



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH) Meeting Transcript*

***10:30 a.m.
September 17, 2025***

***4th Floor Conference Room
DoubleTree by Hilton
6505 N Interstate 35
Austin, TX 77052***

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Council Members: Mike Doyle, Chair
Sherri Cogbill, TDCJ
Hector Ortiz, DFPS
Brooke Boston, TDHCA
Rosy Falcon, TDHCA
Desiree Viramontes, TEA
Marqus Butler, TJJD
Gary Medina, TVC
Kelly Davis, TWC
Brittany Hinton, HHSC
Claire Irwin, HHSC
Robert Hetzel, HHSC
Blade Berkman, DSHS

Advisory Members: Fedora Galasso, TNOYS
Lauren Rose, TNOYS
Ann-Charlotte Profit, TNOYS
Darilynn Cardona-Beiler, MMHPI
Eric Samuels, THN
David Long, TSAHC
Michael Wilt, TSAHC
Lisa Medina, TCFV
Molly Thibodeaux, TCFV

Staff Support: Jeremy Strempler, TDHCA

1 **00:07 Mike Doyle**

2 OK good morning everyone thank you for being here this is our September 17th meeting of the
3 Texas interagency council for the homeless and I'm Mike Doyle and I'll be chairing the meeting
4 today and I want to introduce the members.

5
6 **00:24 Mike Doyle**

7 On the council not the advisory members, but just the members of the council just so we can
8 get a response for a quorum so if you're a member of the council will you introduce yourself so
9 that we can check for quorum.

10
11 **00:41 Mike Doyle**

12 Brooke Boston.

13
14 **00:46 Desiree Viramontes**

15 Dr. Desiree Viramontes with TEA.

16
17 **00:52 Hector Ortiz**

18 Hector Ortiz with DFPS.

19
20 **01:00 Blade Berkman**

21 Blade Berkman with the Department of State health services.

22
23 **01:07 Peg McCoy**

24 Peg McCoy for Naomi Cantu, proxy for Rosy Falcon.

25
26 **01:08 Brittany Hinton**

27 Brittany Hinton HHSC

28
29 **01:18 Kelly Davis**

30 Kelly Davis TWC.

31
32 **01:26 Mike Doyle**

33 Thank you, Kelly.

34
35 **01:29 Claire Irwin**

36 Claire Irwin HHSC.

37
38 **01:42 Mike Doyle**

39 Anyone else.

40
41 **01:46 Mike Doyle**

42 Let it be noted that we have a quorum of the council members here present and on the phone
43 so thank you for being here if you would like to know who they are at some point.

1
2 **02:05 Mike Doyle**

3 Jeremy would be glad to let you know who they are.
4

5 **02:08 Mike Doyle**

6 So let's get right into the agenda hope to get you out of here by noon but it just kind of depends
7 on how things go. I was hoping HUD would be here but since they're not that discussion won't
8 be happening so we've done the welcome so I'll make a few remarks.
9

10 **02:30 Mike Doyle**

11 I've been doing this for 36 years now and representing governor Bush, governor Perry, and
12 governor Abbott.
13

14 **02:42 Mike Doyle**

15 But I'll probably be stepping down for health reasons next year but it's just been great to meet
16 the people that I've met and to see the great work that you're doing I do or did. I was CEO and
17 founder of something called cornerstone assistance network in Fort Worth, Texas and we did a
18 lot of work with the homeless and still are.
19

20 **03:02 Mike Doyle**

21 So we're very familiar with the population and always have served them I just think that there's
22 new opportunities coming as you most of you know there's going to be a kind of a discussion
23 with HUD about rethinking homelessness so I hope that you all will be able to hear that and see
24 what they're going to talk about.
25

26 **03:27 Mike Doyle**

27 Is it a call or virtual meeting?
28

29 **03:29 Eric Samuels**

30 I think it would. Probably be virtual meeting.
31

32 **03:37 Mike Doyle**

33 And I hope you'll give input there's been a lot of great programs over the years that HUD has
34 had but they cancelled some and some have been transformed into oblivion so just but I hope
35 you'll be there and I just want to say I really appreciate the great work you guys are doing you
36 don't see homeless issues on the on the news from Texas very often so thank you guys for what
37 you.
38

39 **04:05 Mike Doyle**

40 From the voting members of the quorum of the council I need a motion to approve the
41 minutes?
42

43 **04:14 Brooke Boston**

44 Move to approve.

1
2
3 **04:15 Mike Doyle**
4 Brooke thank you I need a second?
5
6 **04:16 Desiree Viramontes**
7 second
8
9 **04:28 Multiple Voices**
10 I.
11
12 **04:17 Mike Doyle**
13 And the second the Desiree thank you so much any discussion or or corrections all in favor say
14 aye this is just the members opposed same sign and those do pass unanimously.
15
16 **04:34 Mike Doyle**
17 Now who here by raise their hand or continuum of care leads.
18
19 **04:42 Mike Doyle**
20 One may be out by 11 no one thank you very much for being here your name.
21
22 **04:50 Mike Doyle**
23 Is?
24
25 **04:53 Eric Samuels**
26 Yeah we're.
27
28 **04:57 Mike Doyle**
29 OK Waco.
30
31 **05:00 Eric Samuels**
32 I guess if there's no one with the balances then I can step in.
33
34 **05:03 Mike Doyle**
35 OK so any updates from Waco.
36
37 **05:08 Waco CoC Lead**
38 No nothing new like everybody else just absorbing information and adopting as we go along for
39 the most part.
40
41 **05:19 Eric Samuels**
42 They have a new CoC lead yeah.
43
44

05:21 Waco CoC Lead

That is me actually yes no I don't know how much we're you know informed of things but yeah our continuum of care just hired me recently over the last couple of months the city was taking over as the collaborative applicant and has since passed it to prosper Waco issues the organization that I work for.

