



Amarillo Continuum of Care (CoC TX-611)

Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda

Date of Meeting: October 14, 2026, at 9:00 am

Location: Hillside Church North Grand Campus, 3508 NE 24th Ave, Amarillo, TX 79107

1. Call to Order

Chair Announcement:

Before we begin, I'd like to welcome everyone in attendance.

Board members will conduct the business of today's meeting. Invited guests and support staff may be recognized by the Chair to provide information or participate in discussion as needed. Members of the public and other observers are welcome to attend but are present as observers only and may not participate in discussion or disrupt the proceedings.

We also ask that everyone in attendance conduct themselves with professionalism, courtesy, and kindness to help maintain a respectful and productive meeting environment. Individuals who disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting will be asked to leave.

2. Introductions

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider approval of minutes (September 9th, Board & General Membership)
- b. Written Committee Reports:
 1. Executive Committee, Audra Rea & Michelle Shields
 2. Lived Experience Advisory Subcommittee, Lacey Epperson
 3. Shelter Committee, Virginia Williams Trice
- c. Collaborative Applicant Report

4. Discussion Items

- a. November meeting rescheduled: Tuesday, November 10th, Amarillo Children's Home
- b. Winter weather shelter activation
- c. Homebase goal setting overview
- d. Proxy/mentorship discussion
- e. Request for other discussion items
- f. Executive Committee Vice Chair, Nominations and follow up action (Audra Rea)
- g. CoC Collaborative Application: Summary and Questions

5. Non Consent Agenda

6. Announcements

7. Adjournment

Amarillo CoC Executive Committee Report to the Board, October 2026

The Executive Committee met on September 28, 2026, to review and discuss goals for improving the CoC's governance, operations, and overall effectiveness through technical assistance provided by Homebase. The goals are outlined below.

Framework for Improvements

SUMMARY OF GOALS

Board Capacity and Structure

- Review and Revise Code of Conduct (for board members and board meetings);
 - Ensure it meets current needs
 - Ensure enforcement procedures are clear
- Establish term limits
- Review and update board responsibilities
 - Committee participation required
 - Attendance requirements
 - Commitment to mission
- Review and update administrative processes
 - Implement board capacity action guides
 - Establish administrative records for board responsibilities (attendance, committee participation, etc.)

Committee Infrastructure

- Clarify Committee Structure
- Review and update policy and process for:
 - Chair selection
 - Committee participation
 - Committee scope and goals
- Ensure board participation on committees
- Ensure general membership and provider participation on committees

Recruitment

- Actively re-engage providers with CoC and recruit for committee participation
- Review and update recruitment goals, methods, and materials (including application materials) for board seats

Lived Experience Advocacy Subcommittee Report 10/7/26

Report prepared by: Lacey Epperson subcommittee chair

- 1) **Summary of activities:** We met on September 15th and 29th
- 2) **Attendance:** The LEAS had another successful meeting at the PARC on September 29th. It was a bit lower in attendance on the 15th as one of the un-housed community members had passed away.
- 3) **Key Updates/Highlights:** The LEAS had a successful meeting at the PARC and Amanda Thetford came and presented on behalf of the TPC Diversion center to our un-housed community. We also voted on having one more community event hosted by the LEAS and it's scheduled for October 31st at Thompson Park. We welcome and encourage any outside support we can get to make this event successful. We are canceling our meeting on November 10th in lieu of the CoC general membership meeting being held then. We tentatively have Nan Smalley from PASO coming to present at next week's meeting, October 13th which will be held at The Hub. We are currently working on end of year guest speakers.
- 4) **Board Discussion Items:** Guest speakers, community BBQ event.
- 5) **Challenges/Gaps:** Long term medical needs. Bus passes!!!! This is a huge issue for many people at the moment.
- 6) **Next Steps:** Continue to invite people to the meetings. Help identify, express and address barriers and gaps that the un-housed are facing.
- 7) **Lived Experience Meetings:**

October 13th and 27th 10:00 AM @

The Hub 601 S Travis

The PARC 413 SW 6th Ave



CoC Collaborative Applicant Report

Report Prepared By: Stefanie Rodarte-Suto, Collaborative Applicant Representatives

Meeting Date: October 14, 2026

1. Summary of Activities

Provide a brief overview of major activities, meetings, submissions, monitoring activities, technical assistance, or coordination efforts completed since the last report.

CoC NOFO: *Summary of NOFO Activities Prior to the August 11, 2026, Local Competition Pause:* The Amarillo CoC opened its local competition on July 1, 2026. Six project applications were received by the local application deadline. The Scoring and Ranking Committee met on July 30, 2026, to evaluate and score all six applications. All applications were accepted and included on the CoC Priority Listing, which was publicly posted on July 30, 2026. Applicants were notified of the results that same day. No appeals were received by the August 5, 2026, deadline. Following the August 7, 2026, court order setting aside the FY2026 NOFO, the Amarillo CoC paused its local competition process on August 11, 2026.

The City of Amarillo was notified on the evening of Friday, September 18, 2026, that HUD reinstated the FY2026 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and would reopen esnaps. The revised submission deadline was Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. CST.

Following reinstatement, the Collaborative Applicant worked closely with all project applicants to review, revise, and finalize their applications in esnaps. All six projects completed the necessary updates and resubmitted their applications. The Collaborative Applicant finalized all six project applications, the CoC Priority Listing, and the CoC Consolidated Application. All application materials were posted on the [CoC webpage](#) on the evening of Tuesday, September 29, 2026. Board members and the CoC General Membership were notified of the posting that evening. An electronic ballot was distributed to the Board requesting approval of the Consolidated Application for submission to HUD.

All Board members submitted their votes by 1:05 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, unanimously approving the Consolidated Application. The Collaborative Applicant successfully submitted the Consolidated Application and Priority Listing, including all six project applications, in e-snaps before 1:30 p.m. that afternoon, ahead of the 7:00 p.m. deadline.

The Collaborative Applicant extends its appreciation to all project applicants and Board members for their responsiveness, cooperation, and commitment throughout the significantly compressed application and submission timeline.

Amarillo CoC requested \$1,155,004.00 in project funding. Pending further court intervention, award notices are anticipated in December.

HMIS: The new Clarity HMIS User Interface went live on October 1, 2026. Many active HMIS users participated in training sessions and office hours offered by Bitfocus in preparation for the transition. Users who have not responded to training communications or completed the required training will have their accounts deactivated on October 15, 2026.

Bitfocus will continue to engage users with the focus on data quality. The admin team has complemented Amarillo on the engagement and positivity of the Amarillo CoC HMIS users.

2. Key Updates

HUD/NOFO guidance, PIT/HIC activities, HMIS, Technical assistance, Monitoring or compliance, Funding opportunities, System coordination activities

Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Reporting & HMIS Data Quality: The annual LSA reporting process is anticipated to begin in October or November through HUD's HDX 2.0 platform. Bitfocus will work with agencies and users to resolve data errors and improve data quality in preparation for submission of the LSA.

3. Board Discussion Items

Topics the CA is submitting for Board input or discussion.

Homebase TA, provided by HUD: Nick has developed a framework outlining goals for improving the CoC. The Executive Committee is scheduled to meet with Nick later in October to continue refining the framework and identifying next steps toward achieving these goals.

4. Challenges or System Needs

Identify barriers, gaps, risks, or capacity concerns impacting CoC operations or system performance.

Coordinated Entry is still missing in our community. COA submitted an application for CE that was included in the Priority Listing.

5. Upcoming Dates/Events

List important meetings, HUD deadlines, trainings, competitions, or community events.

Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Reporting & HMIS Data Quality: The annual LSA reporting process is anticipated to begin in October/November through December/January, pending HUD's official reporting schedule.

Pont-in-Time Count: The Collaborative Applicant proposes Friday, January 29, 2027, as the designated PIT date.



