

**Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
Quarterly Meeting – May 14, 2013**

Attendees Present

TDHCA: Sharon Gamble; Michael De Young

Ofc. Of the Governor: Mike Doyle

Ofc. Of the Lt. Gov.:

Ofc of the Speaker:

DSHS: Laura Vanoni and Anna Sonenthal

DFPS: Beth Engelking

TDCJ: Erin McGann for B.J. Wagner

TWC: George McEntyre

Advisory Members Present: Ken Martin (THN), Eric Samuels (THN), Kris Linenberger (THN), JoAnn DePenning, Barbara Wand James (THEO), Molly Voyles (TCFV), David Long (TSAHC)

Others: Brooke Boston (TDHCA), Elizabeth Yevich (TDHCA); Charlie Leal (TSAHC)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Doyle, TICH < began the meeting at 9:15 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves. Mike Doyle mentioned new members – Julie Puzan and George McEntyre.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Remarks from the Chair

Mike Doyle expressed appreciation for Mary Dodson and the attention she gave to the TICH. Mike requested approval to draft a letter of appreciation to Mary on behalf of the Council. Approved.

IV. Member Agency Spotlight: Texas Workforce Commission

Mr. George McEntyre was attending his first meeting of the TICH and retold a story about his work in Corpus Christi as his introduction to homeless issues through working with Veterans. Mike Doyle requested that he continue to represent their issue in the Commission.

V. Minutes (notes)

Laura Vanoni motioned, Beth Engelking seconded and the motion passed.

VI. TICH Staff Support Update

Brooke Boston (TDHCA) expressed appreciation for the work of Mary Dodson and updated the Council that the Council's staff support will be handled in the future by the Housing Resource Center (HRC) under the direction of Elizabeth Yevich. Brooke stated that the Annual Report that was included in the Pathways Home Document is still fresh and proposed an undated Annual Report be targeted for release around the New Year.

VII. 2012 Point in Time (PIT) Count data and Process – Eric Samuels

- Eric reminded everyone that we are looking at a Draft version of the PIT data report and that the survey was done prior to Corpus and Victoria being added to the BoS CoC
- Eric stated the figure for BoS CoC is around 34,000 and for statewide is estimated to be 56,000 to 72,000 which is approximately going to be 5,000 to 6,000 less than the prior year. Possible reasons for the reduction include communities finding more creative solutions, having newer PIT methods and having more VASH vouchers.
- Eric mentioned that HUD is trying to reduce the number of continua.
- Eric stated that the PIT counts in odd number years are more comprehensive and more accurate.
- Comparison to prior years are difficult due to additions to the BoS CoC
- The size of BoS has increased (adding Victoria and Corpus Christi), however the rate of homelessness has decreased
- The increased focus on PSH has had an impact in some areas
- Some of the increase in PSH can be tied to the VASH program
- Houston homelessness is down 27% in the last 4 years
- Barbara James (THEO) stated that the education definition is different and the numbers don't necessarily align which is hard to explain. It was suggested that the next report includes the distinction of these two different definitions.
- Eric stated that the counts miss a large portion of the school aged kids
- Ken Martin (THN) reminded the Council of the nature of PIT Counts and its effects on numbers – that it is a challenge to make assumptions
- The Chronic homeless population appears to continue to decrease
- Ken Martin (THN) reiterated the new definition of homelessness is going to affect the counts and will make comparisons difficult at best
- We should remind ourselves to not make assumptions, these counts are not scientific
- Some communities were conducting "Drive By" Counts
- Ken expressed concern that the newer definition could impact the future funding for homelessness Mike Doyle –Chair asked David Long to take the message about the impact of the federal proposed change in definition of homeless
- Mike reiterated that the newer definition certainly impacts the inclusion of Victim of Domestic Violence in the numbers
- Eric will send out links for the entire council to read
- Ken passed out the Fact Sheets (Texans Experiencing Homelessness pamphlet and Homelessness in Texas one pager) and reviewed with the Council
- These are last year's figures, the Amarillo figure is historically high due to availability a variety of factors.
- Mike pointed out the children count seems incongruent with the "fastest growing population" that we speak about
- The red families shown on the one pager include children which increases the confusion - - Mike asked for a note to be included to explain such

VIII. Committee Updates

Homelessness Prevention -- Committee had not met; B.J. Wagner and Beth Engelking will report at the July meeting.

Housing and Supportive Services – Committee met once. Discussed a more accessible database for existing housing and for each Agency programs. Also discussed more focus on PSH.

- Mike asked if transitional housing is going away
- Ken said that would be a shame because the need is still there, rapid re-housing will take care of some of the need
- Molly stated that Victims of Domestic Violence need the transitional housing for safety purposes before they enter PSH
- Ken stated that a HUD Representative at the National Homeless Conference that “permanent” should be long term. A changing of the definition is concerning.
- Ken stated -- we should change the name to Supportive Housing and let the time period match the needs of the individual

Data, Research and Analysis --

- Laura Vanoni was recruited/drafted to the committee

State Infrastructure –Ken introduced Kris Linenbarger to talk about the trainings

- Multiple Homeless Coalitions involved in collaborative process
- Multiyear focus -- this year Harlingen, Tyler and Midland
- Focus is on SOAR, Case Management, PSH, HMIS and PATH
- East Texas is trying to increase the entities at the table
- Mike suggested inviting the CoC to the table to participate
- Ken suggested inviting the CoC leaders to meet with the TICH at a retreat (not at a TICH Quarterly meeting)
- Mike suggested using the TICH session at the THN Annual Conference in Austin this year and that would allow the TICH members to attend as well
- Ken suggested a roundtable this year to kick it off
- Dates of the Conference September 25 – 27, 2013 at the Omni Southpark
- Georg McEntyre highlighted the “fracking” issue and how that is impacting homelessness as low income households are displaced as rents are increasing
- Summits are schedule to establish the conversation
- George is reaching out to North/South Dakota to see what happened in the Bakken oil/gas fields
- Barbara is concerned that this is displacing families with children

IX. Data Warehouse/Homeless Information Exchange (HIE) update

Michael De Young gave a quick recap of the Legislative process for IT projects and TDHCA’s proposal to fund the warehouse. Michael stated that the governing Board of the DW expressed concern with the “ownership” of the data. Brooke explained that because state

money was going to fund it we technically have to own it. The data is going to HUD already, just not in this detailed format. Ken reiterated that we are further along into the process than other states. Some DW projects have taken 8-10 years to reach agreement and implement. TDHCA has asked HUD to provide the services of Ray Allen to the CoC's so that the project can continue to move forward to consensus.

X. Next meeting – July 17th need to find a host – Elizabeth Yevich may reschedule to accommodate HHSCC

XI. Closing Remarks – none

XII. Adjourned at 10:45 a.m.