El Paso CoC Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 10, 2023, 4:00 PM

Via Zoom

Board Chair, Melissa Lopez announced that a Quorum had been established and called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Board Member Attendees at the call to order: Adela Alonso, Hope Jackson, Josue Lachica, Melissa Lopez, Daniel Ornelas, Bill Schlesinger

1. The agenda was approved.

2. Public Comment – Camille Castillo, El Paso Coalition for the Homeless Co-director, indicated that no one had signed up for public comment

3. Board Participation – The Chair announced the resignation of Miguel Hernandez and noted the series of absences of EdRicardo Gandara and Ben Miranda exceeded the number required for continued board membership. Hope Jackson moved and Bill Schlesinger seconded that due to the number of unexcused absences, EdRicardo Gandara and Ben Miranda be relieved of Board membership with thanks. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Due to other commitments, Melissa Lopez stepped down from the Chair position but will remain on the Board. CoC Board members discussed filling the position. Bill Schlesinger nominated Hope Jackson as Chair seconded by Josue Lachica. Adela Alonso nominated herself as Chair. Voting ensued resulting with a majority vote for Hope Jackson as Chair, Adela Alonso and Hope Jackson abstaining.

Both the positions of Vice-Chair and Secretary were now empty. Hope Jackson moved to nominate Adela Lopez as vice-chair, seconded by Melissa Lopez. Motion carried unanimously. Hope Jackson then nominated Bill Schlesinger to serve as Secretary, seconded by Josue Lachica. Motion passed unanimously.

4. El Paso City/County Update – No updates were provided.

5. HUD Visit to CoC Grantees – CoC Staff provided updates on visit from HUD Ft. Worth Field Officers. Adela Alonso requested that the CoC board be informed of future HUD visits to CoC grantees. Camille Castillo agreed.

6. Report Card Overview – HMIS Staff provided a detailed overview of the Monthly Report Card. HMIS Staff reported that this monthly report card is a tool that is utilized by agency HMIS Users to view their past month updates, i.e. exits, entries, bed utilization and exits to permanent housing. This tool gives the users the data needed to correct any data inconsistencies. Question and answer session ensued. CoC Board expressed appreciation for the work and a request to add a 12 to 24 month look back of overall system numbers but with the ability to drill down in case of concerns.

7. HOST Program – CoC Staff presented data on the Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) program. The data reflected a total of 91 individuals needing assistance/shelter over period of 6 months. CoC Staff reported that the focus of this initiative is pre-arrest, diversion and deflection, which helps the community and law enforcement, but more importantly, helping individuals living on the street. Bill Schlesinger requested that staff inform CoC board members of additional outreach agencies they would like to involve in the program so that board members could assist in reaching out to those agencies. Staff agreed to do so.

8. FY 2023 CoC Program – CoC staff reported information on the FY 2023 CoC Competition, primarily timelines for submitting the Certificate of Consistency to the City of El Paso. It was reported that for New Projects there was a total of $732,338 available under the Domestic Violence Bonus and $512,637 available under the CoC Bonus. An independent review committee has been established by the Coalition staff. Reviewers will be representatives of Region 19, El Paso Health, EPISD, Clint ISD, and the El Paso VA. Scoring will follow established value screens. The slate will be sent September 11th by close of business to the Board, and formally presented to the CoC Board at its next Board meeting on September 14th 2023 to be reviewed and acted upon. Once approved, a Certificate of Consistency will be submitted to the City of El Paso on September 15th 2023. The entire application is due to HUD on September 28th 2023. Bill Schlesinger and Daniel Ornelas announced their recusal from the topic. Further discussions focused on data that was to be presented to the CoC Board and how the Board will review the process and results of the review team. A prior review of the non-recused board members may be held on September 13th.

9. Chair comments: Hope Jackson, incoming Chair, indicated that Coalition staff would now be requested to provide a draft agenda for review at least seven days prior to board meetings, and that the Secretary would be expected to provide minutes of the previous meeting by one week after the previous meeting. The Chair also indicated that meetings would follow Roberts Rules of Order, and that reports from staff would be expected to be part of a board packet to be received several days prior to board meetings.

10. Bill Schlesinger moved and Josue Lachica seconded adjournment. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Schlesinger, CoC Board Secretary.