



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless

Quarterly Meeting – April 28, 2015

**Members present:**

#	Member Agency	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Office of the Governor appointee, Cornerstone Network (TICH Chair)	Mike Doyle	No
2	Office of the Lt. Governor	<i>vacant</i>	
3	Office of the Speaker of the House	<i>vacant</i>	
4	Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)	Fedora Galasso	Yes
5	HHSC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Member [formerly known as the Texas Department of Human Services]	Amy Felker	Yes
6	HHSC 3 <sup>rd</sup> Member [formerly known as the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse]	<i>vacant</i>	
7	Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)	Laura Gold	Yes
8	Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)	Jonas Schwartz (Debbie Gatica as proxy)	Yes
9	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Frances Gattis	Yes
10	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)	Beth Engelking	Yes
11	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)	Brooke Boston*	Yes
12	TDHCA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Member	Sharon Gamble	Yes
13	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Anna Sonenthal	No
14	DSHS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Member [formerly known as the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation]	Carissa Dougherty	Yes
15	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Kelly Kravitz	Yes
16	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJJ)	Karen Lashbrook	No
17	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Pam Maercklein (Elliott Sprehe as proxy)	Yes
28	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	George McEntyre	Yes

\*Acting Chair, for Mike Doyle

**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	No
3	Community Healthcore	Stanley Williams	No
4	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	No
5	Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA) of Harris County, Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) Division	Mende Snodgrass	Yes
6	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
7	Texas Education Homeless Office (THEO)	Jeanne Stamp	Yes
8	Education Service Center Region 10	Jana Burns	No
9	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSHAC)	David Long	Yes
10	Texas Council on Family Violence	Molly Voyles (Mona Muro as proxy)	Yes
11	THN	Ken Martin	Yes
12	HHSC	Sonja Gaines	No

**Other attendees:** Diana Grey (THN), Jennifer Paulsen (THN), Kraig Fiero (THN); Megan Sylvester (TDHCA); Laura Saintey (TDHCA); and Michael Witt (TSAHC).

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

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**Brooke Boston** called the meeting to order at 10:13am. Because **Mike Doyle** was unable to attend the meeting, he requested that **Brooke Boston** act as Chair of the meeting in his absence. With 12 out of 18 Council members present, a quorum was established.

**II. Election of TICH Chairperson**

**Brooke Boston** made a motion to reelect **Mike Doyle** as TICH Chairperson. **Beth Engelking** seconded the motion. All members voted aye unanimously.

**III. Remarks from Chair**

**Brooke Boston** opened the floor for any remarks from members. **Ken Martin** announced that, effective August 31, 2015, he would be stepping down from his position as Executive Director at the Texas Homeless Network. **Ken Martin** thanked the Council members and noted that he was pleased with progress the Council has made towards its goals.

**IV. 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Report**

An overview of legislative actions that may affect the TICH was provided by **Brooke Boston**.

SB 607 is Senator Hancock's TICH cleanup bill. SB 607 has been sent from the Senate to the House and has been received in the House. The engrossed bill: (1) clarifies the state agency membership of the TICH by making sure the changes in the health and human services structure are reflected in the TICH membership list; (2) Includes that TDHCA may support the TICH through fiscal support; (3) Includes that all TICH state agencies shall contribute resources each fiscal period to the TICH unless they state in writing that they cannot contribute; (4) Adds that the Texas Homeless Network can be sought out by the TICH to provide program or policy assistance; and (5) Adds that members may meet by teleconference if the council member lives more than 20 miles from the meeting site.

HB 679 is Representative Turner's bill for a study on homeless youth. HB 679 was voted out of the House and referred to the Senate's Health and Human Services Committee. The engrossed bill defines homeless youth and requires TDHCA to work with the TICH members to conduct a study on homeless youth which includes collecting data on the number of homeless youth, determining the degree to which homeless youth needs are being met, indentifying sources of funds for homeless youth, and developing a strategic plan to establish steps to meet homeless youth.

SB 1580 is Senator Garcia's bill for a report for homeless veterans *and* homeless youth. SB 1580 was left pending in the committee. The Committee Substitute defines homeless veterans and youth and requires TDHCA to work with the TICH members to conduct on a study of homeless veterans and homeless youth which compiles point-in-time counts, reviews recently-released studies, recommends changes in the law to better serve the populations; and identifies funding sources to serve these populations.

**Brooke Boston** then called for updates on legislative issues from other members that may be of interest to the TICH. **Dianna Grey** informed members of SB 1730, which is Senator Lucio's bill, relating to the administration of funds allocated to Texas from the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) by the General Land Office (GLO). By regulation, NHTF activities will mainly focus on rental assistance for the extremely low-income population. **Dianna Grey** expressed concerns about the GLO being named in the bill to administer the funds. However, **Brook Boston** clarified that the Governor's office has named TDHCA as the designated agency to administer the program in Texas. TDHCA staff will monitor the bill's progress, as it currently contradicts the Governor's designation.

**Kelly Kravitz** informed members of SB 1730, authored by Senator Uresti, which adds the term "students who are homeless" and would extend certain educational and transition assistance, currently offered to students who are in substitute care, to students who are experiencing homelessness.

**Ken Martin** informed members of HB 843, authored by Representative Naishtat, which relates to housing services provided through the DFPS transitional living services program to certain youth aging out of foster care. **Ken Martin** also informed members of HB 2902, authored by Representatives Springer, Burkett, and Larson, which relates to source of income protection for households seeking rental assistance. The companion bill on the Senate side, SB 267, contains an exception for the City of Austin. **Brooke Boston** reminded members that all projects and programs funded through TDHCA already contain source of income protections requirements either by program statute or contract.

