

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
FOR THE HOMELESS
(TICH)

Austin Southpark Hotel
Southpark AB Room
4140 Governors Row
Austin, Texas 78744

Wednesday,
September 28, 2022
10:33 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair
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BROOKE BOSTON
SUZIE BRADY
MARQUS BUTLER
NAOMI CANTU
HEATHER PARSLEY for SHERRI COGBILL
KELLY DAVIS
HELEN EISERT
BLAKE HARRIS
CLAIRE IRWIN
CAL LOPEZ

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FEDORA GALASSO
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LAUREN ROSE
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MR. DOYLE: Well, welcome everyone. We appreciate you being here at the September meeting of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless. We thank the Texas Homeless Network, and there's another partner in --

MR. SAMUELS: No, it's just us now.

MR. DOYLE: Okay. Just the Texas Homeless Network is hosting us this morning.

So thank you for being here. I'm going to -- we're waiting on one person so we can get to a quorum, and we'll have that.

But I first want to find out who's on the telephone? We may already have a quorum. So if you're on the telephone --

MS. LAVELLE: Good morning, it's Tanya Lavelle with Disability Rights Texas.

MR. DOYLE: Say that one more time?

MS. LAVELLE: Tanya Lavelle with Disability Rights Texas.

MR. DOYLE: Okay. Who else is on the phone?

MS. BOSTON: Brooke Boston.

MR. DOYLE: Brooke?

MS. BOSTON: Yes, Brooke Boston. I'm on the phone.

MR. DOYLE: Okay.

1 MS. DAVIS: Hello, this is Kelly Davis, from
2 TWC.

3 MR. DOYLE: All right. Hi, Kelly. Anybody
4 else on the phone?

5 MS. GALASSO: Fedora Galasso with the Texas
6 Network of Youth Services.

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Anyone else?

8 MS. VERSYP: Abigail Versyp at TDHCA.

9 MR. STREMLER: And Jeremy Stremmer, TDHCA.

10 MR. DOYLE: We missing anybody? Who just
11 joined?

12 MR. BUTLER: Oh, this is Marqus Butler with the
13 Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

14 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Marqus. We needed you.
15 Thank you.

16 Okay. I'll call this meeting to order, and
17 announce that we do have a quorum of members present and
18 voting.

19 So I want to start this off in my remarks just
20 to ask a question. As most of you know, I do represent
21 the Governor's Office on this, and there has been
22 questions asked of me that I informed them we'd just find
23 out for sure today.

24 So here's something I just want us to discuss
25 for a few minutes. This isn't going to take long, I don't

1 think. But there's a lot of homelessness in the news
2 right now.

3 We just saw a report that San Francisco spends
4 \$106,700 a year per homeless person, and it's probably as
5 bad as it is anywhere in the country. And there are
6 others that are the same way, living on the streets in
7 tents. People are violating ADA because they can't even
8 drive their wheelchairs down the sidewalk because of all
9 the tents. It's in the news like it has never been in
10 some time.

11 Yet here in Texas, it's not in the news because
12 it's not like it is there. So the question was posed to
13 me, what are we doing right? So I wanted to open this up
14 to everybody, not only council members but others: what
15 are we doing right?

16 Okay. Let me confirm the people that, for the
17 record, are here for a quorum. We have Mike Doyle, Brooke
18 Boston, Naomi Cantu, Cal Lopez, Marqus Butler, Kelly
19 Davis, Helen Eichert [sic] are all council members, is
20 that right?

21 MS. EISERT: Eisert.

22 MR. DOYLE: I'm sorry. These are borrowed
23 glasses.

24 Thank you, Nancy, for letting me borrow your
25 glasses. I got out of Fort Worth at 3:30, 4:00, this

1 morning and left everything. So those people are present,
2 and --

3 MS. BOLTON: I'm also here, Valinda Bolton --

4 MR. DOYLE: Valinda Bolton, yeah.

5 MS. BOLTON: -- DFPS.

6 MR. LONERGAN: I believe Sherry had a proxy.

7 MR. DOYLE: Is anybody here as a proxy for
8 Sherry Cogbill?

9 MS. PARSLEY: I am. Heather Parsley.

10 MR. DOYLE: Heather, okay.

11 DR. HARRIS: Blake Harris.

12 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, I've got you down, Blake.

13 Thank you. Okay. Is that all that you need?

14 And if anybody from around by the wall has a
15 comment that they would like to share with the Council, if
16 you'll step towards, and for those young people, you'll
17 know -- that's a poly-com. I didn't know what that was,
18 but it's a poly-com. And if you'll step close to that so
19 we can hear your answers and get them recorded, okay.

20 So what are we doing right that homelessness
21 isn't 100 percent worse than it was last year?

22 MR. WILT: Mike, I'll offer some comments.

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

24 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, Texas State Affordable
25 Housing Corporation.

1 We have a Supportive Housing Institute, thanks
2 to a partnership with HHSC, that we've been doing now for
3 three years. This most recent cohort just kicked off
4 their Institute in September. I thank the Corporation for
5 Supportive Housing for being our training partner. But
6 you know, Mayor Adler, the Austin mayor, kicked off our
7 Institute that we had at our office a couple weeks ago.

8 And I think what's different now than a year
9 and a half ago -- well, first of all, it's the American
10 Rescue Plan funding. That certainly was a big
11 contribution. But the City of Austin, Travis County came
12 together, created a plan that was rolled out in October of
13 last year -- basically a \$500 million plan to house 3,000
14 people over the next three years.

15 And they recruited a cohort of developers, a
16 lot of nonprofit developers, about eight of them. Six of
17 them are going through our Institute. And they all have
18 capital commitments, primarily from ARPA funding, the \$150
19 million between the city and county combined. The city's
20 fundraised on top of that to get to that \$500 million
21 number, and they're about \$60-70 million short at this
22 point, but you know, we've got \$430 million total.

23 And what was encouraging, and what Mayor Adler
24 said in his remarks, is that it's still on a scale in most
25 of these Texas cities were you can actually reach

1 functional zero. You know, we're talking 2- to 3,000,
2 individuals experiencing homelessness, in most of these
3 metro areas, as opposed to California where in LA, it's
4 100,000.

5 So it's not really on a scale to where you can
6 create a collective vision and then the community responds
7 to it and address it, in some of those California
8 communities, where you can still can in Texas. But I
9 think, you know, what Austin's doing is certainly -- it
10 could be replicated where you have a collective community
11 vision, everybody's on board, you have a plan that's put
12 together that's fully funded.

13 And so we're not just talking about these
14 concepts of, hey, we wish we could have money for them,
15 and if we had X amount of dollars, we could trade X number
16 of units and get these people housed. Now we actually can
17 do that.

18 I think the catalyst for that was, you know,
19 the ARPA funding, but also the city, county and all --
20 everybody working collaboratively to execute a planned
21 vision.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So I would assume that
23 somewhere in that formula, the fact that housing is
24 still -- maybe not in Austin, but in the rest of the
25 world -- housing in Texas is still somewhat affordable.

1 You're not asking -- we're not getting -- having to pay --
2 or our vouchers aren't having to pay exorbitant rents so
3 we can use them on more units to house more people. Is
4 that a fair statement?

5 MR. SAMUELS: That's what I was thinking
6 earlier. I thought, you know, compared to California, LA,
7 LA County, the cost of living is definitely lower across
8 the board. Austin's a little higher.

9 But also I agree with Mike. We have
10 something -- not that we don't have issues. There is too
11 many people experiencing homelessness, but we're in a
12 state we can wrap our hands around it. We can get a
13 community collaborative response together, like Dallas by
14 the way, because they're doing that just like Austin, and
15 Fort Worth and other areas and having a lot of success
16 because it is -- I'm not going to say it's -- we don't
17 have a slot for every person.

18 But it's a little bit more manageable than we
19 see in other parts of the country, especially in LA, LA
20 County, and a lot of parts of California. So I believe --
21 and also our economy throughout this whole pandemic has
22 remained relatively strong, compared to a lot of other
23 places. So that's a contributor as well.

24 MR. DOYLE: So the Texas economy is a part.

25 MS. ROBINSON: Yeah.

1 MR. SAMUELS: And I think Joli has something?

2 MS. ROBINSON: So from the Dallas perspective,
3 it is the collaboration. It's pulling that ARPA funding
4 together, to have a city-, countywide strategy that we all
5 can march towards.

6 It is that we have reasonable rents right now
7 that we can march towards -- that we can at least gather
8 and get units. We are struggling, though, to get units at
9 scale. And so we can applaud ourselves, but we are not
10 there -- but the caveat is yet.

11 As we're continuing to see rents rise for us in
12 our market, and they are pricing -- we're having a harder
13 time with vouchers and rent reasonableness and all of the
14 above, right. It's really creating some struggles
15 intentioned around can we sustain, are we going to be able
16 to continue to house individuals at scale.

17 We're not there yet, and we are afraid that
18 what we're seeing in the market, we probably maybe have
19 two or three years. If something -- if there's not
20 another intervention, we probably have another two or
21 three years.

22 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

23 MR. LONERGAN: Joli?

24 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

25 MR. LONERGAN: Could you state your name and

1 your involvement for the record?

2 MS. ROBINSON: Hi. I'm also speaking -- right.

3 Joli Angel Robinson, president of the Metro Dallas
4 Homeless Alliance. We cover Dallas and Collin County.

5 MR. DOYLE: Good. What else?

6 MS. SALDIVAR: Can I piggyback off of that?

7 MR. DOYLE: Absolutely.

8 MS. SALDIVAR: Okay.

9 MR. DOYLE: State your name, right there by
10 that spaceship looking thing.

11 MS. SALDIVAR: Christine Saldivar. I'm from El
12 Paso, Texas, with my co-worker, Annie. We're from the El
13 Paso Coalition for the Homeless.

14 So I kind of have to agree with what she said
15 because what we've seen in El Paso lately is the rent
16 reasonableness as well. We have people that are on a
17 fixed income, SSI, SSDI, and all the rents are going up.
18 And that's a struggle that we're having to deal with,
19 because we only have so much funding that goes into
20 different agencies, that there's criteria that they have
21 to fall under, and a lot of our clients do not.

22 So they're left hanging out there without
23 having to get their rents paid, utilities paid. And we're
24 like, our hands up in the air, like, what else can we do
25 for these people? Because I don't know if anybody has the

1 answer to this, but some of these landlords -- I don't
2 know what they go based on as far as if they're allowed to
3 raise the rents, or are they just doing it to raise the
4 rents.

5 And a lot of these clients of ours are having
6 to leave their homes, and that's when our homelessness
7 population goes up more. So that's the struggle that
8 we're having in El Paso.

9 MR. DOYLE: Good. Yes. I don't know if any of
10 you are having issues with zoning, but I've heard from
11 some counties that there are minimum square footage
12 requirements in building new housing.

