

LEADERSHIP REPORT

HOMELESS SERVICES IN TARRANT & PARKER COUNTIES

TAMMY MCGHEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TARRANT COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION

February 22, 2019

Dear community leaders and partners in service,

Happy New Year! Last year was one of transformation for our community. The 100 Day Challenge concluded with our community truly coming together and achieving unbelievable success. Transformation continues with both the CoC and TCHC Boards as they are engaged in strategic planning designed to establish a new vision, mission and set the direction for both TCHC and the entire Continuum of Care. The future certainly looks bright for our community and I sincerely appreciate the role each one of you plays in the campaign to end homelessness.

Within the Housing Crisis System of Care, this month's focus is on Diversion. We will move on in the following reports to outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid-rehousing and permanent supportive housing. We hope this information will better illustrate how our complex system functions together, the role each type of service plays, and the magnitude of work being done. Each month we will share information that better defines each type of service, which agencies are involved, how many people were served throughout the community and how each type of service is funded. Additionally the CoC Board structure will be further explained, highlighting information about committees, subcommittees, work groups and ad hoc committees doing work for the Board. This will provide a clearer understanding of Board processes and how community-wide recommendations and decisions are made.

Each month you'll continue to find community funding updates, performance measures, information about affordable housing, community successes, challenges we face and what you can expect to see in the near future. Again, my hope is that this report helps our community have a clear picture of what is happening within our Housing Crisis System of Care. Please let me know if you have questions or would like more information.

Our community is moving forward together and TCHC appreciates the opportunity to serve.

In Service,



Tammy McGhee
Executive Director

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SYSTEM OVERVIEW 1

Diversion

Diversion is used to empower the front door of Coordinated Entry and work with participants to resolve problems which brought them to the system by using natural supports and progressive engagement. Some people who would be homeless in Tarrant County, could be housed in another location, where they have family for example, if they could only get there. The Diversion Program provides bus tickets for those individuals and families.

City of Fort Worth began funding Diversion in April through Tarrant County Homeless Coalition. To test whether further investment in diversion was needed in the community, Directions Home launched a three month pilot in September with additional funds. From September to November 2018, 48 people were diverted from experiencing homelessness at an average cost of \$167. **That cost is equivalent to less than five (5) nights in an emergency shelter for one (1) person.** Built out to scale, these cost savings quickly become significant and helps free up valuable funds to be reallocated to other programs. More importantly, the outcome is more favorable for the recipient as they have an opportunity to be housed in familiar surroundings.

Diversion is an immediately impactful and cost effective tool to combat homelessness. Given the success, the Diversion program will be expanding.

Rapid Exit Pilot Program

Rapid Exit is a program that seeks to reduce homelessness by quickly connecting clients who need very limited assistance with housing. Funds for Rapid Exit were used to assist people who are in shelter and employed. Instead of waiting in the emergency shelter three or four months to save up for move in expenses – application fee, administrative fee, security deposit – providing one time move-in assistance allows them to quickly exit.

All Rapid Exit clients will be referred through TCHC's Coordinated Entry process and will have current employment, recent employment or low barriers to employment. Case managers will work with clients to quickly connect them to the most appropriate employment intervention (training programs and direct employment) plus housing assistance.

In the recent three month pilot, Directions Home partnered with LegUp which provided one-week classes focusing on employment readiness and being prepared to rent an apartment. Clients who completed the one week class and obtained employment were eligible to receive one time move-in assistance.

Rapid Exit is an innovative option as it has the capacity to ease burdens on many other housing systems. **Due to the success, City of Fort Worth has dedicated dollars to fund a new Rapid Exit/Employment program in the latest Request for Proposals.**

SYSTEM OVERVIEW 1

TCHC EVENTS

The Tarrant County Homeless Association has an exciting slate of events scheduled for 2019. We hope you will make plans to join us this year in the campaign to end homelessness.

