

TX BoS CoC Board Nomination – Seat 6 – Victim Services

Vineta Byrd

Organization (if applicable): SAFE-T Crisis Center

Job Title (if applicable): Housing Director

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?

Camp, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, Titus, and Wood

Which seat you are seeking?

Seat 6 -- Victim Services

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

Yes

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?

Yes

If yes, indicate your role:

SAFE-T has received both ESG and CoC program funding

Are you the Chair of a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)? No, but previously served as the President of the Back Home Northeast Texas Homeless Coalition.

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 experience is both personal and professional. I was in an abusive relationship for five years and after leaving the relationship financially it was difficult. At times my daughter and I were evicted several times. It was one of the most difficult times in my life. It seems like every time things came together so another emergency like transportation issues, job layoff, child's illness can be catastrophic when you are living paycheck to paycheck. I was working two jobs and attending college but struggled to keep a roof over our heads. This experiencing has helped me to understand my client's plight and struggle. I am able to let them know it is hard and it does not feel good and it seems hopeless but things can and will get better. Many days I think back to this experience and realize every circumstance is a lesson. These lessons led me to a profession that I feel called to be apart of daily. Although, I hope to one day be out of work.

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

I have participated in TX Bos CoC in the past by servicing as the LHC Chair for my area. I have also attended THN's conference for the past two years. I've assisted with facilitating the Point In Time Count for our area as well.

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 experience working with the ESG, and CoC programs. I have a passion and true interest in helping to end homelessness and abuse. Both of these programs have been instrumental in helping with those issues in my community.

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

I am the LHC Chair for the Mt. Pleasant Region. I also serve as board liaison for the LHC.

5. Please describe your experience, if any, with managing grants. I am the Housing Director for SAFE-T and have experience managing several grants such as ESG, CoC RRH, and VOCA.

I am in charge of facilitating all the housing grant programs for our agency and the emergency shelter.

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

I have eight years' experience as a Bank Manager working in field service with HUD properties. I also have several years of experience in managing and writing grants. I am a dedicated, quick learner, and enthusiastic.

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

I would like to serve on the board to help do my part in ensuring that victims of domestic and/or sexual violence issues are always heard when programs are being created. These victims have needs that are sometimes not addressed in programs. I hope to eventually see housing programs for victims that take into consideration the trauma many victims have gone through is so severe and needs to be addressed before the person can clearly make an informed decision regarding housing.

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

I hope to be able to bring new information and ideas. I want to help end homelessness. I hope that all abuse ends. I hope that one day all people are automatically able to have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is hard to pursue happiness without having basic necessities such as shelter, food, and safety.ess and abuse.

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

I am dedicated, hardworking, and passionate about the work.