



Continuum of Care Membership Council Meeting Agenda
Thursday, May 27, 2021
2:30 – 4:00PM

The following agenda items may not necessarily be considered in the order they appear.

Attendance (as indicated in chat)

Kennedy Watson, TX State	Brandon Trevino, TX State
Madeline Carrola, SARA	Chelsey Viger, SARA
Stancil Barton, TX State	Marc Wonder, COSA DHS
Zachariah Woodard, SAHA	Patricia Palomo, SARA
Nina Gall, HMIS	Karen Green, H4H
Lamar Elliott, HUD VASH	Scott Ackerson, Prospera
Nikisha Baker, SAMM	Dacey Werba, SARA
Jessica Elizondo, SAMM	Annie Erickson, Endeavors
Darrin Speer, TX State	Clarissa Fernandez, Endeavors
Marcos Carmona, COSA DHS	Katie Vela, SARA
John Gauna, H4H	Valerie Finley, FVPS
Alberto Rodriguez, H4H	Nikisha Baker, SAMM
Devon Maddox, SVDP	Tyler Shoesmith, NEISD
Jozi Flournoy, AACoG	George Patrin, Serendipity Alliance
Molly Biglari, H4H	Abel Aguilar, FVPS
Celia Garcia, TSA	Lizbeth Alvarez, SAAF
Veronica Arroyo, Endeavors	Billy Mahone, SARA
Morgan Santana, Helen's Project	Crystal Grafft, COSA NHSD
Anjena Young, Helen's Project	Gay Lynn Schwenk, SAMM
Ana Zendejas, Endeavors	Marisela Garcia, SAAF
Dr. Azza Kamal, SARA	Robert Galan, TSA
Mike Rivas, SAFB	Tia Moen, HFCC
Jordan Nelson, SARA	Chris Plauche (HFCC/CWH)
Gavin Rogers, Corazon Ministries	Jack Tsai, UT School of Public Health

1. Call to Order

- a. Scott Ackerson called the meeting to order at 2:34pm.

2. Introductions

- a. Scott Ackerson, Membership Council Chair
- b. Nikisha Baker, Membership Council Service Director At-Large



3. Membership Council Leadership Vision – Scott Ackerson & Nikisha Baker

- a. Scott Ackerson and Nikisha Baker would like to see SARAH take leadership in looking at policy and upstream prevention and mitigating issues of poverty, institutional racism, and historical oppression.

4. Welcome Sueños Sin Fronteras – SARAH

- a. The CoC Board recently approved Sueños Sin Fronteras as a new Membership Council agency. They are focused on improving health outcomes for immigrant and undocumented women. They are also focused on housing strategies and plan to attend the Housing Strategies Workgroup.

5. Public Comment

- a. None

6. Approve Minutes from March 25, 2021

Motion Marc Wonder Second Tyler Shoesmith Abstain None Approved Yes

7. Youth Access Points Study – Texas Location Solutions (TLS)

- a. SARAH hosted interns from Texas Location Solutions (TLS) who completed a research project on proposed youth access points according to location data on youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

8. Proposed Nonprofit and Governance Bylaws Edits – SARAH

- a. Most proposed edits are minor and formatting related.
- b. Notable proposed revisions:
 - i. Dissolving vice chair role and renaming the Service Director at-Large as Vice Chair.



- ii. One voting representative for each Membership Council agency (from 4 voting representatives); ability to designate a proxy.
- iii. No comment from Membership Council. This item will move forward to the CoC Board.

9. CoC Board of Directors Meeting Report – SARAH

- a. COSA Homeless Strategic Plan
 - i. The COSA Homeless Strategic Plan has been adopted as the CoC's homeless plan.
- b. Street Outreach Standards
 - i. The Coordinated Entry (CE) Advisory Committee will become the CE Advisory and Outreach Committee. The Outreach Case Conferencing group will be new and fall under this Committee.
 - ii. The Veteran Homelessness Workgroup will transition to case conferencing and will also be housed under this Committee.
- c. Rapid Rehousing Standards
 - i. The CoC Board approved the RRH-specific written standards. Agencies are not expected to follow those standards immediately; an implementation plan is being developed.
- d. New Board member – Jack Tsai, UTHealth School of Public Health
 - i. Dr. Jack Tsai is the CoC's newest Board member. He is also the HMIS Advisory Committee Co-Chair.

