

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES
COORDINATION COUNCIL MEETING

Stephen F. Austin Building
Room 1104A
1700 Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas

April 12, 2017
10:12 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

TIMOTHY IRVINE, Chair
DONI GREEN, Vice Chair
SUZANNE BARNARD
MICHAEL GOODWIN
MICHELLE MARTIN (by JOYCE POHLMAN)
VERONICA NEVILLE
MICHAEL WILT

SUPPORT STAFF:

TERRI RICHARD, TDHCA

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. IRVINE: I tell you what, everybody, since
3 we don't have a quorum, we cannot hold an official
4 meeting, but since this is predominantly presentation and
5 discussion, I don't see any reason why we can't at least
6 gather and talk about stuff. So with that said, we'll
7 still record the proceedings.

8 One just housekeeping thing, anybody that
9 feels the need to participate in the discussion, I ask
10 that you do a couple of things: one, come to the table;
11 two, identify who you are; and three, if you're talking
12 on behalf of some other entity or organization, just
13 identify who they are. You also have access to witness
14 affirmation forms, so we can have a record of who's
15 providing input. We always strongly encourage input from
16 anybody and everybody. Our agenda indicates that public
17 comment is really at the end of the meeting, but I think
18 it's always effective to include public comment as the
19 meeting occurs. So if you want to come to the table,
20 you're cordially invited.

21 Since we don't have quorum, let's dispense
22 with calling roll, we'll skip over approving the minutes
23 because we can't take action, and let's go straight to
24 Magdalene Blanco for a discussion on Health and Human
25 Services transformation.

1 MS. BLANCO: Good morning, Chair Irvine and
2 members of the Council. My name is Magdalena Blanco.
3 I'm the deputy associate commissioner for the
4 Rehabilitative and Independent Services Section at HHSC,
5 and I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak
6 before you today. I'm here to provide you just a really
7 high level overview of transformation at HHS, and
8 particularly the department that my section is housed
9 under, and answer any general questions if I can for you
10 today. If not, I can follow up at a later time.

11 So it's the same page, the first page there,
12 the second slide. On September 1, 2016, HHSC underwent
13 the phase one of transformation, pulling together like
14 programs under a new organizational structure that would
15 allow for more functional, efficient and effective and
16 responsive organization. The consolidation and
17 restructuring is part of Senate Bill 200 under the 84th
18 Legislative Session, with the goal of transforming
19 service delivery.

20 Slide 4. The goals of transformation are,
21 again, ease of access for clients to services, aligning
22 like programs within the HHS system, to also coincide
23 with the mission, business and statutory responsibilities
24 of the agency, breaking down silos, and encouraging a
25 collaborative and cross-functional business operation,

1 create clear lines of accountability and develop improved
2 performance metrics for all areas within the
3 organization.

4 On this slide -- and it's pretty small for you
5 because it's a dual slide on your page there -- this is
6 our organizational structure. It is also available on
7 our website and is part of the transformation plan that
8 is posted out there if you want to see a larger imprint
9 of it. But basically, the system now has two divisions,
10 if you will. The Medical and Social Services is where
11 all of the programs reside under, predominantly Medicaid
12 and CHIP services, but there are two departments that
13 house all the community services programs, and one of
14 those departments is where my section is housed under.
15 So those are health, developmental and independent
16 services and intellectual and development disabilities
17 and behavioral health services.

18 If you go to slide 5. So the health,
19 developmental and independence services department that
20 my section is housed under, and our vision is to improve
21 services to help the people we serve. Our mission is to
22 improve access and services to individuals and their
23 families to improve health outcomes in Texas. And you
24 may not be able to read that statement there, but it
25 says: Meeting the client's health care needs that

1 directly impact their ability to have a future healthier
2 life. That is our focus within our department, within
3 all of the 34 programs that reside within the department.

4 Slide 6. Our goals for the department are to
5 increase awareness of services offered, establish
6 effective HHS system agency collaboration and
7 communication, be innovative with outreach activities in
8 order to reach program-eligible populations, and increase
9 provider education through training.

10 Slide 7. The organizational structure of
11 HDIS -- that's the acronym for the department -- includes
12 three sections: there's Health and Developmental
13 Services, Family and Social Services, and then my
14 section, the Rehabilitative and Independent Services.
15 Again, our focus is really individuals with disability,
16 not developmental, to help them increase their
17 independence into the community. Again, as I stated
18 earlier, there are 34 programs spanning the three
19 sections.

20 Slide 8, this is my organizational structure.
21 RIS is the acronym for my section. I have four offices.
22 We serve clients with traumatic brain injury, traumatic
23 spinal cord injury, individuals needing guardianship,
24 blind children and individuals with significant
25 disabilities. The four offices include office of

1 independent services, and that's where we work with
2 individuals with significant disabilities but also blind
3 children. And then I have office of deaf and hard of
4 hearing services in the deaf and hard of hearing
5 community. Office of guardianship, we do guardianship
6 services as well as surrogate decision-making. And then
7 we have the office of comprehensive rehabilitation
8 services that works with individuals with traumatic brain
9 injury, traumatic spinal cord injury, we also do brain
10 injury education for the acquired brain injury field.

11 Slide 9, this is just an organizational chart.
12 If you have access to the electronic version, you can see
13 this a little bit larger, but this is just my
14 organizational structure here.

15 And if you go to slide 10, again this is just
16 an overview. If you would like additional information
17 about transformation and the changes going on within HHS,
18 you can visit our website at HHS.Texas.gov, and that's
19 here up on the screen. So on the website you can access
20 the final transition plan that talks about all of the
21 changes that are taking place. Phase two is scheduled to
22 take place on September 1 of this year and that will move
23 over regulatory services and some other programs from
24 DADS.

25 So within the medical and social services

1 division, that predominantly houses medicaid and CHIP
2 services, community services programs. And if you need
3 any additional information, I did provide Terri with a
4 contact sheet for some various programs that have been of
5 interest to this Council, so she can had that two-pager
6 out to those that are interested. And you're welcome to
7 contact me at any time as well, and I can leave a couple
8 of cards so you have my information. It is also on the
9 last slide.

10 So again, I thank you for the opportunity to
11 speak before you. I look forward to continued
12 partnership with this Council. Again, do not hesitate to
13 reach out if you have any questions. I know the
14 transformation is large and there's a lot of moving parts
15 at HHS, but part of the customer service model that we're
16 trying to employ is that you can contact one person and
17 we will get the answers for you and get you in contact
18 with the right folks, so there's no more having to go
19 search for people.

20 Thank you so much. Any questions?

21 MR. GOODWIN: I just want to say seven years I
22 was learning the acronyms and now they've changed them.

23 (General laughter.)

24 MR. IRVINE: Michael, you've got a question?

25 MR. WILT: Yes, Tim. Michael Wilt, Texas

1 State Affordable Housing Corporation.

2 On slide 6 you mentioned one of the goals was
3 innovative outreach to reach the eligible populations.
4 Can you give us some examples of what you're doing?

5 MS. BLANCO: So currently we're still
6 transforming, we're still working towards bringing those
7 like programs together, and one of the activities that we
8 did for our department was actually develop a new
9 section, and that was our family and social services
10 department. We serve women with women's health care and
11 family violence and refugee affairs, and so we decided to
12 move those programs together because they serve the same
13 population. So right now that's the extent to what we're
14 doing as far as bringing like programs together.

15 What we're planning for the future is to look
16 at ways to branch out and see what other types of funding
17 mechanisms we can capitalize on: is there private-public
18 partnerships that we can do, are there toolkits that we
19 can develop so that we can arm our counselors or
20 individuals that are doing either direct service delivery
21 or it's being completed through a provider, trying to
22 develop toolkits that will educate those populations so
23 that we're better equipped with what is our whole
24 spectrum of services that we can offer either internal or
25 external. Because there's a lot that

1 we're not doing as far as capitalizing with other state
2 agencies on resources, so I would say that would be our
3 phase two transformation. Phase one was coming together
4 on September 1, 2016, bringing like programs together and
5 starting to blend what our application processes look
6 like and how to serve a consumer/client through one front
7 door, they don't have to go through various stages. And
8 kicking off this September will be that next step,
9 looking at what are our options in the community.

10 MR. WILT: I had another question but I think
11 if you just scroll down it will be answered. I just
12 wanted to see the timeline for when the second transition
13 starts.

14 MS. BLANCO: If you click on September 1,
15 2017.

16 MR. WILT: Well, 2018 would be phase two. Is
17 that correct?

18 MS. BLANCO: That would be phase three.

19 MS. RICHARD: So September 1 of this year.

20 MS. BLANCO: Those are the programs that will
21 be moving.

22 MS. RICHARD: And then in '18.

23 MS. BLANCO: That's just our recommendations
24 of the plan.

25 MS. RICHARD: So one thing that I thought many

1 of you might interested in, the population that the
2 Council is interested in is persons with disabilities,
3 that's intellectual and developmental, physical and
4 mental health, and then also older Texans, and so correct
5 me if I'm wrong, but most of the programs, like the home
6 and community based services program, the Texas home
7 living program, a lot of the waiver program that were at
8 DADS, they're all pretty much in the IDD and behavioral
9 health division. Right? Like the Yes waiver from DSHS,
10 so most of the programs that we're the most familiar with
11 would be in the IDD behavioral health division.

12 MS. BLANCO: It crosses, there are some, and
13 that's what that contact sheet that I provided you has.
14 It does cross over between the four departments, so we'll
15 have access and eligibility, we'll have a lot of the
16 aging and elderly access points out in the community, and
17 IDD behavioral health with manage some of those programs
18 that came over from DSHS predominantly. And then we do
19 have Medicaid and CHIP services that is managing the
20 large Medicaid waiver type programs.

21 MS. RICHARD: So for older Texans, like the
22 centers for independent living.

23 MS. BLANCO: Centers for independent living
24 will be under mine. But again, we want to make sure that
25 you're getting served and so I could be your entry point

1 to the four departments.

2 MS. RICHARD: So the aging and disability
3 resource centers are entry points.

4 MS. GREEN: They're under medical and social
5 services.

6 MS. BLANCO: This is a whole division, so
7 there are four departments within the division and it's
8 split up by access and eligibility, we have health,
9 developmental and independent services, the IDD
10 behavioral health, and then we have Medicaid and CHIP
11 services. And so within these four departments we've got
12 all these programs disbursed. The majority of community
13 services based programs reside within two of those
14 departments.

15 MS. RICHARD: So access and eligibility, so
16 the aging and disability resource center, front door for
17 IDD, is that in access and eligibility?

18 MS. BLANCO: Access and eligibility.

19 MS. RICHARD: Okay. And same with centers for
20 independent living.

21 MS. BLANCO: Centers for independent living
22 would be under my section, so that would be health,
23 developmental and independent services.

24 MS. RICHARD: That was what I was trying to
25 figure out. So the area agencies on aging, those are?

1 MS. BLANCO: Access and eligibility.

2 MS. RICHARD: Okay. Did that answer your
3 question?

4 MS. BERRY: I just had a question for
5 clarification purposes. Joy Berry, City of Austin.

6 Traumatic brain injury, is that under you as
7 well?

8 MS. BLANCO: Yes.

9 MS. BERRY: So the recent funding that was cut
10 for the housing at Mary Lee, is that going to be under
11 the next phase of funding or point of entry for clients,
12 or who do we contact? Because I have like two clients
13 through our program at the City of Austin.

14 MS. BLANCO: Comprehensive rehabilitation
15 services?

16 MS. BERRY: Yes.

17 MS. BLANCO: No.

18 MS. BERRY: Thank you.

19 MS. RICHARD: The comprehensive rehabilitation
20 services went to Texas Workforce Commission. Right?

21 MS. BLANCO: I received all the DARS community
22 service based programs that split from vocational
23 rehabilitation services that is now at Texas Workforce
24 Commission.

25 MS. RICHARD: It's vocational rehabilitation

1 is at Texas Workforce Commission.

2 MS. BLANCO: Thank you so much.

3 MS. RICHARD: Thank you for coming today.

4 MR. IRVINE: Great. Thank you.

5 Next up, Health Community Collaborative
6 Project.

7 MS. BOWER: Good morning. My name is Nicole
8 Bower, and I am under the Medical and Social Services
9 Division with Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse,
10 and I do all things housing in my department associated
11 with getting people appropriate housing, such as the HCC
12 program that I'm trying to network nicely with the 811
13 project and also with our PATH program. So we're really
14 trying to meet everyone where they are when it comes to
15 housing needs and make sure that they're getting all of
16 the integrated services that they require such as
17 medical, substance abuse and mental health, and then
18 anything else that may come up as an optional additional
19 service.

20 If we could go ahead and turn to slide 2, this
21 is just going to be the program overview. So I'll be
22 doing a pretty high overview but I want to get into the
23 details, I just wasn't really sure how long you guys
24 would allow me to talk about the program, so please stop
25 me at any time in the middle or I'll try to stop at the

1 end of each slide just in case anyone has questions.

2 So we'll go over the legislative history and
3 intent of the program, our funding strategy, target
4 population, the target population supportive services,
5 and that's sub-sectioned out because there are required
6 services and then you have optional additional services.
7 The outcomes required by legislation, our participating
8 sites, the criteria to be a participating site, and then
9 the future program projections.

10 So slide 3, so the HCC program stems out of
11 Senate Bill 58 out of the 83rd Regular Session and was
12 amended to add Chapter 539 of the Government Code which
13 implemented the Health Community Collaboratives, as well
14 as the program requirements. So the gist of the program
15 or the goal is to establish or expand community
16 collaboratives that bring the public and private sectors
17 together to provide services to persons experiencing
18 homelessness and mental illness. And so what that
19 basically means it is sectioned out into state services/
20 private services, insured/uninsured.

21 So the goal of the program is to really bring
22 together those private and public services to network
23 together and to form this partnership where a lot of our
24 state funded programs can start to become a little more
25 self-sustaining through match, in-kind match, in-kind

1 services, and things of that nature, volunteering, just
2 trying to get the resources all connected. Some of you
3 may have noticed we do have a lot of programs for
4 programs, a lot of programs that kind of do the same
5 thing that other programs are doing, so we're trying to
6 bring all of that together in specific areas according to
7 legislation.

8 So our funding strategy, we're funded through
9 the legacy DSHS general revenue, so my section in DSHS is
10 now part of HHSC, and so it's actual the general revenue
11 which is pretty good considering we get \$25 million per
12 biennium and the funds are distributed among the
13 participating sites and require a dollar-for-dollar
14 private cash match, meaning if we partner with the City
15 of Dallas, for instance, they are unable to leverage
16 their own funding for the match because they're a
17 government agency, so they are required to leverage
18 funding from private sources either through interview or
19 other means that they can found foundations, fund-
20 raising, all of those things. It just can't be any kind
21 of government or federal funding.

22 Currently we have Rider 49. It allows unused
23 funding to be carried forward into the next fiscal year
24 for the same purposes but it may not cross bienniums.
25 And that comes in extremely handy when we're in ramp-up

1 time and then we lapse funding, so we're able to go ahead
2 and turn it up forward, complete any construction that we
3 may not have completed on time, and then move forward
4 with providing services and we just have more funding for
5 that year to provide more services.

6 So our target population for this program are
7 homeless adults and families with a mental illness or a
8 co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder.
9 And what's really interesting about the target population
10 criteria is that it can be self-report, so if an
11 individual were to come through any of our coordinated
12 access points for intake, they don't have to have
13 anything proving that they've been diagnosed with a
14 mental illness or a chronic medical condition. If they
15 just tell us that they have a mental illness, then they
16 qualify for the program, and they do have to be homeless.
17 So as long as they're homeless and they tell us they have
18 a mental illness, then they are part of the HCC program
19 and we then integrate them into all of our networking
20 services in the area that they enroll in.

21 So some of the required supportive services
22 are coordinated assessment and intake service, meaning
23 depending -- I know City of Dallas have the most partners
24 at this time, they have five partners outside of
25 themselves, and each of the five sites have an intake

1 point where every door is an open door. They don't have
2 to go to one specific place to be enrolled, they don't
3 have to be redirected to a different spot to get enrolled
4 into the HCC program.

5 And at that point that's where they're all
6 entered into HMIS which is the federally mandated
7 Homeless Management Information System, so we can track
8 them across sites where they're getting services. If
9 they were to forget and leave a service out and forget
10 who their last case manager was, we can always look into
11 HMIS and it will tell us where they stayed last, what
12 meds they received, what services they received, and
13 we're able to build on that so we're not starting over
14 with services because that happens sometimes with a
15 transient population.

16 So emergency shelter is a required service,
17 mental health crisis facilities, mental health services,
18 of course, and assistance accessing benefits. And with
19 assistance accessing benefits, that's where we really
20 encourage our providers to use the SOAR process since it
21 does prioritize the homeless population. With SOAR it's
22 just wonderful. There's less appeals and less denials,
23 they're able to get in and receive services a lot sooner.

24 MS. RICHARD: Could you briefly tell what SOAR
25 is? I don't now if everybody is familiar with that.

1 MS. BOWER: Well, so fortunately, SOAR is
2 specifically for the homeless population and every center
3 has those special folks that assist individuals with
4 application after application for Medicaid, SSI, SSDI,
5 vouchers, all of that good stuff. And so what SOAR does
6 is it's actually that but it prioritizes those who are
7 homeless and it goes to a separate section within the
8 Social Security office and the Medicaid folks to where
9 they're prioritized and they're not going to have a long
10 wait before their application is processed. There's
11 special training for SOAR and it kind of cuts down on the
12 errors and mistakes that made be made on an application.
13 That way they receive approval sooner or even denial
14 sooner, but even if you get denied sooner, you're able to
15 correct those errors or whatever explanations that
16 they're asking for sooner so they can receive services
17 sooner.

18 MS. RICHARD: Thank you.

19 MS. BOWER: Sure. And the unfortunate part is
20 we don't fund our sites to do that, so we encourage them
21 to do that but unfortunately we don't have the funding to
22 actually employ SOAR workers. We try to kind of maneuver
23 around the various programs and find funding in that way,
24 and if not possible, we always encourage them to take
25 their existing benefit coordinators and get trained in

1 SOAR so that they can do that process. So I'm hoping
2 that we can get funding soon to fund some SOAR workers.

3 MS. RICHARD: So in the coordinated
4 assessment, do you work with TDHCA's Emergency Solutions
5 Grants subrecipients?

6 MS. BOWER: No, not to my knowledge. Now, our
7 individual sites may very well. We have several
8 individual sites. I'm not real sure who every site works
9 with, so they may very well, because we're really trying
10 to get them to integrate, I've really been pushing 811
11 lately with our LMHAs on the behavioral health side for
12 811, and they may very well on that side work with some
13 of those folks.

14 MS. RICHARD: Thank you.

15 MS. BOWER: Sure. More required services:
16 substance abuse treatment services, integrated medical
17 services, housing services, and education, job training
18 and/or employment services. So the integrated medical
19 services piece, we look for individuals, it's required
20 they have to have an MOU or some kind of agreement worked
21 out with the local hospital, with stand-alone emergency
22 rooms, urgent care places, physicians that will come to
23 their crisis units or the residential crisis units to
24 check these folks out. And the word "chronic" was kind
25 of left out, but they mainly focus on those with chronic

1 medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, anything
2 that's going to require long-term care.

3 And recently I've actually had the fortunate
4 opportunity to work with Tomas, and we are working on
5 getting approval right now to add some TB prevention into
6 some of our HCC contracts. There was a strand identified
7 in two homeless shelters -- four shelters now, so they
8 can actually identify where you receive TB from down to a
9 person, so they can actually track who's giving it to who
10 now. And it turns out there's a cluster in some of these
11 shelters that that's alarming. So when a person comes
12 into the shelter we'd like to have them screened before
13 they're integrated into the general population, just for
14 everyone's safety, and so we're really working on that.

15 I'm really hoping to fund a health department
16 liaison type of person. That way when someone enters a
17 homeless shelter and we're in the process of figuring out
18 how we're going to keep these folks housed or sheltered
19 with services, even though they will be separated from
20 the general population until they can have their TB test
21 read. And if it comes up positive, the liaison steps in
22 and they get the treatment they need to recover from that
23 and to treat tuberculosis before entering into the
24 general population. So we're really excited for that,
25 and the contract changes are going through approval right

1 now. As long as we maintain the scope of work and the
2 legislative intent, then I think we'll be okay.

3 MS. RICHARD: What do the housing services
4 entail?

5 MS. BOWER: So housing services entails
6 anything imaginable. I love this program because it's
7 inclusive of everything, there's so few restrictions. We
8 can use the housing services for if you have an electric
9 bill that wasn't paid and now you can't get electricity
10 turned on but you have a voucher, we'll pay that one
11 electric bill and get your electricity turned on. We'll
12 buy you groceries, we'll buy you furniture, we'll pay
13 your rent until your voucher kicks in.

14 And it is kind of a housing first model,
15 although we also prep the client to be able to be
16 successful in that housing placement so they don't lose
17 it. So housing services doesn't just stop when the
18 client is in the home, the services continue whereas we
19 come and we teach them basic living skills such as
20 cooking, and it may have been a while since they've had
21 to do that for themselves, cleaning. If you name it and
22 it can be considered a housing service and it is in their
23 detailed budget, then we definitely approve it before the
24 contract executes.

25 If they run on hard times and they haven't

1 found that job they thought they were going to find by
2 now, we'll continue to assist them with food, clothing,
3 we provide interview clothing. If they have an interview
4 coming up, we make sure they get haircuts, we make sure
5 they have proper interview clothing, definitely hygiene.
6 It's like a wraparound support to make sure that these
7 clients are successful in their new housing, to ensure
8 that they get to stay there. And meanwhile, they're
9 still seeing their SA provider, they're still seeing
10 their MH provider, the primary care doctor, as long as
11 they're agreeing to, of course.

12 And of course, if they decide to come to the
13 HCC program and they say I do have a mental illness,
14 however, I'm not comfortable with receiving treatment for
15 that, I just want housing, we do that too. I can't say
16 that it's been as successful without treatment, however,
17 it's the client's right to refuse services, so we do
18 provide the housing. If they just want general case
19 management services, then we'll do that, and we do
20 encourage and try to engage those clients in the other
21 services that they may need such as mental health
22 treatment.

