



Executive Committee Meeting

2180 North Main Street, Belton, Texas

July 24, 2025

Hybrid Meeting: 12:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES:

CTCOG Bylaws, Article 7:8 –

“A majority of the total number of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business with the exception of Project Review matters. In the event there is less than a quorum (51%) present at an Executive Committee Meeting, the Members present may act as final review authority on behalf of the Executive Committee if all decisions are unanimous. In the event that the decisions are not unanimous, the Members cannot act on behalf of the Executive committee and the business pending must be considered at either a called meeting or at the next regular Executive Committee meeting.”

The July 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 12:09 pm.

Executive Committee Officers in Attendance:

President	Councilman Jose Segarra	City of Killeen Councilmember
Secretary/Treasurer	Judge Jody Fauley	San Saba County

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Judge Randy Hoyer, Lampasas County	Councilmember Stephanie O'Banion, City of Belton	Keith Sledd, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance
Mayor Nathan Fuchs, City of Cameron	Ricky Tow, City of Cameron	
Brad Hunt, City of Gatesville	Judge James Yates, Hamilton County *	

CTCOG Staff Members and Guests in Attendance:

Jim Reed, CTCOG	Sue Jordan, CTCOG	George Losoya, CTCOG
Jesse Henage, CTCOG	Michael Irvine, CTCOG	Uryan Nelson, CTCOG
Vorakarn Saipornchai, CTCOG	Carmen Lim, CTCOG	Ginny Lewis Ford, TARC
Kylee Young, CTCOG	Linda Angel, WFCT	Teresa Chandler, City of Nolanville
Helen Hill Yancey, CTCOG	Alissa Bright, CTCOG	Anita Janke, CTCOG*
Jared Porritt, WFCT	Kelle Odom, GrantWorks	Raquel Canava, CTCOG
Jwana Sartor, CTCOG *	Kendra Coufal, CTCOG*	

Oath of Office

No Oath of Office was administered.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Consent Agenda

A quorum was not present, so no consent agenda was taken.

Action Items

A quorum was not present, so no actions were taken.

Presentation

Ginny Lewis Ford, Executive Director of the Texas Association of Regional Councils, presented a legislative update highlighting key developments. A total of 9,719 bills were filed during the session, with 1,155 reaching the governor’s desk and 28 vetoed, followed by the announcement of a special session. Instead of a consent agenda, individual votes were requested for all agenda items. Health and Human Services and Education accounted for 71% of total state funding, with the remaining 24% allocated across other initiatives. Budget updates included \$233.4 million in state funds allocated to the Comptroller’s Broadband Development Office and a \$2.6 million per year increase for 9-1-1 CSEC funding for FY24–25. Notable funding increases were also reported, including \$750,000 per year for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and \$5.49 million annually for the Waste Management Program under Environmental Quality. Education measures introduced Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) providing up to \$10,500 for private school tuition and expenses, \$2,000 for homeschoolers, and up to \$30,000 for students in special education. Additional initiatives

included teacher and staff pay raises and cell phone restrictions in schools. Property-related legislation now bans land ownership by citizens of China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran, with exceptions for U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), and visa holders, who may own small residential properties. Transparency measures now require open meetings to be posted at least three days prior to the meeting and remain accessible at all times, with federal holidays excluding from the three-day count. This change takes effect on September 1. The upcoming special session, beginning July 21, will last up to 30 days, with 18 items currently on the agenda. These include flood warning systems, emergency communications, relief funding for Hill Country flooding, natural disaster preparation and recovery, elimination of the STAAR test, property tax reductions, regulations on hemp-derived products, protections for children from THC, bans on taxpayer-funded lobbying, human trafficking victim protections, police personnel record policies, safeguarding women's spaces, attorney general election powers, redistricting, title theft and deed fraud prevention, water project incentives, and state judicial department reforms. At the federal level, there is ongoing uncertainty, with \$11 billion allocated for Operation Lonestar to reduce property tax. Federal program cuts were noted, while the Economic Stabilization Fund is projected to reach \$28.5 billion by August 2027.

