Lead the Continuum of Care - Upcoming Events and Trainings

- December 11 - SOAR OAT Training 10 am (FWHA Offices)
- December 15 - CAS P12 Webinar
- December 16 - Rapid Rehousing Learning Collaborative Planning Meeting 12:30 pm
- December 18 - TCHC Holiday Open House Noon - 4:30 pm (FWHA offices)
- December 19 - TCHC Homeless Memorial Service 2:00 pm (Union Gospel Mission)
- January 6 - Back to Basics 9 am (First Street Methodist Mission)
- January 15 - PIT Team Prep Training Webinar
- January 16 - Hospital Discharge Planning Training “Amazing Race” for area hospitals
- January 20 - TCHC Case Manager of the Year and CoC General Membership Annual Meeting 11:30 am (First United Methodist Church Wesley Hall RSVP required)
- January 22 - Homeless Count 8 pm (four locations)
- January 27- CAARES / Coordinated Access Strategic Planning Session (Goodwill)
- January 29 - Rapid Rehousing Learning Collaborative Session 1 (Broadway Baptist)
- February 11 - State of the Homeless Address 9:30 am (The Salvation Army Mabey Center)
- February 11 - CoC Board of Directors Meeting 11:30 am (United Way Board Room)
- February (TBD) - State of the Homeless Address - City of Arlington
- March (TBD) - Approval of the 2015-2016 CoC Strategic Plan

Coordinated Access System (Obj 1 and 5): The Coordinated Access System has completed its first program year ending November 30, 2014. The first year involved fully staffing the CAS, implementation of a first Prioritization Standard (“P3”), weekly production of a list of priority clients for housing, implementation of a Homeless Helpline 817-996-8800, and secured provision of a Tenant Screening Report and rental housing inventory resources. During the grant term we have learned how to better divert persons from presenting at emergency shelters as well as learning where gaps occur in communicating and referring resources. Learning what works and is not working has been a critical part of being a leading CoC in Texas in implementing coordinated access. Phase 2 begins on December 15 to include a modified prioritization system expanded to 14 levels of categories, 12 of priority for housing resources and 2 “No Priority” that represent at risk of homelessness or first time homeless less than 14 days. The purpose of prioritization is to match the appropriate level of housing intervention to the severity of the services needed. TCHC will conduct a GoTo Meeting on Monday, December 15 providing instruction on the process. The training will be recorded and posted on the TCHC YouTube Channel.

Ending Veteran Homelessness - 34 agencies that serve homeless veterans met for a fall day “Boot Camp” to review our current response and housing system and suggest improvements and ideas to end the experience of homelessness among veterans by December 2015. The results of the planning event was the creation of a 100 day “MISSION POSSIBLE” plan. The core of the plan involves bi-weekly meetings of the veteran’s workgroup to review the names and status of all homeless veterans and develop individual solutions to end their homelessness. Larger system - level goals will be addressed in combination with the CAARES planning meeting scheduled for January 27, 2015. Family Endeavors, recipient of the Tarrant County Priority 1 SSVF urge Funding of $3 million over three years (Oct 1, 2014 - September 2017) has leased office space and has officially set up a branch in Fort Worth. CEO Travis Pearson has worked with TCHC in developing the local CoC Plan for serving veterans in collaboration with the veterans work group and current SSVF recipient Catholic Charities.

Hospital Discharge Planning (Obj 2): After over 10 years, the Continuum of Care now has a baseline Hospital Discharge Planning Policy. The policy purpose is to coordinate with health care agencies and homeless service providers to not discharge patients into homelessness. The policy addresses both current homeless persons that become hospitalized as well as addressing care for at-risk of homelessness patients. The policy was adopted by JPS Health Network. The policy will be introduced to other Tarrant County Hospitals at a half-day training on January 16. The hospital group is working with TCHC in this interactive role-playing training that will allow hospital workers to fully understand the challenges and barriers homeless persons experience when attempting to access health care services.
# Objective 1

**INCREASE PROGRESS TOWARDS ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

1. Increase the supply of Permanent Supportive Housing beds
   - Include an RFP for new permanent supportive housing projects in FY 2014 and FY 2015 CoC Program Grants
   - Seek local funding to meet the 25% match requirement to support new CoC PSN projects
   - Advocate for the development of permanent supportive housing and housing units dedicated for households below 30% AMI
2. Increase the portion of existing beds dedicated for the chronically homeless to 85%
   - Maintain the master inventory of permanent supportive housing to immediately identify available units
   - Streamline the process of verifying priority populations for PSN housing through the Coordinated Assessment System
   - Award local performance scores to agencies that maintain 100% occupancy
3. Increase turnover of CoC PSN beds through achievement of housing independence
   - Implement the Independent Housing Readiness Assessment process as an annual PSN participant self-sufficiency review
   - Update and optimize the search capabilities of the THCH web-based housing inventory

