1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Lucia Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:14am.

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

1. **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes January 2024

Corrections: Heather’s email [hschwind@achievehs.org](mailto:hschwind@achievehs.org) and Reyes’ [reyesmoreno@hopearizona.org](mailto:reyesmoreno@hopearizona.org)

Motion by Heather Schwind to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2024 and seconded by Michelle Smith. Motion approved.

1. **Fair Housing and Homeless Resource Fair – Lucia Wilson**

Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at the Heritage Library (Grass Area)

Expect various resource booths, including: medical, dental, haircuts, housing

Register for a booth online with Google Forms, door prize is required. Lucia sent a link.

As inclusive as possible (Arizona@Work, health department, Regional Center for Border Health’s mobile unit (pending confirmation from director).

Jorge Herrera (provider, MA’s, AHCCCS enrollment) – Suggested he reserve a booth for each service.

The event is open to everyone.

Lucia will re-send the flyers and the registration link.

1. **PIT Count Recap**

Successful count this year. There were several backpacks left over. Approximately 86-96 surveys were filled out. They were submitted to the State. This was a little less than last year.

The total number of individuals is unknown until we get the results back from ADOH.

1. **Committee Updates**

Membership Committee (Carlos)

Each organization must register to be a YCEH member. Only four forms have been submitted. A representative from each agency must submit a YCEH registration form. Lucia will email the forms. Please fill out and return to register your organization.

No meetings recently but will send an email later to set a meeting date/time.

The membership committee is driving to boost membership of the coalition.

* + - 1. Going out to agencies and organizations doing training.
      2. There is a sector list of partners that need to be part of the coalition (public officials, community members, healthcare, behavioral health).
      3. There’s a lack of understanding as to what the coalition is and how we address homelessness.
      4. Aiming for diverse attendance, strong conversations, and data-driven talks to end homelessness in the community.

HMIS/Case Conferencing Committee/Coordinated Entry (Lucia)

Next meeting is next week at 2:30 pm.

Committee has reviewed most all the names of homeless individuals that are on the BNL to submit referrals appropriately.

Referrals are slowing down, due to the end of the fiscal year approaching.

Strategic Planning Committee (Michelle Smith)

ADOH has not sent out the updated template.

The new template may add more items that all coalitions should start addressing.

Current strategic plan is approved through 2024, but it must be updated for 2025.

1. **Funding Available for Diversion Assistance**

Achieve has funding available for rental housing deposit assistance, vehicle repair, power turned off, and immediate risk of losing housing. (2 utility, 1 vehicle repair, multiple deposit assistances completed recently). Refer clients to Achieve. Funding is to prevent homelessness. There are no income limits.

1. **Budget Adjustment LCEH Capacity Building Grant**

The YCEH received this grant from the Arizona Department of Housing. It was originally a two-year grant; however, the deadline was shortened from December to June of this year. In 2023, the

highest months for spending were September, October, and December being the highest with 14 deposit requests. Expenditures on this grant began in October. The grant is underspent by approximately $60,000. These funds will be added into the new 2024 contract. Lucia is determining how the $60,000 can be used to pre-pay for things such as expenditures for a community resource center or a homeless encampment tracker, which benefits the community for the rest of the year.

Homeless Encampment Tracker

One of the options is to purchase a Homeless Encampment Tracker. Currently looking at the “Show the Way” App. It connects to HMIS. You can do the coordinated entry through the app. There is also a data tracking function that can be used to apply for grants. The app can track encampment locations, manage status, support clients, improve access to services, and promote community engagement. Upon consent for a photo, the app can use facial recognition to distinguish individuals to ensure the right services are provided. Commitment and coordination among providers are crucial to take full advantage of the app.

There are various plan options. The one being considered allows 10 users with HMIS access or key personnel with full access and general access for an unlimited number of users. The estimate is $950 monthly and $250 for facial recognition feature for a total of approximately $15,000 annually. A demo will be scheduled, and coalition members will be invited to participate and ask questions. Lucia will send out more information once the demo is confirmed.

Center Location Office

Lucia has proposed renting an office for a resource center to the State. She found a location for $1,000 a month with utilities included. Grant funds can be used for office equipment like tablets, or for supplies for the public like water bottles. This would be a One-stop shop, an office for the coalition.

First Things First along with other community agencies are driving a resource center task force. This could be a collaborative effort with YCEH.

**Motion by Miguel** **Villalpando** to do a first-level approval of the budget adjustments for possible central resource office and/or homeless encampment tool application.

