

Texas Homeless Network

presents its

18th Annual Conference

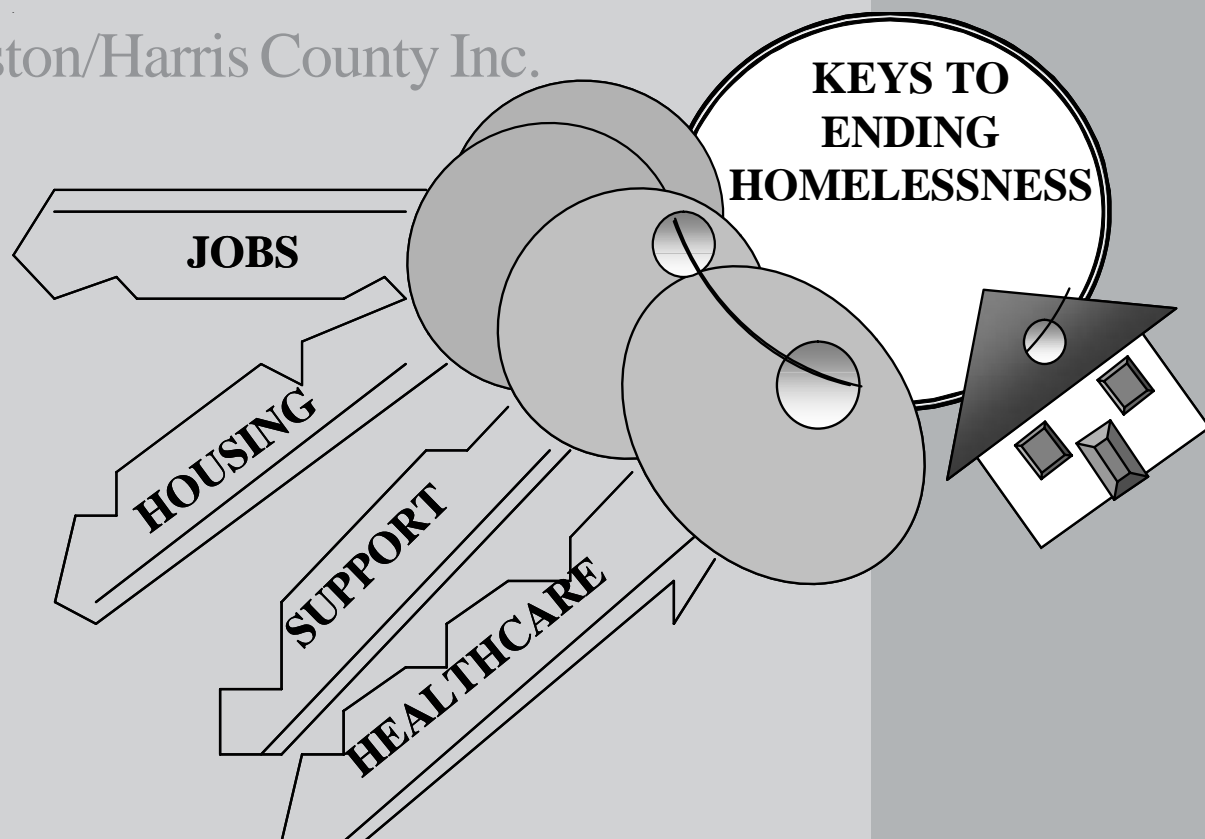
Houston, Texas

Omni Hotel, September 5-8, 2006

in collaboration with

Coalition for the Homeless

of Houston/Harris County Inc.



Juan Williams

A graduate of Haverford College, Williams received a B.A. in philosophy in 1976. One of America's leading journalists, he is a senior correspondent for National Public Radio. He also works on documentaries and participates in NPR's efforts to explore television opportunities. During his 21-year career at *The Washington Post*, Williams served as an editorial writer, op-ed columnist, and White House reporter. Some of Williams' work includes: host of NPR's national call-in show [*Talk of the Nation*](#); monthly pieces that air on [*Morning Edition*](#) and [*All Things Considered*](#); critically acclaimed biography *Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary*, the nonfiction bestseller *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965*, and *This Far by Faith: Stories from the African American Religious Experience*. He is a contributing political analyst for the Fox News Channel and a regular panelist on *Fox News Sunday*. He has also appeared on numerous television programs, including *Nightline*, *Washington Week in Review*, *Oprah*, CNN's *Crossfire* (where he frequently served as co-host), and *Capitol Gang Sunday*.

