

APPROVED MINUTES

Continuum of Care- Board of Directors Meeting

July 11, 2024, 4:30 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church, 8001 Magnetic St., El Paso, Texas

Meeting called to order: 4:38PM by Chairperson: Ms. Hope Jackson

Board Members Present: Hope Jackson, Chair, Justin (Will) Williams, Vice Chair, Secretary, Jeffrey Jenkins, Carl Dwyer, Victoria Martinez, Shelby McCue, Elvira Velez, and Horace Wilson.

Bord Members Absent: Melissa Lopez (Excused), Sherene Curry-Hunt, Secretary (Excused)

Staff Attendees: Camille Castillo, Co-Director EPCH, Gary Gray, Co-Director EPCH, and HMIS Technician, Denver Harold.

Consent Items: The motion to approve minutes from the June 13, 2024, meeting was moved, seconded, and adopted by a unanimous vote.

-The motion to assign Victoria Martinez as Vice Secretary was moved, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- A. Lead Agency Certificate of Consistency – no information to report
- B. YAB Board- not present, meeting notes not provided.

Recurring Business:

- A. No public comments
- B. Certificate of Consistency- Ms. Castillo will contact DCHD regarding the Requirements for the Certificate of Consistency.
 - a. Ms. Jackson will follow up on the Certificate of Consistency.
- C. Affordable Housing Update- expand on demographic data to include: a map of zip codes, household number, reason for homelessness, where they come from, RRH timeframe, and type of subsidy program.

New Business:

Executive Director Camille Castillo gave an overview of documents submitted on (6/20/24); Report Card for the Month of May 2024, Snapshot of CoC Program participants zip code, FY 2023 NOFO plus local NOFO, A current list of programs that have rental assistance.

2024-2025 NOFO Process- Ms. Castillo did not have any information regarding when the NOFO process begins but typically begins in the fall months (August- September).

Board requests Lead Agency provide documents with more information that gives a demographic overview of programs/services.

In addition, Lead Agency should also provide documents from previous years to give board members a point of reference and help establish metrics.

HMIS Technician Denver Harold presented on the CoC current list of programs and discussed barriers that agencies face when entering data as well as concerns over possible data inadequacy/manipulation.

The Board requests that data be provided without leaving out or hiding data from any spreadsheets/charts moving forward in efforts to promote transparency.

Board Member Mr. Shelby McCue presented the recent Supreme Court ruling-- Grants Pass v. Johnson, which makes it easier for communities to arrest or fine people facing homelessness.

- I. Grant Pass – Oregon. Issue: public camping. People throwing tents up in public parks. Grant Pass – “has to be a better way.” Case went through 9th circuit to SC. Defendants: Could not remove anyone from a public place (8th amendment – cruel and unusual punishment). Does 8th amendment prohibit cities from enforcing ordinances against people camping in public places. The ruling was in favor of unhoused individuals being able to be removed. 6-3 decision.
- II. When subjects are asked, “would you like to move out of homelessness into housing”, and they say “no, I’m happy to stay in homelessness,” authority still given to commence a clearing process (moving out). This in reference to House Bill 1925, which makes camping in public spaces in Texas a Class C misdemeanor. At this time, EPPD has stated it is not a priority to arrest unhoused individuals.

III. Supreme Court ruling does not currently impact our local community. Subject to change, due to overflow of public parks.

The Board requested that the following corrections be made to the EPCH website:

- Remove board members' phone numbers and add the EPCH office number instead,
- Remove Josue LaChica and Bill S. from the list,
- Add Ms. Elvira Velez,
- Add titles next to Justin and Sherene's names.
- Make the following correction *Victoria Martinez, MPA*

Victoria requested that Ms. Castillo email the board members the Community Performance Benchmark sheet for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 before the August meeting.

The board requests that Ms. Castillo and the performance committee wait to approve the 2024-2025 committee benchmark until the board has reviewed and approved it.

Next meeting:

Date: August 8, 2024

Time: 4:30PM

Location: Grace Presbyterian Church, 8001 Magnetic Dr., El Paso, Texas.

Meeting adjourned: 6:30PM