



Continuum of Care Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2023
3:00 – 5:00 PM

The following agenda items may only sometimes be considered in the order they appear.

1. Call to Order

President Leilah Powell called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

2. **Attendance:** Leilah Powell, Abe Capetillo, Phil Beckett, Roy Fletcher, Melody Woosley, Bobby Blanton, Jack Tsai, Tyler Shoemith, Greg Zlotnick, Cristina Noriega, La Juana Chambers Lawson, Benjamin Franklin, Nikisha Baker
Absent: Edward Johnson, Kameron Rhys
Guests:, Kim Jefferies, Nina Gall, Laura Montanez, Valerie Salas, Patrick Steck
Staff: Katie Wilson, Azhalia Ramirez, Dacey Werba, Richard Huron, Eboni Jett

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Board Member Recognition

- Honoring Leilah Powell

5. Homelessness Updates Roundtable

- Renaming Homeless Huddle
- SA to DC Updates
 - Leilah Powell provided an update on the SA to DC trip, mentioning that Letanya has been working on summarizing the national agenda items relevant to local work. Leilah expressed her intention to share these summaries with the group later. She noted that the advocacy focus usually revolves around non-controversial issues like the renewal and expansion of low-income housing tax credits, which has bipartisan support.
- United Way Meeting
 - Katie Wilson informed the board of the agenda planning session preceding the United Way meeting, there was discussion about the homeless huddle in the cities.
 - The board members discussed the idea of joining forces with the United Way to create a foundation and business subcommittee for the center
- Acequia Trails Project
 - Nisha Baker shared an update on SAMM being conditionally awarded housing bond funds from the city of San Antonio to develop a 200-unit site-based permanent supportive housing project named "The Commons at S&P Trails." This project is planned on a 55-acre tract of land adjacent to the state hospital site along the Exquisite Trails Waterway. Nikisha requested support from anyone



who believes in the impact of permanent supportive housing. Public meetings will be held in Bear County for residents to learn about the project, express their concerns, and provide input.

- Community Health Collaborative
 - Phil Beckett informed the board members about the Community Health Improvement Plan run by Bear County Community Health Collaborative. This plan focuses on health improvement and identifies three priorities that would significantly impact health: family and kids, behavioral/mental health, and housing. The collaborative went through a thorough process of prioritizing upstream, midstream, and downstream actions within each of these categories.
- Texas Homeless Network
 - Phil Beckett informed the board members that the organization, which was on the brink of losing its centralized data due to financial constraints, has secured funding again.
- Homeless Strategic Plan 90 Families in 90 Days
 - Dacey Werba gave the Board members an update to the Alliance to House Everyone's strategic compensation plan during the last board meeting. The plan, focusing on four main outcomes, saw an adjustment in Outcome two to be more inclusive of families, acknowledging the crisis faced by families in San Antonio. Despite the committee not yet formally meeting to vote on the plan, they have swiftly conducted surveys of 99 families with the help of Haven, obtaining valuable information. Dacey emphasized the pressing need addressed by the initiative "90 Houses, 90 Families in 90 Days," which aims to prevent overflow issues and the potential turning away of families seeking housing, with the capacity to potentially house 200 families.
- 17th Annual Homeless Persons Memorial
 - Kim Jefferies shared information about the upcoming 17th annual Homeless Persons Memorial, scheduled for December 21, coinciding with the winter solstice. She noted that this year's memorial would commemorate the lives of 315 individuals who passed away while homeless, reflecting an almost 100% increase from the previous year's count of 164. Kim extended an invitation for community support at the memorial event in Highland Park, emphasizing the importance of remembering and honoring those who faced homelessness and passed away during the year.

This is an opportunity to share your updates on housing and homelessness

CLOSE TO HOME NONPROFIT BUSINESS

6. Consent Items

- Minutes from October 26, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting  (p. 5-18)
Motion Tyler Shoemith Second Abe Capetillo Abstain None Passed Yes
- October Financial Reports  (p. 19-23)
Motion Roy Fletcher Second Phil Beckett Abstain None Passed Yes



7. FY2024 Fiscal Budget  (p. 24)

Motion Roy Fletcher Second Tyler Shoesmith Abstain None Passed Yes

8. 2024 Calendar Meeting Dates

February 29th, 2024, 3 pm-5 pm

May 2nd, 2024, 3 pm- 5 pm (One week late)

June 27th, 2024, 3 pm- 5 pm

August 29th, 2024, 3 pm- 5 pm

October 24th, 2024, 3 pm- 5 pm (One week early)

December 12th, 2024, 3 pm- 5 pm (Early due to Holidays)

Motion Abe Capetillo Second La Juana Chambers Lawson Abstain None Passed Yes

9. Board Member Re-election: Greg Zlotnick

Motion Leilah Powell Second Phil Beckett Abstain Greg Zlotnick Passed Yes

10. Board Member Re-election: La Juana Chambers Lawson

Motion Leilah Powell Second Laura Montanez Abstain La Juana Chambers Lawson Passed Yes



11. Executive Member Election, President: La Juana Chambers Lawson

Motion Abe Capetillo Second Laura Montanez Abstain La Juana Chambers Lawson Passed Yes

12. Close to Home 2024 Strategic Compass – Katie Wilson 📎 (p. 25-32)

Katie Wilson provided an overview of Close to Home's strategic plan, known as the compass, which was initiated in 2021 and is entering its third year. She discussed some minor updates, particularly to the values section, based on ongoing conversations with staff about how to define better and express the organization's values. Changes included refining the language of empowering partners to emphasize meeting people where they are, adjusting resourceful problem solvers to highlight the importance of understanding and solving problems deeply, and introducing a new value, "all in," inspired by a discussion with Billy. The "all in" value emphasizes the commitment to ending homelessness and supporting each other within the community. Katie encouraged questions or discussions about these updates to the organization's compass.

Katie Wilson discussed revisiting the organization's goals as it enters the third year of the initial plan. The staff has compiled priorities based on the original plan, with the intention of engaging in a board process next year for a comprehensive reassessment. The approved Alliance priorities align with community priorities, focusing on building a thriving community of partners, leveraging data for continuous learning, and strengthening education advocacy efforts. She explained that there are plans to analyze the current homeless Strategic Plan progress, facilitate discussions for the next plan, implement a learning management system for partner training, and clarify the organization's role in addressing homelessness.

Motion Tyler Shoemith Second Melody Woosley Abstain None Passed Yes

13. Executive Director Report – Katie Wilson

CONTINUUM OF CARE BUSINESS

14. CoC and ESG Written Standards Updates – Dacey Werba 📎 (p. 33-92)

Dacey Werba provided an overview of the document, explaining to the board that it captures discussions held by the board over several months. Notable changes include the shift in name from Sarah to Close to Home. The document no longer contains outdated COVID-19 information, and anti-retaliation language and policies were added based on feedback from Ben, the president of the Youth Action Board. Other inclusions are details about the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) and Unsheltered Special CoC Grants, referred to as SNOFO. Requirements from HUD, specifically those of VAWA and INSPIRE, were also incorporated, aligning with COC and ESG funding guidelines. Dacey emphasized that the document undergoes review by the Homeless Strategic Planning Advisory Board, which consists of local



funders, to gather feedback and make necessary refinements.

Motion Tyler Shoesmith Second Melody Woosley Abstain None Passed Yes

15. Homeless Strategic Planning Advisory Board Report – Katie Wilson

16. Alliance to House Everyone Membership Council Report – Scott Ackerson (p. 93-94)

Nikisha Baker shared updates on the Membership Council's recent activities, commending Scott Ackerson and Azhalia Ramirez for their effective leadership in keeping the group organized. She noted that the Council has been actively conducting interviews with applicants who express interest in joining. Nikisha highlighted the agencies interviewed since Thanksgiving, emphasizing their commitment to full engagement in the Membership Council and dedication to advancing shared priorities. She found the conversation with the Student Nurses Association particularly intriguing. The enthusiasm of this young group of aspiring professionals, especially their interest in addressing homelessness within the sector, stood out as a noteworthy and positive development.

