

# HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes Summary October 14, 2020

On Wednesday, the fourteenth day of October, 2020, 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. Michael Wilt for David Danenfelzer, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)
5. Rev. Kenneth Darden, Advocate for minority issues
6. Diana Delaunay, Financial institutions representative
7. Jennifer Gonzalez, PhD, Nonprofit organization representative
8. Mike Goodwin, Multifamily housing developer
9. Claire Irwin, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
10. Donna Klaeger, Rural communities representative
11. Derrick Neal, Health services entities representative
12. Helen Eisert on behalf of Joyce Pohlman, HHSC
13. Scott Sroufe, TDA, Office of Rural Health

### **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, an overview of GoToWebinar for webinar attendees.

### **2. Approval of July 22, 2020 HHSCC Meeting Minutes**

Bobby Wilkinson introduced the meeting minute summaries from the July 22, 2020 HHSCC meeting. Doni Green moved to approve the minutes and Mike Goodwin seconded the motion. There were no additional comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

### **3. Texas Supportive Housing Institute**

Michael Wilt, TSAHC, presented on the Texas Supportive Housing Institute. In partnership with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, TSAHC launched the institute in September 2020. The focus of the program is building capacity for nonprofits interested in developing supportive housing. Six teams are participating in the current institute: three from Dallas, one from Brownsville, one from Fort Worth, and one from Houston. TSAHC hopes to offer the institute on an annual basis and is currently seeking funding for a possible Texas Supportive Housing Institute in 2021.

### **4. 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

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Department was allocated a total of \$141.8 million in CDBG-CV funds; TDHCA's Board approved \$105.9 million to be used 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. See meeting transcript for additional details.

### **5. 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. The program will provide a preference for individuals exiting nursing facilities or State-Supported Living Centers and for youth with disabilities exiting foster care, two target populations that have been underserved compared to program participants referred from Local Mental Health Authorities. Additionally, out of 146 properties that have agreements with the Section 811 program, the program has identified 103 properties where it will continue to house program participants. Properties were selected based on interest demonstrated by program participants. General discussion followed; see meeting transcript for additional details.

### **6. Fair Housing Initiatives Program Grant**

Cate Tracz, TDHCA Fair Housing Manager, presented on the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP). Earlier in 2020, TDHCA was awarded a one-time grant for education and outreach activities from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office. These funds supported the hiring of Erin Phillips, Fair Housing Training Specialist, and will support several fair housing education and outreach opportunities in the next several months, including online trainings and the development of other online fair housing education resources. General discussion followed.

### **7. Update on Housing Choice Plan**

Helen Eisert, HHSC, presented an update on the Housing Choice Plan on behalf of Joyce Pohlman, HHSC. 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. The Housing Choice Plan workgroup is now in the process of developing recommendations. The plan will be completed by the end of the year and is due to be released shortly after that.

### **8. Update on HHSCC Projects**

Danny Shea, TDHCA Housing Resource Center Research Specialist, provided an update on two projects that Council and TDHCA staff have undertaken in Fiscal Year 2021. The first is the formation of a the Council's Policy and Planning Subcommittee. The subcommittee held its first meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> and discussed how it will operate moving forward. The group will meet as needed and no upcoming meeting dates have been identified yet. The second project is the development of a service-enriched housing database that will include all state and federally funded properties offering service enriched housing. TDHCA staff has begun to identify HUD-funded, service-enriched housing projects and programs in Texas and

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will keep Council members updated on the progress of database development. Lastly, TDHCA staff reported that the Department will host a virtual “TDHCA 101” presentation at the request of new Council members. No specific date has been identified for that presentation, but staff will keep Council members informed as a presentation is scheduled.

### **9. Williamson County and Cities Health District**

Derrick Neal presented an overview of the Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD). Among various other ongoing programs, the WCCHD has been focused primarily on COVID-19 response for the last eight months. Housing has been identified as an important public health focus in Williamson County. See meeting transcript for additional details.

### **10. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **11. General Updates/Next Steps/Staff Assignment(s)**

The next HHSCC meeting will take place in January 2021.

### **ADJOURN**

The Council meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.