

BIO – Cindy J. Crain

Cindy J. Crain, Executive Director of the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, is a leading voice on the issue of homelessness in Tarrant County. The Coalition, formed in 1989, provides leadership and coordination to over 70 member agencies that work to prevent and end homelessness in Tarrant County.

In 2008 Crain joined TCHC as its first Executive Director. Crain faced an immediate challenge: to transform a volunteer-led group into a professionally staffed organization. Her unique skill-set in information technology, systems analysis, government grants, and business practices, qualified her to tackle the organization's need to fill service gaps, secure funding and establish long-term sustainability to address homelessness effectively. In a matter of three years, Crain's efforts proved successful. Funding for the Tarrant County Continuum of Care (Coc) grew exponentially and systems to increase performance within the Continuum of Care network improved significantly.

Her creativity and technical innovations have raised awareness on the issues surrounding homelessness, improved the quality of skills for organizations, and eliminated systematic and information delivery barriers. During her short tenure, she has launched multiple web-based applications to expand knowledge and tools for housing and homelessness organizations, which is now a model for Continuum of Care entities throughout the US. Crain was also instrumental in integrating the Tarrant County Health Department TB Testing procedures with homeless database identification systems, resulting in a reduction in the incidence of TB in the community and the capacity to provide more accurate census data on persons experiencing homelessness. Through her leadership, there has been a reduction of 9-1-1 and first responder services by the homeless. Multiple strategies have been developed in cooperation with MedStar, JPS Health Network, and the UNT Health Science Center medical school to facilitate a more effective, and preventative system of health care delivery for unsheltered and emergency sheltered homeless.

Crain leads Tarrant County's Housing and Urban Development census and surveys of homeless individuals. Since 2007, homelessness has declined by 19% in Tarrant County.

Crain's determination to solve homelessness is matched by her passion for public service enlisting every segment of our community – from leaders to citizens – to participate in community engagement efforts. Her volunteerism and public service background includes serving as a Committee Woman for the Texas Democratic Party, President of the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County, and technical advisor for the US State Department on public dialogue and elections in former Eastern block countries.

Crain holds a Master of Public Administration in Technology and Information Policy from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, a Bachelor of Business Administration Marketing from Texas Christian University, and is a Truman scholar from the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

Crain has researched, written and speaks on the issue of homelessness and she continues her mission to keep Tarrant County moving forward and on the path to preventing and ending homelessness.