TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES
COORDINATION COUNCIL MEETING

Stephen F. Austin Building
Room 1104A
1700 Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas

January 11, 2017
10:06 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

TIMOTHY IRVINE, Chair
DONI GREEN, Vice Chair
SUZANNE BARNARD
REV. KENNETH DARDEN
RICHARD DE LOS SANTOS
SHILOH GONZALEZ
MICHAEL GOODWIN
JESSICA HISSAM
MICHELLE MARTIN
MICHAEL WILT
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MR. IRVINE: We'll come to order and begin with roll call.

Suzanne Barnard?

MS. BARNARD: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Richard De Los Santos?

MR. DE LOS SANTOS: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Michael Wilt?

MR. WILT: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Elewechie Ndukwe?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Shiloh Gonzalez?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Michelle Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Jessica Hassan?

MS. HISSAM: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Bradley Barrett?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Doni Green?

MS. GREEN: Here.

Mr. IRVINE: Michael Goodwin?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Reverend Darden?

REV. DARDEN: Here.
MR. IRVINE: We have a quorum. The time is 10:06, and we will begin with considering approval of the minutes. Have you all had an opportunity, I assume, to review them? I would entertain a motion to adopt.

MR. DE LOS SANTOS: So moved.

MR. IRVINE: We have a motion.

MS. BARNARD: Second.

MR. IRVINE: Second. Any discussion?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Call the vote. All in favor say aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

MR. IRVINE: Any opposed same sign.

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Motion carries unanimously.

David Ramos will now provide us an update on what's going on with the academy down in Corpus.

MR. RAMOS: Thank you very much. My name is David Ramos. I'm a housing specialist with the Coastal Bend Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Center.

One of the things I wanted to kind of provide you with a brief overview of what we have been doing down here in the Corpus area, the Coastal Bend area, was that the HSP Academy for 2016 really provided us with
information and strengthened our ability to continue from the academy that we had back in 2013. I was fortunate enough to participate on both academies, so what we wanted to do was a continuation of what we had started back in 2013, and when the opportunity arose and additional academies were put forth, we jumped on the idea and I was one of the ones that participated in the 2013 and in the 2016, and then we developed another team.

The other team, of course, the participants were the local housing authority, the local mental health authority, a center for independent living, the local community action agency and myself, and so that group for the 2016 really brought forth the continuation of us having the ability to meet and come up with ideas that we wanted to see in this area. So we were able to create some plans and some resource guides that really helped not only myself but the other housing providers in this area that were interested in coming to our meetings.

We also had very extensive technical assistance from CSH and from Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. That really provided us with the foundation to continue and know basically what we were doing in this area and how we were going to proceed. We were given at the beginning some things that we needed to do, and when the technical assistance was provided to us,
that helped us then cement that information that we wanted
to move forward with.

The main thing, I think, out of the whole
process is that at every meeting that we had when we
established the coalition was that it kept us in touch
with some of the housing issues that we had in this area
that we needed to address and that we needed to bring out,
so this academy really brought that out. It was a great
idea and I applaud those individuals from the Texas
Department of Housing and Community Affairs and CSH that
really wanted us to continue with this momentum, and so it
really kept us at the top of our housing meetings and kept
us going in the direction that we wanted to go. It gave
us a clearer picture of what those issues were and then
how we would address them.

The training that we received and have been
receiving from CSH currently, that really has helped me,
and then us having those meetings and talking to the other
individuals that attend the meetings, provide them with
some of that training itself and making everybody aware of
the different training that has been provided to us, and
then we move on and provide that to other individuals. It
also helped us identify local housing developers, such as
the Nueces County Community Action Agency and AHRI. Those
particular developers are very interested in moving
forward, and with the help of the technical assistance that we received, we were able to have a commitment from them saying yes, we will move forward and we will start doing some development in this area for service enriched housing and for supportive housing.

We wanted to know where we were and where we've been and then where we want to be. That's the main emphasis of our meetings. As some of you might know, Corpus is kind of out of the way, it's one of those cities where a lot of misunderstanding about what affordable housing really is, and so it took a lot of education on our part to say, okay, this is what we are interested in doing in this area, this is what we want to do. And the academy and the activities that followed really started to move in that direction. We've attended meetings with city council locally, we've talked to different architects and engineers about some of the issues with affordable housing, integrated housing and accessible housing, so it's really beginning to sink in, I think, the idea of what the academy's future endeavors and looking forward beginning to sink in in this community and we're seeing the results of that because of the academy.

