Amarillo Continuum of Care (CoC TX-611)

Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda

Date of Meeting: May 13th, 2026, at 9:00am
Location: Salvation Army, 400 S. Harrison, Amarillo, TX 79101

- **Board Members Present**
  - James Bellar, Major Tex Ellis, Lacey Korn, Audra Rea, Michelle Shields, Steve Smart, Virginia Williams Trice, Stefanie Rodarte-Suto
- **Board Members Absent**
  - Juan Maldonado, Rudy Montano
- **Observers in Attendance**
  - Shaira Joyce, Jackie Simmons, Rusty Donaldson, Shane Tyree

1. **Call to Order**
   a. The meeting was called to order at 9:07am by James Bellar.
2. **Consent Agenda**
   a. *Consider Approval of Minutes*
      i. Michelle Shields motioned to approve the April 8th board meeting minutes. Audra Rea seconded the motion. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved.
   b. *Written Committee Reports*
      i. The board discussed the upcoming shelter meeting. Members discussed sending out another round of potential meeting dates to improve attendance and gather responses. Virginia Williams Trice will coordinate the shelter meetings.
      ii. Lived Experience (LEAS): Lacey Korn stated she had nothing further to add beyond the written report.
   c. *Collaborative Applicant Written Report*
      i. The board met with Nick Mitchell (with Homebase) last week regarding upcoming TA-Homebase activities. Nick Mitchell will be available in

May and plans to meet with the board in the coming months to provide additional feedback regarding potential governance changes, board best practices, and more in-depth training opportunities led by Homebase.

3. **Discussion Items**
    a. *Election of Executive Committee Members (James Bellar)*
        i. James Bellar reviewed the results of the vote for Executive Committee positions, noting that all board members participated in the vote. Audra Rea was elected as the new Vice Chair, and Michelle Shields was elected as the new Secretary.
    b. *PIT Presentation (Shaira Joyce)*
        i. Shaira Joyce presented the PIT count data to the board and explained the purpose and structure of the PIT count. She reviewed the methodology used, how the data informs decision-making, and highlighted this year's unusual finding that sheltered count numbers exceeded unsheltered counts.
        ii. The board discussed questions regarding what qualifies as sheltered versus unsheltered. Members also reviewed demographic changes over the four-year comparison period and discussed variances in the data. The board agreed further review and discussion of the PIT count would be beneficial to identify potential gaps and determine appropriate next steps.
    c. *Steve Smart motioned to approve the consent agenda reports. Michelle Shields seconded the motion. All board members present voted in favor, with none opposed.*
4. **Non-Consent Agenda**
    a. The board discussed leadership changes, noting that Major Tex Ellis will no longer serve in his current role. He shared that he will remain through Father's Day and confirmed that staff will remain the same. He thanked the board for their support and partnership. The board also noted increased shelter usage and expressed appreciation for his work and leadership**.**
    b. *Location of remaining 2026 meetings (James Bellar)*
        i. The board discussed potentially holding general meetings at North Grand Hillside Church to allow for greater participation, including Juan Maldonado's attendance, and to encourage engagement opportunities since lunch would be provided.
        ii. Lacey Korn expressed concern regarding low engagement and participation in lived experience meetings, noting that transportation continues to be a significant barrier. She also shared frustration regarding ongoing communication challenges and the difficulty of encouraging attendance.

    iii. *Audra Rea motioned to move the general meetings to North Grand Hillside Christian Church. Major Tex Ellis seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.*

   c. *Nominating Committee Recommendations, 2026 Board applicants (Audra Rea)*
      i. It was noted that planned conversations with applicants were unable to take place due to illness. The board discussed accepting current applicants to help restore full board membership, while also considering improvements to the interview process with support from Nick Mitchell. Members emphasized the importance of engaged participation, maintaining law enforcement representation, and potentially allowing applicants to attend a future board meeting before final decisions are made. The possibility of waiting for a larger pool of applicants was also discussed.
      ii. The board discussed that while a larger board may improve representation, it can also make achieving quorum more difficult. Members emphasized the importance of commitment and active participation, including attendance at general membership meetings.

5. **Adjournment**
   a. *Audra Rea made the motion to adjourn, Steve Smart seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10am.*