



Amarillo CoC (COCTX-611) General Membership Meeting Minutes
March 13th, 2025
Amarillo Botanical Gardens
10:00 AM

Called to order by Shanna at 10:02am

Shanna began with a general welcome to Amarillo Botanical Gardens who will be our host for general membership meetings for 2025.

Shanna continued with acknowledging that it is a really hard time, especially for the nonprofit world. Especially with all of the recent changes being implemented by the new administration in Washington DC. While it is really easy to get caught up in the challenges, Shanna asked that attendees focus on the potential opportunities available. Instead of tearing things down, work on building each other up. WE do this out of love, often dedicating time after our work. If we work together, we will build a better future.

She concluded with a thank you to attendees for being there.

An individual from the audience began to ask questions not related to the agenda. Shanna explained that time will be dedicated after the meeting, that we need to follow the agenda.

Another complaint from the audience was heard that things are being appropriated from the homeless. The question of where is the money going was asked. Shanna again reiterated that we need to follow the agenda. She then introduced Kyle who is the homeless liaison for Families in Transition with AISD.

Kyle then provided a brief overview of the program of AISD families in transition. Talked about the services provided, such as lunch, clothes, transportation. Spoke about eligibility and assessment. Entertained questions from the audience regarding services.

Audience began asking what happened to the former AISD liaison. Shanna redirected the conversation and asked Michelle to provide a report from the Shelter committee. Michelle provided an general update, informing the audience that this committee has been meeting monthly and is trying to address the gap in how the community communicate with each other. Informed audience of time and location for next meeting.

Audience members stated that GSRC needs more recognition for what they do.

Shanna informed that due to recent changes related to HUD funding, we no longer have access to Homebase who was our technical advisor. However, before the conclusion of that relationship, members of the board met with Homebase for a full day of creating an action plan. Shanna went over action items that were came up with.

Audience began complaining about having a hard time hearing in the back. Several audience members talked about a lack of communication between the board and general members and it was clear tension in the group.

Shanna professionally redirected the meeting and returned to the topic of action items that the board of CoC would like to focus on in the future:

- Standardized work group structure
- Improving participation in HMIS and asking that all agencies are using HMIS so that no one falls through the cracks
- While a focus will be on the CoC annual application for funding, not sure what changes may come with all the action happening at the federal level.
- We currently don't have a youth homeless program, which is something we would like to add. Expanding services with youth homeless means potential access to additional funds.
- In addition we would like to determine what resources Amarillo needs so we can address them as needed.

There was an attempt to ask attending members to share information on community events upcoming. However there was a lot of questions from the audience on topics not related to the agenda.

Meg attempted to speak to the purpose of CoC and informed the audience that the primary purpose of the CoC is to encourage and facilitate collaboration and communication. That the CoC is not a non-profit and does not have the ability to require change from participating members. Concluded with that we need communication between agencies to better serve the community, as opposed to operating in silos.

Audience insisted on a discussion of board members. Members of the audience was concerned that there was no one with current or past experience with homelessness on the board. Audience was informed that there were currently two members of the board with lived experiences, and Heather Neely self-disclosed that she was one of the two.

The meeting was concluded by Shanna, and several members of the board along with the audience stayed after the meeting to discuss various topic. James Bellar began to create

an advisory committee of those with current or past homeless experience. Quickly identified multiple interested parties and a date, time, and location was decided for the next few meetings of this committee.