13 And I know Fort Worth is trying to make a stab
14 at tiny homes in specific areas, but really the zoning
15 there is no less than 1500 square feet. So that's not
16 going to work.

17 So any place else that zoning issues are
18 causing -- so you said Dallas was one?

19 MS. ROBINSON: Yes, Joli again. Dallas is one,
20 and we are having to think outside our county,
21 specifically. We're having to build in areas that are
22 unincorporated to get around those zoning issues and all
23 of those other restrictions that are placed. It's not
24 ideal, because the unincorporated areas are also farther
25 away from health care and grocery and the transit line,

1 and all of those others.

2 So there are some trade-offs, but we're having
3 to think about that as well. Zoning is really a struggle.

4 MR. DOYLE: That's been talked about in
5 Portland, moving to a huge camp, 100-acre camp, but same
6 thing, where do you get the services? Do caseworkers
7 drive to the camp, you know, to the tents and set up
8 another tent, and talk to the people that need help?
9 That's hard to do.

10 MR. SAMUELS: San Antonio.

11 MR. DOYLE: San Antonio.

12 MR. SAMUELS: Kelly -- sorry, not Kelly, Katie.

13 MS. VELA: Katie Vela. I'm the executive
14 director of the continuum of care lead in San Antonio,
15 SARAH. I just want to echo some of the same comments.

16 Over the years we haven't seen the same
17 explosive unsheltered homelessness. It's remained
18 relatively flat. We have shelter capacity -- as a
19 strength of San Antonio, we have a shelter that has over
20 1500 beds with co-located services, and relatively
21 affordable housing.

22 But over the last two years, we've really seen
23 that start to change. And just as an example, we now have
24 over 60 families sleeping in overflow space, in
25 classrooms, in the chapel, because there just aren't the

1 units to move out into. And even with the help of a
2 voucher, it's still difficult to locate a unit for a
3 family.

4 So the biggest challenge for us is families
5 with young children, and then people on a limited income
6 who can no longer afford their rent, but there's nowhere
7 more affordable for them to go. And then they lose those
8 social supports.

9 So even with that shelter capacity, there just
10 aren't the units. And a lot of the dollars have gone to
11 preventing eviction with rental assistance, and now we've
12 lost even more ground with housing development.

13 So we've got some strategies, and we just
14 approved a housing bond, but I just think we have to stay
15 ahead of it because we're going to end up in the same
16 situation as a lot of the other --

17 MR. DOYLE: Affordable housing bond?

18 MS. VELA: Yes, there was a \$150 million
19 housing bond passed in San Antonio for the first time that
20 is going to develop some units. It had 25 million for
21 permanent supportive housing. We're also focusing on
22 rehab because there are a lot of older homes that we want
23 to maintain, but we know that's not enough to get us all
24 the way there. So yeah, same issues.

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Anything else?

1 MS. LOPEZ: I wanted to go ahead and share.
2 Cal Lopez, with the Texas Education Agency. So first for
3 clarification, under the McKinney-Vento Homeless
4 Assistance Act, for the educational aspect, it's a
5 different definition.

6 So we have families that can qualify living in
7 shelters, hotels. Unsheltered are our most common living
8 situation; approximately 77 percent of our students who
9 are identified live in a doubled-up situation, meaning
10 they live with multiple family members or friends.

11 And so the approach that we've taken here,
12 moving forward, especially with the assistance of the
13 ARPA, is we released -- I shared in the previous meeting
14 90 percent of the ARP funds to our school districts and
15 charter schools across the state.

16 Seventy-seven percent of those allocations have
17 already been awarded. And we're in the process of
18 contacting the remaining eligible school districts to talk
19 to them about reapplying, considering re-application,
20 especially those who have a high amount remaining there.
21 And so with this grant, ARP funds, we were also able to
22 increase our funding to our competitive sub-grantees,
23 which -- that is a requirement by the statute.

24 But also we have 20 regional McKinney-Vento
25 liaisons. And this is a different aspect of the program

1 we haven't had in the past. We've increased their
2 funding. But they're located within the 20 -- and I can
3 provide you the list of those cities later -- to
4 specifically work with the school districts in their area
5 to ensure that we're identifying everyone.

6 The key is awareness of who may be experiencing
7 homelessness, especially in the doubled-up living
8 situation. And while our numbers dropped during COVID, we
9 are seeing an uptick and also hearing that more and more
10 families are getting placed out of housing because they
11 cannot afford the rental increase.

12 So now we have the funding to have regional
13 contacts, right, that are also supposed to be providing
14 resources from a regional level of housing and other
15 services which has not occurred in the past.

16 So instead of them contacting us at the State
17 saying I need assistance in this area, we can refer them
18 to that regional contact who's aware of all the housing
19 resources and other supportive resources. And so being
20 able to provide that safety net, that -- you know, to
21 increase that application and the funding to increase
22 staffing capacity, both within our school districts and
23 our regions to ensure that there are -- we have more
24 resources to be identifying in real time, and providing
25 that.

1 And so that's what we're doing from the
2 educational aspect. We also had a training actually on
3 Tuesday that was just a McKinney-Vento 101. We had over a
4 thousand attendees virtually. So we were really excited
5 about that.

6 We're in the process of releasing new
7 infographics on our data. I was just sharing with Sean,
8 we're always a couple years behind, so it will be the 2021
9 school year.

10 And then also when it comes to technical
11 assistance, we now have that regional contact that knows
12 the school districts in that area. So they're able to
13 provide the services, and also communicate to the State
14 what are the needs and advocate for each one of those
15 regions.

16 And in addition to that, we've had a small and
17 rural panel which we talked about challenges regarding
18 identification, transportation and services. And I'm
19 honored to let you know that we will be presenting that at
20 the National Homeless Conference, and I'll share more
21 about that.

22 So when people think of Texas, they don't think
23 of small and rural schools. I mean, we have over 1200
24 school districts and charter schools, and the majority of
25 them are small and rural. They think of our big cities,

1 but not the challenges that we face in the smaller areas.

2

3 So I kind of wanted to share that with you from
4 an educational perspective.

5 MR. DOYLE: Good, thank you. Is anybody from
6 HUD here? Okay. This is not negative about them, but --

7 (General laughter.)

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So any of you have anything
9 on your wish list that you wish HUD would not require,
10 that would allow us to do more affordable housing?

11 Let me preface it -- throw myself under the
12 bus. My wife gave me this dumb watch, and I don't know --
13 she actually had a new one, handed this one down to me.

14 But anyway, Cornerstone in Tarrant County
15 built -- bought and remodeled, with a grant that we got
16 from a private individual owner, 22 condominium units.
17 And for me, condominiums are good for low income families
18 because they don't have to keep a yard, they don't pay
19 taxes. They're not responsible for anything but the
20 inside.

21 The walls, the roof, the foundation is all the
22 condo's things. So we did 21 of those, and HUD said that
23 would be great. And I said we want to move our own
24 clients in there because we had -- working with a lot of
25 homeless families.

1 And we moved all of our homeless families into
2 these 21 units, and then they looked at it and said, wait
3 a minute, you're paying yourself rent. And I said, yeah,
4 we're paying ourselves rent because they're our clients
5 and we've got vouchers and we're paying. They made us
6 move them all out. And so we had to move them all out,
7 and start all over again with non-clients.

8 I told them years ago that if you want more
9 affordable housing, you can build all the affordable
10 housing you want if you'll let us have the vouchers and
11 pay ourselves rent and run it like a business. But they
12 just thought that was stupid. You know, at best you've
13 got to break even.

14 We have another property that we have to move
15 salaries around across Cornerstone to make it come out
16 break-even or less. That's stupid. Why can't you just
17 let the nonprofits make some money in social enterprise,
18 and create housing at the same time?

19 I say that only to say if you're ever around a
20 HUD representative that'll listen to you, and you might
21 throw that in as a solution, that if you'll let us pay
22 ourselves rent with the vouchers, we can build the
23 housing. We can all raise that kind of money to do that.

24 And if they're paying rent, and they're paying their own
25 way, and you're running a great program, that's bad?

1 You know -- I mean, I actually had HUD tell me
2 one time at a project we do called the New Life Center.
3 They came and looked at it and they said, this program was
4 never designed to do this good. We don't fund things that
5 do that good.

6 And so they started making me make some changes
7 in what we called operating capital. And it's just like
8 they were fighting against us, that we don't want
9 nonprofits to succeed in the housing area.

10 So anyway, if you're just around -- but is
11 there anything else from HUD?

12 MS. LOPEZ: I would like to say we should
13 advocate for having longer periods of time for our
14 families to look at housing when they receive a voucher.
15 What we see and what we provide coaching in the
16 educational field is, even though they have a voucher,
17 they still don't have housing, so they would qualify for
18 our program services.

19 But the frustration that a family shares with
20 us is they don't have enough time to find housing because
21 it's so limited.

22 And then -- right, I mean you want to share
23 that experience from El Paso? I know our regional
24 contacts, Manuel Aldaco and Barbara Amaya, work very
25 closely with -- can you share about that?

1 MS. SALDIVAR: Sure. Christine again, from El
2 Paso Coalition for the Homeless.

3 They basically only give them two weeks, and if
4 they are not able to find affordable housing within those
5 two weeks, guess what, they're onto the next one. It's
6 not enough time.

7 MR. DOYLE: So if -- whether it's Mike's
8 organization or any organization came and said, I've got
9 all the affordable housing you need, could you fill it up?

10 MS. SALDIVAR: Well, not --

11 MR. DOYLE: No, I'm saying it's available now,
12 we've got openings. Can you move families in?

13 MS. SALDIVAR: Yes, definitely.

14 MR. DOYLE: So see, some entrepreneurial
15 thinking nonprofits -- some entrepreneurial nonprofits can
16 build that housing and make it available to you, if you
17 could pay the rent for it. And if you've got the vouchers
18 and -- I'm just saying that seems like a working model,
19 that you work to find the people, and you need housing and
20 we've got it.

21 I'm not talking about me, but a nonprofit has
22 it. It looks like it would work.

23 MS. SALDIVAR: And then the apartments that the
24 clients do go and find, they're not livable. They're --

25 MR. DOYLE: Top notch, aren't they.

1 MS. SALDIVAR: Yeah, you know, I mean --

2 MS. LOPEZ: They're considered to be
3 substandard based on some of the conditions --

4 MS. SALDIVAR: Correct, yes.

5 MS. LOPEZ: -- that the families have shared
6 with us.

7 MS. SALDIVAR: And what would be even better,
8 if they would raise the -- and you know, that's, you know,
9 wishful thinking that they can rent -- rent reasonableness
10 now that all the prices have gone up. That would be
11 amazing.

