

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

CoC General Meeting

October 4, 2021, 9:00-10:30 A.M.

NOTES

Link to meeting recording: <https://thn.adobeconnect.com/p613yhmxaai/>

Attendees: see attached list of attendees

I. 9:00-9:05 Welcome and Introductions

THN staff welcomed attendees.

II. 9:05-9:10 Introduction of 2021-22 Board Members

Director of Engagement, Mary Stahlke, introduced 2021-22 CoC Board members and thanked outgoing members. (see slides)

III. 9:10-9:20 State of the CoC Address

CoC Board Chair, Daphne' Adams, gave the address.

IV. 9:20-9:50 CoC Strategic Planning –

Strategic Planning Committee Chair, Chad Wheeler, spoke about the CoC Strategic Plan. THN staff talked about the CoC Action Plan. And Vashil Fernandez (Texarkana area) and Shane Williamson (Kerrville area) talked about their communities' Local Action Plans.

V. 9:50-10:05 Annual Review of the CoC Governance Charter

Director of Planning, Jim Ward, reviewed the Governance Charter and announced the opening of the charter for public comment. All CoC members are invited to comment on the Charter in the [public comment portal](#) from October 5th-14th.

VI. 10:05-10:15 Celebrating Accomplishments: Year-in-Review

CoC Governance Coordinator, Margaret Hill, led the THN staff in creating a presentation highlighting accomplishments across the CoC in 2020-21. (see [video](#))

VII. 10:15-10:25 Community Conversation (opportunity for General Members to talk with other General Members)

Director of Data, Kristin Zakoor, opened the floor for any attendee to address the general members.

VIII. 10:25-10:29 Poll Question about 2021-22 General Meeting Topics

Attendees responded to a poll question.

IX. 10:29-10:30 Get Involved with the CoC Next Meeting

- a. No November meeting
- b. Meeting on December 8th, at 2:00 p.m., by webinar



Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Become a CoC Member!

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CoC Board and CoC Committees – Updates from August

CoC Board Update by CoC Board Chair, Daphne' Adams

In August, the board ratified the results of the CoC Board election. Also, the board approved four new policies and one new procedure that will be incorporated into the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2021 CoC Program Competition.

Community Investment Committee (CIC)

The CIC met in August, and the topics were the CoC Program and the Barriers Fund Program. The CIC met in September, and the topics were selecting a committee chair, considering a reallocation policy, and reviewing a sample Funding Alignment Model (Activity 2.1a. in the CoC Action Plan).

Coordinated Entry Steering Committee (CESC)

No meeting in August or September



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Data Committee (DC)

Data Committee met on 8/31/21 and heard from CoC Board members regarding law enforcement access to HMIS. Committee members decided to move forward with crafting a policy allowing limited access to Homeless Outreach Team officers within police departments. THN staff is drafting a policy and will release it for public comment.

Data Committee did not meet in September

Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee (EVHC)

Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee held their first meeting on August 26th. The list of committee members can be found at

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1irIR1n8glOb1zxYua-pmQQ-wh4K_xFDHpFMNe4f1Cl4/edit?usp=sharing.

EVHC did not meet in September.

Ending Youth Homelessness Committee (EYHC)

THN is currently recruiting for the Ending Youth Homelessness Committee. If you are or know someone interested in joining the committee dedicated to ending youth homelessness contact marliza@thn.org or fill out this [interest form](#).

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)

The committee was sent the final version of the Strategic Plan for approval. Their next meeting will be on September 30th.

Victim Services Provider Committee (VSPC)

No meeting in August or September

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Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

October 4, 2021, CoC General Meeting -- Attendees

Name	Company Name
Hope Rodgers	United Way of Denton County
Renee Williams	Questvetservices
Tiffany Ross	Community Action Committee of Victoria, Texas
Mechelle Lindsay	Families In Crisis, Inc.
Tommy Lee Martinez	Loaves and Fishes of the RGV, Inc.
Nathaniel Dears	Denton County MHMR Center
Christy Plemons	The Salvation Army
Teresa Finch	The Chosen Ones Outreach Ministries of Galveston, Inc.
Sharon Goodlette	The Salvation Army No. Texas Area Command
Rebecca Bromley	Neighborhood Development Corp
Chesley Knowles	Community Healthcore
Anne Spanyers	Advocacy Outreach
Steven Lara	StarCare Specialty Health System
Audra Rea	Panhandle Community Services
Daphne Adams	Christian Community Action
Jade Bredenberg	Mission Texarkana
Emily Shafer	The Aalvation Army
Kimberly Pickens	The Humility Project Inc
Alice Jewell	McKenna Foundation
Melinda Baker	Melinda Baker
Alexzandra Hust	Abilene Hope Haven, Inc.
Courtney Cross	City of Denton
Lori Iles	The Center
Ginny Stafford	Mid-Coast Family Services
Kyle Knutson	The Salvation Army
Vashil Fernandez	City Of Texarkana, Texas
Steven Lara	VetStar
John Meier	West Central Texas Regional Foundation
Janeal White	SETRPC
Debra Washington	The Children's Center
Sandy Swan	Interfaith Ministries of Denton
Bethanie Miller	St. Vincent's House
Chad Wheeler	Lubbock Open Door
Betty Kay Schlesinger	The Salvation Army, Grayson County
Amelia Peacock	Grace After Fire
Gloria Luna	United Way of Brazoria County
Kyla Hodges	City of Lubbock
Alaina Marcum	Mission Texarkana

