



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless

Quarterly Meeting – October 1, 2014

Chair, appointed by the Office of the Governor: Mike Doyle

Members present:

#	Members	Attendance
1	Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)	<i>Absent</i>
2	HHSC 2 nd Member [formerly known as the Texas Department of Human Services]	<i>Vacant</i>
3	HHSC 3 rd Member [formerly known as the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse]	<i>Vacant</i>
4	Office of the Lt. Governor	<i>Vacant</i>
5	Office of the Speaker of the House	<i>Vacant</i>
6	Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)	Laura Gold (by phone)
7	Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)	Jonas Schwartz
8	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	<i>Absent</i>
9	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)	<i>Absent</i>
10	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)	Sharon Gamble
11	TDHCA 2 nd Member	Michael De Young (for Brooke Boston)
12	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Carissa Dougherty (for Anna Sonenthal)
13	DSHS 2 nd Member [formerly known as the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation]	<i>Vacant</i>
14	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Kelly Kravitz
15	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Karen Lashbrook (by phone)
16	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	<i>Absent</i>
17	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	<i>Absent</i>

Advisory Members present Ken Martin, Texas Homeless Network (THN); Eric Samuels, THN; David Long, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC); Charlie Leal, TSAHC.

Others: Ann Howard, Travis County; Camille Castillo, El Paso Coalition for the Homeless; Dianna Grey, Consultant (by phone); Jane Budill, Fort Bend Women’s Center; Jo Kathryn Quinn, THN/Caritas of Austin; Joyce Walker, Haven for Hope; Kim Pickens, Victoria Area Homeless Coalition; Marilyn Brown, Houston/Harris County Continuum of Care (CoC); Megan Sylvester, TDHCA (by phone); Nancy Taguacta, San Antonio/Bexar County; Niki Paul, Travis County Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO); Paula Maroney, Dallas City/Dallas County/Irving CoC; Randy Clinton, Tarrant County CoC; and Suzette Chapman, Balance of State CoC/THN consultant.

Administrative support Naomi Trejo (TDHCA), Cate Taylor - Backup (TDHCA)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:10am. A quorum was not present, so **Mike Doyle** adjourned the Council meeting and called a committee meeting of the whole to order at 10:11am.

II. Remarks from Chair

Mike Doyle commented that there is now a quorum issue, since the October meeting is the second time quorum has not been met. This issue could be resolved with a clean-up bill that would specify which agencies are in the TICH. The current legislation lists agencies that have been absorbed into other agencies, and current legal interpretation is that each agency listed represents a member of the council, even if the agency has been absorbed into another “parent” agency and even if the parent agency already has a member on the TICH. Therefore, some agencies now have two to three members on the TICH. This quorum issue could also be resolved with the addition of by-laws for the TICH.

Mike Doyle welcomed the new members from DADS, TEA, and DARS. He related that he had asked the Speaker of the House for a TICH member, but would have to wait until after the November election to ask for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s members.

At the July TICH meeting, **Mike Doyle** brought up the role of advisory members. He announced during the October meeting that all advisory members would need to be nominated to the status of advisory member. In addition, all current advisory members would need to be re-nominated during 2015. The nominations would need to be submitted to **Naomi Trejo** by December 1, 2014.

Finally, **Mike Doyle** thanked TWC and TEA for their individual contribution of \$10,000 toward TICH goals. In addition DFPS or HHSC may be contributing funds. The TICH has goals that are unfunded mandates, and these funds will help to accomplish these goals. One issue that the funds could help with is standard performance data. There could be “teeth” in the legislation during the clean-up bill to mandate performance measures and reporting. The resources contributed could help with this effort. **Mike Doyle** asked **Kelly Kravitz** and **Jonas Schwartz** to thank their commissioners for these funds on behalf of the TICH.

III. New Members

This was covered during the Remarks from the Chair.

IV. Approval of draft minutes from TICH Quarterly Meeting on May 20, 2014

Mike Doyle approved the minutes as the chair of the TICH. If members had comments on the minutes, they should send the comments to Naomi Trejo.

V. Approval of draft minutes from the TICH Quarterly Meeting on July 28, 2014

Mike Doyle approved the minutes as the chair of the TICH. If members had comments on the minutes, they should send the comments to Naomi Trejo.

VI. Status of Funding Request from TICH Participating Agencies

This was covered during the Remarks from the Chair.

