

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

**Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2011, 10:00 am**

Meeting began: 10:04am

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Paula Margeson, Vice Chair

The Council Meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council of June 10, 2011 was called to order by Vice Chair Paula Margeson at 10:04am. It was held at the Brown Heatly Building, Room 3501 at 4900 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751.

Members Present:

- Paula Margeson, Vice Chair
- Sherri Gothart-Barron, Member
- Doni Van Ryswyk, Member
- Amy Granberry, Member
- Kenneth Darden, Member
- Paige McGilloway, Member
- Nick Dauster, Member
- Jonas Schwartz, Member
- Mike Goodwin, Member
- Mark Wyatt, Member
- Felix Briones, Member
- Suzanne Hamilos for Jim Hanophy, Member

Members Absent:

- Michael Gerber, Chair
- Marc Gold, Member
- Jimmy Carmichael, Member
- Jean Langendorf, 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 February 7th Meeting Minutes

There were no changes made to the February 7th meeting minutes. Approval was motioned by Mike Goodwin and seconded by Sherri Gothart-Barron. Minutes were approved unanimously.

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Provider Capacity Survey Presentation

The Provider Capacity Survey was conducted from March 4th through April 15th. Ashley Schweickart gave a presentation of the Provider Capacity Survey results. The Council suggested that the PowerPoint presentation be posted on the HHSCC webpage as well as sent to those who took the survey. The Council also discussed possible follow-up actions, including asking survey participants if they could engage in technical assistance provision, if they could present at a webinar for entities looking to replicate their housing model, or if the Council could set up an interactive chat room function on the HHSCC webpage for survey participants to engage in a structured Q & A. Council also mentioned that the survey results revealed that service-enriched housing providers tended to serve persons with physical or intellectual/developmental disabilities, but not persons with mental illness, so perhaps the Council could conduct a focused follow-up with those providers.

Report on Involvement with Disability Opportunity Fund

Ashley Schweickart gave an update on the activities of the Disability Opportunity Fund (DOF). On September 14th and 15th, the DOF and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas will jointly be hosting the “Finding Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities” Conference. Several members of the Council are part of the conference’s planning committee. The DOF and Reserve Bank are currently crafting the agenda and welcome any suggestions for possible participants. The Council mentioned inviting those organizations that attended the Council’s public forum series. Council staff will collect suggestions for conference participants through July 1st and then email those suggestions to the DOF.

Discussion of Financial Feasibility Model

Suzanne Hemphill gave an update on the progress of the Financial Feasibility Model. Council staff members have conducted interviews with Easter Seals Central Texas, Foundation Communities, Green Doors, and Diana McIver & Associates. Interviews are also scheduled to be conducted with Samaritan House and New Hope Housing over the next few weeks. The Council recommended interviewing one or two more developers who work in rural areas and utilize Housing Tax Credits and/or USDA funding sources. The Council also advised staff to pursue reporting on all development finance models that provide service-enriched housing, rather than narrowing findings into one recommended model.

The Council discussed this model being available on the HHSCC website and taking the form of a decision tree that could assist entities by posing a series of questions. Staff will present the results of these interviews at the next Council meeting. The Council also discussed the future possibility of creating an ad-hoc committee to create the online model, working to make the information gathered useful to the intended audience. Finally, the Council recommended repackaging the financial feasibility model into a series of case studies, which could be provided on the HHSCC website.

Discussion of Timeline & Progress on Council Tasks

Ashley Schweickart presented the Council with an updated timeline of outstanding statutory tasks, showing the status of each task in its progress towards completion. One of the completed tasks was the creation of an HHSCC listserv, which distributes information about state and federal funding opportunities through a twice monthly email blast. Council recommended that these email blasts be archived on the HHSCC website and to send the instructions for listserv subscription to all Council members.

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Another outstanding task, the creation of an information clearinghouse, was discussed. Council discussed how this activity would provide a different service than the “Help for Texans” type web pages currently in existence on several state agency websites. The intended target audience for the clearinghouse would housing and service providers rather than consumer or end-user.

State Agency Legislative Updates

The state agency representatives to the Council gave updates about how the 82nd Legislative Session has affecting their agency and any changes that would be relevant to the Council’s work. Ashley Schweickart stated that the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) received a rider that will transfer 10% of the Housing Trust Fund to the Texas Veterans’ Commission. Sherri Gothart-Barron mentioned funding cuts at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and that the agency is currently conducting a reorganization of staff. Mark Wyatt stated that the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA) will be eliminated as of October 1, 2011. TDRA programs, primarily CDBG funding, will be transferred to TDA. Jonas Schwartz stated that several HHSC programs were cut significantly and although the quantity of Medicaid waivers will not be reduced, the services provided by these waivers will be cut.

Paige McGilloway stated that although the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation does not receive state general revenue, they did receive a full 12 year continuation by the Sunset Commission, which was adopted by the Legislature. Nick Dauster stated that the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) received an increase in state general revenue for veterans’ mental health services, maintained capacity for their state hospitals, but did not receive funding for their exceptional item, which would have provided step-down capacity for long-term state hospital residents into community based care. Finally, Suzanne Hamilos stated that the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services’ (DARS) Rehab Services Division maintained the same funding level as FY2010-2011, as did the state’s independent living centers. However, there will be an impact on the Early Childhood Intervention programs.

Next Steps

The Council’s next meeting will be held the week of September 12th to align with the “Finding Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities” Conference.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.