

# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

## 2019 TX BoS CoC Board Member Elections Nominee Information and Paper Ballot

All seats are elected for a two-year term, from October 2019 through September 2021

### Seat 1 – Persons with Lived Experience of Homelessness:

- **Name: JOHN MEIER**

**Position:** VHS/SSVF Program Manager at West Central Texas Regional Foundation

**Biographical statement:** John Meier is the Chair of the Home Again West Texas, Chair of Coordinated Entry Steering Committee for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, Chair of the Youth Homeless Steering Committee of Taylor county, and Program Manager for West Central Texas Regional Foundation – Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). John served in the United States Marine Corps. He worked as a Math/Special Education Teacher in Texas for 8 years. John personally experienced homelessness in 2014 that lead him to seek services from the VA and SSVF. Since that time he has pursued the goal of making homelessness “rare, brief, and nonrecurring” for Veterans in 25 counties in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care. John has coordinated with Community Solutions, Built for Zero initiative since 2018 to achieve a Quality By Name List, Functional Zero for Veteran homelessness, and Ending Veteran Homelessness utilizing federal benchmarks provided by United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in Abilene, Texas.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** I want to be involved in the continuing growth of services offered within the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, as well as continuing improvements in processes for delivering those services.

**BoS Counties served:** Brown, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Howard, Jones, Kent, Knox, McCulloch, Mills, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, San Saba, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton, and Tom Green

- **Name: NORA MONTALVO-LIENDO**

**Position:** Assistant Professor

**Biographical Statement:** As a bilingual, bicultural nurse in the Rio Grande Valley, Dr. Montalvo-Liendo connects research to practice and maintains an active clinical practice in shelters on the Texas–Mexico border. Through her active civic engagement, she has established a long history of collaborations with several non-profit community agencies, private medical practice clinics, and community health clinics to solve a critical public health problem, that of domestic abuse. She has also worked with the Texas Council on Family Violence to design legislative agendas to improve the safety and well-being of victims of domestic violence. She has made it her life’s work to serve the people along the Texas–Mexico border, who are among the poorest Americans.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** I would like to serve on the CoC Board, to contribute my expertise to prevent homelessness. If elected, I plan to be an active member focusing on addressing the many challenges faced by homeless people.

**BoS Counties served:** Cameron



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- **Name: KENNETH OWENS**

**Position:** Volunteer

**Biographical statement:** Hi, I'm Kennie. I'm not homeless anymore though I was...and was actually. I don't really know what to say on these things they make me nervous. Let me just say that I have been a lifelong servant. Sometimes that's given me the glorious job of making a lot of phone calls to offices of elected officials but most of the time it's been folding and putting up chairs at the end of the night. Right now I'm just about to start a job just to pay the bills so that I can advocate with my free time. This is what I do now.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** I want to serve on the board as a bridge between the voices down the hall or down the street who don't get heard oftentimes in the meetings so that we can collaborate together to end the experience of homelessness for our neighbors in Texas (first).

**BoS Counties served:** Taylor

## Seat 3 – Chronically Homeless Persons

- **Name: ANDREA OMOJOLA**

**Position:** Deputy Director, Open Door

**Biographical statement:** Andrea Omojola serves as the Deputy Director at Open Door in Lubbock. Andrea possesses a Master's in Public Health as well as a Masters in Divinity and daily combines her educational experience with vast work history to support those who are experiencing poverty and homelessness. Though she is a new addition to Texas and the world of homeless advocacy she comes to the table with globally diverse experience in the non-profit sector, energy and compassion that make her an ideal candidate for the CoC Board of Directors. Andrea is highly skilled but, more importantly, extremely open to learning with a true heart for those experiencing poverty of heart, body and situation. Andrea is married and living in the Heart of Lubbock.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** When I decided that I wanted to be a public health practitioner, it was with the heart of affecting change and having an opportunity to speak into policies and practices that guide community development and community health (physically, socioeconomically, and globally). To that end, my career has been a series of building blocks that have led me to this season where I have the ability and opportunity to do that in a practical way for those experiencing chronic homelessness in our city and in our state. I realize that the work that we have before us can only be accomplished when organizations such as ours work diligently with other organizations to build and reinforce effective systems of care. To be able to serve on the CoC Board would be directly in line with my personal values but, more importantly, would help me to be effective in carrying out the mission and vision of Open Door, supporting those experiencing chronic homelessness in the State of Texas.