Amarillo CoC (COCTX-611) Board Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2026
Hillside Christian Church – North Campus
3508 NE 24th Ave
Amarillo, TX 79107
8:45 AM

- **Board Members Present**

- Michelle Shields, Virginia Williams Trice, Steve Smart, Janell Evans, Dianne Ridgway, Stefanie Rodarte-Suto, Juan Maldonado, Lacey Korn, Audra Rea, Rudy Montano

- **Board Members Absent**

- James Bellar – Resigned 9/8/26

- **Guests in Attendance**

- Shaira Joyce (CA), Jackie Simmons (CA), Rusty Donelson (DSPILC), David Bustos (TPC), Amanda Thetford (TPC), Andrew McKinstry (TPC), Thomas Higgins (APD)

1. **Call to Order**

- a. Michelle Shields called the meeting to order at **8:54 AM**.

2. **Introductions**

- a. Board members and guests introduced themselves and their respective organizations.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a. *Consider Approval of Consent Agenda (Minutes, Reports)*
 - i. The Board reviewed the minutes from the August 12th board and general meetings along with the submitted subcommittee and Collaborative Applicant reports.
 - ii. **Dianne Ridgway** moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Juan Maldonado seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. *Written Committee Reports*

- i. Shelter Committee Update: **Virginia Williams-Trice** clarified that the subcommittee will meet every first Wednesday at **1:00 pm**, with an additional virtual meeting by HMIS invite only, on the last Wednesday at **1:00 pm**, hosted by **Justin Ward** via Teams. Shelter leadership is currently appointing representatives to improve consistent participation.
- ii. **Audra Rea** joined the meeting at 9:02am.
- iii. **Audra Rea** asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. **Lacey Korn** motioned, **Rudy Montano** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion Items

- a. **Agency Presentation:** Texas Panhandle Centers (TPC), Reset: Diversion Center, by **Amanda Thetford, LCSW, PSS, QMHP-CS**, Program Administrator
 - i. TPC presented an overview of its diversion and crisis response programs. The Diversion Center provides an alternative to jail for adults experiencing mental health crises who do not meet criteria for hospitalization and are currently working toward expanding the Diversion Center to 24/7 operations.
 - ii. TPC's follow up crisis response presentation included information on mental health services provided in local jails and through court and probation programs, as well as the legal requirements for involuntary treatment. TPC emphasized that services are voluntary unless an individual presents an imminent danger to themselves or others.
 - iii. TPC noted that law enforcement is currently the primary referral source for the Diversion Center, while community partners may make referrals during business hours and serve as peer advocates to help connect qualified individuals with TPC services.
- b. *November 11th Meeting Reschedule, Veterans Day*
 - i. **Audra Rea** mentioned the date of the next general meeting. The meeting date was changed because the Hillside location will not be available that day. The next general meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 10th**, and **Dianne Ridgway** will host the meeting at Amarillo Children's Home.
- c. *CoC NOFO, HMIS Required User Training Updates (Shaira Joyce)*
 - i. **Shaira Joyce** discussed the required New HMIS User Interface Training scheduled for **October 1**, with two sessions being offered. Additional sessions will be scheduled as needed to accommodate all active users. Users who do not attend a scheduled session will receive follow-up emails until training has been completed.
 - ii. She shared that the NOFO is currently set aside and inactive. The team is awaiting additional information before providing further updates to the Board.

- iii. She also mentioned that Letters of Agreement for CoC Partnerships were distributed to formalize collaborations with mental health, youth, and housing organizations.

5. Non Consent Agenda Items

a. Executive Committee Vice Chair, Nominations and vote)

- i. Nominations and voting for the Executive Committee Vice Chair were postponed due to time constraints. Audra shared that she spoke with Rudy that morning, and he indicated that he would pray about the opportunity and give it consideration. Board members were encouraged to consider serving or nominating someone for the position. An email may be sent prior to the next meeting to provide an opportunity for board members to indicate their interest in serving or to submit a nomination.
- ii. It was noted that James has resigned from the board due to his new position as Assistant Principal at Amarillo High School. His resignation was received the previous evening.

