



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
 Quarterly Meeting – January 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)	Fedora Galasso Amy Felker	Yes – by phone 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	No
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	Yes
12	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Kelly Kravitz	Yes
13	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Karen Lashbrook	Yes
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
2	Austin Travis County Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	Yes – by phone

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/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 Snodgress	No
6	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
7	Texas Education Homeless Office (THEO)	Jeanne Stamp	No
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), Mona Muro (TCFV), Megan Sylvester (TDHCA), Michael DeYoung (TDHCA), Bettie Beckworth (HHSC), Michael Wilt (TSAHC)

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

### I. and II. Welcome and Remarks from Chair

Mike Doyle called a committee meeting of the whole to order at 10:20am and welcomed the members, advisory members and guests. Mike Doyle noted that the TICH continues to work to find appropriate and effective uses for the funds received to date.

### III. Update on House Bill 679, Youth Homelessness

Lara O’Toole, Director of Training and Program Development at the Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS), provided an update on the progress of Phase II of *Youth Count Texas!*. The update included an overview of each participating city’s efforts on counting homeless and unstably housed youth to date. Efforts in each participating city will be thoroughly documented by TNOYS. To compile the data collected from each city, TNOYS has contracted with the University of Texas’ Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Finally, Lara O’Toole played a Public Service Announcement video, produced by TNOYS, for *Youth Count Texas!*. The video is available at <http://tnoys.org/making-moves-to-better-help-homeless-youth-in-texas/>. This link will be emailed to all TICH members following the meeting.

Following the Youth Homelessness update, Mike Doyle adjourned the committee meeting of the whole and called to order a full meeting of the TICH at 10:30am. With 9 out of 15 Council members present, a quorum was established.

### IV. Senate Bill 1580, Veteran Homelessness

Naomi Trejo provided a progress update on the development of the Study on Homelessness among Veterans. The TICH Veteran workgroup has met a few times since the last full TICH meeting to develop and review draft sections of the Study. These sections, and an additional resources chart template, will now be provided to all TICH members for review over the next two months. Naomi Trejo reported that a roundtable discussion to gather input on ending homelessness among veterans was held at the THN conference on October 15, 2015. An additional roundtable will be held at the Texas Veterans Commission Summit in Bryan/College Station, and an online discussion forum will be available for stakeholders not able to attend a roundtable in person. Discussion ensued about the definition of veterans and the Texas cities participating in the Mayors Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness.

#### **V. VISTA Volunteer Project on §2306.905(7)**

It was confirmed that a quorum was still present in the room and Mike Doyle called to ratify use of TICH funds for the VISTA Volunteer Project on §2306.905(7). Brooke Boston moved to approve and George McEntyre seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the use of TICH funds.

Aaliyah Noble, the VISTA volunteer, then gave a report on her VISTA Volunteer Project that included outreach to the Texas Workforce Commission's Local Workforce Development Boards, an assessment of other employment navigator programs nationwide and a proposal to use student interns or AmeriCorps members as employment navigators to support ongoing efforts at Local Workforce Development Boards. She reported that the Texas Homeless Network ("THN") had conducted approximately 10 interviews with Workforce Development Boards and homeless services providers, and it was determined that there was not currently a mechanism to track job seekers who are experiencing homelessness.

#### **VI. Discussion on the additional \$10,000 from Texas Workforce Commission**

Mike Doyle thanked TWC and TEA for providing funding to the TICH in the first round of requests and added that TWC has provided an additional \$10,000. A discussion followed on the two methods currently in use to channel the funding for TICH activities from state agencies and how to better receive and administer the funds going forward. Brooke Boston commented that TDHCA will continue to find a viable framework for TICH funding.

With an expiration date looming for the additional \$10,000 received from TWC, Naomi Trejo introduced two projects for discussion: (1) an analysis of Veteran Data from within PIT counts for the Study on Veteran Homelessness and (2) stipends for the VISTA Volunteer Project. A discussion ensued on how much would be used for each project. Following the discussion, Mike Doyle asked the membership if there would be any objection to use the funds for either one or both of these projects, once the scope of the data analysis was more clearly defined and costs were better known. No TICH member objected. Brooke Boston moved to use the \$10,000 as identified in the agenda and in amounts determined by the Chair, and George McEntyre seconded. There were no further comments and members voted aye

unanimously to approve the use of the funds as indentified. Mike Doyle will inform the members of the final decision as to what amounts will be used for each project.

#### **VII. Approval of the October 14, 2015 TICH Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the October 14, 2015, Quarterly TICH meeting. George McEntyre moved to approve and Naomi Trejo seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

#### **VIII. Approval of the 2015 Annual TICH Report**

Mike Doyle made a motion to approve the 2015 Annual TICH Report. George McEntyre moved to approve and Brooke Boston seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the 2015 Annual TICH Report. Following the meeting, the report will be submitted to the governing bodies of the agencies represented on the council.

#### **IX. TICH Committees**

No updates were provided from the Homelessness Prevention; Data, Research, and Analysis; or State Infrastructure Committees. Mike Doyle indicated his desire to see these committees reinvigorated in the next year.

For the Housing and Supportive Services committee, Michael Wilt indicated that the committee members had worked on the Annual TICH Report. Further, Michael Wilt reported on his participation in the Austin PIT Count and *Youth Count Texas!* and informed members that he would be attending the National Conference to End Family and Youth Homelessness Conference in Oakland, CA in February.

#### **X. Development and Draft of By-laws**

Mike Doyle informed TICH members that progress continues on the development of the bylaws. Additional review will continue through the next few months and a possible vote to approve the bylaws may take place at the next quarterly meeting.

#### **XI. Update on State Homelessness Services Programs and Initiatives**

Molly Voyles and Mona Muro provided TICH members with an update on services programs and initiatives for survivors of domestic violence through the TCFV. The update included policy work of the TCFV, a housing needs assessments of DV survivors, economic justice supports provided by TCFV, and a reminder that the *Opening Doors* national goal to end family homelessness is set for the year 2020. It was noted that this is a very large population in Texas with many complexities.

Following the TCFV presentation, Mike Doyle thanked Molly Voyles and Mona Muro and encouraged all State agency representatives appointed to the TICH to think about what their agency does for the homeless population in Texas and inform the TICH membership of those actions.

#### **XII. Public Comment**

None.

**XIII. Next meeting**

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday April 26, 2016, in Austin, TX.

**XIV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.