



Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness

Meeting Minutes April 4, 2024

Members Present: Cara Mendelsohn, Chair, Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel, Vice-Chair, LaKeysa Townsend, Michael Pegues, Rob Hays, Kin Oldham, Celeste Arista Glover, Carol Lucky, Dr. Fred Cerise, Dan Micciche, Chief Brent Hurley.

Members Absent: Mita Havlick, Ashley Brundage

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call Cara Mendelsohn, Chair
 - a. Declare A Quorum Present
 - b. Declare Legal Notice Posted and Meeting Duly Called

The hybrid meeting (in person and virtual) was called to order by Cara Mendelsohn, Chair, at 12:04 p.m.

2. **Public Comment** (2-minute limit per speaker)
No public comment.

3. **Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2024,** Cara Mendelsohn, Chair
Vote: Kin Oldham moved to approve the March 7, 2024, minutes, seconded by Rob Hays. The minutes were approved.

4. **Presentation – Texas Homeless Networks Data Sharing Network**

Eric Samuels, President / CEO
Texas Homeless Network

Anja Taylor, THDSN Project MGR
Texas Homeless Network

- Mr. Samuels presented an overview of the Texas Homeless Network Data Sharing, which was established in 1991 as the statewide hub for information and resources regarding homelessness and served that purpose up until 2005. After hurricane Harvey, there was an opportunity to apply for funding and THDSN did receive funding to sort out the data sharing network. What is now called the Texas homeless data, sharing network or the THDSN and it is used to collect data from all participating CoC's into a data warehouse where the collected data is aggregated.
- For example, providers in Dallas and Collin County, collect data on people who have fallen into homelessness through a basic assessment. They collect what is called universal data elements. That data is used in the development of a case plan for clients, to identify the most vulnerable, and it is also used to look at the community and get a picture of homelessness overall, within that geographic region.
- At any point in time, THDSN can get a picture of homelessness throughout the year or can focus on different time periods or on geographic areas or certain sets of populations.
- Rob Hays asked who requests this data from THDSN most frequently or who is THDSN most often providing a statewide view of this data.

- Mr. Samuels stated they have a data dashboard where the data is presented on their site all the time. Most of the requests for data come from educational institutions. Some from nonprofit projects so they can track the effectiveness of their program. In addition, THDSN has been working with Superior Health Plan, a managed care organization to identify shared clients, so they can better serve their clients experiencing homelessness who are insured.
- Once the collected data is in the data warehouse, THDSN has access to sort clients no matter where they are. This makes the process more efficient for people delivering services and for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Texas Homeless Network is governed by a board composed of members that represent the 11 Continuums of Care. The board approves all partnerships, participation in studies and members reserve the right to restrict access to data if they do not feel comfortable sharing any data.
- Rob Hays asked why any of the CoC's would be sensitive to sharing their data if it is scrubbed at a broader level. Mr. Samuels stated that they have not had any problems sharing data that is scrubbed, but if the data has individual cases identified, they will have reservations.
- THDSN is starting to look at other opportunities working with corrections, and other healthcare systems to identify ways that they can better serve clients that are in overlapping systems of care.
- Mr. Samuels met with a mental health conference group that discussed the possibility of working together to better serve veterans that are suffering from mental illness by sharing data and using THDSN's system to track individuals and the services that the individuals may receive.
- THDSN is trying to expand to other healthcare systems and deems this is important because of the new requirements of managed care organizations and tracking the social determinants of health starting in September.
- Organizations benefit from working with THDSN to better serve those that are lacking stability to improve their healthcare outcomes.
- Mr. Samuels shared some detailed data for various years and shared some examples from other areas in the State that showed increases and decreases in people experiencing homelessness.

5. **Questions: Homeless Response System Quarterly Report**

Presented on 3-25-2024 – Housing & Homelessness Solutions Committee

Link: <https://dallastx.new.swagit.com/videos/300653>

Christine Crossley, Director
Office of Homeless Solutions, COD

Sarah Kahn, President/CEO
Housing Forward

- Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel asked for some feedback/words of wisdom from Christine Crossley on how perceptions could be reconciled as opposed to some of the reports that have been shared in January. People should be feeling better about homelessness because there have been some decreases per the report. However, in talking with people around the greater Dallas area, there is a perception that there are more people living in their tents.
- Wanda Moreland, Assistant Director for the Office of Homeless Solutions will make note of the question for Christine Crossley to provide information at a later time.

6. **Revision/Draft Distribution: Articles of Incorporation / Bylaws**

Cara Mendelsohn, Chair

- A committee was formed composed of (3) board members: Cara Mendelsohn, Dr. Theresa Daniel, and Rob Hays. The committee will meet to review and discuss amendments that align and are consistent with the current goals of the organization and where it is headed for the future.

7. **Committee Report: System Performance**

Dr. Theresa Daniel, Vice-Chair

Item not discussed.

8. **Discussion: Big Dreams – Dallas ISD Initiatives**

Cara Mendelsohn, Chair

- It was suggested to form a group to include advocacy groups, private businesses, other independent school districts, charter schools and other associations.

- Options to address this initiative include:
 - a. Plan next steps within the DAP all together.
 - b. Form a small committee to figure out a path forward.
 - c. Convene in a separate summit with all partners.

- Celeste Glover likes the idea of a summit and suggested doing a survey.
- Dan Micciche believes mobilizing community and building support is a good idea to get action and accomplish the list of solutions outlined in Ashley Marshal's presentation. Mr. Micciche emphasized the need to make an urgent call to action since there will be a dramatic staff reduction with the COVID funding ending and students will have a lot less support.
- It will be determined who will be at the table.

9. **Proposed Items for Next/Future Meetings
(no discussion, debate, and/or vote)**

Cara Mendelsohn, Chair

- Chair Cara Mendelsohn intends to have the summer retreat again this year and asked the committee to think about additional data, programs, services, or entities that anyone would like to know about. For example, asking Housing forward for data from their HMIS system.
- Summer Summit to be held at the end of June 2024. Rob Hays will suggest possible location options.
- Dan Micciche suggested getting data from the other ISD's within the area that is comparable to the data that Dallas ISD has provided.
- Celeste Glover asked if updates could be provided regarding the vacant properties purchased by Dallas located on Hampton Road near Kiest Park, Independence Road, and the hospital property.
- Chair Cara Mendelsohn suggested adding a brief report on housing developments that are being built.
- Also, would like to include additional updates about what is happening with veteran homelessness. Lakeysa Townsend will reach out to see if more information can be obtained.
- Leadership will work on working on potential dates for the big convening for the schools.

10. **Announcements of Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness Local Government Corporation

Next Meeting: May 2, 2024

Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St., Dallas, TX 75201, 6th Floor (6ES)

11. **Meeting Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm.

Cara Mendelsohn, Chair

Approval Date