

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HOMELESS

Omni Hotel Houston
4 Riverway
Houston, Texas 77056

October 8, 2019
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MIKE DOYLE, Chair
D.J. BINGLER (via telephone)
VALINDA BOLTON (absent)
BROOKE BOSTON (via telephone)
MARQUS BUTLER (absent)
NAOMI CANTU (via telephone)
CARISSA DOUGHERTY (absent)
SHERRI COGBILL (via telephone)
HELEN EISERT
CLAIRE IRWIN (via telephone)
CAL LOPEZ (via telephone)
JOYCE POHLMAN (absent)
JOE A. RAMIREZ by MYESHIA WILCOX

ADVISORY MEMBERS:

DARILYNN CARDONA-BEILER (absent)
CHRISTINE GENDRON (absent)
DAVID LONG
DENNIS M. SCHOLL (absent)
ERIC SAMUELS
MOLLY VOYLES

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

DANNY SHEA (TDHCA)
JEREMY STREMLER (TDHCA)
SPENCER DURAN (TDHCA via phone)

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. DOYLE: Hey, let me call the Interagency
3 Council meeting to order, please. We do have a quorum
4 present and voting, so I wanted to make that perfectly
5 clear. Brooke Boston, are you there?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. DOYLE: Naomi, are you there?

8 MS. CANTU: Yes. I'm here.

9 MR. DOYLE: There is one phone call that I must
10 take. If it happens during this meeting, would you take
11 over and chair this meeting for me?

12 MS. CANTU: Sure. I can do that.

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you. Hope it doesn't
14 come, but maybe it will.

15 MS. CANTU: Okay.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Let me just call us to
17 order. We had welcome and introductions. There's a lot
18 of us here. But will the people on the phone introduce
19 themselves, and then we will go around the table, just so
20 everybody knows who is on the call and who's in the room.

21 Naomi, start. Would you start, please.

22 MS. CANTU: Sure. This is Naomi Cantu with the
23 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. And I
24 am the Homeless Program Chair.

25 MS. WHITE: Hi. Good morning. I am Marjorie

1 White. I am the homeless administrator with the City of
2 San Antonio Department of Human Services.

3 MS. IRWIN: Good morning. This is Claire Irwin
4 with Texas Health and Human Services, the Aging Services
5 Coordination Office.

6 MS. BINGLER: Hi. Good morning. This is
7 Deborah Bingler with the Texas Workforce Commission.

8 MS. COGBILL: This is Sherrie Cogbill, Texas
9 Department of Criminal Justice, Reentry Division.

10 MS. LOPEZ: This is Cal Lopez, with the Texas
11 Education Agency.

12 MR. DURAN: This is Spencer Duran with the
13 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay. And then around the table
15 here. I am Mike Doyle, with Cornerstone Assistance
16 Network, and the Chair.

17 MR. SAMUELS: Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless
18 Network.

19 MR. SHEA: I'm Danny Shea with the Texas
20 Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Just real
21 quick, I have a couple of administrative announcements.

22 One is we usually have a court reporter here
23 transcribing. We weren't able to coordinate that with the
24 reporter in Austin, so we are recording this meeting, and
25 are going to send it to the court reporter for

1 transcription.

2 And then just a reminder for the folks on the
3 phone. If you are not talking, if you could go ahead and
4 press mute, just to cut down on background. And then if
5 everyone could make sure not to put the call on hold.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. STREMLER: Jeremy Stremler, Administrator
8 of the Housing Resource Center out of Texas Department of
9 Housing and Community Affairs.

10 MR. DOYLE: Other members around the -- Helen?

11 MS. EISERT: Yes. Helen Eisert, with Mental
12 Health Programs, Planning and Policy with the Health and
13 Human Services Commission.

14 MR. DOYLE: Jeanne, are you representing
15 anybody?

16 MS. STAMP: I am a hanger-on to Eric at THN.
17 We are starting to do some work around transition and
18 post-secondary, for homeless kids. As well as some work
19 around hard to count populations for the census.

20 MR. SAMUELS: The census is coming up. So we
21 want to make sure we get homeless education involved.

22 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Molly?

23 MS. VOYLES: I am Molly Voyles, Texas Council
24 on Family Violence.

25 MR. DOYLE: David.

1 MR. LONG: David Long, Texas State Affordable
2 Housing Corporation.

3 MR. DOYLE: Any other members or advisory
4 members in the room?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. DOYLE: We have a lot of guests, so you
7 guys talk up, if you are on the phone. So let's move
8 forward and let me just make some opening remarks.

9 There is a lot of stuff going on around
10 homelessness right now, as you know, in Texas. Especially
11 in Austin, that is in the news.

12 And let me just let you know that this really
13 isn't a TICH issue. It is really more of a city issue,
14 and a local continuum issue and a citizen issue. While we
15 may have opinions, it is not really in the TICH's
16 business, nor on the agenda, that we discuss it today.

17 So we are all following that, sympathetic to
18 that, but it can't be part of our discussion today, since
19 it wasn't on the agenda. So -- and we have a quorum.

20 Had we not had a quorum, we could have
21 discussed it all you want to discuss it. But we have a
22 quorum, so we are on the record and following Roberts
23 Rules. We have to stick to the agenda.

24 For those council members, I hope you have had
25 a chance to review the minutes. And if so, I would

1 entertain a motion to approve those minutes.

