



Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness
October 4-6, 2017
Omni Dallas Hotel at Park West

Presented by



Congratulations to the 2017 Outstanding Award Winners!

Award Categories & Winners:

Outstanding Community Service Award

Mayor Chris Watts, City of Denton

Outstanding Community Organization

Melinda Rodgers, LifeLine Shelter

Outstanding Case Manager

Shawna Arnesen

We will present the awards during the lunch on Thursday

Thank you to our Sponsors:



Opening Speakers, Wednesday, October 4th



Welcome - Senator Royce West

Royce West was first elected to the Texas Senate in November 1992. Since taking office, he has represented the 23rd Senatorial District on behalf of the citizens of Dallas County in the Texas Legislature. During his tenure, Senator West has been named by Texas Monthly as one of the 25 most powerful people in Texas politics, been selected for the magazine's biennial "Ten Best Legislators in Texas" list, and has twice been named as an "Honorable Mention." Senator West has also received mention on the Associated Press' "Movers and Shakers" list, as well as the Texas Insider's "Best Legislators" list. You can learn more about Senator West by visiting royce-west.org.

Welcome - Beth Van Duyne, HUD SW Regional Administrator

Beth Van Duyne was sworn in as HUD's SW Regional Administrator on April 25, 2017. As Regional Administrator, she oversees HUD programs and operations in the Region's five states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. In addition to the Regional Office in Fort Worth, the SW Region has seven field offices and nearly 700 employees.

Prior to being named Regional Administrator, Van Duyne was Mayor of the City of Irving from 2011 to 2017, and was a City Council Representative from 2004-2010. Former Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, she actively represented the city with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, Texas Municipal League and North Central Texas Council of Governments.



Van Duyne is a magna cum laude graduate of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree with studies in city and regional planning, government and law. She is the recipient of numerous community awards.



Keynote - Matthew Doherty, Executive Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Matthew brings to his role more than 22 years of leadership in both the private and public sectors, focused on the creation and integration of housing, services programs, and economic opportunities for communities and households. Prior to becoming USICH's Executive Director, Matthew served as Director of National Initiatives, guiding the agency's work with state and local partners to implement the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Matthew has held leadership positions at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the San Diego Housing Commission, and the King County Housing Authority in Washington State, and has also served as a consultant to local agencies across the country. He ensures that such community-based perspectives inform federal actions to support and drive progress across the country.

Matthew has a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington.

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2017 TEXAS CONFERENCE ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

2:00 - 6:00 pm **Registration** **Foyer**

3:00 - 6:00 pm **SPECIAL SESSION**

Ethics in Action: Working with Students and Families in Homeless Situations

Trinity Ballroom

This session will look at ethical considerations in working with homeless children and their families. It provides 3 hours of CEUs for Social Work and Counselor licensing requirements.

Jeanne Stamp, Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), Austin

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

7:30 - 5:00 pm **Registration Check-in** **Foyer**

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS

8:30 - 11:30 am **Region 10 TEXSHEP Grantees**

Texas Learning Center

(Required for TEXSHEP Grantees)

This session will cover:

Programmatic changes in the TEXSHEP administrative structure

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff, Austin

Region 10 Education Service Center Staff, Richardson

Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) Staff, Austin

Title I services for homeless students

Amber Lasseigne, Region 10 Education Service Center, Richardson

Trauma-informed schools

John Hernandez, East Central ISD

Truancy prevention/attendance strategies for improved homeless student success

Tyler Shoesmith, North East ISD, San Antonio

Updates on foster care provisions for school districts

Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education Agency (TEA), Austin

9:00 - 11:30 am

PATH: An Overview of the SOAR Program for PATH Providers

Trinity Ballroom I

(For PATH Outreach Workers, by Invitation Only)

Jessica Hissam Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Austin

Pam Heine, Policy Research Associates, Inc., Delmar, NY

Dazara Ware, Policy Research Associates, Inc., Delmar, NY

10:00 - 12:30 pm

Texas Balance of State CoC General Membership Meeting

Trinity Ballroom II

Join THN staff and TX BoS CoC members for the October General Membership meeting, held in-person at the conference and via webinar. Anyone who lives or works in the TX BoS CoC's coverage area is considered to be a general member and is invited to participate and give input. Topics include accomplishments from 2016-17, updates on current activities, annual review of the CoC's Governance Charter, Hurricane Harvey Recovery, and plans for 2017-18. Lunch will be provided to in-person participants after the meeting.

THN, TX BoS CoC Staff

10:00 am - 12:45 pm

Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless Meeting

Park West A&B

(This is an open meeting. All are welcome to attend.)

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

1:00 – 3:15 pm

OPENING SESSION

Park West Ballrooms

WELCOME

Eric Samuels, President/CEO, Texas Homeless Network
Jeanne Stamp, Project Director, Texas Homeless Education Office
Senator Royce West, District 23
Beth Van Duyne, Regional Administrator, HUD Region VI

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Matthew Doherty, Executive Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

2:00 – 3:30 pm

BREAKOUT SESSION #1

1.1 LGBT Client Engagement

Trinity Ballroom I

In this session, various aspects of client engagement are explored, paying particular focus to LGBTQ clients. Beginning broadly with sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) concepts, the session will then examine challenges and facilitators for working with LGBTQ clients. *(Case Management Institute Session)*

Lonnie McAdoo, t3, Needham, MA

1.2 CoC + Education Liaison Meetings

Park West CD

Austin, Waco, Houston, and El Paso

1.3 CoC + Education Liaison Meetings

Texas Learning Center

Dallas, Tarrant County, San Antonio

1.4 CoC + Education Liaison Meetings

Park West A

Texas Balance of State (TX BoS CoC) - Unsure what CoC you are located in? Ask us - we're happy to help!

1.5 High Fidelity Housing First

Trinity Ballroom II

Join us for an overview of High Fidelity Housing First Models and walk with us through challenging scenario presentations and an attendee opportunity for peer staffing. Who should attend? Executive Directors, Program Directors, Case Managers, Housing Specialists, Landlords, Property Managers. *(TX BoS CoC recommended.)*

Jim Ward, THN, Austin

Christine Laguna, Integral Care, Austin

1.6 Best Practices for Implementing SOAR in Criminal Justice Settings

Park West B

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) developed the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance Initiative to increase access to SSA disability benefits for people who were homeless. Since then, SOAR has been successfully adapted to assist people who are justice involved. Presenters will share strategies and best practices for implementing SOAR within criminal justice settings, such as, jail diversion programs, specialty courts, probation and parole and re-entry.

Dazara Ware, Policy Research Associates, Inc., Delmar, NY

1.7 Top Health Care Concerns for Veterans and How They Can Get Help

Park West E

This session will describe Dallas VA's Homeless Mobile Medical/Mental Veteran (HMMM) Intervention outreach program, the medical needs of Veteran homeless population who accessed HMMM, and the treatment that was administered to them. This session will also describe other VA programs that provide Veteran homeless population medical care.

Dina Hooshyar, VA North Texas Health Care System, Dallas

Moneeza Matin, VA North Texas Health Care System, Dallas

1.8 What Type of Funding is Available for Veterans

Park West F

USDA Rural Development staff will discuss Agency programs that can assist veterans with safe, decent affordable housing opportunities. An overview of the Direct 502 program will be discussed as well as an overview of the Community Facilities Program. This program can be used by non-profits community based organizations as well as public bodies for facilities that would assist veterans.

Starr Magee, USDA Rural Development, McKinney

Charles Catoe, Texas Veterans Commission, Austin

3:45 pm - 5:15 pm BREAKOUT SESSION #2

2.1 Harm Reduction

Trinity Ballroom I

Harm Reduction is a term that means many things to many people, but fundamentally, it is a way of reducing an individual's risks and promoting behaviors that supports them in moving towards health and well-being. It also provides a framework to foster connection and trust, and to facilitate engagement in appropriate services. This session will provide an overview of the "Five Pillars" of Harm Reduction, answer common questions about harm reduction approaches, and provide some contexts in which to apply Harm Reduction. *(Case Management Institute Session)*

Lonnie McAdoo, t3, Needham, MA

2.2 Revise and Strengthen the Federal Plan to End Homelessness

Park West CD

The current federal strategic plan, Opening Doors, built upon strategies and actions taken across multiple administrations and has helped to mobilize urgent action and significant national progress - but there is much more work ahead. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness is working to gather stakeholder input to revise and strengthen the plan. Please join us for this session - your input will be critical for our continued progress!

