

## **TX BoS CoC Board Nominations – Seat 2 – Homeless Veterans**

### **Pamela Segura**

Organization (if applicable): West Texas VA Medical Center

Job Title (if applicable): Substance Use Disorder Specialist

Do you live and/or work in the TX BoS CoC's geographic area?

Yes

If yes, in which TX BoS CoC county and/or counties do you live and/or work and would you represent on the CoC Board?

Andrews, Borden, Coke, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Knox, Loving, Martin, Midland, Nolan, Reeves, Reagan, Scurry, Schackelford, Sterling, Taylor, Tom Green, Upton, Ward, and Winkler

Which seat are you seeking?

Seat 2 -- Homeless Veterans

Do you have lived experience of homelessness? In other words, have you ever lived in a homeless situation?

No

Are you affiliated with a HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program-funded project and/or Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program-funded project operating in the TX BoS CoC?

No

If yes, indicate your role:

Are you the Chair of a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)?

No

If yes, which LHC?

1. Please describe your personal and/or work experience with the population you would be representing in the designated seat, if elected.

My professional work experience with the population identified for seat two involves approximately four years of providing direct Clinical Care to homeless Veterans. Previously, in my role as Director of Client Services, I was given the opportunity to oversee the provision of Counseling, Case Management, Transportation and Housing for homeless individuals and families including veterans. My role consisted of building effective professional collaborations with providers throughout the region. I increased access to veteran specific resources through networking and attendance at key-stakeholder meetings and events. Prior to my promotion to the Director position, I provided individual, group and family counseling to the general homeless population inclusive of both veteran men and women. Currently, I serve as the Substance Use Disorder Specialist for the West Texas VA Medical Center in Big Spring, Texas. My duties include (not limited to) providing individual, group counseling services to qualifying veterans who identify as homeless OR at risk for homelessness, patient advocacy, collaboration with multidisciplinary teams, and establishment of wrap around services with other community organizations.

2. Please describe how you have participated in the TX BoS CoC in the past.

Most recently I participated in the 2020 Point-in-Time count. I served communities in the West Texas region by encouraging individuals/families identifying as homeless to complete the questionnaire. Additionally, I have participated in other state Point-in-Time counts

3. Please describe your experience, if any, working with the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program or similar programs focused on ending homelessness (ESG, SSVF, PATH, and RHY).

I have attended and contributed to several HUD-CoC local meetings. During these meetings I have not only built networks with other homeless reduction and prevention providers, but I was also vocal in advocating for provision and/or inclusion of homeless resources within my community. My current teammates on the HCHV-HUDVASH program have working relationships through monthly meetings with SSVF funded programs. During our team meetings I have the opportunity to advocate for veteran needs as well as to be informed on status, updates and availability of funding within our region.

4. Please describe your experience, if any, serving on a board of directors, including any leadership roles.

I do not have prior experience with serving on a board of directors.

5. Please describe your experience, if any, with managing grants.

My experience involves management and oversight of providers, delivery of care/services. My responsibilities included reviewing service delivery also ensuring appropriate documentation/record keeping of services as outlined in grant provisions.

6. Please describe your specific skills that can benefit the CoC.

My skill set is reflective of my education in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders along with my professional work experience within the homeless Veteran population. I am open to learning and gathering information. Opportunities to collaborate with other experts (not reflective of profession nor education) have contributed to my success as a provider. As such, Serving in positions which allow for direct consumer contact has afforded me a first person perspective on the strengths and needs of the homeless veteran population.

7. Why do you want to serve on the CoC Board?

My desire to serve on the CoC board is to provide a perspective to THN of services and needs for those represented by seat two on the CoC Board. I will work to impact growth and expansion of programs to serve the homeless Veteran population throughout the state of Texas. I thrive in leadership settings. Additionally, I identify with being a strong proponent for the population I serve.

8. If you are elected to the board, what do you plan to work on and accomplish?

I plan to continue to identify specific Veteran centric needs within the homeless population. Additionally, a goal would be to establish a strong alliance between my current employer and the Texas Homeless Network. Bridging the gap between Substance Use Disorders and Homelessness amongst Veterans in a foundational priority on which I plan to build upon.

9. What else would you like the CoC members to know about you?

In keeping with the response limits, I would like the CoC members to know I am as human as they come. One of my life aspirations are not wear my experiences on my shoulders nor as a badge of honor. I simply desire to make a difference in the lives of each person I come in contact with. I strongly believe in the power and impact of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder providers. Within this profession I identify as a “change agent” or “an agent for change”. Serving on the CoC Board will allow me the opportunity to effect change above and beyond my current setting.