



Amarillo CoC (COCTX-611) General Membership Meeting

May 13, 2026
10:00 AM
Salvation Army
400 S Harrison St
Amarillo, TX 79101

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by James Bellar at 10:07 AM.

Routine Agenda Items:

- *Committee Reports*
 - Shelter Report:
 - It was reported that the Shelter Committee has not yet met. An email survey was previously sent to determine meeting availability; however, no suitable meeting date was identified. Another scheduling survey will be distributed in an effort to establish a meeting time that accommodates committee members.
 - Lived Experience Advocacy Subcommittee (LEAS) Report:

The LEAS Committee reported continued success in providing a space for service providers and nonprofit organizations to present available community resources and services. The committee also highlighted positive community engagement efforts and support from Housing First and community development partners.

The committee meets every other Tuesday. It was announced that the next meeting will include dialogue with the Chief of Police regarding decriminalization of homelessness and community collaboration efforts.

Transportation was identified as a significant service gap. Questions from community members regarding housing funding, resource allocation, eligibility, and timelines were also discussed.

Plans for a memorial event honoring a deceased community member on June 27 were announced.

- *Collaborative Applicant Update*
 - An update was provided regarding ongoing work with Homebase, which is providing technical assistance and support to the Continuum of Care. Homebase was recognized for its role in helping establish the LEAS Committee and will continue working with the community during June and July to strengthen local strategies and collaboration efforts.
 - Members were informed that questions regarding the PIT Report may be submitted via email.
- *2026 Annual Membership Renewal:*
 - Members were reminded to complete annual membership renewals. A QR code was provided for renewal access. It was emphasized that members must be registered voting members in order for votes to be counted.
 - Discussion followed regarding the status of a potential decriminalization committee. It was clarified that discussions with Homebase have primarily focused on collaboration with LEAS rather than the formation of a separate committee. The board members stated they did not recommend creating a separate committee and expressed that collaborative partnership efforts would likely be more effective.
- *Agency Spotlight:*
 - Representatives from PARC (Panhandle Adult Rehabilitation Center) presented information regarding the organization and its mission during its 11th anniversary year.
 - PARC described its role as a daytime resource center designed to fill service gaps within the Amarillo community without duplicating existing services. The organization provides opportunities for relationship-building, productivity, creativity, and support through various daily group activities including recovery groups, crafts, and educational opportunities.
 - PARC emphasized its collaborative approach with other agencies and its commitment to empowering participants to take active steps toward accessing community resources and services.
 - Core organizational values discussed included:
 - Hospitality and creating an environment where individuals feel valued and known by name
 - Maintaining expectations centered on productivity and engagement

- Providing grace-based accountability without permanent bans or trespassing policies
- Encouraging creativity and personal growth as tools for confidence-building and recovery
- Representatives emphasized the importance of maintaining a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for all participants and thanked community agencies for their ongoing partnership and collaboration.

New Business and Discussion Agenda Items:

- *Governance Charter Updates:*
 - James Bellar reviewed proposed updates to the governance charter and outlined revisions made between the previous and updated versions.
 - Updates discussed included:
 - Inclusion of up to three elected public officials
 - Law enforcement representation
 - Use of proxy voting for elected officials with required proxy forms
 - Addition of the LEAS Committee to the charter structure
 - Paper ballots were distributed to voting members for consideration of the governance charter updates. Ballots were collected following completion. It was stated that votes would be verified against the membership roster before official results are announced.
- *2026 PIT Report:*
 - Shaira Joyce presented the 2026 PIT (Point-in-Time) Count Report and reviewed the purpose, methodology, and structure of the PIT count process. She explained how PIT data is used to support planning and decision-making efforts and noted that this year's sheltered count exceeded unsheltered count numbers.
 - Discussion followed regarding concerns about the accuracy and frequency of PIT reporting. Concerns were raised that PIT data may not fully reflect the true number of individuals experiencing homelessness.
 - In response, it was clarified that:
 - PIT data is intended to provide directional rather than absolute data
 - HMIS data offers more comprehensive long-term tracking
 - HUD requires PIT counts every other year, though the local Continuum of Care elects to conduct them annually

- It was announced that the completed PIT report will be publicly available on the organization's website once finalized.

Old Business or Agenda Items Needing Discussion:

- *Announcements:*
 - The next membership meeting will be held Wednesday, July 8 at 10:00 AM at North Grand Hillside Church.
 - Discussion was held regarding the benefits of the new meeting location, including opportunities for expanded participation, access to larger meeting spaces, and community lunch services available through the developmental center.
 - Members also discussed the importance of consistency in meeting scheduling and being mindful of holidays when selecting future meeting dates. Attendees were encouraged to invite additional community members and agencies to future meetings.
 - Audra Rea announced that Bridge Builders events will take place the following week and distributed informational cards for interested attendees.
 - Recognition of Major Tex Ellis
 - Board members and attendees recognized Major Tex Ellis for his service, participation, wisdom, and ongoing support of the organization as he prepares for relocation to Texarkana.
 - Major Tex Ellis announced that Majors Robert and Shannon Winters will be relocating from Houston to Amarillo. He expressed confidence in the continued leadership and work of the organization.
 - It was also announced that it was National Salvation Army Week and that an open house event with free lunch and attendance by the mayor would begin at 12:00 PM that day.

The meeting was adjourned by James Bellar at 10:51 AM.