23 So some of our optional services -- and let me
24 just explain why these are optional right now. So some
25 of the sites can provide services that are beneficial to

1 clients in their specific area, so the needs are
2 different in each specific area. So centers for food is
3 an optional service. Obviously they're all going to
4 provide centers for food, whether it be a food bank or
5 they give them grocery vouchers or they take a case
6 manager and they go grocery shopping together. Centers
7 for provision of clothing, grooming services and hygiene
8 products, that's optional.

9 Criminal justice needs is also optional and
10 not all of the sites have chosen that, but the two that
11 have are doing really well with the criminal justice
12 needs. It's really difficult to house a client with a
13 felony or that is on the sex offender registry, so we try
14 to work with landlords. Private landlords is when we try
15 to get those involved because most of the time with an
16 apartment complex or a HUD-owned property, you still have
17 the corporate rules that you have to abide by for HUD and
18 for that private apartment complex community, it's not
19 just the person in the apartment, it goes all the way up
20 the chain and they have certain rules they have to
21 follow.

22 So that's when we try to get with individual landlords
23 who may own a duplex, who may own an actual house, and
24 that's when we try to get those clients into those kind
25 of scenarios where they can actually be housed without

1 having to stay in a shelter due to their criminal
2 history.

3 We work with their probation officers, parole
4 officers. We make sure they need they have everything
5 they need for court, we make sure that they have legal
6 aide if they don't or that they have representation if
7 they don't. But like I said, only two of the sites chose
8 that but they're doing pretty well with it and I'm trying
9 to encourage the other sites to get involved as well.

10 MS. GREEN: Where are those sites?

11 MS. BOWER: In Austin and San Antonio.

12 And then of course, we have our veterans
13 services, and I'm not sure why that's optional but it's
14 optional. They're all doing it, though, they're all
15 providing veterans services.

16 So optional services continued, we have our
17 mental health services with PSH. So mental health
18 services in general is a required service, however, the
19 mental health services and PSH, permanent supportive
20 housing is optional because once the client is in the
21 house, they may prefer not to receive mental health
22 services anymore, so that is an optional service.

23 Micro-businesses is an optional service, and
24 again, Austin and San Antonio are the two that are doing
25 the micro-businesses. San Antonio, Haven for Hope is our

1 shelter that is participating in the HCC program. They
2 actually built, with our money, a call center to provide
3 full-time employment, and they are paying a little over
4 \$12 an hour, I believe, to start out for these clients,
5 and it's a call center and they're doing telemarketing,
6 but they're doing things like Guideposts, Highlights
7 Children's Magazines, things like that that they get
8 contracted with from individuals to do. And I've seen it
9 grow and they are actually expanding it now, so it's
10 really become extremely successful for these individuals
11 to start having a little nest egg sitting aside, that way
12 when they're ready to move out of the shelter, they're
13 going to have some funding available to them to really
14 maintain and stay on their feet.

15 And then our peer services, of course, I wish
16 that was a mandatory service as well, but it is an
17 optional service for now.

18 Comprehensive services is really inclusive,
19 it's really for families. That would include child care
20 while the client is attending school, it could include
21 any kind of mental health care for any member of the
22 family to really heal and make whole the entire family
23 unit because that will help make the treatment of the
24 client more successful if we're kind of wrapping around
25 the entire family. That could be if one of our clients

1 has a parent who is older and needs services also, to
2 make sure that parent receives services. So anything
3 that will keep the family unit together and assist in
4 successful treatment and recovery of the client, then we
5 really try to make sure that happens.

6 And then tobacco cessation is another optional
7 service.

8 So we do have some mandated outcomes for the
9 HCC program that came out of legislation, and they are to
10 increase the number of HCC participants who reside in
11 supportive housing, and I do believe we're hitting that
12 one pretty well. Like I said, we can use HCC dollars to
13 actually build housing, so we've built housing at every
14 site that we have except for in Dallas and that's in the
15 works, but we've actually built housing. So we've put a
16 small dent in that we've actually increased the amount of
17 housing resources available, so where there was none,
18 there is now some, and it's pretty awesome.

19 ATCIC is actually about to complete their 50-
20 unit housing apartment complex in Oak Springs and they're
21 almost done with that. It was supposed to be done at the
22 end of March, and of course, we're running a little
23 behind with that, but they're getting there. And San
24 Antonio has built some housing. Houston built --
25 actually did not build housing, however, Houston did

1 build a brand new shelter, they rehabbed another shelter,
2 and they also have an administrative building where there
3 are services provided out of that building and it also
4 houses their administrative staff.

5 So I love this grant. I've never had a
6 program before where it allowed us to use state funding
7 to actually do construction. So the rules are crazy but
8 it's worth it.

9 MS. RICHARD: So the construction that you've
10 done, has it all been similar, like multifamily, one,
11 two, three bedroom?

12 MS. BOWER: Actually, they're mostly single
13 occupancy units. Haven for Hope has actually built on
14 dorms for the LGBTQ population. If they identify and
15 they say I don't feel safe in the general population,
16 they're more than welcome to stay in the dorm. So the
17 shelter has actually expanded that and they've also added
18 on an urgent care piece to reduce the amount of emergency
19 room time used by homeless individuals, because that's
20 another one of our outcomes. They've also did the micro-
21 businesses because another one of our outcomes is to do
22 gainful employment. So we've really tried to use this
23 money just for things that normally Texas wouldn't pay
24 for.

25 And it's difficult and it can be really

1 challenging because we have to find someone -- I don't
2 know if I'm going to be in this position in 50 years, and
3 so we have to make sure that that building is being used
4 for the exact same purposes that we built it for for the
5 limit of 50 years or until it's sold, and at that point
6 we get to step back in and make sure that we're getting
7 our share out of it. And so there's just a lot of moving
8 pieces to that and something that everyone wants to jump
9 into and be part of, so I'm really grateful that this
10 program is allowing for that and that our contract
11 managers are awesome enough to follow this for 50 years
12 and just keep passing it down the line, hopefully.
13 Hopefully it will never be sold and will just keep being
14 used for these purposes, that's what my hope is.

15 MR. WILT: Is it a mix of new construction and
16 rehabilitation?

17 MS. BOWER: Yes, definitely.

18 MR. WILT: Have you seen any creative
19 rehabilitation developments? Like you mentioned the dorm
20 rooms. What were those dorm rooms prior?

21 MS. BOWER: Well, they didn't exist, that's
22 brand new. So the dorms are brand new, the urgent care
23 is brand new. Houston is the only one so far that has
24 actually renovated, so they renovated that shelter, and
25 they brought it to code, for one thing, and then number

1 two, they rearranged it to where it just made more sense.
2 It was easier access for individuals coming in, there
3 wasn't such a long line wrapped around the outside of
4 downtown Houston anymore, and there were several points
5 of entry into that one shelter.

6 They made the first floor completely like an
7 area for just kind of hanging out and watching TV, and
8 they took all of the main services, because it was so
9 loud on the first floor, and bumped it up to the second
10 and third and fourth floors, such as laundry, where they
11 would get their mail, where they could sleep and where
12 they could receive additional services, the integrated
13 medical part. Most of the other services, like social
14 services, was provided on the first floor. And they made
15 it really nice and it smelled so clean after they were
16 done with all the renovations. The laundry service and
17 the showers there were added, they were able to come in
18 and take a shower and get clean clothes to wear and wash
19 their other clothes and it made them feel really good
20 about themselves. So those renovations were really,
21 really meaningful.

