

Lived Experience Committee (LEC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Location: Zoom

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Attendees

#	Members	Agency	Email
1	Tania Hughes	Gulf Coast Center	taniah@gulfcoastcenter.org
2	John Cockrell	The Salvation Army	john.cockrell@uss.salvationarmy.org
3	Tammy Chan	Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach Organization	Tchan@gphoo.org
4	Margaret Hill	Texas Homeless Network	Margaret@thn.org
5	Mary Stahlke	Texas Homeless Network	Mary@thn.org
6	Jen Beardsley	Texas Homeless Network	jen@thn.org

Discussion

[Link to meeting materials](#) (blue underlined text is hyperlinked. Ctrl+Click to follow link)

- I. [Group agreements](#) and [anonymous suggestion box](#) link made available. Lived Experience Committee purpose reviewed.
- II. [Lived Experience Committee Survey](#) discussion
 - a. Survey results: tie between keeping LEC meeting date/time the same and changing the meeting time to fourth Tuesdays of each month 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Some folks could only attend during lunch.
 - b. Would attendees be affected by meeting time change?
 - i. Tania could not attend meetings between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. because she is meeting with clients. Is not available Mondays and Fridays because participates in education on those days
 - ii. Tammy: Tuesdays and Thursdays are for case management, finishes up for the day on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays by 3:30 p.m.
 - iii. John: is flexible
 - iv. Summary: current time works best for most; more flexible on days.
 - c. THN accounting approved providing tablets to folks who said having one would help them attend meetings
 - d. LEC members are interested in doing an implicit bias training
 - e. LEC members are interested in changing the purpose of the group to creating focus groups or listening sessions with PWLE, assisting with meeting planning
 - i. Previous experience with focus groups/listening sessions? None
 - ii. Tammy: hopes LEC can not only help CoC board, but also unsheltered persons
- III. Group Goals Progress
 - a. **Committee Representation** Made changes to committee policy to have persons with lived experience of homelessness for each Continuum of Care (CoC) committee and presented changes to the CoC Executive Committee
 - i. Reviewed CoC Committees policy draft. Discussing with staff one more time before finalizing.

- ii. CoC Executive Committee concern: relying too heavily on PWLE on each committee. If it too much for one person, could put together focus group or listening session.
- b. **Storytelling Project:** THN does not have the funds to help create such a project.
 - i. Could pivot to creating a guide to help other people tell their story to those in their community (e.g. how to make a Facebook post about their experience) or writing a blog post talking about their story, how they're contributing now, or how they can encourage those with lived experience or living experience to tell their story so they can influence decision makers or broad audience.
 - ii. Tammy: (1) time during CoC board meetings set aside for story from person with lived experience, interested in speaking with them during a meeting (2) share story of person with lived experience around lunchtime, nominated Tania to speak, Tania agreed (3) LEC could be support group for folks with lived experience at the conference, (4) Tammy interested in writing a blog post, others may be able to write a blog post
 - iii. Tania: (1) any effort by LEC to assist CoC, PWLE, and the persons receiving services, (2) spoke how empowering it has been to be able to speak from experience and tell folks running different systems what the end user's experience is actually like and seeing change come about because of sharing that story
 - iv. Mary: (1) invited LEC members to apply to present a session at the Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness, (2) National Consumer Advisory Board of Healthcare for the Homeless created a [storytelling manual](#)
 - v. LEC could contribute to planning the conference in some way
- c. **Policy Input:** LEC can review CoC Written Standards when it completed by ICF
- d. **Review 2023 CoC Action Plan:** see discussion below

IV. 2023 Action Plan updates

- a. Increase coordination with mainstream (not homeless specific) resources – health, mental health, foster care, education, criminal legal system. Want to increase access by coordinating at the CoC level with the following systems:
 - Healthcare
 - Mental Healthcare
 - Foster Care
 - Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) – age Early Head Start through higher education
 - Criminal Legal System
 - Human Services (benefits like SNAP, WIC, and TANF)
 - Social Security (SSI, SSDI)
 - Workforce/employment services
 - Disability services
 - LBGTQIA services
 - Youth services
 - Elderly services
 - Veteran services
 - Domestic violence/survivor services
- i.
- ii. We currently have an AmeriCorps VISTA helping us increase engagement with these systems (health, mental health, foster care, education, criminal legal system).
- b. Enhance work with Public Housing Authorities

- i. Emergency Housing Voucher program, homeless preferences for other housing vouchers. Currently work with PHAs on EHV program in 200 counties, have staff that help with housing search. Added housing navigator to staff for total of three
- ii. Worked with PHAs to establish homeless preference in their policies
- iii. Expanding our work with PHAs through new CoC Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity-funded project that will work with PHAs in the panhandle area
 - 1. Stability Voucher initiative makes Housing Choice Voucher available to PHAs
- iv. Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) – vouchers available to former foster youth ages 18-24
- v. HUD may announce additional funding later in the year
- vi. Tammy comment: has heard PHAs hesitant to participate in Coordinated Entry. Mary: Systems Change (Coordinated Entry) working with communities to improve the system. One frustration with CE is that there are often not enough housing to exit PEH to, so they get stuck despite being assessed for housing.

V. Compensation, tax information

- a. Increasing compensation to \$40 per meeting
- b. THN must report income to individuals that is \$600 or more; those that reach this limit will receive a 1099-NEC from THN to file

VI. Other business

- a. Lived experience seat on CoC Board is opening in the fall. LEC members can run for the seat; contact Mary for details
- b. We are currently accepting LEC member applications
- c. Interested in receiving payment through phone app (Venmo, Cashapp)?
 - i. Tania – yes
 - ii. John – no, gift cards are best
 - iii. Tania – yes, Venmo

Follow Up Needed

Topic	Details	Responsible Party
Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness	Share information on how to apply to present a conference session, scholarship opportunities	Margaret
Blog post	Tammy interested in writing a blog post	Margaret
Speaking at conference	Tania interested in speaking to share her experience during lunch at the conference	Margaret
PWLE moment at CoC Board meetings	Speak with Executive Committee of the CoC Board about having a PWLE share their experience during the CoC Board meetings	Mary

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Committee Representation Policy changes	Will share with LEC members so they can give their feedback	Margaret
How to subscribe to TX BoS CoC newsletter	Send link to Tania	Mary or Margaret
2023 Action Plan updates	Share with LEC members	Mary
Explanation of 1099-NEC document	Share with LEC members	Margaret

Tabled Items/Parking Lot

- Text

Meeting Adjourned: 4:33 PM

Next meeting Scheduled: May 10, 2023, 3:00-4:30 PM

Minutes prepared by: Jen Beardsley