



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
Quarterly Meeting – July 21, 2020  
Meeting Minutes

A transcript from the electronic recording of the meeting 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)	Joyce Pohlman	Yes
5	HHSC	Kevin James	Yes
6	HHSC	Claire Irwin	Yes
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 (TDHCA), Housing Finance representative	Brooke Boston	Yes
10	TDHCA, Community Affairs representative	Naomi Cantu	Yes
11	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Cal Lopez	Yes
12	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJD)	Marqus Butler	Yes
13	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Joe Ramirez	Yes
14	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	Shirley Jones	Yes

**Advisory Members present:**

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Lauren Rose	Yes
2	TNOYS	Lyric Wardlow	Yes
2	Integral Care	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	No
3	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	Yes
4	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
5	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	Yes
6	Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)	Molly Voyles	No

**Other attendees:** Kali Adams (TDHCA), Sophia Checa (THN), Kaitlin Devlin (TDHCA), Spencer Duran (TDHCA), Helen Eisert (HHSC), Samantha Foss (THN), Zac Gibson (TDHCA), James Gonzalez (Coalition for the Homeless), Carrie Holterman (Coalition for the Homeless), Monica McCarthy (TDHCA), Tammy Narvaez (Harris County), Erin Phillips (TDHCA), Jessica Preheim (Coalition for the Homeless), Ana Rausch (Coalition for the Homeless), Gavin Reid (TDHCA), Stephanie Ridgway (DFPS), Concetta Scerbo (Coalition for the Homeless), Joe Schultz (THN), Megan Sylvester (TDHCA), Nick Thompson (THN), Jim Ward (THN), Nicole Wiscombe (City of Waco), Elizabeth Yevich (TDHCA).

**Administrative support:** Danny Shea (TDHCA) and Jeremy Stremmer (TDHCA).

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order via GoToWebinar at 10:00 AM. After reviewing the list of webinar attendees, staff confirmed that a quorum was present.

**II. Remarks from Chair**

Mike Doyle reported that TWC staff is researching the possibility of contracting directly with THN to administer the \$10,000 that TWC allocates annually to support THN's AmeriCorps VISTA projects.

**III. Approval of draft minutes from the January 21, 2020 TICH Meeting**

Mike Doyle introduced the draft minutes from the January 21, 2020 TICH meeting. Brooke Boston moved to approve and Claire Irwin seconded the motion. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

**IV. Proposed Edits to TICH Bylaws**

Item postponed.

**V. Family First Prevention Services Act**

Heather Thorp presented an overview of DFPS's Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) program after other member agency representatives presented their agency updates under Item VII.

**VI. Texas Homeless Network Updates**

Eric Samuels introduced Joe Schultz, THN Statewide Data Sharing Initiatives Associate, and Nick Thompson, THN Statewide Initiatives Manager. Mr. Thompson shared that United Way of Denton

County and Central Texas Council of Governments have been confirmed as upcoming TICH VISTA project host sites. Mr. Samuels provided other updates from THN. THN's in-person conference, scheduled to take place in Austin in the fall, has been cancelled. THN has been working with technical assistance providers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other partners to help local homeless coalitions respond to COVID-19. Statewide data from the 2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count indicates an 18% increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Texas over the past five years. General discussion about PIT Count data followed. Lastly, Mr. Samuels shared that THN has developed a program model, convened a governing board, and contracted with a vendor to guide the implementation of the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network project.

## **VII. Updates from Member Agencies**

Naomi Cantu provided updates on two TDHCA-administered homelessness and poverty prevention programs: the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) and the Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP). TDHCA has received about \$97 million dollars in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; this includes about \$33 million that was allocated in an initial tranche of funding and an additional \$64 million allocated in a second tranche. Ms. Cantu provided an overview of how the first tranche of funds will be used and how they are being distributed. Staff is still determining how to distribute the second tranche of ESG funds. General discussion followed. Ms. Cantu then provided an update on HHSP. Staff reallocated \$239,000 in previously unused HHSP funds to an HHSP set-aside specifically for COVID-19 response.

Gavin Reid presented on the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program. Ninety-percent of CSBG funds are provided to CSBG eligible entities for the delivery of services to very low income Texas residents in all 254 counties. These funds support a variety of direct services in addition to helping maintain the core administrative elements of these local organizations. In 2020, TDHCA has received \$35.5 million in CSBG funds through the annual allocation process and \$48.1 million in CSBG funds through the CARES Act.

Monica McCarthy presented an update on the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) program. The program has housed 506 households during the life of the program and is currently housing 439. Updates include that the program has fully committed its first grant, \$12 million dollars from HUD awarded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. About 275 households are currently housed using FY 2012 funds. New households are still being housed under the program's second grant, \$12 million awarded by HUD in FY 2013. The program expects to be able to house 80-100 additional households before fully expending those funds. The program has closed waiting lists in five counties. Lastly, Ms. McCarthy reported that the program has launched its risk mitigation fund, which will include both damage repair funds and barrier-busting funds. Additional details available in the meeting transcript.

Cal Lopez provided updates from TEA. Ms. Lopez encouraged members to visit TEA's COVID-19 webpage, which includes a section focusing on students in special populations and guidance for students experiencing homelessness. TEA anticipates awarding \$9 million dollars to a total of over 120 participating school districts for identifying and supporting students experiencing homelessness. Ms. Lopez provided an overview of several TEA grant programs and the upcoming Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program summit, which will be held virtually in September 2020.

Kevin James presented updates from HHSC. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved the Supportive Housing Rental Assistance (SHR) program to rebalance a small pot of Money Follows the Person funds to existing SHR subrecipients. HHSC will award those funds to subrecipients based on

expenditure rates and COVID-19 impacts. The Healthy Communities Collaborative (HCC) program received one application for its rural expansion initiative, and HHSC staff is working on plans for the upcoming round of funding for the HCC program. General discussion followed.

Heather Thorp provided an overview of the Family First Prevention Services Act program at DFPS. The FFPSA targets improved services and outcomes for children placed in congregate care, kinship caregivers and the children they care for, parents with substance use disorder and their children, and children who are at imminent risk for entering foster care. FFPSA supports prevention services for mental health, substance use treatment, and parenting skills and supports.

Michael Wilt presented an update from TSAHC. TSAHC's Texas Supportive Housing Institute will focus on six markets for the 2020 cycle, and will take place virtually from September to December.

Brooke Boston reminded members that the 2020 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) included one point for Housing Tax Credit (HTC) applicants that would commit to setting aside units for referrals from local Continuums of Care (CoCs). There are 52 properties set to receive tax credits in the 2020 cycle that have committed to this set-aside. Additional details are available in the meeting transcript. General discussion followed.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **X. Closing comments**

The next TICH meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2020 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, and will be held virtually via GoToWebinar.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.