



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
Quarterly Meeting – October 20, 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	No
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	No
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	No
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	Yes
3	Private Citizen	Dennis M. Scholl	No
4	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
5	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	Yes – via Michael Wilt
6	Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)	Molly Voyles	Yes

Other attendees: Kali Adams (TDHCA), Jennifer Gonzalez (Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute), Michael Lyttle (TDHCA), Jessie Metcalf (Amazon Web Services), Shrabya Poudyal (THN), Joe Schultz (THN), Marcy Stahl (HHSC), Megan Sylvester (TDHCA), Nick Thompson (THN), Elizabeth Yevich (TDHCA).

Administrative support: Danny Shea (TDHCA)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Doyle called the meeting to order via GoToWebinar at 1:03 PM. After reviewing the list of webinar attendees, staff confirmed that a quorum was present. Danny Shea provided an overview of GoToWebinar after the minutes were approved under Item III.

II. Remarks from Chair

Mike Doyle thanked attendees for joining and talked about the challenge and importance of continuing to do homeless services and prevention work.

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

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

IV. Proposed Edits to TICH Bylaws

Mike Doyle introduced the updated draft TICH bylaws. Brooke Boston moved to approve and Naomi Cantu seconded the motion. There were no comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the bylaws.

V. 2019 TICH Annual Report

Eric Samuels provided a brief overview of the process to update the TICH Annual Report for 2019, thanked other members and staff for their contributions, and suggested that the coming year may be a good time to revisit and update *Pathways Home*, Texas’s strategic plan to end and prevent homelessness published in 2012. General discussion followed.

Mike Doyle introduced the draft 2019 TICH Annual Report. Brooke Boston moved to approve and Naomi Cantu seconded the motion. There were no additional comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the report.

VI. Texas Homeless Network Updates

Eric Samuels introduced THN staff members Joe Schultz, Nick Thompson, and Shrabya Poudyal. Mr. Samuels reported that instead of holding an in-person conference in 2020, THN has been holding a webinar series for the past several months and will be holding a virtual event on October 27th called Homelessness in Texas. Mr. Thompson reported that THN recommended a volunteer for service for a new VISTA project in Belton, and that another candidate interviewed for a VISTA position in Denton the morning of October 20th. Ms. Poudyal reported that the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network (THDSN) project is under way and is in the process of signing data use agreements with Continuums of Care across the state. Mr. Schultz provided an update on the funding for the THDSN, including that THN recently applied to Amazon Web Services and the Meadows Foundation for two funding opportunities. General discussion followed; see meeting transcript for additional details.

VII. Updates from Member Agencies

Naomi Cantu provided updates on two TDHCA-administered homelessness and poverty prevention programs: the Emergency Solutions Grants Program CARES Act funds (ESG-CV) 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 program guidance from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that is specific to ESG-CV. Additionally, she reported that TDHCA staff is working on contracts for the organizations awarded funds from the first allocation and working with CoC leads around the state to determine what the application process for the second allocation will look like. General discussion followed. Ms. Cantu then provided an update on HHSP. Staff is closing out 2020 HHSP awards and starting contracts for 2021 awards.

Brooke Boston presented an overview of TDHCA's Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV) program. The Department was allocated a total of \$141.8 million in CDBG-CV funds; TDHCA's Board approved \$105.9 million to be used for rental assistance and eviction diversion, \$21 million as state match for FEMA-eligible activities related to food bank distribution, and \$5 million to assist service providers for people with disabilities. See meeting transcript for additional details.

Cal Lopez provided updates from TEA. Ms. Lopez reported that TEA published a 2020-21 Engaging Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Guide in late August; shared several COVID-19 specific tools from the agency's Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Division; provided an update on the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Summit, which took place virtually in September 2020; and shared information about a Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Program Division webinar scheduled for Thursday, November 5, from 1:00 to 3:00.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Closing comments

The next TICH meeting will take place in January 2021.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM.