



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

**Wednesday, February 1, 2006
Meeting at the Salvation Army**

Present:

Name	Organization
Bob Terrell	WorkSource of the South Plains
Debra Rogers	Children's Home of Lubbock
Janet Harvey	LRMHMR
Shirley Terrell	Independent
Jessica Knight	Tech Grad student
Miguel Rincon	HUD
Regji Davis	AACCL
Brendon Kelly	City of Lubbock
Kristi Ward	Advocacy, Inc
Andrew Trevino	Advocacy, Inc
Becky Haskitt	V A Outpatient
Anesha Majeed	LIFE / RUN
Nancy Penland	LIFE / RUN
Connie Hindman	Family Promise
Wanda Merritt	HUD
Mary Guetersloh	HOPE
Alice White	TTU System PR
Morgan Mercer	TTU Service Learning

Bob Terrell, President, presiding; meeting started at 12:10

Introductions of members, new members and visitors

Minutes of the January meeting were distributed. They were not discussed or approved at this time.

Treasurers Report:

We currently have \$2252.53 in the treasury. \$281.00 was spent on pizza for the homeless count and survey. Diane reported there was also \$18 and change in petty cash left from the check that was requested from that evening. The report was approved.

Activity: Debra led the group in the game "Win As Much As You Can" to emphasize the need for all agencies to support each other and work together to bring the necessary funds into Lubbock.



South Plains Homeless Consortium Minutes of the Consortium Meeting

Old Business:

- Debra presented a preliminary report from the Homeless Survey. A copy of that report is attached.
 - Discussion:
 - Becky asked about the Alcohol Recovery Center. Shirley stated they, and the other agencies with numbers missing, had not yet replied.
 - Question: Why was Faith Center not included? Answer: they do not deal with homeless people:
 - Question: Why is ----(men's alcohol center)- not covered? Answer: It is combined with Walker House. Those numbers are counted under Managed Care which manages both centers.
 - Question: "What constitutes 'on the street'?" Miguel explained the definitions according to HUD. He stated there needed to be a consistent definition across Federal agencies. There are currently discussions happening about those definitions, but he does not expect any changes coming soon.
 - Question: Becky asked if we could talk to Adelaide to get a number of homeless children from LISD
 - Alice suggested that, even if we can't use all the numbers for the COC grant, we can and should be using the data to raise public awareness.
 - Miguel brought us additional problems in the community concerning the Hurricane evacuees. He stated we are seeing more extended family units living together. Several families are displaced at once. The problem our region is facing is available space.
 - Question: What is the attitude of the police toward homeless in Lubbock? Several explained that the police do not seem to pose a problem. They do clear our homeless individuals from public places occasionally, but do not harass them or destroy their shelters. They will arrest individuals for inhabiting abandoned buildings and for any other criminal activity, such as drug use. Wanda suggested that the next time we have a count police be invited to ride along so that we can go into more dangerous areas to count.
- The Emergency Shelter Grant Application was discussed. The deadline for the grant is March 1. At this time the Children's Home of Lubbock and Family Promise are the only agencies considering applying.

New Business:

- Bob discussed several hand-outs for people helping hurricane victims. (see attachments) Of particular interest was allowing the use of federal property to assist groups.
- A new website is included in the hand-out to provide good information and publications for supportive housing for families.

Announcements:

- Nancy stated the funding for permanent supportive housing through LIFE / RUN is coming to an end. They do have homestead vouchers for those losing housing.



South Plains Homeless Consortium Minutes of the Consortium Meeting

- Alice talked about the power of Service Learning. Morgan Mercer is overseeing this at Tech. She has faculty behind her in every field that can provide armies of student to help with service projects. Business cards and information was distributed.
- Mary stated someone from the University Daily is interested in creating ties between the SPHC and Tech.
- Bob discussed service of Texas WorkSource. He stated that individual seeking employment can double or even triple their job possibilities with a GED. It was noted that some people cannot get a GED. There was a discussion of getting more people involved in adult education.
- Connie announced that their new name, Family Promise, has taken effect. There will be a reception to officially publicize the name on February 21 at 10:00 at 1319 15th Steet. Connie explained that her agency provides temporary shelter for homeless adults with children, along with case management to help them get back on their feet. She said they have a monthly lunch meeting called “Restoring Hope” to provide information about the agency. It is held the first Thursday every month, the day after our consortium meeting.
- Reggie announced there would be free income tax assistance at the old Spear Building on Ave. Q for families that make under \$31,000 - \$38,000 (unsure of exact amount) for a family of 3. The turn-around time would be a couple of weeks. Call Family Finance Court at 744-9559 for additional information.
- Nancy announced they have funds at Life/RUN for energy assistance for gas and electricity. Persons applying must be between 18 and 59, be low income, and must have or have someone in the household with a disability. Individuals 60 years and over can get assistance through Neighborhood House.
- Miguel told the group HUD was reregistering about 100 hurricane evacuees to eliminate double payments for those receiving housing funds and remaining in hotels. Initial payments were for critical items, not rent. Recipients must show receipts for items purchased with funds already received. Lubbock Hope and Health is coordinating these efforts with area churches and agencies.

Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, at the Salvation Army, 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 1:20