



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

**Wednesday, October 6, 2004,
Meeting at the WorkSource of the South Plains**

Present:

Name	Organization
Bob Terrell	WorkSource of the South Plains
Carolyn Casey	Church on the Rock
Debra Rogers	Children's Home of Lubbock
Devon Casey	DSHS
Diane Gurule-Salazar	Lubbock County General Assistance
Donna Ulrich	
Eric Carmichael	KOG Storehouse
Estela Salazar	Community Health Center of Lubbock
Gary Frye	Lubbock Cooper ISD
Ione Heartsill	Lubbock Interfaith Hospitality Network
Janet Harvey	Lubbock Regional MHMR
Joe Rangel	City of Lubbock
Liz Lewark	Kingdom Builders
Mark Johnston	Ki Corp
Mary Guetersloh	COVE
Miguel C. Rincon	HUD
Steve Doles	Pray Lubbock
Tom Head	Lubbock County
Tricia Vowels	DSHS
Vanessa R. Parker	Covenant Medical
Wanda C. Merritt	HUD
Winnie Jackson	HHSC

Minutes of the Meeting:

- Donna Ulrich, Vice President, presiding; meeting started at 12:18.
- Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Treasurers Report:

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

New Business:

- Judge Head talked concerning the programs he came to discuss. He was considering eliminating the County General Assistance fund, because so much goes to overhead, and so little goes to support people dealing with homelessness. The faith-based and social services let him know very quickly that we need every bit of help we can get. Judge Head talked discussed getting the faith-based agencies involved in these issues to because they can be more efficient and more effective in providing services to this population.



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- Ione talked about the rise of requests for services for homeless families with children. It used to be that she had to turn away 30-40 requests a month. That has risen to the point that now she is turning down 90 requests a month, so the needs are going up among families with children. Everyone else agreed.
- Judge Head asked about the Continuum of Care plan, and stated that he would like to put together a computer system to help provide services and resources all across the community.
- Mark Johnson of Ki Corp spoke up, and stated that they would be able to put together such a system.
- Bob Terrell covered the history of HMIS, CoC, and other history (below).
- We looked at putting in an HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) last year, and had a couple of companies give us online demos. One company from Tarrant County came out to talk to us about it. We were not able to move forward, primarily because of a lack of funding, and a lack of structure. One of the primary issues with such a cross-community system, is that it is illegal to share information between agencies unless you get the client to sign agreement that such information sharing is okay. Our agencies deal with that all the time. The Tarrant county group set up such an agreement, and their HMIS system is based on that.
- Bob covered that we attempted a Continuum of Care grant last year. The South Plains region, 15 counties, is eligible for \$1.3 million in HUD funding. \$850,000 is available for the City of Lubbock, and \$350,000 is available for the counties around us. We attempted the grant, and found that none of the agencies was able to come up with the match. We probably did not explore the use of In-Kind match sufficiently. Someone stated that Houston is using our money. We also do not have an adequate organizational structure to be able to handle such a grant. The SuperNOFA announcing these grants usually comes out in the March-April time frame.
- Gary covered the CCS grant for a grants writer. This is \$50,000 available for hiring a grants writer specifically to build infrastructure. The grant is simple, only 8 pages, and we should go for it this next March when it is announced. Getting such a grant would give us a good start on creating the infrastructure we need, and also a good start on having a grants writer to head up the Continuum of Care grant.
- Our situation is that we can get a grants writer with the \$50,000 CCS grant, and we have the \$1,300,000 CoC grant available also. This would allow us to build up a really good set of programs for handling homeless issues here in Lubbock, for those who are formally homeless. We have a very large issue with “couch homeless,” people who move from household to household and are not out on the street. This issue cannot be addressed with the CoC grant because of the way they count homeless, which is street homeless. We have a large faith-based community getting interested in these issues, and now we have a format, and funding, for building infrastructure around it.



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Other Discussions:

- Wanda handed out the resources list that was collected at the Faith-based and community conference. There are 60 names on the list, most not in our membership. Bob will get them on the email list.
- We went around the table and had everyone give brief program descriptions. Bob did not do a good job of getting that down, and thinks we might ought to get a secretary that has better hearing.
- We are getting close to the end our program year (end of December). We should all be thinking about whom to elect for officers for the next term. Treasurer is still good (Diane). The terms for Bob (secretary), Alice (Chair), and Donna (Vice Chair) are up, and we will need nominations.

Announcements

- Miguel: HUD is starting a Customer Service. They will be sending out a survey: Please respond.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 3rd, at the South Plains Food Bank. If you want to be on agenda, email Alice at aggarcia@spag.org or Bob Terrell at bob.terrell@twc.state.tx.us.
- Debra: at the August meeting, Please send in the agency needs surveys.
- Anyone that wants to present their agency, please email Bob or Alice.
- Bob will email minutes.

Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 1:30.