

# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

## Seat 14 – Faith Community or Faith-Based Organization

**Betty Kay Schlesinger**

**Current Position:**

Social services Director at The Salvation Army, Grayson County

**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?**

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.**

I have been employed in social services for more than 40 years and for most of that time have with homeless populations including veterans, victims of domestic violence, post release re-entry, and mental health/substance use, populations. Although I do work currently for The Salvation Army, that is not my reason for selecting seat 14. I am choosing to do so because I have always considered my social work to be a demonstration of my faith. I do not require that anyone believe as I do or to believe at all, but rather that I am called to service through social work.

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

I've participated through numerous PIT and HIC counts, HMIS, coordinated entry, and as the designee to represent our local homeless coalition. Attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in trainings as often as possible.



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**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 managed both ESG and ESG-CV programs in the past, as well as operated Coordinated Entry and Rapid Re-Housing programs.

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

I am currently the sitting vice-chair of the 2.1.1 Texoma Advisory Board, having served previously as the secretary and general member. Additionally, I am the past president, president elect and secretary of the Grayson County Social Services Association now known as the Tri-county Social Services Association. I also currently serve on the Texoma Homeless Coalition executive committee as the Chair of the Coordinated Entry Committee. I have also served as the past president of Soroptimist International local chapter in Dallas. I am an Ordained Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA, serving as Clerk of Session, Chair of Music and Worship, and voting commissioner to the Presbytery, as well as having served on several Mission and Giving committees.

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

I have been managing federal, state and local government grants for almost all of my career. I have been trained through the Grantsmanship Center course and have served as a volunteer grant evaluator in Los Angeles County, California.

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

I possess excellent verbal and written communications skills, a desire to not only learn new skills for myself but also to be a mentor to a new generation of professionals. I am quite involved in my faith community and can provide insight and leadership in this area for both THN and faith community in general.

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

I want to learn, teach, mentor and hopefully problem solve as we all continue to navigate the difficult and ever-changing, ever-challenging issue of ending homelessness.

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

I hope to increase and strengthen our relationship with the faith community as they are often the first to encounter homeless individuals and families. I would like to see a closer partnership

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with religious leaders and congregations. I also want to learn what more I can do in my faith walk to address the issue of homelessness in our state.

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

This is a challenge that I am ready for and want to put my all into this.

