



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
Quarterly Meeting –September 26, 2018
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)	Veronica Neville	Yes – Carissa Dougherty as alternate
5	HHSC	Jessica Hissam	Yes
6	HHSC	Claire Irwin	Yes
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Sherri Cogbill	Yes
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 Education Agency (TEA)	Cal Lopez	Yes
12	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJJ)	Todd Novak	Yes – by phone
13	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Joe Ramirez	Yes
14	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	Yes
2	Austin Travis County Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	Yes
3	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	Yes – by phone
4	Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA) of Harris County, Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) Division	Mende Snodgrass	No
5	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
6	Texas Education Homeless Office (THEO)	Jeanne Stamp	Yes
7	Education Service Center Region 10	Jana Burns	No
8	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	Yes – Michael Wilt as proxy
9	Texas Council on Family Violence	Molly Voyles	Yes – by phone

Other attendees: Helen Eisert (HHSC), Megan Moore and Keegan Shepherd (THN), conference attendees including CoC staff and THN Board members.

Administrative support: Cate Tracz and Kali Adams (TDHCA)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 11:01 am and welcomed Joe Ramirez as the new TICH member representing TVC. Joe Ramirez provide a brief overview in his role as TVC's Justice-Involved Homeless State Coordinator and some of the homeless prevention initiatives at TVC. After all attendees introduced themselves, it was confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. Remarks from Chair

Mike Doyle welcomed and thanked all present for the work they all do around the state for homelessness issues.

III. Approval of draft minutes from the April 3, 2018 TICH Meeting

Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the July 10, 2018, TICH meeting. Brooke Boston moved to approve and Todd Novak seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

IV. Updates from TICH Committees

Cate Tracz provided an update on the Performance Data Committee. Since the last quarterly TICH meeting, information continues to be collected on state agency performance data related to persons or

households experiencing homelessness. Once a complete dataset is identified, the goal would be to include this information in future annual TICH reports.

Eric Samuels gave an update on the Annual Report Committee and thanked Dr. Dennis Scholl and Allison Wynn for their work on the committee. Cate Tracz added that the report reflects activities that TICH undertook in 2017.

V. Approval of the 2017 Annual Report (Voting Item)

Mike Doyle entertained a motion to approve the 2017 Annual Report. Naomi Cantu moved to approve and Brooke Boston seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the report.

VI. Updates from Member Agencies

Cal Lopez provided updates on TEA and current training activities for the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grant and training activities for one of TEA's priority initiatives regarding services for students who are homeless, experiencing homelessness, and now, victims of human sex trafficking. This priority comes from the Governor, Attorney General's office, and from the agency.

Claire Irwin provided information on HHSC's Office of the Area Agencies on Aging, which supports area agencies on aging across the state with two initiatives that affect housing and homelessness; information on HHSC's Office of the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, which supports housing navigator activities; and, information on an initiative called Aging Texas Well.

Jessica Hissam provided information on HHSC's Adult Mental Health unit and how the local mental health and behavioral health authorities interact with local communities. Information was also provided on an initiative called Healthy Community Collaboratives, the PATH program, and the Section 811 program, which HHSC and TDHCA partner on.

Carissa Dougherty provided information on training and technical assistance activities, the completion of a CMS funded innovative accelerator program, and a new contract with the National Academy for State Health Policy, Medicaid options in Texas, and partnerships with the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation and Texas Homeless Network.

Brooke Boston informed the group that TDHCA was recently awarded 50 vouchers through HUD's Mainstream Voucher Program and 20 vouchers for Galveston County through HUD's VASH program.

Naomi Cantu provided updates on TDHCA administered homelessness and poverty prevention programs: the Ending Homelessness Fund (EHF), Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG), Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP), and the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG). EHF has raised approximately \$93,000 since January 2018 and program rules are currently out for public comment. ESG is moving forward with contracts directly with subrecipients for the 2018 program year and an online forum currently open to accept comments on the 2019 and 2020 ESG application process. HHSP has added

Plano as an eligible city to administer the program. CSBG is another statewide poverty prevention program administered by TDHCA and a network of Community Action Agencies.

VII. Update on the TNOYS Youth Homelessness Workgroup

Christine Gendron provided an update on the new Youth Homelessness Workgroup, which is separate from the TICH but collaborates with many TICH member agencies and advisory members and is coordinated through TNOYS, THEO and Texas Appleseed. The purpose of this group is to facilitate collaboration at the statewide level for reducing and addressing youth homelessness with a focus initially on unaccompanied youth and sex trafficking. A meeting will be held on October 3, 2018.

VIII. Updates from THN

Megan Moore provided an update on the overall VISTA projects at THN and more specifically on the progress of the VISTA Volunteer Project on §2306.905(7) for each of the project cities to improve coordination between local workforce boards, workforce centers, and local homeless crisis response systems.

Eric Samuels and Keegan Shepherd provided an update on their Data Warehouse Project and announced that THN has officially partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to initially create a Data Warehouse Proof of Concept for this project and to pilot data collection with existing Continuum of Care data sets. Eric Samuels reported that THN is seeking funding to continue the Data Warehouse Project beyond the pilot stage. Discussion ensued regarding project logistics and potential sources of funding.

IX. Conversation with Continuum of Care Agencies

Ann Howard of the Ending Community Homeless Coalition in Austin shared updates on the Homeless Youth Demonstration project, MVP voucher awards for Austin, and the launch of a Pay for Success program, where homelessness providers will collaborate with their local government to assist to individuals who with permanent supportive housing who have been frequent users of jail and hospitals. Discussion ensued among the CoC agency staff and TICH members about communication between homelessness providers and federal, state, and local agencies and partners.

XII. Public Comment

Christine Gendron reported that TNOYS has been working with THEO and THN to support schools who have an influx of students who are homeless as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Through a grant from the Rebuild Texas Fund, TNOYS can now offer grants of up to \$50,000 to service providers who can specifically serve students displaced by the Hurricane to prevent homelessness. Christine Gendron also provided an update on the legislative priorities TNOYS has going into the 86th Legislative Session.

XII. Closing comments

Meeting dates for 2019 are tentatively set and an email will be coming with more details.

XIV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.