

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL

FOR THE HOMELESS

Texas Workforce Commission Annex  
Room 304B  
1117 Trinity Street  
Austin, Texas

July 12, 2016  
10:13 a.m.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair  
VALINDA BOLTON  
MICHAEL DeYOUNG (proxy for BROOKE BOSTON)  
KELLY KRAVITZ  
KAREN LASHBROOK  
PAM MAERCKLEIN  
GEORGE McENTYRE  
ANNA SONENTHAL  
NAOMI TREJO  
AMY FELTER (via telephone)  
FRANCES GATTIS (via telephone)

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

ERIC SAMUELS  
DARILYN CARDONA-BEILER (via telephone)  
DENNIS M. SCHOLL (via telephone)

OTHER ATTENDEES:

ANNA BAKER  
MONA MURO  
AALIYAH NOBLE  
MICHAEL WILT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

CATE TRACZ  
ELIZABETH YEVICH

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

1  
2 MR. DOYLE: Welcome, everyone. Those that are  
3 here in person and those that are here on the phone,  
4 welcome to the July meeting of the Texas Interagency  
5 Council for the Homeless. We do have a quorum present and  
6 voting, so let the record reflect that.

7 Also, for my remarks, I'm going to talk a  
8 little bit later on in the agenda about committees, but at  
9 the same time I want you to know that we have a court  
10 reporter with us today for some of our legislative  
11 requirements, so when you make a comment, if you make a  
12 comment, it will be helpful if you stated your name so  
13 that we can get that in the record.

14 So that being said, you have before you the  
15 minutes from our April meeting, and I would entertain a  
16 motion to approve those.

17 MS. TREJO: So moved, Naomi Trejo.

18 MR. DOYLE: There's a motion by Naomi. Is  
19 there a second?

20 MS. MAERCKLEIN: Second by Pam Maercklein.

21 MR. DOYLE: Second by Pam. Any further  
22 discussion, corrections, changes?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. DOYLE: All in favor say aye.

25 (A chorus of ayes.)

1 MR. DOYLE: Opposed same sign.

2 (No response.)

3 MR. DOYLE: Those do pass.

4 Okay. We're going to move down Naomi's  
5 discussion, since it could be a little bit lengthy, and go  
6 to our volunteer report, and Aaliyah, you're going to do  
7 that?

8 MS. NOBLE: Yes. So the last time I spoke with  
9 you all, I was on my way to Beaumont to go and train the  
10 interns, and that was successfully done. I went there on  
11 the 31st of May and we did our employment navigator  
12 training. I trained them on rights and responsibilities,  
13 their specified duties, all of the organizational  
14 information for all the partners that are involved, and  
15 then we went into engaging strategies for people  
16 experiencing homelessness, as well as individualized  
17 employment plans which will be the bulk of their duties,  
18 and how they're going to keep records and do evaluations.

19 Both interns at the end of training were very  
20 excited about the project, however, a Beaumont navigator  
21 resigned shortly after. She needed a job that just paid  
22 more, she was just out of college, so that's what she  
23 reported. So I worked with the site, Henry's Place, to  
24 identify another navigator. They had a Lamar University  
25 intern that was already there that was working on intake

1 for people experiencing homelessness so in the morning  
2 when people come in to get services there, she's the first  
3 person that they contact. So what we decided was that I'd  
4 train her and then she would add that as an additional  
5 duty, so after she does the initial intake, then she would  
6 go ahead and do an individualized employment plan and work  
7 on employment planning for them. So she has already been  
8 trained and is starting this week, and she's very excited  
9 about the new responsibility and the ability to help a  
10 little further.

11 Port Arthur is going very well. She's spent  
12 the most of her time so far doing marketing because she  
13 works at the YMCA, and the YMCA in Port Arthur doesn't  
14 have a great population of people experiencing  
15 homelessness that come every day, so she's having to do a  
16 bit more marketing for showing the community what she  
17 does, so she's going around to different organizations,  
18 giving out flyers. And she's also been able to meet with  
19 the staff at the workforce center and they have allowed  
20 her to work there every week too, so she's splitting her  
21 time between the YMCA and the workforce center, so we  
22 think that's really going to help strengthen the  
23 relationship between the workforce and the local community  
24 agency, so it's all going great.

25 They have some additional trainings coming up.

1 I'm going to train them on navigating employment where  
2 we're going to talk about specifically how to meet the  
3 needs of homeless job seekers, and then also how to meet  
4 the education needs of homeless job seekers.

5 So everything is good to go and I am preparing  
6 to start evaluations.

7 MR. DOYLE: Cool. George, is that a good  
8 enough understanding that you can make a report if you see  
9 them before I do?

10 MR. McENTYRE: Sounds good to me.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Great. We thank you for  
12 that.

13 Update on Continuum of Care awards, or lack  
14 thereof. Eric.

15 MR. SAMUELS: So that's the thing, there  
16 actually has been a lack of them across the state. So I  
17 don't know how many of your received this. I have this  
18 and then the list of awards by CoC. It's back there on  
19 the table if you don't have it.

20 I think overall it's very clear, I made a  
21 statement with this last competition that permanent  
22 housing is the priority, so that includes transitional  
23 housing and permanent supportive housing, and CoCs that  
24 don't have permanent housing or don't have enough and  
25 aren't using Housing First need to reallocate to implement

1 those programs. If they don't, HUD is going to do it for  
2 them, and HUD did it for several CoCs across the nation.  
3 Three CoCs in Texas were hit pretty hard with those what I  
4 like to call forced reallocations, and those CoCs are  
5 dealing with that.

6 But overall, though, there was a \$10 million  
7 increase, and I will say \$9 million of that was in  
8 Houston, so really the result is most CoCs kept about what  
9 they had in annual renewal demand, or actually a little  
10 bit more or they received a little bit more. But what  
11 we've lost within several of our CoCs, and I guess three  
12 in particular, was transitional housing and any supportive  
13 service only funding that we had.

14 So Fort Worth lost all their transitional  
15 housing. Luckily, they replaced it with permanent housing  
16 with a their bonus projects, but they did lose all their  
17 transitional housing. Dallas lost nearly \$2 million in  
18 renewal funding and a lot of that was transitional  
19 housing. As Cindy reported to me, they got their butts  
20 handed to them, and she predicted that. And the Balance  
21 of State lost four projects. The majority of those were  
22 transitional housing, but there was two supportive  
23 permanent housing and a supportive service only project  
24 that was lost.

25 And it's particularly devastating in the

1 Balance of State CoC because it's not as if -- I mean,  
2 it's devastating everywhere, but in Tarrant County when  
3 you lose transitional housing funding, you gain permanent  
4 housing funding but it's all within the county, it's all  
5 right there, and the Balance of State CoC you lose funding  
6 and in some communities you lose all the funding. And  
7 it's not as if Beaumont is right next to Bastrop so  
8 Bastrop can help out Beaumont. We're not in a situation  
9 like that. So it's a little different animal when you're  
10 talking about the Texas Balance of State CoC. So it's  
11 been pretty devastating this year.

12 Our staff is working with the CoC board to  
13 reallocate all of the transitional housing that is left in  
14 the Balance of State to create permanent housing so HUD  
15 doesn't force reallocation again without the CoC's say-so.

16 Some other notes with this. Permanent housing  
17 did increase so it's conceivable that despite all of these  
18 cuts, homelessness will decrease which is what HUD wants.

19 And there were two HMIS projects that lost funding, and  
20 one of them was the Balance of State, the other was in  
21 Amarillo. So those two CoCs are trying to regain that  
22 funding.

23 So there were losses, specific areas were  
24 really hurt, but overall in the state, we actually did  
25 better than we did in 2014. So if you look at it like



1 that, it's good.

2 MR. DOYLE: Michael.

3 MR. WILT: I have two questions. Michael Wilt,  
4 Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation.

5 The first is did HUD give CoCs fair warning  
6 that they were going to make these cuts to transitional  
7 housing and encourage you to use Housing First?

8 MR. SAMUELS: So over the years, definitely the  
9 priority has been on permanent housing, so any CoC lead  
10 agency that says they didn't see this coming somewhat is  
11 lying. I mean, you should have seen it coming. So we  
12 knew that they were headed in that direction. Each year  
13 before this past fiscal year, though, it's been just  
14 chipping away a little bit, taking a little bit of  
15 permanent housing. This time it's very clear that HUD  
16 said, Okay, we're not messing around, all of that  
17 transitional housing is going away if you don't score at  
18 this really high level. So we have been seeing a trend,  
19 we've been warning the communities we work with as the CoC  
20 lead about that, but we didn't expect it to be this much  
21 this soon.

22 MR. WILT: And then where are these two CoCs  
23 going for HMIS?

24 MR. SAMUELS: So I talked to Amarillo  
25 yesterday. They are funding HMIS with CDBG and I think

1 ESG dollars. They're trying to be as efficient with those  
2 dollars as they can because they know it takes away from  
3 the services. THN, as the Balance of State CoC lead, we  
4 are asking HUD for an extension on our current HMIS grant  
5 so we can continue on through December with that funding,  
6 and then we are searching for additional funding. We've  
7 identified a way we can continue on until the coming year  
8 when we can reallocate to a new HMIS grant, a smaller one  
9 but a new HMIS grant.

10 MR. DOYLE: It's still a requirement that you  
11 have it.

12 MR. SAMUELS: You have to have HMIS, you have  
13 to provide it one way or another.

14 MR. DOYLE: And if you can't replace the  
15 funding, what happens?

16 MR. SAMUELS: You can't replace the funding  
17 that's lost, it's gone.

18 MR. DOYLE: But I mean if you can't do the HMIS  
19 system anymore or coordination, what's HUD going to say  
20 with the Balance of State?

21 MR. SAMUELS: Well, we wouldn't be meeting a  
22 pretty major requirement, so HMIS would have to be  
23 provided from someplace.

24 MR. DOYLE: Or in fact, the participants in the  
25 Balance of State could lose all funding.

1 MR. SAMUELS: That's true, that's a  
2 possibility. THN will continue to operate HMIS, it's just  
3 going to be a little rough going for a few months. In  
4 this competition money will be reallocated to start a new  
5 HMIS project, though. Again, a small one but a new one.

6 MS. SONENTHAL: Anna Sonenthal with DSHS. So  
7 did I miss something? Why did they degrade those HMIS  
8 projects?

9 MR. SAMUELS: HUD had a line at which they cut  
10 and everything below it lost funding.

11 MS. SONENTHAL: As far as productivity?

12 MR. SAMUELS: No. It was just from what we can  
13 tell, and you don't get a lot of detail from the program  
14 competition notes, and I will say that we had a one-on-one  
15 debriefing with the CPD lead, and it was very clear they  
16 had a funding line and everything below the funding line  
17 got cut, and it happens that in Amarillo and the Balance  
18 of State HMIS was under that funding line.

19 MS. SONENTHAL: One more question. So I know  
20 that Texas is interesting. Is there any possibility of  
21 partnering or combining areas for HMIS, sharing data and  
22 having kind of a bigger project?

