

# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

## Seat 5 – Homeless Youth

### Natasha Hayden

**Current Position:** Executive Director at North Texas Youth Connection

**TX BoS CoC county served:** Grayson

**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?**  
Unsure

**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.**

I was homeless in New York City for 4 years, while being a full time college student. I had to enlist in an all woman shelter while trying to help get my family off the streets. While at the woman's shelter I got jumped by 3 woman who stole all of my belongings and ended up in the hospital due to the injuries I sustained. I am fully recovered but it was a very harsh reality of living on the street.

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

I have involved myself in different trainings they have conducted.

**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 worked to help come up with different solutions to help youth find help and resources. I appreciated the time spent on the topic due to not a lot of places for youth to go to feel safe.

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

I feel it would give change an opportunity to happen and in eyes on situations is always good.

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

When it comes to grants I work with checks and balances method. I make sure I read and understand the grant and conduct each program based on the required subject of the grant.

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

I bring new ideas, new solutions, and sprinkle personality that can help and raise the CoC to new heights.

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## **Why do you want to serve on the CoC Board?**

I want to help and give the youth on the streets an opportunity to have their voice heard through the actions of adults who decided to help.

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

Finding solutions to housing locations that suit youth of today and future.

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

I am here to help and learn. I want to understand all perspectives of current members and the direction they would like to focus on.