22 And then Austin so far is brand new
23 construction.

24 MR. WILT: Right.

25 MR. McCLINTON: James McClinton from Metro

1 Dallas Homeless Alliance.

2 What's the status on trying to build in
3 Dallas?

4 MS. BOWER: So previous to Cheryl, when
5 Cynthia was, they were looking into building actually
6 family housing which is I'm really, really hoping for
7 that because most of it is single occupancy units. So
8 what they're waiting on to buy this land, it's a tax
9 credit property -- and you may be able to talk to
10 Patricia more about it -- so it's tax credit property so
11 there's certain rules that go along with buying a tax
12 credit property, and then TCEQ has to come in and clear
13 it because underground the land that they're looking at
14 used to store gas but they're the old aluminum tanks, so
15 they're concerned about the rust and the leakage and they
16 just have to clear the land. So the timing hasn't really
17 quite worked out as far as our new biennium, the tax
18 credit property rules, and then the TCEQ thing, but as
19 soon as all those work out, we're really looking forward
20 to getting some multiple like family, two, three, four
21 bedroom units built.

22 MR. WILT: Where is it located?

23 MS. BOWER: I don't know the address of the
24 land in Dallas. I know it is downtown somewhere, I just
25 can't remember.

1 Do you happen to know? Do you remember the
2 huge building by city hall that has the portrait of the
3 homeless gentleman painted on it? I'm sorry. I want to
4 say it's around Ervay, but I'm not completely sure of the
5 address.

6 And then another outcome is increasing our HCC
7 participants access to medical, psychiatric and substance
8 abuse treatment in the community in order to decrease
9 criminal justice involvement for persons served by the
10 community cooperative, resulting in fewer arrests and
11 decreasing the use of jail beds. And that can be a
12 little confusing considering that's a mandated outcome
13 yet that's an optional additional service, so we're
14 working on some of those little bumps right there.

15 So we will provide alcohol and substance abuse
16 treatment to HCC participants participating in the
17 community collaborative to maintain viable employment.
18 We'll help start social enterprise businesses in the
19 community or engage in job creation, job training or
20 other supported and funded services to enable
21 participants in the community cooperative to maintain
22 viable employment.

23 We'll increase viable affordable housing for
24 families which will result in a decrease in calls to the
25 Department of Family and Protective Services, child

1 welfare providers or children's shelters for children who
2 are homeless. So that's an interesting one. It's very
3 difficult to track that because we would kind of have to
4 know who would be involved -- to actually decrease the
5 amount of referrals, we would have to know who was going
6 to be referred before they actually were, so it's kind of
7 a challenging outcome to actually be able to measure, I
8 should say.

9 There's only one site right now working with
10 families where they're actually supervising their hours
11 that they are sometimes required to get parent classes,
12 all that good stuff, to get their children back or to
13 maintain custody of their children. We only have one
14 site participating in that right now because it is so
15 challenging, but we're working on trying to make that
16 easier for the sites so they can make a bigger impact.

17 And then increase integrated primary and
18 urgent medical health services for HCC participants in
19 the community cooperative an decrease in the use of
20 emergency room services.

21 So currently we have four participating sites:
22 Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and Fort Worth. Houston is
23 no longer participating at the moment, but I am in the
24 process of trying to get them on board again.

25 So the criteria for participating sites is

1 local governmental entities, nonprofit community
2 organizations, faith-based community organizations, and
3 five municipalities with a population of more than one
4 million, so that kind of tells you who they are already.
5 So we did a procurement anyway but we kind of already
6 knew who the five were going to be.

7 So the future projection -- and this has
8 changed just in the last week -- it's no longer just
9 House Bill 4110. So one of the new things that's going
10 on this legislative session is House Bill 4110 is
11 requesting up to \$10 million of the \$25 million that we
12 have to be used in rural counties with populations less
13 than 50,000. It also includes the contiguous counties
14 that also have less than 50,000 in population. But just
15 last week, I did another quick bill analysis for House
16 Bill 2701 which is verbatim House Bill 4110 except it
17 adds additional deliverables for jail diversion
18 requirements, meaning that the five sites that we already
19 have -- or the four that we already have, they will not
20 be held responsible for those additional jail diversion
21 activities but the new rural sites will be.

22 And then just yesterday I was informed that
23 House Bill 13 is not only taking House Bill 4110, it's
24 taking House Bill 4110 along with the jail diversion
25 restrictions but also adding that populations less than

1 50- have to come up with 100 percent of the cash match,
2 and then as the population increases, the match increases
3 from 100 percent to 110, -15, -25, all of that good
4 stuff. So that's going to be rather challenging getting
5 into rural areas and having them meet not only 100
6 percent private cash match, but then as the population
7 goes up, you have to surpass the amount of funding that
8 we're getting.

9 So it remains to be seen if any of these are
10 actually going to pass. I would love to get into the
11 rural areas, there are resources that don't exist that we
12 need to certainly help with in the rural areas, but the
13 private cash match is a challenge with my big four, so I
14 can imagine what it would be like with the rural, but I
15 will do my best for sure.

16 MR. WILT: Are those moving, 2702 or 4110?

17 MS. BOWER: You know, I think 4110 was no. I
18 haven't heard about 2702, and I just found out about 13
19 yesterday. I just found out about 2702 last week.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless
21 Network.

22 And when I saw that, I looked it up, so I'd
23 like to talk to you more about this afterwards, and also,
24 I wanted to make sure that we saw each other face-to-face
25 since we've only spoken by phone, because I want to catch

1 you, I don't want you to run out. So I think I would
2 love to work more with you on this, I can we can
3 strengthen connections even more.

4 And I just want to say one more thing, and you
5 and I have talked about this, if there's any way we can
6 bring in in-kind match to fulfill that matching
7 requirement, that would make a huge difference.

8 MS. BOWER: I've tried for 25 percent and I
9 was informed that was not happening.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Because I love the idea of
11 giving the rural areas some assistance in this way but
12 that's going to be a huge burden for them to come up with
13 the one-to-one match, as you know it is for the five
14 cities.

15 MS. BOWER: Which is why Houston is not
16 participating exactly.

17 MR. SAMUELS: So if there's anything we can do
18 to ease that burden.

19 MS. BOWER: They took all my ideas and left
20 out the in-kind part and then just kind of morphed it
21 into whatever is written right now, and I didn't
22 recognize most of it.

23 MR. SAMUELS: I guess I'm offering my agency's
24 help to do whatever we can.

25 MS. BOWER: Yes, definitely.

1 MR. SAMUELS: We've asked the questions.

2 MS. BOWER: I really appreciate that,
3 definitely.

4 MR. SAMUELS: That's all I wanted to say.

5 SPEAKER FROM AUDIENCE: Do you know who's
6 carrying the bills?

7 MR. SAMUELS: Garnett Coleman is carrying the
8 4110.

9 MS. BOWER: And 2702, and I think Price is on
10 13.

11 MR. SAMUELS: I just looked it up and 4110 was
12 just heard Monday.

13 MS. BOWER: So I wasn't really sure, and
14 that's when I heard about 2702 when I got a quick 3:30
15 Friday afternoon bill analysis.

16 MS. BARNARD: 2702 is pending in committee as
17 of yesterday.

18 MR. WILT: Did you see if any of this language
19 got attached to the budget?

20 MR. SAMUELS: I did not see.

21 (General talking.)

