

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL  
FOR THE HOMELESS  
(TICH)

TDHCA State Office Building  
Room 116  
221 E. 11th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

July 26, 2022  
1:37 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair  
VALINDA BOLTON  
BROOKE BOSTON  
SUZIE BRADY  
MARQUS BUTLER  
NAOMI CANTU  
SHERRI COGBILL  
KELLY DAVIS  
HELEN EISERT  
BLAKE HARRIS (by Anthony Bustos)  
CLAIRE IRWIN  
CAL LOPEZ

ADVISORY MEMBERS:

DARILYN CARDONA-BEILER  
FEDORA GALASSO  
DAVID LONG  
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MOLLY VOYLES  
MICHAEL WILT

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

1  
2 MR. DOYLE: Let me get us started so we can  
3 decide who's here and if we have a quorum. So welcome to  
4 our July meeting of the TICH, Texas Interagency Council  
5 for the Homeless.

6 We need to hear from you guys on the phone. If  
7 you're there, would you say your name so we can check you  
8 off to see if we meet quorum.

9 MR. SAMUELS: Eric Samuels.

10 MR. DOYLE: Eric Samuels. Do we know you?

11 MR. SAMUELS: No. I'm just an interested  
12 party.

13 (General laughter.)

14 MR. DOYLE: We just need the voting members, so  
15 thank you for letting us know you're here, that's good.

16 Voting members of the Council, who else is  
17 there?

18 MS. DAVIS: This is Kelly Davis from TWC.

19 MR. DOYLE: Hi, Kelly.

20 MS. LOPEZ: And this is Cal Lopez with the  
21 Texas Education Agency.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay, Cal. Thank you.

23 Anybody else?

24 MS. THIBODEAUX: This is Molly Thibodeaux, but  
25 I'm not a voting member, just advisory. Just saying

1 hello.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay, Molly.

3 Blake Harris, are you on the phone?

4 MR. BUSTOS: I'm his proxy.

5 MR. DOYLE: Oh, there he is, I knew I had a  
6 check there.

7 One, two, three, four, five is all we've got,  
8 so we don't have a quorum yet. We're not voting on  
9 anything, so I can always cancel the TICH meeting and call  
10 a committee of the whole meeting and we can do all the  
11 reports since it's just reports.

12 So that being said -- hello, is somebody  
13 joining on the phone?

14 MR. DURAN: This is TDHCA staff, Spencer Duran.

15 MS. IRWIN: This is Claire Irwin from Texas  
16 Health and Human Services.

17 MR. DOYLE: Oh, thanks, Claire.

18 Thanks, Spencer. Are you representing anybody  
19 by proxy, Spencer?

20 MR. DURAN: No. I'm just here to listen.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you.

22 So now we have one, two, three, four, five,  
23 six, we still just have six. So let's just get started,  
24 in the interest of time, and I will adjourn the  
25 Interagency Council for the Homeless meeting for lack of

1 quorum at the present time. There are people who are  
2 supposed to join by phone, when we hear them beep, if they  
3 come back we'll adjourn again, or not adjourn --

4 MR. LONERGAN: Reconvene.

5 MR. DOYLE: Reconvene. Thank you for the word.  
6 For right now we'll call a committee meeting of the whole  
7 together so that we can discuss the business, so then  
8 we'll go to the agenda. So welcome, everyone, and I just  
9 want to say this under my remarks.

10 Did you need to say something?

11 MR. LONERGAN: Can we run through everybody  
12 else just for the record?

13 MR. DOYLE: All right. Mike Doyle is present,  
14 Sherri Cogbill is not, Valinda Bolton is not. If you hear  
15 your name called as being not, stop me.

16 Brooke Boston is not, Naomi Cantu present, Cal  
17 Lopez present, Marqus Butler not. Blake Harris has a  
18 proxy, Kelly Davis is here, Suzie Brady not, Claire Irwin  
19 is here. And Helen Eisert -- is Helen here? Not.

20 Let me just make my remarks and apologies. I  
21 have not been as active in this process that I wanted to  
22 be, but we've got a lot of stuff going on in Fort Worth  
23 that I've had to take care of. And so I apologize for not  
24 being as active.

25 Who just joined by phone?

1 MS. FETZER: This is Aubrey with the Texas  
2 Homeless Data Sharing Network.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. And so I just want to  
4 apologize for that. I'm very anxious.

5 When I talked to the Governor's Office and told  
6 them that we were doing a new plan, they were very  
7 interested. And so we really want to hear about the  
8 committee work and where you think that's headed, and a  
9 timeline so I can convey that to his office.

10 But I did want to say I'm sorry I had not been  
11 able to be at those things. They were just at the wrong  
12 time for me all of a sudden.

13 Okay. Let's just jump in then, and updates  
14 from TDHCA.

15 Tell us your name.

16 MS. GALASSO: I'm Fedora Galasso.

17 MR. DOYLE: Oh, hi, Fedora.

18 So let's see who's going to go first.  
19 Emergency Solutions Grant, and that's going to be Rosy.

20 MS. FALCON: Hi. Thank you. Good afternoon,  
21 everybody. I just have some brief updates for our  
22 homeless programs.

23 We continue to remain high expended for our  
24 CARES program. Combined in CV-1 and CV-2, we're currently  
25 at about \$70 million, which places us at about 73.4

1 percent expended of the original \$97.9 million. That's  
2 higher than the national average of 61.1, and statewide is  
3 62.21. So our team diligently is making sure everybody  
4 has everything they need so that they can continue drawing  
5 down timely.

6 We are still waiting to receive our  
7 reallocation amount notice from HUD of unspent CARES  
8 funds. In the meantime, however, our team is working to  
9 already aid and apply those high performers that we would  
10 be able to reallocate that money quickly once we do get  
11 that notice. We are in the process of outlining to see  
12 what total amount we should prepare for, so we should have  
13 an update for the next one.

14 For our annual, we are currently at 92.28  
15 expended for our 2020 funds, and at 60.63 percent for our  
16 2021 funds. So we're also doing really well there.

17 At our last meeting, we went through some  
18 lengthy changes to our application process, and we're  
19 currently in the tail-end of that right now. So by the  
20 next one, we'll have a lengthier update. We did introduce  
21 that new application process for the 2022 annual funds,  
22 where we introduced the 70 percent set-aside funds for  
23 continuing awards.

24 That has now closed, and we are in the process  
25 of making sure all the application packets are complete,

1 everybody has submitted one. And so out of the \$9.3  
2 million allocation, \$5.1 million has been accepted by 26  
3 subrecipients for continuing awards within six of the CoC  
4 regions. So all of those have already been accounted for.

5 We did send emails to all the CoC and HMIS leads to  
6 identify these agencies and the amounts for the 2022  
7 allocation already.

8 The remaining \$4,237,249 is what's currently  
9 available for competition and that closes this Friday, the  
10 29th, at 5:00 p.m. That anticipated contract term is  
11 going to be November 1 through October 31 of 2023.

12 For our HHSP grant for the 2023 allocation, we  
13 have \$6,251,984. Out of that, \$4,751,984 is the general  
14 set-aside amount and \$1.5 is the youth set-aside, and that  
15 went to the current nine cities that are currently  
16 receiving the 2022.

17 MR. DOYLE: Is Wichita Falls in those cities?

18 MS. FALCON: No, sir.

19 MR. DOYLE: El Paso?

20 MS. FALCON: Yes.

21 MR. DOYLE: So any questions for Rosy? Are you  
22 through?

23 MS. FALCON: Yes.

24 MR. DOYLE: Any questions for Rosy, besides me?  
25 I always have a lot of questions.

1           Monies that are with CARES -- when HUD notifies  
2 you of the funds that you'll be acquiring from the states  
3 that didn't spend it, does that flow down to the cities or  
4 does it stay with the state?

5           MS. FALCON: The portion that we're preparing  
6 for does come to the state. It just depends on where they  
7 recaptured it from and whether there's somebody that's  
8 able to meet the requirements and take that. And so right  
9 now we are tentatively preparing, not having heard from  
10 HUD yet, for about \$5 million is what we're preparing for.

11          And so the team is working this week and next on making  
12 sure we're ready to kind of reallocate that money once  
13 that notice comes out.

14          MR. DOYLE: So when the city tells us that  
15 they're waiting for a reallocation amount as well, that's  
16 additional. That's a separate pot of money.

17          MS. FALCON: They could be getting something  
18 else from HUD, yes.

19          MS. VERSYP: So like some cities, if you're a  
20 city in Tarrant County and you did not expend and meet  
21 your requirements that HUD set forth for CARES, if the  
22 county can take the money, they will, and vice versa. We  
23 would only receive the money in the instance that the area  
24 doesn't have a county that it's within, or the county  
25 doesn't have a city within it that met the requirements.

