

DALLAS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOUSING WORK GROUP

Dallas County Administration – 500 Elm Street, Customer Excellence Training Room 7.Y17, 7th Floor, Dallas Texas

March 22, 2023 10:00-11:30am

AGENDA

COVID-19 is hard on all of us but especially hard on our low-income and homeless populations.

Even though we are all doing business differently than before there is value in being able to communicate during these unpredictable times. Thank you for all you are doing and please stay safe.

The Dallas County BH Housing Work Group, with diverse representation, will formulate recommendations on the creation of housing and housing related support services designed to safely divert members of special populations in crisis away from frequent utilization of expensive and sometimes unnecessary inpatient stays, emergency department visits and incarceration.

Success will be measured in placement of consumers in housing and the decreased utilization of higher levels of care (hospitals and emergency care visits) and reduced incarceration in the Dallas County Jail. The Dallas County BH Housing Work Group is committed to a data driven decision-making process with a focus on data supported outcomes.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Reports

a. Governance – Commissioner Theresa Daniel

- Approval of February 22, 2022, minutes
- Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness
- Dallas County Homeless Advisory Committee
- Federal & State legislative environment

b. Resources – services, programs, people, funds

- Shelter Discussions
- NTBHA
- Housing Navigator / Homeless Jail Dashboard/St Jude Center
- Housing Authority Report- DHA/DCHA
- ARPA funds Update

c. Projects and Industry Updates

- Housing Forward Update
- Pretrial Diversion and MH screening
- Dallas Connector
- Homeward Bound, Crisis Residential & Respite Services
- Youth Housing
- Family Housing
- Mattingly Report

3. Next Meeting: April 26, 2023

Dallas County Administration, 500 Elm Street, 7th Floor, Dallas Texas 75202
February 22, 2023 Minutes

Mission Statement: The Dallas County BH Housing Work Group, with diverse representation, will formulate recommendations on the creation of housing and housing related support services designed to safely divert members of special populations in crisis away from frequent utilization of expensive and sometimes unnecessary inpatient stays, emergency department visits and incarceration.

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ATTENDEES: Dr. Theresa Daniel, Dallas County Commissioner; Doug Denton, Homeward Bound; Erin Moore, Dallas County; Tzeggabhran Kidane, Dallas County; Aaron White, Dallas County I.T.; Amy Gill, Volunteers of America Texas; Janie Metzinger, NTBHA; Ikenna Mogbo, Metrocare Services; Kimberly Rawls, DCCJ; Mayra Fierro, Texas Appleseed; Renee Arnold, Dallas County; Tasha Derby, DCHHS, Sheree Granville, DCHHS; Dr. Philip Huang, DCHHS; Deborah Hill, DCCJ; Aadya Aahuja, United Way

Dr. Daniel opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

CALL TO ORDER: The minutes were approved with one change. Doug Denton stated that in the January 2023 minutes under the Homeward Bound section on the seventh line decomposition needed to be changed to decompensation.

GOVERNANCE

Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness:

Commissioner Daniel reported the Dallas Area Partnership meeting for February did not have a quorum but they did have a good discussion. Three members will be appointed to fill vacant positions. The next meeting will be February 2, 2023, and a detailed report will be provided next month.

Dallas County Homeless Advisory Committee:

Dr. Philip Huang reported that the Dallas County Homeless Advisory Committee met on February 20, 2023. Dr. Huang stated that they have been updating on the statuses of COVID hospitalization, FLU, and Mpox which have all been improving. They have also been talking about the Community First project land that has been purchased through Dallas County. There is 75 acres of land, but they are still trying to acquire some adjacent land. Part of the land would be for the Community First Village type of model, but it will also include single family and multi-family units. There is also a possibility that Parkland may be looking to put a clinic in that area, but that is still in the works. The committee has also been discussing the modeling for the economic impact of homelessness that a health economist has been assessing.

Federal and State Legislative Update: Janie Metzinger, NTBHA

Janie provided the group with a list of bills that was included in the meeting packet. Janie reported that the House appropriations subcommittee on higher education was having their subcommittee hearing on the budget. All the universities at the hearing mentioned mental health when they were making their pitches for their budget and exceptional items. Janie stated that 5 more bills were filed that were related to homelessness. Bill SB1073 filed by Senator West is a companion bill to HB1142. The committees have been assigned in both houses and bills have started to be assigned to the various committees. Janie encouraged the meeting attendees read over the bills included in the list in the meeting packet, go to the links and to reach out if they have any questions.

Ikenna Mogbo reported that the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers (TAAHP) will be having their Rally Day on March 21, 2023, in Austin Texas. The event brings together affordable housing advocates to meet with legislators at the Texas State Capitol to educate and inform them about issues related to development of affordable housing in Texas. Ikenna stated that he will be participating and will provide the event information to the group.

Mayra from Texas Appleseed reported that bill HB1450 that has been filed is looking to seal eviction records if the tenant is found not at fault. Mayra also reported that SB83 aims decriminalize the runaway offense and to reclassify them as missing persons. She also reported that HB1819 seeks decriminalize curfew ordinances.

RESOURCES

Shelter Discussions:

Commissioner stated that the good news is that we hadn't had inclement weather in a few weeks. Mayra reported an incident during inclement weather where a minor was out in the cold. She was contacted at eleven at night and her only option was the fire station. Afterwards the young person and the case manager made decisions on next steps.

NTBHA: Eric McCarty

Eric McCarty was unavailable, but the report is in the packet

Housing Navigator: Kimberly Rawls, Dallas County

Kimberly stated that all 13 Dallas County beds at St. Jude are occupied. She continues to work with the Housing Services for Homeless Criminal Justice Involved Clients (HSH-CJC) with the Procurement dept. to prepare specifications for the bidding process for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY22 Second Chance Act pay for Success Initiative grant funding award. Kim reported that she completed the Online Financial Grant management training required by BJA.

Homeless Jail Dashboard: Kimberly Rawls, Dallas County

The report was provided to the group in the meeting packet. Kimberly reported that the total numbers of jail book-ins from December to January increased by 300 jail book-ins. The offense category numbers for December to January show that the drug offense had slight increases. The criminal trespass and holds offenses had slight decreases.

Housing Authority Report: Thomas Lewis, Dallas County HHS

Tasha Derby reported in Thomas Lewis's absence. Tasha reported that the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) had 124 vouchers allocated by HUD, 110 homeless individuals leased up, 9 open vouchers, and 5 individuals still searching. 40 project-based units are available through a partnership with St Jude Park central DCHA.

CARES Act/ARPA Funds: Charles Reed, Dallas County

Charles Reed was not available. Report will be given at next months' meeting

PROJECTS AND INDUSTRY UPDATES

Housing Forward updates: Sara Craig, Housing Forward

Sara Craig reported that the All-Neighbors Coalition received \$22.8 million from HUD. This community was the third highest grant after Los Angeles and Chicago. Sara reported that they were chosen because they were able to show through the application that the system is working efficiently to get people housed. She also stated they were able to show that they were bringing other vouchers and partnership to the application with their partnership with Dallas County and Dallas Housing Authority. There are 6 nonprofits that were chosen to administer the permanent supportive housing. The diversion portion of the grant will have an RFP put out to nonprofits to partner to provide services. The \$22.8 will be spread out over three years.

Point in Time update will be presented April 13, 2023, at the annual State of Homelessness Address.

Unit Campaign has been able to secure 302 available units with 137 being held with a deposit. They are currently with 180 + landlords and property owners.

Pretrial Diversion and Mental Health Screening: Laura Edwards, Dallas County

Kimberly Rawls reported on behalf of Laura Edwards. She reported that the process of connecting those with mental health needs from the jail to community resources continues to run smoothly. NTBHA has been very helpful with finding boarding home placements for the clients. They continue to see growth in the pretrial diversion assessment program. She also reported that they are about to start a new project with APAA working with recovery coaches and they will be linked to the pretrial diversion referrals.

Dallas Connector: Daniel Roby, Austin Street

Daniel Roby was not available for the meeting. Report will be given at next month's meeting.

Homeward Bound: Doug Denton, Homeward Bound

Doug reported that the crisis residential is holding its 18-20 beds consistently full. He stated that the Dallas Deflection Center chart in the meeting packet shows how many individuals are coming in, the referral source, and the triage outcome. Doug reported that they had several cases where the individual appears to be having a true mental crisis but when Parkland runs

a blood sugar level, they find that the levels are not at a normal level. Doug also pointed out the Total Triaged chart in the meeting packet shows where the individuals triaged were sent. It showed 11% were sent to the shelters, 29% to a boarding home, 18% to higher level of care, 6% remained with LEA, 7% went to home/family, and 23% refused services. Doug explained that the percentage of people who refused services is a lower number than they expected. If they refuse services, they are still provided with a bus ticket or transportation to where they want to go. Doug explained there was a dip during the holidays. He stated that during the inclement weather law enforcement was directed to take individuals to the inclement weather shelters which could have affected the numbers of the Deflection Center. It is reported that the numbers are returning to the normal rate and law enforcement is bringing individuals to the Deflection Center on a consistent basis. Doug believes that there is a significant difference in the criminal trespass offense for homeless individuals from July, August, September to when the center really got going in October. He stated that this could reflect the presentation and training for law enforcement. It has allowed officers to be able to offer individuals an alternative to jail. Doug reported that there were 154 people checked in at the jail from 9pm to 9am in December. The phase two of the Deflection Center is to be open 24 hours.

Youth Housing: Josh Cogan, A Way Home America

Josh Cogan provided a write up on federal youth legislative updates that was included in the packet.

Family Housing: Ellen Magnis, Family Gateway

Ellen Magnis was unavailable for the meeting. A report will be given at next month's meeting.

Mattingly Report: Jim Mattingly, Lumacorp

Mr. Mattingly was unavailable for the meeting. A report will be given at next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with words of maintaining the efforts by Dr. Daniel.

Next Meeting: March 22, 2023



Texas House Bills

[HB 185](#)-Gonzalez-Amends Texas Education Code 29.081 (d) and 48.009. Related to the inclusion of chronically absent students as students at risk of dropping out of school and the collection and reporting of data regarding those students. Students who are homeless are included in the list of students at risk of dropping out in existing state law. HB 185 adds a definition for the term ‘chronically absent student’. Adds Requires each school district and charter school report the total number of chronically absent students enrolled at each campus or school disaggregated by race, ethnicity and status as students in special education, having dyslexia, educationally disadvantaged, emergent bilingual students.

[HB 272](#)-Julie Johnson-Amends Texas Education Code 5.001 to conform to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

[HB 279](#)-Jetton-Amends Texas Penal Code 20A.01 related to the trafficking of persons. Current statute specifically protects individuals from a shelter, residential treatment center serving runaway youth, foster children, the homeless, or persons subjected to human trafficking, domestic violence or sexual assault. This bill does not propose a change that portion of the law. Adds protection to disabled individuals and clarifies statutory language regarding child sex trafficking.

Companion: [SB 466](#)-Bettencourt

[HB 313](#)-Bernal-Amends Texas Education Code 43.104 to adjust the compensatory education allotment for homeless students or students in foster care under the Foundation School Program. Requires temporary housing between academic terms for students who are homeless or were in foster care. Gives priority access to student housing for students who are homeless. Authorizes memorandums of understanding between the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

[HB 320](#)-Jarvis Johnson-Amends Texas Education Code 51.9356 to designate a liaison officer in institutions of higher education to assist students who are or were in foster care or who are homeless.

[HB 342](#)-Bucy- Amends Texas Education Codes 29.153 (a-1), (b), (c), (d), and (f), which is related to providing full-day prekindergarten. Expands eligibility to any child who is at least four years of age. Current law allows district to offer prekindergarten if the district identifies 15 or more children meet certain criteria, including homelessness. That portion of the law does not change. Companion: [SB 38](#)-Zaffirini.

[HB 516](#)-Wu-Amends Texas Education Code 37, Subchapter C to require a report from school districts and charter schools regarding disciplinary or law enforcement actions. One of the criteria to be listed is whether the student is homeless.

This document is intended for informational purposes only and is not intended to indicate a position for or against any legislation. If you have questions, please contact: Sabrina Conner at sconner@ntbha.org or Janie Metzinger at jmetzinger@ntbha.org

[HB 581](#)-Raymond-Amends Tax Code 11.18. Adds children with disabilities in need of residential care to *ad valorem* tax exemptions on properties owned by charitable organizations for the purpose of renting the property at below-market rates to low-income or moderate-income households. Existing law includes individuals who are homeless and have a disabling condition and have been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the preceding three years.

[HB 741](#)-Goodwin-Amends Texas Tax Code 11.18(d). Similar to HB 581-Raymond.

[HB 772](#)-Allen-Amends Texas Education Code 37. Adds a definition of corporal punishment. Existing law recognizes the challenges faced by students who are homeless.

[HB 780](#)-Collier-Amends Texas Government Code 2306.2585(a) and (b). Adds local programs to prevent and eliminate homelessness, including programs to prevent homelessness resulting from displacement due to economic development activities. Authorizes the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to adopt rules.

[HB 834](#)-Campos-Amends Texas Government Code 2306.2582 to establish a ‘Text-to-Donate’ pilot program under the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Donations could be made to local programs in municipalities with populations of 285,000 or more, including programs to prevent and eliminate homelessness, to provide emergency housing and transportation. Requires TDHCA to allocate:

- Not less than 65% for costs associated with housing individuals and families.
- Not less than 20% for transportation costs.
- Not less than 5% for program promotion.
- Not more than 10% for overhead and administrative costs.

[HB 913](#)-Campos-Amends Government Code 2306. Would establish a statewide homelessness data system.

[HB 1142](#)-Thierry-Amends Education Code 51.9356 –Similar to HB 320-Jarvis Johnson, above.

[HB 1292](#)-Campos-Amends Local Government Code 11, Subtitle A to add provisions for access to mobile showers in municipalities with populations of 500,000 or more.

[HB 1426](#)-Campos-Amends Texas Government Code 2306.

Directs the Interagency Council for the Homeless to evaluate, encourage, provide incentives for, and monitor the participation by providers of services to the homeless throughout the state in a regional or statewide homeless information system. Goals are to:

- Achieve statewide participation in the management information system.
- Improve collaboration and coordination of services.
- Increase transparency and accountability.
- Prevent the loss of state and federal funding for services to the homeless.

HB 1426-Campos-continued

Requires the Interagency Council to make quarterly reports to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs on:

- The rate of participation in the system by service providers.
- Barriers to achieving statewide participation including data input and quality control.
- Potential solutions to barriers.
- Available funding sources to provide resources and incentives for participation.
- Estimated timeline for updates and customization.
- Compliance with procurement regulations.
- Compliance with privacy laws.
- Feedback from participating and non-participating service providers on the ease of access to participate and the local of the system administrators.
- Recommendations from system administrators throughout the state.
- Data-driven scenarios that have improved the provision of services.

The Council may seek assistance from the Texas Homeless Network or any other organization in Texas with a network of service providers to the homeless.

[HB 1523](#)-Campos-Amends Texas Government Code 2306, Subchapter K. Directs Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to establish a establish a housing mobility program to counties with populations over 500,000.

- Grants and loans to provide incentives to landlords to accept tenants participating in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.
 - Allows use of any available revenue.
 - Directs TDHCA to adopt rules, guidelines and provide a mechanism for allocation of available funds.
- Amends Local Government Code 392, Subchapter D to authorize the program.
- Directs local housing authorities to recruit families and landlords to participate.
 - Landlords must agree to participate for a minimum of three years.
 - Properties must be single-family homes.
 - Families must hold housing vouchers, be on a housing voucher waiting list, be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
 - The local housing authority shall:
 - Conduct individual and annual inspections of each property.
 - Coordinate with the landlord regarding time and date of inspection.
 - Prepare and make available an inspection checklist of each item to be inspected.
 - Whether each item was in satisfactory condition.
 - List items that must be in compliance, items that must be brought into compliance within 30 days and items that must be brought into compliance before the next annual inspection.
 - Screen and rank tenants based on credit history, residential references, criminal history, employment verification, personal interview, personal statement by applicant regarding other household members, questions tailored to the applicant, and additional criteria recommended by participating landlords.

HB 1523-Campos-continued

- Require tenants to attend a class regarding lease requirements, landlord requirements, tenant liabilities regarding repairs and maintenance, property management, lawn maintenance, role of neighborhood associations and home ownership associations, utility assistance programs, early departure consequences, tenant eviction process, and the lease renewal process.
- Produce and mail a quarterly newsletter containing the above class information.
- Collect the tenant's rental deposit and share of the first month's rent.
- Deliver the deposit amount and the full amount of the first month's rent to the landlord.
- Deliver the full amount of the monthly rent to the landlord on or before the move-in date.
- Deliver the full amount of the monthly rent to the landlord on or before the first day of each month.
- Collect the tenant's share of the monthly rent within the first five days of the month.
- Receive all complaints by tenant and landlord and seek amicable solution.
- Shall pay the penalty if an action, or a failure to take action by a tenant results in a fine, fee, or charge by a legal entity against the landlord.
- Shall reimburse the landlord who pays the above penalty within 30 days.
- The local authority may
 - Award a grant of not more than \$5000 to rehabilitate the property for initial inspection.
 - Pay the landlord the landlord an amount not to exceed two months' rent for lost rent due to a tenant's eviction, early lease termination or last-minute nonrenewal of a lease.
 - Pay \$2500 to repair tenant-caused property damage if the cost of repair exceeds the security deposit.
 - Initiate an eviction proceeding due to late payment, nonpayment, noncompliance with the lease, written request of the landlord, or any other reason considered appropriate and legal by the authority.
- Applicants ranking in the top 10% are automatically eligible to participate.
- Applicants shall provide notice of departure or nonrenewal of the lease on or before the 30th day before vacating the premises.
- Landlords may not charge rent that exceeds:
 - 120% of the median rent for similar units in the same zip code in school districts ranking A or B in the most recent school district by the Commissioner of Education.
 - 100% of the median rent for similar units in the same zip code in school districts ranking C, D, or F in the most recent school district by the Commissioner of Education.

Requires establishment of the housing mobility program no later than January 1, 2024.

[HB 1557](#)-Campos-Amends Texas Government Code 411, Subchapter Z. Directs the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish and administer a homeless impact grant program to public improvement districts in counties or municipalities in which the most recent point-in-time count exceeds 500 unsheltered homeless individuals.

[HB 1677](#)-Jetton-Amends Texas Health and Safety Code 191, Subchapter A. Texas Transportation Code 521.4265 (b) and (c).

- Would allow a person who is homeless to request a certified copy of the individual's birth certificate.
- Would direct the state registrar, a local registrar, or a county clerk to issue a certified copy of the birth record without a fee.
- Would direct the Texas Department of State Health Service (DSHS) to adopt rules for a process to verify the person's status as a homeless individual, prescribe the documentation necessary for the issuance of a driver's license or personal identification.
- Would require DSHS to allow certification of homelessness to include a letter from a director of an emergency shelter, transitional housing program funded by US Department of Housing and Urban Development; a shelter for homeless individuals; a transitional living program; or a law enforcement agency of a Texas county or municipality.

[HB 1917](#)-Walle-Amends Texas Government Code 2306. Establishes the Texas Tenant Readiness and Landlord Incentive Pilot Program.

[HB 2081](#)-Klick-Amends Business and Commerce Code Title 5, Subtitle A. Would require registration of vision support organizations that provide support services to optometrists. Exempts nonprofit corporations that performs eye care services primarily for homeless, migrant, indigent, or medically underserved populations. Companion: [SB 820](#)-Kolkhorst

[HB 2131](#)-Raymond-Amends Texas Government Code 2306.2585(a). Would reduce the population size of municipalities that can be overseen by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs from 285,000 to 250,000. This change would include Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, Fort Worth, El Paso, Arlington, Corpus Christi, Plano, adding Lubbock, Laredo, Irving at present. https://www.texas-demographics.com/cities_by_population

[HB 2181](#)-Rose-Amends Texas Government Code 2306. Would allow Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to establish and administer a youth and young adult homeless housing and services grant program which includes:

- Construction, development or procurement of housing.
- Financial assistance to local providers to prevent and eliminate homelessness.
- Increase access to safe housing and services.

TDHCA may adopt rules, provide allocation of funds, and prescribe detailed guidelines.

[HB 2244](#)-Campos-Amends Texas Government Code Title 4, Subtitle I. Would direct HHSC to establish a statewide pilot project to provide supportive housing service through Medicaid to persons experiencing chronic homelessness.

- Defines chronic homelessness as an individual or family as:
 - Living at a safe haven, emergency shelter, or place not meant for human habitation.
 - Homeless for the continuous preceding year, or on at least four separate occasions in the past three years.