VII. 2015-2019 State of Texas Consolidated Plan Update

Naomi Trejo told the TICH that the public comment period for the 2015-2019 State of Texas Consolidated Plan (Plan) was currently open until October 13, 2014. The Plan is a document, required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which governs funds for the next five years received by the State of Texas from HUD for four programs

- the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program administered by TDHCA;
- the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) administered by TDHCA;
- the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program administered by the Texas Department Agriculture (TDA); and,
- the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program administered by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

She handed out information on how to submit comments by email, mail, and during the three remaining public hearings taking place across the state. A question was asked of the homeless market analysis was statewide. **Naomi Trejo** responded that the homeless analysis was statewide.

VIII. Update on Pilot Program with Tarrant County Continuum of Care

Cindy Crain praised the ability to make decisions at the local level with ESG funding as a result of the pilot. This was especially useful since the same entity that applies for state ESG funding also applies for CoC funding. Tarrant County Homeless Coalition has a committee review, which includes the relationship and programmatic differences between ESG and CoC. Some services are needed in the CoC, but the funding allowed to be used for those services, which is why ESG is so useful because it can fund the needed services. This year there were two new partners; one older partner did not get funded. The new part in the process is evening and weekend outreach. Four percent of the administrative funds are shared with agencies and these funds have to cover the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Currently Tarrant County Homeless Coalition is in the contract phase with their awardees.

Cindy Crain continued that it would be helpful if the same forms were used for the CoC as ESG, and she is working with Mariana Salazar (TDHCA) on this subject. Questions remain how is HUD monitoring for this pilot? Could there be an aggregate submission of funding?

Mike Doyle asked if Tarrant County Homeless Coalition would do the pilot again. **Cindy Crain** replied yes. The current system provides shelter-based case management, but the pilot provided more. The pilot helped reduce the length of stay in an emergency shelter.

Mike Doyle asked if there was any advice for the other CoCs? **Cindy Crain** offered advice for THN, requesting that the application be available earlier. **Ken Martin** said the application was being streamlined. There was some discussion over organizational capacity needed to apply for the pilot program. **Cindy Crain** suggested that the application should be submitted only once if the organization is funded, and then updated yearly. She would like not to have to submit the entire application yearly. **Megan Sylvester** said that the U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) was concerned about CoC capacity, but that a final rule was still needed regarding CoCs. **Ken Martin** suggested that capacity may be a technical assistance issue that THN could provide. He thought THN may be able to provide it periodically, such as once every five years like the Consolidated Plan. **Cindy Crain** said that the model of moving ESG to CoCs may be helpful nationwide; the state of California is watching to see what happens. **Mike Doyle** reiterated that capacity needed to be evaluated, since there were many questions.

Randy Clinton is on a CoC board and says the board puts a lot of trust into the CoC. **Ken Martin** thanked **Cindy Crain** for agreeing to run the pilot program.

IX. Update on Community Service Block Grant Discretionary Funds

Sharon Gamble reminded the TICH that the current focus for Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Discretionary Funds was homelessness. There was \$600,000 dedicated to homelessness, which in July 2014 resulted in four awards \$300,000 to THN for the Statewide Homeless Initiative; \$100,000 to THN to support the TICH in Homeless Support Activities; \$100,000 to the Opportunity Center for the Homeless, Inc, for the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Homelessness Initiative, Inc.; and \$100,000 to Urban Inter-Trial Center of Texas for the Native American Homelessness Initiative.

Ken Martin announced that Dianna Grey was hired as a consultant to meet the TICH Homeless Support Activities. She will work with another staff member of THN as well. The \$300,000 will result in capacity building of ten projects. Letters of intent are needed from the CoCs this month, describing CoC projects and ESG projects. This could include Housing First, Harm Reduction, Rapid Rehousing. The contract for the \$300,000 with TDHCA started September 1, 2014, so timing is short. Paula Harper may consult as well, and she is working to create a case management institute so that CoC could send staff to get training. Also, there will be another housing summit hosted by THN next year. The two projects last year were extended, including the coordinated access project. Suzette Chapman at THN will work on CoC and ESG readiness. **Eric Samuels** said that there were 12 communities, six of which were in the Balance of State, and there was talk about new communities that will be started in January. **Mike Doyle** talked about Pathways Home and how the CoCs could work with the state agencies, with THN as an intermediary.

