



Leadership Council Meeting

April 8th, 2025 | 1:30pm

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

Meeting Minutes

1. Leadership Council Meeting Introduction
 - a. Beth Edwards-Svetlic called the meeting to order
 - b. Amy Olsen, Roll Call
 - c. Board Update, Rhonda Clemons (Cherokee Nation) is stepping down and Shay Stanfill has been appointed in her place.
2. Discussion & Approval of:
 - a. Approval of March Minutes
 - i. Beth Edwards-Svetlic called for a motion to approve March minutes. James Rea moved to approve. Jessie Guardiola seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - b. Partner Application**
 - i. Healthy Minds Policy Initiative Zack Stoycoff
 1. Founded in 2019 by the Zarrow Foundation to transform mental health policy in the state of Oklahoma through offering sound policy guidance and support to legislators, lawmakers, and local officials, specifically in Tulsa.
 2. Beth Edwards-Svetlic called for a motion to approve the Partner Agency Application with an electronic vote. James Rea moved to approve. Noe Rodriguez seconded that motion. Motion carried.
3. Lead Agency Updates
 - a. Data & Analytics report (Olivia Denton Koopman)
 - i. Notable increases in evictions and first-time homelessness. Efforts are underway with community partners to prevent first-time homelessness through diversion programs.
 - ii. The average wait time on the by-name list is about 250 days, with 2025 seeing an increase to 270 days.
 - iii. 3,000 individuals reported homelessness experienced in the last three months, with 1,300 qualifying as chronically homeless needing permanent supportive housing.
 - iv. Most exits from homelessness are rapid rehousing (about one-third), rental subsidies (20%), permanent supportive housing (15%), family reunification (15%), and exits without subsidy (12%).
 - b. Legislative/Policy Report (Mark Smith)
 - i. Senate Bill 128, Eviction Timeline Extension
 1. This bill passed the Senate, now in the House Committee on Local Judiciary extending the hearing timeline from 5 days to 10 days.
 2. This bill provides tenants more time to respond, encourages landlords to work with tenants, and helps courts manage high eviction volumes.
 - ii. House Bill 1764, Encampment Ban Expansion



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1. This will expand the ban on encampments to county and municipal lands across the state. Currently, this bill is referred to the Senate Committee on Local and County Government.
 2. The concern is the Opt-out provision puts pressure on local communities, and a blanket ban without support services is not effective in addressing homelessness.
 - iii. Senate Bill 484, Shelter Spacing Restrictions
 1. Initially banned new shelters in municipalities with less than 300,000 people; now restricts new shelters within 3,000 feet of schools. This bill passed the Senate by one vote, now in the House Committee on Local Government.
 2. The concern is that this will limit local communities' ability to provide shelter, impact families and children needing shelter access, and could lead to unsafe conditions for homeless individuals.
 - iv. Senate Bill 740, Mental Health Detention
 1. Adjust the definition of a person requiring treatment for mental health issues, allowing law enforcement or mental health practitioners to issue emergency detention orders for homeless individuals.
 2. The concern here is that this bill could lead to the detention of homeless individuals simply for being homeless, potentially impacting federal grant eligibility and increasing strain on community resources.
4. City of Tulsa Update
 - a. Emily Hall, Senior Advisor - Homelessness
 - i. City departments are collecting data on encampment locations and working closely with organizations and outreach teams to ensure a coordinated approach, emphasizing intensive outreach and access to shelter.
 - ii. The Mayor's Executive Order focuses on increasing shelter space, while efforts are underway to bring more affordable and permanent supportive housing units online to ensure individuals receive the necessary support to stay housed.
 - b. Gene Bulmash, Senior Advisor- Housing
 - i. The city is working on implementing the \$75 million Improve Our Tulsa initiative to address the housing crisis. This includes collecting developer input to prioritize funding categories and potentially bonding forward some of the funds to accelerate housing development.
 - ii. Efforts are underway to finalize the process for new shelter operations and complete construction, intending to have facilities ready by late summer.
5. Meeting Topic, Stefanie Menting & Catrice Brantley (ConnectFirst)



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- a. The initiative aims to disrupt intergenerational poverty through four main goal areas: healthy births, positive child development by age three, kindergarten readiness, and third-grade success. Collaboration with various partners is essential to achieve these goals.
 - b. Connect First focuses on enabling access to programs and services that nurture strong brain development and adult-child experiences, helping children and families achieve successful life outcomes.
 - c. The Tulsa Health Department and Connect First programs have bilingual Spanish-speaking family advocates and nurses to ensure Spanish-speaking families receive adequate support. They also collaborate with organizations like El Centro and Mental Health Association to provide services to undocumented immigrants.
6. Meeting Wrap up
- a. Public Comments Update, Beth Edwards-Svetlic
 - i. Starting next month, a new process for signing up for public comments at A Way Home for Tulsa Leadership Council meetings will be implemented. Attendees can sign up using a QR code, with requests due by 5 p.m. the Monday before the meeting to ensure time is allotted for everyone to share their comments.
 - b. Public Comments
 - c. Next Meeting– May 13th, 2024, 1:30-3:00 PM
7. Adjourn



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Attendance

	NAME	REPRESENTING	CATEGORY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ginny Hensley	Tulsa Housing Authority	Fixed Position, Appointed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emily Hall	City of Tulsa	Fixed Position, Appointed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James Rea	Tulsa County	Fixed Position, Appointed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Noe Rodriguez	Tulsa Day Center	Provider Representative, Elected
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Claudia Brierre	INCOG	Fixed Position, Appointed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shay Stanfill	Cherokee Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>	Muscogee Creek Nation	Tribal Representative, Appointed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Grounds	City Lights Foundation	Provider Representative, Elected
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Beth Svetlic, Chair	Youth Services of Tulsa	Provider Representative, Elected
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Naifeh	Participant Advisory Group	Consumer Representative, Elected
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>	Youth Advisory Board	Consumer Representative, Elected
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lauren Sherry	QuikTrip Corporation	Business/Commerce Representative, Invited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Hall	Burnstein Family Foundation	Funder Representative, Invited
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jesse Guardiola	Tulsa Area United Way	At-Large Representative, Invited
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>vacant</i>		At-Large Representative, Invited
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Horten	JusticeLink	At-Large Representative, Invited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Alexander	Tulsa Police Department	At-Large Representative, Invited