



Executive Committee Meeting

2180 North Main Street, Belton, Texas

April 24, 2025

Hybrid Meeting: 12:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES:

The April 24, 2025, Central Texas Council of Governments Annual Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by the Councilman Jose Segarra, City of Killeen, President at 12:11 pm.

Executive Committee Officers in Attendance:

President	Councilman Jose Segarra	City of Killeen Councilmember
2 nd Vice President	City Manager Ryan Haverlah*	City of Copperas Cove
Secretary/Treasurer	Judge Jody Fauley	San Saba County
Parliamentarian	Commissioner Bobby Whitson	Precinct 2, Bell County

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Michael Blomquist, City of Harker Heights	Mayor Nathan Fuchs, City of Cameron	Brad Hunt, City of Gatesville
Chancellor Michele Carter, Central Texas College	Councilmember Stephanie O'Banion, City of Belton	Ricky Tow, City of Cameron
Commissioner Dickie Clary, Hamilton County	Judge Bill Whitmire, Milam County	Judge David Blackburn, Bell County
Mayor Tim Davis, City of Temple	Judge Jett Johnson, Mills County	David Shaw, Mills County Emergency Management

CTCOG Staff Members and Guests in Attendance:

Jim Reed, CTCOG	Sue Jordan, CTCOG	Keith Sledd, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance
Jesse Henage, CTCOG	Michael Irvine, CTCOG	Helen Hill Yancey, CTCOG
Callie Tullos, CTCOG*	Louis LeDoux, WFSCT	Anita Janke, CTCOG
Vorakarn Saipornchai, CTCOG	Linda Angel, WFCT	
Kylee Young, CTCOG	George Losoya, CTCOG	

Oath of Office

No Oath of Office was administered.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Judge Bill Whitmire of Milam County to accept the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda included the March 2025 Expenditure Report, the February 2025 Meeting Minutes, the March 2025 Meeting Minutes, and the ratification of resolutions from the March 27, 2025 meeting. These resolutions included: 03-25-PRS001 a Resolution Authorizing State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) FY 2026 Funds; 03-25-PRS002 a Proclamation Declaring April 2025 as Distracted Driving Awareness Month in the Central Texas Region; 03-25-PRS003 a Proclamation Declaring April 22nd as Earth Day in the Central Texas Region; 03-25-PRS004 Proclamation Declaring April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in the Central Texas Region; and 03-25-HAP01 a Resolution Approving Housing Assistance Program Project-Based Voucher Waiting List Management. Councilmember Stephanie O'Banion, City of Belton, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.

Action Items

- A motion was made by David Shaw, Mills County Emergency Management Coordinator, to approve Resolution 04-25-PRS001, which sought to authorize State Criminal Justice Program FY 2026 Funds. Mayor Michael Bloomquist, City of Harker Heights, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.

- A motion was made by Mayor Michael Blomquist, City of Harker Heights, to approve Proclamation 04-25-PRS002, which sought to declare May 2025 as National Bike Month in the Central Texas Region. Chancellor Michele Carter, Central Texas College, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.
- A motion was made by Councilmember Stephanie O'Banion, City of Belton, to approve Proclamation 04-25-AAA01, which sought to declare May 2025 as Older Americans Month. Commissioner Bobby Whitson, Bell County, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.

Reports

Area Agency on Aging: George Losoya, Director of AAA/ADVRC, provided updates to the committee. May 2025 will be observed as Older Americans Month, with this year's theme titled "*Flip the Script on Aging.*" Mr. Losoya reported that AAA is currently awaiting federal updates regarding FY 2025 Title III funding. While official notification has not yet been received, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is expected to release prior year funding within the next two weeks. Additionally, the discontinuation of free transportation services by The HOP has impacted on senior access to local senior centers. In response, Lampasas and Milam counties are collaborating to find a solution to address this transportation challenge. Mr. Losoya also shared that the "Connect the Dot 8.0" event held on April 9 was a success. The current Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) grant is nearing its enrollment goal, with 130 participants enrolled, 20 pending paperwork, and a final goal of 135. Mr. Losoya will be attending the upcoming caregiver and education training event titled "*No Address Movie*" at Vista Church in Temple on April 24, 2025. A reminder was also shared about two upcoming events: the Bell County Pediatric Resource Network meeting at the CTCOG building on May 7, and the Aging in Texas Conference in Waco, Texas on June 25-27.