Matthew Doherty, USICH, Washington, DC

Robert Pulster, USICH, Washington, DC

2.3 Funding and Sustaining Your SOAR Programs

Park West A

Assessing and planning for actions to sustain and grow SOAR in Texas and your locality will be discussed. Presenters will share tools and best practices to help you achieve your funding goals.

Pam Heine, Policy Research Associates, Inc., Delmar, NY

Nicolina Kozak, ECHO, Austin

Jen Hellow, THN VISTA, Austin

2.4 Military Informed Care:

Trinity Ballroom I

The audience will be given an overview of the indoctrination process of military culture, impacts on the family dynamic, and the impacts of military-related traumas which will provide the service provider an opportunity to reflect on personal beliefs and potential biases which may impact current and future work with Service Members, Veterans, and Family members (SMVF).

Tim Keesling, Texas Veterans Commission, Austin

2.5 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Housing Support Continuum

Park West E

A look at the Housing Support Continuum offered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Specifically looking at the range of services that income-eligible households may receive relating to Poverty and Homelessness Prevention and Rental Assistance and Multifamily Development.

Michael Lyttle, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Austin

2.6 Everything You Have Always Wanted to Know about Homeless Education Eligibility and Services in Texas

Park West F

This session will address updates, changes, disaster related issues regarding processes and procedures for serving homeless children and youth through Texas' public schools. Bring us your best "stump the panel of experts" questions! If we don't know the answer, we will find out - hopefully before you leave the session.

THEO and Region 10 Staff

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

7:30 - 5:00 pm

Registration

Foyer

7:30 - 8:30 am

Continental Breakfast

Foyer

Breakfast will be set up in the foyer and seating is available in the ballrooms. No program.

8:30 - 10:00 am BREAKOUT SESSION #3

3.1 Yoga for Stress Relief, Energy and Concentration (limited to 30 participants)

Trinity Ballroom II

This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to learn healthy ways to deal with the stress, fatigue and emotional drain that is oftentimes associated with victim advocacy professions. This session will discuss the importance of self-care and introduce simple breathing practices, postures and movement to calm the mind and heal and energize the body and spirit. *(Case Management Institute Recommended Session)*

Krista DelGallo, Texas Council on Family Violence

8:30 - 11:15 am THREE HOUR SESSION

3.2 Local Homeless Coalitions' (LHCs') Role in Ending Homelessness in the TX BoS CoC Park West A

The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) covers an incredible amount of geography, making Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) essential in local efforts to end homelessness. Texas Homeless Network (THN) partners with and supports LHCs to carry out the work of the TX BoS CoC in several key ways. Through this session, gain strategies for how LHCs work as part of the CoC to end homelessness, better understand the critical role LHCs play in carrying out the work of a large CoC, learn about LHC requirements, identify LHCs' role in the TX BoS CoC Governance Structure, and provide feedback to the TX BoS CoC Lead Agency (THN) about how to better support LHCs in the important work that they do. Results from the LHC Needs Assessment and the "LHC Toolkit" will be reviewed. *TX BoS CoC recommended.*

Mary Rychlik, THN, Austin

Caitlin Bayer, THN, Austin

Alexa Timmreck, former VISTA Summer Associate, THN, Austin

Sophia Checa, THN, Austin

8:30 -10:00 am Continued

3.3 How Communities Have Prioritized Homeless Vets Through Coordinated Entry Park West B

This session will describe how The Way Home united under the goal of ending veteran homelessness and successfully designed and implemented a coordinated response which has effectively ended Veteran Homelessness.

Gary Grier, Coalition for the Homeless, Houston

Marcella Clay

3.4 Engaging Property Owners Park West E&F

Discuss best approaches for housing support staff who partner with private landlords to secure apartments for tenants in scattered-site programs. Participants will learn strategies for finding apartments in competitive rental markets, how to recruit and develop relationships with landlords, and effective ways to help tenants maintain their housing.

Samantha Maggiani, CSH, Houston

Heather Muller, CSH, Houston

3.5 Immigration Issues - Where do we go from here? Trinity Ballroom I

This session, will talk about the current status of immigration in the US under the new administration., focusing on the latest changes and how advocates and social services providers can best serve their immigrant communities.

Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez, Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates, P.C., Dallas

3.6 Youth Survey Report Texas Learning Center

In 2016 Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) and Texas Appleseed partnered to produce a public policy report addressing youth homelessness in Texas. Based on interviews with hundreds of stakeholders, including nearly 100 Texas youth who have been homeless, as well as extensive analysis of quantitative data obtained from government agencies, the report details the intersection between youth homelessness and different government systems, best practices for serving youth who are homeless, and policy recommendations for supporting young people who are homeless or at risk.

This workshop will showcase analysis, findings, and recommendations from the report, and offer participants the opportunity to provide feedback to inform the report before it is officially published. The workshop will also address related projects completed by both TNOYS and Texas Appleseed, including resources that are available to service providers, homeless liaisons, and young people themselves, regarding the rights of youth who are homeless and the responsibilities of professionals who engage with them. Participants can expect to leave this workshop armed with real information to better meet the needs of youth they serve, as well as with insight into Texas' policy landscape as it relates to young people who are homeless or at risk.

Christine Gendron, Texas Network Of Youth Services, Austin

Gabriella McDonald, Texas Appleseed, Austin

3.7 Hurricane Harvey Panel Discussion #1 - What is happening now Park West CD

Learn about what is happening at the federal, state, and local level in response to Hurricane Harvey.

Heather Muller, Senior Program Manager, CSH

Amy Grissom, LMSW, Region 6 Emergency Mgmt. Specialist, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families

Leslie Bradley, Supervisory Management Analyst, HUD

Carissa Dougherty, LCSW, Sr. Mental Health Policy Analyst, Texas Health and Human Services

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10:15 - 11:45 am BREAKOUT SESSION #4

4.1 Nodding in Crisis: What Providers Need to Know About Opioids and Overdose

Trinity Ballroom I

This workshop will explore some of the history of opioids in the U.S., providing a brief overview of how we arrived at our current opioid crisis. We will explore the current rise in fentanyl in the U.S., what sets fentanyl apart from other opioids and its impact on overdose intervention and prevention. Participants will also have an opportunity to discuss how this information may influence or impact their work locally. (Case Management Institute Session)

Lonnie McAdoo, t3, Needham, MA

10:15 - 11:45 am BREAKOUT SESSION #4

4.2 SOAR Meet & Greet

Park West B

Pam Heine and Dazara Ware with Policy Research Associates are hosting a meet and greet to get to know both SOAR certified attendees as well as anyone interested in the SOAR program. Come meet them, your fellow SOARees, and bring your questions!

Pam Heine, Policy Research Associates, Inc., Delmar, NY

Dazara Ware, Policy Research Associates, Inc., Delmar, NY

4.3 Transitioning from Street to Home - Conversations That Make a Difference

Park West E&F

Helping individuals move from street to homes can take months and include multiple client contacts with navigators. For those who have been living on the streets for years, the transition into an apartment can be challenging. Norms of street culture often clash with those of an apartment complex. The resulting conflict can create additional stress for individuals already confronted with the task of adjusting to a new lifestyle. The navigation period represents an opportunity for staff to begin exploring the myriad differences between street life and apartment life. Navigators can have more intentional and skillful conversations to increase awareness and motivation to make these changes. These conversations also serve to identify areas where the individual may lack skills or resources to successfully make the transition.

Cathy Crouch, SEARCH Homeless Services, Houston

4.4 An Examination of the Intersection Between Human Trafficking and Homelessness

Trinity Ballroom II

When addressing homelessness and poverty, we need to address critical issues that affect those experiencing homeless situations. Human trafficking disproportionately affects those facing homelessness and extreme poverty due to their unique vulnerabilities. It also affects runaway youth and teenagers who may find themselves in desperate situations. This session will highlight the intersection between human trafficking and homeless populations by giving a comprehensive view of human trafficking, explaining the mindset of a victim, and discussing the psychological barriers to leaving a trafficking situation. Professionals will gain an insight into human trafficking, how to work with survivors, and what resources are available.

Bill Bernstein, Mosaic Family Services, Dallas

Fatima Rasul, Mosaic Family Services, Dallas

4.5 Targeted but Unrestricted: An Open Topic Session for TEXSHEP Subgrantees

Texas Learning Center

A "Q and A" format is the basis for this session designed for conference participants who receive TEXSHEP subgrants from Region 10 ESC. Topics will focus on subgrant collaboration requirements, changes to the education for children and youth experiencing homelessness as reauthorized in the ESSA legislation, and other topics raised by participants..

Tim Stahlke, Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), Austin

4.6 Hurricane Harvey Panel Discussion #2

Park West CD

How to Harness Disasters to Disasters Prevent and End Homelessness

Nicole Sweazy, Housing Program Admin, Louisiana Housing Corporation

Leslie Bradley, Supervisory Management Analyst, HUD

30 Minute Break for Lunch and Awards Ceremony Set-up

Use this time to check emails, shop for THN merchandise, and purchase raffle tickets!

12:15 - 1:30 pm BUFFET LUNCH

Omni Ballrooms

Presentation of the THN Outstanding Awards &

THN General Membership Meeting

1:45 – 3:15 pm BREAKOUT SESSION #5

5.1 An Introduction to Motivational Interviewing

Park West CD

Motivational Interviewing is an evidence-based practice which focuses on helping to guide individuals in the direction of change. This workshop will introduce the core components of MI – client-centered approach based on the work of Carl Rogers, the four processes, OARS (foundational counseling skills) and the selective reinforcement of particular aspects of an individual's speech. We will explore, in a very concrete way, what makes a case management session "client-centered". Also we will discuss the best times to use MI and when it is not indicated. Finally, we will discuss ways in which participants can increase their knowledge of MI and build skill through longer workshops, skill building activities, readings and videos, and participating in individual coaching in order to develop competence. *(Case Management Institute Session)*

Cathy Crouch, SEARCH Homeless Services, Houston

5.2 T-Minus 111 Days: Coordinated Entry in the TX BoS CoC

Park West A

Coordinated Entry (CE) is an important component of a housing crisis response system. It is through the development of a housing crisis response system that communities will end homelessness. The deadline for implementation, January 23, 2018, is fast approaching. By now, communities that are required to implement CE have turned in their proposals to the TX BoS CoC and received feedback. The purpose of this session is to determine where people are in implementation and to engage in collective problem solving. *TX BoS CoC recommended.*

Sophia Checa, THN

5.3 How to Help Women Veterans and Women Veterans with Children

Park West B

This session will discuss some of the unique challenges and barriers female veterans/female veterans with children encounter. Discussion will include information on service utilization, interventions, and best practices when working with this population. This session will have a panel format, and will include a VA Social Worker in the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program as well as the Program Director for Support Services for Veteran Families Program in Dallas.

Tiffany Price, VA North Texas Health Care System, Dallas

Jessica Cruz, UMOM New Day Centers, Phoenix

5.4 Working with a PHA to End Homelessness

Trinity Ballroom I

Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) are a key part in our country's effort to end homelessness. In this session presenters will describe how communities can build a system to coordinate access to supportive housing units for the homeless; ensuring that the most efficient and effective use of a PHA's homeless preference. Presenters will also discuss how PHAs can use their resources to expand supportive housing inventory including the creation of new housing units and the use of housing vouchers to free up existing supportive housing units through coordinated entry prioritization.

Jessica Preheim, CSH, Houston

Heather Muller, CSH, Houston

Selarstean M. Mitchell, Fort Worth Housing Solutions

5.5 SOARing The Way Home

Trinity Ballroom II

This session will cover the design and implementation of The Way Home's coordinated access to income through the Income Now initiative. CoC lead agency staff and Houston SOAR lead will present along with SEARCH Homeless Services Director of Programs to give both a system and agency level perspective. We will focus on action steps required to connect clients swiftly to income and how to build partnerships.

Gary Grier, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County

Alexis Loving, SEARCH Homeless Services, Houston

5.6 Building Well-Being: Creating a New Narrative for Human Services

Park West E&F

The National Human Services Assembly's Reframing Initiative seeks to build public understanding of the human services sector to encourage more civic participation and deepen support for effective programs. As part of a multi-year research project, the Assembly engaged the FrameWorks Institute, a renowned nonprofit communications firm, to develop an evidence-based strategy for reframing the sector's work. In this presentation, participants learn about the powerful new narrative for human services demonstrated through rigorous research and testing to improve public understanding and support of the sector. We discuss common communications traps, identify unproductive language, and the symbols and stories that can be barriers to connecting with the public and policymakers. Learn how you can begin to apply this new approach to enhance your organization's visibility, influence and impact.

Robin Herskowitz, HealthStart Foundation, Inc., Austin

Jo Kathryn Quinn, Caritas of Austin

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1:45 – 5:00 pm

THREE HOUR SESSION

5.7 ESSA Compliance and Implementation

Texas Learning Center

Through activities, scenarios and lots of Q&A, we'll cover new McKinney-Vento Act and Title I requirements and how to implement them, including preschool, higher education, and participation in extra-curricular activities. Bring your questions and your expertise!

Barbara Duffield, SchoolHouse Connection, Washington, DC
Patricia Julianelle, SchoolHouse Connection, Washington, DCJ

3:30 – 5:00 pm

BREAKOUT SESSION #6

6.1 Goal Setting Using Your Data/Data Driven Strategies

Park West A

The first step in becoming data-driven is to acknowledge data as a strategic asset. Keep in mind that data may not always provide you with positive results but the good news is that data can be used to keep an organization on track towards their goals. Significant investments in HMIS, Point-in-Time counts, and other data collection efforts provide an incredible resource to guide improvements in service delivery and program outcomes. Data collected, however, is only valuable to the extent it is used to inform planning, policy making, and program development. This session will focus on how to best utilize your data to create change within your organization and/or particular program. *TX BoS CoC recommended.*

Kristin Zakoor, THN, Austin
Sophia Checa, THN, Austin

6.2 Exploring the Intersections of Homelessness, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Park West E&F

This workshop will provide a broad overview of the intersections of homelessness and sexual and domestic violence. Participants will hear how trauma from intimate partner violence and sexual abuse may manifest and pose specific challenges when working with survivors. We will discuss the important safety and trauma-informed considerations for service providers when working with these populations as well as the particular remedies and options that exist within the context of housing and homelessness.

Molly Voyles, Texas Council on Family Violence, Austin
Krista DelGallo, Texas Council on Family Violence, Austin
Laramie Gorbett, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault

6.3 Joint Ventures Develop Supportive Housing

Trinity Ballroom I

This session will focus on designing supportive services that engage tenants and build relationships of trust, how to coordinate service delivery with outside partners, and effective ways to work with property management partners to ensure that tenants maintain their housing. This show-and-tell format will highlight partnerships that have created high quality supportive housing and how you can build the "A Team" to develop your next project.

Jessica Preheim, CSH, Houston

6.4 Making SOAR Work for Your Community: Collaboration is Key!

Trinity Ballroom II

We know that clients having steady income and access to healthcare is an important part of their recovery process. The SOAR (SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery) process is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. Come learn how the Healthy Community Collaborative program within Integral Care has been building a SOAR program utilizing dedicated SOAR Specialists within their housing teams and leading the effort to establish a strong local SOAR community.

Suzie Brady, Integral Care, Austin
Christine Laguna, Integral Care, Austin
Lauren Dreyer, Integral Care, Austin

6.5 Hurricane Harvey Panel Discussion #3 Planning for Future Disasters

Park West CD

Nicole Sweazy, Housing Program Admin, Louisiana Housing Corporation
Heather Muller, Senior Program Manager, CSH
Amy Grissom, LMSW, Region 6 Emergency Mgmt. Specialist, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

8:30 - 10:00 am BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Park West Ballrooms

Presentation of the Barbara Wand James Scholarship Award

Speakers from City Square, Dallas

Raffle drawing

BREAKOUT SESSION #7

10:00 - 12:00 pm Two Hour Session

7.1 Veteran Success Stories

Trinity Ballroom I

Women Veterans talk about how they became homeless and the barriers they overcame to integrate back into the community.
Crimsetta Dunn, VA North Texas Health Care System, Dallas VA Medical Center HUD/VASH Homeless Veterans Program

10:30 - 12:00 pm One Hour and One Half Session

7.2 A Year in the Life of an HMIS User

Park West A&B

We will guide the audience through a linear timeline of major reports to provide a basic understanding of how the data is interconnected within our system. We will talk about what is expected of the user from start to finish in regards to data entry, maintenance, and reporting. *TX BoS CoC recommended.*

Jesus DeLeon-Serratos, THN, Austin

Kristin Zakoor, THN, Austin

Victoria Lopez, THN, Austin

7.3 Tuberculosis Prevention in the Texas Homeless Shelters

Park West E&F

The session will discuss the development of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Tuberculosis (TB) Homeless Initiative to do the following: 1. Increase community awareness that TB remains an important health threat that requires attention, not only from public health authorities but also from homeless service providers. 2. Encourage emergency shelters to enhance and enforce their policies and procedures for routine TB screenings and other TB prevention and control efforts. 3. Emphasize the importance of TB training for shelter employees. When shelter employees and volunteers are able to recognize TB signs and symptoms and are prepared to take appropriate action. 4. Encourage collaboration between health departments and shelters before and during TB outbreaks or contact investigations.

