

Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless Meeting

Wednesday, July 25, 2023

10:30AM

at

221 E. 11th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

Michael Doyle (00:00:00):

Okay, let me this call, this meeting to order. This is the July meeting of the Texas Inter Agency Council for the Homeless. We'd like to have the people on the phone introduce themselves. We're seeing if we have a quorum or not. So if you're on the phone, would you please introduce yourself?

Marqus Butler (00:00:22):

Hey, how you doing? This is Marqus Butler with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Michael Doyle (00:00:27):

Okay, thank you, Marqus.

David Rose (00:00:30):

This is David Rose with the City of San Antonio Homeless Outreach Team.

Michael Doyle (00:00:34):

Thanks, David.

Anja Taylor (00:00:38):

Hi. Good morning everyone. Anja Taylor, Texas Homeless Network.

Michael Doyle (00:00:44):

Thanks, Anja.

Lauren Rose (00:00:46):

Good morning. Lauren Rose, Texas Network Youth Services.

Sherri Cogbill (00:00:53):

Sherry Cogbill, Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Michael Doyle (00:00:57):

Hey Sherri.

Sherri Cogbill (00:00:57):

Hi!

Molly Thibodeaux (00:01:00):

Hi there, Molly Thibodeaux, Texas Council Family Violence.

Kelly Davis (00:01:03):

Hello. Kelly Davis from the Texas Workforce Commission.

Michael Doyle (00:01:13):

Thank you, Kelly

Claire Irwin (00:01:14):

Claire Irwin with Texas Health and Human Services.

Michael Doyle (00:01:19):

Hi, Claire.

Peg McCoy (00:01:24):

Peg McCoy, TDHCA.

Brittany Henson (00:01:31):

I'm Brittany Henson with Health and Human Services. I'm actually filling in for Helen who has transitioned.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:01:38):

Thank you. Brittany

Teneshia McFarland (00:01:46):

Good morning, this is Teneshia McFarland, calling from TDHCA Section eight.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:01:52):

So who was that again?

Teneshia McFarland (00:01:56):

Teneshia McFarland.

Jordan Brown (00:02:00):

Hi, this is Jordan Brown, Texas Education Agency.

Michael Doyle (00:02:15):

Okay.

Sean Lonergan (00:02:15):

Sean Lonergan, TDHCA administrative support.

Michael Doyle (00:02:19):

Hey, Sean. Well now we're going to that establish the fact that we do have a quorum present in voting. So let us, let the table introduce ourselves so you on the phone will know who we are and who's here. So you might not want to mention anybody's name in vain or anything like that. I'm, I'm Mike Doyle, representing the governor's office.

Jeremy Stremmler (00:02:43):

Jeremy Stremmler, TDHCA.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:02:46):

I'm Elizabeth Yevich, also TDHCA. But I'm sitting in for Brooke Boston as her proxy as a TICH representative for TDHCA today.

Tahmoor Chadury (00:02:54):

I'm Tahmoor Chadury. I'm with TDHDA. I'm filling in for Rosie Falcon.

Abigail Versyp (00:02:59):

Abigail Versyp. TDHCA.

Blake Harris (00:03:04):

Blake Harris, Texas Veterans Commission.

Tiara Hardaway (00:03:07):

Tiara Hardaway, TDHCA. Filling in for Naomi Cantu.

Eric Samuels (00:03:12):

Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network.

Michael Lyttle (00:03:15):

Michael Lyttle, TDHCA.

Christina MacArthur (00:03:17):

Christina MacArthur. Filling in for Megan Sylvester, TDHCA.

Michael Doyle (00:03:21):

Welcome everybody. Do we have somebody just join us on the phone or did somebody leave? Take roll and leave. I know that. Okay.

Well thank you for all being here. The item three on our agenda

is approval of the minutes. I'm going to go back to my remarks from the chair in just a second, but let's approve the minutes while we have a quorum here. So if you've read, which I hope you have the minutes that Sean sent out to us, I would entertain a motion to approve those minutes.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:03:57):

I second that.

Michael Doyle (00:03:58):

You need a motion first? Make the motion.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:04:01):

Oh, I would like to make a motion to approve those. April 26, 2023. TICH minute meeting minutes.

Michael Doyle (00:04:09):

Okay. Is there a second?

Blake Harris (00:04:10):

Second.

Michael Doyle (00:04:11):

There's a second. Do we have any questions or comments? Okay.  
All in those in favor of approving the minutes for the meeting  
in April, say aye.

All Members (00:04:23):

Aye.

Michael Doyle (00:04:23):

Opposed? It passed. Okay. Let me go back to my, now that we  
approve the thing, one thing we needed to approve, let me go  
back to my remarks. I don't know about y'all and y'all's  
community, but I've not seen homelessness in the news like this  
in 20 years. From what all's happening to the far west of us in  
the northwest of us. As much news coverage as it's getting.  
It's, it's a topic of discussion. I think probably in all of our  
communities. Again, I saw national news report on the  
homelessness in Austin and it was pretty bleak. I'm just  
wondering, since most of you are here locally, who's  
spearheading that? The city?

Eric Samuels (00:05:22):

The City and... Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network, the city  
and the local continuum of care, Echo, there spearheading  
efforts. And lately that, I'm sure most of you have heard this  
on the news yesterday, we had another person pass away from the

heat. So lately there's been a lot of effort and the cooling shelters, I'll just, and that's across the state too.

Michael Doyle (00:05:45):

Yeah.

Eric Samuels (00:05:45):

So I think, I know you want to get to what's going on in Austin, but I think we should all think about those providers, those churches that are providing that space and what we can do to assist them, support them. We should, because really bad in a lot of places.

Michael Doyle (00:06:00):

I think that we're all doing all we can with cooling stations, water, all those kind of things. But when it shows up as it looked like two football fields of trash right here in Austin. I wonder, is there anything else that could be done? I'm just throwing things out there. I'm not asking for solutions. We all got problems. I mean, Fort Worth sweeping the people that are living outside in tents every week now. They're trying to drive 'em someplace, but they don't know where they are driving 'em north because there's one church that's opening up another shelter and it's driving the population right past our building, which is fine, but they're stealing our catalytic converters and

they're assaulting staff members and they're very aggressive. I don't remember 'em being like that in 31 years of doing this work. So just if you're a praying person, pray what's going on and how we might find solutions within the agencies and within the cities. It's going to happen, to have to come from the cities. The state can give us some guidance and maybe some money, but it's going to have to come from the cities and take responsibility for this. But we hadn't anybody die yet. But I noticed, Eric, you said there's been two now?

Eric Samuels (00:07:22):

Well, I think four in the past five weeks.