2 MS. CANTU: This is Naomi Cantu. So moved.

3 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Naomi. Is there a
4 second?

5 MS. LOPEZ: This is Cal Lopez. I second.

6 MR. DOYLE: Second by Cal. Is there any
7 discussion, corrections?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. DOYLE: All in favor, say aye.

10 (A chorus of ayes.)

11 MR. DOYLE: All opposed, same sign.

12 (No response.)

13 MR. DOYLE: Those do pass. Danny, you are
14 going to give us a Performance Data Committee report.

15 MR. SHEA: Sure, so just --

16 MR. DOYLE: Or do you want Eric to go first?

17 MR. SHEA: I mean, this will be a little
18 quicker, I think.

19 MR. DOYLE: That is what I thought, too.

20 MR. SHEA: So just kind of a quick update. As
21 a reminder for folks who have been involved with the TICH,
22 and kind of quick little intro for folks who might be
23 newer.

24 The Performance Data Committee was working a
25 while back, I believe when Cate Tracz was in this

1 position, providing support to the Council, on
2 coordinating some performance data information across
3 state agencies, and had started interviewing some of the
4 numbers out of two of the different agencies who are named
5 in TICH's statute. Had to start talking about what that
6 might look like.

7 That has been on hold, as there has kind of
8 been some turnover in this position. And so I know there
9 hasn't been an update, kind of, from that Committee in a
10 while.

11 We just wanted to let everyone know that that
12 is going to be moving forward, kind of a conversation
13 internally. And we will check in with Mike and then
14 should have kind of a more substantive update at the next
15 one, hopefully.

16 MR. DOYLE: Good. Thank you. Eric?

17 MR. SAMUELS: I don't know why he thought I
18 would be longer. I guess I will. He knows me too well
19 already. So, yes.

20 So we have the draft Annual report on your
21 table, in your email, that has been put together over the
22 course of many months. The first draft of this was done
23 by me, Dr. Scholl, and Michael Wilt with Texas State
24 Affordable Housing Corporation. And then, after that, I
25 started passing it around the state agencies, and I love

1 that we have got a lot of input from state agencies.

2 I don't love the fact that some of those state
3 agencies cannot use Google Docs. So I had to try to piece
4 together comments in Google Docs, comments in Microsoft
5 Word, and I got most of them in.

6 I do have to apologize publicly to Molly Voyles
7 with Texas Council for Family Violence because her
8 comments did not get in on time. And so I apologize for
9 that.

10 But I do appreciate all the comments and to the
11 TDHCA staff. And there were a lot. A lot of grammar
12 corrections, which -- Samantha knows me real well, and
13 that is needed for me. So I do appreciate that. Also,
14 from HHSC, Helen provided a lot of good input.

15 And I feel like that we have a more
16 comprehensive annual report than we have ever had. I hope
17 that it meets the needs of this Council and of the Agency.

18 And we are going to start working on next year's right
19 after this, to try to get a head start, so we don't have
20 this at next year's conference and working on bylaws then.

21 MR. DOYLE: Right. Have you got any target
22 date that you are shooting for?

23 MR. SAMUELS: Well, if you asked me this last
24 year, my target date was probably last December.

25 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Right.

1 MR. SAMUELS: So I am going to go ahead and say
2 next February or something like that. I will tell you
3 what. If I was able to get a work-study or someone to
4 help me out, we could get it done next December.

5 What is so complicated with this, is that it is
6 an annual -- it is annual. So it is January to December.

7 So you have to think back, like, what happened? This is
8 just 2018. Right. Yes, it is just 2018. And I had to
9 constantly do the math in my head. So there are things I
10 wanted to report --

11 MR. DOYLE: But you couldn't.

12 MR. SAMUELS: -- that I couldn't. Yes.

13 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

14 MR. SAMUELS: So I am hoping it meets the needs
15 for the Council. But hopefully you have reviewed it and
16 can tell me.

17 MR. DOYLE: Anybody have any comment, questions
18 on the plan?

19 MS. BOSTON: This is Brooke. I would just say,
20 I think they did a great job. And thank you so much to
21 Eric and Dennis and Michael Wilt. You know, I think it is
22 really well done this year.

23 MR. DOYLE: I did too. I thought it was quite
24 informative.

25 MR. SAMUELS: One thing. I think it is okay

1 for me to mention this. I hope it is. Brooke, you can
2 slap me on the hand if a problem -- from Austin, if it is
3 not. But I know that they all reviewed it, and the new
4 director of TDHCA asked to read through it.

5 And I think that is really impressive that the
6 lead for TDHCA would take the time to read through it. I
7 thank him for bringing his attention to this.

8 MR. DOYLE: Great.

9 MS. BOSTON: Yes.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay, Council members. I need a
11 motion to approve the plan to be submitted, printed and
12 submitted to the agencies.

13 MS. EISERT: So moved.

14 MR. DOYLE: Helen, move to approve. Is there a
15 second?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. DOYLE: So does the motion fail because
18 lack of a second?

19 MS. BINGLER: This is DJ. I will second.

20 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, DJ. As we hold our
21 collective breaths. All in favor, say aye.

22 (A chorus of ayes.)

23 MR. DOYLE: All opposed, no.

24 (No response.)

