Hold tight! Conference will begin at 8:55 AM CST.
STATE OF HOMELESSNESS
CONFERENCE & LUNCHEON
PROGRAM

8:30 A.M.  REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

9 A.M.  WELCOME
Chris Hanslik, Coalition for the Homeless

INTRODUCTION: A REFLECTION ON A DECADE OF THE WAY HOME
Thao Costis, Harris County Community Services Department

EMPLOY2EMPOWER
Sergeant Theodore Perez, Harris County Sheriff’s Office
Mercedes Sanchez, Office of Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia
Kelly Young, Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.

HOUSING NAVIGATION CENTER
James Gonzalez, Coalition for the Homeless
Preston Witt, Harmony House, Inc.
Marc Eichenbaum, City of Houston

MORNING BREAK

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM (YHDP)
Kendall Easley, Youth Action Board
Joe Fuentes, Spring Branch Community Health Center
Shun Johnson, TLC Health & Wellness
Juliet Stilpeche, Gulf Coast Workforce Board
MODERATOR: Stefanie Quintela, Coalition for the Homeless

12 P.M.  LUNCH SERVED
Michael Nichols, Coalition for the Homeless

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

EXCERPT FROM HOUSTON GRAND OPERA’S “ANOTHER CITY”

CLOSING REMARKS
Sara Martinez, Coalition for the Homeless

EMCEE: Ashlie Young, Coalition for the Homeless
Emcee

Ashlie Young
Manager of Landlord Engagement
Coalition for the Homeless
Coalition for the Homeless Board of Directors

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Kathy Murray, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Sara Martinez, Vice President of Communications & Development
Jessica Preheim, Vice President of Strategic Planning
Ana Rausch, Vice President of Program Operations
STATE OF HOMELESSNESS
Reflecting on the Last 10 Years

Thao Costis
Interim Executive Director
Harris County Community Services Department
It’s Working Better than Anything Else in Texas

COMPARISON OF HOMELESS POPULATIONS OF MAJOR TEXAS CITIES

- Austin
- San Antonio
- Dallas/Ft. Worth
- Houston

Year: 2011, 2018

Homeless Population

- Austin: 2362 in 2011, 2147 in 2018
- San Antonio: 3222 in 2011, 3066 in 2018
- Dallas/Ft. Worth: 5709 in 2011, 6155 in 2018
- Houston: 8471 in 2011, 4143 in 2018
Message from Congresswoman Garcia
Employ2Empower

Sgt. Theodore Perez
Harris County Sherriff’s Office

Mercedes Sanchez
Precinct 2

Kelly Young
Career & Recovery Resources
Employ2 Empower

A flexible holistic approach to workforce development.
Many of Harris County’s unhoused individuals are willing to work – but are not yet ready for traditional workforce programs.

Employ2Empower offers a unique combination of employment & support, providing income, connections to housing and wraparound services, and pre-employment training.
The Model

- The Employ2Empower program hires crews of 10 unhoused individuals living in encampments.

- Participants are trained to perform graffiti removal, illegal dumping abatement, and maintenance of public properties.

- Crews spend three days out in the field working and one-day receiving services such as housing placement, ID recovery, workforce training, and personal development coaching; all four days are paid.
Partnerships make it possible ...

**Project Design**

**Champion**
An elected official/government entity with political will to champion the program and set the vision. The champion identifies funding, brings together the partners, and provides program support.

**Non-Profit**
Partner manages day to day operations, understands the population being served and is able to provide referrals to supporting services including permanent employment, housing and healthcare.

**Law Enforcement**
Partner assists with background checks, provides mentorship, job training and ensures abatement/traffic laws are being followed.
• **Advocate** – Having an official/government entity to champion the program is important to help identify funding and partners.

• **Design** – Developed a program to address local needs by taking a holistic approach. The program provides income, employment, job training, access to healthcare and medications, social services, and housing.

• **Worksite** – Identifies county needs and assigns work sites according to the needs of the Precinct and the skill level of the participants.
The Non-Profit

- **HR functions** – Staffing agency model to hire the individuals to work: payroll, worker’s compensation, work schedules

- **Connective mechanism** – Allows for individuals to get reconnected with agencies/services: IDs, connect back to navigator/case managers, as well as services needed once housed.

- **Job skills development** – Assists with placement, on-the-job problems solving, multiple restarts, and access to services.
Law Enforcement

- **Peace Officer Function** – Serves as a safety person, works with participants to help them be successful, liaison with the community and changes perception.

- **County Connector** – Works with both the County, CRR and the community.

- **Compassion and Support** – Onsite field supervisor that works with participants to hone in their job skills and build trust between participants and law enforcement.
The Results

**KPIs tracked include:**
- Participants served
- Participants assessed for housing
- Participants placed into permanent housing
- Participants connected to ID restoration
- Participants receiving food stamps
- Participants connected to cell phone resources
- Participants connected to healthcare
- Participants securing permanent employment
- Participants connected to recovery services

Based on a successful pilot in Precinct 2, Harris County has expanded Employ2Empower County-wide.
Thank you!

For more info: commissioner@pct2.hctx.net
Navigation Center

Marc Eichenbaum
City of Houston

James Gonzalez
Coalition for the Homeless

Preston Witt
Harmony House
The Navigation Center
What is it?

• Low barrier
• Short Term
• Pathway to Permanent Housing
Why Do We Need One?

- Move-ins at the speed of light
- Affordable housing availability
Partnership with the City
Funding, Community, and Collaboration
Break

Program will resume at 10:40am
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Programs (YHDP) Panel

Stefanie Quintela (Moderator)
Director of Strategic Planning - Programs
Coalition for the Homeless
YHDP Panel

Kenny Easley
Youth Action Board Representative

Joe Fuentes
Spring Branch Community Health Center

Shun Johnson
TLC Health & Wellness

Juliet Stipeche
Workforce Solutions
Lunch Program will resume at 11:45am.
STATE OF HOMELESSNESS
How Houston Moved 25,000 People From the Streets Into Homes of Their Own

The nation’s fourth-largest city hasn’t solved homelessness, but its remarkable progress can suggest a way forward.
Another City, Houston Grand Opera

Cecila Duarte
mezzo soprano

Alejandro Magallón
tenor

Bin Yu Sanford
piano

Emily Treigle
mezzo soprano
ANOTHER CITY
Another City, Houston Grand Opera

Jeremy Johnson  
*Houston Grand Opera*

Alisa Magallón  
*Houston Grand Opera*
The Next 10 Years

Sara Martinez
Vice President of Communications and Development
Coalition for the Homeless
Thank you to our sponsors for furthering our mission by collaborating, educating our community, and advancing programs and issues that bring us closer to becoming a community where everyone has a safe place to call home. Without your support this event would not have been possible.
The conference has ended.

Thank you so much for tuning in!