1 And then it would come back to us.

2 So we're thinking we'll get the recaptured  
3 funds most likely, not definitely, but most likely from  
4 Hidalgo County, Brownsville and Corpus Christi.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

6 MS. VERSYP: But the Metroplex -- we don't  
7 anticipate receiving any money from the Metroplex.

8 MR. DOYLE: We spent ours three months ago. We  
9 were talked into taking so much that I didn't want to do  
10 it, but we did and we gave it all away. And they're  
11 saying there's more coming and we're not sure we like  
12 that, we like to be done.

13 MS. VERSYP: It might be coming from two cities  
14 in the Metroplex that haven't expended and HUD is trying  
15 to keep that money local first before they hand it over to  
16 the state.

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So it's a separate pot.

18 MS. VERSYP: Yes, separate pot.

19 MR. LONERGAN: Mike, I want to note for the  
20 record that Helen Eisert just walked in, so that means we  
21 have a quorum.

22 MR. DOYLE: Oh, good. Well, I will adjourn the  
23 committee meeting of the whole and reconvene the  
24 Interagency Council for the Homeless quarterly meeting,  
25 and note for the record that we have a quorum present and

1 voting. So thank you very much.

2 Okay. Next item, Sean sent out to us the  
3 minutes from the last virtual meeting, and so if someone  
4 has hopefully read them and feels good making a motion to  
5 accept those as presented, I would entertain that.

6 MS. CANTU: I so move. This is Naomi Cantu.

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Have a motion. Is there a  
8 second?

9 MS. EISERT: I'll second.

10 MR. DOYLE: Second by Helen. All in favor say  
11 aye.

12 (A chorus of ayes.)

13 MR. DOYLE: And those pass. Thank you very  
14 much.

15 Okay. We are now on Naomi.

16 MS. CANTU: Yes. So on the HOME American  
17 Rescue Plan, as a reminder we have programmed funds into  
18 rental housing, into non-congregate shelter, and into  
19 nonprofit capacity building and operating funds, and in  
20 administration.

21 So I'm going to talk about the rental housing  
22 first for just a little bit. We have about \$56 million in  
23 rental housing. \$10 million is set aside for applications  
24 of those that have already been awarded National Housing  
25 Trust Fund.

1           So we're working to preserve our investment in  
2 National Housing Trust Fund; we have \$10 million for that.

3       We sent out our application last week and we received  
4 five requests for an application -- I'm sorry -- we sent  
5 out our notice that an application is available and we got  
6 five requests for an application. So we'll see how that  
7 goes in terms of threshold criteria and when things are  
8 due.

9           We're working on our rental NOFA, which we hope  
10 to release later this summer for the rest of the \$46  
11 million, approximately. We are planning to roll in  
12 nonprofit capacity building and nonprofit operating costs  
13 into that, so about \$49 million.

14           And if there's any money left over in the set-  
15 aside, it will also be rolled into our rental NOFA. We  
16 expect mainly for our rental NOFA a lot of gap financing.

17       So people that already received tax credits or another  
18 award will come back, although we may have some HOME  
19 ARP-only developments.

20           We are also planning to release this summer  
21 nonprofit capacity building and operating costs -- we're  
22 calling it NCO because it's a mouthful -- an NCO NOFA to  
23 build capacity for a large scale shelter -- and when we  
24 say large scale, it's about over 200 units -- large scale  
25 non-congregate shelter. So we're going to hopefully

1 release that this summer, get funds to nonprofits  
2 interested in that, and then we anticipate releasing a  
3 NOFA for that non-congregate shelter in a year after the  
4 capacity building has been built.

5 So that's where we are on HOME ARP. We did  
6 release some guidance a couple of weeks ago now, so we are  
7 underway.

8 Any questions?

9 MR. DOYLE: Define for me a non-congregate  
10 shelter.

11 MS. CANTU: Yes. We get that a lot. So a non-  
12 congregate shelter means separate rooms for each  
13 household, with a sanitary facility in the room. So that  
14 could be a bathroom, or at least a sink and a toilet.

15 MR. DOYLE: And so if you qualify for a non-  
16 congregate shelter, what would these funds allow you to  
17 do?

18 MS. CANTU: So it is for reconstruction, new  
19 construction or rehabilitation.

20 MR. DOYLE: So it's capital.

21 MS. CANTU: It's capital, that's correct.

22 MR. DOYLE: All right.

23 MS. CANTU: HOME ARP does not allow for  
24 operations of a shelter, federally not allowed.

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I hope the Presbyterian

1 Night Shelter sent a thing for that. They're trying to  
2 build something like this. I told them to call TDHCA and  
3 see if they would qualify and make the threshold.

4 MS. CANTU: So it's still a year out for that.  
5 I don't know how big the shelter they're planning to do  
6 is.

7 MR. DOYLE: Big.

8 MS. CANTU: Big. Okay. Thanks for the heads  
9 up. I don't think we've heard from them yet.

10 MR. DOYLE: I'm going to say, Toby told me 200  
11 or more. They're raising money in the capital campaign  
12 now in Fort Worth, and this would be part of it.

13 MS. CANTU: So the interesting thing about  
14 shelters is that they don't have lease agreements or  
15 occupancy agreements, really it's a shelter.

16 MR. DOYLE: So non-congregate then means  
17 they've got their own room with their own bathroom but  
18 they have a lease.

19 MS. CANTU: No.

20 MR. DOYLE: They do not have a lease.

21 MS. CANTU: No lease.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions for  
23 Naomi?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you, Naomi. As

1 always, great job.

2 And then, Cate, you're going to talk about ERA?

3 MS. TRACZ: Yes, I'm going to talk about the  
4 housing stability portion of ERA. So I'm Cate Tracz. I'm  
5 the director of the Housing Stability Services Program.

6 So the state received over \$2 billion of  
7 emergency rental assistance funds from Treasury. We can  
8 use up to 10 percent of that for housing stability  
9 services. So we've taken up to 10 percent and we've  
10 allocated that in two pots of funding, ERA1 and ERA2,  
11 because it got allocated to us under two administrations  
12 and two different acts, so that's why they're split up.  
13 So each of those pots of money comes with different  
14 obligation dates and expenditure dates.

15 So our first group of funds was distributed to  
16 28 subrecipients. We were able to program \$71 million,  
17 which they're wrapping up now. They're about 70 percent  
18 expended, and we served over 33,000 households with  
19 housing stability services.

20 And stability services is pretty much anything  
21 around rent and utility assistance. It's a lot of case  
22 management. It's a lot of ID recovery services,  
23 transportation, housing navigation.

24 There's also landlord incentive fees. We can  
25 do deposits, we can do short term hotel/motel payments

1 while a household is working to be stably housed, child  
2 care, food, clothing, lots of things. Right? The  
3 Treasury guidance is pretty broad, which is really great  
4 that these innovations that we've funded have been able to  
5 supplement and layer with some of their more traditional  
6 like ESG or HHSP funds. So that's been really cool.

7 The first group is ramping down, the second  
8 group is ramping up. We were able to fund 46  
9 subrecipients. And I would mention, you said PNS, they  
10 received both pots of funds.

11 MR. DOYLE: Oh, good.

12 MS. TRACZ: They started back in September of  
13 last year and they'll be funded through March of 2024.  
14 And Toby is great to work with.

15 MR. DOYLE: Yes, he is.

16 MS. TRACZ: Yeah, that's been really fun, and  
17 we funded their Journey Home Program, which is kind of a  
18 smaller -- they've got some folks that are in a permanent  
19 supportive housing situation, so we've been able to  
20 provide case management supports for those households.

21 Let's see. I have a handout here, I'm just  
22 kind of go through some of the highlights. Like I said,  
23 our ERA2 contracts are ramping up and they'll go through  
24 March of 2024.

25 MR. DOYLE: And again, I apologize for this

1 being so Cornerstone-related, but since we get these  
2 funds, I'm just curious because we haven't been told yet  
3 that we got any of the Housing Stability Services funding  
4 as the City of Fort Worth. The City of Fort Worth is just  
5 saying we want it, we don't know if we're going to get it  
6 yet.

7 But it's not going to come from y'all, it's  
8 going to come from Treasury directly. Is that correct?

9 MS. TRACZ: Did Fort Worth get their own ERA  
10 allocation?

11 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

12 MS. TRACZ: So Fort Worth can choose to use up  
13 to 10 percent of those ERA funds for housing stability.  
14 So you've already received the whole pot, it's just how  
15 you decide to program it.

