

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HOMELESS

Park West Ballroom AB
Dallas Omni Hotel Park West
1590 Lyndon B. Johnson Fwy
Dallas, Texas

October 4, 2017
10:05 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair
VALINDA BOLTON
NAOMI CANTU via telephone
BROOKE BOSTON via telephone
FRANCIS GATTIS via telephone
JESSICA HISSAM
KELLY KRAVITZ
TODD NOVAK
DJ BINGLER
CARISSA DOUGHERTY

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

DAVID LONG
ERIC SAMUELS
DENNIS SCHOLL

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

CATE TRACZ

ALSO PRESENT:

MEGAN MOORE
MARILYN BROWN
MATTHEW DOHERTY
ANN HOWARD
BILL HUBBARD
CINDY CRAINE
REBECCA COX
TODD SCHELL

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

STEPHANIE GATES
NIKI KOVAK
MICHAEL LYTTLE
LARRY McDOWELL
BOB PULSTER
MICHAEL WILT
MONA MURO
WALLACE PRENTICE
SHELBY BOONE
JANNIFER KAROL
CLA LOPEZ
TOM GOURIS via telephone
JENNIFER MOLINARI via telephone
MEGAN SYLVESTER via telephone

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. DOYLE: Welcome to our October meeting of
3 the Texas Interagency Council. I am Mike Doyle and I
4 will be chairing the meeting today.

5 I am a representative of the Governor=s
6 Office, and happy to facilitate this. But I want to
7 introduce those that are on the phone, for those of us
8 that are here in person. Mona Muro, are you there?

9 MS. MURO: I am. Yes. Thank you.

10 MR. DOYLE: DJ Bingler. DJ? You there?

11 MS. BINGLER: Yes. I am here. Thank you.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay. She is with TWC. And
13 Frances, are you there?

14 MS. GATTIS: Yes, sir, I am here.

15 MR. DOYLE: TDCJ. And Dennis Scholl. Dennis,
16 are you there?

17 MR. SCHOLL: Yes. I am here.

18 MR. DOYLE: And then from TDHCA, we have
19 Naomi, Tom, Brooke, Jennifer and Megan. Are y=all all
20 there?

21 VOICE: Yes. We are here.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay. With the members present,
23 let me declare that we do have a quorum present. So
24 thank you all for being here.

25 Now, I am going to go around the table so you

1 on the phone can know who is here. So Eric, why don=t
2 you start?

3 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. Eric Samuels. President
4 and CEO of Texas Homeless Network.

5 MS. MOORE: Megan Moore, VISTA program manager
6 at Texas Homeless Network.

7 MR. LYTTLE: Michael Lyttle, TDHCA Chief of
8 External Affairs.

9 MR. HUBBARD: Bill Hubbard with the San
10 Antonio COC.

11 MS. CRAIN: Cindy Crain, Dallas COC.

12 MS. COX: Rebecca Cox, also Dallas COC.

13 MR. NOVAK: Todd Novak. Texas Juvenile
14 Justice Department. I'm a manager of re-entry and parole
15 operations.

16 MR. SHELL: Todd Shell, vice-chair of Texas
17 Homeless Network.

18 MS. GATES: Stephanie Gates, Austin Mayor=s
19 Office.

20 MS. KOVAK: Niki Kovak, ECHO Authority.

21 MS. HOWARD: Ann Howard with ECHO in Austin,
22 Travis County.

23 MS. BROWN: Marilyn Brown. Coalition for the
24 Homeless, Houston, Harris County.

25 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, Texas State

1 Affordable Housing Corporation.

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

4 MS. DOHERTY: Carissa Dougherty, Health and
5 Human Services Commission.

6 MS. HISSAM: Jessica Hissam, Health and Human
7 Services.

8 MR. PRENTISS: Wallace Prentiss, ACH Child and
9 Family Services. Project Hope.

10 MS. BOONE: Shelby Boone, ACH Child and Family
11 Services, Hope case manager.

12 MS. DAY: Dr. Stephanie Day, board of
13 directors, Texas Homeless Network.

14 MS. DAVIS: Laquisha Davis, The Harris Center
15 for Mental Health and IDD.

16 MS. KAROL: Jennifer Karol, the Bridge, North
17 Texas.

18 MS. LOPEZ: Cal Lopez with the Texas Education
19 Agency.

20 MS. KRAVITZ: Kelly Kravitz with the Texas
21 Education Agency. And I am so pleased to announce that
22 Cal Lopez is going to be our new McKinney-Vento State
23 Coordinator. So she is here today. And I am just really
24 excited to have her on board.

25 I am moving to a new role at the agency, where

1 I am director of highly mobile and at-risk student
2 programs. So we are going to be having some intentional
3 focus around all of our most highly mobile, at-risk kids.
4 And then have a full time person to run our state
5 McKinney-Vento efforts at TEA.

6 MS. TRACZ: I am Cate Tracz with Texas
7 Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

8 MR. DOYLE: So welcome, everybody. We are
9 glad to have you here. I want to make a few remarks.
10 First, I want to thank Cate for all her hard work in
11 putting this all together.

12 And our folks from Bedford who are court
13 reporters that are letting us all stay straight at the
14 microphones and everything. Thank you guys for being
15 here.

16 And then all the COC leads. Thank you all for
17 being here. And then everybody else who is interested in
18 the homeless issues, we thank you for being here.

19 I wanted to go over, for those that may not
20 know, or may not have attended a meeting before, a little
21 bit about the TICH -- a little bit about the Interagency
22 Council. It was formed in 1995 by the 74th State of
23 Texas Legislature.

24 And it requires us to coordinate state
25 resources and services to address homelessness. It sits

1 as an Advisory Committee under the Texas Department of
2 Housing and Community Affairs. And we have
3 representatives, eleven representatives from nine state
4 agencies and appointees who comprise the Council. We
5 are charged each year under Code 2306.903(a) to present a
6 report to all these state agency members. And we did
7 that in 2016, and it has been in their hands. It is on
8 the website you all -- the COC leads have gotten copies
9 of that.

10 It highlighted studies that we did through our
11 VISTA program, made possible by a grant from a TWC and
12 Texas Education Agency. We would encourage all your
13 member agencies to help us with this, since we are a non-
14 funded mandate of the Legislature.

15 There are no funds. You can't ask us for
16 grants. There is no money. We just try to coordinate.
17 And Texas Homeless Network does a great job at that, and
18 we have contracted with them to help them do that.

19 But if you have any questions about the
20 veteran homeless report, or the youth and homelessness
21 report, we will turn that over to Naomi later on. But we
22 did both of those this year, again.

23 And I want to give you the nine legislative
24 mandates that we have, that are unfunded. I want to keep
25 saying that. We are to survey current homeless resources

1 in the state at the state agencies. Evaluate. There are
2 nine of them.

3 The second one is, initiate an evaluation of
4 future needs. Three is to assist in coordinating and
5 providing statewide services. Increase the flow of
6 information among providers and appropriate authorities
7 is number four.

8 Number five, develop guidelines to monitor
9 homeless services, and the methods which they are
10 delivered. Number six is provide technical assistance to
11 the Housing Finance Division of the department, assisting
12 the need for housing for those individuals that find
13 themselves homeless.

14 Coordinate with the Texas Workforce Commission
15 to provide homeless individuals information on how to get
16 a job, and job training. Number eight, to establish a
17 central resource and information center for the homeless.

18 And number nine, the Council has the authority
19 to do these duties by other organizations, which we have
20 always used Texas Homeless Network to do that. And we
21 are thankful that we have them.

22 So that being said, let=s get into our agenda.
23 And I need a motion from a member agency representative
24 to approve the agenda from July 11 -- the minutes from
25 July 11.

1 MS. KRAVITZ: Motion to adopt.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Kelly has made the motion
3 to adopt. Is there a second?

4 MR. NOVAK: Second.

5 MR. DOYLE: Second by Todd. All in favor, say
6 aye.

7 (A chorus of ayes.)

8 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

9 (No response.)

10 MR. DOYLE: Those would be passed. Okay.
11 Matthew is not here yet. They are heading here from
12 downtown.

13 So let=s move on to the conversation with
14 continuum of care. Well, let me -- that is going to take
15 most of the time.

16 Let me skip down to number six on the Agenda
17 Item. Report from TDHCA homelessness staff on the status
18 of ESG. Michael, you have got a -- where is Michael?

19 MR. WILT: Right here.

20 MR. DOYLE: You have got an announcement to
21 make, don=t you?

22 MR. WILT: I do. Thank you. We, last
23 meeting, talked about the Ending Homelessness Fund.
24 Which is a resolve of -- I should defer to Mr. Doherty.

25 MR. DOYLE: Let=s let them catch their breath,

1 and make it --

2 MR. WILT: Okay.

3 MR. DOYLE: We will let them talk after.

4 MR. WILT: All right. I will do mine real
5 quick. Ending Homelessness Fund in Texas, which is a
6 resolve of Senator West, helping to pass House Bill 4102.

7 This is a fund that through the Department of
8 Motor Vehicles, folks can donate money. There is
9 several -- if you do vehicle registration, you will
10 notice that there are four other charitable missions or
11 causes that you can give money to. This will be the
12 fifth one.

13 We have finally developed a logo at TDHCA for
14 the funds. I am going to ask you to take one and pass it
15 on. We will be providing this logo and the URL for the
16 website to the Department of Motor Vehicles, as well as
17 some copy we will actually have developed.

18 We will develop a web page for this. And the
19 hope is, based on what the Department of Motor Vehicles
20 says, we will have about a six month lead time from when
21 we provide this information to DMV for them to get it on
22 materials, printed, delivered and in the hands of Texans.

23 So hopefully, if everything works out, we will
24 start to see donations to this fund start to flow in
25 March of this next spring, so basically six months from

1 now. So we are -- that is sort of the big news. We are
2 finally able to crank this out and get it done.

3 MR. DOYLE: So let me clarify. Where does
4 this -- where would this money come from?

5 MR. WILT: This money will come from Texans
6 who are registering their vehicles, when you do vehicle
7 registration. It can be done either online or it can be
8 done locally.

9 So there are two ways the money would flow.
10 If somebody does it locally, through their Tax Assessor-
11 Collector, those funds will be sent into the Comptroller.
12 And TDHCA has developed a working agreement with the
13 Comptroller of the State to have those funds then moved
14 over to this fund.

15 And then the other way, of course, would be if
16 you register your vehicle online. And DMV will have
17 those funds, and then provide them to TDHCA. Also, our
18 program staff, led by Jennifer Molinari and Tom Gouris,
19 who is the Deputy Executive Director, are going to be
20 working on rules on how these funds will be distributed
21 over the next few months.

22 So hopefully everything is in place and locked
23 down by March, so we can get going on this. But no doubt
24 there will be plenty of opportunity for all of you all to
25 provide input on those rules, as TDHCA starts to develop

1 them, very shortly.

2 MR. DOYLE: So locally, we can tell people in
3 our networks, that as you register your car, if you
4 choose Ending Homelessness as a contribution, that money
5 will ultimately go to TDHCA for homeless use.

6 MR. WILT: That is correct, yes, to the Ending
7 Homelessness Fund in Texas.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

9 FEMALE VOICE: And what are the main goals
10 with the funds? For what program? I mean, what is going
11 to be implemented or what is going to be funded as a
12 result of these funds?

13 MR. WILT: Well, I will tell you that so far
14 to date, in the Agency we have talked about a program
15 similar to HHSP, Homeless Housing and Services Program,
16 that would be distributed around the state. But that is
17 something that would be -- provide local communities and
18 local entities with a lot of flexibility to use the funds
19 to serve populations that need it, as they see fit.

20 If you know anything about the HHSP program,
21 you know, we try to be very flexible with that, and allow
22 each of those eight cities to develop their plans
23 accordingly. This would be the same case with this
24 program.

25 I mean, I think the thought was, is -- a lot

1 of local control, as much as we can. A lot of local
2 flexibility, probably maybe set some benchmarks. But
3 beyond that, I don=t think we have had any substantive
4 comment, unless someone from the home office wants to
5 weigh in.

6 MR. DOYLE: So would --

7 MS. BOSTON: This is Brooke.

8 MR. DOYLE: Hi, Brooke.

9 MS. BOSTON: Hi. I would just add, that I
10 think until we see the amount we are talking about, and
11 how quickly or slowly that aggregates, it will be really
12 hard to know whether that is the kind of thing that you
13 could divvy up that way.

14 So I think to some extent, in the beginning,
15 it is going to be a little bit of a wait and see. And
16 then once we see amounts, we can have a better sense of
17 you know, what a good policy would be.

18 Because I think as we all know, when you take
19 a small pot of money, and divide it up, it can be almost
20 unhelpful. So I think we would be looking at that as
21 well.

22 MS. KRAVITZ: And what would be the best way
23 for folks that would want to weigh in? Or, I would love
24 to see youth, right, be represented, and supported with
25 the funds -- children and youth who are experiencing

1 homelessness.

2 So for us, for TEA, to be able to provide that
3 feedback. Would there be opportunity around the rules,
4 or the framework. Or, I mean, how do folks weigh in on
5 that?

6 MR. DOYLE: Brooke, you want to take that?
7 Mike?

8 MALE VOICE: It sounds like that's still be
9 determined, right?

10 MR. WILT: Yes. Yes. I mean --

11 MR. DOYLE: This is in its infancy.

12 MR. WILT: -- we are still working that out to
13 be honest with you.

14 FEMALE VOICE: Okay.

15 MR. SAMUELS: I have a few questions. Sorry.

16 MR. DOYLE: Eric, you go first.

17 MR. SAMUELS: So -- I should have raised my
18 hand. Advertising -- will the Agency be advertising
19 this? Or is that -- and earlier, you said, people are
20 just able to contribute through the electronic renewal
21 registration. Right?

22 It is not -- I thought that maybe you had
23 said that, but I am not sure.

24 MR. WILT: Yes. And Eric, you know, we are a
25 state agency. So we don=t advertise.

1 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

2 MR. WILT: We raise awareness in this state
3 agency.

4 FEMALE VOICE: We can.

5 MR. WILT: So we will be raising awareness
6 through the funds that we currently have, and the
7 communication venues that we have, definitely. But we
8 will no doubt welcome partnerships with all of you all,
9 to get the word out as best as we can.

10 MR. SAMUELS: We will educate.

11 MR. WILT: Yes. Let=s do that.

12 MR. DOYLE: Marilyn.

13 MS. BROWN: So I have -- I mean, you may not
14 know. But based on the other three funds that are
15 already up and running, do we have a guesstimate of like,
16 what ultimately, when the word is out, these other funds
17 raise?

18 So, you know, are we talking \$100 or \$100,000?
19 Just from what the other three do?

20 MR. WILT: I have an anecdotal sort of thought
21 on that, that I remember when we developed the fiscal
22 note for this bill, what we looked at. Brooke, are you
23 still on the line?

24 MS. BOSTON: I am. But I don=t know the
25 answer to that question.

1 MR. WILT: I want to say it was like several
2 million dollars.

3 MS. BROWN: Wow. Okay.

4 MR. WILT: Cate may know.

5 MS. TRACZ: Yes. This is Cate Tracz. I
6 actually helped work on the fiscal note. There are seven
7 funds currently out there.

8 There is a wildlife fund. There is Special
9 Olympics. There are several things, you know. You can
10 donate to whatever you like.

11 I think the first year, the Special Olympics
12 was only \$18,000. And then it was \$50,000. But then
13 there are some larger funds that they get, you know,
14 millions a year.

15 MS. BROWN: Right.

16 MS. TRACZ: So we don=t know.

17 MS. BROWN: But we at least know a history and
18 a potential trend. And so my next question is, is there
19 any way to track, because it is electronically, what zip
20 code, or what area the money is coming from, so you could
21 trace it back to the various COCs? And that would help
22 us provide better awareness and education.

23 MR. WILT: I don=t know.

24 MR. SCHOLL: Mr. Chairman --

25 MR. WILT: Unless someone -- I was going to

1 say, I will certainly mark it down, if we can=t do it
2 already, and take it back to the office to talk to the
3 Comptroller people about it, and our people about it.

4 MR. DOYLE: Dennis, was that you?

5 MR. SCHOLL: Mr. Chairman.

6 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

7 MR. SCHOLL: This is Dr. Scholl. I just want
8 to suggest that maybe a motion from someone who votes
9 that the TDHCA in coordination with TICH develop an
10 outline of the proposed process for your next meeting,
11 for utilization of the funds in the future. That might
12 move your agenda along.

13 MR. DOYLE: Well, it is so new, that we don=t
14 know much about it. But I would just -- I don=t think we
15 need a motion. But I think it would be a request.

16 MR. WILT: It can be part of the report. Yes.

17 MR. DOYLE: If you could report back on that
18 in January, that would be marvelous.

19 MR. WILT: You bet.

20 MR. DOYLE: Because it is still not going to
21 be up until March at best. So we are looking at the
22 summer, probably, realistically, before our contributions
23 are beginning to flow in.

24 But that is a good suggestion, Dennis. Mike,
25 I would ask that TDHCA give us a report on that next

1 time.

2 MR. WILT: Yes, sir.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thanks for that. That is
4 great and it is encouraging. Now, then I wanted to go
5 back up to number four.

6 MS. TRACZ: We do have some more things from
7 the ESG.

8 MR. DOYLE: Oh, is there more ESG stuff?
9 Michael? Or Brooke?

10 MS. CANTU: I can help provide that Michael,
11 if you would prefer. This is Naomi Cantu.

12 MR. DOYLE: Do you want to do your ESG report
13 now, Naomi? Or do you want to get a report from the U.S.
14 Interagency Council and then come back to you?

15 MS. CANTU: Either one. Whatever would be
16 better for you.

17 MR. DOYLE: Either way fine with y'all? Well,
18 let=s just continue with the ESG report. And then we
19 will go back to U.S. Interagency Council. Go ahead,
20 Naomi.

21 MS. CANTU: Okay, great. Thank you. So we
22 are taking the Emergency Solutions Grant, 2017-2018
23 awards, to our Texas Department of Housing and Community
24 Affairs Board meeting on Thursday, October 12th. We are
25 still finalizing the list of how much is being awarded to

1 each agency, and which agencies are awarded.

2 I can give you an overview of the application
3 process. We had eleven continuum of care in Texas be
4 divided up funds or ESG to the state. Among those eleven
5 COCs, four of which had local competitions run by the COC
6 lead agency, and that would be Dallas, Tarrant County, El
7 Paso and Houston.

8 Those remaining seven continuum of care
9 regions were run by the Texas Department of Housing and
10 Community Affairs. And we received -- let me pull that
11 out. We received a total of 25 applications, and we are
12 working to figure out who we are still going to be able
13 to award.

14 But we received 25 applications. The local
15 competitions received 30 applications total. So that is
16 55 applications.

17 We received a funding request among all of the
18 regions, including local competitions, of over \$18.8
19 million, and we have \$8.1 million to award. So you can
20 see that we received far more than twice as many requests
21 as we are able to award. Once the awards go into place,
22 we are working to get the contracts to start in November.
23 There was a later allocation this year from HUD.

24 And so we have several of the 2016 contracts
25 that have been extended to make up for that gap for 2016

1 contracts, originally ending August 31st, so many of
2 those projects were extended. And the new contracts for
3 >17, we anticipate starting in November.

4 Are there any questions?

5 MR. DOYLE: Do all the COC leads know what
6 this is? Okay. So then the ones that didn=t apply, I
7 guess, decided not to. They were getting it done
8 properly before. Is that right, Brooke? Four only --
9 four, didn't -- how many COCs applied, Brooke?

10 MALE VOICE: Those four were doing the
11 competition themselves.

12 FEMALE VOICE: I thought she said eleven.

13 MS. CANTU: So we have still got applications
14 from almost every COC region. The only two regions we
15 didn=t receive applications from were Wichita Falls and
16 Bryan/College Station.

17 When I say local competition, that is
18 optional. That is for the local -- for the COC leads to
19 run a competition on behalf of TDHCA. But we still
20 receive applications directly through the Department for
21 the other COC regions. And we advertise them directly to
22 the organization that would apply for ESG funding.

23 MR. DOYLE: Great. Any other questions for
24 Naomi?

25 FEMALE VOICE: Mike, may I? I missed what she

1 said the deadline was, for where she is taking it to
2 somebody. So when will we know?

3 MR. DOYLE: When will you know, Naomi, who the
4 awards are going to?

5 MS. CANTU: The awards are going to our Board
6 on October 12.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Okay. That is good.

8 MS. CANTU: We do anticipate posting the Board
9 book this Thursday. So that is tomorrow. And that
10 should have the awards in it. It will have the awards in
11 it.

12 FEMALE VOICE: Great. Thank you.

13 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Naomi.

14 MS. CANTU: Thank you.

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Now, let=s move back up to
16 Item 4, Matthew Doherty with the U.S. Interagency
17 Council. And he has got Bob Pulster with him, as well.
18 So Matthew, fill us in.

19 MR. DOHERTY: Great. And I really apologize
20 for running late, and I appreciate you scrambling your
21 agenda to accommodate. So really glad to be here with
22 you all.

23 This is actually my second time in Texas in
24 the last four weeks. And to work with you all here more
25 closely, Bob Pulster, our legal coordinator, who many of

1 you know him already. He has spent more time on the
2 ground here in Texas, and connects with folks here in the
3 state, virtually from his home office on a weekly basis.

4 So we are really excited with the
5 opportunities to continue to find ways to further support
6 your work here, think through how the federal, state, and
7 local partnerships can be even stronger to drive even
8 more progress towards ending homelessness.

9 So a lot of great work happening across the
10 State of Texas. A lot of work that we highlight to share
11 with other states, and set the example. I don't know if
12 I'll share my luncheon remarks, but I will highlight a
13 few of the things that I know are especially cool about
14 the work that is happening in Texas.

15 But I also know that you all are probably
16 thinking about Hurricane Harvey and the aftermath of that
17 on a daily basis, every minute for some of you. I know
18 you are deep in that work. So I really appreciate the
19 time and dedication and effort to respond to that crisis.

20 We may be having some conversations later to
21 see if there is ways that USICH can help address what
22 comes next, and you all recover from that disaster. So
23 we really appreciate the tremendous effort, and the
24 example that you set to the nation of how to respond to a
25 catastrophe. It is really impressive.

1 I thought I would just give a quick update on
2 where we stand as a Council, and some of the work that we
3 have underway. And some of the work that we are
4 prioritizing as we move forward.

5 And so as an Agency, we were not in the
6 President=s budget, we were not in the House budget, but
7 we are in the Senate budget. So we are covered during
8 the continuing resolution period.

9 We are expecting that the Senate position will
10 prevail and we'll be in the final budget for this fiscal
11 year. And looking to see whether we get another
12 extension to our Sunset date.

13 We got an extension through the May budget
14 resolution that funds, or allows us to exist through
15 October 1, 2018. So we're backing that, we will be okay.
16 We have about twelve months.

17 But we are hoping that the final budget for
18 fiscal year >18 will provide at least another one year
19 extension, if not an alternate extension. The Senate
20 Bill would lift our Sunset altogether. I expect that
21 that will be one of the negotiation points that may
22 compromise on the length of the extension by a group of
23 friends. So we are hoping that we will be in this work
24 for more than just twelve months with you all, and able
25 to continue to help partner and support the work you are

1 doing here.

2 As a Council, as most of you are probably
3 aware, we bring together 19 member agencies, agencies
4 that have critical roles to play in addressing and ending
5 homelessness on Labor, VA, Education, Health and Human
6 Services, Justice, all of the way down to the Post
7 Office. That council is expected to convene on a
8 quarterly basis. Where we are right now is still
9 identifying the representation from our member agencies
10 to that council. And we have two members identified so
11 far.

12 We are hoping that that is going to start
13 opening the floodgates, and we will start to get the
14 other agencies to designate who their representative will
15 be. We have been trying to hold meetings over the course
16 of this year, but haven=t been able to get membership
17 together.

18 So we are hoping that we will have a meeting
19 in December and be well in place for all of 2018 to get
20 back on a regular schedule. But in the meantime, we have
21 kept all of our other structures in place.

22 So we have what we call a Council policy
23 group, which is senior staff from across all those 19
24 agencies. Typically they meet about a month before the
25 Council -- we met with them every quarter this year.

1 Continuing to engage their agencies in the work, and
2 understand the priorities that are emerging from their
3 agencies that have implications for the work on
4 homelessness.

5 We also have interagency working groups on
6 youth, on veterans, on families, on chronic homelessness,
7 on the intersection of opioids and homelessness, on the
8 Alaskan and Native American Indian homelessness. We will
9 be keeping all of those structures in place.

10 Before the end of the last administration, we
11 identified career staff who would be engaged in those
12 working groups. And then as more people come into the
13 new seats within the agencies, we are starting to
14 integrate them into those working groups.

15 And those have just continued to work on the
16 areas that we prioritized together, continuing to develop
17 the materials to get information out to the field. So it
18 doesn't feel to me -- and you can weigh in on this, but
19 it doesn't feel to me like we have lost much momentum
20 around the shared guidance and support to communities and
21 states.

22 I'll try to continue to get that information
23 out, knowing that one of the key roles that federal
24 agencies play is to support you all to do your best work
25 rather than to do the work directly ourselves. So I

1 continue to -- we'll continue to try to keep those
2 structures moving forward. And then over time, adapt
3 priorities that can better understand, the priorities of
4 the leadership within the agencies that will bring us to
5 our goals.

6 I am saying right now, as you probably can
7 even assess through the media, there is a lot of vacant
8 seats. There is a lot of holes that have to be filled.

9 There are many of the cases the Secretary has
10 a small team of staff around him or her, less points of
11 access for us. More seats that need to get filled before
12 we really can start to develop the more dynamic
13 relationships that we typically have with the agencies.
14 Seeing more of those seats getting filled, and more
15 opportunities to start engagement.

16 A key priority for us is also moving forward
17 on revising and strengthening the federal strategic
18 plans. Opening Doors has been the driving document for
19 the federal work since 2010.

20 We are in the process of getting stakeholder
21 input on what should be prioritized, what needs to be
22 strengthened about that plan. I am holding a session
23 here at the conference to get input on that with the goal
24 of moving that through our working group processes, our
25 Council processes.

1 And our target is to try to have a
2 revised --do whatever the administration wants to do in
3 terms of the plan issued by the middle of 2018. So that
4 is what we are aiming for. I am hoping that we=ll have a
5 lot of dialogue and opportunity.

6 I'll try to get a little closer to that.
7 Okay. I also want to quickly highlight some of the
8 things that we are expecting to emphasize within that
9 work and how we are trying to align what we know our
10 priorities at the local level, to identify ways that the
11 federal plan can address those priorities more strongly,
12 including increasing the supply of affordable and
13 supportive housing. Seeing that as the key challenge
14 that communities are facing, is how do we find enough
15 housing opportunities to scale up our response, to really
16 meet the scale of the needs that we see in communities.

17 We want to do a lot more work to try to
18 connect employment services and supports to the
19 homelessness interventions, so that we really can put
20 people on a path to success and stability. And to link
21 up the mainstream workforce systems with the
22 interventions being provided through continuums of care,
23 to put people on a better path, and a greater chance for
24 self sufficiency and stability in the housing that they
25 access.

1 Still a big focus on improving our use of
2 data, and how do we measure performance and hold
3 ourselves accountable to performance and outcomes and
4 cost effectiveness. But also trying to do a better job
5 of using all of the different sources of data that we
6 have around homelessness and housing needs to paint the
7 fullest picture of not just homelessness, but housing
8 instability, housing needs. Challenges that need to be
9 addressed by systems and agencies beyond the continuums
10 of care, beyond just the homelessness response itself.

11 Still a lot of bipartisan interest around
12 criminal justice reform. So we think there is still
13 opportunities to focus on strengthening reentry practices
14 and policies.

15 Still feeling like housing has never been as
16 centered within our reentry strategies as it needs to be
17 in order to really provide that opportunity for stability
18 for folks as they return. And to address public safety
19 issues and reduce recidivism. So hoping that there will
20 be opportunities to really highlight the critical role
21 that housing needs to play if we are going to have
22 effective reentry strategies.

23 A big focus for us is also trying to make sure
24 that the practices and strategies that are working, and
25 that Texas is helping us demonstrate what is successful,

1 that that can happen in every community across the
2 country. And especially wanting to delve more deeply
3 into the unique challenges that rural communities and
4 rural areas face, try to implement the best practices,
5 given very different environments for resources, for
6 infrastructure, for housing supply, for transportation.
7 All of the things that are different about rural
8 communities. And how do we implement these strategies
9 successfully in those communities.

10 Bob and the national initiatives team, and
11 members of our policy team brought together about 18
12 rural communities, including the Texas balance of state
13 continuum -- I think that was just last week in Boise.
14 To help share practices with one another, but especially
15 to help identify what do those communities need to see
16 from federal agencies and federal programs in order to be
17 able to make more progress. So that is a key area of
18 focus for us.

19 As we think about the federal strategic plan,
20 it has always been called the Plan to Prevent and End
21 Homelessness, but it doesn't have a very strong focus on
22 prevention currently. We really want to highlight the
23 importance of prevention.

24 But also provide a framework for how to think
25 about prevention as beyond just the short term financial

1 interventions. When people are experiencing a crisis,
2 the prevention needs to be about much more than that.

3 It needs to be about reducing the prevalence
4 of risk of housing crises in our communities, which is
5 about affordable housing in all housing supplies. About
6 economic opportunities and employment opportunities.

7 It is about family strengthening activities.
8 It is all of the things that, again, are well beyond the
9 homeless services system, but require in all of
10 government and all of community kind of response to
11 create environments in which fewer housing crises are
12 occurring.

13 Secondly, focusing on when people are engaged
14 with systems, or exiting other systems, how do we reduce
15 the likelihood that that engagement, that exit leads to
16 housing instability. So the justice system, the child
17 welfare system, the foster care system, a variety of
18 other systems that people interact with -- can we more
19 fully engage those systems to be thinking about housing
20 stability issues as a core responsibility for how they
21 address the needs of the people that they are serving, so
22 that people don't experience crises and have to turn to
23 homelessness services systems for their interventions.

24 And then how do we get better at targeting
25 interventions for people who are experiencing crises that

1 might result in homelessness. I am still feeling like we
2 have a lot of work to do to develop the best practices,
3 and how to identify which families are most at risk, or
4 individuals, so that we target that assistance
5 effectively and really have the high impact that we ought
6 to have with those resources.

7 We also really recognize that many communities
8 are struggling with unsheltered homelessness, and trying
9 to implement the best and strongest practices for
10 providing people with a safe place to be. But needing to
11 also rethink the role of emergency shelter as being more
12 than just a safe place to be overnight. But really
13 needing to be a platform for people to be able to get the
14 services and assistance they need to exit homelessness.
15 And how do we support our shelter providers to transform
16 the role that they are playing within the current system
17 in order to be a part of that engine for ending
18 homelessness.

19 And then finally, I just want to highlight
20 that we are especially trying to be attentive to the
21 issues of racial inequities in the experience of
22 homelessness. We are really seeing that as a core
23 element of the need to focus on prevention.

24 The inequities that you see in the
25 homelessness services system are a result of the

1 inequities across our society and across our systems.
2 And the better that we can address the causes of
3 homelessness, the more that we can start to turn the tide
4 on the inequities that we see in the experience of
5 homelessness.

6 But seeing that need to be really a core
7 element of how we think about the challenges of
8 homelessness and how to resolve and end homelessness in
9 our communities. That we can't do it without being
10 attentive to racial inequities, inequities for LGBT
11 youth, other populations that experience homelessness
12 disproportionately, that we need to be really focused on.

13 Not just being competent at addressing their
14 needs, but also really trying to turn the tide and change
15 that representation over time. So that we are hoping it
16 is going to be a key element of the work that we are
17 either doing -- I mean, in that case, I am not sure how
18 much of that we will be able to get expressed through the
19 federal plan. But through our other vehicles and other
20 strategies, that is going to be a core central element of
21 our work moving forward.

22 Just recently launched a series of articles
23 focused on those issues. Looking for examples to
24 highlight across the country. I am not expecting that
25 communities have figured this all out, but just

1 communities that are engaged in this dialogue, or
2 wrestling with these issues to serve as examples for
3 other communities who aren't yet even engaged in that
4 dialogue or discussion yet. So I'm hoping that we'll be
5 able to highlight that conversation a little more
6 strongly, and foster that conversation across the
7 country.

8 A lot other things we are focused on,
9 obviously, but I don't want to take too much of your time
10 on the agenda today. And then especially looking forward
11 to the session later today, where we can hear input from
12 your neighbors about what they think the federal
13 strategic plan needs to reflect as we move into this next
14 stage of our efforts to prevent homelessness.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. And where are those
16 articles available at, that you mentioned?

17 MR. DOHERTY: Sure.

18 FEMALE VOICE: Is it on the website, or where
19 do you get those --

20 MR. DOHERTY: Sure. So if anyone in the room
21 doesn't get our newsletter, you should get our
22 newsletter. We send it out every other week.

23 FEMALE VOICE: Okay.

24 MR. DOHERTY: We have a really annoying
25 system, that if you go to our website before you leave, a

1 box will pop up and say, don=t you want to sign up for
2 our newsletter. It will do that even if you are already
3 signed up for our newsletter. So it is very easy to sign
4 up.

5 FEMALE VOICE: Okay.

6 MR. DOHERTY: And we post a lot of blogs and
7 articles. But then we capture those, all of that in a
8 newsletter that we send out twice a month.

9 FEMALE VOICE: Great. Thanks so much.

10 MR. DOHERTY: And then, we have a lot of other
11 tools and resources on our website at usich.gov.

12 FEMALE VOICE: Great. Great.

13 MR. DOYLE: Any other questions? Comments?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. DOYLE: Are you getting any solid lines
16 trying to connect housing and recidivism to the
17 Department of Justice? Is there anything that we can
18 point to that says that housing, adequate housing, or
19 housing assistance keeps recidivism rates down?

20 Because I think that is the next round of
21 homelessness that we are going to see, at least in Texas,
22 as more and more prisons are closed. The difficulty in
23 an economy as good as most of our economies are, where
24 occupancy rates for apartments are above 98 percent in
25 Tarrant County.

1 MR. DOHERTY: Yes.

2 MR. DOYLE: How in the fact that a felon can
3 get housing. Is there a connection between prevention
4 and the lack of housing that you can draw with Justice?

5 MR. DOHERTY: Yes. So I think there is data
6 that helps support the impact of housing stability on
7 reducing recidivism. But I can't answer yet as to what
8 extent is this Department of Justice focused on those
9 issues, and how are they thinking about reentry rates.

10 It is one of the departments that we haven't
11 yet had as many opportunities to engage with and
12 understand the priorities that they are focused on.
13 There still exists a federal interagency reentry council,
14 which has been a vehicle for getting myth-buster
15 materials out there, putting out a reentry road map.

16 I think in 2016, it focused on a lot of these
17 intersections. But I would say, even within that work,
18 housing was always kind of a secondary thought as a
19 service that needed to be provided as a part of reentry
20 services, rather than really being seen as essential for
21 people's stability, and their ability to access the other
22 services and achieve the other outcomes.

23 So I think there is a lot more work to be
24 done, to make sure there is that recognition. That
25 housing has to be the platform from which people can

1 pursue their other goals.

2 MR. DOYLE: And I will give you an example in
3 Tarrant County. This is certainly not a publishable best
4 practice.

5 But we wanted to find out if there was any
6 kind of direct correlation in a county whose recidivism
7 population of three different segments -- those released,
8 those who did their time in state jail, and those
9 paroled -- was about 35 percent in Tarrant County. There
10 is 5,247 inmates that came back.

11 We asked the county to provide a little bit of
12 a down payment -- or not a down payment, the first months
13 rent, utility deposits, security deposits. They used to
14 do it for ex offenders, if they were -- had been employed
15 for three months. We asked them to do it in conjunction
16 with the workforce system, if they had a job offer and
17 they had accepted a job offer.

18 We just did 20 men and women who had felony
19 convictions. This is a short study of only 20 people
20 over a period of a year and there was a zero recidivism
21 rate, and they were in housing.

22 MR. DOHERTY: Okay. Yes. And so I do think
23 we see community level data that demonstrates that
24 intersection and the ability to support other outcomes.
25 We see a lot of programs I know the communities of Texas

1 are pursuing.

2 We could use your initiatives. Cycle through
3 criminal justice settings, health care settings, often
4 times cycling through all of those settings, and
5 demonstrating the cost effectiveness of intervening and
6 preventing that cycle, and also the stronger outcomes of
7 the initiative.

8 FEMALE VOICE: I wonder if this group could
9 consider like writing a letter to Senator Cornyn about
10 this issue? Because I heard -- I don=t remember who told
11 me, but that he said out loud, we need to work on you
12 know, rules around felons, jobs and housing, you know.

13 I can=t remember if he was at a prison or
14 where. But he made the comments, that you know, we lock
15 them up, and then they can=t get jobs and housing.

16 And so because we know it is true, that it is
17 difficult, and it creates homelessness, and the cost of
18 that cycling in and out of criminal justice systems, that
19 you know, maybe this is an opportune time to try to work
20 with him to do something about this.

21 MR. DOYLE: I can only tell you, not as part
22 of the Interagency Council, but as part of a consortium
23 in Tarrant County, trying to do a pay-for-success model
24 around recidivism and the cost of it in Tarrant County,
25 he is -- we have met with his office last week, because

1 he is sympathetic.

2 And Senator Konni Burton, who is in Tarrant
3 County, is on the Criminal Justice Committee at the
4 Senate at Texas, she is pushing this for us, to make
5 legislation available in the next session to make some
6 limits on felony convictions and when they can be sealed.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Well, and in Austin, we have a
8 HUD DOJ grant to do the pay-for-success initiative for
9 permanent supportive housing. And we made a bunch of
10 headway in the last couple of weeks, thanks to Mayor
11 Adler and teammates. And so you know, we could probably
12 show it, this happening in interest across the state.

13 MR. DOYLE: I am not going to -- I don=t want
14 to even make this a blank statement. But at least, in
15 some of the counties that I have been in, it seems like,
16 if you will, the hot topic is reentry anymore, when it
17 used to be homelessness.

18 But as you see the numbers, with homelessness
19 going down, they are refocusing with that funding and
20 interest on measurable cost of recidivism and the
21 reduction that it causes. I mean, the 10 percent
22 reduction in Tarrant County has been estimated to save
23 the county \$600,000 on just our population.

24 So just this reinvestment of helping with
25 housing and those kinds of things is an important

1 initiative. So good point.

2 And I think that locally, we will push that
3 initiative as well. And maybe we should visit about how
4 you are doing it down there, and what it is like.

5 FEMALE VOICE: Well, and can this Council, you
6 know, do some advocacy as a council? I don=t know what
7 you all=s role is exactly around that.

8 MALE VOICE: So if this council can=t do it,
9 we know of other groups, like the Texas Criminal Justice
10 Coalition that would certainly be in favor of doing
11 something like this with the continuums of care.

12 MR. DOYLE: But I have always purported that
13 the next influx of homelessness is going to come from the
14 prison system.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Well, it already is. We are
16 not waiting for the next influx. Every day --

17 MR. DOYLE: We are not. It is out there.

18 FEMALE VOICE: it is happening.

19 MR. DOYLE: It is out there.

20 FEMALE VOICE: The economy being what it is,
21 and the housing rates being what it is, basically we are
22 creating homelessness because people are reentering.
23 That is exactly what it is.

24 A 98 percent occupancy rate in Austin, we have
25 a 3 percent unemployment rate. Those are people

1 reentering. Those are the reentering citizens.

2 MR. DOYLE: Yes. So yes. We can advocate.
3 And I think you had something locally. But this council
4 can advocate that we get all those things together as a
5 council and make a blanket statement, once we have enough
6 data from Austin and Houston and COC areas, that that is
7 homelessness prevention. You would know, as far as I
8 remember, the COCs don=t do prevention, but this does.

9 MR. SAMUELS: Well, COC funding may not do
10 that. But the continuums of care should be working on
11 that, and if they have the support of the state agencies
12 on that, it would only strengthen that task. So yes. If
13 the Interagency Council could get behind that, that would
14 be great.

15 MR. DOYLE: I don=t see why we couldn=t. I
16 mean, it is, in my mind, directly tied to homelessness.
17 Okay. Any other comments or questions?

18 MR. DOHERTY: Just one thing that Bob reminded
19 me I was supposed to mention is, another one of the
20 structures that we have kept in place and have been
21 trying to strengthen is the federal regional Interagency
22 Council on homelessness. For each of the ten federal
23 regions. So you're federal region 6.

24 We just came from that meeting this morning.
25 They are very much forming stronger partnerships across

1 the federal agencies at the regional level and looking
2 forward to opportunities to partner more closely with
3 state agencies and state councils, like yourselves, to
4 identify ways that they can support that work.

5 So I think that is just another great
6 opportunity that Texas has to partner with the folks in
7 Region 6 who are putting that council together and
8 developing strategies for family homelessness and other
9 populations that, again, the federal, state and local
10 partnerships have to be at the center of how we are doing
11 this work, rather than levels of government working
12 inside.

13 MS. BROWN: I am so glad you said that.
14 Because I get these emails from these federal ICH people.
15 I have no idea what that is.

16 Could you tell me a little bit more, like in
17 the structure, who all is in that. And as a local COC,
18 what we are, or aren't supposed to be doing? I really am
19 so glad you said that.

20 MR. PULSTER: Well, first of all we have Larry
21 McDowell here, who is one of the key drivers of the --

22 MS. BROWN: So happy to meet you. I am from
23 Houston.

24 MR. PULSTER: Larry, do you want to say a few
25 words, then I can fill in the gaps, if you'd like.

1 MR. MCDOWELL: Well, I think that it was
2 pretty well summarized. We are Region 6 Interagency
3 Council on Homelessness.

4 We basically patterned ourselves taking a look
5 at kind of getting in sync with plans in the federal U.S.
6 Interagency Council, looking for priorities. And we are
7 taking a look at learning more about what is going on in
8 states and local areas, in terms of your plans and
9 various populations of homelessness.

10 MS. BROWN: And what is included in Region 6?

11 MR. MCDOWELL: We have basically the same
12 federal agencies that are --

13 MS. BROWN: I mean, geography. Texas.

14 MR. MCDOWELL: Okay. It is Texas, Louisiana,
15 Arkansas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

16 MS. BROWN: Wow. Okay.

17 MR. DOYLE: So it is basically HUD=s region?

18 MR. DOHERTY: It is the federal regions that
19 mirror HUD and HHS primarily.

20 MS. BROWN: Okay.

21 MR. DOHERTY: So there was a meeting this
22 morning, and very well represented on -- the HHS regional
23 director was there. We had partner Labor in the room,
24 Social Security Administration; HRSA, Health Resources
25 Services Administration. So I think for folks, as you

1 might look to USICH to be a resource, to make some
2 connections, and to me these are our partners locally
3 that can help do that as well.

4 So for example, if you are working in youth
5 homelessness, and you want to do some work with a runaway
6 homeless youth expert at the Administration for Children
7 and Families, Larry and myself could help you connect
8 with a federal partner who manages all the runaway
9 homeless youth contracts of Region 6. So they have got
10 connections, resources, opportunities to convene, do all
11 sorts of things like that.

12 If you are working on family homelessness,
13 LaKesha Pope, who is the ACF Regional Administrator, has
14 gone to New Orleans, and met with Unity and helped to
15 engage their child welfare agencies as well as their
16 foster care agencies, working on youth homelessness. So
17 it is a way to connect the dots between federal, state
18 and community.

19 You know, we are working it out as we go, you
20 know. We are trying to respond to what states want help
21 with, and what you all want help with. And then
22 connecting the dots, so when we are at a table with
23 federal, state and local partners, it is a great
24 conversation, because you have got everyone represented.

25 Folks have tremendous resources to bring to

1 the table. And in addition to that, some federal
2 regional councils have been able to bring philanthropic
3 partners to the table, and also academic partners to the
4 table, and that is helpful for everyone to see.

5 A local foundation is willing to pay for some
6 convening space. An academic institution wants to put
7 some research -- the weight of their public policy
8 institute behind a particular issue as they are doing in
9 Kansas City, Missouri, at the Cookingham Institute, with
10 the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

11 In Boston, Liberty Mutual has put their
12 resources on the table to try to regress these
13 policies -- these kind of -- these relationships have
14 kind of evolved out of the work of the federal regional
15 council.

16 MS. BROWN: And so physically, most of the
17 people are located in Dallas? Okay.

18 MR. MCDOWELL: Well, yes. We have the
19 meetings. And there are people from the Dallas area. We
20 have conference calls. So we have representation from
21 the various agencies in the five states.

22 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

23 MR. SAMUELS: I have a question. So today,
24 when you were speaking with the group, did the issue of
25 coordination between federal agencies and state and local

1 agencies, in terms of disaster recovery, come up?

2 I don=t want to get too far off on a tangent
3 on that. But I am hoping that did get brought up.

4 MR. DOHERTY: It was touched upon. We
5 didn=t --

6 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. Because it is apparent
7 that there is -- there is a pretty big lack of
8 coordination there, and that crisis response system, I
9 think, can be improved through working with the local
10 communities and state.

11 MR. DOYLE: Around housing and the homeless?

12 MR. SAMUELS: Right. Those that were pre-
13 disaster homeless, or became homeless because of their
14 precariously housed position after the hurricane.

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. DOYLE: All right. I want to continue to
18 skip over the continuum of care conversation, because I
19 know it is going to take up the preponderance of our
20 time, and go quickly to Brooke, who is going to fill us
21 in on the performance data committee that we formed a
22 couple of meetings ago. Ms. Boston.

23 MS. BOSTON: Okay. Yes. Hi, everyone. This
24 is Brooke Boston. Can you hear me?

25 MR. DOYLE: We can.

1 MS. BOSTON: Okay. Great. So without
2 repeating what was covered last time by Cate, who spoke
3 on my behalf, I will just update you for what has been
4 going on since then.

5 As you will recall, we left off with three
6 agencies, for which we worked up a set of questions after
7 reviewing their performance measures. Those were
8 Veteran=s Commission, TEA and TDCJ.

9 We have done one session over the questions
10 with TDCJ. And I am going to thank Frances in advance
11 for so much. Frances, you did such a great job of
12 talking that through with us, and you were patient, full
13 of great information.

14 So I will tell you guys a little bit about
15 kind of the type of information that we talked about.
16 So, as I said, we looked through all of TDCJ's
17 performance measures, and then come up with a list of
18 questions.

19 Anything from, like, do you have any measures
20 for which beneficiaries are known to include the
21 homeless, but that homeless aren=t specifically named.
22 Do you have any parole or probation population that
23 experience homelessness, and is that tracked.

24 Are the number of residential facility beds
25 and the diversion program considered to help people keep

1 people out of homelessness. Is there anything relating
2 to residential pre-parole facilities that correlates with
3 reducing homelessness.

4 How do the halfway house facilities tie in
5 with homelessness? And then relating to kind of parole
6 and reentry we just talked about, you know, are there
7 issues from some of the reports for which referrals that
8 are given by parole officers that those might have
9 referrals in which the client is interested in housing
10 because of homelessness.

11 And in spite a lot of your questions, while we
12 felt like they were great questions, we have really kind
13 of, like, two big takeaways that we got from this one.
14 Which is, because a person can't exit into a parole
15 status without a housing-approved address, there is no
16 data or measure that that isn't happening, because it
17 kind of can't happen.

18 So you would never see a person enter into
19 parole status into homelessness. And when we discussed
20 whether data might arrive from when a parolee, let's say,
21 is evicted, and then they go to their parole officer to
22 discuss housing options. That is not really considered a
23 homelessness issue either, because the parole officer has
24 to help them find a solution. Even if that is them going
25 potentially to one of the secondary facilities that they

1 provide.

2 So while anecdotally, you know, we may hear or
3 believe that that is happening, it is definitely not
4 something for which there is a performance measure or
5 data that would capture that, because it technically
6 doesn't -- well, as a formality, it doesn't happen.

7 We also learned that probation, which could be
8 where you might get a lot of additional information on
9 individuals facing homelessness, is managed entirely at
10 the county level, both locally and independently. And so
11 that information or whatever would be reported up to the
12 state, if it is gathered at all.

13 So for the Criminal Justice stuff, and this
14 ties in interestingly, Mike, with what you were talking
15 about, in spite of a lot of good information and TDCJ
16 doing you know, a lot of great work and having a lot of
17 really, you know, deep measures. None of those were
18 things we felt like you could somehow pull into the
19 homeless report of measures and say, while indirect, this
20 measure under TDCJ=s performance measures could be seen
21 as touching homelessness in the following way.

22 I don't think -- and that is kind of our goal,
23 was to slog through these for each agency, and try and
24 find, you know, several, or at least one or two, measures
25 within each agency, that we feel like touch on or relate

1 to homelessness enough that if we tie those into a report
2 from the TICH, it would show ways that across all of
3 these agencies, we are capturing some information about
4 homelessness. Homeless individuals being assisted, even
5 if it is indirectly.

6 And so, while I don=t think that the TDCJ
7 question got us there, I am hopeful, you know, I didn=t
8 necessarily expect that would be the one where there is
9 the most overlap. So I think the next two that we are
10 going to do are TDC and TEA, and through absolutely no
11 fault of TDC or TEA, we haven=t gotten those set up yet.
12 I had scheduling issues, and we have been really focused
13 on Harvey for a little bit here at TDHCA.

14 But my plan is to follow up with Pam and Kelly
15 pretty soon, the next few days on trying to set up some
16 possible dates. You know, I am finding, understandably,
17 that the agencies don=t want to just casually talk about
18 this without having a sense of where this information
19 might end up, and how it is going to be used.

20 And so I will try to make sure that we are
21 looking at dates far enough out, that there is time for,
22 you know, you guys as the TICH representative to talk
23 with whoever you need to, inside of your agencies to get
24 comfort about answering a question.

25 MS. KRAVITZ: We are ready for you, Brooke.

1 We have got answers to your questions.

2 MR. DOYLE: That was Kelly.

3 MS. BOSTON: Excellent. Excellent. Does
4 anyone have any questions about that update?

5 MR. DOYLE: There is a question.

6 MS. HOWARD: Of course, it is from me, Ann
7 Howard. You know, I am not surprised, but I am still
8 sort of puzzled, because at the local level, when we have
9 gone to the county jail and the state jail, it is a
10 similar story.

11 Like, they don=t track people, or they weren=t
12 tracking people coming in, you know, knowing that they
13 were homeless, or leaving. You know, eventually, people
14 might be getting dropped off downtown in front of the
15 shelter, you know. But there is not, like an absolute
16 mark in their file they are experiencing homelessness.

17 So we had to get it to, could you do this old
18 piece of paper survey. And they will check a box if they
19 are homeless. You know like, had to really dig it down.

20 So I am wondering if -- and you know, just --
21 I wonder what they are measuring, that if we dug into it.
22 And I am not saying that we didn=t dig into it. You
23 know, like, there has got to be a way -- or could we
24 suggest performance measures?

25 You know, I am sure that probably takes ten

1 years or something. But we know this is -- there is such
2 a connection between reentry and cycling --

3 MR. DOYLE: Well, aren=t they -- I mean, you
4 all help me with this. But aren=t they -- if they were
5 homeless prior to entering incarceration, they can be
6 homeless when they come out. Is that not correct?

7 So if in fact, the COCs could somehow document
8 those that are going to jail from the county jail system
9 into the state jail system, that they were homeless going
10 in, then they could be homeless going out.

11 MR. SAMUELS: And so that would work, if we
12 were working closely with the county jails.

13 MR. DOYLE: Right.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Sharing data with the county
15 jails, which I don=t know of any --

16 MS. BROWN: We do that on point in time night.
17 Because we always add the number of people that were
18 homeless when they went into jail, and are in jail on
19 that night, from the county jail. We don=t -- that is
20 not a HUD reportable.

21 But we say, this many unsheltered, this many
22 sheltered, and this many jailed, who mostly likely will
23 become homeless when they are released from jail. So
24 gradually we do report somehow.

25 MR. DOYLE: I mean, if the local COC

1 coordinated with their local reentry coalitions or
2 whatever they are called locally, to help try to make
3 that connection through the county jail system. Because
4 to give you an example, there are 3,500 inmates at
5 Tarrant County jail. 2,000 of them are felons, awaiting
6 sentencing.

7 Because it takes so long for discovery under
8 Michael Morton to happen, they are staying in jail for a
9 long time. They know, going in, if you have got them,
10 there was no permanent residence.

11 If we could somehow make a connection between
12 those, that would at least help them when they get out.
13 If it is in the state jail system, up to two years or so
14 you can get out. We know that we can get them a place to
15 live, but it takes local coordination to find it out.

16 MS. BOSTON: Yes. Frances, do you have a
17 comment about this?

18 MS. GATTIS: Well, I don=t really have
19 anything different than what we have discussed before.

20 MS. BOSTON: Okay.

21 MS. GATTIS: You are talking about state jail
22 offenders. You are talking about people who discharge
23 when they exit our gates.

24 We don=t have a forwarding address for them.
25 They are under no supervision of ours when they walk out

1 the gates. So I definitely see where there is difficulty
2 in tracking information related to those individuals.

3 MR. DOYLE: And for those of you who don=t
4 know, if you are in a state jail, and you do -- it is
5 full time, day for day time. And you are released. And
6 they say, see you next time. There is no follow up at
7 all.

8 You are not on parole, or probation. But
9 under, coming out on parole, you have a parole officer.
10 Those coming out on any kind of supervision in Texas --
11 correct me, Frances, if I am wrong.

12 But I believe I heard April say, the
13 recidivism rates are down to 21 percent if you come out
14 on supervision. But it is still 53 percent if you come
15 out of state jail with no supervision.

16 So the ones that they have no reporting
17 requirements on, are the state jail offenders, but that
18 is where the bigger recidivism rate is, and the large
19 incidence of homelessness is happening. Because you are
20 right, Brooke.

21 And obviously, Frances, that you are not
22 supposed to release anybody to homelessness. But it does
23 happen to county jails, because that address on Cypress
24 or whatever it is, Presbyterian Night Shelter is their
25 address of release.

1 FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

2 MR. PULSTER: I just want to -- this may be
3 helpful, just from my experience in working with a
4 particular state that was trying to do a model of how
5 this might work.

6 That there is a small percent of folks that
7 are exiting the prison system that the folks who are
8 working with them know that there is some housing
9 instability, potentially. They may have to list an
10 address on their exit sheet to comply, but there is a
11 cohort of folks that they clearly know, are going to
12 probably deal with some housing instability upon exit.

13 So what they have done is, they have developed
14 relationships with the COC or agencies that work within
15 the COCs to help those particular corrections staff to
16 identify a housing resource, or at least something a
17 little more stable than the corrections folks may not --
18 you know, may be aware of, because they are not in the
19 housing world.

20 So there is ways to do warm hand-offs for that
21 particular cohort of folks who are potentially housing-
22 unstable, exiting with the community-based agency or
23 agencies to try to do some warm hand-offs. And they do
24 end up at the shelter.

25 Shelters generally appreciate at least knowing

1 that there are some that may end up there. And it just
2 helps to build the relations in continuum with
3 correctional staff that are working on the exit and
4 reentry plan, and the local community.

5 MR. DOYLE: Good suggestion. Cindy?

6 MS. CRAIN: In Dallas, we just initiated in
7 cooperation with the Dallas County Criminal Justice
8 Department. So they have some contractors.

9 Mainly it is in the space of identifying
10 individuals that are proven utilizers, that have
11 presented and have been assessed with mental health
12 concerns, to see if they need to have an attached ACT
13 team and coordinate the discharge. But one of the
14 critical things is figuring out how to intersect with the
15 homeless management information system.

16 And so we have fully trained creative
17 programs, so that this staff, this contracted staff, they
18 have kind of a mini assessment, so they can at least
19 start logging that they are there. So they have their
20 jail identifier number now attached to an HMIS record.
21 And then when they hit a certain number, or we get to
22 creating a metric of frequent utilization. And so that
23 is one part, but we are also teaching them to do the true
24 assessments. Because at some point, we want them to show
25 up on our housing priority list.

1 What the county wanted from us was, I know you
2 have your high prioritization process and documentation
3 of homelessness, disability and those things. But the
4 county has -- we have ours. Sometimes the frequent
5 utilizers with the jail fall neatly, so we have added on
6 our housing priority list the HUD prioritization label.
7 And we are adding the jail prioritization label, because
8 that -- in fact, the Commissioners approved a million
9 dollars to go towards a housing project. And our deal
10 was, we get 13 units.

11 The jail gets 13 units specifically dedicated
12 for not necessarily HUD homeless definition, but
13 absolutely, the HUD at risk of homelessness definition.
14 So we could cut a deal.

15 So now, they have dedicated beds until housing
16 prioritization coordinated assessment. We have a
17 mechanism of HMIS that their people will present. On the
18 flip side, when we look at the monthly jail data, they
19 had like, almost half of the individuals claiming to be
20 homeless.

21 And I said, that would be a miracle. That
22 would be like, 50 percent of my own shelter were in your
23 jail every month, and I know that is not true. But it is
24 that given address. So you give a big shelter address
25 out there.

1 So what I have done to continue to try and
2 address the counties, have the hospital system and the
3 jail system, is I applied for one FTE HMIS data person
4 out of their ESG allocation to just be dedicated to
5 start -- literally, start with the jail. Because we have
6 got people in house to help do the larger data entry.

7 Are you homeless or not? Yes or no? Are you
8 at risk, or whatever. So that we can say, well, you
9 already were connected with the homeless system. Let=s
10 talk to them. Especially if you could be a PSH, get
11 picked up for drug charge, and the jail doesn=t know that
12 you had a unit of housing.

13 I may be able to immediately get the
14 unsheltered worker or the COC-funded or ESG-funded or
15 RHY-funded case manager. Hey, your guys are in jail
16 because the HMIS team just noted it, and now it is in the
17 HMIS. And you can see that in calendar by the jail.

18 So I am waiting for the county to approve
19 that. It is not much money. But it would certainly -- I
20 am just saying, I will do it. I know to do HMIS. I know
21 how to train them.

22 We could do a coordinated assessment, so we
23 could queue people up for the coordinated assessment
24 system of HMIS staff that interfaces directly. And that
25 hopefully will start happening here in just a few weeks.

1 MR. DOYLE: So you have got a jail identifier
2 number in the HMIS system?

3 MS. CRAIN: Yes. We added that as a data
4 element. Yes.

5 FEMALE VOICE: And that is really cool. We
6 are not doing that, but we are taking our coordinated
7 assessment staff every few weeks out to the county jail
8 and doing assessments of people who have identified
9 themselves or are in our system and not assessed yet.

10 So that we can hopefully -- you know, by the
11 time they are coming out of jail, which, you never know
12 when they are coming out of county jail, you know --

13 MR. DOYLE: See, I use the CID numbers, or SID
14 numbers?

15 MS. CRAIN: I have no idea. It says JI. I
16 don=t know. I just know to put things in.

17 FEMALE VOICE: J, use that.

18 MR. DOYLE: Would the CID use county
19 identification number. The CID county identifier and the
20 state identifier is the SID.

21 MS. CRAIN: Whatever the county wanted, that
22 is what is in there. The county decided what they wanted
23 their number to be.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Because we just had an
25 evaluation done of a program in Tarrant County that said

1 we didn=t get enough SIDs, the state identification
2 numbers. But all of the people that we engaged, about
3 1,000 of them, there were three that knew their SID
4 number.

5 MS. CRAIN: The other advantage is for the
6 providers. Like case manager, John has an appointment
7 with me, today. Where is he? Look up in the HMIS, and
8 go, well, I know exactly where he is. He is in jail.

9 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Good point.

10 MS. CRAIN: Yes.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Let me move us along, or we
12 are going to be here till Thursday.

13 MR. SCHOLL: Chairman?

14 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

15 MR. SCHOLL: This is Dr. Scholl from Somerset.
16 Just one question --

17 MR. DOYLE: Yes, Dennis.

18 MR. SCHOLL: -- just before you move on. Real
19 quickly, one comment and then one question. When I was
20 with the local mental health authority for the nine-
21 counties with Bexar County, we had a special program, the
22 acronym for which I forget, that is statewide.

23 But the data was entered by correctional
24 facilities, including the county jails, where they would
25 enter whether or not and which local mental health

1 authority was responsible for an individual that was
2 incarcerated, who by the correctional facilities'
3 perspective was in need of mental health services or
4 might be a mental health, or seriously persistent
5 mentally ill individual. So that is a source of data
6 giving us a correlation between mental conditions and
7 homelessness that might be worthwhile to look at.

8 The second question is, having read the
9 transcript from a meeting, I am wondering whether it was
10 Brooke=s committee or our annual report committee that
11 was going to do a little interaction with the Legislative
12 Budget Board with regard to what data sources they
13 require over our annual report to measure up with the
14 other agencies, the eleven agencies that represent the
15 Board -- what the Legislative Budget Board requires for
16 data reporting.

17 I know that is in the transcript. I just
18 forgot whose job it was to pursue interaction with the
19 LBB. Thank you.

20 MR. DOYLE: I think --

21 MS. BOSTON: Hi, Dr. Scholl. This is Brooke.
22 And that is ours. The documents that we look from, when
23 I kept talking about how we had gone through their
24 performance measures, that is the LBB=s document.

25 So we actually are looking through the

1 submissions that those agencies have given to the LBB,
2 based on what the LBB requires of them, as we prepare the
3 list of questions.

4 MR. SCHOLL: Brooke, I am trying to get the
5 acronym for the program. I know a local mental health
6 authority had to have a specially designated person that
7 had some special qualifications to track the mentally ill
8 in corrections. And I've just forgotten. I have been out
9 of that job --

10 MS. BOSTON: Was it TCOMI?

11 MR. SCHOLL: There you go. Thank you.

12 MS. BOSTON: Yes. We had actually asked them,
13 yes. We had asked some questions about TCOMI. And at
14 least from the state data level.

15 So for those of you guys, TCOMI stands for the
16 Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or
17 Mental Impairment. And they fund some specific programs.

18 And so we had asked some questions about that,
19 and whether of the TCOMI measures tie in. And while I am
20 not saying at all that the programs relating to TCOMI
21 don=t touch homelessness, the measures that TDCJ is
22 required to report on up to the LBB don=t have data
23 points that would indicate what portion of the way the
24 TCOMI data is being measured is tied to homelessness.
25 Frances, does that sound like I said that right?

1 MS. GATTIS: That --

2 MR. SCHOLL: Yes. You said it right. And
3 you'll see if you look into that. And frankly, the TCOMI
4 program, from my three years of experience, let=s say, I
5 was significantly underwhelmed by how the program led to
6 the significant, let's say, assertive community treatment
7 for the mentally ill who are incarcerated.

