



To: The Honorable Eric Johnson, Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Ann Margolin, Chair, Dallas Citizen Homelessness Commission

February 6, 2020

Honorable Mayor Johnson and Members of the City Council:

Attached is the annual report for 2019 of the Dallas Citizen Homelessness Commission, the requirements of which are set forth in Sec. 8.1.1 of the Dallas City Code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ann Margolin'.

Ann Margolin

Chair

Dallas Citizen Homelessness Commission



City of Dallas

**Citizen Homelessness Commission
2019 Annual Report**

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Mission and Purpose

The Citizen Homelessness Commission is an advisory body established by the Dallas City Council for the purpose of assuring participation from, and inclusion of, all stakeholders, including those with past or present experience with homelessness, in order to develop policy recommendations to ensure alignment of city services with regional services to enhance the efficiency, quality and effectiveness of the community-wide response to homelessness. (Dallas City Code §2-147.)

Duties and Functions

- Advise the City Manager and the City Council on issues affecting homelessness.
- Assist the City in evaluating new and existing programs.
- Coordinate with other local and regional bodies addressing homelessness.
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the City Manager or City Council.

(City Code 2-149.)

Guiding Principles

All Citizens Must Have a Voice. The Commission provides an avenue through which all citizens affected by homelessness have an opportunity to have input into the development of the City's homelessness policies and programs. This includes programs and policies that directly benefit persons experiencing homelessness, while having due regard for the legitimate concerns of other Dallas citizens, including businesses and homeowners, and have a positive impact on the City of Dallas as a whole, in terms of quality of life, health and safety, and costs incurred.

Best Practices. The Commission seeks to inform itself regarding available data and best practices that have been developed in other communities in making its recommendations, and evaluating new and existing programs.

Diverse Populations. The Commission recognizes that the City's policies and programs must take into account the varying needs of specific homeless subpopulations, including families with children, single mothers, couples, veterans, older adults (62+), unaccompanied youth and children, formerly-incarcerated persons, LGBTQ persons, and persons with disabilities, significant medical needs, mental health issues and substance use disorders.

Community-Wide Cooperation. The Commission is guided by the principle that homelessness is a multi-faceted and complex issue that must be addressed with open and ongoing communication, within a coordinated, community-wide effort, into plans of action that assign mutually-reinforcing activities with consistent metrics for assessing outcomes and ensuring accountability.

Overview of 2019 Activities

The Commission continued to work with the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) on the development of a Four-Track Homeless Strategy Plan:

Track 1: Expansion of shelter capacity

- Resulted in the addition of 50 beds at the Bridge, with the City paying \$12 per bed for each night used, implemented in October 2018. As of February 28, 2019, the program had served 328 people, placed 17 people in the housing, 26 people obtained employment.

Track 2: Establishment of temporary shelter facilities on a scattered-site basis, to include inclement weather sheltering.

- The Commission worked with OHS, Human and Social Needs Committee, Zoning Ordinance Advisory Commission, and the Department of Sustainable Development and Construction on the creation of a new Accessory Use definition in Dallas Development Code CH51 and CH51A for Temporary Inclement Weather Shelters.
- The Commission also spent much of the year with the creation of Chapter 45 programming summary for Temporary Inclement Weather Shelter, including inclement weather shelter definition, period of operation, temperature triggers and other weather events, spacing requirements from other inclement weather shelters, security plan, communication plan and the permit/license processes.
- The Commission provided feedback regarding a proposed One-Site Plan to house approximately 300 individuals at one location during inclement weather.
- Much of this work was initiated through the Short-Term Solutions Subcommittee.

Track 3: Establishment of Landlord Subsidy Payment Assistance Leasing Program

- The Commission initiated program requirements for a landlord subsidy program through its Housing Subcommittee. An award of \$1.3 million went to City Square, in collaboration with Family Gateway, and the program launched in August.
- “A Way Home” is a rapid-rehousing program designed to provide stable housing and supportive services in moderate-to-high opportunity neighborhoods for individuals and families impacted by homelessness. It targets 25 single females, or those who identify as female, and 50 families who experienced non-chronic homelessness (14 days but less than 12 months).

Track 4: Use of \$20 million Bond Development of Proposition J, approved for homeless facilities in City’s 2017 bond package.

- The Commission worked with OHS on potential city-owned properties, Request for Developer Interest (RDI) and Request For Proposals (RFP) relating to Track 4 to utilize proposition J bond funds for operating assistance and homeless housing. Currently the OHS is working on a community engagement program with proposed CHC involvement for a reset of bond implementation Spring 2020.

