Amarillo Continuum of Care (CoC TX-611)

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: May 22nd, 2026, at 10:30am
Location: Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/222408293737508?p=T8cXQEPBAxfoqROI3k
Meeting ID: 222 408 293 737 508
Passcode: hV7Qq2wx

Board Members Present:

- Lacey Korn, Virginia Williams Trice, Audra Rea, James Bellar, Michelle Shields, Stefanie Rodarte-Suto

Board Members Absent:

- Rudy Montano, Juan Maldonado, Steve Smart

Observers in Attendance:

- Jackie Simmons

1. **Call to Order**
    a. Board Chair James Bellar called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM after quorum was confirmed.
2. **Non-Consent Agenda**
    a. Board Membership and Expansion Discussion
        - Members discussed the desire to maintain open Board positions for law enforcement representation due to ongoing community discussions surrounding homelessness and decriminalization efforts. The Board agreed to reserve at least one seat, and potentially more, for law enforcement representation in the future.
        - The Board also discussed the importance of youth-focused homelessness initiatives and strengthening collaboration with shelters, outreach organizations, faith-based organizations, and community partners.

    b. Discussion of Applicants
        - The following applicants were discussed favorably due to their community involvement and potential contributions:
            - Janell Evans (211): Recognized for strengthening collaboration among community organizations and increasing interagency coordination.

- Dianne Samaniego (Amarillo Children's Home): Recognized for helping fill gaps related to youth and family services, which may strengthen future funding opportunities.
- Robert Burton (FCM): Recognized for his involvement with shelters and interest in the Shelter Subcommittee.

- Stefanie Rodarte-Suto noted that although faith-based representation is not specifically required, the CoC must demonstrate community outreach and collaboration with faith-based organizations.
- The Board also discussed encouraging other applicants to remain active within the General Membership before future consideration for Board positions.

c. Motion to Add Three Board Seats

- Audra Rea expressed concern regarding expanding the Board too quickly and emphasized the importance of growing incrementally to avoid ongoing quorum challenges. Several members discussed historical difficulties achieving quorum and the resulting delays in moving agenda items forward.
- Members agreed the focus should remain on consistent attendance, effective governance, and organizational progress.
- Michelle Shields emphasized the importance of bringing on members who can actively contribute to accomplishing organizational objectives and building a stronger foundation for the CoC.
- **Motion:** Audra Rea made a motion to add three board seats at this time.
  - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
  - Stefanie Rodarte-Suto requested that all votes also be documented in the meeting chat for recordkeeping purposes.

d. Board Member Appointments

- **Janell Evans – 211**
  - Michelle Shields made a motion to appoint Janell Evans to the Board.
  - Virginia Williams Trice seconded the motion.
  - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Dianne Samaniego – Amarillo Children's Home**
  - Stefanie Rodarte-Suto made a motion to appoint Dianne Samaniego to the Board.
  - Lacey Korn seconded the motion.
  - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Robert Burton – Faith City Mission**
  - Audra Rea made a motion to appoint Robert Burton to the Board.
  - Michelle Shields seconded the motion.
  - Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

e. Membership Approval Notes

- Stefanie Rodarte-Suto clarified that while the Board approved the applicants, the General Membership must also vote to finalize their appointments. The anticipated vote will occur in July.
- The newly approved applicants may begin attending meetings immediately; however, they will not yet count toward quorum and will not have voting privileges until final approval by the General Membership.

f. Action Items
    - The Board discussed contacting all applicants regarding their status and encouraging continued participation within the General Membership.
    - Michelle Shields volunteered to contact the three selected applicants to invite them to upcoming meetings.
    - Stefanie Rodarte-Suto stated that her team would contact the remaining applicants to encourage continued involvement and participation in General Membership meetings.

g. Public Outreach
    - Michelle Shields emphasized the effectiveness of personal invitations and word-of-mouth outreach in increasing General Membership participation.
    - The Board discussed additional strategies for increasing community engagement and attendance.

3. Adjournment

a. James Bellar left at 11:03am, however there was no motion to adjourn the meeting.

4. Post Adjournment Discussion

a. Following adjournment, members informally discussed administrative matters, including management of the organization's Facebook page.

b. The next General Membership meeting is scheduled for:
    - Date: June 10
    - Time: 9:00 AM
    - Location: Hillside North Grand Church

c. Stefanie Rodarte-Suto stated that she will create a graphic containing upcoming meeting information and distribute it to Board members for sharing and outreach purposes.