



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
Quarterly Meeting – April 11, 2017  
Meeting Minutes Summary

A transcript of the verbal recording made by electronic recording 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)	Emily Sasser-Bray	Yes
5	Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)	<i>vacant</i>	n/a
6	Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)	<i>vacant</i>	n/a
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Frances Gattis	Yes – by phone
8	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)	Valinda Bolton	Yes
9	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Housing Finance representative (TDHCA)	Brooke Boston	Yes
10	TDHCA, Community Affairs representative	Naomi Cantu	Yes
11	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Jessica Hissan	No
12	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Kelly Kravitz	No
13	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Alanna Bennett for Todd Novak	Yes
14	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Pam Maercklein	Yes
15	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	D.J. Bingler	Yes

**Advisory Members present:**

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Christine Gendron	No
2	Austin Travis County Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	Yes
3	Community Healthcore	Stanley Williams	No
4	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	Yes – by phone
5	Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA) of Harris County, Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) Division	Mende Snodgrass	No
6	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
7	Texas Education Homeless Office (THEO)	Ken Martin for Jeanne Stamp	Yes
8	Education Service Center Region 10	Jana Burns	No
9	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	Michael Wilt for David Long	Yes
10	Texas Council on Family Violence	Mona Muro	Yes

**Other attendees:** Bettie Beckworth (HHSC), Nicole Bower (HHSC), and TDHCA staff members including Suzanne Hemphill (TDHCA), and Megan Sylvester (TDHCA).

**Administrative support:** Cate Tracz (TDHCA)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:15 am, welcomed the members, advisory members and guests and requested that the TICH take up agenda item V. next.

**V. Update from State Agencies and Advisory Members on Homeless Prevention Activities**

Updates on homelessness prevention activities occurring at state agencies and other organizations were provided by nine individuals as follows.

Alanna Bennett from TJJD, attending on behalf of Todd Novak, provided updates on her role as the reentry specialist at TJJD, providing assistance to institutions as well as the halfway houses to help youth transition smoothly into the community. Alanna Bennett also reported on items in TJJD’s LAR exceptional items request for the next biennium, a partnership with DFPS to offer the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program, and actions to address sustainable living, including a Tiny House project and sober-living communities.

The next update was provided by Darilyn Cardona-Beiler with Austin/Travis County Integral Care. While Austin/Travis County Integral Care is the local mental health authority for Travis County and provides a variety of prevention programs across the continuum of care, Darilyn Cardona-Beiler reported on programs at Integral Care including Families with Voices, short term rental assistance, collaborations

with YouthWorks, bridge subsidy activities, and their participation in the statewide Healthy Community Collaboratives program.

Valinda Bolton with the Child Protective Services division of DFPS provided updates on the PAL program, host homes, regional Workforce Transition Centers, supervised independent living options, participation in the Section 811 program, and DFPS involvement on the planning committee for the recently established Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Award in Travis County. She indicated that preventive work begins as early as 14 years old.

Ken Martin from THEO attended on behalf of Jean Stamp and provided an update on the Every Student Succeeds Act. THEO will be providing training for homeless school district liaisons who will now be able to certify individuals as homeless according to the HUD definition. (A handout was provided and is available at <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/tich/meetings.htm>.)

Pam Maercklein with TVC provided an overview of social media outreach and funding available for veterans who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness including educational, legal, and mental health resources.

Frances Gattis with TDCJ provided updates on housing resources available to both the discharging population, which TDCJ has no supervision over, and the parolee population, which are often released into an approved housing plan at a transition center or a halfway house. An update was also provided on the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI), which coordinates the mental health and medical needs of both juvenile and adult offenders under supervision through established partnerships and targeted state resources such as the Austin Transitional Center and the Houston Transitional Center, and the Southeast Texas Halfway House. Outcomes for this new program are not yet available.

Mike Doyle provided an update about a partnership in between TWC and TDCJ in Tarrant County, aligning Workforce Boards with Windham to provide job training and certification programs.

DJ Bingler from TWC provided an update on the Veterans Leadership Program which focuses on Iraqi Freedom vets and matching them with jobs.