12 MR. DOYLE: Say more about that, rent
13 reasonableness. That's come up several times.

14 MS. SALDIVAR: There in El Paso, the rent
15 reasonableness is 701, with, like I said earlier, the
16 income, the standards of the income for most of these
17 clients that we work with don't make up to that much, or
18 if they do, they're barely there.

19 And then it's not including -- the bills aren't
20 included. That even goes way up. So if the rent
21 reasonableness was raised, that would help so many clients
22 out there.

23 MR. DOYLE: Is that the same thing as how much
24 rent the voucher will pay?

25 MS. SALDIVAR: Correct.

1 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Basically fair market rent's --

3 MS. SALDIVAR: Correct.

4 MR. SAMUELS: -- not fair.

5 MS. SALDIVAR: Yeah, it's not fair, yeah.

6 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Okay.

7 MS. SALDIVAR: So that's another problem that
8 we're seeing there.

9 And then, you know, the influx with all the
10 migrants, and like you were saying earlier with the
11 homeless shelters, we're not even able to house our own El
12 Paso community homeless because the influx of the
13 migrants. They've taken over, basically.

14 MR. DOYLE: So let me just wrap my brain around
15 this a little bit. If we've got \$100 million worth of
16 vouchers, and the rent reasonableness is \$700 a month, can
17 we raise that to nine? Are we not housing less people?

18 MR. SAMUELS: Yes, but you're able to house
19 them.

20 MS. SALDIVAR: Correct. Thank you. Yeah, at
21 least you're able to house some and help some.

22 MR. DOYLE: So we've still got some left out?

23 MS. SALDIVAR: Correct.

24 MR. DOYLE: So is rent reasonableness something
25 that we need to look at?

1 MS. SALDIVAR: Yes, definitely yes.

2 MR. DOYLE: And it's not as much as the thing
3 going up as it is the ramifications of things going up?

4 MS. SALDIVAR: Correct.

5 MR. DOYLE: And then how you have something
6 that --

7 MS. LOPEZ: So the way I look at it is, if you
8 have a resource but it can't be utilized, is it really a
9 resource?

10 MS. SALDIVAR: Exactly.

11 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, that's a good point.

12 MS. LOPEZ: Right. You can have the best
13 resources in the world, but if we can't, you know,
14 mobilize them and get people in place, then it's not a
15 great resource.

16 MR. DOYLE: Good point.

17 MS. SALDIVAR: And then when we get clients
18 that are calling into our agency, and we're sending them
19 to an agency that has the funding, it's short term. One
20 deposit, maybe one month's rent, or deposit in three
21 months. So what happens afterwards?

22 MR. DOYLE: This is a private nonprofit you're
23 talking about?

24 MS. SALDIVAR: Correct. It's just like we're
25 setting them for failure all over again. So here goes the

1 cycle all over again. And that's, you know --

2 MS. LOPEZ: And the lack of wraparound support
3 services.

4 MS. SALDIVAR: Yes, thank you.

5 MS. LOPEZ: I don't know if you want to share
6 more about that. Once we get them into the housing, there
7 aren't the resources to help them maintain and become
8 independent.

9 And so, you know, with our ARP funding, right,
10 we're talking about -- of course the U.S. Department of
11 Education doesn't define wraparound services. They left
12 that up to the state. We as a state determined it's both
13 academic and the additional supports that they need to
14 move forward and not become -- within the community and
15 academic.

16 MS. SALDIVAR: Correct. And picking up on that
17 as well, we're having clients calling us in. They're only
18 paying the portion of their housing, and they can't even
19 make that portion either. So that's another problem that
20 we're hearing.

21 MR. DOYLE: You know, I'm going to move us
22 along on the agenda, but I want to make this --

23 MS. ROBINSON: Sorry, one note. I know you're
24 moving along. Fair market rent --

25 MR. DOYLE: I'm not either. You're talking.

1 MS. ROBINSON: -- calculation is -- we need --
2 my wish list is HUD would be nimble in updating that
3 calculation, right. So our rents have gone up
4 substantially in Dallas. We're still kind of held to that
5 fair market rent calculation based on year six, and we're
6 no longer there.

7 MR. DOYLE: I agree.

8 MS. ROBINSON: So if I was to add that to the
9 wish list.

10 MS. BOLTON: Can I say --

11 MR. DOYLE: You sure can.

12 MS. BOLTON: -- one more thing about what we've
13 been doing right.

14 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

15 MS. BOLTON: I just wanted to -- and I'm going
16 to say first, I recognize there's still a lot of work to
17 do, always. But a lot of the -- several of the TICH
18 members and other partners in the communities in the past
19 few years have done a lot of great work to elevate the
20 issue of kids coming out of foster care and the
21 homelessness issue.

22 And some real good things are happening that,
23 you know, we can continue to build on, like a couple
24 sessions ago, we got -- advocacy groups got legislation
25 passed to make it easier for kids in care to get their ID,

1 or their driver license is what they say at DPS. I'm
2 trying to remember that.

3 But like we have in the department, in DFPS --
4 oh, Valinda Bolton, DFPS.

5 You know, we have our -- a lot of programs for
6 youth and young adults. But one of them is the SIL,
7 supervised independent living. And in the last few years,
8 the A&M System -- I'm not an Aggie, so it kind of pains me
9 to highlight them -- but they have really been trying to
10 get SIL programs on all of the A&M campuses across the
11 state. So they're making progress on that.

12 But there are just a lot of other things going
13 on, because I think a lot of work with TICH members and
14 others has done a lot to elevate the issue and keep it
15 kind of on people's radar.

16 MR. DOYLE: Good point. And -- go ahead,
17 Naomi.

18 MS. CANTU: Right. I didn't mean to stop you
19 from commenting on --

20 MR. DOYLE: No, that's okay.

21 MS. CANTU: -- Valinda's comment.

22 I wanted to also include some things that we're
23 doing right. And even though it doesn't feel like it
24 sometimes, we are making progress. TDHCA has done well on
25 several programs, so much so in that we have gotten

1 reallocation.

2 That means extra funding, so that's -- I'm not
3 going to name the programs for time, but we do work for
4 State relatively quickly. And then also we laid the
5 foundations for many of these programs before -- I don't
6 like to say before it was an issue, but we have been
7 planning for a long time, like the housing and support
8 services academy.

9 We got a CMS grant that helped that academy
10 many years ago. So we have been laying the foundations --
11 and that laid the foundations for 811 -- for many, many
12 years. So we have been planning on it.

13 MR. DOYLE: Great. And that kind of leads into
14 my final remark here, then we can move along. But I think
15 one of the major reasons that Texas is not in the shape
16 that some other states are in is that we collaborate.
17 State agencies, the nonprofits in the community, we don't
18 mind working with each other.

19 And I can promise you in other places where
20 I've gone and visited or spoken, it's mine or it's
21 nobody's. It's that attitude.

22 VOICE: Every man for himself.

23 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, and I don't mean this bad
24 about Dallas, but I've been -- I'm toward the end of my
25 career and I was here when Texas Homeless Network started,

1 on the Board, and we had to get rid of everybody.

2 Because we found the receipts. I told Eric
3 about this. We found the receipts for the original Texas
4 Homeless Network in a cigar box in somebody's closet.

5 MR. SAMUELS: I wasn't around then.

6 MR. DOYLE: Eric was not around. Right. He,
7 with Kathy Lee, saved us.

8 But same thing happened in Tarrant County. But
9 when I speak around town -- around the country, they say
10 how do you get in to speak to your elected officials. And
11 I look at the people that I'm there with, particularly in
12 the workforce system, and we say, you call them. Well, we
13 can't call our elected officials, we're screened.

14 And so us, as a state, are a lot more open to
15 collaboration than just about anybody. And so I think
16 that's a big factor. We want to solve the problem.

17 We haven't, since 1994, when I first came here
18 to this council. We hadn't solved it yet, and we're
19 probably not going to solve it. But just like somebody
20 said, we're at -- Mike said, we're at a scale where we
21 could, if we got busy and did it.

22 And the collaboration, I think, is a huge
23 piece, and that's what I'm going to share with the
24 Governor's Office, is what we talked about here. But the
25 spirit of collaboration in Texas is just very unique

1 around the country.

2 So that took longer than I thought -- had on my
3 agenda, but that's okay. Since we do have a quorum
4 present and voting, if you got a chance to read the
5 minutes that Sean sent you, and I sure hope that you did,
6 we'd entertain a motion to approve those as submitted.

7 Council members?

8 MS. LOPEZ: I'll make a motion to accept the
9 minutes.

10 MR. DOYLE: Cal makes the motion. Who made --
11 is there a second?

12 MS. EISERT: I'll second it.

13 MR. DOYLE: Second. Was that Naomi?

14 MS. EISERT: Helen.

15 MR. DOYLE: Kelly, okay.

16 MS. EISERT: Helen.

17 MR. DOYLE: Helen, I'm sorry. I'm old.

18 Any comments or questions, corrections? All in
19 favor say aye, council members?

20 (A chorus of ayes.)

21 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: Is there any abstentions?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. DOYLE: Then those do pass. Okay.

1 Updates from council members. First, TDHCA,
2 and I guess it's going to come around from Rosy Falcon, is
3 that right, for the Emergency Solutions grant?

4 MS. FALCON: Yes.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

6 MS. FALCON: Good morning.

7 MR. DOYLE: Good morning.

8 MS. FALCON: And I think I've got a handout
9 today for the report. And color is a lot easier to follow
10 along, so Elizabeth is pulling it up. But it kind of goes
11 along with what Naomi had said in her last remark about
12 how quickly we are trying to move these funds when we do
13 get them.

14 And so our first chart, I'm going to -- I do
15 have a lot of funding updates for y'all today. So we'll
16 start with our current program year '21 ESG annual funds.

17 And this first graph shows you where we are overall, and
18 currently we are 73 percent expended for our program year
19 '21 grants.

20 Some of these -- most of these contracts do end
21 in October of 2022. However, we do have about five or six
22 that are extended right now through April or early 2023.

23 The interesting thing that we wanted to share
24 with you all is where each region is with expenditure of
25 their original allocation in here, before we do reach out

1 or we do get any voluntary or involuntary deobligations
2 once the closeout happens for people that don't request an
3 extension, because we do really want these funds to go
4 where they're originally meant to. So our team is
5 diligently reaching out to different organizations to make
6 sure that if there are challenges or any obstacles that we
7 can help with, we are trying to be proactive before the
8 end of their contract year, if that happens.

9 So the next two tables after this graphic does
10 highlight our highest expended regions, and also the
11 regions that we are reaching out to and working with to
12 make sure there is nothing on our end that we can help
13 with in the expenditure and increasing the funds.

14 And before I move onto the allocations, I'll
15 give you a minute in case anybody has any questions about
16 the charts.