- **State of the Homeless Report** – Wednesday & Thursday, March 20th & 21st
- **Bubbles & Bras** – Thursday, March 28th
- **CEO Breakfast** – Friday, May 10th
- **Community Conference on Homelessness** – Saturday, June 15th
- **Celebration of Housing** – June 17th to June 21st
- **Boxers 'n' Brews** – Thursday, August 8th
- **100 Day Challenge** – September 3rd to December 11th
- **North Texas Giving Day** – Thursday, September 12th
- **Mulligans for the Homeless** – Monday, October 21st
- **CEO Breakfast** – Friday, November 8th
- **Annual Awards & Appreciation Luncheon** – Tuesday, December 10th
- **Homeless Memorial Service** – Saturday, December 21st

For more information about any of our events please contact:

Kayla Mosley, Community Engagement Coordinator
kayla@ahomewithhope.org

TCHC HAS MOVED

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition has moved. This change will allow us to continue to grow and better serve our partners and the community.

As of Tuesday, January 22nd, you can reach us at:

**300 South Beach Street
Fort Worth, TX 76105
817.509.3635**

Please make plans to join us for an open house in April. You can tour the new space, meet the staff and ask questions about TCHC's exciting plans for 2019 and beyond. **For additional information, contact Kayla Mosley at kayla@ahomewithhope.org, or visit TCHC at ahomewithhope.org**

LEADERSHIP 2

The CoC Board of Directors

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Board of Directors helps chart the course for the entire community regarding the issue of homelessness. The CoC Board has various committees and groups, each playing a vital role in establishing strategic priorities and developing the community's response to end homelessness. All Board committees and groups have individualized meeting schedules and agendas, which can be found on TCHC's website (www.ahomewithhope.org).

The Board meets the last Monday of each month and meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in learning more about the solutions to homelessness, please join us at our next meeting.



The CoC Board has put in a tremendous amount of time and hard work developing a new vision, mission and strategic plan for the CoC moving forward. The process should be completed in February, 2019 and will be unveiled in future issues of the Monthly Leadership Report.

TCHC Welcomes New Board Members

We are proud to welcome two new members to the TCHC Board of Directors.

Sonya Hutton brings 20 years of business leadership and project management experience to the Board. Her expertise spans many disciplines and will definitely be an asset to TCHC.

Tiffany Kutch is a mother, radio host and passionate advocate. Her radio show, "Empowered to Speak" serves as a platform where she and others can share their stories of hope. We are honored and excited to have both of them as additions to the TCHC family.

Concurrent to the CoC's strategic planning efforts, TCHC and its Board of Directors are working diligently to create a new strategic plan and direction specifically for the agency in 2019 through 2021. As the lead agency, TCHC strives to be a supportive force for the entire community. We are grateful for the hard work that our Board has given to developing our new strategic plan. We look forward to sharing the details with you when the plan is completed.

FUNDING 3

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

TCHC Receives Record HUD Funding

\$13.3 Million Received for Tarrant and Parker Counties

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, on behalf of TX-601 – The Continuum of Care for Tarrant and Parker counties – **was awarded \$13,306,444 in funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development** (HUD) for the 2018 Continuum of Care competition. The amount eclipsed last years award by more than \$1,000,000 and is the highest total ever received by TX-601.

The TX-601 Continuum was eligible to apply for \$11,923,476 and was awarded a total of \$13,306,444 which is a surplus of \$1,382,926. Additionally, our Continuum was awarded \$309,885 more than was requested. **The funds will provide housing for approximately 1,113 households across Tarrant and Parker Counties.**

Of the 41 projects submitted, 33 renewal projects, one new project and five project expansions were funded. HUD declined to fund 1 renewal project and one expansion project. The funded projects include: 23 Permanent Supporting Housing programs, 1 Safe Haven program, 10 Rapid Rehousing programs, 2 HMIS programs, 2 Coordinated Entry programs and 1 Planning grant.

Since 2015, TCHC and TX-601 has increased Continuum of Care funding by more than \$1.6 million, substantially increasing critical beds and resources to serve the most vulnerable in the community.

Be On The Look Out

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) – Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) competition will commence in Spring 2019. The competition will be a two-year funding cycle with TCHC facilitating the local competition on behalf of TDHCA. Local funding recommendations will be sent to TDHCA for review and approval. Stay tuned for updates and results.

