**Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition Meeting Notes- January 15, 2021**

**12:00 pm via Zoom**

**I. Waiting Room Poll**

How do you button up your shirt? Bottom to top? Top to bottom? Randomly (please no)

**II. Financial Report - Shannon**

1. Donations: Received from three people in December, Ruth donated $4,000 THANK YOU!
2. New total is $8547.74
3. Poll vote to accept report, Report accepted

**III. Meeting Minutes – Shaun**

1. Minutes were not emailed out in advance.
2. Will email and vote on these minutes next month

**IV. SOAR Program Update - Karisa**

A. What is SOAR? SOAR is a model to complete SSI and SSDI applications for people who are at risk of homelessness. SOAR provides these people a much higher percentage chance of receiving benefits.

B. Had an orientation earlier this month. Many attended – thank you! Karisa will make a recording of an orientation and make it available to those who could not attend this meeting.

C. First cohort meeting will be held soon. You need to register for this meeting. Participants will review the modules on their own and then the cohort will discuss the modules as a group. This group will meet weekly.

D. There will be another training in the summer.

**V. Project Homeless Connect - Karisa**

1. Had to postpone because of COVID. We will still conduct the Point in Time count.
2. We will give out donations during the PIT count. We are in need of gift cards or donations for gift cards. We are looking for Taco Bell, McDonald’s, and Wendy’s gift cards. These cards will be distributed when we complete the PIT count surveys.
3. Shelter PIT count will look the same. PATH Team will complete unsheltered PIT count. Email Shaun with questions.

**VI. NOFA - Shaun**

1. Existing projects will be automatically renewed – YEA!
2. There will still be a competition for Bonus Funding.

**VII. Vote on Nicole Wiscombe -Shaun**

1. HOTHC Board voted for Nicole Wiscombe to be a board member and the vice chairperson.
2. Poll vote to accept Nicole, Vote passed

**VIII. Policy Update - Shaun**

1. Amend Policy Manual from: “Participants in rapid re-housing programs may be asked to put up to 30% of their monthly adjusted income towards their rent.” TO “Participants in rapid re-housing programs may be asked to pay up to 100% of rent amount.” We are required by HUD to set this standard as a Continuum of Care.
2. Poll vote to accept amendment, Vote passed

**IX. Homeless Obituaries and Memorial Update - Shaun**

A. We are looking for a way to memorialize homeless individuals who passed away during the previous year. We would like to pay for a notice in the Waco Tribune in order to honor these people and to make an effort to help people gain information about their loved ones.

B. We will also eventually have a memorial service.

**X. RFP from City for Homeless Plan - Shaun**

A. City will be reaching out to homeless service providers and the Homeless Coalition for the development of this plan.

B. The RFP is available on the City of Waco website.

**XI. Homeless Individuals Vaccination Efforts - Shaun**

A. Homeless Individuals are on the tier below current rollouts (first responders, individuals with chronic medical conditions).

B. However, if you are working with a homeless individual who is over 65, and/or has health conditions they can be vaccinated now.

C. THN and HHSC are working on a plan to have outreach workers engage with and help facilitate vaccinations for homeless individuals. The roll out for this plan is within 6 months. Updates will be provided, as more information is made available.

D. Check the COVID Waco Dashboard for vaccination locations.

**XII. Updates from Shelter Providers - Shaun**

A. Family Abuse Center – Operating as usual, call HOT Line for admission.

B. Sheltering Homeless People Who Test Positive – Still have hotel room system in place. Most of the referrals for this resource have been from hospitals.

C. YHDP Update – Two of the six projects have started serving clients. MHMR projects will start very soon. Contact Nicole if you have any questions. **Nicole.wiscombe@hotrmhmr.org**

D. City received a second allocation of CARES funding. The City created a round table to hear what needs are in the area. Contact Raynesha if you have any input for this project: rayneshah@wacotx.gov.

E. Jason McCarty – Jason McCarty-Veterans Outreach Case Manager for Hill, Bosque, Falls, Limestone and Freestone counties. jmccarty@caritas-waco.org 254 640 0906

F. Akevia Oaties is new Housing Navigator at MHMR.

G. Heart of Texas Human Trafficking – Not in My City meeting on Jan. 30: <https://www.hothtc.org/notinmycity> Additional information:

Not In My Friend Group: https://youtu.be/SGSO2IXHdEsNot In My Neighborhood: https://youtu.be/HnVqHSXk8EgNot In My Restaurant: <https://youtu.be/BYlwpB0VTsY>

H. Texas Recovering Together Crisis Counseling – We work with anyone who has been affected by COVID. Vince Erickson will send everyone a flyer by email after this meeting.

I. Endeavors Natalie Bradshaw – We are working remotely but we are still working with veterans. Email Natalie for more information.

**X. Adjournment 12:47 pm**

Notes Taken and Submitted by Melissa Ishio