## V. New Members

**Brooke Boston** welcomed two new members to the TICH. **Frances Gattis**, joins from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, as a replacement for Erin McGann, and **Amy Felker** joins from the Health and Human Services Commission.

**Laura Gold** then announced to the group that she will be leaving DADS at the end of May. Members thanked her for her involvement with the TICH.

#### **VI. Approval of draft minutes**

**Brooke Boston** made a motion to approve the TICH Quarterly Meeting Minutes from October 1, 2014 and January 20, 2015. **Carissa Dougherty** seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

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

Each committee was asked to provide the job description or mission statement they created and to update the council members on what changes they made to the 2014 Annual TICH Report. Job descriptions and/or mission statements will be provided to **Naomi Trejo** by email following the meeting.

- (a) *Homelessness Prevention*: **Beth Engelking** reported that the Homelessness Prevention Committee had not yet developed a job description for the committee but will meet soon with the new committee members. In the 2014 Annual TICH report, the committee updated information on the THN grant for coordinated access.
- (b) *Housing and Supportive Services*: **Michael Wilt** provided the mission statement developed by the Housing and Supportive Services Committee. Changes made to the 2014 Annual TICH Report include improved methods of gathering, sharing, utilizing and protecting data for the HMIS data warehouse. The report also better defines THN's role with the TICH.
- (c) *Data, Research, and Analysis*: In lieu of a job description for the Data, Research, and Analysis committee, **Eric Samuels** reported that committee members developed a challenge statement. Updates to the report include a re-established focus on coordination with CoC's and the data warehouse project. Data collection across state agencies will also be re-examined for commonalities.
- (d) *State Infrastructure*: **Ken Martin** indicated that the State Infrastructure Committee met at various times in person and by email but had not completed a mission statement or job description yet. Updates to the report include a survey of current statewide resources, a review of what THN is accomplishing with the CoC's, and preparation for the transition of funding the ESG program through the CoC network in Texas. Also included is information on THN's leader calls, Housing Summit, case management training and technical assistance program, and the Healthy Community Collaborations and awards. Finally, the State Infrastructure Committee updated information on the TWC and TVC coordination efforts for employment services.

Following the committee updates, **George McEntyre** notified members that, under a Legislative appropriations rider to serve homeless individuals, TWC released an RFP but received few applicants. Should an RFP be released again for additional applicants to fully expend the \$4 Million funds available, **George McEntyre** will notify the Council.

#### **VIII. 2014 Report**

**Brooke Boston** made a motion to approve the 2014 TICH Report. **George McEntyre** and **Sharon Gamble** seconded the motion. All members voted aye unanimously. With approval of the 2014 Report, it will now be delivered to the governing bodies of the agencies represented on the Council.

#### **IX. Report on Texas Homeless Network's Review of TICH's Legislative Requirements**

**Ken Martin** provided a brief overview of Dianna Grey's work to date with THN and TICH. Then, **Dianna Grey** provided a detailed update of her progress of the statutory assessment of the TICH. Two documents were provided to the TICH members and members reviewed recommendations of all action plan items proposed. Members were asked to choose two action items from the list to focus on between now and July 30<sup>th</sup>. Members had a lengthy discussion about which action items to focus on.

During this discussion, the suggestion was made to elevate the TICH to more of a policy advisory role for homeless issues and to provide recommendations to state agencies. The discussion also highlighted the importance of reviewing existing performance measures that report on homelessness activities. Following this meeting, **Ken Martin** and **Diana Grey** will meet to finalize a plan for next steps and report back to the TICH.

#### **X. Status of the \$10,000 Request from Member Agencies**

**Brooke Boston** provided an overview of the \$10,000 request to new TICH member, **Fedora Galasso**. Subsequently, **Ken Martin** suggested that any bylaws created include a process for transition of agency members to inform any new members of important projects and duties of the TICH.

**Kelly Kravitz** emphasized the importance of setting the terms for funding from the contributing agencies to the TICH. All members agreed.

#### **XI. TICH VISTA Volunteer**

**Jennifer Paulsen** provided an update of the Vista Volunteer project at THN. The recruitment process was started the Friday before this meeting and the volunteer will be housed at THN's offices. **Kelly Kravitz** asked, for clarification, if the \$20,000 agency contributions were going to be used for the Vista Volunteer and **Brooke Boston** responded yes. Members were in agreement with the decision to use the funding for the VISTA Project Manager.

#### **XII. Update on TDHCA Homelessness Services Programs and Initiatives**

**Sharon Gamble** offered to present this item at the next TICH meeting, as time was running out and key TDHCA staff members were not present.

#### **XIII. Update on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grant**

**Carissa Dougherty** provided an update on the *Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI - State)* grant application submitted by DSHS. The grant application was submitted requesting the maximum allowable amount of funding, \$9,000,000 for 3 years. Awards are expected to be announced in the fall of 2015. If awarded, **Carissa Dougherty** reviewed the timeline for adjusting and implementing the project plan submitted with the application. There will be a two month window to adjust the plan submitted with the application and a four month window to implement the plan.

**Ken Martin** followed with an update on a meeting he had with representatives from the USICH and HUD, during the most recent THN Housing Summit. The meeting focused on how HUD and the USICH can support the work of the THN and TICH.

The meeting concluded at 12:06 pm