Mr. Williams will speak about public housing and his own experience growing up in poverty at lunch on Wednesday, September 6.

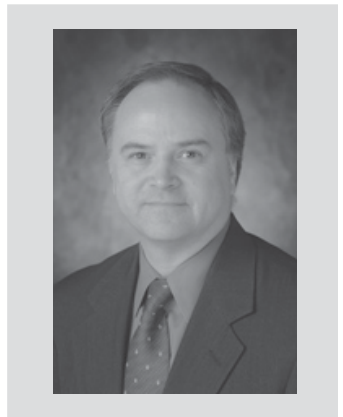


F. Scott McCown

Scott McCown retired as a state district judge in September 2002 to become the executive director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities. In 1985, the Congregation of Benedictine Sisters founded the center as a health policy think tank. The center has grown into an independent, non-partisan, non-profit policy research organization committed to improving public policies and private practices to better the economic and social conditions for low- and moderate-income Texans.

Judge McCown earned a B.S. *cum laude* (Psychology) in 1976 from Texas Christian University and a J.D. with honors in 1979 from the University of Texas School of Law.

Mr. McCown will speak about updated public policies at breakfast on Thursday, September 7.



Barbara A. Taft

Barbara Taft is a successful real estate broker with her own company, Songbird Realty. She has 20 years experience in public relations and advertising, graduating *Cum Laude* from Wayne State University, Detroit. She and her husband created two organizations: *Rainbow Artists Guild* and *The Peace Project*. Barbara is the president and founder of "People of the Heart," a non-profit organization dedicated to social justice. Barbara and People of the Heart spearheaded a five-year campaign to free an innocent 11-year old girl who was wrongfully charged with capital murder in a child abuse case in Austin, Texas. As a result of her advocacy, the murder conviction was overturned, saving the girl from a 25-year prison sentence.

She is the recipient of the Texas Legislature's "Recognition of Achievement in Volunteer work, signed by Gov. George W. Bush. She and her husband, Abraham Davidson, have produced four workshops and four musical CDs including "Raw Material" songs of victory over child abuse. Barbara is foremost an advocate for preventing child abuse, and for creating a safe and nurturing environment for our children.

Ms. Taft will speak at lunch on Thursday, September 7.



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Pre-Conference Events

- Education Symposium
- PATH Program Training

1:00 PM Registration Opens

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

11:30 AM Lunch Opening Plenary/Keynote: Juan Williams

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Workshop Session I

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Workshop Session II

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Networking Reception

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

7:30 AM Breakfast Keynote: Scott McCown

8:45 AM - 11:30 AM Half Day Institutes

11:30 AM Lunch Keynote: Barbara Taft

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Workshop Session III

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Workshops IV

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

7:30 AM Community Service Awards Breakfast

8:45 AM - 11:30 AM Half Day Institutes

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Texas Interagency Council on Homelessness Community Forum Luncheon

Tentative Workshop Topics:

- Texas Responds to Disaster – Local Cities Report
- Negotiation Skills: From Conflict to Cooperation
- Practical Skills for Case Management
- Activities-Based Budgeting
- Positive Behavior Supports for Youth
- Monitoring Federal Grants and Programs
- Accessing Social Security Benefits for your Clients
- Using HMIS Data
- Energize your Strategic Planning Process
- After School Achievement Program
- Off-Site Workshops – Tour of Houston Service Providers
- Fund Development and Funder's Forum
- Advanced Case Management Skills
- Advocate for State Legislation
- Managing Anger and Bullying
- Data and Performance Measurements Basics
- Accessing Food Stamps for your Clients
- Property Management for Case Managers
- Reducing Health Risks for Youth
- Designing Effective Volunteer Programs
- Time Management
- Desk Yoga
- Burnout Prevention
- Stress Management
- Effective Meetings
- Positive Youth Development
- Housing Finance Opportunities Using Tax Credits
- Develop your Marketing Plan
- Developing Plans to End Homelessness
- Texas Poverty 101

Pre-Conference Events – September 5, 2006

Pre-conference workshops provide participants the time to explore key issues with experts in the field. These all day events are \$35 per person, and pre-registration is required to attend.

