HHS will be in Amarillo. This is their first stop of a state wide tour to provide information specifically for youths and families.
- Salvation Army – next week is National Salvation Army celebration week. On Wednesday there will be an open house event at the Amarillo location.
- Homeless Heroes: Announced that they were planning on closing on their purchase of the Astro Motel which is located across the road from the VA health center on old I-40. Motel will be converted to 14 – 15 single or double occupancy apartments.

Next general membership meeting will be held July 11th, 2024 at a new location. We have grown too big for WTAMU.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am. Members were encouraged to stay and network until 12pm.

Respectfully submitted by Meg DeJong-Shier, DSW, LMSW