

# TX BoS CoC General Meeting

Agenda  
February 13, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

- I. **Welcome, Introductions, and Map**
- II. **Poll regarding CoC General Meetings**
- III. **Summary of prior meeting**
- IV. **How We are Ending Homelessness -- With Outreach**
  - **Endeavors:** Melissa Escamilla, Program Director of Veteran Supportive Services & Paul Castaneda, Lead Outreach & Intake Specialist.
  - **The Salvation Army of Corpus Christi:** Kyle Knutson, Case Manager Specialist.
  - **PATH Program from the Heart of Texas CoC:** Stacey Steger, ACE Team Supervisor
  - **Killeen Police Department:** Officer Kyle Moore
- V. **Community Conversation -- Undocumented Homelessness**
  - **Endeavors:** Melissa Escamilla, Program Director of Veteran Supportive Services
- VI. **CoC Priority Projects**
  - a. HMIS
    - i. System Performance Measures (SPM) clean-up
  - b. Data
    - i. Point In Time Count Numbers – When can you expect them?
  - c. Systems Change
    - i. Built for Zero
    - ii. Coordinated Entry Steering Committee
    - iii. CE Unplugged
    - iv. Regional Google Drives
    - v. 100-Day Challenges
  - d. CoC Program
    - i. Quarterly Performance Scorecard
    - ii. FY 2019 CoC Program Registration
    - iii. Potential second government shutdown--how to prepare
  - e. SSVF Program
    - i. SSVF NOFA is due to the VA on 2/22

# TX BoS CoC General Meeting

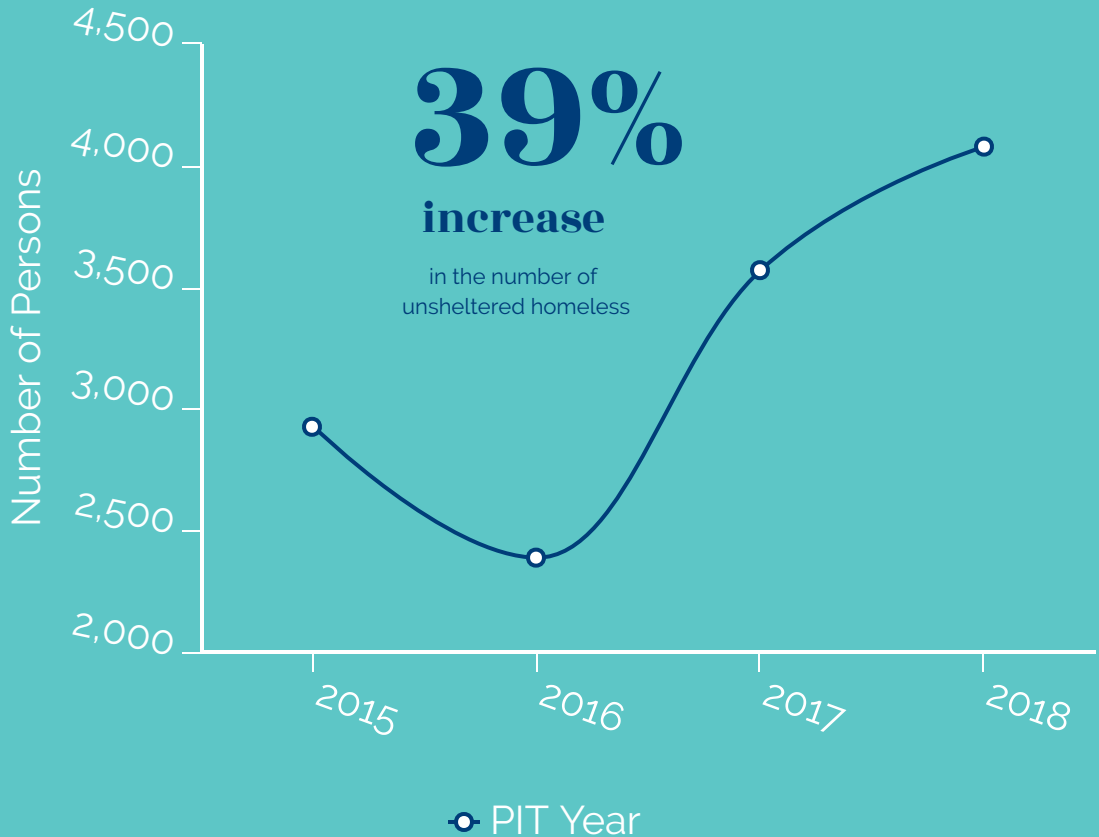
- f. ESG Program
  - i. Recipient survey about your sub award process will be sent soon
- g. LHCs
  - i. Regional calls with LHC Chairs have started; availability survey will be sent soon
- h. Governance
  - i. New Board Member, Kyle Moore

**VII. Next Meeting** – Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00, by webinar. Topic: Emergency Shelter and Interim Housing

**Staff will be available on the webinar for 15 minutes after the meeting ends, for an open discussion on topics that attendees want to discuss.**

**Everyone is invited to participate in CoC General Meetings.**

# Unsheltered Homelessness



# Key Components of Homelessness Outreach



## Who

- Outreach is primarily targeted at households experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- Outreach services can be carried out by anyone within your community, including: case managers, law enforcement, mental health professionals, etc.