16 MR. DOYLE: So there's no reason that they  
17 couldn't award it?

18 MS. TRACZ: There's no reason, but they may  
19 have already decided to obligate it all to rent and  
20 utilities.

21 MR. DOYLE: They may have done that.

22 MS. TRACZ: You know, there's possibilities of  
23 the upstream funds, you know, the reallocation of funds.  
24 Treasury hasn't been real clear on obligation deadlines  
25 for the funds that are going to be kind of shifting

1 around. We're not anticipating to reprogram any of our  
2 funds into housing stability unless we can get a clear  
3 picture on how we can extend it, because our model at the  
4 state is to do emergency rental assistance, you know, get  
5 it out the door as quickly as possible, shore up folks for  
6 their rent obligations.

7 But for housing stability, it's a much longer  
8 contract. So we wouldn't obligate to a subrecipient and  
9 then Treasury turns around and says you have to expend it  
10 in three months.

11 MR. DOYLE: The word in North Texas was that  
12 you quit taking applications for ERA months ago.

13 MS. TRACZ: They closed the portal, and I'm not  
14 on that team so I can answer as much as I know.

15 MR. DOYLE: We did too in Fort Worth; it's been  
16 closed since May. We've already spent all the money.

17 MS. TRACZ: Well, yes, so the original pot of  
18 money was obligated and then there were several hundred --  
19 I don't know how many -- applications left in the  
20 pipeline. So every time we've received upstreamed funds,  
21 you know, whether it's from other municipalities or from  
22 other states, those funds go to work on what's currently  
23 in the pipeline.

24 So I don't know if and when they're ever going  
25 to open it up. It just kind of depends on, you know, how

1 much money we get.

2 MR. DOYLE: When we shut it down in Fort Worth,  
3 we, just as our agency, had 250 people in the pipeline, so  
4 we're still working on them and will through September.

5 MS. TRACZ: Yeah. I'm hearing, anecdotally,  
6 that a lot of those applications are getting really stale.  
7 Right? Like if someone applied when the portal closed in  
8 November, you know they've figured out something else to  
9 do or their situation has changed.

10 MR. DOYLE: Thanks.

11 MS. TRACZ: Yeah, sure.

12 So the rest of this handout is just kind of  
13 general, you know, what we can do, eligibility. It's set  
14 at 80 percent AMI, but the majority of our population  
15 served is that zero to 30 percent. Those are homelessness  
16 or at risk of homelessness, or housing instability.

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions for  
18 Cate?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. DOYLE: Any other agency updates?

21 MS. LOPEZ: This is Cal Lopez with the Texas  
22 Education Agency. Is it okay if I provide a few updates?

23 MR. DOYLE: Sure, Cal.

24 MS. LOPEZ: So I just wanted to give some grant  
25 funding updates real quick. So just from our last

1 meeting, we have received our annual grant from the U.S.  
2 Department of Education to continue funding our state  
3 level grants. And so we have increased our funding to  
4 support our regional educational service center capacity  
5 grants. So each regional office was receiving a grant for  
6 \$50,000 and now it's increased to \$75,000 to help support  
7 statewide and regional technical assistance, professional  
8 development and resources.

9 Along with that increase, we were able to  
10 increase our competitive grants. We're on the second year  
11 of our grant cycle. It's a small increase, but it went  
12 from \$8.3 million to \$8.7 million. And so this funding  
13 has been allocated to our 92 grantees, which serves a  
14 total number of 213 school districts.

15 In addition to that, regarding our American  
16 Rescue Plan 2 grant, at the time of the last meeting we  
17 were in the process of launching that grant. We did  
18 allocate \$55 million in our first ever formula-funded  
19 eGrant, and I want to let you know that that application  
20 closed at the end of May. And so we are working with our  
21 grants office to get some final reports on the number of  
22 school districts that have applied.

23 A preliminary report shows that 78 percent of  
24 the initial funding has been awarded or they're working on  
25 the process of awarding that. And so once we get the

1 final data on the remaining funding amount, we're going to  
2 work with school districts that have not applied, looking  
3 at what would be the plan to work with them, to ensure  
4 that all the grant funds is provided to the school  
5 districts or any reallocations may occur. And so I just  
6 wanted to share that, 78 percent of that \$55 million our  
7 school districts did apply for.

8 And so then lastly, I just wanted to go ahead  
9 and share on our Texas Education Homeless Children and  
10 Youth Summit that is coming up. We're excited. This is a  
11 collaboration with the Texas Education Agency, and in  
12 partnership with the Texas Network of Youth Services.

13 So we encourage everyone here to look into  
14 attending our conference that will be held on Monday,  
15 August 29 through Wednesday, August 31. There is both an  
16 in-person and virtual option. It will be held at the San  
17 Marcos Conference Center and our theme is "Creating  
18 Connections and Building Bridges." And so we have an  
19 exciting lineup of inspirational sessions and keynote  
20 speakers, and we're really also excited with our  
21 partnership with TNOYS with our youth-led panel.

22 And so it's a very reasonable price for our  
23 summit: it's \$100 for virtual attendance, \$150 for in-  
24 person. That is the early bird cost prior to July 29, and  
25 then after July 29, the virtual amount goes up to \$125 and

1 the in-person is \$175.

2 And so we just kind of wanted to really  
3 highlight that, and those are just the small snippets from  
4 TEA. Thank you for letting me share.

5 MR. DOYLE: Absolutely, Cal. Thank you.

6 Any questions for Cal?

7 MS. GALASSO: Well, just jumping off of what  
8 Cal said -- this is Fedora with TNOYS -- we're really  
9 excited about the summit, so we'll definitely send out  
10 that information to Sean to disseminate. Like Cal  
11 mentioned, we've got lots and lots -- a really great  
12 lineup that's really focused on youth homelessness,  
13 especially as it relates to schools.

14 TNOYS just wanted to give some updates around  
15 our statewide collaborative on youth homelessness that  
16 we've reconvened. It's been around since 2018, but we  
17 reconvened it this year as we took a short hiatus because  
18 of COVID. It's been really incredible.

19 We have some subgroups that are focused on the  
20 youth homeless demonstration project implementation and  
21 technical assistance and training. As some of you may  
22 know, we have five youth homelessness demonstration  
23 programs here in Texas.

24 Austin was the first, and then we had one in  
25 Waco and one in San Antonio. And then we've got two more

1 that just started in the Harris County and Tarrant County  
2 areas. And so really working to build out those lessons  
3 learned so that across Texas they're learning about all  
4 the things that are happening.

5 MR. DOYLE: So if I can interrupt you.

6 MS. GALASSO: Sure.

7 MR. DOYLE: Which districts in Tarrant County?

8 MS. GALASSO: It's all of Tarrant County.

9 MR. DOYLE: All of Tarrant County?

10 MS. GALASSO: Yeah, and their funding is  
11 through their CoC; the contact is ASH. What's the name  
12 for the Tarrant County CoC?

13 MR. DOYLE: The county.

14 MS. GALASSO: And so yeah, so that's a group  
15 that needs to really focus on, and a lot of things are  
16 coming up about how you really engage people with limited  
17 experience in a very holistic way and then pieces around  
18 data and research.

19 And then we've got a policy working group which  
20 is really focused on policy needs for services and  
21 supports to youth experiencing homelessness, and they're  
22 working to just identify those needs and we'll be sure to  
23 share some of the things that we've been identifying.

24 TNOYS actually is wrapping up some listening  
25 sessions that we've done across the state to really listen

1 and learn from both our providers that are part of our  
2 network. We have a network of over 100 providers that  
3 work directly with youth, many of whom are experiencing  
4 homelessness, either their families or themselves, and  
5 then also directly from youth with those lived experiences  
6 to really understand their needs. So we'll be working to  
7 pull all that together in the next few months and  
8 definitely will share with the group.

9 So those just a couple of highlights I wanted  
10 to share.

11 MR. DOYLE: Great. Thank you. That would be  
12 interesting to go to that. I know that we office just  
13 less than a mile from where all the shelters are gathered  
14 in Tarrant County, and boy, we've seen a lot of homeless  
15 youth walking the streets.

16 MS. GALASSO: It's definitely been exacerbated  
17 since COVID, and so the problem gets larger and the needs  
18 get more and more.

19 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you, Fedora.

20 Any other agency updates?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Sean, the floor is yours, my  
23 friend. Congratulations on the great job you've been  
24 doing, along with Brian.

25 MR. LONERGAN: Thank you, Mike, appreciate it.

1           For those of you who like to follow using a  
2 visual aid, I have the slides right here as one of the  
3 TICH materials, so I'll be going off of that primarily for  
4 my update.