Michael Doyle (00:07:24):

Wow.

Eric Samuels (00:07:24):

And a few others across the state.

Michael Doyle (00:07:26):

it's remote, is it not?

Eric Samuels (00:07:28):

What's that?

Michael Doyle (00:07:28):

Where that big camp is and where all the,

Eric Samuels (00:07:31):

I don't know what encampment you were speaking of, but it might be, I'm not sure.

Michael Doyle (00:07:36):

Where was that that we were talking about that earlier? Somebody said around the Greenway or something.

Abigail Versyp (00:07:41):

Oh, Greenbelt.

Michael Doyle (00:07:42):

Greenbelt.

Abigail Versyp (00:07:43):

I think they're talking about the one like the Violet crown on Violet Crown Trail. Okay. Yeah, that's because that's the one that made a headline.

Eric Samuels (00:07:49):

That's the one that made a headline.

Michael Doyle (00:07:50):

Okay. And where is that located? Yeah, where's that?

Abigail Versyp (00:07:53):

Like south by 71?, Southwest

Michael Doyle (00:07:55):

So it's south south of downtown. Yeah.

Abigail Versyp (00:07:58):

Oh yeah.

Michael Doyle (00:07:59):

Is it county land? City?

Eric Samuels (00:08:01):

It's City. It is a city. It's definitely city.

Michael Doyle (00:08:04):

Okay. Well, I'm just curious because I get phone calls about what in the world's going on in Austin and since I didn't know, I knew y'all would know, so, okay, let's get into the agenda. Item number four, update from member agencies. And it's TDHCA's turn. Michael, do you need to go first? Want to go first?

Michael Lyttle (00:08:22):

Sure. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Providing a legislative update on the 88th regular session as it relates to matters of interest for the council here. The report that I had provided basically talks about the fact that it, well, and really building off of what you said, I don't know that I have seen, I've been here 23 years, done a lot of sessions. Now, I don't know that I've ever seen a session that had more bills about homelessness than this one, this past regular session and Eric,

Eric Samuels (00:09:02):

This session and last. They could be almost tight, but I think this one might've been last. Yeah,

Michael Lyttle (00:09:05):

You can vouch for that. Eric was working hard. Eric and I talked a lot during regular session.

Eric Samuels (00:09:09):

We were up there a lot.

Michael Lyttle (00:09:11):

There were a lot of bills that dealt with homelessness. First, I'll just touch briefly on a couple of budget items. There are two new funding streams that TDHCA is receiving that will help

serve a homeless population, so to speak. One of them is we are receiving about \$800,000 over the biennium for what's called a transitional housing pilot program, addressing the needs of homeless veterans in four areas of the state. We're looking at rolling that program out. The latest projection was Houston, Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio. I know that we're still working that program out though, however, so the details are still forthcoming on it. Thinking through it, what may be the best, the solutions there and then the agency will be putting that out I'm sure. For some kind of public comment as well once we nail that down. But that's one funding stream. The other thing to mention is we also received, sometimes I talked about this in recently with another council that we're involved in, but sometimes too in the budget there is a special dispensation of funds for a special project that maybe a legislator is keen on. And this was another one where we received 1 million over the biennium and for a youth and young adult homeless housing and services program in Fort Bend County. It's specifically earmarked for a specific organization as we've been told. And so we are working on that as well to provide those funds to that organization. I'm not trying to pretend like I'm in the CIA, I just don't remember the name of the organization or else I'd tell you.

Michael Doyle (00:11:00):

I understand.

Michael Lyttle (00:11:01):

But it's a million dollars. I don't know. Do you know who I'm talking about?

Abigail Versyp (00:11:06):

It's that youth ranch.

Michael Lyttle (00:11:08):

Is it? Wow, interesting. It's a youth ranch?

Abigail Versyp (00:11:12):

It's a youth ranch. I don't know the formal name of it, but So it's like the old boys ranches used to be. But it's now a youth ranch. Because it's, there's more.

Eric Samuels (00:11:22):

I do know of that I wasn't assuming it would be that. So yeah. Interesting.

Michael Lyttle (00:11:28):

So yes, we got the money, but we are also being told this is where you're going to spend the money. So there's two budget streams there and then back to the bills as we were talking

about earlier, lots of homeless bills. None of 'em passed though, interestingly enough, a lot of 'em got fairly far, but then they didn't make it to the finish line. There were multiple bills would've had this particular council doing feasibility studies on homelessness data networks, on specific housing needs of certain homeless populations. Those bills were filed, but they did not make it to the finish line. There were several other that dealt with the creating a standardized definition of homelessness. And what does that mean? Those bills were discussed in committee, but again, didn't make it. There were others that would've had the state auditor's office doing a study, efficiency study of homeless government homelessness programs. How well are we doing? And so the auditor's office would've conducted these studies and provided recommendations possibly to the legislature on the success or lack-there-of of some of these programs. Again, the bills were filed, discussed in committee, but did not make it far enough to get to the governor's desk for final signature. So again, it's a hot topic. I suspect when we do our next regular session in two years, that we will have more studies proposed, more bills proposed on the topic. I just don't think it's going away, but we'll see how far they get because again, lots of 'em this time. Nothing passed. But I'd be happy to answer any questions you all might have.

Michael Doyle (00:13:28):

You have any questions for Michael before I start. And mine's more of a comment, and again, it's based on 30 years of doing this work. Seems like we were making a difference at one point when we were able to move people to self-sufficiency with transitional housing. Glad to see we're having transitional housing, enter the discussion again. I was sitting in the Fort Worth HUD office, I forget how many years ago, and I forget the guy's name. He was in charge of all the home programs in the nation. I've met him several times in Washington and I kept telling him, I'll build you all the transitional housing you want if you'll let the non-profit collect the rents. And they just couldn't fathom that. So we tried at one point and they didn't like it, so we didn't do it, but we were making a difference working with people for two years in the transitional housing programs and keeping them from being homeless and teaching 'em the skills and all that kind of thing. That's piecemealed out of HHS and other agencies and the very few people house and do case management in one setting and we house 'em, you can do case management. But I'm just wondering in my mind, and that could be all wrong, are the experts, there are some people, and I was telling Jeremy earlier, there's a program in Fort Worth that takes homeless men from the shelter. Tarrant County College screens them, see if they're ready to get, they were sick and tired of being sick and tired. Puts 'em in college if they are, then moves 'em to a housing component that allows

