



The Way Home

Steering Committee

April 2026





Meeting Agenda

Meeting Introduction:

- Call to order
- Housekeeping
- Roll call of Steering Committee members

Meeting Business:

- February 2026 Meeting Minutes

CoC Updates:

- Legislative Interim Charges Impacting Homelessness
- 2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Recap
- Upcoming System Workgroups
- Upcoming System Governance Requirements

Meeting Wrap-Up:

- Public Comment
- Meeting Adjourn

About The Way Home Steering Committee

Serves as the leadership body for the Continuum of Care (CoC), similar to a board of directors

Provides oversight of planning, coordination, and federal funding distribution to prevent and end homelessness

Composed of diverse stakeholders across the region, including system partners and individuals with lived experience

Strengthens the homeless response system by securing resources, building partnerships, and leveraging influence and expertise

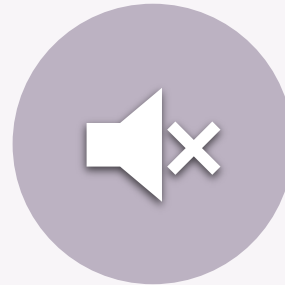
Made up of committed, community-focused leaders dedicated to improving outcomes for those experiencing homelessness

We currently have 11 members, and aim to begin filling vacancies over the next couple of months

Housekeeping



Partners will not be called during attendance. Partner participation is being monitored through the Zoom webinar platform.



Participants will be muted throughout the meeting. Those wishing to provide a verbal comment may do so once the Chair has opened public comment.



Participants can ask their questions through the Q&A tab found in the menu toolbar.



Participants are encouraged to use Reactions (found in the menu toolbar) throughout the meeting.



Meeting Business

Items Requiring Vote of the
CoC Steering Committee



MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DETAILS

Time/Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 3 PM

Meeting Type: Open public meeting – Virtual

Meeting Packet: [Click here](#) to view.

Meeting Recording: [Click here](#) to view

MEETING INTRODUCTION | 3:00 – 3:10 PM

- **Chair:** Call to order
- **Caybryn & Chair:** About the Steering Committee & Thank you to our members!
 - Melissa Quijano (00:02:41) / pg. 4
 - Danielle Stephen (00:04:31) / pg. 5
- **Caybryn Southern:** Housekeeping & Roll call of Steering Committee members

MEETING BUSINESS | 3:10 – 3:20 PM

- **Chair:** January Steering Committee Minutes (00:05:40) / pg. 7 – 8
 - Motion moved by Alexis Loving and seconded by Shun Johnson
 - No committee discussion, comment, or questions
 - No objections / abstentions
 - Motion passed unanimously
- **Renee Cavazos:** Notice of Funding Opportunity Updates (00:06:18) / pg. 9 – 11 & pg. 38 – 39
 - Note: There was no business conducted during the meeting. Renee Cavazos, Vice President of the Homeless Response System at CFTH, presented an overview of business addressed via email and offered general updates concerning the FY24/25 NOFO Competition.
 - Committee discussion begins at 00:09:50 of the meeting recording.

COC UPDATES | 3:20 – 3:55 PM

- **Jordan Jupe-Hassenflu:** Case Conferencing Review Committee (CCRC) (00:11:51) / pg. 13 – 17
 - **Committee Discussion:** No committee discussion was had.
- **Jamey Caruthers:** Public Affairs Update (00:16:32) / pg. 18 – 20
 - **Committee Discussion:** Begins at 00:21:55 of the meeting recording.
- **Erol Fetahagic:** System Performance Measures (SPMs) (00:24:42) / pg. 21 – 30
 - **Committee Discussion:** Begins at 00:45:30 of the meeting recording.

- **Caybryn Southern:** PIT Count (00:46:00) / pg. 31 – 24
 - **Committee Discussion:** Begins at 00:47:50 of the meeting recording.

MEETING WRAP-UP | 3:55 – 4:00 PM

- **Caybryn:** Public Comment (00:48:30) / pg. 35
- **Chair:** Meeting Adjourn
 - Motion moved by Melody Barr and seconded by Gregory Dread to close the meeting
 - No objections / abstentions
 - Motion passed unanimously

ATTENDANCE

	Name	Representation	Category	Term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barbie Brashear, Chair	Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council	Fixed Position	Oct. 2019 – in perpetuity Chair: Mar. 2022
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melody Barr	City of Houston Housing & Community Development	Fixed Position	Nov. 2024 – in perpetuity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Singleton	City of Pasadena Community Development	Fixed Position	June 2023 – in perpetuity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tory Gunsolley, Vice Chair	Harris County Housing & Community Development	Fixed Position	June 2024 – in perpetuity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Ansley	Montgomery County Community Development	Fixed Position	June 2021 – in perpetuity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carlie Brown	Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston	At Large Position	Term 1: July 2025 – June 2027
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Birdow Jr.	Michael E. DeBakey Medical Center (VA)	At Large Position	Term 2: May 2024 – April 2026
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amber Honsinger	The Harris Center	At Large Position	Term 1: July 2025 – June 2027
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexis Loving	SEARCH	Provider Representative	Term 1: Mar. 2024 – Feb. 2026
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shun Johnson	TLC Health and Wellness	Provider Representative	Term 1: Mar. 2024 – Feb. 2026
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregory Dread, Secretary	Lived Experience & Advocacy	Consumer Representative	Term 3: Feb. 2025-Jan. 2027
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Danielle Stephen	Lived Experience & Advocacy	Youth & Young Adult Consumer Representative	Term 1: Mar. 2024 – Feb. 2026



CoC Updates

General Updates for the CoC
Steering Committee and
Partners of The Way Home



**Legislative
Interim Charges
Impacting
Homelessness**



Legislative Interim Charges Impacting Homelessness and Behavioral Health

- The Texas Legislature uses the Interim Charge process to study key policy issues between sessions
- Several Interim Charges directly address the intersection of homelessness, mental health, substance use, and the justice system
- These charges focus on:
 - People with high-acuity behavioral health and medical needs
 - System coordination across health, housing, and criminal justice
 - Reducing recidivism and public safety impacts
- Findings and recommendations may inform legislation, funding, and policy changes in the next session



Legislative Interim Charges Impacting Homelessness and Behavioral Health

House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee:

- Study the relationship between mental health conditions, homelessness, and criminal justice system involvement
- Assess availability of specialized high-acuity beds for people experiencing homelessness with:
 - Serious mental illness
 - Substance use disorders
 - Complex medical needs
- Develop recommendations on:
 - Pre-arrest diversion
 - Alternatives to inpatient hospitalization
 - Data sharing best practices to reduce recidivism

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

- Examine the state's role and authority in providing public mental health services and the intersection with homelessness and addiction
- Evaluate competency restoration processes for criminally charged individuals awaiting trial
- Review civil inpatient and outpatient commitment processes
- Recommend strategies to:
 - Prioritize the most acute populations for treatment
 - Reduce public safety risks



2026

HOMELESS

COUNT & SURVEY

**Point-in-
Time
(PIT)
Count**

What is the Point-in-Time Count?



The annual Point-in-Time Count (“PIT Count”) is a survey of those experiencing homelessness within our CoC.



Our unsheltered homeless count takes place during the daytime over a three-day period at the end of January. (Note: Dates changed due to NOFO)



The PIT Count covers those living unsheltered (i.e., sleeping in places not meant for human habitation) and those experiencing homelessness but in sheltered conditions (e.g., emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens).



**Thank you,
CFTH staff!**



CFTH

**COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS
OF HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY**

2026 PIT Count Acknowledgements Staging Area Locations

Avenue 360

Baker Ripley

Catholic Charities Christ The Redeemer

Compassion United

El Tabernaculo Assembly of God

Humble Area Assistance Ministries

Northwest Assistance Ministries

The Beacon

TLC Health & Wellness



City of Houston Council
Member Alejandra Salinas (At-Large 4)



City of Houston Council
Member Fred Flickinger (District E)



Elected Officials

February 23 – 27, 2026

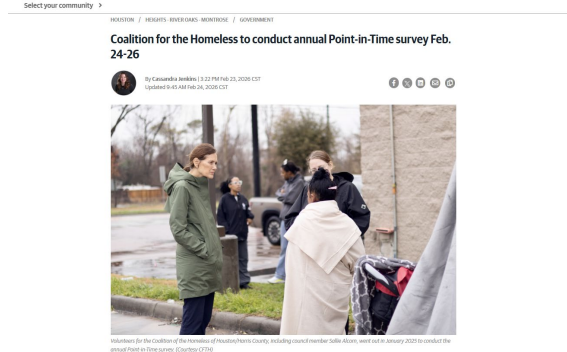
- COH CM Salinas
- COH CM Carter
- COH CM Ramirez
- COH CM Alcorn
- COH CM Flickinger
- CM Davis (Staff)
- Harris County Commissioner Briones (Staff)
- Harris County Commissioner Garcia (Staff)



City of Houston Council
Member Twila Carter (At-Large 3)



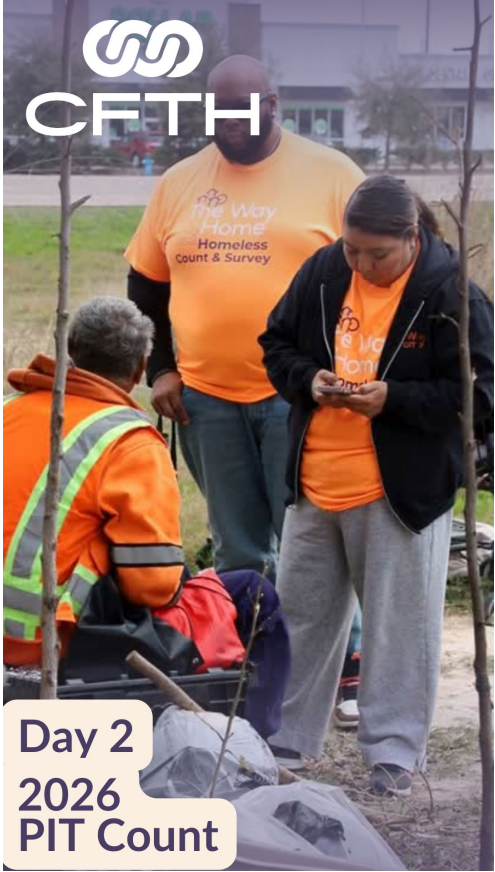
City of Houston Council
Member Sallie Alcorn (At-Large 5)



Media Coverage

February 23 – 27, 2026

- Axios
- Community Impact
- NPR
- Houston Defender
- Houston Chronicle
- Fox26 KRIV
- Community Media

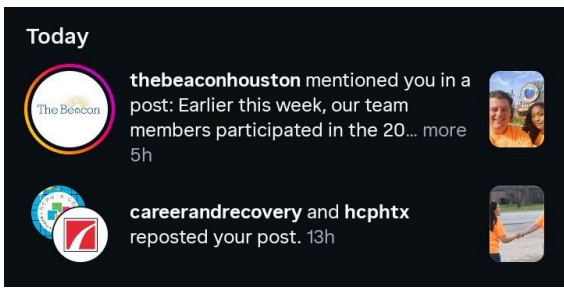


Social Storytelling

February 23 – 27, 2026

- 3 Reels
- Daily Stories
- Thank You Post
- Partner Tags







 **Sallie Alcorn**  · Following
Houston City Council, At-Large Position 5 #SalliefortheCity
2h · 

Always grateful to join [Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County \(CFTH\)](#) each year for the Point-in-Time homeless count, for the dignity these conversations affirm for our unhoused neighbors, and the greater understanding on all sides.

