

Texas Association of Regional Councils - Notes

Bi-Annual Training Joint Public Safety - CJPA/HSAT 2-5-2025

Homeland Security Association of Texas

The meeting was called to order by Chair Toby Virden at 8:36 AM.

Toby Virden read the financials. Wayne Stovall made a motion, seconded by Tina Johnson, to approve the financials. All passed.

The Chair, Toby Virden, requested the formation of a nominating committee for the Officer Elections in September. On a motion by Marisa Quintanilla, the following individuals were asked to be on the nomination committee:

Marisa Quintanilla, Patricia Rosales, Mattye Davenport, Donetta Miller, and Piata Bryant. Whitney Frezell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Toby requested that Mattye Davenport be the Chair of this committee.

Toby reminded the group that the Office of Homeland Security of Texas is currently working on the strategic plan. If you have grants that do not fit easily into the priority actions, now is the time to speak to the TxDHS planners.

Adjourned at 8:43 AM.

Reconvened at 11:11 AM.

The minutes from September 18, 2024 were approved on a motion by Martin Ritchey, seconded by Dee Harrison and all passed.

Adjourned at 11:14 AM.

PSO Program Updates

VOCA – Don Stout

75% reduction in VOCA since 2018. It's gone from 284M in 2018 to 68M in 2024

2022 16M in ARPA to maintain Level

2024 115M in General Revenue funding to maintain level

2026 requesting an additional 115M

Speculating a slight increase of 1.5M in Federal VOCA Funding (General Victim Services)

Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Activities Transitioned to General Victim (VOCA) Application Process-Hillary England

Applicants seeking to apply for CSEY activities should select the funding Op. titled Victim Assistance Residential and Community Based Services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth in eGrants.

Look at activities to tell who is a CSEY application – Look for these activities:

Drop-In Centers

- Short Term Residential Programs
- Long Term Residential Services

Previously, applications for these opportunities were scored by the Child Sex Trafficking Team

For FY24, Long Term Residential Programs were moved to the GVA Program for Scoring and Prioritization by the COGs

FY26 Drop in Center Programs and short-term residential Programs will also be scored and prioritized by COGs

Consider them General Victim Assistance Applications at this point. Activities etc should be scored as a GVA applicant. Any comments regarding scoring need to go into the ranking sheet we submit to the OOG after scoring. “the prioritization of this applicant was negatively impacted per our Bylaws/Grant Application Guidelines”

No Separation on OOG’s end to separate out the applications – all batched as GVA.

CSEY Continuum of Care Presentation - Youth meaning Children-Janet Kasper

The Full Continuum of Care consists of necessary programs to help CSEY youth, and those at High Risk of Commercial sexual exploitation – move through the stages of change to support prevention of and healing from exploitation/trafficking.

Reviewed Stages of Change:

Analogy on stages of change Diagram

Pre-Contemplative

Contemplation

Planning

Action

Maintenance

Relapse

Programs are continually needed in the communities – they help victims get immediate needs met. Development Expansion or enhancement of a drop-in center including street outreach programs for children or transition age youth who have experienced CSE or are Victims of Crime that place them at a high risk for CSE.

Advised what the project must provide must reflect, and the applicant must accept survivor walk-in self-referrals and be accessible either on site or through an on-call response 24hours a day 7 days a week. Very few drop-in centers across the state.

Discussed the importance of Drop-In centers in the CSEY Continuum of Care. Drop In Staff/Services include utilizing evidence-based modalities such as motivational interviewing and trust based relationships to assist youth in resolving their ambivalence which prevents them from utilizing services to remain safe.

Provide life saving services as youth experiencing homelessness are at risk for great harm including trafficking and even death.

These vital services are expensive as they require specialized staff and crisis programs that operate 24/7 hours 365 Days a year.

Development, expansion, or enhancement of a program that provides emergency placement for community children, children in the care of DFPS and or Juvenile Justice 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365

The program must provide physical safety, safety planning trauma responsive behavioral healthcare, legal, educational, vocational, and non-judgmental environment and reengagement after runaway episodes or other disruptions in placement or services.

Programs must identify strategies to promote survivors' tangible safety and felt safety. Clinical behavioral milieu and service planning approaches must follow recognized promising practices or evidence-based programs.

These vital services are Greatly underserved

Short- and Long-Term Programs support youth at all stages of change as victims of CSE work to break free from the strong hold of trauma bonds created by their exploiter.

Programs need to be kept small – 20 or more creates difficulties with all the traumas kids fight or leave together as groups.

3 in the state that we are aware of that provide long term residential programs – Home of Hope in East Texas, Reagans House in Waco area, SJRC – takes only kids in foster care – hope is they take kids in from community.

Programs need to have STRONG letters of support from law enforcement etc....One of the hardest programs to start up.

SCIP Updates – Go by photos of slides to get notes

PSO discussed the LE Academies Funding CAP – Administrator Chelssie.Lopez@gov.texas.gov – 512-463-8398 – Photos – What has helped not having to reduce caps is utilizing beverage taxes.

HSGP Updates:

FEMA has not released any updates for the FY2025 HSGP

New DHS and FEMA Leadership will be the decision makers on any changes.

No decisions on National Priority Areas. FEMA GPD will be presenting new FEMA/DHS leadership on feedback and recommendations from SAAs

No appropriation for the FY2025 programs has been made. Continuing resolution runs to March 14th

FEMA cannot release a NOFO until an appropriation is signed. (May/June timeframe for the PSO to get the application in)

The PSO will make consideration of regional prioritizations if FEMA makes changes to NPA and LEPTA guidance if needed.

Any details on programmatic changes will be shared as they are made known to the PSO.

Trying to get application batches to COGs by March 5th 2025.

Terrorist Planning Cycle Presentation – John Miller

7-step Terrorist Planning

U//Fouo – Provide unparalleled intelligence-driven tactical capabilities and resources.

(U) LOE Summary

1. Operational Readiness – Lead/Assist = hostage rescue, Crisis events, emergency calls, warrant services, border tactical operations, executive protection, special operations as requested by HQ and Tasks to team – maintain operational readiness through LTs, match training to operational profile, apply advanced duty skills to operational profile, provide situational awareness vertically and horizontally during the operations cycle.
2. Build Technical Skills – research, test, and evaluate technology for team advancement and implementation – during tactical operations, pre-target surveillance/close target reconnaissance
3. Maintain tactical proficiency - Teams broken down into intel, applications, and development

DPS Region

TNOYS – CSEY Programs Review

TDEM – Blair Walsh Presented – provided flier

Described what TEMAC is and invited COGs to come on March 4 & 5. Ms. Walsh encouraged COGs to invite their TDEM regional partners to their COG meetings.

CJ Planners Association Meeting: Called to Order 4:12 PM

Officer Elections – Introductions provided

Chair – Kaylan Arendale-SETRPC

Vice Chair – Laura Glaspie-H-GAC

Treasurer – Irene Laurance-WCTCOG

Treasurer's report – all dues received except 1 – fund balance 3953.06 – operating \$690 – Final total in account \$4623.06. Approval of report - Motioned by Lillian Lafaele and seconded by Kelly Schmidt

Minutes were approved and motioned by Karina Trevino and seconded by Madeline McGowen. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Lillian Lafaele and seconded by Hilda Arredondo-Garibay.