

El Paso CoC Board Minutes

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

Consent Agenda

1. **Public comment** – None

2. **COC Board Vacancies – Updated Application**

Continuum of Care Governing Board Application is now complete and available electronically. Applicants can print the application and complete by hand. The form contains blocks to enter information and/or responses. Once completed, the applicant can be emailed along with a copy of their resume. Applicants can also drop off in person at the office or with Melissa Lopez. Board members had no further questions on the new application form. Camille was given instructions to make the new application form available. All applications along with their resume will be reviewed by COC Board members by May 5th. Currently there are 5 board vacancies.

3. **John Martin, Opportunity Center for the Homeless**

John Martin from the Opportunity Center for the Homeless asked to join the meeting to give an update and discuss the data and HMIS issues. John expressed his gratitude for the board's time. John indicated a few years ago they initiated a capital campaign so they can add 95 additional beds, most are permanent beds for the homeless community. They initiated a new construction on the new veterans transition center and will be completed by mid-September and will start occupying by the 1st of October. It will replace the existing program and they are hoping to do with the former VTLC is to recreate the safe heaven concept which will be permanent supportive housing for the homeless, adding 20 additional beds.

The second project, which is the women's resource center, which will add 20 additional beds for the single homeless women. Expansion will be on the second floor of the existing building.

The third project, La Casa De los Abuelitos, a 35-bed facility, houses the elderly homeless population. 11 beds will be transitioning beds and the remainder will be permanent beds.

The fourth project is to renovate the existing men's shelter, 35-year-old facility. They will enhance the kitchen, laundry room and bathrooms and also expand to 50-60 beds. They are excited about all these projects.

An email was sent to Melissa, Camille, Gary asking for a letter of support for the Casa de los Abuelitos program. The intent is to obtain a home loan grant.

Melissa asked John if he needed a letter from the COC Board and the Coalition for the Homeless. John answered yes.

Regarding the data: John indicated the opportunity center for the homeless recognizes that the data collected from their center is valuable to the coalition for the homeless. John is asking for the COC Board for consideration to agree on an annual or monthly report. They have two different systems, but both systems do not communicate with each other, but they are open to discussing how they can work collectively with the coalition to get them the data they need. John also indicated that between August and December timeframe worked with close to 6 thousand individuals . They are averaging 4 to 5 hundred new individuals per month. Some of them are migrants, but not the majority.

Melissa prefers that we have a data agreement in place for the benefit of both sides. John said they are open to share the data and consider an agreement.

4. El Paso City/County Update

Adela Alonso from the city did not have an update other than they soon present to city council the annual action plan.

5. Longitudinal Systematic Update

Camille indicated this report was due in January and she will provide the pdf report to the board. The report is comprehensive data but missing street outreach and prevention. HUD is trying to work those items into the report.

6. System Performance Report

Camille indicates the performance report used to guide how the community does street outreach, emergency, transitional, permanent housing interventions. This report gages how the local community is doing in these areas.

7. Host Call Update

Leslie Canada presented this item; it is a program between 911 police department and the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless. It's called the prearrest diversion program, it is a national trend across the country. It tracks all the homeless situations such as criminal trespassing, camping on public property, and police agents advise the homeless to move out of those public areas. December was the busiest month. Street outreach is contacted through this program to find the homeless individuals to provide assistance to avoid going to jail and getting off the street.

8. RRH to PSH Transfer Policy

Camille is still working on collecting this data.

COC moved to Executive Session at 4:50 PM