## What

- Engagement
- Case management
- Emergency health & mental health services
- Transportation
- Other services for special populations



## Where

- Unsheltered homelessness is defined as: Households living in a place not meant for human habitation; such as, cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, or on the street.

## When

- Outreach teams should conduct street outreach around the clock, seven days per week.
- Additional teams should be sent out during summer and winter weather emergencies.



## Why

- Outreach is important because you can interact with individuals who are not yet ready to enter the homeless crisis response system.
- When they are ready to receive services they will know where to go.

## How

- Reducing the number of households experiencing unsheltered homeless by connecting them to services and housing interventions.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

August 5, 2016

Dear Recipients of Federal Financial Assistance:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issue this joint letter to remind recipients of federal financial assistance that they should not withhold certain services based on immigration status when the services are necessary to protect life or safety. This is not a new policy but one we think is important to restate. Some grant recipients mistakenly believe they are not authorized to provide critical, life-saving services to certain categories of immigrants.<sup>1</sup> This is not the case. As explained in greater detail below, immigration status is not a bar to providing certain services necessary to protect life or safety, such as emergency shelter, short-term housing assistance including transitional housing, crisis counseling, and intervention programs.

In the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (“PRWORA” or “the Act”), Congress restricted immigrant access to certain public benefits, but also established a set of exceptions to these restrictions. In particular, Congress provided that the following services are excepted from restrictions on immigrant access to certain benefits:

Programs, services, or assistance (such as soup kitchens, crisis counseling and intervention, and short-term shelter) specified by the Attorney General, in the Attorney General’s sole and unreviewable discretion after consultation with the appropriate Federal agencies and departments, which (i) deliver in-kind services at the community level, including through public or private nonprofit agencies; (ii) do not condition the provision of assistance, the amount of assistance provided, or the cost of assistance provided on the individual recipient’s income or resources; and (iii) are necessary for the protection of life or safety.

8 U.S.C. §§ 1611(b)(1)(D); 1621(b)(4).

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document, the term “immigrants” is used to refer to all individuals who are not U.S. citizens or nationals.

In 2001, after consulting with other Federal agencies, including HUD and HHS, the Attorney General issued an Order reiterating the three-prong test established in PRWORA and specifying the types of programs, services, or assistance determined to be necessary for the protection of life or safety:

- (a) Crisis counseling and intervention programs; services and assistance relating to child protection, adult protective services, violence and abuse prevention, victims of domestic violence or other criminal activity; or treatment of mental illness or substance abuse;
- (b) Short-term shelter or housing assistance for the homeless, for victims of domestic violence, or for runaway, abused, or abandoned children;
- (c) Programs, services or assistance to help individuals during periods of heat, cold, or other adverse weather conditions;
- (d) Soup kitchens, community food banks, senior nutrition programs such as meals on wheels, and other such community nutritional services for persons requiring special assistance;
- (e) Medical and public health services (including treatment and prevention of diseases and injuries) and mental health, disability, or substance abuse assistance necessary to protect life or safety;
- (f) Activities designed to protect the life or safety of workers, children and youths, or community residents; and
- (g) Any other programs, services, or assistance necessary for the protection of life or safety.

Attorney General Order No. 2353-2001, 66 Fed. Reg. 3616 (Jan. 16, 2001).

The Attorney General Order No. 2353-2001 (“the Attorney General Order”) remains in effect, and it is important that government-funded and community-based programs, services, or assistance, as specified in the Attorney General Order, remain accessible to all eligible individuals, regardless of immigration status. For example, immigrants experiencing domestic violence or other abuse, including sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, or human trafficking, often face significant obstacles to seeking help and safety. In particular, access to emergency shelter and transitional housing are crucial to a battered immigrant’s ability to escape abuse and break the cycle of violence.

The Secretary of HUD issued a letter to all HUD funding recipients, in 2001, clarifying that transitional housing for up to two years is a type of housing assistance covered by the Attorney General Order.<sup>2</sup> Transitional housing is by its nature short-term and intended to be a step from

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<sup>2</sup> The letter issued by the Secretary of HUD on January 19, 2001, to all HUD funding recipients clarifies that the Attorney General Order covered shelter and transitional housing programs for up to two years.

emergency shelter to permanent housing. HHS also issued guidance following the Attorney General Order that highlights the eligibility of battered immigrant survivors and their children for HHS-funded shelters and programs.<sup>3</sup> Emergency shelters and transitional housing provide survivors of domestic and sexual violence the opportunity to safely make the transition to freedom from their abusers. They also help stabilize homeless families, runaway or homeless youth, and abused and abandoned children by providing basic needs and safety while they seek to rebuild their lives.

Accordingly, this letter is a reminder to recipients of federal funding that administer programs that (i) are necessary for the protection of life or safety; (ii) deliver in-kind services at the community level; and (iii) do not condition the provision of assistance, the amount of assistance, or the cost of assistance on the individual recipient's income or resources, that such programs are not subject to PRWORA's restrictions on immigrant access to public benefits and must be made available to eligible persons without regard to citizenship, nationality, or immigration status.

In addition to the exception elaborated in the Attorney General Order, PRWORA includes a number of other exceptions that require public benefits to be provided without regard to immigration status. For example, as described at 8 U.S.C. § 1611(b)(1)(A), Medicaid is available, irrespective of an individual's immigration status, for treatment of an emergency medical condition (including labor and delivery for pregnant women), if an individual otherwise meets the Medicaid eligibility requirements. Public health assistance for immunizations and for testing and treatment of symptoms of communicable diseases can also be provided without regard to an individual's immigration status. 8 U.S.C. § 1611(b)(1)(C). Also, short-term, non-cash, in-kind emergency disaster relief is available regardless of an individual's immigration status. 8 U.S.C. § 1611(b)(1)(B).

Even if a program does not meet any of the exceptions described above, PRWORA does not prohibit "qualified aliens," as defined in the Act, from receiving certain public benefits. Section 431 of PRWORA defines "qualified aliens" to include certain battered immigrants, among others.<sup>4</sup> It is also important to note that there are many government-funded programs and services that are not considered "federal public benefits" or "state or local public benefits" and therefore are not limited by the restrictions on immigrant access to public benefits that were put in place by PRWORA.<sup>5</sup>

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Letter from Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of HUD, to HUD Funds recipients (Jan. 19, 2001), *available at* [http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc\\_Files\\_VAWnet/HUDLetter.pdf](http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/HUDLetter.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Domestic Violence Fact Sheet: Access to HHS-Funded Services for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence, originally issued January 19, 2001, and last revised August 22, 2012, *available at* <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/specialtopics/origin/domesticviolencefactsheet.html>.

<sup>4</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1641. Section 107(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386 (codified at 22 U.S.C. § 7105(b)(1)), also makes victims of "a severe form of trafficking in persons" eligible for Medicaid and other benefits (if otherwise eligible) to the same extent as an alien who is admitted to the United States as a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

<sup>5</sup> For example, HHS published a list of its programs that fall under the definition of federal public benefit. *See* Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA); Interpretation of "Federal Public Benefit," 63 Fed. Reg. 41,658 (Aug. 4, 1998). It also indicated the criteria by which to determine

“Benefit granting agencies” have the obligation to verify eligibility for federal, state, or local public benefits where required to do so pursuant to PRWORA.<sup>6</sup> However, PRWORA includes an exemption for nonprofit charitable organizations: Title IV of the Act provides that nonprofit charitable organizations are not required under the Act to verify the immigration status of applicants for federal, state, or local public benefits. 8 U.S.C. § 1642(d).

It is critical to keep in mind that organizations or agencies that receive federal funding must not discriminate against individuals on a basis prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI),<sup>7</sup> the Fair Housing Act,<sup>8</sup> the Violence Against Women Act,<sup>9</sup> the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act,<sup>10</sup> Section 109 of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974,<sup>11</sup> or any other applicable nondiscrimination law. Denying an individual a public benefit or treating an individual differently because of that individual’s race or national origin would violate one or more of these statutes. For example, a recipient of federal financial assistance may not deny benefits to applicants because they have ethnic surnames or origins outside the United States. Nor may the recipient single out individuals who look or sound “foreign” for closer scrutiny, or require them to provide additional documentation of

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which of its over 300 federal programs do not fall under the definition of “federal public benefit.” Additionally, DOJ’s Office for Victims of Crime clarified that Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) victim compensation benefits are not federal public benefits and therefore should not be denied to anyone on the basis of immigration status. See Letter from Joye Frost, Acting Director, Office for Victims of Crime, to Cassie T. Jones, Executive Director, Alabama Crime Victims’ Compensation Commission (July 2, 2010), available at <http://library.niwap.org/wp-content/uploads/OJP-OVC-Letter-on-Access-to-VOCA-Victim-Compensation-7.2.2010.pdf>. And HUD has determined that benefits under the Lead Hazard Control Program are not considered federal public benefits. See U.S. Dep’t of HUD, Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control Policy Guidance No. 2001-01 (Jan. 16, 2001). These are some examples, and not an exhaustive list, of programs that are not “federal public benefits” as defined in PRWORA.

<sup>6</sup> For more information about verification and the nonprofit exemption, see Department of Justice, Interim Guidance on Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility Under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 62 Fed. Reg. 61344, 61345 (Nov. 17, 1997).

<sup>7</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, or national origin under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance).

<sup>8</sup> 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601-3619 (prohibiting discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability).

<sup>9</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 13925(b)(13) (prohibiting discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability under any program receiving VAWA funding).

<sup>10</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 10406(c)(2) (stating that programs and activities funded in whole or in part with funds made available under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act are considered to be programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance for the purposes of applying prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act); see also 42 U.S.C. § 10406(c)(2)(B) (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex or religion).

<sup>11</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 5309 (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or religion in programs and activities receiving financial assistance from HUD’s Community Development Block Grant Program).



citizenship or immigration status.<sup>12</sup> Also, because individuals might come from families with mixed immigration status, there may be some family members who are eligible for all benefits and others who are not eligible or who can receive only a more limited subset of those benefits. Therefore, benefits providers must ensure that they do not engage in practices that deter eligible family members from accessing benefits based on their national origin.<sup>13</sup> Moreover, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, protection against national origin discrimination includes ensuring that recipients of federal financial assistance take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services for persons with limited English proficiency.<sup>14</sup>

HUD, HHS, and DOJ have the authority to enforce these laws and may appropriately sanction recipients who disregard federal laws, regulations, or guidance that protect the rights of individuals to gain access to emergency shelter, transitional housing, or other services as outlined above on a nondiscriminatory basis.