Overview of 2019 Activities

The Commission provided advisement on \$1.4MM in system enhancements, emergency shelter, supportive housing, and workforce solutions:

- \$250,000 in system enhancements awarded to \$187,500 City Square to fund vans to establish Transportation Loop. Family Place received \$62,500 for case management.
- \$735,000 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) awarded to Family Gateway for homeless families with children; Family Place for persons fleeing domestic violence; Legal aid of Northwest Texas providing criminal justice and legal services; and Austin Street Center emergency shelter services for seniors.
- \$250,000 for Supportive Housing for Seniors through rental subsidies, utility assistance, supportive services for 12 months. 2018 leftover budget was allocated \$250,000 to Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc. to serve 22 seniors.
- \$211,599 for Workforce Sustainability (Pilot) Program to provide stable housing and full-time employment, awarded Community Council of Greater Dallas, to provide training in the healthcare industry for 75 people experiencing homelessness.

New Salvation Army Community Resource Campus:

This CHC adopted a resolution recommending approval of the project last year. Salvation Army's zoning request for new community resource campus was approved by City Planning Commission in March, and then approved by City Council on May 8th 2019. This new site will add multiple units of permanent supportive housing, which was recommended in the final report of Mayor Mike Rawlings' 2016 Dallas Homeless Commission.

Ongoing Education

At its meetings held during the year, the Commission received briefings from the following persons, in addition to regular reports from the Office of Homeless Solutions. Time is also allotted for public comment at each meeting.

- Carl Falconer, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) President and CEO "MDHA Overview" (February), and D-ONE Strategic Plan (September)
- Dianne Gibson, section head for Community Courts division of the City Attorney's Office Community Courts provided an overview of Community Courts programming "Transition From Poverty to Self-Sufficiency" (March)
- Crystal Wood, division manager of consumer health division, and Donna Lee, executive administrator, both of Department of Code Compliance, provided an overview of Homeless Feeding Requirements Under Food Establishment Ordinance
- Angela Ross, Vice President of External Affairs of AT&T, introduced "Believe Dallas" (May)
- Edd Eason, Vice President of Housing at City Square, "Dallas Connector Project" and "Landlord Subsidized Leasing Program" (August)
- Dr. David Woody, III, President and CEO of the Bridge Steps, provided an update of The Bridge Steps program (September)

2019 Subcommittee Activities

Short-Term Solutions. Members: Tanya Ragan (Chair), Chad Crews, Chris Culak, Chase Headley, Alan Tallis. A committee to address immediate or short-term solutions for the benefit of the City and its homeless population.

Inclement Weather Shelter. Since August 2018, Subcommittee worked closely with OHS staff to develop specifications for Request For Proposal (RFP) that addressed Inclement Weather Shelter priorities, and vetted a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) to identify locations and vendors, to recommend to City Council allocation of funding for future Inclement Weather Shelter operations.

Transportation Loop for Persons Experiencing Homelessness. Subcommittee vetted and prioritized recommendations for an RFP for proposed shuttle service, which established the Dallas Connector Project. Program includes First Presbyterian/Stewpot, Austin Street, Our Calling and Salvation Army (awarded \$187,500 from system enhancements), and began in August.

Homeless Crisis Hotline. Subcommittee worked with MDHA staff person, Shavon Moore, in February, on the Homeless Crisis Hotline. Recommendation that The Bridge provide staffing call center and someone available to answer telephones for Homeless Hotline (April).

Community Engagement. Members: Linda Garner (Chair), Chase Headley, Louis Henry. A committee to recommend ways to ensure that all stakeholders and citizens of Dallas have ongoing opportunities to have input on the City's policies and practices related to homelessness.

Homeless Feeding Ordinance. In November 2018, the subcommittee held a public forum on street feedings from the point-of-view of those who fed at street level. Conversation centered on how the current Homeless Feeding Ordinance leads to unintended consequences that hurt a person experiencing homelessness. Based on these unintended effects of the ordinance, the CHC adopted recommendations for city departments to implement:

- Recommendation that existing street services be expanded to notify OHS staff, as well as any partner organizations designated by OHS.
- Recommendation that the Department of Code Compliance require and proactively enforce a requirement that registered event hosts provide an executed plan for waste removal at all Street Feeding events, and OHS staff work to develop information materials to be provided in conjunction.
- Recommendation that OHS take the lead on partnering with Community Courts at these feeding events, to help the person experiencing homelessness overcome barriers to housing.

Housing. Members: Chris Culak (Chair), Casey McManemin. A subcommittee to work with OHS and other City bodies to develop recommendations related to permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing policies.

Track 3: Landlord Subsidized Leasing Program. Subcommittee worked closely with OHS staff to develop specifications for Request For Proposal (RFP) that addressed \$1.3 million budget enhancement to solicit administrative entity to manage Landlord Subsidized Leasing Program priorities. This work resulted in “A Way Home” rapid rehousing program, which began in August.

