

Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH)

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Austin Southpark Hotel

Southpark AB Room 4140

Governors Row Austin, TX 78744

Mike Doyle (00:00):

We're going to get started. It is right at 10:30. Welcome to the Interagency Council for the Homeless Quarterly meeting, and thank you, Eric for getting us on the agenda so we can have the thing at the conference. Really appreciate it. For the sake of determining a quorum, if you're on the council, a member of the council and you're on the phone, would you check in so we can check your name off?

Tanisha McFarlane (00:29):

Hi, my name is Tanisha McFarlane, calling from the Section 8 department EAC Team. I'm filling in for Spencer after his departure.

Mike Doyle (00:39):

For Spencer.

Tanisha McFarlane (00:41):

Yes.

Mike Doyle (00:42):

Anybody else that's a member of the council?

Kelly Davis (00:47):

Hello, this is Kelly Davis from TWC.

Mike Doyle (00:50):

Hi Kelly. Thank you.

Kelly Davis (00:54):

Okay,

Mike Doyle (00:55):

Anybody else?

Tanisha McFarlane (00:57):

This is Brittany Hinton, and I took Helen's spot, so I think she was a member.

Mike Doyle (01:05):

So we're looking for Kelly Kravitz and Blake Harris.

Brooke Boston (01:11):

I'm here from TEA and Kelly's on the mic.

Mike Doyle (01:14):

Wonderful.

Amber Morrison (01:15):

And I'm here for the Texas Veterans Commission proxy for Blake.

Elizabeth Yevich (01:18):

Wonderful.

Mike Doyle (01:20):

Okay. We can establish the fact then that we have a quorum here or on the way for Kelly's. So welcome again to the meeting. It's kind of hard when you do it by phone. There's a lot of people in this room and it'd take up a lot of time to go through and introduce everybody, so we will not do that. But I do want to have a few remarks. Is there anybody else that we need to introduce? I guess we're okay. Okay. Alright. Well, I do have a few remarks and I got to tell you a story about how this happened, but in 1992 or maybe 93, The city of, I got into this work then and we were trying to determine in Tarrant County just exactly how many homeless people there were. I came out of the

business world and was doing this, and so I had no idea what was going on. I would ask people that were doing this, how many homeless people are there in Tarrant County? And I got an answer all the way up to 25,000 and I didn't know any difference. So I said, huh. And then a group of foundations did a study to determine how many homeless people there were in Tarrant County, and they came up with 25. So somewhere between, and I'm brand new to this, somewhere between 25 and 2,500. 25,000 is the number that I was first confronted with. And I said, that doesn't work. And I had been asked to chair the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition at that time. They were kind of in a flux. And so I did, but I said, we got to have better data than that between 25 and 25,000, particularly when the funders of your work said 25. So you write a grant, and you want to serve the homeless population, all 25 of them, you're probably not going to get much leverage. So we began to try to figure out in Tarrant County how to actually count 'em. And we actually did a homeless count before homeless count was required by HUD. And it turned out that there was about what we thought a 1400. And then HUD began to massage how you come up with annualized numbers and all that kind of stuff and put more structure to it. And we came to that conclusion. Well, I just want to encourage you in your

local areas to be the expert in this because if you're not sure how many people and funders and everybody else is asking how many homeless people are there and you're have a difference between 25 and 25,000, you're not going to have much credibility. And so with homelessness in the news, more so than I've ever seen it in my 32 years of doing this work, I think we need to be the experts in this. And so if you don't know and you don't, I just did this because it was such a huge difference. But in Tarrant County, when the coalition would meet, we would quote the number of homeless people that there were in Tarrant County by our count. And we all had to say it out loud so that we kept it in our mind. So we spoke as one entity, not as fractions of one entity. So I just want to encourage how many people there are affected by homelessness in your area and all of you say the same thing, or at least close, closer than 25 to 25,000. So that was just my remarks because I don't know about y'all, but I get more and more calls about this whole homeless situation, even though there's only one city in our state that is really calling about solutions, but just comparing it to Los Angeles and Portland and San Francisco is not Texas's numbers or problems. So just make sure that you are the expert in your area. So that being my remarks and encouragement from the

members, I need a motion to approve the minutes from the July meeting.

Brooke Boston (05:35):

So moved.

Mike Doyle (05:37):

By Brooke. Is there a second?

Kelly Kravitz (05:44):

Kelly, TEA. I'll second.

Mike Doyle (05:45):

Thank you, Kelly. Have a motion to second. Is there any discussion corrections? All in favor say Aye. This is council members. All in favor say aye.

Kelly Kravitz (05:57):

Aye.

Mike Doyle (05:57):

All opposed? Same sign. And those do pass. Okay. Since there,

Sean Lonergan (06:05):

Mike, can you hear me?

Mike Doyle (06:06):

Yes.

Sean Lonergan (06:08):

Sean Lonergan, TDHCA. From an administrative standpoint, can we please have the members in person who are present, introduce themselves just for the sake of a minute that I'll draft afterwards?

Mike Doyle (06:21):

Sure. Brooke, you want to start?

Brooke Boston (06:24):

Sure. Brooke Boston. TDHCA

Kelly Kravitz (06:29):

Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education Agency.

Mike Doyle (06:30):

Okay.

Desiree Viramontes (06:33):

Desiree Viramontes, Texas Education Agency.

Mike Doyle (06:35):

And she's here. And who is it? Who's on the way, Kelly?

Kelly Kravitz (06:45):

I'm on the way, but I'm here. And this is Desiree, our new state coordinator at TEA. She started last week, so she's our McKinney-Vento state coordinator for the state. I'm really excited to have Desiree on board. Comes from Round Rock ISD where she served for seven years, serving over a thousand students experiencing homelessness, has been in Texas public schools for 16 years.

Mike Doyle (07:03):

Wonderful.

Kelly Kravitz (07:04):

So there's lots of experience with McKinney-Vento. She'll be representing at these meetings, but it's been a while. I've seen familiar faces and been a lot of new faces since I've been here. I'm the director of our highly mobile at-risk student program division, so we've had some staff changes in transitions, but really grateful Desiree's here.

Mike Doyle (07:18):

Cool. As we keep going around the table.

Christina MacArthur (07:21):

Christina MacArthur from TDHCA on behalf of Megan Sylvester.