Tomas Rodriguez, Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin

Tonya M. Conley, EdD, MS, BSN, RN, CPH, Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin

7.4 Region 10 TEXSHEP Subgrantee Meeting (Required for ALL TEXSHEP Grantees)

Texas Learning Center

This session will help TEXSHEP subgrantees improve credit accrual/recovery for homeless students, learn about effective truancy/attendance intervention strategies to improve homeless student academic success, and review TEXSHEP Year 3 subgrant processes with an opportunity for Q&A.

Cal Lopez, former Round Rock ISD Homeless Liaison, Austin

Tyler Shoesmith, North East ISD, San Antonio

Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) Staff, Austin

7.5 Accessing school resources for Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Trinity Ballroom II

This session will provide an overview of the federal and state laws related to educating students in homeless situations. We will also take a fresh look at best practices for service providers in helping their clients navigate public education.

David Ray, Region 10 ESC, Richardson

Conference Concludes

2017 TEXAS CONFERENCE ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Workshop Presenter Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Towanda Beatty, LVN, is a successful Dallas HUD VASH active participant; she proudly served in THE WOMENS ARMY CORP on Active Duty from 1976-1985. Towanda has been fully engaged in the case management program, since entering December/2014. At the time of this writing, she has demonstrated stability being gainfully employed Part-time for the last twenty-two months in a high-profile position, where she warmly welcomes people from all over the world. A snap shot of her day consists of presenting historical and practical advice to travelers. Towanda has also maintained her compact state Nursing Licenses and Continued Education to maintain those licenses in several states. Proficient in many areas; she is also seeking more opportunities in her nursing profession. Owning her own multifamily rental properties is part of her 5-year goals toward long-term stability and self-sufficiency. Towanda hopes to one day help support and stabilize other female veterans. Towanda is living in a senior retirement community, and has maintained housing stability with a good quality of life. Towanda always maintains an enthusiastic outlook on life despite the many challenges she has faced, and she continues to display a spirit of excellence demonstrating resilience and resourcefulness.

Bill Bernstein is Deputy Director of Mosaic Family Services, an agency serving those who have suffered human rights abuses such as human trafficking and domestic violence. He founded the Multicultural Family Violence Intervention program at the agency in 1997 and the Services for Trafficked Persons program in 2001, and has served as Chair of the Metroplex Refugee Network and the North Texas Immigration Coalition. He started the legal services program and the counseling program at Mosaic.

Bill directs the program at Mosaic that has served survivors of human trafficking since 2001. Mosaic has worked with over 500 trafficked persons: male and female, labor and sex, adults and minors, foreign born and domestic. The agency provides case management, legal services, counseling and housing. Bill is a founding member of the North Texas Anti-Trafficking Team, consisting of federal and local law enforcement, prosecutors and social service providers. Bill served as co-chair of the Freedom Network USA, a national coalition of agencies providing services to trafficked persons, for seven years.

Ms. Regina Best is a successful graduate of the Dallas HUD VASH Program/Airforce Combat '96-2000; having achieved self-sufficiency by obtaining her Culinary Arts Degree, during which time she was also working for AmeriCorps and Habitat for Humanity. She was even able to meet President Obama as a part of one of her Habitat opportunities, and proudly displays their picture on her wall. She entered the VASH program August/2012 and was successfully discharged by voluntarily withdrawing July/2016. She has consistently overcome presenting barriers, and defied all the odds that she repeatedly confronted, by overly achieving her Supportive Housing program goals. Ms. Best always strives for excellence in whatever goals she sets for herself, and is commended on all her many accomplishments.

Suzie Brady obtained her Master's degree in Music Therapy from Southern Methodist University. She has been a board certified music therapist for 12 years and has worked in mental health, rehabilitation, and therapeutic services throughout her career. In 2015, Suzie moved on from full-time psychiatric music therapy to join the Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) program with Integral Care as a Rehabilitation Specialist, and later as a dedicated SOAR Specialist. Using a Housing First approach, the HCC program works to house and provide a variety of supportive services for individual who have been chronically homeless and struggle with mental illness. Suzie also serves as the SOAR Local Lead for the Austin/Travis County area.

Charles Catoe is the Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance at the Texas Veterans Commission. In this role, he leads the department that administers all grants awarded by the Texas Veterans Commission to non-profits, veterans service organizations and units of local government who provide direct services to veterans and their families state-wide.

His division evaluates applications, monitors performance and ensures compliance with federal and state grant guidance for the agency and grant recipients. The broad variety of services involve frequent coordination across state government including the Office of the Governor, Texas Lottery Commission, Health and Human Services Commission and the legislature on the full spectrum of grant-funded veterans' services from homelessness, mental health, and specialty treatment courts, to transportation, family services and financial assistance.

Dr. Tonya Conley is a registered nurse and CDC public health advisor with the Texas TB and Hansen's Disease Branch. She provides epidemiologic support to regional/local health authorities during high profile TB exposure incidents and outbreak investigations.

Cathy Crouch is Executive Vice-President of SEARCH Homeless Services, a large multi-service organization in Houston. Cathy has over 30 years of management experience in non-profit, corporate and academic settings. She introduced evidence-based practices at SEARCH and has championed their use for over 20 years. During her career, she has served as a co-principal investigator or consultant on a number of large federally funded research grants, including several clinical trials.

Cathy is a licensed clinical social worker and a state board approved clinical supervisor. She is also a trainer in the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers and co-author of the best-selling Group Treatment for Substance Abuse: A Stages of Change Therapy Manual, 2nd edition. She earned her Master's in Social Work from the University of Houston with a concentration in Planning and Administration.

Jessica Cruz currently serves as the Supportive Services for Veteran Family's (SSVF) Program Coordinator for UMOM New Day Centers. In this role, she provides oversight to the SSVF team and implements the SSVF program for the agency including Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness prevention for veteran families. UMOM's SSVF program specializes in serving high barrier veteran households and has served as a mentor agency for SSVF for the past 4 years. Additionally, Cruz serves on the Built for Zero leadership team in Phoenix, which focuses on ending veteran homelessness. Cruz most recently began working with the Arizona Department of Veteran's Services to provide strategic planning for the Women's Working Group Initiative with a housing focus.

Krista DelGallo is a Policy Manager at the Texas Council on Family Violence. Her work focuses on researching, analyzing, and promoting laws, policies, and options that expand critical social safety nets for survivors of family abuse, with a particular focus on immigration remedies, housing, child support, and asset building. Krista has been working within domestic violence and sexual assault movements since 1994. She has done case management, children's advocacy, legal advocacy, and training at crisis programs in rural Indiana, the Rosebud Lakota Reservation in South Dakota and Austin, TX. Krista received the 2012 Woman of the Year Award for Economic Empowerment from the YWCA of Greater Austin. Krista has been teaching yoga for 9 years.

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Lauren Dreyer, LCSW has a Bachelor's in Social Work from the University of North Texas and a Master's in Social Work from the University of Texas. She first began working in homeless services in 2004 as an AmeriCorps member serving individuals experiencing homelessness in a local homeless shelter. Lauren is currently working as a Program Manager for the Healthy Community Collaborative with Integral Care, an innovative housing first initiative aimed at serving the needs of individuals who are experiencing homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse, and/or chronic diseases where she leads a team providing collaborative support services.

