

# TX BoS CoC General Meeting

## Notes

August 8, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

**Member update:** Tell us about a recent success in your community by typing into the chat box.

- John Meier (Abilene) – Abilene has been asked to participate in getting to “functional zero” for homeless veterans by Community Solutions
- Jesus Hernandez (Corpus Christi) – The Salvation Army has been approached about tiny homes and a workers' program from the city and the downtown committee. We also had a good visit from Jim Ward July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

### I. Welcome, Introductions, and Map

Welcome to CoC Board members, LHC Chairs, and others. Introduction of what THN and the TX BoS CoC are. Attendees identified their communities by indicating them on the interactive map.

### II. Member Input (poll questions and discussion)

a. How can the CoC better support communities?

Some answers given - Regional homeless coalition meetings, PIT meetings and assistance, regional needs assessment, funding/money, visiting our communities, Osnum assistance, rural affordable housing, virtual access to annual conference, more understandable meeting info, HMIS training, a “CoC for Dummies” manual

b. How can CoC General Meetings be improved?

Some answers given - HMIS training during meeting, more interactive and participatory, keep them closer to an hour, maybe a different or better time (not during peak time), post agenda and materials ahead of time.

### III. Training -- Equal Access to Housing

Samantha Foss, social work intern at THN, gave a presentation on Equal Access to Housing

- HUD saw alarming statistics of the numbers of people experiencing homelessness who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Queer (LGBTQ)—disproportionate to their representation in the general population. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released rules and guidance to assist projects, CoCs, and communities with equal access to housing and services.
- List of websites (at bottom of agenda) that would be helpful to view, to make sure projects are providing equal access and that all projects are following HUD's recommendations – even projects that do not receive funding from HUD.

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- It is a HUD and TX BoS CoC priority to provide person-centered and low-barrier assistance for the cultures within each community
- Question on how to handle placing roommates where one person may identify as LGBTQ and another person may not agree with the roommate placement.
  - It is important to have conversations with potential project participants prior to entry into a project about how the project expects respect for everyone and respects all participants' wishes. It is also important to have conversations with anyone who identifies as LGBTQ about what can be done to help them feel comfortable and safe. The intention is creating safe spaces for everyone.

## IV. CoC Priority Projects

### a. CoC Program

- Funding comes from Congress and is distributed through the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). THN facilitates a local application process/competition.
- CoC Program funds are not intended to be the sole source of funding to address homelessness in a community but to help leverage other funding and to guide a community in their efforts.
- 19 renewal project applications and 3 new project applications were submitted in 2018
- Data is continuing to be emphasized in how projects and CoCs are being scored, which affects the likelihood that projects will receive funding
- Housing First is also a HUD and CoC priority. If you have questions about how to get involved with a Housing First initiative in your community, contact [Jim@thn.org](mailto:Jim@thn.org).

### b. Coordinated Entry (CE)

- CE streamlines the process for people experiencing homelessness to receive an assessment and be connected to the housing resources they need and that would best end their homelessness.
- Because it involves systems change and developing a housing crisis response system, CE encompasses everything in a continuum of care, including local homeless coalitions (LHCs), the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program and CoC Program funding
- The TX BoS CoC is in charge of implementing CE in 215 counties, and CE processes are currently implemented in 17 regions covering 46 counties.
- If your project, county, city or LHC is interested in implementing CE, contact [Tiffany@thn.org](mailto:Tiffany@thn.org)
- Introduced new THN VISTA member for CE, Elena - [elena@thn.org](mailto:elena@thn.org)

### c. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- THN has a YouTube channel with numerous videos about Client Track (HMIS software) and HMIS, in general, to help people learn how to use HMIS
- System Performance Measures (SPMs), which can be generated from data in HMIS, are being used in HUD's funding decisions more frequently now. They measure project and system effectiveness. They can be run CoC-wide or by-community or by-project.

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- A by-name list is a list of people in a community who are experiencing homelessness and whose data from the VI-SPDAT and CE assessment are in HMIS. The list can be used to see who meets the “chronically homeless” definition and to estimate future rates of homelessness. See THN's videos for more information, or contact [hmis@thn.org](mailto:hmis@thn.org).
- Introduced new THN staff member, HMIS Data Specialist, Antonio Kufoya.

