**Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition Meeting Notes- April 16, 2021**

**12:00 pm via Zoom**

**I. Waiting Room Poll**

Have you been vaccinated yet? Vast majority are fully vaccinated, YEA!

**II. Meeting Minutes – Shaun**

1. Minutes emailed out in advance.
2. Motion made by Nicole and seconded by Kelsey to approve minutes. Poll launched and minutes approved.

**III. Financial Report - Shaun**

1. New balance is $9,113.43, Flash assistance total is $3933
2. Poll launched and minutes approved.

**IV. Guest – Tory Schafer, Health Insurance agent, broker and counselor**

**toryschafer@gmail.com (254)339- 6606**

A. How does the American Rescue Plan impact premiums?

1. Lower premiums for people who are currently eligible for APTCs (premium tax credits).

2. New APTC eligibility for higher-income people

3. Additional premium help for people who are unemployed

B. How does the American Rescue Plan affect 2020 APTC repayment?

1. Repayment forgiveness

2. Disregard of $10,200 in UI from income

C. Need to resubmit application in order to take advantage of this change. New rules went into effect on April 1.

**V. Spring Hope Homes – Karissa**

A. Opened first duplex and will sign for another duplex. Shared living situation, fee is $650 per person. Includes all utilities, including Wi-Fi. Goal is to create a shared housing home environment in a transitional housing type situation.

B. Now accepting adult men. Residents don’t leases, they sign contracts.

C. [www.springhopehomes.com](http://www.springhopehomes.com), 254-644-4754, [info@springhopehomes.com](mailto:info@springhopehomes.com) Gary & Beth Chiles

**VI. THN (Texas Homeless Network) Data Sharing**

A. Board approved joining the THN data sharing network

B. Most of our data is collected into HMIS. This network will provides statewide data sharing for all CoCs. Right now each CoC only has access to its own data.

C. Having all this data accessible can be very beneficial to all CoCs. 90% of Texas CoCs are currently a part of this initiative.

D. Data sharing will allow us to follow clients as they move from CoC to CoC and we will be able to see how our programs are performing compared to other programs across the state.

E. Poll launched, 100% agreement to join data sharing network

**VII. Monthly Resource Expert**

A. Last month cell phones was our topic. This month we are featuring the Amberly Collaborative and next month Indigent Health. Future ideas include getting birth certificates, IDS, others? Let Shaun know if you have an area of expertise that you would like to share.

B. Amberly Collaborative-Meg Wallace, meg@amberleycollaborative.org

1. Goal to help strengthen natural support systems available to those with significant disabilities in the community

2. We are now offering a Mental Health in Congregations online course online through MCC Continuing Educ. Next class starts May 25th  amberlycollaborative.org

3. Workshop on grief during COVID, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grief-in-covid-times-tickets-148646500685>

4. Lifelong help for people with disabilities course, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/financial-instruments-for-people-with-disabilities-tickets-149553970953>

5. In the future, we want to look at strengthening disability voice in the government and local organizations. We also want to provide one place for information about activities for those in the disability community.

**VIII. Updates**

A. Texans Recovering Together can provide services related to COVID and the winter storm. Contact Vince Erickson for more info.

B. Let Shaun know if your organization has updates.

**XIII. Adjournment 12:52 pm**

Notes Taken and Submitted by Melissa Ishio