23 MR. SAMUELS: Well, sharing data, I think  
24 that's a whole other thing there, but the partnering,  
25 that's a possibility. We have talked to other CoCs about

1 that; if we need to go that direction we'll talk more.  
2 Right now it's not something that were planning to do as  
3 the CoC lead for the Balance of State. That's a  
4 possibility, and CoCs sharing data, that's something we've  
5 talked about in the past.

6 MS. SONENTHAL: For this last like ten years or  
7 something.

8 MR. SAMUELS: It would be great to resume that  
9 again, but we're not there right now.

10 MR. DOYLE: This is Mike Doyle. In the context  
11 of this council and our strategic plan, if you will, or  
12 our state plan which was coordinating activities between  
13 state agencies and local CoCs, if that's something that's  
14 going to really be a hindrance to bringing money into  
15 Texas for use with the homeless, maybe we should look at  
16 some creative ways that the council can advocate in some  
17 way, form or fashion, whether it be from TDHCA, whether it  
18 be from the Governor's Office, and we can't lose this  
19 funding, we need some project money to do that with.

20 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, obviously I would  
21 advocate for that. We'll try to get funding from wherever  
22 we can to support HMIS and if there's a possibility of  
23 sharing data between CoCs to accomplish the goal, I'll  
24 tell you right now, we would love to help support that.

25 MR. DOYLE: As far as the Balance of State

1 goes, it sounds like Amarillo is going to get it taken  
2 care of, but as far as the Balance of State goes, can you  
3 give me, email me something that says how much money the  
4 HMIS lost, what happens if you don't replace it, as kind  
5 of a statement of fact of what we need.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Sure. And how much we need to  
7 move forward. I've got those numbers.

8 MR. DOYLE: If you'll send that to me.

9 MR. SAMUELS: I've been putting those out quite  
10 a bit lately.

11 MR. DOYLE: Good.

12 MR. WILT: Another question. Michael Wilt  
13 again. If you absorbed Amarillo into the Balance of  
14 State, would you be above that cutoff line?

15 MR. SAMUELS: Above the cutoff line for?

16 MR. WILT: The HUD cutoff line you mentioned.

17 MR. SAMUELS: In the last competition, we would  
18 not have, no.

19 MR. DOYLE: Now, you're not talking about  
20 ranking. In Tarrant County we rank those projects, and  
21 then the ones that we don't rank high enough fall into  
22 tier two.

23 MR. SAMUELS: It's based on ranking but how far  
24 the funding extends within the ranking. So we had in the  
25 Texas Balance of State there were 42 projects. We had

1 estimated that about 36 would get funded. HUD's formulas  
2 moved the line up to about 21, and then everything below  
3 that got cut.

4 MR. DOYLE: So had you put HMIS number one,  
5 would it have been funded?

6 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, yeah, it would have been  
7 funded. It's number one in this year's competition.

8 (General laughter.)

9 MR. DOYLE: There's nothing that would preclude  
10 you from putting it up there other than you might look bad  
11 if you ranked yourself number one all the time, but you  
12 can't do the rest of them without number one.

13 MR. SAMUELS: Right. And I think that's going  
14 to be the policy from now on out. And I don't know about  
15 looking bad, I think a lot of CoCs do that.

16 MR. DOYLE: What did Amarillo do, do you know?

17 MR. SAMUELS: They thought they were in the  
18 tier one. They're the same as the Balance of State, the  
19 tier one line moved up higher than what was estimated.

20 MR. DOYLE: Sounds like to me that all HMIS  
21 funding is going to be way up there, should be number one  
22 from now on.

23 MR. SAMUELS: There were several CoCs from  
24 across the nation that lost HMIS funding for the same  
25 reason, but I think probably most of those are going to be

1 carried as number one moving forward.

2 MR. WILT: Thank you.

3 MR. DOYLE: Any other questions for Eric?

4 MS. TREJO: I have some.

5 MR. DOYLE: Naomi.

6 MS. TREJO: Naomi Trejo with TDHCA.

7 So can you clarify for Dallas, they lost \$2  
8 million in transitional housing but their overall award  
9 went up.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Their overall award went up.  
11 They lost \$2 million in renewal, but a lot of that was  
12 transitional housing. I tried to go through the list  
13 yesterday and identify. It's hard looking at the award  
14 list what is transitional and what's what.

15 MS. TREJO: And do you have the amount for the  
16 HMIS that you're looking for?

17 MR. SAMUELS: So the Balance of State lost  
18 \$540,022 -- I know it down to the dollar -- and what we  
19 are approaching funders with, the number we are  
20 approaching funders with is \$300,000. That's bare  
21 minimum, that's bare staff, that's fairly simplified.

22 MR. DOYLE: But what do you need?

23 MR. SAMUELS: We really need what I've  
24 estimated is \$415,000. But I'll send you all of those  
25 numbers.

1 MR. DOYLE: I would encourage you to ask for  
2 what you need.

3 MR. SAMUELS: Well, the number that I talked  
4 about, \$300,000, is what we're asking for reallocated  
5 funds.

6 MR. DOYLE: From HUD.

7 MR. SAMUELS: From HUD but also from other CoC  
8 programs. So we're trying to limit that amount because  
9 that takes away from housing which, of course, we don't  
10 want to do if we don't have to.

11 MR. DeYOUNG: Michael DeYoung, TDHCA. What was  
12 Amarillo's figure, do you know?

13 MR. SAMUELS: I don't know. I want to say it's  
14 probably \$40-, \$50,000. I'm guessing on that, though; I  
15 could check for sure.

16 MS. TREJO: This is Naomi Trejo again. Can you  
17 talk a little bit about Houston and Montgomery and the,  
18 pilot program. and they're actually expanding their CoC.  
19 Right?

20 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. Well, first of all, Houston  
21 did very well, I think I can say that again. We're very  
22 proud of them. I started working with a lot of other CoCs  
23 around the state that are in larger metropolitan areas to  
24 consider taking on their donut counties, and Houston is  
25 one of them.



1 MS. TREJO: Can you explain the donut counties?

2 MR. SAMUELS: I'm sorry. It's actually Harris  
3 and Fort Bend counties, they make one Continuum of Care.  
4 There are several counties that surround them that they  
5 already work with, there are people that are experiencing  
6 homelessness in those counties that they work with as a  
7 Continuum of Care. So my argument is that CoC needs to  
8 consider taking on that county as part of their geographic  
9 area. The Way Home, which is the CoC in Houston, has  
10 agreed to take on Montgomery County which is where Conroe  
11 and The Woodlands is located. And so they had actually  
12 merged, and so now they're a three-county CoC.

13 In my opinion, that helps the services, makes  
14 it more efficient at that level CoC level, and it lessens  
15 the burden on the Balance of State Continuum of Care  
16 because we're a little less spread out in terms of the  
17 area that we cover.

18 MS. TREJO: Would something like that work in  
19 Amarillo?

20 MR. SAMUELS: Something like that would, yes.  
21 And Amarillo I've approached several times about just  
22 taking the entire Panhandle, but they are led by a city,  
23 the city leads their CoC, so they have to stay within the  
24 city limits. They don't even have the counties.

25 MR. DOYLE: And that's cities in two counties,

1 isn't it?

2 MR. SAMUELS: It is, but the Balance of State  
3 takes the remainder of Potter and Randall County funding.

4 MS. TREJO: This is Naomi Trejo again. I had  
5 one question about the upcoming because the CoC  
6 competition is currently out.

7 MR. SAMUELS: It is.

8 MS. TREJO: So there was a notice from HUD  
9 about youth and having youth programs in the Continuum of  
10 Care competition for this year. Can you say anything  
11 about that?

12 MR. SAMUELS: So programs that serve youth, and  
13 that includes transitional housing, are highly  
14 prioritized. That's the same for domestic violence. But  
15 yes, there's been a push to reduce and eliminate youth  
16 homelessness, of course, and these programs build in  
17 platforms to do that.

18 MR. DOYLE: This is Mike Doyle again. So do  
19 you see local CoCs now outreaching new organizations?  
20 Because typically youth organizations have not been in the  
21 CoCs.

22 MR. SAMUELS: I can't speak for all of the  
23 CoCs. I know that there are a lot of new agencies -- new  
24 Continuum of Care program funded agencies in CoCs. I know  
25 Dallas has some agencies that now receive CoC funding that

1 did not in the past. I'm not entirely sure about the  
2 youth. I know with the Balance of State CoC there was a  
3 lot -- not a lot -- three were three or four new youth  
4 projects that were funded through CoC program funding over  
5 the years. Unfortunately, some of that got cut this last  
6 competition.

7 MR. DOYLE: Some of the youth programs did?

8 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. It is highly prioritized  
9 but if it doesn't go above that scoring line, it doesn't  
10 matter.

11 MR. DOYLE: So that's up to the local Continuum  
12 of Care review system to place it high enough that it  
13 would get funded.

14 MR. SAMUELS: It is.

15 MR. DOYLE: Knowing HUD, what they've done with  
16 transitional housing and the way they started putting it  
17 in some arbitrary number of at least 50 percent of the  
18 housing has to be permanent housing, then it went down to  
19 15 percent is a fair number, and then zero, I'm just a  
20 little bit afraid they're going to be doing the same thing  
21 with youth, that if it's not there, you're not going to  
22 get it. But that's a different provider than who's  
23 providing housing now.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Traditionally it is, yes.

25 MS. SONENTHAL: I have another question about

1 Houston. This is Anna Sonenthal, DSHS. I don't know if  
2 you would even know the answer to this, this is just out  
3 of my curiosity. So they're absorbing Montgomery and  
4 that's going to be a part of their CoC now. What's going  
5 to happen with their housing authorities. Are their  
6 housing authorities going to do the same thing as  
7 Houston's housing authorities?

8 MR. SAMUELS: The housing authorities should  
9 work in the same geographic area.

10 MS. SONENTHAL: Will they absorb vouchers from  
11 those places like the Houston housing authorities?

12 MR. SAMUELS: I don't think so. I would need  
13 to talk to them, but I don't think so.

14 MS. SONENTHAL: I can talk to them. It will be  
15 really interesting to see how that looks because I've just  
16 heard that there's been not issues but communication may  
17 be problems with the housing authorities.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Maybe we should talk more  
19 afterwards. But I don't think Houston would absorb those.

20 MR. DOYLE: Any more questions for Eric?

21 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. This is Darilyn from  
22 Integral Care.

23 Eric, I have a question about do you have a  
24 sense on how many people were affected by the non-renewal  
25 of transitional housing throughout the Balance of State?

1 And following that question, how are the communities  
2 responding to meeting the need for those people that  
3 potentially will be displaced?

4 MR. SAMUELS: On the way up here I was thinking  
5 I need those numbers. I don't have the numbers right now,  
6 I'm sorry, Darilyn, but I can send those to you. I know  
7 that hundreds of beds were lost, so that can probably tell  
8 you about the numbers of people.

9 I will say, though, within the Balance of State  
10 CoC and the communities that had transitional housing that  
11 was lost, at least half of those, we think maybe a little  
12 bit more than half of those are going to continue their  
13 program. For example, Abilene, Abilene Hope Haven there  
14 that has transitional housing, and they are going to  
15 continue programming there and continue to operate the  
16 transitional housing with just local funds, CDBG funds,  
17 and just the local community support.

18 We only know of two programs that have  
19 completely shut their doors, the others we hope will  
20 continue services.

21 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Well, it's good to know  
22 that at least there's the drive from the community to  
23 develop the funding to be able to support the programs.

24 Have you seen at move towards adopting the  
25 Housing First principles in those communities as to where

1 the funding is going?

2 MR. SAMUELS: Yes, there's definitely a move  
3 towards that, especially this competition because it's  
4 required, within the Balance of State CoC it is. It's  
5 very clear that HUD is making that a priority so I think  
6 most CoCs, and that includes the Balance of State CoC, are  
7 responding that. So yes, there's a move in that  
8 direction.

9 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Thank you.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions for  
11 Eric?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. DOYLE: All right. We're on item number  
14 VIII because we moved IV and V down, so item VIII,  
15 Committees. We are void of a chair in the Homelessness  
16 Prevention, so I'm assuming there's not a report.

17 Housing and Supportive Services, David Long.  
18 Mike, are you going to do that?

19 MR. WILT: Yes. We don't have much to report.  
20 I've been helping out with the veterans report product  
21 that Naomi has been working on, and David and I are going  
22 to NAEH in D.C. next week, so we'll be at that convention.

23 MS. TREJO: And just for the record -- this is  
24 Naomi Trejo -- NAEH is National Alliance for Ending  
25 Homelessness.

1 MR. DOYLE: And then Data and Research. Eric.

2 MR. SAMUELS: So we didn't have a meeting but I  
3 did provide some statistics here. Each year we put  
4 together the CoC for the point-in-time count and the sub-  
5 population table. In addition to that, we'll be putting  
6 together a few more reports that we'll use at NAEH for  
7 education purposes. But I highlighted the things that are  
8 important, a few of the things that are important, but the  
9 overall number 23,000 people are experiencing  
10 homelessness. And then you go to the second page and you  
11 see the number of chronically homeless individuals.

12 MR. DOYLE: Now, tell me where this data came  
13 from.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, I'm sorry. This came from  
15 each of the eleven Texas Continuum of Cares in their  
16 point-in-time count reports.

17 So the number, did it go down from last year,  
18 the overall number? Not much but it did go down. And the  
19 chronically homeless number, I think went down, but I'll  
20 have to check that for sure. But you can see the very  
21 back page, we like to see that direction, so hopefully  
22 that will continue.

23 MS. TRACZ: Eric, could you send me a copy of  
24 this?

25 MR. SAMUELS: I will. I'm sorry, Darilyn and

1       whoever else is on the phone. I'll send that. And I'll  
2       have more later but this is what I was able to put  
3       together yesterday afternoon.

4               MR. DOYLE: And this is a good number to look  
5       at, but I think that it should be noted that with the move  
6       away from transitional housing, transitional housing  
7       recipients were still homeless.

8               MR. SAMUELS: Right.

9               MR. DOYLE: So when you change transitional  
10       housing to permanent housing, you now make them not  
11       homeless, and so every transitional housing voucher that  
12       went away was recounted. So I guess this number, is that  
13       a real number? I mean, how do you feel about reporting to  
14       the governor that homelessness is down when we know all  
15       they did to get it down was change the definition?

16              MR. SAMUELS: The definition was changed prior  
17       to this, of course, a couple of years ago, but this was  
18       before the big change in grants, grant funding. It will  
19       be interesting to see what happens next January, see if  
20       that number changes. Say, for example, if you had 3,000  
21       vets that are in transitional housing, all of those are  
22       reallocated to be permanent housing and they're all  
23       individuals, then this number will conceivably go down by  
24       3,000. And that's what HUD wants. We'll see if that  
25       happens.



1 MS. TREJO: And this is Naomi Trejo again.

2 In reality, or maybe my thoughts on  
3 transitional housing is they'll actually be counted as  
4 emergency shelter instead of permanent housing because a  
5 lot of them are acting as emergency shelter so they would  
6 still be a part of this anyway.

7 MR. SAMUELS: So emergency shelter and  
8 transitional housing, they are considered homeless, so  
9 they are within this 23,000 number.

10 MS. TREJO: But I'm saying that transitional  
11 housing that -- the change in definition for transitional  
12 housing, it doesn't always go to permanent housing, some  
13 of the transitional housing projects are going to go to  
14 emergency shelters, they're going to go the other way.  
15 Right?

16 MR. SAMUELS: Well, yes, they could. You're  
17 saying how they will operate after losing funding.

18 MS. TREJO: Right.

19 MR. SAMUELS: That's right.

20 MR. DOYLE: If the person who would have  
21 typically been in transitional housing has to go to  
22 emergency shelter, you're right, but if they don't, they  
23 don't.

24 MS. TREJO: Right. But then they will  
25 technically be in a permanent home. Right?

1 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Another thing is to see if this  
3 number goes down. I mean, if we have more permanent  
4 housing, it should go down, that's what we're hoping.  
5 We're heading in the right direction. That's, I think,  
6 the important thing to show.

7 MR. DOYLE: But at the same time.

8 MR. SAMUELS: At the same time we have a big  
9 challenge ahead of us in a lot of our communities.

10 MR. DOYLE: As this number continues to go  
11 down, the perceived need for funding goes down.

12 MR. SAMUELS: I think that's true, but when you  
13 look at this number, it's still huge.

14 MR. DOYLE: It's still huge, no question.

15 MR. SAMUELS: And when HUD looks at this  
16 number, they see Texas as a huge priority. I've been told  
17 that. So we're still seen in this state as having a huge  
18 need, so we've got a while before we start getting to a  
19 level where people are saying, well, there's no problem  
20 there.

21 MS. TREJO: This is Naomi Trejo again.

22 Point-in-time counts is just one measure that  
23 HUD uses, and you can see for Houston's success their  
24 number has been going down and they got a huge increase in  
25 their CoC funding, so there could be differences.

1 MR. SAMUELS: There's a lot of measures HUD  
2 uses. I think speaking even beyond HUD, we're looking at  
3 community leaders and whether or not they identify this as  
4 a big need. I think it's easy to make the case that  
5 there's still a big need, 23,000, and within communities  
6 the number per capita is really large still.

7 MR. DOYLE: So as a council would we feel  
8 comfortable all reporting to whoever we report to that the  
9 number of homeless in Texas was 23,078?

10 MR. SAMUELS: This is what was reported to HUD,  
11 so I think we should be comfortable doing that. I will  
12 have one small disclaimer with this: HUD always looks at  
13 this data after it's been turned in and almost always they  
14 massage it a little bit. So this number could go down to  
15 22-, it could go up to 24-.

16 MR. DOYLE: So every agency you represent on  
17 the council, whether as a member or as a guest, advisory  
18 member, if you are asked, the number is somewhere around  
19 23,000 homeless people in Texas. If we are together on  
20 that, then somebody is not saying 150,000 and somebody not  
21 saying 1,000, it's 23,000, roughly.

22 MR. SAMUELS: I think it's important we have a  
23 consistent number.

24 MR. DOYLE: I do too.

25 MR. SAMUELS: This is what I'm taking to D.C.

1 in a couple of weeks.

2 MR. DOYLE: I heard in D.C. that we had 150,000  
3 homeless people in Texas. And I said, What? So if we're  
4 the Interagency Council for the Homeless, we need to know  
5 the number, and so all of us in this room and the people  
6 that you influence, there's about 23,000 homeless people  
7 in Texas. Which how much population do we have? So about  
8 1 percent.

9 MR. SAMUELS: I looked it up, I think it's  
10 about .65 percent or something like that.

11 MS. KRAVITZ: And just speaking to that, being  
12 with TEA and the school definition, I operate within a  
13 community that has a definition, 112,000 is what I tell  
14 people in training. I know when I'm speaking about  
15 homelessness, my numbers are different.

16 MR. DOYLE: And so when you hear that number as  
17 compared to this number, is this adults?

18 MR. SAMUELS: This includes children but it  
19 doesn't include all the children that are included in the  
20 school definition of homelessness.

21 MR. DOYLE: But didn't HELP get those closer?

22 MR. SAMUELS: They're a little closer but still  
23 within the school definition you have folks that are  
24 doubled up, that includes a lot, that's a big category.

25 MR. DOYLE: And Kelly, you said how many per

1 TEA?

2 MS. KRAVITZ: 112,000.

3 MR. DOYLE: So we can say of the 23,000 that we  
4 counted -- but you're just talking children, you're not  
5 talking the parents.

6 MS. KRAVITZ: Right.

7 MR. DOYLE: There could be as many as 115,000  
8 children that are not in this number, but an additional  
9 115,000 children that are counted differently by the  
10 school system.

11 MS. KRAVITZ: Yes.

12 MR. DOYLE: So as long as we get those numbers  
13 in the ballpark, all of us, 23,000 the way HUD counts the  
14 homeless, 116 --

15 MS. KRAVITZ: 112,000.

16 MR. DOYLE: -- 112,000 children the way TEA  
17 counts them.

18 MS. KRAVITZ: The Department of Ed.

19 MR. McENTYRE: This is George McEntyre. Can  
20 you send out an email with the exact definition? And that  
21 way when you say how many homeless, 23-, well, does that  
22 include what about this, what about that, it's easiest to  
23 say, well, of this demographic such-and-such, the official  
24 number is 23,000, and just leave it at that. Because  
25 you're going to get a lot of ifs, ands and buts and what

1 about this and what about that. If we just give the  
2 definition and say the official number according to this  
3 demographic is 23,000, that would probably be the easiest  
4 way and just cut it off.

5 MR. SAMUELS: I'll add that to the statistics  
6 that I send out. I'll send it to Cate, all of that  
7 information.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you, Eric.  
9 State Infrastructure. Anna.

10 MS. SONENTHAL: I don't have an updates except  
11 that I got a new job so I will be transitioning from being  
12 a council member. I'm still with Department of State  
13 Health Services in the Quality Management Department, so  
14 I'm going to talk to my new boss about what he wants me to  
15 keep versus leave, but I'll probably still be coming to  
16 meetings, just maybe not as a council member. And I've  
17 spoken with Cate many times, so we're looking for someone  
18 to take this chair.

19 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

20 Let me move us into number IX, and this is  
21 where I want to spend a little bit of time, not much but a  
22 little bit of time. These are not standing committees,  
23 these are committees that we put in place several years  
24 ago to do the plan, to write the plan for ending  
25 homelessness in Texas. So is there a need for these

1 committees anymore? That's a question to all of you:  
2 what do you think? We have a hard time meeting at the  
3 committees. We certainly are interested in each one of  
4 these things, but do we need to report out on them every  
5 single quarter.

6 Did you raise your hand, Anna?

7 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes. I was thinking, so you  
8 said that the committees were put in place to write the  
9 plan. I have a couple of thoughts that are more kind of  
10 like long term nebulous but haven't happened yet. We're  
11 going through the transformation right now of becoming  
12 HHSC and so who knows what that will mean for membership  
13 for the TICH. But just thinking about things like the  
14 CABHI grant or if that's a possibility maybe not this year  
15 but the year after, we would need the TICH to be involved  
16 to help write the plan. So I think the committees are  
17 good but maybe more directional or like purposeful. I  
18 don't know if it needs to happen every quarter.