them to work on their education and industry specific certifications, those kind of things. And the data that we saw was that when it was a work program, only the men would leave there when their time was up making a little over 20,000 a year, barely able to sustain themselves. And they were homeless again 61% of the time after two years. But when it changed to an education program, those men are now graduating. One got a graduate, I mean a master's degree from USC. They're making 71. But the average of all of the people together, they leave. now making an average of 47.7 and not a single one in two years has gone back to homelessness. I think it's time to start thinking about when you get a hole in your boat and you're out fishing, you got two choices. You bail real fast or you plug up the hole and then you can bail. And I think what we've got to stop people from getting into homelessness, and I think the way you do it is catch those that, wait, wait. They used to accuse us of the low hanging fruit. We got to keep those people from getting in the boat and then we got more resources to work with. The ones and the ones that we're working with now seems like we're spending three times as much money and there's never a chance other than overcoming an addiction and those kind of things to get 'em whole again. I'm just wondering, I know that sounds inhumane coming from a Christian organization, but we got to start out allocating I think some resources back like this maybe Michael for homeless veterans in a transitional program and stop those

from entering the system. Just my opinion, it's been weighing on me for a couple years now, and so I don't know the answer to it. I'm on the downside of my career, so I'll leave that to the young people to figure it out. But it looks like to me we got to stop it before we can cure it.

Michael Lyttle (00:17:25):

One of the things I'll add, Mike, that building off of what you said, and Eric, I'd love to hear some of your comments too. You were very involved, but one of the things I saw this past session that was different from previous ones is there are organizations invested in homelessness policy that come from both sides of the aisle. Before, quite frankly it to usually be Democrat related left organizations that were interested. But now we have a lot of more conservative think tanks and others that are proposing various housing policy ideas. I mean, we can argue about the merits of those, but nonetheless, both sides now are engaged on the issue because I think there is a realization that this problem isn't going away. What are the solutions? So that was at least encouraging to have both sides sort of engaged in ideas that were being perpetuated by these bills that got filed.

Michael Doyle (00:18:29):

So maybe the pendulum's going to swing because I remember, and Eric, you might remember this, Michael, you might remember it, but Washington asked eight or nine states to come together to talk about this issue many years ago, maybe 15 years ago.

Michael Lyttle (00:18:45):

I think I remember that. Yeah.

Michael Doyle (00:18:46):

We went to Chicago and we visited about this thing and basically the theory was HUD's going to be housing because that's our name, HUD's Housing and HHS is going to pick up the billion dollars in case management money that we needed. HUD'S going to do a billion in housing. HHS was going to do a billion in case manage. They have gone through the process and we're going to, we were saying, you mean we've got to apply for two things now. We can't do case management at the same time we're doing housing. They said we're going to come combine the applications. Never happened. And so I don't know why that hit the floor, but at least we know that housing without services doesn't work and services without housing doesn't work. But you've got to combine 'em somehow. And there's nothing wrong in my mind with low hanging fruit. So

Eric Samuels (00:19:39):

I, I'll just say amen to what you said about preventing homelessness. If we can put more resources into that, I think that would go a long way. We had over 90,000 people, over 95,000 people that fell into homelessness in 2022 and we were only able to house 14,500.

Michael Doyle (00:19:55):

Was that for the first time homeless,

Eric Samuels (00:19:58):

Some first time they've been homeless before, some were already experiencing homelessness. And those are just people from programs that use HMIS, that's from our data sharing number. So those numbers are higher. So we could make a great, much greater impact if we prevent homelessness. I agree. And then that will allow us, like you said, to plug up that hole and then start bailing people out and hopefully buy some more time to create some more deeply affordable and supportive housing. Because that's the one big difference from the way way it was 10, 15 years ago. It has become unbelievably costly to live in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, even San Marcus. Places like that. So until we invest in those types of efforts, I hate to be pessimistic, but I don't know if we're going to make a big dent.

Michael Doyle (00:20:54):

I agree.

Eric Samuels (00:20:56):

It seems like we should be sick of it by now. We should be doing something. But I agree wholeheartedly with what you're saying about

Michael Doyle (00:21:05):

Well, in the boat exercise, we're obviously not bailing fast enough.

Eric Samuels (00:21:08):

Yeah, we're not bailing fast enough either. No. So it's hard to bail fast when you have three times as many folks coming in.

Michael Doyle (00:21:17):

With you a thousand percent. And then we can deal with the ones in a rational manner that are still in the boat. We visited Seattle and saw the first, Housing First model where nobody was getting out of there alive and I, they did a great job, medical and all that kind of stuff, housed them medical, that kind of stuff. But

Eric Samuels (00:21:39):

I mean, Housing First does a lot of good. I mean Houston, you can see what the success they've had. But I also agree that having multiple strategies, transitional housing, housing for veterans, housing for those that have serious mental illness, I think that's the best case scenario. Putting all our eggs in one basket's probably never a good idea.

Michael Doyle (00:22:00):

Yeah, it's good to hear that Austin is doing a mental health diversion center. It's really worked for us in Tarrant County. So the jail's population is down by 15%.

Eric Samuels (00:22:11):

Yeah.

Michael Doyle (00:22:14):

Okay. Sorry to digress. Any comments from those on the phone?  
Okay.

Brittany Henson (00:22:22):

Hello?

Michael Doyle (00:22:23):

Hello?

Brittany Henson (00:22:25):

I'm sorry. Hi, this is Brittany Henson. I had mentioned that I'm from a Health and Human Services Commission and Helen asked me to be on this meeting, but she transitioned out. I just want to get a grasp. We kind of went over it yesterday, but I haven't had a chance to speak with everyone that I've been meeting with. So I apologize if I'm jumping in or kind of behind the tail so to speak. But I just kind of wanted to get an understanding of the meeting and what the purpose is as far as I see that we report on numbers and I hear what you guys are saying and it sounds like these are the decisions y'all are making, decisions that need to be made and definitely have the experience in regards to this. A little bit about me, I'm coming from LMAJ. And so my position initially was housing access coordinator while I'm working with Project Access to help with just one particular voucher. But now since Helen has transitioned, I'm more of the housing expert, which I have been in this work for about 10 years. So I led a Path programs. So like you said, something about the housing and case management, putting, being put together, the Path program is something that really focused on it, I feel like. So I'm just really trying to, if somebody can give me an overview or maybe email me whatever is the best format to get more information in regards to what you guys are looking at focusing on and how I can be a part.

