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**

Motion to approve the minutes from July 9, 2024, was made by Debbie Pallack and seconded by Miguel Villalpando.

Motion approved.

1. **Committee Updates**

**Event Planning Committee**

The next meeting for event planning is scheduled for September 11 at 1:00 PM. A Townhall addressing topics related to homelessness in the community will be held on November 14. This event will feature open discussions, explore solutions, and identify strategies for change. Presenters who have observed barriers in their work related to homelessness are encouraged to participate. Those interested in presenting should complete the application form. Sponsorship opportunities are still available; so far, the Housing Authority of the City of Yuma has donated $500, and Starbucks has provided coffee travelers.

**Membership Committee (Carlos)**

* The committee is working to boost membership of the coalition.
* Members are encouraged to inform Carlos of anyone interested in attending coalition meetings so they can receive a calendar invite.
* Members are asked to take 5 minutes to complete the survey and share it with others.
* The group reviewed the survey results and discuss strategies to increase participation and attract more members to the coalition

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

Case Conferencing Meeting is scheduled for September 16 at 2:30 PM.

HMIS Annual Training on data quality will be held on September 12 at 1:00 PM at Crossroads Mission.

**Strategic Planning Committee- No Updates** (Michelle Smith)

1. **PIT Count:**

* The 2024 PIT results were reviewed; 90 people were interviewed for the count.
* Questions about the PIT Count were addressed.
* The next planning for the PIT Count will be in October/November.

1. **ASU Unsheltered Homelessness/Encampment resolution – Lara Law**

A research program is being conducted for individuals living in encampments, involving universities such as ASU, NAU, U of A, and From the Ground Up. This initiative is supported by the Arizona Housing Analytics Collaborative, which partners with community leaders and stakeholders to utilize analytics for informing decision-making and care coordination. Incentives will be provided for individuals experiencing homelessness who choose to participate in the survey. During the meeting, the research team reviewed their presentation and sought advice on locating and approaching individuals experiencing homelessness. Attendees discussed various methods for engaging with this population, including considerations that not everyone may want help. It was noted that many individuals experiencing homelessness are in these situations due to domestic violence, leading to a discussion on alternative approaches to effectively offer the necessary support.

The program will be conducted in three phases over three years:

**Phase 1:** Assessing current strategies used in Arizona.

**Phase 2:** Gathering perspectives and experiences of individuals living in encampments.

**Phase 3:** Evaluating the impacts of different strategies.

1. **Capacity Building Grant**

ADOH has approved and renewed the grant for staff positions, PIT Count items, and administrative functions. Note that diversion funds will not be available in this round of the grant.

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

1. **Upcoming for November Meeting:**

Elections: The following positions will be available for election:

* Chair
* Co-Chair
* Secretary
* Membership
* HMIS/CE/CC
* Strategic Planning
* Event Planning
* JEDI
* PIT Count

Note: The next meeting will include elections. Only individuals who have signed the membership form of the coalition will be eligible to vote.

1. **Agency Updates**

**Achieve** -No Updates

**City of Yuma –** The Action Plan, which details how grant funds will be utilized, and the CAPER report, which outlines how funding was used in the previous year, are available for public review. These documents can be accessed at local libraries and on the City’s website.

**HUD VASH –** Housing is currently accepting new referrals, though no vouchers are available at this time. Seven veterans are scheduled for intake appointments, while two veterans are actively seeking housing with vouchers.

**Methodist Church-** Brochures for Hansen House were distributed, Interested parties should contact Bonnie at 928-503-7664. Hansen House is a licensed end-of-life care home for individuals who have no families or are homeless.

**Salvation Army-**The cooling center is open 7 days a week from noon to 5 PM. The angels tree program will begin the first week of October.

**Community Legal Services**- is accepting referrals and will assist anyone experiencing landlord tenant issues or facing eviction.

**Crossroads Mission**- Crossroads currently has many family beds available. There was a COVID-19 situation last month, but as of this morning, the facility is COVID-free. The rooms that were previously used as a quarantine section are now being disinfected and prepared, so family rooms will soon be available.

**Crossroads Mission** **Outreach**- The Outreach Coordinator has been working with several families, becoming familiar with HMIS, and is actively working to secure housing for them. Additionally, the Coordinator organizes an event every third Wednesday of the month at the Ocean to Ocean Bridge, where they distribute blankets, tents, food, and other available supplies from the mission. They also provide water daily to those in need.

**Yuma Regional Behavioral Health Center-** Referrals for inpatient services are being accepted 24/7. Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) and mental health check referrals for both programs are always being accepted. For more information reach out to Jordin.