05:39 Waco CoC Lead

And part of the work that I will be doing aside from just leading the CoC in our communities also helping stand up our local homeless coalition into its own entity to become the lead agency in collaborative applicant over the next few years so kind of what we're working on thank you

05:53 Mike Doyle

OK.

05:55 Mike Doyle

Congratulations yes congratulations.

05:58 Mike Doyle

You may ruin the day but, congratulations to that. Yeah it's a, it's a big job yeah.

06:05 Waco CoC Lead

Yes, quite a time to come on board.

06:09 Mike Doyle

OK you want to do you want to do balance the state here?

06:11 Eric Samuels

Yeah, well I mean we keep plugging away balance of states we have now I was talking to Carl over there back in 2006 I was the one staff member for the balance of state continuum of Care now we have 100 people from around the balance of state which is amazing so yeah we're plugging away we're trying to adapt to the changes that have been happening we did recently work on our 3rd HUD builds proposal.

06:42 Eric Samuels

As we're waiting to see what happens with that, we just have a lot of exciting things I think I'm going to talk about.

06:48 Eric Samuels

One of them. In a little bit.

06:52 Eric Samuels

The housing project that is funded by the Bezos Family Foundation day one family funding.

1 **06:57 Mike Doyle**
2 OK.
3
4 **06:58 Eric Samuels**
5 But yeah it's.
6
7 **07:00 Mike Doyle**
8 So are you going to address in your item number 5 on the agenda any new.
9
10 **07:07 Eric Samuels**
11 I suppose that's what this is isn't it?
12
13 **07:09 Mike Doyle**
14 Yeah or not new initiatives what about Wichita Falls, San Antonio, Amarillo did they ever join
15 the balance of state.
16
17 **07:19 Eric Samuels**
18 No, they have not.
19
20 **07:22 Eric Samuels**
21 We have some folks from Amarillo here but so we did have one area pull out of the balance of
22 state Lubbock County is its own CoC I forgot the code for it but they so we now have 12 CoCs.
23
24 **07:39 Eric Samuels**
25 CoC that's continuum of care for any of those that don't know that it's a homeless response
26 system so we define the geographic area and then who's going to work in homelessness and
27 then that group works to develop plans in homelessness and apply for funds most of you
28 probably know this.
29
30 **07:56 Eric Samuels**
31 But I've come to realize you don't need to assume these things.
32
33 **08:01 Eric Samuels**
34 So now that we've worked really closely with Amarillo and Wichita Falls and other groups they
35 almost everyone is involved with our data sharing network yes we have the only CC 's that are
36 not involved are Lubbock and Wichita Falls so we have 10 of the 12.
37
38 **08:11 Mike Doyle**
39 Yeah, that's the big question.
40
41 **08:20 Eric Samuels**
42 And I would say probably about 97% of the population covered by the data warehouse and
43 Anya Taylor at the director of that program cannot be here today she's trying to finalize
44 agreements with united healthcare for a data sharing project yeah so.

08:43 Mike Doyle

How are we to?

08:53 Mike Doyle

So is there an acceptable way to say when we quote numbers statewide the excluded you're saying excluding Lubbock and Wichita Falls about what's the estimate is that name.

09:06 Eric Samuels

We're talking about numbers statewide we still lean on the point in time.

09:09 Eric Samuels

Count right and that was just a little under 28,000. When we look at homelessness over the course of a year you know it can be about 3 times that amount some of those folks are almost very short period of time but yeah it's that's what it amounts to about it's actually in 2024 it was a little bit less than I think it was 65,000.

09:33 Eric Samuels

For the course of the year so a little.

09:35 Mike Doyle

Over double OK yeah but I don't see it making an appreciable difference.

09:43 Eric Samuels

Well we're seeing a slight uptick in some communities unfortunately.

09:49 Eric Samuels

We haven't seen it.

09:50 Eric Samuels

We haven't seen a huge increase in that stuff.

09:52 Mike Doyle

But I'm talking about just the push from the absence of Wichita Falls in Lubbock oh.

09:58 Mike Doyle

Would that affect that number?

10:00 Eric Samuels

No that actually, that number includes the point in time count includes those agencies as well anyway includes victims of domestic violence and a lot of other folks and of course we, a lot of you have, participated in point in time counts so you know.

