



# Leadership Council Meeting

February 11th, 2025 | 1:30pm

Boston Avenue United Methodist Church

1301 S Boston Ave, Tulsa, OK 74119

## Meeting Agenda

1. Leadership Council Meeting Introduction
  - Welcome & Call to Order, Beth Edwards-Svetlic
  - Roll Call, Amy Olsen
2. Discussion & Approval of:
  - Approval of January Minutes\*
  - 2025 Vice Chair Nominations\*\*
    - Noe Rodriguez
    - Elizabeth Hall
    - Sarah Grounds
  - Letter of Support\*
    - OK Veterans United, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Rachel Runfola
  - Partner Agency Applications\*\*
    - Oklahoma Harm Reduction Alliance, Josh Ellard
  - AWH4T Charter Review Task Group\*
3. Lead Agency Updates
  - OMB M-25-13 Impact & Updates, Mark Smith
  - FY24 HUD CoC Program Funding Report, Len Dittmeier
  - Point-in-Time Count, Chelsea Butler
4. Meeting Topic: Updates from AWH4T 2025 Chair
5. Meeting Wrap-Up
  - Public Comments
  - Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 (1:30-3pm)
  - Adjourn

\* Items to be voted on by Leadership Council in-person

\*\* Items to be voted on by Leadership Council electronically



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 Boston Avenue United Methodist Church  
 1301 S Boston Ave, Tulsa, OK 74119

## Attendance

	NAME	REPRESENTING	CATEGORY	TERM
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ginny Hensley</b>	Tulsa Housing Authority	Fixed Position, Appointed	04/2024 - 03/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Emily Hall</b>	City of Tulsa	Fixed Position, Appointed	01/2025 - 12/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>James Rea</b>	Tulsa County	Fixed Position, Appointed	12/2024 - 11/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Claudia Brierre</b>	INCOG	Fixed Position, Appointed	03/2024 - 02/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rhonda Clemons</b>	Cherokee Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed	05/2023 - 04/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vacant</i>	Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sarah Grounds</b>	City Lights Foundation	Provider Representative, Elected	10/2023 - 09/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Beth Svetlic, Chair</b>	Youth Services of Tulsa	Provider Representative, Elected	04/2023 - 03/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Noe Rodriguez</b>	Tulsa Day Center	Provider Representative, Elected	02/2024 - 01/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Benny Naifeh</b>	Participant Advisory Group	Consumer Representative, Elected	01/2025 - 12/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vacant</i>	Youth Advisory Board	Consumer Representative, Elected	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Lauren Sherry</b>	QuikTrip Corporation	Business/Commerce Representative, Invited	04/2023 - 03/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Elizabeth Hall</b>	Burnstein Family Foundation	Funder Representative, Invited	04/2023 - 03/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Jesse Guardiola</b>	Tulsa Area United Way	At-Large Representative, Invited	10/2023 - 09/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vacant</i>		At-Large Representative, Invited	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stephanie Horten</b>	JusticeLink	At-Large Representative, Invited	10/2023 - 09/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Richard Alexander</b>	Tulsa Police Department	At-Large Representative, Invited	05/2024 - 04/2026



## Meeting Minutes

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### 1) Leadership Council Meeting Introduction

1. Beth Edwards-Svetlic called the meeting to order.
- b) Attendance is recorded after minutes.

### 2) Discussion & Approval of:

#### a) Approval of December Minutes

1. Beth Edwards-Svetlic called for a motion to approve December minutes. Benny Naifeh moved to approve. Sarah Grounds seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### b) 2025 Vice Chair Nominations

1. Beth Svetlic is the new AWH4T Chair.
2. Please look for upcoming emails regarding your nomination for the Vice Chair position.

#### c) 2025 PIT count survey

1. Sheltered Count:
  - (a) Conducted through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
  - (b) Includes individuals in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.
- (2) Unsheltered Count:
3. Scheduled for next Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25.
  - (a) Volunteers will interview and survey individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
  - (b) The survey format will be the same as in previous years, using JotForm.
- (2) David L Moss Count:
  - (a) Simultaneous count within David L Moss.
  - (b) Individuals experiencing homelessness the night before entry at David L Moss are not counted if they are there on the night of the PIT count.
4. Beth Edwards-Svetlic called for a motion to approve the 2025 PIT count survey Benny Naifeh moved to approve. Jesse Guardiola seconded the motion. PIT count survey approved.

#### d) Partner Agency Applications

1. Resonance Center for Women, Katie Miller
2. Provides diversion services, re-entry services, transitional housing, and employment.



Leadership Council Meeting  
January 14, 2024 | 1:30 p.m.  
Boston Avenue Church/ Zoom

3. They have 3 locations and 23 beds. Last year, they helped over 900 women find temporary and permanent housing.
  - (1) Eden Village, Marc Clayton
4. Only has 2 qualifications: be unhoused for at least one year and have a documented disability.
  - (a) Discussed their approach in their 63 tiny home community to fair and equitable housing, including the interview process and needs-based assessment for applicants.
  - (2) Tulsa Health Department, Kendra Wise
    - (a) Has served as the primary public health agency to over 600,000 residents in Tulsa.
5. Handles housing complaints, connects people at risk of eviction to resources, and ensures safe emergency shelters.
6. Beth Edwards-Svetlic called for a motion to approve of Virtual Vote for New AWH4T Applicants. Major Alexander moved to approve the motion. Stephanie Horten seconded the motion.

