**Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition Meeting Notes- October 16th 2020**

**11:45 am pm via Zoom**

**I. Welcome – Shaun**

Favorite season poll

**II. New Board Member – Pam McKown**

1. Introduction from Pam
2. Poll vote concerning Pam joining the board – Yes!
3. Welcome Pam!

**III. Financial Report - Shannon**

1. Balance is $4086.52
2. Poll vote to accept report
3. Report accepted
4. Think of doing a Facebook fundraiser for your birthday! It really helps!
5. Also sign up for Amazon Smile

**IV. Meeting Minutes – Shaun**

1. Minutes were mailed out
2. Poll vote to accept minutes
3. Minutes accepted

**V. New HMIS Lead - Sammy Salazar**

A. Now this position is with Prosper Waco (subcontracted from City of Waco)

B. Introduction from Sammy

C. Welcome Sammy!

**VI. CoC Staff Lead Changes**

1. Nicole taking new position with MHMR directing YHDP projects – Congratulations Nicole!
2. Her job will be posted on the City of Waco website, contact [RaynehaH@wacotx.gov](mailto:RaynehaH@wacotx.gov) or Shaun

**VII. Additional Year as Chairperson**

1. This year was disrupted because of COVID. Because of this disruption, the Board would like to ask Shaun to continue for another year.
2. Poll vote - Yes
3. Shaun will continue as chairperson for another year. Thank you Shaun!

**VIII. FLASH Program - Karisa & Shaun**

1. Flexible Assistance to Secure Housing = low barrier, and quick funding to address novel needs of individuals and families to secure housing or avoid homelessness.
2. Cover: birth certificates, IDs, car repairs, child care, utility deposits, ‘not technically homeless’ situations
3. Karisa will apply for grants as opportunities come along.
4. Currently one of the finalists with the Baylor Solid Gold Grant Program

**IX. Race Equity**

1. How often does your agency discuss race equity from a management level?
2. Poll question
3. Encourage everyone to keep race equity at the forefront. Contact Shaun or Karisa if you need resources.

**X. Tiny Houses Initiative**

A. Look for an email gauging interest, idea is still in formative stages.

B. Model community in Austin in which local businesses work with nonprofits.

C. We are finding it more and more difficult to place clients in houses that they can afford.

**XI. Newsletter and Social Media Updates – Grace**

1. Shared Sept Newsletter
2. Above average open rate and click through rate for nonprofits
3. Expect newsletter the last week of the month.
4. Here is link to newsletter: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/pBKNOxF/hothcnewsletter
5. Let Grace know about upcoming events or job openings, etc. Participants provided Grace with info to include in the next newsletter.
6. graceaebryan@icloud.com

**XII. Project Homeless Connect (PHC) -Karisa**

1. PHC will look very different this year because of COVID. We will hold PHC in January! PHC is always held after the Point in Time Count.
2. PHC will beTues, 1/26, at the Waco Convention Center. If you are a vendor and have not received an email contact Karisa. Mike Ormsby will send out vendor invitations.
3. Email Karisa: [Karisa.garner@hotmhmr.org](mailto:Karisa.garner@hotmhmr.org) for questions, more info – ANYTHING!

**XIII. Point in Time Count (PIT)**

1. Have not received definite word on conducting PIT, but we are going to plan as though we are.
2. Email Shaun if you are interested in volunteering.

**XIV. Coordinated Entry Changes**

1. Our community’s way of connecting people with different housing resources
2. CE is moving to a new module, which will allow us to help keep track of data better. We can better understand how long it takes to provide assistance.
3. Heart to Home Hotline: 254-297-8929

**XV. Salvation Army ESG Update, CARES Grant**

1. Funding for McLennan county and surrounding rural areas.
2. Have a little over half a million dollars in two pots of money
3. Can fund emergency shelter programs, homeless prevention and rapid rehousing. Can also help with utility deposits and payments.
4. CARES funding raised the income limits, now to qualify you need to make less than 50% of the median income.
5. Shaun will email flyer out to everyone

**XVI. YHDP (Youth Homeless Demonstration Project) Grant Updates**

1. Each agency now has grant agreements. We are starting to provide services!
2. Kelly Atkinson, The Cove: We have been adapting to COVID along with YHDP coming online. We are open during the day to provide services. Looking for the ways to build other partnerships with other school districts in the area. Please refer youth who need help to The Cove. We are following CDC safety guidelines. Serve youth ages 14-18. Call or text 254-207-0789 for info. Email Kelly at [kellya@thecovewaco.org](mailto:kellya@thecovewaco.org) and [sonias@thecovewaco.org](mailto:sonias@thecovewaco.org)
3. Jennifer Wallace, Family Abuse Center: We noticed struggles youth ages 18-24 faced when staying in shelter. This program will allow us to meet a need that we have not previously been able to meet. Our program will provide rapid rehousing for up to two years.
4. Ron Kimble, MHMR: Four new projects= rapid rehousing, navigation team, drop-in center, crisis transitional housing program. Hiring case managers and peer providers now.

**XVII. Updates from The Community**

1. Ricky Allen - Noticed a significant downturn in the number of veterans coming into the Veterans One Stop.
2. Crisis counseling program funded by CARES at MHMR. No eligibility requirements, available to anyone experiencing any stress because of COVID 19. Shaun will mail out flyers.
3. Cletha Tyler at Caritas – Will assist people who are unemployed or underemployed. Contact:CTyler@caritas-waco.org
4. Meredith from Salvation Army – We have kicked off the Christmas season. Tell clients to contact Salvation Army for more info. Have also started hiring bell ringers.

**XI. Adjournment 12:56 pm**

Notes Taken and Submitted by Melissa Ishio