One attendee asked about the National Alliance to End Homelessness. THN is important for infrastructure, but the local workforce also needs to be doing its job. The State does not understand that local communities need to be system players. **Mike Doyle** talked about reducing case management so that other agencies could fill in the gaps. Housing without services does not work, and services without housing do not work. US Interagency Council on Homelessness and the TICH are pushing to combine services and housing. For example, the criminal justice system is housing homeless people, making the county jails and state prisons full. The next homeless population will be ex-offenders. A participant in the discussion said that Dallas County sheriff had told him that the local jail was like the Mental Health Mental Retardation (MHMR) housing. **Mike Doyle** said it was important to get TDCJ and TJJD at the table, since the TICH has representatives for both of those agencies.

X. Update on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grant *Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI - State)*

Carissa Dougherty gave an update that the CABHI grant's only eligible entity was DSHS, but that the grant required an Interagency Council for the Homeless to participate. She said DSHS was looking for confirmation that the TICH would act as the Interagency Council for the Homeless for the purposes of the grant. Once DSHS received that approval, they would start conducting outreach and access capacity for a pilot program to run the CABHI grant.

Ken Martin commented that the amount available was not much considering the size of Texas. **Carissa Dougherty** reiterated that 15% would be available for the TICH for administrative purposes. Also, perhaps the CoCs could contract with the local mental health authorities (LMHAs). Plus, the CABHI grant could also partner with Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program, which TDHCA is working to administer. **Mike Doyle** asked **Megan Sylvester** if he could commit the TICH to helping on the grant

without quorum. She replied that the chair could take action, so **Mike Doyle** gave approval as the chair to move forward with the grant application and that the TICH would act as the Interagency Council for the Homeless for the grant.

XI. Discussion on TICH Advisory Members

Mike Doyle continued on the topic of advisory members from the Chairs Remarks earlier in the meeting. He said that starting January 1, 2015, all current advisory members would be abolished. Advisory members would need to be nominated by a TICH member and attend at least two TICH meetings per year. If anyone else had other qualifications for advisory members, he/she should send the ideas to **Naomi Trejo**. **Carissa Dougherty** would send specific qualifications needed for composition of advisory members for the purposes of the CABHI grant. Nominations should be in by December 1.

XII. Approval to submit the 2013 TICH Annual Report

Without quorum, **Mike Doyle**, as chair of the TICH, approved the annual report for distribution. **Naomi Trejo** would work to distribute the report with a letter from **Mike Doyle** showing that the report was approved.

XIII. TICH Committees and Status of 2013 Annual Report Update

(a) Homelessness Prevention -- Chair Beth Engelking

Beth Engelking was not present to give an update.

(b) Housing and Supportive Services -- Chair Charlie Leal

Charlie Leal introduced himself as new chair of the Housing and Supportive Services Committee. He said he had sent out a message to the members of the committee as an introduction.

(c) Data, Research, and Analysis -- Chair Eric Samuels

Eric Samuels said that the Data, Research, and Analysis Committee hadn't met. However, the 2014 Point-in-Time count was released and showed a 5% drop in homelessness. When combined with the 2013 Point-in-Time count, this equals an 18% drop, which shows progress.

Also, **Eric Samuels** mentioned that the homeless data warehouse was discussed in one of the panels of the 2014 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness presented by THN. **Ken Martin** reminded the TICH that the problem with the data warehouse before was the ownership of the data. **Sharon Gamble** said that now would be a good time to restart that conversation, but the problem is monetary, since \$500,000 was set aside for that project several years ago, but those funds are no longer available. **Ken Martin** said that the funding for the data warehouse did not have to come from the State. Corporations or businesses may be able to help fund the system, since their funds would not be tied to certain regulations or statutes and may make the data warehouse easier to create. **Eric Samuels** said that the data warehouse could start with the CoC data first. **Mike Doyle** mentioned that before the Tarrant County CoC started their new data system, the estimates of the number of homeless individuals and families varied widely. Whatever system is created, people need to have confidence in the system.

(d) State Infrastructure -- Chair Ken Martin

Ken Martin said that the State Infrastructure Committee had not met in the last quarter. He would also like to step down, since he believes the committee should be headed by a State agency member. **Carissa Dougherty** said that the CABHI grant writers will probably need to be heavily involved with the State Infrastructure Committee.

XIV. 2015 Tentative Schedule

- (a) January 20, 2015**
- (b) April 21, 2015**
- (c) July 21, 2015**
- (d) October 20, 2015**

Mike Doyle announced that the tentative schedule for 2015 was on the third Tuesday of every quarter, with the exception of the last quarterly meeting, which will coincide with the THN conference. **Ken Martin** said the next THN conference will be in Corpus Christi.

The meeting concluded at 11:15 am.