Mike Doyle (07:24):

Okay.

Amber Morrison (07:26):

Amber Morrison, Texas Veterans Commission on behalf of Dr. Blake Harris.

Belinda Bolton (07:30):

Belinda Bolton with DFPS

Naomi Cantu (07:33):

Naomi Cantu with TDHCA

Mike Doyle (07:36):

And Mike Doyle with the Governor's office. Nobody else. You got this. Sean.

Stephanie Taylor (07:43):

Oh, I'm Stephanie Taylor on behalf of Claire.

Sean Lonergan (07:45):

Yes sir.

Stephanie Taylor (07:46):

For HHSC.

Mike Doyle (07:47):

Okay, say that one more time. I'm

Stephanie Taylor (07:49):

Stephanie Taylor. I'm Claire Irwin's, proxy on behalf of HHSC

Mike Doyle (07:52):

Okay, thank you. Thanks Sean. So there's also a lot of people that represent your Continuum of Cares in your local community. If you're here, you don't need to introduce yourself, but would you hold your hand up if you're representing your Continuum of Care in the area?

Camille Castillo (08:15):

El Paso.

Mike Doyle (08:18):

El Paso.

Micki Metz (08:19):

Austin.

Mike Doyle (08:19):

Austin.

Unannounced Speaker (08:21):

Houston.

Mike Doyle (08:22):

Houston. Anybody else?

Syda Gonzalez (08:27):

Amarillo.

Mike Doyle (08:28):

Amarillo. Just got back from your Michelangelo exhibit and

Eric Samuels (08:33):

I say balance estate.

Mike Doyle (08:34):

Balance Estate. Okay, good. So we need some updates from you guys about how it's going. Anything you want to say or make comments about? So let's just start around, who was the first one over here?

Camille Castillo (08:48):

El Paso.

Mike Doyle (08:49):

El Paso.

Camille Castillo (08:53):

Sorry, I didn't hear what,

Mike Doyle (08:57):

Oh, just give us an update on how things are going in El Paso.

Camille Castillo (09:02):

El Paso is experiencing a number of issues right now. Number one being the crisis with immigrants. So the city and the county are working hard to address those issues. We did a summer youth point in time focused on isolating youth looking for youth and properly address that, better address it. We just finished with the 52023 Continuum of Care, about \$4 million worth of projects. So in a nutshell, that's what's going on in El Paso.

Mike Doyle (09:40):

Okay. What do you need besides more money? What do you need?

Camille Castillo (09:48):

Eric said it perfectly.

Eric Samuels (09:49):

Money.

Camille Castillo (09:51):

So more money. I think the thing I've addressed as council previously is to re-look at the formulas. I think that's something that really needs to be addressed when we compare ourselves to other continuums, not necessarily within the state in the nation with the same population as our COC. It seems like it's an unfair balance and so I'm always asking and throwing that out that those formulas need to be addressed.

Mike Doyle (10:23):

Are you looking at making an appeal because of the immigration issue and the homelessness among the immigration issues that might help them give you more money?

Camille Castillo (10:35):

No. No. So absolutely now that we're going through that, but I think even before the issue, this issue that we're experiencing

over the past couple years, I think it's just something that really, really needs to be looked at.

Mike Doyle (10:53):

Okay, thank you.

Eric Samuels (10:54):

And I also say with El Paso, I feel like there needs to be a more collaborative effort for data collection, consistent data collection across the community. Anything that we can do on the state level to encourage that, I think it would be great.

Hopefully I'm not speaking out of turn Camille. Not at all. But I know that that's something we've talked to congressional members about in the past.

Camille Castillo (11:17):

Thank you.

Eric Samuels (11:18):

Thanks for coming all this way.

Camille Castillo (11:19):

Thank you so much. Nice seeing everybody.

Mike Doyle (11:23):

Who wants to go next? Austin,

Micki Metz (11:31):

I just knew

Eric Samuels (11:32):

You're among friends here.

Micki Metz (11:33):

Oh yeah, sure. So we're doing so much, but mostly what I'm working with is having a hard time finding enough units for everybody. Have the funding but not the places to put people. Especially those with high barriers. We need more low barrier units for sure. So we're working on a couple of techniques out, thinking outside of the box to try to get those and of course with the normal stuff about all of that fun stuff. That's it for me.

Mike Doyle (12:21):

You got any comments sir? On the Austin?

Eric Samuels (12:26):

On Austin Continuum? I don't know that. I'll just be speaking for Austin. I'm in Austin, but I don't know if I should be speaking for Austin, but I agree with what she said. There are certainly not enough units, the vacancy rates, it's too low to use the vouchers we have and unfortunately, we have vouchers that landlords will not take.

Micki Metz (12:45):

Yes, that's a really big problem. I mean people have the vouchers left and right, but they're not wanting to take them at all and it's like, wait a minute, this is money in your pocket.

Eric Samuels (13:01):

Right.

Micki Metz (13:01):

But

Eric Samuels (13:04):

Yeah, and we need the development of more permanent supportive housing or supportive housing generally, which is happening, but slowly. Yes. Slowly.

Micki Metz (13:12):

Yes. Slowly.

Eric Samuels (13:14):

Yeah.

Mike Doyle (13:15):

Property values are so high here.

Micki Metz (13:18):

Yes, they are.

Mike Doyle (13:21):

Okay. Houston.

Unannounced Speaker (13:23):

Houston. Oh no, I'm just observing.

Micki Metz (13:28):

No, wait, wait, wait a minute. I got up.

Unannounced Speaker (13:33):

No seriously, I'm just observing. I don't have anything to report I I'm here to glean.

Mike Doyle (13:38):

Alright yeah. I'm just going to put down here. Houston just gleaning.

Unannounced Speaker (13:43):

Thank you. Thank you for your Astros losing last night.

Eric Samuels (13:47):

Wow.

Mike Doyle (13:51):

Who else? It was Amarillo, yes?

Syda Gonzalez (14:01):

So just to piggyback off what Austin was saying, we have a similar issue with housing availability of housing. So we have, I'm trying to think over a hundred vouchers right now that we're currently looking for units. So it's a similar issue. Either they don't accept, we're trying to kind of woo additional landlords into accepting these vouchers, but it's a question of not enough housing, you just can't create it out of blue.

Elizabeth Yevich (14:29):

What area?

Mike Doyle (14:30):

That was? Amarillo.

Jeanie Cordova (14:32):

I can go for Houston.

Mike Doyle (14:33):

Okay.

Jeanie Cordova (14:36):

Good morning. My name is Jeannie Cordova. I'm from Houston. I work with Endeavors and one of the things that I've noticed is that now as the concern is, is that now as the CCHP funding is ending is coming to a close. A lot of those individuals that we were able to help with the rapid rehousing program, they're not going to qualify for permanent supportive housing because they're coming out of the one-year house. So even though the majority of our clients, we were able to assist them with getting either SS, social Security or ss SSI, they still don't have that one year of homelessness, which is going to put them back on the street. And something else that we've noticed is with our funding, we don't have a lot of funding but what really hurts us is that match when we have to come up with the 20% match to even go for different grants. That's a barrier for a lot of nonprofits. That's all I have. I'm sure I could come up with more, but I didn't know.

Mike Doyle (16:02):

Okay. Any comments on the situation? We know about housing; it's always been a problem forever.

Sean Lonergan (16:08):

Hey Mike?

Mike Doyle (16:09):

Yeah,

Sean Lonergan (16:09):

Mike, can you hear me?

Mike Doyle (16:10):

Yeah,

Sean Lonergan (16:10):

This is Sean again. Just another request that individuals to speak if they could introduce themselves and provide the organization they're a part of that would also be helpful so they get the record.

Eric Samuels (16:21):

Sean, did you get the last speaker's name and organization?

Sean Lonergan (16:26):

I did. If possible, people who have already spoken could identify themselves, that would be great. If not for the sake of time, I totally understand. Just from on out, so that'd be much appreciated.

Mike Doyle (16:38):

Okay, let's go back around and start with El Paso. Tell us your name again.

Camille Castillo (16:44):

Camille Castillo.

Mike Doyle (16:45):

Camille Castillo?

Camille Castillo (16:47):

Yes.

Mike Doyle (16:49):

El Paso, Sean and then Austin.

Sean Lonergan (16:55):

Great, thank you.

Micki Metz (16:57):

Micki Metz

Mike Doyle (17:00):

Micki Metz. Houston was Janine

Jeanie Cordova (17:06):

Jeanie.

Mike Doyle (17:07):

Jeanie

Jeanie Cordova (17:13):

Cordova. Yeah,

Mike Doyle (17:14):

Jeanie Cordova from Houston and Amarillo was

Syda Gonzalez (17:18):

Syda Gonzalez.

Mike Doyle (17:20):

Say the first one again.

Syda Gonzalez (17:20):

Syda,

Mike Doyle (17:22):

Syda Gonzalez. They were speaking for their local continuums of care

Eric Samuels (17:31):

And the balance of State's meeting and across the other way. But I can say that they recently submitted the NOFO and they applied for, I was just asking Billy, I was trying to come up with a number, but I want to say it's over \$12 million. It's come a long way since 2006 whenever we were applying for \$250,000. So they're growing by leaps and bounds. It's a good thing because 215 counties you're going to need a lot of money. A lot more money is needed.

Mike Doyle (18:02):

And I'm going to kind of tie that back to my opening comments. If we don't know as people that work with this population around the state numbers like you're gathering for us, we were behind the curve a little bit, so it's very, very important. So thank you Continuum of Caress that are here for being a part of the balance of States so that we can bring those numbers up to date. And there are a couple that we need to bring up to date and onboard, but we can will talk about those future meetings. So anybody in their local continuums have any initiatives that you'd like to talk about? If there are none Eric, it's your turn.

Eric Samuels (18:48):

Okay, I'll be quick. Obviously, we have the conference going on right now, almost 600 people registered and there would've been a lot more if we had room. So thank you all for registering early and being here come to Houston next year. We're going to be at the Omni Galleria, it's going to be a little bit earlier in September and I think next year we're also going to have HUD provide another startup training, so if you are funded by HUD, you can get HUD to foot the bill for your travel to Houston, not for your food and drinks and stuff like that though

unfortunately. Yeah, things are going well here. Like I said, our team that works on the Texas Balance Estate, they were very busy over the last, well over a month, several months actually, and they continue to be very busy working with the communities across that 215-county region. And I just want to mention a few other things. We had a board meeting yesterday and one of the things I reported to the board is the alarming number of information referral calls we get. Texas Homeless Network is not a direct service provider. We provide training, technical assistance, we serve as a COC lead, but yet we received nearly a thousand calls last year from 120 different counties. One person's managing this, Craig Fiero, who you might've seen running around. I just bring this up to say that this, well, number one, this number has increased year after year for the last five years. Definitely there's a need for help. There's a need for help with homelessness prevention, rental assistance, things like that. So I would love it as a council if we could think about ways that we could step in and provide that little bit of aid to keep people from falling into homelessness. Because if we're getting calls, 211's getting calls, local agencies are getting calls, local churches are getting calls, so it's reached a point where I think it would be wise of us to

start thinking about things to do. I know we don't have money on this council, but maybe we can collaborate with some of our state agencies and our faith providers or faith community across the state and our service providers and we come up with some kind of plan to fill that need. It's just been alarming to see those numbers increase

Mike Doyle (21:15):

I know, and speaking of that, when I speak to the governor's office that there's two things they asked me, how many homeless people are there in Texas and what are you doing about that.

Eric Samuels (21:29):

That's one thing we're not doing, but we could be.

Mike Doyle (21:32):

But how many, yeah, I agree with the housing. parts. How many would you say by your numbers that you've gotten that there are

Eric Samuels (21:41):

Oh, that homeless people experiencing? Well, I don't want to take any thunder away from Anja who will be speaking soon about the data sharing network and

Mike Doyle (21:47):

We'll wait, we'll wait.

Eric Samuels (21:49):

It's a lot more than we want I can tell you.

Mike Doyle (21:51):

Oh yeah, I mean last time we were up 10 or 14% a couple of months ago, a couple of quarters ago with the council, so I was just curious. Okay, Anja, you want to just step right in there then?

