

TICH
Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
Quarterly Meeting -- September 20, 2012

NOTES – Approved 01/16/2013

Members Present: Greg Anderson, Steve Ashman, Shannon Creekmur, Beverly Donoghue, Mike Doyle, Karen Lashbrook, Michael Lyttle, B.J. Wagner

Advisory Members Present: JoAnn DePenning, Christine Gendron, Dianna Grey, Ken Martin

Staff Support: Mary Dodson

Others Present: Michael DeYoung, Mindy Green, Tim Irvine, Alfredo Mycue, Ashley Schweickart

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:05. Introductions were made. A quorum was present.

II. Public Comment

No one gave public comment.

III. Approval of June 25, 2012, Quarterly Meeting Notes

Greg Anderson moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Michael Lyttle seconded the motion. The notes were unanimously approved.

IV. Update on the 2012 Annual Report and *Pathways Home*

Mary Dodson presented highlights of the report and *Pathways Home*.

V. State agencies' resources for addressing homelessness:

- Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) has no programs that directly serve people in homeless situations because all DADS participants have long-term housing.
- Adult Protective Services (APS) at the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) does not identify “homelessness” or “mental health” as a reason for automatically opening a case for abuse or neglect.
- Does Child Protective Services (CPS) of DFPS serves persons experiencing homelessness?
- DFPS and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) jointly applied for Section 811 housing funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Permanent supportive housing (PSH) is key to reducing chronic homelessness, as the data on page 51 of *Pathways Home* indicates. In Fort Worth, chronic homelessness has decreased by 21 percent; only 179 persons meet the definition for chronically homeless; therefore, much funding is being directed to PSH.

What are barriers to state agencies collaborating more closely with each other? Numerous factors need to be explored when considering collaborations. For example, if TDHCA's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) dedicates funds to serve a certain population or a specific agency's participants, doing so could create a precedent that would be hard to continue.

A “barter exchange” is where one state agency takes money saved (for example, money saved by not having to provide emergency care to formerly homeless persons who are now housed) and uses it for another purpose (for example, to create affordable housing).

“Social impact bonds” involve investors and service providers implementing programs to achieve specific outcomes, then governments pay them using savings that result from improved social outcomes.

Very little affordable housing is available in Midland and in the Eagle Ford Shale area because of hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” activity. Workers in the fracking industry are renting affordable housing and hotel and motel rooms, pricing low-income persons in the community out of housing.

TDHCA is currently accepting public comment on the proposed LIHTC Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP). TDHCA wants input on supportive services to accompany LIHTC-funded housing.

The House Appropriations Committee and the House Urban Affairs Committee are holding a joint public hearing on the topic of homelessness on October 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the Capitol.

VI. Committee charges and next steps

Current committees align with the four focus areas of *Pathways Home*. Persons listed as “Chairs” have offered to chair the committees, but others are welcome to offer to chair or co-chair. The Homelessness Prevention Committee needs a Chair.

Housing and Supportive Services: Mary Dodson

Homelessness Prevention: *vacant*

Data, Research, and Analysis: Eric Samuels

State Infrastructure: Ken Martin

Committees will build action plans for implementing their corresponding strategies from *Pathways Home*.

Committee chairs are asked to invite Continuum of Care Leads and local organizations to participate in TICH committee work.

VII. Update on Data Warehouse

TDHCA included in its Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) a request for approval to use Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds to establish the Data Warehouse. TDHCA’s Information Systems staff members are assisting with the project. Mike thanked TDHCA for working to make funds available for the Data Warehouse.

Two CoCs have not yet signed letters of commitment to work on the development of the Data Warehouse. Ken said he believes staff turnover and a lack of understanding of the project are the barriers to signing. Mike offered to call representatives of those CoCs. Daniel Gore at THN (current Chair of the Data Warehouse Governing Body) is reaching out to them, as well.

Using Medicaid to address homelessness was discussed. The State of Connecticut was able to use HMIS data to direct more Medicaid funds to serve homeless persons. The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is soliciting comments on potential uses of Medicaid funds and an 1115 waiver. The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is holding regularly-scheduled calls on this topic.

VIII. Update on Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness

Approximately 400 people will attend the conference, a collaboration among the Texas Homeless Network (THN), the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), and the Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS). Forty workshops will be presented, selected from 70 workshop applications. Mike Brezina,

Interim Regional Director for HUD, will speak, and Sarah Hickman, Austin musician, will provide the keynote address.

IX. Roster Updates

Phillip Cochran with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) retired August 31, 2012. Teresa Tod with TNOYS also retired August 31, 2012. Melissa Mason left the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) in September to return to school.

Mike will call TEA to request a new TICH Member representative. Ken suggested adding Christine Gendron (new Executive Director for TNOYS) and Molly Voyles with TCFV as TICH Advisory Members. Mike asked to add this item to the agenda for the next TICH quarterly meeting.

A regular meeting day and time for TICH quarterly meetings in 2013 was proposed:

- Wednesday, January 16
- Wednesday, April 17
- Wednesday, July 17
- Wednesday, October 16

Meeting options were discussed:

- Holding meetings at member agencies' locations and spotlighting the agencies when they are hosting the meeting
- Holding one meeting per year in Austin and three meetings in other cities, to reach out to local communities
- CoCs could give tours of their homeless services to TICH members when the TICH is meeting in their communities

One concern is the time and expense associated with state agency staff traveling out of Austin for meetings. Ken said that the Balance of State (BoS) CoC has been designated by HUD as a "priority community," so funds might be available to facilitate TICH reaching out to the BoS CoC counties.

X. Announcements

Ken thanked TDHCA and the Department of State Health Service (DSHS) for providing funding for THN to coordinate the application of funds for the BoS CoC.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.