

# HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes Summary October 12, 2022

On Wednesday, the twelfth day of October 2022, at 10:00 a.m., the quarterly meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) was held at the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs building at 221 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin TX 78701, Room 116.

The following members were present in person:

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. Amber Morrison for Blake Harris, PhD, Texas Veterans Commission
5. Mike Goodwin, Multifamily housing developer representative
6. Suzanne Barnard, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
7. Claire Irwin, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
8. Helen Eisert, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)

**Council member telephone participation does not count towards establishing quorum.**

The following members were present via telephone:

1. Donna Klaeger, Rural Communities Representative
2. Michael Wilt for David Danenfelzer, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)
3. Joycesarah McCabe, Health Services Entities Representative

### **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 not present.

### **1. Approval of April 20, 2022 and July 13, 2022 HHSCC Meeting Minutes**

Bobby Wilkinson announced that approval of the meeting minutes from the April 20, 2022 and July 13, 2022 HHSCC meeting would be postponed because Council did not have quorum.

### **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. Biggest focus for the program right now has been to even out the target populations the program serves. The program has trained 42 new Department of Family and Protective Services local staff members that can make referrals to the program. Program staff attended a national technical assistance meeting on the Section 811 program, Texas has currently housed 437 people (most in the nation) right now, second is Ohio at 265. Lifetime housed number is 648, with 2,000 people on the waiting list. The current tenant portion of rent is \$154. For more in depth and detailed information on the Section 811 program see the October 12, 2022 HHSCC meeting transcript pages 5-8.

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### **3. Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)**

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 received their own emergency housing voucher award. There are 200 Texas counties TDHCA is striving to serve. TDHCA has partnered with the Texas Homeless Network (THN) and Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition. The Department has committed almost 400 of these vouchers to THN and 50 to Heart of Texas. The program has housed 61 out of the 798 vouchers and received 441 applications from THN. The other two top referral agencies are Gulf Coast Center and the Tracy Andrus Foundation. A unique feature of the program is that there is \$3,500 connected to each voucher that can be used for landlord incentives or to fix other barriers for the family, like buying refrigerators or helping bring the unit up to HUD Housing Quality Standards (HQS). The program is now fully staffed hiring two additional staff members to help process applications and do other necessary administrative tasks. These vouchers unlike TDHCA's regular Section 8 program can be used anywhere in the state. For more information on the EHV program see the October 12, 2022 HHSCC meeting transcript pages 8-23.

### **4. HOME – American Rescue Plan (ARP)**

Naomi Cantu, TDHCA Director of HOME-ARP Program presented an overview of this new program. Funds have been programmed into four main categories, 1. Rental Housing - \$56 million, NOFA in late fall, 2. Non-congregate shelter, 3. Nonprofit capacity building and operating cost assistance (NCO) - \$6 million. Any group awarded a NCO award will be expected to also receive construction for non-congregate shelter within 24 months of the capacity building award. Additional description of HOME-ARP populations and program activities can be found in the October 12, 2022 HHSCC meeting transcript on pages 24-29.

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

Council discussed the changes that were proposed at the July 13<sup>th</sup> HHSCC meeting to the Service-Enriched Housing definition and unanimously decided to move forward with readoption with amendments to the SEH definition. Additional conversation about the SEH rule can be found in the October 12, 2022 HHSCC meeting transcripts on pages 29-35.

### **6. Supportive Housing Learning Communities**

Helen Eisert, HHSC, gave a presentation on the housing listening sessions hosted by HHSC that are informing the Supportive Housing Learning Communities. Ms. Eisert's presentation can be found under meeting materials on the HHSCC page of the TDHCA website, <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/hhsc/council-meetings.htm>. Additional conversation about the presentation can be found in the October 12, 2022 HHSCC meeting transcripts on pages 36-53.

### **7. Public Comment**

Mike Goodwin gave public comment on the continued struggles of low-income families to find affordable housing in increasingly expensive metro areas in the state and gave context of the barriers to developing affordable housing in Boerne, Texas. Additional conversation on Mr. Goodwin's public comment can be found in the October 12, 2022 HHSCC meeting transcripts on pages 53-57.

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### **8. General Updates/Next Steps/Staff Assignment(s)**

Next meeting will be in January 2023, look for future updates on a specific date.

### **ADJOURN**

The Council meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM.