

## Lived Experience Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** Wednesday, November 9, 2022

**Location:** Zoom

**Time:** 3:00 – 4:30 PM

### Attendees:

	Members	Agency	Email
1	CJ Budaj	Our Daily Bread	cj.budaj@ourdailybreaddenton.org
2	Tammy Chan	Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach	Tchan@gphoo.org
3	John Cockrell	The Salvation Army	john.cockrell@uss.salvationarmy.org
4	Tania Hughes	Gulf Coast Center	taniah@gulfcoastcenter.org
5	Wendy Noble	Giving Grace	wendyn@givinggrace.org
6	Rebecca Shahady	Giving Grace	rebeccas@givinggrace.org
7	Bruce Williams	Business Owner	brucewilliamzmg@gmail.com
8	Margaret Hill	Texas Homeless Network	<a href="mailto:margaret@thn.org">margaret@thn.org</a>
9	Jen Beardsley	Texas Homeless Network	jen@thn.org
10	Mary Stahlke	Texas Homeless Network	mary@thn.org
11	Alex Paredes	Texas Homeless Network	alex@thn.org

### I. Introductions

### II. Reviewed [group agreements](#)

### III. 2023 Point-in-Time Count Discussion, Alex Paredes

- Point-in-Time Count: unduplicated count of persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) in a community. Takes place in one 24-hour period during the last 10 days of January. Numbers and demographics are submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The intent of the PIT is to understand the scope of homelessness and understand needs of PEH
- Purpose of meeting with PLE group: to understand survey from participants' perspective and to give feedback to PIT volunteers so they can meaningfully engage with persons experiencing homelessness (PEH)
- Difference between sheltered and unsheltered counts:
  - Sheltered counts: survey of people being surveyed in emergency shelters and transitional housing. Generally, shelter staff administer survey/count.
  - Unsheltered counts: survey of folks living in situations not meant for human habitation (e.g. encampment, vehicle, street, etc.). Often conducted by volunteers.
- Have you been surveyed for the unsheltered PIT? How did that experience go for you?
  - Watch tone, be careful not to sound accusatory or judgmental
  - Often ran the other way when folks came near encampment

- Offering an incentive is essential (bus pass, gift card)
- Explaining why participation is important, why it matters that they answer their questions, that their responses are important
- Talk to them to get a sense of where they are as a person; they may feel the system has failed them.
- "I was in a shelter at the time of the applicable PIT Count. I was unaware of a count happening. Wasn't asked any questions. Have participated in subsequent PIT County as a PIT Count Area Coordinator/Counter."
- "I was surveyed one time while I was homeless in Anson, however I did not know what PIT was."
- Body language and spoken language are important
- Be comfortable having uncomfortable conversations. Won't get accurate information if conversation is awkward
- Important to have person with lived experience in every outreach group if possible
- Act like a guest, you are in their home, where they are currently living
- Don't react to the state of the person (may not have had access to things to maintain hygiene, etc.)
- Shelter talks about the PIT for months, make it a large community event where they serve food and give folks needed items
- Each PIT volunteer group should be small, not large
- Have a good PIT lead who knows where to place volunteers
- In your experience, were there any kind of care package items you found most helpful?
  - Food that is easy to open and prepare
  - Hygiene items
  - Soft food for folks that may have dental problems
  - Vienna sausages
  - African-American hair care products
  - Fully-charged portable phone chargers
  - Batteries
  - Feminine hygiene products
  - Clothing
  - MREs or snack packs
  - Flashlights
  - Can openers (military surplus store)
  - Hot hands packs
  - Thick socks (Bombas sock company donates socks)
  - Gloves
  - Hats
- Were you offered any additional information to connect you with services?
  - Handouts, brochures were helpful
  - Train PIT volunteers on what services are available in their areas so they can tell folks where services are (not addresses, but where

- Trash can be an issue, so have one sheet that has all the information they
- Tell them to download the Aunt Bertha (findhelp.org) app if they have a phone with data

#### **IV. Group Goals Discussion, Mary Stahlke**

- Reviewed goals discussion from September meeting:
  - Developing strategies for re-entry and self-sufficiency
  - Transitional housing and supportive services while they are in housing; from ES to non-congregate shelter if that works best for them.
- Individual goals and group goals:
  - Tania: have PWLE on every outreach team for the PIT Count (short-term), and PWLE on every street outreach team (long-term). "Being housed and comfortable. Deadline is approaching for presenters at the alliance to end homelessness summer conference... it may have been spring though...not sure"
  - John: "My goal is to be a voice to THN about the situations of being homeless myself and for the guests that I work with."
  - Bruce: making sure we are looking at the many different types of homelessness people are experiencing across the state. Helping people obtain the skills they need to obtain employment (Job Corps with Highway 80 Rescue Mission)
  - Wendy: improve PIT Count so that leads know where to best place volunteers during the count. Have small groups of people approach encampments. "I want to help make systems change at higher levels, show others how we accomplished getting out of homelessness, and what recovery from homelessness looks like-the challenges we face in reacclimating back into society."
  - Rebecca: strengthen public speaking skills. Understand acronyms in homeless services. Have PWLE/PEH experience more valued in services so that her experience is meaningful, helps others. "I LOVE THE IDEA TAMMY SHARED!!! We just had a Night Of Hope for our Nonprofit and the tagline was "Our Stories Matter".. It was received SO well and was such an honor to stand alongside our clients as they shared their stories!"
  - Tammy: find a way to use stories to change the narratives in homelessness. Help greater community know that PEH have something to offer to the world. Change the narratives around homelessness through personal stories and art. PLE committee or subcommittee could curate those stories to help change narratives. Presentation by PLE committee during THN annual conference. (Example: popular post on social media; man always had caps on in texts. Tammy asked why he was always "yelling" at her in texts and it turned out his phone had no buttons on it; he was texting by memory where letters are.)
    - Others expressed interest in this idea
  - CJ: better my understanding of current policies in place so we can better identify where we can submit our input. Aware of some policies that affect his agency, but not informed of all policies. Understanding why policies exist through roundtable discussions.
    - Others expressed interest in this idea
- **Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity update, Mary Stahlke**
  - Letter group signed stating PLE group supports the goals in the CoC plan

