

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES
COORDINATION COUNCIL MEETING

Room 4530
Brown Heatly Building
4900 N. Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas

January 14, 2015
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

TIMOTHY IRVINE, Chair
DONI GREEN, Vice Chair
SUZANNE BARNARD
FELIX BRIONES, JR.
MEGAN CODY
KENNETH DARDEN
MICHAEL GOODWIN
KENNETH KONCABA - participated by phone
PENNY LARKIN
MARK MAYFIELD
SARAH MILLS
ANNA SONENTHAL
MICHAEL WILT

I N D E X

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. IRVINE: Good morning. My name is Tim Irvine. I am the Chair of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council. The time is 10:03. I would like to call the roll. Suzanne Barnard?

MS. BARNARD: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Megan Cody.

MS. CODY: Here.

MR. IRVINE: David Danenfelzer.

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Sarah Mills.

MS. MILLS: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Martha Bagley.

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Penny Larkin.

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Anna Sonenthal.

MS. SONENTHAL: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Jeff Williford.

(No response.)

MR. IRVINE: Doni Green.

MS. GREEN: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Michael Goodwin.

MR. GOODWIN: Here.

MR. IRVINE: Amy Granberry.

1 (No response.)

2 MR. IRVINE: Felix Briones.

3 MR. BRIONES: Here.

4 MR. IRVINE: Kenneth Darden.

5 MR. DARDEN: Here.

6 MR. IRVINE: Mark Mayfield.

7 MR. MAYFIELD: Here.

8 MR. IRVINE: Kenneth Koncaba.

9 Participated by phone

10 MR. IRVINE: Okay. We have at least ten
11 present, therefore we have a quorum. And since we have a
12 fair number of new faces in the room, and perhaps on the
13 line, I thought it would be useful if we sort of went
14 around and introduced ourselves.

15 Before we begin this, I would like to say to
16 the folks who are sitting on the side of the room, this
17 is an open and inclusive meeting. If you have got
18 something you want to say, something you want to ask,
19 feel free to chime in at any point. I only have two
20 absolute immutable requirements.

21 One, when you want to speak, if you could come
22 up to the table and be near a microphone there, they can
23 pick you up, so that you can be recorded. And if you
24 could identify your name and on whose behalf you are
25 speaking. That way, we can keep a good public record of

1 who all is participating.

2 We welcome public input anywhere along the
3 way. We are very informal. You don't have to fill out a
4 witness affirmation form. You just have to identify who
5 you are and on whose behalf you are speaking.

6 And there is one slight restriction with
7 regard to speaking. Because this is a public open
8 meeting, we can only speak on posted agenda items. So if
9 you have something other than a posted agenda item that
10 you would like to speak on, please hold that for the end.

11 And that will be a request to the Council to
12 place your particular item on a future agenda for
13 discussion and consideration. That way, everybody out
14 there knows what we are going to be talking about and
15 nobody gets surprised or feels left out.

16 So okay. Mark, why don't we start going this
17 direction. Who are you?

18 MR. MAYFIELD: My name is Mark Mayfield. I
19 work with the Texas Housing Foundation, which is a
20 regional public housing authority. I live out in Marble
21 Falls, Texas. I have been the director for the Marble
22 Falls Housing Authority for almost three decades.

23 And through our affordable housing activities
24 that we do in the state of Texas, we have created the
25 Texas Housing Foundation about seven years ago. And we

1 do primarily public private partnerships with developers
2 across the state to provide affordable housing in the
3 state, concentrating more on rural communities than urban
4 communities.

5 And I'm pleased to be a part of this. I look
6 forward to getting to know each of you.

7 MS. MILLS: I am Sarah Mills. And I am with
8 HHSC Medicaid CHIP in the Office of Policy.

9 MR. IRVINE: Angie?

10 MS. ENGLISH: I am Angie English. I am with
11 the Texas Governor's Committee on People with
12 Disabilities.

13 MR. GOODWIN: I am Mike Goodwin. I am the
14 Governor appointee representing housing developers,
15 otherwise known as the doughnut man sometimes.

16 MS. CODY: I am Megan Cody with the State
17 Office of Rural Health as part of the Texas Department of
18 Agriculture.

19 MS. LARKIN: Good morning, everybody. I am
20 Penny Larkin. I am the Senior Policy Advisor at the
21 Department of Aging and Disability Services.

22 MS. RICHARD: And I am Terri Richard. And I
23 am the coordinator of this fine group with TDHCA.

24 MS. SONENTHAL: I am Anna Sonenthal. I work
25 for the Department of State Health Services in the Mental

1 Health and Substance Abuse Unit. Most of my projects
2 revolve around supportive housing and homelessness and
3 benefits.

4 MR. DARDEN: My name is Kenneth Darden. I
5 represent the rural minority members in Texas.

6 MR. BRIONES: I am Felix Briones. Governor
7 appointee, and consumer for this Committee.

8 MS. BARNARD: I am Suzanne Barnard. I am the
9 Director of the Texas Community Development Block Grant
10 program within the Texas Department of Agriculture.

11 MS. GREEN: I am Doni Green. I work with the
12 North Central Texas Council of Governments. And I am
13 representing the Promoting Independence Advisory
14 Committee.

15 MR. IRVINE: Okay. So we know who we are.
16 And we remind everybody along the perimeter, you are
17 certainly part of this meeting. And any time you want to
18 come and address us, just come up there to the mic and
19 tell us who you are.

20 Okay. The first order of business is we have
21 the minutes of the October 8th meeting. You've certainly
22 all had a chance to read them. Any corrections? If not,
23 I would entertain a motion to adopt.

24 MS. GREEN: Move approval.

25 MR. GOODWIN: Second.

1 MR. IRVINE: Motion and second. Any
2 discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. IRVINE: Hearing none, all in favor, say
5 aye?

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 MR. IRVINE: Any opposed, same sign.

8 (No response.)

9 MR. IRVINE: No opposition, the motion
10 carries. The minutes are adopted. Next we have an
11 update on the Rental Assistance Program from Anna
12 Sonenthal.

13 MS. SONENTHAL: Thank you, everybody. Does
14 anyone need a quick overview of what this is?

15 MR. IRVINE: Sure.

16 MS. SONENTHAL: Okay. So last session, DSHS
17 received approximately \$10.8 million to go towards the
18 rental and utility assistance, specifically for the local
19 mental health authorities. And so it was kind of added
20 on into the MH money that is already appropriated. We
21 implemented it, September, fiscal year >14.

22 And it has been going really well.

23 Basically -- although local mental health authorities are
24 supposed to be providing supportive housing services on
25 top of, it is kind of within their service care delivery

1 method. And so this is kind of a -- it is kind of a --
2 what is the word -- Be just enhancement of the services
3 that they are already providing for their consumers.

4 So 18 were awarded last year, or last fiscal
5 year. We added two more this year. And so I am giving
6 an update of about how things are going, responding to
7 some of the questions that Terri sent me. So there are
8 20 now that are currently receiving funding. Two more
9 were added in September, and that is West Texas MHMR
10 Centers and Hill Country.

11 They had originally applied but due to the way
12 that we -- you know, for the application process, others
13 it seemed like more likely candidates for whatever
14 reason. But they are doing a good job. They have
15 already started implementing and spending.

16 And a number of LMHAs are TBRA administrators.
17 So all of them except for Emergence, which is in El Paso
18 and maybe not Border Region, those two centers are
19 actually going to close out this coming fiscal year. It
20 just wasn't a good fit for them.

21 But I mean, no one is going to go homeless or
22 anything. They are just kind of slowly closing them out
23 as the money runs out.

24 So I know for sure that El Paso is not a TBRA
25 administrator but everyone else is. It is required in

1 the contract. And so West Texas and Hill Country should
2 become by the end of this fiscal year --

3 MS. RICHARD: And TBRA?

4 MS. SONENTHAL: Tenant Based Rental
5 Assistance. It's a program spend through TDHCA. And
6 so -- oh, and I wanted to say too, when they became TBRA
7 administrators, there wasn't really funding for them. So
8 they are all administrators, but I wouldn't say that they
9 are all necessarily utilizing it, because it is just not
10 there.

11 But they are trying to use it as needed. And it has been
12 a good bridge subsidy for a lot of them whenever they are
13 exiting this program.

14 So long-term analysis and some short-term.
15 Terri asked me to give a number of how many were long
16 term versus short term that have been assisted.

17 I can give you a semi-official number of
18 total: About 2,329 have been served to date. I can tell
19 you that the way the contract was originally written, we
20 required them to do two-to-one for their target. So two-
21 to-one, long-to-short term. And they have all and met
22 and exceeded their targets.

23 And so I would say that it probably looks like
24 that. That's about two-to-one, with the exception of --
25 there is a couple of centers that just opted to only do

1 long-term assistance because they didn't really have a
2 need for short-term in their area. So that is that.