5           So today I just wanted to use this an  
6 opportunity to provide an update specifically on the  
7 feedback we've been getting for the new TICH strategic  
8 plan to address homelessness. Looking at that first  
9 content slide on the first page, we have four channels of  
10 feedback that we've been mobilizing since the beginning of  
11 May: the first of which was through organizational  
12 interviews; the second of which was through a TICH  
13 retrospective survey, taking a look back at the Pathways  
14 Home, specifically at the objective and strategy  
15 framework, and getting an assessment, both quantitatively  
16 and qualitatively as to the adherence to that framework  
17 and using it as a guide for this new plan's recommendation  
18 framework.

19           Third, we've mobilized virtual roundtable  
20 sessions to cast a broader net among stakeholders across  
21 the state, covering the three categories in the new  
22 plan -- which I'll talk about in a second. And then, of  
23 course, we've mobilized TICH work groups for those same  
24 categories as well, in conjunction with those other three  
25 channels of feedback which I'll go into a little detail

1 later.

2 So if you look at the next slide on the  
3 following page, this is the new categorical structure that  
4 tentatively we're using as the baseline for guiding our  
5 lines of feedback. You'll see in that top triangle there,  
6 we're using three of the four categories that were used in  
7 the initial Pathways Home report: affordable housing  
8 supporting services, homelessness prevention, and data  
9 research and analysis.

10 That fourth core category that was initially  
11 used in the Pathways Home report, state infrastructure,  
12 we've elected to integrate into those three categories  
13 listed as a means of encouraging better flow within the  
14 report itself, since we viewed state infrastructure piece,  
15 the idea of public and private collaboration, as integral  
16 to the success of mobilizing the strategies in those three  
17 core categories. So that was the rationale for that.

18 As you can see in the bottom triangle,  
19 supplemental categories and themes, through our initial  
20 research we identified two supplementary themes to guide  
21 the feedback for our three core categories at the top.  
22 One of which is emergency response planning, specifically  
23 focused on COVID-19 pandemic response and the enormous  
24 amounts of funding that were mobilized in response to the  
25 pandemic, as well as natural disaster response and looking

1 at better ways to coordinate response to hurricanes,  
2 extreme cold and heat, really taking a more comprehensive  
3 approach as to how to respond to those situations.

4 The other supplementary theme that we're also  
5 placing a high focus upon is addressing disparities in all  
6 different sub-populations and demographics. In the  
7 initial Pathways Home report, in accordance with HUD  
8 guidelines for funding, Pathways Home had it partitioned  
9 out into the four HUD categories of unaccompanied youth,  
10 families and individuals experiencing chronic  
11 homelessness, as well as veterans.

12 We really want to dig deeper for this report  
13 and recognize the intricacies that exist among those four  
14 core groups, so specifically focusing on equity, racial  
15 disparities, as well as other disparities that exist among  
16 LGBTQ-plus populations, just to name a few. We really  
17 placed some intentionality in terms of the groups that  
18 we're speaking with to better inform best practices for  
19 this report under that umbrella to address disparities.

20 MR. DOYLE: Question. So these two sub-  
21 populations, demographics and disparities, are going to be  
22 addressed in each one of the core categories?

23 MR. LONERGAN: That's right. We really want to  
24 make a more cohesive product because we viewed that as --  
25 there were a lot of sections that seemed separate from one

1 another that could have been better conveyed if they were  
2 integrated. So the idea is that in each one of these core  
3 categories will really speak to the supplementary themes.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. LONERGAN: Moving on to the next slide  
6 focused on the projected general timeline. We're really  
7 trying to schedule things in such a way that the release  
8 of the final product coincides with the new legislative  
9 session at the beginning of 2023. We really think that  
10 will maximize the impact of this plan.

11 So kind of working from the bottom up, in order  
12 to fulfill that goal, we're looking to have a first draft  
13 prepared -- on here it says September. It's looking more  
14 realistically that it will be closer to October to allow  
15 ample time for us to process all this data that we've been  
16 gathering, to properly frame it in the recommendation  
17 framework that we deem as comprehensive and worthy of  
18 release to the public.

19 Following that release, we plan to hold ten  
20 public hearings, as, Mike, you may recall, we had for the  
21 Pathways Home report across the state in order to gather  
22 public comment to inform the final draft report. And then  
23 we aim to have it all processed towards the end of the  
24 year in order to meet that goal of releasing the report at  
25 the beginning of 2023. So that's the kind of timeline.

1 MR. DOYLE: Another question.

2 MR. LONERGAN: Sure.

3 MR. DOYLE: Eric, are you still there?

4 MR. SAMUELS: I'm here.

5 MR. DOYLE: Are we planning on having something  
6 where we could do one of these sessions where we hear from  
7 the folks about this plan at your conference?

8 MR. SAMUELS: We can set something up. We  
9 don't have anything scheduled right now other than the  
10 general Interagency Council meeting, but we have plenty of  
11 time for that.

12 MR. DOYLE: When is the next conference?

13 MR. SAMUELS: September 28 is when the next  
14 TICH meeting is at our conference here in Austin.  
15 September 28-30 is the conference.

16 MR. DOYLE: Would that help any? Would it  
17 throw you off the time schedule, or too late to do it?

18 MR. LONERGAN: In terms of having it  
19 published -- or having some sort of draft?

20 MR. DOYLE: Just having an open session and a  
21 report at the Texas Homeless Network conference about the  
22 plan.

23 MR. LONERGAN: I think we're looking in a 60-  
24 to 90-day range for preparing the report, so that would  
25 place it around the early side. So we certainly could

1 have something prepared for discussion, if that's what  
2 you'd like to do.

3 MR. DOYLE: Well, I think all you really need  
4 is something to discuss just so we can say that we  
5 presented it at our statewide conference and everybody had  
6 their chance to have input.

7 MR. LONERGAN: I imagine that we'll have  
8 something together toward the latter end of September.

9 MR. DOYLE: Even if it's not complete, just a  
10 chance for people to say their piece, something  
11 politically expedient.

12 MR. LONERGAN: Yeah, I think we'll have enough  
13 of a product to be able to do that.

14 MR. DOYLE: Can you put that in the TICH thing,  
15 Eric?

16 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. Are you asking if we could  
17 add it to the TICH meeting agenda?

18 MR. DOYLE: Just put it in as a topic there.

19 MS. TRACZ: Do you mean as like a session?

20 MR. DOYLE: No, no, no. Within the TICH  
21 meeting.

22 MS. TRACZ: Just within the TICH meeting.  
23 Okay.

24 MR. DOYLE: The plan is almost finished and you  
25 just give your little overview and let them make comments.

1 If there are no comments, that's wonderful, we tried.

2 MR. LONERGAN: Sounds good. I'll make a note  
3 of it.

4 MR. DOYLE: Great.

5 MR. LONERGAN: If you go to the next slide, go  
6 into a little more depth in terms of the feedback itself  
7 and the extent to which we've been gathering these modes  
8 of feedback throughout the state.

9 Focusing first on organizational interviews.  
10 This is just a sample of interviewees that we've been  
11 speaking with. At this point we have 33 total  
12 interviewees across 31 organizations, so we think that's  
13 pretty well representative geographically in order to  
14 fulfill that kind of imperative of the report of being a  
15 comprehensive product. We've spoken to, I believe, seven  
16 or eight of the eleven CoCs in the state, their directors,  
17 executive directors, so we've had the opportunity to get  
18 their input as well.

19 We've also, as you can see at the bottom of the  
20 slide, had a heightened focus on youth and adults at risk  
21 or experiencing homelessness. So that's something that  
22 certainly has been in line with more overarching  
23 imperative of properly addressing disparities within  
24 efforts to address homelessness in the sub-populations, so  
25 those are some notes there.

1           If you look at the following slide on survey  
2 feedback -- so as I alluded to earlier, we have three  
3 means of gaining feedback through the surveys. One was  
4 through Likert Scale feedback, with a one-to-five scale  
5 assessing both the objectives and strategies of the  
6 Pathways Home report, as well as looking at proposed  
7 category input aligned with the supplementary themes that  
8 I mentioned, focused on emergency response planning and  
9 addressing disparities.

10           So as you can see on the one-to-five scale, on  
11 the left side of the slash I focused more to the adherence  
12 to that particular provider or state agency  
13 representatives to that particular strategy. Looking at  
14 the right-hand side, since it was proposed category, it  
15 was asked as a hypothetical, using a framework provided by  
16 the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, strategies  
17 that have been outlined in their recent reports as a  
18 potential guide for incorporation of similar strategies in  
19 the TICH plan. So that's a little background there.

20           We're still collecting responses. We've  
21 collected responses both internally from TICH membership,  
22 advisory membership, as well as external responses. We're  
23 well above 100 external responses at this point.

