

Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless

(TICH)

Quarterly Meeting

10:30AM

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Houston, TX

Michael Doyle (00:00:00):

Welcome to the quarterly meeting of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless. I'm Mike Doyle and will be chairing the meeting today. We have to establish the fact that we have a quorum present with this many people and not many people on the phone. We're going to go in this order. First. We're going to introduce the council members. Council members, not advisory council members, not guests, but the council members that are present around the table. Then we'll go to the phone to the council members that are on the phone and that'll establish us a quorum so the rest of you don't have to worry about introducing yourself and all that kind of stuff. So let me start. I'm Mike Doyle and I represent the governor's office.

Jeremy Stremmler (00:00:45):

Jeremy Stremmler with TDHCA, and I'm serving as a proxy for Brooke Boston today.

Tiara Hardaway (00:00:52):

Tiara Hardaway with TDHCA HOME-ARPs Program, and I'm also a proxy for Naomi Cantu.

Gary Medina (00:00:59):

Gary Medina, TVC, a proxy for Dr. Blake Harris.  
TICH Quarterly Meeting 9-11-2024

Michael Doyle (00:01:05):

Any other members here present? So go to the ones on the phone. Council members, would you please introduce yourself if you're on the phone so we can count you toward the quorum requirement, please?

Desiree Viramontes (00:01:23):

Yeah, this is Desiree Viramontes, with Texas Education Agency.

Marqus Butler (00:01:27):

Marqus Butler with the Texas Criminal Justice Department.

Kelly Davis (00:01:31):

Kelly Davis, TWC.

Claire Irwin (00:01:35):

Claire Irwin, Texas Public Human Services.

Christina MacArthur (00:01:43):

Christina MacArthur, TDHCA.

Michael Doyle (00:01:58):

Okay, thank you very much. We will call the meeting to order and establish the fact that we do have a quorum present and voting.

So we'll get right into the agenda. Thank you all again for being here. Is Ann Olivia?

Eric Samuels (00:02:15):

On her way way? She's running a little late.

Michael Doyle (00:02:18):

Okay. She is the new president of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Eric Samuels (00:02:23):

She is,

Michael Doyle (00:02:23):

And she's going to be joining us as well. So she will be here.

And then

Eric Samuels (00:02:29):

Savin,

Michael Doyle (00:02:30):

Savin is going to, is also the Region 6, HUD Director. Thank you for being here. Appreciate that very much. And for those in the room that don't know where Region six is, what does that comprise?

Savin Ven Johnson (00:02:40):

It's the five Southwest states of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New Mexico.

Michael Doyle (00:02:46):

Thank you. Great. Appreciate you being here. So I don't have any official remarks other than once again to tell you thank you for all the great work you're doing, and we've had great reports all year long from THN about the state of homelessness and it doesn't happen without all of you and we just really, really, really appreciate that. So keep up the good work and we'll keep reporting that everything's going well. So thank you very much. With the quorum being present, I'd like to for approval of the January 17th TICH meeting. So members, I need a motion to accept.

Jeremy Stremmler (00:03:31):

I move to accept the minutes.

Michael Doyle (00:03:32):

Thanks Jeremy, is there a second?

Marqus Butler (00:03:35):

I second.

Michael Doyle (00:03:38):

And for those that speak on the phone during the meeting if you can identify yourself. I don't know all of the voices of everybody on the phone, so thank you,

Marqus Butler (00:03:46):

Marqus Butler, Texas Criminal Justice Department, second.

Michael Doyle (00:03:49):

Okay, thank you. All in favor say, I am approving the minutes members.

Members (00:03:57):

Aye. Aye.

Michael Doyle (00:03:59):

I'm assuming that's everybody. Any objections? Any abstentions? Then the minutes from the July 17th meeting are approved. Thank you very much. So now we're going to go to item four on our agenda conversation with the COCs. Thank all of you for being here and the work you do in your communities. I want to ask you to think about, as we talk about updates from your Continuum of Care, what is it that Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless can do for you on a state level, legislatively or whatever else

that would help you do the work you do? So we'd like to have reports from the COCs, but also keep that in mind. If we don't hear from you about what we could do that might be helpful. It's going to be hard to be helpful. So who wants to start? Somebody give us an update.

Eric Samuels (00:05:02):

I know we have some COCs in the room. I know we have some folks from Austin, and you don't necessarily need to be COC lead,

Michael Doyle (00:05:11):

Right? Right. If you're familiar with what COC stands for,

Eric Samuels (00:05:17):

I could report out the Balance of State even though I'm not the director of the Balance of State anymore. But my agency is a lead agency for the Texas Balance of State. I can tell you that our staff, they're working very hard with applicants from all around the Balance of State. If you don't know what that is, that's 215 counties in Texas that surround our major metro areas. But this year they will be applying for at least 16.3 million. We hope they receive bonus funding, and we increase that funding, we'll take another million or four.

(00:05:56):

TICH Quarterly Meeting 9-11-2024

Transcript by IOD

So they're applying for that on behalf of communities and in the Valley up near the Panhandle in West Texas, Northeast Texas, Texoma, everywhere. So on top of that, also we're working with a consultant on submitting a proposal for the COC Builds Program. So if you don't know what that is, that's an opportunity that we haven't had in a while. That's an opportunity for us to have money allocated that will be provided as capital support. So we would love to get that funding and be able to build more permanent supportive housing in our community. So that's probably going to be very competitive. We're going to have communities from all around the Balance of State submitting applications, but we're very hopeful we'll receive funding through that as well. I was just talking to the Continuum of Care membership in there, and I think it was actually in this hotel back in 2008, two years after I started, I started as the director of the Balance of State, Continuum of Care, and started building it. I had to beg eight people to join me in a room to talk about COC. You're pretty smart. They had 75 people in the room, 75 more people on the line.

Michael Doyle (00:07:15):

Wow.

Eric Samuels (00:07:16):



So they've expanded quite a bit. So I'm very proud of them and I think things are looking up for the Texas Balance of State.

Michael Doyle (00:07:23):

Good, good. Did you hear him say 251 counties? So if you've got one county or two counties or five counties, 251 a little bit tough to manage.

Eric Samuels (00:07:33):

I probably said 251 and I meant 215 but it feels like 251.

Michael Doyle (00:07:38):

I think you're right. I wrote it down wrong. What else is going on around the state?

Eric Samuels (00:07:48):

Well you may not have as many COC leads as here, I thought.

Michael Doyle (00:07:49):

Yes ma'am. Introduce yourself.

Christina Allen (00:07:55):

Hi, I'm with Caritas of Austin. And I want to clarify, you're looking for feedback of things that we're seeing as far as how

y'all can help us do what we do. Am I understanding the question?

Michael Doyle (00:08:11):

And HUD is here as well. So anything that you might have for HUD as well. Sorry about that.

Christina Allen (00:08:21):

My feedback would be right now, is the challenge is criminal backgrounds and from, I would say I've done some research on it, but I feel like it's a drop in the bucket compared to what there is. There are a lot of really antiquated statutes or regulations that a lot of properties are basing their criminal background criteria on. And just this week we had a client that was denied for a misdemeanor nonviolent, they're saying no misdemeanors at all.

(00:09:00):

And so I would love for there to be some type of revisit or revamping of criminal backgrounds so that properties can be more relaxed about it. Because from, at least from what I've seen and I'm certainly not an expert, is they're basing their criteria on some statutes and things that have been around for a very, very long time that should be revisited.

Michael Doyle (00:09:27):

So are you, for clarity's sake, is it something that coming from HUD that disqualifies them from a voucher? Or is this an apartment complex on its own?

Christina Allen (00:09:35):

I would say both because right now there are permanent bans on certain criminal for vouchers. So like manufacturing substances or registered sex offenders are part of that. And again, I would like people to look at the data as far as what is the chances of, do those actually influence the "safety" of the community or do those things at least not a permanent ban. That would be my request. And vouchers definitely ban certain charges on people. And again, also a lot of properties base that on some of those items.

Michael Doyle (00:10:23):

So is there clarity around, I mean, I only know of two exclusions at HUD, violent offenses, and sexual offenses and both very well thought out and applied, I think. But is there something that, and I'm just talking to all of us now, is there something that we could put together that if a landlord says it's a federal ban, we could show that says it is not.

Christina Allen (00:10:59):

I will say there has been HUD guidance about not creating blanket criteria. HUD has issued that, I can't remember what year it came out, but again, enforcing it and properties actually doing it are two different things. So to HUD's credit, I will say there was some guidance previously given mitigating circumstances, also keeping things in mind. So I don't know if maybe a refresher or for properties or something. Again, I don't have a perfect answer, but it's definitely something that I would like for people to look at to have more flexibility there for the individuals we serve.

Michael Doyle (00:11:44):

Just revisit and update those things. Okay.

Christina Allen (00:11:47):

Yeah.

Michael Doyle (00:11:47):

Good. Thank you very much.

Marqus Butler (00:11:51):

Yeah, I just wanted to kind of echo what the individual that was just talking, that's the area that my agency I feel like needs a

little bit more education in. For kids that are coming back and if the caregiver has some type of federal housing or some type of housing set up through some local entity, oftentimes we're not clear about what is accessible. The caveat for a lot of our young kids in TJJD is that they are adjudicated, so they are not actually considered a felon. So that's kind of like an area that we're sometimes unsure about in regard to if a young person can actually go live at an apartment complex that's being subsidized through HUD.

Michael Doyle (00:12:44):

And who is this on the phone?

Marqus Butler (00:12:47):

Marqus Butler,

Michael Doyle (00:12:48):

Okay, thank you.

Marqus Butler (00:12:51):

Yeah, it also impacts us too.

Eric Samuels (00:12:57):

I think just if we could have some kind of flexibility. I think that's because these hard and fast rules for crimes involved certain categories, we know there are gradients within those categories, and I think that's what you're asking. And saying it here is good too because there are state regulations, there are state rules when it comes to that too. And I know we can provide comments to the state. Jeremy's one of the people has to receive all the comments, but we can do that. And I think that's very important that you brought that up and don't say you're not the expert because you are, everyone in this room is. When you do this work, you're the expert in just about any other room you're in. So I appreciate you speaking up.

Dennis Cox (00:13:48):

Maybe putting a timeframe if they haven't gotten in trouble in a certain amount of years that they could be considered. Because being a convicted felon myself, it was hard to find things that I needed when I first got out and was on parole and stuff like that. So maybe a timeframe because even the governor and everything gives you your voting rights back and you can get food stamps and all that stuff. The only thing you can't carry a handgun, which I don't care about anyway, but if they have a

seven years or 10 years without even an ounce of a misdemeanor or anything like that, they should be able to be considered.

Michael Doyle (00:14:28):

And there's been a discussion in the past and I do a lot of work at the agency where I am around reentry and ex-offenders.

There's a big difference in seven years from date of conviction and date that you're released on parole off paper. It could turn into 14 years if you're not careful. And that's a long time to go without housing.

Dennis Cox (00:14:52):

I think mine was seven years from my conviction. I think.

Michael Doyle (00:14:55):

From your conviction date? That's good because it needs to be that and not from the date that you come off paper.

Dennis Cox (00:15:00):

Right, right.

Michael Doyle (00:15:05):

Good, good discussions.

Eric Samuels (00:15:08):

I know that's a subject that you're very familiar with and passionate about.

Michael Doyle (00:15:14):

Yeah, we had a son in prison and it, with all the resources we have in Tarrant County. It was very difficult. We had to start a company for him because,

Dennis Cox (00:15:27):

If I didn't have my family to back me up, which is a lot of people that are coming out of the prison system, they don't have family to help them or friends or they don't know where to go and it's really hard for them to navigate that on their own, especially when they've been locked up for several years.

Michael Doyle (00:15:47):

We found out at a conference; we do a lot of workforce work. I've been on the workforce board in Tarrant County for 25 years or something and our organization, which is Cornerstone Assistance Network, just signed an agreement with Union Pacific Railroad and they have an entire division at the railroad that's far justice involved men and women coming out of prison and they find 'em to be good employees, number one. But number two, they



start 'em out at \$85,000. So they've got a sustainable wage as soon as they can get into UP. So if you're looking around and there's a Union Pacific office here, it's a good way to start. We know the person that's in charge of that division, so if you give us a call, we'll be glad to, we'll bring in a thing for women to Houston UP is, next month after with the model that we did for the men in Fort Worth. So there's more and more people determining that since we can't hire anybody else, we're going to take a chance. And they're finding out that it's a great chance because these folks have an incentive to do well.

Dennis Cox (00:17:00):

If Austin Recovery and Front Steps didn't give me the opportunity, I wouldn't have a job. I mean I was a licensed stylist for 30 years and was having trouble finding a salon job.

Michael Doyle (00:17:12):

Yeah. Good. Anything else that we can toss around about helping you do your work?

Eric Samuels (00:17:23):

There are new people in the room. This is an opportunity for Continuum of Care updates and

Michael Doyle (00:17:28):

Right,

Eric Samuels (00:17:29):

Again, you do not have to be the COC lead to give those updates.

Michael Doyle (00:17:33):

When I go and speak to the governor's policy and budget office or the governor himself. The question I get asked, is how can we help? Here are some things, but surely there are more, that indicates y'all doing just fine out there. And I know you could all use a little help here and there, but I need to know what they are.

Nathan (00:17:57):

I'm Nathan with the Crisis Center of Comal County. One of the things we found in trying to house the population we're working with is we have a lot of elders and people that are getting SSI. Getting about \$900 a month and it's so hard to find housing for that population because after their expenses, which if those are kept at the barest of bare minimums, they wouldn't have more than \$50 left over once rent is paid, groceries, whatever else. And fortunately we do have several or at least one senior center that we are able to refer them to, but they're capped out. They

have \$50 left over after they pay rent. And so there's affordable housing for the elder community or people that are on that low of a fixed income is almost impossible to find.

Dennis Cox (00:18:52):

And then the food stamp people, they limit their food stamps to \$20-\$30. And what is that going to buy a gallon of milk nowadays?

Michael Doyle (00:19:02):

If they're renting and getting into that condition, they're in tough shape. You can't find an apartment for \$900 a month anymore. But if they're a homeowner and don't have a mortgage payment, even the utilities are going to be a couple of hundred bucks a month. So it's almost, it's turned into almost a housing program for homeowners because you can't work for a renter.

Nathan (00:19:29):

No, no you can't. And we will have occasionally private renters that'll work with us a little bit. Usually we have to pay a bigger deposit to get them into places like that. But the inconsistency of it compared to the need of the population we're trying to serve is very off balance. So that's something.

Michael Doyle (00:19:52):

Thank you for that. Yes ma'am.

Anna (00:19:57):

My name is Anna for FrontSteps. One of the things,

Michael Doyle (00:19:59):

Where is that? Austin.

Anna (00:20:03):

One of the things that I would advocate for is, me and my roommate her, last night, we was up last night talking about it, is having more community properties for the clients that's been on the street for such a long time.

(00:20:21):

It's very hard to get a client that's been on the street 10, 15 years off the street straight back to housing because they so disconnected. They need more support services to teach them how to readapt to the street. They're so used to just stand in the corner of McDonald's and find a good Samaritan that would just buy them a burger. They can't just go back to think, okay, I got to go food shopping. I got to make my own breakfast. So they need that form of support, like MHHA, type of support or some

kind of mental health services that will come in and check on them because we get them in the house. That's true. Get them furniture, utilities, and all that. And then next time we come back they know to be found because they go back to what they used to just adapt to just being on the street 10, 15 years back into housing or just come out of serving a long-term sentence straight back into an apartment is not something adaptable for them. They need a transition period.

Dennis Cox (00:21:20):

Something like what Asperio is doing because they have cooking classes and nutrition classes, stuff, community classes.

Trina (00:21:26):

Trina FrontSteps. I would like to see more of coordination of community for whatever they need for mental health, for drug addiction, things like that to kind of help them sustain to maintain housing. So I think they need more arms to help them because they're in that situation in the first place because alcohol, drug addiction, things like that. And so getting all the support systems that they need to be able to succeed is what I would like to see as far as us as a community working more together for those services. Because of course not one of us can do it all by ourselves. We need each other. We need each other

to help them succeed. My motto is with the client, help me help you. So that's really good as well.

Anna (00:22:30):

Literally on Monday I spent all that, not just me, I don't want all the credit, me and my colleagues, Alberto, Trina, we spent weeks and weeks chasing a client that's been housed just to get him back into the apartment. I found him Monday morning after two hours I got him into the apartment and then I turned around. I'm like, and it's not a funny matter, but it's like what else can I do to get him that help he needs?

Michael Doyle (00:22:59):

Yeah.

Trina (00:22:59):

Yes,

Michael Doyle (00:23:01):

You're absolutely correct about that. There was a program in Tarrant County at one time a long time ago called The Winners Circle and we worked with MHMR and a local church congregation to house people with mental health diagnosis or dual diagnosis.

And the church's job was to come by and just say hello, you doing all right? Be their friend.

Gary Medina (00:23:22):

Sometimes that's all they need. Is somebody check on them.

Michael Doyle (00:23:25):

We arranged that, we trained for all of that and then they'd come back to the church to go, and they'd be gone. Just like you said. And so we tracked them down at the shelter and said, you had an apartment and you had food and you had appliances and all of that, why did you leave? And their comment stuck in my mind 25 years ago, the homelessness is preferable to the loneliness. And so if you're not having contact with people, if you're sticking them in housing and you're not providing services, it doesn't work. If you're providing services and there's no housing that doesn't work. It's a combination of both that gives you the chance to get somebody back on their feet and end homelessness like that. So I agree with you a hundred percent. The loneliness is terrible. Terrible. And you go back to what you know and wonder. I wonder what Trina's doing these days. And you go back down there, and you're trapped.

Anna (00:24:20):

And to us, we might think because we are not used, I mean thank goodness we've never been in this situation, do that kind of lifestyle. But to them, they got family and friends down there, the restaurant that let go the leftover meals at 10:00 PM they know that dinner. So to them that's comfort to them.

Michael Doyle (00:24:43):

Sure, absolutely.

Anna (00:24:44):

Try to get them into,

Michael Doyle (00:24:45):

Good point.

Dennis Cox (00:24:46):

Sometimes their encampments are their family. Because their real family has long and gone. So that's their family. So if they're in an apartment and they're limited on how many they can visit and how long they can stay and stuff because you break your lease otherwise. And so they'd rather go out there and spend days and days and days with their family and friends than to sit



in their apartment alone watching a TV that may or may not work or may not have what they want on it.

Michael Doyle (00:25:18):

So these are pretty well symptoms of the problem, but are there enough vouchers?

Dennis Cox (00:25:29):

Did we say that fast enough for you?

Michael Doyle (00:25:34):

So there's got to be a solution somewhere out there in the public square that helps HUD provide vouchers. I told the regional office in Fort Worth one time; I'll build you all the transitional housing or temporary housing you want if you'll let us pay ourselves the rent. And they said you can't do that. I think they've modified that to some degree. But all a landlord is looking for when you build a affordable housing unit that the rent's going to get paid.

Dennis Cox (00:26:08):

Absolutely.

Michael Doyle (00:26:08):

And if in fact you did that, you could attract the public sector, I think to build those properties if the vouchers were secure because again, all they're looking for is stable rent.

Dennis Cox (00:26:21):

I have a couple of private owners that they say, we'll work with you, we'll do whatever we want. Even have a management company, Light Tower in Austin that they said, we will do whatever it takes to help y'all out. We just want the rent paid.

Michael Doyle (00:26:33):

Exactly.

Dennis Cox (00:26:33):

That's all we want. We just want our rent paid. The bottom line.

Michael Doyle (00:26:38):

Yeah. Lemme just go over here first. Yes sir.

Dylan (00:26:40):

I'm Dylan from in Lubbock on the topic of vouchers. My understanding, we work pretty closely with the HUD, VASH program and my understanding, I may be understanding it wrong, but

people at HUD, VASH have told me that there are some HUD vouchers available for veterans, but there's an issue that the VA won't hire enough staff to actually case manage the people receiving the vouchers. And so they're kind of at a hold until they can get more staff to adequately case manage those veterans. Is there any way to kind of petition the VA to hire more staff? Apparently, it's saying they don't have the funding to hire more case managers or peer supports.

Michael Doyle (00:27:39):

Is that a question, a background than some questions? I would assume it's going to be directed at HUD.

