

Lived Experience Committee (LEC)
Meeting Minutes

[Blue underlined](#) text is hyperlinked. Press Ctrl and Click to follow link.

Meeting: Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Location: [Zoom link](#)

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Attendees

	Members	Agency	Email
A	Brenda Merz	Family Promise of Lubbock	brenda@familypromiselubbock.org
P	John Cockrell	Salvation Army	john.cockrell@uss.salvationarmy.org
P	Rebecca Shahady	Christian Community Action	rebecca.shahady@ccahelps.org
P	Tammy Flores	Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach Organization	Tchan@gphoo.org
P	Kraig Blaize-Fiero	Texas Homeless Network	kraig@thn.org
P	Mary Stahlke	Texas Homeless Network	Mary@thn.org
P	Jen Beardsley	Texas Homeless Network	jen@thn.org
P	Jim Ward	Texas Homeless Network	jim@thn.org
P	Ava Paredes	Texas Homeless Network	ava@thn.org

Discussion

I. Introduction

- a. [Group agreements](#) and [anonymous suggestion box](#) link made available.
- b. Lived Experience Committee purpose reviewed.
- c. Member Check Ins

II. Point in Time Count Questions – Revisions for 2024

1. Has someone surveyed you today about your living situation?
2. Where are you sleeping tonight?
3. What is your first name or first initial?
4. What is your last name or the first initial of your last name?
5. What is your age?
6. What age range do you fall into?
 - a. Feedback: (1) like #3, not everyone wants to give their name (DV survivors, avoiding law enforcement), (2)

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7. What do you consider your ethnicity to be?
 8. What do you consider your race to be?
 9. What do you consider your gender identity to be?
 10. Do you identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community?
 11. Have you ever served in the US armed forces, including the National Guard or reserves?
 12. Are you currently without shelter because of domestic violence?
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- b.** Feedback: (1) may not know difference between race and ethnicity, may be confused as to why those are separate questions; (2) questions may be too personal to dive into – during interview, PIT volunteers are trained to let participant know they can answer as many or as few questions as they choose; (3) give examples when discussing gender, race identity; (4) recommended getting rid of “refused to answer” or changing it to “participant prefers not to answer”

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13. Is this the first time you have been unhoused?
 14. How old were you when you first experienced homelessness?
 15. How long did you stay in shelter or on the streets over the past 3 years? ***
 16. How many separate times have you stayed in shelters or on the streets in the past 3 years? ***
 17. How long have you been homeless at this time? ***
 18. Have you been told or do you believe you have a substance use disorder that affects your ability to support yourself/family or live independently?
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- c.** *** questions need the most feedback
- d.** Feedback: (1) #15 and #16: change “on the streets” to “a place that was unhoused (encampment, car, etc.)”; (2) recommended placing #16 before #15; (3) folks may not know how long they have been living unhoused, but can give approximate timeframe; (4) support putting #17 before #15 and #16; (5) like #18

19. Have you been told or do you believe you have a chronic/ongoing health condition that affects your ability to support yourself/family or live independently?
20. Have you been told or do you believe you have a mental health disorder that affects your ability to support yourself/family or live independently?
21. Have you been told or do you believe you have a physical disability that affects your ability to support yourself/family or live independently?
22. Have you been told or do you believe you have a developmental disability?
Developmental disability is a physical or mental condition that started during childhood?
23. Have you been told or do you believe you have HIV or AIDS?

- e. Feedback: (1) suggested eliminating "have you been told" from all questions; (2) #23 suggested changing to "do you know if or are you worried that you have HIV or AIDS?"; (3) Can we add, "are you being visited by an outreach team?" or "can you easily access basic-needs/emergency services (food pantry, water station), etc.?" Goal of question would be to help local services understand if clients accessing basic needs easily.

III. Resource Sharing

- a. National Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB), a standing committee of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council,
<https://nhchc.org/consumers/ncab/>
- b. CAB Manual at https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CAB-Manual_2020-Update.pdf
- c. NCAB Storytelling Manual at <https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/nhchc-storytelling-guide-may-2017-2.pdf>

IV. LEC Goals 2023-24

- a. Reviewed past goals (see September 2023 minutes for more details)
- b. Ideas for what to work on this FY2024 (Sept. 2023 – Aug. 2024)
 - i. Interested in working on helping committees recruit persons with lived experience (Tammy may reach out to folks she connected with at the conference)
 - ii. Peer support (Rebecca): creating more peer support for recently housed clients to help them acclimate to being back in a housing situation. Case management during early stages of re-entering housing helps people stay housed (e.g. classes on "how to be a good tenant," etc.). LEC Committee could create something to share what it looks like to onboard a client to housing or recommend BoS create peer support training.
 - iii. Peer support staff concerns (Tammy): feel they are not included in agency decision making, feel poorly compensated. Would like to brainstorm way to advocate for that staff. Resource:
https://hhrctraining.org/system/files/paragraphs/download-file/file/2023-08/HHRC_Peer_Support_Toolkit-508.pdf
 - iv. Outreach (John): would like to see more robust street outreach in communities.

- v. Training for LEC Committee members on storytelling (Tammy): could go create something to help PWLE know how to tell their story or LEC committee could go through training.

V. Administrative Tasks

- a. [Code of Conduct](#) and [Conflict of Interest Statement](#)
- b. When to meet 2023-24? First Wednesdays of the month, 3:00-4:30 PM
 - i. Instead of first week of January, will meet Jan 10, 2024
- c. [Post-meeting survey](#)

VI. Other business

- a. Next meeting:

Follow Up Needed

Topic	Details	Responsible Party
Post-meeting follow-up email	Presentation, minutes, related links, recording, ask LEC members about next meeting date	Mary
Sign Code of Conduct document	https://thn.wufoo.com/forms/r11i41620le3rau/	Mary will share link in meeting follow-up email LEC members will sign if in agreement
Sign Conflict of Interest Statement	https://thn.wufoo.com/forms/r14ts9ne1agawvg/	Mary will share link in meeting follow-up email LEC members will sign if in agreement
Compensation	Share (1) if you would like to be compensated for being an LEC member, (2) how you would like to be compensated (CashApp, Venmo, Zelle, or Visa gift card), and (3) your payment app handle or mailing address	Kraig LEC members will share this info directly with Kraig via email (kraig@thn.org) or phone (512-861-2193)
Post minutes	Post minutes to https://www.thn.org/tx-bos-coc-committees/	Jen
Equipment	Tell Kraig (kraig@thn.org) or Mary (mary@thn.org) if you need equipment to participate in these meetings.	LEC members
OPTIONAL: Post-meeting survey	Share anonymous feedback regarding these meetings Link: Post-meeting survey	All (optional)

Tabled Items/Parking Lot

- None

Meeting Adjourned: 4:33 PM

Next meeting Scheduled: Wednesday, November 1st, 3:00-4:30 PM

Minutes prepared by: Jen Beardsley