## d. Data

- Data is an incredible tool to understand and solve homelessness. It can help communities and projects identify appropriate strategies to tackle homelessness.
- Going forward there will be a data point featured at each General Meeting and how it can be accessed and used, as part of increasing data literacy (how to understand data and use it to make decisions).
- Introduced new THN VISTA member for data coordination, Marissa – [marissa@thn.org](mailto:marissa@thn.org)

## V. CoC Governance

### a. CoC Board -- elections

- Fifteen members who set the CoC's policies and guide its work
- Elections for even-numbered seats, for two-year terms, will be held in September. More information will be posted on THN's website and sent via the CoC's email list. Anyone who lives or works in the CoC, is affiliated with homeless services, and is not currently a project participant in a CoC Program-funded project or ESG Program-funded project, may run for a seat on the board. Please advertise this opportunity.

### b. Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)

- An LHC is a group of people and organizations in a community that work together to prevent and end homelessness in their local communities within the CoC
- LHCs meet requirements set by the THN Board. Contact information and coverage maps are on THN's website.
- If you want to start an LHC in your area, reach out to [Mary@thn.org](mailto:Mary@thn.org).
- THN will have a VISTA member for LHCs starting August 20<sup>th</sup>.

## VI. Announcements

- Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness, in Austin, Sept. 26-28  
<https://www.thn.org/statewide/annual-conference/>

## VII. Next Meeting –

- a. Wednesday, Sept. 26, 10:45 A.M. - 12:30 P.M., in person at the Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness in Austin and via webinar
- b. *Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\)](#)

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- c. If you know someone who is interested in preventing and ending homelessness, invite them to attend the general meetings. Subscribe to the CoC's email list at <https://www.thn.org/updates-and-events/sign-news-updates/> to receive meeting invitations.

## Opportunities

- a. Join the FUSE Community from CSH  
CSH [FUSE](#) (Frequent Users Systems Engagement) Learning Community. Held from September 2018 to January 2019 the Learning Community will cover: FUSE stakeholder engagement, cross systems data matching/data driven targeting, supportive housing resource creation and scaling, and offer opportunities for peer discussion among communities. If your community is interested in applying, [complete our survey by Thursday, September 6, 2018, 7pm CT](#). Please contact [fuse@csch.org](mailto:fuse@csch.org) with any questions.
- b. Survey about supportive housing for people with dementia care needs  
CSH is surveying housing providers to better understand what services more comprehensively meet the challenges of older supportive housing residents with dementia care needs. Please contact [Courtney.Christenson@csch.org](mailto:Courtney.Christenson@csch.org) with any questions.
- c. OrgCode is seeking feedback on the VI-SPDAT and SPDAT tools, as they "go about making improvements to the next versions of the tools." Provide feedback through the survey, which you can find [here](#).

## Resources regarding Equal Access to Housing

- [Equal Access to Housing regulations](#)
- [Notice on Equal Access Rights](#)
- [Equal Access and Fair Housing](#)
- [LGBT Homelessness](#)
- [Implementing HUD's Equal Access and Gender Identity Rules](#)
- [Equal Access for Transgender People: Supporting Inclusive Housing and Shelters](#)



## **2018 CoC Board Member Elections**

The CoC is required to establish a Board that acts on behalf of the CoC.

- The Board must be representative of the relevant organizations within the CoC's geographic area and of projects serving homeless subpopulations, including at least one person with lived experience (currently or formerly homeless).
- The Board is the main policy-making and oversight body of the CoC.

Texas Homeless Network (THN), as the Lead Agency for the TX BoS CoC, facilitates the election process.

CoC members may nominate themselves. CoC members may nominate other persons. Anyone who lives or works in one of the 215 counties included in the TX BoS CoC is considered to be a member of the CoC.

- Board nominees must be affiliated with homeless services in the TX BoS CoC.
- Current participants ("clients") of CoC Program-funded or ESG Program-funded projects are not eligible to run for a seat on the Board.

Persons nominated for the CoC Board should possess the following characteristics:

- High level of ethical behavior;
- A working knowledge of homelessness;
- A passion for ending homelessness;
- Familiarity with one or more state or federal funding sources (preferred);
- Capability to work effectively on a team;
- Availability of time to fulfill Board responsibilities;
- Compliance with the CoC Governance Charter and/or applicable policies; and
- Must live and/or work in the TX BoS CoC's geographic area.

