



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
Quarterly Meeting – July 30, 2019
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

A transcript from the electronic recording of the meeting may be found here:
<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/tich/meetings.htm>

Members present:

#	Member Agency	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Office of the Governor appointee, Cornerstone Network (TICH Chair)	Mike Doyle	Yes
2	Office of the Lt. Governor	<i>vacant</i>	n/a
3	Office of the Speaker of the House	<i>vacant</i>	n/a
4	Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)	Carissa Dougherty	No
5	HHSC	Helen Eisert	Yes – by phone
6	HHSC	Claire Irwin	Yes – by phone
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Sherri Cogbill	No
8	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)	Valinda Bolton	Yes
9	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), Housing Finance representative	Brooke Boston	Yes
10	TDHCA, Community Affairs representative	Naomi Cantu	Yes
11	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Cal Lopez	Yes – by phone
12	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Marqus Butler	Yes
13	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Joe Ramirez	Yes
14	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	D.J. Bingler	Yes – Pamela Williams as proxy

Advisory Members present:

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Christine Gendron	No
2	Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	Yes
3	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	Yes – by phone
4	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
5	Texas Education Homeless Office (THEO)	Jeanne Stamp	Yes
6	Education Service Center Region 10	Jana Burns	No
7	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	Yes
8	Texas Council on Family Violence	Anisha Pyakuryal	No
9	Texas Council on Family Violence	Molly Voyles	No

Other attendees: Christian Henry (Corporation for Supportive Housing), Karen Holt (East Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center), Carlos Borrego (U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development), Faith Dingas (Office of the Texas Governor), Rodrigo Estrada (Office of the Texas Governor), Elizabeth Yevich (TDHCA), Jeremy Stremmer (TDHCA), Kali Adams (TDHCA), Megan Sylvester (TDHCA), Spencer Duran (TDHCA), Michael Wilt (TSAHC), Joel Mullins (TWC).

Administrative support: Danny Shea (TDHCA).

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. After all attendees introduced themselves, it was confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. Remarks from Chair

Mike Doyle welcomed members and acknowledged that homelessness has recently been the focus of much media attention. He reminded members in the event that they provide comments for media or elected officials, they may not state that their comments are being made on behalf of the TICH.

III. Approval of draft minutes from the April 30, 2019 TICH Meeting

Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the April 30, 2019 TICH meeting. Brooke Boston moved to approve and Naomi Cantu seconded the motion. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

IV. Texas Workforce Commission Funds (Voting Item)

Naomi Cantu provided an update on TWC funds to be contributed to a statewide nonprofit on behalf of the TICH and requested that proposals be put forth for the consideration of the council. The decision was made to request proposals and vote on which agency would receive funding during the July 30

meeting because the funds were scheduled to start September 1, before the next scheduled TICH meeting.

Eric Samuels presented THN's proposal to use the funds for the agency's proposed "Embracing Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Back into the Workforce" program which is based on some of the initial work their prior VISTAs did under the prior grants. The program would use the funds from TWC to deploy VISTA members in up to three rural and mid-sized communities to build a network of volunteers to assist veterans in gaining employment and securing or maintaining housing. General discussion followed. See meeting materials for more information.

No other proposals were presented during the meeting. Naomi Cantu moved to vote in favor of awarding the proposed funds to THN and Joe Ramirez seconded the motion. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the motion.

Brooke Boston suggested that starting in 2020, any organizations or TICH members who have ideas for the use of the funds should present their proposals to the council during the April quarterly meeting and the council should vote on the proposals during the July quarterly meeting.

V. Updates from TICH Committees

Eric Samuels provided an update on the Annual Report Committee. He distributed a copy of the current draft of the Annual Report. THN is still working on the report; Eric expressed interest in TNOYS contributing to a section focused on youth experiencing homelessness, TDHCA contributing to sections on the State Low-Income Housing Plan, and TWC contributing to a section on the agency's funds contributed on behalf of the TICH. The council will vote on approval of the Annual Report at the October quarterly meeting.

Elizabeth Yevich gave an update on the Performance Data Committee. The committee has been on hold as TDHCA hired for the Housing Resource Center Research Specialist, who provides administrative support to the TICH and has chaired the Performance Data Committee in the past. Danny Shea started in the Research Specialist position in June and will begin work on the Performance Data Committee in August.