We've always kept an active agenda in the meetings that we have from our partners. We've communicated that to everybody in the meeting. And then,
of course, we've had a lot of information that has been coming to us, like the HUD 811 demonstration program from TDHCA, tenant-based rental assistance vouchers, local housing vouchers, some of the consolidated plans from the housing authorities and the city, municipalities and other local governmental entities in smaller communities in the Coastal Bend area. So we were able to do that in part or because of the academy.

We also established that housing coalition that is very important. We were able to come together as a group of the ones that attended the HSP Academy, the original team members, and then we started bringing in other individuals that were involved in housing for our area. Then we started to establish allies and reconnect with organizations whose mission is, of course, housing. And so those potential partners we were able to utilize our partners in the Aging and Disability Resource Center to assist us in coming together and we would meet as an ADRC and then after that particular meeting we starting having HSP housing meetings where we would use some of those individuals and organizations that participated in the ADRC but also had some housing concerns and were interested in collaborating with us.

And so we set some goals also as part of the technical training from CSH. There were certain things
that were very delineated and specific that they wanted us
to do, so when we had that particular training or
technical assistance, we were able to incorporate that
particular process and said, okay, this is what we want to
do. And with the guidance of Katrina from CSH and others,
Kelley and then Terri and some of the other folks, we were
able to do that. And so we've developed advocacy
processes in place, educational programs, and also invited
public officials to become part of our process of having
meetings with us and so forth.

The overall goal that we were looking at was to
have an affordable housing summit, which we did have one,
we put one together in April of 2016 which coincided with
Fair Housing and so forth, so that took a lot of planning
and a lot of information from all the community. The
Center for Independent Living locally here, the Coastal
Bend Center for Independent Living with Judy Telge, took
the lead as the individual that was facilitating the
housing summit. We used a lot of our partners from the
ADRC as also being part of that steering committee that
allowed us the opportunity to decide what we wanted to put
into the summit and how we were going to then present
that.

So we had a fantastic turnout for those
individuals that attended. We were able to have the
particular session in one day and then we were able to meet with a large group of individuals after the summit so that we would then say, okay, this is what we want to do, this is a call to action that we want to see in this community, and so we were able to initiate that community-wide commitment to address affordable and accessible and integrated housing. So that really kind of put the icing on the cake, so to speak, and gave us the opportunity to say, okay, this is what we've learned from this academy, this is something that we've kept on the table of our agenda, we were able to keep it going.

Then we brought in partners and public officials and said this is what we mean when we say we need to establish or have more service enriched housing, more supportive housing, more 811 demonstration programs, more vouchers in our community, and so it's beginning to come together and we're able to say that we were able to do this because of the academy. I feel that if it hadn't been for the academy, both of them, the 2013 and the 2016, we would not be in a position where we are now. We still have a lot of work to do but I think that this particular academy and the activities involved that we've had have given us that opportunity.

So again, I want to thank Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and CSH and my organization.
for allowing me to participate, and I'm sure the other
team members also are very grateful for that opportunity.
And with that, I'd like to close and say again thank you.
I wish that this can continue. I know that we are in a
training phase right now and that really has helped me
personally learn more about affordable housing, integrated
housing, supportive enriched housing, and so really I just
want to say thank you all for allowing us to participate
in the Coastal Bend area in this endeavor. Thank you.

If you have any questions, I'd be glad to
answer them.

MR. WILT: I have a question, David. This is
Michael Wilt with the Texas State Affordable Housing
Corporation.

Within our organization we've placed a stronger
emphasis on working with the local housing coalitions.
Austin has a robust one, Houston has one that formed last
year and that is doing a lot of great things. You
mentioned a housing coalition down there. Can you tell me
if that's a formal coalition? Do you meet regularly?
Just expand on that a little bit.

MR. RAMOS: We do meet regularly but it's not a
formal one in terms of like one particular organization
saying they're going to take the lead and they'll be
recognized. It's a meeting of the team members that
attended the HSP Academy and then other co-partners that we have with our ADRC. Like we meet quarterly whenever we have our ADRC meetings. After that we meet for an hour or hour and a half, and then whenever we need to meet, we'll meet, but it's not an official coalition, so to speak.

MR. WILT: I'd love to talk to you more about that after this meeting, so I'll reach out to you.

MR. RAMOS: Excellent. Thank you.

MR. IRVINE: Any others?

MS. GREEN: David, I know the ADRC housing navigators talk regularly. Have you had a chance to share with them your experiences?

MR. RAMOS: We have a meeting or a teleconference with them quarterly also, and we have talked to some of the housing navigators because they were very interested in having a housing summit, so we were able to provide some information to some of them and they were wanting to do that in their area also as part of the process. They also attended the academy and so they were involved in that process, so they were very interested in having a little information about how we went about doing our summit and what it entailed and so forth, and we were able to provide them with that information.

MS. GREEN: Thank you. And what populations are you guys focusing on?
MR. RAMOS: We're mainly focusing on people with disabilities and seniors over the age of 60, disability any age.

MS. RICHARD: This is Terri. Do you have a managed care organization representative on your coalition?

MR. RAMOS: Yes, we do.

MS. RICHARD: Okay. Great.

MR. RAMOS: Actually, there's two of them.

MS. RICHARD: Okay. Great. What MCOs is it?

MR. RAMOS: It's United Health and Superior.

MS. RICHARD: Okay. Great. I really appreciate that. I know at our last council meeting we had a really nice evaluation report that we gave to all of you from CSH, but I think what I had in mind was to continue to have some real live, on-the-ground reports about outcomes from the academy, so if you all are okay with that, I'd like to continue to invite folks and get some more information about what they're doing out in the field in the local communities.

I just was reading the interim report on the Select Committee on Mental Health, and one of the things they really point out is the amount of work and the impact that it has at the local level, and that a lot of some of the successes they have had have been coalitions just like
what David has talked about that are making things happen at the local level. So I think it's really important to hear that.

And then kind of along those same lines, we did renew the contract with CSH and I wanted to announce that Kelley Oppott, she has moved on, she is no longer with CSH, but we do have Kathryn Turner on the line.

And Kathryn, I was just wondering if you could introduce yourself and maybe just give a real high level of what this upcoming year through August 31, activities that you all are working on and what you're providing for the five teams that we have participating in this 2017 training and technical assistance.

MS. TURNER: Sure. Thanks, Terri.

So I'm really happy to be here and I'm really looking forward to working with everyone on the teams. I come from a development background so I'm not as well versed as Kelly was in a lot of the service providing side of service enriched housing, but I have an entire organization at my fingertips that has incredible resources, so I want to make sure that everyone knows that I will do my best to support everything that's been going on so far. And I really appreciate hearing David's perspective on this, both from the 2013 academy to now and how much they've accomplished. It's really wonderful to
So we are currently in the midst of a webinar series. We've had two webinars, one on the development tracks and then one in landlord engagements, and we will have two more in each of those tracks coming up. The next one, just for everyone's information, there's one on housing development finance on January 17 from 10:00 to 11:30, and there's one on supporting and nurturing your landlord network with limited resources on January 18 from 10:00 to 11:30. And so if anyone is interested on the council on attending any of these, please just email me and I can get you registered and set up for attending those.

And following the webinar series, after the two tracks are complete, there's going to be an 811 webinar event, and then following that there's going to be technical assistance offered through August. So we will be available for each of the teams to look at their plans and provide any support that we possibly can to make sure that they're moving in the right direction.

So my email address is kathryn.turner@csh.org.

And I look forward to working with everyone on the teams.

MS. RICHARD: Thank you, Kathryn. She did briefly mention that all the council members are eligible to participate in this training, in the webinars. You
also have what CSH calls and all access pass, so there's other training that you can access to. So please, encourage you to participate, state agencies as well, because we did include that, thinking that there might be some folks that might be interested in participating. So appreciate that.

MS. GREEN: So how were the five teams selected? Was there a competitive procurement, or were these folks who had participated in the last academy?

MS. RICHARD: The latter. What we did was we asked the nine teams that participated in the onsite academy who would be interested in continuing the training and technical assistance. CSH also asked what type of training and technical assistance would you like, so there was questions about would you like to have another onsite where we all get together, and the majority said that they really wanted more in-depth training and technical assistance and weren't as big a fans about trying to pull everybody together for a one and a half day intensive. So CSH then responded and suggested that they do the all access pass and the webinar. And then there is an opportunity that CSH would go onsite and help with a summit, for example, like what David mentioned, so there is that opportunity too. But of the nine teams, five wanted to continue.
MS. GREEN: And I realize that the contract with CSH is specific to supporting those five groups. I really appreciate the opportunity for council members to participate as well.

One of the things that is important to me is that the other ADRC housing navigators -- David is one of 22 -- are at different levels of experience and knowledge and I think are hungry for information, and so I'm glad that David is sharing information with them. But I'm wondering if it might be possible to make those kinds of training available to the other housing navigators, maybe if they could be recorded.

MS. RICHARD: Kathryn, correct me if I'm wrong, but you are recording all of the webinars.

MS. TURNER: That's right. All of the webinars are recorded and are available for anyone that has access to the system, so anyone who is on council has access to that. All of the recorded webinars will be there, as well as the upcoming webinars and all access pass materials.

MS. RICHARD: So maybe we could just continue that discussion and see if we could maybe come up with some ideas to leverage what we're doing to expand it to ADRCs. Let us kind of noodle on that one and think about how we might do that.

MR. IRVINE: Any more discussion on the
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academy?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Just let the record reflect that Mike Goodwin did join us at the beginning of that report, and also brought goodies that if you're on the phone you can't partake, so there's another incentive to come to Austin for these meetings.

(General laughter.)

MR. IRVINE: Also, just a little housekeeping items, as people continue to filter in. I want to remind the public that public participation in our meetings is always welcome. All we ask is two things: one, please come to the table where a microphone will pick you up so that Nancy can have a record of what you're saying, and identify your name and on whose behalf you are speaking. That's just a ground rule. And don't stand on formality, if you feel like chiming in anywhere, just come on to the table.

Okay. Spencer Duran will now come to the table, identify himself and on whose behalf he's speaking, and update us on the Section 811 Program. Bill is going to do it.

MR. CRANOR: I don't know when the last meeting was so some of this may be repetitive, but we have currently 39 properties that have committed an average of
ten units that have signed participation agreements which means they've actually signed to participate in the program, they're not just required to by their allocation of tax credits. We have actually a total of 398 units committed. We have eleven properties that are currently constructed that in theory could take an applicant, and we have 28 properties under construction.

Up to today, we have received a total of 47 referrals, of which we've housed three. Six were deemed ineligible for the 811 Program, two left the program, they found other housing before they were housed, and 36 are waiting. We also submitted -- it's not in this update -- we did submit two applications to properties in Houston that were declined by the property. We thought we were going to have at one point five housed people but they didn't pass the criminal screening.

We've trained over, I want to say, 120 referral agents at this point. Tomorrow we're going to San Antonio to train more, next week we're going to Corpus Christi to train more, and I think the week after that we're going to Fort Worth to train more. I don't know how many is going to be at each of those yet.

Looking backward in the 2015 cycle, 56 percent of the developments were acquisition/rehab or new construction and 44 percent were existing developments.
In the 2016 cycle, it was 83 percent new construction and acquisition/rehab, and existing developments were only 17 percent. So our combined total is 74 percent new construction and acquisition/rehab and the existing developments are 26. We would like a better mix between the two because the advantage of the new construction is that when they come online, we can take ten units immediately, the disadvantage is that we have to wait until those units are built, and so that leaves people potentially waiting for longer than we would want. So what we're trying to do is get a good mix of both to build out our portfolio.

In the 2017 QAP, we have made it a threshold item, we have increased the programs that are required to participate, and we have asked that they give us an existing development first to offset the difference that we saw between 2015 and 2016. So we're hoping that this cycle will get not only more applications but a better mix of applications overall.

So that's pretty much all I have at this point.

MR. GOODWIN: Is the reason that you have a backlog a geographic mismatch between applicant and available unit? When you say you have 34 waiting, I assume they've been approved but they're waiting to be housed.
MR. CRANOR: There are 34 waiting to be housed. Some of it is because we don't actually have a new construction property yet. For example, of those 34, a large percentage of them are here in Austin. We have a new construction property coming online sometime, I would guess, in the next six months. When that property comes online, we can take ten units immediately and house ten units which would greatly reduce our wait list. That goes for actually every region. Dallas, I think, has a total of eight applicants but we just have one property that's already existing, and so until somebody moves out of a unit and vacates it for us, we can't take the unit. So it's a turnover issue mostly, I think.