Seconded by Debbie Pallack

In Favor: 17, Opposed: 1 (Motion Passed)

A concern was mentioned that individuals may be reluctant to consent to being tracked or using the application. Agencies have established rapport with these individuals, and their relationship could be affected if they are asked to take pictures or be tracked. The primary focus should be on meeting the needs of individuals, regardless of data collection.

1. **Agency Updates**

**Achieve** – Housing Program – Bringing in a few individuals due to being under budget but will pause new admissions until current clients are housed. Behavioral health services – accepting new referrals for clients in need of behavioral health, supportive services, and case management.

**City of Yuma –** The grant funding cycle started in November but has not been finalized. We are awaiting notification of HUD allocations. Once allocation amounts are received, City Council will be briefed on funding recommendations, and they will be published in the newspaper.

**Red Cross –** Assists house fire victims with immediate needs; services include medication replacement, copays, and wheelchair/walker replacements. Sound the Alarm program assists with installing or replacing smoke detectors, including bed shakers and lights for those with disabilities.

**WACOG –** Running low on funding for rental & mortgage assistance. The current program offers elderly rental & utility assistance. Navigation through WRAP is ongoing.

**HACY**- Waiting list for housing voucher program closed until the end of the year. People on list will see movement close to end of year. The waitlist on other special program vouchers and RAD units remain open.

**NCHP –** Available funding for rapid rehousing & homeless prevention for veterans. There was a change to program requirements, now only 4 out every 10 enrollments can be for homeless prevention.Please refer clients to NCHP and we will check if there is room in the program.

**Crossroads Mission**- The family shelter is full, 8 top bunks available in guest dorms, 16 beds available in New Way. They continue to be open for curbside meals 3 times a day and laundry and showers from 11am-2pm every day.

**TLCR-** Planning event for the Palooza is held every other Thursday from 11am-12pm. There are currently three beds available for males. There’s no availability for women currently.

Everyone is welcome to come at 5pm for a pizza party.

**Hansen House:** Awaiting certification from the Department of Health Services to open, but Hansen House already has staff in place. It operates as an end-of-life care home, partnering with a hospice agency to care for patients. Hansen House offers 24-hour caregiving and welcomes homeless individuals at end of life.

**DCS –** Working with First Things First for resource centers across the state. These resources could eliminate the need for a DCS report. Meeting those needs of the community before it even meets the level of becoming a report.

**HUD VASH –** No updates. There are currently no vouchers available.

**First Things First –** Acting as a convener for the Resource Center Taskforce and invites community agencies to join. The goal is to bring all the specialized services together. Monthly meetings are being held. The next one is scheduled for March 28th at Room B of the main library from 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

**CCR & R –** Please refer all those who need childcare or would like to become a childcare provider.

The Next YCEH Meeting -**Tuesday May 14, 2024 at 9:00am** (Yuma City Hall)

1. Adjournment

Lucia Wilson, Achieve Human Services adjourned the meeting at 10:58am

**Meeting Attendees:**

**Zoom:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization** | **Email** |
| Alejandra Aguirre | CCR&R |  |
| Jorge Herrera | RCFBH | jherrera@rcfbh.org |

**In-Person:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization** | **Email** |
| Mary Megui | DCS | mary.megui@azdcs.gov |
| Brittany Lament | National Community Health Partners | blament@nchponline.org |
| Miguel Villalpando | National Community Health Partners | miguel@nchponline.org |
| Allan Cranford | Achieve Human Services | acranford@achievehs.org |
| Debbie Pallack | First United Methodist Church – The Hansen House | dpallack@aol.com |
| Rafael Jubera | HACY | RJubera@hacy.org |
| Jessica Terrazas | HUD – VASH | Jessica.terrazas1@va.gov |
| Sylvia Hernandez | HUD – VASH | Sylvia.hernandezvargas@va.gov |
| Nikki Hoogendoorn | City of Yuma | Nikki.Hoogendoorn@yumaaz.gov |
| Reyes Moreno | Hope, Inc. | reyesmoreno@hopearizona.org |
| Mayra Valdovinos | Sonoran Prevention Works | mvaldovinos@spwaz.org |
| Kyron Eldridge | HOPE, Inc. | kyroneldridge@hopearizona.org |
| Michelle Smith | Community member | Ms111852@gmail.com |
| Carlos Flores | TLCR | carflores@crbhs.com |
| Heather Schwind | CRM | hschwind@crossroadsmission.org |
| Julia De Los Reyes | WACOG | juliad@wacog.com |
| Blanca Silva | WACOG | blancas@wacog.com |
| Diana Ortega | First Things First | dortega@firstthingsfirst.org |
| Lucia Wilson | Achieve Human Services | lwilson@achievehs.org |
| Nadia Rangel | City of Yuma | Nadia.rangel@yumaaz.gov |