Education Symposium: Developmental Assets for Youth

This all day pre-conference symposium is designed to give attendees actual tools, techniques and ideas to assist those who are ready to begin improving the lives of young people and their communities. The Developmental Asset framework, developed by Search Institute, are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people. These assets have the power during critical adolescent years to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. *External assets* are the positive experiences young people receive from the world around them. These 20 assets are about supporting and empowering young people, about setting boundaries and expectations, and about positive and constructive use of young people's time. The twenty *internal assets* identify those characteristics and behaviors that reflect positive internal growth and development of young people. These assets are about positive values and identities, social competencies, and commitment to learning. Youth who develop both external and internal assets are better able to successfully meet life's challenges. This workshop will enable the participants to help children develop both kinds of assets (9:00am to 4:30pm)

PATH Program – Training for MHMR Outreach Workers

This all day pre-conference workshop will offer a nuts and bolts overview of the PATH program and grant requirements for PATH workers. This workshop is intended for current PATH grantees, but is open to the public. (10am to 4:30pm)

Continuing Education Units

Social Work CEUs will be available for all conference workshops, including the pre-conference workshops and the offsite workshops. Registration for CEUs will be available onsite at the conference registration desk for a \$25 fee. Questions regarding CEUs can be emailed to conference@thn.org.

Conference Scholarships

The Texas Homeless Network offers scholarships, funded largely through the silent auction, to enable individuals all over the state to attend this valuable event. Criteria for scholarship awards will be based on financial need, geographic distribution, targeted population(s) served, and the leadership skills the applicant will be able to bring back to his/her community. The number of scholarships available will depend upon total conference funding, and scholarships are not transferable to another individual. Scholarship applications are available for download on the THN website at www.thn.org and are **due no later than August 4, 2006**.

Registration Information

All conference registration fees include a reception on Wednesday evening, breakfast on Thursday and Friday, and lunch on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Early Registration Rate

THN members are eligible for a special early bird rate of \$250. Register by July 21, 2006 and SAVE! The early registration rate is \$250, and anyone may join THN to be eligible for this special rate.

Regular Registration Rates

For registration forms postmarked after July 21, 2006, the conference registration fee will be \$300 for individual members (deeper discounts are available for various membership levels) and \$375 for Non-Members. On-site registration will be available for a flat rate of \$400 for members and non-members.

Organization Member Rates

Organization members are eligible for a special discounted early bird rate (through July 21, 2006) of \$250/each for the first five staff and \$300 for additional staff. Regular registration is available after July 21, 2006 for \$275/each for the first five staff and \$300 for additional staff. If your organization sends 10 or more staff, all staff will be charged \$225. Organization membership is available on a sliding scale starting at \$75.

Cancellation requests must be made in writing and postmarked on or before August 15, 2006 to receive a refund. Fees will not be refunded after August 15, 2006. All refunds are subject to a \$100 administrative fee.



Texas Homeless Network

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Phone 512.482.8270; Fax 512.478.9077

Email: conference@thn.org

Web: www.thn.com

Exhibiting and Sponsorship Opportunities

Have a business or service that you want to promote? The THN conference has exhibit space available to promote your work. Sponsorship opportunities are also available to increase your impact with advertising in our conference program and on the conference bag. Exhibitor and sponsorship information can be downloaded on the THN website, or for more information, contact Ryla Scull at ryla@thn.org or (512) 482-8270.

Conference Hotel

We have arranged for reduced rates for conference participants at our host hotel, the Omni Houston, located near Houston's theater and museum districts. The hotel has two outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, full-service fitness center, and two resident black swans. Complimentary wireless high-speed internet access is available in rooms.

The discounted hotel rates are \$85/single occupancy and \$115/double occupancy. Conference participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations directly with the Omni Hotel by calling (713) 871-8181 or 1-888-444-OMNI (6664). Refer to the group name, "Texas Homeless Network," and make your reservations by **August 6, 2006**.

Note: Please note that the group rate is available only on a first-come, first-serve basis. Regular hotel registration is much higher, so make your reservations early!

Hotel Parking

The Omni Houston hotel offers complimentary parking in the Riverway Garage, behind the hotel. On-site self parking is available for approximately \$9/day and valet parking is available at \$18/day.

Transportation

The hotel offers a shuttle service for approximately \$21 one way per person to and from either the George Bush International Airport or the William P. Hobby Airport. Taxis are approximately \$35 each way per person. A complimentary town car service is offered within 3 miles of hotel to the Galleria or local areas.