Track 4: Proposition J Bond Funds of \$20MM for Homeless Housing. Subcommittee conducted forums over Dec-Jan focused on Proposition J bond implementation and development of an RFP relating to Track 4 of Homeless Strategy Plan. Subcommittee worked closely with OHS staff to develop specifications that addressed Request for Developer Interest (RDI) and Request For Proposals (RFP) relating to city-owned properties available for developers to proposed projects up to \$500,000 for operating assistance. RDI funding priorities included the Commission's recommendations on creating or preserving housing units with purpose to rapidly re house, and prioritization of shovel-ready projects to help City reach goal of 1,000 units of sustainable housing and high opportunity areas in next 3 to 5 years.

Coordination and Strategic Planning. Members: Chad Crews (Chair), LeTitia Owens, Alan Tallis. A subcommittee to review and recommend ways to enhance cooperation and coordination among the many participants in the homelessness response system.

HUD 5-year Consolidated Plan. Subcommittee met with the Community Development Commission, Office of Homeless Solutions, Office of Budget, and Department of Housing staff, and discussed development of HUD Consolidated Plan for FY2019-2020 through FY2023-2024. City of Dallas Department of Housing provided proposed clarifying language on the subcommittees proposal that landlords that receive HOME and CDBG funding under cities HUD 5-year Consolidated plan be required to participate in Track 3 Landlord Subsidized Leasing Program. Specific recommendations for Consolidated 5-Year Plan was adopted by CHC in June, and are as follows:

- Supporting recommended ESG funds consistent with OHS strategy plan including maximum 7.5% allowed for Program Administration
- Supporting recommended use of HOPWA funds consistent with priorities established by Ryan White Planning Council of Dallas area with needs identified in their comprehensive HIV Needs Assessment, and including maximum 3% allowed for program administration.
- Recommend that Consolidated 5-Year Plan include a list of subpopulations eligible for funding in any way, and that the homeless population be included in that list to facilitate inclusion in annual plans adopted into Consolidated 5-Year Plan.
- Recommend that, to extent that any of such funds are used for rental units dedicated for household in 30% to 60% AMI range, those units be included in Track 3 Landlord Subsidized Leasing Program of OHS Homeless Strategy plan.

Enhanced Non-Discrimination. Subcommittee collaborated with Outlast Youth on issues relating to LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness, and developed a check list of specific policy, procedural items, and training on how service providers can be truly inclusive and affirming of that population. OHS has taken on enhanced non-discrimination policies and is reforming internal processes to broaden concept throughout the City for how contracts are written and metrics, as a proactive way of making sure those whom the city is partnering and contracting with are meeting non-discrimination, affirming and welcoming policies that we expect.

Alternatives to Prosecution Regarding Criminal Trespass. Subcommittee reviewed District Attorney John Cruzot's memo on Criminal Trespass with representatives from District Attorney's office, Dallas Police Department, Office of Homeless Solutions, City Attorney, Community Courts, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance and Continuum of Care members, including The Bridge. Ongoing discussion included broad ideas to change those processes with efforts to prevent arrest in first place, provide outreach, and redirect to community courts. Recommended that the City be a partner, and that Dallas County and North Texas Behavioral Health Authority take the lead to find funding for a jail diversion center.

ESG and HOPWA Renewals. Subcommittee reviewed and vetted Dallas Homeless Investment Program Contract Awards, Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Awards, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Grant Awards, and discussed the City's procurement process. As a result of the discussions, the subcommittee developed a process that would allow the CHC to provide feedback on programs and contract recommendations.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Subcommittee Chair Chad Crews represented the Citizen Homelessness Commission on the HMIS RFP Review Task Force with Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA). In June, a \$50,000 contract was authorized through administrative action. \$24,000 ESG funds and \$26,000 General funds were allocated starting June 1st and ending September 30th, aligning with 2017 City auditor report on Dallas' Homeless Response System.

Citizen Homelessness Commission Membership As of December 31, 2019

Membership on this board must include two members with past or present experience as a homeless person, one representative from a faith-based organization and twelve members from the general public.

District 01 Jennifer Gadd Snow

General Public
Reappointed 08/28/2019

District 02 Linda A. Garner

General Public
Reappointed 08/26/2019

District 03 Le Titia C. Owens

Experienced Homelessness
Reappointed 11/19/2019

District 04 Brandon J. Vance

General Public
Reappointed 12/11/2019

District 05 VACANT

District 06 VACANT

District 07 Josh Cogan

General Public
Appointed 09/25/2019

District 08 David King – VICE CHAIR

General Public
Reappointed 10/16/2019

District 09 VACANT

District 10 VACANT

District 11 Alan L. Tallis

General Public
Reappointed 08/28/2019

District 12 Kevin Cooper

General Public
Reappointed 10/23/2019

District 13 VACANT

District 14 Amy Desler

Representative of Faith-Based Organization
Appointed 11/06/2019

District 15 Ann Margolin – CHAIR

General Public
Appointed 10/16/2019

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