6. Adjournment

a. Audra Rea adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.



Amarillo CoC (COCTX-611) General Membership Meeting

September 9, 2026

10:00 AM

Hillside Christian Church – North Campus
3508 NE 24th Ave
Amarillo, TX 79107

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Audra Rea at **10:00 am**.

Welcome and Introductions:

- Attendees were welcomed and introductions were made around the room.

Routine Agenda Items:

- Special Announcement:*
 - Audra Rea announced the resignation of James Bellar as Board Chair following his acceptance of a new position as Vice Principal of Amarillo High School. She also informed the membership that a new Vice President will be presented for a vote at an upcoming meeting.
- Agency Spotlight: Texas Panhandle Centers, Reset: Diversion Center, presentation by Amanda Thetford, LCSW, PSS, QMHP-CS*
 - Amanda Thetford provided an overview of Texas Panhandle Centers' RESET Diversion Center, which works to divert eligible individuals experiencing mental health or substance use concerns from the criminal justice system and connect them with appropriate services.
 - She explained the diversion process, including an initial assessment, safety evaluation, de-escalation, and connection to appropriate resources based on the individual's needs.
 - David Bustos discussed the crisis response process, including referrals for hospitalization, outpatient services, or community-based care. Follow-up occurs within 24 hours, with funding sometimes available to assist with hospitalization and other services.
 - Amanda and David shared success stories demonstrating how ongoing support can help individuals stabilize, obtain housing and employment, reconnect with family, and improve their overall well-being.

- *Committee Reports*
 - Shelter Report:
 - The Shelter Committee has resumed meeting. The committee held its first meeting yesterday with shelter providers to discuss and plan upcoming meetings. Additional participants will be invited as needed.
 - Virginia Williams-Trice informed the group that anyone interested in receiving reports may contact her. The committee's goal is to increase community awareness of available resources. Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, with Faith City Missions serving as the host.
 - Lived Experience Advocacy Subcommittee (LEAS) Report:
 - Lacey Epperson left the meeting early due to an emergency at work. Her colleague, Shane Tyree, shared that LEAS recently met to discuss bringing additional participants into the group. The subcommittee also has several upcoming events planned, although dates have not yet been set as they are waiting for cooler weather. The subcommittee typically meets every other Tuesday at the HUB.

New Business and Discussion Agenda Items

- *Collaborative Applicant Report: 2026 CoC Competition, HMIS Training, Shaira Joyce*
 - Shaira Joyce provided an update on the 2026 Continuum of Care (CoC), noting that the program is still awaiting an update to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). She also reminded HMIS users that they should have received an email regarding participation in the HMIS New User Training. The October 1 system update will be rolling out soon. Shaira Joyce will follow up with individuals who have not yet signed up for the training.

Old Business or Agenda Items Needing Discussion:

- *Announcements:*
 - General Membership Meeting:
 - Audra Rea announced that the next General Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 10, at 10:00 AM** at Amarillo Children's Home. The meeting will not be held on its usual date because November 11 falls on Veterans Day. Instructions and additional information regarding parking at Amarillo Children's Home will be sent to attendees.
 - Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

- Michelle Shields announced that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A walk will be held on **October 1 at 11:00 AM**, with the Randall County Sheriff's Department grilling burgers and hot dogs, provided free for participants and families. Following the walk, participants will gather near the courthouse for speakers. Michelle encouraged everyone to wear purple throughout the month. She noted the high rate of reported domestic violence in Potter County.
- HUB Relocation:
 - Stefanie Rodarte-Suto announced that the HUB will be relocating to the Street Center, with the move expected to take place sometime in November pending approval from the building authority. Community Development will be relocating its offices to the north side of the center. This information was shared for agencies with clients who are connected to programs that will be affected by the relocation.
- Lunch:
 - Juan Maldonado announced that lunch would be served in approximately 15 minutes and invited everyone to participate.