10. American Rescue Plan – SARAH

- a. Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)



- i. About 300 EHVs were distributed to SAHA and HABC. These vouchers are earmarked for people at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. SARAH has meetings scheduled with SAHA and HABC to discuss the allocation. HUD also waived a lot of the requirements that typically apply to vouchers.
- b. Department of Education
 - i. The U.S. Department of Education also received funding. Note that funding could potentially be used for families experiencing homelessness (hotel/motel).
 - ii. According to education technical assistance, the Texas legislature has not yet determined the eligible uses.
- c. Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
 - i. The COSA and Bexar County received more prevention funding.

11. Workgroup Reports

- a. **Youth Homelessness Workgroup** – Tyler Shoesmith and Mandy Tyler
 - i. The Youth Homelessness Workgroup is looking at the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) and recently discussed the needs and goals for the Workgroup.
- b. **Housing Strategies Workgroup** – Sara Wamsley
 - i. In Sara's absence, Madeline Carrola reported that the Workgroup is working with SAHA to get information out to Housing Choice Voucher landlords about PLACE and the benefits of working with SARAH on housing.

- ii. The Co-Chair position is open. Apply [here](#).
- iii. Devon Maddox noted that two clients were evicted during the pandemic and that landlords are not approving applicants for tenancy because of recent evictions. He queried as to how to have conversations with landlords. He offered [this model](#) as a potential one for this community.
 - 1. Scott Ackerson affirmed that it is a good policy discussion to have with the city.
 - a. The COSA coordinates the Housing Huddle discussion bi-weekly. Katie Vela can bring up this issue at the meeting tomorrow.
- c. **Veteran Workgroup** – Marc Wonder and John Gauna
 - i. The new SO standards are transitioning this group to case conferencing. The group is looking at returning to face-to-face meetings in June.
 - ii. Female veterans have limited access to health care. The group will host the Pink Berets at a meeting to try and develop an outreach type of mental health service where staff can go directly to shelters or an individual's home.
 - 1. Endeavors would be happy to participate in that meeting.
 - 2. If you need phone numbers on the VA side, contact [Jack Tsai](#).
- d. **Family Homelessness Workgroup** – Teshina Carter



- i. The Family Homelessness Workgroup will be dissolved, and its priorities will be aligned with Housing Strategies Workgroup to prevent duplication of work.
- e. **Chronic Homelessness Workgroup** – Naomi Nussbaum and Dane Morrison
 - i. Madeline Carrola reported that the Chronic Homelessness Workgroup has discussed landlord engagement and the lack of site-based PSH in the community. The group will hopefully reconvene soon.
 - ii. Katie Vela added that SARAH is recommending 1,000 units of site-based PSH to the COSA’s SHIP initiative.

12. Committee Reports

- a. **Coordinated Entry (CE) Advisory Committee** – Eboni Jett
 - i. In absence of Eboni, Chelsey Viger reported that the CE Advisory Committee discussed the goals from the visioning session and is working on a bridge policy for PSH. The Committee is also working on Homelink marketing to promote community-wide understanding.
 - ii. Prevention Subcommittee
 - 1. The Prevention Workflow is live.
- b. **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Advisory Committee** – Chelsey Viger
 - i. The HMIS Advisory Committee is seeking one more seat (RHY-funded).



c. **Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Committee** – Chelsey Viger

- i. The PIT Count Committee did not meet in May because of the PIT Count Lunch & Learns. The Committee is accepting applications; if anyone wants to join, contact [Chelsey Viger](#).

d. **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Steering Committee** – Madeline Carrola

- i. The YHDP Steering Committee met on May 22, 2021 and discussed the referral outcomes for YHDP projects and other data points. The YHDP Steering Committee will meet in June; stay tuned for the calendar invite.

13. CoC Lead Agency Updates

- a. The Point-in-Time and Housing Inventory Count data was submitted to HUD.
- b. The Point-in-Time Count report was released on the SARAH website.
- c. Welcome new staff: Dacey Werba, Planning Coordinator; Harpreet Gill, System Coordination Manager; Diana Truumees, Referral System Coordinator.

14. HMIS Lead Agency Updates – Nina Gall

- a. FY2022 Data Standards Released
 - i. The FY2022 Data Standards includes updates to verbiage. HUD is taking the initiative to be more inclusive and trauma-informed.
- b. Code Migration Schedule Updates



- i. There is a minor update to the schedule, which has historically operated monthly. Users can now expect to see updates every 3-4 weeks. These updates are still planned for Saturday mornings to minimize service disruptions.

15. Membership Renewal Notice

- a. Membership Council renewals will be due in July. Expect an email from SARAH.

16. Open Announcements/Discussion

- a. None

17. Items to Report to CoC Board of Directors

- a. None

18. Next Membership Council Meeting

- a. July 29, 2021

19. Adjournment

- a. Scott Ackerson adjourned the meeting at 3:45pm.