

HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Summary January 18, 2023

On Wednesday, the eighteenth day of January 2023, 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 11th 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. Dr. Blake Harris, PhD, Texas Veterans Commission
5. Suzanne Barnard, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
6. Claire Irwin, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
7. Michael Wilt for David Danenfelzer, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)
8. Rev. Kenneth Darden, Advocate for minority issues
9. Josh Hutchison, Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Council member telephone participation does not count towards establishing quorum.

The following members were present via telephone:

1. Helen Eisert, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
2. Barret Reynolds, Consumer of Service-Enriched Housing

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. Items 2 and 3 were heard first in anticipation of a quorum being met. Later in the meeting once the quorum was met item one was heard and voted on.

1. Approval of April 20, 2022, July 13, 2022 and October 12, 2022 HHSCC Meeting Minutes

Bobby Wilkinson took this item out of order. The item was heard later in the meeting after quorum had been met. Upon meeting quorum approval of the meeting minutes from the April 20, 2022, July 13, 2022 and October 12, 2022 HHSCC meeting were approved.

2. TDHCA Legislative Update

Michael Lyttle, Director of Policy and Public Affairs TDHCA. TDHCA Legislative Affairs staff has been monitoring the filing of bills since November 10, 2022, when the pre-filing of legislation began.

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With the actual session now ongoing, they continue monitoring legislation and await the naming of committees in both chambers. They anticipate that occurring by the middle of February.

House Bill 1058 by Representative Craig Goldman. Filed for the third session in a row, it creates a state housing tax credit which can be used to finance affordable housing developments. This new financing tool could help developers do what is called “deeper targeting” and serving very low and extremely low income tenants. A companion bill has been filed in the Senate by Senator Charles Perry, **Senate Bill 325**.

3. HB 833 Relating to HHSCC Evaluation of Texas 2-1-1 System

Michael Lyttle, Director of Policy and Public Affairs TDHCA. **House Bill 833** by Representative Liz Campos. The bill would require this group, the Housing and Health Services Council (HHSCC), to conduct an extensive annual evaluation of the state’s 2-1-1 network. This bill was filed last session and had a significant fiscal note attached to it. TDHCA plans to discuss further with Rep. Campos and discuss with her staff the limitations this council has in doing that kind of extensive work. Council members asked questions to clarify why this bill has been directed at the HHSCC and discussed that HHSC would be a more appropriate body to review 2-1-1. More conversation on this item can be found in the January 18, 2023 HHSCC meeting transcript pages 6 – 17.

4. 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. Since the last meeting in October the program trained 56 new referral agents, now up to around 700 throughout the state. Many of the new agents serve youth with disabilities who have aged out of the foster care system. Current lifetime housed is 671; currently housed is 437, with 1,800 on waiting lists. The average tenant portion of rent remains \$160. Other big news is that the Program is closing waiting lists in the McAllen-Brownsville area. For more in depth and detailed information on the Section 811 program see the January 18, 2023 HHSCC meeting transcript pages 18-24.

5. 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. TDHCA has partnered with the Texas Homeless Network (THN), Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition and are on track to partner with the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition by February 1st. The Department has committed 380 of these vouchers to THN, 50 to Heart of Texas and will commit 368 vouchers to Tarrant County Homeless Coalition. The program has housed 155 out of the 798 vouchers and there are 96 families looking for housing. A unique feature of the program is that there is \$3,500 connected to each voucher that can be used for landlord incentives and is helping pay for housing navigators. 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 January 18, 2023 HHSCC meeting transcript pages 25-31.

6. HOME – American Rescue Plan (ARP)

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There was a miscommunication between staff and Ms. Cantu was not available at the meeting. It was noted by Jeremy Stremmer and Bobby Wilkinson that a HOME-ARP NOFA was recently released and that at the January TDHCA Governing Board meeting HOME ARP staff announced the program had made its first award of a soft loan to a project in Austin called Burnet Place.

7. Update on 10 TAC §1.11

Jeremy Stremmer, HRC Manager, provided an update on the Service-Enriched Housing Rule. This rule went to the TDHCA Governing Board in December and was approved for Public Comment. No public comment was received and the rule will go to the February TDHCA Board meeting for final approval and be published in the Texas Register.

8. Report on Supportive Housing Efforts

Michael Wilt, TSAHC, gave a presentation on supportive housing efforts being led by TSAHC. The Affordable housing Partnership is a direct subsidy of rental units. Units are designed for Medicaid long-term services. The program is geographically limited to Dallas and Travis Counties. Seven awards have been made under the program. The third institute which is the Supportive Housing Institute which started in 2020 is concluding . To date they have trained 15 teams on the development of Supportive Housing, TSAHC partners with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to run the Institute. Additional conversation about the presentation can be found in the January 18, 2023 HHSCC meeting transcripts on pages 33-37.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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

Next meeting will be in April 19, additional meeting dates for 2023 can be found at the bottom of the Agenda.

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM.