

## **TX BoS CoC Board Nomination – Seat 8 – Health/Medical**

Organization (if applicable): Covenant Health/Providence Health

Job Title (if applicable): Regional Director Community Health Investment

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?

Lubbock

Which seat are you seeking?

Seat 8 -- Health/Medical

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?

Unsure

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.

In my role as Regional Director for Community Health Investment with Covenant Health (ministry of Providence Health), we directly operate programs that specifically target vulnerable populations in Lubbock, Hale, Hockely and the surrounding counties. Homeless and housing insecure persons are among the most vulnerable demographic we provide outreach services to within these programs. We provide dental, counseling, health education and community navigation services primarily free of charge to low-income and (always free of charge) to homeless. We coordinate with other regional non-profits to ensure low-income and uninsured individuals have access to healthcare. I am in a regional leadership role and work closely with our Covenant hospitals and medical groups as well as with local Federally Qualified Health Centers, free clinics and schools. We also have mobile medical services and coordinate with regional hospitals help close gaps around rural medical care and outreach services.

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

I have not worked directly with the TX BoS CoC in the past. I do work closely with local agencies such as Open Door who work with the Texas Homeless Network. Covenant also provides grant funding, in-kind support and wrap around services to Open Door's Permanent Supportive housing and day shelter programs. We also are a member of the South Plains Homeless Consortium. Additionally, Covenant works with other non-profits serving the homeless and housing insecure populations which I assume may be affiliated with the Texas Homeless Network. These include; The Salvation Army, The Dream Center Legacy Women's Home, Family Promise and Grace Campus.

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).

Our health system has been working with Open Door in Lubbock to support the expansion of their supportive permanent housing program. Housing is one of our health system's priority areas of investment in Texas and also all along the west coast. We know that housing is a critical social determinate of health and are committed to work within our communities and states to support HUD and other agencies focused on eliminating barriers, providing housing resources, support services and investigating systems that promote inequities in access to housing and social services. We engage with multiple partners across our healthcare footprint to work on programs focused on ending homelessness.

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

Currently I serve on the local NAMI Board and serve as the Outreach & Communication Committee Coordinator. I serve on the Texas Tech Center for Adolescent Resiliency Advisory Board and am I am completing my a final year on the West Texas American Diabetes Association Board. I previously served on the Lubbock ISD Student Health Advisory Committee and held the roll as Chair for two years.

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

Through my work at Covenant Health we actually administer and manage a community wellness and prevention grant program so most of my grant experience is on the administration and management side. However, we have secured grant funding for some of our Covenant outreach programs so I have some experience in the writing, managing and reporting side of grants as well.

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

I have experience in conducting community needs assessments and implementation plans which includes gap analysis and asset mapping. I am well versed in how social determinants of health effect vulnerable populations and in working on upstream prevention and early intervention programs. I have experience working with cross functional teams and with non-profits to find collaborative approaches within healthcare, education, and social services that address and determine underlying causes of social and health inequities.

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

I would like to serve on this board to continue to help our state address issues related to housing and homelessness. We live in a nation where this should not be the growing issue that it is. I believe there is an overwhelming connection to homelessness and the lack mental health resources in our state. Additionally, I am personally very concerned with housing instability and the sub-par housing that I see many of our patients and clients dealing with. Through my work with education I also see the long term effects that this has on youth and families and want to help in any way that I can.

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

I hope to contribute my time, skills and passion to help further support the work HUD does along with many non-profits and agencies throughout the state. I also hope to gain a better understanding and learn how the healthcare industry can become better partners in the pursuit to end homelessness.

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

I am looking forward to the potential opportunity to serve and to represent the health sector as we move more into a population health model in non-profit healthcare