Michael Doyle (00:23:59):

Brittany, we also create a state of the homelessness report every year for the state agencies that are members of the council. That's going to be addressed some, and I don't know if Sean going to report on that today or not, but that's something that we've gone through or in the final stages of, we don't really make decisions here. We avoid decisions at all costs. Those usually come back and haunt. But we make recommendations and we talk about things and hopefully the agencies will go back, clarify, put it in the context of their own agencies. And see, I give you a quick example. Many years ago there was a gentleman on the council, I forget his name, but he was with the Department of Disability Services. This is before all the name changed. And I said something about, somebody said something about their local, disability services organization told him they didn't deal with the homeless. He said, Lance, Lance, Lance. Anyway, his name was Lance and he said, and he was in charge of it up here in Austin for the state. And he said, yes, we do. And so all of a sudden then they changed the whole system to ask where did you sleep last night? Were you homeless at all? So they could figure out in their own agency if in fact they were really dealing with homeless and doing it effectively. So that's the kind of thing that comes out of these meetings. Brittany is just somebody take it to an agency and said, oh, they'll say, how many do we serve? Well, we don't know. Well,

we're starting to count 'em now more accurately. So that's kind of the work of the Interagency Council.

Brittany Henson (00:25:50):

Great. Thank you so much for that. I appreciate it.

Michael Doyle (00:25:53):

Thank you for being here.

Brittany Henson (00:25:54):

I look forward to being a part.

Michael Doyle (00:25:57):

Okay, Go ahead.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:25:58):

This is Elizabeth Yevich and Brittany and welcome, Sean Lonergan, who works in the housing resource center. He serves as administrative support for the TICH. And within the next week he can email you where the TICH is located on our website, all the past annual reports and minutes and the meetings, and an overview of several other areas of TDHCA's website, that deal with the homeless program. So be on the lookout for an email from Sean within the next week.

Brittany Henson (00:26:30):

Thank you, I appreciate that.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:26:31):

And thank you, Sean. I know you're on the phone, so yeah, thank you for doing that.

Michael Doyle (00:26:37):

Okay. Tahmoor, are you going to talk about ESG and CARES?

Tahmoor Chadury (00:26:42):

Yes, Mr. Chariman.

Michael Doyle (00:26:42):

Okay, good.

Tahmoor Chadury (00:26:44):

So hi again everyone. My name is Tahmoor, I'm filling in for Rosie. So firstly I'd like to give a quick update on our competition. So we have completed reviews on applications have begun contacting applicants regarding staff scores and are moving the process along to get to the final scores. We had a pretty good turnout this year. Every continuum of care was either exactly or oversubscribed. And so all funds are maybe awarded within their respective COC's. So moving on to CARES. So

as you see in your handout on in table one, our sub-recipients have expended 94.2% of CV two funds, and there's about two months left to expend the remaining amount. And sub-recipients have also began, begun to draw down our CV three funds, and they have until June 30th, 2024 to do so. The graphs on the handout chart, some of the achievements our care sub-recipients have done within each of the service components. And some of, I'll highlight some of the things for you. Over 70,000 people have been served with street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing and or homeless prevention services and sub-recipients have provided over 2 million bed nights at an emergency shelter. And of the 24,000 people served through homeless prevention funds, more than half of them have maintained their housing for three plus months or have been placed in permanent housing. So that's all I had. Does anyone have any questions?

Eric Samuels (00:28:20):

I was wondering how do we stack up against other states? I've heard that a lot of other states aren't doing as good a job getting the relief money out as Texas has. And I'm just, if you know, don't know.

Tahmoor Chadury (00:28:33):

Yeah, I would probably--

Abigail Versyp (00:28:35):

I was curious yesterday. So I looked at some reports in IDIS and it looks like not necessarily the states, but nationally we are ahead of the curve. That's what I thought as far as expenditure goes. And it almost looks like areas are either doing really, really well and I would count us in that pool or they're doing not so great. So some of them are like 40% expended. <phone rings> I have turned the ringer off. I have no idea.

Eric Samuels (00:29:04):

So I just want to say

Abigail Versyp (00:29:06):

It's clearly off,

Eric Samuels (00:29:07):

I want to say a great job because I heard, I was in DC last week and I heard from a lot of people in other states where in some cases they haven't spent any funds.

Michael Doyle (00:29:15):

Any, yeah, I've heard that too.

Eric Samuels (00:29:16):

Not necessarily ESG

Abigail Versyp (00:29:19):

Oh, okay. Because I didn't see any like that and I now would've really,

Eric Samuels (00:29:23):

But I mean it's anyways,

Abigail Versyp (00:29:25):

Because we may get it right?

Michael Doyle (00:29:27):

You know, hear all from the national, the federal government, they're going to recapture some of this covid money as could it be some of this money that people hadn't spent?

Abigail Versyp (00:29:38):

It could. It's possible. So far what they've done is instead of recapturing it and sending it back to treasury, they've reallocated it to high expenditure. So that's why we have this CV three. It's really CARES money that came from other jurisdictions that they didn't spend.

Michael Doyle (00:29:52):

So basically the reward for they know you can get it out, so they're going to give it to you.

Abigail Versyp (00:29:55):

Right. The reward for good work is always more work and this isn't different in that respect. But it may come to a point where they actually do recapture the money and send it back to treasury. I'm thinking they're talking pretty hard and fast about these deadlines that they're not anticipating extending them at all. So I'm curious to see what happens at the end. I think we'll fully expend, but I'm curious to see about the remaining money.

Michael Doyle (00:30:22):

Yeah, good point. Okay, any other questions for Tahmoor?

Alright, Tiara?

Tiara Hardaway (00:30:32):

Yes sir. Hi everyone.

Michael Doyle (00:30:34):

You're up.

Tiara Hardaway (00:30:35):

Tiara Hardaway. I'm the program manager for HOME ARP filling in for Naomi Cantu, which is the director on a well need vacation this week. So first off, as a reminder, the HOME ARP, a program allocated our funds and rental non congregate shelter and operating assistance. So for our rental activity, we actually have a couple awards at this upcoming board meeting. One of them is under our NHTF set aside, which we allocated funds for projects that weren't going to get fully funded with NHTF. So we prioritize them last year. So it's been a year, but we are going to hopefully award a project at this next board meeting under that set aside. And that development is in Brownsville, Texas.

Eric Samuels (00:31:22):

Alright.

Tiara Hardaway (00:31:22):

And then for the NOFA that we have that's out there now, it's about 51 million that we allocated. So that process has been moving forward thus far. We have six awards. Two of them right now are going to this next board meeting. And just so you know, some of these awards we're seeing in Austin, Abilene, Arlington, and Houston. We do have some deals that are still in our pipeline that possibly will be awarded in like September, October. And those deals are in Dallas and Grand Prairie. So we're throughout the area, urban areas, I should say, our

allocation plan, we did go for an amendment to that allocation plan. There was no substantial comment from the public and no comment from HUD. So that was approved and the amendment was an adjustment to the method of distribution for our nonprofit capacity building and operating assistance and the non-cognitive shelter. So we wanted to target areas that in Texas that have high rates of unsheltered, homeless and high costs of living for nonprofits that are in good standing and have prior experience with innovative shelters. So if those awardees that we're going to bring to the board, if awarded, they will also get the capacity building along with the shelter funds. And that's just going to help us with the application process.

