



**Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
Quarterly Meeting -- January 16, 2013**

**Members present:**

<b>TDHCA:</b> Tim Irvine, Michael DeYoung, Mary Dodson	<b>DFPS:</b> Greg Anderson for Beth Engelking
<b>Ofc. of the Governor:</b> Mike Doyle	<b>DSHS:</b> Anna Sonenthal for Laura Vanoni
<b>Ofc. of the Lt. Gov.:</b>	<b>TDCJ:</b> Dawn Mckeehan for B.J. Wagner
<b>Ofc. of the Speaker:</b>	<b>TEA:</b> Mike Peebles
<b>HHSC:</b> Deborah Ballard	<b>TJJD:</b>
<b>DADS:</b> Steven Ashman	<b>TVC:</b> Pam Maercklein
<b>DARS:</b>	<b>TWC:</b> Beverly Donoghue

**Advisory Members present:** Duncan Cormie (TNOYS), Daniel Gore (THN), Ken Martin (THN), Jeanne Stamp (THEO), Molly Voyles (TCFV),

**Others:** Mindy Green (TSAHC), Molly Woodard (TCFV), Ashley Schweickart (TDHCA)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Doyle, TICH Chair, began the meeting at 10:05. Attendees introduced themselves.

**II. Public Comment**

None

**III. Remarks from Chair**

Mike thanked everyone for their work on *Pathways Home: A Framework for Coordinating State Administered Programs with Continuum of Care Planning to Address Homelessness in Texas*. He said Continuums of Care (CoCs) around the state would benefit on the scores of their CoC Program funding applications because *Pathways Home* links state and local efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Mike wants to update the TICH statute to reflect the names of current state agencies.

**IV. Elect TICH Chair for 2013 (voting item)**

Tim Irvine opened the nominations to the floor. None were made. Steve Ashman moved to re-elect Mike Doyle as Chair. Members voted, and the motion passed.

**V. Approve Notes from 09/20/2012 Quarterly Meeting (voting item)**

Steve moved to approve the minutes, and Deborah Ballard seconded. The motion passed.

**VI. TICH Staff Support Update**

Mary Dodson noted progress since the October quarterly meeting:

- TICH home page language was updated (<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/tich/index.htm>)
- Page added on the TICH site about the HMIS Data Warehouse/Homeless Information Exchange
- Roster and committee lists updated

Activities before next quarterly meeting:

- Draft process for selecting TICH Advisory Members
- Create TICH subscription e-mail list

Chair Doyle appointed two Advisory Members:

- Christine Gendron (replaced Teresa Tod as Executive Director of TNOYS)
- Molly Voyles (replaced Melissa Mason at TCFV)

## **VII. Committee Updates**

### Housing and Supportive Services (Chair: Mary Dodson):

Mary described a project that TDHCA and DSHS considered as a possible application for Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) funding. Although the project design was not feasible for the 2012 competition because the parties could not identify enough matching and leveraged funds, it laid solid groundwork for future program development. This design brought together two state agencies and local entities, and it represents the kind of interagency collaboration and housing plus supportive services that HUD emphasizes under the HEARTH Act. The committee will look for similar opportunities in 2013.

Mike suggested that TICH and the Texas Homeless Network (THN) hold trainings for local service providers to help them identify sources of cash and in-kind match and leverage because finding those funds has been challenging. Ken Martin said he hopes to hire a staff member focused on project development, and that topic would fit into project development.

### Homelessness Prevention (Chair: *vacant*):

Mike stated the efforts to help persons re-enter the community after incarceration need to be coordinated. Ken said that discharge planning from public institutions needs to be enhanced; persons should not be discharged without a housing plan. Also, a lack of formal discharge plans means that Texas's CoC applications score low on that scoring criteria, which could jeopardize funding.