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Melissa Escamilla	Endeavors
Elena Lusk	United Way of Denton County
Daphne Jackson	A Servant's Heart-Texas Llc
Carla Lane	Abigail's Arms Cooke County Family Crisis Center
Faith Ochoa	Abilene Hope Haven, Inc,
Marsha Wilson Rappaport	The Children's Center, Inc
Alyssa Paz	TTBH
Michaelle Wormly	WOMAN, Inc.
Vanessa Mangel	Abigail's Arms Cooke County Family Crisis Center
Ronnie Odom	Housing Authority of Texarkana TX
Alanna Richardson	Longview Housing Authority
Taylor Howard	United Way of Denton County
Melissa Gutierrez	Loaves & Fishes of the Rio Grande V
Reverend Lawson	The Chosen Ones Outreach Ministries of Galveston ,inc
Renea Wilson	The Salvation Army Lufkin
Rashawn Smith	City of Killeen
Debra Huffman	Neighborhood Development Corp
Jennifer Schmidt	The Salvation Army
Lisa Griffin	Mid-Coast Family Services
Suzanne Kanon	The Salvation Army
Megan Price	City of Texarkana
Nancy Heintz	Homeless Coalition of Hays County
Madeline Fink	United Way of Denton County
Michelle Perez	NCMHID
Vivian Ballou	Legacy CDC
Cheteva Marshall Nickerson	Longview Housing Authority
Carrie Baugus	Denton Affordable Housing Corp.
Deanna Lowrey-Green	Combined Community Action
Carol Racz	Texana Center
Alaina Marcum	Mission Texarkana
Belinda Bradford	Good Neighbor Settlement House, Inc.
Emma Washburn	United Way of Denton County
Delayne Sigerman	retired
Vicki Smith	Community Action Committee of Victoria

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

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Registration link: https://thn.adobeconnect.com/oct21gm/event/event_info.html

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- III. **9:10-9:20 State of the CoC Address** – Daphne’ Adams, CoC Board Chair
- IV. **9:20-9:50 CoC Strategic Planning** -- Chad Wheeler, Strategic Planning Committee Chair; Vashil Fernandez (Texarkana area); Alice Jewell (New Braunfels area); and Shane Williamson (Kerrville area)
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2021-23 CoC Board Members

Seat #	Seat Designation	Member	Affiliation
1	Persons with lived experience	John Meier*	VHS/SSVF Program Manager, West Central Texas Regional Foundation
2	Homeless veterans	Pamela Segura	Substance Use Disorder Specialist, West Texas VA Medical Center
3	Chronically homeless persons	Andrea Omojola*	Chief Operating Officer, Open Door in Lubbock
4	Homeless families	Katherine Bisson	Executive Director, Abilene Hope Haven, Inc.
5	Homeless youth	Natasha Hayden	Executive Director, North Texas Youth Connection
6	Victim services	Daisy Lopez*	Victim and Education Manager at Friendship of Women, Inc., in Brownsville
7	Mental/behavioral health	Linda White*	Director, New Life Family Education
8	Health/medical	Tavia Hatfield	Regional Director Community Health Investment, Covenant Health/Providence Health
9	Local government	Courtney Cross	Assistant Community Services Manager at the City of Denton
10	Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Recipient	Emily Shafer Northrup	Business Manager, The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend
11	Public Housing Agency	Ronnie Odom	Director of Affordable Housing Programs, Housing Authority of Texarkana, Texas
12	Law enforcement/ criminal justice	Kyle Moore*	Officer, Homeless Outreach Team, Killeen Police Department
13	Business	Daphne Jackson	Admin. Assistant/Co-Owner of A Servant's Heart-Texas, LLC
14	Faith community or faith-based organization	Daphne' Adams*	Director of Family Services at Christian Community Action in Denton
15	TICH or State government agency	Marqus Butler*	Manager-V of Reentry Systems and Parole Operations, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

* serving a second term



Norma Mercado
Dani Shaw
Barry Wheeler
Antonio Williams

Overview of the Strategic Plan

Chad Wheeler, Strategic Planning Committee Chair

Strategic Planning Process

- Continuum of Care Committee; 15 members
- Began meeting in September 2019
- Sources of Input:

Homeless
Management
Information System
(HMIS)

Point-in-Time (PIT) &
Housing Inventory
Count (HIC)

System Performance
Measures (SPM)

Review of National
and Local Strategic
Plans

Individuals with Lived
Experience of
Homelessness

Review of
Department of
Housing and Urban
Development (HUD)
Priorities

Technical Assistance
Providers

Continuum of Care
Committees & THN
Staff

Key Elements of the Strategic Plan



Executive Summary



Goals, Strategies, & Activities for Significant Impact



Appendix A: CoC Action Plan



Appendix C: Data to Support Strategic Plan

Goals

1: Improve the Current Housing Crisis Response System

2: Increase the Capacity of and Access to Housing and Supportive Services

3: More Effectively Use Data

4: Increase Community Engagement, Improve Public Perception, and Shape Public Policy

5: Increase Funding to Address Homelessness

CoC Action Plan

- In Appendix A of the Strategic Plan
- CoC-level activities that will help the CoC to achieve the Strategic Plan goals
- Activities that THN, as the CoC Lead Agency, commits to helping the CoC achieve in Year 1 (and Year 2, in some cases)
- Prioritized from all the proposed activities for years 1-5

Goals

The strategic plan outlines CoC and community-level activities related to **five central goals**:

1: Improve the Current
Housing Crisis
Response System

2: Increase the
Capacity of and
Access to Housing and
Supportive Services

3: More Effectively Use
Data

4: Increase Community
Engagement, Improve
Public Perception, and
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Address
Homelessness

GOAL 4: INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, IMPROVE PUBLIC PERCEPTION, AND SHAPE PUBLIC POLICY

STRATEGY 4: Increase involvement of persons with lived experience.

MEASURING SUCCESS

- 1) THE ADVISORY GROUP OF PERSONS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IS DEVELOPED AND OPERATING.
- 2) PERSONS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE WILL GUIDE THE REVISION OF THE COC ACTION PLAN BY 9/30/2022
- 3) MORE PERSONS WITH CURRENT OR RECENT LIVED EXPERIENCE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE COC BOARD AND COC COMMITTEES

Proposed Activity

4.4a. Develop a workgroup of people with current and recent (within the past 3 years) lived experience of homelessness that will consult with THN staff and CoC stakeholders on CoC activities

Actions:

1. Identify ways to compensate persons with lived experience for their participation and guidance, find resources for the compensation, and develop a stipend policy for CoC committee involvement for individuals with lived experience
2. Identify promising practices for supporting participation in the planning process and in decision-making by persons with lived experience of homelessness
3. Recruit persons with lived experience to participate in a CoC workgroup, and support their participation
4. Provide an orientation to onboard workgroup members

Responsible Parties

Lead: THN Engagement Team

Partners:

- CoC Board
- Persons with lived experience
- Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)
- Entities in the CoC that involve persons with lived experience to guide their work