3 So they have met and exceeded their targets.
4 And our FY >15 contract is written the exact same way.
5 So it is two-to-one.

6 MS. RICHARD: Two long-term and one short?

7 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes. So based on the funding
8 that they were given, we have a methodology just
9 basically saying these are your targets. You have to at
10 least serve these people. And it is two-to-one, so two
11 long to one short.

12 So average costs per person, this is kind of a
13 tricky question. And so I will just give you kind of an
14 unofficial number, if you will.

15 We did a methodology with our database --
16 because I can get word-of-mouth. I can ask them, which
17 they have given me their average. But there is not
18 really a way to officially say this.

19 But we just looked at our numbers within our
20 database and the average is about \$702 per month per
21 person. So it is quite a bit less in a lot of regions.
22 Honestly, it varies region to region.

23 I mean, say, in Permian Basin, though, which
24 is in Midland, they are spending quite a bit more because
25 of the oil boom and everything that is going on out

1 there. And there are other places like in Conroe, where
2 they are spending significantly less and are able to
3 serve way more people with the amount of funding that
4 they have. So it really just kind of varies. Honestly,
5 Texas is very complex.

6 MS. RICHARD: And this is both short-term and
7 long-term average.

8 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes, it's average. And the
9 way the exceptional item was written, there was no
10 difference in what we gave them for short and long-term.
11 It is just the amount of time. So all per month per
12 person.

13 So I have kind of a total of people. I don't
14 have the numbers for FY >14, but I have the numbers for
15 FY >15. There were some changes made to the Form H,
16 which is the form that I gather all of their data. But
17 that change happened while I wasn't like exactly present,
18 because I have been gone for a month due to family stuff.

19 And so anyway, a change was made. So I have
20 the numbers for FY >15. I don't have the numbers for FY
21 >14, but I can disseminate that information and get it to
22 you, if you really want to know.

23 But a total of people so far that have moved
24 on to independent housing, and it could be -- this could
25 be carryover from >14 or >15. Like I said, I don't know,

1 because of the change that was on the form. But 268 have
2 moved on to independent housing.

3 And you also have the people who are still
4 receiving service -- they're always receiving services,
5 if they are at the LMHA. So they don't just get rental
6 assistance.

7 These are people that are receiving services
8 at the LMHA, their service package. So they don't just
9 stop getting services, unless they don't want them
10 anymore, if they just quit going to the LMHA.

11 So 268 have moved on to independent housing,
12 93 have moved on to supportive housing. And so they are
13 not receiving the assistance anymore, but they are in
14 some other supportive-housing type placement that is
15 permanent. And then 39 have dropped out. And then four
16 individuals have passed away. And so that is kind of how
17 we have been tracking it for this fiscal year.

18 And so the last question, Terri, I believe
19 that you asked kind of about the funding availability and
20 the continuation of it, so I think that I just want to
21 kind of clarify.

22 This isn't something that was legislatively
23 mandated. So it is not in statute. It is not like that
24 it was an appropriation given to the MH services kind of
25 on top of what we already get from the session. And so

1 it is appropriated, and it is considered additional
2 funding under the mental health --

3 (Noises from speakerphone.)

4 FEMALE VOICE: I'm sorry, evidently we have
5 problems where people are not able to hear you. I'm
6 sorry.

7 MS. SONENTHAL: I'll pause.

8 (Pause.)

9 MS. RICHARD: Are there folks on the line?
10 Can you all hear now?

11 MALE VOICE: Yes.

12 MS. RICHARD: Okay. Great. Thank you. We
13 had some kind of technical issues.

14 MS. SONENTHAL: Okay.

15 MS. RICHARD: Anna Sonenthal is presenting.

16 MS. SONENTHAL: Okay. And so back to kind
17 of -- the funding is expected to continue and everything.
18 So like I said, not a legislative mandate; it is money
19 that was appropriated to our -- already what we were
20 getting for mental health services and MHSA. And the
21 language for that is found in their contract, so that is
22 their language that they have to abide by.

23 So we don't specifically request it any
24 longer. But at this point, it is now rolled into our
25 base, so it is just expected to continue. And so we are

1 getting funding. It's already in our base; it's not
2 going to change. And if something does change, I will
3 let you guys know, if for some reason the funding
4 changes. But it is just expected to continue.

5 And so as far as I know, as long as the LMHAs
6 that are currently using this funding are doing a great
7 job -- and unless we get an increase, I don't see a
8 change in who is going to receive the funding.

