



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
Quarterly Meeting – January 21, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

A transcript from the electronic recording of the meeting may be found here:  
<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/tich/meetings.htm>

**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)	Joyce Pohlman	Yes
5	HHSC	Suzie Brady	Yes
6	HHSC	Claire Irwin	Yes
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Christy Adams	Yes
8	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)	Valinda Bolton	No
9	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), Housing Finance representative	Brooke Boston	Yes
10	TDHCA, Community Affairs representative	Naomi Cantu	Yes
11	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Cal Lopez	Yes
12	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Marqus Butler	Yes
13	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Blake Harris	Yes
14	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	Shirley Jones	Yes

**Advisory Members present:**

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Lauren Rose	Yes
2	TNOYS	Lyric Wardlow	Yes
2	Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	Yes
3	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	No
4	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
5	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	Michael Wilt	Yes
6	Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)	Molly Voyles	Yes

**Other attendees:** Jeremy Stremmer (TDHCA), Kali Adams (TDHCA), Megan Sylvester (TDHCA), Jennifer Gonzalez (Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute), Shrabya Poudyal (THN), Joe Schultz (THN), Jacq Taylor, (THN) (TDHCA), Nick Thompson (THN), Elizabeth Yevich (TDHCA).

**Administrative support:** Elizabeth Yevich (TDHCA)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order via GoToWebinar at 10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Yevich welcomed everyone and announced that Danny Shea who had been serving as administrative support staff for the TICH had recently moved to another position in TDHCA indicating she would serve as administrative support for the foreseeable future. Ms. Yevich then introduced new members Dr. Blake Harris, TVC, Suzie Brady with HHSC and Christy Adams filling in for Sherri Cogbill (TDCJ). After reviewing the list of webinar attendees, staff confirmed that a quorum was present. Jeremy Stremmer provided an overview of GoToWebinar after the minutes were approved under Item III.

**II. Remarks from Chair**

Mike Doyle thanked attendees for attending stating that he had to leave at 11:15 and if the meeting were not concluded by that time he asked Naomi Cantu to take over. Ms. Cantu agreed. Chair Doyle then stated that the Office of the Governor would like to hear from TICH about the effect of COVID on homelessness indicating that he hoped what he would hear during this meeting he would be able to report back on to the Governor’s Office.

**III. Approval of draft minutes from the October 20, 2020 TICH Meeting**

Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the October 20, 2020 TICH meeting. Naomi Cantu moved to approve and Cal Lopez seconded the motion. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

**IV. Updates from Texas Homeless Network**

(a) Eric Samuels introduced THN staff members Joe Schultz, Nick Thompson, Jacq Taylor and Shrabya Poudyal. Mr. Thompson, Program Manager for the VISTA Project stated that there are currently seven members in-service with one member focused specifically on ending veteran homelessness. He relayed that due to COVID members were telecommuting which had placed a strain on recruitment efforts but that the VISTA members had still been able to accomplish a great deal, especially as it related to changes that had to do with the PIT count. Mr. Samuels added that THN had been approved for another year indicating that they have expanded out of state to New Mexico and hoped to further expand in the

coming year. Mr. Samuels then extended a special thanks to VISTA member Joe Schultz whose service will be ending before the next quarterly TICH meeting.

(b) Next, Mr. Poudya then introduced himself as Project Manager for the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network (THDSN) which has received signed data use agreements from three CoC's indicating that this was the first cohort of CoC's to be uploaded into the warehouse with the Balance of State participants, Houston-Harris and Fort Worth-Tarrant uploading data from 2012 through 2019. Mr. Poudya stated that HUD had approved THN for direct ongoing TA/teamwork in order to assist with the project. After discussion on details of THDSN he concluded saying it was planned that THN would be receiving at least two more signed data use commitments within the next couple of months. Several questions were then raised to Mr. Samuels about the changes in the PIT count this year and a general discussion ensued with both Chair Doyle and Mr. Samuels agreeing that they felt homelessness was up during this past pandemic year. Mr. Samuels concluded his remarks about THN indicating that it was expected that their annual conference would take place in-person at the Omni Galleria in Houston in early fall, tentatively set for October 2-5. Several questions from the membership were then fielded by Mr. Samuels.

## **V. Updates from Member Agencies**

(a) i. Naomi Cantu provided an update on TDHCA's-administered Emergency Solutions Grants Program Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds (ESG-CARES)..TDHCA has received about \$97 million dollars in ESG-CARES funding. TDHCA's Single Family and Homeless Programs division had previously programmed \$33 million in July 2020. At the January 14, 2021 TDHCA board meeting the remaining \$64 million was approved with Ms. Cantu indicating that many more providers were expected to soon come online to get the funding into the communities for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing, the two focused upon activities for this funding. Ms. Cantu extended thanks to the CoC agencies for helping to distribute the funding with a special "shout-out" to THN who had provided special coordination to make certain that there was coverage in all 254 Texas counties.

ii. Brooke Boston presented an update of TDHCA's Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CARES) program stating that in light of new federal rental assistance funding coming to the agency a decision was recently made to do a plan amendment for CDBG-CARES. Ms. Boston discussed the initial Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program (TERAP) and Eviction Diversion programs developed under CDBG-CARES stating that the remainder of the funds which had been intended for TERAP and eviction diversion have now been reprogrammed into mortgage assistance. There will be subrecipients for the mortgage assistance with a NOFA soon being released for about \$70 million. An additional \$20 million is being planned to go toward food bank expenditures and \$5 million for providers of people with disabilities. Ms. Boston then provided information about the new Coronavirus Relief Bill Rental Assistance (CRBRA) also known as Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA). This is federal funding administered by Treasury with \$25 billion released nationally. The Governor designated TDHCA as the recipient agency for Texas in an amount of about \$1.3 billion to be administered by TDHCA. Treasury is still providing guidance for this rental assistance which can provide up to 15 months of rent, rental arrears, utilities, utility arrears or other expenses related to housing, as defined by Treasury. Ms. Boston relayed further details on the program known to date stating that landlords could apply on behalf of their tenants as this program is for both landlords and tenants. Additionally there will be a set-aside for eviction diversion. Ms. Boston concluded stating that the timing is very short with the funds having to be obligated by September 2021.

(b) Cal Lopez provided updates from TEA reporting that they received their official 2019-20 school year homeless identification numbers which were 111,401 students indicating this was a slight decrease of about 2,000 students most likely attributed that school buildings were closed for several months due to COVID. Ms. Lopez also shared that TEA is in the process of developing their competitive grant which is in its third year of its final competitive grant cycle. The new grant is expected to be released at the end of February with approximately \$7.7 million to local school districts, charter schools and Education Service Centers. She also stated that TEA is planning a virtual summit in July 2021.

**VI. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**VII. Closing comments**

The next TICH meeting will take place in April 2021.

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.