Naomi Cantu with TDHCA provided detailed updates on the HUD funded Emergency Solutions Grants Program and the state funded Homeless Housing and Services Program. Both programs provide homeless prevention services through subrecipient organizations around the state.

## **II. Remarks from Chair**

Mike Doyle announced that Cornerstone Assistance Network has decided to opt out of the CoC network in Tarrant County. Mike Doyle indicated that this was solely as a business decision and Eric Samuels added that Cornerstone Network is still a very valuable partner of the CoC network.

## **III. Approval of draft minutes from the January 31, 2017 TICH Meeting**

With a quorum present, Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the January 31, 2017, TICH meeting. Brooke Boston moved to approve and Pam Maercklein seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

#### **IV. Update on the Region 6 Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness Webinar: Regional Synergy Towards Solutions**

Michael Wilt with TSAHC provided an update on the February 28, 2017, webinar for the Region 6 Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness. Highlights from the webinar included federal funding and the future of the USICH, kudos to Texas for its work to effectively end homelessness among Veterans, federal benchmarks for ending youth and family homelessness, and collaboration efforts between states in Region 6.

#### **VI. Update on Fair Housing Month**

Suzanne Hemphill from TDHCA provided updates on the TDHCA's Fair Housing efforts and HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule. For Fair Housing month in April, TDHCA is presenting a webinar series in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission, Civil Rights Division. Information on participating in the webinar series was provided to members and a discussion on reasonable accommodations ensued.

#### **VII. Discuss TICH Committees**

Mike Doyle, Brooke Boston and Eris Samuels led a discussion in which members reviewed existing committees and discussed the need for any new Permanent or *ad hoc* committees. Reasons for these committees included the need to meet requirements set forth in the TICH bylaws and the development of the annual plan and report. Following the discussion, Mike Doyle called for a motion to establish two ad hoc committees: 1.) the Annual Report Committee, which may create a subcommittee for a plan as required by the TICH bylaws, and 2.) the Performance Data Committee. Naomi Cantu made a motion and Pam Maercklein seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to establish the Annual Report Committee and Performance Data Committee. Megan Sylvester confirmed that these two committees would be ad hoc. Mike asked that Brooke Boston lead the Performance Data Committee and that Eric Samuels lead the Annual Report Committee.

#### **VIII. Review and approval of 2016 TICH Annual Report (Voting Item)**

Mike Doyle introduced the 2016 TICH Annual Report. Valinda Bolton moved to approve and Brooke Boston seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the 2016 TICH Annual Report.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

Dennis Scholl provided the following comments by email:

"The community based and state agency commitment to finding solutions to Texas homelessness has lots to be admired. Still, from a relative outsider perspective I would ask the Council not to forget a few alternatives to build into solution sets.

First) For Veteran homelessness an assertive engagement with traditional Veterans organization across the State would be wise. Connecting with American Legion Posts and VFW Posts across the State in small and large communities could reap enormous benefit for Veteran homelessness.

Second) Communities small and large will have some capability - often volunteer - to respond to emergency and fires - I believe connecting to Volunteer Fire Departments across the State can also reap enormous emergency housing benefits.

Third) Sending or gravitating to large communities with the homeless is not necessarily the best solution - asking homeless where they are from and if they would like to go home to shelter is important - if so distribution of resources to the home village, town or city could be a major piece of the solutions sought.

Thank you.

Dennis M. Scholl, PhD  
Somerset, Texas"

#### **X. Closing comments**

Mike Doyle reminded members that Chair and Vice Chair nominations need to take place at the July 11, 2017 meeting, as this will be the last TICH meeting of the current fiscal year. Nominations should be emailed to Cate Tracz by Friday, May 19, 2017.

Mike Doyle ended the meeting by reminding the group that the next quarterly meetings are scheduled as follows:

- July 11, 2017, 10:00am  
Health & Human Services Commission - CO2 (Main Bldg.)  
909 West 45th Street, PHR 164  
Austin, TX 78751
- October 4, 2017, 10:00am  
Dallas, TX (in conjunction with THN's Annual Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness)

#### **XII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22am.