- Child Protective Services (CPS) has a formal discharge.
- TCCOOMI does some discharge planning.
- Greg said Adult Protective Services (APS) steps in when hospitals' discharge plans fall through.
- Steve said that the Money Follows the Person program funds DSHS employees in state psychiatric hospitals to serve as "relocation contractors" and help persons leaving the hospitals to find housing. The program also has funds to help persons set up their households.
- Deborah said people leaving jails and prisons in Texas receive information about 2-1-1.
- Dawn Mckeehan said that starting in summer 2013, people will be helped to obtain the necessary documents to apply for a Texas identification card upon exit from jail or prison.

### Data, Research, and Analysis (Chair: Eric Samuels):

- Ken asked for more committee members.
- THN staff have aggregated the 2012 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count data from all the CoCs in Texas, and it is available on THN's website at [www.thn.org](http://www.thn.org). Mary will put a link on TICH's webpage.
- Jeanne Stamp said that in 2013, nine communities, including Houston, will pilot a Point-In-Time (PIT) count of homeless youth. The pilot will include school districts and will focus on methodology. Jeanne explained that finding a count/survey instrument that works for all stakeholders has been challenging because of differences in definitions of "homeless." For example, 60-65% of children in Texas live doubled-up with another family and would meet the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) definition of "homeless" but not the HUD definition. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) definition differs from the USDE and HUD definitions.
- Deborah said that the Enterprise Standing Committee at DSHS works on interagency coordination, so she would link those efforts with TICH efforts.
- Mary will add information about point-in-time counts to the TICH webpages.

### State Infrastructure (Chair: Ken Martin):

Ken said the committee developed the "housing status continuum" that state agencies could use in place of a "definition" of homelessness, to better assess clients' need for housing assistance. That continuum was included in *Pathways Home*. The committee will work with state agencies to encourage them to use that continuum in their intake and assessment processes.

## **VIII. Data Warehouse/Homeless Information Exchange (HIE) Update**

Daniel Gore, Chair of the HIE Governing Body, gave an overview of the HIE project. In short, it will combine data from every Continuum of Care in Texas in a way that the data can be analyzed to give statewide information. Eventually, that data could be integrated with or matched against data from other data systems, such as DSHS' or TDCJ's, to more comprehensively and effectively serve clients.

#### **IX. 2013 Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations**

Remaining 2013 meeting dates: April 17<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>, and October 16<sup>th</sup>

Meeting times: 10:00 a.m. until noon

Locations: Deborah, Beverly, and Steve and Greg offered to host TICH meetings at their locations this year. Mary will follow-up with them to schedule which agency will host on which dates.

Michael DeYoung suggested that each meeting agenda include time for the hosting agency to describe how their involvement in the TICH benefits their agency, their staff, and their customers.

#### **X. Closing Comments**

- Tim Irvine expressed a need to create some “back of the business card” messages that would easily and clearly give information about homelessness in Texas. For example:
  - How many people are experiencing homelessness in Texas?
  - How much does it cost to serve someone with homeless services compared to serving them in housing?
  - There is value in re-engaging people in their communities and helping them to reach their fullest potential.
- Ken said THN estimates that approximately 80,000 people at any one time are in a homeless situation in Texas. Ken offered to create an FAQ sheet.
- Mike asked that the TICH April meeting agenda include this item: discuss 2012 Point-In-Time data, including demographics.
- Jeanne said that 1,283 school districts exist in Texas. A “homeless” indicator was implemented in the PEIMS data system that will capture the number of homeless students in schools. Data becomes available approximately two years after the end of a school year. The Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) estimates 84,000 homeless students in Texas, in their most recent calculation. The Center for Poverty and Law estimates that 10% of poverty-level population is homeless. Counts by schools include only the homeless students, not their family members.
- Tim said that both the Texas House and Senate have put \$5 million in their budgets for the Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) for 2014 and 2015. Also, TDHCA will direct Community Services Block Grant-Discretionary funds (CSBG-D) to the HIE data warehouse and \$1.3 million to address homelessness in other ways. Michael DeYoung said that TDHCA will focus heavily on addressing homelessness in the next two years.
- Tim and Ashley Schweickart invited everyone to a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee of the TDHCA Board of Directors, to be held on 01/17 at 9:00 at the Thompson Conference Center, Room 3.102.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

Chair Doyle adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.