Savin Ven Johnson (00:27:52):

We don't oversee the VA. Maybe would it be helpful just to explain a little bit about where I come from? To set the stage. So I'm from the HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development. We're the largest grant making organization in HUD. We make grants, we don't do vouchers. The public and Indian housing side of HUD does the voucher program. We provide 3.1 billion in homelessness grants, homelessness assistance grants, 3.3 billion in community development grants and 1.5 billion, billions and billion in HOME the HOME program. So we are a grant making agency and we go directly to the state and local

governments. Mayors really appreciate this. They get the money directly. And our homelessness assistance grants goes directly to nonprofits too. So I say we're the U-D side of HUD, so the,

Michael Doyle (00:28:53):

Urban development.

Savin Ven Johnson (00:28:53):

Urban Development. So we do infrastructure, we do public services, we do homeless shelters, we do all sorts of things on the housing side, including new construction for super, extremely low income and low income. There's just a lot of restrictions. But we're here to focus on the extremely low income. Low income. That's our objective. So I'm the regional director for the U-D Side of HUD for region six. Those five states we have not had in my part of HUD, we have not regionalized in over 30 years. That's like a whole generation. That has caused problems because the offices that oversee these grants that I just talked about, the billion dollars in portfolio, they were working in silos. 43 individual silos serving you guys and our grantees. What this means is that they get to be able to touch base with you on a daily basis and hear your issues. But if they're common issues and trends and they try to elevate it, it gets lost in this black hole. So for what

we're doing within Texas, we have three CPD offices. So one in San Antonio, one in Fort Worth, the regional office that's located there and one here in Houston. And then my portfolio also includes one office each in Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. And this southwest region is unique. It can't compare to the east coast; it can't compare to the west coast. We have disaster risks. We have a hurricane coming at us right now that my New Orleans team is trying to evacuate and that means they can't provide services. So it's things like this that we're here to one, elevate what it means to support our grantees and our nonprofits that's trying to deliver on the mission. We're here to break down the silos and we're here to get answers. And we're here to also flag things that are like don't make sense. There's stuff that come out from Washington DC that's guidance that fails on first contact or that is overly burdensome without too much value. The juice wasn't worth the squeeze. But you're asking us, we're a nonprofit of just six people, you're asking us to do the same thing that a local office or local county government does. So it doesn't make sense that we have the same amount of work but not the same amount of resources. So we want to flag those things and try to identify it. And then I'm here to push, I have a direct link to the deputy assistant secretary that's my supervisor. So it's like

change things and take things off the table that don't make sense or it's too burdensome. And to find out where we have flexibility. If it's HUD that made the rules, we can change HUD's rules. If it's Congress that made the laws, that's going to take a discussion across all the HUD and that's going to take pushing it up to the secretary's level. I mean this discussion on the reentry, the criminal background checks, if that's in statute, that's congress. But that takes, we need to flag it for them, right? They can't just sit out here without being elevated. So I'm really grateful for this discussion and it's for you guys letting be here and just being a fly on the walls.

Michael Doyle (00:32:12):

Okay. No more voucher questions.

Savin Ven Johnson (00:32:16):

I can take up the voucher questions too.

Michael Doyle (00:32:19):

I like that. We can say we're in a meeting with the U-D woman. That was a good one. I liked that. I want to remind you too, please, speakers to announce your names for the transcription. So we'll know who's doing all of this and who to call if we've

got a question. Alright, what else? Other kind of discussions, support services, oh okay,

Christina Allen (00:32:41):

Since you mentioned vouchers. Christina with Caritas. Again, if there could be some support for landlords to not and property management to not deny people based on their form of payment. There are still property management companies. It doesn't matter what the client's background is, it doesn't matter if you do a letter of support, just the fact that it's a voucher or a rental based assistance program. They will flat out deny.

Dennis Cox (00:33:10):

And also if they won't take a voucher because oh well, they're not going to pay us on time and that's not true. I mean it might take a day or two extra, but it's still money in your pocket.

Michael Doyle (00:33:25):

Consistently.

Dennis Cox (00:33:26):

It's consistent. And also, they, oh well the client has to pay part of it and the voucher has to pay part of it and they don't want to take partial payments, or they find a reason to not work

with housing people like us that need to get our clients in housing.

Christina Allen (00:33:44):

So even if you increase the number of vouchers, if we have landlords that are still denying it, then there's almost moot point.

Dennis Cox (00:33:52):

Yeah, the income they like, well, the client has to make this amount of income. Well the client don't make that income. We are supporting them. We are paying their rent. And one of the ways I got it across some of my private owners is saying, we're going to give you 100% of his rent no matter what it is, as long as it meets the criteria, we're going to pay this rent no matter what. He will pay us his portion. And that's how the front steps grant works. So that's when they realized that they're going to get a promissory note from us saying this is your money. We are going to give it to you every month. I have a private owner that has four of my clients right now. He loves working with us. He knows he's going to get his money. He said I might get it late a day or two, but I know I'm going to get it from you Dennis. And that's why he works with me.



Michael Doyle (00:34:43):

Cool. Okay. What about any COC?

Latoya Haywood (00:34:49):

Excuse me.

Michael Doyle (00:34:50):

Yes,

Latoya Haywood (00:34:50):

I just wanted to comment on the other side of that. A lot of places that will accept a voucher are not habitable. So they'll be infested, or the doors don't work, or it is just not habitable.

Dennis Cox (00:35:04):

The appliances, they're 20 Years old.

Latoya Haywood (00:35:07):

Yeah, Sometimes the person that comes out to inspect the inspector will just pass it.

Michael Doyle (00:35:14):

Wow.

Latoya Haywood (00:35:15):

So then now that's the only place they can move into is roach infested or bed bugs or something like that. Those families don't have really have good support from the housing authority. And so,

Michael Doyle (00:35:30):

This is PHAs that are you're working with, that are coming out to do the inspection for HUD?

Latoya Haywood (00:35:34):

Yes.

Michael Doyle (00:35:35):

Okay.

Latoya Haywood (00:35:36):

Then other thing I wanted to talk about was also, is there more support around eviction? What I see in the neighborhood and who I'm around, that's still an issue. Post Covid, we're still feeling the effects of that. And there are no, there's not a lot of services for people who are going through an eviction that still haven't recovered from Covid even though it's been a

couple of years. So maybe something like an eviction diversion program or something.

Michael Doyle (00:36:08):

Do the people being evicted know their rights? If you talked to fair housing,

Latoya Haywood (00:36:14):

Sometimes. When you talk about lower income communities or even homeless individuals, well based in homelessness, they don't know about the law. And sometimes it gets a little hard to call legal aid or the law library and get the information. And even if they do talk to someone, they don't understand it. And it's not like they have money to go get a lawyer. And so there's a disconnect right there too. But the family's even understanding what rights they do have.

Dennis Cox (00:36:43):

Most of 'em when they see that eviction notice on their wall or their door or their apartment, they freeze that they just freak out and run.

