

El Paso CoC Board Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Zoom

Quorum established. Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM. Chair, Shelby McCue, welcomes all present.

No Public Comment.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Bill Schlesinger to approve minutes from the February meeting, seconded by Miguel Hernandez. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Committee Reports

Performance Committee Chair – Sierra Ulibarri

Sierra Ulibarri, Committee Chair, reported to the CoC Board on how the committee is addressing street outreach benchmarks, contacts and engagements. It was reported that a ‘contact’ is when you provide bottled water, hygiene kits, etc., to someone living on the street; an ‘engagement’ is when the individual living on the street agrees to go into an ES or PH. The focus is offering options to those who are living on the streets. Discussion on trends with engagements during seasons.

CoC Board discussed what street outreach will look like with COVID-19. CoC Board members discussed how to address COVID-19 and those living on the streets. Executive Director discussed the meeting with the City’s lead epidemiologist and provided members protocols for those who are living in shelters, those living on the streets, and best practices that other communities have implemented. Executive Director also reported the materials that are being sent to shelters/programs such as, Coronavirus Screening Tool, Congregate Facilities Preparedness Checklist, Infection Disease Toolkit, and HUD Resources for Infection Disease Prevention and Response. CoC Board continued to discuss the cascading problem and the effects on the homeless population. CoC Board members will continue to have discussions.

CoC Board Committee Reports

Miguel Hernandez (Community Outreach) – Mr. Hernandez provided an update for Community Outreach. Mr. Hernandez discussed the number of Continuum of Care funding applicants and how that can be increased by community outreach as a way to increase the number of PH beds. CoC members suggested contacts, i.e. property managers.

Bill Sparks– Mr. Sparks, in reference to newspaper article, reported the challenge he has had in communicating with El Paso Inc. Mr. Sparks asked that if anyone had a contact within El Paso Inc. to help with communication.

Discussion and Potential Action Items

FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Appeal – Update

Carol Bohle provided an update on the FY 2019 CoC Appeal from the Opportunity Center. Mrs. Bohle provided back-up documentation, which included a letter of support and follow up.

Carol Bohle provided a draft letter of support for the Opportunity Center based on CoC member feedback. Within the letter, it was discussed that it was the desire of the CoC Board to have Opportunity Center data and, in order to receive future support, the OC will need to adhere to the CoC Boards request for data.

Motion by Bill Schlesinger to approve the letter of support to the Opportunity Center, seconded by EdRicardo Gandara. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Community of Practice

Camille Castillo, EPCH staff, provided an update on the Community of Practice sessions that HUD approved: 1) Governance Structure and 2) Housing First. The focus of the update was on strategies on optimizing our local governance structure. The action steps needed were 1) infusing consumer voice and 2) getting buy-in from CoC from decision making process. CoC Board member suggested round tables discussion and having structured conversations.

Motion by Bill Schlesinger to approve that future general membership meeting be a round table construct with interaction between the membership and the Board, seconded by Deborah Zuloaga. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Community Gaps/Needs

Exercise incorporating a discussion into the round table discussion on community gaps/needs that were identified in the 2020 Point In Time Count.

CoC Board asked staff to coordinate a meeting with several members of the CoC Board and Rescue Mission to discuss sheltering options.

Annual CoC meeting to focus on opportunities for open dialogue

CoC Board members discussed holding off on any future large gatherings due to the Covid-19.

Motion by Bill Schlesinger to suspend April and May meetings, seconded by EdRicardo Gandara. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Miscellaneous

None

Meeting Adjourned at 5:03 PM.