1 **10:14 Eric Samuels**

2 You're missing a lot of folks too there's no perfect count but that's the one you know constant
3 that we can use year in year out and it's going to be in January.
4

5 **10:23 Eric Samuels**

6 Again, that be in January less things change that's going to be in January again, the last 10 days
7 in January.
8

9 **10:31 Mike Doyle**

10 Alright so why you're there new initiatives.
11

12 **10:34 Eric Samuels**

13 So Diego Garza is our manager of the housing solutions program this is a program that is funded
14 by the Bezos day one family fund we were lucky enough.
15

16 **10:51 Eric Samuels**

17 A few years ago to receive \$2,000,000.00 in the stock gift from that from the basis foundation.
18

19 **10:59 Eric Samuels**

20 Because a while to sell it because it's it was Amazon stock and as soon as we got the Amazon
21 stock went down so about 3 years later we were able to sell it for 2,000,000 and so we're using
22 this funding to work with communities throughout the balance of state balance of state if you
23 don't know is more or less every county that's outside of our major metropolitan areas so we're
24 looking at working with some communities in the valley maybe Texarkana and then maybe the
25 Sherman area I think that's the communities we have in here this is the handout for the housing
26 solutions.
27

28 **11:37 Eric Samuels**

29 So it's going to be made-up of 2 parts both parts working on family homelessness because
30 that's what this gift was intended for one of the one of the projects we'll have is we'll work with
31 one community to identify through a by name.
32

33 **11:57 Eric Samuels**

34 Process the households that need help and they will receive direct funding to keep them in
35 housing or get them In housing for a period of time.
36

37 **12:07 Eric Samuels**

38 So that's part of it the other part of it will go to agencies in these communities where they can
39 work with families in need at risk or we're experiencing homelessness we have just put out the
40 RFP.
41

42 **12:21 Eric Samuels**

43 And you know we're waiting to see who will be receiving the money and for what.
44

1 **12:26 Eric Samuels**
2 So we should have by the next time. We meet we should have something to report.
3
4 **12:31 Eric Samuels**
5 So that's exciting because we've never had money that is flexible like this where we can do
6 what we need to do and you know family homelessness unfortunately has not gone down the
7 way we would like so we hopefully can reduce that number through this process and maybe get
8 some more funding and do even more of this type of project.
9
10 **12:52 Mike Doyle**
11 Yeah, so for those that aren't familiar with the continuum of care particularly balance of state
12 how many there's like 254 counties in Texas and the balance of state covers how many.
13
14 **13:04 Eric Samuels**
15 Of them now 214.
16
17 **13:06 Mike Doyle**
18 Yeah so it's a big job.
19
20 **13:08 Eric Samuels**
21 It's a huge job it's a COC if you take say for example San Antonio.
22
23 **13:15 Eric Samuels**
24 They have a CoC that covers San Antonio and Bexar.
25
26 **13:18 Eric Samuels**
27 The balance of state covers 214 counties but around 30 different local homeless coalitions so
28 each one of them are working not entirely they work a little independently but also as part of
29 the larger COC.
30
31 **13:33 Eric Samuels**
32 It's yeah, it's a huge job even with the number of staff we have it's still a huge job.
33
34 **13:39 Mike Doyle**
35 Any questions for Eric before we go into his next part of hanging out on housing?
36
37 **13:44 Eric Samuels**
38 I don't know if I have next door.
39
40 **13:49 Mike Doyle**
41 So you don't know the regulations it's going to be a family which would include.
42
43 **13:53 Eric Samuels**
44 Yeah households with children as what we're focusing on the.

1 **13:57 Mike Doyle**
2 Under what age?
3
4 **14:00 Eric Samuels**
5 Under 18 for the children.
6
7 **14:04 Eric Samuels**
8 You know we have room to be flexible if we need to we're going to work with all of our
9 communities domestic violence shelters places like that yeah we were held out as many houses
10 as we can and I did see that we do list the communities here on the 3rd page.
11
12 **14:23 Eric Samuels**
13 Is Sherman, Texarkana, Hidalgo, Victoria, Laredo and then we're also going to work with
14 Endeavors. Because they work throughout the state and that is the 3rd page I think for you it.
15
16 **14:33 Mike Doyle**
17 And where is that one.
18
19 **14:38 Mike Doyle**
20 Page number 4.
21
22 **14:39 Eric Samuels**
23 Yeah, OK page 4 yeah so.
24
25 **14:43 Eric Samuels**
26 And the 2 parts of the project and this is my other report so we even get through this before
27 noon it's the family trust is the is the payment that goes directly to the households.
28
29 **14:56 Eric Samuels**
30 And then the innovation fund is what we're going to the community OK so yeah and the area of
31 ours is the director but he's down presenting this to the balance of State Membership right
32 now.
33
34 **15:09 Mike Doyle**
35 So it's going to be open to anybody.
36
37 **15:11 Eric Samuels**
38 In those communities.
39
40 **15:13 Eric Samuels**
41 Yeah, that's where he found the most need within the balance of states that's where we're
42 directing him.
43
44

1 **15:19 Eric Samuels**
2 It would be nice to get some funding in the valley we haven't had as much luck getting funding
3 to the valley as I would like and I hope we can help out that that area quite a bit.
4
5 **15:34 Mike Doyle**
6 Did you update us on the number 5? Texas homeless network updates at the same.
7
8 **15:41 Eric Samuels**
9 Yeah, well I guess we'll see what else I could update you on right yeah just for all of our time.
10
11 **15:50 Mike Doyle**
12 When we first started Tarrant County homeless coalition we had we heard from a group of
13 funders who put together a survey and presented it to the community at Will Rogers Coliseum
14 and they said they were 25 homeless?
15
16 **16:10 Mike Doyle**
17 The providers said there were 25,000 homeless people so somewhere in the middle there was
18 the right number so I would like for us to all quote the same kind of number so can you just
19 kind of say how many are there at the point of time in Texas so they will all kind of be talking
20 out of the same.
21
22 **16:28 Eric Samuels**
23 Someone would ask you how many there are in a point in time I would say 28,000
24
25 **16:34 Mike Doyle**
26 28,000 overall OK.
27
28 **16:36 Eric Samuels**
29 Yeah, that's what I would.
30
31 **16:37 Mike Doyle**
32 Say and compared to last year is that up or down.
33
34 **16:41 Eric Samuels**
35 It's slightly up unfortunately it's not you know like I said it's significant increase slightly.
36
37 **16:49 Eric Samuels**
38 And we don't and that's 2024 we still don't have full 2025 so maybe it has gone down some but
39 I have a feeling it probably didn't well you still got COVID layoffs too.
40
41 **17:00 Eric Samuels**
42 We do have that yeah and the loss of that some of that COVID funding too which didn't help.
43
44

1 **17:11 Mike Doyle**
2 Anything else for Eric.
3
4 **17:13 Mike Doyle**
5 Sorry to dominate it but I.
6
7 **17:14 Eric Samuels**
8 Just well I mean I don't have a ton on here to report out other than we do have a conference.
9
10 **17:22 Mike Doyle**
11 Yeah? where is that this year downstairs somewhere?
12
13 **17:28 Mike Doyle**
14 OK, agency member updates Brooke you have one I know.
15
16 **17:34 Brooke Boston**
17 Yeah, I'm actually presenting on behalf of Rosy Falcon she's our homelessness manager and she
18 couldn't be here and I was going to talk about the ESG program we just finished up our 2025
19 funding cycle and we awarded 9,810,000 to organizations across all 12 CoC.
20
21 **17:55 Brooke Boston**
22 The handout shows how much we awarded within each CoC and we'll also be sending out this
23 next week to each CoC and HMIS lead the detailed list of the ESG sub recipients and their
24 corresponding project type.
25
26 **18:11 Brooke Boston**
27 We've scheduled 2 ESG implementation webinars for sub recipients and those sessions will
28 include administrative and financial requirements, program requirements and reporting and
29 compliance expectations.
30
31 **18:24 Brooke Boston**
32 Attendance is required that those sessions for ESG awardees and will record those sessions for
33 folks who don't make it.
34
35 **18:32 Brooke Boston**
36 But we'd also like to take the opportunity to invite our CoC and HMIS partners to share any
37 important system updates or region specific information you'd like us to incorporate in those
38 webinars before they happen so if you have something you'd like to see the State funded
39 providers see or hear about you can reach out to Rosy and she'll integrate that into her
40 presentation.
41
42 **18:55 Brooke Boston**
43 Anyone have any questions?
44

1 **18:59 Mike Doyle**
2 Nobody needs money.
3

4 **19:03 Mike Doyle**
5 Yeah, everyone clear on what ESG is? I guess so.
6

7 **19:09 Mike Doyle**
8 OK Peg you're going to give an update yes?
9

10 **19:13 Peg McCoy**
11 Sure, I'd love to my name is peg McCoy and I'm sitting in for Naomi Cantu who's the division
12 director for the HOME American rescue plan and the home American rescue plan is one time
13 funding out as a result of the pandemic.
14

15 **19:29 Peg McCoy**
16 And TDHCA decided to program most of that funding in the construction into rental
17 development and non-congregate shelter.
18

19 **19:40 Peg McCoy**
20 We got in total about \$133,000,000 and about half went into the rental program and half went
21 into the non-congregate shelter program and then a about \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 in what
22 they call nonprofit capacity building and operating assistance.
23

24 **19:59 Peg McCoy**
25 And in order to receive non congregate shelter funding you have to first receive this capacity
26 building assistance. And so those two are kind of tied together for the rental development
27 we've awarded all of the \$53,000,000 in funding for 12 developments, 6 of which have already
28 opened it was interesting a lot of that funding was used for gap financing like deals that came
29 back during the pandemic and needed extra money to make the whole project pencil again.
30

31 **20:38 Peg McCoy**
32 And so three of those that have opened already are in Austin it's called Katie lofts the Ritz and
33 Burnet place, Burnett place was a permanent supportive housing for people with with aids HIV
34 and 3 in the Dallas metro area, Jaipur lofts, Bridle Ridge and Lapice flats which I think.
35

36 **21:02 Peg McCoy**
37 I'm not originally a Texan so I think maybe you would still consider Grand Prairie the Dallas area
38 so it's in Grand Prairie and we have 6 other bidder in projects that are still in process one in
39 Houston and one in Brownsville.
40

41 **21:22 Peg McCoy**
42 And one in Abilene and 2 more in Austin so those are 4 almost done and 2 are just kind of
43 starting up so we should be able to meet our deadlines on that side.
44

21:36 Peg McCoy

On the non-congregate shelter funding that again it was paired with this capacity building funding so organizations had to be first awarded the capacity building funding and I did have a handout out there that's that goes over what we call our application log.