22 MS. BOWER: And I'll definitely be paying
23 attention to these bills and seeing what passes and what
24 doesn't, and whichever one passes it has different
25 requirements.

1 MR. WILT: But they all have the match
2 requirement?

3 MS. BOWER: They all have the match
4 requirement. House Bill 13, the one that has the
5 increasing match requirement depending on population is
6 probably going to be the most concerning for me as the
7 program specialist just because, again, if Dallas,
8 Houston, San Antonio, Fort Worth are having difficulties
9 at one time or another during this program meeting
10 private cash match that I can't imagine a 70,000
11 population county meeting 125 percent of cash match. So
12 I can probably deal with the other two but that one is
13 going to be very challenging.

14 MS. BARNARD: House Bill 13 was placed on the
15 general state calendar today.

16 MR. WILT: And that's for Price?

17 MS. BARNARD: Yes. Price, Turner, White,
18 Hardy and Moody.

19 MS. BOWER: And I'm also interested to see how
20 Senator Nelson reacts considering she was the author of
21 Senate Bill 58, the amendment when HCC was first
22 implemented.

23 So questions?

24 MS. GREEN: Is there points of entry for the
25 program?

1 MS. BOWER: Yes, ma'am. So the points of
2 entry, it depends on where. In Austin they have the
3 Caritas, the Arch, United Way, Salvation Army, different
4 points of access, not to mention all of the clinics that
5 they have around the Austin area. Anyone who is in these
6 criteria when they're being screened, they may say it
7 sounds like these are the programs that you qualify for,
8 let me explain each of them to you. And then if they so
9 happen to feel that HCC is the right program for them,
10 they're enrolled into that time into our DHS system and
11 then also to our HMIS system.

12 And it's different for every site. Forth
13 Worth, same thing, they have multiple -- all the sites
14 have multiple entry points and then they all do VI-SPDAT,
15 a vulnerability index is what it is, and it basically
16 measures the likelihood of this person to die on the
17 street, where do they measure on that, and then they'll
18 be prioritized to be enrolled into the program and given
19 services immediately. So they all receive an MSAD for
20 mental health services, and they all receive a substance
21 abuse treatment manual and they let us know if they want
22 to receive SA services or not, and they all receive a
23 physical health screening to take care of any primary
24 medical issues that they may have identified.

25 MS. RICHARD: The population is mental

1 illness, but I assume somebody who is dual diagnosed,
2 like with IDD, you also work with them?

3 MS. BOWER: So also what I like about this
4 program, anything in the DSM is a mental illness and it's
5 not the bigger diagnoses, the big three anymore, it's
6 anything in the DSM. And again, it could be self-report
7 and they could just really want in the program and they
8 say they have ADD and they really don't, and they're in.
9 We just want to get them served the best way that we can,
10 and that's why they allow self-report instead of that
11 hard and fast diagnosis.

12 SPEAKER FROM AUDIENCE: Is there a wait list
13 and what does that look like?

14 MS. BOWER: That's interesting. HCC doesn't
15 technically have a wait list but in every area there is a
16 wait list for a particular service. In San Antonio our
17 LMHA is CHCS, they do have a wait list. But all of our
18 sites are doing things to kind of lessen the wait time or
19 assist during the wait time, such as Haven for Hope now
20 has a telemed provider that provides services to HCC
21 clients until they can get into CHCS. So we're really
22 trying to work with that as much as possible. So if they
23 end up scoring like a LOC-1-S, obviously they're not
24 going to be waiting that long as long as someone who
25 would be LOC-3 or 4, but we're really trying to minimize

1 that wait as much as we possibly can, just kind of
2 intervene and bridge that until they can get in to the
3 mental health provider.

4 SPEAKER FROM AUDIENCE: I'm sorry. Caren Zysk
5 with Millennium Health Care.

6 MS. RICHARD: Thank you, Caren.

7 Ms. GREEN: So you have services for those at
8 imminent risk of homelessness?

9 MS. BOWER: Sure. That's' when we incorporate
10 our PATH team, and our PATH team is Projects to Assist in
11 the Transition from Homelessness, and the PATH is
12 actually a homeless outreach team and they are serving
13 the homeless or imminently at risk of homelessness. So
14 they will bring clients into the HCC program, and so the
15 HCC program really does provide all housing services such
16 as like the permanent supportive, shelter, transitional.
17 I know they don't really say transitional anymore but, I
18 mean, what else are you going to call that? They're
19 transitioning them from homelessness, they're
20 intervening. They'll pay some rent if the client is
21 getting evicted, they'll catch them up, try to help them
22 get back on their feet. So PATH is our prevention people
23 but the clients that they are serving in that way can be
24 enrolled in HCC as well. You could receive PATH services
25 and be enrolled in HCC at the same time being housed with

1 811 funding, so we're just kind of trying to network all
2 of that together.

3 MS. GREEN: Occasionally we get desperate
4 calls from hospitals where they're getting ready to
5 discharge someone who has no place to go, and so they're
6 looking at sending somebody with a recent stroke to a
7 shelter. We work with nursing home residents who
8 sometimes lose Medicaid eligibility and have no place to
9 go.

10 MS. BOWER: And I think 811 comes in for that
11 type of situation, because 811, they also work with folks
12 exiting institutions to find homes, exiting hospitals and
13 nursing homes. They have those housing coordinator
14 people that will assist in that process.

15 And I also work closely with parole and
16 probation officers who will call and say they've served
17 their whole time. Because they've served their whole
18 time, they're not eligible for their services when you
19 exit to make sure that you're successful upon integration
20 into the community. They're exiting to Dallas, what do
21 we do? So we'll call HCC provider in Dallas. It may be
22 the Bridge Steps, it may be City Square, it maybe Austin
23 Street Shelter. So this person wants to discharge on
24 this date, can we have them met, can we get the PATH team
25 in that area out to talk with them and see what services

1 they need, and we just try to really get them housed into
2 an ideal situation until even better comes along.

3 MS. GREEN: And I was interested in the two
4 projects for the criminal justice, and you mentioned that
5 they have resources on private landlords who will rent to
6 people. That's a population we serve as well, who are
7 not homeless at the time we're engaged but oftentimes at
8 risk of homelessness. And we engaged a consultant to try
9 to assemble an inventory of that kind of housing. We
10 don't have as many options as we would prefer.

11 MS. BOWER: So what I really like about what
12 ATCIC is doing is that they, as well as San Antonio, they
13 have a landlord outreach team that actually engages
14 landlords, builds relationships with them, builds rapport
15 with them. They may not be found on a bigger list but
16 they're on, say, ATCIC's private list. They'll take it
17 upon themselves to reach out to a house that's says for
18 rent, they call: Hi, this is who I am, do you think
19 you'd be possibly be interested in, they're receiving
20 services, you can call me, I'll work with you, I'll work
21 with them. And they may pass out a fruit basket or two
22 or a card or just really maintaining that strong
23 relationship to where even if something does kind of why
24 is there all this furniture in the front yard, it looks
25 like they had a party, anything like that.

1 They try to work to make sure that the client
2 is integrated well into their new environment with
3 renting and learning the rules and just kind of getting
4 back into the role of being a good tenant, as well as
5 helping the landlord understand where this person is
6 coming from and let's work together, kind of a liaison
7 and advocate to make sure that the tenant isn't turned
8 out on the street again, because that's so detrimental to
9 recovery when you try so hard and you're thrown out
10 again, you don't want to try again. But that's what they
11 need to do. I encourage all my sites to really get a
12 landlord outreach team together.