While Seat 1 must always be filled by a person with lived experience, not a representative of persons with lived experience, the person filling Board seats 2-15 will represent the stakeholder group designated for that seat in one of the following ways:

- Being a member of that group (for example, Seat 2 could be filled by a currently or formerly homeless veteran);
- Working for an agency/organization that serves the designated group; and/or
- Clearly representing the interests of that group, as evidenced in the potential Board member's nomination form.



Board Members will have responsibilities and duties described in the Board Member Requirements Policy and Procedures, including complying with a Code of Conduct and a Conflict of Interest Statement.

The CoC Board has historically met every-other month for two hours via webinar, plus three Special Called Meetings via webinar during the CoC Program local application process (around September).

#### **Seats Scheduled for Election in 2018:**

In 2018, all even-numbered seats are scheduled for election.

Seat 2	Homeless veterans
Seat 4	Homeless families
Seat 6	Victim services
Seat 8	Health/medical
Seat 10	Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipient
Seat 12	Law enforcement/criminal justice
Seat 14	Faith community or faith-based organization

#### **Election Timeline:**

8/20 to 9/4	Nominations accepted
9/4	Nomination Forms due
9/6	THN staff and CoC Board review nominations, create a slate, and inform nominees if they are selected to be on the ballot
9/7-21	General Members vote electronically
9/26	Board Members announced
10/1/2018	Terms begin

# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

## Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)

- Texas Homeless Network (THN) is the lead agency for the TX BoS CoC.
- The TX BoS CoC covers 215 of Texas' 254 counties, totaling 85% of Texas' land mass. To end homelessness across this broad region, the TX BoS CoC utilizes a system of LHCs to help coordinate local resources and meet the CoC's goals.
- LHCs are the community groups working in TX BoS CoC communities that provide local expertise and planning, delivery, and evaluation of homeless services, housing, and supportive services.
- LHCs' goals align with the CoC's goals and LHC chairs act as liaisons to the CoC.
- LHCs meet LHC Requirements established by the CoC Board.

From THN's website:

### Local Homeless Coalitions

Local Homeless Coalitions are groups of organizations, individuals, and leaders interested in ending homelessness that meet face-to-face locally within TX Balance of State communities. LHCs make plans to address homelessness in their communities, pursue CoC goals, and lead local initiatives. There are approximately 25 Local Homeless Coalitions across the Texas Balance of State at this time. Use the map and contact list below to find the LHC closest to you. We recommend reaching out to the LHC's primary contact person to ask for a meeting schedule. Don't see an LHC near you? Fill out the form below to get started.

[LHC Map](#)

[LHC Contacts \(Updated 6-4-18\)](#)

[LHC Requirements](#)

<https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/>

# Help Us Improve VI-SPDAT & SPDAT

Posted by Iain De Jong on July 23, 2018

We take the VI-SPDAT and SPDAT very seriously. Whether your community uses the VI-SPDAT (triage tool) and/or the SPDAT (assessment tool), we want to have your input as we go about making improvements to the next versions of the tools. Have your say through our survey which you can find [here](#)

Your input is vitally important. We will be looking at what you contribute along with what people with lived experience have to say, trainers have to say, the most current research has to say, and what experts in trauma, domestic violence, and anti-oppression have to say.

We are committed to making each version of the tools easier to use and more accurate in their collection of information. We are committed to also ensuring the best interests of people to whom the tools are administered are respected. We want to ensure the most accurate information and only the most relevant information is used to help with things like coordinated entry and prioritization, as well as case management and service delivery.

We have been collecting feedback in other ways over the past few years on all of the VI-SPDAT and SPDAT suite of tools (youth, family, single adult, justice discharge, prevention and diversion). As we move towards the next versions of the tools we are committed to doing a few things better, as well as exploring whether some of the input we have received is relevant for triaging or measuring acuity. For example, we commit to examining the wording of Q17 of the American Version of the VI-SPDAT. We also commit to exploring whether a Young Head of Household Family VI-SPDAT is warranted. We are going to take a look (again) at what a medical facility discharge VI-SPDAT may look like. While we have always had the tools reviewed and critiqued from an anti-oppression framework and have reached out to various cultural groups in developing the tools, we are going to apply a more rigorous lens to matters of culture, race and ethnicity as it impacts the collection of information and use of information collected through the tools. Finally, one of the other things we are already committed to doing is providing clearer instructions for the opening script and guidance on information capture to improve reliability of information received.