HB 2244-Campos-continued

- Head of household has a diagnosed substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairment resulting from a brain injury or a chronic illness or disability or a co-occurrence of any two or more of the above diagnoses.
- Individuals who have been in institutional care such as jail, substance use or mental health treatment facility, hospital or similar facility for less than 90 days, but who met the above requirements before entering care, remain qualified for the program.
- Services available through Medicaid in the pilot project would include:
 - Mental health and substance use services.
 - Case management.
 - Personal care and personal assistance.
 - Home and community-based services.
 - Other housing support services.
- HHSC would establish eligibility criteria for participation that considers:
 - An individual's health conditions, and housing status,
 - Current or potential costs of providing supportive housing services through Medicaid.
- Supportive housing services to be provided to project participants:
 - Outreach and engagement.
 - Housing search assistance.
 - Education on tenant's rights and responsibilities.
 - Eviction prevention services.
 - Supportive housing services plans.
 - Coordination with primary care, home health care, substance use treatment, mental health treatment, vision services, dental services, hospital care, emergency room services, crisis intervention, critical time intervention, education on independent living skills, links to education, job skills training and employment opportunities.
- HHSC should use financing and reinvestment strategies that account for:
 - Costs of providing health care to Medicaid recipients.
 - Costs of providing health care to recipients of supported housing services.
 - Costs of providing health care services to individuals under the Affordable Care Act.
 - Housing status of Medicaid recipients.
 - The degree to which accurate and current housing status information is available on Medicaid recipients.
 - The pilot project's effects on costs to other entities such as jails, long-term care facilities and treatment facilities.
 - Affordable housing investments that can be leveraged for participants' housing opportunities.
 - Amount of flexible service dollars to cover project costs.
- HHSC should address the administration of pilot project benefits including the roles of managed care, supportive housing services providers and coordination with existing and emerging health care systems.
- Requires a preliminary report by June 1, 2024 to include:
 - A summary of the project's progress.
 - Assessment of the effect of supportive housing services on the costs to provide services.

HB 2244-Campos-continued

- Assessment of the effect of services to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.
 - Medicaid plan waivers or amendments necessary.
 - Supportive housing services provided at the time of the report.
 - Analysis of the services provided at the time of the report.
 - Estimate of costs and potential savings.
 - Proposed modifications of eligibility criteria.
 - Legislative recommendations.
- Final written report is due September 1, 2026. Enabling legislation expires September 1, 2027.

[HB 2528](#)-Campos-Directs the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a statewide homelessness data system for state and local government agencies, law enforcement, courts, school districts, and emergency services providers can share information related to individuals experiencing homelessness in order to connect them with services.

[HB 2533](#)-Walle-Amends Texas Government Code 2306 to establish a Homeless Data Sharing Network. Directs Texas Department of Community Affairs to collaborate with health benefit plan insurers and managed care organizations to identify individuals experiencing homelessness and connect and refer them to available services and resources.

[HB 2679](#)-Thierry-Directs the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless to conduct a study to evaluate the feasibility, methods, and costs of establishing and implementing a program that provides financial assistance to property owners who offer housing to veterans at risk of homelessness. Written report due by September 1, 2024.

[HB 2822](#)-Garcia-Directs the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless to conduct a study to examine the housing needs of youth transitioning from foster care or the juvenile justice system to independent living. Written report due by November 1, 2024.

[HB 2858](#)-Morales Shaw-Amends Government Code 418.054(a). Directs the Texas Division of Emergency Management to develop a model guide for local officials regarding disaster response and recovery to insure that the needs of the community's vulnerable populations.

[HB 3220](#)-Garcia-Direct the Texas Coordinating Council for Veterans Services to establish a workgroup to assess the feasibility of using surplus government property to provide housing to homeless veterans. identify potential funding sources, veteran subpopulations that will most benefit. May consult with local housing authorities, affordable housing developers and other organizations with appropriate expertise.

[HB 3554](#)-Thierry-Amends Texas Penal Code 3554 to increase the criminal penalty for trafficking of persons to a first-degree felony if committed within 1000 feet of a school, a residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster children, people who are homeless, persons subjected to human trafficking, domestic violence or sexual assault, a community center offering youth services and programs or a child care facility.

[HB 3632](#)-Goodwin-Amends Texas Education Code 130.

Directs the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a Housing Assistance Pilot Program to assist eligible students to pay for housing at junior colleges with enrollment of 40,000 students or more. Companion: SB 1733-Johnson

[HB 3637](#)-Goodwin-Amends Texas Utilities Code 38.076 (c).

Directs the Public Utilities Commission to require electric cooperatives, municipally owned utilities and transmission and distribution facilities to designate certain facilities as critical load public safety customers including long-term care facilities, food pantries, homeless shelters, temporary shelters identified by the county, critical telecommunications facilities, critical water, or wastewater facilities.

[HB 3766](#)-Bucy-Amends Texas Property Code 92.3516 to prohibit a landlord or landlord's agent from charging application fees to any homeless person in order to apply to lease.

[HB 3872](#)-Thierry-Amends Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 9, Subtitle D,

- Relates to the prevention of physical or sexual abuse of children at:
 - Residential treatment facilities or group homes regulated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
 - Juvenile detention facilities regulated by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.
 - A shelter operated or under the authority of a municipality that provides temporary living accommodations for individuals who are homeless.
- Requires review of criminal history of:
 - Employees, volunteers, independent contractors at the facility.
 - Applicants for employment, volunteer opportunities or independent contractor opportunities.
- Requires electronic updates from the Department of Public Safety on employees, volunteers or contractors related to the offenses listed in the Texas Penal Code of:
 - Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual. (21.02)
 - Sexual assault. (22.011)
 - Aggravated sexual assault. (22.021)
 - Prohibited sexual conduct (25.02)
- Separation agreements may not include provisions prohibiting disclosure to a prospective employer of an allegation the above offenses.
- Requires facilities to provide training to each employee, volunteer or contractor regarding signs of physical and sexual abuse, policies regarding reporting, and methods for maintaining professional and appropriate relationships with children.