17 MR. DOYLE: Now, tell me what these regions
18 are? Just like Ark-Tex Council of Governments? These are
19 people you've given money to?

20 MS. FALCON: Right, that is the 2021 original
21 allocation --

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

23 MS. FALCON: -- and their expenditure levels as
24 a region, and then individually.

25 MR. DOYLE: Got you.

1 MR. SAMUELS: That's all balance of state --

2 MS. FALCON: And so we have -- there are two
3 regions that are highly expended right now.

4 MR. DOYLE: Oh, I see. These are in 607, these
5 are in -- okay.

6 MS. FALCON: And we wanted to highlight that
7 today, because we are preparing to release \$1.3 million of
8 additional annual funds from prior years. So the highest
9 expended sub-recipients, most of the these will be found
10 in these regions. And so we wanted to make sure -- we are
11 planning to contact them in the coming weeks, and share
12 that with you all that there will be additional money that
13 will get reallocated from other areas into mostly these
14 higher expended areas.

15 For our current application cycle, we are at
16 the end of it for program year '22. We are set to present
17 all of the awards at the October 13th meeting. We will be
18 posting the list of awardees.

19 At this time, we've contacted everybody that
20 will not be recommended for funding. We wanted to make
21 sure to do that first before we release the list of
22 awardees. Most of the money stayed within their original
23 allocation.

24 For the statewide competition, only about
25 148,000 went to the statewide competition, and two of

1 those -- that was used to fund two nonprofits. The rest
2 of the money all was, either through a continuing award or
3 through the competition, awarded to people within the
4 regions that were applying.

5 MR. DOYLE: General question. You allocate
6 money to someone and they don't spend it, why?

7 MS. FALCON: The reasons vary. You know, it
8 may vary between the annual and the CARES, right.
9 Initially the CARES is where most of the reallocations
10 you'll see next are coming from. Those mostly still
11 leftover from the eviction moratorium, the influx of money
12 with rental assistance.

13 And some of that does trickle over to our
14 annual. Some of the people that have had trouble spending
15 are mostly that. There's an influx of rental assistance
16 right now.

17 MR. DOYLE: From other sources?

18 MS. FALCON: From other sources, yeah.

19 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

20 MS. FALCON: And then others are just
21 logistics. Some meant to try to sub-award some grant, and
22 just getting through all of those different layers the
23 time with the annual ran out to switch to a different
24 project.

25 MR. DOYLE: This is not a personal thing, but

1 it's just something I was trying to get my hands around
2 because the City of Fort Worth has given us, my agency, a
3 lot of money. And it's just, can you take two million
4 more, can you take a million. We just signed a thing
5 yesterday for another million, six.

6 And I asked them, why aren't these people
7 spending this money? I don't understand that. And from
8 just sneaking or snooping around, it seems like the
9 agencies that aren't spending it are asking their staff to
10 do double duty to try to spend it, so that their admin
11 money will cover the cost of the employee.

12 We're giving it away because we hired all new
13 staff to do it with the funds from the city. So is that
14 something that nonprofits is dealing with is borrowing
15 from Peter to pay Paul?

16 MS. FALCON: Some -- there are capacity issues,
17 right. There is the timing of all this additional money,
18 finding the people to come, and then us waiting to make
19 sure that the original awards get spent where they were
20 originally meant.

21 That does cause a strain for the people that
22 are waiting to receive the money, right. So they do have
23 to let go of some of their force because they're unsure
24 they're going to get, and how much they're going to get
25 money. And so yes, they do -- some have expressed that

1 they face that issue, but it's less common, at least
2 expressed to us in these grants.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. That was just a side note.
4 I just don't understand.

5 I know the other 1.6 -- and this makes about
6 eight million that we've gotten from the City of Fort
7 Worth to do this. This last 1.6 is still people that were
8 in what we call the queue, when they applied online, and
9 we're not doing anything new. We're just helping the ones
10 that still are waiting in line to say where's my money,
11 you know, that kind of thing.

12 okay. Sorry. I'm just trying to figure all
13 this out. And then, okay, that's that chart.

14 MS. FALCON: Yes, so that is all -- this first
15 two was annuals.

16 Now we're going to move into the CARES funding.

17 And that's where there's a little bit more movement, and
18 so I think it is a little better if you could see it
19 from -- in the color.

20 We gave you a report that shows the original
21 allocation award of the \$97 million. And then you'll see
22 another line that says current award, and that's what
23 people have either taken on additional money, or
24 voluntarily or involuntarily deobligated. So that's where
25 you'll see the changes.

1 That expenditure rate on this first chart is
2 based on the current award, and not the original amount
3 that they were going to take. So we're still doing pretty
4 good overall.

5 Nationally as of last week, the expenditure
6 rate was 67.14 nationally. We are at 83.6. And yesterday
7 I checked it, and that's already gone up to 87, I believe.

8 So we are doing well in spending our 97
9 million, but there has been a lot of reallocations
10 happening. And that's what our next two tables show you.

11 MR. DOYLE: Congratulations on that, by the
12 way.

13 MS. FALCON: Thank you.

14 That percentage rate is different from the
15 percentage on the front, because that one is based on the
16 original allocation amount. And so that's important
17 because that's what we base our decisions on reallocating
18 money to people, additional money that comes in.

19 And so that's where you'll see our top
20 expended. It'll go over 100 percent because people that
21 continually keep in contact with us, letting us know
22 spending, reporting timely -- and that's who, once we get
23 additional funds -- and we just released 2.3 million in
24 CARES a few weeks ago.

25 Everyone should either be at the last stages of

1 signing their amended contracts, and so we thought that
2 was some neat information. Unfortunately it does show
3 where a big chunk of the money got returned, voluntarily
4 relinquished, but we quickly moved it through. Not in the
5 same region but it's out, ready to help.

6 And then the last update for CARES is the
7 reallocation that is estimated to be at 5.8 million that
8 we're getting because we are [inaudible]. That money for
9 right now is not -- we are still working on a plan to see
10 what is going to be more effective and more efficient to
11 give out the \$5 million.

12 So I don't have a timeline just yet to report
13 on when that money's going to be available. We're
14 first -- we're talking some ideas as to where it would be
15 most helpful. But the remaining 11 million of the
16 original allocation, that is being reallocated as usual to
17 the highest vendors that haven't deobligated money.

18 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Rosy. Any questions for
19 Rosy?

20 MR. WILT: Rosy, what's going on in Amarillo?

21 MS. FALCON: You know, we have -- part of their
22 issue is the region, right. It's just not -- they have
23 more need than there is available to place people. And so
24 that's been an issue.

25 Our CARES team is working on reaching out --

1 they're working on getting the money out first, and so now
2 they're working to reach out to those people that are kind
3 of in this area, to see if a one-on-one meeting or some
4 other technical assistance with us can help before
5 deciding whether that money needs to be reallocated
6 somewhere else.

7 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Rosy. Interesting.
8 Naomi?

9 MS. CANTU: Yes, I will work to keep it brief
10 because we have a lot of guests here, and it's great that
11 they've come. So HOME-ARP, America Rescue Plan, we have
12 programmed the funds into rental housing, non-congregate
13 shelter and nonprofit capacity building and operating
14 costs. We -- for our rental, we did not meet the summer
15 release, but we are anticipating a fall release, so we're
16 still working on that.

17 We're working on -- speaking of coordination,
18 coordinating it with our existing funding sources and
19 seeing how that's going to collaborate better. However,
20 we are still on the early end state-wise in that we have
21 accepted applications for our set-aside for the rental.
22 So we had accepted two applications.

23 One has withdrawn, which we expect to resubmit.
24 And that is a set-aside to preserve funding for National
25 Housing Trust Fund awardees that are having issues with

1 maintaining their award.

2 The non-congregate shelter NOFA we plan to
3 release in about a year because we are releasing -- or we
4 plan to release, I should say, a nonprofit capacity
5 building operating costs NOFA. We are still working on
6 the logistics of that, and how that would look.

7 Speaking of shelter capacity, we are looking --
8 we are anticipating that the NOFA will focus on building
9 capacity for a large scale shelter. So --

10 MR. DOYLE: How do you classify large scale?

11 MS. CANTU: We are talking about 250-plus,
12 right, units about. And building that capacity before we
13 release the NOFA. That's our current plan. It may
14 change, but that's what we're anticipating.

15 So that is again in the works, and we hope to
16 release it in the fall, or at least have some updates.

17 MR. DOYLE: Cool. Questions for Naomi?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. DOYLE: All right. Spencer?

20 MR. DURAN: Well, thank you. Spencer Duran,
21 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. I have
22 a handout that's gone around as well. I want to highlight
23 two programs today. They're somewhat similar, but then
24 again they're also brand new and just different enough to
25 make it count.

1 The first program I want to highlight is the
2 Emergency Housing Voucher. And these are brand new
3 Section 8 housing points vouchers that HUD allocated to
4 us.

5 We originally were awarded around 300 of these,
6 but a lot of housing authorities in the state declined to
7 participate, and so HUD just automatically allocated those
8 leftover vouchers to us, so we're now at 800, almost 800
9 EHV's, and so that doubled the size of our housing
10 authority.

11 We have now, in this year, following our award
12 notice, we have designed a really good program that I
13 think is going to have a high impact, but it's a bit slow
14 on the development.

15 So just some of the basics of the program. The
16 cool thing about this is they are -- you know, they're
17 just regular Section 8 vouchers, but they come with \$3500
18 in service fees that helps people locate housing, access
19 housing.

20 We've bought a lot of, you know, furniture and
21 we've helped people, you know, buy -- you know, rent
22 moving trucks and all these really practical steps that
23 other Section 8 vouchers have never had before.

24 So it's a pretty cool demonstration of how you
25 can pair the housing subsidy with tangible move-in

1 services. They're not like, you know, wrap-around
2 services or case management, but \$3500 does go a long way
3 to just get someone into housing. So we're extremely
4 thankful for HUD to get that program design.

5 One other thing I want to mention about the
6 program design, about, you know, HUD's policy
7 recommendations called for earlier, the ability to use 120
8 percent of the small area rent has been a game changer.

9 You know, the small area rents are based on zip
10 code, and not, you know, larger metro, so you know, the
11 rents in, you know, 78701, here in Austin, is, you know,
12 super high, but maybe 78745 is a bit more affordable. And
13 we could pay 120 percent of that zip code rent for EHV.

14 MR. DOYLE: What did you call that number?

15 MR. DURAN: Small area rent.

16 MR. DOYLE: Small area rent.

17 MR. DURAN: Yeah, so it's not just -- so small
18 area rent is a radical program improvement, but then to
19 also be able to pay up to 120 percent of the small area
20 rent is -- to the housing authority, it's -- I don't know;
21 I think it's pretty amazing.

22 So the issues brought earlier about just
23 because you have a housing voucher, doesn't really mean
24 anything, because you have to find a willing landlord who
25 will accept it, and that voucher payment standard, it

1 doesn't usually hit the actual true market, so it's going
2 to fall short, and the tenants, for good reason, can't pay
3 the difference. They're prohibited from doing that. But
4 anyways, it's limited to that.

5 So yeah, so we're behind a lot of the other
6 states, so, you know, we've received -- so our biggest
7 partner is Texas Homeless Network so of course a shout out
8 to them. We signed a contract to allocate 380 of those
9 EHV's to Texas Homeless Network.

10 They've given us 410 referrals, so they're
11 completely exceeded their referral requirement. The
12 slowness right now -- and we only have 30 housed, so of
13 the 800, we only have 30 housed, so it's still a big
14 challenge. But I think that we have a good mission that
15 we've been building over the past 12 months.

16 Naomi mentioned a planning grant that was used
17 for other housing in the past. We didn't get a planning
18 grant. We got vouchers that were given to us from other
19 housing authorities, and we said, Go. And so we've been
20 developing this program the past 12 months.

21 And I think that all the fundamentals are
22 there, and I think that you guys will see us, you know,
23 move from 30 housed up to 800 housed, just given time.
24 We're housing on average one family a day.

25 We were housing about two per month, when we

1 were, you know, developing and simultaneously implementing
2 at the same time, so I think that we're going to be
3 getting there.

4 And again just some of the -- you know, we're
5 also serving, you know, hard-to-house populations, either
6 people who are experiencing homelessness, formerly
7 homeless, survivors of domestic violence, you know,
8 trafficking and other populations that are not
9 traditionally served by even mainstream affordable housing
10 programs.

11 So the THN ability, or -- do y'all have
12 anything you would add to that?

13 MR. STREU: Yeah, absolutely. I've got the
14 green light. So I can say something. I'm Billy Streu.
15 I'm with Texas Homeless Network. And I've been working
16 directly with this program along with TDHCA.

17 And just as Spencer was saying, we actually --
18 the in and outs of the daily program, we're actually up to
19 50 people who are leasing. We should be really increase
20 those numbers.

21 I think there's a lot of factors that have been
22 in play over the summer. The housing market was
23 definitely a different game compared to coming out of the
24 summer, and all of a sudden really seeing the numbers
25 picked up.

1 Plus there's becoming that well oiled machine
2 that we continue to work out. But one of the really big
3 highlights for me has just been the collaboration.

4 There's just been this opportunity for housing
5 authorities to really work more closely together and learn
6 how to create a new partnership and collaboration that
7 wasn't necessarily there before.

8 And so it's been really great to have a tighter
9 bond with TDHCA, again to administer these funds across
10 the state and just making more housing vouchers available
11 that weren't there before.

12 But we are increasing, and it went from --
13 we're looking at the numbers, that in April and May, is
14 just two housed here, two housed there. All of a sudden
15 in July, we had 10; August, we had 18.

16 And then this month, we're looking at an
17 average of about one per day that we're housing. So
18 really good things happen.

19 MR. DURAN: Yeah, thank you so much, Billy.
20 And thanks to the Texas Homeless Network for being a solid
21 partner. And we're also trying to focus on rural areas
22 and areas that are not otherwise served by emergency
23 housing vouchers.

24 And so if there's less housing stock in rural
25 areas and if you do find a property owner who's willing to

1 accept the vouchers, they probably already have a
2 relationship with that local housing authority.

3 So we're actually competing with the time,
4 attention of that small number of property owners that are
5 actually willing to accept Section 8. So we've been
6 putting out a lot of incentives.

7 You know, that \$3500, if we can use that for
8 landlord incentives, so a lot of our money has gone
9 towards that. Okay. So that's the emergency housing
10 vouchers. Any questions about that?

11 MR. WILT: Spencer, I have a question. Michael
12 Wilt, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation. So
13 you've got two CoCs, 430 vouchers committed. You've got
14 roughly 370 remaining. Are you going to work just with
15 these two CoCs, or are you going to expand the
16 partnership?

17 MR. DURAN: Yeah, so that's a great point. So
18 our Waco Housing Authority partnership has kind of been
19 paused while they work through their Waco Housing
20 Authority allocation, so we'll be able to grab more
21 activity with Waco later on.

22 But you're right, we have a lot of vouchers
23 that are unencumbered. And so we don't know -- HUD has
24 really limited us. We have not been able to run our own
25 competition to reallocate those vouchers to other housing

1 authorities. So I think that we just don't know. It's --
2 yeah, we just don't know.

3 MS. SYLVESTER: So HUD just released a notice
4 updating [inaudible], so we're not in danger of having
5 these vouchers recaptured, which was not the case when
6 they originally released the NOFA. So we're in a good
7 space, we've got some time. Like he said, we need to ramp
8 up quickly.

9 MR. DURAN: Yeah, so having -- so HUD did
10 have -- they were going to recapture those vouchers at the
11 end of the calendar year, but the HUD notice just came out
12 that said that end-of-the-calendar-year voucher sweep is
13 not going to impact us, because although we are slow, we
14 do have people housed.

15 So all the housing authorities that have had
16 zero activity will have their vouchers swept. So we will
17 still have access. You know, we could open it back up to
18 try and find more CoCs that are willing to accept those
19 unallocated vouchers. We'll just have to see. But right
20 now my main focus is to get 380 housed with THN.

21 MR. STREU: Spencer, can I say one thing. I
22 wanted to mention -- I just have a collaboration -- I just
23 wanted to say thank you to Anthony and Amber with Texas
24 Veteran Council, and also Molly, with Texas Council for
25 Family Violence, just because we're working so much with

1 veteran population as well as domestic violence and sexual
2 assault survivors.

3 They have really been helping a whole lot when
4 we have to tell an individual or a household they're
5 ineligible, we have a warm hand out that we know they'll
6 be able to get to and say even though we can't offer this
7 voucher to you, here's an organization that could still be
8 able to assist you and help you in the process.

9 And just also best practices in just trying to
10 work with these populations, they've really been -- I
11 should mention [inaudible] collaboration too, but it
12 helped make this program the best we can make it.

13 MR. DURAN: Thank you.

14 MR. SAMUELS: I'll piggyback on that. I just
15 want to thank TDHCA for their willingness to work with us.

16 And also these folks, Allie, Jim, Billy, Shaneka, Teresa,
17 they have worked tremendously hard to make sure that we've
18 had success. So we need to give them credit, so thank
19 you.

20 MR. DOYLE: And then I'll piggyback on that,
21 and then we're going to move forward in the agenda,
22 because I'm trying to get you all out by noon so you can
23 have time for lunch.

24 But I want to just say thank you to everybody
25 that's been involved with TDHCA in this whole project with

1 the TICH over the years. To be able to provide
2 administrative support and all the help you all have done,
3 and Sean and Elizabeth and Brooke and Naomi, Cate, just
4 thanks for you; that's the deal maker here, that you guys
5 are really our friend in this process. So thanks for all
6 you guys do. Okay.

7 MR. DURAN: I have one more thing then I'll be
8 done. So this is kind of a quick commercial for what's to
9 come. So HUD has also released a new notice called -- for
10 a program called Stability Vouchers.

11 And so we -- and so it's a very similar
12 population to the EHV population, so we hope that we can
13 take those lessons learned to take on even more vouchers
14 that they want to give us.

15 So what's going to be -- also what's unique
16 about this is that we're going to be project-based on
17 these vouchers. And so we're going to have to find
18 property partnerships and local CoCs that are willing to
19 work together.

20 So we're going to put out some training
21 guidance and some notices of funding availability, then
22 we'll try and catalyze relationships between local CoCs
23 and local developers.

24 And those developers will come to us to apply
25 for an allocation of these project-based vouchers, and the

1 CoC will make referrals to that property and then provide
2 services as well.

3 So we're really excited about that. We're in a
4 really unique position because we're also a housing
5 finance agency, so we can -- you know, in addition to a
6 public housing authority, so as a PHA, we can try and
7 leverage our relationships that we have with the
8 properties that we financed.

9 And so we're going to open up this NOFA for
10 those properties to try and form local relationships with
11 CoCs. So that will all -- and this all assumes that our
12 board approves. So we're posted for the October 13 board
13 meeting to kind of authorize our general plan.

14 And then HUD needs our registration of interest
15 by October 20. And then after that, then we'll know how
16 many vouchers we're actually going to get, if any. And
17 then we will start recruiting our properties and our local
18 CoCs to try and develop a functional project-based
19 stability voucher program. And I think that's all I have.

20 If any CoC wants more information about that,
21 we're going to be looking for partnerships in the near
22 future, so thank you guys.

23 MR. DOYLE: Thank you so much, Spencer.

24 Okay. Other agency updates?

25 MS. LOPEZ: I wanted to go ahead and provide

1 some updates real quick for the Texas Education Agency.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

3 MS. LOPEZ: I know at our last meeting, we had
4 shared that we were about to post our 2022 Texas Education
5 for Homeless Children and Youth Summit, in collaboration
6 with TNOYS.

7 And that did occur at the end of August, and
8 we're excited to say that we surpassed our goal of 500
9 attendees. This was a first ever hybrid conference
10 because due to COVID, it had been virtual.

11 And so we had 330 attendees and 436 virtually.

12 Those are preliminary numbers, and that's representing
13 all 20 regions across the state. And so it was a
14 combination of providing the [inaudible] fundamentals,
15 community services connected to community services, and a
16 youth-led boys panel working also with our youth who are
17 experiencing homelessness. So excited to share that.

18 In addition, I'd shared earlier with you we had
19 a small rural panel. We actually had the Kilgore area,
20 Austin, Abilene, Lubbock, and El Paso serve on this panel
21 that talked about challenges and practical solutions and
22 best practices, with a focus of small and rural schools.

23 And very excited that the National Association
24 for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth asked us
25 to present that in San Diego, at the end of October.

1 MR. DOYLE: Oh, wow.

2 MS. LOPEZ: So we're going to provide them also
3 a little more background, how within our education system,
4 we're broken up into 20 regions. And so just really
5 quick, I'm going to get on my soapbox and say can you
6 please share to the Office of the Governor, if there's any
7 national, you know, conversations.

8 They give Texas this money for housing for our
9 school districts, but they give us a small period of time,
10 and it's not considered on the size of our state. One of
11 our regions is the size of one or multiple, you know,
12 smaller states.

13 So given the size of our state, I think we've
14 done a great job of moving both our educational and our
15 housing funding under ARP. But that's -- I feel like
16 that's not taking into consideration for us to, you know,
17 mobilize and get these funds out. It takes time for such
18 a large state.