### **3) Lead Agency Updates**

1. PIT Count Update, Amy Olsen
  - (1) Focused on collecting comprehensive data on homelessness, including demographics, employment status, and healthcare needs.
  - (2) Efforts to streamline the survey to make it shorter and more efficient.
  - (3) Highlighted the inclusion of questions about veteran status and eligibility for VA healthcare, which helps in coordinating services with the VA.
  - (4) Consolidated questions to streamline the survey while still capturing essential information about mental health and disabilities.
- b) Cold Weather Update, Mark Smith
  - (1) Many team members worked long hours to ensure overnight coverage for individuals in crisis needing extra support.
  - (2) Plans to conduct reviews to identify areas for improvement and lessons learned from the recent cold weather response.
2. Received strong support from the city, particularly in public information and partnerships to keep the community informed about available services.

### **C) Data Dashboard & Report, Oliva Denton Koopman**

3. Data is reviewed with a 15-day quality period, currently focusing on November data.



Leadership Council Meeting  
 January 14, 2024 | 1:30 p.m.  
 Boston Avenue Church/ Zoom

- 1) Decrease in first-time homelessness and the number of days individuals experience homelessness before being housed.
- 2) Approximately 3,000 individuals in contact with the continuum of care over the last 90 days need housing. 60% require short-term housing, while 40% need more robust or permanent supportive housing.
4. Increased use of emergency shelters, especially during cold weather months.
- 3) Increased utilization of transitional housing with many referrals successfully moving in.
5. Continued overrepresentation of Black/African American, American Indian, Indigenous, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations. HUD will offer equity analysis workshops in February and March.

**4) Meeting Topic**

1. Impact Tulsa: Chronic Absenteeism Initiatives, Dr. Kimbrel & Beth Svetlic
2. Collaboration with Housing Solutions and the evictions data working group led to the creation of an evictions notification letter due to inadequate notification laws in Oklahoma.
  - (1) Plans to pilot the co-located services model in McClure and Cooper elementary schools, the most impacted by evictions.
  - (2) Proposal to place an attorney and a resource navigator on-site at schools to provide legal and community resource navigation.
3. Targeting elementary schools due to high eviction rates and significant family foot traffic, allowing for proactive engagement and education on rights.

**5) Meeting Wrap-Up**

1. Public Comments
  2. Family Promise (Tina Massey) expressed excitement about a significant increase in funding for the prevention diversion program, from \$5,000 to \$12,500 per month, a 60% increase. Highlighted that the increased funding will allow them to help more families, noting that last year they assisted 93 families with the previous funding amount.
- b) Next Meeting– February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 1:30-3:00 PM
- c) Adjourn

*\*Items to be voted on by the Leadership Council*

Attendance

	Name	Representing	Category	Term
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Leadership Council Meeting  
 January 14, 2024 | 1:30 p.m.  
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>James Rea</b>	Tulsa County	Fixed Position, Appointed	09/2022 - 11/2024
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A Way Home for Tulsa  
P.O. Box 4628  
Tulsa, OK 74159  
WWW.AWH4T.ORG

Community Service Council, Inc DBA Oklahoma Veterans United  
115 West 3rd Street, Suite 600  
Tulsa OK 74103

February 11, 2025

Dear Ms. Rachel Runfola:

I am pleased that the Community Service Council, Inc DBA Oklahoma Veterans United (OKVU) is again applying to the Department of Veteran Affairs for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grant to serve low-income veterans and their families who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness in the Tulsa, OK Continuum of Care. The SSVF grant allows OKVU and its community partners the opportunity to provide many needed services for veterans and their families, including supportive case management, tenant support, community referrals, outreach, and linkage to VA and other public benefits.

I know OKVU has a long history in community partnerships and collaborative programs serving at-risk populations. The SSVF program has followed in that tradition and established relationships with many community partners throughout the 56 counties of coverage in Oklahoma to continue the battle to end homelessness for all veterans living in those counties. They actively participate in our local Continuum of Care monthly meetings, community planning and efforts with coordinated entry. Additionally, SSVF case managers ensure all those with a housing need within the continuum are screened, assessed and referred for the best fit for each veteran's housing need.

In 2024 the OKVU SSVF Program assisted over 1100 veteran households and provided over \$3.4 million in temporary financial assistance to veteran families to secure permanent housing and meet the various needs essential to maintain their housing throughout the 56 counties served.

I would be happy to continue our collaborative relationship and look forward to serving veterans and their families in northeastern Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Beth Edwards-Svetlic, LCSW  
2025 AWH4T Chair

*Uniting the Community to End Homelessness*

# A Way Home for Tulsa Partner Application

**Agency Name:** Oklahoma Harm Reduction Alliance (OKHRA)

**Primary Business Address:** 8500 E 41<sup>st</sup> St #108 Tulsa OK 74145

**Website:** [www.okhra.org](http://www.okhra.org)

**Mission:** The Oklahoma Harm Reduction Alliance mission is to empower Oklahoma residents who use drugs with evidence-based harm reduction programs to reduce overdoses and improve the health of individuals and communities affected by substance use.

**Reason for Joining AWH4T:** We believe our program can meet people where they are more effectively by becoming a partner agency.

## **Services Provided:**

- Advocacy (client)
- Advocacy (policy)
- Disaster Response Services
- Education
- Homeless Outreach
- Recovery Services
- Harm Reduction

## **Target Populations:**

- People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness, but it is not the primary function.

**Engagement with AWH4T:** OKHRA has attended one AWH4T Leadership Council meeting.

**CoC HUD Funding and Experience:** OKHRA does not currently receive CoC HUD funding.

## **Diversity and Inclusion:**

- Leadership reflects the diverse racial, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds of the clients served.
- DEI policy in place.
- Organization employs people with lived experience of homelessness.
- Leader of OKHRA identifies as LGBTQIA+.