Timeline

2021-22

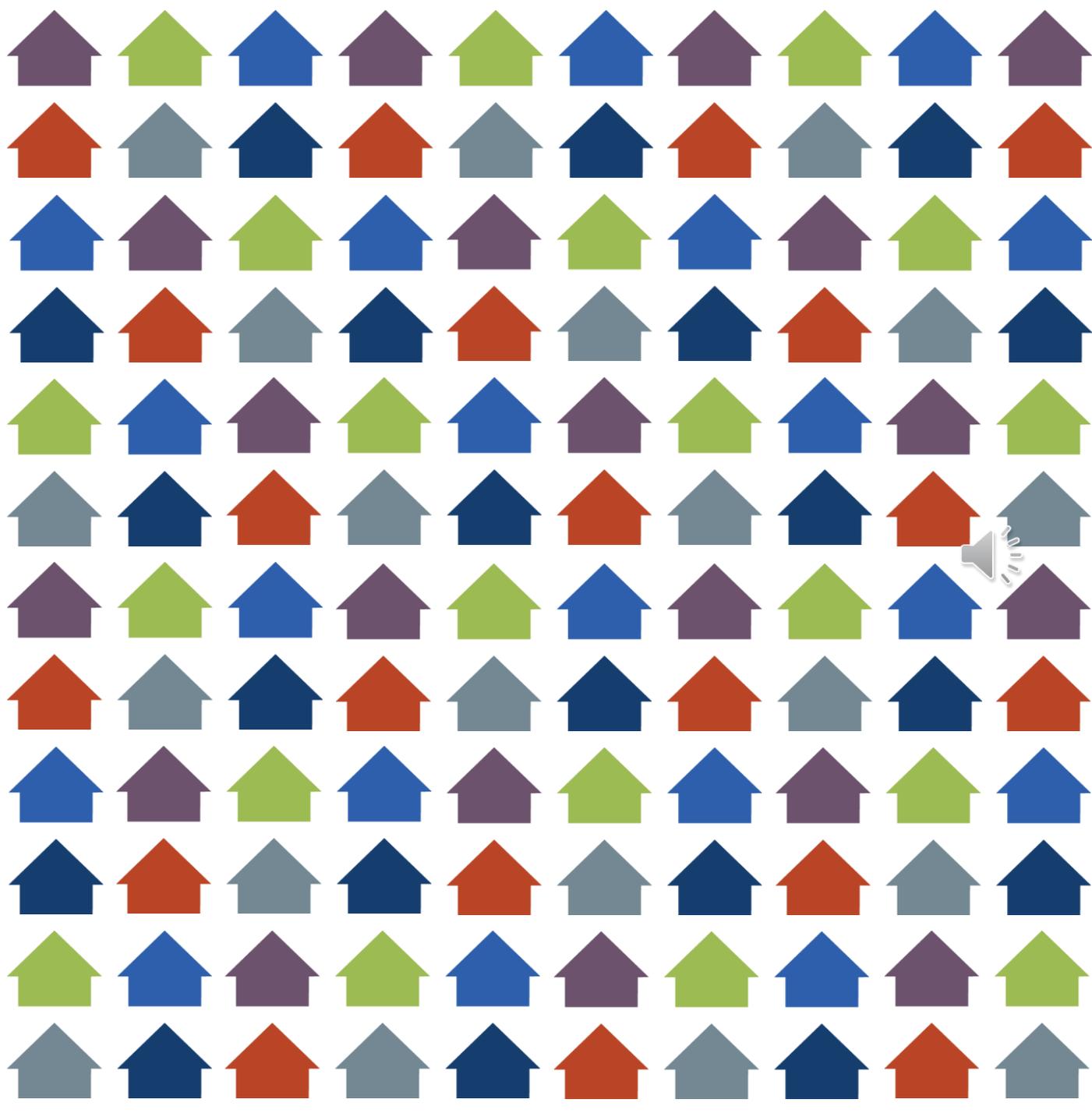
Source Documents

- Materials about engaging persons with lived experience
- Materials about being led by persons with lived experience



CoC Action Plan – future actions

- THN staff will assess and report progress to:
 - CoC Board
 - Strategic Planning Committee
 - CoC General Members and the public
- THN staff will collaborate with persons with lived experience of homelessness to center their voices in an update of the plan for Year 2



2020-2021 Year in Review

Strategies For Change

thn.org

Texas Homeless Network would like to recognize the efforts of all of those working to end homelessness in Texas over the last year.

Thank you for all that you do.

We would also like to acknowledge those that have lost their lives to homelessness in the previous year, and anyone who has lost their life due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020-21 Challenges and Opportunities

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the lives of Texans both housed and unhoused throughout the state.

CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act's impact on Texas:

- Nearly \$2 billion of emergency rental assistance
- \$246 million in ESG Cares Funding
- 4,517 Emergency Housing Vouchers provided to TX Public Housing Agencies (PHAs)
- \$343,537,510 in HOME-ARPA funding

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care Activities

Training and Technical Assistance

65,592 minutes of technical assistance provided

3,289 instances of technical assistance provided

354 trainings provided

1,747 persons trained

CoC Program Funding

The FY2020 CoC Program Awards were renewed non-competitively and no new projects were awarded.

Coordinated Entry

In the 2020-2021 year, two new Coordinated Entry regions were developed in Comal County and Tom Green County.

New ESG-CV and CoC Program funded housing projects allowed 12 new organizations to be trained in Coordinated Entry.

THN Staff partnered with Endeavors Inc. to create a virtual Coordinated Entry process in 96 counties that previously did not have Coordinated Entry coverage.

Emergency Solutions Grants

More than \$30 million in ESG-CV funds were allocated in 2020.

Contracts are well underway and ESG-CV-II contracts are set to expire in March of 2022.

Communities are using ESG CV to strengthen coordination, and build systems of care to meet the needs of the community in the Covid-19 pandemic

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

A total of \$16,922,821.00 was allocated to SSVF grantees servicing counties within the TX BoS CoC for the 2020-2021 year.

THN established semi-monthly check-ins with representatives from the 14 organizations servicing TX BoS CoC counties through SSVF funding.

