



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
Quarterly Meeting –April 30, 2019
DRAFT 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)	Carissa Dougherty	Yes
5	HHSC	Helen Eisert	Yes – Lindsay Marsh as proxy
6	HHSC	Claire Irwin	Yes – by phone
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Sherry Cogbill	Yes – Juan Dinares as proxy
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 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)	Joe Ramirez	Yes
14	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	D.J. Bingler	Yes

Advisory Members present:

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Christine Gendron	Yes
2	Austin Travis County Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	No
3	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	Yes – by phone
4	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes – Jennifer Paulsen as proxy
5	Texas Education Homeless Office (THEO)	Jeanne Stamp	Yes
6	Education Service Center Region 10	Jana Burns	No
7	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	No
8	Texas Council on Family Violence	Anisha Pyakuryal	Yes
9	Texas Council on Family Violence	Molly Voyles	Yes – by phone

Other attendees: Josefa Zatarain-Flournoy (Alamo Area Council of Governments), Joyce Pohlman (HHSC), Veronica Neville (HHSC), David Beauchamp (HHSC), Danny Shea (HHSC), Carlos Borrego (Dept. of Housing and Urban Development), Samantha Foss (THN), Megan Moore (THN), Arnold Alaniz (TVC), Alena Morgan (TDHCA), Jeremy Stremmer (TDHCA), Megan Sylvester (TDHCA), Kay Doyle.

Administrative support: Elizabeth Yevich (TDHCA).

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. After all attendees introduced themselves, it was confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. Remarks from Chair

Mike Doyle welcomed and thanked members for re-electing him TICH Chair.

III. Approval of draft minutes from the January 29, 2019 TICH Meeting

Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the January 29, 2019 TICH meeting. Brooke Boston moved to approve and Cal Lopez seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

IV. Updates from TICH Committees

Jennifer Paulsen gave an update on the Annual Report Committee on behalf of Eric Samuels. The committee has set up a schedule to work on the annual report.

Elizabeth Yevich gave an update on the Performance Data Committee. The committee has been on hold as TDHCA hired for the Housing Resource Center Research Specialist, who provides administrative support to the TICH and has chaired the Performance Data Committee in the past.

V. Election of TICH Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson (Voting Item)

Mike Doyle reported that there were no nominations for Vice-Chair and he would appoint a Vice-Chair at a later date.

VI. Updates from Member Agencies

Cal Lopez provided updates on TEA. TEA will be publishing a quarterly McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act newsletter; instructions to sign up for the listserv were provided. The McKinney-Vento program received a funding increase of \$8.8 million from the U.S. Department of Education for the upcoming year, and TEA will be giving an estimated \$6.6 million out in grants to 76 school districts and/or Regional Education Centers. This funding will increase allocation from \$75 per student to \$96 per student. Additional discussion about the grant application cycle and districts' use of the funds followed. See meeting transcript for details. Cal Lopez also announced that TEA's upcoming homeless education conference will be in the spring of 2019 and that the National Association for Education of Homeless Children and Youth conference in Dallas in 2020 will serve as the statewide conference for that year. TEA will be holding a conference that is separate from the THN's annual conference, which is different than past years. TEA found that 4.1 percent of Texas students experienced homelessness during the 2017-2018 school year. This number represents an increase of students experiencing homelessness; the increase is due to the impact of Hurricane Harvey. Additional discussion followed.

Naomi Cantu provided updates on TDHCA administered homelessness and poverty prevention programs: the Ending Homelessness Fund (EHF), Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG), and the Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP). Approximately \$177,000 received since the inception of the EHF will be distributed to existing ESG and HHSP subrecipients at a later time. TDHCA received an increase in ESG allocation and will have \$9.1 million to award competitively through that program.

Brooke Boston provided updates on proposed legislation related to TDHCA programs: H.B. 2564 by Rep. White, H.B. 3180 by Rep. Bowers, H.B. 4394 by Rep. Johnson, and S.B. 1019 by Sen. Alvarado. See meeting transcript for details. She also provided an update on a proposed increase in Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding to THN, from \$50,000 per year to \$75,000.

Megan Sylvester, TDHCA legal Counsel, provided an update on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) rules. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) clarified that for the purpose of CDBG funding a community can adopt its own definition of homelessness.

Lindsey Varge, HHSC, provided an update on the Supportive Housing Rental Assistance (SHRA) program. The program is expanding to 36 sites in the new fiscal year and will provide about \$3 million in ongoing funds.

VII. Update on the TNOYS Youth Homelessness Workgroup

Christine Gendron provided an update on the Statewide Workgroup on Youth Homelessness, which collaborates with many TICH member agencies and advisory members and is coordinated by TNOYS, THEO and Texas Appleseed. The group is considering changing its name to Statewide Collaborative on Youth Homelessness. The group has held three meetings to date. The group has had participation from youth with lived experience of homelessness, including young adult-led trainings on preventing youth from running away from foster care placements. General discussion followed.

VIII. Updates from THN

Megan Moore provided an update on the progress of the VISTA Volunteer Project on §2306.905(7) for each of the project cities to improve coordination between local workforce boards, workforce centers, and local homeless crisis response systems. The project in Tarrant County is complete and resulted in workgroups that will continue once VISTA member Laura Hopkins transitions out of that position; the project in Austin will continue through August and is in an earlier stage of development. THN will have 13 open VISTA positions around the state and is still looking to fill two open project slots.

Samantha Foss provided an update on the Data Warehouse Project. THN is collaborating on the project with Amazon Web Services and has progressed to a proof of concept phase. The project is analyzing anonymized data from the Coalition for the Homeless and the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC), and THN anticipates that the San Antonio/Bexar County CoC will also join the project. Samantha also provided an update on H.B. 3180 and shared that THN has begun consulting with Boston's CoC about their use of data. General discussion followed.

IX. 5-Year Plan Consultation Process

Jeremy Stremmer, TDHCA, introduced the State of Texas 5-Year Consolidated Plan consultation process. Members were invited to provide comments and the consultation process was identified as an agenda item for the July 30, 2019 TICH meeting.

IX. Public Comment

Dennis Scholl provided an update on his work addressing rural veteran mental health and homelessness in south Texas.

Christine Gendron provided an update on \$3 million available in the House budget for HHSC earmarked for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

X. Closing comments

The next TICH meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2019 and will be held at TWC.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM.