

HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes January 14, 2015, 10:00 am

Meeting began: 10:03 AM

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Tim Irvine, Chair

The quarterly meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) on January 14, 2015 was called to order by Chair Tim Irvine at 10:03 am. The meeting was held at the Brown Heatly Building, 4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751, Room 4530.

Members Present:

1. Tim Irvine, Chair, Executive Director of the Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs
2. Doni Green, Vice Chair, North Central Texas Council of Governments (Promoting Independence Representative.)
3. Mike Goodwin, Member, (Multifamily Housing Developer Representative)
4. Kenneth Darden, Member, (Macedonia Baptist Church, Advocate for minority issues)
5. Mark Mayfield, Member (Financial Institutions Representative)
6. Felix Briones, Jr., Member, (Housing Consumer Representative)
7. Suzanne Barnard, Member, Texas Department of Agriculture – Office of Rural Affairs representative
8. Anna Sonenthal, Member, Texas Department of State Health Services (Carmen Bliss sat in for Anna)
9. Sarah Mills, Member, Health and Human Services Commission
10. Penny Larkin, Member, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
11. David Danenfelzer, Member, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (Michael Wilt attended on behalf of Mr. Danenfelzer)
12. Megan Cody, Member, Texas Department of Agriculture – Office of Rural Health representative
13. Kenneth Koncaba, (Financial Institutions Representative) – participated by phone

Members Absent:

1. Martha Bagley, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
2. Amy Granberry, (Health Services Entities Representative)^e
3. Jeff Williford, Texas Veterans Commission

TDHCA Staff Present:

1. Terri Richard, Coordinator of HHSCC
2. Megan Sylvester, Associate General Counsel, participated by phone
3. Spencer Duran, Section 811 PRA Manager
4. Elizabeth Yevich, Director, Housing Resource Center

AGENDA

1. **Approval of October 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

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Approval was motioned by Ms. Green and seconded by Mr. Goodwin. Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Update on DSHS Rental Assistance Program

Ms. Sonenthal gave a brief overview of the Department of State Health Services (“DSHS”) Rental Assistance program. During the 83rd Legislative Session, DSHS received approximately \$10.8 million to go towards the rental and utility assistance, specifically for the Local Mental Health Authorities (“LMHAs”). Eighteen LMHAs were awarded funding last fiscal year. DSHS added two more LMHAs this year for a total of 20 LMHAs now receiving funding.

Each LMHA is expected to become Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (“TBRA”) providers. The majority have completed the process to become administrators through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (“TDHCA”). About 2,329 have been served to date. The way the contract was originally written, we required them to do two-to-one for their target and they have all met and exceeded their targets.

Ms. Sonenthal explained that this fiscal year, 268 have moved on to independent housing, 93 have moved on to supportive housing. And so they are not receiving the assistance anymore, but they are in some other supportive-housing type placement that is permanent. And then 39 have dropped out. Four individuals have passed away.

Ms. Sonenthal was asked about the continuation of the funding and she explained that the funding has been rolled into their base appropriation, so it is just expected to continue.

3. Presentation - Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities

Ms. Angie English, Executive Director for the Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities gave a presentation about the committee. The Committee has been around since September of 1950, a long time. It is the oldest Governor’s Committee and the strongest Governor’s Committee in the nation. Most states have a Governor’s Committee or a committee that functions like a Governor’s Committee. Some of them are located in the Governor’s Office. Sometimes they are located in other parts of state government. But most states have a Governor’s Committee.

The Committee has 4.75 employees all of who are state employees and not appointed. But whoever the Governor is, he or she can appoint twelve committee members, and seven of those committee members must be people with disabilities. The members usually serve at least a two-year term.

They do not provide any direct care services. But try to link people up and get them to the right place. They focus on ten issue areas: access, communications, emergency management, education, health, housing, recreation, transportation, veterans and employment.

The Committee is charged with developing policy recommendations that are sent to the Governor and the Legislature. After the new Governor takes his seat on January 20th,

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they will hand those recommendations over to his staff. And once they have a chance to read through them, talk with staff about them, approve them, then staff will release those to the public.

