



Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
Quarterly Meeting – July 17, 2024
Meeting Minutes

A transcript from the electronic recording of the meeting may be found here:
<https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/texas-interagency-council-homeless-tich>

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)	Brittany Hinton	Yes
5	HHSC	Robert Hetzel	No
6	HHSC	Claire Irwin	Yes (by Chelsea Couch)
7	Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Sherri Cogbill	Yes (by Carina Garcia)
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 (by Elizabeth Yevich)
10	TDHCA, Community Affairs representative	Naomi Cantu	Yes
11	Texas Education Agency (TEA)	Desiree Viramontes	Yes
12	Texas Department of Juvenile Justice (TJJJ)	Marqus Butler	No
13	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)	Blake Harris	Yes (by Amber Morson)
14	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)	Kelly Davis	Yes
15	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Blade Berkman	Yes

<There are currently 13 filled seats so quorum is 7>

Advisory Members present:

#	Advisory Member Organization	Representative	Attendance (Yes/No)
1	Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)	Fedora Galasso	Yes
2	TNOYS	Ann-Charlotte Proffitt	No
3	TNOYS	Lauren Rose	No
4	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute	Darilynn Cardona-Beiler	No
5	Texas Homeless Network (THN)	Eric Samuels	Yes
6	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	Mike Wilt	Yes
7	Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)	David Long	No
8	Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)	Molly Thibodeaux	No
9	Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)	Lisa Medina	No

Administrative support: Sean Lonergan (TDHCA)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Mike Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m., and confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. Remarks from the Chair

Chair Doyle had no opening remarks.

III. Approval of Minutes from the May 21, 2024 TICH Meeting (*Voting Item*)

Chair Doyle called for a motion to approve the May 21, 2024, minutes. Naomi Cantu made a motion to approve the minutes, and Desiree Viramontes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the sole comment from Elizabeth Yevich that she would proxy for Brooke Boston as a voting member.

IV. Updates from Member Agencies

(a) Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)

i. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Annual Funds, ESG through the CARES Act Funds (ESG-CV), Veterans Transitional Housing Program

Rosy Falcon of TDHCA next provided an update on the Ending Homelessness (EH) Fund, ESG, ESG-CV, and Youth and Young Adult Homeless programs. Ms. Falcon first announced that she and her team are in the middle of the ESG application cycle, and that it appears most funds for the upcoming cycle will be re-allocated to Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the state.

For her ESG-CV update, Ms. Falcon mentioned that she and her team’s final quarterly report for SAGE is due soon. Elizabeth Yevich asked Ms. Falcon to describe SAGE. Ms. Falcon

responded that SAGE is HUD's reporting system for performance that requires quarterly reconciliations for the ESG-CV program to ensure that funds and performance are updated. She elaborated that approximately \$100,000 of TDHCA's \$1.3 million allocation remains, and that she is working with TDHCA's fiscal and monitoring divisions to ensure all expenses are reported and claimed. Ms. Falcon next mentioned that subrecipients for these funds spent 99% of their allocated amounts. Chair Doyle asked whether HUD has issued any new housing vouchers in the past year plus. Ms. Falcon responded that Andre Adams of TDHCA is responsible for administering housing vouchers, but that she can send information to Chair Doyle about housing vouchers after the meeting concludes.

Ms. Falcon last provided an update on the Veterans Transitional Housing Program. She stated that this program is a pilot that began supporting services in May, and that \$40,000 has been allocated to five veteran households in San Antonio for homeless prevention services. Ms. Falcon expected a second round of allocations for this program in the next fiscal year. Chair Doyle asked whether those funds will be reallocated next year for the pilot program. Ms. Falcon responded that TDHCA will receive \$400,000 over the biennium, as appropriated by the Texas Legislature, which is enough to reallocate \$100,000 to each sub-recipient in the program. She was unsure of the funding's status after the next Legislative Session.

ii. **HOME-American Rescue Plan (ARP)**

Naomi Cantu, HOME-ARP Director at TDHCA, next provided an update on the HOME-ARP program. Among the three pots of funding under the program's umbrella, Ms. Cantu only had an update for the non-congregate shelter set-aside. She announced that she and her team released TDHCA's invitation to apply for this non-competitive funding stream. This invitation was approved by TDHCA's governing board at its July 11 meeting. The funding is specifically for organizations that received HOME-ARP's nonprofit capacity building operating funds, which is comprised of one organization, The Other Ones Foundation.