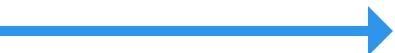
Directions Home RFP – The Directions Home RFP is now available via the City of Fort Worth Purchasing website. For more information, interested applicants should click on the link <http://fortworthtexas.gov/purchasing/>

2018 PERFORMANCE 4

2018 Highlights



5 months to 3 months



174

Number of Individuals and families housed in 2018

Increase in homeless persons exiting to permanent housing destinations since 2017

Decrease in amount of time individuals and families experienced homelessness over the last 12 months

People diverted from homelessness

100-Day Challenge



Last September, TCHC and its partners accepted the challenge to house 100 veterans in 100 days. The community rallied around this campaign and we are now proud to announce that 181 veterans were given a place to call home.

The 100 Day Challenge was a supremely collaborative effort and showed off the best of what our community has to offer. Partners came together behind a singular goal and showed the entire community what is indeed possible.

The 2019 100 Day Challenge will be from September 3rd to December 11th and we hope we can count on your support.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING 5

Community Building Community

Proposed Vision

Community Building Community (CBC) has a bold goal: to fundamentally shift the ways our community builds and sustains affordable housing. CBC offers a new solution for our community to grab hold of, and make a commitment to, addressing the severe shortage of affordable housing. CBC is a framework of three primary concepts – investment, building and sustainability, all of which are vital to success and intertwined in purpose within the structure of this impact investment.

The mission of CBC is to improve lives through social impact investment which creates thriving affordable communities that promote the social, economic and physical transformation of underserved neighborhoods.

CBC Goals

- Creation of affordable housing for households below 50% Area Median Income (AMI)
- Establishment of a social impact investment tool to generate capital to create affordable housing
- Generation of income to TCHC from this social enterprise
- Income and equity growth for CBC member partners

CBC and TCHC have a shared purpose of housing the homeless. With support from TCHC, Community Building Community is making significant strides toward fulfilling its purpose to reimagine how our community creates housing to achieve the vision of vibrant communities with abundant housing for all.

**For more information about CBC, please contact Lauren King at
laurenking@ahomewithhope.org**



ACCOMPLISHMENTS 6

Annual Awards & Appreciation Luncheon



Members of the Veterans Task Force commemorate housing 181 veterans in 100 days at the TCHC Annual Awards & Appreciation Luncheon.

2018 Annual Award Recipients

In December, the Community gathered together to celebrate all that we have collectively accomplished this year. TCHC is honored and grateful to work alongside so many thoughtful and dedicated professionals in the campaign to end homelessness.

Together, we recognized those that accomplished something truly special. These individuals and groups inspire us all with their commitment, compassion and perseverance.

Award	Winner
Golden Thumb Drive	Jami Walton, Salvation Army
Coordinated Entry Champions	Megan Wagespack, Arlington Life Shelter
Volunteer of the Year	Nathan Crites-Herron, Catholic Charities
Landlord of the Year	Lisa Terry, Hearts Full of Love
Community Champion	Apartment Assoc. of Tarrant County
Leading the Way Award	D'Amato Martin
	Charlotte Wiig, True Worth Place

Congratulations and Thank You To All Our 2018 Winners and Nominees!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 7

Homeless Memorial Service

The Tarrant County Homeless Coalition in partnership with Union Gospel Mission and with the support of Greenwood Funeral Homes, conduct a memorial service each year honoring all those in the homeless community that passed away during the year. The service is a celebration of life, but also a stark reminder that homelessness has real consequences and why our mission is so critical.

76 Total Deaths in 2018

55 Were Male

21 Were Female

31 Were Housed

40 Were Homeless

4 Was The Youngest

73 Was The Oldest

3 Youths Ages 4, 16, 23

The Average Age Was 53

Profile of Homelessness

Jim Reeves, who covered the Texas Rangers and other subjects for 40 years for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, penned this gritty, honest and compelling story about the stark reality of homelessness. He delivered his story as the primary message at the 2018 Homeless Memorial Service. Here is an excerpt:

The “Mayor of Meadowbrook” has left the building.

Dead and gone.

Not that Rooster, aka “the Mayor,” was ever actually allowed in the building, but you get my drift.

Rooster lived on the outside, not just of the Meadowbrook Recreation Center in central Arlington, but of society itself. He drifted, like a shadow, along the margins of life, never quite in focus for most of us.

Even if we got a glimpse of him, perhaps in an alley, or in the woods near the rec center, or maybe asking for spare change outside a convenience store, chances are we didn’t really see him. We tend to look over, around, but never directly at, people like Rooster.

