

HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Summary April 20, 2022

On Wednesday, the twentieth day of April 2022, at 10:00 a.m., the quarterly meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) was held via videoconference.

The following members were present:

1. Bobby Wilkinson, Texas Dept of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), Chair
2. Doni Green, Promoting Independence Advisory Committee representative, Vice Chair
3. Diana Delaunay, Financial institutions representative
4. Blake Harris, PhD, Texas Veterans Commission
5. Mike Goodwin, Multifamily housing developer representative
6. Helen Eisert, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
7. Donna Klaeger, Rural Communities Representative
8. Suzie Brady, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
9. Suzanne Barnard, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
10. Barret Reynolds, Consumer Representative
11. Michael Wilt for David Danenfelzer, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)
12. Kenneth Darden, Advocate for Minority Issues
13. Claire Irwin, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)

Welcome and Introductions

Bobby Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. After all attendees introduced themselves, it was determined that quorum was present. Jeremy Stremmer, Housing Resource Center (HRC) Administrator at TDHCA, provided an overview of GoToWebinar for webinar attendees.

1. Approval of January 19, 2022 HHSCC Meeting Minutes

Bobby Wilkinson introduced the meeting minute summaries from the January 19, 2022 HHSCC meeting. Blake Harris moved to approve the minutes and Suzanne Barnard seconded the motion. There were no additional comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

2. Update on Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program

Spencer Duran, TDHCA Section 811 Program Director, presented an update on the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) program. The program is submitting the preference that was approved by the Board in 2020 and the preference will be effective May 1st, 2022. Program is reopening the waiting lists with some properties in Harris County and some in Fort Worth. There are 429 people currently housed, and there are just over 2,000 people on the waiting list. Currently working with HUD on the contract for the third Section 811 award, HUD is going to release a new version of the grant contract For more information on Section 811 updates see the April 20, 2022 HHSCC meeting transcript pages 6-14.

3. Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

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Spencer Duran, TDHCA Section 811 Program Director, presented an update on the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program. TDHCA received 798 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers from HUD. Most of the Urban areas of the state got their own emergency housing voucher award. There are 200 counties TDCHA is trying to serve. TDCHA has partnered with the Texas Homeless Network (THN) and Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition. The Department has committed 470 vouchers to THN and 50 to Heart of Texas. THN is creating referral networks with local homeless provider organizations. A unique part of this program is there is service money available to help families with housing location, buying furniture and moving expenses as well as landlord incentives. For more information on the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) see the April 20, 2022 HHSCC meeting transcript pages 14-17.

4. HOME – American Rescue Plan (ARP)

Naomi Cantu, TDHCA Director of HOME-ARP Program presented an overview of the HOME-ARP program. She gave a description of the populations to be served by HOME-ARP including, severely cost-burdened households, formerly homeless but temporarily housed, and persons at risk of homelessness at 50% of area median income. There is also a special call out for veterans, that fall into these populations. The HOME-ARP plan was submitted to HUD in April and HUD has 45 days to review the plan and approve. Funds will be used for non-congregate shelter and affordable rental housing. Additional description of HOME-ARP populations and program activities can be found in the HHSCC meeting transcript on pages 18-28.

5. Review of 10 TAC §1.11 Definition of Service-Enriched Housing

Council discussed the current Service-Enriched Housing definition and several proposals were made for updates to the rule. These updates include calling out specific populations that use SEH, this includes Veterans, persons experiencing homelessness and those with VAWA characteristics. There were also proposals to make it clear in the definition that SEH is community based and lease based. The council also reviewed suggestions that were made prior to the meeting and determined that Elderly would not be changed to Older Adults. Additional conversation about the SEH rule can be found in the April 20th HHSCC meeting transcripts on pages 28-39.

6. Update on HHSCC Biennial Plan and Report

Jeremy Stremmler, TDCHA HRC Manager, provided an update that he has begun work on the 2022 HHSCC Biennial Plan and Report and members will receive an email prior to the next meeting to review the Biennial Plan and Report of Findings and make any comments or edits in the document for review by the HHSCC Chair.

7. Veterans mental Health Department, Texas Veterans Commission

Dr. Blake Harris, TVC, spoke to the multiple projects and work he oversees. See pages 41-62 of the April 20, 2022 HHSCC meeting transcript for more detail.

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8. Notification of meetings returning to in person

General discussion by the members of the council on moving back to in person HHSCC meetings. It was noted during the discussion that Jeremy Stremmer, HRC Manager would consult with the TDHCA legal division if members could call into the meeting to make quorum for public meeting requirements. More detail on the discussion can be found in the April 20th HHSCC meeting transcript on pages 62-67.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. General Updates/Next Steps/Staff Assignment(s)

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.