1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Lucia Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

Attendance is in-person and via zoom (for out of town members)

1. **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from January 14, 2025 was made by Cheri Horbacz and second by Nadia Rangel

Motion approved.

1. **Committee Updates**

**Event Planning Committee** **(Nadia)**

Nadia provided an update on the Community Resource Fair, which will be held at the Yuma County Heritage Library on April 22nd from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Registration for booth sign-ups is currently, open with 30 organizations already signed up. A grant to AZ Complete Health was submitted and is pending review to cover event costs, including food for attendees.

**Membership Committee (Carlos/Lucia)**

Lucia provided an update on the Membership Committee, stating that guidelines have been established for committee members. Members are required to follow these guidelines and actively recruit new participants to attend Yuma Coalition meetings. Additionally, they are responsible for promoting community events, encouraging as much participation as possible, and increasing awareness of the coalition’s efforts. Members are also expected to be present at meetings to support the committee’s growth and engagement.

A motion to approve membership guidelines was made by Cheri Horbacz and seconded by Debbie Pallack.

**HMIS/Case Conferencing Committee/Coordinated Entry** **(Lucia)**

The Case Conferencing Meeting is scheduled for March 19th at 2:30 PM. It was noted that no funding is currently available through WACOG for rapid rehousing; however, NCHP still has funding available. Additionally, five individuals have recently been housed.

**Strategic Planning Committee (Lucia)**

The purpose of the Strategic Planning Committee is to oversee the strategic direction of YCEH, ensuring alignment with the coalition’s mission and goals. They are responsible for managing the development and review of the annual plan, governance charter, and related documents. The committee meets at least twice per year or as needed to ensure ongoing alignment with the coalition’s objectives. The committee documents meeting discussions and produces actionable plans to support the coalition’s efforts and drive progress toward its goals.

A motion was made to approve the Strategic Planning Guidelines, proposed by Amber Herzog and seconded by Cindy Hookstra.

Lucia went into detail about the Policy on Addressing Homeless Families and Youth under the McKinney-Vento Act, based on the HUD definition of homelessness and the services available through YCEH. This policy will be added to the governance charter to ensure clarity and consistency in addressing the needs of homeless families and youth within the scope of YCEH’s services

A motion was made to approve adding the McKinney-Vento policy to the governance charter, proposed by Cindy Hookstra and seconded by Debbie Pallack.

Lucia discussed adding the policy for addressing emergency transfer requests to the governance charter. This policy will ensure that the procedures for handling emergency transfer requests are clearly outlined and aligned with the needs of individuals facing urgent housing situations.

A motion was made to approve adding the policy for addressing emergency transfer requests to the governance charter, proposed by Erika Walton and seconded by Miguel Villapando.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 8th at 2:00pm

**Jedi- (Cindy)**

Cindy provided an update on the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) initiative, noting that she reviewed data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which is used by agencies in Yuma County to track and monitor cases. During her review, she identified discrepancies in some of the racial data reported on the census. Specifically, White individuals are disproportionately represented in homelessness, comprising nearly all of the homeless population, despite making up only half of the identified population in the county. Black and Indigenous communities experience homelessness at higher rates than their representation in the county, indicating systemic vulnerabilities and disparities in access to housing and resources. Hispanic/Latina(o)(x) individuals are underrepresented in homelessness compared to their county proportion, which may suggest differences in community support, housing stability, or reporting practices. The team will focus on addressing these discrepancies by investigating the underlying causes and working to improve the accuracy of data reporting. We are currently meeting once a month.

A motion to approve the JEDI guidelines was made by Cindy Hookstra and seconded by Nadia Rangel.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 24th at 8:30am

**PIT Count (Amber/Lucia)**

Amber spoke about the PIT Count, noting that there were enough volunteers this year. The gift cards proved to be very helpful, allowing them to distribute them effectively. Lucia went over the rough numbers for the PIT Count with the coalition, reporting that 117 individuals were counted. Final results will be available through ADOH.

1. **Agency Updates**

**Achieve-** Achieve reported that some individuals are transitioning out of the Permanent Housing Program, and by April, at least 4 more people should be brought in to the program.

**Az@Work-** AZ @ Work will be hosting a veteran’s event at the Martin Luther King Center on March 19th from 9:00am-1:00pm.

**WACOG-** WACOG has reported that funding for rental assistance is almost exhausted and will not be available again until the next fiscal year.

**Housing Authority of the City of Yuma-**HACY is not currently accepting applications for Section 8. The last application was received on March 23, 2023.

**NCHP-**NCHP’s Rapid Rehousing program is still available, with funding remaining. There are currently 4 slots available for rental housing assistance.

**AZ Complete Health**- The meeting for serious mental illness, hosted by AZ Complete Health, will be held on March 18th at 10:00 AM via Teams.

**Councilmember**-Karen Watts announced that there will be a City Council meeting next Wednesday March 19th at City Hall.

**Onvida-** Onvida has available beds for the inpatient unit.

**Horizon-** offers a variety of services, including primary care doctors, therapy, and peer support, to meet the diverse needs of individuals. AZ Complete Health will be at Horizon, open to the community to answer questions about healthcare options. They will also provide free food for attendees.

**The Rotary Club-** will be hosting a comedy event this Saturday, with all proceeds going to a good cause.

**The Salvation Army-** provides sack lunches to 45 people around the community and also discussed their rehabilitation programs, which offer support and services to individuals seeking recovery and stability. Additionally, rental assistance for veterans is available, spots for the youth camp are open, and scholarships are available for low-income families.

**211**- has changed their hours, and funding is still available for transportation to any health-related need in areas covered by Lyft. Flex funds are also still available.

The Next YCEH Meeting -**Tuesday May, 2025 at 9:00am** (Yuma City Hall)

1. Adjournment

Lucia Wilson, Achieve Human Services adjourned the meeting at 10:33 am

**Meeting Attendees:**

**Zoom:**

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**In-Person:**

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