[HB 4162](#)-Wu-Amends Texas Education Code 51.978 to require institutions of higher education that offer student housing to provide housing between academic terms for a student who is also considered a homeless child or youth.

[HB 4240](#)-Harrison-Amends Texas Government Code 2306

- Requires a statewide homeless services audit every even numbered year on the effectiveness and efficiency of services to the homeless provided by state agencies.
- Shall be conducted by an independent auditor overseen by the state auditor.
- Shall assess effectiveness of agencies, programs and services providers on the percentage of beneficiaries who:
 - Secure and maintain housing for which they are the primary payer.
 - Have children who regularly attend school or educational programs.
 - Participate in at least 20 hours of paid public or private sector work.
 - Participate in occupational or vocational training,
 - Move from subsidized income to earned income as primary source of earnings.
 - Regular visits to primary care physicians.
 - With mental health needs who engage in regular mental health care services.
 - With SUD who engage in regular treatment services.
 - Without involvement in criminal justice system.
- Rate each agency, program and community services provider reviewed as unsatisfactory, satisfactory or exemplary.
- Make recommendations for:
 - Eliminating poorly performing programs.
 - Ending contractual or funding relationships with poorly performing providers.
 - Consolidating duplicative or overlapping services and functions.
 - Reallocating resources to ensure that outcomes are achieved in the most effective and economical manner.
- Agencies that must be included: TDHCA, HHSC, DFPS, TEA, TWC, TVC, TDCJ.

[HB 4242](#)-Harrison-Amends Texas Government Codes 531.01, 539.001, and 2306.004 to standardize the definitions related to homelessness in state law.

“Homeless, homelessness and homeless persons mean individuals or families lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence as described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act (Title 42 US Code, chapter 119, Subchapter I) as it existed on January 1, 2023.”

[HB 4379](#)-Reynolds-Amends Texas Code of Criminal Procedure regarding pretrial release and detention. Includes statutory language to define a homeless person.

[HB 4939](#)-Hefner-Amends Local Government Code 364.

- Requires a process for an individual to file a complaint regarding public camping.
- Must report to the Attorney General the number of complaints, disposition of complaints, citations issued and other information required by the AG.
- Action must be taken on complaints within 90 days.
- Attorney General or DPS may initiate enforcement action and recover enforcement costs from the violating local entity.
- Costs may be deducted from the local entity's share of tax revenue collected by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts.

[HB 5045](#)-Garcia-Creates a task force to study access to telephone and internet service among homeless veterans. Written report required by November 1, 2024.

[HB 5228](#)-Neave Criado-Amends Texas Transportation Code 521, Subchapter I to provide exemption from fees related to obtaining a driver's license or personal identification certificate.

Texas Senate Bills

[SB 38](#)-Zaffirini-Amends Texas Education Codes 29.153 (a-1), (b), (c), (d), and (f), which is related to providing full-day prekindergarten. Expands eligibility to any child who is at least four years of age. Current law allows district to offer prekindergarten if the district identifies 15 or more children meet certain criteria, including homelessness. That portion of the law does not change. Companion: [HB 342](#)-Bucy.

[SB 89](#)-Johnson-Amends Texas Education Code 29.153 (b) related to free prekindergarten classes for three year olds. Current list of eligible children includes children who are homeless. This part of the law does not change. Adds children of primary or secondary school classroom teachers.

[SB 466](#)-Bettencourt-Amends Texas Penal Code 20A.01 related to the trafficking of persons. Current statute specifically protects individuals from a shelter, residential treatment center serving runaway youth, foster children, the homeless, or persons subjected to human trafficking, domestic violence or sexual assault. Proposed bill does not change that portion of the law. Adds protection to disabled individuals and clarifies statutory language regarding child sex trafficking. Companion: [HB 279](#)-Jetton

[SB 719](#)-Paxton-Amends Texas Tax Code 11.18(d) regarding exemption from *ad valorem* taxation of property owned by a charitable organization that provides services related to the placement of a child in a foster or adoptive home. Current statute includes organizations that provide housing and related services to individuals who are homeless. This part of the statute does not change. Updates language regarding children with disabilities. Adds exemption for organizations providing services related to planning and or placement of children in foster or adoptive homes or providing support or relief for women who are or may be pregnant and are considering placing their unborn children for adoption.

[SB 820](#)-Kolkhorst-Amends Business and Commerce Code Title 5, Subtitle A. Would require registration of vision support organizations that provide support services to optometrists. Exempts nonprofit corporations that performs eye care services primarily for homeless, migrant, indigent, or medically underserved populations. Companion: [-HB 2081](#)-Klick

[SB 1073](#)-West-Amends Texas Education Code 51.9356 Designates a liaison officer at institutions of higher learning to assist student who are or were in foster care or who are homeless.

[SB 1214](#)-Schwertner-Amends Texas Local Government Code Title 8, Subtitle A

- Requires special hearings and notice by a municipalities regarding the conversion of properties to house homeless individuals.
- Public hearing must be not less than 90 days before the municipality begins the conversion.
- Hearing must be within a one-mile radius of the property to be converted.
- Residents within a one-mile radius must be notified by mail within 36 hours of the hearing.
- If a municipality fails to comply, an individual entitled to notice may bring an action for injunctive relief to prevent the conversion.