THN has also scheduled recurring monthly meetings with SSVF Regional Coordinator, Rayme Knuckles, in order to receive regular updates regarding SSVF services.

Barriers Fund

Since March of 2021, the TX BoS CoC Barriers Fund Program has assisted more than 112 unduplicated low-income households with basic needs and emergency services.

Over \$104,859.11 in COVID-19 relief assistance has been provided by nine CSBG-CV subrecipient agencies that service 26 different counties across the BoS.

Emergency Housing Vouchers

HUD awarded 1,486 Emergency Housing Vouchers to 30 PHAs across the TX BoS CoC! This is the start of an exciting partnership between PHAs and CoCs. THN has hired an EHV Coordinator to support implementation of the Program.

TDHCA received 791 vouchers through the EHV program and CoC Lead agency staff hope to have more information to share about these specific vouchers soon! For more information about HUD's EHV program please visit hud.gov/ehv.

Strategic Planning

Homebase performed a gaps analysis for the TX BoS CoC. Part of this analysis were used to inform the Strategic Plan.

The TX BoS CoC Strategic Plan was completed with the help of Homebase, the Strategic Planning Committee, and THN staff.

Staff developed an Action Plan for implementing goals that will be accomplished in the next year.

The Community Planning Session brought together community members to develop their own Local Action Plans.

Local Homeless Coalitions

Odessa Coalition for the Homeless

Odessa Coalition for the Homeless entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Housing Authority of Odessa to formalize their partnership to assess and screen unhoused families through Coordinated Entry to enter the Mainstream Voucher Program. Odessa Links is also expanding the partnership to provide supportive services for voucher recipients next year.

Homeless Issues Partnership

Homeless Issues Partnership will host their annual Walk a Mile in Our Shoes Homeless Walk in November and their annual Memorial Service in December for Corpus Christi's unhoused friends who passed away in 2021. They also welcomed seven new member agencies to their Board, including The Purple Door, City of Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi Housing Authority, Nueces County Mental Health & Intellectual Disabilities, STSARS, TAMU-CC, and Corpus Christi Hope House.

Homeless Coalition of Hays County

Homeless Coalition of Hays County voted in their twentieth coalition board member and have increased their official membership to include 19 local organizations. The City of San Marcos is discussing ideas to move forward to support HMIS, Coordinated Entry, and casework management as solutions for unhoused folks.

Angelina County Homeless Initiative

Angelina County Homeless Initiative conducted the county's first ever Point in Time Count in January 2021.

Williamson County Homeless Coalition

Williamson County Homeless Coalition recruited new community members, developed a Point in Time Count Committee to prepare for the upcoming count, and developed a mission and vision statement to align their advocacy and coordination efforts in the community.

East Texas Human Needs Network

East Texas Human Needs Network launched their “Home-in-a-Box” project, which small household items to families transitioning from unstable living situations to a more stable environment. Families are given a welcome to your new home package containing a collection of household products, bathroom essentials, kitchen supplies, and bedroom necessities all donated by local churches, organizations or individuals. In some cases, families have received a \$50 or \$100 Walmart gift card to purchase other essential items.



Victoria Area Homeless Coalition

Victoria Area Homeless Coalition partnered with the City of Victoria to allocate funds to help unhoused neighbors obtain IDs and pay for hotel rooms during Winter Storm Uri.

Rural Homeless Network

Rural Homeless Network is in the process of partnering with their local housing voucher administrator to rent their tiny home project to unhoused neighbors with vouchers.

Colorado Valley Homeless Coalition

Colorado Valley Homeless Coalition members are more closely working with their local housing authorities and successfully housed several unhoused neighbors.

Denton Homeless Coalition

Denton Homeless Coalition partnered with Built for Zero to end veteran homelessness in their county and gained important local partners, including local public housing authorities, public health department, and additional local service providers. They also formed a committee for clients seeking resolution to grievances they may have with area service providers.

Brown County Home Solutions

Brown County Home Solutions expanded their inclement weather shelter and received a grant from Brown County to operate the shelter.

Cameron County Homeless Coalition

Cameron County Homeless Coalition members are partnering with community development nonprofit Come Dream, Come Build to create permanent supportive housing in downtown Brownsville.

Central Texas Homeless Coalition

Central Texas Homeless Coalition gained five members during the pandemic and are collaborating with task forces in multiple cities looking to address individual, family, and veteran homelessness.

South Plains Homeless Consortium

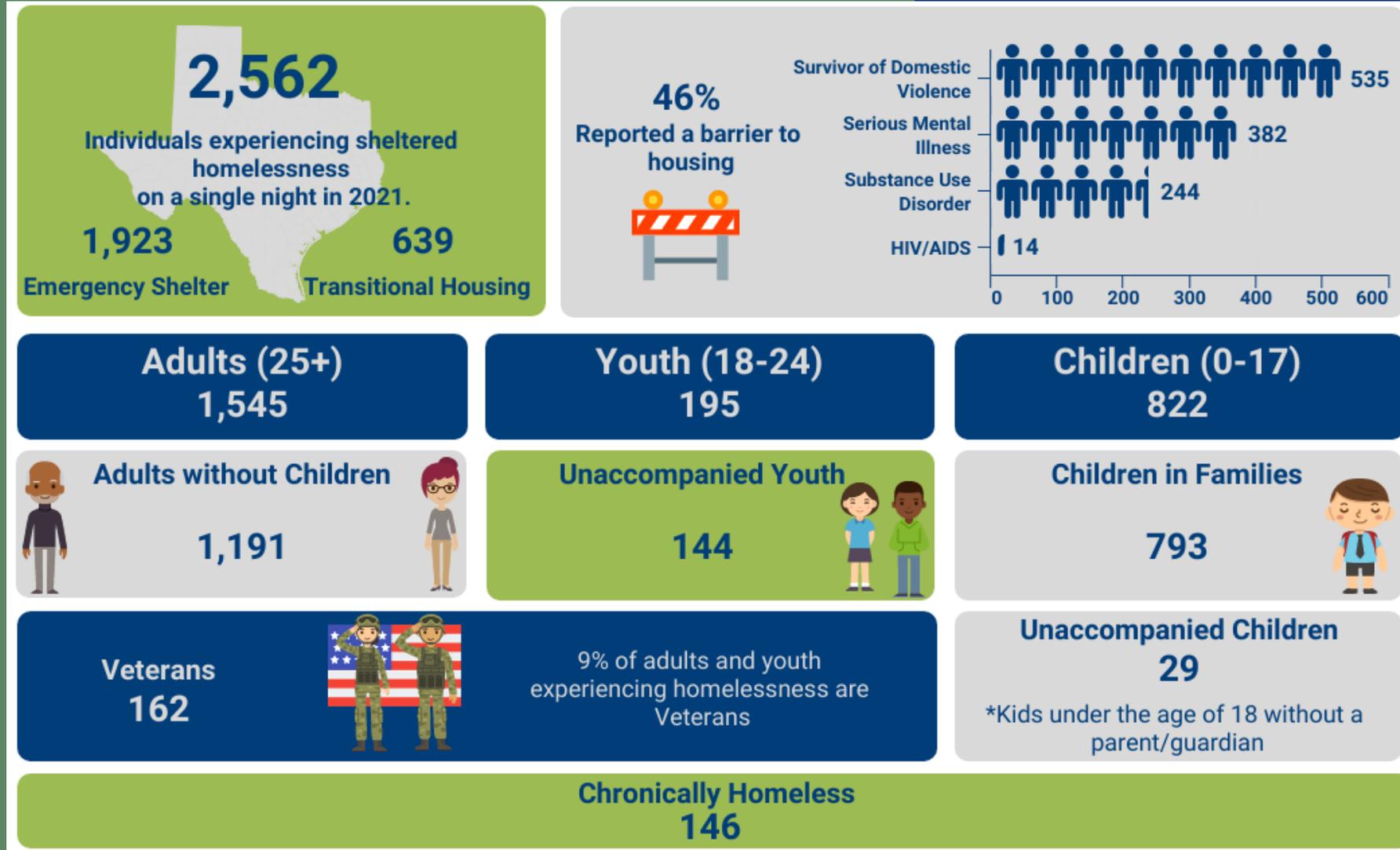
South Plains Homeless Consortium began regular case conferencing among agencies to better coordinate services and get unhoused neighbors into housing faster.

Comal County Homeless Coalition

Comal County Homeless Coalition partnered with a local hotel to operate First Footing Shelter's non-congregate shelter and is partnering with its local food bank to create low-income transitional housing.