19 MR. SAMUELS: It just depends on the plan, you  
20 know. I mean, right now we're meeting basically to update  
21 the plan and that's basically it. The plan doesn't have  
22 benchmarks per se in it. It does have kind of ambiguous  
23 benchmarks, but it doesn't have things that say, you know,  
24 from the data coming in it needs to accomplish this by  
25 this date and this by this date, so we don't have

1 something to work on as a committee. I guess what I'm  
2 looking at is quantitative measures, it doesn't have that.

3 If we had that in place but I think the committees maybe  
4 would have more of a purpose. But like you said, it's  
5 difficult to meet, and that's part of the problem too. I  
6 guess the committees could drive that purpose as well.

7 MR. DOYLE: Naomi, what do we need to write the  
8 report at the end of the year to the member agencies?

9 MS. TREJO: I'm not sure you're looking at the  
10 right person here.

11 MS. TRACZ: So it's basically more of an update  
12 on how we're meeting the statute, how we meet the nine  
13 charges in the statute, which I've got here as a handout,  
14 and typically the committees will divvy it up this  
15 committee gets three charges to update how your activities  
16 updated it. It's worked pretty well but we could start  
17 revisit and revise the way we do that.

18 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, TSAHC, Texas State  
19 Affordable Housing Corporation.

20 So it may make sense to have a committee that  
21 just deals with the annual report and updates that on an  
22 annual basis, and then like Anna was saying, if there is a  
23 need for ad hoc committees, like the CABHI grant or ones  
24 that are directed by the legislature, youth homelessness,  
25 veterans homelessness, to have those ad hoc committees



1 that are contingent upon policy directives that are coming  
2 down, or policy initiatives that the council need to  
3 address.

4 DR. SCHOLL: Mr. Chairman, this is Dennis  
5 Scholl, private citizen. I'll make a quick comment.

6 It occurs to me the concern about the  
7 committees, a lot of it has to do with the inability to  
8 meet efficiently, and if really the focus was on a product  
9 and progress towards goals and a product, that a lot of  
10 that can be done more in electronic and virtual fashion  
11 and maybe your executive committee could discuss how you  
12 do that without having to have a whole fandango meeting,  
13 so to speak. Just a suggestion.

14 MR. DOYLE: Good point, Dennis. Good  
15 suggestion. Thank you.

16 I just want this to be effective and not be a  
17 burden and yet get something out of it that we can use for  
18 the report that we produce particularly, and for any kind  
19 of information that anybody were to ask us how are we  
20 doing, those kind of things. So I'm not saying we need to  
21 do away with them, I'm not saying we need to keep them,  
22 I'm just saying we need to think about what do we want out  
23 of them.

24 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, obviously I would love  
25 for us to have some more substance to the plan, and I

1 think having committees, if we had that, they would be  
2 more effective, we could do more work. I think it would  
3 provide more purpose for me in getting together data and  
4 research if I knew we need me because we need to meet this  
5 goal by this date, but I don't have that pushing me right  
6 now.

7 MR. DOYLE: But Cate, you're saying really the  
8 report that we generate to the member agencies is about  
9 the nine charges within the legislation.

10 MS. TRACZ: Right. It's in how we've been  
11 meeting those requirements.

12 MR. DOYLE: So really, that's not what --

13 MR. SAMUELS: That's not what I'm talking  
14 about.

15 MR. DOYLE: No. You're talking about something  
16 that relates to the plan itself.

17 MR. SAMUELS: Right. Basically if this body  
18 adopted a plan to end homelessness and here are the things  
19 that we identify that we need to do to end homelessness,  
20 and the committees will work on those things and they will  
21 accomplish X number of those things by this date, X number  
22 in five years, that kind of thing.

23 These statutory requirements, you could  
24 interpret them -- right now the way they're interpreted is  
25 pretty basic, but I mean, there's a lot that you could

1 build in underneath each one. Right now it's not like  
2 that, and I think that's probably on purpose and that's  
3 probably appropriate right now. But yes, I would love for  
4 the plan to be more of a plan on ending homelessness.

5 MR. DOYLE: Well, all of you think about that  
6 between now and the next meeting and get your comments and  
7 thoughts to me, Mike Doyle, or to Cate, and we'll do some  
8 brainstorming around how to best move that structure into  
9 something that's proactive.

10 MR. SAMUELS: I'm sorry. This is Eric Samuels,  
11 Texas Homeless Network. I don't think I've introduced  
12 myself once.

13 Have you seen other states that use their ICH  
14 in a different way, I should say.

15 MR. DOYLE: Yes, because the other states had a  
16 true ten-year plan. If you remember back at the very  
17 beginning -- this is a long time ago -- our former  
18 governor didn't want anything but a one-year plan, and we  
19 flew past that. And this is just a plan/direction how  
20 state agencies can work with local continuum, but there's  
21 no measurements, as you said, in it. And Governor Abbott  
22 has not even seen it that I know about, and so we're  
23 trying to fix that. So it would be, I think, within our  
24 purview to be able to say here's what we'd like to see,  
25 and then if we can get the governor to sign off on that,

1 we would have a charge.

2 MR. SAMUELS: I would like for that to happen.

3 I'll try to do a little research about other  
4 states. I know in Missouri the ICH does quite a bit, so  
5 I'll check on other states.

6 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Well, get those comments and  
7 suggestions to Cate or to me and we'll put that on our  
8 next meeting agenda.

9 Suzanne, you're going to give us an update on  
10 state homeless services.

11 MS. HEMPHILL: Yes. A Fair Housing update.  
12 I'm Suzanne Hemphill, Fair Housing project manager at  
13 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Feel  
14 free to chime in if you have any questions.

15 Thanks for inviting me this morning. I wanted  
16 to give you an update on some of the department's fair  
17 housing work, address HUD's new Affirmatively Furthering  
18 Fair Housing rule, and give you a brief overview of the  
19 proposed draft rule changes related to fair housing and  
20 TDHCA's homelessness programs. Those are going to be  
21 going to the Board at the end of August.

22 TDHCA provides its board with reports on fair  
23 housing action steps the department is currently planning,  
24 implementing or have completed to reduce barriers to fair  
25 housing choice. A report was provided at the March 31

1 board meeting and a periodic update is going to the July  
2 28 board meeting. So fair housing work touches nearly  
3 every division at the department. In March our 38-page  
4 report detailed all of the work that we've done. That's  
5 available publicly on our website under Board Meeting  
6 Information, and today I just wanted to give you a few  
7 examples of that work.

8 The first example relates to the Emergency  
9 Solutions Grant with Naomi Trejo. So it's a HUD funded  
10 program that provides funding for homelessness prevention.

11 The Fair Housing team has worked really closely with  
12 Naomi. We conducted a webinar for ESG recipients on the  
13 intersection of fair housing and how clients are able to  
14 access services, so coordinated access. The training  
15 included information on how to screen for clients, direct  
16 them into different services and how to apply criteria  
17 evenly cross protected classes, as well as checking in on  
18 Subrecipients making referrals to all eligible resources  
19 to promote choice.

20 So ESG and Fair Housing staff also provided  
21 additional guidance related to serving persons with  
22 limited English proficiency. So that comes with different  
23 HUD regulatory provisions for ESG funds, and in 2016,  
24 TDHCA is requiring a language access plan with the ESG  
25 application. So along with that, we've translated a

1 number of forms that tenants will use, so the intake  
2 application, income screening tool, request for unit  
3 approval, those have been translated into Spanish, and for  
4 the department, Spanish is a mandatory language to  
5 translate documents into based on local need and  
6 beneficiary involvement.

7 April was Fair Housing Month, and as part of  
8 that celebration we conducted three webinars in  
9 collaboration with Texas Workforce Commission, so those  
10 webinars touched on an intro to fair housing, reasonable  
11 accommodations and accessibility, and then best practices  
12 for multifamily developments in tenant selection. The  
13 good news is those webinars are now available for free,  
14 24-7 on our website. We also have a transcript for  
15 persons with disabilities or even if you just want to  
16 print it out and see what we're talking about, and the  
17 slides are also available.

18 Last summer in August, HUD released a new  
19 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, so that  
20 governs what block grant recipients of HUD funds and  
21 public housing authorities must do to affirmatively  
22 further fair housing. The rule requires meaningful  
23 actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that  
24 overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive  
25 communities free from barriers that restrict access to

1 opportunity based on protected classes. So meaningful  
2 actions, as defined by HUD, are those that are designed  
3 and can be reasonably expected to achieve a material  
4 positive change that affirmatively furthers fair housing  
5 by, for example, increasing fair housing choice or  
6 decreasing disparities in access opportunity.

7 So this rule replaces the analysis of  
8 impediments and it replaces it with an assessment of fair  
9 housing tool. So the AFH that uses HUD generated data, as  
10 well as local sources, to complete an analysis, including  
11 local and state policies. And it also includes a very  
12 robust community participation process to identify four  
13 main areas, so it covers racial and ethnically  
14 concentrated areas of poverty, patterns of integration and  
15 segregation, disparities in access to opportunity, and  
16 disproportionate housing needs.

17 So all that information is going to go into an  
18 assessment of fair housing, and that will be linked  
19 directly with the consolidated plan. It is anticipated --  
20 this could change pending release of a final state tool --  
21 but it's anticipated that Texas will complete this and  
22 submit it to HUD in May 2019. There's a bunch of  
23 information online at HUDuser; if you want to learn more,  
24 I can send you a link.

25 So the last piece of information that I wanted

1 to share is a preview on the proposed draft rule changes  
2 related to fair housing and TDHCA's homelessness rules.  
3 So we're anticipating releasing a staff draft at the end  
4 of July and having a short period for informal comments.  
5 Then TDHCA intends to take a draft of the proposed rules  
6 to the August 25, 2016 meeting. Under the proposed draft,  
7 homelessness programs will be in their own chapter, so  
8 they're be separate. Hopefully that's a little bit  
9 easier.

10 There are several fair housing specifically  
11 related elements for the Emergency Solutions Grant and  
12 Homeless Housing Services Program, HHSP, so the proposed  
13 rule changes relate to affirmative marketing requirements  
14 and tenant selection criteria. For the most part, the  
15 rule clarifies the current requirements, they're not new.

16 There is specific language on reasonable accommodations  
17 and how a person with a disability may request one. For  
18 ESG only there will be notifications required for VAWA,  
19 the Violence Against Women Act of 2013, so notifications  
20 for denial, non-renewal or termination of assistance.  
21 Written documentation will be required for affirmative  
22 fair housing marketing plans, including outreach efforts  
23 to folks that are least likely to apply or know about  
24 services and housing.

25 After the August board meeting, draft rules



1 will be posted in the *Texas Register*, and a public comment  
2 period will be open from September 9 to October 10. We'd  
3 encourage you to take a look at the rules and provide  
4 comment or reach out to staff with any questions you may  
5 have.