Blake Harris (00:32:46):

Excuse me.

Tiara Hardaway (00:32:47):

Sure.

Blake Harris (00:32:47):

Did you say, are there areas already? Identified.

Tiara Hardaway (00:32:51):

Yes. We have, so talks with our leadership, we've identified two organizations. One of them is the other one's Foundation you

mentioned and the Downtown Allowance Alliance, DAA. So those are the two that we've identified that fit our criteria for this funding. So if they're awarded, like I said, they will get the opportunity to do the capacity building along with the shelter. But we're starting off with the operating assistance first. So the award would be for 3 million for the operating assistance and then up to 56 million for the shelter development piece.

Michael Doyle (00:33:27):

And you talking about the construction, the capital part of that. Okay.

Tiara Hardaway (00:33:30):

Yes, yes. So lastly on that, I wanted to mention that for the awards that we have going today, it's going to be, or for this next board meeting, it's going to be about 10 million for the awards that we have at this next board meeting. And that's all I have.

Michael Doyle (00:33:48):

Cool.

Tiara Hardaway (00:33:49):

Any questions?

Michael Doyle (00:33:51):

For Tiara?

Tiara Hardaway (00:33:53):

Nope.

Michael Doyle (00:33:55):

Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Back to my agenda.

Eric Samuels (00:34:02):

It's kind of crazy. I was telling Tiara, but the other one's foundation, they started their agency board meetings at my office just in the little board room. In fact, one of my staff members there, he might be on, I'm not sure, Jim Ward, he's on their board. So they have grown so, so much and so few years. It's amazing.

Michael Doyle (00:34:27):

And their purpose is?

Eric Samuels (00:34:28):

Well, at first what they were doing is going, I was just going to, going around and cleaning up encampments. And the folks that worked there were paid by the agency, oftentimes through the city. And so they would clean up encampments. They got to where

they were moving, they moved our office to our new office. They were doing landscaping and they still do all of that. But now they also have a, well, they run Camp Esperanza, so they're doing a lot and they're they're building.

Michael Doyle (00:35:01):

So what is Camp Esperanza?

Eric Samuels (00:35:02):

That's the land that the governor gave for people to live.

Michael Doyle (00:35:08):

I gotcha.

Eric Samuels (00:35:08):

Yeah. Yeah. So they're also, they're building permanent housing on there. So

Michael Doyle (00:35:12):

Good. Doing tiny or regular?

Eric Samuels (00:35:15):

I think tiny. But with this money, I think it's going to be shelter, right?

Tiara Hardaway (00:35:19):

Yes,

Eric Samuels (00:35:19):

It's going to be shelter.

Tiara Hardaway (00:35:20):

Non-congregate shelter.

Michael Doyle (00:35:21):

Okay. Non-congregate shelters.

Eric Samuels (00:35:23):

Anyway, I just, it's amazing how much they've grown.

Michael Doyle (00:35:25):

That's good. That's good. Okay. Spencer, you're up. But let me say first we're going to miss you. If you, those that didn't know Spencer's last day's Friday, he's going to be a genius someplace else. We're losing a genius. Going to gain another one, I guess, hopefully. But thank you for your service. You've, you've done great work. So talk to us about emergency housing vouchers.

Spencer Duran (00:35:54):

Yeah, thank you, Chairman. Yeah, so it's my last week at TDHCA. I've been here for 10 years. So I'm super excited to have supported the projects that I've supported. But I'm excited also that we have a lot of new staff honestly coming in to support these projects, including the emergency housing voucher program. So I think Teneshia McFarland is on the phone, but Teneshia is taking lead on the emergency housing voucher program and it's still is under Andre Adams, who is the manager of section eight. And then another really cool development is that Section eight has recently moved under Abby's direction. So Abby is the director of Single Family and Homelessness programs that that's her division. So it's just really cool to see. I think that there's a lot of positive things that can happen with a public housing authority living under a state housing finance agency's single family and homelessness program. I think that's a really interesting, probably pretty unique arrangement for housing authority. So there's a lot of cool opportunities there. So that's just kind of the general update of kind of TDHCA. But with that, I was going to share some of our performance numbers. So the big headline is since we last met, we have 121 folks. We have 121 folks that have been housed since our last meeting. And I'll share a handout after we're done today. Sorry. Yeah. So 121 housed with emergency housing vouchers. Since our last meeting. We have 267 housed by Texas Homeless Network. We have 49 housed through Tarrant County COC, and then we don't have anybody

housed yet from Heart of Texas COC, which is the Waco area. But we do have 10 referrals. So we have progress on all of our COC partnerships. So that's 316 households housed so far with emergency housing vouchers out of our almost 800 allocation. So with EHV, we're at 40% of our total housing goal, 70% of THN vouchers have been housed. 13% of Tarrant counties have been housed and we're just in the referral stage for Heart of Texas. But yeah, so I think that we're off to a great start. If you look at the dashboard online, this is our national scoreboard. So HUD has a an EHV dashboard. We're pretty far behind other states and other local PHAs, but this is brand new for us. Our PHA has never had a peer relationship with the COC before, or our PHA specifically probably hasn't had a relationship at all with the COC. So it's a pretty intuitive partnership for other public housing authorities across the country. But for TDHCA, it's, it's brand new. We have other COC partnerships of course, but our PHA and definitely not a peer relationship. It is definitely a peer jointly administered program. So we're only at 40% total. But HUD has also clarified recently through a recent PIH notice that we're not going to be in danger of getting our unused vouchers swept away from us. We effectively have until 2030 to use 'em. We do not want to take that long, but our 798 voucher allocation is not in any danger of being swept so far. So I think it's really cool. We built a brand new program. We're a statewide housing authority that has zero local presence in

communities. We're basically a virtual housing authority. So we're really reliant on COCs and their and the COC partner agencies to really do the hard work of EHV, which includes a lot of services, the housing search assistance, the negotiating with landlords, the buying furniture for families, identifying qualifying households. All of that work is being done by our COCs and the partner agencies under those COCs. So I'm really proud that all the fundamentals are good in the program. Again, we're at 40%, but there are no, but I think that we've kind of solved most of the technical challenges, and now it's kind of just a matter of time taking referrals in, screening them, approving their voucher. They go house hunting with the local COC partner, they find a participating landlord. All just, the process is just occurring. So I think these are things are going, those are great. And even in the Waco area where we don't have anybody housed, we have 10 referrals for recruited landlords. Again, all of the processes are occurring. So if anybody has any questions?