Anja Taylor (22:06):

Yeah, that's a good segue actually. Hello everyone. My name is Anja Taylor and I serve as the project manager for the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network, which is a statewide data sharing network that we administer throughout Texas in collaboration with our Continuum of Care partners. And so this has been

brought up several times in today's meeting, but when we're asked the questions like how many people are experiencing homelessness, the data sharing network is one of the ways that we can analyze the data that we are collecting through HMIS and get a better understanding of that information. What I passed out at the beginning of this session is essentially our conference presentation over the data sharing network that is scheduled for tomorrow. It starts at 2:30 in the Oaks if you're interested. And in addition to explaining a little bit more about what we do with the data sharing network, we're really going to dive into an HMIS analysis of certain topics that we have identified as points of interest for those partners that we are working with and our external stakeholders. We are actually hosting this presentation in collaboration with our data warehouse vendor, Green River, who has done a tremendous job in helping us to analyze these statistics so that we can answer the questions that I know you all are asking. My main I guess, update that I have to share on this work is that currently this project is funded by our lovely partners at TSAHC, which has given us a financial support for administrative costs i.e. staff time for two years and we also have received a grant to support our data warehouse costs and that grant is through Amazon Web

Services are AWS promotional credits. Both of those funding opportunities are set to expire at the end of this calendar year. We have really focused our efforts this year on fund development and trying to secure additional funds to sustain this project because it is so important and unfortunately as of right now we haven't been successful in acquiring additional funds and so I'm putting that information out there to you all so that you're aware of our need for funding, whether that be you know of a funding source that aligns with the work that we're doing or you work for an organization that may be interested in collaborating with us on this project in a certain way. I say this in that if we do not secure additional funding by December, this project will go on pause for an undetermined amount of time and therefore we will lose the ability to access this data that we have collected from our Continuum of Care partners. So that's my update.

Mike Doyle (25:39):

And how much money do you need?

Brooke Boston (25:42):

That's exactly what I was just going to add.

Anja Taylor (25:44):

That's the next question we always get.

Eric Samuels (25:46):

Yeah, and Anja is probably going to be a little shy about saying now we did approach the Texas legislature for a little over 500,000 over the biennium, so 250 a year we could keep the project going for a little over a hundred thousand to really do the project justice. We do need more. The past few years we've been, I was telling this to the board yesterday, the last few years we've been laying the track, we've been laying the track making connections with continuums of care gathering data so that eventually we can have the network that will allow us to use this data to help connect people to services quicker, more efficiently. Also help programs and agencies do the same and then also help us to collaborate with managed care organizations HHSC. Anyway, so we've gained all this momentum. We really hate to see that stop and so we are trying to continue this project and find funding with some last ditch effort so we can continue this on into the next year and beyond because we know once that network is fully complete, the utility of the network will be, I

think it'll more than pay for itself and I think it'll really help us throughout the state to help prevent an end homelessness quicker and again more efficiently and cost effectively.

Mike Doyle (27:17):

Good. Yeah. And your guesstimate on the number of homeless people?

Anja Taylor (27:21):

Yes. So for those of you who are unaware, one of our main project initiatives is our data dashboard. This data dashboard lives live on the page and webpage. There's actually screenshots of our data dashboard in that resource handout that I passed out earlier today. We updated our data dashboard yesterday with our most recent statistics that we have collected from our COC partners and we're publishing this information in a bit of a different way in that we're doing it by quarter this year. So as of now we've gone through three quarters of 2023. The estimated count of those experiencing homelessness is approximately 53,104 individuals. Now it's important to note that as of right now we receive data from nine of Texas's 11 Continuum of Care regions. So this number is inclusive of San Antonio and Wichita Falls.

This is also, we know the minimum number of individuals experiencing homelessness. We estimate this to be a lot higher because as you all know, working with the unhoused population, not everyone has the ability or opportunity to access services and we're only able to collect this information from HMIS participating agencies. The count last year for those experiencing homelessness in the state of Texas for the entire year was approximately 92,955 individuals.

Eric Samuels (29:13):

And one thing to keep in mind that's over the course of the year, that's not at any point in time. Also to keep in mind there were a lot of people that left homelessness during that time. Unfortunately 92,000, a lot more than that.

Mike Doyle (29:31):

If you're on the phone, be sure you mute yourself. We've heard dogs. I don't know what that just was, but some kind of machine. But if you could mute, make sure you're muted, please someone.

Eric Samuels (29:42):

I think they're moving files forward. File cabinet upstairs.

Elizabeth Yevich (29:46):

Oh yes, stairs.

Mike Doyle (29:47):

Thank you. Okay, that it. Thanks Anja, appreciate that.

Questions for Anja? Yes sir.

Ben King (29:55):

I think just if for the benefit of the audience maybe and to engage the whole council in this idea. Well, okay, I'll start First of all with context. My name's Ben King. I'm an ex-officio member of the data sharing network board as well as the immediate past chair of the board for the Texas Homeless Network. I love this meeting every year, but it's real easy to let the agenda go by and not really necessarily engage in what brings this to the table. I'd love to hear everyone's thoughts because I'm really curious. We've developed, well THN has developed this product to be useful, particularly for this kind of meeting. You said the two questions you get, even if they're in a room where they may not be as engaged as they could be, you hear how many are there and what are we doing? And the only way

to answer that is with a system like this. So I thought with all of the departments that we have on hand right now, is there a way that we could get you guys to sort of discuss where the benefits are each of your departments? We've engaged with HHSC with DARS at one point. I can't even name all of the different avenues. Eric has tried to solve this Rubiks Cube. I will tell you a little bit, those are just titles I do with nights and weekends kind of job. I'm a professor at the University of Houston College of Medicine and when we look at these kinds of social determinants of health, the main thing that we see is especially hospitals love to do this. And so I'll blame them with this example because they're not in the room. They love to point at the wrong pocket, right? It's not our pocket. So we shouldn't have to solve this problem. And the problem is if everyone's benefiting a little bit from this information, everyone wants someone else to pay for it. We haven't figured out whose pocket is actually going to open up and a council like this, this is the idea, right? To come together and figure out how do we support this tool. So anyway, it's not a question for Anja. Anja, that was a great presentation by the way. We don't want to lose her obviously. Right? How can we troubleshoot this? And I want to float that to the table and you guys can feel free

to ignore that or just sit and ponder it and maybe it comes up on your next call. Thank you.

Mike Doyle (32:19):

Thank you. Well we'll just put it to the Continuum of Caress and to the people that are represented in the areas that are in this room. Anybody got a solution or a hundred thousand dollars?

Ben King (32:34):

250.

Mike Doyle (32:35):

250? I have neither.

Camille Castillo (32:39):

I think it is so important to be able to continue this project. It's really taken a long while to really get to this point where we have all this data. Eric and Anja are continuing work with the two COCs that are missing in the picture, but we need to come up with solution. I've thrown out a couple of thoughts on having the COCs be able to contribute to this project and how we can, we don't have a lot of money, but I think it's just

worthwhile to be able to think creatively, think outside of the box to really push hard to make sure this continues. Hate to lose all the momentum that we've worked so hard over the past eight years roughly

Eric Samuels (33:32):

At least. And we should. That was Camille Castillo with El Paso Homeless Coalition by the way. And Camille's worked with us along the way this whole time and been on our board data sharing network board. Well since the beginning in 2019, I think Michael has question

Mike Doyle (33:53):

Michael.

Michael Will (33:53):

Michael Will Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation TSAHC, I guess as one of the two founders of this initiative, we should probably take a look at our couch cushions to see if we can find some lose change before December. But you mentioned MCOs, but you've talked to the health plans to see if they might invest in this?

Eric Samuels (34:12):

We have and we are working with Superior Health Plan. We've already started identifying clients that they ensure that are experiencing homelessness. We haven't, there has not been any talk of a contract yet, but that we do continuously talk about that.

Michael Will (34:31):

I would encourage you to make a connection with Kevin James from Corporation from Supportive Housing. He procured money from Superior last year for us for our permanent supportive housing Institute. He has a great relationship with the people that have the money

Eric Samuels (34:45):

And I know Kevin very well, just haven't talked to him about that yet. So I will.

Mike Doyle (34:50):

Good progress. Anyone else? Solutions are \$250,000. Speak quick. It's going up fast.

Richard Johnson (35:02):

What about just, I'm sorry, my name is Richard Johnson, community health worker with Dell School of Medicine under Dr. Tim Mercer. Speaking on behalf of myself. Just what about utilizing the community in itself just to let the community know what the work is being done to look at maybe corporations that have some interest or partnering with other universities and colleges that might have some interest in some of the funding that they're pulling in to maybe kind of loop that in to bring it in. It's just a thought process. Eric, you and I can talk off the record.

Eric Samuels (35:42):

I would love to do that. We actually talked as a board yesterday about that very thing. I think that is the step we needed to take as to, we have worked with a lot of research institutions already.

Richard Johnson (35:55):

Sure.

Eric Samuels (35:56):

Not to the level of executing a contract, but I would love to talk to those folks and also corporate giving offices of, we've got a lot of large tech companies here that a hundred thousand would not be much to them. So yeah, I would love to talk to you.

Richard Johnson (36:11):

Okay, thank you.

Mike Doyle (36:17):

Well everyone, just keep it to what Ben said. Just keep that in your back of your mind or the front of your mind that I don't think you can ever get money unless you have accurate data. I know in Tarrant County we've broken it down to how much it costs the community to serve the homeless and then we've broken it down to our donors about what the economic value is. If you get 'em a job and what it does in the Chamber of Commerce did a study and shared it with us and it came out of New Orleans, but it wasn't in Tarrant County. But they saw that the economic benefit of new wages being received in Tarrant County was 10 to 1 economic benefit. So if you are spending \$12,000 to house and case manage a homeless person and you get 'em a job that makes

\$20,000 even, that's a \$200,000 economic benefit for every job you get for the homeless people. And you start adding that up. And even if you think that only 20% of 'em are capable of keeping a job, it's a huge number. And then people begin to look at it more as an economic benefit than they do as a giveaway program. What donors in Fort Worth think.

Eric Samuels (37:39):

Yeah. Then on top of that, the people that need healthcare needs often that are not insured, get those folks under managed care organizations, save money for the community that way.

Mike Doyle (37:54):

Our personal agency, cornerstone has a free medical clinic and dental clinic and we talked to JPS our local hospital and they said it was their number every time those doors open in the emergency room costs JPS \$3,000. And so we've gotten some money from them to help people from going and the homeless are going to go to the emergency room, where else are they going to go? And so the local hospitals could look at it as a cost saving if you're doing some remediation and triage before they get to the hospital. You're working with free clinics and those kinds of

things. And so there are some ways, the problem has always been who's going to do that? Everybody's busy. But this data to me is the start of what would be either for THN TDHCA, somebody to say here's what we're doing. That would do great work if we were funded. And I don't know how you do that, but there are ways.

Eric Samuels (38:57):

Yep. Put us in front of those people.

Mike Doyle (38:58):

Yeah.

Eric Samuels (39:00):

And then we'll talk to them about that.

Mike Doyle (39:02):

Okay.

Eric Samuels (39:04):

And I will connect with you sir, and I will contact Kevin.

Mike Doyle (39:09):

Okay. Anything else? Great discussion. Thank you, Ben, for giving us that little kick in the butt. Alright. TDHCA, you're up. Yes. We are going to start with Rosy.

Rosy Falcon (39:28):

Good morning. So this is the busy season for everybody and so the homeless programs are not much different.

Elizabeth Yevich (39:34):

If you want to sit over there.

Eric Samuels (39:35):

Do you want to?

Rosy Falcon (39:43):

We have many deadlines coming up in the next couple of months. The most eminent being our CV deadline that ends September 30th. We do have some good news. We are right now 93% expended overall, so that's about 95.8 million of our 103, about \$103 million award. Now our first deadline is 97.7 million that has to be expended by sub-recipients by the end of this month. We do believe they have really good plans in place to get that going.