24           We're still collecting those. We're processing  
25 the results and we'll have a more full analysis of it in

1 the coming weeks, so that will certainly be used as a  
2 guide to see more of the internal versus the external  
3 perspective of homelessness response efforts across the  
4 state and more informed discussion accordingly.

5 Also, we had opportunity for open responses in  
6 accordance with the objectives and strategies set in the  
7 Pathways Home report for commentary that we can use to  
8 guide that recommendation framework, which we'll be  
9 analyzing once we close off feedback towards the end of  
10 this month to be analyzed. So that's the survey channel  
11 feedback.

12 If you go to the next, virtual roundtable  
13 sessions. So this was another means of collecting broader  
14 feedback in accordance with each one of those three core  
15 categories. As you can see, those are the numbers of  
16 individuals who registered and attended. I think we were  
17 pretty satisfied with the number of attendees.

18 We received dozens of pieces of feedback, both  
19 verbally as well as in written form, so we have those all  
20 recorded which we'll also be processing those accordingly.

21 The focus on this was to really cast a broad net so we  
22 had participants with experience, nonprofits, university  
23 representatives, state agencies, low income  
24 representatives, consultants, just to name a few. So we  
25 were really satisfied with the turnout for this mode of

1 feedback. So those were the virtual roundtables.

2 And then last, focus on TICH workgroup  
3 meetings. And I'll leave it to the chairs for a little  
4 bit more of the in-depth summary of our progress, but  
5 there were two workgroup meetings that were held in June  
6 and July for each workgroup. The discussion formats were  
7 structured the same way as the virtual roundtables.

8 The front half had primary discussion focused  
9 on the categories outlined in the Pathways Home report and  
10 guided by those corresponding objectives, and then there  
11 was a cross-disciplinary discussion focused more on the  
12 supplementary themes that were mentioned earlier. And so  
13 the workgroups followed in real time the feedback that we  
14 were concurrently gathering through those other channels  
15 as a means of speaking to that feedback and starting to  
16 funnel it in ways in which we can start to inform useful  
17 strategies for the recommendations for this plan.

18 So with that, I'll leave it to Mike on how you  
19 want to structure this.

20 MR. DOYLE: And I want to hear from them, but I  
21 want to clarify something and make sure I'm correct. On  
22 the virtual roundtable sessions, I can say there were  
23 289 -- that's 114 plus 94 plus 89 -- registered to give  
24 input. Is that correct?

25 MR. LONERGAN: If your math is correct, yes.

1 MR. DOYLE: And then 138 of those actually  
2 attended the GoToMeeting sessions.

3 MR. LONERGAN: That's right.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay. To me, that's impressive  
5 that that many people signed up to watch it.

6 MR. LONERGAN: I'll leave it to you for the  
7 workgroup reports.

8 MR. DOYLE: All right. Kelly, we'd like to  
9 hear how the affordable housing and supportive services  
10 workgroup meetings went and what you concluded at the end  
11 of those meetings.

12 MS. DAVIS: Okay. Hello, everyone.

13 And so the affordable housing and supportive  
14 services workgroup meeting went very well. Some of the  
15 things that were discussed -- we talked about the three  
16 objectives, and so we discussed the prioritization of  
17 landlord engagement and accountability, the need for  
18 choice in housing, especially with sub-populations.

19 We talked about potentially establishing  
20 workgroups involving housing developers to increase  
21 capacity for developments that align with the needs of the  
22 community, and we also talked about promoting strategic  
23 partnerships across the public and private sector. And we  
24 talked about the emphasis of making sure to include  
25 hospital districts and other mental health community

1 organizations, as well, in that.

2 Then we also discussed, which I think was  
3 mentioned a little bit, but identifying underserved  
4 communities and towns of emergency that dealt with the  
5 cross-disciplinary discussion, where we were talking about  
6 the intersections of emergency response planning and  
7 addressing disparities as well.

8 We talked about potentially broadening the  
9 definition for homelessness to better capture sub-  
10 populations, and also incorporation of DEI practices as  
11 providers and developers as well.

12 MR. DOYLE: Kelly, did you say broadening the  
13 definition of homelessness?

14 MS. DAVIS: Yes, to make sure it better  
15 captures sub-populations that normally aren't captured.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

17 MS. DAVIS: Commenting was making sure that we  
18 collaborate and get individuals with lived experiences so  
19 that we can build and maintain these systems as well.

20 MR. DOYLE: So did y'all address the obvious  
21 lack of affordable housing?

22 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

23 MR. DOYLE: What was your conclusion there?

24 MS. DAVIS: So one of the main things we talked  
25 about was, it was kind of one those things as far as

1 possibly establishing workgroups involving housing  
2 developers so that they understand the need for the  
3 affordable housing. We talked about the prioritization of  
4 landlord engagement, and accountability was also something  
5 that was discussed. And then the big thing was working  
6 with those strategic partnerships across public and the  
7 private sector, as well as nonprofits.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I've been doing this for 30  
9 years and 30 years ago affordable housing was an issue.  
10 Today it's an issue. I just would like to see some  
11 formula by which we could attract developers in a less  
12 complicated system than tax credits to create affordable  
13 housing.

14 I know if developers are getting paid rents,  
15 it's pretty easy to develop housing. So there's got to be  
16 some place between an incentive for developers to do it  
17 and actually getting them paid so they can make money out  
18 of it. But you allow them to make money out of it and  
19 they'll, I think, build all the affordable housing you  
20 want.

21 I don't know if there's anything we can do  
22 about some of the regulations that come down from HUD  
23 about affordable housing. But the thought that developers  
24 are willing to do it if they can get paid for it, and HUD  
25 is saying they shouldn't get paid for, particularly

1 nonprofit developers -- because in programs that I've seen  
2 around the state, the second you make your affordable  
3 housing project profitable, they cut the amount of  
4 vouchers. So they say you just can't make any money at  
5 it, but you allow us to make money at it and we'll do it  
6 as a social enterprise -- I think.

7 But I think we really need to explore how you  
8 do that, something with some teeth in it that when I leave  
9 here, when I leave this work, something can be said about  
10 affordable housing. Because it runs across every sector  
11 of the poor that there is. It's always about where's the  
12 housing or the transportation or the child care, or  
13 whatever it is. So I hope that y'all will just address  
14 that.

15 I mean, as you know, TWC, Kelly, if you can't  
16 afford a place to live, you're not going to do very good  
17 at a job because you can't get there in most cases. So I  
18 just would hope that y'all would really try to come up  
19 with a strategy for nonprofit developers and for-profit  
20 developers that would make them say, man, I gotta try  
21 that. I don't know how you do it.

22 MS. DAVIS: That was one of the discussions was  
23 how do we incentivize that? So we're still thinking about  
24 that one, but that was something we were definitely  
25 thinking about as well.

1 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Anything else?

2 MS. DAVIS: I think that has covered it.

3 MR. DOYLE: Any questions for Kelly and her  
4 group? If any people who are on that workgroup, feel free  
5 to jump in here. And on all the workgroups who your  
6 chairman is presenting, feel free to throw your two cents  
7 worth in there too. We'd like to hear your input.

8 MS. GALASSO: I'm on this workgroup. I just  
9 wanted to say that the conversations have been really  
10 substantive and everybody has been doing a really great  
11 job at facilitating these meetings.

12 I think just clarification on the definition of  
13 homelessness -- I mean, I can only speak on youth  
14 homelessness, but for example the HUD definition is much  
15 more restrictive than the McKinney-Vento definition. And  
16 I really think some of those pieces are really critical  
17 that Kelly mentioned.

18 MR. DOYLE: Good point. I mean, the Hearth Act  
19 tried to get them closer together, but there's still not  
20 one definition. It's kind of hard when you're talking to  
21 somebody in education about homelessness and they say that  
22 there are 25,000 homeless children in a school district  
23 and the point-in-time count says there's 14, you know.

24 MS. GALASSO: Yes. That just makes it  
25 difficult. So thank you for your work and your

1 leadership.

2 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Good job, Kelly.

3 Okay. The next one is homeless intervention,  
4 Naomi.

5 MS. CANTU: Thank you, Kelly, for going first.

6 You covered a lot of things that also came up in ours,  
7 which don't always intersect with prevention but we did  
8 discuss lack of affordable housing and supports and things  
9 like that.

10 I'm going to cover the highlights here. Before  
11 I forget, I do want to extend a thank you to Sean and  
12 Brian for keeping us on track and organized, and we have  
13 several TICH members on our committee and as well as Texas  
14 Council on Family Violence and TNOYS member as well.

15 So we talked about when to intervene. What is  
16 the tipping point for prevention? We also talked about  
17 the at-risk definition, which I'm going to bring up now  
18 after bringing up the question -- because we talked about  
19 adding to the at-risk definition, but it's a very  
20 convoluted definition. And really it might not be worth  
21 expanding on it, because there's so many different ways to  
22 expand on it, but more design guidelines on when to  
23 intervene for at risk.

24 So we're talking about what that might look  
25 like, possible models of what that might look like. For

1 example, there's been a lot of work with Legal Aid, what  
2 worked, what's the moratorium like, when does eviction  
3 actually lead to homelessness, and studies on that. I  
4 don't think that has all been digested yet from the  
5 pandemic, but to look at models that did work and see is  
6 there statewide guidance on when you say yes, you're going  
7 to first if they can self-resolve.

8 We also talked about when someone does have an  
9 eviction, what can we do. For example, can we work on --  
10 is there a method to, for lack of a better term -- I'm not  
11 a lawyer -- for lack of a better term, expunge the record,  
12 like try and figure out there's limited look-back, a  
13 limited time period for look-back, or maybe try and figure  
14 out how to get it off their record. Because that can be a  
15 real difficulty when trying to prevent homelessness in the  
16 future.

17 We also talked about awareness training on what  
18 at risk of homelessness looks like. Because like you said  
19 earlier, I think before the meeting, there's a lot of  
20 visibility on people's experiences with homelessness, but  
21 not so much on people at risk of homelessness and what  
22 that looks like and who's affected, so possibly some  
23 awareness training on that.

24 And I think a lot of the other things -- oh,  
25 yes, the last one I want to mention, because I think Kelly

1 covered working with landlords, state institutions, the  
2 partnerships all that. One other thing I want to talk  
3 about is flexible funding. It comes up a lot. And we  
4 have had a lot of precedents or more flexibility, I think,  
5 with the CARES Act and also the ARP, American Rescue Plan,  
6 and so I think things that weren't covered before are now  
7 covered.

8 Just for example, in HOME ARP, which is the  
9 program that I'm administering -- and we didn't program  
10 funds like this, but in the federal guidelines, something  
11 like car repair is actually in one of our services.  
12 That's a big deal. Food, actual groceries, and again, we  
13 didn't program that that way, but it is federally there,  
14 more flexibility possibilities.

15 Hopefully that will bleed into whenever the  
16 permanent programs are updated. It will still be there,  
17 and we can see that.

18 And that's what we have so far.

19 MS. TRACZ: I'm sorry, I can't help but jumping  
20 in. I know you talked to Legal Aids.

21 MS. CANTU: We didn't talk with the Legal Aids,  
22 we talked about what they're doing.

23 MS. TRACZ: Okay. Because through the Housing  
24 Stability Program, we've provided \$40 million of funding  
25 to the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, and they have

1       been sub-awarded to ten Legal Aid services in the state  
2       to, like, escort someone to their eviction proceeding and  
3       help them with their documents. And you know, we're  
4       working with the Office of Court Administration on doing  
5       like an eviction texting reminder program. So there's  
6       outcomes that we can mine from that program that might  
7       inform your work, so I'm happy to connect on that.

8               MR. DOYLE: And I wouldn't forget that it's  
9       pretty accurate when you engage people coming out of  
10      prison to find out if they're at risk of homelessness or  
11      not. If they don't have a job, they got no skills, they  
12      got no support system. They're probably at risk of  
13      homelessness 80 percent of the time. So that population  
14      has also got issues around that, and the trauma they've  
15      experienced from being institutionalized for up to 20-25  
16      years.

17             We have people move into some of our programs  
18      out of prison who still stand against the wall when we  
19      walk down the hall, who still wake up the resident  
20      managers to see if they can go to the restroom in the  
21      middle of the night. That kind of institutionalized  
22      trauma is really a predictor of homelessness and if they  
23      weren't in this SRO, they would be homeless.

24             There's just no question about it. They can't  
25      even survive in a shelter. So that population is critical

1 as well. Sherri is not here, but that's a predictor.

2 And I don't know how you do it, don't know if  
3 you can do it, but it would be interesting to work with  
4 landlords -- we've all mentioned landlords -- when  
5 somebody misses their first or second rent, they're at  
6 risk of homelessness, unless they've got a support system  
7 somewhere in the community. Somebody gets arrested,  
8 they're at risk of being homeless, in a county jail -- not  
9 in prison because they're going away -- but they're at  
10 risk of losing their housing and then they're going to be  
11 homeless when they get out.

12 I don't know how you start the predictor, but  
13 loss of job has got to be a predictor, you know. So the  
14 unemployment numbers, you can find those out. Wage  
15 panels, we could find out those from the workforce system.

16 But I think the earlier you catch it, even if you're  
17 wrong on that risk, this money for the housing stability  
18 thing is a great test model.

19 We were hoping to get some of that, because we  
20 have so many people with CARES and ERA1 and ERA2. We were  
21 hoping to get some, but we hadn't heard that yet. I think  
22 that's the keys to the kingdom is find out what happened  
23 and how you address it early on.

24 MS. TRACZ: Well, there are organizations in  
25 your area that do have our funding, even if it is not

1 through the city or the county. The Homeless Coalition  
2 has a \$600,000 contract, so we're starting to ramp up  
3 their program.

4 MR. DOYLE: Good. Well, I'll talk with them  
5 about some of the data that they're gleaning from that,  
6 because that's the import of this stuff is how do you do  
7 it to keep it from progressing into homelessness.

8 MS. CANTU: And the trick is -- you mentioned  
9 about exiting institutions, that is in the at-risk-  
10 of-homelessness definition. So I believe they would be  
11 included as they also have lower income -- the trick is if  
12 someone misses one or two rent payments, when do you  
13 intercede. Because we talked about also using coordinated  
14 entry, and then you see people who have gone from one  
15 agency to another and using it like ongoing rental  
16 assistance, and that's not what it is. So when do you  
17 make that decision?

18 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. And on a side note, we've  
19 paid a lot of landlords. As a matter of fact, 19 percent  
20 of landlords that we offered to help with a particular  
21 family that was way behind didn't want the money because  
22 they wanted the resident out. And they used that money to  
23 buy boats and cars and vacations and they didn't pay the  
24 landlord because they were being protected from being  
25 evicted for a while. So when we came back and said we can

1 pay six months back rent, the landlord said, I don't want  
2 it.

3 MS. CANTU: I will say also that there was a  
4 discussion on making sure you have landlord relationships,  
5 but that landlord incentive themselves really gets hard.  
6 We thought it would work before the pandemic and it was a  
7 real push. We have access to it now, and from several  
8 sources it's not doing what we thought it would.

9 MR. DOYLE: Some use it to clean house.

10 MS. CANTU: Yeah, that's true.

11 MR. DOYLE: Good.

12 MS. GALASSO: In that definition was like youth  
13 aging out of foster care and youth exiting the criminal  
14 justice system. Those would all be used. I'm sure you  
15 guys talked about that, those special populations.

16 MS. CANTU: I think it is -- "exiting an  
17 institution" is how it's phrased. It's very convoluted,  
18 from memory. I should always look it up, but I believe  
19 that is correct.

20 MR. DOYLE: Thanks, Naomi. Great job, as  
21 usual.

22 Mr. Samuels, you're on data research and  
23 analysis. Wake up, Eric.

24 MR. SAMUELS: I didn't hear my name, sorry.

25 One thing that I would add to that last

1 conversation is if there's a way that this council could,  
2 I don't know, recommend -- I know we can't demand  
3 anything, but recommend that there's more consistent  
4 eviction data being provided across the state, I think  
5 that would be very useful. Because it's really hard to  
6 track eviction numbers outside of, for example, the North  
7 Texas Eviction Project -- or there's various forums we  
8 have throughout our areas, so I think that would be  
9 helpful as well.

10 Okay. So for the data and analysis committee,  
11 Sean covered most of it. We have a small but dedicated  
12 group of people that are looking at this issue. And some  
13 of the things we talked about was looking at the overall  
14 quality of data, making sure that we get data from  
15 populations that we don't easily gather data from -- so  
16 for example, victims of domestic violence, youth, veterans  
17 in certain situations, and the justice-involved, among  
18 others.

19 We also talked about how this strategic plan  
20 could help to influence better and more frequent data  
21 collection and perhaps influence policies and procedures  
22 to do this in the future. We talked about encouraging  
23 more data sharing, especially across overlapping systems.

24

25 For example, looking at the overlapping data of

1 people experiencing homelessness in times of disaster. So  
2 working closer with the Texas Department of Emergency  
3 Management, for example, and other systems of care, of  
4 course. And then when we were looking at those  
5 overlapping systems of care, we can look at disparities in  
6 service, duplication and then opportunities for more  
7 efficiency, and along the way identify pain points that  
8 our state agencies, our council maybe can help alleviate.