Michael Doyle (00:36:51):

But that's from misunderstanding. Justice of the Peace court system has a list of things, how you have to be evicted in order and it takes 30 days to do this and 30 days to do that. We just need to inform them. I think of here's the steps, to have to take it. In the meantime we'll try to find a place for you to live.

Latoya Haywood (00:37:14):

Or even something like this diversion because some of the families being evicted, it's not their fault. Utilities are increasing, rent is increasing. It's hard to pay bills and take care of children and work. I'm a single mom. I work two and a half jobs in order to maintain, but just one, I would've probably been evicted for not paying rent.

Michael Doyle (00:37:34):

I don't see how single mom for the children pay childcare. It's just absolutely stupid these days how much it costs. I got 12 grandkids. And I can tell you one of my sons has seven of them, and at one time he was paying nearly \$4,000 a month in childcare.

Brittany Hinton (00:37:55):

I just wanted to comment on that. My name is Brittany Hinton and I'm with the HHSC.

Michael Doyle (00:37:59):

Okay.

Brittany Hinton (00:38:00):

I'm one of the members.

Michael Doyle (00:38:01):

Thank you.

Brittany Hinton (00:38:02):

But I wanted to comment about what you were saying with the legal aspect of the eviction process. That's something that I've wondered about in my tenure as far as the process in itself. First step is a three day notice to vacate. And so with that being, so it's kind of misleading in that people think they have three days to vacate, and they haven't gone through the whole process. And so they're kind of forfeiting the residents by leaving if they just go off of that notice and they're not educated on the process. And so I've always wondered who made the process, who mandates the process and why is it that you get

a three day notice to vacate before you get the eviction with the court date and have to go to court and then all of that. Good question. That's something that needs to be addressed to me.

Michael Doyle (00:38:47):

Yeah, good question. Good point. Good point.

Savin Ven Johnson (00:38:53):

There's a couple things I wanted to just plug. So within the U-D side of HUD, there's the rapid rehousing that HUD money can also go to support. And those are for providing rental assistance, emergency rental assistance as well for those imminently facing eviction. HUD doesn't tell the city or the county what programs to do, but it's an eligible use of that money. So they can look into the county's program and see if they have a rapid rehousing that can go in and help county or city, whatever jurisdiction they're in to go in and see and reach out to them. And then one of the things that had caused evictions in the past was these nuisance laws. Like if you call 911 too often or whatever, you get evicted. So with the Violence Against Women Act that just got reauthorized a couple years ago, Val Law that is no longer, you're no longer allowed to have that against the law to try to evict someone because they are violating nuisance laws and if

they are a city or a county that gets any HUD money, they have to do away with that law. They no longer have standing to evict somebody because of that. So I would check into that too. If an eviction is that is the source of it.

Michael Doyle (00:40:10):

I am not really complaining about this, but there are so many times that we can go to the higher ups at HUD, higher ups at HHS and get the answer that we think is correct, but it doesn't filter down to the local office. And this council, there was a guy that was with the Department of Disability Services. Lance, you remember Lance?

Jeremy Stremmler (00:40:38):

Oh yeah, for sure.

Michael Doyle (00:40:39):

And he was telling us about some homeless programs that disability, things with disabilities were available to 'em. I went to the local office and say, they said, we don't serve the homeless. I said, wait a minute. I was just told by your boss that you serve them, no, we don't serve the homeless. So that message sometimes doesn't filter down to the people who are making these decisions in the community. And it's quite

frustrating if you know what you think is right and it doesn't get down to the local office where you can work with them to make a solution. So that's just a word. I'm not saying that it's just for all of us. Same thing at my agency. I may make a decision; I've told somebody else we don't do that. So I don't know exactly how that works out, but just the communication is always an issue. Good point.

(00:41:54):

Okay. So again, be sure, say your name so that we can put it in the record. We're going to be soliciting a donation from you.

Eric Samuels (00:42:04):

No, she's my board member.

Michael Doyle (00:42:12):

Okay. THN updates. Eric,

Eric Samuels (00:42:17):

I think I provided some updates about the Texas Balance of State. I think maybe it's probably best. I just hand my time to Anya Taylor to talk about the Data Sharing Network.

Michael Doyle (00:42:28):



Okay.

Eric Samuels (00:42:30):

Yeah, I think I'll give you all my time to Anya.

Anya Taylor (00:42:34):

Thank you.

Michael Doyle (00:42:35):

How nice.

Anya Taylor (00:42:36):

Good morning, everyone. I know some of you in this room and probably encountered you during registration and as you were coming in, but my name is Anya Taylor. I'm with Texas Homeless Network and I also serve as the project manager for the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network, which is the project that we would love to spend just a brief moment talking with you all about today. If you're familiar with the TICH meeting and have joined either in person quarterly or over the phone, then you might have heard me present on some quarterly data that we are collecting from our Continuum of Care partners. But we are still in the education phase of this project. There's still a lot of people that have never heard of the Texas Homeless Data Sharing

Network. And so because we have this opportunity to meet in person at THN's annual conference, we thought we would just spend some time running through this project.

(00:43:37):

The usability of the network and why this is such an important resource when we're talking about preventing and ending homelessness in the state of Texas in particular. And I can guarantee you that no matter what your background is, if this is the first THN conference that you're attending or if you've never heard about the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network before this project, there's a way that it intersects with the work that you're doing in your role and I would love to connect with you on that and find out how that is. So I understand that this is a visual presentation. Those of you in the room can see what's on our slide, but for those on the phone, we'll figure out a way on how to get you this slide deck at a later time so you have all of our contact information and will know how to reach us.

(00:44:32):

I do have to say if you were here at THNs conference last year, I stood before this group and we were asking for funding for this initiative, Texas Homeless Network invests in this project.

But I do just want to acknowledge and say that we have some amazing partners at the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation or TSAHC, Michael Wilt, David Long, they have been instrumental in the work that we're doing and are the reason that we were able to continue this work in 2024. But if you are with a grant foundation or if you have ideas for how we can search for funding for this initiative, please connect with me. I'm here at the conference all week. Again, my name is Anya, and I would love to connect because we're always looking for funders or sponsors or partners for this project. This is just setting up what the Data Sharing Network is.

(00:45:46):

Data when we're talking about preventing and ending homelessness is so important in how we're understanding what the scope of the problem is. And while there are some data collection efforts that are happening and those data collection efforts are overall effective, there's still a way that we can improve the way in which we are collecting data on individuals experiencing homelessness. So that we can better assist those in the homeless population. And that's where the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network comes in. We've thrown this word out many times during this presentation, but I know folks are still learning and

they're still new. So A COC or Continuum of Care is a word that you'll hear pretty often during this conference. In the state of Texas, there are 11 different continuums of care or COC regions. Texas Homeless Network, as Eric mentioned earlier, serves as the lead agency for the Texas Balance of State.

