

**HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2012, 10:00 am**

Meeting began: 10:15am

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Tim Irvine, Chair

The quarterly meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) on September 10, 2012 was called to order by Chair Tim Irvine at 10:15am. The meeting was held at the Brown Heatly Building, Room 4501 at 4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751.

Members Present:

Tim Irvine, Chair
Paula Margeson, Vice Chair
Amy Granberry, Member
Becky Dempsey, Member
David Danenfelzer, Member
Jean Langendorf, Member
Jim Hanophy, Member
Kenneth Darden, Member
Mike Goodwin, Member
Mark Wyatt, Member
Jimmy Perez for Jonas Schwartz, Member
Jennifer Edwards for Laura Vanoni, Member
Steve Ashman for Marc Gold, Member

Members Absent:

Doni Green, Member
Felix Briones, Member
Jessica McKay, Member

TDHCA Staff Present:

Cameron Dorsey, Director of Multifamily Finance
Elizabeth Yevich, Director of Housing Resource Center
Ashley Schweickart, Coordinator of HHSCC
Kate Moore, Policy Advisor

AGENDA

Public Testimony

There was no general public testimony provided at the meeting.

Approval of May 15th Meeting Minutes

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Steve Ashman asked that the minutes show that Marc Gold recused himself from the vote on the presentation of a letter to the TDHCA Board concerning a LAR Exceptional Item. Given this change, approval was motioned by Mr. Goodwin and seconded by Mr. Hanophy. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion of HUD Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration Program Application

TDHCA Policy Specialist Kate Moore and Council Coordinator Ashley Schweickart presented the major components of the application submitted to HUD for Section 811 Project Rental Assistance. The application was submitted in August, requesting \$12 million, which will equate to approximately 385 new Section 811 vouchers for the State of Texas. The application targets three vulnerable sub-populations of Medicaid eligible people with disabilities: (1) Persons with disabilities exiting nursing facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (ICF-IDs), (2) Persons with serious mental illness, and (3) Youth with disabilities exiting foster care. Beyond the Section 811 rental assistance funding, each agency within the Texas Health and Human Services Enterprise (HHSC, DADS, DARS, DSHS, and DFPS) demonstrated its commitment to providing community based support services to tenants through the Inter-Agency Agreement which was submitted as part of the application. All of the application materials have been posted to TDHCA's Housing Resource Center webpage: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/housing-center/section-811.htm>.

Council members asked about the geographic targeting of the program. Due to the size of the potential target population and the geographic size of the state in proportion to resources available, the Section 811 PRA project will be piloted in seven distinct areas, all of which are Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Members also asked about the lease up period. HUD's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) states that rental assistance is provided for five years from the date that a contract is entered into with each property, subject to renewal. However, the property owner must agree to a 20 year affordability period. TDHCA's application assumes a staggered lease up over a twelve month period.

Mr. Irvine mentioned that administrative funding is a concern, as the NOFA only allows for 5% of the grant towards administrative costs, which does not cover the cost incurred by TDHCA to administer the program. TDHCA has proposed utilizing a portion of the funds awarded through the CMS Money Follows the Person Administrative Grant to cover additional administrative costs.

Status Update on Comprehensive Analysis of Service-Enriched Housing Financing Practices

Upon the request of the Council, staff created a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Comprehensive Analysis of Service-Enriched Housing Finance Practices. The RFP was initially released from June 8th through July 9th but did not receive any responses. The RFP was re-released from July 16th through August 10th and received four proposals. The RFP Review Team, including Council members Jonas Schwartz and Jim Hanophy, reviewed and scored applications from August 13th through August 22nd. On August 28th the contract was awarded to the highest scoring applicant, the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC). Jim Yates and Kevin Martone of TAC will be spearheading the project and will be visiting Texas from September 24th -26th for a project kick-off meeting and to conduct on-site interview with key stakeholders.

Mr. Martone joined the meeting via conference call to introduce himself and TAC. Mr. Martone stated that TAC will provide the State of Texas with a comprehensive report with manageable

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recommendations for the current fiscal environment. TAC intends to provide the state and the Council with a menu of options to work with.

Council members then discussed the intended audience for the training materials that TAC will be drafting, agreeing that the training of state agency staff who work directly with consumers and local providers will be most effective. Cameron Dorsey also mentioned that TAC could assist the Council in refining the definition of service-enriched housing to become clear, objective, and measurable, so to possibly be utilized within multifamily housing program regulations in the future. Finally, Ms. Schweickart asked that a Council member volunteer to become a liaison to the project, to attend the monthly conference calls with TAC and provide feedback on behalf of the Council.

Discussion of State Agency Legislative Appropriations Requests (LARs)

Mr. Hanophy provided an update on the Exceptional Item requests within the Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services' (DARS) Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). First, DARS requested increased funding for the Early Childhood Intervention program based on forecasted growth in potential program clients due to changes in the eligibility criteria. Second, DARS requested funding to open two new Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and to fund all existing CILs at the same base level. Mr. Hanophy stated that the State Independent Living Council's (SILC) Plan states that 42 CILs would be needed to serve all of Texas. Third, DARS requested funding for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services, to increase the number of interpreters in areas of the state where a shortage exists and to develop a core interpreter certification and exam. Fourth, DARS requested funding to hire four contractors for the Autism Services ABA Training.

Ms. Dempsey stated that the Department of Agriculture has not requested any Exceptional Items in their LAR. Mr. Irvine stated that the Department of Housing & Community Affairs also has not requested any Exceptional Items in their LAR.

Ms. Edwards stated that the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) requested many Exceptional Items, but only presented those relevant to the Council. The first item requested \$6.24 million in funding for long-term rental assistance for clients of Local Mental Health Authorities who are currently homeless. This program would serve 271 persons per year with \$2,600 in rental and utility assistance per client. The second exceptional item requests \$5.2 million in funding the creation of supportive housing for high need persons eligible for HCBS waiver services, who are residing in state hospitals for extended stays. Funding would target the Oxford House model, which requires intensive community based services. Approximately \$600,000 would be provided per project. DSHS also expects that the Outpatient Competency Restoration Pilot program will continue to receive funding.

Mr. Perez stated that the Health & Human Services Commission's (HHSC) main Exceptional Item requests \$15.8 million in funding to expand the STAR PLUS program into more areas of the state, as HHSC seeks to completely replace the CBA waiver with STAR PLUS by 2015.

Status Update on Balancing Incentives Program (BIP) & Community First Choice (CFC) Program

Tara Olah, Senior Policy Advisor from the Department of Aging & Disability Services (DADS) presented on the Balancing Incentives Program (BIP) & Community First Choice (CFC) Program. In fiscal year 2009, roughly 46.9% of Medicaid eligible individuals in the State of Texas were served in

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community care settings – as this was under the 50% threshold, the state qualified for BIP funding. The BIP is a federal grant providing enhanced funding to rebalance the state’s long term services and supports systems in order to assist more Medicaid eligible individuals in community care settings, rather than institutional settings. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires the states receiving BIP funds provide assurances of structural changes in three areas: (1) Providing no wrong door eligibility and enrollment system, (2) Developing standardized assessment instruments for those receiving funds, and (3) Ensuring conflict-free case management activities. CMS provided \$288 million and with DADS exceptional item for this program, the total funding amount is \$301 million.

CMS also requires certain mandatory activities be done to comply with the structural changes including ensuring statewide coordinated coverage through the expansion of Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) from 14 to 28, implementing IT enhancements, and coordinating financial and functional activities. BIP discretionary activities which already have support from HHSC leadership include creating electronic life records for persons with intellectual or development disabilities (IDD) to ensure appropriate community placement, establishing regional crisis intervention teams to avoid future institutionalization, and creating an assessment instrument specifically for the IDD population. DADS is also accepting recommendations for discretionary activities from the public and Tara encouraged Council members to submit recommendations. DADS will hold stakeholder meetings on the BIP in October and November.

The second program, the CFC Program, allows states to provide home and community-based attendant services and supports for all individuals with disabilities at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, regardless of disability type. The federal government will fund this change through a six percent increase in the state’s Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP), but requires a Medicaid State Plan amendment by each participating state. Currently the State of Texas does not have this waiver service for persons with IDD, so this would be a new addition. The CFC Program doesn’t cover those already enrolled in community attendant services, but it also doesn’t require clients to meet institutional level of care eligibility criteria. Anyone qualified for STAR PLUS would be eligible for this program. DADS is still researching the feasibility of pursuing this program, as it will require state funding match, which must be appropriated by the Legislature.

Discussion of Next Steps & Staff Assignments

The Council decided that the next quarterly meeting would take place on Monday, January 7th, 2013 at 10am. Council members pushed back the meeting in order to have a chance to discuss the first deliverable of the Technical Assistance Collaborative, which is the Six State Assessment/Best Practices Report.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51am.