Housing: Jim Reed, AICP, Executive Director of CTCOG, delivered the housing update on behalf of Carmen Lim, Director of HAP, who was unable to attend the meeting. The committee received a summary of clients served and payments distributed across the region for March 2025. Bell County reported the highest number of clients served, with 2,060 individuals receiving a total of \$1,749,919 in housing assistance. Coryell County followed with 100 clients and \$63,371 in payments, followed by Lampasas 10 clients and \$3,759 payments, and Milam counties with 10 clients and \$2,259 in payments. No clients were served, nor payments issued, in San Saba, Mills,

and Hamilton counties. A month-over-month increase of 5% was observed, resulting in \$93,179 in additional payments compared to February. The total payments across the four counties reached \$1,818,091 for the month.

Planning and Regional Services: Uryan Nelson, Director of PRS, was unable to attend the meeting due to participation in a conference in Austin, Texas. Jim Reed, AICP, Executive Director of CTCOG, provided the update on behalf of the PRS department. The committee was informed that the next Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) meeting is scheduled for May 1 in Lampasas County. The Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant has been awarded, and the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) held its prioritization sessions on April 14 and 15, resulting in a recommended resolution. Bell County Communication Center was recognized as the Telecommunications Team of the Year. Training sessions for the months of March, April, and May include three classes each month. GIS activity saw an increase with 126 requests in March, representing a 16% rise compared to February. A total of 25,314 emergency 9-1-1 calls were recorded in March, and the use of text-to-911 services continues to grow, with 125 messages received as more individuals become familiar with the feature. The committee was also reminded that applications for the 2025 Leadership Central Texas Program are now open and are being promoted through email campaigns, community Facebook pages, and press releases.

Workforce Development Board: Dr. Linda Angel, Executive Director of WFBCT, shared updates regarding federal and state workforce developments. While the Department of Labor has issued no new updates or layoffs, a recent executive order now requires a review of all existing programs. The Secretary of Labor is traveling nationwide to gather feedback from businesses, workers, and unions to improve workforce systems. Dr. Angel also addressed recent challenges with TWC's childcare enrollment system, which caused delays due to a flawed system rollout. Although the issue is nearly resolved and enrollment has resumed, services will soon pause again to avoid exceeding funding limits. TWC plans to roll over unused funds into the next fiscal year to ensure continued support. Milam County was recognized for a major renovation of the Rockdale Workforce Center, led by Judge Whitmire, transforming it into a modern, ADA-compliant facility. Lastly, Dr. Angel informed the committee that Central Texas led the state in job seeker support, assisting 9,929 individuals—surpassing even the Houston area, despite having fewer centers and staff.

Workforce Solution Central Texas: Louis LeDoux, Chief Operating Officer of WFSCT, provided the committee with an update on regional unemployment and workforce activity. For the week ending March 29, 2025, a total of 14,441 UI claims were filed, resulting in a regional unemployment rate of 4.4%. Updates were also shared regarding workforce engagement in March, including 3 hiring events, 113 job orders, 201 job openings, and participation from 334 job seekers and 3 employers. The Graduate Pathways Hiring Event, held on April 16, 2025, saw a strong turnout with 38 employers and 560 student/job seeker participants. Throughout March, Workforce Centers served 9,026 customers and delivered a total of 23,825 services. Additionally, Mr. LeDoux shared highlights from a recent visit to Fort Irwin, California, describing it as a valuable and memorable experience. The trip provided an opportunity to observe military equipment up close and gain insight into the daily lifestyle on base. Mr. LeDoux also had the chance to reconnect with several soldiers who were previously stationed in Central Texas.

Executive Directors Report: Jim Reed, AICP, Executive Director of CTCOG, provided key updates during the Executive Director's Report. The committee was informed that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which previously supported the meals program and subsidized free public transportation for seniors, have been discontinued in 2025. As a result, the meals program will experience a 24% budget reduction, and the cost of senior transportation will increase to approximately \$6, depending on location. Although the current annual inflation rate is 2.4%—a 33% increase overall—the average allowable meal reimbursement rate has only risen by 20%, falling short of meeting the actual cost increases. Consequently, CTCOG has implemented a waitlist for the meals program. Since October 2024, 300 individuals across eight counties have joined the waitlist, with 41% from Killeen and 34% from the Belton/Temple area, and the number continues to grow. Additionally, Mr. Reed announced the finalization of the new 9-1-1 logo, now branded as the Central Texas Emergency Communications District. Mr. Reed reviewed the 9-1-1 bylaws and resolution tracker with the committee, noting that Bell County's process is currently on hold pending one final signature. Mr. Reed also reminded the committee that the upcoming Executive Committee meeting on May 22, 2025, will include a review and potential approval of the bylaws along with several related action items.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 01:23 PM by Councilman Jose Segarra, President.

Jose Segarra, President

Judge Jody Fauley, Secretary/Treasurer