The meeting was adjourned by Audra Rea at **10:44 AM**.



CoC Committee Report to Board

Committee Name: Shelter Committee
Report Prepared By: Virginia Williams Trice, Co-Chair of the Shelter Committee
Meeting Date: 10.07.2026

1. Summary of Activities

Shelter representatives along with representatives from core service providers met for a monthly meeting, hosted at Faith City Mission. Operational policies, challenges, winter weather planning, and interagency case conferencing were discussed.

2. Attendance

Representatives from Another Chance House (ACH), Faith City Mission (FCM), Transformation Park (TP), Amarillo Housing First (AHF), the Panhandle Adult Rebuilding Center (PARC), Texas Panhandle Centers (TPC) Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Family Support Services (FSS), and City of Amarillo (CoA) Coming Home (CH)

3. Key Updates / Highlights

- Interagency Case Conferencing will meet online*
- FCM, TP "HUB", CoA CH, and AHF Code Blue Warming Station (CBWS) will provide in winter weather resources*
- The need to reassess winter weather criteria was discussed, and Virginia Williams Trice is contacting National Weather Service representatives to obtain model data to support a potential revision to the wind chill threshold.*
- FCM begins their winter weather shelter policies on October 15, 2026, eliminating the 30 days in/30 days out policy. FCM will open their dayroom and at night utilize their chapel space to provide an additional 150 cots on extreme weather nights, as needed.*
- TP "HUB" will open overnight on extreme weather nights to be a warming station in 24 hour mode.*
- CoA CH will provide mobile services on extreme weather night 6 p.m. - midnight, and staffing for the "HUB" warming station as needed. Justin Ward is able to provide winter weather supplies and gear to outreach clients, shelters, and partner agencies.*
- AHF CBWS will operate a warming station with continued census limitations from 7 p.m. - 7:30 a.m., with an earlier opening time, depending on winter weather extremity conditions being met. CBWS volunteer mobile teams will be available during operation hours. AHF is able to provide winter weather supplies and gear*

to clients during the day and during CBWS operation. CBWS mobile volunteers also provide gear to outreach clients on nights that are close to activation criteria.

- *TPC PATH announced that they would like to increase their caseload by another 15 individuals, so please continue to refer clients in need of mental health services to their outreach location at 723 N Taylor*

4. Board Discussion Items

Winter weather resource capacity concerns and input on interagency case conferencing.

5. Challenges/Gaps

- *We were missing attendance from The Salvation Army (TSA), so some unanswered questions remain about TSA policy changes since our previous Shelter Committee meeting on September 8, 2026. Multiple meeting attendees were aware of a census reduction of clients staying at the TSA, confirmed by TSA staff. Winter weather capacity is unknown for the TSA.*
- *FSS Emergency Safe House is operation at capacity and experiencing plumbing issues.*
- *TP Safe Space is at capacity and will not be able to provide any additional beds during extreme winter weather.*

6. Next Steps

An online meeting with local shelter representatives and core service providers with HMIS agreements will be held on October 28, 2026 at 1 p.m., hosted by CoA CH representative Justin on Teams to have a deeper discussion about case conferencing structure, including the start of an interagency by-name list (BNL) to support eventual implementation of Coordinated Entry. A BNL is a comprehensive roster of every person experiencing homelessness in a local community, tracked individually by name with their consent. Representatives from the following organizations have been invited: FCM, TSA, TP/The HUB, The PARC, Martha's Home, Downtown Women's Center, ACH, AHF/CBWS, TPC PATH, CoA CH, and CoC Board Member Lacey Epperson. Other interested service providers with HMIS agreements are welcome to join. Please have them contact Virginia or Robert Burton.

7. Upcoming Dates/Events

The committee meets in person at 1 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Faith City Mission and meets online for interagency case conferencing at 1 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month on Teams.