

Lived Experience Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Location: Zoom

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Attendees:

	Members	Agency	Email
1	Bruce Williams	Small business owner	brucewilliamzmg@gmail.com
2	Wendy Noble	Giving Grace	wendyn@givinggrace.org
3	Margaret Hill	Texas Homeless Network	margaret@thn.org
4	Mary Stahlke	Texas Homeless Network	Mary@thn.org
5	Jim Ward	Texas Homeless Network	jim@thn.org
6	Jen Beardsley	Texas Homeless Network	jen@thn.org
7	Tammy Chan	Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach (GPHOO)	Tchan@gphoo.org
8	Tania Hughes	Gulf Coast Center	taniah@gulfcoastcenter.org

I. Introductions

II. Reviewed [group agreements](#)

III. Group Goals (Margaret)

- a. Rhie Azzam Morris was unable to attend today's meeting, so continued group goals activity.
- b. Discussion: what [CoC-level] policies are you aware of (as a system user or as a provider)?
 - i. **Criminalization:** Problems with police enforcing camping ban on private property (calling property owners and asking if they know people on their property litter violations, substandard housing violations. Example: electricity running to an encampment from a church – code enforcement threatened to fine church/property owners hundreds of dollars per day).
 1. Goal could be to educate local governments on best practices around addressing encampments and what police departments with homeless outreach teams are doing, what the state camping ban actually means, why "Broken Windows Policing" is racially biased/flawed, how agencies partner with police (GPHOO has police provide funding for job training portion of hotel sheltering program).
 2. Could relate to other goals of telling our stories.
 3. TX BoS CoC currently has a policy against homelessness criminalization.
 - ii. **CoC policies:** Want to have a better understanding of the CoC policies in general; starting from scratch. Don't currently understand how CoC policies are affecting local PEH.
 1. Funding policies do not impact someone's ability to access housing, may not need to understand every policy.
 - iii. **Voucher waitlists:** why are vouchers so difficult to obtain, what is the process for getting a voucher. Voucher discrimination is prevalent once

obtain voucher, many lose vouchers because cannot find housing before deadline.

- iv. **Coordinated Entry:** Grand Prairie Public Housing did not understand that CE is a prioritization tool, believed it would give their vouchers to people not from their community. Could develop policy that public housing authorities that receive HUD vouchers for unhoused people must use Coordinated Entry and will be educated on what Coordinated Entry is.
 - 1. Challenge: CoC has no methods of enforcement.
 - 2. Could learn about CE written policies and why they are in place, could give input

IV. **2023 CoC Action Plan (Mary)**

Discussing 2023 CoC Action Plan Topics with the Lived Experience Committee (LEC)

2023 Action Plan Topics

1. Improve the Coordinated Entry process
2. Increase coordination with "mainstream" (not homeless-specific) resources -- health, mental health, foster care, education, criminal legal system
3. Support the use of best practices: homelessness prevention, diversion, housing-focused case management, Housing First, trauma-informed care, and harm reduction
4. Advance racial equity
5. Provide immediate access to temporary living accommodations and to swift access to permanent housing with support services
6. Enhance work with Public Housing Authorities (Emergency Housing Voucher/EHV program, homeless preferences for other housing vouchers)
7. Provide more training for homeless services/housing staff
8. Increase participation in HMIS and improve data quality
9. Expand opportunities for people with lived experience/expertise of homelessness to guide the CoC's work
10. Provide technical assistance, training, and tools to agencies and communities to apply for CoC Program funding

a. Questions, suggestions on CoC Action Plan

- i. Increasing affordable housing options or improving access to temporary, transitional, and permanent housing discussion
 - 1. Eligibility requirements make it so clients may be ineligible for PSH if they stay with a friend shortly (have a break in their homelessness).
 - 2. Localities/nonprofits need to understand how local policies impact communities' ability to obtain federal dollars to develop affordable housing. CoC limited to what we're required to -- focused on CoC, ESG funded projects, addressing rural and unsheltered rural homelessness.

b. Strategies 3 and 4; continue administering EHV program

- i. Plan is to continue administering vouchers; there are currently no new EHV's available

V. **Training Opportunities discussion (Jim)**

- a. Will be trainings on funding types and for providers in general

- b. Authentic Collaboration with Persons with Lived Expertise – is the LEC interested in collaborating or participating in some way with consultant Rhie Azzam Morris in developing this training?
- i. <https://rhieinnon.com/>
 - ii. Trainings would be on February 7th (why PEH should be engaged) and February 28th (how to engage with PEH)
 - iii. Rhie available Wednesday, January 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to begin work. Tentatively scheduled to meet 1/18 5-6 p.m.
 1. Tania Hughes is interested
 2. Tammy Chan is interested

Follow Up Needed

Topic	Details	Responsible Party
Written Standards for Service Delivery	Members can look over to determine if this something they would like to learn more about to potentially give input into next year (NOT expected to read complete guide or understand it; just look it over to get an idea of what it is)	Margaret
Rhie Azzam Morris' Authentic Engagement with Persons with Lived Experience training	Jim will forward the training proposal to the group and organize a Zoom meeting for next January 18th, 5:00-6:00 p.m.	Jim
CoC Action Plan feedback	If anyone has other comments on the CoC Action Plan, email them to Mary at mary@thn.org	All

Tabled Items

- Group goals (conversation occurred, will continue next meeting)

Meeting Adjourned: 4:40 PM

Next meeting Scheduled: February 8, 2023, 3:00-4:30 PM

Minutes prepared by: Jen Beardsley