# Objective 2

**INCREASE HOUSING STABILITY**

1. Increase the number of persons that exit PSH programs into permanent housing
   - Increase funding for the Direct Client Services Fund to expand to outside of the City of Fort Worth for deposits, application fees and move in
   - Expand the MIHMR Tenant Based Solutions program to develop community and neighborhood support systems where clients reside
2. Increase preventative and primary health, mental health and behavioral health care
   - Implement the strategies of the Healthy Community Collaborative Grant Program
   - Coordinate the activities of the CoC with the JPS Care Connections for the Homeless DSRIIP program
   - Approve a county-wide hospital discharge planning policy
3. Establish a Back To Basic program targeting the homeless population
4. Expand outreach and rapid rehousing for homeless women
   - Establish this subpopulation as a priority for ESG funding in the Fort Worth, Arlington and Tarrant County 2014 Consolidated Action Plans
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   - Formalize the homeless women’s workgroup as a committee of the Continuum of Care Board
   - Establish outreach to homeless women as a specific funding priority for ESG Funds
   - Establish rapid rehousing ‘bridge’ housing programs for chronically homeless women with ESG

# Objective 3

**INCREASE INCOMES OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

1. Increase access to critical documents
   - Update the TCHC Critical Documents web application
   - Streamline online payment method options for agencies to reduce time to access documents
   - Develop archive of copies of critical documents when received by the client within the HMIS client record
   - Expand critical document secure storage for emergency sheltered and unsheltered clients
   - Increase training and job skills opportunities
     - Expand the use of the Direct Client Services fund for securing training certifications, licenses, exams and tests
     - Secure scholarship funding for the Fort Worth Housing Authority Certified Nurse Assistant training project
   - Secure employment opportunities
     - Develop the web-based pilot project that introduces employment ready homeless to potential employers ‘IWillWork.org’
     - Expand transitional employment opportunities through Workforce Solutions

# Objective 4

**INCREASE PARTICIPANTS OBTAINING MAINSTREAM BENEFITS**

1. Increase access to SSI/SSDI benefits for persons with disability
   - Create SOAR Network within the CoC made up of one dedicated SOAR leads at each homeless provider agency
   - Provide two SOAR trainings through Texas Homeless Network per year
   - Fully implement utilization of the SOAR Online Application Tracking System (OAT)
   - Apply for the SOAR national Technical Assistance Grant
   - Increase access to SNAP/TANF/WIC
     - Establish benefits specialist lead at each homeless provider agency
     - Develop HMIS driven tracking of application progress
     - Develop archive of client documents required for application for benefits within the HMIS client record
     - Train agencies on benefits appeal processes
     - Educate recipients on how to maintain their benefits, re-certify, and what to do if loss or denied
   - Increase access to VA benefits
     - Integrate Veteran Services Agencies into the Continuum of Care
     - Provide VA access to the Direct Client Services Fund for VASH applicants for deposits, critical documents, transportation and move in

# Objective 5

**RAPID REHOUSING TO REDUCE FAMILY HOMELESSNESS**

1. Increase the supply of rapid rehousing from CoC Program and Emergency Solutions Grants
   - Apply to TDHCA as an ESG direct grantee to provide local decision making in the allocation of state funds
   - Conduct quarterly planning meetings of transitional housing and rapid rehousing providers to improve success in current RRH programs
   - Convert more transitional housing programs into rapid rehousing
     - Explore best—practices in transforming CoC Transitional Housing programs into a Rapid Rehousing model
     - Conduct NAEH sponsored Rapid Rehousing Workshop
     - Create a one-year Rapid Rehousing Learning Collaborative
       - Develop a plan to retain transitional housing programs for domestic violence victims
     - Prioritize families for rapid rehousing through the Coordinated Assessment System
       - Establish formal communications procedures with school districts in the identification and prioritization of families at risk of and falling into homelessness
       - Centralize eligibility paperwork for homeless prevention assistance in the HMIS and through the Coordinated Assessment System

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**Legend**

- **Action item started**: 10
- **Significant benchmark achieved**: 34
- **No significant action taken**: 1