If he ever set foot in Globe Life Park, it wasn’t to wield a bat, but a broom, as part of the late-night cleanup crew. If he ever wandered into AT&T Stadium, it wasn’t to tote a football, but a leaf blower, rounding up the hot dog wrappers, the beer cups, the detritus the rest of us so casually dropped at our feet.

Yet, out there on the streets of central Arlington, among the homeless, the alcoholics, the drug addicted, the downtrodden, the lost, he was the “Mayor of Meadowbrook.”

The full story is a powerful illustration of the challenges faced by the homeless every day and why our collective efforts are so crucial. To read the rest of the story, please visit <https://pressboxdfw.com/author/jim-reeves/>

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KERA Sheds Light on Vouchers

In January, KERA public radio did a story about the lack of housing voucher acceptance from landlords in five major cities. Of the cities studied (Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Newark, NJ, Philadelphia and Washington, DC) Fort Worth ranked last with a voucher rejection rate of 78%. The story highlighted that housing choices are being limited mainly by landlords. Furthermore, vouchers are the primary tool to pay rent for many individuals and families and without them, they will not be able to afford safe, decent housing.

So what can be done? It was recommended that local housing authorities and agency coalitions reach out to landlords and provide incentives such as vouchers that were near market rent levels and making the voucher process easier to navigate.

TCHC is in the process of establishing a central liaison to work with landlords. This will dramatically ease the burden on landlords as they will have one contact point to help resolve a multitude of tenant issues.

Landlord Engagement

One of the biggest barriers to getting people into a permanent place to live is finding landlords and property owners who are willing to accept rental subsidies, such as a permanent supportive housing voucher or rapid rehousing rental assistance. In addition to this challenge, it has also become extremely difficult to find and engage with landlords who are willing to give people experiencing homelessness a second chance, as often when people who are experiencing homelessness are seeking a place to live, they face



additional challenges such as no rental history, past evictions, poor credit and criminal background issues.

To overcome these challenges, our community must identify and engage with more landlords who are willing to take a chance on helping one person get back on their feet. When landlords rent to a person who has experienced homelessness, they have the support of a case manager and a system of resources working to ensure their tenant's success as they transition from homeless to housed.

Additionally, TCHC plans to implement a property management hotline, conduct trainings for property management staff, invest in landlord and tenant education and promote rewards and recognition for landlords who support and house the homeless. We hope you'll join with us in efforts to find landlords who are willing to take a chance on one person or one family to build a supportive community around those leaving homelessness.



ON THE HORIZON 9

Economic Mobility



Enhancing economic and employment mobility foundations within our Housing Crisis System of Care has been identified as a key way to improve outcomes for people experiencing housing instability. Making minimum wage is just not enough to sustain housing. TCHC is investing time and energy in developing and implementing a model that will streamline both the benefits and employment processes. This model will leverage the strengths of the existing community while being flexible to accommodate future needs.

Enhanced employment services will be a critical part of making our system successful in quickly moving people out of homelessness. Connecting people experiencing homelessness with services to help them gain the skills and training necessary to meet current employer needs is important, but an often overlooked need is engaging and preparing employers to work with people who have experienced homelessness.

Our community is in search of employers who are willing to take a chance, and perhaps give someone a second chance, at employment and earning a living to make a new life.

Contact Laura Hopkins, TCHC VISTA, at laura@ahomewithhope.org.

Learning Institute Launch

TCHC is consistently viewed as a critical training and professional development resource for a highly connected system of care. To best meet the continuing needs of our partners and the community, TCHC is launching the Learning Institute as a vehicle to develop and introduce targeted training and resources. Participants will have the opportunity to earn a certificate in homeless services - have access to training on evidenced based interventions and proven skills needed to provide a structure of care to those experiencing homelessness.



The Learning Institute will initially focus on case managers and will offer a blended learning approach to target specific needs. Courses will be one semester (10-12 weeks) and be available in-person, on-line and by webinar. The content will center around administration, case management, theoretical and soft skills giving participants a well rounded experience.

The goal of the Learning Institute is to better equip the community's front-line staff for the complex challenges they experience in their jobs every day. TCHC is excited to be part of this innovative undertaking which will launch in Summer 2019.