We've worked with them. Natalie, our ESG coordinator has been helping them figure out ways to get people housed, get money out, improve shelters, more services, things that we can use since after this deadline. Money will be tight for ESG. Our 2022 ESG annual contracts are in the last several months of activity. They're currently 73% expended and we're in the process of completing the contracts for a 2023 ESG annual funds. We anticipate all of that to be ready to spend November 1st. Within your meeting packet, there are handouts, detailing impacts that these expenditures that I just went over have made to the households in Texas. And each of the sheets has our individual funding strengths and what their impact has done within each of the components. So to date, our CARES funds have helped to provide assistance to over 68,000 households and that's from the beginning of the CARES funds through mid-September. So we will see a bigger change probably around mid-November when all of the filing reporting is due for this grant. And our ESG annual funds have assisted over 17,426 households and that's just within the last six months period. So that's the most up to date funding we have for our annual

Mike Doyle (41:54):

Rosie. Is this the sheets you're on?

Rosy Falcon (41:57):

Those are the sheets. The first one covers the ESG annual, so that's the one that data is for the last six months.

Mike Doyle (42:03):

Okay, thank you.

Rosy Falcon (42:06):

And then our overall numbers are any household that received any services, whether it was emergency shelter services, street outreach, homeless prevention, but your information breaks it down into what type of service they received.

Mike Doyle (42:20):

Okay.

Rosy Falcon (42:25):

And our HHSP funds, which are our smaller state funds, and they only go to nine cities, but we do end up with 10 awards because the city of San Antonio does designate an entity to handle one

of their contracts. So out of those 10 agencies we have provided direct services to over 5,261 households. That number does seem to be a little bit smaller for a year's worth, but our HHSP funds, because they are limited, are mostly used for case management or providing assistance so that other grants provide direct services to that and that's what's happening in our world. So with that, if anybody has any questions,

Mike Doyle (43:06):

What do you do in your spare time?

Rosy Falcon (43:11):

More of this.

Mike Doyle (43:13):

Thank you. Any questions for Rosie? Alright, Tanisha.

Elizabeth Yevich (43:18):

She's on the phone.

Mike Doyle (43:19):

She's on the phone.

Tanisha McFarlane (43:20):

Hi.

Mike Doyle (43:22):

Hi.

Tanisha McFarlane (43:22):

Hi. Good morning, everyone. I'm Tanisha. I'm the program administrator. I dialed in. So we have three contracts with the EHB vouchers with our CLCs. We currently have a total of 304 families housed with 76 currently searching out of the 304, we have 88 that are housed through Tarrant County. I'm sorry, we have 392 families housed and 304 are from Texas Homeless Network and then 88 are from Tarrant County. We are expecting to have the full 392 housed by Texas Homeless Network before the end of the year, so that's great. And we're also expecting to extend their contract to ensure that the families that are currently searching do receive full assistance when they do locate housing. Our last contract with Texas, part of Texas, I apologize, we currently have 48 referrals and no families housed at this moment, so they're still out searching right now as

well. And that's really it for our emergency housing voucher. We have been moving families along. They have been successfully looking for housing. Like someone mentioned earlier, Tarrant County has a very big barrier with accepting the voucher. So a lot of their families are looking in other areas to see if they can find landlords that would take the emergency housing voucher.

Mike Doyle (44:54):

Good.

Eric Samuels (44:54):

Can I just say I want to thank Brooke and TDHCA and of course Bobby, Bobby Wilkinson for working with us to make this happen. THN has never done anything like this and with the folks, Kate especially and others at TDHCA, we've had a great working relationship and have been able to house a lot of folks and a lot of households also think TCFV somewhere around here. Alright. Yeah. And then of course they helped a lot with that as well. So it's been a great partnership and collaboration and we really appreciate it.

Billy Streu (45:36):

One of things that's been really cool for that, the partner <inaudible> been probably 66% of our voucher holders have been survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. So we've recently just hit just over 200 households from domestic violence and sexual assault background that have been housed. So it's has been really, really successful in that regard.

Eric Samuels (46:00):

And Sean, that's Billy's Streu Texas Homeless network and one of the people who works directly with households to help them access these vouchers and access the units with the vouchers.

Molly Thibodeaux (46:15):

This is Molly Thibodeaux. I was just going to say we initially thought like maybe 30% would be family violence. I thought 66. So we're really thankful for that partnership too.

Eric Samuels (46:29):

Molly Thibodeaux

Billy Streu (46:31):

Just statewide, that just really speaks to the need. Every population needs the need, but our initial goal was for a third of our vouchers to go towards survivors and 66% of 'em. Wow. Really, really big gain.

Molly Thibodeaux (46:51):

Come to my session. Not Amy over there, but we're having a session today at 15 on the intersection.

Billy Streu (46:57):

Cool.

Molly Thibodeaux (46:59):

Plug, plug.

Mike Doyle (47:03):

Thank y'all, Tiara.

Naomi Cantu (47:05):

It's actually me today. It's Naomi Cantu. Yep. I am here at this meeting today. So Tiara's not filling in. I'm Naomi Cantu home American Rescue Plan director and we do hear you that we are

trying to make more housing. So I have 132 million in one-time funding through the American Rescue Plan. We have funded construction, so we have programmed most of our funds in construction. We have a rental prong and then a non-congregate shelter prong and then a 5% for or 2.5 actually for nonprofit capacity building operating funds. For the rental prong that's been going on the longest. We have 10 contracted developments. We have awarded 42 million, we have about 10 million left in that batch to award. We have 239 units with those contracts and about 170 of those units are for qualified populations, which include people experiencing homelessness at risk or formally homeless temporarily housed. So even if they've been homeless before and their assistance is running out, they would qualify. But as always with needing more units, we're contracting now, we expect these units to be online in 24 months ish. So that that's the time range that we're looking at. For nonprofit capacity, billing, operating funds, and also non congregate shelter. Just one quick definition of non-congregate shelters. So congregate shelter is a traditional shelter where everyone is in the same room possibly with bunk beds, but in the event of an airborne virus event, non-congregate means everyone has their own rooms and living quarters. So that's why non congregate shelter. The

nonprofit operating capacity works with the non-congregate shelter in that we have awarded the funding in Austin to the Other Ones Foundation and downtown Austin Alliance for Capacity Building to help prepare them to submit an application for non-congregate shelter to build that capacity and expertise to be able to help run that shelter. So that's ongoing. We're in the process of receiving that application for the nonprofit capacity building and then hopefully received the non-congregate shelter application shortly after that. Shortly for us is within 16 months after that. That's in development terms. So we are working on construction. I can definitely give updates as we go. Currently we don't have any additional funds available,

Mike Doyle (50:14):

But the funds that were distributed were for construction of a facility like that.

Naomi Cantu (50:20):

Right. So 56 million for rental development. Some of that did go to permanent supportive housing, some of it to general rentals with certain number of units for HOME ARP.

Mike Doyle (50:30):

Okay, good. Thank you. Any questions for Naomi? Okay, Sean, strategic plan update.

Sean Lonergan (50:44):

Yes sir. Can everybody hear me? All right?

Mike Doyle (50:45):

We can.

Sean Lonergan (50:48):

So no new updates on this front. The plan continues to be under internal executive review. As soon as I have any new updates to share, those will be relayed to Chair Doyle along with the rest of the hitch council members. Otherwise, I'll take any questions that anyone might have on the matter. Thank you.

Mike Doyle (51:16):

Any determination on a name?

Sean Lonergan (51:22):

So I believe we or I sent you over a few options that were being deliberated amongst the council. I believe one of the top options was some combination of Seeking Solutions and Everyone Deserves a Home. So those seem to be the leading contenders at the moment, but still TBDs.

Mike Doyle (51:45):

Okay, thank you. Nathan, you're going to talk to us about impediments to fair housing?

Nathan Darius (51:55):

Sure am So, hi, my name is Nathan Darius I'm the Fair Housing Coordinator for the Texas Department of Housing Community Affairs and every five years the state of Texas has to write a fairly large document called the analysis of impediments or be called three different things. At this point in time, we're going to stick with the analysis of impediments because HUD can't make up their minds. So what this document does is we identify impediments, things that are blocking us from achieving better fair housing outcomes and that includes housing those who are unhoused as well. So part of the document writing process is to come to different groups, y'all included, to solicit early

input. Right now we have not even started writing this document. This is super, super early, so this is a chance to let us know how we should approach this document. Things we should include in this document, things we should not include in this document on the screen right now, it should be big enough for everybody to scan. This will take you directly to a page where you can provide comment directly to us. That comes directly to me. We've tested it so I know that it works, which means it will not work for the first person who uses it. Right. Also make sure you use your camera and not a QR code app because that takes you to a very strange dating website. We do not know why that was a very odd bug. Hopefully it wasn't because Google was paying attention to my search history. But basically what we're trying to do is identify either programmatic, legislative and other issues that may be stopping us from being able to meaningfully house and fairly house individuals. So some of those things well may have touched on. \$250,000 worth of funding doesn't sound like very much when this is a document that is required for writing in order for the state to receive any HUD community planning and development funds whatsoever. So might be a good place to have some comment on that being an impediment and something that may be able to be changed. Granted, we are a state agency and there

are things that we can and cannot do, but that doesn't mean that we won't take comments into consideration and it may still help us to target some items in this document where to take that in. The item itself, it will take you to a place where you can read the previous version of this. It was from 2019 and actually I think we solicited a comment from, it was a much smaller meeting, but we did come to y'all. I think for this as well, it's 800 pages. Don't worry about reading the last 400, the last 400 of it is all appendix. It's between accessibility requirements and then also trying to explain some more technical issues that really don't affect y'all or really anybody who's reading the document from a non-technical perspective, focus on those first. I would even say focus on the first a hundred and 150 pages and then see how much further you want to go into it. So please, please send comment. I'm going to be the one going through all of these so when I say I want to read it, I actually do. I do mean it. I'm not just shuffling this off on somebody else. There's also, if you want to take some with you, I believe there are printouts of the QR code, so you can take that back with you as well. Is that, that's, yeah, that's going to take you right there. So just in case you don't take a picture of it here or you need to get it to other people, it'll also be

available on the TDHCA website and I am going to shoot for us also trying to get this onto our social media accounts, so our Twitter and Facebook, this will be coming out a little bit. You all are the first to hear about it though, so there you go. If you have any questions about it, let me know.

Elizabeth Yevich (56:16):

How long has the comment period?

Nathan Darius (56:18):

So the early comment period, we haven't set a hard date on it yet, and since this is the very first one, I mean I would say you probably have until the very least end of October because again, we haven't even started writing the document that, so we wanted to get input very early this time.

Mike Doyle (56:41):

Great, thank you for that.

Michael Will (56:43):

Quick question, I haven't read it obviously, I guess, but is source of income discrimination the kind of thing that you're

allowed to comment on as a state agency? That seems like one of the most obvious impediments to fair housing choice in this one that we created. So I don't know if you're allowed to address things that were statutorily codified by Texas Legislature.

Nathan Darius (57:00):

I'm going to put on a very strange hat here and non-comment comment this for you. I cannot change anything about social income discrimination and TDHCA as an executive agency cannot. But if someone were to identify it and if a lot of somebodies were to identify it in comment, it might be something we'd have to talk about in a document. They talked about impediments to fair housing choice. Does that not answer your question?

Mike Doyle (57:29):

What question?

Nathan Darius (57:31):

Exactly.

Mike Doyle (57:34):

Good comment. Very good comment.

Unannounced Speaker (57:38):

These are not the drugs you're looking for.

Mike Doyle (57:43):

Okay. Any other member agency comments,

Michael Will (57:46):

Mike? I've got one. Okay, Michael Will, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation. I want to make a plug for our permanent supportive housing symposium November 6th and 7th at the Renaissance Austin Hotel. If you feel like revisiting Austin in six weeks when it's not 115 degrees, November's a great time to come. This symposium is largely different from the content that you get at this conference and that's intentional. We're not trying to away from or impede on the territory of THN, we're trying to compliment it. At our symposium, we have three tracks, one for housing development, one for services and operations, and one for health outcomes. So it's largely about the sticks and bricks of housing and then the services that are provided on site. And then we've engaged HHSC and MCOs on the health outcomes that we're all trying to collectively achieve. It will

