1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Lucia Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

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

1. **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from September 10, 2024 was made by Miguel Villalpando and seconded by Reyes Moreno

Motion approved.

1. **Committee Updates**

**Event Planning Committee**

The Townhall event is scheduled for November 15th from 9:00am-3:00pm. Registration is now closed. The Townhall will address topics related to homelessness in the community.

Discuss next Resource Fair (Date/Time) at next meeting.

**Membership Committee (Carlos)**

* December 3rd at 12:00pm (Lunch provided)

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

Case Conferencing Meeting is scheduled for November 13th at 2:30 PM.

**Strategic Planning Committee-** No Updates

Next meeting December 12th at 11:00am

**PIT Count:**

* Sign up sheet for committee will be passed around.
* Pit count is the 3rd week of January
* Meeting will be scheduled in the next weeks to organize and prepare for the Pit Count
* Budget is for pit count items (first aid kits, can openers, etc.)

1. **Capacity Building Grant**

Staff position has been posted (LCEH coordinator) currently reviewing applications.

1. **Committee Sign-Ups**

A sign-up sheet is being sent around for members to register for the following committees:

* Event Planning
* Membership
* HMIS/CE/CC
* Strategic Planning
* JEDI
* PIT Count

Elections: The following positions will be available for election:

* Chair-Lucia Wilson
* Co-Chair-Laura de Leon
* Secretary -Carmen Gardea
* Membership-Carlos Flores
* HMIS/CE/CC-Lucia Wilson
* Strategic Planning-Michelle Smith
* Event Planning-Nadia Rangel
* JEDI-Cindy Hookstra
* PIT Count-Amber Herzog

1. **Agency Updates**

**Achieve-** Achieve's Housing Program is currently over capacity and not accepting new clients at this time. There’s no set timeframe for reopening. However, Behavioral Services is still accepting referrals for supportive services, case management, skills training, and employment services. Achieve also provides landscaping and janitorial services.

**City of Yuma –** The City of Yuma is currently accepting applications for the CDBG and HOME grants, with a submission deadline of December 16th. These funds are used for affordable housing, public infrastructure improvements, and public services for low-income households. A flyer with more information is being distributed, and full details on the application process are available on the City of Yuma's website.

**TLCR-** currently has 14 houses, 4 for females and 10 for males. While there is no availability at the moment, openings can change daily. The center is open Monday through Sunday, from 8:00 AM to 7:30 PM. There are various community events hosted at the center open to the public, including a pizza party today at noon. The peer support training ends this Friday and will start again next Friday. Donuts and coffee are provided for staff every 1st Wednesday of the month. For any questions, please email Carlos.

**YRMC Behavioral Health-** YRMC Behavioral Health currently has beds available for inpatient patients. We understand there can be stigma surrounding inpatient mental health facilities, so if anyone would like to tour the unit, please reach out. There is a waitlist for the IOP (Intensive Outpatient Program) and a 2-3 month waitlist for mental health checks. YRMC Behavioral Health is open 24/7, and no prior authorization is required for either outpatient or inpatient services. For any questions, please contact Jordin.

**School District**- The school district is actively supporting students experiencing homelessness. We have identified 29 students in need of assistance, some of whom are part of families. The district is working to provide resources and support to help these students succeed.

**Adult Protective Services-** Adult Protective Services is dedicated to helping vulnerable adults, including those with dementia or who lack family support, access the resources they need. We assist individuals who may not be aware of the services available to them and work to ensure they receive the assistance they are entitled to. Our services cover both Yuma and La Paz counties, areas with significant homeless populations, which can make our work more challenging. We are here to connect these individuals with the support they deserve.

**Safe House-** is currently at capacity, but availability can change on a daily basis. We continue to offer community outreach services, meaning individuals do not need to be in shelter to receive advocacy or support. However, they must be experiencing domestic violence to qualify for these services. Our program that previously assisted with eviction prevention and utility support has exhausted its funding; the last individuals were helped last month. We are working to extend this program, but we have not yet received approval or updates. I am happy to attend meetings and learn about additional resources available in the community.

**Crossroads Mission**- currently has 10 beds available in the family shelter, 8 in the men's shelter, and 3 in the dorm. We are hosting a 3-day Thanksgiving event (November 26,27,28) and a 3-day Christmas event (December 23,24,25) During these events, if individuals experiencing homelessness do not have transportation, we provide meals and deliver food to them. We will also be accepting volunteers for these events. If you know anyone who is homebound, please contact the mission with their name and address so they can be added to the list and receive meals.

**Hansen House-** offers a hospice program for individuals who are sick and experiencing homelessness. If you have someone who qualifies, please call, and they will assist with the intake process. There is usually a bed available for those in need.

**The Salvation Army-** has a few updates to share. We are nearing the end of our rental assistance program, which helped individuals facing short-term crises such as medical bills or unemployment. However, utility assistance is still available for short-term needs. We also have a new ministry aide, Mickey, who will be attending the next meeting. He is currently completing his orientation and training. Mickey goes out Monday through Friday to work with individuals living on the streets, providing meals and resources. Additionally, we will be hosting a community Thanksgiving event in San Luis. While the location is not yet confirmed, more information will be provided soon, and the event will be open to the public.

**Yuma High School-** along with other schools in the district, has a care closet on each campus to support students in need. On average, 35 students are identified as homeless. However, funding for homeless students has been reduced. Previously, students received around $160 for academic supplies, but this has now been cut to $60 per student. The care closet is currently accepting gently used or new items, including formal wear, athletic clothing, and personal hygiene products, to help support these students.

**Crane School District**- The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that provides academic support for homeless students, ensuring they have access to education and the resources they need to succeed. For many of these students, school can be a place of safety and stability. In the Crane School District, we support students who are living in motels, cars, shelters, or temporarily with other families due to factors such as eviction, domestic violence, or parental criminal issues. Our role is to provide essential resources, including food, hygiene items, and transportation. We also work with other school districts to help these students remain enrolled at the same school, even if their living situation changes. Frequent moves can disrupt their education, so we strive to minimize the impact of this instability and ensure continuity in their learning. This is the core purpose of the McKinney-Vento program, and it’s what we are committed to doing for these students.

**Sierra Vista Ministry-** serves the community by providing meals and support to those in need. Recently, we made around 400 sandwiches and are now preparing to provide Thanksgiving meals for four families.

**First Christian Church-** started the street ministry about six years ago, providing meals and services to the homeless, mostly at the old library. Unfortunately, many of the people we encounter struggle with drug and alcohol abuse and often choose to live on the streets, but continue to offer help and are always encouraged by the success stories we see. Currently in the process of getting a trailer so we can store more supplies and expand our outreach. We provide food, sanitary supplies, socks, and other essentials, which we receive from donations. If anyone has resources they'd like to donate, please let me know, and I can distribute them. We food packs to kids in education. If you know of any children who could benefit, just get in touch with us, and we’ll connect with their school counselor so you can pick up the packs directly from the school.

**WACOG Head Start-** 99% of the children we serve are considered at risk in some way. One of the key groups we prioritize for our program are those who are homeless. If a family applies and is identified as homeless, they automatically qualify for enrollment. Our waiting list is based on a scoring system, and homeless families are given priority on the list. We are also working on revamping our website, which we hope to have completed by January. Families receiving public assistance, food stamps, or in foster care are also prioritized on the waiting list. Applications can be submitted online or in person at our Redondo location. Children with disabilities are also considered.

**Red Cross**- provides medication and medical equipment for families who have lost everything due to a house fire. We are here to learn about available resources to help support these families and ensure they have access to the assistance they need.

**NCHP**-provides resources and assists with funding for veterans needing housing.

**Hud Vash**- currently has 71 vouchers available through the housing program, with 68 veterans already being housed. If you know of any veterans in need of permanent housing, referrals are welcome.

**AZ @ work**- 16-24 age groups to help with training to obtain jobs. We are having at the MLK Center a thanksgiving dinner open to the public from 11:00am-2:00pm.

**Elite Community Services**- We assist disabled individuals helping them with employment, all services provided are free.

The Next YCEH Meeting -**Tuesday January 14, 2025 at 9:00am** (Yuma City Hall)

1. Adjournment

Lucia Wilson, Achieve Human Services adjourned the meeting at 10:42 am

**Meeting Attendees:**

**Zoom:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Name** |
| Heather Shwind |
| Lindsay Wilcox |
| Kelly Tanner |

**In-Person:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization** |
| Amber Herzog | Salvation Army |
| Sergio Valle | Crossroads Mission |
| Efrain Zavala | First UMC |
| Carmen Gardea | Adult Protective Services |
| Debbie Pallack | First United Methodist Church – The Hansen House |
| Maria | Kofa High School |
| Rob Fram | WACOG |
| Sylvia Hernandez | HUD – VASH |
| Kassandra Granados | City of Yuma |
| Reyes Moreno | Hope, Inc. |
| Nora Saldivar | ADS Migrant |
| Lora Deleon | APS |
| David Reynoso | Vista High School |
| Karly Rodriguez | N/A |
| Luis Figueroa | Crane School District |
| Lucia Wilson | Achieve Human Services |
| Jordin Aguilar | YRMC BHC |
| Marisela Sanchez | CMS |
| Miguel Villalpando | NCHP |
| Raychal Jesser | Yuma County Juvenile Center |
| Michelle Smith | Community Member |
| Nicia Herrera | Az @ work |
| Jessica Terrazas | VA |
| Alma Villalobos | Juvenile Court |
| Ryan Butcher | Health District |
| Kathleen Godley | FCC Yuma |
| Cindy Hodistra | SVPC |
| Linda Coronado | GESD #32 |
| Felipa Castellanos | Safe House |
| Olivia Porchas | Yuma High |
| Erick | CCS at Safe House |
| Tucker Hookstra |  |
| Robert Nolen | DCC |
| Kevin Burns | TLCR |
| Kelly | YUHSD |
| Nidia Casas | YCSSC |
| Pastor Dan | Sierra Vista |