25 MR. DOYLE: That does pass. Thank you very

1 much. And great work on that, Eric, Danny, and everybody
2 else, Jeremy, whoever included. Now we have some Five-
3 Year Consolidated Plan Consultation Process report,
4 Jeremy.

5 MR. STREMLER: Yes. So for those of you who
6 are on this Council, this is not the first time you have
7 heard me speak about this, but to everyone else who is
8 here. So as you may or may not know, TDHCA coordinates
9 the creation of the State of Texas Consolidated Plan to
10 HUD that governs how we operate our HUD-provided funding
11 over the next five years.

12 So this will be our 2020 to 2024 Consolidated
13 Plan. The consultation process essentially is a time for
14 any community stakeholders, members, agencies,
15 organizations to provide information or feedback as to how
16 they think our programs have been run over the previous
17 five-year plan. And anything they want to see added to
18 the plan or changed.

19 It is not a public comment. We do not have a
20 draft of the document yet. This is your opportunity to
21 provide information that you want us to use in the
22 document, that you want us to think about for the next
23 five years.

24 And really, we will take that back as we
25 develop our draft of the Plan. We will take back that

1 feedback and will incorporate, or possibly use it to think
2 about how we are going to run our programs over the next
3 five years, and how we might address different issues that
4 stakeholders might feel need to be addressed. Whether
5 that is in the Consolidated Plan or just as an Agency
6 through the operation of our programs.

7 So we will be accepting consultation for this
8 plan through the end of October. And I do have a handout
9 for anyone that would like one, that kind of goes over
10 what that process is, my contact information.

11 So if your organization or yourself would like
12 to provide that consultation or data or information that
13 you would like to see incorporated, or help advise the
14 creation of the Plan, I would be more than happy to
15 receive it. More than happy to talk to you today after
16 this meeting, and hear what you have to say. So thank
17 you.

18 MR. DOYLE: So Jeremy, would you kind of back
19 up, and from a 30,000 foot view, give us the importance of
20 the Plan? What does that do for us?

21 MR. STREMLER: Yes. So this is a Consolidated
22 Plan. It is like I said, a five-year plan. It is
23 required by HUD.

24 If we do not complete the plan, if we do not
25 provide the plan to HUD, the State of Texas does not get

1 their appropriation for HOME funding, ESG funding,
2 National Housing Trust Fund, as well as CDBG funding for
3 the entire state, at the statewide level.

4 So this plan really is our opportunity to
5 identify needs in the state, identify how the market is
6 responding to those needs. Then through a strategic plan
7 piece, describe the programs we will be operating over the
8 next five years to address those needs and the market, as
9 well as our one-year action plan, just for the next, 2020
10 to 2021 operation of our programs.

11 So all those things are in this document. And
12 it is required in addition to the yearly action plans that
13 will then be based on this five-year plan every year
14 through 2024, that will allow us to receive our
15 appropriation from HUD.

16 MR. DOYLE: So is there any place that it is
17 written now, that you could -- we could look and say, well
18 this program, I think, needs to be in there, but it is
19 not. Or, do we just come up with the --

20 MR. STREMLER: Yes. Of course. So the current
21 one-year action plan, the 2019 one-year action plan is on
22 our website.

23 I do have that on my one page handout. So
24 anybody who wants one, I would be more than happy to hand
25 them out to everyone here. And then also, on that same

1 page on our website is the previous Five-Year Consolidated
2 Plan, which we are still technically under, because 2019
3 program year will go -- HUD program year will go through
4 next August -- end of next August, because it was
5 extended.

6 And so you are more than welcome to read over
7 those documents, see what is there, you know, and provide
8 any feedback, based on what is or isn't in those previous
9 documents, and provide feedback. And then of course,
10 after the plan is created and drafted and goes to our
11 Board, and will be released for a public comment period,
12 that, you know, is the opportunity for everyone to read
13 through it and provide that actual public comment --

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

15 MR. STREMLER: -- once that draft is released.
16 But now is kind of the opportunity to provide kind of your
17 thoughts and concerns or questions or what you want to see
18 up front. Because sometimes when you go into public
19 comment, you know, in that shortened time frame for
20 addressing concerns, sometimes it is not possible to
21 adjust. Depending on comments, of course -- it always
22 varies.

23 MR. DOYLE: So basically, we are in a
24 suggestion period, consultation period. You are going to
25 get all the consults, all the things -- consults done, and

1 start writing the plan. And you are going to put it
2 together.

3 And you are going to send it to -- show it to
4 the Board. And then it is going to go into public comment
5 where you can actually make a comment on the thing that is
6 still changeable at that point.

7 MR. STREMLER: Yes.

8 MR. DOYLE: You are just making comments.
9 Okay. So I just say that as a reminder that it is very
10 important that, if in fact you know TDHCA is leaving
11 something out that is important to you, this is your
12 chance. Do a consultation. Then you can also respond
13 during the time after it is approved in the --

14 MR. STREMLER: Draft form.

15 MR. DOYLE: -- draft form. Then now is the time
16 to do that, before the end of October. Is that correct?

17 MR. STREMLER: Yes.

18 MR. DOYLE: So you have got two or three weeks,
19 four weeks, something to do. Okay.

20 Member updates, Kali. You are going to start
21 us with the Ending Homelessness Fund?

22 MS. ADAMS: Yes. My name is Kali. And I am
23 with the Texas Department of Housing and Community
24 Affairs, in the homelessness programs.