Barbara Duffield is Executive Director of SchoolHouse Connection. For more than 20 years, she has bridged policy and practice in early care, education, housing, and homelessness. Barbara began her career as a tutor for children experiencing homelessness in Washington DC in 1990. She was the Director of Education for the National Coalition for the Homeless from 1994-2003, where she collaborated with service providers, educators, federal agencies, and Congressional offices to address children's issues. She served as the Director of Policy and Programs at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in Washington D.C from 2003-2016, leading national efforts to strengthen federal protections and services for children and youth experiencing homelessness, from early childhood through higher education.

Barbara helped to establish and develop the NAEHCY Scholarship Program, a comprehensive scholarship program for youth who have experienced homelessness and wish to pursue higher education. She has conducted technical assistance trainings, authored policy reports, appeared on television and radio shows, and has been quoted by various media outlets such as The New York Times and Education Week. Her academic work can be found in Educational Studies, Early Childhood Research Quarterly, and Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services. Barbara has served on numerous commissions and advisory groups, including Sesame Street Workshop's Trauma Initiative and the National Commission on Children and Disasters education group. She received her Bachelor's degree summa cum laude in Political Science from the University of Michigan.

Crimsetta Dunn, LCSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the HUD VASH Supportive Homeless Housing Program at Dallas VA Medical Center. Presently, she has served many homeless veterans in her professional career role of Case Manager over her 5 years of public 'servant' service, and has been dedicated in advocating/helping to meet their needs according to the priority of presenting problems. Ms. Dunn has over 30 years of effective professional Social Work experience, including almost 20 years at Community Hospital North Inpatient Psychiatry in Indianapolis, IN; also, having served at a number of other professional settings over her seasoned career. Ms. Dunn's personal philosophy and practice style for effective Case Management when helping people to rebuild their lives is simply being uplifting with genuine support and encouragement, expecting personal accountability, and inspiring hope with empowerment.

Christine Gendron is the Executive Director of Texas Network of Youth Services, a statewide network of organizations that serve young people and their families. In her role at TNOYS, Christine serves as a resource for policymakers, funders, service providers and others looking to make informed investments to strengthen services for youth and young adults who are homeless, in foster care, or at risk. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of TNOYS, Christine worked as a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Health and Social Policy within the University of Texas' LBJ School of Public Affairs. In this role, she coordinated the evaluation of several innovative state-funded initiatives to promote child well-being. Christine has authored numerous publications on youth services and consulted for a diverse array of organizations through her roles at TNOYS, UT, and on her own. Christine received her master's degree from UT's LBJ School and her bachelor's degree in History from Texas A&M.

Laramie Gorbett has always fostered a passion for advocacy and activism and has taken that passion and implemented it into her personal, academic and professional life. She received her BA in Anthropology from Texas Tech University in 2002 where she was a McNair Scholar. In her graduate studies at New Mexico State University (MA 2006) and USC she used non-human primates as models to explore violence against females from a cross-cultural, biological and evolutionary perspective. Laramie has many years of experience working with survivors of complex trauma, including her work at Women's Protective Services, Lubbock Rape Crisis Center, Domestic Violence Educational Services in California, Williamson County Crisis Center, Trinity Center and as a Victims Counselor with Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services. She has facilitated specialized training for law enforcement, victim services, and nongovernmental organizations. She also has 160-hour certification in Non-Profit Leadership & Management. In 2009, Laramie founded Empower Art, an emerging non-profit that teaches healthy coping skills to survivors of abuse through music and art workshops. She developed curriculum specifically for survivors of complex trauma. She has facilitated hope and healing workshops for survivors of human trafficking, refugees, and other marginalized populations domestically and abroad including, Uganda, Thailand, and Cambodia.

Gary Grier is currently serving as Senior Project Manager at the Coalition for the Homeless, where his work focuses on managing the CoC regional project management team, SSVF workgroup and veteran's issues, and the Income Now Initiative including acting as the CoC SOAR local lead, and coordinating access to housing and income with the workforce system. Additionally, Gary has extensive experiencing managing Rapid Rehousing System expansion, the Point in Time Count and community needs assessment, and capacity building and training. He has been a frequent presenter at regional and national conferences and served as state co-captain for Capitol Hill Day. Gary has been providing social services for twenty-two years in the greater Houston area and has fifteen years of community organizing experience.

Belinda Guerra, AA, is a successful Dallas HUD VASH active participant/Army '75-'78; she has been actively engaged in the program, since entering April/2014. She has an Associate's degree in Arts and is participating in a vocational training opportunity, which will hopefully lead to gainful FT employment. Ms. Guerra has overcome many barriers, and continues to demonstrate resilience and resourcefulness. Ms. Guerra feels fortunate to have received housing from HUD VASH, which has helped her to be able to continue with her job readiness efforts without having to worry about being homeless.

Pam Heine, LMSW is a Senior Project Associate for the SOAR TA Center. For 12 years, she worked at Legal Services of New Jersey's SSI Project, representing nearly 1,000 adult and child recipients of public assistance with the Social Security Administration. From 2008-11, she represented individuals at the Administrative Law Judge and Appeals Council stages, achieving a 97 percent approval rate. Her years of experience in the areas of developmental disabilities, mental health, public assistance and supported employment informed her work as a non-attorney representative. She has an MSW from Monmouth University as well as certification in psychological first aid (PFA), providing statewide training to first responders. Pam is our content expert on using the SOAR model with SSI/SSDI appeals. Pam is responsible for production of TA Center Webinars and Learning Communities. She provides TA to Texas.

Robin Herskowitz is the Founder of HealthStart Foundation. Robin brings business know-how and 25 years experience in public health and public health finance to her role with HealthStart. Previously Robin worked as a legislative aide, policy analyst, and director of governmental affairs for a company serving persons with disabilities, and the Executive Director of a Texas nonprofit.

Robin's experience working as a legislative aide and a policy analyst taught her that big changes begin in communities, not in the states' legislatures. Robin attended the University of Texas School of Public Health. There she examined pressing public health issues including access to mental health services and state and federal statutes relating to mental health.

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In addition to her role with HealthStart, Robin owns and directs the operations of RH2 Consulting, Inc which specializes in healthcare and public education studies and evaluation and performance reviews. Robin also serves as the Communications Committee Co-Chair and on the Executive Committee of One Voice Central Texas, the largest coalition of health and human service agencies in Central Texas.

Dina Hooshyar, MD MPH is a psychiatrist and the Medical Director for VA North Texas Health Care System Comprehensive Homeless Center Programs. Her responsibilities include providing direct Veteran care, performing process improvement activities, teaching psychiatry residents and medical students, and engaging in research about Veteran homelessness population.

Patricia Julianelle is an attorney and legal consultant for state and local governments and non-profit organizations. She has over 20 years of experience defending children's and youth's rights, including advocating for youth in the education, juvenile justice, child welfare, and immigration systems.

Tim Keesling is the Director of the Veterans Mental Health program at the Texas Veterans Commission. This program is focused on providing training and technical assistance to peer support providers and coordinators at the local mental health authorities across the state, clinical mental health providers, and partner organizations who deliver direct peer services to the Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) who have been impacted by military-related traumas. Tim serves as a consultant to Veteran Treatment Courts, Veteran One-Stop Resource Centers, and non-profits focused on providing supportive services to SMVF. During his 20-year career in the US Army, he served in multiple locations throughout the world, both in peacetime and in combat. His military honors include the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, the Combat Action Badge, and numerous other medals, badges, and decorations. Tim has been a guest speaker and panelist at Department of Aging and Disability Services, Veteran Administration town hall meetings, the Texas Association of Counties, the Texas Sheriff's Association, the Texas Corrections Association, and the UT School of Social Work's Military Summit. Tim also served as a Texas delegate at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) SMVF Suicide Awareness and Prevention implementation academy.

Nicolina Kozak joined the ECHO team in September 2017. Originally from Northern Illinois, she moved to Austin following college graduation to start her career fighting social injustices. She has a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from St. Ambrose University in Iowa and is currently working on her Masters Degree in Social Work through the University of Southern California Virtual Academic Center. Most recently she has worked providing direct services at Front Steps connecting clients to benefits using the SOAR model as well as having a lead role with Front Steps SSVF team during the Mayors Challenge to reach functional zero among Veterans.

Outside of work and school, Nicolina loves to travel and visits her favorite cities frequently to spend time with her family in Chicago and Boston. When she isn't jet-setting, you can find her enjoying all of the tacos Austin has to offer.

