



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
Quarterly Meeting – September 17, 2025  
Meeting Minutes

A transcript from the electronic recording of the meeting may be found here:  
<https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/texas-interagency-council-homeless-tich>

**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)	Brittany Hinton	Yes
5	HHSC	Robert Hetzel	No
6	HHSC	Claire Irwin	Yes
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Sherri Cogbill	Yes
8	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)	Hector Ortiz	Yes
9	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), Housing Finance representative	Brooke Boston	Yes
10	TDHCA, Community Affairs representative	Rosy Falcon	Yes
11	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Desiree Viramontes	Yes
12	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Marqus Butler	No
13	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Gary Medina	Yes
14	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	Kelly Davis	Yes
15	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Blade Berkman	Yes

<There are currently 13 filled seats so quorum is 7>

**Advisory Members present:**

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Fedora Galasso	No
2	TNOYS	Ann-Charlotte Proffitt	No
3	TNOYS	Lauren Rose	No
4	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	No
5	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
6	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Anja Taylor	No
7	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	Mike Wilt	No
8	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	No
9	Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)	Molly Thibodeaux	No
10	Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)	Lisa Medina	Yes

**TDHCA Staff Presenters:** Brooke Boston, Peg McCoy

**Administrative support:** Jeremy Stremler (TDHCA)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- Chair Mike Doyle opened the meeting, confirmed quorum.

**II. Remarks from Chair**

- Chair Mike Doyle shared reflections on his 36 years of service, noting his likely retirement in 2026 due to health reasons.
- He emphasized the importance of upcoming HUD discussions on rethinking homelessness and encouraged participation.

**III. Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2025 TICH Meeting**

- Motion to approve previous meeting minutes made by Brooke Boston, seconded by Desiree Viramontes.
- Minutes were approved unanimously.

**IV. Continuum of Care (CoC) Updates**

- Waco CoC introduced a new lead from Prosper Waco, working to establish a local homeless coalition.
- Eric Samuels (THN) provided updates on the Balance of State CoC:
  - Now includes 214 of Texas's 254 counties.
  - Lubbock County has separated to form its own CoC.
  - 10 of 12 CoCs participate in the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network.

- Estimated 28,000 individuals were homeless during the 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) count; annual homelessness estimated at ~65,000.
- PIT count for 2025 will occur in the last 10 days of January.

## **V. Texas Homeless Network (THN) Updates**

- Bezos Family Foundation Project
  - THN received \$2 million in Amazon stock from the Bezos Day 1 Family Fund.
  - Funds support family homelessness initiatives in:
    - Sherman, Texarkana, Hidalgo, Victoria, Laredo, and through Endeavors.
  - Two components:
    - Family Trust: Direct financial assistance to families.
    - Innovation Fund: Grants to local agencies for family homelessness prevention.
  - RFPs have been released; awards expected by the next TICH meeting.
- Planning a Legislative Lunch & Learn on October 15, 2025, to educate Capitol staff on homelessness. Emphasis on aligning data and messaging across agencies to better advocate for funding and policy.
- Discussion on reconciling HUD and TEA definitions of homelessness to improve communication and advocacy.
  - TEA and THN discussed discrepancies between HUD and education definitions.
  - Suggested comparing CoC and school district lists to identify overlaps.
  - Emphasis on unified messaging to policymakers and funders.

## **VI. Updates from Member Agencies**

### **Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)**

- Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) – Brooke Boston
  - 9.81 million awarded across all 12 CoCs.
  - Implementation webinars scheduled for subrecipients covering:
    - Administrative and financial requirements
    - Program compliance
    - Reporting expectations
  - CoCs and HMIS leads invited to contribute regional updates for inclusion in the webinars.
- HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) – Peg McCoy
  - \$133 million total allocation:
    - \$53 million for rental development (12 projects; 6 already open)

- In Austin: Katie Lofts, The Ritz, Burnet Place (PSH for individuals with HIV/AIDS)
- In Dallas Metro: Jaipur Lofts, Bridle Ridge, Lapice Flats (Grand Prairie)
- Additional projects in Houston, Brownsville, Abilene, and two more in Austin
- \$50 million for non-congregate shelter (NCS)
  - Example: The Other Ones Foundation (Austin) received a \$50 million award
  - NCS units include private rooms with bathrooms; some include kitchenettes.
  - Additional awards expected in October 2025
  - Applicants include DV shelters, youth-focused organizations, and specialized providers like Ranch Hands Rescue
- \$3–4 million for nonprofit capacity building

#### **Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) – Gary Medina**

- New director: Brenda Keller
- Veterans Homelessness Summit planned for October 2025
- Military Veteran Peer Network now under TVC:
  - 67 peer coordinators and rural veteran counselors statewide
- TVC is hiring for:
  - Homeless Program Manager
  - Justice-Involved Veteran Program Manager
  - Suicide Prevention Manager
  - Rural Community Advocates (remote roles)

#### **Texas Education Agency (TEA) – Desiree Viramontes**

- Statewide support network through 20 Education Service Centers (ESCs)
- Launching 1-800 hotline and intake portal in October 2025
- 114,000 students identified as experiencing homelessness in 2024–25.
  - 78,000 reported in PEIMS snapshot (point-in-time equivalent)
- Received \$81 million in McKinney-Vento funds; only \$11 million lapsed.
- 79% of funds go directly to school districts.
- Clarified broader definition of homelessness in education (includes doubled-up, motel/hotel, substandard housing)
- Emphasized need for cross-agency collaboration and data alignment.

## **VII. Public Comments**

### **Comments focused on:**

- Aligning definitions and data across agencies
- Improving collaboration between education and homeless response systems

- Using shared data to advocate for funding and policy change.

**VIII. Closing Comments**

No closing comments from the Chair

**IX. Adjournment**

Mike Doyle thanked attendees and adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:50 a.m.