One of the things the Sunset Commission asked them to do was to look at all of these long-range state plans, consolidate those, or to analyze those in a critical analysis way and to look for similarities or gaps.

In terms of housing, these issues related to aging are important, because people want to -- you have probably heard of the term age in place. They want to stay in their homes as they age.

The 83rd Legislative Session directed the Committee staff to do an interim study on two very limited provisions in the Federal Transportation Code. And they were to standardize the eligibility process and to look at the 21-day visitor rule. They completed the study and made six recommendations that they hope to have some discussion with legislators during the session.

4. Update on HUD Section 811 PRA Program

Mr. Duran gave an update on the 2012 Section 811 PRA. TDHCA continues to work with HUD on the cooperative agreement for the 2012 funding cycle. Mr. Duran explained that in the 2015 draft QAP there are points being proposed for participation in the 811 program, for those applicants that meet the 811 criteria.

Mr. Duran explained that TDHCA hopes to sign the contract with HUD very soon. They are resolving some of the last remaining obstacles. Once that is signed, TDHCA will be entering into a contract with a vendor who will help with a key database element called TRACS, which is the medium that the vouchers are applied from HUD to TDHCA to the actual property on the ground. They hope to start serving people as soon as the tax credit commitments are made in August so could theoretically start serving people as soon as September 2015.

TDHCA has applied for additional Section 811 PRA funding. Ms. Sylvester explained that HUD had hoped to announce those allocations sometime this winter. However, they found some additional funding for the 811 program. When they did the second round of the competition, it was for two fiscal years of funding. Funding from the 2012 811 program that is not utilized -- rolled into by a certain date, it rolls into the funding round, and HUD is actually going to have more money than they thought to allocate. But that means they have got some additional applications to review. Therefore, they expect to have those awarded announcements sometime in late spring.

5. Update on Housing and Services Partnership Academy

HHSCC Projects and Related Budget for 2015

Ms. Richard gave a brief overview of the previous Real Choice Systems Change Grant awarded to TDHCA in cooperation with its Health and Human Services partners. One goal

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of the grant was to coordinate a Housing and Services Partnership (HSP) Academy. The Academy was held in May 2013 in the DFW area. It included pre and post technical assistance and a 1.5 day onsite academy. Community teams applied to participate in the academy. Each team consisted of at least three members, *i.e.* one houser, one services representative, and one person with a disability. Sixteen teams from across the state participated.

One of the recommendations of the Council is to replicate the Academy as the feedback from participants was very positive. TDHCA staff met internally and discussed several options for improving the academy. The suggestion was to hire a vendor who would not only coordinate other HSP Academies but provide more intensive onsite and offsite technical assistance as well as conduct a formative and summative evaluation.

Ms. Richard shared the proposed information with council members and asked for their feedback about the project being ongoing. She also mentioned that TDHCA staff would be meeting with Senator Jane Nelson's staff on January 16 to ensure that the direction the council is going is in line with her intent.

Ms. Green and Mr. Irvine clarified that their preference would be to have the vendor include the participants from the first Academy and continue following them as well as opening it up for additional teams.

Mr. Goodwin would like to see the good work done in 2013 continue to follow and provide technical assistance to previous and future community teams. Ms. Richard shared that the contract could be renewed for two years.

Discussion of Next Steps & Staff Assignments

Ms. Richard suggested state agency legislative updates as an agenda item for the next meeting and members agreed. Ms. Richard also shared with members that the HHSCC website has been reorganized in efforts to make it easier to find information. Ms. Richard mentioned that she would like to get feedback about the monthly Notification and Funding Opportunities listservs that are sent. Ms. Barnard mentioned that the Texas Department of Agriculture currently has a funding opportunity under the Community Development Block Grant that ends on Feb. 27, 2015. She offered to report back to members if she received any applications for housing or accessibility improvements.

Ms. English offered to have anyone who is interested in receiving weekly reports on the legislative session from the Governor's Office for People with Disabilities please send their e-mail to Ms. Richard and she will forward to Ms. English.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2015.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.