**BoS Counties served:** Lubbock

- **Name: TERESA THOMPSON**

**Position:** Client Navigator at Front Steps

**Biographical statement:** How does one cope when carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders? They push through with encouragement and guidance from those who have the experience they don't. Teresa Thompson is my name. I have had the exposure of being on both the



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burdened and the support. As a volunteer in various positions I've learned the principles of Charity. As a business owner I've learned the principles of hard work, time and priority management and appreciation for opportunity. As a mother and grandmother I've learned to earn respect through sacrifice and tough love. As a salesperson and employee I learned to earn the highest achievements through quality customer service, goal setting and persistence . As a human I have learned to maintain peace within by relying on a higher power.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** My motivation for wanting to serve on the CoC Board is to be part of a team that will assist in bringing healing to a struggling and growing population.

**BoS Counties served:** Hays

- **Name: MARSHA WILSON RAPPAPORT**

**Position:** Grants Director at The Children's Center, Inc.

**Biographical statement:** Marsha Wilson Rappaport is a published author, journalist and grant writer in Galveston, Texas. She has a history of public service and served a term in 2011 as the Commissioner on the Texas Commission on the Arts. She was appointed by then-Governor Rick Perry. She has also served on numerous local boards, including the Tourism Advisory Board of Galveston, the Galveston Park Board of Trustees, Advisory Board of the Galveston Historical Foundation, and the City Council-Appointed Galveston Recovery Committee after Hurricane Ike. Recently served on the Steering Committee of Vision Galveston.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** During the past few years, I have really been impressed by the work the Texas Homeless Network is doing. Dealing with homelessness in Texas is difficult because of the “independent” ethos of the state. The great wealth of the state masks the plight of the homeless here. I think the organization is really needed. They are making a dedicated effort to find ways to abate homelessness in our state.

**BoS Counties served:** Galveston

## Seat 5 – Homeless Youth

- **Name: JOSH COGAN**

**Position:** CEO at Outlast Youth

**Biographical statement:** Josh Cogan is the CEO & Co-Founder of Outlast Youth, focusing on LGBTQ youth homelessness as an arm of the City of Dallas' LGBTQ Task Force. Cogan's passion for eliminating LGBTQ youth homelessness was struck as the Lead Pastor and Pioneer of The Awakening, a former church plant in the Deep Ellum neighborhood of Dallas. He holds a B.M. in Music Composition from Gardner-Webb University and a M.A. in Theology with a Worship Leadership emphasis from Dallas Baptist University. Originally born in Statesville, North Carolina, Josh now resides in Dallas, TX with his crazy dog Duffy, a cocker spaniel-golden retriever mix.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** I wholeheartedly believe in the CoC and, as Outlast Youth expands its work in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, I see that youth in our rural areas are often overlooked when it comes to addressing homelessness. I would love the opportunity to bring my expertise and passion for serving our neighbors experiencing homelessness to the CoC board.

**BoS Counties served:** Denton, Ellis, and Rockwall



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- **Name: NORMA MERCADO**

**Position:** Homeless/Foster Care Liaison at Bastrop ISD

**Biographical statement:** Norma Mercado received her Bachelors in Applied Arts and Sciences from Texas State University and currently enrolled in the Social Work Master's Program at Texas State University. Mrs. Mercado has over seventeen years of experience working with at-risk student population and actively advocates for the needs of youth homelessness in her community. Mrs. Mercado recently awarded the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth grant to provide additional support and basic needs for homeless students in the BISD school district.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** Being part of the CoC Board provides an opportunity to continue advocating for the need of youth homeless and ensure their voice is heard in any decision making regarding funding and policies.

**BoS Counties served:** Bastrop

## Seat 7 – Mental/Behavioral Health *[Unopposed]*

- **Name: LINDA WHITE**

**Position:** Director of Education, Life Church/ New Life Mission

**Experience:** My name is Linda May White. I'm a 63 year old retired RN of 30+ years. I'm married and have 6 children, 20 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. I am currently teaching Parenting and Life Skills and Addiction Recovery classes at my local church in Morris County. I am beginning the process of opening a shelter for homeless women in Morris County.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** I would be honored to be able to be a voice for the mentally ill and psychologically impaired people who are homeless in the state of Texas. In my nursing career I have seen how the homeless and uninsured are treated by the medical system. It breaks my heart and if elected to represent this under-served population, I will do everything in my power to give these people a voice in every branch of government in Austin and Washington if that's what it takes to change the way our mentally ill homeless are viewed and treated. Except for the Grace of God....There walketh I.

**BoS Counties served:** Morris

## Seat 9 – Local Government *[Unopposed]*

- **Name: DANI SHAW**

**Position:** Community Development Manager for the City of Denton

**Biographical statement:** Dani Shaw is the Community Development Manager for the City of Denton. She has spent more than 25 years serving in public, for-profit, and nonprofit organizations related to community development, human services, education, advocacy, and public policy. Dani is passionately committed to harnessing the power of community, breaking down silos, work collectively, empowering voices from different parts of communities, and using human power, community resources and collaborative decision-making to drive real and lasting change. Prior to joining the City, she spent 12 years providing education to industry professionals; quality assessment through



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accreditation of programs; data, research, and public policy analysis; and she advocated for the healthy development of children. She has also provided consulting expertise, training, and support in areas such as risk management, staff development, project and performance management, prevention of child abuse, homelessness, and program impact.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** If elected, I will continue to support the CoC in all of our efforts to make homelessness a rare, brief and one-time experience.

