



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
 Quarterly Meeting – April 26, 2016

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)	Emily Sasser-Bray Amy Felker	Yes Yes
5	Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)	<i>vacant</i>	n/a
6	Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)	Jonas Schwartz	No
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Frances Gattis	Yes – by phone
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 Trejo	Yes
11	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Anna Sonenthal Jenna Sheldon	Yes Yes
12	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Kelly Kravitz	No
13	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Karen Lashbrook	Yes – by phone
14	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Pam Maercklein	Yes
15	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	George McEntyre	Yes

Advisory Members present:

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Lara O’Toole (Proxy for Christine Gendron)	Yes

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
2	Austin Travis County Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	Yes – by phone
3	Community Healthcore	Stanley Williams	No
4	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	Yes – by phone
5	Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA) of Harris County, Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) Division	Mende Snodgrass	No
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	Yes
12	HHSC	Sonja Gaines	No

Other attendees: Aaliyah Noble (THN), Jennifer Paulsen (THN), Peter Grein (THN), Mona Muro (TCFV), Michael Wilt (TSAHC), Anna Baker (TVC)

Administrative support: Cate Tracz (TDHCA)

I. and II. Welcome and Remarks from Chair

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:07am and welcomed the members, advisory members and guests and confirmed quorum was present.

III. Approval of minutes from the January 26, 2016 TICH Quarterly Meeting

Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the January 26, 2016, Quarterly TICH meeting. George McEntyre moved to approve and Brooke Boston seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

VI. House Bill 679, Youth Homelessness

Lara O’Toole of TNOYS provided an update on *Youth Count Texas!*, reporting that 12 communities across Texas participated and a total of 879 surveys were collected. Following the counts, a debriefing conference call was held with the 12 communities to share experiences and review any lessons learned. TNOYS is now preparing the process evaluation for Phase II of *Youth Count Texas!* and will be assessing topics such as the project timeline, stakeholder participation, and linkages with existing statewide counts. Some of the issues brought up in the process evaluation were the need for more school involvement in the youth counts and the advantages/disadvantages of conducting a youth count in conjunction with a Point In Time count.

Mike Doyle asked about the data that was collected along with the Point in Time counts and Lara O'Toole clarified that TNOYS is working with the University of Texas at Austin to collect and organize the data from both the short surveys and longer needs assessment surveys. Many of these surveys were collected in conjunction with the Point in Time counts. The results are not yet ready to be released. Mike Doyle then requested that the TICH members be able to review any materials that will be released from TNOYS as a result of *Youth Count Texas!*. Lara O'Toole indicated that TDHCA would coordinate the review of any materials with the TICH.

V. Senate Bill 1580, Veteran Homelessness

Naomi Trejo provided an overview of the Study on Homeless Veterans and reviewed the duties of the TICH Veterans Workgroup and outreach activities to collect recommendations on how to end homelessness among Veterans. Members of the TICH were thanked for their work on reviewing materials for the Study on Homeless Veterans to date. Naomi Trejo informed the members that the review process will change going forward and will occur during the TICH meetings discussion of recommendations collected and synthesized from public input. The recommendations from the public presented to the TICH have already been considered by TDHCA senior staff and the TICH Veteran Workgroup. Naomi Trejo led a discussion on the first round of recommendations from the public relating to increasing partnerships with the rental market. As a result of the TICH discussion, the report will reflect potential consequences and outcomes of the recommendations from the public. While all recommendations from the public were available for discussion at the TICH, a few recommendations were considered infeasible as determined by input from previous reviews; the infeasible recommendations were in grey print on the handout and were not opened for discussion at the TICH meeting unless requested. No requests were made to open the recommendations considered infeasible. Naomi Trejo said to contact her with any input on the recommendations from the public not discussed during the TICH meeting. (See the attached *Draft Study on Homelessness among Veterans for SB 1580* handout for more detail.)

Naomi Trejo explained that a special TICH meeting will be called in mid-November for final discussion of the Study on Homeless Veterans, which is due to the Legislature by December 1, 2016. If TICH members are interested in reviewing draft sections of the Study on Homeless Veterans, they are encouraged to join the TICH Veterans Workgroup.

After the discussion of the recommendations, Eric Samuels provided an overview of the Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Data Analysis project that THN has undertaken with the support of the TICH for the Study on Homelessness among Veterans. Limitations of the data elements from the Point In Time counts were discussed. At this time, THN is in the early stages of the data analysis and more detail will be provided at future TICH meetings.

VI. VISTA Volunteer Project on §2306.905(7)

Aaliyah Noble provided an update on the progress of the Employment Navigation Internship Pilot Program to date, informing TICH members of the partners involved and next steps to run a pilot

program in Jefferson, Orange, and Hardin Counties. (See the attached *Employment Navigation Internship Pilot Program Update* handout for more detail.)

VII. Texas Healthcare and Housing (H2) Action Plan

Eric Samuels provided a brief overview of the H2 Systems Integration Initiative, which is an initiative to provide technical assistance to support states and communities in undertaking systems changes needed to enhance integration and collaboration between housing and healthcare. The initiative is a product of the partnership between several federal organizations, including HUD, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and others. Seven Continuums of Care in Texas applied for the technical assistance and ultimately the State was awarded as a whole.

Eric Samuels explained that a H2 Leadership Team had been created for Texas organizations, a planning session had been held in September 2015, and a Draft Texas H2 Action Plan had been developed at a subsequent planning session in February 2016. At the September 2015 and February 2016 sessions, need was expressed to have more involvement from State agencies. Eric Samuels called for a TICH member to represent the TICH on the H2 Leadership Team. Amy Felker from HHSC volunteered to represent the TICH and all members agreed. Dennis Scholl indicated that he would be able to assist in H2 after September.

VIII. TICH Committees

Only the Data, Research, and Analysis Committee had met since the last TICH meeting and indicated that they intend to resume work on State agency survey data. Anna Sonenthal with the State Infrastructure Committee indicated an interest in finding another lead for this committee.

Mike Doyle indicated that a strong review of the TICH Committee structures and duties is needed and will take place at the next TICH Quarterly meeting.

IX. TICH Bylaws

Mike Doyle introduced and called for a vote to approve the TICH Bylaws. Brooke Boston moved to approve and George McEntyre seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the TICH Bylaws. Following the meeting, the approved TICH Bylaws will be available on the TICH web pages, hosted by TDCHA, at <http://www.tdcha.state.tx.us/tich/index.htm>.

X. Update on State Homelessness Services Programs and Initiatives

Anna Sonenthal provided an overview of the Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) which is a collaborative initiative launched by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, with the goal of improving care and improving health for Medicaid beneficiaries, and reducing costs by supporting states in accelerating new payment and service delivery reforms. Anna Sonenthal explained that, as a recipient of IAP, Texas is leading a series of informational webinars and will eventually create a crosswalk of Medicaid services in Texas.

Following the IAP overview, a request was made by Mike Doyle for State Agencies and Advisory Members to provide updates on homeless prevention activities at the next meeting.

XI. Public Comment

Dennis Scholl provided the following public comment by email:

As a public member I offer the following comments and rather than extend meeting time I offer these four comments as an email for consideration in the minutes. Thanks.

(1) May is Mental Health Month – is it possible for TDHCA, in cooperation with DSHS to post on the web and also make a News release on the status of Housing for the Mentally Ill as a public awareness event? Especially in light of the terrible Boarding Home front page article in the San Antonio Express news last Sunday this would show importance of TICH to corrective actions for housing persons with mental illness. Programmatic picture should also present how much of housing budget (percentage) is applied to Departmental “overhead” with special recognition to Departments that minimize the overhead costs.

(2) I have a recent tragic Vets housing story – Gulf War Vet, expected a job at Toyota, left Vet sponsored schooling early so lost that income, didn’t get the job, - couldn’t get help until actually “homeless” – he spouse and two kids were evicted because of inability to pay rent and inability to get immediate help with same.

(3) Programmatic (Homelessness) funding versus Departmental funding/budgeting can present legislators with a clearer picture – I have an example of this for “mental health program” in another state – can TICH be the “integrator” of the “Homelessness” program of the State of Texas to give Legislature an integrated clear picture despite departmental funding?

(4) Opportunity for addressing some homelessness needs exists in Eagle Ford Rural counties – Vacant and unopened hotels and abandoned and underutilized “man camps” - not all homelessness needs solution in urban areas – why not investigate with lending institutions any foreclosed properties or the “rental market” and work to get rural housing opportunities??

Thanks for accepting my comments.

Dennis M. Scholl, PhD
Adult Mental Health Program Director

XII. Next meeting

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday July 12, 2016, in Austin, TX.

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42am.