(00:46:50):

That's the largest continuum of care in Texas. It's a 215-county region, so all of the counties listed in orange there essentially Continuum of Care is a particular geographic region or jurisdiction that is made up of different service providers, local advocates, government officials that work to prevent and end homelessness. So you can see the geographic breakdown there and that'll come into a little bit later why it's important for understanding how the Data Sharing Network works and why it is so important. I just want to say before we go a bit further, I am trying to condense a 90-minute presentation in about 10 minutes. So this is a lot of information being thrown at you. Shameless plug, we will be doing the full presentation and all of its glory slowed down more in detail. If you are staying here at the conference, it's going to be on Thursday at the 2:30 PM time slot. It's going to be in Post Oak Ballroom, A, B, C, so you can find it on the agenda in RSVP if you haven't done so

already. These are the data collection efforts that are currently happening in the state of Texas and at the national level, you may have heard, may or may not have heard of the Point In Time count or PIT count. That's an annual census of the homeless population. And you can see here in 2023, the PIT count identified 27,377 homeless individuals across Texas on a single night in January.

(00:48:38):

And we know there's more than that and that's why the Data Sharing Network is so, so important. There's also the housing inventory count that's an account of the number of beds or resources that are available in the community. And then Homeless Management Information systems, if you haven't heard of HMIS or the Homeless Management Information System is essentially a database that case managers use when working with clients experiencing homelessness. This is how their data is being collected. Understanding HMIS and knowing HMIS is so important, when we talk about the Data Sharing Network because that is the data that we are getting from our continuum of care partners who are participating in this initiative. The only really thing that I want to highlight here is the PIT count, which I just mentioned, that annual census of the homeless population is an

under count of the homeless population and we know that and that's why annual data on homelessness is so much better because it really gives us a more accurate, more real time data on individuals experiencing homelessness.

(00:49:47):

And that's what the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network helps us do. This is a little bit more information about HMIS. We're going to go into this in more detail during our Thursday presentation. HMIS again is a database that participating social service agencies, shelters, use at the local level when assisting clients when are accessing services. This is important. What type of information is collected in HMIS? This is always what we're asked, especially when we're talking about the Data Sharing Network and there's some different types of information that is collected, but what we focus on with this project is the Universal Data Elements or UDEs and we have a slide that goes into more detail about what those are, but that is just basic name, demographic information on individuals who are accessing services within their homeless response system.

(00:50:50):

This shows an HMIS roadmap for those who may be less familiar with what the client workflow process looks like through the

Homeless Response system, from intake and then to exit to housing or some additional supportive services. Again, we'll go into this in more detail, but I'm limited on your time right now. So I'm trying to just rapid fire this at you and get into more about the Data Sharing Network. So the Data Sharing Network adds many benefits to preventing and ending homelessness and some of the benefits that it is. It allows for the opportunity for those COC jurisdictions that I showed you in the very beginning to share information across geographic boundaries of COCs. That would not be possible without the Data Sharing Network. That is because each of those Continuum of Cares use their own HMIS database. They have selected an HMIS vendor, and they use that vendor when serving clients and those databases do not communicate with each other. So they do not share information and that is what the Data Sharing Network allows for them to do.

(00:52:25):

In addition to helping with more information sharing across geographic boundaries of continuums of care, this Data Sharing Network allows for enhanced collaboration with other systems of care that interact with the unhoused population. So I talk about this a little bit later, but we have a partnership in place with

the Managed Care Organizations, Peer Health plan, which has allowed us to try to identify individuals who are not only experiencing homelessness in the state of Texas but also have Medicaid coverage through Superior Health Plan and try to help those clients get connected to the appropriate resources and just enhance collaboration between homeless response in that example, the healthcare system. And then the THDSN, Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network allows for us to analyze homelessness data in real time, which has many, many benefits as we've discussed. So this is getting into the Data Sharing Network. This is our design model.

(00:53:44):

Our Data Sharing Network operates like a data warehouse. That's where our continuum of care partners are feeding their HMIS data into our data warehouse. Our data warehouse vendor is Green River. They're going to actually be joining us for the presentation that we're giving on Thursday for a live demo of our data warehouse. So you can actually see what the data warehouse looks like and some of the other features that the data warehouse offers, like specific reports that are helpful at the state level, at the COC level and even at the agency level. So Green River's going to help us with that presentation.



(00:54:33):

I mentioned that the UDEs, Universal Data Elements are so important when we talk about the Data Sharing Network and they're listed here, they're very small though. That's a name, social security number, date of birth, race, ethnicity, and other demographic background information. That's what's being fed into our data warehouse from all of our participating COCs. And this is where the project currently stands. So this project really started in late 2019, early 2020 and we have brought the COCs on board in specific cohorts. Right now we have 9 of 11 Continuum of Cares participating in this project. And what that means is we are collecting data from those nine partners at least quarterly if not on a more frequent basis. And you can see here that the THDSN covers 237 of 254 Texas counties or 93% of all Texas counties. It's a huge geographic area. We're working with the San Antonio COC and the Wichita Falls COC on getting them onboarded as well. But this is where the project currently stands. Here are our partners. These are the lead agencies for those 9, Continuum of Cares.

Michael Doyle (00:56:02):

The number in the middle, what the last point of time count was from the state of Texas.

Anya Taylor (00:56:07):

This is,

Michael Doyle (00:56:07):

I can't read it.

Anya Taylor (00:56:09):

This is the unique, the number of unique client records across all participating COS from 2012 to present. This is the number of unique client records that we have as of early this week in our data warehouse. So a little under a million records. Let's see. This is really important. This is the governance structure I mentioned. I'm with Texas Homeless Network. Texas Homeless Network serves as the network administrator for the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network. That means we oversee the day-to-day activities of this project, the admin duties of this initiative. But we do this in collaboration with our continuum of care partners, even San Antonio and Wichita Falls who are not currently uploading data to the network. They still have a seat on our board. If you are interested in, if you are with a continuum of care, we have our board, which is comprised of representatives from each continuum of care. We have one seat

from each continuum of care and one seat reserved for an individual with lived experience for each continuum of care.

(00:57:19):

But we also have an advisory committee. So if anyone is interested in just joining the advisory committee, just if you want to learn more about this project, if you want to help in some way, we have an advisory committee. We meet with our board the first Wednesday of every month. We do everything in collaboration with our board. So this is a collaborative project and here is our board. These are our partners. Some of them, not all of them, but some of them you might recognize some faces. But essentially these are the lead representatives from, or representatives from the lead agencies for the continuums of care. Alright, so just really quickly, what are we doing with this project? This project is beneficial for many reasons and one of the reasons why it's so beneficial. It is another resource to help with client care coordination. Why that is?

(00:58:30):

We know that clients relocate, they go between geographic regions of continuums of care and because those HMIS systems like I talked about earlier, do not communicate with one another. When a client relocates, let's say they were getting

assistance in Dallas for example, and they relocate to the Texas Balance of State, Continuum of Care, there is no way that their chronicity or length of time homeless can be verified without excess work on the case manager who is serving that client. The reason verifying chronicity is so important is it is because it speaks to a client's eligibility for specific housing programs. So it helps them get connected to resources faster. With the Data Sharing Network and the users of the system, they're able to look a client up in our data warehouse and pull that client record to verify that client's length of time, homeless and their chronicity status with client care coordination.

(00:59:45):

This also helps with other homeless response efforts like street outreach. Say for example, a street outreach program within a specific community has lost contact with a client. They don't know where they went. They can do a client search in our data warehouse and see if that client has relocated and is accessing services in another continuum of care. Data integration. I mentioned this. Our partnership with Superior Health Plan, we've had this partnership since 2022. To date there's been 7,200 client matches. What that means is that's bumping up our client panel against Superior Health Plans client panel and we are

narrowing that list down to a more manageable number. We're working with roughly 45 clients right now that can be targeted for service interventions. Finally, and I know this is a lot of research and analysis, this is huge for the Data Sharing Network. We talked earlier about eviction prevention and those resources being needed.

(01:00:56):

We work with many research partners. What that means, we have agencies come to us asking us for specific data that we have to help with their programs. One of the partners, research partners, long-term research partners we've had is an eviction prevention pilot project. And they're doing it is between a group called Connective, Harvard Law, and the University of Houston Law. That group is coming together on a pilot project targeting eviction prevention services and education and wanting to see the success of that program based on how many clients may wind up in our system, in our database.

(01:01:41):

After that, they received this education and are served. We've worked with the National Alliance to End Homelessness and a variety of universities and other research partners. We also do some internal analysis. This is a high-level overview snapshot

of homelessness in Texas. Everyone is always asking us what are the numbers. So based on the data that we are collecting in our data warehouse, there was 61,365 unique individuals served across Texas COCs. That is the minimum number of individuals that were served Texas COCs, because remember, we only collect data from HMIS participating agencies and 9 of the 11 COCs, but that is the number we have access to. That is an annual count. You can see homelessness trends over time from 2018 to 2023. The number of veterans, we can narrow it down to specific subpopulations of those experiencing homelessness. We've done this with veterans. There were 4,103 veterans served across Texas COCs and some other demographic data. We've released two reports this year from the data shared network. One goes more into detail about the state of homelessness in Texas for 2023, and the other report focuses specifically on veterans. Lastly, we have a data dashboard.

(01:03:14):

The data dashboard lives live on THN's website. It is a more current up to date snapshot of homelessness in Texas. We have data from our continuum of care partners as of July 11 on our data dashboard. So you can see the numbers across Texas COCs from January through July, and we update that dashboard

quarterly because that's when we collect data from our continuum of care partners. I mentioned we'll be doing this presentation in more detail with opportunities for questions and collaboration on Thursday. Green River will join us for a demo of the warehouse. But that's all I have.

Michael Doyle (01:03:59):

Thank you. Anya. Take a drink of water. Eric, you are going to,

Eric Samuels (01:04:06):

I was just going to point out, Anya talked about our advisory committee. There's our advisory committee right there, Ben King. He's about one of our sole members helping our advisory committee. And this really can help. We have examples of this. We had a veteran who became homeless in Houston. He was chronically homeless. His veteran status was confirmed. He had moved to El Paso and was applying for VASH. And so you get into housing because we already had his data, we were able to get that to El Paso and get him into that program within a day. So this can have real world impact and that's what we hope it will do. That's the real reason for the Data Sharing Network.

Michael Doyle (01:04:50):

Very good. And Tisha has been working on that for years and I'm glad to see Anya that you're taking the bull by the horns and getting it done. That's really good work. I think there's a question, question over here.

Sandra Ottinger (01:05:03):

My question is just that, do we,

Michael Doyle (01:05:04):

Name please?

Sandra Ottinger (01:05:05):

Oh, name Sandra Ottinger with City of Plano. So my question is because there are the individual HMIS. Is long-term vision of this that it would replace the individual, all these different HMIS systems that are used individually by the COCs? Because I can absolutely envision how data goes into it, how it feeds up into this, but it seems like it would be harder for an individual agency like one of our nonprofits. How are they going then retrieve the data? Would they have to use both systems? Both HMIS as well as the Data Sharing Network? So I was just curious. If it's too long,



Anya Taylor (01:05:49):

That's a good question. Right now, long-term, that's not part of the discussion. It's not replacing HMIS, it's an additional resource and yes, it's two systems, but it is the most efficient way that we can collaborate with our continuum of cares because an HMIS transition would be very difficult. That's a good question.

Sandra Ottinger (01:06:16):

So it would basically be both. And would individuals like nonprofit agencies access data there or would you see it more on the COC level?

Anya Taylor (01:06:25):

So right now, this is a good point and something important. Right now the usability of our data warehouse is pretty limited to those, mostly our board representatives and some direct service providers, but we are always wanting to expand the usability of this project. So if you are a direct service provider or if you have recommendations for a direct service provider that we can onboard to this project, we can take that to our board, specifically the lead agency for that COC, get approval. I would be happy to give them access because like Eric

mentioned, one of the main objectives of this project is to better assist those experiencing homelessness. If access to the data warehouse can do that and can help expedite get the client connected to resources, that's what our goal would be.

Sandra Ottinger (01:07:19):

Thank you.

Michael Doyle (01:07:21):

Thanks Anya.

Eric Samuels (01:07:22):

I would say that was another question. It's never our purpose for there to be double entry. In fact, we're hoping that this will eliminate some of the double entry that case managers already have to do with other programs.

Michael Doyle (01:07:34):

Yes sir.

Rafael (01:07:36):

Rafael from El Paso County, the PATH program in El Paso. I have two questions. One of 'em will be for your 2:30 session. For the first one, do you see anything in the future of HIMS, everyone

who uses it to be merged together? I've had experiences where I get clients that were from PATH San Antonio, at PATH El Paso and I ask 'em, what services do you get? And a lot of 'em don't remember. They don't know who they spoke to, who they're working with. Is there something in the future that we can collaborate all at HIMS together? That way they have that paper trail. I think I heard someone say trying to get into housing, trying to find that paper trail. As well as the second question. Did you see any new data when it came to the Point In Time? And overall the HMIS accounts because where we're from in El Paso, we had a lot of surge when it comes to the migrants, especially last winter. I did outreach and in Point In Time we did see a lot of migrants that were experiencing homelessness.

Anya Taylor (01:08:37):

Yes. So to your first question, I think that's really what the data warehouse tries to help with is to eliminate that paper trail if possible. So if we have that client record that we have collected from one continuum of care program, then another continuum of care would be able to see that client profile and where they have accessed services, what programs that they were a part of. Is that what you were asking?

Rafael (01:09:08):

Yeah, well I guess the HMIS that we use only has an El Paso scope, let's say if someone's coming from San Antonio to us, I wouldn't be able to see beyond just El Paso. It's just within our city.

