**Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition Meeting Notes- July 17th 2020**

**12 – 12:40 pm via Zoom**

**I. Welcome - Shaun**

A. Housekeeping – mute your mic if you are not talking.

B. Q & A and community update at the end of meeting.

**II. Financial Report - Shannon**

Balance is $2272.08, no expenditures

**III. Meeting Minutes – Shaun**

Will e-mail minutes out. See Shaun or Melissa for questions concerning the minutes.

**IV. New Board Members - Need to vote on three new board members**

A. Grace Bryan – PR specialist, will be in charge of social media accounts. Approved by HOT Board and seeking approval from the general group today, voted in by group.

B. Ruth Smith – Helps with Project Homeless Connect and is a great connection with the faith community in Waco, former Waco ISD teacher. Approved by HOT Board and seeking approval from the general group today, voted in by group.

C. Dusty Kirk – Dusty and his wife run The Hanger in Waco which works with homeless people in our area. Approved by HOT Board and seeking approval from the general group today, voted in by group.

D. WELCOME THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

**V. Project Homeless Connect-Karissa**

A. Items received for Project Homeless Connect, which has been cancelled (Inreach which was scheduled for July 22 has also been cancelled), will be disbursed to agencies throughout the community.

B. Karissa created a **donation etiquette list that Shaun will email to everyone**. This list provides donation guidelines for items that the Homeless Coalition will accept. Feel free to use these guidelines for your agencies too.

C. We want to be more mindful about providing donors with receipts. Karissa and Shannon will have the receipts available for HOTHC.

D. Can also do fund raisers for your birthday on Facebook. Karissa’s goal was $200 and she raised $750 – WOW!

**HOMEWORK:** Watch for donation etiquette list and share information with potential donors.

**VI. Point in Time Count (PIT) – Shaun**

A. Shared results with group. See general downward trend. This year saw a slight increase, but we feel that this increase is because of thoroughness of the PIT.

B. Email [heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com) if you want all the PIT data

**VII. YHDP (Youth Homeless Demonstration Project) Grant Updates**

A. Scoring and Ranking Committee met over the spring to score and rank projects that applied for this grant.

B. The following projects were funded: The Cove (Drop-In Center), Family Abuse Center (Rapid Rehousing program), MHMR (Planning, Drop-In Center, Navigation Team, Transitional Housing, and Rapid Rehousing).

C. Currently this project is in the implementation phase, have committees and workgroups that are seeking participates!

D. A LOT OF HARD WORK has gone into this project! Thank you everyone for all the work so many of you have put into this grant and these projects.

**HOMEWORK:** Email Nicole for more information concerning workgroups and committees at [heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com)

**VIII. New Advocacy Initiatives**

A. Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign, national campaign to stop the criminalization of homelessness and to push for effective policies that end homelessness: <https://nlchp.org/housing-not-handcuffs/>

1. Been around for a while. We were approached by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty to endorse this campaign

2. Group agreed to endorse this campaign.

B. Virtual Lobby Day on July 21st <https://www.facebook.com/events/1233391767004125/>

sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition

1. Call/write your US Representatives and Senators to support the HEROS Act which includes the Emergency Rental Assistance and the Rental market Stabilization Act.

2. See <https://mailchi.mp/nlihc.org/cta_071720-1202058?e=a27429af6c> for more info.

**Homework:** Follow-Up on July 21st

**IX. Updates from Providers**

A. Mission Waco – April and May we were sheltering in place. Now open and between 1-4 pm we are providing services to people. Our numbers are down so we’ve sent interns out to do more outreach. Changed eligibility criteria for shelter to include all 254 counties in Texas as long as clients have a Texas ID and have suspended fees but are asking for participation in some program activities. Expect to continue this policy through September. **Shaun will email latest info graphic to group.**

B. Salvation Army – Still providing services but only open specific times. We are doing cooling stations now.

C. Family Abuse Center – We are open and all services are available. Most staff are working remotely and most client contact is offered remotely. In shelter masks are required and temperatures are being taken for all staff and clients when they enter the building.

D. Respite House – Open and running 24 hours and taking clients. Things are about the same. We do have a referral form. Contact: cristalgarza@hotmhmr.org

E. MHMR Regular Respite – reopened this past Monday. Anyone in community can apply for this service, now only taking people from a mental health hospital or if anyone who can provide a negative COVID test. Call 1866-752-3451 Heart of Texas Region MHMR 24 Hr Crisis Line (for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis in our community)

**X. Additional**

A. Have a lot of new faces today.

B. Thank you guests from First United Methodist

**XI. Adjournment/Follow-Up**

Shaun email Donation Etiquette list that Karissa made and also latest information graphic from Mission Waco

Notes Taken and Submitted by Melissa Ishio