

Lived Experience Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Location: Zoom

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Attendees:

#	Members	Agency	Email
1	Margaret Hill	Texas Homeless Network	Margaret@thn.org
2	Kraig Blaize-Fiero	Texas Homeless Network	kraig@thn.org
3	Wendy Noble		wendynoble213@gmail.com
4	Tammy Chan	Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach Organization	tchan@gphoo.org
5	John Cockrell	Salvation Army of Abilene	john.cockrell@uss.salvationarmy.org
6	Jen Beardsley	Texas Homeless Network	jen@thn.org

Link to meeting materials:

I. Introductions

II. Reviewed [group agreements](#): will include agreements in materials moving forward, but we will discontinue reading them out each meeting

III. Reviewed [Group Goals progress \(Margaret\)](#)

IV. Representation to submit Board Action Request

a. Board Action Request Brainstorm

i. Action requested (what are we asking the board to do?)

1. Require at least one person with lived experience
2. Aligns with CoC action plan: 9. Expand opportunities for people with lived experience/expertise of homelessness to guide the CoC's work
3. Challenge stigma, confront bringing the perspective of our experience to the forefront.

ii. Background (why are we asking the board for this action?)

1. The Lived Experience Committee, as one of its yearly goals, would like people with lived experience to be represented on each committee and on the CoC Board.
2. Including people creates balance - "We believe that without including individuals with lived experience in the decision-making process, in research, and in all other endeavors, it creates an unbalance" ([source](#))
3. Humanizes the experience of homelessness
4. Sincerely practicing our intentions with including PLE experiences, instead of just [meeting a HUD requirement]
5. Building relationships with people and communities
6. HUD requirements

iii. Key issues (what factors does the board need to consider?)

1. Concern expressed over limiting participants to those who experienced homelessness within the last five years

2. Concern expressed over requiring PEH to have experienced homelessness in the TX BoS CoC. Instead, must work, live, or have experienced homelessness in the TX BoS CoC.
3. Diversity of experiences of homelessness
4. PEH have firsthand knowledge of what it is to seek services in the TX BoS CoC
5. Committees that are regionalized: should there be one person with lived experience for each region? (Need to run by staff re: feasibility of this being a requirement)
6. Ensure that people are not being tokenized, provide support and mentorship if needed

V. **CoC Action Plan topics reviewed (Kraig)**

VI. **Other Business (None)**

Follow Up Needed

Topic	Details	Responsible Party
Committee/Board Representation Group Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Action Request draft finalized • Consult with staff re: feasibility of requiring PWLE to be part of regionalized committees (Jim) and with Communications Director (Samantha) • Post-meeting survey • Post materials to LEC Google Drive, share link 	Margaret
Links	Share Homelessness Awareness Day registration, Authentic Collaboration training recording link, registration link to upcoming training	Kraig

Tabled Items/Parking Lot

- “Board buddy” support idea for those filling a PWLE seat on committees (could be part of policy if Board Action Request item is passed)

Meeting Adjourned: 4:05 PM

Next meeting Scheduled: March 15, 2023, 3:00-4:30 PM

Minutes prepared by: Jen Beardsley