19 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

20 MS. LOPEZ: And I think that's not taken into
21 consideration. So I kind of wanted to share that with
22 you.

23 MR. DOYLE: Would you put that in an email to
24 me?

25 MS. LOPEZ: Definitely. And so -- and that's

1 why we have now our regional McKinney-Vento model and
2 having -- putting funds directly. And I can provide a
3 list of all the regions and the cities that they're based
4 out, of because we are too large of a state and we need to
5 have both state, regional, and local infrastructure to
6 ensure that everybody's able to advocate and that
7 everybody's being served.

8 So we're glad that we've been able to use those
9 funds regionally, and we anticipate to be able to maintain
10 that funding with our regional liaisons once ARP is gone.

11 And so we're already working with our regions and our
12 school districts as once ARP monies are gone, here are
13 other financial avenues that you can use to maintain that
14 staffing capacity. So that -- I just wanted to provide
15 that update.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Great. Thank you so much.
17 Anyone else?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. DOYLE: All right, Sean, you the man.

20 MS. GALASSO: I'm sorry. Can y'all hear me?
21 Okay. This is Fedora with TNOYS. I just wanted to jump
22 on after what [inaudible] for TNOYS. The summit was a
23 resounding success.

24 And if you remember, this is for who are
25 attending, that overall we heard from, you know, over 800

1 attendees that, you know, all of these resources on
2 understanding how to work with youth experiencing
3 homelessness have really helped them to really serve this
4 population.

5 And so we're really excited to host that and
6 have such great attendance in person and as well as
7 virtually. Along with that, TNOYS hosted the Statewide
8 Collaborative on Youth Homelessness, since youth
9 homelessness is one of our focused areas.

10 And we've had six statewide collaborative youth
11 homeless workers, meaning we have two workers, one that's
12 focused on youth homeless demonstration programs across
13 the state, as well as a policy worker that is really
14 focused on policy, not advocacy.

15 We do have state agency representatives who
16 attend that, and she's really working on policy so we can
17 support youth experiencing homelessness as well as their
18 families in the upcoming legislative session.

19 We'll have our next statewide meeting in the
20 upcoming month, so we'll definitely send that out to folks
21 who are a part of the TICH. And we are currently working
22 to really focus on state funding that really supports
23 housing and homeless services for youth and young adults
24 in Texas and to really, you know, create a broader reach
25 for that population.

1 And those are just a couple of updates that I
2 wanted to give. So thank you.

3 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Fedora.

4 Sean, do the plan.

5 MR. LONERGAN: All right. Thank you very much,
6 Mike. This is Sean Lonergan, Texas Department of Housing
7 and Community Affairs, here with my associate, Brian
8 Thornton, who also at TDHCA has also been working on
9 developing this new state strategic plan to address
10 homelessness, formerly referred to as Pathways Home.

11 We are seeking name suggestions for the new
12 plan, and we are not planning to stick with the generic
13 name, so any suggestions we are welcoming those.

14 But regarding background, updates from the
15 previous council meeting, I see a lot of familiar faces in
16 this room. As part of our stakeholder feedback gathering
17 process, we mobilized four channels of feedback in order
18 to cast a broad net and speak to as many stakeholders
19 across the homeless response system as we possibly could.

20 We really wanted to focus that as kind of our
21 charge in the beginning processes of developing this plan.

22 So we mobilized a survey, looking back at the Pathways
23 Home report, drafted by the TICH way back in 2012; also
24 looking at potential new categories to integrate into this
25 new plan.

1 In addition, we conducted nearly 40
2 organizational interviews with stakeholders across the
3 state, which there is a handy chart for those of you who
4 do have the handout that alludes to that if you go into
5 more of a descriptive summary of those organizations we
6 spoke with.

7 In addition to that, we held three virtual
8 roundtables corresponding to the three core categories
9 from the Pathways Home report that we elected to keep,
10 which is focused on affordable housing, supportive
11 services, homelessness prevention and data research and
12 analysis.

13 We also held TICH workgroup meetings composed
14 of TICH membership and advisory membership, which we held
15 two meetings for each workgroup, three workgroups in
16 total, also corresponding to those core categories that I
17 mentioned.

18 And in total, we are now in the process of
19 synthesizing that feedback using a qualitative analysis
20 software tool, using a method called thematic analysis, to
21 take all these excerpts and this commentary from all these
22 sources, synthesize it in a way that is cohesive and
23 coherent in a strategic framework.

24 And we are currently in the process of building
25 a framework based on that feedback. So that's something

1 that is upcoming still. For the time being, I wanted to
2 focus on this outline. Really I want to be brief about
3 it. I want to just touch on the highlights.

4 This first page here and additional quarter
5 page really provides an overview of the general approach
6 that we took in initially collecting this feedback.

7 In addition to those three core categories that
8 I mentioned, also taking a heightened -- or planning to
9 take a heightened focus on addressing disparities across
10 different subpopulations as well as a focus on emergency
11 response planning, whether that be public health
12 emergencies, natural disasters, or other emergency
13 situations given the [inaudible] of it, and that type of
14 planning in Texas especially.

15 And then upon analysis of feedback, we also
16 identified a number of cross-cutting approaches that were
17 identified by stakeholders who engaged concerning
18 community buildings, CoC planning, and a number of other
19 themes that cut across these categories. So that is
20 another theme that we also plan to include in this new
21 plan.

22 Regarding the structure itself, beyond the
23 scope of the executive summary, I really want to turn to
24 how we are rolling out the context of the report.

25 So if you look at homelessness in Texas, that

1 underlined section there, we plan to provide an overview
2 of the long- and short-term factors contributing to the
3 state of homelessness in Texas as it stands today; to
4 provide an overview of data pertaining to homelessness as
5 well, providing an overview of specific examples of that.

6 Demographics, we really want to hit home on the
7 unique challenges and needs faced by different
8 subpopulations in alignment with that theme of addressing
9 disparities and really being intentional about how we
10 approach that charge.

11 So that's the general overview there. And then
12 looking at Texas's history and progress where we've
13 divided it up into two core sections, one of which is
14 looking at our progress since that first TICH report,
15 Pathways Home, in 2012; looking at how local and state
16 policy has developed, state programs, with a special focus
17 on TICH member agency programs as well which we're still
18 iterating but it's still being developed.

19 And then the impact of COVID and how the
20 programs that were made available through TDHCA have also
21 affected the homeless response in the United States as
22 well, as part of the contextual region of the report.

23 And then the last couple sections, these are
24 still the sections that are very much in development,
25 still looking -- still building the framework there; first

1 focusing on the methodology of how -- the approach we took
2 that I had described before, the rationale for it, how it
3 ended up transpiring.

4 Looking at a summary of the results, the survey
5 was composed of both the quantitative Likert scale, looked
6 back at the strategies that were perceived before and the
7 assessment both from a state agency perspective as well as
8 a service provider perspective in addition to other
9 stakeholders, ranging from lived experience, local
10 government.

11 We really wanted to see across groups how they
12 assess that progress based on that report that was
13 published 10 years ago. So part of that will focus on
14 that assessment as well as the qualitative commentary,
15 what views we identified the needs and challenges that are
16 being identified by those stakeholders as well.

17 And then ultimately we will have the final
18 section of the report focusing on the recommendation
19 framework. It's organized into two different sections at
20 this moment.

21 It's still being planned out, so this is kind
22 of it, but if you look at the core categories that I
23 mentioned here, those are the three holdover categories
24 that we elected to tentatively include for the time being
25 from the Pathways Home report as well as looking at cross-

1 cutting approaches.

2 So as I mentioned before, addressing
3 disparities, emergency response planning, state
4 infrastructure and the partnerships programs, and the
5 education and training opportunities that are necessary to
6 maintain and enhance in order to provide a more cohesive
7 collective state response.

8 That's is all what we are planning to
9 incorporate into this framework which we are still working
10 on and drafting. So that's the general overview. I'm
11 happy to take any questions regarding the progress of it.

12 MR. DOYLE: Good work.

13 MS. ROBINSON: Can we ask questions from the
14 wall?

15 MR. DOYLE: Say what?

16 MS. ROBINSON: Can we ask questions from the
17 wall?

18 MR. DOYLE: You all can't write on the wall but
19 you can come over and talk into this spaceship and you can
20 ask questions.

21 MS. ROBINSON: I know -- I just wanted to get
22 clarity. So I know -- I see you actually mentioned at the
23 bottom, in addressing disparity, but is the racialized or
24 racial inequities going to be included in like the
25 factors, even the addition of the criminal justice system

1 in that, and then the kind of ongoing interventions was my
2 question around that?

3 MR. LONERGAN: So if you take a look at, for
4 example, demographics, race and ethnicity, that will be a
5 theme that is discussed. I don't want to go into much
6 detail regarding how it's going to be rolled out, because
7 there's many pairs of eyes that are going to look at it.

8 I really just want to emphasize that the way we
9 geared the feedback was to be receptive to what is being
10 said by the people doing the boots on the ground, the
11 service providers, the coalitions, and what they're
12 saying.

13 And at least for that first draft, we wanted it
14 to be reflective of that and whether -- depending on how
15 the review process goes, that's something that's
16 ultimately upstairs.

17 So I guess to answer your question, that is
18 part of the feedback process that has been included in the
19 analysis. I can't guarantee anything at the end of the
20 day. It really comes down how the review process goes.

21 MR. HARRIS: Blake Harris here, from TDC,
22 piggybacking off of her question. You know, when I look
23 at the demographics, it does look like a very good list of
24 risk factors.

25 Will there be -- I'm sure it will, but I just

1 wanted to make sure that, you know, for folks that run
2 across these and have multiple risk factors, how that's
3 going to be addressed?

4 MR. LONERGAN: In terms of how --

5 MR. HARRIS: In terms of -- you know, so for --
6 we know that race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity are
7 risk factors -- [inaudible] status, things like that.

8 But talking about those folks who have multiple
9 risk factors, how that just compounds the risks --

10 MR. LONERGAN: Yeah.

11 MR. HARRIS: I note that those are not just
12 broken down into [inaudible] subcategories [inaudible] be
13 represented in multiple groups.

14 MR. LONERGAN: Right. And that's a good point;
15 I appreciate you bringing that up. And that was one of
16 the focuses that Brian and I had when we were collecting
17 this feedback.

18 And the recognition that these are confined to
19 silos, right? These permeate across different
20 subpopulations, demographics. And part of the goal for
21 this section is to recognize how those work on each other,
22 and how -- and what kind of response has been developed
23 and what kind of programs or initiatives have been
24 developed in order to be accountable to those.

25 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, and I'm sure you guys are on

1 it, right. It's a great opportunity to highlight those
2 collaborations.