25 First up is the Ending Homelessness Fund. It

1 is the first distribution of this fund, which is very
2 exciting. As a reminder, that is the section at the
3 bottom of your Texas car registration. So when you
4 register, you can donate to that fund.

5 We have six subs that are going to be receiving
6 that. And those are all current subs for our Emergency
7 Solutions Grant, and our Homeless Housing and Services
8 Program. So it is six different cities.

9 We did have one additional city that opted to
10 receive the fund. So there are six cities which -- last
11 time we said five. So that new city is going to be the
12 city of Texarkana. And each sub is going to be getting
13 about \$35,000.

14 MR. DOYLE: Can you -- are the city names
15 available to --

16 MS. ADAMS: Yes. They have been to our Board,
17 so they are out. I don't have them off the top of my
18 head.

19 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Do they go to the
20 continuums, or the --

21 MS. ADAMS: Right. It goes to the actual
22 cities.

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

24 MS. ADAMS: Yes. And then we also have the
25 Emergency Solutions Grants Program. We just wrapped up

1 our 2019 ESG awards. We have about 50 subs throughout
2 this state. And it is about the same amount as the last
3 grant cycle.

4 But we do have some new areas receiving
5 funding, which is very exciting. So some of those areas
6 are Galveston and Abilene, which had not previously been
7 awarded funds.

8 We just wrapped up our implementation webinars
9 to bring on those new subs, as well as refresh the current
10 ones. And most of those contracts are going to start
11 November 1st.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any questions for Kali?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. DOYLE: All right. Thank you very much.
15 Spencer, you there?

16 MR. DURAN: Yes. I am here.

17 MR. DOYLE: Section 811.

18 MR. DURAN: Can you hear me okay? Are you
19 there?

20 MR. DOYLE: Yes. We are. Thank you.

21 MR. DURAN: Okay. Good. So Spencer Duran,
22 TDHCA, manager of the Section 811 program.

23 I just had a few updates I wanted to share with
24 this group. I think that most of you are familiar with
25 the general program design of the Section 811 program, so

1 I will skip over all the background.

2 Essentially, though, we have now housed 113
3 households. And these are all extremely low income
4 households who have members who are people with
5 disabilities, who also meet one of the program's target
6 populations.

7 And I pulled a few bits of information
8 specifically for this group. So if you have any
9 questions, please let me know. I am just going to provide
10 a general overview of the program from the homelessness
11 perspective. So of the --

12 MS. BOSTON: I'm sorry.

13 MR. DURAN: Yes. Go ahead.

14 MS. BOSTON: Sorry. This is Brooke. Do you
15 mean 113, or --

16 MR. DURAN: I'm sorry. We have housed 313
17 total.

18 MS. BOSTON: Okay. Thanks.

19 MR. DURAN: Yes. Thank you. Yes. So we have
20 housed 313 households, who are about 50 percent, a little
21 bit over 50 percent of our goal, to house around 600
22 households by the end of 2021. So we are on pace to do
23 that currently.

24 In addition, of the 313 that we have housed,
25 116 households have been identified as homeless. So that

1 is about 37 percent of the households that we have served
2 have identified as homeless.

3 So we are kind of, you know, when we were
4 rolling this program out, you know, most of the program
5 design decisions went to making this a program that would,
6 you know, be well responsive to the needs of people with
7 disabilities in general. And it kind of ended up with a
8 program that is almost half homeless program.

9 And a lot of that is due to the outstanding
10 work of the local mental health authorities and local
11 behavioral health authorities that have really figured out
12 how to maximize 811 in their communities. All of our
13 highest performing referral sources have been LMHAs. In
14 general --

15 MR. DOYLE: So tell us their secret.

16 MR. DURAN: Their secret is -- their secret is
17 this, I think. And maybe Helen there can elaborate a
18 little bit.

19 From my -- from a housing perspective, what I
20 am seeing is, they have given everybody involved a little
21 bit of housing knowledge. And then they also have a -- in
22 their kind of, you know, in their hierarchy or their chain
23 of command, they also have somebody who is really good,
24 who is kind of a housing specialist.

25 So I think the secret is, you know, not filing

1 housing into its own kind of scary corner, but to diffuse
2 somehow the knowledge throughout. But then also have some
3 key experts and cheerleaders in the agencies, as well.

4 MR. DOYLE: So when you say they are dispersing
5 knowledge to whom?

6 MR. DURAN: So a lot of different local mental
7 health authorities have experimented with the best type of
8 client to refer to 811. So some local mental health
9 authorities, their community clinic staff who provide, you
10 know, general psychological services and supports. They
11 know how to make a housing referral.

12 So there is everyone from, you know, registered
13 nurses and other kind of health professionals that know
14 how to get the ball rolling on a housing referral. And
15 then there is also, you know, supportive housing specialty
16 staff that can also assist. So we kind of see referrals
17 coming from all different parts of a local mental health
18 authority.

19 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So they are kind of
20 distributing that information within their own agency --

21 MR. DURAN: Correct.

22 MR. DOYLE: -- to make everybody in their
23 agency aware of the possibility that there is housing
24 possibly available to people that they are serving within
25 the MHA?

1 MR. DURAN: Yes. Exactly. And Helen, did you
2 have anything to add to that, since you are kind of part
3 of the program design?

