



Amarillo Continuum of Care (CoCTX611)

General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 12th, 2024

Location: Hospitality Room, Amarillo Civic Center

Jason Riddlespurger called Meeting to Order 10am

He started off with a reminder to check in to QR Code made and are available at every table.

Welcome and Introductions: Jason encouraged everyone to introduce themselves and announce what agency and/or population that they work for.

Routine Agenda Items:

Lead agency Report: Jason Riddlespurger, Community Development

HMIS system was approved by council this past month. They will now be entering the transition phase which is expected to take 8 – 9 months. Start date for transition phase is scheduled to occur by the end of September.

Jason reminded all that the CoC is in the middle of the CoC competition for grant funding. They are currently working on new applications. Monday, September 16th is the date an all-day training on the application process. Applications will be due shortly afterwards.

Jason announced that January 31st, 2025 will be the date for the Amarillo PIT count. There will be a focus on asking Agencies to sign up for volunteers, and to keep agencies' volunteers grouped together. There will still be room for individuals to volunteer for the count. Trainings for PIT count will happen in December and January. Jason concluded with a brief explanation of PIT count.

Agency Spotlight: Michelle Shields, Family Support Services.

Michelle explained that part of the HUD application for CoCs ask if we are providing trainings on various topics to CoC members. One of those topics is Domestic Violence. Michelle informed the attendees that there were quite a few homeless sex assaulted over the summer here in

Amarillo, which needs to be both acknowledged and address. Currently in Amarillo Family Support Services has the only designated Domestic Violence shelter in Amarillo. This facility has a total of 24 beds. In addition, there are some accommodations for pets. Comprehensive case management is provided for those who reside in the facility. If a member of the community is suspected to be a victim of violence, always call the FSS hotline. While FSS may not be able to accommodate due to bed limitations and need for “proof” (verification of DV) callers will be provided a description of services provided at FSS. Additional educational materials available at FSS table in the back of the room.

Next Domestic Violence training hosted by FSS will be October 18th, all are invited to attend.

Agency Spotlight: Vetstar

Detailed information was provided to the audience regarding the overview of services provided by Vetstar. Talked more in depth regarding the services available through Vetstar for homeless veterans.

Community Announcements:

Coming Home (Heather Nealy) – Resource Fair will be held in November at Civic Center.

Martha’s Home (JaNet) – Announced the Women’s day event that will be held at Central Church of Christ on October 5th, 2024.

Homeless Heroes – They have been successful in securing the property which will be renovated into tiny homes for veterans.

Amarillo National Bank – (Lilia) – They offer free financial literacy programs if agencies are interested.

Update from Homeless Heroes – secured the property

Following community announcement, a member expressed his concerns about the Amarillo Police Department enforcing loitering laws. There was discussion about a homeless person going to jail last night as a result. However, there is no confirmation at this time if this is true. Both Jason and folks involved at Coming Home stated that they were unaware of any events utilizing the APD happening last night. Jason did provide his cell phone number so if, in the future if similar reports occur, he may be contacted as part of the solution.

Heather Nealy from Coming Home spoke about the increased communication between Coming Home and City Marshalls and APD. She spoke about recent events at Guyon Resource Center that involved having to clean up the extensive camping on the property. Coming Home is trying to address future events via strong collaboration with City Marshalls and APD.

Meeting adjourned 10:47am

Check to see if on list serve

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