9 And then, of course, we did talk about the Data  
10 Sharing Network, but I promise I did not keep pushing it  
11 as a focus. And we talked about there are advantages to  
12 having that and how we could use those advantages.

13 We also talked about looking at coordinated  
14 entry in the state within our eleven CoCs -- and Sean, I  
15 might be getting a little off track here, I'm not sure --  
16 but how we could involve other systems. I talked about  
17 those overlapping systems, but there's just so much more  
18 we can do to bring in these other groups that we're not  
19 working closely enough with to make sure that we're  
20 serving those populations, we're identifying those  
21 families that are doubled up, those veterans that are out  
22 and not getting assistance from us, making sure that we're  
23 contacting them, involving them as well.

24 But I think we still have a lot of work to do,  
25 and Sean has been doing a good job of managing this group

1 of cats and hopefully it will continue to go well going  
2 forward.

3 MR. DOYLE: So, Eric, this is Mike. Getting  
4 the picture of the final product, if successful --

5 MR. SAMUELS: The final product of this  
6 committee?

7 MR. DOYLE: -- what will we know that we don't  
8 know now?

9 MR. SAMUELS: You're talking about of this  
10 committee?

11 MR. DOYLE: This committee, this data and the  
12 research and the analysis of it, what does that get us?  
13 I'd love to see it, don't get me wrong, but boy, it's hard  
14 to gather.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Right. Well, I think one of the  
16 things that we want -- at least I want in the final  
17 version of this is a more comprehensive view of  
18 homelessness across the state, including those that aren't  
19 considered homeless by HUD's definition, a better  
20 identification of where our systems overlap because we're  
21 still operating in too many silos, I believe. And I think  
22 there's a lot more overlap than what we -- well, I think  
23 some of us know that there's been overlap, but there's a  
24 lot more overlap than I think what a lot of people  
25 acknowledge. So identifying where it is, we can work

1 better with one another.

2 And then finally, some kind of guidance on how  
3 to better and more quickly share data that is -- I don't  
4 know if you'd say sanctioned or championed by the state,  
5 but some more common consistent way of doing that so we  
6 can use that as our guide and launch off of there instead  
7 of being all over the place for projects like this.

8 I think those three things is what I would like  
9 to see.

10 MR. DOYLE: So do you see your committee coming  
11 up in the next five or so years, whenever this thing gets  
12 finished -- and I'm not talking about just the plan, I'm  
13 talking about the functionality of this data and research  
14 system -- coming up with identifying and encouraging best  
15 practices of any kind across the state?

16 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, yeah, I definitely would.

17 MR. DOYLE: I mean, someplace to say this is  
18 working and I think people around the state need to know  
19 what you're doing to make this work.

20 MR. SAMUELS: You were kind of cutting out  
21 there, but yeah, I think we would identify best practices,  
22 identify data points that are truly valuable when we're  
23 talking about preventing and ending homelessness, and  
24 looking at things that are predictive. Because I do think  
25 the data is out there that would allow us to look at

1       burgeoning trends and start to act before things get out  
2       of hand.

3                       MR. DOYLE:  You know, early on in THN, back in  
4       '95-96, we would take the board meetings around the state  
5       and visit projects and talk to the executive directors  
6       about how it was working, and that was really, really  
7       valuable, but I don't know that anybody ever captured any  
8       of it.

9                       MR. SAMUELS:  We have some of that in our old  
10       notes.  Some of that is prior to me, actually, but yeah, I  
11       was a part of a lot of those, so I remember that.

12                      MR. DOYLE:  We could at least, in your  
13       committee, say there is a project in Fulshear that's  
14       really working great with homeless vets, you know, that  
15       kind of thing.  And give somebody a chance to say, well, I  
16       need to explore that.  I need to maybe go down there and  
17       take a visit and pick their brain because here's not  
18       working where we are here in Katy.

19                      So that kind of thing, you know, and I don't  
20       know if that is part of your charge or not.

21                      MR. SAMUELS:  That's more of an identification  
22       of best practices.  I hadn't seen that as part of this  
23       committee's charge, but I mean, I think there's value in  
24       that, that's for sure.

25                      MR. DOYLE:  Yeah, and even value for THN, I

1 think.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, oh, yeah. I mean, as you  
3 know, that's what we were initially created to do, be that  
4 big wide hub. And that's what we were exactly created to  
5 do, share information like that.

6 MR. DOYLE: So that leads us right into your  
7 updates on number VI, so keep talking there, sir.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Sure. And then we'll pass it off  
9 to Jim to talk about the good work they're doing with EHV.

10 Real quickly on the Texas Homeless Data Sharing  
11 Network -- and by the way, Aubrey might chime in if I miss  
12 something here -- but we have nine of the eleven CoCs  
13 participating. The only CoCs that are not right now are  
14 the Bexar County -- San Antonio/Bexar County CoC, and  
15 Wichita Falls, what they call Homeward Bound CoC, so it's  
16 Wichita Falls and 15 surrounding counties. So right now  
17 the TNSDN is covering well over 90 percent of the state  
18 and probably well over 90 percent of the population  
19 experiencing homelessness.

20 We have our dashboard up and running that,  
21 unfortunately, I can't send you the link to right now, but  
22 we can get the link to Sean, if he hasn't already provided  
23 it to everybody. We are working closely with the Texas  
24 Health Services Authority, the statewide HIE, and trying  
25 to work out a data use agreement with them and their

1 participation NCOs.

2           The NCO we're going to probably work with first  
3 is Superior Health Care. So the idea is that we'll be  
4 able to identify clients that they're keeping track of,  
5 and then down the road, as data is being shared more  
6 frequently, we could even identify when someone is leaving  
7 the emergency room and what shelter they're being  
8 discharged to. That's not something that we can do right  
9 now, but the Data Sharing Network will allow that in the  
10 future, as long as we continue on and keep building the  
11 Data Sharing Network.

12           There's a research project at the University of  
13 North Texas looking at migration patterns. We need to get  
14 an update from them. They should be nearly done with  
15 their research by the end of this summer.

16           And then I think I'm missing something --  
17 Aubrey, you might help me, I can't remember -- oh, yeah,  
18 we've been working with Endeavors to potentially have them  
19 as a using agency. And then down the road, perhaps they  
20 could run their reporting through one common entity which  
21 would be the Data Sharing Network instead of going through  
22 six different CoCs for that data. There's a lot of  
23 opportunities, I think, for our state agencies to use the  
24 network in that way too in the future so that they're not  
25 fabricating reports from several CoCs to report up to HUD.

1           With all that being said, we unfortunately  
2 found out we did not receive funding from AWS recently for  
3 2023, so this is our last year -- starting looking for  
4 funding for next year. You know, it's just like that with  
5 all of these projects. You've got to just keep scraping  
6 and clawing to keep it going, but we moved quite forward  
7 in the last year.

8           Was I going out there?

9           MS. EISERT: Eric, it was just hard for some of  
10 the people to hear, so I was repeating what you had said.

11          MR. SAMUELS: That we did not receive the  
12 funding from AWS, yeah.

13          But we have a lot of opportunity for next few  
14 months and we'll see what we can do and hopefully secure  
15 2023 and the whole future there.

16          MR. DOYLE: All right, buddy, thank you.

17          MS. FETZER: This is Aubrey Fetzer. I just  
18 wanted to add two more points going off of what Eric  
19 covered. And so regarding fund development, from the  
20 notice we got of the AWS grant, combined with the  
21 contracts that we've had with THSA and Endeavors, the data  
22 sharing team has solidified the -- or confirmed the need  
23 for automated data uploaders for our continuum of care  
24 partners, the benefit of that, and so that's one of our  
25 main fund development focuses.

1           And then along with that, myself and the Data  
2     Sharing Network Project manager, Anja Taylor -- who wasn't  
3     able to attend today because she's at the National  
4     Alliance on Ending Homelessness Conference. We're both  
5     working to develop more training webinars to help with  
6     engagement of our CoC partners with the actual Data  
7     Sharing Network data warehouse, our open path system. So  
8     through those two factors, we're well aware of needing to  
9     see development and success from the project, you know,  
10    the circular involvement of engagement, including our data  
11    dashboard that we've been able to publish.

12           So those two main aspects are something that  
13    myself and Anja are focusing on with the time left that I  
14    have as the VISTA on this project.

15           MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Aubrey, appreciate that.

16           All right. So, Jim Ward, you're going to talk  
17    to us about the EHV Program.

18           MR. WARD: Yes, sir. Hello, everyone, my name  
19    is Jim Ward. I'm the director of planning at the Texas  
20    Homeless Network. I feel like I know half the folks in  
21    this room, so that's actually really nice.