6 So that's all the fair housing news I wanted to  
7 share. Please feel free to ask me any questions.

8 MS. POHLMAN: Joyce Pohlman, HHSC.

9 I have a question about the limited English  
10 proficiency. Many of the individuals that we work with  
11 with limited English proficiency also relates to reading  
12 comprehension, and I'm wondering if you've done any work  
13 in ensuring that the language of brochures and information  
14 is at a 6th grade level or approximately that level.

15 MS. HEMPHILL: That's a really good point.

16 MS. POHLMAN: It's not just translation, it's  
17 basic -- these programs are complicated even for me.

18 MS. HEMPHILL: What we've focused on so far is  
19 marketing, so making sure folks know a program exists so  
20 that wouldn't be a barrier to entry. And then a lot of  
21 the forms are also like intake things so it might be more  
22 simple like asking for your name and address and  
23 eligibility information. Some of the more complicated  
24 programs or guidance, that's definitely something for us  
25 to think about, but right now we're looking at things that

1 beneficiaries might interface with.

2 Megan, I don't know if you have any other  
3 thoughts on that.

4 MS. SYLVESTER: Well, there's some forms that  
5 HUD has also made available with their program, so when we  
6 say materials, we're just translating things that  
7 beneficiaries would come into contact with and for TDHCA  
8 that's not a whole bunch because we don't administer  
9 programs directly. It's only when we told our  
10 subrecipients that they have to use specific intake forms  
11 or that sort of thing, with the exception of our Section 8  
12 Program.

13 But I think your point is a really good one.  
14 Our marketing director has some things that we have  
15 translated and I know for the Section 8 Program tried to  
16 do exactly what you've said to market it to more of a  
17 sixth grade reading level.

18 MS. POHLMAN: And maybe among the subrecipients  
19 as well we could encourage that. So thank you.

20 MR. DOYLE: Good point.

21 Any other questions for Suzanne?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Suzanne. Very difficult  
24 subject.

25 We're on (b), call for state agencies and

1 advisory members to provide updates on homeless prevention  
2 activities.

3 MS. TRACZ: If anyone else from another agency  
4 wanted to bring to the next meeting an update.

5 MR. DOYLE: If in fact you've got any kind of  
6 update, advice, opinions, plans or prevention activities,  
7 bring to the next meeting or get them to Cate so we can  
8 distribute them at the next meeting because it's going to  
9 be on the agenda to talk about prevention.

10 Okay. Naomi, back to you, House Bill 679,  
11 Youth Homelessness.

12 MS. TREJO: Yes. So let's all take a deep  
13 breath and shift perspectives here.

14 My name is Naomi Trejo with TDHCA. I'm going  
15 to give a brief update on one of the legislatively  
16 required studies on youth homelessness, and then I'm going  
17 to go more in depth on the second legislatively required  
18 studies on homelessness.

19 So the first one is about youth homelessness,  
20 that's House Bill 679. We did this in three phases, and  
21 we're in the third phase which is one reason why I'm  
22 updating because we we're in the data crunching phase and  
23 we're till crunching the data so we don't have as much to  
24 report as in the other stages at this time.

25 So phase two is still wrapping up. That was

1 the actual youth count, and we have a process study that  
2 was talked about last meeting. The process study is being  
3 finalized and it's going to be posted on our website and I  
4 believe I can get a link to Cate for that. It probably  
5 will be posted on the TICH website, actually, the process  
6 study on how the youth count went, and then that be there  
7 for everyone to look at.

8 MR. DOYLE: So your youth count is based on  
9 HUD's definition.

10 MS. TREJO: It's the bill's definition.

11 MR. DOYLE: The bill's definition.

12 MS. TREJO: That's right. House Bill 679 has  
13 its own definition.

14 MR. DOYLE: Different than Education and HUD?

15 MS. TREJO: That's correct.

16 (General laughter.)

17 MS. TREJO: So in phase three, TDHCA has  
18 contracted with the University of Houston for data  
19 analysis of the youth count data, the data that was  
20 collected during the point-in-time counts and with  
21 separate youth counts, and so that is the data analysis  
22 that's currently underway.

23 The University of Houston, I believe, is going  
24 to be hosting either a roundtable or a presentation at the  
25 Texas Network of Youth Services Conference in August, and

1 the Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness in September.

2 So they're doing outreach efforts on the data analysis  
3 and the plan that goes with phase three.

4 There will be an update at the next TICH  
5 meeting on some of the data. I can't say the data  
6 analysis will be completed but some of the progress. And  
7 then in November when we have our meeting, the specially  
8 called TICH meeting, November 17, there will be more  
9 information about that final report on the youth study.

10 Any questions about the youth study?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay, good.

13 MS. TREJO: All right. So now it's down to the  
14 meat, the nitty-gritty. We've had some good discussions  
15 about this so far and also today just in general, so going  
16 down to Senate Bill 1580.

17 So as a reminder to everyone, this was the  
18 process that we used for Senate Bill 1580 which requires a  
19 study about homelessness among veterans. We got input  
20 from two roundtables and an online forum, and then we  
21 grouped the input into common recommendations, and now  
22 we're vetting those recommendations for consideration,  
23 such as input about consequences of the recommendations,  
24 information about existing programs and initiatives and  
25 questions about the recommendations. So that's what we're

1 doing here, this is the vetting process.

2           These that you have in front of you, the  
3 concept of identification, increased sharing of  
4 identification, increased sharing information and  
5 increased coordination, and concept of more housing  
6 resource and increased use of existing housing resources,  
7 these are two of the meatiest sections of recommendations  
8 that came from public input. So these were sent to you  
9 last Tuesday, I hope you've had a chance to review them,  
10 and we'll talk about sections of these now.

11           Before they got to you, they were vetted by  
12 TDHCA senior staff and also the TICH Veterans workgroup  
13 and so that's how there's already considerations about  
14 consequences and information and questions already  
15 considered for each of these recommendations. This is the  
16 second set of recommendations that we looked at. In April  
17 we looked at a set. This is probably going to be the  
18 biggest set, and then in September at the TICH meeting  
19 we're going to be looking at the mental and physical  
20 health recommendations, the Workforce Commission  
21 recommendations -- George stepped out so I can't look at  
22 that, but he has that -- and then miscellaneous  
23 recommendations and that's things that don't fit easily  
24 into any overall concept, they're kind of miscellaneous.  
25 Then we're going to talk about the final draft on November

1 17. It was originally November 15 and it got changed to  
2 November 17 for a specially called meeting to talk about  
3 this study, and also the previous study.

4 If you have any comments on these  
5 recommendations that we don't talk about here, feel free  
6 to contact me, or if you want to review the initial draft  
7 document, you can contact me and join the TICH Veterans  
8 workgroup, as well. So there's other ways to give input  
9 offline than this meeting.

10 All right. So let's put on our brainstorming  
11 caps, let's think about this, let's consider consequences.

12 We're going to start with housing resources. And for  
13 your reference, you should all at least have it in front  
14 of you, right, everyone has them? They are on the table  
15 if you don't have a copy.

16 George, you're back. I made a comment that at  
17 the next TICH meeting in September we'll be talking about  
18 the Texas Workforce Commission considerations of those  
19 recommendations. Right?

20 MR. McENTYRE: Hopefully.

21  
22 MS. TREJO: Hopefully.

23 All right. So we had a great discussion last  
24 time and in order to be considerate of the TICH time,  
25 we're going to point out where open for discussion certain

1 items on the recommendations to discuss. Not all the  
2 recommendations we will discuss today, so I'm going to go  
3 over those in the table of contents at the top of each  
4 recommendation just so everyone is aware. We're going to  
5 go over: A.3, Affordable housing and housing services in  
6 rural areas; A.4, Development of mini housing and communal  
7 living; and B.1, Housing First model. And we're also  
8 going to go through on the coordination, A.1, Uniformly  
9 assess veteran status; B.1, Increased use of 2-1-1 Texas  
10 Information and Referral Network; and D.2, Coordinated  
11 access. That said, if there's anything that you really  
12 want to discuss at the TICH meeting, you can let me know  
13 and we can open it for discussion here based on whatever  
14 of the table of the contents you want to open.

15 So we're going to go to A.3, Affordable housing  
16 and housing services in rural areas. It's on page 2 of  
17 the housing recommendations concept. So we received a  
18 number of recommendations specifically for rural areas,  
19 mainly to increase housing resources in rural areas.  
20 Rehabilitation of housing stock in rural areas was  
21 mentioned several times in order to make sure that there  
22 is housing available in rural areas for people to move  
23 into. Also, development of housing in rural areas, and  
24 expanding the geographic area for housing resources.

25 So for example, we talked lot about Continuum



1 of Care today One thing about a Continuum of Care is  
2 they have a service area and you might not be able to go  
3 outside that service area and still get services, that's  
4 why it's a service area. Sometimes those services areas  
5 don't go into rural areas which is why we have Balance of  
6 State. So that was the overall idea was to expand those  
7 service areas.

8 There was also recommendations to expand HUD  
9 VASH vouchers or HUD Veteran Assisted Supportive Housing  
10 vouchers. So those are all the recommendations about  
11 rural areas.

12 Some of the considerations that we are vetting  
13 and making comments on, considerations that there are many  
14 programs available in rural areas. USDA has some, the  
15 HOME Program which is a HUD program and TDHCA runs the  
16 HOME program as well, the Housing Tax Credit offers a set-  
17 aside for rural developments, and Eric actually mentioned  
18 Community Development Block Grants, or CDBG, is also  
19 available in the rural areas, so there many programs  
20 available.

21 In TDHCA's experience, even though there are  
22 programs available, a lot of times there's a lack of  
23 capacity in rural areas to actually administer the  
24 programs. As we know and we just talked about, these  
25 programs are complicated, so trying to get some areas with

1 limited administrators to take on the programs can be a  
2 challenge.

3 MR. DOYLE: A question about that. Has TDHCA  
4 ever given any thought to having reciprocal agreements  
5 with organizations that are community housing development  
6 organizations, CHDOs, to do work in other parts of the  
7 state for that very reason of administrative incapacity?  
8 In other words, for example, we are a CHDO in Tarrant  
9 County but we have an affiliate office in Hondo where  
10 housing is a huge issue, dilapidated housing that they're  
11 not going to mess with it, but a CHDO might be able to use  
12 HOME set-aside funds if I could become a state approved  
13 CHDO where we could deal with other locations.

14 MS. SYLVESTER: So how it works at TDHCA is  
15 that we don't fund projects in the abstract, you respond  
16 to a NOFA, and if you respond to a NOFA as part of your  
17 CHDO certification packet, if you can show that you have  
18 coverage in whatever your service area, it can't be the  
19 whole state, if you show that that's your service area,  
20 then your CHDO can do a project in the area that is your  
21 service area. There is, as I'm sure you know, a statewide  
22 limitation on we can only fund 5 percent of our funds in  
23 other PJs but we typically do CHDO projects in non-PJs.