It is not lost on us that the VI-SPDAT and SPDAT suite of tools have changed the way homeless service delivery is provided. We hope and trust you will help us make the next evolution of the tools better. We thank you for your help.

[http://www.orgcode.com/help\\_us\\_improve\\_vi\\_spdat\\_spdat](http://www.orgcode.com/help_us_improve_vi_spdat_spdat)

Link to Survey:

<https://www.research.net/r/SPDAT2018update>



<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Company Name</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
Alaina Marcum	RRH Case Manager	Mission Texarkana	Texarkana	Bowie
Alexzandra Hust	Director of Programs	Abilene Hope Haven	Abilene	Taylor
Andrea Wilson	Programs Director	PATH	Tyler	Smith
Antonio Kufoy	HMIS Data Specialist	Texas Homeless Network	Austin	Travis
April Bullard	RRH Case Manager	Abilene Hope Haven	Abilene	Taylor
Belinda Bradford	Admin Asst	Good Neighbor Settlement House	Brownsville	Cameron
Beth Rolingson	Director	Advocacy Outreach	Elgin	TX
Bill Reagan	Executive Director	Loaves & Fishes	Harlingen	Cameron
Bonnie Brooks	Project Coordinator	ADRC of SETX/Deep East Texas Lamar County Homelessness Coalition	Beaumont	Jefferson
Carl April	President	Texana	Reno	TX
Carol Racz	Housing and Employment Manager	Bread of Life, Inc.	Rosenberg	TX
Catherine Flowers	Executive Director	Education Service Center Region 13	Houston	Harris
Cheryl Myers	Education Specialist	City of Longview	Austin	Travis
Cheteva Marshall	ED	The Salvation Army	Longview	Texas
Christy Plemons	Director of Social Services	RANDY SAM'S OUTREACH SHELTER	Temple	TX
Connie Sherman	case manager	Friendship of Women, Inc.	Texarkana	TX
Daisy Lopez	Victim and Education Manager	Advocacy Outreach	Brownsville	Cameron
Damian Clark	HMIS Data Entry Manager	City of Denton	Elgin	Bastrop
Dani Shaw	Human Services Coordinator	Christian Community Action	Denton	Denton
Daphne' Adams	Programs Manager	Combined Community Action	Lewisville	
Deanna Lowrey-Green	Family Services Director	Neighborhood Development Corp	Giddings	Austin
Debra Huffman	Director	The Children's Center, Inc.	Orange	Orange
DEBRA WASHINGTON	Client Services Coordinator	TAN Healthcare	GALVESTON	TX
DeJernel Adams	PSH Manager	Catholic Charities of the RGV	Beaumont	Jefferson
Edna Martinez	Bookkeeper	Connections Ind & Fam Ser, Inc	San Juan / Brownsville	Hidalgo / Cameron
Elaine Brandon	Program Services Administrator	Brownsville Literacy Center	New Braunfels	Texas
Emily Younger	Interm Director	Odessa Links	Brownsville	Cameron
Erika Thomas	Executive Director	The Salvation Army	Odessa	Ector
Estrella Colon	Grant & Compliance Manager	The Salvation Army	Houston	Harris
Felicia Holland	Case Manager	Family Services if Southeast Texas	Temple	Bell
Gentry Wiebusch	Family Advocate	The Salvation Army, Tyler Corps	Beaumont	Jefferson
Ginny Reinhardt	Grants & Development Coordinator	Mid-Coast Family Services	Tyler	Smith
Ginny Stafford	CEO		Victoria	Texas

Jenny Wilson	Executive Director	United Way of Lamar County	Paris	Lamar
Jesus Hernandez	Social Services Manager	The Salvation Army	Corpus Christi	Nueces
Jo Mendoza	Outreach Case Advocate	Friendship of Women, Inc.	Brownsville	Texas
Jo Patillo	CDBG/HOME Manager	City of Beaumont	Beaumont	TX
		West Central Texas Regional Foundation	Abilene	Taylor
John Meier	WCTRF-SSVF Program Manager	Denton County MHMR	Denton	Denton
Jordan McCarty	Connections Program Coordinator	City of Brownsville	Brownsville	Cameron
Julia Lash	Program Manager	United Way of Denton County	Denton	Denton
Katherine Gonzales	Homelessness Initiatives Coordinator	Abilene Hope Haven	Abilene	Taylor
Katherine Bisson	Executive Director	Spindletop Center	Beaumont	Jefferson
Kim Redmon	SH PM	Open Door	Lubbock	Lubbock
Laura Bassett	Office Manager	Bastrop County Women's Shelter, dba Family Crisis Center	Bastrop	Bastrop
		THN	Abilene	Taylor
Lauren Jones	Grants Manager	Mid-Coast Family Services	Victoria	TX
Lexi Mercier	Vista	City of Laredo	Laredo	Webb
Lisa Griffin	Director Homeless Services	The Children's Center, Inc.	Galveston	TX
Marcela Cervantes	Housing Manager	South Texas Development Council	Laredo	Webb
Marsha Wilson Rappaport	Grants Administration	City of Brownsville	Brownsville	Cameron
Mauricette Diaz	ADRC Housing Navigator	Ellis County LHC	Waxahachie	Ellis
May Ann Perez	Social Services Coordinator	The Gulf Coast Center	Texas City	TX
Melissa Rawlins	Chair	Corpus Christi Hope House	Corpus Christi, TX	Nueces
Melissa Hollman	Contract Manager	Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition	Galveston	Galveston
Melissa Juarez	Executive Director	AISD	Andrews	Andrews
Mercedes Cardenas	Vice President	Journey Towards Wholeness	ROWLETT	TX
Michelle Acosta	mrs	La Posada Providencia	San Benito	TX
Michelle Huff-Alexander	executive director	La Posada	San Benito	State
Michelle Yates	HMIS Analyst	City of Lubbock	Lubbock	Lubbock
Monica Pena Rasmussen	Client Coordinator	Denton County MHMR Center	Denton	Denton
Monica Tracy	Community development project Specialist	FAMILY CRIISIS CENTER	HARLINGEN	CAMERON
Nathaniel Dears	Rehabilitation Specialist	FOW	Brownsville	Cameron
NORMA IONGORIA	NOMELESS PREVENTION ADVOCATE	Neighborhood Development Corp.	Orange	Orange
Olga Montes de Oca	Ms.	Friendship of Women, Inc.	Brownsville	Cameron
Rebecca Bromley	Administrative Assistant	The Salvation Army Denton	Denton	Denton
Rosie Valdez	Data Entry Specialist	Woman INC. Rapid Re-Housing	Galveston	Galveston
Ruby DeJesus	Program Supervisor			
Ruby Jones	Program Case Manager			

Ryan Shriver	Executive Director	SAFE-T	Mt Pleasant	Titus
Sabrina Lang	client service coordinator	Community Healthcore	Longview	Texas
Samantha Foss	LGBTQ Victim Services Specialist	Family Service of the Piedmont	Austin	Travis
Shealyn Stephens	Turning Point Case Manager - PSH Program	Giving Hope, Inc.	Denton	Denton
		Bastrop Co. Women's Shelter, dba		
Sherry Murphy	Executive Director	Family Crisis Center	Bastrop	Bastrop
Stephanie Jerez Rodriguez	Project Administrator	Giving Hope, Inc	Denton	Denton
Susan Clark	Alumni Case Manager	FaithWorks of Abilene, Inc.	Abilene	Texas
Taylor Cameron	Director of Residential and Crisis Services	Denton County Friends of the Family	Denton	Denton
Tierra Bishop	Grants Coordinator	Christian Community Action	LEWISVILLE	TX
		Community Action Committee of		
TIFFANY ROSS	FOP Director	Victoria, Texas	Victoria	TX
		Community Action Committee of		
Vicki Smith	ED	Victoria, Texas	Victoria	TEXAS
Wendy Noble	Case Manager	Giving Hope, Inc.	Denton	Denton
zee Carroll	Neighborhood Services Manager	City of Texarkana,tx	Texarkana,tx	Bowie