Michael Doyle (00:41:48):

I got one question is parcel, but just because Tarrant County's got, has done 13% of theirs, how many did they get and who gets it?

Spencer Duran (00:41:57):

Sure. So we have, so Tarrant County of our 798 HUD allocation, we've allocated 368 vouchers to them. And so of 368 they've housed 213. And who's the lead agency for the Tarrant County? COC? Is it Home with Hope? Yeah.

Michael Doyle (00:42:20):

Tarrant County Home with Hope. Yeah, Home with Hope. Oh, Tarrant County. You have Tarrant County Homeless Coalition.

Spencer Duran (00:42:25):

Yeah. So Home With Hope is the non-profit lead for the COC, right?

Michael Doyle (00:42:29):

Yeah.

Spencer Duran (00:42:30):

So that's our contract partner. And they've also subcontracted with the Tarrant County Public Housing Authority to do a lot of heavy lifting as well, like briefing the families on the house on the Section eight component doing inspections. So that's a really cool and kind of unique arrangement that has been really successful. And then also Tarrant County is partnering with, again, Home With Hope is partnering with another organization to serve Parker County. So we're going to have Tarrant County

served and Parker County served. We don't have anybody housed in Parker County yet, but again, we have partnerships being formed and willing partner properties being identified. So I feel really good about Tarrant County. Does that answer your question?

Michael Doyle (00:43:22):

Yep, it does. Okay. Well, thanks, Spencer. Again, I think you should somehow get your name associated with this hard work you've done, because as soon as you leave, somebody else going to take credit for it.

Spencer Duran (00:43:36):

Good, good, good, good.

Jeremy Stremmler (00:43:38):

So you missed the part where Spencer mentioned where EHP was going to be headed at the agency, which is under Abby's.

Michael Doyle (00:43:45):

Oh, okay. Yeah.

Abigail Versyp (00:43:46):

I won't take credit for Spencer's work.

Michael Doyle (00:43:48):

We know now.

Abigail Versyp (00:43:51):

We appreciate Spencer, Spencer's work.

Michael Doyle (00:43:55):

Then in two years you'll say Spencer, who was that Spencer's guy? Well,

Abigail Versyp (00:43:57):

I feel like Spencer did the really, Spencer and his partners, especially THN and Tarrant County did the really heavy lifting. So we are getting to kind of do the fun part, right? We're hiring an engagement specialist, which we haven't had before to serve as a resource for tenants and landlords and things like that. And that's so far down the path. I can't even believe we're there yet.

Michael Doyle (00:44:22):

Well, you've done great work. You can leave with your head held high in the agency better.

Spencer Duran (00:44:27):

Yeah. Appreciate. I know that. I mean, I've taught me a lot, so I really, I've gained so much knowledge, so I'm so happy to have the program land with you, Abby, so.

Abigail Versyp (00:44:35):

Aw, Spencer,

Michael Doyle (00:44:39):

You don't have to leave.

Eric Samuels (00:44:42):

We're going to be seeing more of him too.

Abigail Versyp (00:44:43):

And with that Spencer's out.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:44:46):

Yeah, did you want to save where you're going or, so yeah, because Mike is asking you.

Spencer Duran (00:44:51):

The Technical Assistance Collaborative. It's a well-known nonprofit consulting group that all of us are familiar with.

Michael Doyle (00:44:57):

Have changed their name lately.

Spencer Duran (00:45:00):

I don't think so. Sometimes they just go by TAC instead of,

Michael Doyle (00:45:04):

We worked with Project with the Rockefeller Foundation and there was a big consulting firm in Boston that,

Eric Samuels (00:45:10):

That's the, that's them. Yeah. And we work with TAC all the time, so I bet we'll be seeing you.

Michael Doyle (00:45:17):

They did a lot of technical assistance. We went to Boston three or four times, and they, Rockefeller bring Boston to Fort Worth, and it was also Nashville. And I bet you it's the same organization.

Spencer Duran (00:45:27):

I think it is.

Abigail Versyp (00:45:28):

It's a big small world.

Michael Doyle (00:45:34):

Okay, Sean, new strategic plan to address homelessness update.

Sean Lonergan (00:45:44):

Yes, sir. Thank you, Mike. Can everybody hear me all right?

Michael Doyle (00:45:46):

Yes.

Sean Lonergan (00:45:49):

Great. So in line with past meetings, there is no additional update regarding the new TICH strategic plan to address homelessness. It is still in the process of being reviewed by executive leadership and pending any further updates. Those will be relayed to Chair Doyle and then the council, the remaining council members. Accordingly, in lieu of an update, I did want to provide just a brief report on my attendance at the Texas Network of Youth Services annual Conference this past month in Houston. Just wanted to provide a global comment of my experience There is my second year attending the conference and just wanted to give a shout out to Fedora Glaso, Lauren Rose, who's also on this call, and the rest of the staff at their efforts to organize the conference, really provides a robust array of breakout sessions, keynote speakers, and really showcases the vast array of talented, dedicated and creative

individuals who dedicate themselves to working with youth, and especially for the purposes of this council serving youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. So just wanted to provide a special shout on that. I think I speak for everybody on the council. I say we're very grateful for their advisory membership here on the council and their consistent presence. So just a brief report on that end. And then Mike, this is specifically for you because I know you've asked the past couple times about the title for the plan. I do have a definitive list of candidates by votes from the responses we received from the council. So this isn't a firm, I guess, report on whether it will be the title, but just so everybody's aware, the first place title was Everyone Deserves A Home, second was a Home for Everyone. And then third is A Place to Call Home and Seeking Solutions. So whether that ends up being the title, it is still yet to be determined, but just wanted to communicate that to you, Mike. I know you have a special interest in that.

Michael Doyle (00:48:21):

Yeah. What was the first one that, what was the first one?

Again, everyone

Sean Lonergan (00:48:29):

Everyone Deserves a Home. That's just for everybody's information. I know everyone was dying to know, but that's just

putting that out there just as I guess the substance of the update at this time. So I'll take any questions if anyone has any.

Michael Doyle (00:48:55):

There being none. Thank you so much, Sean.

Sean Lonergan (00:49:00):

Yep, no problem.

Michael Doyle (00:49:01):

Keep me informed.

Sean Lonergan (00:49:06):

Will do.

