



Amarillo CoC (COCTX-611) Board Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2026  
Hillside Christian Church – North Campus  
3508 NE 24<sup>th</sup> 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.***