Anya Taylor (01:09:22):

So with the data warehouse, we don't have San Antonio on board, but another continuum of care that is participating, if a user had access to our data warehouse in El Paso, we have vendors from El Paso, from the lead agency, Camille Castillo, Gary Gray and Debra Harrell are all from El Paso. They have access to the system. So if a client received services in another COC that is participating, they would be able to pull up that client profile and get that history.

(01:09:59):

And you asked a second question about the differences between PIT and the actual HMIS records. Is that right?

Rafael (01:10:07):

Yes,

Anya Taylor (01:10:09):

Definitely. There was a slide that talked about the PIT count. It's an under count of homelessness in Texas. I have a source on there that annual data, which is what we're collecting with this project, is 2.5 to 10.2 times greater than pit here in Texas. It's about, we've done, Eric did the math because he's better. It's about 2.5 times greater, I think, is what we were estimating because you see that in 2023 there was about 27,377 individuals identified through the PIT count in Texas. Then here in our annual data we've counted 61,365 across an entire year.

Michael Doyle (01:11:02):

So that's annualized.

Anya Taylor (01:11:04):

This is annualized, yes.

Michael Doyle (01:11:06):

And the Point In Time count was 27,337. But that's an annualized number.

Anya Taylor (01:11:12):

Correct.

Eric Samuels (01:11:12):

Okay. That is a minimum number.

Michael Doyle (01:11:14):

Especially with San Antonio, not there.

Eric Samuels (01:11:17):

San Antonio. We also don't have data from any agency that doesn't use HMIS. So that number is probably closer to 80.

Michael Doyle (01:11:26):

But just for our continuity if somebody says, well, how many people are homeless in Texas? And we can say on an annualized basis a minimum of 61,000, probably closer to 80. Don't tell 'em there's 250,000 or don't tell 'em there's 63. We're the Interagency Council, this is the Texas Homeless Network. We've got to be speaking the same numbers or people aren't going to believe us.

(01:11:57):

So if you're going for funding and you exaggerate that number, just give you an example. In Tarrant County. We did the first point in time count before HUD did the Point In Time count. We did one in 1995 because I became president of the Homeless

Coalition in Tarrant County in 1992. And I asked the member, I came right out of the business world. I had nothing, didn't know anything about the homeless. I asked the three people that were members of the Homeless Coalition, how many homeless people are there in Tarrant County? They estimated about 25,000. Then two years later, United Way did a study funded by all the major funders in Tarrant County and counted the homeless. And that report that they reported to the entire city and county was 25. So I said, now wait a minute. One count says 25, one says 25,000. If we're the homeless coalition, shouldn't we know. And they said, well yeah. And so I asked the United Way, how did you count the homeless? We called 'em.

(01:13:05):

I said, you called them.

Dennis Cox (01:13:06):

Half 'em Don have phones.

Michael Doyle (01:13:07):

Yeah. And at that point it wasn't the phone giveaway program wasn't even there. So I said, well, we're going to have to do it. So we just went out and counted them the best we could, counted the shelter and those kinds of things and came up with

about 3,300. I think the number was. This is really important stuff. If funders are going to believe us, and this is why we spent so much time in years trying to put this together. Before I retired, it's so great to see this probably come to fruition. When we get San Antonio and Wichita Falls. We'll have accurate numbers to tell people. As long as we're speaking the same language. We can't say, well, Austin told us there was 2 million and Tarrant County says there's 61,000. We got to talk the same language if we're going to be credible.

Eric Samuels (01:13:52):

Absolutely.

Michael Doyle (01:13:56):

Alright, Eric, anything else?

Eric Samuels (01:13:59):

I don't want to put her on the spot, but I guess I am. We have our keynote speaker here, Ann Olivia

Michael Doyle (01:14:04):

Oh, thank you.

Ann Olivia (01:14:05):



Hi everybody. Hello. It's nice to see you all. Thanks for letting me just pop in for a hot minute at the end of your meeting. Thank you so much for all the work you're doing here. I was going to argue with you about that point, about whether you did it before HUD did it, but I think you're right.

Michael Doyle (01:14:23):

You did in 84. We did. You did it in 80. No, you did it in 84. You might've done it before. Yeah, you did it before us.

Ann Olivia (01:14:31):

I think you might be right. I'm going to go with you're right.

Eric Samuels (01:14:34):

He'd like to be right.

Michael Doyle (01:14:35):

Yeah. According to my wife, I'm never right.

Ann Olivia (01:14:39):

Anyway, I was trying to, in my head, that was the year I started in the DC continuum of care.

Michael Doyle (01:14:45):

Oaky.

Ann Olivia (01:14:47):

So it's been a long time. I don't remember that far back. So you're definitely right. I just want to thank you all for the work that you're doing. You'll hear from my remarks when I give 'em this afternoon how grateful the nation is for the work that you all do here in Texas. There are really, really promising practices here. There's a spirit of we're going to do it right. Anyway.

Michael Doyle (01:15:19):

That's a good way to put it.

(01:15:21):

In many, many ways here, regardless of the headwinds that you face here in your state or in your community and that we face nationally. I'm just really happy to be here. This is the one speaking engagement this year that I said I wanted to do personally. As a staff, we decide who's going to go and do what, speaking engagements. I said I wanted to do this one myself. So I'm really grateful to you all and thank you for having me.

(01:15:49):

Thank you for having me. Thank you so much, Ann. Appreciate it.

For those of you that came in late, Ann Olivia is the president  
TICH Quarterly Meeting 9-11-2024

of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, so she's an important lady, thank you so much for the work you're doing. Okay. Are there any public comments, and you had to sign up for this to make an official public comment. I didn't see anybody give me a piece of paper that they signed in. My closing comments were perfect that Ann just did that. We're all in this together. There are some things that are different in each community, but we're in this together. We're here to serve those that are less fortunate than us. We've all been blessed with certain things. Some people don't seem like they receive that blessing, but we know that they deserve it. We're going to try to do our best to get them all the resources they can get to get their lives back on track. So just keep up the good work and thank you for attending. And the next TICH meeting is sometime probably in March or April, and we'll be getting information out to everybody.

Jeremy Stremmler (01:16:57):

January. January

Michael Doyle (01:16:58):

Or maybe January. January yesterday. This is September. It'll be in January, but we'll get something out about all of it.

Eric Samuels (01:17:06):

I'd say generally it's state agencies, it's THN, it's other statewide nonprofits. But we have the ability for others to join.

Jeremy Stremmler (01:17:15):

Yes, we encourage it.

Michael Doyle (01:17:17):

Yeah,

Jeremy Stremmler (01:17:17):

We encourage it.

Eric Samuels (01:17:18):

And it doesn't have to be at this meeting every year. It can be at any of the Inter-Agency Council

Michael Doyle (01:17:23):

And they're usually in Austin.

Eric Samuels (01:17:25):

They're in Austin but people can call in,

Jeremy Stremmler (01:17:26):

There's always an option to call in and participate via telephone.

Michael Doyle (01:17:30):

We need your voices. Alright, we're adjourned. Thank you very much!