**Hope Inc-** an outpatient facility specializing in substance abuse and mental health services. It offers a range of support, including a day program, life skills training, and individual counseling. The facility is dedicated to helping anyone in need of assistance.

**Sonoran Prevention Works-** assists individuals who are unhoused or struggling with substance abuse by providing harm reduction supplies. They focus on delivering these supplies to the areas that need them most to help keep people safe.

**TLCR-**has 2 female beds and 3 male beds currently available. All scheduled events are continuing as planned: coffee and donuts for case managers, a pizza party today at noon, and an ice cream social on the third Friday of the month. Additionally, Carnival Day is held on the first Saturday of each month, and the facility is open until 7:30 PM daily to provide services or a cool place for anyone needing to stay out of the heat.

**WACOG-** WACOG received its funding and is currently accepting referrals, primarily coming from HMIS. Funding is also available in La Paz and Mohave Counties for rapid rehousing. WACOG is offering $30,000 for down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers, which requires attending a workshop; this program started about a month ago. Due to reduced funding, rental assistance is now more selective. DES no longer provides rental assistance as of September 1st, making WACOG the primary provider for this support, though it remains limited. In addition to rental assistance, WACOG offers APS assistance and APS crisis support. The agency has only 5 staff members handling calls every Friday from 8 AM to 12 PM. The APS and rental assistance lines are combined, resulting in longer wait times.

**Safe house-**Safe House and Cafecito are partnering to host an event called "An Empty Table" in October. This event is for anyone who has lost a loved one, and participation is open to anyone in Yuma County who wishes to attend. Additionally, the annual Domestic Violence Walk will take place on October 3 in Somerton. Agencies interested in having a table at the event should contact Felipa for arrangements. Please note that agencies will need to provide their own table and pop-up. They are hiring for an advocate if anyone is interested.

**First things first-** No updates

**Community Health Associates-** offers outreach services from Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 1 PM. An outreach coordinator is available to visit the community and assist individuals who need a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) determination, including those who do not have insurance.

The Next YCEH Meeting -**Tuesday November 12, 2024 at 9:00am** (Yuma City Hall)

1. Adjournment

Lucia Wilson, Achieve Human Services adjourned the meeting at 11:04am

**Meeting Attendees:**

**Zoom:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Name** |
| Kayla Mcghee |
| Lindsay Wilcox |
| Stephanie Espinoza |
| Felipa Castellanos |
| Keith Bentele |
| Sara Shuman |
| Jorge Herrera |
| Lara Law |
| Kathleen Mclaughlin |
| Chelsea Perez |

**In-Person:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization** | **Email** |
| Julia De Los Reyes | WACOG | JuliaD@wacog.com |
| Sergio Valle | CMR | Svalle@crossroadsmission.org |
| Efrain Zavala | First UMC | Efrainzavala@dscumc.net |
| Julia de los reyes | WACOG | Juliad@wacog.com |
| 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 |
| Kassandra Granados | City of Yuma | Kassandra.Granados@yumaaz.gov |
| Reyes Moreno | Hope, Inc. | reyesmoreno@hopearizona.org |
| Mayra Valdovinos | Sonoran Prevention Works | mvaldovinos@spwaz.org |
| Blanca Silva | WACOG | Blancas@wacog.com |
| Shawn Backs | Community Health Assoc. |  |
| Carlos Flores | TLCR | carflores@crbhs.com |
| Heather Schwind | CRM | hschwind@crossroadsmission.org |
|  |  |  |
| Leif Ericksen | Community Medical Services | lerickson@cmsgiveshope.com |
| Lucia Wilson | Achieve Human Services | lwilson@achievehs.org |
| Jordin Aguilar | YRMC BHC | Jaguilar4@yumaregional.org |
| Marisela Sanchez | CMS | Marisela.sanchez@cmsgiveshope.com |
| Miguel Villalpando | NCHP |  |
| Mayra V | Sonoran Prevention |  |
| Daisy Cortes | SBHIS Medicare Solutions |  |
| Asmahan Akam | CLS | Aakam@clsaz.org |
| Elvira Hidalgo | Achieve |  |
| Diana Ortega | First things First | [Dortega@firstthingsfirst.org](mailto:Dortega@firstthingsfirst.org) |
| Ana Gonzalez | Salvation Army | A.c.gonzalez@usw.salvationarmy.com |
| Marisela S. | CMS |  |
| Cindy Hookstra | VOL SUPC | hookstra@roadrunner.com |