- For any program funded by HUD, please contact HUD's Housing Discrimination Hotline at 1-800-669-9777, TDD at 1-800-927-9275, or visit the website at [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/online-complaint](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint) to report any violations of this directive.
- To report national origin discrimination in HHS programs, please contact HHS's Office for Civil Rights at 1-800-368-1019, 1-800-537-7697 (TDD), by email at [ocrmail@hhs.gov](mailto:ocrmail@hhs.gov), or visit the website at [www.hhs.gov/ocr](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr).
- For any programs funded under DOJ, you may contact the Office of Civil Rights at the Office of Justice Programs at 202-307-0690, 202-307-2027 (TDD), by email at [askOCR@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:askOCR@ojp.usdoj.gov), or at the website <http://ojp.gov/about/ocr/complaint.htm>.

Sincerely,



Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General  
of the United States



Sylvia M. Burwell  
Secretary of Health  
and Human Services



Julián Castro  
Secretary of Housing  
and Urban Development

<sup>12</sup> For more information about this, see Interim Guidance on Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility Under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 62 Fed. Reg. 61344, 61346, 61360-61361 (Nov. 17, 1997).

<sup>13</sup> See, e.g., U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Services & U.S. Dep't of Agriculture, Policy Guidance Regarding Inquiries into Citizenship, Immigration Status and Social Security Numbers in State Applications for Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Food Stamp Benefits (Tri-agency guidance), available at <http://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/special-topics/national-origin/tri-agency/index.html>; 24 C.F.R. § 5.524.

<sup>14</sup> See, e.g., Exec. Order No. 13,166, 65 Fed. Reg. 50,121 (Aug. 11, 2000); Federal Agency Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Guidance for Recipients, available at [http://www.lep.gov/guidance/guidance\\_index.html](http://www.lep.gov/guidance/guidance_index.html).



August 16, 2016

## The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 and HUD's Homeless Assistance Programs

On August 11, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a joint letter to remind recipients of federal financial assistance that they must not withhold certain services based on immigration status when the services are necessary to protect life or safety. This guidance provides additional information to recipients of funds under HUD's Homeless Assistance Programs – the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and the Continuum of Care (CoC) Programs – about how this joint letter and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (“the Act”), the Act on which this letter is based, applies to assistance funded through these programs. For more information about these programs, please see 24 CFR Part 576 and 24 CFR Part 578.

In the Act, Congress restricted immigrant access to certain federal public benefits but also recognized exceptions to protect life or safety, based on a 3-part test. There are certain types of federal assistance that are not subject to the Act's restriction on access to public benefits based on immigration status. This includes activities that: (1) deliver in-kind services at the community level, (2) are necessary for the protection of life or safety, and (3) do not condition the provision of assistance on the potential program participant's income or resources. The remainder of this document covers the types of assistance funded through the ESG and CoC Programs that are covered by this life or safety exception.

HUD has determined that the following forms of assistance meet this three-part test and, therefore, are not subject to the Act's immigration-based restrictions:

- **Street Outreach Services**
- **Emergency Shelter**
- **Safe Haven**
- **Rapid Re-Housing**

**Transitional housing** meets the 3-part test and falls within the exception for life or safety, and therefore must be provided to persons without regard to immigration status, when the recipient or subrecipient owns or leases the building used to provide transitional housing. However, in transitional housing programs where the recipient or subrecipient provides rental assistance payments on behalf of program participants, this type of program does not fall within the life or safety exemption because the rental assistance provided is required by regulation to be based on the program participant's income and, therefore, does not meet the 3-part test.

HUD reminds nonprofit organizations that are recipients of CoC or ESG Program funds that the Act does not require nonprofit charitable organizations to verify the immigration status of applicants for federal, state, or local public benefits.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about verification and the nonprofit exemption, see Department of Justice, Interim Guidance on Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility Under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 62 Fed. Reg. 61344, 61345 (Nov. 17, 1997).

**Opinions**

# Welcome to the border, Mr. President

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By Sister Norma Pimentel

January 9

*Norma Pimentel, a sister of the Missionaries of Jesus, is director of Catholic Charities for the Rio Grande Valley.*

**Update:** *As of Jan. 10, Sister Norma Pimentel was scheduled to meet with President Trump during his trip to the border, according to Brenda Nettles Riojas, diocesan relations director for the Diocese of Brownsville. Pimentel attended an event with Trump but [told The Post afterward that she did not get to speak to the president.](#)*

Dear Mr. President,

We welcome you to our community here in South Texas along the Rio Grande, which connects the United States to Mexico. I wish you could visit us. Our downtown Humanitarian Respite Center has been welcoming newcomers for the past four years.

When families cross the border, they are typically apprehended by authorities, held for a few days and released with a court date to consider their request for asylum. After they are released, we receive them at our respite center. By the time they find their way to our doors, most adults are wearing Border Patrol-supplied ankle bracelets and carrying bulky chargers to keep those devices powered up.