Reports

Area Agency on Aging: Area Agency on Aging: George Losoya, Director of AAA/ADVRC, provided an update on the program's current initiatives and recent activities. Budget preparations are underway for submission to HHSC, with the FY26 ADRC budget already submitted. The veteran-directed readiness review and contract have been approved. Recent flooding impacted Copperas Cove, Lampasas, and San Saba, preventing meal deliveries to seniors for 2–3 days; however, emergency meals were successfully provided during this period. Federal disaster funding has been allocated for San Saba and Hamilton counties, supporting grab-and-go meal services through September 30, \$200 gift card assistance for income support, accessibility improvements such as home ramps for older adults, and veteran home repair projects for eligible veterans. The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) grant is progressing, with 175 participants enrolled, 20 pending paperwork, and a grant goal of 135 participants (131 as of June 2026). The program was originally scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2025. However, Jim Reed acknowledged letters of support from Legislator Buckley and Representative Hickland advocating for the continuation of this grant. Uryan Nelson and Commissioner Bobby Whitson presented at the July 15 TVC Commissioners' meeting, and as a

result, CTCOG is preparing to submit an amended budget and a formal request for the grant extension to the commissioners for approval in August. Additionally, AAA was awarded \$300,000 through the Home for Texas Heroes Program to assist veterans with home repairs. Upcoming caregiver and educational events include the Coryell Senior Expo on August 21 in Gatesville, the Bell County Senior Expo on September 23 in Belton, the Alzheimer's Walk on September 27 in Belton, and the Caregiver Conference on November 4.

Housing: Housing: Carmen Lim, Director of HAP, reported that as the summer months progress, there has been an influx of families moving into the area, leading to an anticipated increase in the number of vouchers issued. In July, 19 new tenants were processed, and 2,177 clients were served, with an additional \$56,500 in payments compared to the previous month. The housing waiting list, which has remained closed since September 2023, currently includes 6,766 individuals. A purge process is underway, with confirmation letters sent to determine continued interest in the program. The list is expected to be reduced by approximately 33%, with plans to begin pulling from the condensed list in Fall 2025.

Planning and Regional Services: Uryan Nelson, Director of PRS, provided the committee with several updates. The next HSAC meeting is scheduled for August 7 in Hamilton County. The Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant has been awarded, with work continuing alongside sub-recipients on related projects. The Hazard Mitigation Action Plan is 99% complete, with all plans adopted and submitted to FEMA for grant closeout; this process will restart in four years. The status of FY26 grants remains uncertain as the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has not yet been released to the Office of the Governor (OOG), and federal funding concerns may impact regional allocations. Efforts are underway to roll out CodeRed 2.0, transitioning to the upgraded platform. Training updates include 7 classes conducted in June, with 4 classes each scheduled for July and August. In June, 263 address requests were processed, while 9-1-1 services recorded 23,895 calls and 204 text messages. The 2025 Leadership Central Texas Program was held on July 17, 2025, with 13 attendees; the next session is scheduled for August 21, with graduation planned during the September Executive Committee Meeting. Additionally, the Newly Elected Officials Class was held on July 15, 2025, with 15 participants.

Workforce Development Board: Dr. Linda Angel, Executive Director of WFBCT, provided updates on both the Workforce Development Board and Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, as Louis LeDoux, Chief Operating Officer of WFSCCT, was unable to attend due to

illness. Funding for most programs has remained relatively stable this year, with only minor reductions; however, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity programs for Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth experienced significant cuts of 10–12%. Childcare funding saw an increase at both the national and state levels, with Texas approving \$100 million to serve 10,000 children, though \$47 million of this allocation is being redirected to another agency, while childcare costs have risen by an average of 9%. Federal job postings remain stagnant, but no mass layoffs have occurred, and job growth overall is stable.

Representatives from Fort Hood have reported critical understaffing in skilled roles, such as HVAC technicians, impacting service delivery. Current unemployment rates stand at 4.5% in Bell County, 4.7% in Coryell County, 3.9% in Hamilton County, 4.1% in Lampasas County, 4.3% in Milam County, 3.5% in Mills County, and 3.7% in San Saba County, with the overall Central Texas Workforce Development Area (WDA) at 4.5%, compared to the state rate of 4.0%. Dr. Angel also highlighted three successful initiatives: the Second Chance Program, which provides convicted felons with training and employment opportunities; the Summer Surge Hiring Event, which hosted 41 employers, 82 recruiters, 711 job seekers, 163 veterans, and resulted in 50 hires; and the Wrenches to Wheels program, offering youth training in safety and work skills while providing new bicycles and toolkits.

Executive Directors Report: Jim Reed, AICP, Executive Director of CTCOG, provided an update on the Emergency Communication District, noting that only one resolution remains pending from the City of Mullin, with Judge Jett Johnson of Mills County overseeing the process. Bell County is expected to be the final entity to sign the resolution, anticipated during the first week of September. Mr. Reed acknowledged and credited Helen Hill Yancey and her team for their dedicated efforts on this initiative. Additionally, the committee was reminded that the next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for August 28th.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 01:27 PM by Councilman Jose Segarra, President.

Councilman Jose Segarra, President

Judge Jody Fauley, Secretary/Treasurer

