

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Seat 7 – Mental/Behavioral Health

Linda White

Current Position: Director at New Life Family Education

TX BoS CoC county served: Morris

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? No

Are you the Chair of a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)? No

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

As a Registered Nurse. I was in charge of a Gero-Psych Unit for 16 months. I have worked with psych patients in the Emergency room setting as well. I have served on the Board in seat #7 for the past 2 years and in my position of Director and instructor at New Life Family Education; I identify clients who have mental illness and/or behavioral health issues and refer them to the appropriate diagnostic and treatment facilities available in the area.

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

I have served on the Board in seat #7 for the past 2 years.

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 created relationships with the various HUD Housing complex managers to assist my clients in acquiring affordable housing in order to assist them in having their children returned to them from CPS custody due to homelessness.

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

I have served on the Back Home Northeast Texas Board for 3 years; representing Morris County.

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

N/A

Please describe your specific skills that can benefit the CoC.

I received the Outstanding Community Service Award for 2019 from the Texas Homeless Network for my work in Northeast Texas to improve the lives of the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless. I work with various agencies and committees to prevent youth

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homelessness. I network with service providers in order to bring resources to rural areas of the state. My experience as a Nurse gives me insight into the health needs of the homeless population.

Why do you want to serve on the CoC Board?

I have served on the CoC Board for the past term and have enjoyed it. I believe that my experience would be helpful toward continuity for the progress that we have made and assist in further progress toward our shared goals of making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring. The mentally ill and those suffering with behavioral health issues are a large percentage of our homeless population. My heart goes out to them and I want to continue to advocate for them because they can't advocate for themselves.

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

I plan to work with the other Board members and BoS CoC staff to be the voice for the homeless in Texas and get more affordable housing for families and I want to work on getting assistive housing for the mentally ill who are homeless to get them diagnosed and treated for their illness so that they can live the lives that God intended for them. And I am working on getting Mobile Health Units for various rural communities in the state. Offering affordable health and behavioral health care for the underserved.

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

I am a semi-retired RN with 30 years of nursing experience. I have lived in a women's shelter with my 6 small children. I have lived in HUD housing after getting out of the shelter. I work as a volunteer; teaching Parenting and Life Skills. My agency is a service provider for CPS, Juvenile Probation Dept. and Family Based Services. I love God and am eternally grateful to Jesus for delivering me from alcoholism 27 years ago!! I love everybody. My heart is bigger than my brain. I have compassion for people who are in a bad place and I want to help them find the way out.