



**Amarillo CoC (COCTX-611) Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 8, 2025**  
**Black Historical Culture Center**  
**9:00 AM**

The board was called to order by Shanna James, Vice Chair at 9:05 am

Attendees: James Bellar, Tex Ellis, Shanna James, Juan Maldonado, Julie McCarty, Audra Rae, Michelle Shields, Virginia Trice.

Absent: Rudy Montano, Steve Smart, Meg DeJong-Shier

Also attending: Jason Riddlespurger

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes for the previous meetings were not available and will be deferred to the next meeting.

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### **Committee Reports**

#### **Shelter Committee – Virginia Trice**

- The most recent meeting was held at Andrea's Project.
- Cenikor has sober living beds available.
- The Code Blue Warming Station is working to bring the building up to code.
- Shanna will present *Discharge 101 for the Unhoused* to Texas Tech Internal Medicine Providers.
- Transformation Park: 26 individuals have moved into the Cabin Community at Transformation Park, with plans to expand to 35. The Safe Space shelter is set to open on May 21.
- The committee reviewed the staffing MOU and provided feedback.

#### **Lived Experience – James Bellar**

- James noted that he has not been able to attend all meetings at Transformation Park due to ongoing developments.
- There is concern that some individuals may be influencing discussions with personal agendas; several meetings have been emotionally charged.
- Overall, the transformation is seen as a positive development for Amarillo and those with lived experience.
- Concerns were raised about individuals who are hoarding or resisting transition to safer environments. James recommends starting one-on-one conversations with those



### Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

- Angela will be stepping down as Chair due to part-time status while attending school.
- Shanna will present the PIT results at the upcoming General Meeting.

### Gaps Committee

- No formal report. Audra will share tools currently used by the state.

### Monitoring, Ranking, and Scoring

- No report provided.

### Education, Training, and Outreach

- No new updates. Future plans will be guided by the CoC Action Plan.

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## New Business

### Board Updates

- Kraig has officially stepped down as Chair and from the board due to relocating.
- JaNet submitted her resignation via email to Jason.
- Heather Neely and Stephanie have also resigned.
- Jason expressed interest in returning to the board to represent the lead agency, citing a need to support and protect his staff during ongoing challenges.

### Leadership Changes

- Shanna James will serve as Acting Chair and complete the current term. She will then serve her full Chair term from January 2026 through December 2027.
- James Bellar was nominated and approved as Vice Chair. Though he expressed concern about potential pushback, the board affirmed that anyone in leadership could be subject to criticism.
  - *Motion:* Shanna motioned to approve James Bellar as Vice Chair. *Second:* Juan Maldonado. *Vote:* Majority in favor – **Approved**

### Board Recruitment

- Janell Mahmen was recommended for board service – Shanna to follow up.



- Chris Israel was suggested for his lived experience and Veteran advocacy – Shanna to reach out.
- Dr. Weis was recommended due to prior work with the CoC and Code Blue – Shanna will contact him.

#### **Amarillo Tribune – Streets to Stability Event**

- Shanna, Jason, Tex, and Virginia served on the panel.
- The event was largely positive, though the end portion lacked decorum.
- Audience disruptions and inappropriate remarks were noted.
- The event was well-attended by local hospital leads and community leaders.

#### **CoC Action Plan**

- Shanna revisited the board’s Action Plan, created with Homebase.
- Suggested dedicated meetings to continue progress.
- Most board members indicated they are at capacity due to funding cuts but supported prioritizing tasks such as clarifying subcommittee roles and goals.
- Audra offered to share Balance of State examples.

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#### **Old Business**

**2025 Conference Planning:** Considering integrating parts of the Crisis Education Forum into the November CoC Conference. Crisis Response Educational Summit will be held 6/24 9-3 and co-sponsored by CoC, PBHA, Coming Home and Andrea’s Project.

**CoC Health Advisory Board:** Shanna has an upcoming meeting with Dr. Bell (Public Health) and TTUHSC to collaborate on oversight.

**Transit Tour:** Shanna will coordinate with Community Development to schedule the tour in June.

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#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.