21:57 Peg McCoy

You can see that the Other Ones Foundation in Austin was already awarded nonprofit and capacity building assistance and we're working on actually kind of finalizing their non congregate shelter plan and that's actually a really large award for us it's \$50,000,000 so hopefully that should go through.

22:17 Peg McCoy

Pretty soon and we'll be able to you know create some more shelter space the interesting thing I don't know if anybody doesn't know that non congregate shelter is.

22:27 Peg McCoy

Instead of kind of a bunk style shelter they're individual rooms with bathrooms you know so particularly nice you know for supposed respite or anything else really and then so see if I missed anything.

22:48 Peg McCoy

And then also at the last meeting I did speak about the we had a competitive NOFA out for another nonprofit and capacity building assistance and this one we had \$750,000 available and about \$14,000,000 for a non-congregate shelter that would be paired with the capacity building and then it will go then then they can apply for non-congregate shelter award within 9 months and so and we received aid applications and they're listed online.

23:23 Peg McCoy

And so we haven't made it any of those awards yet but hopefully going to make one in October so we're moving along in that realm as well and hopefully we'll be able to get a couple more shelters out of that funding.

23:39 Desiree Viramontes

I have a question do you know the demographics of those shelters like if there's some that are geared towards youth or families.

23:45 Peg McCoy

Are the ones that that have applied for funding the Denton County Denton County friends of the family is a domestic violence shelter up in Denton and Sann ministries I don't believe that they have a specific demographic to my knowledge that?

23:56 Desiree Viramontes

OK.

1 **24:06 Peg McCoy**
2 Families in crisis I believe is also a dev clinic out in Killeen and there's one the ranch hands
3 rescue is really interesting when they're up in Denton yeah it helps mostly male victims of
4 trafficking and violence and concho valley and then AYUDA.
5
6 **24:40 Peg McCoy**
7 It looks like Denton County is trying to build in this is more information than you asked for but
8 like a complex so that this would just be one part one like they're building a whole new center
9 and kind of like a haven for hope and San Antonio up in Denton.
10
11 **24:48 Desiree Viramontes**
12 Yeah, it's good yeah.
13
14 **25:01 Peg McCoy**
15 And the Samm ministries is going to hopefully do another hotel conversion.
16
17 **25:06 Peg McCoy**
18 So lot of different projects.
19
20 **25:10 Mike Doyle**
21 The funding allow not just a room and a bathroom but also a.
22
23 **25:18 Peg McCoy**
24 Kitchen well it could definitely the minimum requirements or definitely are a room with a door
25 and a bathroom in it.
26
27 **25:26 Mike Doyle**
28 And then so it's more than single room occupancy it could be.
29
30 **25:32 Mike Doyle**
31 So what do you call those zero bedroom.
32
33 **25:35 Peg McCoy**
34 Yeah as long as it has a bathroom and then you know the ones that have applied also have like
35 you have to be able to feed people so they're commercial kitchen or...
36
37 **25:44 Eric Samuels**
38 Right, like the Other Ones Foundation yeah their set up yeah TOOF is the other ones
39 foundation.
40
41 **25:51 Mike Doyle**
42 Yeah, but if you take the kitchenettes they have their own kitchen do you need a congregate
43 kitchen I mean congregating facility is that a prerequisite.
44

1 **26:05 Peg McCoy**

2 I don't have an answer for that I can get back to you on that but I don't think everybody but I
3 would imagine.

5 **26:13 Peg McCoy**

6 And shelter situation not everybody would be able to feed themselves with a small kitchenette
7 so it probably is a requirement that you know or it's part of their plan is that part of their plan is
8 how to get people food so yeah so it would have to be taken into consideration most
9 definitely.

11 **26:30 Mike Doyle**

12 OK thank you.

14 **26:32 Mike Doyle**

15 Anything else.

17 **26:36 Mike Doyle**

18 Moving right along, getting close to lunch.

20 **27:03 Gary Medina**

21 I could provide an update for the Texas Veterans Commission. Well for one doctor Blake Harris
22 is no longer with The Texas veterans Commission he left our department.

24 **27:13 Gary Medina**

25 We have hired a brand new director her name is Brenda Keller she won't be partaking in the
26 board I would just be stepping in for TVC here but we are holding a summit later this year it's
27 not completely open to everyone yet it's the first time we restarted this summit but it tackles
28 homelessness and then to help the veterans specifically.

30 **27:33 Gary Medina**

31 Have invited several partners you much like Eric here and so them and others from around the
32 State of Texas so that will happen sometime in October we are holding some type of pre
33 conference in next month as well so we have a lot going on for the Texas Veterans
34 Commission.

