



**Joint Meeting  
Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness  
And  
Citizen Homelessness Commission**

**Meeting Minutes  
February 1, 2024 – 12:00 PM**

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

The Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness Local Government Corporation (DAP) and the Citizen Homelessness Commission (CHC) Joint meeting (in person and virtual) was called to order by Cara Mendelsohn, Chair, at 12:02 PM

**Roll Call - Dallas Area Partnership To End and Prevent Homelessness Local Government Corporation**

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

**Absent –** Mita P. Havlick

**Roll Call - Citizen Homelessness Commission**

**Members Present:** Wesley D. Keyes, District 1, Linda A. Garner, District 2, LeTitia C. Owens, Vice-Chair, District 3, Tramonica Brown, District 7, Angela Klattenhoff, District 11, Matt Jacobs, District 12, and Gailya Silhan, District 14.

**Absent –** James P. Hauck, District 4, Soraya Santos, District 5, Rev. Mitchell Boone, District 9. (***Vacancies: District 8, District 10, District 13, and District 15.***)

**A Quorum was present for both boards  
Declare Legal Notice Posted and Meeting Duly Called**

Rob Hays motioned for DAP Chair, Cara Mendelsohn to chair the joint meeting. Seconded by Vice-Chair LeTitia Owens. The motion carried.

2. **Public Comment** (2-minute limit per speaker) Cara Mendelsohn, DAP Chair

**Speaker 1:**

Mr. Robert Ceccarelli expressed concerns regarding Dallas High Schools' ratings and that this topic is of great importance.

**Speaker 2:**

Mr. Chalie O'Connell, resident of Oak Cliff and with eighteen years of experience being a community volunteer in ending homelessness at the CoC level including five years as a Houston CoC lead agency board chair. Mr. O'Connell stated he has researched and followed the failed attempts of the DAP and the CHC to become relevant. He supports the task force's recommendation to dissolve the groups to reduce redundancy with the increasingly strong homelessness systems governance and oversight of the highly capable All Neighbors Coalition and Housing Forward Boards, which include multiple city and county representatives. Mr. O'Connell offered a couple of recommendations if it was decided against the dissolution. The first recommendation is to eliminate redundancy by focusing on homelessness prevention rather than homelessness solutions. Second recommendation is for the CHC's focus should be narrowed to focus on the one critical unmet area by engaging the district outreach and education.

3. **Discussion: Chair Cara Mendelsohn, DAP and Vice-Chair LeTitia Owens, CHC**  
**(a) HOPE Report Recommendation to eliminate Duplicative Oversight Committees**

**Discussion:**

Chair Mendelsohn gave the commission members an opportunity for everyone to speak to the HOPE's recommendations which included the elimination of both the Citizens' Homeless Commission as well as the Dallas Area Partnership. Anyone interested would answer if they find that the time spent serving on the Citizen Homelessness Commission (CHC) or the Dallas Area Partnership To End and Prevent Homelessness Local Government Corporation (DAP) has been useful, if it is believed there is redundancy, and what changes should take place.

**CHC, Commissioner Gail Silhan, District 14** agrees with the last speaker but does not want the committees to be dissolved and thinks there is still a lot of work to be done.

**CHC, Commissioner Angela Klattenhoff, District 11**, supports the continuation of the Citizens Homelessness Commission. She joined the commission in October 2022 and stated there is always a learning curve for new members and it can be overwhelming at the beginning. She believes the commission was passive in 2023 but there is a plan to change that in 2024 with a robust set of goals and objectives to facilitate more involvement and engagement at the district and neighborhood level. It is not the time to get rid of the link between the citizens and the council when the homelessness issue is visual day to day.

**CHC, Commissioner Tramonica Brown, District 7**, currently in the second year serving as a commissioner expressed from their district's perspective, they just did not have the support from the municipalities. Everyone who holds a seat should be able to have a true connection with their council member to be able to push forth. There were communication barriers but would like to focus on building a strong partnership to accomplish their goals and milestones.

**CHC, Matt Jacob, District 12**, is serving his 2<sup>nd</sup> term representing District 12. He is in full favor in keeping both the DAP and CHC and feels like the work that they do is not redundant

as both commissions collaborate together and feels eliminating both the DAP and specifically the CHC would be detrimental in their ability to develop solutions and find a way to solve the homelessness crisis that exists.

**CHC, Vice-Chair LeTitia Owens, District 3** of the Citizens Homelessness Commission expressed the commission has been a bridge between the council district(s) and the homeless, have provided resources, services over the years and feels it is important to continue doing so keeping the community involved.

