



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**.