4 MS. EISERT: No. I think once we rolled it out
5 past -- like, got it out into the clinics, and each LMHA
6 has multiple clinics. And so once that -- because it is a
7 closed referral system and you have to train referral
8 agents to refer.

9 Not anyone -- just not anyone can refer to this
10 program. And so once that training started to get
11 disseminated out into the clinics, I think that is when we
12 started seeing that increase happen.

13 So -- and I think it just didn't happen. It
14 was -- I think the infrastructure of the LMHA was just set
15 up. It was primed and ready to get those referrals in
16 more quickly than say, some of the other target
17 populations with the 811 program. A little bit better
18 than the service coordinators with the MCOs and some of
19 the other populations, so.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

21 MS. EISERT: That is my take on it, Spencer.

22 MR. DURAN: Yes. Thank you. So yes. We have
23 seen that the program's been really successful, so far.
24 Just kind of continuous and general numbers update. The
25 average tenant portion of rent is \$120 a month. So this

1 makes 811, you know, one of the best deals around, as far
2 as subsidized housing goes.

3 And that \$120 a month includes a calculation
4 for the utility allowance as well. So these are deeply
5 affordable units serving historically underserved
6 populations who have extremely low incomes.

7 MR. DOYLE: So Spencer, tell me where these
8 units are? Is somebody else creating them? Are they
9 already there? Or are they just apartments? What are
10 these units?

11 MR. DURAN: Yes. That is a great question. So
12 we have attached in centers through the Qualified
13 Allocation Plan to essentially provide points to
14 properties, property applicants who are seeking funding
15 from TDHCA for one of our multifamily programs.

16 So these are developer applicants who are
17 coming to TDHCA seeking tax credits or other multifamily
18 development funds. And so they would agree to participate
19 in 811 by setting aside, usually, ten units for this
20 program. And they would get points in their competitive
21 applications for funding to do so.

22 So our tax credit program is highly
23 competitive. And so every point is extremely important,
24 whenever we are ranking and scoring the applications that
25 we receive. And so we created this incentive for

1 participation in 811 for the properties that are already
2 coming to TDHCA seeking funding from that source.

3 So that has resulted in really high quality
4 properties, newer construction properties that are in
5 great locations. You know, usually large, 200 unit
6 apartment complexes that are professionally managed.

7 You know, a lot of them have swimming pools and
8 all that kind of stuff. So it is a really high quality
9 product that is serving these extremely low-income
10 households.

11 MR. DOYLE: Great.

12 MR. DURAN: And we have created, I think, about
13 a hundred, 180 properties total that are participating in
14 all throughout the eight largest metros in the state of
15 Texas.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions or
17 comments for Spencer?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. DOYLE: All right. Thank you, Spencer.
20 Valinda, are you on the phone?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Cal, are you still there?

23 MS. LOPEZ: Yes. I am.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Give us the report on the
25 Texas Education Agency.

1 MS. LOPEZ: Okay. Well, good morning.

2 MR. DOYLE: Good morning.

3 MS. LOPEZ: I actually have a lot to report on
4 since our last meeting that was held on July 30. Hello,
5 my name is Cal Lopez. I am the McKinney-Vento Homeless
6 Education State Coordinator with the Texas Education
7 Agency. And we have been really busy the past few months.

8 First of all, we had an all-day training last
9 Thursday with our 76 subgrantees who are either school
10 districts or our Regional Educational Centers from across
11 the state, to go over their completing year one of their
12 competitive subgrant. And so we will be working with them
13 on compiling data to show the impact of their grant funds
14 on the number of students identified, their impact on
15 attendance, and academic support services and improvements
16 to student outcomes.

17 So we went ahead and provided all that
18 information to them last Thursday. And we will be
19 receiving that information in mid-November. And so we
20 should have some very good data to present with you at the
21 next meeting.

22 Actually, we have kind of a snapshot during
23 mid-year regarding our grant in February. Our student
24 attendance rates were actually very comparable to students
25 who are not considered homeless.

1 When we looked at the percentage of the
2 attendance rates versus our grantees, they range between
3 84 to 99 percent. And their non-homeless counterparts
4 range from 88 to 99 percent. And this was in 17 out of
5 the 20 regions in the state of Texas.

6 We also have completed all our grant
7 negotiations for the year two of their subgrant. And so
8 we awarded just a little over \$6.6 million to our 76
9 subgrantees for the upcoming school year.

10 In addition to that, we are also working with
11 our subgrantees as they prepare to host the National
12 Association for the Education of Homeless Children and
13 Youth Conference, or the NAEHCY national conference, next
14 year in Dallas. And so I and actually about 35 other
15 attendees from Texas will be attending the national
16 conference that will be held in Washington, D.C. from
17 November 2nd through the 5th.

18 And at the end of the conference, we, as the
19 next host state, will be providing a big video and
20 unveiling our logo and inviting everybody who is attending
21 at D.C. to come and visit us in the great Lone Star state.

22 And that conference date will be November 1st through
23 November 3rd of 2020.

24 So Texas, the last time Texas was the host
25 state for the national conference was in 2010. And so we

1 are very excited to be announcing that, and to be one of
2 the new hosts to people coming here.

3 MR. DOYLE: Great.

4 MS. LOPEZ: I know that when I was there on
5 July 30, we had talked about several of our grants that we
6 were developing as part of our Texas Education for
7 Homeless Children and Youth program redesign. And I am
8 actually excited to share several dates and new
9 information regarding our competitive technical assistance
10 grant, our competitive letter of interest grant for a
11 statewide summit, and also our Regional Educational
12 Service Center grant.

13 So first, I wanted to start with our
14 competitive letter of interest grant. I had briefly
15 touched on this at the last meeting. At TEA, we will be
16 now administering the work for our statewide conference.

17 For the past several years, we had partnered
18 with the Texas Homeless Network to implement our statewide
19 conference. As part of our program redesign, TEA will now
20 be administering this component of the program.

21 On Friday, September 6, TEA did release our
22 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth statewide
23 program funding grant. It is posted on our grants
24 opportunities page. Institutes for higher education, non-
25 profits and our Regional Education Centers are all

1 eligible to apply. And today is actually the application
2 due date.

3 So we are very excited the application due date
4 is today. We will be working with our grants department
5 to review all applications that come in.

6 And the goal for our LOI grant is to increase
7 our summit attendance by 150 percent, to expand our
8 professional development tracks for our subgrantees, our
9 school districts, our Regional Education Centers, and of
10 course, our stakeholders. We want to promote
11 presentations of high quality and that are innovative, and
12 provide evidence-based best practices that will provide
13 strategies, resources and tools to help identify, enroll,
14 and support the unique academic roles and services for all
15 Texas students experiencing homelessness.

16 We do look forward. We are still collaborating
17 with the Texas Homeless Network as a presenter, or also
18 collaborator, and providing resources during our summit.
19 But we also want to encourage everybody who is
20 participating today at the meeting to be looking for that
21 Request for Proposal.

22 And I will send a notice that those go out
23 because we would like to provide an extremely diversified
24 list of presenters, collaborators, resources and sponsors.
25 We are anticipating awarding this grant by mid-December.

1 The next grant that I am very excited to talk
2 to you about is the Agency has approved half a million
3 dollars in funding that will be awarded to our Regional
4 Educational Service Centers. We have 20 Regional
5 Educational Centers across the state of Texas.

6 This is a non-competitive grant. All of our
7 Regional Education Centers will be able to apply for
8 \$25,000 for the '19-'20 school year. The anticipated
9 grant publication date will be mid-October. I anticipate
10 that here within the next week or two.

11 The application due date is in November, and we
12 will be able to negotiate the grants as soon as we receive
13 them. There is a 30-day posting period. I am very
14 excited that this grant funding has been approved.

15 The purpose of this grant is to strengthen
16 statewide regional and local infrastructure and
17 implementation of the Texas Education for Homeless
18 Children and Youth Program. Our regional ERC grantees
19 will assist the agency with technical assistance,
20 professional development, community collaboration,
21 resource development and dissemination of program
22 materials.

23 As we went forward with the value of this
24 grant, we went back to look at some of our baseline data
25 for the identification of homeless children and youth, and

1 found that 24 percent of our school districts in the state
2 of Texas identified zero homeless children and youth. So
3 due to this data, we have designed this grant to increase
4 capacity at the regional level to support our statewide
5 McKinney-Vento program services to all districts,
6 equitably, across the state.

7 In addition to supporting identification, the
8 goal of the grant is also to provide early intervention,
9 ongoing academic progress monitoring, and to utilize a
10 data-driven plan to help support all Texas students
11 experiencing homelessness.

12 I also wanted to provide you an update on the
13 redesign of our McKinney-Vento posters. We have completed
14 the transition of our 1-800 number that has been on our
15 posters for over 23 years with the UT data center, as of
16 September 23. It was vital to ensure continuity of
17 services and so we wanted to ensure that we could still
18 utilize and provide this 1-800 number for everybody across
19 the state to contact our technical support center.

20 In addition, we will have a new website
21 address. In the past, our resources have been on the
22 www.thseo.org website. But now, it will now be the
23 tehcy.tea.texas.gov website. This new address for our
24 statewide technical assistance and resources will also be
25 published on our poster.

1 We are here with our final draft and will be
2 moving forward with printing the posters and disseminating
3 them through our training Regional Education Centers.
4 That is actually one of their grant activities.

5 They will be receiving the posters both in
6 English and Spanish, and we will have four versions of the
7 posters. We have two posters that are family-oriented.
8 They will both be in English and Spanish. And two posters
9 that are targeted for our unaccompanied youth, both in
10 English and Spanish.

11 The goal is also for our Regional Educational
12 Centers to be the contact for any community collaborators,
13 shelters, food pantries, in their region. And they will
14 be providing them the new posters as well.

15 And last, when we had met on July 30, I had
16 shared some information about our technical assistance
17 grant award and transition. Since then, I just wanted to
18 kind of revisit that information that we provided on July
19 30, and provide you some new updates.

20 Historically, our technical assistance grants
21 have been with Region 10 who had subcontracted with the UT
22 data center and the Texas Homeless Education Office. In
23 the spring of 2019, TEA conducted a grant competition for
24 the program's technical assistance, professional
25 development, and support provider. We did have six

1 entities that had submitted applications for this grant.

2 In June of 2019, TEA announced that Region 13
3 was the recipient of the grant for the 2019-'20 school
4 year and is now responsible for the staffing support of
5 our program's technical assistance support center.

6 Collectively, we share a resounding commitment and resolve
7 to see that all homeless students are properly identified
8 and served within all Texas schools.