Ms. Cantu also shared that there may be another award through the nonprofit capacity building operating funds set-aside, meaning the invitation to apply for the non-congregate shelter set-aside could be open to multiple applications. There is a total of \$56 million available in the invitation to apply, and the application period is open until December 2024.

Chair Doyle asked which pot of funding Ms. Cantu described. Ms. Cantu reiterated her update concerned the non-congregate shelter set-aside and defined the term "non-congregate shelter" for the purposes of the program. Chair Doyle asked whether this definition included efficiency units, which Ms. Cantu affirmed.

Eric Samuels of THN asked whether the invitation to apply was sent to The Other Ones Foundation, which Ms. Cantu affirmed. General discussion ensued.

iii. **State Plan to Address Homelessness Update**

Sean Lonergan next provided an update on the TICH State Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness (the Plan). Mr. Lonergan stated that the draft Plan is still under internal review, and that there were no additional updates to provide. Chair Doyle whether a draft can be expected to be released soon. Mr. Lonergan responded that he hopes one will be

released in the next couple months, but that it depends on when the TDHCA executive team is able to review it.

Because Mr. Lonergan will be departing TDHCA in August and this TICH meeting was his last, Chair Doyle thanked Mr. Lonergan for his work as TICH administrative support and congratulated him on attending law school in the fall. Mr. Lonergan thanked Chair Doyle and wished all TICH participants the best of luck in their future endeavors.

(b) Other Member Agency Updates

Amber Morson of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) introduced Gary Medina as TVC's new homeless veteran program manager. Mr. Medina provided a brief introduction of his background working with the veteran community.

Fedora Galasso of the Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) announced that she and her team were awarded a HUD Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement (YHSI) grant to help improve the youth homeless response system through stakeholder engagement and partnership-building led by young people with lived expertise. This grant will focus its support on work being done within the San Antonio/ Bexar County CoC, the Waco/ McLennan County CoC, the Tarrant County/ Fort Worth CoC, and the Balance of State CoC in New Braunfels and Tyler. Ms. Galasso and her team are still finalizing the details of this grant with HUD.

Ms. Galasso also mentioned that TNOYS held its in-person statewide collaborative on youth homelessness and many TICH members were present for this meeting to discuss services and supports to serve young people at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Following Jim Ward's update on the Texas Balance of State CoC's regionalization process, Michael Wilt of the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC) provided an update. He mentioned that TSAHC is partnering with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to hold its fourth annual statewide Texas Supportive Housing Institute this fall, and that the application to participate opened up the week prior. The institute is free for development teams and is primarily intended for nonprofits seeking to break into real estate development, specifically supportive housing. It is comprised of 14 sessions over four months from October to January, with final presentations held in February. CSH provides technical assistance and certification upon completion of the institute for participants, which acts as a quality endorsement of participants' supportive housing development.

V. Update from Texas Homeless Network (THN)

Eric Samuels and Anja Taylor of THN next provided a general THN update and an update on the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network (THDSN) project. Mr. Samuels began with a general update on THN, stating that he is excited to work with Ms. Galasso and TNOYS, the cities of Tyler and New Braunfels, and the Coalition for the Homeless in Galveston to administer the YHSI grant. Mr. Samuels also mentioned that because THN was able to sell its stock awarded through the Day One Family Fund earlier this year, it plans to direct these funds towards homelessness prevention among veteran households.

