

HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Summary January 27, 2021

On Wednesday, the twenty-seventh day of January, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., the quarterly meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) was held via videoconference.

The following members were present:

1. Bobby Wilkinson, Chair
2. Doni Green, Promoting Independence Advisory Committee representative, Vice Chair
3. Suzanne Barnard, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Office of Rural Affairs
4. Diana Delaunay, Financial institutions representative
5. Jennifer Gonzalez, PhD, Nonprofit organization representative
6. Mike Goodwin, Multifamily housing developer
7. Claire Irwin, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
8. Donna Klaeger, Rural communities representative
9. Derrick Neal, Health services entities representative
10. Joyce Pohlman, HHSC
11. Scott Sroufe, TDA, Office of Rural Health
12. Blake Harris, PhD, Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)
13. Barrett Reynolds, Consumer of Service-Enriched Housing

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bobby Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. After all attendees introduced themselves, it was determined that quorum was present. Jeremy Stremmer, Housing Resource Center Administrator at TDHCA, provided an overview of GoToWebinar for webinar attendees.

2. Approval of October 14, 2020 HHSCC Meeting Minutes

Bobby Wilkinson introduced the meeting minute summaries from the October 14, 2020 HHSCC meeting. Mike Goodwin moved to approve the minutes and Suzanne Barnard seconded the motion. There were no additional comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

3. Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Overview

Brooke Boston, TDHCA Deputy Executive Director of Programs, presented an overview of TDHCA's Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV) program. The Department was allocated a total of \$141.8 million in CDBG-CV funds; TDHCA's Board approved an amendment to use \$40 million for rental assistance and eviction diversion, \$21 million as state match for FEMA-eligible activities related to food bank distribution, and \$5 million to assist service providers for people with disabilities. Part of the Amendment is to have \$68.5 million reprogrammed for mortgage payment assistance. Gave overview of new rental assistance money from the Treasury Department. See meeting transcript for additional details.

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4. Update on Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program

Spencer Duran, TDHCA Section 811 Program Director, presented an update on the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) program. The program is currently housing 445 households, 2,300 individuals are currently on the waiting list. Program staff feel they can house another 50 or 60 households under the two current grants they are operating before moving to house people under a third grant which will allow for another 130 households to be served. Started operating new Money Follows the Person demonstration grant at the end of 2020, using it to operate a risk mitigation fund to pay for damages caused by 811 tenants. See meeting transcript for additional details.

5. Update on HHSCC Projects

Jeremy Stremmer, TDHCA Housing Resource Center Administrator, provided an update on three projects that Council and TDHCA staff have undertaken in Fiscal Year 2021. The first project is the development of a service-enriched housing database that will include all state and federally funded properties offering service-enriched housing/supportive housing. TDHCA staff has begun to identify HUD-funded, service-enriched housing projects and programs in Texas and staff is continuing to try and identify properties. Second, was an overview of the TDHCA 101 presentation that took place on January 20th. Members were notified that should they want a recording of the presentation they should reach out to Jeremy and he would send them a copy. Third, the HHSCC Policy and Planning Subcommittee moving forward will be Ad Hoc. As items are put out for public comment by TDHCA, Jeremy will inform the Council and should they want to make comment a Subcommittee meeting can be called. See meeting transcript for additional details.

6. Update on Housing Choice Plan

Joyce Pohlman, HHSC, presented an update on the Housing Choice Plan. The plan is being developed at the request of HHSC's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, and will include an environmental scan of housing options in Texas for persons with mental health conditions, substance use history, and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), as well as recommendations to expand housing options for those same populations. Current status is that a draft of the Housing Choice Plan has been completed and is in the review process with HHSC. Initial objective was to have review complete in January, but due to the legislative session review could take longer.

7. New member Presentation

Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez presented an overview of her research as the Senior Director for Population Health at Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. Dr. Gonzalez spoke about two of her projects, Link2Care and a needs assessment for veterans in conjunction with Haven for Hope in San Antonio. See meeting transcript for additional details.

8. 2021 One-Year Action Plan Consultation

Jeremy Stremmer, TDHCA, Housing Resource Center Administrator. Provided update that the 2021 OYAP is underway and asked if any Council Members wanted to provide any suggestions or comments for how TDHCA prioritized funding or operated the HUD programs under this Plan for the 2021 program year and if so to let Jeremy know. See meeting transcript for additional details.

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9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. General Updates/Next Steps/Staff Assignment(s)

Bobby Wilkinson, TDHCA Executive Director provided an update on filed bill H.B. 1225, 87 (R) that would require HHSCC to perform an annual review and evaluation of the 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network. He provided an overview of the bill language noting TDCHA will keep the Council updated on any bill movement through this legislative session.

Bobby noted that the next HHSCC Quarterly Meeting will take place April 14th and that all other HHSCC meeting dates for SFY 2021 were noted at the bottom of the January 27, 2021 Meeting Agenda.

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM. Doni Green, Motioned to adjourn, and Dr. Blake Harris, Seconded.