Michael Doyle (00:49:07):

Okay. Eric

Eric Samuels (00:49:10):

Anja is on the call too, so I'll let her go over the day of Sherry Network. But I mean, the big thing I have is we have our upcoming conference September 27th of the 29th, so hopefully you all can be there on the 26th. We're having HUD provide a startup training, so we're going to be providing that training for HUD

Continuum of Care grantees from around the state. So we'll hope, hopefully we'll get a lot of those folks in. We're going to have HUD staff come down for that down from Fort Worth, actually.

Michael Doyle (00:49:41):

Okay.

Eric Samuels (00:49:43):

We also, this year are having people from DC come from the HUD headquarters to talk about the new rules. So there'll be a workshop on that. So that should be of interest to people. And then of course, every year we're rolling the Interagency Council meeting. We are are hosting the Path State Training. Robert, I don't know if he's on or not, but I'm sure he'll be there. Yeah, I actually tried to print off the agenda that's online, but I couldn't figure it out. So I'm going to send it to Elizabeth and she can print it out. But otherwise, things are going well and we appreciate. I also want to say thank you to Spencer and his team for all their hard work on making sure that we got the EHV program up and running. It was a big effort from TDHCA, THN, and our partners at TCFV and other partners across the state. So big thank you to you and good luck going forward. But other than that, I guess I'll just hand it off to Anja for,

Michael Doyle (00:50:59):

Lemme ask you a question first. Yeah, just when you get 75, you need all the details every time The conference is in Austin?

Eric Samuels (00:51:03):

It's in Austin at the same place as last year, the South Park. It's not called the Omni anymore, but it's the same hotel. And we will meet that morning, I'm assuming around this time, around 10:30 that morning. Of the 27th.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:51:19):

27th. I was going to say,

Michael Doyle (00:51:20):

for the TICH?

Elizabeth Yevich (00:51:20):

Yeah. Who should Sean coordinate with?

Eric Samuels (00:51:23):

Sean can coordinate with me on that.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:51:24):

Okay, great.

Eric Samuels (00:51:26):

It's, we'll be in the same room. Everything's going to be the same.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:51:29):

Same, okay.

Eric Samuels (00:51:29):

Yeah. So

Michael Doyle (00:51:30):

Here's my question. One, several years ago when we were, no, we were in Austin, we had specifically invited the COC leads and with HUD being there, can we get that close to where the HUD people could attend to?

Eric Samuels (00:51:48):

I am planning on asking the COC leads to come again. Okay. I asked 'em to come last year, we just didn't get a big turnout, but HUD didn't come last year, so I'm asking HUD representatives to be there too.

Michael Doyle (00:52:02):

For this meeting as well?

Eric Samuels (00:52:04):

For this meeting because HUD staff will be staying over for at least, I think most of them for the first day at least. So they should be able to attend. And they have showed an interest in attending.

Michael Doyle (00:52:15):

So is going to be sometime the morning on the 27th?

Eric Samuels (00:52:18):

It'd probably be 10:30 AM It'll probably be 10, maybe 10. It all depends on our chair, what he wants. I guess.

Michael Doyle (00:52:29):

When you've been married 55 years, you don't get what you want.

Eric Samuels (00:52:34):

Well, no, she may want to come,

Michael Doyle (00:52:37):

I'd love to break out into everything I've ever wanted. Yeah, I think that's a good time. As long as we got the HUD people there. And then I want to know who from Fort Worth's coming

Eric Samuels (00:52:50):

And I can let you know that I know who's coming to the training. I'm not exactly sure who's staying over. You probably know most of 'em.

Michael Doyle (00:52:59):

Okay. Very good. That whatever fits into your schedule with that 10, 10 30-11, 10, 10 30 thing works out good. I think. Plenty of time to have breakfast and wake up.

Eric Samuels (00:53:12):

As long as you give me time to go from that room to the main ballroom

Michael Doyle (00:53:16):

for lunch

Eric Samuels (00:53:16):

to open it up. So we actually don't have lunch that day, so you'll have to

Michael Doyle (00:53:20):

Really?

Eric Samuels (00:53:20):

Go lunch on your own. Yeah, we never do the first day. We always officially start at 1:00. Okay. So it's pre-conference that morning

Elizabeth Yevich (00:53:28):  
Technically pre-conference.

Eric Samuels (00:53:29):  
So it's seems like every conference is like that now.

Michael Doyle (00:53:33):  
It's like the National Association Workforce Board Conference at DC did the last two years. They don't start till 1:00.

Eric Samuels (00:53:41):  
But maybe we could, there's a restaurant right down the hallway.  
Yeah.

Michael Doyle (00:53:47):  
Okay. Thank you Eric and Anja, you're up.

Anja Taylor (00:53:52):  
Yes. Hello. Good morning everyone. Anja Taylor, project manager for the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network. In the past several months, for those of you who have been in attendance and have

heard our report on the Data Sharing Network, you'll notice that we have taken this opportunity to present or report out on the data that we have been collecting from our participating Continuum of Care COC Partners. However, coming into today's presentation, we thought we would switch it up just a bit to talk to this group a little bit more about the future of Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network beyond 2023, as well as share more information on one of our biggest project initiatives, which has come through our partnership with the Managed Care Organization Superior Health Plan. I think we've shared a little bit about this in a past meeting. However, for those who may not be familiar with the work that we're doing with Superior Health Plan, a year or so ago, we were being Texas Homeless Network. On behalf of the Data Sharing Network, we're able to execute a business associate agreement with Superior Health Plan for the purpose of data matching. And the overall goal of this partnership and why this was really implemented is to be able to take the data that we are collecting across the state of Texas through our data warehouse. This is client level data pulled from HMIS and identify clients who are either currently experiencing homelessness or are accessing some kind of services within the Homeless Response System and identify those in particular who have Medicaid coverage through Superior Health Plan. The point of this essentially is to enhance care coordination with the idea that if we were able to work with the