Kelly Kravitz serves as the Foster Care Education & Policy and McKinney-Vento Homeless Education, State Coordinator in the Division of Instructional Resources and State Programs at Texas Education Agency. Ms. Kravitz champions the agencies foster care and homeless education initiatives and leads development and coordination of policy and program activities at TEA. Kelly works closely with Education Service Center Region 10 and the Texas Homeless Education Office to implement the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education program in Texas. Prior to TEA, Kelly worked in higher education to promote college access, retention, and graduation of students who had experienced foster care and homelessness. Ms. Kravitz is deeply committed to improving the education and life outcomes of students impacted by foster care and homelessness.

Dr. Christine Laguna obtained her doctoral degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Texas and is a licensed psychologist. She previously worked in an inpatient psychiatric hospital and is currently managing an outpatient community program that provides housing and support services to individuals who are chronically homeless and struggle with mental health issues and/or substance use.

Amber Lasseigne is the Assistant Director of Special Revenue at Region 10 Education Service Center, where she oversees the ESSA Shared Services Arrangement for the region. She has a demonstrated history of working with federal programs and has developed professional skills in EDGAR regulations, federal grants management, Nonprofit organizations, and grants administration. In her free time, Ms. Lasseigne enjoys spending time with her family and friends, watching the Buckeyes play football, volunteering, and reading.

Cassandra Lott is an experienced social services professional with more than 12 years of providing services to the homeless population and at risk youth. She began volunteering in college with at risk youth and the American Red Cross and saw the extreme need to become an agent of change. Cassandra's academic, professional training and experience have aided in her ability to reach the needs of the most vulnerable and to cultivate partnerships that provided relief and support to those in need.

Cassandra serves as a liaison to provide knowledge to various community organizations and partners to relay the great mission of Family Endeavors and its commitment to help end Veteran Homelessness. For the more than two years, Cassandra has served as a Case Manager and Housing Specialist with Family Endeavors, Inc. She specializes in Veteran and Family Services and works to create long-term partnerships with area resources and Landlords in the private and public sector of Dallas, Fort Worth, Waco and the surrounding areas. Additionally, Cassandra is a Certified Facilitator for Ready to Rent and hosts trainings for Family Endeavors participants regarding Ready to Rent practices that will allow participants the opportunity to turn previous barriers to obtaining housing into opportunities to demonstrate a level of re-commitment to renting and being a good neighbor and tenant. She also serves as a member of the Permanent Housing and Landlord Relations Committee for the CoC of Dallas County.

Alexis Loving has more than 8 years' experience in social services, specifically in the homeless services sector. She currently serves as the Director of Programs at SEARCH Homeless Services leading a diverse and talent program team of over 80 staff throughout five unique departments of programming. SEARCH's services aim to meet people where they are and guide people toward behavioral change and self-sufficiency. She served on Houston's Coordinated Access Transition Team, helping to establish SEARCH as an instrumental partner in Houston's The Way Home. Ms. Loving has previous experience in Program Management, Case Management, Motivational Interviewing, Leadership Development and Volunteer Coordination/Development. She holds a bachelor's degree in Human Services from Northeastern University and is currently pursuing a master's in business administration.

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Michael Lyttle has been with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) since 2000. Mr. Lyttle works closely with the Executive Director and Governing Board in helping to draft policy and strategy as well as overseeing the Department's functional areas of Policy/Research/Planning, Communications/Marketing, and Legislative Affairs. Prior to TDHCA, Mr. Lyttle served in similar functions with the Texas Restaurant Association and Texas Dental Association. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from The University of Texas at Austin.

Lonnie McAdoo has spent over 25 years doing HIV, work with substance users and violence prevention work with a specific focus on Harm Reduction. He has worked with many marginalized populations including people of color (Black/Brown/Latino/Latina), LGBTQ, people in corrections or transitioning out of corrections, high risk youth, drug users and homeless individuals. He helped design, implement and manage an intensive intervention for intravenous drug users out of a needle exchange program located in Cambridge, MA. Lonnie has had extensive experience developing and implementing a variety of interventions including the development of one-on-one counseling programs for drug users, snowball recruitment programs and peer driven interventions. Through his consulting work, Lonnie has developed curricula and facilitated countless trainings and workshops on outreach to/working with marginalized populations, developing peer education programs, applying Harm Reduction to work models and a variety of marginalized populations, communication and presentation skills, intercultural communication and developing cultural competency, motivational interviewing/prevention counseling, trauma informed care, creating LGBTQ-welcoming spaces and working with high-risk youth, for over 25 years.

Gabriella McDonald serves as Pro Bono & New Projects Director at Texas Appleseed, a public interest justice center. She is the liaison connecting pro bono professionals to Texas Appleseed, and she develops and guides several major project areas at the nonprofit including civil asset forfeiture, foster care, and homeless youth. Her homeless youth work has included serving as Texas Appleseed's point person for the production of the Texas Homeless Youth Handbook, available at <http://homelessyouthtexas.bakermckenzie.com/>. Gabriella first joined Texas Appleseed in 2009 as a yearlong community service fellow, working primarily on the issues of foster care and fair financial services. She then spent four years in private practice in Los Angeles, where she engaged in general civil and business litigation. Gabriella received her law and graduate degrees from The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and her undergraduate degrees from The University of Texas at Austin.

Starr M. Magee is an Area Specialist with Texas USDA, Rural Development in the McKinney Area Office. Starr holds a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Psychology (2003) with a minor in Special Education and a Master's of Science of Community Development (2005) both from Delta State University. Starr originally began her career with Rural Development in Cleveland, Mississippi in May 2003 and relocated to Texas in 2014 to further her career with the agency. Starr has been married to her husband Corky Sr. for six years and they have two boys, Corky Jr. (5) and Caleb (4).

Samantha Maggiani is an analytical problem solver with diverse experience in project management, homeless services planning, and policy. Currently a Program Manager for CSH Texas Program, Ms. Maggiani is responsible for advancing long term systems change efforts in housing and service delivery for vulnerable residents in Houston. Her work includes building capacity related to public and private investments to align resources that increase efficiency and support the creation of supportive housing units. Prior to joining CSH, Ms. Maggiani worked for San Antonio/Bexar County CoC as the planning coordinator, where she was tasked with planning, managing and coordinating various CoC funded housing services and projects in Bexar County as well as strategic planning and policy development for CoC programs. Samantha earned a Master's degree in Social Work from Texas State University with a focus in Administrative Leadership.

Moneeza Matin is a certified physician assistant working in Dallas VA's Homeless Mobile Medical/Mental Veteran (HMMV) Intervention outreach program. The purpose of her position is to provide medical care at point of contact in homeless outreach setting and eventually connect these Veterans to Dallas VA office based services.

Selarstea M. Mitchell, Vice President of Assisted Housing for Fort Worth Housing Solutions (FWHS), is responsible for assisted housing programs as well as several programs for the homeless. Having served in this capacity since 2005, Ms. Mitchell is also active with the North Texas Housing Association. Other professional affiliations include: Board member of the Texas Housing Association as well as the DRC (formerly Day Resource Center) and chairperson of the MHMR of Tarrant County Homeless Advisory Committee. Prior to relocating to North Texas, Selarstea held the position of Director of the Housing Choice Voucher Program for the Housing Authority of New Orleans. In addition to housing experience, she has acquired over 20 years of knowledge and practice in the field of Human Resources after earning a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Business Administration from Tulane University.

Heather Muller is experienced in system change – both design and implementation. She has fourteen years of experience in social service delivery and program management. Currently a Program Manager in CSH's Houston office, Ms. Muller is responsible for the implementation of Houston's Coordinated Access system and the community's annual training programs. Prior to joining CSH, Ms. Muller was a Program Manager at SEARCH Homeless Services in Houston, TX, a CoC-funded, non-profit agency where she operated and managed Employment and Engagement Services programs for homeless individuals. She also worked for two years at Transitions Mental Health Association in San Luis Obispo, CA, where she started and managed a Permanent Supportive Housing program. Heather earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of San Francisco.

Tina Peters, LVN, is a successful Dallas HUD VASH active participant/Air Force 1981-1984. Ms. Peters has a background of 20 years of multi-family housing experience. Ms. Peters has an interesting story to share, having obtained her LVN late in life at age 47. Ms. Peters has overcome many barriers, and now expresses an interest in becoming a Peer Specialist. Ms. Peters also anticipates graduating from the HUD VASH program sometime this year.

