

HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes October 9, 2013, 10:00 am

Meeting began: 10:11 AM

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Tim Irvine, Chair

The quarterly meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) on October 9, 2013 was called to order by Chair Tim Irvine at 10:11 am. The meeting was held at the Brown Heatly Building, 4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751, Room 4530.

Members Present:

Tim Irvine, Chair, Executive Director of the Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs

Paula Margeson, Vice Chair, REACH Resource Center of Dallas (Non-profit Advocate Representative.)

Amy Granberry, Member, Charlie's Place (Health Services Entity Representative.), participated by phone

Doni Green, Member, North Central Texas Council of Governments (Promoting Independence Representative.)

James Hill, Member, Texas Capital Bank (Financial Institution Representative)

Mike Goodwin, Member, (Multifamily Housing Developer Representative)

Felix Briones, Member, (Housing Consumer Representative)

David Danenfelzer, Member, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation

Megan Cody, Member, Texas Department. of Agriculture

Becky Dempsey, Member, Texas Department. of Agriculture

Anna Sonenthal, Member, Texas Department of State Health Services

Jeff Williford, Member, Texas Veterans Commission

Members Absent:

Marc Gold, Member (Steve Ashman sat in for Marc), Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

Kenneth Darden, Member, Macedonia Baptist Church (Minority Issues Advocate Rep.)

Karen Dunn, Member, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Jonas Schwartz, Member, Health and Human Services Commission

TDHCA Staff Present:

Elizabeth Yevich, Director of Housing Resource Center

Kate Moore, Section 811 Manager

Terri Richard, Coordinator of HHSCC

Cameron Dorsey, Director of Multifamily Finance

AGENDA

Public Testimony

There was no general public testimony provided at the meeting.

Member Reappointments

- Four members' terms expired on September 1, 2013.

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- Mike Goodwin, Doni Green, and Felix Briones, Jr. have agreed to serve another term.
- Jean Langendorf will not be serving another term. Chair Irvine thanked Ms. Langendorf for her service to the council and showed the members the certificate of appreciation that will be mailed to her.

Approval of July 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Approval was motioned by Ms. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Hill. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Election of Vice Chair

- The HHSCC Bylaws state that “An election for Vice Chair will be held on the first general council meeting every even-numbered fiscal year.”
- Ms. Margeson was thanked for her service as Vice Chair
- Ms. Green was nominated by Mr. Irvine and Mr. Hill seconded. Ms. Green was elected Vice Chair by a unanimous vote of the council

Bylaws Proposed Revision

- HHSCC Bylaws were amended to reflect the addition of the Texas Veterans Commission representative re: HB736 83rd Legislature Regular Session
- The Bylaws were reviewed and will be voted on at the next HHSCC meeting tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2014.

Review and Approve Comments to Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)

- DADS is in the process of renewing the Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) Medicaid waiver program.
- The CLASS program provides home and community-based services to people with related conditions as a cost-effective alternative to an intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or related conditions (ICF/IID). A related condition is a disability, other than an intellectual disability, that originated before age 22 that affects the ability to function in daily life.
- Persons must live in their own home or their family’s home. Services such as medical supplies, Behavioral support, Case management, therapies, dental, respite, nursing, habilitation, support family services are provided to participants.
- DADS invites stakeholder input during this process. Based on statute and previous council recommendations, staff requested approval from the Council to submit comments to DADS staff.

There was discussion about the recommendations. After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the recommendations with wording changes to recommendation 3. Recommendation 3. will be worded as: Explore the feasibility of increasing the rate, subject to funding availability, for Support Family Services and Continued Family Services to allow persons who do not have the option to live in their own or family’s home to receive services in a family setting and to prevent institutionalization.

Discussion of Biennial Plan Development

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Ms. Richard gave an update on Work Group meetings. Work Groups 1. and 3. met prior to today's meeting and Work Group 2. met after the HHSCC meeting. Ms. Richard will bring the list of implementation strategies to the next meeting of the Council.

Update on Department of State Health Services Rental Assistance Program

Anna Sonenthal, with the Department of State Health Service, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the program.

- 18 Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) were awarded funding for the program.
- Ms. Sonenthal shared the service delivery structure
- Statewide calls are being held to review the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Supportive Housing Toolkit. The Toolkit is the foundation for the rental assistance program.
- DSHS has developed "Form H" for the 18 LMHAs to report data about their program.
- Ms. Sonenthal explained the training and oversight DSHS is providing to the LMHAs.
- Each LMHA must have a dedicated staff member for the program.
- Each individual served with program funds must have a transition plan in place as funding for the program is for 2014-15 only.
- Each of the 18 LMHAs is required to become a Tenant-Based Rental Assistance provider if they are not already.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Overview

Becky Dempsey with the Texas Department of Agriculture gave an overview of CDBG. The primary objective of the Community Development Block Grant program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low- to moderate-income.

Eligible applicants are non-entitlement cities and counties whose populations are less than 50,000 and 200,000 respectively, and that are not participating or designated as eligible to participate in the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Ms. Dempsey gave an overview of the various funds within CDBG and the application deadlines for each fund. CDBG has awarded almost \$10 million just in drought relief over the past 24 months.

Update on HUD Section 811 PRA Program and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Real Choice Systems Change Grant

Kate Moore (Manager, Section 811) explained that the Real Choice Systems Change Grant primary activity was planning for the Section 811 Project Based Rental Assistance (PRA) application. The grant ended September 29, 2013 and they are in the process of the final reporting to CMS. This will be the last update regarding the grant.

Ms. Moore gave an overview of the Housing and Services Partnership Academy that was held in May 2013 and was an activity under the grant. Sixteen communities participated where they learned more about housing and services and developed local goals for their specific communities. The teams continue to receive technical assistance from the Texas Center for Disability Studies.

She shared that another activity of the grant was development of the Housing and Services for Persons with Disabilities Online Clearinghouse. This was a recommendation of the Council. The Clearinghouse is an online database residing on the 211Texas.org Website and is now live. It is designed

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to provide persons with disabilities and those who serve them with a searchable public database comprising affordable housing and community-based services resources in their community.

Ms. Moore went on to explain that TDHCA was awarded \$12 million to implement the Section 811 PRA and is awaiting the draft Cooperative Agreement from HUD and hope to receive it soon.

Qualified Allocation Plan Overview

Mr. Cameron Dorsey gave an overview of the QAP.

- The Qualified Allocation Plan, otherwise known as the QAP, is the document that governs the allocation of one of the largest resource this state has to help with the construction of affordable housing. It is a document that is governed by a whole series of statutory requirements. It includes a scoring process for the bulk of our tax credit resources.
- It is an extremely competitive program.
- It is effectively a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the federal income taxes of an individual or a corporation.
- It generates equity that comes in during the construction of a transaction and ultimately reduces the amount of debt that an apartment complex has to carry.
- TDHCA then imposes rent restrictions that help provide below-market rental options to folks who can't afford market rents.
- It produces upwards of 6,000 units annually. It generates about, \$600 million in equity annually for the construction of those 6,000 units. That is about \$10,000 a unit in equity.
- And we have a portfolio of over 200,000 units in the State of Texas. So it is a very large and impactful program.
- Right now, we are in the rulemaking process that will result in the effective allocation and framework for folks to apply under our 2014 tax credit cycle.
- The public comment period ends October 21.

Discussion of Next Steps & Staff Assignments

Ms. Richard will bring the list of implementation strategies from the Work Group meetings to the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2014.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm.