## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

# TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Health & Human Services Commission Room PHR 164 909 West 45th Street Austin, Texas

> April 11, 2017 10:15 a.m.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair
D.J. BINGLER
VALINDA BOLTON
BROOKE BOSTON
NAOMI CANTU
FRANCES GATTIS (via telephone)
KELLY KRAVITZ (by Ken Martin
PAM MAERCKLEIN
TODD NOVAK (by Alanna Bennett)
EMILY SASSER-BRAY

## ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

CATE TRACZ (TDHCA)
MEGAN SYLVESTER (TDHCA)

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MR. DOYLE: We're going to skip down to number V on the agenda, and does anybody want to start us off with what your agency does around homelessness prevention?

MS. BENNETT: I'll start it off.

MR. DOYLE: All right. Thank you.

MS. BENNETT: Good morning, everyone. I'm filling in for Todd Novak for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. My name is Alanna Bennett. I'm the reentry specialist.

So to lead into the question of what is our agency doing to prevent youth homelessness, they hired me, and so my job is to provide assistance to the institutions as well as the halfway houses to help youth transition smoothly into the community.

And so I look for alternative placements, I help with any resources and things like that. And I want to say that I came really, really prepared with this really smart speech, but Todd actually wrote this, so I'm just going to read what he put on here, and then if you have any questions, I'll try to answer them, but I just wanted to kind of give you a background.

So it starts off saying that the agency has hired a reentry specialist -- which I said was myself -for early identification of youth at the time of

commitment, specialized case loads which allows us to have ample time to find placement for youth who are at high risk of homelessness, and that's exactly what I did.

I get a report every week of the kids that come into the orientation and assessment unit at Brownwood, and if any flags go up that maybe this youth may not have a home to go to, I jump right on there and I start to try to build a team so that we can figure out what our options are. And if it pans out that the youth will have a place, that's fine; if not, we know we've done the background work to at least pick up if something should fall apart.

So we have independent living preparation and alternative housing efforts. TJJD recognizes that addressing the youth needs for housing is critical for positive outcomes beyond parole services. We're really working on permanency care and a permanency plan. We don't want to just get these kids through parole, we want to get them beyond that.

Older youth at times cannot return home due to many circumstances and are at high risk for homelessness. Historically TJJD has addressed this area with the independent living preparation and subsidy program, which has encountered a significant decrease in funding.

TJJD plans to regrow the independent living preparation and subsidy program by requesting additional

funds to address these hard-to-place youth and prepare them for sustainability after their stay in TJJD. This request for funding is included in the agency's LAR exceptional items request for the next biennium.

The Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless was made aware of the decreased funding during a key informant interview for the Texas Counts Project. TJJD has partnered with DFPS to offer the Preparation for Adult Living, the PAL program; a self-study guide for DFPS youth in TJJD custody, commonly called crossover youth, these youth in DFPS/TJJD custody in completing PAL making them eligible for subsidy. We do that quite often, actually, and we work with Ryan Unger a lot. He's our PAL coordinator that we deal with a lot, but we have PAL coordinators all over Texas.

To make completion easy, in October 2016 TJJD created a log-on account for every facility location that allows staff members to log the youth on so they can access the online self-study guide. Staff will document the youth has completed five hours of each of the six areas in order to receive credit for the DFPS.

To address the need for sustainable living, the agency has partnered with outside stakeholders to create the Travis County Coalition for Youth. This coalition is pursuing a tiny house initiative that will provide

affordable housing to homeless youth between the ages of 18 to 24. Who doesn't love a tiny house, I mean, really.

In addition, TJJD has staff in place that identify youth with housing challenges early in the reentry planning process to assist the facility and parole staff with locating community-based programs that are already in existence.

As we address drug and alcohol relapse, we explore the use of sober-living communities and the Oxford House for older youth. Finally, we contract with Geocoson [phonetic] to help with independent living preparation.

And that is currently what our agency is doing to help reduce the homelessness for youth.

MR. DOYLE: Good. Any questions?
(No response.)

MR. DOYLE: Thank you very much.

Anybody else have a report?

MS. CARDONA-BEILER: I can go ahead.

MR. DOYLE: Okay.

MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Good morning. My name is Darilyn Cardona-Beiler. I'm with Integral Care. We're the local mental health authority for Travis County. We have a variety of prevention programs across our continuum of care; however, I would like to talk about the programs we have at Integral Care.

We have a fairly new program that is called Families with Voices. It's a program that is geared to serving families at risk, and it's very focused on homeless prevention.

This program has been funded by the county, and it's to serve families in the Manor area, and what is unique about this project is that we're working really closely with the Manor ISD to ensure we have the ability to select the families who really need the services the most.

So the independent school district identifies the families, those families who are couch-surfing or in motels and different places, and then getting them connected to the program, and we have the ability to either prevent homelessness or move them from motels or wherever they're at into housing. It's a fairly new program, we're moving now into the second year, and it's doing really well.

We started a collaboration with LifeWorks; this is the youth agency in our continuum, and we are providing prevention to youth and the funding for this coming from TDHCA, and also it's part of the same continuum of care.

Through our sources from HHSC, we have a shortterm rental assistance program, and that is a resource that we're using as a bridge subsidy and HUD has given us the permission, which is pretty unique, to use the subsidy when we identify an individual who is either at risk or is homeless and move them into PSH once a PSH voucher becomes available.

So we have the ability to bridge individuals from one place to another without moving them out from the household, from the place where they're at, but by solely just moving the subsidy around them and keep them in place.

We also have a variety of co-ops, and we have 28 units we use for individuals who are at risk of homelessness, and these are adults who are okay living in congregate living. And as part of the Health Community Cooperatives in the state, we have allocated as well resources to ensure people, once they move into housing if they face any challenges, they're able to use those resources to prevent them from homelessness.

So we are trying to take prevention very seriously, not only to make sure that we are helping individuals who we move into housing who come with a history of chronic homelessness, for them to stay housed, but also within our compliance to make sure that no one actually hits the streets.

MR. DOYLE: That's great. Thanks very much.
MR. SAMUELS: So the subsidy that you use for

1 the bridge funding, for those folks in rental housing and 2 you have these subsidies to keep them in housing until a 3 bed comes up in PSH. 4 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Correct. 5 MR. SAMUELS: Is that HUD continuum of care 6 funding? 7 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: The bridge subsidy is 8 coming from the state, from HHSC, and HUD gave us the 9 permission to allow them into PSH and maintain their chronic homeless status. 10 So what we have found is that a lot of 11 12 individuals stay chronic for a long time, waiting for that 13 PSH voucher, because they're concerned of losing their 14 chronic homeless status to be able to enter the system, so 15 we get them with a bridge subsidy and then transition them 16 into PSH once the voucher is available through the 17 coordinated assessment system. 18 MR. SAMUELS: That's good. 19 MS. CANTU: I have a quick question. 20 Naomi Cantu with TDHCA. So the HHSC funds, is that the short-term 21 22 rental assistance or the Healthy Communities Collaborative? 23 24 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: It's the short-term rental

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assistance. We have used some of the Healthy Communities

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Cooperatives as well, but it's primarily just for prevention. The bridge program is through the short-term rental assistance program.

MR. DOYLE: Any other questions?
(No response.)

MR. DOYLE: Thanks very much.

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Anybody else have an update or report?

MS. BOLTON: Valinda Bolton with DFPS, specifically CPS.

I don't have any information about our homeless prevention activities with older or disabled adults, because they didn't get back to me by this morning.

So some of this not new, but I'm going to go over it for those of you who may not know because I learned a lot. So we have PAL, Preparation for Adult Living, which provides a whole range of services.

Specifically in terms of homeless prevention, PAL provides contracted case management to youth up to age 21, and through the case management we provide after-care, room and board financial assistance based on need and up to \$3,000 cumulative payments but not more than \$500 a month.

Transition centers, which are through the Workforce Commission, are a really huge asset. DFPS is divided up into 13 regions; every region has at least one of the transition centers, almost half the regions have

two. They are available to youth ages 15-1/2 to 25, so actual full-on young adults with their brains almost completely done growing.

So through there they can do job readiness, job search, job options, they get help enrolling in college, help with housing and mentoring. Some of the centers are able to link with other community agencies like substance abuse, mental health services, counseling and leadership training.

I was just in another meeting yesterday and there was a panel of young adults that had aged out of the foster care system, and a couple of them in particular talked about how hugely helpful the transition center in their region was.

So now for the last several years we're able to help them after they turn 18. If they're in the department's custody at the point they turn 18, they can stay voluntarily in extended foster care, but if they leave -- this is a good thing that's not real new but fairly new -- if they leave care, they can actually come back through the extended foster care, and there's a lot of ways that we are able to assist them, because most 18-year-olds they don't want to be in care anymore and then they get to about 20 and they're like, That was dumb.

So we have developed with various contractors

trying to get placements that are willing and conducive to this really young adult population. We have supervised independent living options that are apartments shared housing, college and non-college dorms and host homes that we contract with people, supervise independent living providers to do that service.

Then for young adults with disabilities, we have the 811 project rental assistance through TDHCA, so that provides low-cost rental apartments in various locations actually to young adults and adults. So they have to be SSI-eligible, current or former foster youth, and this includes youth with mental illness and other types of disabilities as well. So we have placed one youth in that program, we have five that are awaiting a place.

I'm sure most of you, if not all of you are familiar with, is that the Austin-Travis County Continuum of Care was selected for the HUD grant. So we're deeply involved for that for Travis County, and one of our CPS staff leadership, Stacy Love, is here in Travis County and she's on that planning committee. So that's probably the newest thing that's going on.

MR. DOYLE: When someone turns 18 they can, I would assume, like it used to be, walk out the door and

1 say, See ya, I'm done. But you do offer those options, 2 which are numerous. 3 MS. BOLTON: Right. And so we start working 4 with them ahead of that to try to help them understand and 5 do some of the preparation for adult living starting, some 6 of it starts at 14, some of it starts at 16, so we try to 7 get them started so if they do decide to exit at 18, 8 they're hopefully a little more prepared. And now we have 9 this for them to, when they get a little older and a 10 little wiser and realize maybe leaving so quickly was not 11 in their best interest, then they can come back. MR. DOYLE: Before they turn 25? 12 13 MS. BOLTON: Yes. 14 MR. DOYLE: Good. Thanks, Valinda. 15 We have a question for Valinda first. Michael. 16 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, Texas State Affordable 17 Housing Corporation. 18 Can you tell me a little bit more about the 19 host home? That's something we've been looking at as part 20 of that Youth Homelessness Advisory Board that you 21 mentioned at the end of your presentation. 22 MS. BOLTON: I don't know a whole lot more, but 23 I can connect you with the person who does, Larry Burgess. 24 Do you have a card?

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MR. WILT: Yes. I can give it to you after.

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MS. BOLTON: Great. And then I can have him reach out to you.

MR. WILT: Perfect.

MR. DOYLE: Good.

Well, welcome, Ken. Long time no see. Ken is taking over for Kelly Kravitz today, THEO.

MR. MARTIN: I'm here for Jeanne and Kelly, and I've got just a simple handout. This is just an update on the Every Student Succeeds Act, and I wanted to share with you that as part of the ESSA, homeless school district liaisons are now going to be able to certify people as homeless according to the HUD definition for HUD programs.

And I've been tasked with coming up with a training for the liaisons to be able to do that, so I'm working with the staff at THEO and TEA and Region 10 to do all of that, get that training up and going so folks will be able to say that they're trained to be able to certify for homelessness.

MR. DOYLE: Will they bypass the coordinated assessment pot, or do they still have to go into that?

MR. MARTIN: They will still have to go into coordinated assessment, and that's part of what I'll be training them on is that just because they're certified in one of the four categories of homelessness does not mean that they will be actually served with housing because of

existing priorities that are in place or eligibility requirements of individual grant recipients.

MR. SAMUELS: What's great, though, the homeless education liaisons don't have to send the child somewhere else to get certified, so that's a big advantage.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

So the law does state that they have to be trained before they can do that, so that's one of the issues that I'm working on.

Jeanne has asked me to work on housing issues -- for some reason, I'm not sure -- for THEO, so you'll probably be seeing me around other things. I'm on the Youth Advisory Council for the LifeWorks project too.

MR. DOYLE: Great. Thank you.

Others? Pam, you almost jumped out there a while ago.

MS. MAERCKLEIN: Pam Maercklein with the Texas Veterans Commission. We mainly provide possible funding and education of homeless veterans so we can provide grants for agencies that work with homeless veterans, and that can be general assistance, the Housing for Heroes, legal and mental health. There's four categories. And then I've been starting with Texas Homeless Network some education, Facebook Live, and then this time we're going

to do some YouTube videos, homeless veterans with different categories.

MR. DOYLE: Great.

MR. SAMUELS: She's on Facebook like every week.

(General laughter.)

MR. DOYLE: Frances, what about TDCJ?

MS. GATTIS: Mine is not nearly as exciting as everyone else's, but I do have some things that I can report.

So our discharging population, that's those who leave our custody free of supervision, they've completed their sentence before they leave our custody, we don't have the ability to have any governance over them or require them to live in any particular place, so that is certainly our most challenging population. There are a few things that we do. We maintain resources through our reentry staff within the agency so that we can provide housing resources to those discharging offenders. We make those available for them to access themselves on the unit but they also have access to a reentry case manager on the unit who can talk with them about where they plan to live and help them come up with some possible housing options. At the end of the day, they can choose to take advantage of those or not, and there's really not much that we can

do either way.

Our parolee population is different. They
don't ever release into homelessness but many of them do
release into an approved housing plan at a transition
center or what you might hear called a halfway house.
Those individuals, if they don't have a home residence to
go to and they do release to the halfway house, the goal,
of course, is to get them into sustainable housing and not
have them stay at the halfway house long term, but also,
if they move into a home plan and at some point later are
at risk of homelessness, we can approve them to go back
into a halfway house so that they do have a residence to
live in while they have that need.

Then one thing that's newer is under the reentry division for the agency, the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments -- which you all may know as TCOOMMI, has a new grant that's recently been awarded that allows us to target those with persistent or severe mental illness in the Austin Transitional Center and the transitional center in Houston, the Southeast Texas Halfway House, so that a case manager provides targeted services with the goal of having those individuals transition out of that halfway house and into sustainable housing in 75 days or less from the day that they arrive to the halfway house. That's very new, I

don't have outcomes to give you on that as of yet, but we're anticipating that that will be a great benefit to that very targeted special needs population.

MR. DOYLE: Wonderful.

D.J., I'm not going to put you on the spot, but can you talk a little bit -- because if you can't, I will -- about the connection between the job training inside the prison system, particularly through Windham that are available to help people find jobs even before they're released so that it keeps them from coming out homeless?

MS. BINGLER: I don't have a lot to say about that. I'm aware of Windham doing the educational programs in the prisons; I'm not as aware of the educational training programs.

MR. DOYLE: Let me explain it just a little bit. We're doing this in Tarrant County, and we're the first Workforce board in the state to officially align with Windham, and we have identified the demand industries in Tarrant County and what the requirements are, particularly in welding, what kind of certifications they have to have in welding, and in an agreement between the reentry division at TDCJ and TWC, we've built a system whereby we find somebody returning to Tarrant County, wherever they are, the Boyd Unit, wherever they are, and

there's a Windham job training program there that offers welding, they will transfer them to that unit so they can get the skill needed for the job that's there when they get back to Tarrant County.

So that collaboration between TDCJ and TWC to give people certifications that have been identified as demand occupations in a local locality is a great thing for your Workforce boards to be talking about, because with the willingness to transfer to a unit that trains for that particular thing, we're hopeful that people will come out and they'll just be out and work pretty quick like that. And whether you're on parole or whether you're straight release, getting to work quickly is the key to staying back out of jail usually.

So I thought when I heard that, we proposed to our Workforce board, and we proposed that I sit on that board, and I thought, man, this makes a lot of sense.

That inmate knows that there is a job out there that he qualifies for while he's still in, they're saying at Windham their excitement is just unbelievable.

The last month or so they're there, they can't wait to get out and go to work, and it's not that I'm the victim thing when I get out, it's, I've got a chance here, and it's just making a huge difference in the way they're perceiving the training that they're getting inside the

1 prisons. So I thought that was a pretty good idea. 2 MS. BECKWITH: Can I ask a question? 3 MR. DOYLE: Yes. 4 MS. BECKWITH: Do you work also with Bob Gear and the Veterans Leadership Program for Employment? 5 6 MR. DOYLE: I have not heard about that yet. 7 MS. BECKWITH: That would be a really good 8 thing for you to connect tom because it's part of Texas 9 Workforce Commission, Bob Gear is the director, and what 10 it does is connect veterans with employment when they 11 leave the service or if they become unemployed, and that would be a good connection, I think, for you for those 12 13 that have run afoul of the law. 14 MR. DOYLE: We can easily identify the veterans that are incarcerated. 15 16 MS. BECKWITH: Exactly. 17 MR. DOYLE: Because I can't speak for if 18 they're going back to Harris or Bexar or Travis or any of the rest of the counties, but if they're coming back to 19 20 Tarrant County, we'd love to identify those veterans 21 coming back to Tarrant County, because we've got 8,000 22 jobs at Alliance that are unfilled as of last Wednesday, 23 when we had our board meeting, because of middle-level job 24 skills, welding, computers, how to do welding on a

computer, those kind of things, and if there's that kind

25

of jobs, and they're felon-friendly up there, most of them, we want to make sure that when they get out, they're working, and that would be a neat deal.

MS. BECKWITH: That would be a really good connection.

MR. DOYLE: Bob Gear, where is he located, in Austin?

MS. BECKWITH: He's here.

MS. BINGLER: The Veterans Leadership Program is part of an initiative in TWC. They work strictly with Iraqi Freedom veterans. The Texas Veterans Commission works with all veterans, but Bob Gear's work group works strictly with Iraqi Freedom veterans.

MR. DOYLE: Okay. We'll reach out to them and see if we can link that in.

Naomi.

MS. CANTU: TDHCA has many programs that do poverty prevention, which can be homelessness prevention as well, but we also have two programs which I'll speak to today that specifically have a category for homelessness prevention, and that's the Emergency Solutions Grants Program from HUD, or the federal government, which we're a pass-through agency for, about \$8.4 million, and then Homeless Housing and Services Program, which is the statefunded general revenue program, which is about \$5 million

a year.

In 2016 our current subrecipients for Emergency Solutions Grants, 15 out of 31 subrecipients offer homelessness prevention activities out of the four possible client service activities, so that's about 48 percent.

To put that in context, though, about 15 percent of the total ESG funds committed for homelessness prevention out of the total award, so even though it's quite a few agencies that offer homelessness prevention, they're offering not as much as in the other client services.

when our contract started, we've served a thousand persons in Texas with homelessness prevention, and that can include housing stability -- not all of them get all of the services -- housing stability, case management, financial assistance such as deposits, moving costs, et cetera, rental assistance, housing search and placement. And we already have some outcome measures and that's 285 persons maintained housing after three months of exiting the program, and as of February, 40 percent of the funds committed to homelessness prevention have been expended.

For Homeless Housing and Services Program, the current contracts, this is located only in the eight

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1	largest cities in Texas, per Texas Government Code, and
2	three out of the eight subrecipients offer homelessness
3	prevention, so that's again about 38 percent, but you see
4	similar trend with the amount of budget is only 8 percent
5	of the \$5 million is actually for homelessness prevention.
6	There's about 120 persons served for these current
7	projects and we're about 14 percent expended. So that's
8	the actual homelessness prevention that we're tracking
9	specifically for that activity.
10	MR. DOYLE: And if anybody wanted to apply for
11	those funds, would they go to a local agency that gets
12	those funds, or directly to TDHCA?
13	MS. CANTU: So clients that are facing
14	eviction?
15	MR. DOYLE: Yes.
16	MS. CANTU: So they go to local agencies.
17	And ESG, Emergency Solutions Grants, is not
18	offered statewide. It's a competitive program, so not
19	everywhere has Emergency Solutions Grants.
20	MR. DOYLE: Thank you.
21	Any other questions? Any other reports?
22	(No response.)
23	MR. DOYLE: Then we have a quorum present. Let
24	me call the meeting to order.
25	DR. SCHOLL: Mike?

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MR. DOYLE: Yes.

DR. SCHOLL: This is Dennis Scholl. This is probably not a report, but I sent five sentences to Cate as kind of a public comment report to keep her keystrokes simple. But I just did a couple of reminders about not forgetting about traditional veterans organizations' possible role, fire departments, volunteer fire departments' possible role, and not forgetting about rural solutions versus gravitating to large cities shouldn't be forgotten as we look at resources.

So Cate, I sent that to you in a email.

MS. TRACZ: Okay. Thank you. I'll look for that and send it out to the group.

DR. SCHOLL: Thanks for letting me interrupt,

MR. DOYLE: Absolutely, Dennis. No problem, anytime.

Welcome, everybody. We've kind of introduced ourselves as we've gone through item 5 on the agenda.

The only remarks I have is just a comment that I want to announce, just in case you hear it that you'll understand it. Obviously, Pathways Home has a big connection to local continuum of care, which we've been in since 1995 as an agency, as Cornerstone Assistance Network as their CEO, and we love them, but we opted out of the

continuum of care this year and gave some funds back that we didn't want. We actually transferred them to Tarrant County, who transferred them to the community enrichment center, which will do a great job with them.

I told HUD this in Fort Worth, and I told the county this: It had nothing to do with anything other than a business decision. We have been paying matching so much funds that it was really cheaper for us to continue the same work and just keep our staff together and pay them out of our general funds than it was to take the grant.

So if somebody says here's the governor's appointee on the agency that gets all the HUD funds and he's not taking them anymore, it's a business decision, it has nothing to do with anything -- although, I still don't like the way that pot thing goes -- but at the same time, it's nothing to do with anything other than that decision.

We could pay \$90,000 in match or \$90,000 out of general revenue and not have any regulations, and so we're going to continue to serve the homeless, continue to house them, but we're going to do it with our own money. That's basically it.

MR. SAMUELS: I think that's still a very valuable member of the continuum of care. You don't have to have those funds to be a very valuable member.

1	MR. DOYLE: That's right. We're still doing
2	the things that we've always done, it just makes more
3	sense now for us to pay for it, and it didn't hurt that we
4	just got a gift of a million dollars, so that helped in my
5	decision-making process a lot.
6	MS. BOSTON: Congratulations.
7	MR. DOYLE: Thank you.
8	Okay. Moving on, approval of the minutes. You
9	received from Cate the minutes, and I would entertain a
10	motion to approve those.
11	MS. BOSTON: So moved.
12	MR. DOYLE: Moved by Brooke. Is there a
13	second?
14	MS. MAERCKLEIN: I second.
15	MR. DOYLE: Second by Pam.
16	Any corrections, additions?
17	(No response.)
18	MR. DOYLE: All in favor say aye.
19	(A chorus of ayes.)
20	MR. DOYLE: Opposed same sign.
21	(No response.)
22	MR. DOYLE: Those do pass.
23	Update on Region 6 Federal Regional Interagency
24	Council on Homelessness webinar. Michael, you're going to
25	give us an update?

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MR. WILT: Yes, I will.

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We had a webinar on February 28 for the Region 6 Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness.

The people who coordinated it apologize because it conflicted with the Homelessness Day at the Capitol, so I know that some of you were planning on being on the webinar and couldn't do that because of that conflict, and they said that they would schedule another one at a later date and we haven't heard anything since then.

It was a pretty quick webinar. Leslie Ann
Bradley, with HUD up in the Dallas area, kicked it off,
she's a co-chair of this Region 6 group. She introduced
Bob Pulster, who many of you know, with USICH. Bob gave
some comment, the most salient thing is probably that he
told people that USICH may not be around as of October 1
of this year unless they get some help, mainly out of the
House side, they think they have some help on the Senate
side, but as it stands, they're not going to get any
funding through the continuing resolution or through any
other means. I don't know if there's going to be a
continuing resolution, I don't know what's going to happen
on the federal side. So they still have some work to do
in order to be around after October 1.

Bob talked about Matt Doherty's comments at the NAEH conference in Houston that many of you were at. He

applauded the work Texas has done to end veteran homelessness and that they're doing to end youth homelessness. He talked about the federal criterion benchmarks for ending youth and family homelessness that we talked about at our last TICH meeting in January, and he also said what works is that data drives progress and that USICH had a new document that makes that point that was coming out. And then Bob talked about the rapid rehousing efforts.

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LaKesha Pope Jackson is the other co-chair for the Region 6, and she talked about the scope of this group and that it was mainly for collaborating among the different states that are members of it. Those states, by the way, are New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. And I'm not sure who all was represented on the webinar because they didn't really go over that at the beginning, but I think that they had representation from every state. Anyway, LaKesha said that these states would come together with a common strategy and that really is a way for people to share info and collaborate and talk about what works, and that they would be establishing some committees and that those committees would meet on a quarterly basis. And she also talked about expanding those to affiliate members that would include local organizations, CoCs, community-based nonprofits, people

like that.

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And then they asked a few questions for the participants about what they wanted to get out of this collaboration, about the committees that would be set up, like communications, family health, veterans, emergency response, youth chronic, and then what they wanted this Region 6 group to address and what topics should be addressed, and even if we should have some sort of conference or something in the future. And LaKesha said that this group would be meeting on a quarterly basis but we haven't heard anything since then, so I'm not sure where it stands, and I don't know if David does either.

David Long did talk about the TICH at the end of the webinar and the work that we've done, and gave kudos to everybody around the table when it comes to what Texas has done for veteran homelessness and what it's about to do for youth homelessness as well. And that was pretty much it.

MR. DOYLE: Great. Questions?

MR. SAMUELS: The reason they didn't have a followup meeting is because we decided we didn't need one. We were sent all the materials and we were able to get all the information we needed without having another meeting.

MR. WILT: Okay. Do you know anything else

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about committees or future meetings?

MR. SAMUELS: I don't know; she didn't say anything about that. And nothing about future quarterly meetings either.

MR. DOYLE: Okay. Suzanne, you're going to give us an update on Fair Housing Month.

MS. HEMPHILL: Yes. So I'm Suzanne Hemphill, Fair Housing project manager at TDHCA, so thanks for inviting me here this morning at the TICH.

I wanted to give you a little bit of information about the Department's Fair Housing efforts and then an update on HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule. So whether you know it or not, April is Fair Housing Month, so we're in the midst of lots of events and celebration.

As a part of that, we're conducting a webinar series so we're doing that in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission, Civil Rights Division. Last week the series provided a fair housing overview, so the basics of fair housing in Texas and the federal act and the state act, and then we went through a bunch of case scenarios. This afternoon is the second in that series and we'll be going over reasonable accommodations and accessibility, a really tricky subject area so we'll spend about 90 minutes covering that today.

And we had over 500 people registered last week and I think there's like 400 today, so we're pretty excited to reach so many folks. All the information is available on our webinar but it starts at 1:30 today, and after we're done recording them, we'll create a transcript so it's accessible and post that on our website 24/7. You can watch last year's series online now, so if you want to check that out.

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So we periodically provide a report to TDHCA's Board. This is what it looks like; I'm happy to pass around a copy or you can access it on our website. It goes over fair housing efforts that the Department is working on year-round. This was in our March 23, 2017 Board meeting, so you can find that online on our website. It's about 40 pages.

Fair housing touches almost everything we do at the agency, and so I wanted to give you a couple examples of the type of work that the Fair Housing team does. So on January 2, just with the new year, changes to 10 TAC, Chapter 1, Subchapter B, Reasonable Accommodations, those were finalized, so the revisions were proposed to clarify requirements related to accessibility standards and reasonable accommodations to ensure persons have full and equal access to programs.

So the rule change requires responses to

reasonable accommodations within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 14 calendar days, so the response must either grant the request, deny the request, offer alternatives for the request, or request additional information to clarify it, so changes such as staff and program participants to establish a firm deadline to get things moving. We've received numerous complaints and we think that this timeline kind of helps everyone understand their piece of the puzzle to resolve a reasonable accommodation request and meet the household's needs.

And then an update on HUD's Affirmatively

Furthering Fair Housing Rule, I'm not sure how many of you are familiar with that. It went into effect on August 17, 2015, so it governs what block grant recipients of HUD funds have to do to affirmatively further fair housing, so in Texas that's like public housing authorities, anyone using HOME funds, CDBG, Community Development Block Grant funds, Emergency Solutions Grants, all the HUD money, including Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS. So TDHCA provided multiple rounds of comments on the state's tool, the public housing authorities' tool and then the local tool, and the state tool and the public housing authorities tool, just so you know, hasn't been finalized, the local tool was, so they're moving forward with those now.

So it requires meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, to overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities, free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics, and there are seven protected classes.

So the state is currently revising our citizen participation plan to outline the steps that the state will take, so that's TDHCA as well as the other partner agencies that receive HUD funds in Texas at the state level. And our tool is anticipated to be due to HUD in May 2019, however, they haven't finalized it, and until it's finalized, we're supposed to do an analysis of impediments which is kind of the old process. So we'll see, we'll move forward and anticipate submitting an AI or an assessment of fair housing in May 2019.

So those are the updates. Please let me know if you have questions or comments.

MS. SASSER-BRAY: How will we access this webinar series that you guys are doing.

MS. HEMPHILL: So I can send it to Cate, or if you look on TDHCA's calendar, there's a link if you want to sign up today.

MS. SASSER-BRAY: Is it really accessible, is it you to the home page and it's right there, or do you

1 have to go through a couple of layers of pages? 2 MS. HEMPHILL: There's a couple of layers if 3 you want to see the presentations, but I can send a link 4 to Cate. 5 MS. SASSER-BRAY: I think that would be best. 6 MS. TRACZ: We'll get it out to the group 7 before the 1:30 webinar starts. Are there enough spaces to sign up for the 8 webinar? 9 10 MS. HEMPHILL: We have 600 spaces left. 11 (General laughter.) MS. TRACZ: We'll get that out as soon as 12 13 possible in case anyone wants to share it with their 14 agency or sign up today. 15 MR. WILT: Is today's webinar the last one? 16 MS. HEMPHILL: Yes. 17 MR. WILT: Are you going to talk about service 18 animals today? 19 MS. HEMPHILL: We are, and there's so many 20 questions. We'll do our best to handle them. 21 gets tricky because there's so many specific facts 22 involved with things like that, and it's kind of hard to 23 delve into it. But my email address is on there and 24 Vicky's is on there also from Texas Workforce Commission,

so we're happy to answer individual questions, but funding

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source, what's going on, can you see someone's disability, is it readily apparent. Sometimes people might say, Can I ask that? Well, there's a lot of questions before we can tell you if you can ask that question.

MR. DOYLE: That reasonable accommodation thing is so interpretive. I mean, I don't know how you can ever state it in such a way that it's clear. It's interpretive. We've had agencies in our community follow it to the rule and the fair housing people at the City of Fort Worth have said, You violated it, pay the money and don't mess with it. So you pay \$5,000 and it goes away, and the entire time it was a scam to get \$5,000 or so out of the project provider. But it fell under, according to them, some unique rule around reasonable accommodation that was implied but not written.

And I know you have final authority, would finally go to HUD, but that's a hard thing to do, it's a hard thing to keep good apartment landlords when they're always facing that kind of thing. And then you've got folks who, with all good intentions, direct their clients how to get a little extra cash through this reasonable accommodation and it's just not a fair thing for housing providers.

MS. HEMPHILL: I'm not aware of folks getting money from it, but we certainly get a lot of questions. I

1 think housing providers struggle with this and they have turnover in staff and it's a really big issue. 2 3 MR. DOYLE: It is, and I can name you one that 4 had to pay \$5,000 personally. 5 MR. SAMUELS: What are the tools you said, the 6 local tools and the other two? 7 MS. HEMPHILL: The state and the public housing authorities rule are not done, and TDHCA has both of 8 9 those, so we're waiting to see what happens. 10 MR. DOYLE: Good. That's important stuff if you're going to provide housing. 11 12 Anybody else have questions for Suzanne? 13 (No response.) 14 MR. DOYLE: All right. Number VII, committees, 15 we just need to talk about do we need any, want any, what 16 do you want. We go down to (c), those four committees you 17 see there were established to create Pathways Home, the 18 state plan. They were ad hoc committees, and the question 19 really becomes do any of those still need to be active, 20 because I can absolve them with a vote and we can have none, or we can say no, really that one needs to be a 21 22 standing committee, or no, this needs to be an ad hoc 23 committee for another six months. What are your thoughts? 24 MR. SAMUELS: So we met on the report, Naomi,

me and Jeanne, and we talked about possibly forming some

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new committees, and this would be all in response to our reporting needs in the coming year because we will be reporting in a little different way, definitely different than this year, but even different from the year prior to that, but it looks like it's going to be a little bit more time intensive just putting together the report.

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And so you'll correct me if I'm wrong on this, but I think in the committees we talked about were a performance data committee, a committee -- I don't think we would call it this name, but revisit the intentions of Pathways Home or revisit initiative of Pathways Home, and then the report committee. So we can certainly come up with better names than that.

MR. DOYLE: That's the annual report committee?

MR. SAMUELS: Yes. And the first committee,

the performance data, will be the committee that we would

use to go to Texas Workforce Commission and the TJJD or

the other state agencies and find out what performance

data they have, what they gather on a year-to-year basis,

and so we can get an idea of what's already out there,

what we can collect and what we can report, which I think

would be a good thing to do. But it is definitely worth a

committee's time and it will take a committee's time to do

that.

MS. BOSTON: And the background for this, at

the last meeting, you might recall, Mike asked for volunteers to work on the look at revisiting the report that we had presented and then also whether we had any suggestions for committees, and one of the things that we looked at as we were meeting was the bylaws that this group had approved and it was the first time we've had bylaws, and in the bylaws we kind of set some duties for ourselves that we had not also set up the infrastructure to actually be able to kind of deliver on those, so that was just kind of the impetus behind this.

So the part relating to the performance data committee, what the bylaws say is that by the December 31 of each year --

MR. DOYLE: Which section are you on, Brooke?

MS. BOSTON: Section VI, Duties of State Agency

TICH Members, and it's subsection A. And it says: By

December 31 of each year, each agency represented on the

TICH shall report to the TDHCA a standard set of

performance data, as determined by the TDHCA, on the

agency's outcomes related to homelessness.

I think you guys can appreciate that's pretty big, both that TDHCA would be telling you guys what that needs to look like and then you would be reporting it to us, so one of the things that we thought a committee could do is, at least as an initial step, is to look at the

performance measures that everybody already has, all the state agencies, and are already reporting to the LBB. And then just kind of just through conversation with individual members, for instance, with the Veterans, say:

Okay, so what are your current ones, and out of your current measures which of those do you think are touching homeless in some way.

And is there a way we can maybe estimate or extrapolate that without necessarily trying to establish new performance measures but trying to figure out how currently gathered performance measures touch the population in a way that we could compile through this group and then report that out in a holistic way that is able to kind of reflect the work. Kind of what you were saying with homelessness prevention, let's talk about all the different ways we're all touching it similar in purpose.

So that was the one committee was tied back to that specific bylaw statement.

I do think if these aren't committees we want to do, we may want to revisit the bylaws because I don't know that we could accomplish this without a committee.

(General talking and laughter.)

MS. BINGLER: So when you said you'd want a report, how detailed? Are you looking at the actual

participant data or just numbers?

MS. BOSTON: Well, I think initially we'd be just trying to work with whatever existing data feeds into your performance measures and maybe have that be step one and see where that would lead us. Without knowing how that works for anybody else except for TDHCA, I don't know where that will land. It could be that we see some pretty cool intuitive ways to take that that could be looking at the more granular information. That's one thing we talked about is if you can identify -- and this is probably not the right statistic -- that one out of every ten veterans experiences homelessness at some point, then does that mean that for the veteran programs you could estimate that 10 percent of the performance measures are touching veterans, and then you could draw that, obviously footnoted.

So I think it just depends on how well we're able to extrapolate the data or apply estimates and stuff.

MS. BINGLER: Kind of high level to be able to estimate what kind of services we could improve on, that sort of thing.

MR. DOYLE: Ultimately. Initially, I think it's just going to be a matter if we were to ask TWC do you serve the homeless and they say yes, the next obvious question would be how many did you serve. It would at

least be a starting point. It wouldn't even have to say, well, I don't know, I don't even know if we gather that data, but I know we serve them. So that's a starting point.

That's what happened with, who was it, Ken, with DARS or DADS that had to change their intake form for their agency?

MR. MARTIN: Lance.

MR. DOYLE: Yes, Lance. Was it DARS, DADS?

MR. MARTIN: DARS.

MR. DOYLE: One of those agencies. They never even asked the question, so they put that on their intake form, where did you spend the night last night, so that helped us kind of identify. So I think that initial part of that is I don't think we want to run in there and say, my goodness, we need a detailed report on everything, let's just kind of start the conversation through this committee.

MS. BOSTON: And trying to, I think, determine out of the current data you're already gathering and reporting -- because you already have a whole infrastructure for that -- is there a way to come up with an estimate of that population that we believe is homeless or at risk of homelessness. So that's the one committee.

MR. DOYLE: That's performance data. And then

the annual report committee

MS. BOSTON: And this one, again, goes back to the bylaws. In Section X of the bylaws in subsection A, the bylaws state: The TICH shall annually prepare an action plan, to be approved at the third meeting of the fiscal year for the following fiscal year, and that that plan shall identify goals established by committees, goals for any special projects that use contributions, and goals for any legislatively-required tasks.

Other than Pathways Home, we've never outlined a planning document for this body. We do the report on kind of the back-end of where we've been. So obviously the bylaws, when we all approved those, kind of said we'd like to look at that. And what we had thought as part of that was going back to look through Pathways Home and really see do we feel like the different aspects of Pathways Home, and including probably those four committees from before, are things that we still need to work on, do we feel like things have changed enough that we would want to amend that. So it could be that that committee, when it meets to talk about a plan, would also then identify things that it thinks should be committees for that ensuing year, but we thought that for this year you just need a committee to do the plan.

MR. SAMUELS: Kind of being realistic with our

time. And those committees that were formed were formed from that process to begin with.

MR. DOYLE: Yes.

MS. BOSTON: And then the last one, also in the same section of the bylaws, is what we just mentioned which is the reporting part. I think the distinction is the plan that we'll actually have to put on the agenda we outlined for ourselves in our bylaws a lot more meat to that plan. This version of the plan that we'll be talking about today doesn't include all that meat because the bylaws were done part way through the year, and so our thought would be that next year's plan -- excuse me -- next year's report would be the first one that covers all of these things.

It's interesting because as someone who read the bylaws multiple times and voted on them affirmatively, I was surprised when I went back and reread those. I was like: Wow, we told ourselves we're doing all this?

(General laughter.)

MS. BOSTON: So some of it is pretty meaty and some of it, to some extent, is just a lot of information gathering and then compiling, but it's not a small task. So I do think in the short term, if not a committee, that's one that we at least probably need an agenda item on each meeting and a strategy for how we're going to get

1	that accomplished.
2	MR. DOYLE: So that are you suggesting you call
3	that committee?
4	MR. SAMUELS: That committee? I guess
5	reporting writing committee.
6	MR. DOYLE: You'll got the annual report
7	committee, a performance data committee.
8	MR. SAMUELS: We have performance data
9	committee which I think most of that work would occur
10	early on, some of that could be concurrent work, but that
11	would be one that would need to starting meeting about
12	soon. I guess it's possible we could just have two.
13	MR. DOYLE: The annual report committee could
14	have a subcommittee.
15	MR. SAMUELS: The interim report committee?
16	MR. DOYLE: The annual report committee.
17	MR. SAMUELS: Could have a subcommittee of just
18	riders?
19	MR. DOYLE: The more detailed part of the plan,
20	about the action plan it talks about in section A or B.
21	MS. BOSTON: So have one committee that's for
22	the plan and the report? That way they're both looking
23	forward and trying to gather the information.
24	MR. SAMUELS: That makes sense. And again,
25	that's probably more realistic than having six committees

1 or whatever. 2 MR. DOYLE: Right. So right now the proposal 3 from the committee, which was an ad hoc committee, is a 4 performance data committee and an annual report committee 5 which may also break out into a subcommittee around the 6 plan itself. 7 MR. SAMUELS: And the work from that committee 8 could result next year for the same committees, who knows, 9 or for very similar committees. 10 MR. DOYLE: Any comments or questions? 11 that don't make comments or questions are subject to chair 12 one of these committees. No, I'm just kidding. 13 (General laughter.) 14 MR. DOYLE: The next question, since this is an ad hoc committee and if those are the two committees that 15 16 are recommended, I need a motion to that effect. 17 MS. CANTU: I'll move that we establish two 18 subcommittees of the TICH, one for performance data and 19 one for the plan and report. 20 MR. DOYLE: Is there a second? MS. MAERCKLEIN: I'll second. 21 22 MR. DOYLE: Any comments or questions? 23 (No response.) 24 MR. DOYLE: All in favor say aye. 2.5 (A chorus of ayes.)

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1 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, no. 2 (No response.) 3 MR. DOYLE: That does pass. 4 Next question, do you want those committees to 5 be standing or ad hoc? And here's the difference, the 6 only difference is the way that I accept the second. 7 standing committee comes as a nomination from a standing committee, it doesn't need a second, and discussion can be 8 9 limited. But in an ad hoc committee you need a motion and 10 second and I can't stop discussion. So it's just a matter 11 of which one you want, and the bylaws don't make any mention of standing or ad hoc, it just says we can appoint 12 13 ad hoc committees at any time. 14 MS. SYLVESTER: Think you're going to have to 15 do another motion to clarify that. If you didn't say it was a standing committee, it would be an ad hoc committee. 16 17 MR. DOYLE: That's what I'm going under right 18 now. MS. BOSTON: I think that ad hoc is fine 19 20 because it could be that after this point we don't need 21 them. MR. SAMUELS: And would an ad hoc allow us to 22 23 expand the participation of folks? 24 MR. DOYLE: You just bring it as a 25 recommendation. The only difference is the way the you

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1 say what you want, if it's a standing committee, you don't 2 need a second. 3 MR. SAMUELS: I agree that ad hoc might be more 4 appropriate. 5 MS. SYLVESTER: Then I don't think you need to 6 do anything else. 7 I agree, since it's going to be ad MR. DOYLE: 8 hoc. Good, we got that done. Marvelous. 9 Next is the annual report itself, and it's a 10 voting item on accepting that report so that we can get it 11 to the member agencies. Approval of the plan. You've all gotten it and you've all commented on it. 12 13 Thank you for the numerous comments that were 14 done, that was great. So at any time that you feel 15 comfortable making a motion to approve this as the final 16 plan that's ready to send out to the agencies, just 17 somebody that's a voting member of the council say I move 18 approval. 19 MS. BOLTON: I move approval. 20 MR. DOYLE: Is there a second? MS. BOSTON: Second. 21 22 MR. DOYLE: Any further discussion on this, 23 other than thank you for all the great work you all did on 24 it. All in favor say aye.

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(A chorus of ayes.)

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1 MR. DOYLE: Opposed same sign. 2 (No response.) 3 MR. DOYLE: Great work on the report. 4 you so much. 5 Public comment? Anybody have any public 6 comment? 7 (No response.) MR. DOYLE: Okay. I'm going to remind you in 8 9 the closing comments that we need a chair and a vice 10 chair. That needs to be done at our July 11 meeting, 11 which is our last meeting of the fiscal year, which ends September 31. We won't have any other meeting until 12 13 October 4, so we need you to send to someone nominations 14 for chair and vice chair. Can I impose on Cate? If 15 you'll send those nominations to Cate, then we'll bring 16 those before the council on the 11th. And do we want to 17 have a deadline? 18 MS. TRACZ: Sure. What do you think would be 19 appropriate, the end of June? 20 MR. DOYLE: That's too long, I think. Mid May, May 15? 21 22 MS. TRACZ: So let's make the deadline May 19, 23 the third Friday in May, so Friday, May 19. 24 MR. DOYLE: Please have those to Cate by end of 25 business day May 19.

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1	And then also back to the committee chairs now,
2	anybody want to volunteer to chair those committees?
3	MS. BOSTON: I'll do the performance data.
4	MR. DOYLE: Brooke is going to do performance.
5	MR. SAMUELS: She spoke too fast; that's the
6	one I was going to do. But I'll help you with that.
7	MR. DOYLE: There is one left.
8	MR. SAMUELS: I don't like that one as much.
9	(General laughter.)
10	MR. SAMUELS: If there's no one else to do it,
11	I will do it.
12	MR. DOYLE: Would anybody else like to chair
13	the annual report committee? You may be asked to actually
14	work on it, the chairs don't do really anything, just
15	organize.
16	MR. SAMUELS: I will chair that committee.
17	MR. DOYLE: Eric is chairing the annual report
18	committee. Thank you very much, and I would assume that
19	you will pick your members.
20	And if you would like to serve on one of these
21	committees, please notify Brooke and Eric, copy Cate, who
22	will get them to me so we'll know who they are.
23	(General talking and laughter.)
24	MR. DOYLE: The next scheduled meeting is July
25	11 here in Austin in this room right here, and then the

October 4 meeting will be held in conjunction with the 1 Texas Homeless Network annual conference in Dallas, so try 2 3 and make plans to be up there. It's closest enough to Fort Worth that you can still have fun. 4 5 Any other business we need to take care of? 6 (No response.) 7 MR. DOYLE: We're adjourned. Thank you. 8 (Whereupon, at 11:22 a.m., the meeting was 9 adjourned.)

<u>CERTIFICATE</u>

MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless

LOCATION: Austin, Texas

DATE: April 11, 2017

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 52, 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.

22 23

/s/ Nancy H. King 4/17/2017 (Transcriber) (Date)

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