



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
Quarterly Meeting – April 3, 2018  
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)	Veronica Neville	Yes – Joyce Pohlman as alternate
5	HHSC	Jessica Hissam	Yes
6	HHSC	Claire Irwin	Yes
	HHSC Alternate	Carissa Dougherty	n/a
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Sherri Cogbill	Yes
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 – Elizabeth Yevich as proxy
10	TDHCA, Community Affairs representative	Naomi Cantu	Yes
11	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Cal Lopez	Yes
12	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Todd Novak	Yes – by phone
13	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Sarah Philips	No
14	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	Yes
2	Austin Travis County Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	No
3	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	Yes – by phone
4	Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA) of Harris County, Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) Division	Mende Snodgrass	No
5	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
6	Texas Education Homeless Office (THEO)	Jeanne Stamp	Yes
7	Education Service Center Region 10	Jana Burns	No
8	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	Yes
9	Texas Council on Family Violence	Molly Voyles	Yes – by phone

**Other attendees:** Ken Martin (THEO); Megan Moore (THN); Megan Sylvester (TDHCA); Michael Wilt (TSAHC); Gabriella McDonald (Texas Appleseed).

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

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and it was confirmed that a quorum was present.

**II. Remarks from Chair**

Mike Doyle welcomed attendees to the meeting and had no further opening remarks.

**III. Membership Updates**

Mike Doyle recognized Cody Rothschild for her time as a TICH representative from HHSC and welcomed Claire Irwin as her replacement.

**IV. Approval of draft minutes from the January 30, 2018 TICH Meeting**

Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the January 30, 2018, TICH meeting. Sherri Cogbill moved to approve and Elizabeth Yevich seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

**V. Report from TDHCA Homelessness Staff on the Ending Homelessness Fund**

Naomi Cantu provided an update on the Ending Homelessness Fund and opportunities for public comment, including roundtables to be held in summer 2018 to discuss possible uses of the funds. As of

this meeting, the fund has raised approximately \$24,000 and Naomi Cantu provided an overview of possible uses of the funds if the balance is above or below a threshold of \$100,000. A discussion ensued about possible uses of funds and marketing and outreach strategies to increase awareness of the fund.

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

Megan Moore provided an update on the VISTA volunteer project and spoke about the ongoing work with Austin-Travis County and Tarrant County. There is a plan to connect with the Houston area Workforce Boards as well.

#### **VII. Use of \$10,000 provided by Texas Workforce Commission for Continuum of Care Coordination by Texas Homeless Network**

Megan Moore provided an overview of three uses of the proposed use of the \$10,000 provided by TWC in state fiscal year 2019. Those uses are (1) to create an employer development plan to build connections within Workforce Development Boards or Continuum of Care (CoC) organizations to employers to discuss the needs and benefits when hiring individuals experiencing homelessness; (2) to create a Workforce staff development plan to help local Workforce Boards train its staff in best serving people experiencing homelessness; and, (3) to develop a client development plan that could be disseminated directly to clients experiencing homelessness on helping them improve their job search and employability. Throughout the year VISTA members would create prototypes for their communities and present the prototypes to THN, which would then create a toolkit designed to replicate the best parts of the project. Mike Doyle then requested a motion to approve the use of the \$10,000 provided by Texas Workforce Commission for Continuum of Care Coordination by Texas Homeless Network as presented by Megan Moore. Valinda Bolton moved to approve and Jessica Hissam seconded.

Naomi Cantu offered discussion before a vote on the motion, stating that the proposed use of funds was currently being reviewed at TWC. With approval from the TICH today, TDHCA would be able to start the contracting process but contracts would not be finalized until TWC gave final approval of the use of the funds. DJ Bingler indicated that she did not expect any delays from TWC. With that, there were no further comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the motion.

#### **VIII. Introduction to a Disaster Housing Strategy Plan**

Eric Samuels introduced Keegan Shepherd who will be working at THN on statewide initiatives including a data warehouse project, updating the framework to end homelessness, and a disaster housing strategy plan. Eric Samuels provided an overview of the purpose of creating a disaster housing strategy plan and cited lessons learned in providing homelessness assistance in response to Hurricane Harvey. Discussion ensued about the goals of such a plan and examples of where further planning is needed. Keegan Shepherd clarified that a plan would not supplant current efforts underway by state agencies tasked with disaster response.

#### **IX. Updates from TICH Committees**

Cate Tracz provided an update on the Performance Data Committee. Since the last quarterly TICH meeting, information continues to be collected on state agency performance data related to persons or

households experiencing homelessness. Once a complete dataset is identified, the goal would be to include this information in future annual TICH reports. Eric Samuels and Cate Tracz then provided an update of the activities of the Annual Report Committee. A draft has been developed and is currently under administrative review by TDHCA staff.

#### **X. Proposed Subcommittee on Homeless Youth**

This item was tabled.

#### **XI. Review of 2017 Annual Report**

This item was covered in the updates from TICH Committees.

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

Dennis Scholl thanked TDHCA and THN staff for facilitating connections to San Antonio homelessness providers and then provided an update regarding his future attendance at the TICH.

Cal Lopez provided an update on TEA activities including their current competitive grant; training and technical assistance for regional education centers; and, HUD certification training for homeless liaisons. TEA is creating a handbook on disaster responses for schools. Ken Martin added information about the certification and eligibility determinations. Discussion ensued about coordinated entry and the new roles homeless liaisons could perform under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Naomi Cantu spoke about cross training being provided by TDHCA and THEO for ESG subrecipients. Several ESG Subrecipients are scheduled to participate in a webinar hosted by TDHCA in which Ken Martin will provide information about homeless school liaisons' duties and how to connect to the liaisons.

Cal Lopez provided comments about disaster response and discussion ensued about school response to Hurricane Harvey as compared to Hurricane Katrina.

Christine Gendron provided comment about a TNOYS survey and report of homeless liaisons and recommendations for training and additional supports since the requirement to have homeless liaisons is an unfunded mandate. Christine Gendron also reported that TNOYS, THEO, and Texas Homeless Network are partnering to try to secure funding through Rebuild Texas to provide support for schools in areas heavily affected by Hurricane Harvey where a high percentage of students are homeless.

Naomi Cantu gave an update about the Homeless Housing and Services Program rules and the General Provision rule for TDHCA's homeless programs which are being revised and are planned to be released for public comment in the next few months.

Megan Sylvester reported that the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, CoC, and Community Development Block Grant funding increased in federal fiscal year 2018, but ESG funding remained relatively level. General discussion followed regarding federal funding.

**XII. Closing comments**

Mike Doyle thanked everyone for attending.

**XIV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am.