8 The program exists, and data exists. What it
9 accomplishes is underwhelming, in my opinion.

10 MR. DOYLE: Good points. Thank you, Brooke.

11 MS. BOSTON: Yes. Sure.

12 MR. DOYLE: Dennis, appreciate it. All right.
13 Annual Committee report. Eric?

14 MR. SAMUELS: And I was asked to be fast. And
15 that is going to be very easy, because I don=t have a lot
16 to report. We, I think, have scheduled and rescheduled
17 meetings for about three or four times. And during all
18 that time, Hurricane Harvey hit. So there is a reason
19 for that.

20 So basically, what we are trying to do with
21 this annual report this year, is update the most recently
22 updated Pathways Home report, which was in 2012. So it
23 would be a five year expanse as we update it.

24 So I would like to work with our Committee,
25 who is Michael Lyttle, Dr. Scholl, and Allison Whinney

1 [phonetic] with Speaker Straus's office. And so we are
2 going to get together and work on that, update it.
3 Hopefully, we will get some good measures in there. We
4 can start tracking after we get that approved.

5 MR. DOYLE: Wonderful.

6 MR. SAMUELS: That is it.

7 MR. DOYLE: All right. Thank you, Eric.

8 MR. SCHOLL: Just quick, Chairman -- Eric, I
9 want to thank you for sending the document. I haven't
10 started reading it. I look forward to the chance to meet
11 with you but appreciate what you provided, sir.

12 MR. SAMUELS: Thank you.

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Item 7, our VISTA project
14 update. Megan.

15 MS. SYLVESTER: Hi, everyone. Thank you so
16 much. Just to catch you all up, just in case you are not
17 fully up to date on our project. Over the summer, we
18 sent out surveys to all the COCs, asking about their
19 coordination with workforce development boards, and
20 themselves.

21 We received five responses from COCs. Three
22 of whom we interviewed to determine their ability, to
23 further determine their coordination, and to determine
24 their ability to host a VISTA member. Of those four --
25 or I'm sorry, we interviewed four.

1 Of those four, we identified three sites. We
2 made offers, two of whom were able to accept. So we will
3 be -- Tarrant County and Austin ECHO will be hosting a
4 VISTA member to create a workgroup, and to better
5 coordinate with the local workforce boards in those
6 areas.

7 Some of the reasons COCs wanted to better
8 coordinate with the workforce boards is they provide more
9 specific employment services to clients. So some of that
10 is child care. Some of that are former employer
11 connections.

12 So right now, we are finalizing the MOUs with
13 both of these coalitions. And we are creating a VISTA
14 assignment description. We will be finalizing that
15 towards the end of the conference, and posting those
16 positions with the hopes of a January start date.

17 These VISTAs will be working on, like I said,
18 creating a workgroup. We will also be hoping to develop
19 training and resources for clients who are homeless, and
20 wanting to look for a new job or improve their career
21 options, and reinvigorating some of those employer
22 connections, specifically for homeless clients.

23 MR. SAMUELS: So I just want to say, I really
24 look forward to working with Austin ECHO group on that,
25 and the Fort Worth, Tarrant County homeless coalition.

1 And this is all based on, at least loosely, an income
2 now, the program in Houston. And I want to thank the
3 homelessness, homeless of Houston for allowing me to
4 follow Gary Grier through his work with the Workforce
5 Solutions office there.

6 MR. DOYLE: Great. Good work. And we just
7 make one statement. This wouldn't be possible without
8 contributions from the Texas Workforce Commission and the
9 Texas Education Agency.

10 So I again, want to encourage this non-funded
11 mandate, for all the members of the council who need to
12 talk to their bosses, about a small contribution of
13 \$10,000 to help us do this work as a, let me say it
14 again, unfunded mandate to get this job done around
15 homelessness. So please talk to your people about a
16 small \$10,000, pocket change to some of your agencies,
17 putting that in the budget to help us out.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Add to that thank you D.J.
19 Miller with Texas Workforce Commission, Jennifer Molinari
20 and Naomi Cantu, and probably Cate, to some extent help
21 get that in motion. So thank you.

22 MR. DOYLE: Thank you all. Okay. Anything
23 else for Megan?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Let me just run through the

1 list of this agenda. Are there any public comments?

2 FEMALE VOICE: I have some Harvey updates that
3 I want to give. So is there going to be a time for that?

4 MR. DOYLE: There is. That is coming up next.

5 FEMALE VOICE: Okay. Great.

6 MR. DOYLE: And then no closing comments on my
7 part. But look at all of the tentative dates, and just
8 know that that is our 2018 schedule.

9 And so now, the final item on our agenda that
10 will take up the rest of our allotted time. Hopefully,
11 no more than 15, 20 or 30 minutes is a discussion with
12 the COCs. Okay, you guys. What do you want? How can we
13 help?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. That is all. Meeting --

16 MS. HOWARD: I am ecstatic about your data,
17 work and looking at performance numbers. It makes me
18 think about like, the environmental movement and
19 sustainability, how it used to be like the afterthought.
20 And then it got imbedded in the stuff. And like, we are
21 never going to end homelessness if we just have little
22 bitty pots of money for the homeless.

23 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

24 MS. HOWARD: We are going to end homelessness
25 when everybody takes care of everybody. And housing --

1 everybody has housing, you know, at whatever level you
2 are.

3 And so I just think that is really good to --
4 you know, because it is probably a long project. But
5 then you begin to put in performance measures that do
6 impact homelessness across the board. So I am really
7 encouraged by that.

8 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Ann. Marilyn?

9 MS. BROWN: I will build a little on that.
10 Just, this is Marilyn from Houston. Having come out of
11 Harvey, and really realizing the critical need for our
12 HMIS to talk, or to data share. Because we at THN set up
13 weekly calls.

14 You know, I had no clue that some of Houston
15 people evacuated to San Antonio and Dallas and Fort
16 Worth. You know, are they staying there? Are they
17 coming back?

18 So it really has heightened the need for us to
19 figure out how to data share rather than our just -- for
20 me, our three county HMIS. Because even in the three
21 counties, they may have stepped out of the county, and be
22 in balance of state. So just beginning to, you know, re-
23 confirm the need for that.

24 We had a conversation five or six years ago
25 about how to do it. And you know, one of the things --

1 you don't want to take advantage of the disaster. But if
2 we can come out of the disaster having identified things
3 that would have made it easier, so that when the next
4 disaster comes, we are better prepared. The data sharing
5 is certainly one of them. Because we certainly shared
6 evacuees and you know, people that were affected by the
7 storm.

8 MR. DOYLE: Let me give you a connection that
9 you may want to make, or you may already have made it.
10 Knowing you, you probably have, Marilyn.

11 But I am fortunate to serve on our local
12 workforce board in Tarrant County. And we were allocated
13 from TWC some disaster relief monies. And so people
14 applied at our workforce centers for disaster relief
15 money and we identified there were 86 people that came
16 from Houston, and only two were staying. The rest were
17 going back.

18 So if you wanted to contact your local
19 workforce solutions board, the Gulf Coast board in your
20 area, and find out how much FEMA money they gave, or how
21 much COC money they gave away. They have got that data.

22 MS. BROWN: And those are people who had jobs
23 but were unable to work. So it is the unemployment they
24 were able to apply for.

25 MR. DOYLE: Unemployment. Temporary

1 unemployment.

2 MS. BROWN: Yes.

3 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, the need -- just to
4 share the point that continuums of care is huge. But
5 also is share data with groups like -- in these FEMA
6 camps and these evacuee camps, we see it best. It is
7 doing a lot of work. And they are gathering it.

8 You know, if we can get their data and match
9 it up with ours, I think we can identify clients that may
10 have been in a permanent supportive housing unit that was
11 flooded, because that happened a lot.

12 MR. DOYLE: Or had a voucher.

13 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. Or had a voucher. And
14 that group that is on the site of the shelter, they don=t
15 know that if we are not able to get that information to
16 them. We can=t give them that information if we don=t
17 know that they are there.

18 MS. DOUGHERTY: This is Carissa. Just from
19 the state agency perspective, having access to Medicaid
20 data and overlapping -- and maybe data use agreements
21 with other employees that get triggered in the event of a
22 disaster --

23 MS. BROWN: Right.

24 MS. DOUGHERTY: -- turned on or turned off.
25 There is some way, mechanism to do that --

1 MS. BROWN: Yes.

2 MS. DOUGHERTY: -- would be really helpful.

3 MS. BROWN: Yes. It is just, you know, I
4 worked 20 years in garbage. We all had contracts for our
5 trucks to know who was going in when the disaster hit.
6 So that same sort of -- what do we need to think about,
7 to act.

8 You know, to turn on, as you said. Because
9 you are so busy. I am sure it happens. By the time you
10 think of it, you know, we have missed some opportunities.
11 And I actually had one other thought, but it may come
12 back to me.

13 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Kelly. You were going to
14 say something, too.

15 MS. KRAVITZ: Yes. I just kind of -- I mean,
16 I wanted to share a little bit about our Harvey efforts,
17 so that you all know, and --

18 MS. BROWN: And remind me, who and where?

19 MS. KRAVITZ: Yes. So I work at the Texas
20 Education Agency. And we have definitely had a very
21 coordinated agency response to Harvey, which has been
22 wonderful.

23 I have been a part of our agency leadership
24 and weekly meetings with the Commissioner, so that we can
25 really triage with our schools and the impacted

1 communities. We know that there is one -- conservative
2 estimates, 1.5 million students in the impacted regions,
3 250 plus school districts, 197,000 school district
4 employees.

5 Many students who have been displaced are
6 going to be needing the McKinney-Vento definition of
7 homelessness. We estimate this is anywhere from 100- to
8 200,000 students. So there is a lot of work happening at
9 a lot of levels.

10 The districts that are taking in students, as
11 you can imagine, we are receiving lots of questions
12 regarding McKinney-Vento, from the -- I mean,
13 superintendents on down, all of a sudden now want to know
14 this law. And I mean, it is wonderful to have the
15 Commissioner of Education in Texas talking about homeless
16 students at every meeting, every week. And addressing
17 all of the associated and related issues.

18 And we have been really working closely with
19 the Texas Homeless Education office as well as the U.S.
20 Department of Education=s technical assistance provider,
21 the National Center for Homeless Education. They have
22 been very responsive and very supportive.

23 We do have an agency webpage that is Harvey
24 resources, where everything that we are putting out for
25 impacted communities is listed, as well as other

1 resources, let=s say, nutrition benefits, immunizations.
2 These other systems with information that impacts
3 homeless students is located there.

4 And then also, something that I wanted to
5 share is that we are -- our Commissioner, his leadership,
6 as well as with the Commissioners from the higher ed
7 coordinating board, the Department of Health and Human
8 Services -- going to be putting together a task force to
9 address the mental health needs of our schools and
10 impacted communities.

11 And so the Meadows Foundation Mental Health
12 Policy Institute has offered TEA infrastructure support.
13 We have started multiple meetings weekly regarding this.
14 And really going to be providing kind of matchmaking,
15 really in the short term, with leveraging and bringing
16 folks together with our education service center regions
17 and all of these different providers in our different
18 impacted ESC regions. And you know, respective
19 communities to kind of address mental health and what
20 does that look like.

21 So we have been -- just last week, we have had
22 numerous meetings with HHSC regarding the local mental
23 health authorities. And so this is really an evolving
24 work. We have had now, kind of two kind of state calls.

25 But I wanted to make sure that you folks know

1 about this. And if there are folks that need to be
2 included in this mental health piece, we are also
3 talking, you know, FEMA dollars and building out our
4 infrastructure within our schools, and in our communities
5 regarding the mental health needs.

6 And we really see this, obviously, this is the
7 short term. But in the long term -- and it is not just
8 about Harvey. But this, in our schools across the board,
9 right. Mental health and school coordination and
10 breaking down some of those barriers, and working
11 together in more of a collaborative way to address the
12 needs of our kids regarding mental health.

13 So I wanted to just provide that information
14 to you all. This is very much their state level
15 conversation happening, regional conversations. And then
16 different folks that need to be involved at those
17 different levels.

18 We aren't at all trying to duplicate anything.
19 We just want to leverage and connect and learn, right,
20 from one another. Additionally, around trauma-informed
21 information.

22 We want to make sure that, like let's say the
23 Baylor Department of Psychiatry is going to be putting on
24 a training for HISD on trauma. We want to record that,
25 and put it on our website, so other people can use it.

1 And our Commissioner, calling the higher ed
2 Commissioner, getting some of those calls happening, and
3 realizing, how can we leverage. And so we have a lot of
4 universities, you know, kind of stepping up.

5 There is a lot of, kind of, out of the box
6 thinking happening in this space. And so I just wanted
7 all of you to know that. If you have people that we need
8 to be connected to, people that need to be involved,
9 ideas or input, please email me, so that we can make sure
10 to make those links and connections.

11 And also, if you can just be reminding your
12 folks that these students now, most -- many of them will
13 be considered homeless in the school space. And meet the
14 McKinney-Vento definition of homeless, and there are
15 numerous rights and provisions that then the school is
16 responsible. Be reminding those folks.

17 And in the same thing, because of the housing
18 shortages and I mean, just everything, the school folks
19 need to know what those resources are. Obviously, you
20 are going to be having a breakdown when your house is
21 flooded out, and you can't find -- you're living in a
22 tent. I mean, all of these associated things.

23 So it is just really important that we are
24 talking, and I was hoping today from here, I would be
25 able to get some more information about what is going on

1 in the housing space, to be able to take that into the
2 school space. But I -- even if it is an offline
3 conversation, just so we could be more informed, in kind
4 of our coordinated state planning efforts.

5 MR. DOYLE: And Eric, I think -- isn't there a
6 workshop on that?

7 MR. SAMUELS: So there were three panels all
8 on Thursday, all about disaster recovery. We had people.
9 One person in particular from Louisiana that is going to
10 provide us with a lot of good information.

11 MS. KRAVITZ: Okay. Good.

12 MR. SAMUELS: They have developed a plan that
13 we should adopt here, or something like that. Of course,
14 it will have to be bigger, because it is Texas, not
15 Louisiana. But we have some other folks. And so I think
16 we will --

17 MS. KRAVITZ: Okay. I apologize. What time
18 is it tomorrow?

19 MR. SAMUELS: That is, we can put that
20 together at the last second. It is going to be an insert
21 that should be out there on the table.

22 MS. KRAVITZ: Okay. Wonderful.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Make sure you get that.

24 MS. KRAVITZ: Thank you.

25 MS. BROWN: So she reminded me what my second

1 thing was. Thank you for that.

2 Because we very quickly, at the huge shelters
3 in Houston, you know, it became really easy for FEMA and
4 the other agencies to broaden the definition of
5 homelessness to those, you know, particularly, our
6 precariously-housed who, under education, are homeless,
7 under HUD, are not. We doubled up the couch-surfing.

8 And that is what is left in our shelters,
9 because there is no FEMA assistance available to them, if
10 their name was not on the list. So your comment about,
11 you know -- over here in Houston, we have been working on
12 those that are in homeless knowing that precarious is
13 sitting right there.

14 Well, that precarious just landed in our lap.
15 And you know, the impact that is going to have on our
16 January count and all that. But just really
17 understanding that we have got to move so much closer to
18 those precariously-housed. Because this was their one
19 disaster, and this pushed hundreds, if not thousands of
20 people into homelessness who, in their mind, would not
21 define themselves as homeless, as it relates to the
22 stigma. And so, you know, really even through the
23 schools, we can get to them somehow. But without
24 schoolchildren, they are not going to go the traditional
25 route of homeless shelter, because that is not how they

1 are willing to define themselves.

2 So if I could just brag a little bit on the
3 Houston team, and then be through with Harvey, unless
4 other people have. We actually presented to FEMA and
5 have gotten permission to test a housing post-storm
6 situation that is really called non-congregate shelter,
7 instead of congregate shelter.

8 So we have about -- the number changes daily,
9 but let's say 800 families. 800 households that are
10 still in a shelter somewhere, because they were the
11 doubled up folks. Somebody told me, kids were in their
12 cheerleading outfit, and football outfit, leaving from
13 the shelter, going to the schools.

14 And so we presented the what if we used our
15 rapid rehousing model, and we reached out to apartment
16 owners and property managers. Got a commitment of units
17 that they would hold and not rent to anybody else.

18 And we are applying the coordinated
19 assessment, similar housing assessment, and moving people
20 into non-congregate shelter in an apartment with a six-
21 month lease, with the hope that at the seventh month,
22 they will have stabilized and can stay there, rather than
23 spending their next six months in a shelter -- in
24 congregate shelter.

25 And you know, now that I have actually walked

1 the floor of one, and seen how close those cots are, you
2 know, you really can't rebuild your life. And FEMA is
3 very interested in this. And you know, letting us push
4 the boundaries a little bit, with the hope that it may
5 change the way all disasters are handled afterwards. So
6 really using what we learned in the homeless system and
7 taking it to now this newly homeless, and applying it.

8 And the other thing for our COCs, you know, we
9 were talking -- when our partners don't quite understand
10 what it means to be part of a system. It was said to me
11 more than once while we were in day one, two or three at
12 the shelter, because we had a COC built, and we all knew
13 each other, we were able to move into recovery a whole
14 lot faster, and we were scaring the Feds. They were
15 like, oh my god, we are not ready to have that
16 conversation. We were like, we are already there. Let's
17 talk about this.

18 So the relationships and the systems we have
19 built just have value greater than what we are using them
20 for. And that may be another thing to think about coming
21 out of this disaster. What are our daily disasters?
22 Like jail reentry and things like that.

23 That we just -- just like we did with the
24 HEARTH Act. Let's continue to be in crisis mode, because
25 we are very inventive when we solve problems in crisis

1 mode.

2 MR. DOYLE: I agree. Anything else? Yes,
3 sir.

4 MR. HUBBARD: Just one comment. I am
5 relatively new to this business, in terms of shelter.
6 But I have learned so much from some of my other COC
7 leads.

8 One observation I want to build on, Marilyn=s
9 comment. It seems to me that the Interagency Council
10 should be looking at Texas from a regional basis to solve
11 these problems. We share our homeless, we share our
12 mental health issues across COC lines. Particularly with
13 the balance that stay in Bexar County, we are surrounded.
14 And homeless individuals from Austin regularly transit to
15 San Antonio and back. We just got dozens of families up
16 from Corpus Christi and the Gulf Coast because of the
17 hurricane.

18 I think the Interagency Council in Texas
19 should take a good look at what makes sense to work with
20 work issues regionally, and what makes sense to work with
21 issues locally. And I am not the expert in mental
22 health. You know, I am not the expert on affordable
23 housing by any means.

24 But I can see, particularly in terms of
25 federal budget reductions that are bound to happen, we

1 might as well start planning today for that. How can we
2 more effectively use our current resources to house these
3 people in a more effective way and reduce recidivism,
4 across COC transitions.

5 Every issue we have talked about today, every
6 community has. Let=s take a regional approach. Start
7 with, maybe, information sharing. Start with program
8 results on a regional approach.

9 Maybe it doesn=t make sense to have Central
10 Texas associating with Amarillo, maybe it does. I don=t
11 know. But we ought to take a look at that, and that's my
12 two cents' worth.

13 MR. DOYLE: Good point. I think we all agree.
14 The work becomes most effective the closer you get to
15 ground zero. You saw it in the Cajun Navy and you saw
16 everything just happened all of a sudden locally.

17 And then the system started to catch up. But
18 the local system of the COCs and those kind of things who
19 are already there. So that is a good point. A good
20 point. Well, okay.

21 MS. CANTU: Naomi Cantu over at TDHCA. I just
22 have one more update --

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

24 MS. CANTU: -- for Harvey. So we were able
25 to, at TDHCA, use some ESG funds specifically for Harvey.

1 These were funds that we may not have had access to
2 before, because they were older funds that were
3 reallocated. We were able to award two organizations in
4 Houston and one in Victoria.

5 So we were very pleased to be able to do that
6 quickly and work with the coalition there in Houston --
7 to be able to do that quickly, to get that activated. We
8 also had HOME funds available for Harvey, for tenant-
9 based rental assistance of 11 million.

10 We also activated several of our Housing Tax
11 Credit -- I'm sorry -- our affordable apartment units to
12 make sure that we had some vacancies, that they are
13 coordinated with evacuees. And we also had Community
14 Services Block Grant funds, CSBG funds, to go into that
15 area as well.

16 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Naomi.

17 MS. CANTU: Yes.

18 MR. DOYLE: It is just so great to see
19 everybody collaborating. I want to commend the COCs for
20 the great work you have done, not only during Harvey but
21 since their inception. It just is inspiring. Anything
22 else?

23 MR. SCHOLL: Mr. Chairman, this is Dennis
24 again. Just under Item 9, public comment as a private
25 citizen. Real quickly.

1 I apologize for not being there in person, but
2 just pause for a seconds to express appreciation for
3 Cate=s well-organized email messages and links to all the
4 information we needed. It was very helpful in allowing
5 me to participate.

6 And once again, to Eric from THN, for despite
7 all of his work on his plate, and still being able to get
8 the routine things, in regard to the annual report also
9 attended to. And that we will catch up on that. So
10 thank you all for letting us teleconference in and take
11 part

12 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Dennis. Okay. We are
13 adjourned. Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, at 11:45 a.m., the meeting was
15 concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the
Homeless

LOCATION: Dallas, Texas

DATE: October 4, 2017

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 84, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal
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10/10/2017

(Transcriber) (Date)

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