



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
Quarterly Meeting – January 31, 2017  
Meeting Minutes Summary

A transcript of the verbal recording made by electronic recording may be found here:  
<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/tich/meetings.htm>

**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)	Emily Sasser-Bray Robert Dole	Yes Yes
5	Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)	<i>vacant</i>	n/a
6	Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)	<i>vacant</i>	n/a
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Frances Gattis	Yes – by phone
8	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)	Valinda Bolton	Yes
9	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Housing Finance representative (TDHCA)	Brooke Boston	Yes
10	TDHCA, Community Affairs representative	Naomi Cantu Jennifer Molinari (proxy for Ms. Cantu)	Yes – by phone Yes
11	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Jessica Hissan	Yes
12	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Kelly Kravitz	Yes
13	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Todd Novak	Yes – by phone
14	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Pam Maercklein	Yes
15	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	D.J. Bingler	Yes

**Advisory Members present:**

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Christine Gendron	No
2	Austin Travis County Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	Yes – by phone
3	Community Healthcore	Stanley Williams	No
4	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	Yes – by phone
5	Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA) of Harris County, Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) Division	Mende Snodgrass	No
6	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
7	Texas Education Homeless Office (THEO)	Jeanne Stamp	Yes
8	Education Service Center Region 10	Jana Burns	Yes
9	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	Yes
10	Texas Council on Family Violence	Molly Voyles	Yes
12	HHSC	Sonja Gaines	No

**Other attendees:** Bettie Beckworth (HHSC), Anna Baker (TVC), Camille Castillo (El Paso Coalition for the Homeless), Cindy Crain (Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance), Michael Wilt (TSAHC), Tomes Rodriguez (DSHS), Ronisha Allen (DSHS), Mona Muro (TCFV), Ann Howard (ECHO), and TDHCA staff members including Tom Gouris, Jennifer Molinari, and Megan Sylvester.

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

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:10 am and welcomed the members, advisory members and guests and confirmed quorum was present.

**II. Remarks from Chair**

Mike Doyle welcomed new members D.J. Bingler from TWC and Robert Dole from HHSC.

**III. Approval of minutes from the November 17, 2016 TICH Specially Called Meeting**

Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the November 17, 2016, TICH specially called meeting. Brooke Boston moved to approve and Kelly Kravitz seconded. Cate Tracz indicated that there was one clerical correction needed for Item XIII of the minutes; Thursday, January 31, 2017 will be changed to Tuesday, January 31, 2017, in the final posted version of the minutes. There were no further comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected.

**IV. Discussion of 2016 Continuum of Care (CoC) Awards**

Eric Samuels began his update by welcoming the CoC leads in attendance and noting that the CoC leads are interested in participating more in the TICH meetings going forward. Two handouts were then

provided detailing the 2016 CoC funding allocations by CoC and service providers in Texas. Eric Samuels reviewed his handouts and facilitated a discussion on the 2016 CoC awards.

#### **V. Update on the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Award**

Eric Samuels filled in for Ann Howard until her arrival and began the update on the new HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Award (YHDP). The Austin/Travis County CoC was one of ten communities nationwide to receive the YHDP award and the \$5.2M allocation nearly doubles the funding the Austin/Travis County CoC receives from HUD for youth homelessness assistance. Ms. Howard arrived and continued to update the group, stating that the target population will be youth and young adults under age 25. Discussion continued about best practices for serving youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

#### **VI. USICH Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness**

David Long informed attendees about the recently released United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Youth Homelessness. To prepare for this update, David Long and Michael Wilt contacted Bob Pulster at USICH to review the purpose and criteria for the benchmarks. Referring to handouts provided, David Long reported that the criteria and benchmarks work together to provide a complete picture and an ongoing assessment of a community's response to youth homelessness. Together, these criteria and benchmarks are intended to help communities reduce the number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness to as close to zero as possible, while building long-term, lasting solutions that can effectively and efficiently respond to future needs.

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

##### **(a) Every Student Succeeds Act**

Kelly Kravitz from TEA, Jana Burns from the Education Service Center for Region 10, and Jeanne Stamp from THEO provided an overview of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is essentially a rewrite of the No Child Left Behind Act and makes changes to the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act. Information was provided to Council members on new definitions of homelessness, data reporting requirements, training mandates, and new roles for school homeless liaisons. Kelly Kravitz collected written questions from meeting attendees regarding the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act and will report back with answers and more information at future TICH meetings.

##### **(b) Call for State Agencies and Advisory Members to provide updates on homeless prevention activities at the next meeting.**

Mike Doyle reminded the group that it is important to consider homelessness prevention activities and requested that TICH members and Advisory Members be prepared to provide updates at the next TICH meeting on homeless prevention activities happening at each of their respective agencies and organizations. Cate Tracz will email a reminder out to all members prior to the next meeting on April 11, 2017.

#### **VIII. Review Draft 2016 Annual Report**

Mike Doyle called for volunteers to review statutory requirements and finalize the 2016 Annual Report and to bring a final version to the April meeting for approval. Eric Samuels, Jeanne Stamp and Brooke Boston volunteered; Brooke Boston agreed to facilitate the update process.

#### **IX. Review of Membership Designations and Duties**

Megan Sylvester provided a review of TICH membership designations based on her reading of House Bill 200 from the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, which reauthorized and reorganized the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Should there be a clean-up bill in future legislative sessions that addresses the functions of DARS and DADS (whose programs have been transferred to other agencies), at that time HHSC and TWC most likely would then be required to have an additional representative on the TICH.

#### **X. Public Comment**

Tomas Rodriguez, Centers for Disease Control Public Health Advisor from DSHS, provided information about the Tuberculosis (TB) Homeless Initiative, which is working to increase community awareness; encourage emergency shelters to enforce policy and increase awareness of resources; and the initiative aims to emphasize the importance of TB training for shelter employees.

Brooke Boston then provided comment on TDHCA's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program, which funds eligible entities in Texas to provide a broad range of services designed to eliminate poverty and foster self-sufficiency. Brooke Boston notified the group about a notice of funding availability to administer the CSBG program in Dallas County.

Finally, Naomi Cantu brought up TICH committee activity over the last year and asked if there was any motivation to revisit the purpose and duties of the committees that came out of the work done on Pathways Home. A discussion followed and Mike Doyle reminded members that the bylaws address committee appointments and asked the group working on the Annual Report to also advise the TICH at the next meeting of recommendations relating to committees.

#### **XI. Closing comments/next quarterly meetings:**

Mike Doyle ended the meeting by reminding the group about the next quarterly meetings scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday April 11, 2017 in (Austin)
- Tuesday July 11, 2017 (Austin)
- Wednesday, October 4, 2017 (Dallas – held in conjunction with the THN Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness)

#### **XII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52am.