

TX BoS CoC General Meeting

June 10, 2020, 2:00-3:30 P.M., by Webinar

NOTES

Attendees: *see attached list*

Staff present: Kraig Blaize-Fiero, Sophia Checa, Kyra Henderson, Margaret Hill, Victoria Lopez, Mollie Lund, Marissa Ortega, Mary Stahlke, Jim Ward, Linda Xiong, and Kristin Zakoor

Link to meeting recording:

https://thn.adobeconnect.com/pmqtk4qdfc2/?OWASP_CSRFTOKEN=b770efe21b5539f354ec2e71457d5d618c97143f51fe7e6f7920c8f7bcd1655d

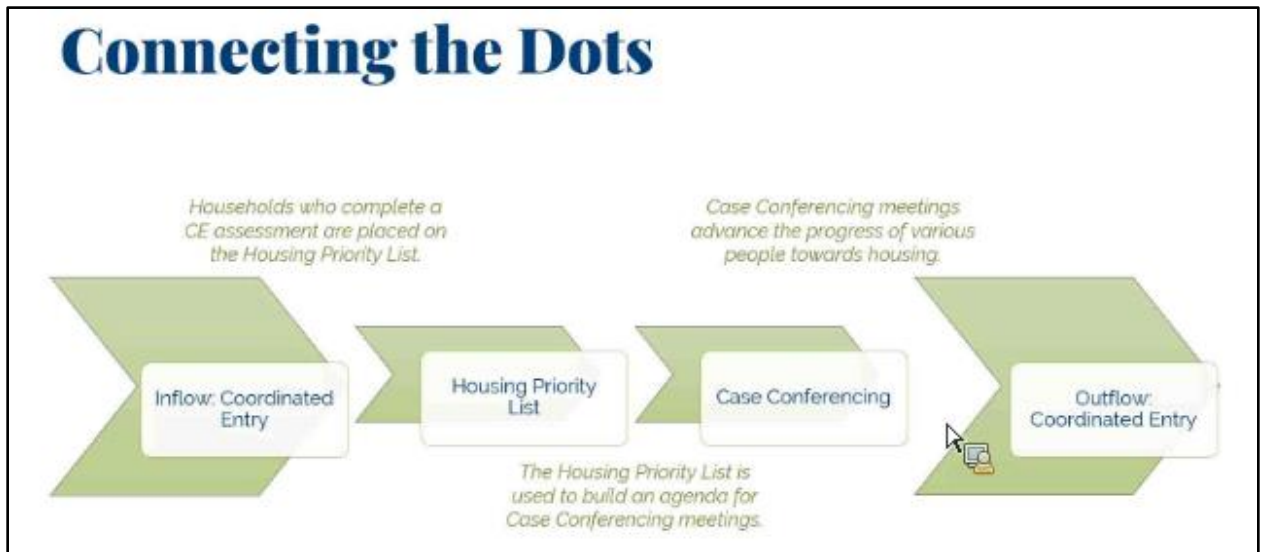
Director of CoC Programs, Sophia Checa, opened the meeting by expressing sympathy for the deaths of Black people and describing how THN staff are engaging in thoughtful conversation about addressing racism, including systemic racism, and strategizing about how to make equity a focus of our work moving forward.

- I. Staff welcomed attendees, showed a photo collage of THN staff, and asked attendees to indicate their locations on a map.

- II. **Data Snapshot – COVID-19 Symptom Screening Tool in HMIS** – *see attached presentation slides* -- Staff presented information about the importance of screening all participants for COVID-19 symptoms, the screening tool, and the data it has produced, so far. A data dashboard (<https://public.tableau.com/profile/marissa.ortega#!/vizhome/TXBoSCoCCOVID-19Dashboard/TXBoSCoVIDData>) tracks the data. Staff also polled attendees on reasons that HMIS users are not filling it out completely and how the tool could be more helpful to them. The HMIS data can be compared to COVID-19 data tracked and publicized by the Texas Department of State Health Services. For those that do not participate in HMIS, a paper screening tool can be found under Shelter and Housing Provider Resources at <https://www.thn.org/statewide/covid-19/>.

- III. **How we are Ending Homelessness – with Systems Change** – *see attached presentation slides* – Staff presented on a definition and descriptions of systems change. Staff described how Coordinated Entry is a systems change because it moves the homeless services system from being program-centric to being client-centric across programs, and it uses a standardized assessment process to match people with the housing intervention that will be the most likely to end their homelessness. Case conferencing, housing priority lists, and by-name lists were also described.