Lived Experience Committee Meeting  
11/9/2022

- Submitted grant October 20<sup>th</sup>. Ten projects around the Balance of State applied for housing or service grants.
- Altogether, BoS requested \$31 million over 3 years
- HUD will choose CoC to fund, so if they choose our CoC, they will fund all of the submitted (highlighted) projects.

Rural Set Aside applicants:

Rank	Applicant Name	Project Name (pulled from e-snaps)	Project Type	Annual Request	2022 Project Application Budget	Review 1 Score	Review 2 Score	Total Points Available
1	Panhandle Community Services	PCS Rapid Re-Housing	RRH	\$1,613,070	\$4,839,211	204	191	283
N/A	Brown County Home Solutions	BCHS Rural Setaside RRH Project	RRH	\$203,782	\$611,346	Not Scored	Not Scored	Not Scored
N/A	Chosen Ones Outreach Ministries	Chosen One's Rural	RRH	\$212,239,891	\$636,719,672	Not Scored	Not Scored	Not Scored

Unsheltered Set Aside applicants:

B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Homeless Network of Texas- (dba Texas Homeless Network)	Supplemental NOFO HMIS	HMIS	\$211,840	\$635,519.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Homeless Network of Texas- (dba Texas Homeless Network)	Supplemental NOFO SSO-CE	SSO-CE	\$254,208	\$762,623.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
West Central Texas Regional Foundation	New Housing Vision	RRH	\$835,278	\$2,505,835.00	225	228	274
Christian Community Action	Rescue, Relief, and Restorative Services	RRH	\$1,968,032	\$5,904,096.00	212	215	274
NB Housing Partners	Street Outreach and Supportive Services in Growing Communities	SSO-SO	\$1,006,267	\$3,018,800.00	172	176	228
United Way of Brazoria County	Building Bridges in Brazoria County	RRH	\$545,464	\$1,636,391.00	218	198	274
The Salvation Army New Braunfels	Salvation Army New Braunfels RRH Program	RRH	\$587,246	\$1,761,738.00	200	200	274
Concho Valley Community Action Agency	Homeless Integrated Services	RRH	\$1,129,218	\$3,387,654.00	193	205	274
Our Daily Bread	Hope to Home	TH/RRH	\$1,306,893	\$3,920,678.00	196	209	280
The Children's Center, Inc.	TCCI Permanent SH 2022	PSH	\$391,070	\$1,173,211.00	187	172	266
Denton County MHMR Center	Collaborative Street Outreach Project	SSO-SO	\$886,760	\$2,660,280.00	146	158	228
Housing Authority of the City of Laredo	Laredo Housing Authority Permanent Supportive Housing	PSH	\$1,035,108	\$3,105,324.00	171	161	266
The Salvation Army of Grayson County	TSA Grayson County Transitional and Rapid Rehousing CoC Project	TH/RRH	\$600,213	\$1,800,639	Not Scored	Not Scored	Not Scored
Darlene Kearney	Gods Lovely Butterflies Maternity Home	PSH	\$205,100	\$615,300	Not Scored	Not Scored	Not Scored

V. Gift Card Issues, Margaret

- Please email Margaret if you have not received any gift cards you are owed
- We're working on a different way to pay people because we've had issues with people getting gift cards. Options:
  - Reloadable cards
  - Online payment (Venmo, Cash App, PayPal, etc.)
- Do members have a preference on how to receive payment?
  - Bruce: received what looks like a reloadable card because it had his name on it. Prefers PayPal or reloadable card
  - CJ: prefers gift cards (thinking of giving gift card to organization)
  - Rebecca: prefers gift cards (gave away first card to PEH)
  - John: reloadable debit card

VI. Other Updates

- Our Daily Bread has a new shelter facility and a transitional shelter converted (motel conversion) for elderly, disabled, and veterans.

Follow Up Needed

Topic	Details	Responsible Party
Payment	Email Margaret ( <a href="mailto:margaret@thn.org">margaret@thn.org</a> ) if you have not received payments	Participants, Margaret

Lived Experience Committee Meeting  
11/9/2022

Bruce's new address	Moving 11/10, will connect with Margaret via email for new address to mail payment	Margaret, Bruce
---------------------	--	-----------------

**Tabled Items**

- None

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:39 PM

**Next meeting Scheduled:** 3:00-4:30 PM, December 7, 2022

**Minutes prepared by:** Jen Beardsley