**BoS Counties served:** Denton

## Seat 11 – Public Housing Agency *[Unopposed]*

- **Name:** ANTONIO WILLIAMS

**Position:** CEO/Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Texarkana, Texas

**Biographical statement:** Antonio D. Williams is the Housing Authority of the City of Texarkana (HATT's) Chief Executive Officer where he is currently engaged in several affordable housing development opportunities there. He has more than 25 years of experience in the affordable housing industry (12 years as a business owner in the affordable housing industry) and 12 years in government contracting for the Department of Defense and as an employee of Fortune 500 companies. He specializes in compliance services with a focus on, quality assurance/control, business process re-engineering, strategic planning, project management, operations management, and contract administration.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** I would like to serve on the board to accept the challenge to reduce homelessness anywhere there is a need. If I am elected, I will leverage my relationships at HUD, PHAs, municipalities, and financial institutions to develop more progressive strategies and measurable outcomes to gain the biggest return and expenditures on available and new funding earmarked for homelessness.

**BoS Counties served:** Bowie

## Seat 13 – Business *[Unopposed]*

- **Name:** RICHARD “BARRY” WHEELER

**Position:** Mortgage Loan Officer, Cornerstone Home Lending

**Biographical statement:** Raised in Austin, TX. Eanes Elementary, Valley View, Cedar Creek, Hill County and Westlake High School. Graduated Southwest Texas State University in 1999. I have a passion for helping people gain housing. I have helped over 1,500 families buy their home over the last 15 years. I have a servant's heart which leads me to volunteer in my community. I am an active person who attends several meetings and outreach programs throughout the year. From Mobile Loaves and Fishes to Central Texas Food bank. From Austin Board of Realtors to Brownsville, TX Good Neighbor Settlement homeless shelter.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** I come with a servant's heart to give compassion and kindness to those in need. I am focused on understanding what challenges each person faces and work to help find a housing solution. I do not believe there is a silver bullet to fix all problems or that every situation has the same answer. I am focused on the details to find small incremental solutions, attacking the



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problems one step at a time. By continuously working on multiple solutions, small steps will lead to big changes.

**BoS Counties served:** Bastrop, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, and Hays

## Seat 15 – Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH) or State Government Agency *[Unopposed]*

- **Name:** MARQUS BUTLER

**Position:** Manager-V of Reentry Systems and Parole Operations at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department

**Biographical statement:** Driven senior executive with extensive experience in holistic social services and human capital management. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a proven track record of maximizing business opportunities and consistently achieving organizational goals. Colleagues consistently recognize me as a hands-on, expert critical thinker and problem solver that can rapidly resolve systemic challenges. I have established a professional reputation for persistently negotiating partnerships and alliances to support future business market trends.

**Reasons nominee wants to serve:** I have a passion for working with traditionally under-served populations, and believe the best way to transform systems is internally.

**BoS Counties served:** All counties in Texas

**SEE THE PAPER BALLOT ON PAGE 7 or vote electronically at**

**<https://www.thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019-CoC-Board-Elections-Paper-Ballot-9-1-2019.pdf>**



# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

## 2019 CoC BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

### BALLOT

To vote for a nominee, check the box beside the nominee's name. Select no more than one nominee per seat. If you do not wish to vote for any nominee(s) in a specific seat, leave the box(-es) blank.

**\* Ballots are due September 22, 2019, at 11:59 P.M.**

#### SEAT 1

- John Meier
- Nora Montalvo-Liendo
- Kenneth Owens

#### SEAT 3

- Andrea Omojola
- Teresa Thompson
- Marsha Wilson Rappaport

#### SEAT 5

- Josh Cogan
- Norma Mercado

#### SEAT 7 [unopposed]

- Linda White

#### SEAT 9 [unopposed]

- Dani Shaw

#### SEAT 11 [unopposed]

- Antonio Williams

#### SEAT 13 [unopposed]

- Richard "Barry" White

#### SEAT 15 [unopposed]

- Marqus Butler

Please fill in the information below to complete your ballot:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

County/counties where you live and/or work: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how you are affiliated with homeless services in the TX BoS CoC:

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Scan and email a completed ballot to: Mary Stahlke, CoC Manager, at [mary@thn.org](mailto:mary@thn.org) or mail a completed ballot to: Mary Stahlke, CoC Manager, c/o THN, 1713 Fortview Road, Austin, TX 78704