[SB 1733](#)-Johnson-Amends Texas Education Code 130.

- Directs the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a Housing Assistance Pilot Program to assist eligible students to pay for housing.
- Eligible junior colleges must have an enrollment of 40,000 students to participate in the pilot.
- Students must be enrolled at a participating public junior college.

Companion: HB 3632-Goodwin

[SB 1803](#)-Springer-Amends Texas Government Code 2306

- Requires a statewide homeless services audit every even numbered year on the effectiveness and efficiency of services to the homeless provided by state agencies.
- Shall be conducted by an independent auditor overseen by the state auditor.
- Shall assess effectiveness of agencies, programs and services providers on the percentage of beneficiaries who:
 - Secure and maintain housing for which they are the primary payer.
 - Have children who regularly attend school or educational programs.
 - Participate in at least 20 hours of paid public or private sector work.
 - Participate in occupational or vocational training,
 - Move from subsidized income to earned income as primary source of earnings.
 - Regular visits to primary care physicians.
 - With mental health needs who engage in regular mental health care services.
 - With SUD who engage in regular treatment services.
 - Without involvement in criminal justice system.
- Rate each agency, program and community services provider reviewed as unsatisfactory, satisfactory or exemplary.

SB 1803-Springer--continued

- Make recommendations for
 - Eliminating poorly performing programs
 - Ending contractual or funding relationships with poorly performing providers
 - Consolidating duplicative or overlapping services and functions.
 - Reallocating resources to ensure that outcomes are achieved in the most effective and economical manner.
- Agencies that must be included: TDHCA, HHSC, DFPS, TEA, TWC, TVC, TDCJ.

Appears to be identical to HB 4240-Harrison

[SB 1804](#)-Springer-Amends Texas Government Codes 531.01, 539.001, and 2306.004 to standardize the definitions related to homelessness in state law.

Appears to be identical to HB 4242-Harrison.

[SB 2018](#)-Flores-Amends Local Government Code 364 regarding prohibitions on camping in a public place.

- Requires a process for an individual to file a complaint regarding public camping.
- Must report to the Attorney General the number of complaints, disposition of complaints, citations issued, and other information required by the AG.
- Action must be taken on complaints within 90 days.
- Attorney General or DPS may initiate enforcement action and recover enforcement costs from the violating local entity.
- Costs may be deducted from the local entity's share of tax revenue collected by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Appears to be identical to HB 4939-Hefner

[SB 2395](#)-West-Directs the Texas Education Agency to establish a task force to study disciplinary practices and policies in public schools related to race, gender, national origin, disability status, economic status, emergent bilingual status whether the student is homeless and whether the student is in the conservatorship of the state. Report is due by December 1, 2024.

[SB 2529](#)-Parker-Amends Texas Government Code, Section 2306.2585(a) to reduce the size of the municipality eligible to participate in homeless housing and services programs administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs from 285,500 or more to municipalities in Texas with a population of 200,000 or more. The effect would be to make more municipalities eligible to participate in the programs.

- Currently eligible: Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, Fort Worth, El Paso, Arlington, Corpus Christi, Plano.
- SB 2529 would add: Plano, Lubbock, Laredo, Irving, Garland, Amarillo.
- Close and growing in DFW: Grand Prairie, Frisco, McKinney
- https://www.texas-demographics.com/cities_by_population



Dallas County Criminal Justice (DCCJ) Housing Navigator March 2023 Report

FUSE Project

January 2023 Jail FUSE Data

January 2023 Jail FUSE Data		Total Clients Triaged for FUSE		304
Referral Source				
Jail FUSE Navigator Triage	248	NTBHA Living Room Referral		0
Defense Attorney Referral	4	Shelter/Street FUSE Navigator Referral		34
Another Referral Source	11	Pretrial Referral		7
Client Triage/Referral Outcomes				
Released to Another Program or Agency	13	Referral Banned from Shelter		0
Client Refused to be interviewed or Participate or Interview attempt	5	Client didn't qualify for FUSE		112
Immigration Hold	1	Client report not being Homeless		3
Released (i.e., Posted Bond)	60	Qualified referred by Shelters/Street Outreach		12
FUSE bond denied	1			
Pending Client Referrals				
Waiting on info, Waiting on Bond to Post, and pending attorney response	83	In Quarantine/Medical/Interview Pending		2
Total Released from Jail to FUSE				12
Shelter Assignment				
Austin Street Center	4	The Bridge		7
Salvation Army	1	Referred to or by Street Outreach		0
Other	2	No Response		0
Shelter Connection Rate				
Austin Street Center	2	The Bridge		4
Salvation Army	0	Other		2
No Response	0	Client Abscond/Did Not Connect		6
Housed or placed on the Housing Priority List or Info sent to MDHA				3