Jessica Preheim has over 10 years of diverse experience in homeless services, public housing, and management, with expertise in regulatory compliance, operations, and grant writing. As a Senior Program Manager for Texas at CSH, Ms. Preheim works to advance various initiatives and projects related to homelessness, system involved youth, Medicaid collaboration and other public services, bringing her expertise around implementation, and program management to all her responsibilities. Prior to joining CSH, Ms. Preheim spent six years at the Houston Housing Authority (HHA); facilitating the role the HHA played in ending homelessness by creating programmatic changes to increase the availability of affordable/assisted units to those in need; while providing community based leadership and coordination required for systems transformation, implementation and ongoing operations of these units. While at HHA, Ms. Preheim served as Senior Program Manager for Housing and Homeless Initiatives; overseeing several major agency initiatives, including: program oversight of all units leased through the homeless preference, VASH, designated homeless Project Based Voucher units, completed all local and federal homeless grant applications (renewal and new projects) and served as the Financial Assistance Intermediary for the community's Rapid Re-Housing programs serving families, singles and Transition Age Youth/Young Adults. Prior to joining HHA, Ms. Preheim worked in private tax credit development, grant writing, Continuum of Care housing program management, and public facility management.

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Tiffany Price received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Social Work and is currently a Licensed Master Social Worker in the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program at the Dallas VA Medical Center. In this position, she serves as the clinical lead on the program's Homeless Mobile Medical and Mental Health Vehicle (HMMMV). The aim of this program is to provide outreach to unsheltered veterans in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, providing immediate medical and mental health services to veterans in the field, with the eventual goal of connecting these veterans to services based at the Dallas VA Medical Center.

Robert Pulster, Regional Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Bob directed the Division of Housing Stabilization for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, funding a statewide system of family and individual shelter programs as well as shelter diversion and rehousing programs. Bob spearheaded efforts to transform a system that relied on shelter as the primary response to homelessness to one that offered a range of flexible resources to prevent homelessness and provide rehousing assistance. Bob has also served as executive director of a variety of community agencies in the Boston area.

Jo Kathryn Quinn is the Executive Director at Caritas of Austin. She has been on the Caritas staff since 2005; and served as Director of Housing Services prior to taking the Executive Director role in 2012.

With over 25 years' experience in various aspects of non-profit management she has had the privilege of serving in the fields of education, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, child protection, international/domestic homelessness and housing. She is a leader in several community collaborations. In addition, she has volunteered on various non-profit boards.

Fatima Rasul is currently a Human Trafficking Outreach Specialist with Mosaic Family Services, a non-profit agency in Dallas, TX that provides outreach and social services to survivors of human trafficking and immigrant survivors of abuse. Fatima participates in outreach efforts throughout North Texas, training and speaking with healthcare professionals, students, teachers, law enforcement and the public at large. She is also an active member of the North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Fatima graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2013, she went on to receive her Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2015.

Tomas Rodriguez's first public health position right out of graduating Queens College in New York City was becoming the Executive Director of a community based organization for five years operating after school and public health programs in Corona, Queens. This opportunity led him to having a 26 year career working as a public health advisor for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For the past two years, Mr. Rodriguez has been assigned to work with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Tuberculosis (TB) Program serving as a resource to the Texas TB program and group managers to improve overall program functions. Duties include working with TB program group managers and key program staff to achieve strategic objectives including CDC recommendations and state performance outcomes. Before moving to Austin, Mr. Rodriguez's CDC career was in Atlanta being a CDC Program Consultant for International Influenza programs, Steps to a healthier US programs and domestic HIV prevention programs.

Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez is the co-founder of Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates in Dallas, Texas. Now in her 26th year of practice, Michelle was a Judicial Law Clerk under the Attorney General's Honor program for seven Immigration Judges in Harlingen, Texas. She practices immigration law with an emphasis on removal litigation.

Tyler Shoesmith, M.Ed. is currently serving as the Director of Family Support Services for North East ISD. This program includes oversight of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Project, School Age Parenting and Dropout Prevention. Prior to this position, Tyler was the District Dropout Coordinator and Special Populations Coordinator. Tyler's department has been recognized by the Texas Homeless Education Office as a best practices model and they have received commendations from the federal level. He has given presentations at the National Dropout Presentations, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and has attended the Harvard Institute for Engaging Families. He has been in education for the last 14 years.

Prior to coming to North East ISD, he was with the Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office and the Bexar County Pre-sentence Investigation Unit. He has a B.A. in Criminal Justice and M.Ed in Management of Technical Education.

Alexa Timmreck served as a 2017 VISTA Summer Associate at THN. Her work focused on assessing the needs of Local Homeless Coalitions and cultivating resources to address those needs- in toolkit form. Her passion for resolving the issues surrounding homelessness began while working within Community Action Agencies, and center around the role of Local Homeless Coalitions and implementation of Housing First. Alexa is currently working towards completing her Masters of Public Administration at Eastern Michigan University.

Molly Voyles is a Public Policy Manager for the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) and has worked at the coalition for over nine years. In her position at TCFV, she provides technical assistance and training across the state on family violence program policy issues with a focus on supporting survivor-centered services. Prior to joining TCFV, Ms. Voyles worked in a variety of roles within domestic violence programs including assisting survivors with accessing stable housing and working with children exposed to domestic violence. She has worked with survivors in both rural and urban settings and has an understanding of the unique challenges, and solutions, available to these different communities. She attended Indiana University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.

Dazara Ware, MPC is a Senior Project Associate for the SOAR TA Center. Dazara's areas of expertise include assisting with the implementation of SOAR in criminal justice settings and reentry plans for state Department of Corrections facilities. She also serves as the TA Center's Online Application Tracking (OAT) Coordinator where she is responsible for OAT training, quality control and technical support for all users. Prior to joining PRA, she served as the State of Georgia's SOAR Program Coordinator and State Team Lead at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). While there, she led a pilot program to implement SOAR in Georgia's state hospitals, jails and prisons to promote successful transitions to community living. Her educational and employment background in criminal justice and mental health disciplines have helped shape her commitment to addressing the needs of those who are vulnerable to the experience of homelessness. Dazara earned her MPC from Argosy University.

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THN Staff Bios:

Eric Samuels, President & CEO, has over sixteen years of experience working with local, state and national organizations on the development of services and shelter for homeless individuals and families. Eric also has several years of experience in direct service and management of homeless service organizations and has conducted extensive research into the issue of homelessness in Texas. Mr. Samuels holds a Master of Arts in Sociology from Texas State University.

Caitlin Bayer, Balance of State (BoS) Programs Coordinator. The Balance of State Programs Coordinator develops tools, strategies, and resources to aid the Continuum of Care planning process. Caitlin comes to THN from AIDS Service of Austin, where she administered HOPWA funding and served as a Housing Case Manager. Before that, she completed a term of service with AmeriCorp's ACE program where she provided bilingual reading interventions for low-income students. She looks forward to facilitating collaboration between BoS partners. Caitlin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX.

Kraig Blaize-Fiero, CoC Programs Assistant, started his career with THN as a volunteer before being placed at THN as an AmeriCorps VISTA member in 2012. During his VISTA service, which ran from 2012-2014, he worked with various homeless coalitions around the Central Texas area helping to raise awareness within the communities and coordinate annual Point In Time surveys. Today he is the CoC programs assistant and helps coordinate daily activities for the TX BoS CoC. Kraig is a Texas native and graduated high school in Johnson City, TX and is currently working on attaining his associate degree in Social Work from Austin Community College.

Sophia Checa, Assistant CoC Director, began her tenure with THN in 2013. She has a Master's degree in Public Affairs with a concentration in nonprofit studies from the University of Texas – Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Prior to attending the LBJ School, Sophia worked as the Lead Intake Specialist on Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) at Catholic Charities of the East Bay. This was the job that spurred her passion for housing and ending homelessness. She has her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California - Berkeley. Sophia lives in Austin with her husband and their cat, dog, and two chickens and loves to box.

Jesús DeLeón-Serratos, Project Manager for the Homeless Management Information Systems. Jesús is a creative bilingual award-winning writer with experience in social media. His eclectic background ranges from six years in communications as a journalist, radio DJ, TV writer, and in theater and film production, to eight years in the non-profit galaxy with solid experience in social work, case management, placement specialist, and trainer. With THN, he looks forward to assist in endeavors geared towards ending homelessness one organization at a time. He believes that communications in non-profit have an undetermined potential yet to be unleashed fully. You may say he is a dreamer, but he is not the only one.

