

**HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2010, 10:00 am**

Meeting began: 10:11am

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Paula Margeson, Vice Chairman

The Council Meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council of May 10, 2010 was called to order by Vice Chair, Paula Margeson at 10:11am. It was held at the HHSC MHMR Building, Room 164, 909 W 45th St., Austin, TX 78751.

Members Present:

Paula Margeson, Vice Chair
Sherrri Gothart-Barron, Member
Mark Wyatt, Member
Jonas Schwartz, Member
Marc Gold, Member
Paige McGilloway, Member
Doni Van Ryswyk, Member
Jean Langendorf, Member
Amy Granberry, Member
Kenneth Darden, Member
Mike Goodwin, Member
Felix Briones, Member
Amanda Broden representing Nick Dauster, Member

AGENDA

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 2nd, 2010

Paula Margeson, Vice Chairman

The Vice Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes. There being none, a motion to approve was made and approval was unanimous.

Presentation - DSHS Continuity of Care Task Force

Nnenna Ezekoye, Senior Policy Analyst, DSHS

Ms. Ezekoye announced that the Continuity of Care Task Force is conducting a series of public forums in preparation of their final report, which will be released on August 31, 2010.

Ms. Ezekoye discussed that the current problem facing the state hospital system is that committing individuals is being used by the judicial system as a stop-gap to keep persons with mental illness from continuing to cycle through the state's jails and prisons. Currently, there are 2,500 persons

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residing in state hospitals in Texas and it costs \$420 per day per individual. Many of the persons residing in state hospitals have been there for over a year.

During the data development phase, Ms. Ezekoye explained that the Task Force found that one of the main reasons for individuals remaining in the state hospital system for over a year was due to the lack of a supportive environment in a community based setting. Without transitional services, those individuals who are medically fragile cannot connect to an assisted living facility or other residential housing unit.

Ms. Ezekoye went on to explain those recommendations being created by the Task Force that deal with housing issues. The Task Force sees the ability for outpatient treatment to be undertaken in a supportive housing environment, with “step-down” levels of care. Additionally, this could be an ideal setting for non-crisis services, such as cognitive rehabilitation services.

Ms. Ezekoye explained the process of transition that could be accomplished. All state hospitals currently have a transitional capacity, so that individuals would move into their transitional living facilities for up to two years and then move into a permanent living arrangement in a community-based setting.

Another recommendation by the Task Force is to include time served in jail as counting toward the maximum amount of time an individual can be committed to a state hospital and to limit the maximum commitment for a misdemeanor to 90 days.

Additionally, the Task Force recommends allowing crisis services to be offered during an individual’s time in jail. Harris County has a program where incarcerated individuals with mental illness were treated for 21 days and their results have found that many individuals regain competency during this time and do not have to be committed to a hospital. This program has become a national model for crisis stabilization and jail diversion.

The Task Force also supports DSHS proposing a legislative appropriations request to fund permanent supportive housing (PSH) and to create incentives for the utilization of PSH for misdemeanor defendants. Additionally, the Task Force recommends alternative models of residential care for more at-risk individuals, such as assisted living.

Council Q&A - DSHS Continuity of Care Task Force

Council members expressed that most assisted living facilities are not equipped to take care of individuals with high levels of need as they are not allowed to have professional medical staff on-site. However, medical care can come from a third party provider off-site.

Council discussed how Medicaid 1915(i) services are currently being offered in the state of Texas through the Home and Community-based Services program within the Medicaid State Plan rather than through a waiver. However, 1915(i) waivers are currently being looked at by the state.

Council discussed how DSHS’s Resiliency and Disease Management (RDM) Program entitles eligible individuals with mental illness to community-based services and supports.

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Council discussed how Rider 66 requires HHSC to produce a report regarding the need for community support and residential services for persons with brain injuries to the Legislature by September 1st, however this report may not have any housing recommendations.

Council then discussed how creating partnerships between local service providers is key to providing community-based services to persons with mental illness. Particularly, San Antonio's Haven for Hope was cited as a best practice in co-located 60-70 service organizations together. This has taken a layering of state and local funding sources, including TDHCA's Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP) funding. Over 900 beds for emergency and transitional living have been created and SAMM Ministries has created PSH throughout the community.

Correspondingly, DSHS, DADS, and HHSC have partnered to create a pilot project for Bexar County that provides Cognitive Adaptation Training and Substance Abuse Counseling in community-based settings.

Policy & Barriers Committee Report
Jonas Schwartz, Committee Chair

Jonas Schwartz reported on the three conference calls that the Committee has had since their last in-person meeting on March 2nd. During those conference calls, the Committee has discussed and made recommendations on the Preface chapter of the Biennial Plan, the chapter concerning identifying barriers to service enriched housing, and chapter concerning defining service-enriched housing and supporting terminology.

Cross-Agency Education & Training Committee Report
Sherri Gothart-Barron, Committee Chair

Sherri Gothart-Barron and Ashley Schweickart reported on the two conference calls that the Committee has had since their last in-person meeting on April 6th. During those conference calls, the Committee has discussed and made recommendations on the chapter of the Biennial Plan concerning training and assistance to local entities and the chapter concerning the cross-education of state agencies.

Discussion of Status of Biennial Plan
Council & Council Staff

Council discussed the appropriateness of highlighting testimony from the public forum series within the body of the Biennial Plan chapters. Council decided that using those quotes was an effective tool and added validity to the Council recommendations. It was also decided that there would be a chapter of the Biennial Plan that summarizes all stakeholder feedback in a content analysis.

Discussion of Next Steps for Council and Staff Assignments
Council & Council Staff

Council Coordinator Ashley Schweickart announced that the Council will be adding a July 9th working meeting to their calendar. The purpose of this meeting is to review a draft of the Biennial Plan.

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Ms. Schweickart also discussed the upcoming conference calls for the two Committees. The Policy & Barriers Committee's next call is May 13th. The Cross-Agency Committee's next call is May 20th.

Finally, Ms. Schweickart reminded the Council and the public that all conference call are recorded and audio transcripts are available on the Council's webpage:

<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/hhsc/index.htm>

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.