



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

**Wednesday, September 1, 2004,  
Meeting at the WorkSource of the South Plains**

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Adelaida Montemayor	Lubbock ISD
Alex Torres	Self
Alice Garcia	SPAG/AAA
Allen Yeadon	MHMR
Becky Haskitt	VA Outpatient Clinic
Bob Terrell	WorkSource of the South Plains
Daniel Atencio	Basin Detox
Debra Rogers	Children's Home of Lubbock
Donna Ulrich	Looking
Doug Chapman	First United Methodist.
Elsie F. DeLeon	HHSC Formerly DHS
Estella Salazar	Community Health Center of Lubbock
Ione Heartsill	Lubbock Interfaith Hospitality Network
Regji Davis	African American COC
Wanda Merritt	HUD

**Minutes of the Meeting:**

- Alice Garcia, President, presiding; meeting started at 12:13.

**Minutes:**

- Minutes of the August meeting were approved.

**Treasurers Report:**

- Diane was not present, but there has been no major changes in the last month.

**New Business (Strategic Planning Committee):**

- We are getting close to the end our program year (end of December). We should all be thinking about who to elect for officers for the next term. Treasurer is still good, terms for Bob (secretary), Alice (Chair), and Donna (Vice Chair) are up, and we will need nominations. Alice's agency is being debated now, so she will be too busy to continue. We are all busy, and do a lot of important things in the community, and we can do a lot more in the future. Elections will be in December, and we need a plan for moving into the first of the year with a new plan.
- Donna emailed a message to several people about a meeting last week with Judge Tom Head and his concerns for the homeless community. Judge Head was advocating the dissolution of the Lubbock County General Assistance. Due to the discussion, even before the meeting started he realized that is not possible. He wanted to put a lot of the responsibility on the Faith-Based organizations, and create an organization for that. Donna gave a pitch for the South Plains Homeless



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Consortium. They decided that they would all come to the October meeting, and make short presentations about their organizations and their funding sources. One of the problems is duplication of services, and making people go around to multiple agencies for little services here and there. Donna talked about the Continuum of Care, and Judge Head did not know that the \$1.3 million was available.

- Ione: Judge Head invited the Faith-based people for a meeting a month ago. His contention is that The County consumes too much money in overhead, and is not getting it to the people who need it. In addition, no one is teaching these people how to get out of their problem and their poverty. Ione got to talk about how our work is where we work directly with the people and what the real problems are.
- Alice: Last week they had a homeless individual and had to negotiate with other agencies to take care of him. Example of collaborative action that we need to foster.
- Ione: Judge Head asked how they could give County funds to programs like LIHN to cover issues more effectively.
- Adelaida: Lubbock county assistance has very stringent rules for eligibility. They spoke in front of the commissioners about how to service these people. Lots of money was turned back because it was not used, and that is why they think that there is no problem with homelessness in Lubbock.
- Donna: This is an opportunity to build a cooperative relationship with the county and get efforts going.
- Doug: He got the impression and the idea that the County was trying to reduce their expenditure in this area. A positive experience could be them directing money toward our Continuum of Care pursuit.
- Adelaida: There is a tendency in the area to privatize this work.
- Ione: this goes along with the general movement of giving the money to the grass roots organizations. Judge Head said he would have to talk to the attorneys about some of these possibilities.
- Debra: Even support from his office, like secretary time, can be used as In Kind match for the Continuum of Care.
- Doug is encouraged about his connection with the Pray Lubbock group. We could use money over the next 12 months to build a coalition and write the Continuum of Care. We can also network to other groups, including congregations, and we will be able to help poor clients better.
- Debra: Before we apply for the CoC, we need to prepare our Continuum of Service, put that plan together so we understand our total system here in Lubbock. We need to understand where we are and what we need to do the CoC.
- Doug: Will we be one of the groups at the Faith-Based conference?
- Wanda: there is a slot available.
- Ione: suggestion that we have people put down their services when they register.
- Wanda: We can put that together.
- Ione: What really helps people is relationships, and not money. Some churches are taking on only one or two poor families.



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- Debra: Churches are not really prepared for the problems they are being faced with, and providing them with training on how to refer on services will help a lot.
- Bob: we needed to put together a brochure
- Estella: last year ... put together a laminated folder of services. She asked for everyone to give her information, and got no response. She handed out some of these.
- Bob: could we expend some of our funds to get these laminates published and distributed to our agencies?
- Alice: AAA no longer assists only people over 60, they can also assist people who are younger and disabled.
- Doug: If someone were to come and drop \$30K in our lap, for us to hire someone to create a Continuum of Care person? Ione: we need to have a committee to write a job description. Doug is looking for funds for this.
- Ione: Junior League gives out some money and volunteers.
- Doug: What is the status of Contact Lubbock: Chorus: We don't know. Estella: 211 is now gone, 211 now goes to Midland. Contact Lubbock no longer has a director, but they do plan on replacing him.
- Alice: Should we add more to the CHCL handout? Alice has their database that is almost identical to Contact Lubbock, but they don't have manpower to check its validity. She proposes that we add more to the CHCL handout.
- Donna: we need to get Joe in because the city will publish things like this. Christina's email address is [ccavarubio@chcl.tachc.org](mailto:ccavarubio@chcl.tachc.org) for corrections. Adelaida will email information on homeless services with the schools. Bob will email changes to this information to the consortium. We will edit on this via email, Bob will set this up.
- (AFTER MEETING NOTE: After the meeting was over, Estella came back with Debra Flores. They were upset that there had been a lot of criticism of the handout, including the errors that had been made. They pointed out that they had emailed a request for everyone to check the information and reply, and they received absolutely no replies.
- This incident illustrates the stress that every one of our agencies is under. Due to the economic conditions, we all have a much larger client load. We also have our staffs struggling just to keep funding so they can stay open. But we do need to respond to instances like this that would take very little time, so that we can create some forward progress.
- On behalf of the Consortium, I would like to thank the people over at CHCL for taking the initiative and putting out the flyer. They did a good job; we should have supported them better in their effort. They stated that they will continue to hand out the list as is, under their logo)
- Bob will contact THN and see about their support for a website for us. (NOTE: Bob checked, and THN will provide a link to our website, but they do not support websites. I am looking for other places).

### Announcements

- Wanda: Faith-based conference September 28, with pre-conference training on locating grants. Wanda handed out flyers. This registration can be faxed to us.



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Last year they had about 250 people. We may get another one in the mail, they are going to the printer today. There will be tables at the conference for us to put out literature.

- Ione: Breakfast at Bacon Heights Baptist Thursday Sept 30, 7:00 to 8:00.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 6, at the South Plains Food Bank. The Faith-based group will be here, so be prepared that the meeting will last longer than normal. If you want to be on agenda, email Alice at [aggarcia@spag.org](mailto:aggarcia@spag.org) or Bob Terrell at [bob.terrell@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:bob.terrell@twc.state.tx.us).
- Anyone that wants to present their agency, please email Bob or Alice.
- Bob will email minutes.

### **Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 1:25.