Kameron Fowler, LMSW is the Continuum of Care Director at THN. She earned her MSSW from the University of Texas at Austin's Advanced Standing Program and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Texas Tech University. She has over 14 years of experience in housing and homelessness programs in Austin, Los Angeles and Australia. She has held varied administrative and direct care roles within the homeless services sector in the specialties of medical respite, shelter case management, housing stability case management, mental health case management, HIV services, DV, and street outreach.

Brian Goodner, Director of Finance. Brian has nineteen years of experience in accounting. Brian has worked as Controller for multiple companies and has diverse experience in accounting, auditing, financial reporting and budgeting. During this time, Brian has worked with these companies establishing proper internal controls surrounding accounting and finance activities while working with management to improve any areas of deficiency. This has included doing field audits of service locations to ensure that company processes and procedures were being followed. Brian also worked with management on budgeting, forecasting, preparing financial statements and reviewing monthly and quarterly financial results. Brian has been employed as the THN Accountant for two years. He has a BS in Accounting from the University of Arizona.

Tiffany Hart, Systems Change Coordinator, is responsible for implementing Coordinated Entry in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, which requires working with communities to develop data-driven housing crisis response systems. Tiffany has over 10 years of experience in homeless services including direct practice, program creation and administration, grant writing and administration, systems change, data collection, and research. She is passionate about finding ways to improve systems with the goal to ultimately end homelessness. Tiffany earned her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with a minor in Nonprofit Management from The Ohio State University.

Deanne Lock is the Accounting and Human Resources Generalist and assists the President/CEO and the Director of Finance and HR with administrative, human resources, and financial operations. Deanne started as a volunteer with THN in 2012 before being hired as the Office Manager in 2013. Deanne holds an MS in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine which explains her calming effect on the office atmosphere. She was born in Corpus Christi, and spent 20 years of her life in the Middle East.

Victoria Lopez, HMIS Help Specialist. The Help Desk Specialist is responsible for providing technical assistance to agencies within the Texas BOS CoC. She joined THN on December 1st and hopes to help streamline how agencies enter data, track their clients, and evaluate their programs. Victoria holds a Masters in Rhetoric and Professional Communication from Iowa State University and a Bachelor's in English from Texas A & M-Corpus Christi.

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Benjamin Mahoney, HMIS Support Specialist, completed an undergraduate degree in Anthropology. Has worked for Blackbaud as a Support Analyst for the Raiser's Edge. Taught oral English in southern China. Hobbies include language learning, art, music, and most things nerdy. Is a part of the HMIS support team and is excited to work in expanding THN's services.

Meagan Moore, VISTA Program Manager, manages the VISTA program at THN. The program has VISTA members all around the state working on various projects to help communities end homelessness. Meagan first began working with the homeless community in 2012 as a member of AmeriCorps Keep Austin Housed. After completing her year of service, Meagan continued her work in homeless services case managing clients at the ARCH and Salvation Army through Goodwill. In late 2015, she began working as a data analyst for Goodwill. Meagan is thrilled to be working with the THN VISTA members helping to end homeless in Texas and beyond.

Jennifer Paulsen, Director of Development & Communications. Along with working on funding and communications, Jennifer plans and coordinates THN's annual statewide conference, and oversees the THN membership program. Jennifer has been working in homeless services since 2005. She holds a BA in English from The University of Texas at San Antonio. She spends her free time running on the lake trail, cycling with her husband, and being walked by her two dogs.

Mary Rychlik, LMSW, serves as the Continuum of Care Manager for the TX BoS CoC at Texas Homeless Network. She conducts CoC planning and operations activities to strategically prevent and end homelessness.

- Ensuring the CoC is operating according to its governance structure, policies, and procedures;
- Assisting with the CoC's process for applying for HUD CoC Program funds;
- Working with Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) in the TX BoS CoC; and
- Coordinating CoC efforts with other programs, funding streams, and community planning efforts.

Mary has expertise in HUD's Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant programs, facilitating CoC processes on a CoC-level and with local homeless coalitions and ESG recipients. She has 20 years' experience in homeless services, including direct practice, program administration, performance evaluation, and grant applications in a school district, city and state governments, and nonprofit organizations. Mary is a Licensed Master Social Worker who earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in social work from The University of Texas at Austin.

Jim Ward, CoC Technical Assistance & Performance Coordinator, has been working with Housing First programs since 2011, from Case Management, to Program Management. Most recently managing a conversion of 133 units of SRO housing to a Housing First Scattered Site Model. Jim believes that fidelity to the model is critical for the successful implementation of housing for a highly vulnerable population. Jim serves as the Texas Balance of State, Continuum of Care Technical Assistance & Performance Coordinator. Jim provides distance and onsite monitoring to CoC recipients ensuring compliance with the CoC program interim rule, and the highest quality services for the most vulnerable. Additionally, Jim provides hands-on program level technical assistance to start-up projects and renewals alike.

Kristin Zakoors is the Data Coordinator at THN. She is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Point-In-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count. She also works closely with the HMIS team to enhance data-related projects for the TX BoS CoC. Kristin has worked with several homeless service providers in Austin and is very passionate about using data to create actionable information that helps to improve the lives of those in need. Kristin received her Bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of Michigan.

THN VISTA MEMBERS

Abilene

Lexi Mercier - United Way of Abilene

Austin

Jen Hellow - THN

Liz Hoover - THN

Corpus Christi

Alexis Williams - Homeless Issues Partnership

El Paso

Austen Briones - Opportunity Center for the Homeless

Rosemary Gurolla - Opportunity Center for the Homeless

Ashley Lemell - Homeless Coalition of El Paso

Texarkana

Lisa Sewell - Texarkana Homeless Coalition

Tyler

Luke Owa - East Texas Human Needs Network

Waco

Andrea Washington - The Cove

Region 10 Staff Bios

Jana Burns serves as the Director of Special Populations for the Region 10 Education Service Center. Her work at Region 10 ESC includes state-wide support for students experiencing homelessness and all areas of special education and Section 504. In addition to holding certifications for special education teacher, principal and superintendent, she is a 2001 graduate from Texas Woman's University with a Master's of Education. Jana taught in public schools for several years before serving as a principal and special education director. She has worked at Region 10 ESC for over three years supporting the success of students with disabilities and those experiencing homelessness.

David Ray is the program coordinator for Homeless and Foster Care Education at Region 10 ESC. For the past 10 years he has worked to help districts and charter schools across Texas remain in compliance and improve educational outcomes with students in homeless or foster care situations.

THEO Staff Bios

Patrick Lopez is a Senior Program Coordinator for the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO). Since 1992 he has been at THEO, working to improve the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Prior to his position at THEO, he was at the Texas Education Agency's Dropout Information Clearinghouse. His professional interests include the relationships between poverty and education; the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness; and reading acquisition. He holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College.

Ken Martin is a coordinator for THEO, the Texas Homeless Education Office. He conducts training for educators, school administrators, and parents about the laws and rules regarding the education of highly mobile and homeless children; resolves school enrollment and attendance complaints regarding students experiencing homelessness; addresses legislative issues that affect children and youth in homeless situations, and provides assistance to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act discretionary grant recipients in Texas. Ken's professional interests include homelessness, housing, child welfare, and supports for marginalized populations. He is currently a board member for the Bastrop County Emergency Food and Shelter Program. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Abilene Christian University.

Tim Stahlke was born and raised in Central America. Tim has language and cultural skills well-suited for the changing communities across the country. As a Senior Program Coordinator for the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), his duties include resolving school enrollment and attendance complaints regarding homeless and unaccompanied children and youth, conducting training for school administrators, head start practitioners, parents, and community advocates about the laws and rules regarding the education of children who are homeless, addressing legislative issues that impact on children and youth experiencing homelessness, and providing assistance to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act discretionary grant recipients in Texas.

Jeanne Stamp, LCSW, LMFT, LCDC, Project Director, The Texas Homeless Education Office, The University of Texas, Austin, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, board approved social work supervisor, and chemical dependency counselor. Currently she is the Project Director for the Texas Homeless Education Office at the University of Texas, providing training, consultation, technical assistance, legislative input, and oversight of grant programs that provide educational and social services to children and their families in homeless situations, as well as with children and families with CPS involvement.

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Thank you
for joining us!