36 **27:48 Gary Medina**

37 With that included the Texas Legislature was really kind to us this session they gave us the
38 contracts for our peer service coordinators from HHSC and now they'll be under the guise of
39 TVC so we'll have hands on these peer service coordinators and what that means is that we
40 have this program called the military veteran peer network.

42 **28:07 Gary Medina**

43 We have this kind of network of peer service coordinator scattered across the entire state of
44 Texas roughly about 67 to include rural veteran counselors as well.

1 **28:17 Gary Medina**

2 So we're really happy to have that that kind of expands our reach to across the entire state of
3 Texas and help veterans and their families whatever they may be going through these peer
4 service or coordinators are very embedded in the communities alongside with that we also
5 have got more full time employees so we're going to be hiring a lot more so our department is
6 about to grow.
7

8 **28:37 Gary Medina**

9 Further we still have homeless program manager that we're going to be hiring next month so
10 be my partner another justice of all veteran program manager needs to be hired another
11 suicide prevention manager needs to be hired and then we're going to be hiring for.
12

13 **28:50 Gary Medina**

14 Or rule counselor rural community advocates and those would be fully remote jobs and so just
15 keep an eye out if you're looking for a job with the state because we're hiring.
16

17 **29:02 Eric Samuels**

18 And I wanted to you know announce that something it's been so great working with Texas
19 Veterans Commission they've actually added me for a few other meetings and we know the
20 peer service coordinators and those folks are they are really dedicated to this project the really
21 dedicated to veterans, if there's any doubt that there still is a problem with homeless veterans
22 you can ask Gary because he receives a ton of calls every week and we really need to do more.
23

24 **29:33 Eric Samuels**

25 In collaborating with groups like TVC I'm just so happy we had these opportunities.
26

27 **29:40 Mike Doyle**

28 OK thank you.
29

30 **29:41 Desiree Viramontes**

31 I wanted to do an update for Texas Education Agency it's been a long time we actually have a
32 large support network that's through our education service centers lovingly known as ESE's so
33 there's 20 across the state of Texas and they are able to provide any technical assistance or
34 support professional development.
35

36 **29:44 Mike Doyle**

37 Absolutely.
38

39 **29:59 Desiree Viramontes**

40 Our school systems but more importantly to students.
41
42
43
44

1 **30:02 Desiree Viramontes**

2 With families in October we're launching a 1-800 number or bringing it back we're having that
3 be statewide for students families and schools and there's also a intake portal to help further
4 assist students and families in getting connected directly to who needs to support them so
5 wanted to make you guys aware of that.
6

7 **30:22 Desiree Viramontes**

8 And the 24/25 school year we had 114,000 students experiencing homelessness slightly over
9 what we were on the pre pandemic levels so just if you're wondering how many are
10 experiencing homelessness across the state of Texas and our 1200 plus schools.
11

12 **30:38 Desiree Viramontes**

13 And then just like everybody else 2025 opened up with some very interesting executive orders
14 very interesting court cases right now I'm happy to report all of that has been resolved we did
15 receive our full federal funds for McKinney Vento and it's looking like the FY 2026 budget is also
16 going to include McKinney Vento funding so I'd be remiss if I didn't share that in the education
17 space and then from our funding we had \$81,000,000 we were actually able to only lapse a
18 little under \$11,000,000 and there is some ARP liquidation extension funds that are going to be
19 going through 2026.
20

21 **31:17 Desiree Viramontes**

22 Every year traditionally we get about \$12,000,000 to help do our ESC network but more
23 importantly 79% of that goes directly to school systems every school district has something
24 known as a McKinney Vento liaison or a homeless liaison so if they can't provide direct housing
25 but this whole room is helping with housing and so I'm hoping that they are connecting with
26 you guys?
27

28 **31:41 Desiree Viramontes**

29 It's been a minute but, there you go.
30

31 **31:43 Mike Doyle**

32 I think I know the answer but just 28,000 homeless from Texas 114,000 homeless students hard
33 to mesh that.
34

35 **31:57 Desiree Viramontes**

36 So you don't I mean I feel like.
37

38 **32:06 Desiree Viramontes**

39 In reality there is a policy incompatibility so in education because they're children we have an
40 expanded definition of homelessness which includes doubled up couch surfing however you
41 want to do that as well as motel/hotel, substandard housing which has not just afflicted
42 Texas. PEIMS provides Snapshots which is very similar to the point in time count it's a time
43 where like all school systems have to report out.
44