be a different audience than the one you have here. It'll be housing developers, capital providers, funders, health plans, people like that and service providers. And so there'll be some crossover and in this conference in our symposium, but we're really trying to compliment your work and really speaking more to actually the units that are being created and how we're paying for it and how we create a more robust pipeline of units on the ground. And it's a very cheap symposium. The nonprofit rate is 150 bucks still and then we have a tenant rate of \$50. That's also for students. So if you're a tenant of income restricted housing or a student, some great programming got HUD, USICH, Steve Burke from the National Alliance in Homelessness, giving a federal plenary perspective, they're going to be talking about the all inside report from the federal level. It'd be great digest for that. We have a lot of out other out-of-state people who are coming in to give fresh perspectives on the 1115 waiver and how other health commissions and health agencies are using their federal dollars more creatively to help on the housing side. Our plenary speakers, Greg Colburn, who's the author of "Almost is a Housing Problem" who makes a case that the housing market in a city is a clear determinant of the prevalence of homelessness in a community more so than opioid

overdoses or anything like that. It's the nature of your housing market and how expensive. It's so a lot of great content. We're really excited about it and I would make a direct appeal to the COCs in here as well. Eric sent out an email to COC leads a few weeks ago. Last week I followed up with every lead person at the COC as the closing activity for this symposium. We're doing what we're calling de-siloing our work and it's going to be COC led conversations with Eric included. And we currently have representation from Dallas and Fort Worth and potentially Amarillo. I've been talking to Jason and then Brazos Valley as well. If you haven't heard from me or if your COC hasn't heard from me, I'll try and find you at this symposium because we really need those conversations to be led by COCs in their respective regions and they'll be with audiences that you typically wouldn't get the funders and housing developers and all that. And it's about how can we have closer collaboration instead of operating in these silos. We also have Austin who's represented as well for that conversation. Anyway, making a plug for that. Comply to me if you want more details on that symposium.

Mike Doyle (01:01:23):

Date and time.

Michael Will (01:01:24):

November 6th and 7th, there are a couple add-ons, a supportive housing tour that we're doing on that November 6th, the morning of it as a pre symposium activity. And then November 8th is a supportive housing academy, a one-day academy that Kevin James at CSH will be doing. It's kind of if you are a, no matter what you are and you want to get introduced to housing development and get ready and think that you might want to do that, supportive housing development. This is kind of a one-day academy for the nuts and bolts. I'm trying to figure all that out.

Mike Doyle (01:02:00):

Okay. Thank you, Michael. That was good information.

Brooke Boston (01:02:05):

I'm sorry, what was it called again?

Michael Will (01:02:08):

It's the permanent supportive housing symposium.

Eric Samuels (01:02:14):

Could we get some COC leads there? Virtually maybe could help coordinate that. I'm thinking about El Paso. They're probably not going to be able to make it in.

Michael Will (01:02:24):

Oh yeah. We're able to comp registration for any COC that wants to attend, but we can't cover travel costs. I understand that. That could be a barrier for Amarillo or El Paso or others, but we might be able to help with some travel costs just talking to me. But yes, zoom could be an option as well.

Eric Samuels (01:02:42):

Okay. Yeah, we'll make sure people get here in person if they can, but we'll offer that in some circumstances.

Michael Will (01:02:50):

Right.

Mike Doyle (01:02:51):

Good. Thank you. Okay, I don't have any closing comments and so I'd

Kelly Kravitz (01:02:58):

Like to provide just some education updates. Absolutely. Okay. I know I've got it formally up there, but I know it's been a while since I've been here, but just wanted to share. So we talked about Desiree being our new state coordinator. She started last week, but we have some resources out and available just that we want folks to know about. So we have a new Texas Education for Homeless Children and youth website that's going to be launching. This is very much going to be a comprehensive resource suite and website with many, many tools and resources for schools and you all as well and serving students and families experiencing homelessness. So just know that that's coming. We have a number of resources on our TEA website currently, but this is an external site. It'll be TEA branded, but very much robust. Also wanted to share that over the last couple of years we've established our technical assistance through our education service center regions, and we have 20 across the state. And so within each one of these regions we have a regional McKinney-Vento liaison. And so that is really

the main go-to person within the region who supports their school districts, addresses technical assistance, provides training and professional development. And we at TEA are working with to really have a statewide infrastructure for our school systems and related to serving the needs of students and families experiencing homelessness with that infrastructure, posters. It's a requirement that the rights of homeless students and families are posted in Texas public schools and canvassed in the community. So we've updated those posters and distributed them through those regions and that happened in August. And so as I'm hearing a lot of COC folks in the room, community providers and things of that nature, it would be excellent to reach out to your regional McKinney-Vento liaison and you can find that information on TEA's website and then reach out to them regarding those posters. Any other potential collaborative training opportunities or where we're wanting to make the connection right between the community homeless partners and networks as well as with the school folks. So wanted to make sure and plug that. We also did receive a number of funds over the last three years, \$81 million related to ARP and Covid recovery. And so we have worked very hard. We've had a number of grants and things that have gone out from our agency,

specifically related to helping homeless students and families with Covid Recovery. We are launching a unique grant to our ESCs with some additional needs. We found additional \$16 million, and we are getting that information, getting those resources out to our regions to address the specific needs within their school districts, within their regions. We actually had a survey that went out in April where over 600 school districts responded with their specific needs. And our regions are going to be working through this grant to meet those specific, still lingering, very much Covid recovery needs. So wanted to flag that for you. Also, something that's really important for you to know is that in January 1st, 2023, new transition assistance policy for how school districts are to treat students who are homeless and students in foster care was adopted. And this requires every school to create a welcoming and warm environment for our students. So having an enrollment conference specifically for all homeless students right away when they come into that school. So that we're providing them resources, information, giving them a welcome packet of this is what our campus is about, giving them warm introductions on the campus, providing resources to parents and families or those that might be advocating and working on behalf of to mitigate those barriers

to school transitions. And so that is something that we have been training on. That's another, if you want to learn more about it, it's on our webpage, but very distinctive policy in Texas and really reflective of best practices of homeless and foster and other mobile groups nationally, as well as things that are happening here in Texas. Codified a policy. And so we are working to train our schools on these requirements, but I think it's really helpful for those that are outside of the school system to know about what some of these expectations are and what schools are doing to specifically mitigate barriers to school transitions and address the needs of our students. So those are a few just high-level things. I think in the future, having Desiree come back and even maybe giving a McKinney-Vento Education 101 and providing some of those updates just to bring folks up to speed, I think would be really wonderful. But at a high level, wanted you all to know about some of those updates for TEA.

Mike Doyle (01:07:27):

Good. Thank you. Very good. Any other comments? Okay. We will

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