24 MS. TREJO: Thank you, Megan. And for  
25 everyone, a CHDO is a Community Housing Development

1 Organization.

2 MR. DOYLE: And then another question regarding  
3 veterans and VASH vouchers that you mentioned. There is a  
4 program in Tarrant County that's working with veterans to  
5 make them homeowners using VASH vouchers as homeownership  
6 vouchers, they can turn them into a mortgage. But it  
7 seems like it's the rule that we're coming across now that  
8 it has to be a 30-year mortgage. That doesn't make any  
9 sense at all to be a 30-year mortgage with these interest  
10 rates. So we've got ten veterans ready to buy homes using  
11 their VASH voucher as mortgage payment security, but this  
12 30-year mortgage is causing some headaches with the  
13 housing authority.

14 MS. TREJO: So we talked about HUD-VASH and we  
15 included HUD-VASH in this recommendation because TDHCA in  
16 its rental developments accepts HUD-VASH, so one of the  
17 considerations is that we are expanding the use of HUD-  
18 VASH because our developments can accept HUD-VASH.

19 In terms of responding to HUD programs or  
20 federal programs, recommendations for federal programs  
21 aren't included in this report because it's a state report  
22 and it can't affect the federal.

23 MR. DOYLE: So that's a federal guideline and  
24 not a state guideline.

25 MS. TREJO: I don't know if that is a federal

1 guideline; it's definitely not a state guideline; it might  
2 be a local guideline.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I'll check it out. Thank  
4 you.

5 MS. TREJO: Pam has offered to look into it  
6 also.

7 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Pam.

8 MS. TREJO: In terms of service area in rural  
9 areas, Section 8, we know it as like a housing voucher of  
10 Section 8, allows for porting a voucher which means that  
11 you could actually go outside of your service area, so we  
12 do know that was part of the education considerations.  
13 That is possible to go outside of the service area by  
14 porting the voucher, and then actually under the Continuum  
15 of Care rule -- I'm pointing at you, Eric -- the proposed  
16 Continuum of Care rule that's out for public comment right  
17 now, they have an option to include portability outside of  
18 the service area.

19 MR. SAMUELS: I should say yes to that but I'll  
20 take an alert to that. Well, we don't want to get into  
21 the details. I was going to say Section 8 is just limited  
22 whenever it's used.

23 MS. TREJO: Section 8 is limited but if you  
24 have Section 8, you can port it.

25 MR. SAMUELS: Port it out, yes, which is

1 important.

2 MS. TREJO: To another PHA that accepts it.

3 MS. SYLVESTER: And so the PHA side of HUD --  
4 this is Megan -- has recently expanded the -- let me say  
5 it a different way -- they've limited the reasons a  
6 housing authority cannot accept a ported voucher, so it  
7 used to be it was pretty easy for a housing authority to  
8 say no, they had a whole list of reasons which they could  
9 do that, and HUD has since limited those reasons.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Okay, good.

11 MS. TREJO: Are there any other considerations  
12 that we might want to include regarding affordable housing  
13 and housing services in rural areas? Any other  
14 information on existing programs that wasn't covered or  
15 consequences or initiatives, questions?

16 DR. SCHOLL: Is that Naomi?

17 MS. TREJO: Yep.

18 DR. SCHOLL: This is Dr. Scholl. I'm assuming  
19 from having read that you're either going to or have  
20 already sent that through the Texas Veterans Commission,  
21 the Land Board folks and all that? They took part in the  
22 veterans report part. Is that correct?

23 MS. TREJO: So the Texas Veterans Commission is  
24 part of the report and Pam, here sitting next to me, is on  
25 the TICH veterans subcommittee workgroup.

1 DR. SCHOLL: I just know also the Land Board  
2 has various offerings for land purchase for veterans, and  
3 I'm sure that's reflected in the coordinated work.

4 MS. TREJO: That was in our last series of  
5 recommendations about working with the private sector, and  
6 we spent quite a while looking at that. Those are still  
7 going to be in the final report, we're just not talking  
8 about them all at the same time.

9 DR. SCHOLL: Okay.

10 MS. TREJO: Anything else?

11 MR. SAMUELS: I like that they included HOME in  
12 there. I think that's an area where we need communities  
13 to take advantage of that, probably the CHDOs in those  
14 communities, so anything we can do to do that, we want to  
15 push.

16 MS. TREJO: Thank you, Eric.

17 The next one is develop mini-housing and  
18 communal living. This is an interesting one and I wanted  
19 to bring it up to the TICH. So the recommendation is  
20 micro-housing, mini-housing, it goes by several names,  
21 it's the tiny houses. They've been in the news quite a  
22 bit. Some of them are in Austin and that's discussed in  
23 the considerations. The considerations includes the  
24 Community First! Village in Austin by Mobile Loaves and  
25 Fishes. It's micro-housing that's built for lower cost,

1     although some of them can get quite pricey, and these can  
2     be as small as 144 square feet. Often it is incorporated  
3     in communal living.

4             Right now the main source of information we  
5     have about these is from the news sources. I haven't  
6     seen, and if anyone knows of any studies on the  
7     effectiveness, that would be great, but that's what our  
8     consideration mainly says is we don't know how effective  
9     these actually are yet in order to put this forward as a  
10    solution.

11            MS. BOLTON: This is Belinda Bolton with DFPS.  
12     I'm a self-professed HGTV addict.

13            (General laughter.)

14            MS. BOLTON: They have two separate shows about  
15     tiny housing. I also have this odd fascination with RVs  
16     which is sort of like these -- I don't really understand  
17     the difference between tiny houses and Rvs except may be  
18     building materials. A lot of the tiny houses can be built  
19     on a trailer and they're movable.

20            MS. TREJO: As soon as you put the moving part  
21     in that, it creates a whole other set of issues.

22            MS. BOLTON: Right. I was going to say they  
23     can be built on a trailer but they can be site-built as  
24     well, but they are sort of like modern Rvs.

25            MS. MURO: I heard of a recent initiative in

1 Dallas, Operation South Dallas, and I'd have to try to  
2 remember what organization was a part of that.

3 MR. DOYLE: City Square. Cottages of Hickory  
4 Crossing.

5 MS. MURO: That sounds very familiar, but I  
6 know that it was working, from what I remember kind of  
7 following it last year when I was living in Dallas, was  
8 that they were up and running, they were still in not  
9 necessarily fully kind of implementation phase, let  
10 several families and singles move in, but they were still  
11 kind of in the process of that infrastructure. So if  
12 you're looking for research, that might be a place to  
13 start.

14 MS. TREJO: Great. Thank you.

15 And Darilyn, are you still on the phone?

16 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes, I am. And I wanted  
17 to share a little bit about what's going on here in  
18 Austin. Integral Care is working with Mobile Loaves and  
19 Fishes, and we are the service provider for the Community  
20 First! Village, and this is a very innovative thing across  
21 the nation and not much research has been done, so we're  
22 working in cooperation with UT to do an evaluation on the  
23 effectiveness of the process and have been engaging HUD to  
24 be able to utilize CoC vouchers to pay for some of the  
25 units under the premise that it's permanent supportive



1 housing.

2 So I think it is definitely something to  
3 explore in areas where we do not have access to affordable  
4 housing because it's definitely cheaper than having to  
5 build huge buildings to be able to house homeless  
6 individuals. So we could definitely share information  
7 with the group as we move forward. We have already 30  
8 residents at the facility and we expect to have 250 by the  
9 end of the year.

10 MS. TREJO: That's excellent information.

11 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: It's a very exciting  
12 initiative, and I invite all of you to come and visit if  
13 you haven't done so.

14 MR. DOYLE: What's the name of it, Darilyn?

15 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: It's the Community First!  
16 Village. It's run by Mobile Loaves and Fishes; it's on  
17 the outskirts of Austin. It's beautiful. It has really  
18 brought together the public sector and nonprofits, a lot  
19 of businesses have been the primary contributors in  
20 purchasing micro-homes for individuals. It's a pretty  
21 neat initiative.

22 MS. BOLTON: Twenty-seven acres.

23 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. It's a very large  
24 property.

25 MS. BOLTON: With micro-housing you could house

1 an awful lot of people on 27 acres.

2 MR. DOYLE: And is it rural?

3 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: What we're doing in this  
4 community is we're very much treating it utilizing the  
5 Housing First principles so we're using coordinated  
6 assessments to be able to identify individuals coming to  
7 the community, so we're able to house the most vulnerable  
8 in Austin. And of course, it's by choice but the 30  
9 people we have there so far, they love it.

10 MS. TREJO: I was able to find a lot of  
11 information on the Community First! Village in Austin, I  
12 wasn't aware of the Dallas one. But Darilyn, that would  
13 be excellent to get an update on that study. That would  
14 be really, really helpful.

15 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Sure.

16 DR. SCHOLL: Can I ask a quick question?

17 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Go right ahead, Dennis.

18 DR. SCHOLL: Are some of those residents that  
19 you mentioned, I couldn't tell if you said 3 or 30, are  
20 they veterans and are you able to track if they're from  
21 Austin or are unable to return to their preferred home  
22 communities when you provide them service and housing and  
23 shelter?

24 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. We currently have  
25 30, 30 individuals have already moved into the community,

1 and we anticipate housing 250.

2 At the community we have prioritized veterans  
3 across the continuum, so any of the availability of  
4 housing is going for them, and then move down the list to  
5 the next person. And we do have several vets moving into  
6 the community.

7 DR. SCHOLL: And they're from Austin, or are  
8 they unable to return to their preferred home of record,  
9 so to speak?

10 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. The community is to  
11 serve Austin and Travis County, primarily, and it's  
12 permanent but people could move to other residences if  
13 they choose. I don't know if that's what you meant by  
14 relocate.

15 DR. SCHOLL: I'm just concerned about sometimes  
16 with different programs a tendency to take folks who'd  
17 rather be back in their small community but you can only  
18 get services in large areas so they have to go there, so I  
19 was wondering if that's tracked and if there's some  
20 ability to assist them if they have plans to try to go  
21 back to their homes of record that might be more rural.

22 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. What we have done  
23 with individuals wanting to move back to their  
24 communities is we coordinate with the local mental health  
25 authority in that area to make the appropriate transfers

1 to those communities or providers if they're not engaged  
2 with an LMHA.

3 DR. SCHOLL: Thanks a lot.

4 MS. TREJO: And Dennis, that goes along with  
5 what we were talking about about the rural geographic  
6 service areas, especially as Darilyn was saying they're  
7 using the CoC vouchers for permanent supportive housing.  
8 The CoC rule is out to allow for more portability of those  
9 vouchers, so if that veteran or person wants to go back to  
10 their communities, if they are from another community,  
11 that may be a possibility depending on what the final rule  
12 says for the CoCs with a housing part.

13 DR. SCHOLL: thanks.

14 MS. POHLMAN: This is Joyce Pohlman again,  
15 HHSC.

16 I'm not sure we're bringing this up, but when I  
17 was working with veterans, there's a new population,  
18 relatively new, of women and those women have children, so  
19 I would like if somewhere in this report that that is  
20 brought up because I have personally lived in a 400 square  
21 foot house.

