

El Paso CoC Board Minutes

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Zoom

Quorum established. Meeting called to order at 4:04 PM. Chair, EdRicardo Gandara, welcomes all present.

No Public Comment.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Ben Miranda to approve minutes from May meeting, seconded by Melissa Lopez. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Discussion and Potential Action Items

Opportunity Center discussion/update and information only

Ben Miranda reported updates regarding the collaborative efforts with the Opportunity Center and the operation of the Delta Welcome Centers. Mr. Miranda also discussed future discussion with John Martin. Lengthy discussion among members. No action taken.

COVID-19 Emergency Homeless Shelters Update and Information Only

Ben Miranda invited CoC members to visit the Delta Centers. Discussion continued on ESG CARES funding and best practices. Data provided by HMIS staff was also discussed, specifically bed capacity and utilization rates. Mr. Miranda reported that the Delta Centers average around 75% capacity and is monitored closely.

Bill Schlesinger recognized the efforts of Endeavors on the compliant operations and how they have been able collaborate with the OC and its resources with Endeavors to maintain compliance. Mr. Schlesinger discussed the possibility of, either shifting to another facility site, or even maintaining or getting the city to buy into maintaining this as the shelter site of El Paso. Mr. Miranda reported that those discussions have been happening with the Opportunity Center and continue to happen.

Bill Schlesinger suggested to Mr. Miranda that he develop a model based on lessons learned over the past 2 months and to present a model to the CoC Board as a tentative blue print to have that open discussion prior to talking to City. This is a re-engineering of the system. During the building of this model, Bill Schlesinger and Deborah Zuloaga will be used as consultants.

No formal action taken.

Other Business

Discussed communication from IRS asking for assistance to help reach the homeless, unbanked, certain seniors, and some limited English-proficient individuals. It was reported that a task force was formed to address these issues.

Staff reported that there are two applicants for the ESG CARES allocation through the Texas Department of Housing Community Affairs: El Paso Center for Children and El Paso Human Services. Both agencies focus on youth. Proposed activities are emergency shelter, street outreach, and rapid re-housing.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:21 PM.