**CHC, Wes Keyes, District 1** sees the efficacy of the commission and feels the commission is powerless and the direction is not clear as to what is to be done.

**CHC, Linda Garner, District 2** feels the CHC is useful to be in existence and is receiving adequate support. It is the first incubator of ideas; the CHC subcommittees are actively engaged with various program and entities. We focus on district specific needs seeking solutions with the constituents. town halls, increasing social media presence, and more engagement with council members.

**Rob Hays, Partnership Member** sees that many changes have occurred since organizations were founded. DAP is uniquely positioned to look beyond the scope of CoC. DAP can buy property, raise money. CHC is the voice of the citizens and voice of the individuals experiencing homelessness.

**Ken Oldham, Partnership Member** sees a great benefit to both organizations. CHC is more tactical. DAP's role is more strategic. The problem is supply and funding.

**Lakeysha Townsend, Partnership Member** feels it is useful, since the DAP retreat feels there is a viewpoint to move forward and feels going in right direction

**Ashley Brundage, Partnership Member** had previously submitted comments in writing; do not think time spent at the DAP has been useful, accomplished anything, have the potential to be a unique commission, but have not used it. If the DAP continues, significant changes need to be made to focus on prevention or help build the supply.

**Dan Micciche, Partnership Member** is on the Dallas ISD School Board, and agreed to participate in DAP Committee is to gain more knowledge of resources and everything this group has been doing that might impact students. Dallas ISD has four thousand students who are homeless and several hundred who are sheltered. DISD has taken independent steps from government organizations and non-profits like After Eight to Educate the provide shelter for students. They execute a program that trains our educators and employees to identify students who are homeless. He appreciates the fact that there are tools available with DAP that are not available elsewhere, it is important to have tools that provide funding and financing and taxpayers' support. At this point they have not been able to utilize in the short amount of time he has been on the DAP board. He believes it would be reckless and irresponsible to give up and abolish the DAP. You would be giving up the tools in place and a structure that includes different constituencies serious people in it. It would be a mistake to say we have one entity that can do these unique funding and real estate purchasing deals, that others may not be able to do, and say it is redundant. You must make the case why its redundant if no one else has these powers and authorities.

**Dr. Theresa Daniel, Partnership Vice-Chair** made a point recognizing that there are cycles. When DAP was formed, the purpose was to bring together other groups and now to address gaps. Now is the time to look at prevention, and time to use the unique characteristics of the DAP to increase housing.

**Celeste Glover, Partnership Member** is glad to hear about the community voice and what it means to work together across an unique community, city, county, partnership. Happy about the ability for DAP and CHC to refocus on prevention. Housing forward is now in different spot leveraging work and bringing in the dollars. Most excited DAP & CHC have real ability to refocus where we put our energy, so we are in the prevention piece. We are in a trajectory in reduction of homelessness. Our role is being able to leverage and purchase things, (land) so that we can come alongside for prevention piece and for how to get the affordable homes built.

**Chair Cara Mendelsohn** – part of the DAP bylaws specifically called to collaborate with CHC. If CHC has anything to bring up at the DAP, the DAP is open to call joint meetings. Chair Cara Mendelsohn thanked the CHC members for their service and time given.

**Dr. Fred Cerise, Partnership Member** expressed his perspective is that there is overlap in the support that Parkland can provide, has great respect for the work Housing Forward has done, has respect for Ashley’s memo, appreciates recent successes. He thinks in the past some areas have been redundant, but would not want to discourage participation, and encourages maximum coordination. The DAP should look at the Housing Forward and CoC to understand where the DAP can best be of assistance.

**Chief Brent Hurley, Partnership Member** stated as local Police Chief member of the board he agrees with what Ashley Brundage has said. Does not feel like a lot has been accomplished. He came looking for some solutions in helping address the law enforcement response to homelessness. Looking for a more proactive way to help solve issues.

**Michael Pegues, Partnership Member** echoed the point of looking for more solutions and determining what to do and how and come up with concrete plans to implement in the County on homelessness.

The Joint meeting of the Dallas Area Partnership To End and Prevent Homelessness Local Government Corporation and the Citizen Homelessness Commission was adjourned by Chair Cara Mendelsohn and Madam Vice-Chair LeTitia Owens at 12:31 P.M.

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Cara Mendelsohn, Chair  
Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent  
Homelessness Local Government Corporation

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Approval Date

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LeTitia Owen, Vice Chair  
Citizen Homelessness Commission

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Approval Date



## DALLAS AREA PARTNERSHIP TO END AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORPORATION

### Meeting Minutes February 1, 2024 at 12:30 PM

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

Chair Cara Mendelsohn reconvened the Dallas Area Partnership To End and Prevent Homelessness Local Government Corporation Meeting at 12:53 PM and declaring a quorum.

#### **Roll Call - Dallas Area Partnership To End and Prevent Homelessness Local Government Corporation**

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

**Absent** – Mita P. Havlick

Chair Cara Mendelsohn called a brief recess at 1:02 PM returning at 1:07 PM.

2. **Public Comment**  
Mr. Robert Ceccarelli requested commissioners to engage outside with the homeless, instead of asking them to come to City Hall where it is difficult to gain access.

3. **Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2024** Cara Mendelsohn, Chair

Vote: Chair Cara Mendelsohn moved to approve the January 4, 2024, minutes, motion by Dr. Theresa Daniel, Partnership Vice Chair seconded by Rob Hays, Partnership Member. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Jesse Moreno, Chair, Housing & Homelessness Committee, Council Member, District 2  
**Update – January 18, 2024 Special Called Meeting  
Housing and Homelessness Committee  
Homelessness, Organizations, Policies, and Encampments – (HOPE) Report**

Chair, Jesse Moreno gave a recap of the Special Called Meeting by the Housing and Homelessness Committee of the city council. The HOPE Report attempts to streamline a response to homelessness in Dallas.

**Dr. Theresa Daniel, Partnership VC** asked Chair Jesse Moreno about feedback received. Chair Moreno stated the majority of the feedback received was from people affected by homelessness.

**Rob Hays, Partnership Member** asked what the business community can do to help support, and what can DAP do. Chair Jesse Moreno encouraged business owners to come down to city hall to hear and speak about the issues. Chair Jesse Moreno offered to provide a copy of the HOPE report.

**Ashley Brundage, Partnership Member** recommended going to speak to the homeless community instead of having them come to the City Hall as Housing Forward and the All-Neighbors Coalition currently do on a regular basis. Ms. Brundage also asked about the sanctioning of encampments. Council Member Moreno talked about looking at intermediate housing to find a solution to bring people indoors instead of being on the streets.

**Ashley Brundage, Partnership Member** feels it is important to figure out which wording is going to use because sanctioned encampments are not indoors. She also thinks it is important that there is staff, other leaders and financial resources focused on finding permanent solutions for folks that are sleeping on the streets, which would be the Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent, Supportive Housing, and not intermediate housing. Many unsheltered do not want to go into some of the shelters because of the rules and regulations that exist around them. It could be considered finding shelter that is a very low barrier to entry, but also a safe place.

**Chief Brent Hurley** asked if there anything that law enforcement can do to help in solving these issues. Council Member Jesse Moreno stated that if a crime happens in any of the encampments, law enforcement support may be needed. Chief Brent Hurley added that one of the law enforcement agency's core values is that every person is to be treated with love, dignity, and respect. That is that is a basic human need. But asked what can law enforcement do to help because officers are engaging with homeless on a regular basis.

**Chair Jesse Moreno** said that something that would be helpful is to get more clarity on APOWW and how that process works. Chief Brent Hurley invited Council Member Moreno to join him to see how the process is working and added that the more resources they have to direct individuals being homeless, the more help they can provide to the commissions working on the issues.

Chair Cara Mendelsohn would like to have a meeting dedicated to how long enforcement interacts with homelessness.

Chair Jesse Moreno added that he wanted to give credit to give credit to the office of Homeless Solutions team who decommissioned the area of the Dallas library.

#### **Cost of Homelessness (Ongoing Tracking)**

Cara Mendelsohn, Chair  
Rob Hays, Partnership Member

– **This item will be discussed at the next meeting.**

#### **5. Revision/Draft Distribution: Articles of Incorporation / Bylaws**

Cara Mendelsohn, Chair

- This item will be on agenda next month to allow everyone to review the initial draft and bring back feedback.

6. **Committee Report: System Performance** Dr. Theresa Daniel, Vice-Chair  
**Dr. Theresa Daniel, Partnership Chair** made noted that a couple of events occurred. Pit count happened with 1,000 volunteers and should have the report in April. Also, the Annual Housing Forward planning meeting took place on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

7. **Announcements of Upcoming Events and Meetings:**  
**Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness Local Government Corporation**  
Next Meeting March 7, 2024  
Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St., Dallas, TX 75201, 6th Floor (6ES)

9 **Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

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Cara Mendelsohn, Chair

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Approval Date