



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
Quarterly Meeting – July 10, 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	No (Eric Samuels was acting Chair)
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	Yes
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Sherri Cogbill	No
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 – Cate Tracz as proxy
10	TDHCA, Community Affairs representative	Naomi Cantu	Yes – Tom Gouris as proxy
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	No
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 – Ken Martin as proxy
7	Education Service Center Region 10	Jana Burns	No
8	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	Yes – Michael Wilt as proxy
9	Texas Council on Family Violence	Molly Voyles	Yes – by phone

Other attendees: Megan Moore (THN); Josefa Zatarain-Flournoy (Alamo Area Council of Governments) Brett Merfish (Texas Appleseed), Ali Bronner (Texas Appleseed), Keegan Shepherd (THN).

Administrative support: Cate Tracz (TDHCA)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Eric Samuels, acting as Chair in place of Mike Doyle for this meeting, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and, after all attendees introduced themselves, it was confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. Remarks from Chair

Eric Samuels welcomed attendees to the meeting and had no further opening remarks.

III. Approval of draft minutes from the April 3, 2018 TICH Meeting

Eric Samuels introduced the draft minutes from the April 3, 2018, TICH meeting. Claire Irwin moved to approve and Cal Lopez seconded. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

IV. Report from TDHCA Homelessness Staff on Programs

Tom Gouris provided updates on the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG), Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP), and the Ending Homelessness Fund (EHF). The ESG program is currently in the

middle of 2-year contracts with Subrecipients and the second year of funding for these existing contacts has been decreased by 0.6 percent. For HHSP, new program rules were recently adopted by the TDHCA Governing Board and the City of Plano has been added as an eligible city, bringing the total number of Texas cities eligible for HHSP funds to nine.

The EHF, which began collecting voluntary donations through the vehicle registration process at the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, has been receiving about \$10,000 per month, with slight increases each month. Tom Gouris provided an overview of the public comment process for this fund and discussion ensued regarding proposed uses of the fund.

V. Updates from THN

Eric Samuels introduced Keegan Shepherd and Megan Moore to provide updates on Point in Time Count Data, VISTA Volunteer Project on §2306.905(7), and the Texas Homeless Resource Organizational Workshops (THROW).

Keegan Shepherd provided a handout and presented data and analysis on the 2018 Point-in-Time (PIT) count, held in January 2018. The analysis included a breakdown of the number of sheltered and unsheltered counts in each Texas Continuum of Care Region and a comparison over five years of PIT counts. Discussion ensued about the possible impact of natural disasters on PIT data collection and outcomes. Questions were raised about comparisons to other states and the correlation between the 5-year PIT count and state population growth.

Megan Moore provided an update on the VISTA volunteer project and spoke about the ongoing work of the VISTA volunteer working in with Tarrant County to survey current workforce development services for people experiencing homelessness. Another VISTA volunteer will start in August and work with Austin ECHO. Eric Samuels applauded the tremendous work that Megan Moore has done as the VISTA Coordinator at THN.

Keegan Shepherd then provided another handout and introduced a THN initiative called THROW, or Texas Homeless Resource Organizational Workshops. The purpose of THROW will be to ensure that communities throughout Texas collaboratively work toward understanding the full scope of homeless and homeless-related services in their area, identify service gaps that exist, and use that knowledge to develop dynamic resource guides and community action plans. THROW will have four key components: a program coordinator, a series of statewide workshops, an integrative digital resource guide, and community action plans. Keegan Shepherd provided an overview of THROW objectives and potential partners, and timeline. Discussion ensued about the success of similar efforts that TICH members and advisory members had undertaken previously.

VI. Update on the TNOYS Youth Homelessness Workgroup

Cate Tracz provided an update on behalf of Christine Gendron regarding the TNOYS Youth Homelessness Workgroup. TNOYS will be working with Texas Appleseed and Texas Homeless Education Office to facilitate a Statewide Workgroup on Youth Homelessness. This group will report unofficially to TICH, on

which TNOYS and THEO are both advisory members. The first meeting will be held on Friday, August 17, 2018. The goal of this workgroup is to facilitate collaboration between state agencies, statewide organizations, and local efforts, to strengthen services and supports for Texas' homeless youth.

VII. Update from TEA

Cal Lopez provided an update on the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TECHY) Grants program and recent awards; TEA's involvement with THN's annual conference; the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth site selection of Dallas for its October 2020 conference; and, TEA's McKinney Vento Homeless Education Program staff presentation at TEA's Charter School Summer Summit. Discussion ensued about TECHY grants in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

VIII. 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.

XI. Review of 2017 Annual Report

This item was covered in the updates from TICH Committees.

X. Consultation with the TICH by TDHCA Staff to Solicit Input as part of the Public Participation Process in the Development of the State's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

Nathan Darus provided an overview of the Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice process that recipients of grant funds from HUD, such as states, local governments, and public housing agencies, undertake as part of their obligation to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH) under the Fair Housing Act. As part of the consultation process to inform the development of the AI, input and feedback was sought from meeting attendees regarding fair housing issues particularly issues affecting protected classes under the Fair Housing Act.

XII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

XII. Closing comments

Eric Samuels thanked everyone for attending and reminded all that the final 2018 quarterly TICH meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, in conjunction with THN's Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness in Austin.

XIV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am.