

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

**Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2010, 2:00 pm**

Meeting began: 2:07pm

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Michael Gerber, Chair

The Council Meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council of November 1, 2010 was called to order by Chair Michael Gerber at 2:07pm. It was held at the Brown Heatly Building, Room 1420 at 4900 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751.

Members Present:

Michael Gerber, Chair
Paula Margeson, Vice Chair
Sherri Gothart-Barron, Member
Doni Van Ryswyk, Member
Jean Langendorf, Member
Amy Granberry, Member
Kenneth Darden, Member
Paige McGilloway, Member
Jim Hanophy, Member
Nick Dauster, Member
Felix Briones, Member
Steve Ashman for Marc Gold

Members Absent:

Jonas Schwartz, Member
Mike Goodwin, Member
Mark Wyatt, Member
Jimmy Carmichael, Member

TDHCA Staff Present:

Brooke Boston, Deputy Executive Director
Elizabeth Yevich, Director of Housing Resource Center
Ashley Schweickart, Coordinator of HHSCC
Suzanne Hemphill, Data Specialist of HHSCC

AGENDA

Public Comment

There was no public comment given.

Approval of August 6th Meeting Minutes

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There were no changes made to the August 6th meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Summary of Committee Discussions

Ashley Schweickart gave a summary of the Policy & Barriers Committee meeting, including a conference call with the Disability Opportunity Fund, discussion with members of the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), and brainstorming on the Committee's next steps for FY2011.

Suzanne Hemphill gave a summary of the Cross-Agency Committee meeting, including a presentation by the 2-1-1 Texas Information & Referral Network's program staff, discussion regarding the Your Texas Benefits website, and brainstorming on the Committee's next steps for FY2011.

Presentation and Discussion of DADS Housing Navigators Pilot

MFP Demonstration Project Director Steve Ashman spoke to the Council regarding the Housing Navigators Pilot Program that DADS will be administering through the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Mr. Ashman explained that these Housing Navigators could have a wide range of possible responsibilities, including working with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) on expanding supportive housing opportunities, creating an inventory of public housing available to a particular community, educating PHAs on the Olmstead decision, and becoming a resource for MFP relocation contractors. Four positions will be funded, two in urban areas and two in rural areas.

Mr. Ashman stated that these Housing Navigators would not take the place of relocation contractors, but complement their efforts and work further to break down silos between housing entities and health and human service entities.

Mr. Ashman stated that more information on this pilot will be available in January 2011.

Update on Best Practices & Federal Funding Opportunities

Ashley Schweickart presented a summary of the supportive housing panels held at the 2010 Conference of the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA). First, Ms. Schweickart discussed new federal programs and funding opportunities, including the National Housing Trust Fund, HEARTH Act, Housing & Services for Homeless Persons Demonstration, HUD VASH, Second Chance Act, and others. Council members commented on how the increased pool of eligible activities created by changes in the Emergency Shelter Grants Program (now the Emergency Solutions Grants Program) would not be met with an increased funding allocation. The Council also asked staff to look into how the federal government allocates ESGP funding.

Secondly, Ms. Schweickart gave a brief overview of the best practice information gathered from the conference.

Presentation of Legislative Appropriations Requests

Council member Nick Dauster gave a summary of the Exceptional Item in the DSHS Legislative Appropriations Request which seeks to transition persons from the state hospital system into transitional supportive housing, as a step towards permanent supportive housing.

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Steve Ashman gave a summary of the Exceptional Items in the DADS Legislative Appropriations Request that are linked to community based services and supports. These items included creating presumptive eligibility requirements for persons seeking Medicaid waivers, increasing the number of Aging and Disability Resource Centers statewide, and increasing the number of PACE sites statewide.

Ashley Schweickart gave a summary of the Exceptional Items in the TDHCA Legislative Appropriations Request, which primarily seeks to increase funding for the Housing Trust Fund, to further programs for special needs populations, such as the Veterans Support Program and the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program. Council discussed the eligible activities under the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program and the upcoming release of more funding for that program.

Finally, Ms. Schweickart gave a summary of the Exceptional Items in the HHSC Legislative Appropriations Request that are linked to community based services and supports. These items seek to increase the number of waiver slots for several community based waiver programs administered by DADS, DARS, and DSHS.

Discussion of Next Steps for Council & Discussion of Staff Assignments

The Council discussed its priorities in FY2011, looking particularly at the statutory responsibilities that are outstanding after the Biennial Plan. The Council agreed that the first priority will be to conduct an evaluation of the capacity of long-term care providers and interest by housing developers in developing service-enriched housing. This evaluation will be conducted through the creation of a survey to be disseminated by the state agencies represented on the Council.

Council discussed how the survey should analyze the existing linkages between housing developers and service providers and the local best practices in creating service-enriched housing. Council brainstormed who specifically the survey should be sent to and how to create incentives for completing the survey. Council also discussed how the survey should be split into two sets of questions, depending on if the entity responding is a housing organization or a service provider. Staff was directed to obtain the results of a similar survey conducted by the City of Austin.

Council also discussed how the email providing the survey should be carefully worded, explaining why entities should be inclined to respond and including the Council's definition of service-enriched housing.

Another priority discussed by the Council for FY2011 was to establish a draft of the training materials recommended in the Biennial Plan by compiling educational materials from multiple state agencies. These training materials would take two forms: one set for training state agency staff and one set for educating local subrecipients. This information could also include the requirements and application guidelines to obtain federal funding for creating service-enriched housing.

Staff announced that the next Committee and Council meetings will be Monday, February 7, 2010.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:51pm.