Thank you to [Harmony House, Inc](#) and to all the partners of CFTH for your compassionate work and leadership.

 **Easter Seals Greater Houston**
1,786 followers
4h · 

Proud of our work with so many other amazing local NPOs supporting [#TheWayHomeHOU](#)

Partner Highlights

 February 23 – 27, 2026


- Multiple Reposts
- Elected Official Posts
- Partner Posts & Tags
- [#TheWayHomeHOU](#)

**Thank you,
2026 PIT Count
Participating Partner
Agencies!**

2026 PIT COUNT PARTNER AGENCIES

THE WAY HOME PARTNER AGENCIES

- ACAM
- Access Public Health
- Allies in Hope
- Avenue 360
- BakerRipley
- Bay Area Turning Point, Inc.
- Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. (CRR)
- Catholic Charities- Fort Bend Location
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese Galveston-Houston
- Christ The Redeemer
- Civic Heart Community Services
- Coalition for the Homeless (CFTH)
- Compassion United
- Covenant House Texas
- Crisis Assistance Center, Inc. (CAC)
- Easter Seals
- El Centro
- El Tabernaculo Assembly of God
- Endeavors
- Fort Bend County
- Fort Bend County Women's Center, Inc.
- Harmony House, Inc.
- Harris County Pct. 2.
- Harris Health
- Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC)
- Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston (HHH)
- Hope Haven
- Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC)
- Houston HELP, Inc
- Houston Recovery Center
- Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM)
- Magnificat Houses, Inc.
- Montgomery County Community Development Department
- Montrose Grace Place
- Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM)
- Santa Maria Hostel
- Sarah's House
- SEARCH
- Spring Branch Community Health Center (SBCHC)
- Star of Hope (SOH)
- Temenos Community Development Corporation
- The Beacon
- The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Inc.
- The Harris Center
- the Montrose Center
- The Salvation Army (TSA)
- The Way Home Youth Action Board (YAB)
- TLC Health & Wellness
- Tony's Place
- US VETS - Houston
- VA
- Volunteers of America Texas, Inc. (VOA)
- Wellsprings Village
- Wesley Community Center Inc. (WCC)
- Women's Home
- Young Women's Christian Association of Houston (YWCA)



Upcoming System Workgroups

Strengthening coordination across the
regional homeless response system

System Workgroups

Healthcare Coordination Workgroup:

- Partners with mental, behavioral, and physical healthcare providers

Justice System Coordination Workgroup:

- Engages law enforcement, courts, corrections, public defenders, and reentry providers

Veterans Workgroup:

- Collaborates with VA-funded programs and veteran-serving organizations contributing to HMIS

Domestic Violence Workgroup:

- Collaborates with DV-funded programs and service providers across the CoC

Fort Bend County Workgroup:

- Engages a broad network of stakeholders and organizations in Fort Bend County

Montgomery County Workgroup:

- Engages a broad network of stakeholders and organizations in Montgomery County



Purpose of System Workgroups



Strengthening partnerships

Enhance system coordination

Identify gaps between these systems and the homeless response system

Improve care coordination

Develop shared referral pathways

Develop data-sharing practices/agreements

Inform CoC policies and system practices

Pilot targeted strategies

Additional goals specific to each workgroup

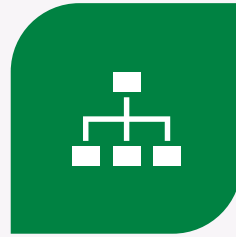
Decision-Making & Accountability



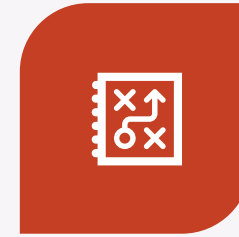
WORKGROUPS SERVE IN AN ADVISORY AND SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT ROLE, SHAPING COC STRATEGIES, POLICIES, AND PARTNERSHIPS



RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ELEVATED TO CFTH LEADERSHIP AND, WHEN APPROPRIATE, THE STEERING COMMITTEE



PROGRESS IS TRACKED THROUGH SHARED METRICS, DOCUMENTATION, AND REGULAR REPORTING



EARLY FOCUS ON RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING, SYSTEM AWARENESS, AND IDENTIFYING ACTIONABLE OPPORTUNITIES



OVER TIME, EVOLVES TO FORMALIZED PARTNERSHIPS, STRONGER COORDINATION, AND MEASURABLE SYSTEM IMPACT

Meetings & Structure

Frequency:

- Full Workgroup: Quarterly
- Subgroups: As needed (e.g., monthly)

Facilitation:

- Led by CFTH Staff with co-leads from the system representatives

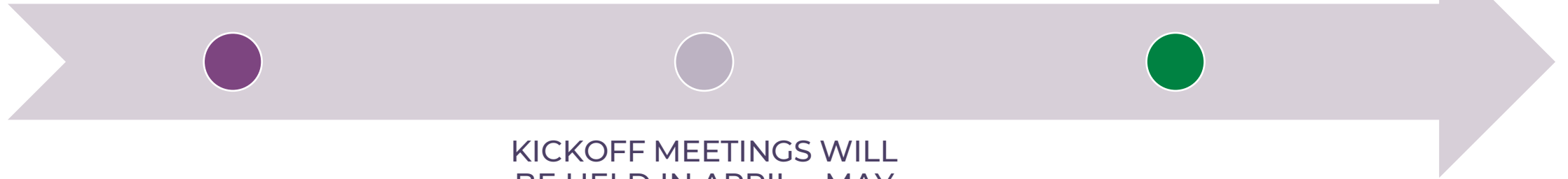
Key Responsibilities:

- CFTH manages logistics, agendas, notes, and follow-up
- Members share updates, identify challenges, and contribute to strategies
- Subgroups drive targeted initiatives and report progress
- Designated representatives may report updates to the Steering Committee quarterly

Next Steps

PARTICIPATION REQUESTS
TO COME FROM CAYBRYN
SOUTHERN FOLLOWING
STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING

SUBGROUPS/TASKFORCES
EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN
MAY – JUNE



KICKOFF MEETINGS WILL
BE HELD IN APRIL – MAY
(VIRTUAL)

Upcoming System Governance Requirements

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Upcoming System Governance Requirements

Steering Committee Membership Updates

- ACTION: Reconvene the Nominations Committee
- Youth & Young Adult Representative to be appointed by the Youth Action Board (YAB)
- Anticipate the Provider Representative elections to occur within the next two months
- Anticipate an Open Call for new members in the Summer
- Anticipate representative recommendations to come from the system workgroups overtime

Charter Review & Revisions

- ACTION: Reconvene the Charter Review Committee
- Branding Updates
- General Narrative Updates
- Membership Revision
- Revision of *Current Committees & Workgroups*

Community Planning Efforts

- CFTH and Dr. Ben King and team, have begun planning efforts for the new Community Plan
- Aim to convene focus groups throughout summer to inform the wrap-up report of the current Plan and draft of the new plan
- ACTION: All CoC participants should reflect on their work, roles, and experiences within the CoC to help inform updates to the CoC Governance Charter and the development of the new Community Plan

Public Comment




Speakers will be called upon in the order in which they signed up. Others will be offered an opportunity to speak following.

Please use the “Raise Hand” function and wait to be called upon if you did not sign up to speak prior to the meeting.

When called upon, please introduce yourself and your organization (if applicable).

Duration of comment: 1 minute. This time limit will be identified with a visible timer shared on the screen, followed by the speaker being muted when the time is complete.





Thank you!