Helping these families has been our work since 2014, when tens of thousands of people, primarily from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, crossed into the United States through the Rio Grande Valley Sector, creating a humanitarian emergency in our community. Before the respite center opened, dozens of immigrant families, hungry, scared and in a foreign land, huddled at the bus station with only the clothes on their back, nothing to eat or drink, and nowhere to shower or sleep. They waited hours and sometimes overnight for their buses.

Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley first opened the center at Sacred Heart Church in McAllen and worked collaboratively with city officials and other faith denominations and nonprofits, such as the Salvation Army and the Food Bank, to provide newly arrived immigrants with some basic necessities. We have moved to a bigger facility since.

Every day of the year, from morning to evening, families coming over the border are welcomed at our center with smiles, a warm bowl of soup, a shower and a place to rest. Most families are exhausted and afraid, carrying little more than a few belongings in a plastic bag. They come in all forms and at all ages. Few speak any English. Most are in great need of help. Some days, we see 20 people. Other days, it's closer to 300. In recent weeks, it has been very busy. Some stay a few hours, but many spend the night before heading on to new destinations. Since we opened, more than 100,000 have come through our doors.

We work closely with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Rio Grande Valley Sector, and our team has cultivated a culture of mutual respect and dialogue. Our center staff, in communication with the Border Patrol,

prepares to receive groups of immigrants who have been released. We try to meet the need. It is vital that we keep our country safe, and I appreciate the work of the men and women in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection who are vigilant as to who enters our country. I pray for them daily.

Mr. President, if you come early in the morning, here is what you will see: The families who have spent the night are tidying up their sleeping spaces. Some are sweeping, some are helping prepare breakfast, and some are getting ready for their bus departure to other places in the United States. You will see volunteers arriving to offer a hand either preparing hygiene packets, making sandwiches, cutting vegetables, preparing the soup for the day or sorting through donated clothing. Others may assist with the intake or help a mother or father contact family living in the United States. People come from all over the state and beyond to help.

Later in the day, you will meet some of the children who are playing in our small play yard and the mothers and fathers who are watching over them. Some will be resting, as for many of them this is the first place since they left their home countries where they feel safe.

In the evening, another group of volunteers arrives to cook and serve a simple dinner of pizza or tacos, beans and rice, Sometimes local restaurants donate the dinner. Either way, the families who will remain for the night have a meal and prepare to sleep. In the morning, we send them on their way, a little better off but armed with a sign (that we give them) that reads: “ PLEASE HELP ME. I DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. WHAT BUS DO I TAKE? THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!”

I am energized each day by the families I meet, especially the children. I am energized as well by the volunteers. They come from our local communities but also from across the United States. We witness daily how, working together, people of all faiths can focus on helping the person in front of us. Regardless of who we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

As the Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, bishop of our diocese, says, “We must put human dignity first.”

### **Read more:**

[Karen Tumulty: Sister Norma wanted to show Trump what it is like on the border. He didn't care to listen.](#)

[Dana Milbank: Trump's wall isn't evil. It's medieval.](#)

[Karen Tumulty: God on the border](#)

[Victoria Ochoa: I'm from the border. The news is getting it wrong.](#)

[The Post's View: Trump's shutdown has paralyzed immigration courts. Oh, the irony.](#)

[Megan McArdle: The immigration conversation we need to have — and soon](#)

[Ali Noorani: How we can follow our laws at the border — and still be a nation of grace](#)

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# TX BoS CoC General Meeting

## NOTES

February 13, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

**CoC Member attendees:** see attached list

**CoC Staff at THN:** Jen Beardsley, Kraig Blaize-Fiero, Matthew Devine, Tiffany Hart, Kyra Henderson, Antonio Kufoy, Victoria Lopez, Mollie Lund, Elena Lusk, Marissa Ortega, Mary Stahlke, Jim Ward, Andrew Willard, Kristin Zakoor

**Link to meeting recording:** <https://thn.adobeconnect.com/pmg4iicrp9xk/>

### I. Welcome, Introductions, and Map

At 2:00 Antonio welcomed attendees. THN staff showed themselves on webcams. Kraig facilitated attendees indicating their locations on an interactive map.

### II. Poll regarding CoC General Meetings

CoC staff at THN want to make sure we're serving your communities and your organizations in the best way, so nine poll questions were asked, and attendees answered the questions. The results will inform future CoC meetings.

### III. Summary of prior meeting

Antonio summarized the January CoC General Meeting. The topic was Homelessness Prevention and Diversion, and the community conversation was about unsheltered homelessness.

### IV. How We are Ending Homelessness -- With Outreach

Kyra and Mollie gave a pre-test that attendees answered via poll. The Data Snapshot showed a 39% increase in unsheltered homelessness in the TX BoS CoC from 2015 to 2018, based on Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts. An infographic showed the key components of homeless outreach. Staff facilitated a panel of presenters about outreach.

- **Endeavors:** Melissa Escamilla, Program Director of Veteran Supportive Services & Paul Castaneda, Lead Outreach & Intake Specialist.

Successful outreach—Conducting outreach to an agency that doesn't participate in the local homeless coalition's (LHC's) or BoS activities. They don't receive federal dollars and don't use HMIS. Many people experiencing homelessness congregate outside the shelter. The outreach team approached a group of people near the shelter and announced they were seeking veterans experiencing homelessness; they found one and got him into housing, and he is still housed. Seek out agencies that aren't participating and aren't connected, and bring them into services.