22 And then the other thing I wanted to mention  
23 was that one of the things that makes this and other  
24 Housing First models work better is a money management or  
25 rent payee piece in which a certified individual may

1 receive a Social Security check on behalf of someone who  
2 is unable to handle their money adequately themselves  
3 because of a disability, brain injuries. It's used here  
4 in Austin, Family Eldercare does it for a lot of these  
5 individuals in Mobile Loaves and Fishes properties, and it  
6 helps ensure that the rent gets paid first. So I would  
7 encourage you to look at that.

8 MS. TREJO: That's actually a great transition  
9 to the next thing we'll talk about which is Housing First,  
10 but I'm not going to close the discussion on micro-  
11 housing, so Michael, if you wanted to comment.

12 MR. WILT: I was just going to say to make sure  
13 that these are truly Housing First models. Even though  
14 Community First! Village runs a Housing First model, they  
15 can refuse people who are registered sex offenders or if  
16 they have violent crimes. There are a number of reasons  
17 that there are still barriers to entry even in Community  
18 First! Village. So in the context of veterans there may  
19 be one or more red flags in his/her background that's a  
20 barrier for them to come into housing, so when we talk  
21 about considerations for Housing First to make sure that  
22 it is truly a Housing First model.

23 MS. TREJO: And before we move on to Housing  
24 First, which is a great discussion already, is there  
25 anything else about the micro-housing?

1 MS. SONENTHAL: I did want to ask Darilyn a  
2 question. Darilyn, I know I've asked you this before, but  
3 I wanted to just confirm because I got two different  
4 answers. Is the Community First! Village only like you're  
5 required to have a disability to live there, or not?

6 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: There is a background  
7 noise and I really couldn't hear you. I'm so sorry, Anna.

8 MS. SONENTHAL: Sorry. Darilyn, can you hear  
9 me now?

10 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes.

11 MS. SONENTHAL: In the Community First! Village  
12 are they required to live there if they have a disability  
13 or can they live there if they don't have a disability?

14 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: The community is open to  
15 anyone who is homeless, they don't need to have a  
16 disability.

17 MS. TREJO: Actually I think it's chronically  
18 homeless. I'm pretty sure it's chronically homeless, and  
19 the definition of chronically homeless is that they have  
20 some sort of disability, it doesn't have to be a physical  
21 disability.

22 MS. SONENTHAL: Okay.

23 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Community First! actually  
24 has a variety of homeless and chronically homeless, and  
25 for the use of resources, either state resources or CoC

1 resources, of course we're focusing on the chronically  
2 homeless. So just to clarify, the community is open to  
3 homeless and chronically homeless.

4 MS. TREJO: All right. Thank you.

5 MR. DOYLE: And Naomi -- this is Mike Doyle --  
6 you may have this in your report but there are several  
7 locations where zoning would preclude this type of  
8 housing. Are you going to make any kind of  
9 recommendations that if you're getting HUD funds as a city  
10 that's an entitled city that they can in fact must have a  
11 certain percentage of this that are allowable? Because I  
12 can just hear our counties and our cities sticking with  
13 their 1,500 square foot requirements.

14 MS. TREJO: So right now the considerations on  
15 this recommendation is we don't have a lot of input about  
16 it, we don't have a lot of research on it to see if it's  
17 actually effective or not, so that's our main input and  
18 then two examples in Texas. What would you suggest?

19 MR. DOYLE: I would just like to see some input  
20 and some research done on how many urban communities would  
21 allow this type of housing through their zoning. There  
22 are very strict 1,200 square foot, 550 foot front zoning  
23 requirements for houses in Tarrant County, and I don't  
24 know where you'd put this. But it's a great need, I've  
25 seen these work, and I think they're kind of neat, and if

1 you have to go rural, you have to go rural. But you say  
2 the one here in Austin is in the city.

3 MS. TREJO: It's Travis County. Right?

4 MS. BOLTON: Darilyn, this is Valinda Bolton.  
5 Is Community First! actually in the city limits, or is it  
6 in Travis County?

7 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: You know, it's pretty  
8 close to the city limits but it's actually pretty rural.  
9 It's next to the Expo Center, so it's built right in  
10 between the city and the county line.

11 MS. BOLTON: I know it's out by 130.

12 MS. TREJO: I think it's unincorporated.

13 MR. SAMUELS: And they purposely put it out  
14 there.

15 MR. DOYLE: I wouldn't blame them a bit.

16 MS. BOLTON: But I know it would be in the  
17 Austin ETJ but I think it's right outside the city limits.

18 MR. SAMUELS: There's a bus line right there,  
19 they made sure it had that.

20 MS. BOLTON: Decker Lake Park is right there.

21 MR. SAMUELS: At the National Alliance to End  
22 Homelessness Conference I'll see what I can find out about  
23 the tiny homes, but I don't know of any research.

24 MS. HEMPHILL: If you have concerns about  
25 zoning, you might be able to raise those through the new



1 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule if you were to  
2 provide comment on the assessment of fair housing if you  
3 were identifying a need for zoning that might get in the  
4 way of housing choice. And cities and counties that  
5 receive HUD funds and want to stay in those programs will  
6 be required to do that, so that might be a great venue to  
7 voice those concerns.

8 MS. TREJO: Moving on to Housing First.

9 MR. DOYLE: I have to leave but Michael is  
10 going to finish sharing the council meeting.

11 MS. TREJO: Thank you, Michael.

12 The next one is Housing First model. We've  
13 been talking about Housing First quite a bit at this  
14 meeting here. It connects the client to stable affordable  
15 housing and optional individualized case management care  
16 and supports. It should be noted that more than one  
17 online participant actually stated that housing should be  
18 the last provided, not housing first, but there's a lot of  
19 discussion about how this works, whether it works, all  
20 that stuff.

21 In the considerations we actually have a draft  
22 report out now that has strong support for Housing First  
23 model, and it should also be noted that case management  
24 for Housing First could be provided with services of  
25 housing and service providers.

1           Michael Wilt, you had already said that you  
2 wanted to make sure Housing First was housing first? Is  
3 that what your comment is?

4           MR. WILT: Barrier-free.

5           MS. TREJO: Completely barrier-free, so the  
6 landlord has no option for denial.

7           MR. WILT: That's not my recommendation, it's  
8 just a consideration to take, that even in Housing First  
9 models there may be some barriers to entry.

10          MS. TREJO: Anything else about Housing First?  
11 Nothing? I guess we talked about it already.

12          MS. BOLTON: This is Valinda Bolton with DFPS.  
13 So you brought up the criminal history. It  
14 would be almost impossible, I would think, to be in this  
15 population and not have had some kind of criminal history,  
16 but are we saying like not sex offenders, that's the  
17 barrier?

18          MS. TREJO: The idea that Michael brought up  
19 before was in the Community First! Village they do take  
20 people with criminal history based on whatever  
21 backgrounds, the only thing that they don't take is  
22 registered sex offenders.

23          MS. BOLTON: So when we say barrier-free, is  
24 that the sort of thing

25          MR. WILT: Yes. That would be a barrier to

1 entry thing, a registered sex offender and being denied  
2 housing. But if you look at Caritas in Austin, they  
3 operate Housing First units and they do allow registered  
4 sex offenders, so it really depends on how far the  
5 provider wants to go to really embrace Housing First as  
6 completely barrier-free.

7 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: This is Darilyn. I wanted  
8 to say something related to the sex offenders. I think  
9 that the providers as a whole, it's important for us to  
10 respect the implementation of Housing First and the  
11 Housing First principles, however, the barriers come  
12 primarily from the landlords not willing to accept  
13 individuals, especially sex offenders, and the proximity  
14 of the housing location to schools or neighborhoods that  
15 completely oppose that. So I think that there's a  
16 distinction between the landlord and the service provider  
17 who is actually trying to implement Housing First.

18 For example, we work with anyone who comes  
19 through our doors, however, we have many landlords who  
20 will not in any way accept someone who with a sex offense.

21 So if there is a way of making the distinction that it's  
22 not the program, it depends on who is providing the  
23 housing option.

24 MS. TREJO: Okay. Thank you.

25 MS. LASHBROK: This is Karen Lashbrook. I just

1 wanted to say that if I'm understanding correctly, it  
2 would be a registered sex offender at this point, it  
3 wouldn't be waiving, deferred, non-public?

4 MS. TREJO: That's only that one example,  
5 Community First! Village, it's not Housing First in  
6 general. The Housing First there's a range.

7 MS. LASHBROOK: And there's a push for the  
8 juveniles right now, they've got some committees reviewing  
9 whether they're going to do non-public or not register or  
10 those kind of things, just because of the nature of the  
11 fact that when you score them for registration, the age of  
12 onset is what throws them into that category to begin  
13 with, so unless it's waived, deferred, or just not court  
14 ordered, they're going to be in that category. So anyway,  
15 just something to think about.

16 MS. TREJO: Thank you, Karen.

17 Anything else before we move on? And anything  
18 else before we move on to housing recommendations?  
19 Anything anyone wants to open for discussion that wasn't  
20 on the list?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. TREJO: All right. We're going to move on  
23 to coordination. The first one I want to talk about, we  
24 went round and round on this in the TICH Veterans  
25 workgroup and with the TDHCA executive, which is uniformly

1 assess veteran status. Now, this is different than  
2 qualifying for programs, and that's where we went round  
3 and round about. It's not about easily qualifying for  
4 veterans assistance programs, it's just about identifying  
5 the veteran in case there could be a referral to qualify  
6 for programs.

7 So the idea was instead of asking are you a  
8 veteran, instead ask did you serve in the military. This  
9 is the entire recommendation. And some of the discussions  
10 at the roundtables were that this was in line with the  
11 U.S. Interagency Council for the Homeless plan on ending  
12 veteran homelessness, that they serve veterans regardless  
13 of their discharge status, regardless of whether they  
14 qualify for services or not. The idea was they count as  
15 veterans for ending veteran homelessness, whether they  
16 qualify or not.

17 So the considerations are this is a first step,  
18 it's a vital first step but it's still a first step, and  
19 it could definitely be done to identify veterans as a best  
20 practice to say did you serve in the military instead of  
21 are you a veteran.

22 Any ideas, any considerations about this  
23 recommendation? No? This one generated a lot of  
24 discussion so I wanted to bring it up to the TICH  
25 membership as a whole.

1 DR. SCHOLL: Naomi, this is Dr. Scholl again.  
2 Grain change. We've run into that problem in the rural  
3 areas that is serve in the mental health business, and  
4 that's the right way to change the question. Thanks for  
5 doing that.

6 MS. TREJO: Good. That was more simple than I  
7 thought. I was hoping Betty Beckworth would be here from  
8 HHSC who had been working with us about the veterans study  
9 because she had a lot to say about the increased use of  
10 2-1-1, but we had a lot of input.

11 MR. McENTYRE: One thing on that list -- George  
12 McIntyre -- on that question, though, if anybody is  
13 documenting that, they need to document it just like that,  
14 you know, the person served in the military and not  
15 document it as they are a veteran.