Bureau of Health as a Medicaid or Medicare organization, we would be able to quickly identify these clients and provide access to services, healthcare services in particular that may be needed to reduce, for example, emergency room utilization and just make sure that these individuals have access to the appropriate healthcare that they need. And working with the health plan, it's important to note that we also partner with the State's Health Information Exchange Agency, Texas Health Services Authority, or THSA and another Health Information Exchange agency called C3HIE. These two entities help facilitate our conversations with Superior Health Plan, and they also do the actual process of the data matching. So they take the client list from Superior Health Plan and bump it up the list against the list of clients that we provide to them from our data warehouse. We were able to, through our first round of data matching, identify 350 clients who are both in our data warehouse as well as a client of Superior Health Plan. And those clients, those 350 clients are primarily in the DSW geographic area. And so what we've been doing as kind of a next step is working with staff and case managers at Superior Health Plan to go into more detail about these clients and try to connect with them to make sure that they're getting the resources that are needed. And so it's another way that we can share information. This is still very early on. It's kind of like a pilot project still in its early phases with the idea being that hopefully if

this proves to be successful and has positive outcomes, we would be able to branch out and partner with additional managed care organizations to replicate this process. And then in addition to that major project initiative that we've been focusing on, I did just want to take the opportunity to talk with this group about the future of the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network. This is a project really that Eric, I know on behalf of the Balance of State, in addition to the COC representative from each continuum of care region throughout Texas, has really spearheaded for a number of years. And we've reached a point within this project where we are desperately kind of needing to secure some steady funding to support this initiative beyond this calendar year. So right now we have funding to sustain our data warehouse and staff time on this project through the end of December of 2023. One of the initiatives that I know Eric worked on this year was trying to submit and advocate for a bill through the Texas legislative session that would provide funding for this project over the next, I believe, two years. However, as was mentioned earlier in our meeting, this was among one of the bills that was unfortunately just never, it made it all the way to the last stage, the Senate right before going to the governor. But unfortunately it was just never heard. And so we kind of shifted our efforts a bit in trying to continue our fund development efforts through submitting a variety of grant applications. However, as of now, we have not secured any additional funding.

And so we are continuing these fund development efforts. And I will say that we are now working on trying to outreach to some external stakeholders so that we can talk a little bit more about this project, about the importance of the data sharing network, about the critical need to have this type of project throughout the state of Texas for a variety of different state agencies in hopes that we get some kind of buy-in from a partner agency or some entity that would be willing to help us secure additional funds to sustain our efforts moving forward. And so as I say that to this group, I would welcome anyone who has any idea of a grant opportunity that may align with the work that we're doing, or if a contact number for a representative at an agency that would be potentially interested in funding this project. Please feel free to reach out to Eric or myself because that's what we're really focused on right now as we close out the end of the year.

Michael Doyle (01:02:31):

And how much money do you need to continue the funding?

Eric Samuels (01:02:37):

That's a very good question. I will say our bill that we had, it would've funded the expansion of the program, so it would've been a little bit over 500,000 for the biennium. We're working with our data warehouse vendor to determine what we need to

spend to keep the project going. But part of it, it also is Anja's time too. Having a project manager.

Michael Doyle (01:03:07):

I would assume that you put everything that you needed in the bill that was going.

Eric Samuels (01:03:11):

We did, yeah, we did.

Michael Doyle (01:03:11):

So half a million for two years, 250,000.

Eric Samuels (01:03:14):

That's right. It is a little bit more than that I think in the end, but yeah, right around that. But Anja said we're exploring other options. We'll be applying for credits through AWS. Again, we are probably going to apply for a CMS innovation grant, so working with a federal qualified healthcare clinic. And then these aren't immediate solutions though, so yeah, we're trying to determine how we can make it work and we're working with our fellow COCs to make it work. It's this project, this is the fourth year of this project. The fourth, the anniversary is probably right around this time. Actually.

Michael Doyle (01:03:56):

This seems to me like it would fit any capacity building grant.

Eric Samuels (01:04:01):

Yeah.

Michael Doyle (01:04:02):

Because you spent four years doing this. We've asked you to do it for longer than that, but we spent four years actually doing it and to not have it after all that work

Eric Samuels (01:04:13):

Would be disappointing. Yes.

Michael Doyle (01:04:13):

Is critical.

Eric Samuels (01:04:15):

Yes. It would be.

Michael Doyle (01:04:16):

You wouldn't know what we're dealing with statewide.

Eric Samuels (01:04:19):

Yeah, no, we feel the same and we are looking at any possibility. The only thing that's wrong with some of these capacity building grants is you don't want to take money away from a local COC that is working to house people to fund this. So it's in a tough situation when it comes to that. It Yeah, you're right. It does.

Michael Doyle (01:04:41):

I mean, if you don't have the infrastructure and the knowledge to know how to allocate the resources to the COCs, what good is it?

Eric Samuels (01:04:49):

Right.

Michael Doyle (01:04:49):

If you're just guessing something like this oughta, oughta enhance the ability to do what you're trying to do with housing locally.

Eric Samuels (01:04:56):

We agree. We agree. And our hope is that it would enhance our ability statewide and hopefully create efficiencies statewide.

Michael Doyle (01:05:06):

I can see that.

Eric Samuels (01:05:06):

Yeah. So we'll continue to meet with our partners. I'm meeting with HHSC soon.

Michael Doyle (01:05:12):

Do you have anything that you submitted in your bill that's got bullet points of the benefits and how cost effective this would be?

Eric Samuels (01:05:21):

I do.

Michael Doyle (01:05:22):

Send it to me.

Eric Samuels (01:05:23):

Okay. I will.

Michael Doyle (01:05:25):

And I've got a friend who might be interested in helping.

Blake Harris (01:05:31):

Excuse me, Blake Harris here. Eric, you said that the current funding is secured through December?

Eric Samuels (01:05:37):

We have funding for the project manager's position through December, and we have paid our data warehouse vendor through December as well.

Blake Harris (01:05:51):

Do y'all have a plan for January 1?

Eric Samuels (01:05:54):

We are working with our data warehouse vendor. Our data warehouse vendor is Green River. We're working with them on that. We have not finalized that plan yet.

Michael Doyle (01:06:04):

And that's the software I would assume?

Eric Samuels (01:06:06):

They are the Yes, they're the, well, they're operators

Michael Doyle (01:06:10):

And how much does it take to keep them on board?

Eric Samuels (01:06:13):

That's what we're working on.

Michael Doyle (01:06:15):

Ballpark.

Eric Samuels (01:06:17):

They've been very flexible with us for a for-profit company.

Honestly, it may be as low as 50 or less thousand.

Michael Doyle (01:06:27):

Oh really?

Eric Samuels (01:06:28):

They've been, they're very committed to us. I don't want to take advantage of their generosity too much, that's for sure because it's supposed to be 155 a year, but they have allowed us to do this for a lot loss.

Michael Doyle (01:06:44):

Good. Well they don't want to give up either. It's a great market.

Eric Samuels (01:06:46):

They do not want to. No, they're good partners. They're great partners.

Michael Doyle (01:06:52):

Good work. Good report. Is there any public comment? Alright, I'm just going to remind you in the closing comments. Our next meeting is September 27th, about 10:30 at South Park here in Austin. Part of the Texas Networks Annual Conference. So be there or be square as they used to say. And if they're being nothing else, then I would a call this meeting adjourned.