Resistance—Some folks suffer from PTSD or have severe mental disabilities. Some people don't want to have anything to do with organizations that help veterans or with the VA (SSVF is VA-funded). We'll continue to reach out to them, give them hygiene items, ask how

# TX BoS CoC General Meeting

they're doing, and build the relationship. The system in general might have failed them, so they are hesitant to get engaged. Don't give up on them.

- **The Salvation Army of Corpus Christi:** Kyle Knutson, Case Manager Specialist.

Successful outreach—He has been doing Street Outreach (SO) for 5 years. Workers need to go out to people experiencing chronic homelessness. We have a permanent supportive housing (PSH) grant, so we can help people go straight from the streets into housing, which is helpful because many of them don't want to go into shelter. We have thirteen clients in PSH, and all of them have stayed housed for at least 1 year.

The Salvation Army has both SO and Emergency Shelter (ES). What is the relationship between the two? – Kyle: Having ES makes SO easier because I can gain people's trust, and I can offer them a stay in shelter or even just a shower. We want to lower people's barriers to entering shelter.

- **PATH Program from the Heart of Texas CoC:** Stacey Steger, ACE Team Supervisor  
Successful outreach—I have worked in the PATH program for 5 years. We had conducted outreach to one person for 5 years: Our team tried to build a relationship and took him snacks, but he was not engaging in services. One day the person talked with the staff, and they gave him food and talked with him about housing. They immediately took him to the Heart of Texas center to enroll him in PSH. He also got connected with mental health resources, and he joined our services.

What is your approach to working with people who have serious mental illness (SMI) or co-occurring substance-use disorders (SUDs)? – Stacey: We're well-versed and well-trained to work with people who have those issues. We use motivational interviewing (MI), the Stages of Change model, rolling with resistance, avoiding pushing a client, focusing on client-centered treatment, and using active listening skills. The biggest part of PATH is to meet clients where they're at—literally physically, but also mentally and spiritually. We help them to build skills to build a better life.

- **Killeen Police Department:** Officer Kyle Moore

Successful outreach—Going to where the people are is how you're able to reach them. He has a working relationship with schools. A school counselor asked him to be on the lookout for one of the students. He found her and went into "daddy mode" and he took her to an alternative school so she could finish her degree. The girl had been adopted, and they reached out to her adoptive mom, who didn't know that she was living on the street. They sent the girl by plane back to her mother in Connecticut. If there hadn't been SO, returning to her mother more than likely would never have happened, and she could have become a statistic.

How have you, as a law enforcement officer, been able to engage with people while doing SO? — As everyone else said, sometimes it's difficult to work with the homeless population, and I had additional barriers because I wore a police uniform. Some ways I've engaged: being available, being downtown every day, stopping to say hello, having snacks, and having hygiene products. When people see you helping people, "people talk." They say, "Officer Moore" or "Officer Kyle helped me out!" or "Ofcr. Moore got me a birth certificate!"

# TX BoS CoC General Meeting

For all panelists: What are suggestions for other communities? Why is it important for communities to have SO?

Kyle M: His police department followed the police street outreach model that is being used in other cities. It takes patience and good communication skills. "You can't arrest your way out of homelessness." Need to come from more of a social work perspective.

Stacy: McLennan County/Heart of Texas region: working with all our social service agencies. PATH staff has only 4 people for a 7-county region. We rely heavily on our LHC and our community members to help with resources—housing assistance, bus tickets, regional travel for clients. We try to involve our partners in outreach, as well. Have community members go with us, so they're not scared or intimidated to do it themselves. We involve everyone in the PIT Count.

Melissa: Work with local community businesses (laundromats, soup kitchens that aren't well-publicized) for assistance with items such as clothing vouchers and partnering with a laundromat to allow people to wash their clothes.

Q&A from attendees:

1. Ofcr. Moore, how did you go about getting IDs and other papers for clients?  
Kyle—He attended Texas State Conference on Ending Homelessness last October and talked with San Antonio Police Department homeless outreach officers to see how they help with that. It's a slow process sometimes, but start from where they are and what they have. Support H.B. 623, which proposes to help homeless people obtain TX IDs or drivers licenses. That will make our outreach jobs easier.
2. Talk about how SO efforts are a vital part of the Coordinated Entry (CE) system.  
Melissa—CE creates an environment where all community organizations work together. Avoid side doors to entering the homeless services system. CE will help us get referrals to the right place and avoid people getting referred to different agencies  
Stacy—PATH co-workers have iPads and will go under bridges, into the trees, wherever people might be, to do CE. So, people experiencing homelessness don't have to go to the CE access points.
3. How would you recommend reaching out to local PDs to develop a HOT?  
Ofcr. Moore -- Many PDs believe PDs shouldn't be involved in homeless services. I would challenge them to do some research about the benefits. Police officers can't do it by themselves. We need our community partners. Ofcr. Moore is willing to talk with officers who want more information. [kmoores@killeentexas.gov](mailto:kmoores@killeentexas.gov).

Kyra and Mollie gave a post-test, and attendees answered the questions via poll.



