



# Minutes

**Committee:** Equity Committee

**Date:** 2/9/2023

**Duration:** 12:00 – 1:30

**Meeting Place:** Zoom virtual meeting

**Attendance:**

P = Present  
 TC = Attended via Dial in  
 A = Absent

Equity Committee Members							
X	Guen Brown	X	Claire Burrus		Junghee Cho		Kellee Coleman
X	Jesus Gonzales		Esteban Olave		Soleece Watson	X	Sulipsa Luque
	Lori Neyland			X	Tiffany Hart		
Co-Chairs							
X	Netanya Jamieson	X	Kimberly Holiday				
Other Community Members							
X	Jacob Henson	X	Sam Whiteside	X	Amanda Jasso		
X	Cassandra Richards	X	Karem Castillo	X	Belinda Sayabouapheth		
X	Tonya Coy	X	Jane Macharia				
ECHO Support Staff							
	Chris Davis						
Other ECHO Staff							
X	Preston Petty	X	Sara Fuetter	X	Danica Fraher		
X	Meagan Biscamp	X	La Shandraia Dwyer	X	Quiana Fisher		

AGENDA		DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
I.	Welcome & Check-in		•
II.	PIT Count debrief & lessons learned discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Getting footage for development purposes for organizations participating in the PIT Count is not ethical, and puts staff at odds with their employers in boundary setting</li> <li>Not ok with reporters following teams, it's "trauma porn" and an invasion of people's homes</li> <li>ECHO should consider policy against having media follow PIT Count</li> <li>Don't want people filming me while being oppressed, want to be helped</li> <li>How do we get people informed without tokenizing vulnerable folks?</li> <li>More intentionality about having PLE and PEH engage with the media - there's a power differential at play when asking people in the moment</li> <li>PIT Count done at the hour of night/morning is an issue</li> </ul>	ECHO will bring feedback to PIT Count Workgroup

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Volunteers make it harder for unsheltered folks instead of helping them - they get to go home after agitating the police, and then the police take it out on the community</b></li> <li>● <b>People's first time participating in the count had profound positive experiences and are not more inspired</b></li> <li>● <b>Williamson County does things differently</b></li> <li>● <b>Our PIT Count is far lower than the actual numbers - there are other cities doing more accurate PIT Counts</b></li> <li>● <b>HUD recognizes that PIT is not perfect and has limitations</b></li> <li>● <b>PIT Count could have been organized better - miscommunication issues, planned out too last minute</b></li> <li>● <b>Volunteers were being loud talking and laughing during the Count, which made unsheltered folks uncomfortable</b></li> <li>● <b>Large age range of volunteers participating was cool to see</b></li> <li>● <b>Great to see people with lived experience participating</b></li> <li>● <b>Having people who had connections with the community already established was helpful</b></li> <li>● <b>Training was AWESOME!!!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Helped create boundaries for volunteers that were trying to switch up the goals of what was to be accomplished</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Suggestions to ECHO to make the PIT better:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Instead of exploiting PEH during the count with media in their faces, elevate the stories from volunteers about how they were impacted by engaging with the community through it</b></li> <li>○ <b>We should be asking weeks in advance " where are you going to be for the pit count?" And explain what is and how it benefits them, and give them some type of support</b></li> <li>○ <b>The Count wasn't pushed by organizations other than ECHO this year</b></li> <li>○ <b>We need public "roses and thorns" forum for all volunteers ASAP</b></li> <li>○ <b>ECHO needs to establish "best practices" for PIT and adhere to them as an organization</b></li> <li>○ <b>Other questions to consider asking people: where nearest water source, power source, and bathrooms they could use were located</b></li> <li>○ <b>Make it more clear for team leads when new people are added to their team (highlight or star in some way)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>III. Updates &amp; Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving Equity Committee meetings to hybrid starting next month               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 210 Barton Springs Rd. Suite 400</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next Meeting: Date 12:00PM – 1:30PM; Virtual meeting via Zoom</b></li> </ul>	