February 2023 Jail FUSE Data

February 2023 Jail FUSE Data		Total Clients Triaged for FUSE		294
Referral Source				
Jail FUSE Navigator Triage	254	NTBHA Living Room Referral		0
Defense Attorney Referral	3	Shelter/Street FUSE Navigator Referral		22
Another Referral Source	8	Pretrial Referral		7
Client Triage/Referral Outcomes				
Released to Another Program or Agency	24	Referral Banned from Shelter		0
Client Refused to be interviewed or Participate or Interview attempt	2	Client didn't qualify for FUSE		117
Immigration Hold	9	Client report not being Homeless		0
Released (i.e., Posted Bond)	47	Qualified referred by Shelters/Street Outreach		2
FUSE bond denied	0			
Pending Client Referrals				
Waiting on info, Waiting on Bond to Post, and pending attorney response	71	In Quarantine/Medical/Interview Pending		7
Total Released from Jail to FUSE				15
Shelter Assignment				
Austin Street Center	7	The Bridge		5
Salvation Army	3	Referred to or by Street Outreach		0
Other	2	No Response		0
Shelter Connection Rate				
Austin Street Center	4	The Bridge		2
Salvation Army	1	Other		0
No Response	0	Client Abscond/Did Not Connect		8
Housed or placed on the Housing Priority List or Info sent to MDHA				3



St. Jude Project

2920 Forest Ln, Dallas, TX 75234	104 Units	Dallas County has 13 allocated beds	Housing is for Seniors +55 years old
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- All 13-Dallas County beds are occupied.

Housing Services for Homeless Criminal Justice-Involved Clients (HSH-CJC) Grant

- Completed revised Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) budget and will send it to the BJA for final approval.
- Completed the Procurement specifications (specs) to begin the bidding process for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 22 Second Chance Act Pay for Success Initiative grant funding award.

**Dallas Connector Project (DCP) Dallas County Client Utilization
(Transport to the NTBHA LR from the Jail and or the LR to the FUSE Shelters)**

The NTBHA Livingroom (LR) Staff conducted jail releases for individuals going to the Livingroom and Austin Street’s report would contain the February 2023 jail data.

**FUSE DATA FY 2022-2023
12 MONTH**

Category Item	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Total Clients Triaged for FUSE	375	371	340	283	304	385	304	294				
Referral Source												
Jail FUSE Navigator Triage	332	311	288	238	268	345	248	254				
NTBHA Living Room Referral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Defense Attorney Referral	6	12	5	9	5	7	4	3				
Shelter/Street FUSE Navigator Referral	14	19	18	12	7	10	34	22				
Other Referral Source	15	21	21	15	17	14	11	8				
Pretrial Referral	8	8	8	9	7	9	7	7				
Client Triage/Referral Outcomes												
Released to Another Program or Agency	6	9	2	2	4	12	13	24				
Referral Banned from Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Client Refused to be interviewed or Participate or Interview attempt	11	14	1	4	1	8	5	2				
Client didn't qualify for FUSE	158	149	136	144	123	144	112	117				
Immigration Hold	11	8	4	2	6	11	1	9				
Client report not being Homeless	5	9	8	8	5	2	3	0				
Released (i.e. Posted Bond)	47	31	79	17	56	77	60	47				
Referred by Shelters/Street Outreach	5	14	9	2	5	4	12	2				
FUSE bond denied	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0				
Pending Client Referrals												
Waiting on info, Waiting on Bond to Post, and pending attorney response	108	115	83	75	87	106	83	71				
In Quarantine/Medical/Interview Pending	7	2	3	9	4	12	2	7				
Shelter Assignment												
Total Released from Jail to FUSE	15	20	15	19	13	9	12	15				
Austin Street Center	6	1	0	4	3	2	4	7				
The Bridge	8	12	14	11	10	7	7	5				
Salvation Army	1	7	1	4	0	0	1	3				
Qualified Referred by Shelters/Street Outreach	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0				
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2				
No Response	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Shelter Connection Rate												
Austin Street Center	2	1	0	4	3	1	2	4				
The Bridge	3	8	4	3	5	2	4	2				
Salvation Army	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	1				
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0				
No Response	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Client Abscond/Did Not Connect	10	8	11	10	5	6	6	8				
Housed	1	1	3	4	1	0	2	1				
Housing Priority List or Info sent to MDHA	7	2	2	1	2	2	1	2				

DALLAS COUNTY DEFLECTION CENTER

2022-23	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	TOTAL
TOTAL TRIAGED	0	2	17	14	29	21	22	21	8	0	0	0	134
Referral Source													
Dallas PD													0
SC Div		1	4	4	4	2	3	7					25
SW Div					4	1	3	1					9
SE Div			3	1	2	4	1						11
NC Div					2	2	1	3	1				9
NE Div				6	5		2	1	1				15
NW Div			2	1	2			1					6
CEN Div		1	3	1	6	7	4	2	3				27
Right Care						1	1		1				3
Dallas Marshal - CDC			1										1
Great SW Coalition					3	1	1	1	1				7
SE Coalition													0
NTBHA MCOT							5	4	1				10
													0
DART PD			4		1	1							6
DCHD - Parkland PD				1		2	1	1					5
TRIAGE OUTCOME		2	17	14	29	21	22	21	8	0	0		
Psych Crisis Residential					1			3					4
Detox-Withdrawal Mgmt													0
Living Room-NTBHA*		1	4	6	9	2	1						23
CMHP Services													0
ACT Team						3		1					4
OTHER SUD Services							1						1
Shelter													0
Austin Street			1	1	1	1							4
Bridge													0
Salvation Army				1	2								3
Union Gospel Mission													0
Other						2							2
Home-Family		1		3	1	1	1	3					10
Boarding Home/PSH					1	1		2	1				5
Higher Level of Care													0
Behavioral Health			4		4	2	6	1	2				19
Physical Health			1		1	3	2	2	1				10
Veterans Administration				1			1						2
LEA Maintained Custody			2		3		1	1					7
Still in Service							2	1	2				5
Refused Services			5	2	6	6	7	7	2				35