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## V. **Community Conversation** -- Persons without Documentation who are Experiencing Homelessness

- **Endeavors:** Melissa Escamilla, Program Director of Veteran Supportive Services Providing services for persons without documentation isn't getting national attention, but the TX CoC Board has been talking about this topic.

Which communities are facing this issue? Attendees keyed Bastrop, Beaumont, Brownsville, Cameron County, Elgin, Giddings, Laredo, McAllen, Nueces Co., San Benito, and Temple.

[See 3 handouts]

How frequently do people without documentation present for services? Increase or decrease or no change in the past year? Many attendees responded: Increase

How many people end up staying in your community?

Melissa: We experience that some people are transferred to other areas of the U.S. because they have family members there. Some people have nowhere else to go. Some people want to return to their home countries, but there isn't funding to pay for their transportation.

What are the current barriers to providing services to undocumented individuals experiencing homelessness? Attendees responded: No picture IDs, not enough resources, no money, fear of ICE or deportation if they seek services, difficulty finding employment, not knowing how to go about it, minimal resources, not being able to follow up with people who move around a lot, language barriers, and people not sure whom to contact that they can trust.

Melissa: some people speak different dialects of Spanish, so we need volunteers who speak all those dialects. They tried to take this issue on a national level, but we were asked to step back because it's such a political hot issue right now. Agencies in our communities are footing the bill. Not enough people to help with the influx that we're seeing, especially the caravans. Our shelters along the border are already overwhelmed with our current homeless population.

Andrew: Are agencies afraid of what might happen to their agencies if they serve undocumented people? In at least one community, funding has been affected; donors don't want to donate because we are assisting undocumented individuals.

The needs are bigger than our funds are

Melissa: We agencies want to help people. Barrier: people are afraid. Agencies just want more resources.

Andrew: What are some tools or strategies to overcome the barriers to serving this population? Language translation apps like Google Translate, offer free English classes, have French-speaking staff

Tiffany: For Coordinated Entry, funded projects are required to have a plan in place for folks who don't speak English.

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What are the major asks that you have of THN on this topic? Training? -- How can we make the most with limited resources in serving individuals with different cultural values and a different language?

Melissa: We need to bring these issues to the forefront, so we can adequately serve this population.

## VI. CoC Priority Projects

### a. HMIS

#### i. System Performance Measures (SPM) clean-up

The HMIS team is wrapping up the Universal Data Quality (UDQ) process—Thanks for working with the team.

SPM clean-up: SPMS are the seven measures HUD has CoCs tracking, to indicate the performance of our homeless crisis response system. THN will send information to you shortly. HMIS users, you will get emails soon.

### b. Data

i. Point In Time Count Numbers –The PIT Count results will be available in the next couple of days.

ii. Housing Inventory (HIC)—If you haven't submitted the HIC data, please send it ASAP.

### c. Systems Change

i. Built for Zero--Two communities applied to participate in the project, but neither passed threshold, so THN will continue to work with the communities already participating: Abilene and Denton.

ii. Coordinated Entry Steering Committee – All 17 CE regions have identified their representatives to serve on CE Steering Committee.

iii. CE Unplugged calls are held monthly to discuss CE topics.

iv. Regional Google Drives – THN has established drives to allow people to access all CE documents in their regions. [See Systems Change handout]

v. 100-Day Challenges -- If your community is interested in doing one, contact Tiffany or fill out an interest form.

### d. CoC Program

i. Quarterly Performance Scorecard -- Thanks for submitting your scorecards. We're doing follow-up calls. If you have more feedback, let Andrew know.

ii. FY 2019 CoC Program Registration –

1. The Registration was released Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. It signals the beginning of "NOFA season," or the time period when CoCs are helping agencies in their coverage area to respond to HUD's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for CoC Program funding. That requires no action on your part;

# TX BoS CoC General Meeting

THN will respond on behalf of the CoC, to say that THN is the Collaborative Applicant for the CoC and to confirm the geographic area of the CoC.

2. The Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) will be released in March, so we will reach out to projects that currently receive CoC Program funding. If you are NOT a current grantee, and you're interested in HUD funds, contact Jim Ward, Asst. Director of Planning, at [Jim@thn.org](mailto:Jim@thn.org) or Sohia Checa, CoC Director, at [Sophia@thn.org](mailto:Sophia@thn.org).
  3. Potential second government shutdown: how to prepare -- HUD staff are working hard on grant agreements. If you have questions, contact Jim or your HUD Field representative.
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- e. SSVF Program -- SSVF grant applications are due to the VA on 2/22. Applications require a letter of support from THN. If you need a letter, contact Mollie Lund, ESG and SSVF Performance Coordinator, at [mollie@thn.org](mailto:mollie@thn.org).
  - f. ESG Program – Mollie will soon send a survey to ESG Recipients (those jurisdictions that receive ESG funds directly from HUD) about your sub-award process so we can better coordinate with you, as CoCs are required to do.
  - g. Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) -- Regional calls with LHC Chairs have started. Jen Beardsley, CoC Coordination and Engagement VISTA, will soon send a survey of Chairs' availability, to finish scheduling initial calls. The calls will then become topic-specific rather than regional, and will be open to all LHC Chairs.
  - h. Governance – The CoC Board has appointed Kyle Moore to Seat 12, designated to represent law enforcement/criminal justice. Kyle is an officer with the Killeen Police Department. Kyle's term goes through September 2020.