3 MR. LONERGAN: Yeah, absolutely.

4 MS. LOPEZ: I just want to piggyback about
5 the -- are we able to gather any data for -- discuss the
6 challenges for many adults that have a felony on the
7 record? They're not eligible.

8 But there's such -- a felony, there's such a
9 wide range of what that felony could have been. But that
10 right there closes the door just in the [inaudible] school
11 district. I work with a family that was very frustrated
12 because that door was shut down.

13 But that also has to do regarding, at times,
14 race and ethnicity. There's a higher population that that
15 may have occurred, right, and just because something may
16 have occurred when you were young and you have that felony
17 on your record, how you're never eligible for that
18 housing.

19 I don't know if there's any data there, but I
20 think that should be a discussion about that. And I don't
21 know if anybody else [inaudible] data.

22 VOICE: Are you willing to -- or how far are
23 you willing to go back to reconsider them as far as the
24 felonies?

25 MS. LOPEZ: Right. That's a challenge that a

1 lot of adults are facing.

2 VOICE: Exactly.

3 MR. DOYLE: Well, the plan's going to state
4 that. It's not going to solve it.

5 MS. LOPEZ: Right.

6 MR. DOYLE: But it's going to state it, but it
7 is an issue that contributes to homelessness. But we're
8 not going to try to solve that in this plan. That's not
9 what this plan is about. Right? It's something that
10 Heather can talk to Sherry about. Where's Heather?

11 VOICE: Over there.

12 MR. DOYLE: You moved. You can talk to Sherry
13 about -- for this one, we're going to say that's a
14 contributing factor, if it is, to homelessness because you
15 can't get housing because of a broad definition of felony.
16 But at the same time, we're not going to solve that in
17 this plan.

18 MR. LONERGAN: Can I provide one more general
19 comment?

20 MR. DOYLE: Absolutely.

21 MR. LONERGAN: And Brian and I have had
22 extensive discussions about all of the concerns that
23 you're mentioning. And the fact of the matter is, we're
24 not policy makers. We're policy advisors. And that's an
25 important distinction to be made here, is we're simply

1 acting as the channels of people doing the work and what
2 they think is needed in order to improve the system.

3 And we're doing our best to properly reflect
4 that and organize it in a way that's reflective of the
5 current context, political context that we're operating
6 in, while also being as comprehensive as we can. So
7 that's really our ultimate charge and what we're doing our
8 absolute best.

9 MR. DOYLE: And for those who are relatively
10 new to the council, Megan helped -- is Megan still here?

11 MS. SYLVESTER: I am.

12 MR. DOYLE: We have to submit this to the
13 agencies, member agencies annually, and it was just time
14 to redo it from 10 years ago, whenever we did the last
15 one. So this is going to inform other agencies about
16 homelessness and how it might affect them in their -- I
17 know that -- what was that gentleman's name that was
18 with -- part of disability services, Lance.

19 Somewhere in one of the counties, he -- a
20 person or a nonprofit contacted a disability agency in
21 that county and talked about homelessness, and that local
22 county said, We don't do that; we don't deal with the
23 homeless.

24 And so that comment was made to Lance at a
25 council meeting, and Lance said, Yes, we do. And he's in

1 charge of the whole thing. So they redesigned their
2 entire computer data system to ask that question.

3 So that's what we're trying to do here, is that
4 maybe somebody in one of the agencies who reads this
5 report and can draw a line between their population that
6 they're passionate about and the statistics we can show in
7 here about what the contributing factors of homelessness
8 are and where the gaps in that service array is, is what
9 this report is for.

10 And it'll go to every agency on the council
11 every year. So just in case if somebody was clear what
12 we're going to do with this. This isn't just busywork.
13 This is something that we're required to do by
14 legislation, is it not, Megan?

15 MS. SYLVESTER: Yes.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Let's get moving along here.

17 I know Eric knows how to short-circuit everything.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, I can do that, yes.

19 MR. DOYLE: So Eric, you're up, buddy.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Well, you know what, in the
21 interest of time, I think we should focus on the Texas
22 Homeless Data Sharing Network. We talked about EHV. This
23 whole conference is [inaudible], so I think we can just
24 focus on this.

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good.

1 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, and let me introduce Anja
2 Taylor, project manager for the Texas Homeless Data
3 Sharing Network, and I met her in person for the very
4 first time today. We've been working for months and
5 months together though.

6 MR. DOYLE: Give me some history about that. I
7 first met -- we hired the first executive director of the
8 Texas Homeless Network way back when, a quarter time
9 position. Now they've got 39.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Well, 34, but still --

11 MR. DOYLE: Thirty-four. More than a quarter-
12 time person.

13 MS. TAYLOR: Well, good afternoon everyone. As
14 Eric mentioned, my name is Anja Taylor, and I serve as the
15 project manager for the Texas Homeless Data Sharing
16 Network, which is why I'm here today, to give an update to
17 this group.

18 I'm going to be using a slide deck that we've
19 put together. It's a colorful PowerPoint, so if you have
20 a handout, feel free to follow along. The first thing
21 that we really wanted to show is this statewide map of
22 Texas that probably the majority of you in this room have
23 seen before.

24 Really what this map is showing is just the 11
25 different continuum of care or CoC regions throughout the

1 state of Texas. THN, as you may be aware, serves as the
2 lead agency for the Texas Balance of State, which is
3 actually the largest continuum of care region throughout
4 Texas. It's every county in orange, a pretty wide
5 geographic area.

6 Next slide that we have in our presentation is
7 around the different phases of project implementation that
8 we have followed and continue to see through with the
9 Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network.

10 The first phase as you can see which, over the
11 last couple of years we have worked to achieve, is really
12 THN serving as the lead agency for the Texas Homeless Data
13 Sharing Network, of course, in collaboration with the
14 other continuum of cares who are actively participating in
15 the data sharing network.

16 Internally, I work alongside Eric, and I serve
17 as the project manager on the THN side. And we do a lot
18 around the OpenPaas system, or data-sharing network
19 itself, along with, as you can see, lead agencies for
20 other continuum of cares who are actively participating in
21 the network.

22 And those continuum of care agencies have
23 access to the OpenPaas system. And what they do is they
24 complete quarterly data uploads on behalf of clients in
25 the homeless management information system, or HMIS, that

1 they are using to the OpenPaas system for data sharing
2 across geographic boundaries.

3 And then we are now approaching entering into
4 phase two of this project which is really exciting, and
5 you can see there it's really branching out from those
6 continuum of care regions and working with other systems
7 who are also serving the homeless population.

8 And we are also working with agencies and our
9 board currently on expanding the data sharing network and
10 the useability of it to direct service providers on the
11 local level. So that's real exciting.

12 The third slide is really just showing the
13 structure or governance of the data sharing network.
14 We've talked a lot today about collaboration, and this is
15 a collaborative project, a statewide collaborative
16 project, in fact, where this project, while it is
17 primarily led by THN, we do it of course with the guidance
18 of a board that serves over the Texas Homeless Data
19 Sharing Network, and that board is really comprised of
20 members from the CoCs throughout Texas.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Just to add to that, it's not
22 just in name only, because there have been things we've
23 brought to this board that we thought would pass, and the
24 board decided that's not where they wanted to go at this
25 time. They have the ultimate say, so we only move when

1 they say we move. And I think that's very important to
2 point out.

3 MS. TAYLOR: That's correct. They really tell
4 us what to do, I think. We listen to them for guidance
5 and support, as really they're doing the work at the local
6 level, and so we appreciate their insight into making this
7 project what it is.

8 The next slide that we have here is showing our
9 current active participating CoCs regions, and how they
10 were brought on to collaborate in the data sharing
11 network. So you can see here that Cohort 1 is really
12 comprised of the Balance of State, Houston, and Fort
13 Worth, or Tarrant County.

14 They are the first kind of cohort to join the
15 OpenPaas system, and begin to upload client level data.
16 Then we have Dallas, Waco, and Amarillo join this project.

17 MR. DOYLE: Yay, we beat Dallas.

18 MS. TAYLOR: And then finally, El Paso, and
19 most recently Austin and Brazos Valley. So you can see
20 out of the 11 continuum of cares throughout Texas, we have
21 nine CoCs that we have executed data use agreements with.

22 They are actively uploading data to the data
23 sharing network, and we are inching closer every day to
24 getting Wichita Falls and San Antonio part of this
25 project. So we are hoping that they will join us soon.

1 MR. HARRIS: Do you have any feedback as to why
2 those 17 have not? Two CoCs, right?

3 MS. TAYLOR: Why the two CoCs are not
4 currently?

5 MR. SAMUELS: You want me?

6 MS. TAYLOR: Yeah.

7 MR. SAMUELS: So I think lack of capacity in
8 the Wichita Falls area. And San Antonio, they have an
9 operator of their HMIS operating their CoC. I think
10 there's a lot of moving parts there that they have to get
11 together to agree to participate with us. I think there's
12 a willingness, we just haven't got there yet.

13 MS. TAYLOR: That's a good question. Okay.

14 So the next several slides are really
15 screenshots of our public facing dashboard which is live
16 on the Texas Homeless Network website. Our public facing
17 data dashboard has been one of the biggest probably
18 project initiatives that I've been a part of since joining
19 the data sharing network team earlier this year.

20 Really, these numbers are derived from a
21 statewide homelessness report that we can run through the
22 OpenPaaS system or data sharing network. And so you could
23 see there that from the recently generated report, based
24 on those that we currently have in the OpenPaaS system, we
25 are tracking approximately 67,142 individuals currently

1 experiencing homelessness.

2 MS. EISERT: So I have a question. This is
3 Helen Eisert, with HHSC.

4 That's substantially higher than the point-in-
5 time count for the state, like more than double, I think.
6 What are your thoughts on why that is?

7 MR. SAMUELS: So that's annualized. That's the
8 number of people who fell into or were already
9 experiencing homelessness within 2021. Some of those
10 people were homeless for three days. Some of those people
11 have been homeless the entire time.

12 So that's annualized. That's why that number's
13 bigger. And I will say, this does not include San Antonio
14 or Wichita Falls, nor does it include programs that don't
15 use HMIS. So the number's really probably more like 75-
16 80,000.

17 MS. EISERT: Yeah.

18 MR. SAMUELS: But again it's over the course of
19 the year, not a point in time, so two different numbers,
20 really.

21 MR. DOYLE: So if in fact you were asked how
22 many people experience homelessness in Texas in 2021, what
23 would you say?

24 MR. SAMUELS: And I've been asked, and I would
25 say at least over 70-, throughout the year.

1 MR. DOYLE: 70,000?

2 MR. SAMUELS: Throughout the year. Now at any
3 point in time, I'd say about 28,000, to 30,000, maybe.
4 But we don't know that.