Mr. Samuels last reminded the Council that the next TICH meeting will be held at THN's Annual Conference in Houston on September 11 starting at 10:30am. He expects Texas CoC lead agencies and the new HUD Region V Director to attend, among other notable guests. Chair Doyle asked in which hotel

the conference will be held. Mr. Samuels responded that it will be held at the Houston Omni Galleria Hotel. General discussion ensued.

(a) Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network Project

Anja Taylor next provided an update on THDSN. She first provided updated totals on the THDSN dashboard, stating that, based on 2024 quarter one and two data from its CoC partners, 28,668 unique individuals and approximately 24,700 unique households experienced homelessness across Texas. Ms. Taylor clarified that these numbers were exclusive of Austin/ Travis County CoC data, as this CoC was having reporting issues with its Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) vendor that prevented it from capturing its data. These totals represent an uptick from last year's totals identified by THDSN over the same time span, which totaled 20,668 unique individuals experiencing homelessness.

Ms. Taylor provided another update on a new report accessible on THN's social media and web pages focused on veteran homelessness. This report identified 4,103 veterans experiencing homelessness in 2023, a 3.7% increase compared to the previous year. This uptick was consistent with national trends.

Ms. Taylor provided a final update on THN's ongoing partnership with Superior Health Plan, Texas Health Services Authority, and C3 HIE. She elaborated that the partnership entails data sharing and matching with Superior Health Plan for individuals experiencing homelessness who also receive healthcare coverage through Superior. THN is also working with HHSC to update the data matching process. Ms. Taylor also mentioned the THDSN team is collaborating with Superior to make data matches that facilitate the referral process for pregnant women receiving public health benefits. This partnership was spurred in response to the new House Bill 1575, which mandates pregnant women receiving public health benefits be screened to identify potential housing needs.

Chair Doyle asked which CoCs THDSN partners with to collect data. Mr. Samuels responded that it collects data from every Texas CoC except the Wichita Falls and San Antonio/ Bexar County CoCs, and that THN is meeting with the San Antonio/ Bexar County CoC about potentially partnering with THDSN in the future.

(b) Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care Update

Jim Ward of THN next provided an update on the modernization of the Texas Balance of State (BoS) CoC, of which THN is the lead agency. After providing a brief overview of the geographic composition of the CoC (covering 215 of Texas' 254 counties, or approximately 84% of the state's land mass), Mr. Ward relayed an update on the BoS CoC Board's exploration of regionalizing the CoC. Because the current composition of the BoS CoC has reached its administrative capacity, it is exploring splitting up into two or more CoCs that would enable it to pursue more intentional and localized planning efforts.

Mr. Ward conveyed that the BoS CoC has met with eight HUD entitlement jurisdictions that receive BoS CoC ESG funding to discuss CoC modernization, including Corpus Christi, Brownsville, and McAllen. He also mentioned that they would hold an open forum for any community that wanted to discuss modernization on July 25. Mr. Ward anticipated this process will take multiple years, and that it would occur no earlier than 2026.

Chair Doyle remarked that this initiative is the first he had heard of Balance of State CoC regionalization. Mr. Ward responded that one benefit of this split would unlock significant planning funding from HUD for the same geography, while enabling more efficient and effective targeting of this funding. General discussion ensued.

Chair Doyle asked Mr. Samuels who would administer this funding if the BoS CoC regionalized. Mr. Samuels responded that Mr. Ward and Mary Stahlke of THN are working with the CoC's Board to determine who would be responsible. He added that part of the reason THN feels compelled to report on the BoS CoC is because this CoC was born out of the TICH. General discussion ensued.

Michael Wilt of TSAHC asked how the CoC would split if regionalization occurs. Mr. Ward responded that it most likely be split north to south, with a line drawn traveling from north of Beaumont to Temple up to the South Plains around Lovington County. He added that the purpose of this deliberation process is to demonstrate to HUD that the CoC is exercising due diligence in considering the numerous possibilities and variables associated with the potential split. General discussion ensued.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VIII. Closing Comments

Chair Doyle commented that housing remains a critical issue in every sector where Council participants are involved.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.