**VII. Next Meeting** – Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00, by webinar. Topic: Emergency Shelter and Interim Housing

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

**Everyone is invited to participate in CoC General Meetings.**

February 2019 CoC General Meeting Attendance – 2/13/19 - 2:00 pm

Name	Attendance Status	Company Name
Alaina Marcum	Attended	Mission Texarkana
Andrea Omojola	Attended	Open Door
Andrea Wilson	Attended	PATH
Anna Rodriguez	Attended	CCRGV
Artie Robinson	Attended	FIC
Bertha Ramirez	Attended	Ozanam Center
Beth Rolingson	Attended	Advocacy Outreach
Bonnie Brooks	Attended	Aging and Disability Resource Center
Brenda Fawbush	Attended	Corpus Christi Metro Ministries
Chad Wheeler	Attended	Lubbock Open Door
Cheryl Myers	Attended	Region 13 Education Service Center
Christy Plemons	Attended	The Salvation Army
Connie Sherman	Attended	Randy Sams' Outreach Shelter
Cory Lucas	Attended	Vetstar
Daisy Lopez	Attended	Friendship of Women Inc.
Damian Clark	Attended	Advocacy Outreach
Daniel Torres	Attended	Ozanam Center
Danny Coca	Attended	Hidalgo County
David Peters	Attended	east Texas sheltering arms coalition
Deanna Lowrey-Green	Attended	Combined Community Action
Debra Huffman	Attended	Neighborhood Development Corp
DEBRA WASHINGTON	Attended	The Children's Center, Inc.
DeJernel Adams	Attended	TAN Healthcare
Eric Johnson	Attended	US Vets
Erika Thomas	Attended	Odessa Links
Felicia Holland	Attended	The Salvation Army
Ginny Stafford	Attended	Mid-Coast Family Services
Gloria Luna	Attended	United Way of Brazoria County
Hermelinda Garcia	Attended	Catholic Charities RGV
Irma Garza	Attended	Hidalgo County Urban County Program
Jay Morgan	Attended	Community Healthcore
Jessica McMurray	Attended	Families In Crisis
Jo Patillo	Attended	City of Beaumont
John Meier	Attended	WCTRF-SSVF
Jordan McCarty	Attended	Denton County MHMR
Juana Wright	Attended	Families In Crisis
Karah Witzsche	Attended	Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities
Karisa Garner	Attended	Heart of Texas Region MHMR - PATH
Katherine Bisson	Attended	Abilene Hope Haven
Katherine Gonzales	Attended	United Way of Denton County
Kayla Lima	Attended	South Texas Development Council

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Kemberley Calk	Attended	Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission
Kyle Knutson	Attended	The Salvation Army
Latisha Norris	Attended	Giving HOPE, INC
Letesha Gaither	Attended	American Legion Post #141
Lisa Griffin	Attended	Mid-Coast Family Services
Marisela Almeida	Attended	Good Neighbor Settlement House
Marsha Wilson Rappaport	Attended	The Children's Center
Mary Jones	Attended	Denton County homeless coalition
Melanie Thornton-Lewis	Attended	The Salvation Army of Galveston County
Melinda Baker	Attended	Corpus Christi Hope House, Inc.
Melissa Gutierrez	Attended	Loaves & Fishes of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.
Melissa Juarez	Attended	Corpus Christi Hope House
Mercedes Cardenas	Attended	Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition
Michaelle Wormly	Attended	Women Opting for More Affordable Housing Now, Inc. (WOMAN, Inc.)
Michelle Johnston	Attended	Families In Crisis Inc.
Michelle Yates	Attended	La Posada
Monica Pena Rasmussen	Attended	La Posada
Nathaniel Dears	Attended	Denton County MHMR Center
Norma Norma	Attended	Family Crisis Center
Penny Hniguira	Attended	The Salvation Army
Rachel Dean	Attended	Families in Crisis, Inc.
Rebecca Bromley	Attended	Neighborhood Development Corp.
Rebecca Ramirez	Attended	Families in Crisis, Inc.
Reverend E Lawson	Attended	The Chosen Ones Outreach Ministries of Galveston,
Ricardo Hinojosa	Attended	WestCare
Richard Dunn	Attended	Kaufman Christian Help Center
Roberta Gradel	Attended	Central Counties Services
Ruby Jones	Attended	Woman Inc.
Sabrina Lang	Attended	Community Healthcore
Samuel Anzaldua	Attended	Brownsville Literacy Center
Sherry Murphy	Attended	Family Crisis Center
Stephanie Jerez-Rodriguez	Attended	Giving HOPE
Susy Venegas	Attended	South Texas Development Council
Tammie Porter	Attended	Longview Housing Authority
Taylor Cameron	Attended	Denton County Friends of the Family
Ted Henderson	Attended	CitySquare Paris
TIFFANY ROSS	Attended	Community Action Committee of Victoria, Texas
Tommy Lee Martinez	Attended	Loaves and Fishes of the RGV, Inc.
Vicki Smith	Attended	Community Action Committee of Victoria, Texas
Zee Carroll	Attended	City of Texarkana, TX