



**Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
Quarterly Meeting -- July 16, 2013**

Members present:

Office of the Governor: Mike Doyle
DADS: Steven Ashman
TJJD: Karen Lashbrook (phone in)

DFPS: Beth Engelking
TDHCA: Sharon Gamble
TVC: Julie Puzan

Advisory Members present: Barbara James (THEO), Eric Samuels (THN), JoAnn DePenning (J DePenning Consulting, Inc), Ken Martin (THN), Lashonda Brown (Texas Head Start), and Sara Kim-Gilbreath (TCFV, substituting for Molly Voyles).

Others: Anna Sonenthal (DSHS), Brooke Boston (TDHCA), Elizabeth Yevich (TDHCA), Kris Linenberger (THN), Marc Gold (DADS), Mindy Taylor (TSAHC), and Molly Woodard (TCFV).

Administrative support: Naomi Trejo (TDHCA)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Doyle, TICH Chair, began the meeting at 10:10. Attendees introduced themselves. **Mike Doyle** introduced new member **Sharon Gamble** from TDHCA and new administrative support, **Naomi Trejo** from TDHCA.

II. Agency Spotlight

Mike Doyle moved the agency spotlight from item IV to item II, in order to accommodate visitor **Marc Gold**, Special Advisor for Policy and Promoting Independence, who provided DADS' agency spotlight.

DADS spotlight (**Marc Gold**):

- DADS' doesn't have specific programs for persons who are homeless, but does provide supportive services for people with physical disabilities and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to help transition from homelessness or prevent homelessness.
- However, DADS has inspectors for group homes and assisted living facilities. Social Security Disability Insurance checks pay for room and board at these institutions settings. Medicaid cannot be used for housing.
- DADS has been working on Money Follows the Person program which works to transition persons from institutions into the community. To administer this program, DADS works closely with DSHS and TDHCA and provides support to control the cycle of reentry into the state hospital system.
- For the Balancing Incentive Program, which increases access to non-institutional long-term services and supports, DADS is working on an Information Technology (IT) project to connect financial eligibility and services together. This will be used statewide by Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). ADRCs are trying to enhance the 211 system and build off the framework of the Real Choice Systems Change Grant. The goal is to create a single entry point for people needing assistance. A marketing campaign to advertise this is expected in February/March of 2014.
- **Mike Doyle** asked if participation in the transitional housing requires the person to be on a Public Housing Authority wait list. **Marc Gold** replied that this was not a requirement, but DADS has a transition plan for the individual.
- **Mike Doyle** asked if temporary shelter counts as a residence in order to apply for programs. **Marc Gold** replied that he would need to find that out but that it was a conversation he was willing to have.

- **Eric Samuels** asked about the statewide ADRC. **Marc Gold** replied that there are currently 14 ADRCs statewide and the funding will last until 2015. Future funding will be included in the 2016-2017 Legislative Appropriations Request.

DFPS Spotlight (Beth Engelking):

- There is additional funding for children aging out of the foster care system. Foster care has been extended for children up to age 21 if they are enrolled in some sort of education, or 22 if enrolled in traditional college.
- **Beth Engelking** handed out a brochure on Supervised Independent Living. There are 3 contracts for this service, one in Dallas/Fort Worth, one in Houston and one in San Antonio. These services were procured through an RFP. These supervised living settings help prevent homelessness among youth who have aged out of the foster care system.
- **Brooke Boston** asked what the percentage of youth aging out of foster care may have disabilities. **Beth Engelking** said she would look into if her office had this statistic.
- **Mike Doyle** asked **Brooke Boston** if a person would have to be homeless to receive a Tenant-Based Rental Assistance voucher from TDHCA. **Brooke Boston** answered no and that vouchers were available through the HOME program and Section 8 program in rural areas, unless the person had a disability, in which case the HOME program could be used in urban areas.
- **Mike Doyle** mentioned that it would be great to track homelessness prevention through the Dept of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and TDHCA programs. **Beth Engelking** mentioned that there was a National Youth in Transition database that may track this statistic.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Remarks from Chair and TICH Staff Support Update

Mike Doyle started by passing out assignments for the 2013 Annual Report. He said that the *Pathways Home: A Framework for Coordinating State Administered Programs with Continuum of Care Planning to Address Homelessness in Texas* was encouraged by HUD, but the annual report was mandatory per State of Texas legislation. Each of the nine sections in the annual plan were assigned to committees. He read through the assignments. The timeline for the annual report is 9 months. A committee sign-up sheet was passed around. **Mike Doyle** asked **Naomi Trejo** to send out a copy of last year's report.

Mike Doyle also asked **Mindy Taylor** to chair the Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Committee. He said she would be the tentative chair until confirmed at the next meeting, after she confirms with her office.

V. Approve Notes from 05/17/2013 Quarterly Meeting (voting item)

Elizabeth Yevich noted one typo on the second page. **Steve Ashman** moved to approve the minutes with the typo corrected, and **Beth Engelking** seconded. The motion passed.

VI. Legislative updates

DADS (Steve Ashman)

- Added some division slots for people at risk of institutionalization.
- Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in nursing homes may now be eligible for home care.

DFPS (Beth Engelking)

- 1,000 full time employees were added in child protection services. This reduces investigation and service loads, allowing employees to spend more time with clients.
- Adult Protective Services (APS) is working to reduce recidivism and help more people apply for benefits. APS is for people over 65 years of age or 18-64 years of age if that person has disabilities.
- Received \$25 million over two biennium for Information Technology to help with external access to information and case management. This could be useful to law enforcement, etc.

DSHS (Anna Sonenthal)

- Received \$10.8 million for housing. Will be accessed through Local Mental Health Authorities.
- Steve asked if there was bridge financing before a person qualifies for a Public Housing Authority (PHA) voucher. Anna said no, but the rental is for 2 years

TCFV (Molly Woodard)

- Family Violence Program was fully funded.
- An exceptional item was funded for Battering Intervention and Prevention.
- A Health Task Force was funded to help mothers and their practitioners. This task force will examine best practices.

TCFV (Sara Kim-Gilbreath)

- Working to clear up language to ensure unaccompanied minors have access to shelters.

TJJD (Karen Lashbrook)

- Extra funding received for mental health services.
- Reentry also received extra funding, including some funds for housing.

TDHCA (Brooke Boston, Elizabeth Yevich, and Sharon Gamble)

- Sunset bill passed extending TDHCA by 12 years.
- Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) funded through General Revenue for \$10 million. Last session this was not fully funded through General Revenue and the funding sources used, such as Bonds, Housing Trust Fund and Community Services Block Grants, are not as flexible as General Revenue.
- \$11 million to Housing Trust Fund.

THEO (Barbara James)

- Still shifting through legislation to determine if there were any opportunities to help homeless children.

THN (Ken Martin, Eric Samuels)

- Worked on legislation for payday loans, but legislation was not passed.
- Worked on legislation to not require drug testing for welfare beneficiaries, but legislation passed.
- Worked to encourage Medicaid Expansion to help those who were precariously housed.
- Pleased about the funding of the HHSP for TDHCA and for the \$50,000 from TDHCA to fund the balance of State CoC application. THN cannot fundraise the way other agencies can since any funding they receive from the private sector takes away potential funding from local agencies; therefore THN relies on state funding. The amount from TDHCA used to be \$109,000, and it would be helpful if other state agencies consider THN's operations in upcoming budget requests.

TSAHC (Mindy Taylor)

- Single Family homebuyer programs (e.g. Homes for Heroes and Homes for Educators) were consolidated.

TVC (Julie Puzan)

- Received funds to provide assistance to veterans. Will fund Meals on Wheels and other organizations.
- The US Department of Veteran Affairs has \$301 million for HUD VASH vouchers and other opportunities.

VII. Committee Updates

Homelessness Prevention (Chair: **Beth Engelking**):

Beth Engelking requested more detail about the state surveys conducted for the *2012 Pathways Home*. **Naomi Trejo** will send the information.

The Homeless Prevention Committee needs to coordinate with the State Infrastructure Committee on defining at-risk populations.

Julie Puzan put forward the idea that any applications for homelessness assistance include a question about "military service". If the question includes the word "veteran", the term confuses people since there is misinformation that veterans have to have retired from the military or need to be honorably discharged. A better question would be "have you ever served in the military?" Then the person could use the US Department of Veteran Affairs and not state resources. This screening process is similar to Medicaid questions asking each person if he/she has military service to make sure the US Department of Veteran Affairs is used before state benefits. **Steve Ashman** agreed that Medicaid was a "payer of last resort" and had to exhaust all other options before payment would be sent.

The next Homeless Prevention Committee meeting will be in September.

Housing and Supportive Services (Chair: **Mindy Taylor**):

This committee did not meet, since there was no chair until the current meeting. **Mindy Taylor** said they would meet before the next Quarterly Meeting.

Data, Research, and Analysis (Chair: **Eric Samuels, Barbara James**):

The Balance of State CoC will produce reports through HMIS which are required by TDHCA. **Eric Samuels** will follow up with TDHCA about the requirements of these reports to make sure similar language is used. For example, race information was asked in two different ways. The Data, Research, and Analysis Committee will work with the State Infrastructure Committee to work on consistency.

The Data, Research, and Analysis Committee is working with Beth Wick of 211 Texas to use 211's information when rolling out the Coordinated Access approach. This is part of the "no wrong door" approach for people to find assistance. Using 211 would require additional funding so that 211 can follow clients through the process. Homelessness is one of the most common calls; it is in the top 10 of requests that 211 receives.

State Infrastructure (Chair: **Ken Martin**):

Ken Martin said the State Infrastructure Committee did not meet since the last TICH Quarterly Meeting. He is working on coordinated meeting in Harlingen, Midland and Tyler to get more people to the table, such as human needs networks, and not just the CoCs. Funding for these meetings comes through TEA through Region 10 training. Next year three more communities will be targeted for coordinated meetings.

The next State Infrastructure Committee meeting may be a joint meeting with the Homeless Prevention Committee meeting.

VIII. 2013 Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations

Remaining 2013 meeting dates: October 16, 2013

Meeting time start: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), 909 W 45th Street, Building 555, Room 156, Austin, TX 78751

IX. Closing Comments

Ken Martin reminded everyone that the THN conference was on September 25, 2013 in Austin at the Omni Hotel: Austin Southpark. He suggested having a TICH meeting at the conference in order to get more CoC collaboration.

X. Adjourn

Mike Doyle adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.