9 Our Region 10, Region 13, and the field office
10 have been working over the summer collaboratively with TEA
11 to ensure a streamlined transition and continuity of
12 services between all entities. The 2018-'19 technical
13 assistance grant held by Region 10 ended on August 31.

14 At this time we want to recognize and
15 appreciate the long standing history, commitment and
16 support that Region 10 and the THEO office have provided
17 to TEA and Texas schools, to ensure services and support
18 for homeless students. As you all know, TEA has had a
19 longstanding history with Region 10 and the THEO office.

20 We are incredibly grateful to Region 10 and to
21 THEO for more than their 20 years of service and
22 leadership to the McKinney-Vento homeless education
23 program. Our Texas Education for Homeless Children and
24 Youth program was built on the longstanding history,
25 foundation and oversight provided by Region 10 and THEO.

1 We look forward to the future of our new
2 relationship, with our Texas Education for Homeless
3 Children and Youth Support Center Team that is now housed
4 at Region 13, to advance and evolve the implementation of
5 the McKinney-Vento and Texas Education of Homeless
6 Children and Youth program.

7 All technical support, professional development
8 and resources are now provided by the team at Region 13,
9 as of September 1. We would like to thank Region 10,
10 Region 13, and THEO for all their hard work during the
11 grant transition that occurred over the summer months.

12 As they all went above and beyond working many
13 long hours collaboratively with TEA to ensure the
14 continuity of services for our subgrantees, our school
15 districts and our Regional Educational Centers and of
16 course, our families, our students and our stakeholders.
17 And so when we come back to meet in the next quarter, I
18 will have the final version of the posters, as they are
19 moving forward to going to printing here, within the next
20 few weeks.

21 And as always, if anybody has any questions
22 they can feel free to give me a call at (512)464-9414.
23 And I am also open to take any questions right now.

24 MR. DOYLE: Any questions for Cal?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. DOYLE: I can see you have been busy.

2 MS. LOPEZ: Yes. I have been busy. Since
3 July, it has been very, very busy.

4 MR. DOYLE: Well, thank you for that. Keep up
5 the good work.

6 MS. LOPEZ: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. DOYLE: Helen?

8 MS. EISERT: Yes. I just had a couple of
9 updates from our mental health unit. So one is an update
10 with our supportive housing rental assistance program. So
11 I reported back in July that we were expanding from
12 providing rental assistance funds from 20 local mental
13 health authorities to 36 local mental health authorities.

14 So 36 of our 39 local mental health authorities
15 have funds to provide direct rental assistance and utility
16 assistance to individuals that are homeless or at risk of
17 being homeless -- which is super exciting. That came from
18 federal mental health block grants, grant funds, to expand
19 that program.

20 That started September 1. We had a kick-off
21 webinar and we had an onsite supportive housing
22 coordinator training in Longview, Texas. We had twelve
23 supportive housing -- twelve local mental health
24 authorities were represented at that onsite training from
25 across the state.

1 So it was a wonderful experience. So I am
2 excited. I will just keep everyone updated on how that is
3 going, but that is a pretty big expansion for us.

4 The other piece I wanted to report back on is
5 on the Healthy Community Collaborative program. So that
6 is a program that provides funding to currently five of
7 the most populous urban cities. It provides funding to
8 those cities to provide funds for services to people that
9 are homeless with mental health or substance use issues.

10 So it is San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth,
11 Dallas, and now they have added Houston back in. That is
12 new for this fiscal year. And we had an RFA back in
13 fiscal year 2019 to expand to the rural communities.

14 And we did not get any applications for that
15 RFA. That RFA -- we will post that again in fiscal year
16 2020. But what we have done is started a learning
17 community.

18 So we have contracted with the University of
19 North Texas to start a learning community for people that
20 might want to apply for the rural HCC RFA. And so we have
21 about 12 or 13 communities that have signed up for that
22 learning community, and that is started. That is already
23 started.

24 So that is exciting. They have a set of
25 webinars and community assessments and things they are

1 doing to help them set up collaboratives within their
2 communities.

3 And so, hopefully, when the RFA comes, those
4 communities would actually apply for the RFA. So those
5 were my two main updates.

6 MR. DOYLE: And that is for rural.

7 MS. EISERT: That is for rural communities.

8 MR. DOYLE: And define rural.

9 MS. EISERT: So for that, for that RFA, it
10 would be for communities that have two or more counties
11 that are under 100,000. So it is quite small.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

13 MS. EISERT: So when I say rural, I mean rural.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any questions for Helen?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. DOYLE: All right. We are going to shift
17 into the conversation with the continuum of care agencies.

18 Raise your hand if you are with the continuum of care as
19 a lead. One. Well, you have got the floor.

20 MS. CASTILLO: Okay.

21 MR. DOYLE: But the San Antonio, the lady from
22 San Antonio is here, too. Right? Marjorie White?

23 MS. WHITE: Hello. Can you hear me?

24 MR. DOYLE: Yes. This is a conversation for
25 the continuum of cares. And really, what we want to know

1 as an Interagency Council is how can we help the local
2 continuum of cares get more money and be more effective.

3 MS. WHITE: Some question. It is Brenda
4 Mascorro from our homeless continuum of care on line?

5 MR. DOYLE: Not that I know of. Unless she was
6 added after it was over.

7 MS. WHITE: Oh, great. I don't work with
8 continuum. I work closely with them, but I am not part of
9 the continuum of care --

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

11 MS. WHITE: -- to speak on their behalf.
12 However, what I will say is, when we received recent
13 funding -- for effective use of the funds, and Naomi Cantu
14 has been very helpful with kind of giving us the guidance
15 of what we needed to do to help secure that funding.

16 I think other ways you could possibly help us
17 is, we are right now about to go through the strategic
18 planning process. We are hiring a consultant.

19 And like, having an understanding of maybe
20 other best practices and different communities. Or a
21 place for us to, I guess, huddle and talk about issues
22 that we are trying to go through, or policies that may
23 adversely or positively impact homelessness. Having those
24 sort of forums have been helpful as well.

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay. And I think THN would

1 probably be a great resource for you, there, Marjorie, if
2 you wanted to reach out to them. And Danny, would you
3 get -- make sure that she has the information to get in
4 touch with you guys?

5 MR. SHEA: Yes. I can share that.

6 MR. DOYLE: Good.

7 MS. CASTILLO: Just I think that, I think that
8 the support that you guys provide to COCs, I think it
9 is -- I think what we would like to, in my opinion, for to
10 readdress or relook at is the formulas. And to reevaluate
11 how those formulas are actually driving those
12 disbursements, particularly from HUD.

13 And I think that those need to be adjusted.
14 And so that is one item that we would really like to focus
15 on.

16 I think overall, I think the funds that are
17 coming down from the license plate registration, I think
18 we're part of that -- one of the communities that are
19 receiving that pot of money. I think that is very
20 helpful.

21 I think another thing that we would like to see
22 as far as, you know, 202 and 811 programs, to see if we
23 can have that conversation. And so they are such high
24 barrier programs that, you know, I know that in our
25 community we have very low utilization of those beds,

1 because they are very high.

2 And so we'd like to try and focus our homeless
3 population into their flow. And they know -- they have
4 talked to Spencer before.

5 MR. DOYLE: And which community are you in?

6 MS. CASTILLO: El Paso.

7 MR. DOYLE: El Paso.

8 MS. CASTILLO: So I think that, that is
9 probably the main issues that I would like to bring up
10 before this body.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Well, we will make note of
12 that, and anything else that any of your continuums, if
13 you are involved in those, out in the communities, what do
14 we have now? Thirteen -- twelve or 13 continuums and the
15 balance of state?

16 MR. SHEA: That might be a better question
17 for --

18 FEMALE VOICE: There is eleven.

19 MR. DOYLE: Eleven continuums.

20 FEMALE VOICE: Plus BOS.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Plus, balance of state. If
22 you are working in any of those areas that has its own
23 continuum, just know that we are open to any suggestions
24 we can help you with over the year to try to redirect
25 funds from TDHCA or HUD or anybody else that you may be

1 needing help with.

2 So thank you for that. Is there any public
3 comment?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Our next meeting is January
6 21, 2020. That is hard to say. January 21, 2020, unless
7 we change it. We will give you plenty of notice if we do.

8 MR. SHEA: Yes. We will send out the meeting
9 information.

10 MR. DOYLE: But it is the third Tuesday, I
11 believe the third Tuesday in January.

12 MS. FOSS: Hey, Mike, also, I don't know where
13 it was supposed to be in it, but Naomi asked me to update
14 about TICH for core staff.

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

16 MS. FOSS: And so I don't know --

17 MR. DOYLE: I am just looking to see if I
18 missed it. But go right ahead.

19 MS. FOSS: So essentially, she just wanted us
20 to update. So we had been awarded funding for a program
21 with our volunteers in service to Americorps that we
22 combined it with TICH, for helping people experiencing
23 homelessness access workforce solutions for employment
24 navigation.

25 And so over the past year, we employed two

1 VISTAs in two communities to do work of building up
2 employment navigation for people experiencing
3 homelessness. We have one in Tarrant County Homeless
4 Coalition. And then one in the Austin ECHO Coalition.

5 And in those communities, they did work to
6 build, like, sustainable programs for people experiencing
7 homelessness, from providing trainings, to Workforce
8 Solutions and best practices in working with people
9 experiencing homelessness. And then also, on the other
10 side of working with staff throughout the coalitions,
11 around how to work with Workforce Solutions.

12 And so it was really successful. I have an
13 update about it, if anyone wants it in more detail.

14 And then the other real piece is that we have
15 been awarded a second year. And we are going to -- we are
16 currently recruiting communities that are interested in
17 working specifically with veterans experiencing
18 homelessness in their workforce.

19 So we will have two more communities,
20 potentially three, if anyone is interested in
21 participating in that -- to do that same work, but more
22 specifically geared towards veterans experiencing
23 homelessness. And partnering with Workforce Solutions, or
24 employment services within the community overall.

25 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Good. And if you are not --

1 this is just a blanket statement for everybody. If you
2 are not working with your local Workforce systems, there
3 is a big emphasis right now on internships and trying out
4 a job, on certifications, and those kind of things, that
5 the homeless population can do.

6 So I would encourage you to make connections,
7 if you haven't already, with your local Workforce system.

8 Okay. Anything else?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. DOYLE: We are adjourned. Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless

LOCATION: Austin, Texas

DATE: October 9, 2019

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 43, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
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(Transcriber) (Date)

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