VI. 5-Year Plan Consultation Process

Jeremy Stremmer introduced the State of Texas 5-Year Consolidated Plan consultation process. Members were invited to provide comments to Jeremy via email. Examples of possible feedback provided during consultation included data members want to see in the Consolidated Plan or proposed changes to program rules and administration. The deadline for consultation is the end of October.

VII. Updates from Member Agencies

Naomi Cantu provided updates on TDHCA-administered homelessness and poverty prevention programs: the Ending Homelessness Fund (EHF), Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG), and the Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP). Approximately \$175,000 received since the inception

of the EHF is anticipated to be distributed to five HHSP Subrecipients, to be confirmed at a future TDHCA Board meeting. Subrecipients currently identified for these funds are Arlington, Austin, Dallas, El Paso, and Plano. Proposed ESG awards will be presented at the September Board meeting. Youth set-aside awards for the HHSP were awarded at the July Board meeting. The youth set-aside will provide an additional \$1.5 million in funding per year to nine cities currently receiving HHSP funding.

Spencer Duran presented an update on the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance program, focusing especially on the program's target population of youth with disabilities aging out of foster care. The program has housed 268 households to date, with a goal of housing 600 households by 2021. The program has received 29 referrals for transition-aged youth and has housed eight of the 29 to date. General discussion followed; see transcript for additional details.

Valinda Bolton provided updates from DFPS. DFPS is in the process of implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act, and Child Protective Services Associate Commissioner Kristene Blackstone is scheduled to come to a TICH meeting in 2020 to present on the department's progress. DFPS is in the process of implementing legislation from the 86th Texas Legislature requiring the department to assist youth in foster care and youth experiencing homelessness to obtain birth certificates, state IDs and/or driver licenses. DFPS is currently sending batch requests to DPS for identification for transition-aged youth, and is working on creating an affidavit that would demonstrate homelessness for youth accessing identification through the program. General discussion followed; see transcript for additional details.

Cal Lopez provided updates from TEA. Austin-based Education Services Center (ESC) Region 13 was named the new technical assistance provider for the agency's Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) program through the program's spring 2019 grant competition. ESC Region 10, the University of Texas at Dallas and THEO have historically provided this technical assistance. TEA's goals for the upcoming school year include increasing the number of school districts identifying students experiencing homelessness by 10 percent, increasing the number of students experiencing homelessness graduating by three percent, and increasing the number of school districts training staff on the risk factors and indicators of students experiencing homelessness. At the October TICH meeting, TEA will provide updated McKinney-Vento information posters and will provide information about a forthcoming ESC capacity building grant.

Helen Eisert provided updates from HHSC. The Supportive Housing Rental Assistance program will be expanding to sixteen more Local Mental Health Authorities and Local Behavioral Health Authorities beginning September 1, 2019. Also as of September 1, 2019, H.B. 4468 will go into effect and change the Health Community Collaborative program's match requirement from a private cash match for the total grant amount to allowing private in-kind match. Counties with a population under 250,000 can utilize a private cash match for 25 percent of the grant amount instead of 100 percent of the grant amount. HHSC has begun developing and providing training opportunities for Centers and State Hospital staff to learn about Project Access. Recovery Managers under the Home and Community Based Services-Adult Mental Health Medicaid program will now begin completing the online 811 PRA training to become referral agents.

Brooke Boston provided additional updates from TDHCA. Bobby Wilkinson was confirmed as TDHCA's new Executive Director at the July Board meeting and will start with the department on August 15, 2019. The department was awarded 20 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers for the Galveston area but has only received two referrals from the local Veterans Affairs office to date. The Board confirmed an increase from \$50,000 to \$75,000 in discretionary Community Services Block Grant funds awarded to THN at the July Board meeting.

VII. Public Comment

Jeanne Stamp announced that THEO will be closing permanently on August 31, 2019. Cal Lopez added that the 1-800 number and website for the THECY program will be transferred to ESC 13; Willa Rosen is the project director for the center's technical assistance team.

Eric Samuels announced that the Balance of State Continuum of Care Board has a vacant seat reserved for a TICH member or advisory member. THN was accepting nominations for the seat through August 2, 2019.

IX. Closing comments

The next TICH meeting is scheduled for October 8, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, and will be held in conjunction with THN's Conference on Ending Homelessness at the Omni Hotel in Houston. Room TBD.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.