5 We haven't had a good point-in-time count since
6 2019. Well, 2020, I guess. So I don't say that with any
7 certainty, and even the best point-in-time count's not the
8 best point-in-time count.

9 MR. DOYLE: We had an issue at the Tarrant
10 County Homeless Coalition, years and years ago, where the
11 people that were doing the work -- we weren't organized at
12 the time. But they said there were 25,000 homeless people
13 in Tarrant County.

14 United Way did a study funded by all the
15 foundations, and they said there were 25. So between 25
16 and 25,000 is not a good answer.

17 So at the TICH, we need to know pretty close to
18 the same. We need to be singing the same song, what that
19 is. And so is that something that we feel pretty good
20 about, if somebody asked us how many people were homeless
21 in 2021 to say 70,000 annualized, roughly 30,000 at a
22 point in time?

23 MR. SAMUELS: I think that's a good
24 conservative estimate or a good conservative number. And
25 I mean, I feel good about it. If I'm asked by a reporter,

1 I give them that number.

2 MR. DOYLE: So if a legislator calls you and
3 you say 12,000 annualized, somebody's going to look
4 stupid?

5 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

6 MR. DOYLE: So we need to get that number out
7 there somehow, some way to say, here's the problem.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Well, this is up on our website.

9 MS. TAYLOR: Yes.

10 MR. DOYLE: It is?

11 MR. SAMUELS: So it's out there, and we can
12 make sure everyone gets --

13 MR. DOYLE: So we can say to a congressman or a
14 senator, go to the website and you can see exactly what it
15 was.

16 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

17 MR. DOYLE: We don't know what you heard, but
18 if you do go to the website, this is it. Okay.

19 MS. ROBINSON: Over the course of a year?

20 MR. DOYLE: Over the course of a year.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, all these caveats, of
22 course.

23 MS. ROBINSON: And if you're using HMI -- if
24 they're using HMIS.

25 MR. DOYLE: Right.

1 MR. SAMUELS: It says that our site. You have
2 to read the fine print, please.

3 MS. LOPEZ: Well, and I was going to share from
4 an education perspective, the number would be different.

5 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, way different.

6 MR. SAMUELS: That's right.

7 MS. LOPEZ: So ours is, I believe at 93,000 for
8 2021. So -- and that would be --

9 MR. DOYLE: Is that annualized?

10 MS. LOPEZ: Yes.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

12 MS. TAYLOR: These are all great questions and
13 a really good discussion. As Eric mentioned, this is a
14 conservative number, in that we don't have currently San
15 Antonio -- data from San Antonio or Wichita Falls. We are
16 getting data uploads from seven of the nine participating
17 CoCs on a quarterly basis at best, and kind of working to,
18 you know, assist those CoCs with the data upload process
19 as much as possible. Hopefully moving towards automated
20 data uploads in the future with funding.

21 So yes, conservative number -- and as you can
22 see, because we have all of these caveats, we want to make
23 sure that we are explaining that in a way that makes sense
24 to those who are just visiting our website, and are not in
25 the homelessness space. So what you don't see captured in

1 this slide deck is the language that we crafted around
2 these numbers, and what is being presented on our website,
3 specifically for those who are visiting the website and
4 going to re-purpose this data or utilize these numbers for
5 any kind of reporting or publications. So we are mindful
6 about that, and do have very specific language on our
7 website to ensure that we communicate this as effectively
8 as possible.

9 The other graphs here are -- you can't see it
10 here in print, but they are interactive graphs. So the
11 first being the statewide map of Texas, showing the
12 breakdown by county. And by the interactive map component
13 on our website, users can view by each quarter the
14 difference of the variations in the data itself.

15 So in addition to that map, we also have, you
16 can see here, a breakdown of different populations for
17 those experiencing homelessness, including veterans and
18 household types, and also the racial composition graph.
19 So that's also on our webpage.

20 And then we do have more data presented on the
21 public facing data dashboard, including persons in
22 households without children, and persons in households
23 with at least one child and one adult, and then persons in
24 child-only households. So those are kind of like just a
25 brief overview of the graphs that we currently have.

1 Again this is generated from the most recent data that we
2 have in our OpenPaaS system, our data sharing network.

3 So, you know, I know we talked a lot about
4 collaboration today and what Texas is doing right. And I
5 think what we've been working to promote with this project
6 is not only collaboration at the CoC level, but now
7 beginning to expand our reach and branch out and work with
8 other systems who are serving the same population, and how
9 can we work together to provide wraparound services and
10 resources to these individuals and enhance care
11 coordination at the local level.

12 And as part of this initiative, we have
13 recently executed a business associate agreement, or BAA,
14 with Superior Healthplan. Superior Health is a managed
15 care organization who we've been in contact with, along
16 with the state and information exchange agency, the Texas
17 Health Services Authority, or THSA.

18 And with this new executed agreement, we will
19 be able to, in collaboration with THSA, match or compare a
20 client list or client panel of those who we have active in
21 the data sharing network or OpenPaaS system, along with
22 Superior Healthplan's client list, to match them together
23 to see how many clients overlap between the two agencies.

24 And then from there, we will be able to then use that
25 data and hopefully begin to work with direct service

1 providers at the local level to see how we can again
2 enhance care coordination and bring more resources to
3 those individuals who are currently experiencing
4 homelessness. So -- did you have anything?

5 MR. SAMUELS: No, I mean, that's exactly what
6 we're doing. And this was again something that the CoC
7 partners voted on, and the idea with this is we're able to
8 look at homelessness on a macro level.

9 Now we need to get to the point where we are
10 utilizing this to help people, you know, not become
11 homeless, and also end their homelessness. And so this is
12 one of the efforts to do that.

13 Of course, you know, we're taking it one step
14 at a time, being careful as we go, getting the approval of
15 our CoC partners. But yeah, that's the next step we want
16 to take, because those folks that are on the street that
17 are covered, if they're not taking advantage of the health
18 care coverage, their health problems are exacerbated.
19 They become worse, they go to emergency rooms.

20 It's expensive to care for them, and ultimately
21 their health outcomes are not great. So we're trying to
22 improve that system and that collaboration between the
23 interrelated systems.

24 MR. DOYLE: And we can all go to anybody that
25 we need to talk to and explain this, but when you have it

1 coming from a data network, where you've got it in black
2 and white so that they can see it right there, that's
3 powerful. So this is so critical to this work going
4 forward to have this project come as far as it has.

5 I can remember trying to do this 15 years ago,
6 and some real smart guy at DHS said something like, yeah,
7 you can do it but it'll cost you a lot of money, and just
8 basically gave up. But all these years later, we're here,
9 getting close.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. And big thanks to AWUS,
11 Jessie, and TSAHC and TDHCA, everybody who supported this,
12 and of course, our partner CoCs. That's the biggest.

13 MR. DOYLE: Speaking of that, do we need to say
14 anything about CoC program competition funds?

15 MR. SAMUELS: I think that's up to the CoC
16 leads.

17 MR. DOYLE: Any CoC leads here that want to
18 talk about anything or do you want to eat lunch?

19 MR. SAMUELS: I think he wants to let you have
20 lunch.

21 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Except Elizabeth has one
22 thing about HB 1278?

23 MS. YEVICH: Yeah, HB 1278, that's the
24 legislation that states that the --

25 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, we have to have one meeting a

1 year in a rural area.

2 MS. YEVICH: Well, actually, may I read it?

3 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

4 MS. YEVICH: Elizabeth Yevich, TDHCA. The
5 council shall annually hold public hearings, so this
6 hearings, not --

7 MR. DOYLE: Hearings?

8 MS. YEVICH: -- not meetings, on homeless issues
9 in at least one county located in a rural area of the
10 state, and one county located in an urban area of the
11 state. That's the legislation.

12 So what we were thinking, if it's okay with the
13 membership, the wonderful work that Brian and Sean have
14 done on the draft that is, I think, some of it hit my
15 mailbox last night. So there's a draft, everybody. Y'all
16 saw a framework, but there's a draft there.

17 We would hope that within the next month or so
18 that we would have a draft, and we would have public
19 hearings. And we could do one perhaps in Tarrant County,
20 and then maybe the membership could decide on what the
21 rural county could be. So that's where we are.

22 MR. DOYLE: And if it's okay with y'all, I'll
23 work on having a public hearing in Tarrant County, mid-
24 October to mid-November of this year.

25 MS. YEVICH: As of this writing, that's what

1 we're --

2 MR. DOYLE: It doesn't mean you have to come.
3 There's going to be a public hearing.

4 MS. YEVICH: Exactly, for the draft of --

5 MR. DOYLE: For the draft plan.

6 MS. YEVICH: At that point, hopefully we'll
7 have a name for the new Pathways --

8 MR. DOYLE: We might even invite Dallas. I'm
9 not sure.

10 MS. LOPEZ: Will there be a virtual option?

11 MR. DOYLE: Say what?

12 MS. LOPEZ: A virtual option for the --

13 MR. DOYLE: I don't know. What about the
14 legislation, can you do a public hearing virtually?

15 MS. YEVICH: It's no. We checked with Michael
16 Lyttle and Megan, and I'm sorry, but yeah, this has to be
17 in person.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

19 MS. YEVICH: So you choose rural?

20 MR. SAMUELS: We can help you find that.

21 MS. YEVICH: Okay.

22 MR. DOYLE: Can you?

23 MS. YEVICH: There we go. All right.

24 MR. DOYLE: So Eric's going to do that. I'm
25 going to do Tarrant County. And I can help you with

1 Wichita Falls.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

3 MR. DOYLE: Just tell me what you need, and
4 what do I need to say to them because -- let's see, Eric's
5 going to do rural.

6 MS. YEVICH: Okay. Great.

7 MS. SALDIVAR: Do you have any tidbits on how
8 we can get somebody from agencies in El Paso to jump on
9 HMIS?

10 MR. DOYLE: Threaten them.

11 MS. SALDIVAR: Because our numbers are not
12 correct as far as the homeless. It's not -- we have
13 about --

14 (Simultaneous discussion.)

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other comments? Is
16 there a public comment?

17 MS. TAYLOR: Can I say something really quick?

18 I'm sorry. I forgot to plug this earlier, but we are
19 actually have an in-depth presentation on the data sharing
20 network. If you want to -- if you are staying for the
21 conference and want to attend, it's going to be tomorrow.

22 Eric and I will be co-presenting along with our
23 partners at Green River who is the vendor for our OpenPaaS
24 system. So 2:15, tomorrow, re-imagining care coordination
25 through data sharing and the role of the direct service

1 provider.

2 MR. DOYLE: Great. Any public comment?

3 Thank you. Keep up the good work. We're

4 adjourned.

5 (Whereupon, at 12:16 p.m., the meeting was

6 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: September 28, 2022

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 84, 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: October 5, 2022

/s/ Sue Sikes
(Transcriber)

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