13 MS. RICHARD: Thank you. Great discussion.

14 MR. IRVINE: I think it's great to dig into
15 that. We've got a number of things and we've got some
16 people who need to get their presentations done. Sorry.

17 MS. BOWER: No, no, that's just fine.

18 MS. BOSTON: If I could suggest maybe we
19 should work on the resource guide the next time.

20 MR. IRVINE: Yes. Just a little bit of
21 juggling.

22 MS. RICHARD: So that leads us to Alyse. Glad
23 you could join us.

24 MS. MEYER: Hi, everyone. My name is Alyse
25 Meyer. I'm director of public policy with LeadingAge

1 Texas. We are an association that represents not-for-
2 profit aging services providers. We have about 250
3 provider members and about half of those are actually
4 senior affordable housing communities as well as senior
5 market-based housing. So I first want to thank you for
6 inviting me here, I've already learned so much. I look
7 forward to becoming more involved in housing-relating
8 initiatives as they relate to the Texas senior
9 population. But as an association, we
10 have been focusing more on strengthening housing plus
11 services across senior properties, and this is also a
12 very large focus at the national level, so I wanted to
13 just talk today about some of the resources that we have
14 available for those looking to incorporate housing plus
15 services into their properties, how they can form
16 partnerships, and just give you a quick update about some
17 of the goals we have in terms of making some potential
18 policy changes to help encourage housing plus services in
19 the State of Texas.

20 I didn't really know what to share because we
21 really do have such a wealth of information about some of
22 the research we're doing, some of the projects that
23 LeadingAge members are engaged in really across the
24 country, as well as Texas, and I have some handouts I'll
25 leave with you. One thing that I wanted to just point

1 out was if you go to LeadingAge.org, so our national
2 affiliates's website, we have created over the last few
3 years a research center focused on housing plus services,
4 and there you can find a wealth of information, case
5 studies of different programs that are happening across
6 the country, tools for integrating housing plus services
7 in your community, such as resident assessment tools, on
8 how to form community partnerships, on how to leverage
9 different funding mechanisms, both public and private.
10 So there's really a wealth of information there.

11 I also brought a couple of examples of what
12 some of members are doing in Texas that I'd like to leave
13 behind for you. One of our properties in Plano, Plano
14 Community Homes, they are in the process of building a
15 veterans clinic on their property through a partnership
16 with the VA and HUD. So they actually received some
17 funding that they were working on since I've been around,
18 so probably six years or so, to get this off the ground,
19 and they finally did get some funding to get that off the
20 ground and that will be available to both their residents
21 and then veterans living in the community. So that's
22 sort of a new project that we're really excited to watch
23 and see the success of.

24 We're also really focused on driving some
25 policy changes. We've been talking to leadership,

1 legislative leadership for some time now about how to
2 really measure success of integrating healthcare and non-
3 healthcare related services into affordable housing. You
4 all know we're in the middle of a really tight budget,
5 likewise in ever session we kind of go in knowing nobody
6 is going to get a blank check for all these great ideas
7 we have. But one thing that we've been asked to do, and
8 we will definitely help drive and are looking for any
9 avenues to do so, is to show the state cost savings with
10 regard to providing services to seniors living in some of
11 these housing properties.

12 So we've been talking more about potential
13 pilot programs, how we can partner with managed care
14 organizations and the health plans that are participating
15 in Star-Plus and I'm really happy to find out that many
16 of the health plans are moving into housing plus
17 services, so really eager to see how residents are
18 served. We have a lot of national data that shows pretty
19 substantial cost savings in terms of both Medicare and
20 Medicaid, but we really want to have something robust in
21 Texas to be able to share. So that's really one of our
22 top priorities in terms of what we're doing to encourage
23 housing plus services.

24 But with that, I'll just leave behind some
25 resources. We have several members that would love to

1 talk to other groups and other providers to come up with
2 some type of partnerships, whether that's done outside of
3 policy or outside of the state, so we're pursuing that as
4 well. But for me we've mainly focused on long-term care
5 in terms of the work I do, so housing plus services is
6 more new to me, so I really look forward to getting to
7 know everyone and what we can do as an organization to
8 help encourage and expand housing plus services across
9 the state.

10 MS. RICHARD: Thank you, appreciate it.

11 MS. MEYER: You're welcome. And I'll leave
12 this behind and I'll also send you the link to the
13 website. The research center that is available through
14 LeadingAge.org is really great and really starts with the
15 basics and we have some really great programs that are
16 happening nationally.

17 I don't know if you've ever heard of SASH in
18 Vermont? It's looked at sort of as a national model in
19 terms of integrating services and housing. I brought a
20 handout for that, but it stand for Support and Services
21 at Home, and it's funded both publicly and privately. It
22 started out one property and now they're serving, I
23 think, over 1,000 people in Vermont and it's proven to be
24 really successful in terms of cost savings and just
25 providing a better quality of life of residents, just

1 things from large decreases in hospitalization and falls
2 and just really starting at the basics like providing
3 home modifications, things that HUD 202 properties now
4 don't have any additional funding to really provide.

5 So it's really interesting seeing the minor
6 changes that can be made in some of these properties,
7 like keeping people out of more costly and
8 institutionalized care, and that's our goal is to keep
9 folks aging in place and as independent as possible.

10 So that's my spiel, but thanks for inviting
11 me.

12 MS. RICHARD: Thank you. We appreciate it.

13 MR. IRVINE: Ready for the Disability Advisory
14 Work Group.

15 MS. HOLLOWAY: Good morning. I'm Marni
16 Holloway. I'm the director of the Multifamily Finance
17 Division at TDHCA.

18 The draft that we're passing around is
19 actually of a rule that's up on our website -- Terri,
20 could you pull up our website for just a moment? -- of a
21 rule change that we're proposing around visitability for
22 multifamily developments. We don't really have a rule
23 right now that speaks to visitability for all units, it
24 has this 20 percent of otherwise exempt and it's been
25 very difficult for the development community to

1 understand it.

2 So what we've done is we've taken a look at a
3 multitude of visitability rules from across the country
4 and tried to pull together the parts and pieces that made
5 sense. This rule will apply both for new construction
6 and for rehabilitation moving forward if, in fact, it is
7 adopted by our Board this fall as part of the 2018 rules.

8 We wanted to point out that it's up on our
9 website right now posted in a forum, the text of the
10 rule, and Patrick can run through it really, really
11 quickly so we're not using a bunch of time, but wanted to
12 encourage all of you to share this information with the
13 communities that you work with so that folks have an
14 opportunity to take a look at this changed rule and let
15 us know if it needs a little refinement or if it needs
16 some tweaking so that we can gather that input before we
17 head into the formal rule-making process.

18 MR. RUSSELL: I would just encourage you to
19 comment on the online forum; we've already taken into
20 consideration that feedback. And whenever you have a
21 rule that's going to affect several thousand units on an
22 annual basis, I think it's helpful to read through the
23 rule, so bear with me as I read through this. I'll make
24 it really quick.

25 So just look at items (a) through (c). The

1 first part is all common use facilities must be in
2 compliance with the Fair Housing Design Act Manual; (b)
3 there must be an accessible route from common use
4 facilities to affected units; and then (c) there's all
5 these sub-parts -- and again, all of these design
6 specifications can be found in the Fair Housing Design
7 Act Manual -- a. At least one zero-step accessible
8 entrance; b. At least one accessible bathroom or half-
9 bath, and there's some design specifications for that; c.
10 The bathroom or half-baht must have the appropriate grab
11 bar; d. There must be an accessible route from entrance
12 to bathroom or half-bath and the widths of those doors
13 must be usable; and then e. Light switches, electrical
14 outlets and thermostats on the entry level must be at
15 accessible heights.