16 MS. TREJO: Right. That's a good point.

17 MR. McENTYRE: So if they're collecting any  
18 information and surveys and everything, they can't say,  
19 well, we get so many veterans, we have so many people that  
20 served in the military, or if they're referred to another  
21 agency or whatever, they need to be referred as this  
22 person served in the military, we don't know if he's a  
23 veteran per the definition. As long as that's done.

24 MS. TREJO: Anything else before we move on?

25 (No response.)

1 MS. TREJO: Okay. Increased use of 2-1-1, both  
2 in the number of people who access it and the number of  
3 resources in 2-1-1. So actually as a result of this  
4 recommendation, 2-1-1 is already working on including  
5 veteran county service officers into 2-1-1, so they're  
6 already beginning to look at that. We also note that the  
7 2-1-1 is voluntary, organizations can voluntarily ask to  
8 be included in 2-1-1, and so we make note of that. We  
9 also quote another study that found that we could do  
10 possibly a more standard and unified job of including more  
11 state resources in 2-1-1 so it doesn't always have to come  
12 from the local level. And that there could be some sort  
13 of outreach campaign to reach people that are not aware  
14 that 2-1-1 exists as a resource. So those are the  
15 considerations of that.

16 Anything else about 2-1-1?

17 MS. POHLMAN: This is Joyce Pohlman at HHSC.

18 A lot of the Aging and Disability Resource  
19 Centers, ADRCs, are also 2-1-1 information centers, and  
20 the ADRCs are charged with being knowledgeable about  
21 veteran services as well. I don't know if we'd want to  
22 include that.

23 MS. TREJO: They're in the 2-1-1 network, so if  
24 you call, then they're referred out.

25 MS. POHLMAN: Yes, but some of them are not in

1 the 2-1-1 network as well.

2 MS. TREJO: Some of them are not?

3 MS. POHLMAN: Yes. It's not universal that  
4 they are a 2-1-1 center. Many of them are but not all of  
5 them are.

6 MS. TREJO: But if someone calls 2-1-1, they'll  
7 get referred to the ADRCs?

8 MS. POHLMAN: Yes, they would.

9 MS. TREJO: So some of the ADRCs are 2-1-1  
10 centers?

11 MS. POHLMAN: Functioning as a 2-1-1 referral  
12 entity.

13 MS. TREJO: Do you have a list of something  
14 like that?

15 MS. POHLMAN: DADS would.

16 MS. TREJO: Okay. Anything else about 2-1-1?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. TREJO: All right. The next one is  
19 coordinated access. Eric is coming back right in time.  
20 We're going to talk about coordinated access.

21 The recommendation was to use coordinated  
22 access which is a requirement of the Continuum of Care  
23 program which is a HUD program, to make sure that there's  
24 broad participation, including agency and government  
25 programs that might be working in silos in order. To have



1       them be in coordinated access, we would break down those  
2       silos. And possibilities including locating all service  
3       intake processes in one location which is one option of  
4       coordinated access, having veteran status be screened  
5       during coordinated access, which actually now that George  
6       made that comment, I actually might say military service  
7       status because trying to screen for veteran status for  
8       eligibility is very difficult during coordinated access,  
9       so maybe we could change that to military service. And  
10      having non-traditional partners in coordinated access such  
11      as the local property management companies, which was a  
12      success in Austin.

13                 Overall, coordinated access has been  
14      established in many areas and it can be used to track a  
15      veteran's progress. There are eleven CoCs active in  
16      Texas, which we talked about a lot today, and states could  
17      offer incentives for coordinated access practices with  
18      state homelessness funds, but other than that, we don't  
19      have any jurisdiction over Continuum of Care.

20                 MR. SAMUELS: I think most CoCs that have entry  
21      to coordinated access intake, whether they use the VIs for  
22      data or whatever it is, they screen for veteran status,  
23      and then, you know, once the person gets in then they  
24      start determining the level of eligibility.

25                 MS. TREJO: Right.

1 MS. MURO: This is Mona. Would you repeat you  
2 mentioned non-traditional partners? Can you explain that  
3 a little more?

4 MS. TREJO: Sure. The City of Austin Mayor's  
5 Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness, they had a success  
6 in that they opened up their coordinated access to include  
7 property management companies, so property management  
8 companies were able to work within the Homeless Management  
9 Information System, or HMIS, and check veterans' progress,  
10 see what veterans were flagged and say that they actually  
11 had open units or not. That's the way that I understood  
12 that they did that. Most of the traditional providers in  
13 coordinated access would be service providers,  
14 governments, housing providers, not necessarily for  
15 profit, so that's what we were talking about was not  
16 traditional.

17 Anything else for coordinated access?

18 MS. POHLMAN: This is Joyce at HHSC, once  
19 again.

20 The Health and Human Services Enterprise has  
21 implemented something called an LTSS screen. Are you  
22 familiar with that?

23 MS. TREJO: I have heard of it, LTSS screen.

24 MS. POHLMAN: And it's a very basic screening  
25 process that's used to assist individuals who are in need

1 of long-term services and supports and direct them to the  
2 right entity or place, and they actually have as one of  
3 their questions have you served in the military.

4 MS. TREJO: Great. So in the housing world.

5 MS. POHLMAN: In the housing world, work with  
6 the ADRC.

7 MS. TREJO: That's true.

8 MS. POHLMAN: They will know who has approached  
9 them, who's identified. So maybe those connections need  
10 to be made better.

11 MS. TREJO: Well, a suggestion would be just  
12 having broad approach to coordinated access because  
13 coordinated access is already set up, so maybe one  
14 approach would be making sure that ADRC is included in  
15 that coordinated access.

16 MS. POHLMAN: Yes. Thank you. I wasn't sure  
17 how to phrase it.

18 MS. MURO: This is Mona with the Texas Council  
19 on Family Violence. I just had a followup question about  
20 the partners. Is one of the recommendations then to  
21 follow a similar model with having partners such as  
22 property management companies as well involved in this  
23 piece? Is that going to be a recommendation or a  
24 consideration at this point?

25 MS. TREJO: It's a recommendation from the

1 public. It's not something that we in the learning  
2 process have deemed as feasible, it's one of best  
3 practice.

4 MS. MURO: Thanks.

5 Anything else? And anything on the  
6 coordination recommendations that we didn't open up that  
7 someone would like to discuss? We still have a few  
8 minutes left in the meeting.

9 DR. SCHOLL: Cate, this is Dr. Scholl. I'm  
10 going to fess up to being the culprit that caused the  
11 background noise. My mute button disengages on its own  
12 and I've been pounding on my keyboard on occasion, so my  
13 apologies to the group for being inconsiderate.

14 MS. TRACZ: Thank you.

15 MS. TREJO: And if you go through these  
16 documents and find that you want to comment or consider  
17 some sort of consequences or information that should be  
18 included, go ahead and email me. My information is on the  
19 TICH website and also in all the emails that were sent  
20 out. And let me know before the TICH meeting. Actually,  
21 if you can let me know by August 5, that would be great,  
22 because the TICH Veterans workgroup is going to be  
23 reviewing all the materials mid August, the final chance  
24 to make changes in August.

25 (General talking and laughter.)

1 DR. SCHOLL: Is that Naomi still?

2 MS. TREJO: It's Naomi, yes.

3 DR. SCHOLL: I just wanted to know if Cate got  
4 you a couple of typos that I caught.

5 MS. TREJO: She did, she forwarded those.  
6 Thank you.

7 DR. SCHOLL: Okay. Thanks.

8 MS. TREJO: All right. With that, my section  
9 will be ended.

10 Michael, you're taking over.

11 MR. DeYOUNG: Okay. The next thing on the  
12 agenda is public comment.

13 MS. KRAVITZ: The Every Student Succeeds Act  
14 that was signed in 2015, December 2015, is going to be  
15 going into effect and there's quite a few laws that  
16 pertain to homeless liaisons and efforts that schools will  
17 be required to do on behalf of homeless students. And I'm  
18 just wondering how much of that information this group  
19 would like.

20 I could request to be on the next agenda and  
21 provide updates on the ESSA legislation. I don't want to  
22 get too in the weeds, there's a definitely a big emphasis  
23 on community coordination that ramped up in ESSA as well  
24 as in numerous other requirements. So I just wanted to  
25 inquire with you guys about what you would want to hear,

1 and then I can bring that information to this group.

2 MS. TRACZ: I think that would be really  
3 helpful, so I'll put you on the next agenda, and maybe we  
4 can go back and forth about the level of detail.

5 MS. KRAVITZ: Okay. Sounds good.

6 MS. YEVICH: And while we're talking about the  
7 next agenda, Cate may not be here.

8 MS. TRACZ: For those of you on the phone, I'm  
9 eight months pregnant so I will be gone September and  
10 November for those two meetings, back in December. But my  
11 supervisor, Elizabeth Yevich, who is here will be  
12 coordinating a lot of the administrative parts of the  
13 meeting, so you'll get emails from Elizabeth as well.

14 MS. YEVICH: Either me or another one of my  
15 staff, Terri Richard. And several of you actually know  
16 her, because Terri coordinates our Housing and Health  
17 Services Coordination Council, and both of these councils  
18 sort of are the same. So either myself or Terri Richard  
19 will be your contacts for the next three to four months.

20 MR. DeYOUNG: Any other public comment?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. DeYOUNG: So the next thing is closing  
23 comments, and Mike already left and I don't have any  
24 closing comments prepared.

25 So our next meeting will be scheduled for

1 Wednesday, September 21, in conjunction with THN's Annual  
2 Conference on Ending Homelessness. We will, from TDHCA's  
3 perspective, in the next couple of days put out an email  
4 so everybody has Elizabeth's contact information in Cate's  
5 absence so that we can continue the communication  
6 function. Also, we have a second meeting scheduled  
7 Thursday, November 17, and you will get information  
8 through emails on both of those meetings. And then Cate  
9 will be back to start resuming her activities.

10 Don't forget to contact Naomi before August 5  
11 if you want to have input into the documents. And then  
12 any agenda items that you want to be included at the next  
13 meeting will go to Elizabeth and Cate in that email  
14 configuration so that we can get you included on the  
15 agenda so we can actually discuss the business.

16 MR. SAMUELS: I was going to say if you come to  
17 the meeting, stay for the conference. So go to THN.org to  
18 sign up.

19 MS. SYLVESTER: Gavin wasn't here the last time  
20 we met as a group. Right? Did you want to introduce  
21 yourself, Gavin?

22 MR. REID: Sure. Gavin Reid, TDHCA. I work  
23 for the Community Affairs Division. I'm the manager of  
24 planning and training, so I work a lot with Naomi Trejo  
25 with the ESG and HHSP programs. I've been on board for

1 about two months now. I work with other programs, but ESG  
2 is one. So anyway, nice to meet you all.

3 MR. DeYOUNG: For those of you who remember  
4 Sharon Gamble, he took over Sharon Gamble's position.

5 With that, it looks like we have no other  
6 agenda items. The meeting is adjourned.

7 (Whereupon, at 12:01 p.m., the meeting was  
8 adjourned.)



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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: July 12, 2016

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
numbers 1 through 81, inclusive, are the true, accurate,  
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording  
made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the  
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Transcriber) 07/16/2016  
(Date)

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