The board members discussed issues related to Monster Moms and their participation in scheduled interviews. Concerns were raised about their inconsistent attendance in the past and the need to consider conditional participation. The discussion included the possibility of designating them as associate members, allowing for mentoring and outreach before becoming full members. The board emphasized the importance of not giving away all privileges upfront, especially concerning HMIs access and licensing considerations.

The board acknowledged past concerns with Monster Moms, noting their efforts to improve but expressing reservations about their consistent commitment. The proposal was to grant conditional voting membership based on active engagement and participation.

- Form Communities
- Chrysalis Ministries
- Catholic Charities
- LISC
- Sun Curating Group LLC
- BSHP Student Nurses Association
- Boysville
- Bexar County Public Defenders Group

Motion Tyler Shoesmith Second La Juana Chambers Lawson Abstain None Passed Yes

- Membership Council Code of Conduct  (p. 95-96)



Motion Tyler Shoosmith Second Abe Capetillo Abstain None Passed Yes

- Next Membership Council Meeting: January 30, 2024

17. Youth Action Board Report (YAB) Report – Benjamin Franklin

- YAB 2024 Goals

Azhalia Ramirez mentioned that the YAB is actively engaged in recruitment efforts and will soon be reviewing new applications. Looking ahead to 2024, the YAB is in the process of discussing their goals, which include rebuilding a presence at the Thrive Youth Center, participating in various training sessions on the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) and the homeless response system, as well as aiming to recruit and retain six new member

- YAB Thrive Youth Center Fundraiser Update

Azhalia Ramirez provided an update on the Youth Action Board's recent fundraiser for the Thrive Youth Center, which turned out to be highly successful. The YAB received generous donations in the form of gift cards and new clothing items. In addition to supporting the Thrive Youth Center, the YAB also collected used clothing items for Haven for Hope, successfully delivering them.

- Next YAB meeting: January 16, 2024

18. Lived Expertise Advisory Board (LEAB) Report – Valerie Salas

- Self-Care Project with Because Yoga Update

Valerie Salas shared updates on the Expo held on December 1, which proved to be an outstanding event. The expo catered specifically to frontline outreach workers and case managers, offering them a rejuvenating experience. A survey was circulated to gather feedback, and the responses have been overwhelmingly positive. Valerie expressed the emotional impact of witnessing these frontline workers being pampered and the genuine excitement it generated among them.

- 2024 Goals

Valerie highlighted that the LEAB members received various trainings on the Homeless Response System and system thinking, enabling them to provide valuable feedback to the Continuum of Care. Additionally, the LEAB members has been actively working on creating and implementing new policies and procedures. Notably, there is a strong emphasis on making self-care a central focus and transforming it into a movement. The idea of quarterly self-care initiatives might sound ambitious, but Valerie conveyed that the positive experience from the Real Estate Investor Expo has inspired this vision for the future.


- Next LEAB meeting: January 16, 2024




Coordinated Entry (CE) Lead Business

19. Coordinated Entry Lead Report – Eboni Jett  (p. 97-101)

20. Homeless Response System Advisory Committee Report – Patrick Steck

- Homelink Performance Report  (p. 102-103)
- Training Framework Update
- Street Outreach Written Standards Updates
- Next Homeless Response System Advisory Committee Meeting: January 10, 2024

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Business

21. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Report – Nina Gall  (p. 104)

22. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) & Data Advisory Committee Report – Phil Beckett

- 2024 Point-in-Time Count Methodology Updates
- Next HMIS & Data Advisory Committee Meeting: January 31, 2024

23. Topics for February 29th, 2024, Board Meeting

24. Announcements

25. Adjournment

President Leilah Powell adjourned the meeting at 5:02 pm.