1 **32:33 Desiree Viramontes**
2 At that time it was 78,000 so if you're wanting to do like apples to apples you would really want
3 to use that PEIMS snapshot our end of year numbers that's like reconciled through the
4 Department of Education is 114,000 for the year.
5
6 **32:46 Mike Doyle**
7 78,000.
8
9 **32:47 Desiree Viramontes**
10 78,000 and some change but you know I'm.
11
12 **32:50 Mike Doyle**
13 Just primary definition.
14
15 **32:54 Desiree Viramontes**
16 So I like when I do when I was at the district and I was like I wore my point in time count shirt
17 and I had my families come in I wish more school systems would do it that way because it's
18 more honest we don't capture a lot of our families they stay invisible it's called the invisible
19 population for a reason but in the school system we're more likely to identify.
20
21 **33:14 Desiree Viramontes**
22 Not as likely but more likely to identify so I think there's that portion of it and then
23 just. Between 28 and 78 like you're only looking at unsheltered when you're doing point in
24 time.
25
26 **33:30 Eric Samuels**
27 Yeah, and I would agree I mean I think there is some definite.
28
29 **33:33 Mike Doyle**
30 The chief skinny but aren't.
31
32 **33:34 Mike Doyle**
33 You also doing shelter counts point in.
34
35 **33:39 Eric Samuels**
36 But so there is a little bit difference in the definition but I agree that there are a lot of kids and
37 then households that are moving place to place because they don't you know they're scared of
38 what would happen and so we're not capturing those and in many cases during the point in
39 time count so.
40
41 **33:59 Desiree Viramontes**
42 And there's hidden camps like kids will stay hidden like when I was at the district level they
43 would let me know so I could go bring them things if I wasn't bringing them anything.
44

1 **34:00 Mike Doyle**
2 Yeah sure sure.
3
4 **34:07 Desiree Viramontes**
5 I wouldn't have known.
6
7 **34:09 Eric Samuels**
8 We used to have this conference in conjunction with the homeless education liaison training
9 and that was so good because.
10
11 **34:17 Eric Samuels**
12 We could all work together. We need to do more of that and that's where we're going to do.
13
14 **34:22 Desiree Viramontes**
15 We will yes.
16
17 **34:22 Eric Samuels**
18 To talk yeah because if there's almost educational liaison they're probably. Bing the families
19 that are at risk and about to become a homeless before any of the homeless response system
20 they actually are part of homeless response system we could work together better maybe we
21 could get help to those households quicker so they don't fall into homelessness I just think It's
22 we're missing an opportunity if we're not working together.
23
24 **34:48 Eric Samuels**
25 And I think we will start working together more.
26
27 **34:50 Mike Doyle**
28 Yeah, it's just hard when you are asked by a legislator.
29
30 **34:56 Eric Samuels**
31 I know.
32
33 **34:58 Mike Doyle**
34 And it's one 28,000 and another 114,000 students.
35
36 **35:02 Mike Doyle**
37 There's got to be a way to communicate that overall number is a you know that kind of thing I
38 just don't know how you.
39
40 **35:10 Unknown Speaker**
41 I mean you're going to have more children than the 28,000 that we missed the parents so
42 you're going to have more.
43
44

1 **35:18 Eric Samuels**
2 Well the 28,000 does include.
3
4 **35:19 Mike Doyle**
5 Children here if there's in the shelters or outside yeah.
6
7 **35:20 Eric Samuels**
8 As well.
9
10 **35:22 Unknown Speaker**
11 It will therefore I'm going to her point yeah that those parents may catch them so that's where
12 your 28,000 is coming from the 114 those are the ones that.
13
14 **35:30 Eric Samuels**
15 Yeah yeah.
16
17 **35:34 Unknown Speaker**
18 Are being hidden because they're not going to claim their children because they're going to lose
19 their?
20
21 **35:38 Mike Doyle**
22 Child maybe the parents not homeless they're at somebody at their grandmas house but the
23 kids are still going to school yeah those are the nes that are yeah.
24
25 **35:47 Eric Samuels**
26 Yeah, we definitely put together some kind of Venn diagram where we said there's 28,000
27 within there's 78,000 within.
28
29 **35:52 Desiree Viramontes**
30 Yeah honestly.
31
32 **35:54 Mike Doyle**
33 The simpler the better is right funding Tends to potentially shrink but from the some of the
34 yeah but some of the cuts.
35
36 **36:04 Mike Doyle**
37 If they're unsure of the number is pretty hard it well if they don't know how are we going to
38 fund it?
39
40 **36:08 Eric Samuels**
41 Right and it is powerful because what Mike was talking about when we used to go to Tarrant
42 County we'd go to any Agency.
43
44

1 **36:16 Eric Samuels**
2 And I forgot the number you would save it we have 5205 people everyone would say the same
3 thing yeah.
4

5 **36:22 Eric Samuels**
6 We can't necessarily do the same thing because our definitions are different right if we can
7 come to some type of common number that will help when we're talking to policymakers I
8 agree.
9

10 **36:33 Mike Doyle**
11 And that quoting the number over a 10 year period forcing them to do that came out of that
12 conversation of 25 or 25,000 and I thought if we were the homeless coalition we needed to
13 know how many homeless there were and so we can't we it was based on.
14

15 **36:48 Mike Doyle**
16 Point of time and in point of time so it just sounds good if you're all talking from the same
17 about the from the same language.
18

19 **36:57 Desiree Viramontes**
20 You know bureaucracy really lends itself to that.
21

22 **36:59 Mike Doyle**
23 Yeah sure.
24

25 **37:03 Mike Doyle**
26 Any public comment?
27

28 **37:10 Eric Samuels**
29 Of course I've never very at Times.
30

31 **37:12 Unknown Speaker**
32 How does your organization define homelessness?
33