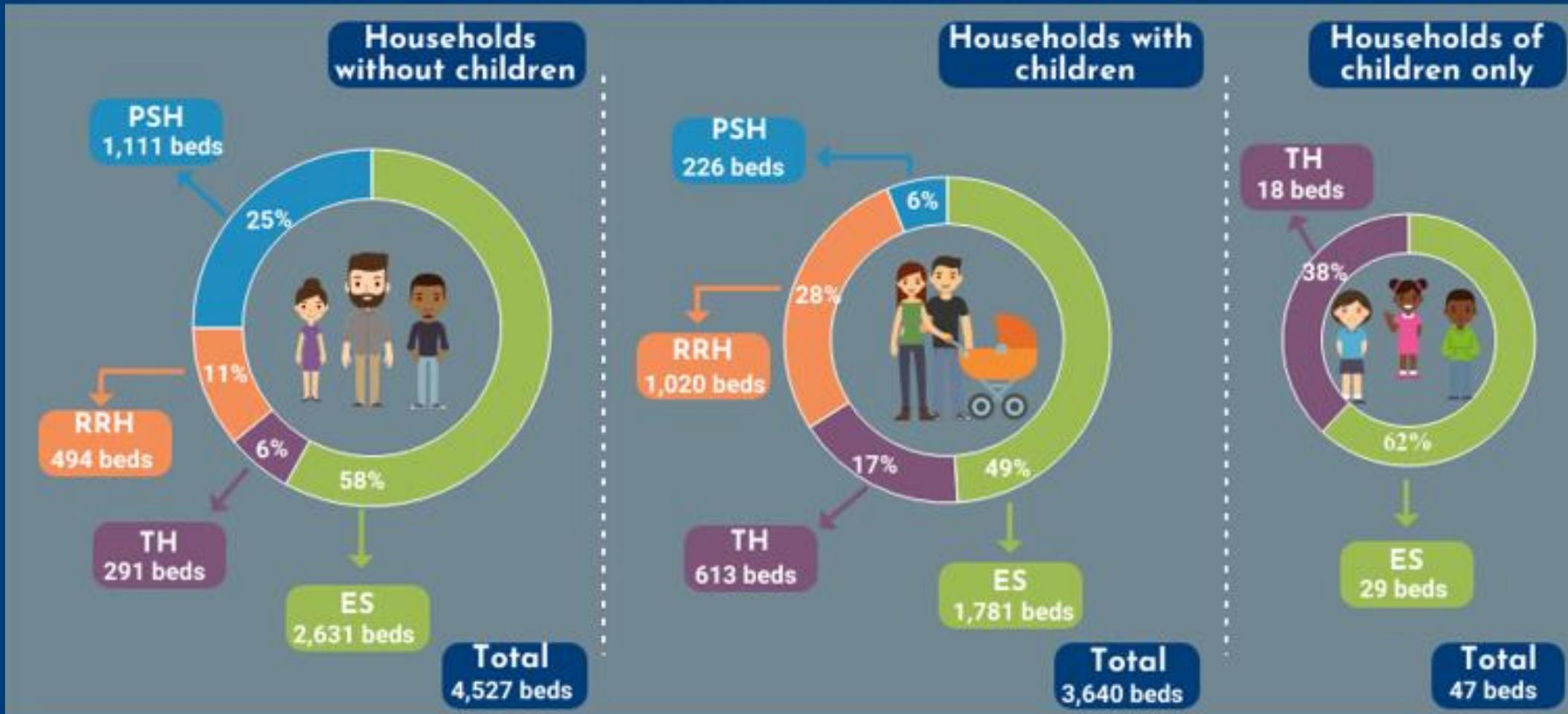
CoC  **Data**

Point in Time Count



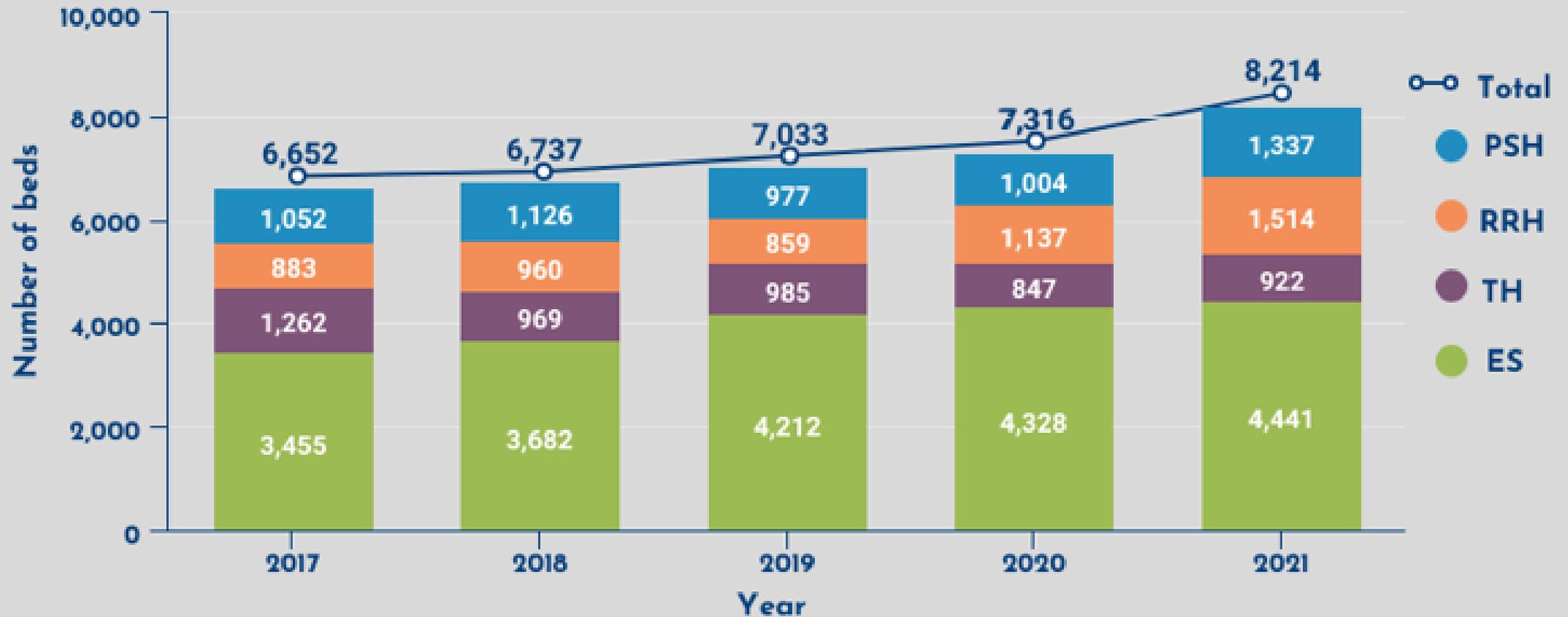
Housing Inventory Count

2021 Household Breakdown



Housing Inventory Count

Bed Count Analysis



Longitudinal Systems Analysis

System Performance Overview

Total number of households and people served in the homeless system and performance overview for 10/01/2018 - 09/30/2019 for FY18-19 1.28.21



13,830

HOUSEHOLDS



19,907

PEOPLE

40 

Days Homeless

Average cumulative days homeless

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

30% 

Exits

Exits to permanent destinations

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

9% 

Returns

Returns after exits to permanent destinations

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

System Performance Measures

#	Measure Description	Desired Change	Year to Year % Change	System Trend
1a	Average Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless	↓	↑70%	Average number of days in shelters and transitional housing increased from 37 days in FY2019 to 63 days in FY2020.
2	Return to Homelessness (total returns in 2 years)	↓	↓ 1%	The percent of persons who returned to homelessness decreased from 17% in FY2019 to 16% in FY2020
3.1	Number of Homeless Persons (change in PIT counts)	↓	↑14%	The number of persons counted during the PIT increased from 8,072 in FY2019 to 9,198 in FY2020
4.3	Change in total income for adult system stayers during reporting period	↑	↓ 6%	The percent of adult stayers who increased their total income decreased from 44% in FY2019 to 38% in FY2020
4.6	Change in total income for adult system leavers during reporting period	↑	↓ 1%	The percent of adult leavers who increased their total income decreased from 53% in FY2019 to 52% in FY2020
5.2	First Time Homeless (ES, TH, & PH with no prior HMIS enrollments)	↓	↓ 56%	The number of persons who became homeless for the first time decreased from 16,492 in FY19 to 7,256 in FY2020
7b.1	Successful Permanent Housing Placement (From ES, TH, and RRH)	↑	↓ 3%	The housing placement rate decreased from 33% in FY2019 to 30% in FY2020

TX BoS CoC Board and Committees

Board Accomplishments

Oct: Voted on ESG-CV 2 plans and CoC Program competition policies, elected officers

Nov: Voted on PIT Count methodology (no unsheltered count or observation-only count)

Jan: Approved Barriers Fund awards, CoC Governance Charter revisions

Feb: Approved revised Public Comment Policy, extended CE COVID-19 Prioritization Standards

April: Approved creating an Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee

June: Approved creating an Ending Youth Homelessness Committee

July: Reviewing HMIS Policies

August: Ratified CoC Board election results, approved 4 additional policies for the CoC Program competition

2020-21 CoC Board Members

Andrea Omojola – *Lubbock Open Door*

Antonio Williams – *Texarkana Housing Authority*

Barry Wheeler – *Movement Mortgage*

Daisy Lopez – *Friendship of Women, Inc.*

Danielle Shaw – *City of Denton*

Daphne' Adams – *Christian Community Action*

Emily Shafer Northrup – *The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend*

John Meier – *West Central Texas Regional Foundation*

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Norma Mercado – *Bastrop Independent School District*

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Tavia Hatfield – *Covenant Health/Provident Health*

Outgoing Board Members

Norma Mercado

Bastrop Independent School District

Danielle Shaw

City of Denton

Barry Wheeler

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Antonio Williams

Texarkana Housing Authority



THANK YOU!

Incoming Board Members

Welcome!

