

Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless Quarterly Meeting

AGENDA

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
January 18, 2012

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Conference Room 116
221 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Report from Council Chairperson

Mike Doyle briefly discussed components of TICH's enabling legislation and asked Colin McGrath to summarize the recent public hearings.

IV. Summary of Public Comments Received at Public Hearings on the Strategic Plan

Colin McGrath provided an overview of public comments received from hearings in ten cities. Comments focused on four issues: outcomes, specificity, accountability, and funding.

V. Discussion on Council's Response to Comments

Eric Samuels, in regards to outcomes, wondered where TICH would find necessary details. He suggested looking into CoCs' housing needs assessments. Barbara James noted that TICH would be setting goals for itself, so if each agency sets its own goals, those can be included in the plan as a first step before adding statewide goals. Ken Martin noted that the council would have to decide whether it will have outcomes that are achievable by state agencies or by state agencies working with local entities. Mike Doyle pointed out that the plan is not only for state agencies and that it should start with CoCs' 10-year plans. Ken Martin provided a few concrete examples: 1. Reduce the number of people who are homeless; 2. Increase the amount of transitional housing; 3. Increase funding for homelessness prevention; 5. Increase the amount of permanent supportive housing. Jo Katherine Quinn added that state agencies could begin to identify persons experiencing homelessness. Ken Martin proposed having an outcome stating that x number of agencies will ask clients about their housing status by a certain date. Diana Lewis noted that intermediate outputs are important. The plan has focused on state agencies, which is appropriate given that she hears people asking about where the state stands on the issue, as well as wondering what resources state agencies will make available for addressing homelessness.

Beverly Donoghue asked about developing a matrix that shows what CoCs' plans contain.

Melissa Mason stated that TCFV has a state plan that provides a county-by-county description of services available.

Alfredo Mycue stated that he was hearing people ask for a matrix involving state agencies and local entities that provides measures and describes existing structures. Mike Doyle suggested adding an outcome to create a matrix.

Tim Irvine pointed out that the plan's title is not entirely accurate. The document is more of a framework than a plan. David Long seconded.

Chan McDermott noted that it would be difficult for state agencies to change their course of action without directives from the legislature. Deborah Ballard agreed. Beverly Donoghue added that it is important for the group to be realistic about what state agencies will do. For Texas Workforce Commission, persons experiencing homelessness will not be a priority population. B.J. Wagner presented a request from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice asking for changes to page 36 to have the plan discuss the Re-Entry Taskforce, not the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI).

Melissa Mason asked if feedback from the hearings had been incorporated in the plan. Colin McGrath stated that it was up to TICH members to decide how to incorporate the comments or how to use the public comments. He reiterated that this was the purpose of the present discussion.

VI. Vote to Adopt Plan

Colin McGrath asked whether TICH voting members would need to see a final version of the plan before voting on it, or whether they could hold a vote knowing that the version they voted on would include three specific changes: (1) revision of two paragraphs based on B.J.'s request; (2) Tim Irvine's added subtitle; and (3) adding a goal in the plan to identify measurable outcomes. Voting members requested postponing the vote so they could see the final document before making the decision. Eric Samuels suggested adding an attachment to the plan where TICH summarizes public comments and, as a council, provides its response.

Chan McDermott asked whether TICH could hold a vote through Outlook or email. Mike Doyle stated that the council would have to confirm legalities on how TICH could hold the vote. Colin McGrath cautioned that per Texas Open Meetings Act, the council would most likely have to meet again in person to hold a vote, and a vote over email would not be permissible.

TICH postponed the vote to adopt the plan until a later date.

VII. Discuss Plans for an Interagency Public Service Announcement on Homelessness

Ken Martin pointed out that the simplest way to do this would be to provide Texas Homeless Network funds to produce the public service announcement. David Long asked about costs. Ken responded that a 30 second video would cost about \$15,000 or \$20,000. Barbara James noted that Texas Homeless Education Office used to issue PSAs but networks would rarely use them. Ken Martin noted that he and JoAnn DePenning had met with PBS Texas about creating a documentary and noted that they simply needed funding to make it happen.

VIII. Update on Agencies' Work Relating to Homelessness

Mike Doyle suggested skipping updates, given time constraints.

IX. Update on HMIS Data Warehouse Project

Colin McGrath explained that six cities, or CoCs, had committed to the data warehouse project so far. Alfredo Mycue stated that TDHCA had spoken with HUD and Ray Allen, a consultant. He noted that the project could cost as much as \$400,000, and that he recommended a \$40,000 pilot. Eric Samuels stated that THN could request technical assistance from HUD to work on this. Colin McGrath stated that they could speak more about this next week during TDHCA's meeting with THN. Ken Martin added that, although THN could help with funding, they would need assistance securing necessary matching funds.

X. Adjourn