



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

**Wednesday, November 2, 2005
Meeting at the Salvation Army**

Present:

Name	Organization
Bob Terrell	WorkSource of the South Plains
Debra Rogers	Children's Home of Lubbock
Becky Haskett	VA OPC
Shirley Terrell	Independent
Russell Harris	LIFE / RUN
Wanda Merritt	HUD
Gary Lee Frye	Lubbock Cooper ISD
Jim Fuller	Lubbock Cooper ISD
Mary Guetersloh	HOPE
Andrew Tolbert	HOPE
Regie Davis	AACCL
Melissa Benitez	CHCL
Diane Hudson	Salvation Army
Janet Harvey	Lubbock MHMR

Bob Terrell, President, presiding; meeting started at 12:05

Minutes of the October meeting were distributed and approved.

Treasurers Report:

We currently have \$2381.53 in the treasury. Report was approved

Information on Responses to Hurricane Evacuees

- Bob conveyed a report from Judy Norton (SPCA). Last year they had \$30,000 to help families. That money has been diverted. They are currently housing 7 families that are Katrina/Rita victims. They have housing, but no furniture. They have been unable to get help from FEMA because they are a private agency. Mary suggested that Judy call her daughter, Terry at Westmark Reality (794-5800) They currently have one house full of furniture and often have other sources of furniture with people moving and leaving some of their things.
- The Hope and Help organization is spearheading services to evacuees
- There are approximately 140 persons relocated in Lubbock. The big question is what happens after 6 months, when the FEMA funds run out.
- Wanda stated that she is on conference calls every other day. They are already starting evictions in Dallas. She stated part of the problem was that families were placed in \$850 apartments and the funds were being depleted more quickly than projected.



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Old Business:

- Gary reminded agencies that the time was approaching to prepare for the Emergency Shelter grant and that to do so, agencies must have a person who has experienced homelessness on their board or policy deciding body.
- Bob emphasized the need to firm up committees. Strategic planning and priorities are essential. He surveyed committees who were represented to get a brief report of their progress.
- Gary emphasized the need for wish list from each agency. This will not only be helpful to the Strategic Planning, but will help as we come across different funding sources. Gary will be serving as a primary contact for funding sources. Bob will send out an e-mail asking agencies for this information.
- There is a great need to create and keep current membership information. We particularly need information to go to the directors and boards.
- We discussed the need and possibilities for funding an HMIS. It was suggested that participating members help fund this project. Bob will investigate what that costs will be.

New Business:

- Report from the THN (Texas Homeless Network) conference.: Bob, Shirley and Gary were able to attend. Bob distributed a packet of materials from the conference, particularly concerning the “Housing First” project. He reported that part of the aftermath of the hurricanes was many, including legislators were questioning why there were so many homeless. He suggested that now, when the interest was high, that there would be a greater emphasis on addressing homeless issues.
- Bob reported on the Housing First project. He stated that often Social Services actually contribute to the housing problem. People who become dependent on service continue to cycle through the system. (see hand-outs) Get people into housing first to stabilize them so that you can build relationships to assist them in finding resources needed. The agency will not only help the individuals, but will “run interference” for landlords so that they are more willing to accept clients as tenants.
- Bob presented a calendar for the Consortium
- Bob announced that the Board and interested members had met on October 26 and had agreed to pursue the COC grant through the Balance of State funds. This will give us access to grant writers and data from people who have been successful in receiving COC funds. The homeless count survey must be held on January 24 to coincide with the rest of the state. Bob urged everyone to be thinking now about specific projects and priorities for next year.
- Orlando (HUD) wants to have a SRO (single room occupancy) facility in the building across the street from the Salvation Army. This would be managed by the Salvation Army. Diane and Shirley have completed a study and found that 280 clients cycle through the shelter at the Salvation Army. About 80% of those have a dual diagnosis – usually mental illness and substance abuse

Announcements:

- Debra Flores announced that there is a National Homeless Memorial Day December 21st. We will be considering what we can do at the officers meeting Nov 16th.
- The resource book that SPAG is producing should be ready soon



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Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7. Due to the Christmas rush at Salvation Army, the meeting will be held at the WorkSource of the South Plains, pending approval. 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 1:15