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Ronnie Odom

Texarkana Housing Authority

Daphne Jackson

A Servant's Heart

Data Committee Accomplishments

Had its very first meeting October 27th, 2020

Reviewed the Data Quality Monitoring Plan and Data Quality Plan Documents, providing feedback on project-type specific benchmarks

Crafted a new policy for the HMIS Policies and Procedures document outlining allowances and limitations to law enforcement Homeless Outreach Team access to HMIS. This policy will be sent to the board for recommendation/approval

Thank You Data Committee Members!

Madeline Fink - *United Way of Denton County*

Miguel Mireles - *Endeavors*

Michelle Yates - *La Posada Providencia*

Nathaniel Dears - *Denton County
MHMR-Connections*

Veronica Hernandez - *Border Region
Behavioral Health Center*

Josefa (“Jozi”) Zatarain-Flourney -
Alamo Area Council of Governments

Mae Lewis - *Ark-Tex Council of
Governments*

Reni Bavikati - *Gulf Coast Center*

John Meier - *West Central Texas
Regional Foundation*

Augustina Tetekatl - *Catholic Charities
of the Rio Grande Valley*

John Rodriguez - *Good Neighbor
Settlement House*

Strategic Planning Committee Accomplishments

Worked with the CoC Board to create a Statement of Purpose for the CoC

Refined the strategies and goals that were included in the final strategic plan

Approved the 2021-2024 TX BoS CoC Strategic Plan

Thank You Strategic Planning Committee Members!

Daisy Lopez - *Friendship of Women, Inc.*

Dani Shaw - *City of Denton*

Chad Wheeler - *Lubbock Open Door*

Kyle Moore - *Killeen Police Department*

Todd Shell - *CORT Furniture*

Shane Williamson - *BCFS Health and Human Services, Kerrville*

Michelle Yates - *La Posada Providencia*

Melanie Thornton-Lewis - *The Salvation Army of Galveston*

Marsha Wilson-Rappaport - *The Children's Center, Inc.*

Juan Mendive - *City of Laredo*

Katherine Bisson - *Abilene Hope Haven*

Sophia Checa - *Texas Homeless Network*

Mary Stahlke - *Texas Homeless Network*

Jim Ward - *Texas Homeless Network*

Kristin Zakoor - *Texas Homeless Network*

Community Investment Committee

Approved Scoring and Methodology and application materials for the
Barriers Fund

Approved Policies and Procedures for the committee, including a
policy regarding allowing board approval of scoring and methodology
Before the committee may make determinations about funding

Approved funding recommendations for the Barriers Fund

One additional representative per region elected so that regional
representation is maintained in the event that a member must recuse
themselves

Thank You Community Investment Committee Members!

North:

Mary Twitty - *Panhandle Community Services*

Alexzandra Hust - *Abilene Hope Haven*

Northeast:

Vashil Fernandez - *City of Texarkana*

Richard Dunn - *The Center*

Central:

William Hall - *Families in Crisis*

Lauren Jones - *Family Crisis Center*

West:

The Reverend Dr. Timothy R. Davenport-Herbst - *St. Paul Presbyterian Church*

Mark Bethune - *Concho Valley Community Action Agency*

Thank You Community Investment Committee Members!

South:

Melissa Escamilla - *Endeavors*

Jessica Denise Martinez - *Laredo Housing Authority*

Southeast:

Dr. Cliff Robertson - *The Warrior's Refuge*

Kristie Pustejovsky - *Economic Action Committee of the Gulf Coast*

Coordinated Entry Steering Committee

Discussed:

- **October 2020** - Racial equity and the VI-SPDAT, potential changes to the CE workflow due to COVID-19, CE reporting, and learnings from HUD Intensive Workshops
- **November 2020** - COVID-19 HPL Prioritization tool, adding new agencies to a region, learnings from HUD intensive workshops, and CE data analysis
- **December 2020** - Barriers Fund Program, Assessment tools, Prioritization standards, and the referrals process
- **January 2021** - COVID-19 Prioritization, CE assessment tools, HP assessment tool, and CESC policies and procedures
- **March 2021** – Committee discussed recipients of the ESG-CV Round 2 TDHCA allocation, THN’s project with Endeavors and connecting to existing CE regions, and legal services provided by the three legal aid agencies across Texas
- **April 2021** - Homebase presented on the TX BoS CoC Strategic Plan and CE VISTA presented on her VISTA project pertaining to CE Evaluation Plans for Regions
- **June 2021** - Discussed future of CE and CESC, Emergency Housing Vouchers, YHDP, and selected Elena Lusk as the new CESC Chair

Thank You Coordinated Entry Steering Committee Members!

Abilene: John Meier – *West Central Texas Regional Foundation*

Bastrop: Deanna Lowrey-Green - *Combined Community Action*

Beaumont & Orange: Debra S. Huffman - *Neighborhood Development Corp.*

Brazoria: Gloria Luna - *United Way of Brazoria County*

Cameron County: Paul Castaneda - *Endeavors*

Corpus Christi: Mona Vasquez - *Endeavors-Corpus Christi*

Denton: Elena Lusk - *United Way of Denton County*

Hidalgo: Danny Coca - *Hidalgo County*

Thank You Coordinated Entry Steering Committee Members!

Killeen: Tanya Roper - *Hilltop Recovery Ministries*

Laredo: Judith Mena - *Bethany House of Laredo*

Longview: Wallace Revalee - *East Texas Veterans Resource Center*

Lubbock: Steven Lara - *VetStar*

Mount Pleasant: Vineta Byrd - *SAFE-T Crisis Center*

Odessa: Erika Thomas - *Odessa Links*

Texarkana: Megan Price - *City of Texarkana*

Victoria: Tiffany Ross - *Community Action Committee of Victoria, Texas*

Committees in Development

Victim Service Providers Committee

Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee

Ending Youth Homelessness Committee

Performance Evaluation Committee

Statewide Activities

Racial Equity

A Racial Equity Analysis of the TX BoS CoC was performed, and the Racial Equity Action Team was created to examine racial bias within THN as an organization

Phase Zero complete: “equip and empower all staff members at THN to develop a racial equity framework as the foundation of system improvement and evaluated the homeless response system through that framework”

Advocacy

Our THN Advocacy Committee led our efforts to push for policy changes on the state and federal level. Efforts include:

- Hosting 11 meetings with Texas' delegation to U.S. Congress.
- Hosting a roundtable meeting with 15 multi-sector partners, co-signed and/or sponsored 17 letters to Congress and the Texas Legislature
- Advocating for the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan.
- Fighting for the CDC Eviction Moratorium which likely prevented thousands of evictions in Texas and reduced COVID-19 transmission .