MS. BOSTON: This is Brooke Boston. I would just add, I mean, you're right. The properties that we have that have vacancies and are finished with construction are not in the communities where we're getting referrals. In the communities where we are getting a lot of referrals, it's a turnover problem because the existing properties are pretty much fully occupied, and then in the communities where we do have vacant units, we aren't getting referrals.

MS. RICHARD: Bill, would you please introduce yourself for the record?

MR. CRANOR: I'm sorry. I'm Bill Cranor from
TDHCA, sitting in for Spencer today because he had to go to Washington, D.C.

MR. IRVINE: Questions about 811?
(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: You know, I think that as 811 matures, it will begin to stabilize and normalize, it's just a matter of building an inventory of choices. I think that there will still be a little bit of an overhanging issue that we'll always be looking to address, and that is the fact that the commitment of 811 funding doesn't necessarily line up with the long-term affordability requirements of the developments. So maybe some day Washington will harmonize all of its programs and these kinds of issues will just disappear.

MS. GREEN: So Bill, you mentioned that six were declined. Was it criminal history on all six or were there other issues as well?

MR. CRANOR: All six of those were referral agents that sent us applications that would not be eligible on the program requirements. I think that three of them, as I recall, were over 62, one of them was over income by like $17 or something, but that's a hard ceiling for HUD, you can't go over it at all, and I don't recall what the other two were, but it's generally things of that nature. Two were declined by the property. They're still
on the wait list in Houston because we do have other properties coming online and it's possible they could take that.

We've also actually had, I think, three or four people be referred who then declined a unit due to one reason or another. For example, the most recent one was in Brownsville. We sent them an application and the applicant decided that it was a third floor unit, they were physically disabled. Originally they said yes, they would take it, but then as they thought about it, I think they decided against it. So there's also sometimes an issue of what we have actually available with what they actually want, matching them, and as we increase our inventory, we expect that those would go away also, to a certain extent.

MR. IRVINE: Thanks.

Just FYI, the threshold item that has been created for 811, pretty optimistic that that's going to be really impactful. We had for the 2017 cycle on Monday and we have over 400, so for a program that makes about 60 to 65 awards, that's just a tad oversubscribed.

Okay. Money Follows the Person demonstration, we've got a report on that. Come on up.

MS. JONES: Good morning, everyone. My name is Elizabeth Jones. I'm speaking on behalf of the Health
and Human Services Commission, and thank you for inviting me to give you an update. I'm very happy to be here.

We are in the sustainability phase of the Money Follows the Person demonstration. The authorization for the demonstration ended at the end of the fiscal year 2016, and so the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services awarded states that had been working on MFPD sustainability grants, and it was based on sustainability plans developed by the states and approved by all the partners -- I think you worked on some of the sustainability plans with us -- and those were approved in 2015 and then states were asked to develop a budget through 2020 to ensure that all the infrastructure and everything that had been set up could be sustained through Money Follows the Person. And then CMS determined that they didn't have as much funding as they thought they initially had, and so all states needed to reduce their budgets a little bit.

So what does that mean for us, what does that mean for Texas? So what that means is we'll stop collecting the enhanced match on individuals, we'll stop collecting that at the end of fiscal year 2017, so at the end of this fiscal year is when we'll stop collecting enhanced match. We will, however, continue to transition individuals who want to leave institutions into community-
based programs. We will continue to do that as we did before the demonstration started. We've had the demonstration for so many years, since 2007, I think people think that's the only thing we have, but we've started something called Promoting Independence in 2001, worked with the legislature and have a slot set aside that we request each biennium, and we will continue to do that.

And Texas actually is very lucky compared to other states in that we built Money Follows the Person on the infrastructure of our Medicaid program, so we will continue to do that. So I want to make sure that everyone fully understands that transitions will continue to occur.

We also will continue the behavioral health pilot. We're going to move that up to scale to be statewide and to be incorporated into our managed care health and community-based services. So the next several years will be devoted to doing that, to training folks to understand how to work with that population who are leaving facilities and have substance abuse issues. So that will continue.

And then we'll also focus on the array of services and supports that we have set up throughout this demonstration. Transition assistance services which is that one-time amount of money given to individuals who may need help with security deposits, if there needs to be
pest control, things like that. We have sustained that by actually making that a Medicaid service, and it's a Medicaid service in all of our programs so that's how we're sustaining that.

Community transition teams, they're the teams that come together on a local level and talk about particular cases who are transitioning and they may talk about some of the housing issues or 811, or making sure that all the community resources are in place. Those will continue as well.

MCO service coordination will continue. As we expand our system to a managed care system -- and we're moving along with that at a pretty rapid clip now -- we've incorporated nursing facility services, MCO service coordination will become even more important.

The housing voucher program will continue, and the 811 program, we'll continue to work with that program as well. Those positions over time will be absorbed is our understanding. And I just want to put in another plug for how excited we are about 811 and being able to work with this great partnership. We're getting ready to go out and do another level of training on the local level, and there's a lot of excitement about it. It's really helped address a huge issue for this population, and so we're very excited about that.
And looking to do permanency planning which is focused on children in institutions and moving them into the community.

Some of the supports that may be changing over time, one is the relocation contractors. In our legislative appropriations request, as you know, agencies were asked to come up with an additional 4 percent reduction, and since managed care has expanded and nursing facilities are within the managed care umbrella, the thinking is that MCO service coordinators would take over that function, and that we would not contract with relocation contractors, the agency wouldn't.

And one of the more important things that relocation contractors to do is working with housing, and we recognize this. The reduction sort of came as a surprise to everyone, and so we are beginning to sort of work with folks and have the MCOs and the relocation contractors as they are now come together and talk about what some of the issues are and how to best make sure that we continue those services. And so what that model is going to look like, we don't know yet, but we want to make sure that those same supports are there, and all the knowledge that we've developed over this time period is continued. So look for more on that because I don't really know what that's going to look like now.
And then also transition to life in the community. These were additional funds for things that could not be funded through transition assistance services, and looking at ways to do that. One of those was dealing with food, making sure that people had food when they came out, and so one of the ways to deal with that now with transformation is maybe putting someone on SNAP because all the eligibility stuff is now combined.

So that's sort of where we are, and I'll take any questions.

MS. GREEN: I know these policy changes are not of Elizabeth's making, but as an advocate I was really devastated, and I'm contractor as well, so I have to kind of separate those two roles. I'm really concerned that eliminating the relocation contractor function is extremely shortsighted and has the potential to deny the option of independent living to those nursing home residents with complex needs.

Elizabeth is absolutely right, the managed care organizations are very involved and very good at what they do, really masters at setting up the Medicaid waiver services, but they're nurses whose perspective is clinical and their objectives are to meet the resident's health and safety needs. They are not trained to deal with non-Medicaid services that are essential. They're not used to
setting up non-medical transportation. They're not used
to getting somebody's Social Security benefits
transferred. They have limited involvement in housing
issues, but they are not adept at working with the housing
programs that are critical. And so I'm really concerned
about that.

The relocation contractors were not notified,
the managed care organizations that have been delegated
these responsibilities were not consulted, don't want to
do it, don't have the experience, don't have the staff.
It's great that there's a conversation taking place but I
know I've not been part of that conversation, I've just
received phone calls from MCOs saying what is going on,
and I've shared with them the little bit that I know.

I'm really, really concerned about elimination
of transition to life in the community. The thinking at
the state level is that that benefit is duplicative, but
it's not. Transition assistance services, which has
become a Medicaid service, is a wonderful benefit but
under the Texas Administrative Code it's not available to
people who are going into assisted living facilities. And
when somebody transitions, oftentimes they don't get their
check for several weeks. That's great that they can sign
up for SNAP. There's typically a delay in that starting.
A lot of people receive only $60 a month. SNAP is not
going to furnish them a pantry before they move in, and for somebody who's diabetic, to wait a week or two weeks for food is not acceptable.

For people who are going into assisted living facilities, the facilities have responsibility to provide basic furniture, they have no obligation to provide sheets or toilet paper or shampoo, and I just think it's really unfair to the consumer and will work at cross-purposes. It's a one-time benefit, in our region average of $500 or $600. We have dozens and probably hundreds of people who would not be able to relocate were it not for that modest benefit to bridge them until their benefits are in place or to supplement the services that the assisted living facilities are obligated to provide.

So I just think it's extremely penny-wise and pound foolish, and again, I try to separate my roles. I really don't care who provides relocation services but I think it's an essential service, I think it's extremely shortsighted to assume that the managed care organizations are ready, willing and able to take that on. And again, I think the transition to life in the community is essential and will compel some people to remain in institutional settings when their desire is to be in more independent settings where the costs tend to be much lesser. So I think it's dangerous, a dangerous policy move on several
MS. JONES: Thank you for mentioning that. I think a number of the issues that you raised are issues that are on the forefront and will be considered in future conversations, so we're aware. Thank you.

Any other questions?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Thank you very much.

From here we move to state agency bills of interest, and as we all know, the 85th Legislature has convened two blocks south of here. I think that following Comptroller Hegar's announcement about the revenue expectations the other day, everybody is concerned about Bill 1, about the funding. I think that the 4 percent reductions that were requested are obviously a challenge.

Even though, for example, at our agency we are predominantly federally funded, the funding that we do have from general revenue is pretty heavily diverted to serving difficult to serve and lower income populations. Our primary programmatic activities include a homelessness program in large cities. It's a very flexible program that allows the larger cities to come up with what they think are best practices to address the challenges of homelessness.

Under our Housing Trust Fund, we have really
focused on two programs. One is the Bootstrap Program to help low income households become homeowners through contributing sweat equity to building their homes. And the other one is the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program which is especially nice because it's so non-bureaucratic. It's a very pragmatic way of coming into someone's home, a person with an accessibility issue, and looking at the effective low cost solutions to making that home accessible, whether that home is a single family residence or an apartment. It's totally wide open. That program is also, of course, extremely beneficial in that if there are obvious issues of health and safety, they are addressed.

When we developed our 4 percent cuts, we worked very, very hard to prioritize non-programmatic things first. Unfortunately, this council is one of the non-programmatic GR funded activities, so there are some reductions in the ways that we support this council, but the way that the council continues to function would of course continue.

I think that a change that was made to the way that the 4 percent reductions were treated this time. Historically indirect costs under federal administrative funding had been characterized as general revenue, and we were able to reduce the indirect costs piece of some of our federal programs and have that count towards our
reduction. This time the Legislative Budget Board said, No, we want you to focus on things that truly have a cost to State of Texas general revenue. So we were not able to use federal fund indirect costs as a piece of that. So ultimately, we really had to make some reductions that rippled over into our programmatic activities and could impact several households receiving assistance under some of our programmatic activities.

I would pledge to you, and I see Brooke here will hopefully nod north and south with me, we do really work to control our administrative overhead, and when we can bring in our administrative overhead under budget, we move those funds back into programmatic services. So I'm cautiously optimistic that we will be able to minimize any impact on the actual services that are provided, but you know, this is something that doesn't just affect TDHCA, it's going to affect HHSC and DSHS and everybody in this room. We are not advocacy folks, we are a state executive branch agency, but we do know that advocacy interests will be taking the case to members at the legislature to restore aspects of some of those 4 percent reductions if an opportunity arises, and we are, of course, always available as a resource to tell them how impactful our programs can be.

I don't know of any other specific bills that
would be of general interest to you that might impact our agency other than that there have been at least two bills filed already that impact the scoring of tax credit deals: one to remove state representatives from the scoring process, and one to insert senators in the state scoring process. So we'll just see what happens.

Any other agencies have any interesting legislation you want to share?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Terri, have you got any that I missed?

MS. RICHARD: No. I think that's fine. It was Jessica, I think, about the home and community based services adult mental health.

MS. HISSAM: That's special projects, that's not actually under mine, but that's coming up. I don't know anything about any legislation that would be coming down, but HCBSAMH is coming on which is a really good sign. I don't really have too much to add to it, but it is making its way, so it's going to be a really good thing and communities are really excited about it.

MS. RICHARD: There is a bill to expand the population of that program. I think it was HB 309, so you might want to take a look at that.

MS. HISSAM: I'll ask the HCBSAMH team.
MS. RICHARD: Thanks, Jessica.

MR. IRVINE: And I'd also like to take this opportunity to make sort of a shout-out to us. I think that the work that we have done to begin to quantify the hard dollar savings that result from effectively addressing supportive housing needs, that is impactful and it's something that's a work just begun and hopefully it will continue and get more refined and more broadly distributed. Because I think the more that members know where it makes good fiscal sense to deploy dollars, the better decisions they can make.

And I think Doni's talk about the transitional issues is a classic example of that. Those are issues that if a person is in transition and those needs aren't being met, it's going to create bigger costs somewhere else, and not just economic costs but human costs.

No other bills to talk about, so we'll talk about the Housing and Services Resource Guide.

MS. RICHARD: Okay, sure. I didn't kill a bunch of trees to give you all a copy of this thick book. It's online on our HHSCC website. This was developed back in February of '16 and I worked with several of you to try to get this updated, but it is really great resource guide because it's got housing resources and service resources in it.
One of the things, you know, guides are only as good as they are updated, and so I really wanted to reach out to everyone and have you go back and look at this, particularly state agency representatives, look to see if the programs still exist, if we have the right websites to go to. I know HHSC have completely changed their website. I have the hardest time with that website.

MS. MARTIN: Everybody says that.

MS. RICHARD: Oh, good. I feel so much better because I felt like such an idiot. I was trying to Google CRCG from the HHSC website. It did not get me to the CRCG website.

MS. MARTIN: That's going to be the challenge with that.

MS. RICHARD: It will be.

And so let me know what I can do to help. I will certainly make the revisions, but if you all could just give me the information, that would be really a great help. And I think it's going to be kind of an ongoing process, so I didn't have in mind we have to get it done by next month, but I'm hoping that as we spread the word about it. I know with our emergency Solutions Grant subrecipients we've been sharing this document with them, I think the ADRCs have been sharing it, so it is making its way around, so we just want to make sure that it stays
updated.

So I'm going to start going and looking at it. If I don't hear from you all, I may reach out to some of you to say, hey, is this still accurate. And then I'll try to go through and look at the links and find new links, I can do that kind of stuff. But if there's programs that any of you are aware of that may not be a state agency, may be local, make sure and let me know if we need to add things. I just want to try and keep it updated as much as possible, so maybe we can get to getting that down the road and maybe have some revisions where at least we could maybe talk about that at the next meeting, so I could let you know of there's some changes that we needed to make and update. It's on the HHSCC website and it's under Resources on the left-hand side navigator side.

Anybody have other thoughts about what we might do with this or changes or anything?

(No response.)

MS. RICHARD: That was really all I wanted to do is let people know I might be harassing them to give me updates.

MR. IRVINE: You know, it just occurred to me that it might be cool at the next meeting to have one of those computerized overhead projectors so that we could
actually access it.

MS. BARNARD: There is a projector right there if you want to turn it on.

MR. IRVINE: Well, no need to right now because we haven't prepared it, but I'm just talking about using it as sort of a real-time tool to gauge whether the things we are discussing are in fact being communicated and supported in our online presence.

MS. RICHARD: Sounds good. Good idea.

MR. IRVINE: Anybody from the public got anything they want to get off their chest?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: The next time we'll be near the end of session.

MS. RICHARD: Yes. Actually, Suzanne, thank you so much. She's been getting this wonderful room, and so the second Wednesday of April is the 12th, and she's reserved this same room.

(General talking and laughter.)

MS. RICHARD: And then the other two dates we have, July 12 and October 11, there were some conflicts but Suzanne is going to continue to work on trying to get this room for both of those, but we'll keep you updated. Wednesday, July 12, and Wednesday, October 11. So if those work for everyone, we'll shoot for that and I'll
make sure and let you know where the locations are going to be.

MS. GREEN: Tim, can you talk a little bit more about the changes in terms of the committee? Do we need to contribute for the chocolate, do a bake sale?

(General laughter.)

MR. IRVINE: First of all, we still have the majority of a fiscal year ahead of us with no change in our budget. I think that the activities that this committee supports are predominantly staff, travel and academy, and I think that as great as the academy is, that would likely be one of the first things that would go by the wayside if we don't receive our full ongoing appropriation.

I think that, frankly, we've got the talent already engaged in this process that it would probably be prudent for us to begin thinking about ways that we could build some sort of new academy if we are unable to continue to use a high quality outside third party provider. Look at ways that we can collaborate and put together things that people can do at the local level to make connections and to organize their thoughts and to build the alliances and partnerships.

MS. GREEN: Maybe webinars to start bringing folks together.
MR. IRVINE: Right. But we're going to keep meeting, we're going to keep paying for your travel, and we're going to keep our fantastic staff.

Anything else?

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: It's a world's records. We're adjourning at 11:06. Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, at 11:06 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.)
CERTIFICATE

MEETING OF: Housing & Health Services Coordination Council

LOCATION: Austin, Texas

DATE: January 11, 2017

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 41, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

/s/ Nancy H. King  1/12/2017
(Transcriber) (Date)

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