

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Seat 14 – Faith Community or Faith-Based Organization

Tammy Flores Chan

Current Position:

Executive Director - Street Outreach Case Manager at Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach Organization (GPHOO)

TX BoS CoC county served:

Ellis

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.

In 2019 I retired early (after 20 years) from the City of Grand Prairie to launch the Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach Organization (GPHOO), a faith-based nonprofit, after seeing that there was no homeless shelter or agencies dedicated to serving the unsheltered homeless in Grand Prairie.

Grand Prairie is in 3 counties (Ellis, Tarrant & Dallas) and touches on Johnson Co. To serve the 3 areas, we joined each of the COCs and participate thusly. We have also begun networking with other nearby nonprofits that serve Ellis County as we have had some clients in that part of Grand Prairie. We have also had some clients in Johnson County.

I'm trained and an active HMIS user with the TCHC & MDHA. As a Street Outreach Case Manager, I document unsheltered homelessness to help them qualify for housing assistance.



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In my position with the City of Grand Prairie I wrote local, state, Federal grants and implemented projects. I consider myself to be visionary with a logistical mindset.

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

While I don't have a lot of experience, yet, with the BoS COC I have made several inquiries and see what I think is a need for strengthening the Ellis County and possibly Johnson County homeless response. I say that because I have made inquiries to help clients and there are no services. I'm hoping to advocate for a stronger Coordinated Entry response. I could be wrong about this as I may not be connected well enough or have enough knowledge. I am Probably not qualified due to my lack of experience with the BoS COC but I'm willing to learn.

We haven't yet been too involved in the BOS, but have been attending the annual conferences online and the last legislative day

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).

As I became aware of the COVID related funds that were available to respond to the uptick in unsheltered homelessness, I tried to all for a piece of the ESG "pie" for Grand Prairie, but learned that our apportionment was too low and this we aren't eligible. I have learned a little about ESG, SSVF, PATH and RHY, but have not been involved except as our clients have received housing benefits from MDHA and TCHC partners. I would like to learn more to better use the system and also advocate for programs that help end homelessness.

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

I have served on the Board of Directors of SafeHaven of Tarrant County as a representative of the lived experience role. My kids and I were successfully served by SafeHaven where we stayed in the shelter and received a protective order and then went on to participate in their transitional living program. Because of their help and the help of others, our situation doesn't define us. Through serving on the Board, I learned a great deal about serving on a Board.

I've also served on the Board for Soroptimists International of Grand Prairie. In my role with the City of Grand Prairie I was the staff liaison to the Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful Board of Directors. I attended Board trainings through Keep Texas Beautiful.

I founded the Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach Organization (GPHOO) and researched and wrote our bylaws. I also launched a 2nd nonprofit (CIRCLE Ministries to the Homeless) to serve the homeless who migrated from Grand Prairie to the border area with other cities.



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

In my role with the City of Grand Prairie, where I served as the special projects manager in the city manager's office, I wrote many local, state and a couple of federal grants. I developed the projects in the budgets and coordinated the matching funds and implemented the projects with help. Examples of grants that I wrote and received included the North Central Texas Council of Governments Solid Waste grants for several years. I wrote several CDBG grants for the removal of blight by Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful, which we received. I wrote two federal grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and implemented those projects.

I managed all the grant projects for which I wrote grants.

Please describe your specific skills that can benefit the CoC.

My best skill is my desire to learn and use what I learned to help unsheltered homelessness. I'm like a thirsty sponge.

When you care about something you will work hard on it. That is what I do.

I think also helpful will be my ability to think in a visionary way, but also consider the logistics and to do the hard work the logistics require.

Why do you want to serve on the CoC Board?

Honestly, I want to learn more to help the homeless in the Ellis in Johnson County area well also learning things that will help the Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach Organization (GPHOO).

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

I would endeavor to learn about the priorities and agenda of the BOS COC and be as helpful as I can. I would take what I learned and use it locally as well.

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

I am very busy and I have a lot on my plate, but I feel like serving in this position would be worth every minute of my redirected time and energy. Virtual meetings would be best for me but I would come to life meetings as necessary.

I have applied for a scholarship to attend the conference. If you think now it's not the right time for me to serve due to my lack of experience, please consider other ways that I could become involved and maybe be more prepared in the future.

Please forgive my typos as I did this application on my phone.

Thank you for all you do to help in the homelessness in Texas.