Advocacy

- HB 1278 passed in the Texas 87th legislative session with the help of THN and other partners' advocacy; it will require the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless to hold one of their meetings in a rural area and another in an urban area. This will better help the local communities participate in the decision-making process and diversify the types of voices being heard in important policy decisions.

Homelessness Awareness Day

During the Texas legislative session year, THN hosts Homelessness Awareness Day (HAD) at the Capitol.

Advocates from around the state met virtually on April 7th for a briefing on legislative priorities, followed by meetings with their legislators.

Homelessness Awareness Day



With over 200 registered participants, we doubled in size from the last Texas legislative session in 2019.

Participants spoke with over half of Texas Senator's offices and 60 Texas Representative's offices.

Americorp VISTA



- Cindy Ramirez, the TxBoS CoC Coordinated Entry VISTA with Texas Homeless Network, created an evaluation toolkit, a framework to implement and assess how Coordinated Entry functions locally with feedback from CEPES and service providers in the Balance of State.
- Ann Nguyen, the TxBoS CoC HMIS VISTA with Texas Homeless Network, co-facilitated the founding data committee meetings and created a number of supplemental training videos for RHY and PATH projects.

Americorp VISTA



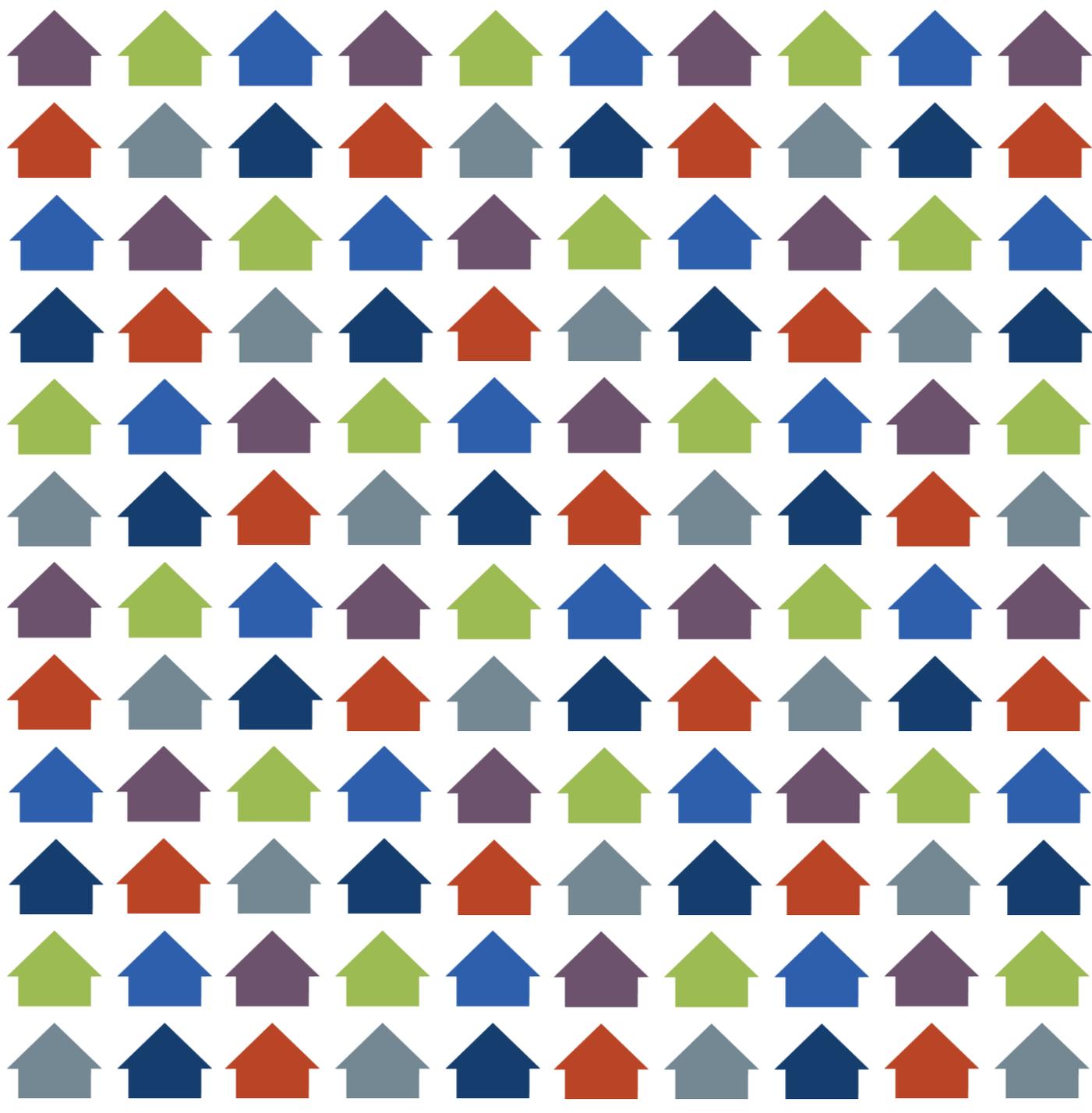
- Sabrina Fields, the Coalition and Coordinated Entry VISTA with the City of Longview, played a pivotal role in growing NET meeting engagement, recruited one new Coordinated Entry site, One Love Longview, and confirmed the donation of 500 rain ponchos from United Healthcare's Community & State Outreach Department for distribution in emergency shelters.
- Lori Isles, the Coalition and Coordinated Entry VISTA with Kaufman County Homeless Coalition, secured funding for ID application and recovery, launched a monthly free laundry service with Laundry Love, and is informing their engagement with HMIS.

Thank you VISTAS!



AmeriCorps

Thank you!



2020-2021 Year in Review

Strategies For Change

thn.org