16 That second part of this rule has to do with
17 the waiver process. Note that waivers will not be
18 considered for new construction, waivers will not be
19 considered for developments built before 1991, however,
20 there is a possible route towards a waiver and that has
21 to do with structural infeasibility, usually with rehab
22 units, so we're foreseeing that might happen and that's
23 what that second part of the rule is for.

24 MS. HOLLOWAY: So we actually rolled this out
25 with the DAW at their last meeting which is why we're

1 taking on to Brooke's DAW update, but also wanted to
2 bring it to this group so that you would know what we're
3 working on. We anticipate that we'll be discussing this
4 with the development community at one of our monthly QAP
5 planning sessions over the next few months and are
6 anticipating that it will appear in the draft rule we
7 present to our Board in September.

8 MS. POHLMAN: Joyce Pohlman with Health and
9 Human Services.

10 I'm not clear, is this applicable to rehab
11 also, any rehab?

12 MS. HOLLOWAY: Yes.

13 MS. POHLMAN: But it's not retroactive, just
14 new projects that receive funding.

15 MR. RUSSELL: This would be starting for the
16 2018 cycle for housing tax credits, direct loans and
17 bonds. And from the beginning, it's applicable to all
18 proposed developments. Now, if a rehab wants to seek a
19 waiver, that's what that part of this rule is for.

20 MR. IRVINE: The real simple version is we're
21 paying for it so we would like for you to make your units
22 visitable. Pretty simple.

23 MR. GOODWIN: From a practical standpoint, how
24 do you make sure that nobody rents on the second floor
25 that has somebody that needs visitability?

1 MS. HOLLOWAY: Well, our compliance division
2 monitors these properties regularly, every three years at
3 least. If a tenant has requested a visitable unit and
4 they are not able to get into a visitable unit when they
5 move in, we would expect that the owner of the property
6 would allow them to move when that unit became available,
7 and that would actually be a reasonable accommodation.

8 MR. IRVINE: And visitability, of course, is
9 distinct from accessibility, and there is the traditional
10 wait list approach for accessible units. As far as I'm
11 concerned, everybody needs a visitable unit, you never
12 know who's going to come to see you.

13 MR. RUSSELL: And this is not replacing the 5
14 percent rule for accessible units, it's expanding it with
15 this bigger catchall of visitability.

16 MS. HOLLOWAY: It actually mirrors a lot of
17 what we're seeing in local building codes for the larger
18 metropolitan areas that already have these kinds of
19 requirements. If you're building a multifamily property
20 in Austin, you're likely having to meet these
21 requirements.

22 MR. WILT: Is 20 percent a common number when
23 you compare with the other states?

24 MS. HOLLOWAY: The old 20 percent rule is
25 going away, this is all units.

1 MR. WILT: Got it.

2 MR. RUSSELL: All ground floor and elevator
3 served.

4 MS. HOLLOWAY: So it's up on the forum if you
5 would like to make comment on it later or you can reach
6 out to me, Marni Holloway, or Patrick Russell, our
7 Multifamily research specialist, if there are any
8 questions at all. Thank you.

9 MR. IRVINE: Okay. Getting near the end here.

10 MS. BOSTON: I just wanted to tell the group
11 that I know who comes to this group has changed over the
12 years and in the beginning I think a lot of people
13 participated in this and our Disability Advisory group,
14 so I just wanted to kind of remind this group that that
15 group exists. And the primary distinction is while you
16 tend to focus on interagency issues that are more
17 specific to just supportive housing, we have a separate
18 group, the Disability Advisory Workgroup, who provide
19 feedback and input primarily on our programs specifically
20 of TDHCA, and whenever we're going to be releasing notice
21 of funding or rules or program design changes or for
22 instance the visitability proposal that Marni just laid
23 out, that's something we presented to our DAW. And to
24 the extent that people have an interest in that side of
25 what we've got going on, you can participate in that as

1 well.

2 MR. GOODWIN: Should we task her to find a
3 member from the served community that has been vacant?

4 MR. IRVINE: We've provided information to the
5 appointments office on all of the vacant positions.

6 MR. GOODWIN: It would sure be nice to have
7 someone back from the community.

8 (General talking and laughter.)

9 MR. IRVINE: Our next meeting is currently
10 scheduled for July 12, but there's a possibility that we
11 will reschedule that. Part of that possibility is the
12 fact that life is a series of changes, and we have a
13 change coming up. Terri Richard is going to be moving on
14 to the next challenging phase of her life and will no
15 longer be the mainstay of this committee.

16 And personally, I'm just so thankful not just
17 for you doing the work but for your heart and soul
18 engagement, always digging out information and issues and
19 working to share and working to inspire us to make the
20 relationships better and more impactful for the people
21 they serve. It's all about serving Texans. So thank you
22 so, so, so, so deeply.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. RICHARD: Thank you. It's been my
25 pleasure, I've really enjoyed it, and gosh, I've learned

1 so much from everyone. So thank you.

2 MR. IRVINE: And also, one of the things that
3 you've brought, especially over the last year, is
4 inviting folks in to make more in-depth presentations,
5 and I think that Nicole, you're probably going to become
6 new best friends from a lot of people in this room. You
7 obviously have got a lot going on; Alyse too. I think
8 that the introductions that are effected in this
9 committee are hopefully just the beginning because the
10 real work happens on the other 361 days a year when we
11 aren't meeting, so let it carry on outside.

12 Anybody else got anything?

13 MR. GOODWIN: Just in relation to her is that
14 I think when we made the last app change everybody said,
15 oh, gee, what are we going to do, look at all this stuff
16 that we've been given, and I think we have actually
17 stepped up a significant amount from there in the quality
18 of what's been given to us as far as support and I'll say
19 what -- we probably shouldn't take much credit, but what
20 the committee has accomplished, if you will, with the
21 training that's been out and the resource guide that's
22 been out.

23 MS. RICHARD: Thank you so much.

24 MR. IRVINE: I agree. Brooke and Elizabeth
25 will be tasked with keeping us on that trajectory.

1 (General talking and laughter.)

2 MR. IRVINE: I think it's important, too, that
3 we do always remember that this about trajectory. As I
4 was listening to Marni talk about the visitability
5 issues, I think we're on the trajectory. Ultimately,
6 every unit should be accessible, every unit should be
7 visitable, it's that simple.

8 I've got nothing else.

9 MS. BARNARD: One small comment if you have a
10 moment. Just related to our program, we don't do a whole
11 lot of housing, the Community Development Block Grant
12 Program, we did just accept our major source of
13 applications for the next two years, did not get any
14 housing applications in that. The communities are
15 prioritizing infrastructure.

16 Our Colonia Fund, by the time of our next
17 meeting the communities will need to know what their
18 Colonia Fund applications are and be on their way to
19 developing those applications. When we're talking about
20 small units and small landowners, we've restructured some
21 of our program rules to make that more feasible for
22 duplexes and fourplexes to be part of rehab funds that
23 can be used for accessibility. If you have communities
24 that want to put such a facility in a colonia area, that
25 is coming up and should be released June 1-ish.

1 MR. IRVINE: We're adjourned, not that we ever
2 convened.

3 (Whereupon, at 11:36 a.m., the meeting was
4 adjourned.