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IV. Community Conversation – Staff facilitated a conversation among members about COVID-19. Summary: Some agencies are seeing more people seeking assistance because of job loss. Agencies' staff and participants are taking precautions like wearing masks, social distancing, and cleaning. Some agencies fear a significant increase in need after eviction moratoriums are ending. Agencies are working with local public health departments, faith communities, and other community partners to meet needs. *See attached chat log for attendees' comments. See meeting recording to hear attendees' and staff comments.*

V. Committee Updates –

- a. Coordinated Entry Steering Committee (CESC) – A CESC meeting will be held on June 23rd. This meeting is closed to the Committee. Please email CE@THN.org for questions, concerns, or more information.
- b. Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) – The SPC met in April. Chad Wheeler from Lubbock has been elected as the SPC Chair. The committee revised the timeline for writing the plan. It will go for public comment in September and go to the board to consider approving in December.
- c. Data Committee – recruiting members; this committee's development has been delayed because of COVID but plans are to begin meeting in a few months. If interested in joining, email data@thn.org – The committee will provide data-driven insight and education to multiple groups/stakeholders about homelessness in the CoC and an opportunity to obtain feedback from HMIS end-users on specific data matters.
- d. Victim Services Provider Committee (VSPC) – recruiting member; If interested complete the form: <https://forms.gle/EQqWuZA877v12qgU7--> The committee

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will represent the voice and needs of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, in the CoC's work.

- e. Performance Evaluation Committee (PEC) – recruiting members; if interested, complete the form: <https://forms.gle/sfKrZdQdQDmnLRydA--> The committee will set performance targets for project types and will monitor the performance of projects operating in the CoC.

VI. Announcements

- a. CoC Program competition
 - i. HUD has not announced plans for the FY 2020 competition. Staff will inform CoC members when HUD has released guidance. Check the CoC Program section of our website for updates: <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/continuum-care-program/>
 - ii. CoC Program competition policies will be open for public comment. See public comment items on THN's website at <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/texas-balance-of-state-public-comment-portal/>.
 - iii. THN will hold a Fair Housing training during the week of July 13th. Everyone is invited to attend.
- b. TDHCA is now accepting applications for State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funds. This pool of funds is the State's "annual allocation" of ESG funds, not ESG CARES Act funds. For more information, see TDHCA's website at <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/home-division/esgp/applications.htm>, under "Annual Allocation Application Documents." Entities applying for funds need to have the ESG Consultation and Recommendation Forms signed by THN, as the CoC Lead Agency. Submit those to esg@thn.org. For questions, contact mollie@thn.org.
- c. Staff have created a flyer about the benefits of joining the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). <https://www.thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/HMIS-PR-Document.pdf>. Benefits for clients, providers, and communities are described.
- d. The nomination period for CoC Board elections is now open and will end on June 19th. If you have an interest in guiding the CoC, and you could represent an issue area for one of the even-numbered seats, nominate yourself. Find more information at <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/governance/>.
- e. THN has added three positions to the BoS-focused staff
 - i. Data VISTA Member -- Princess Murchison
 - ii. Racial Equity Intern – Giovanna DiNapoli
 - iii. CoC Performance Coordinator—Quiana Fisher

VII. Next Meeting –

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- a. No July meeting
- b. Next meeting on Wednesday, August 12th, 2020, at 2:00. Main topic: 2021 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Register at https://thn.adobeconnect.com/aug20gm/event/event_info.html

Open Discussion:

Staff was available on the webinar for 15 minutes after the meeting ended, for an open discussion on any topics that attendees wanted to discuss.

Give your feedback!

Members were invited to complete the anonymous survey they received after the meeting ended, to let THN know what was helpful and what would could be better for the next meeting. Six survey responses were received.

Become a CoC Member!

Anyone who works or lives in the CoC's geographic area, and all housing and homeless services projects in the CoC's geographic area, are considered to be members of the CoC. The CoC has an open invitation process, so people may join at any time.

THN invites members to participate in the CoC's activities. Learn more on the [email list](#), the [website](#), and [social media](#).

CoC General Meetings include presentations by and conversations between CoC members and staff on topics that are important to preventing and ending homelessness. See the [schedule](#) for dates, topics, and registration links. Meeting notes and recordings are posted on THN's website at <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/>.