22           So I wanted to talk to the council about the  
23    Emergency Housing Voucher Program, and specifically the  
24    state's allocation of Emergency Housing Vouchers and THN's  
25    role in administering those. So I just wanted to talk

1 again briefly about the structure of EHV in the Balance of  
2 State, our staffing structure at THN around the Emergency  
3 Housing Voucher Program, and then performance of the  
4 program to date.

5 So this is another pandemic response, this one  
6 by the Biden Administration through the American Rescue  
7 Plan. Of the 70,000 vouchers allocated around the United  
8 States, about 1,486 of those vouchers came to the Texas  
9 Balance of State CoC. That looks like 38 public housing  
10 authorities across our service area; it's a 215 county  
11 area.

12 Of those 38 PHAs invited to administer, 28  
13 ultimately ended up accepting their allocation, including  
14 the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.  
15 And so the partnership with TDHCA is the largest  
16 partnership that THN has with any PHA in our service area.

17 They were invited to administer, I think, close to half  
18 of the 1,486 vouchers.

19 The really interesting thing about the  
20 Emergency Housing Voucher Program -- and Naomi kind of  
21 alluded to this earlier -- is the flexibility that comes  
22 along with the program itself. So PHAs are required to  
23 coordinate with their continuum of care in their service  
24 area to administer the vouchers. They must accept  
25 referrals from the continuum of care through the

1 coordinated entry process.

2 But then HUD actually paired the housing  
3 voucher itself along with what they call a service fee,  
4 which is a \$3,500 allotment per voucher that the PHA can  
5 use in a variety of ways. But it's intended to support  
6 the household from identification theft to moving in.

7 MR. DOYLE: So, Jim, if I can interrupt you so  
8 make sure I'm on the right page.

9 MR. WARD: Yes, sir.

10 MR. DOYLE: The 1,486 vouchers Texas got -- THN  
11 got for the Balance of State -- that doesn't include the  
12 eleven CoCs that aren't part of the balance of State.

13 MR. WARD: No, sir.

14 MR. DOYLE: This is just in the Balance of  
15 State.

16 MR. WARD: That is correct. I think statewide,  
17 there were about 4,500. And Spencer might know for  
18 sure -- I know Spencer was on this call. But yeah, in the  
19 Balance of State, so about 85 percent of the state's land  
20 mass, there were approximately 1,400.

21 MR. DOYLE: Fourteen hundred, okay. Thank you.

22 MR. WARD: So yeah, I mentioned that PHAs are  
23 required to coordinate with the CoC. And the real  
24 challenge, I think, for us in the state in this situation  
25 is that these vouchers were awarded to a PHA where the CoC

1 doesn't have much of a physical presence in the community.

2 And so the state and THN connected very early on to try  
3 to figure out what this whole thing is going to look like.

4

5 Starting back in May of 2021, Spencer and  
6 myself and some folks from the Texas Council on Family  
7 Violence and Federal TA providers would meet regularly to  
8 try to figure out what this looks like, again where  
9 there's no capacity for the CoC to fill the role that HUD  
10 expected in this process. So what that kind of ultimately  
11 ended up as is through an award of ERA Housing Stability  
12 Services funding the department made to THN, we were able  
13 to hire up a team to fill this need.

14 So we have a contract with TDHCA to refer 380  
15 of their total allocation, and those 380 vouchers are in  
16 186 county service areas. So I'm going to talk a little  
17 bit about how that's going here in just a second, but we  
18 have received referrals to THN for more than half of those  
19 counties, which is something that we were not  
20 anticipating. We were thinking that the referrals were  
21 going to come from just a handful of counties in that  
22 service area, so that's really exciting.

23 But what does it look like? So basically we  
24 maintain a referral portal on the THN website where  
25 members of the general public, nonprofit service partners,

1 victims service providers, anyone can submit a referral on  
2 behalf of the household or on behalf of themselves. And  
3 then THN staff on the back-end will verify their  
4 eligibility, determine whether or not they've already gone  
5 through a coordinated entry process -- if not, actually  
6 enroll them in the coordinated entry, perform assessments  
7 on them depending on their situation, whether they're  
8 literally homeless under the HUD definition or they're at  
9 risk. And once we've verified their eligibility,  
10 prioritize those households and refer them on to TDHCA for  
11 voucher issuance.

12           Once the voucher has been issued to that  
13 household, they come back to THN. Even though we still  
14 haven't seen them in person at this point -- it's kind of  
15 an odd thing, but we support them throughout that housing  
16 search assistance process as well and help the state  
17 utilize those service fees.

18           So that looks like security deposits. It pays  
19 for staff time around the housing search assistance  
20 itself. It can look like utility deposits. It can look  
21 like moving expenses.

22           It can look like a variety of things. They  
23 were really pretty generous, I think, with how you can use  
24 those service fees. And so we support them throughout  
25 that housing search assistance phase.

1           And so all that, I mention, was made possible  
2 by the HSS admin award along with some direct client  
3 assistance. But it has enabled us to hire six staff who  
4 are dedicated to this process. And there were a couple of  
5 pre-existing staff, myself obviously, but we hired folks  
6 kind of over a span of time because we didn't know exactly  
7 what the demand was going to look like, what the need was  
8 going to look like. So actually our most recent hires  
9 were in June of 2022.

10           And overall I think it is going pretty well in  
11 terms of the performance. As of last Friday, we've made  
12 269 referrals to TDHCA. Of those 269 referrals, 109 of  
13 them have been survivors of domestic violence, and we've  
14 only had 20 households relinquish their voucher  
15 voluntarily.

16           None of the households that we referred to  
17 TDHCA have been rejected, so that means that they're all  
18 income qualified. They're all eligible for the program,  
19 which is great.

20           I think the thing that everyone is struggling  
21 with is how to get those people -- voucher issuance is the  
22 easy part, but then actually getting them into housing is  
23 challenging. We do have three staff that focus  
24 exclusively on housing search assistance piece. We housed  
25 our first household back in April, and every month since

1 then it has grown. This month we're anticipating at least  
2 eleven households -- hoping that that number continues to  
3 double on a monthly basis, at least until the fall or late  
4 summer.

5 And yeah -- so we provide the housing search  
6 assistance virtually, unfortunately. We are located in  
7 Austin. We have staff providing housing search assistance  
8 in Travis County virtually, but also staff in Longview and  
9 Kaufman County. So we try to ensure a geographic  
10 distribution of our staff as well, so folks that are  
11 living in the Balance of State kind of understand issues  
12 that their neighbors are facing and help us navigate that.

13 I would say, though, that we, at least  
14 preliminarily, are finding success with landlord  
15 incentives. They have proven to be useful to us in our  
16 very limited capacity -- certainly not as much as TDHCA  
17 with ESG. But yeah, I think that's it. I don't know if  
18 the council has any questions or would like to know more.

19 MR. DOYLE: Questions for Jim?

20 MS. CANTU: Naomi Cantu. I should walk back  
21 what I said about landlord incentives just a little bit.  
22 There was a limited sample of the people I talked to that  
23 said it wasn't working. And thinking about flexible  
24 funding, I would hate to see it taken off the table. If  
25 it works for some people, then we want to keep it on the

1 table, but it's not the grand panacea that we thought it  
2 was going to be before the pandemic.

3 MR. WARD: That's fair, yeah.

4 MR. DOYLE: And I think it's also very, very  
5 explainable that landlords in bigger cities will react  
6 different than landlords in smaller cities. Rural America  
7 would take them in a heartbeat; urban America may not.

8 MR. WARD: That's a great point.

9 MR. DOYLE: Good job. Thank you very much.

10 MR. WARD: Thank you.

11 MR. DOYLE: Is there any public comment?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. DOYLE: Well, I have no closing comments,  
14 other than to thank you again very much for everybody that  
15 participated in this either in person or by phone. It's  
16 important work.

17 And again, I want to thank Sean and Brian for  
18 their hard work on this, because I know it's difficult.  
19 And Kelly and Naomi and Eric, thank you so much for your  
20 hard work on it. I hope that I can participate more in  
21 the future, but this is a great start.

22 Okay. There being no other business, we can  
23 adjourn. We are adjourned. Thank you.

24 (Whereupon, at 3:04 p.m., the meeting was  
25 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless  
LOCATION: Austin, Texas  
DATE: July 26, 2022

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
numbers 1 through 63, inclusive, are the true, accurate,  
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording  
made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the  
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

DATE: August 1, 2022

/s/ Nancy H. King  
(Transcriber)

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