



**South Plains Homeless Consortium
Minutes of the Consortium Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2005
Meeting at the South Plains Food Bank**

Present:

Name	Organization
Anthony Lopez	MNV
Becky Haskett	VA
Bob Terrell	WorkSource of the South Plains
Debbie Edwards	Dept. of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Debra Flores	CHCL
Debra Rogers	Children's Home of Lubbock
Dorothy Bukowski	LCMHMR
Elena Lopez	MNV
Gary Frye	Lubbock Cooper ISD
Ione Heartsill	LIHN
Janet Harvey	MHMR
R. J. Withrow	independent
Shirley Terrell	Independent
Vanessa Parker	RN – CM Covenant
Wilson Perry	Full Armour Church
Ken Martin	Texas Homeless Network

Bob Terrell, President, presiding; meeting started at 12:13

Bob began by introducing Ken and giving a brief overview of Ken's morning presentation on the development of a Continuum of Care Plan

Members introduced themselves

Minutes of the April meeting were distributed and approved.

Treasurers Report:

We currently have \$2552.53 in the treasury.

Old Business:

- Becky asked where we were on calling agencies. Bob said he had tried several times to reach Adalaide to get the list of agencies to be contacted, but had not yet heard from her. No one from the membership committee was present at this meeting to give a response.
- Debra Flores asked the purpose of the membership committee. Bob and Becky responded that committee was established to identify agencies who provide assistance to homeless individuals, to strengthen the consortium and to identify the services that are available within the community.
- Bob stated that although a strategic planning committee has been established, leadership was never identified and the group has not met. Debra R. was to have contacted Joe R. to see if he would lead the group but Joe has been out of town a lot lately and they have not made contact. It was suggested that since Joe is overseeing the membership committee that he not be asked to do the Strategic Planning as well. A Strategic Planning Committee was formed last year and met several times during the summer. We still have



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the notes from that group. Bob asked for that group to continue the work they started. The group was unable to complete their work because they had not information from the needs assessment committee. It was decided that Janet Harvey will head this group. Members include Debra Rogers, Debra Flores, Debbie Edwards, Shirley Terrell and Russell Harris. They will meet from 1:00 – 5:00 on Monday, May 9 at MHMR.

- Becky suggested we ask Glenn Cochran, head of the United Way, to be a part of the Consortium and the assist with the community needs assessment.
- We need accurate membership information, survey information and a strategic plan to begin writing the COC grant proposal. There is a shortage of beds in Lubbock for single males and for families with children. All information and supporting data must be handed into Gary by the end of May. Gary must have the proposal completed by June 10. We will all need to be able to dedicate several hours a week to get things ready.

New Business:

- The street count, held on April 25, yielded a very low count. There were 43 people interviewed and 17 others counted for a total of 60 people identified.
- Several problems were listed with the count night: (1) The weather was very pleasant so there was little need for people to come in to shelters. (2) We had sent out flyers to let homeless individuals know about the count and to solicit their help. A rumor was started that this was a sting operation and many people left their regular spots to hide for the evening. (3) The police warned the volunteers not to go to certain areas where there count be drug activity – some of those areas also have a number of homeless individuals. (4) The agency survey was not held that night, providing no count of people in shelters.
- We will be calling agencies to get a count from that night. Ken suggested we also ask about count numbers for a day in January and an average monthly count of people served. The official count number for the street count and the shelter count must be on the same day, but the other numbers can give you supplemental data. Shirley volunteered to make those calls. She will conduct a membership survey at the same time. Vanessa and Becky will help with the survey. They will begin by going through the most current Red Book.
- Becky asked if halfway houses count, stating that there were at least 40 individuals she knew of that were housed that night. Ken replied that those individuals are not considered homeless if they are required (court mandated) to be there. Becky stated that most of the folks there are there voluntarily. Ken said those people would count.
- Bob stated that an incomplete agency survey was conducted in February. We are just learning how to do this. We must do a better job next year and will start in October to make plans for the January count. All the data that is collected will be accessible to member agencies to use for other grants. We are trying to build a structure for future building.
- Debra F. stated that CHCL is required to do a community survey and that they have a completed survey with over 50 agencies identifies. This would help with the needs assessment. Janet stated that they also do surveys and participate in other surveys. She too will help collect data from surveys that have already been done.



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- Ken suggested that we work closely with the city as they are working on their consolidated plan. He stated most cities welcome the input and will include your data and strategic plan in the city plan.
- Gary suggested that when funds become available the Consortium hire Shirley. He stated Cooper ISD will donate office space for her to work. Since the funds are not currently available, there was no further discussion on this point.
- Anthony Lopez, visiting attendee, asked how he and his church could become more involved. His church wanted to feed homeless and he was concerned about liabilities. Ken replied there is no problem if you want to feed people. Debra suggested Anthony talk to the people at the Food Bank about becoming part of their program.
- We regularly do not meet in July, but since we have so much work to do, it was decided that we will not take a summer break.

Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1 at the Salvation Army. . Details will follow by e-mail.If you would like to be on the agenda, email Bob at bob.terrell@twc.state.tx.us. Or Debra at drogers@childshome.org

Adjourned at 1:10