34 **37:15 Eric Samuels**
35 How does what so we use the HUD Continuum of care definition which is very strictly on the
36 street and shelters transitional housing so very literally homeless. And sometimes we will
37 capture folks that are fitting in that school definition but their definitions a little wider plus their
38 use that we're not capturing yeah.
39

40 **37:42 Unknown Speaker**
41 Well it's there because I know HUD has a different Categories of Homelessness is there specific
42 one or you just.
43
44

1 **37:48 Eric Samuels**
2 Well can someone help me out this category 1, 2 and 3 and 4 OK yeah thank you Carl you think I
3 would know that yeah so it's so but mainly it's the 3rd.
4
5 **38:03 Eric Samuels**
6 They're probably, thing to know about this is it's the various the strictest definition yeah I mean
7 families are moving home to double up, triple up.
8
9 **38:13 Eric Samuels**
10 They're in a very precarious situation too.
11
12 **38:15 Unknown Speaker**
13 But could also explain why the number is relatively low.
14
15 **38:19 Eric Samuels**
16 And yes and no for sure yeah and that's a very good point and squabbling over those 2 numbers
17 we don't need that we need to figure out a way.
18
19 **38:20 Mike Doyle**
20 No question.
21
22 **38:29 Eric Samuels**
23 To work together when I'm not saying we don't work together of course we'll work together
24 but I think often communities don't.
25
26 **38:36 Eric Samuels**
27 And let me say I don't know if we have anyone from the domestic violence shelter.
28
29 **38:43 Eric Samuels**
30 No, we don't have anyone anyway if we had Texas Council on Family Violence here they would
31 say that's a whole other undercount right there and so we work very closely with them too we
32 cannot neglect that.
33
34 **38:49 Unknown Speaker**
35 Alright.
36
37 **38:56 Unknown Speaker**
38 From my public comment I'd say the only way that I've seen that it's actually worked between
39 the education system. And the CoC's is if they compare their lists and see where the overlap is
40 because then you can get a percentage and then you can use that percentage going forward so
41 if you say you know our 28,000 that here's our list and here's our list of 114,000.
42
43
44

1 **39:19 Unknown Speaker**
2 How many you know the overlap with those let's say it's 10% or whatever the case is but then
3 you can say OK 90% on a regular basis doesn't count or that's their definition not our definition
4 and so on and so forth and the data warehouse I think?
5
6 **39:33 Mike Doyle**
7 Right.
8
9 **39:36 Eric Samuels**
10 It is possible we would take a lot of work on the agreements but it is possible we could do that
11 with the data in our Warehouse.
12
13 **39:50 Eric Samuels**
14 But yeah that's that is one way to do it.
15
16 **39:59 Eric Samuels**
17 I have one more thing but no no but someone else if they.
18
19 **40:00 Mike Doyle**
20 OK go ahead.
21
22 **40:02 Mike Doyle**
23 Have other things you may want to speak?
24
25 **40:03 Eric Samuels**
26 I just won't shut up.
27
28 **40:08 Mike Doyle**
29 You're the Director of the homeless coalition.
30
31 **40:10 Eric Samuels**
32 Well so and this is this involves the legislature but it's not partisan we're not talking about you
33 know voting this way or that I just wanted you all to know that.
34
35 **40:20 Eric Samuels**
36 Mid next month October 15th we are bringing together legislative staff from across the capital
37 for a what we're calling lunch and learn event if you all want to contribute you can get in
38 contact with me but we're going to talk about just homelessness 101 we found that a lot of the
39 staffers that we talked to they don't have the dollars that we have about homelessness right so
40 we are going to talk about homelessness statewide I'm going to talk about the balance of state
41 we're going to have Fort Worth participate Houston and San Antonio and we're going to serve
42 them.
43
44

1 **41:00 Eric Samuels**
2 Barbecue bring them down with that barbecue and then hopefully educate them and so as they
3 go forward they have this information when we go and talk to their offices about different
4 policies great.
5
6 **41:12 Mike Doyle**
7 Great.
8
9 **41:13 Bexar County Official**
10 I wanted to ask Eric would you allow local elected officials from Bexar county and I know.
11
12 **41:18 Eric Samuels**
13 I would welcome it yes thank you yeah.
14
15 **41:22 Eric Samuels**
16 Let's talk afterwards so we can get your name on the list because we are trying to limit it to but
17 it would be great to have.
18
19 **41:28 Bexar County Official**
20 Alright good you know the County Judge would love to come.
21
22 **41:30 Eric Samuels**
23 Well and you know and we want to talk to local elected officials too about this it's kind of all of
24 Mike 's point as long as we if we get closer to being on the same page as possible it's going to
25 help.
26
27 **41:46 Eric Samuels**
28 No one wants to see homelessness it's just we all have different ideas about. You know why
29 people become homeless and what to do about it but I think we can work together to find a
30 compromise.
31
32 **42:00 Eric Samuels**
33 I don't have anything that I'm not going to keep babbling I could no.
34
35 **42:08 Mike Doyle**
36 And we Babble with good information yeah anything else.
37
38 **42:13 Mike Doyle**
39 No? I don't have any closing comments but keep up the good work and have a nice lunch we're
40 adjourned.
41
42