9 Like I said, unless like some of them decide
10 they don't want it anymore and then they -- there is
11 money left over to distribute to someone else. But it is
12 pretty spread across the state, I would say, fairly well.
13 I mean, we are in all areas of Texas.

14 And so it is expected to keep continuing
15 indefinitely until something changes. And so I will let
16 you guys know. Does that answer all your questions?

17 MS. RICHARD: It did mine.

18 MS. GREEN: Extending the contracts for the
19 current awardees, it sounds like you all feel--

20 MS. SONENTHAL: We do a new contract every
21 single year.

22 MS. GREEN: The LMHA competitive procurement.

23 MS. SONENTHAL: I don't -- I mean, at this
24 point, well, I can't answer that for sure. But we are
25 not looking to do that. No.

1 It doesn't -- the money isn't increasing, and
2 so we are not getting anything else to just give to new
3 sites. And they are doing a really good job of spending
4 it. And there is a huge need in all of them. And so it
5 wouldn't make sense to really take from them.

6 MS. GREEN: Because it sounds like a great
7 program, but we didn't have anybody who applied in our --

8 MS. SONENTHAL: It is only for the local
9 mental health authorities.

10 MS. GREEN: I understood. But we don't have
11 any LMHAs. We have got six we work with, and none
12 applied.

13 MS. SONENTHAL: Okay.

14 MS. GREEN: And so we haven't been able to --

15 MS. SONENTHAL: Well, they all knew about it,
16 and they all had a chance to apply for it. And everybody
17 was made well aware. And it was up to the EDs that they
18 apply.

19 MS. GREEN: And a lot of times, it is just a
20 timing issue. That is why I was curious if there were
21 any plans to open that up for --

22 MS. SONENTHAL: There is no plans at this
23 point, but that could change in the future.

24 MR. MAYFIELD: Did you say this was coming to
25 the Hill Country?

1 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes. Hill Country has it.

2 MR. MAYFIELD: Where?

3 MS. SONENTHAL: Hill Country MHMR.

4 MR. MAYFIELD: And out of B- where are they
5 located?

6 MS. SONENTHAL: Hill Country MHMR Centers is
7 like in the San Marcos, Boerne area, New Braunfels kind
8 of area. So they are a local mental health authority out
9 there. And they just received it this fiscal year.

10 MS. RICHARD: Back to Doni, if there was one
11 of the LMHAs in that area that have an interest, they
12 could --

13 MS. SONENTHAL: Which were the six LMHAs?

14 MS. GREEN: We've got LifePath, Denton MHMR,
15 Pecan Valley, Helen Farabee, Lakes Regional --

16 MS. SONENTHAL: Okay. And Lakes. And so
17 Lakes and LifePath, those are under North Star. I didn't
18 report on North Star, but they are receiving this
19 funding.

20 So I didn't give you guys the numbers for
21 North Star. I know if you are curious about that, I can
22 get them. But they are with a different department, and
23 so I don't have the numbers kind of readily available.

24 But I mean technically I do kind of oversee
25 what they do with that, and I can get that information to

1 you. I am in contact with Denton; I am actually going to
2 go on a site visit with them.

3 They are really interested in supportive
4 housing and kind of beefing up what they already do. And
5 Pecan Valley and Denton, yes, they didn't apply. I am in
6 contact with them. They are on my supportive housing
7 calls.

8 MS. GREEN: That was one of our health
9 partnership committee --

10 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes.

11 MS. GREEN: I mean, we have really been
12 talking for a long time about expanding --

13 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes.

14 MS. GREEN: -- housing opportunities.

15 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes. They would be a
16 really -- if we decide to expand this, this specific
17 funding with them, that would be a great prospect. They
18 are really receptive to TA. They have asked me to come
19 out, and they don't -- you know, they're not with either
20 of my programs.

21 MS. GREEN: Yes.

22 MS. SONENTHAL: But they are really, like, we
23 really want to know --

24 MS. GREEN: They are good to work with.

25 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes.

1 MS. GREEN: We would really like to support
2 them.

3 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes. They're great. I am
4 going out there in the next few months, and we're going
5 to do a fun TA session about building relationships with
6 their PHAs and just kind of see what they are doing as
7 far as supportive housing, how DSHS can support them.

8 MS. GREEN: In fact, Denton is one community
9 that our housing navigator partnered with, and they are
10 now an Amy Young administrator. That was the first
11 administrator in our region for that program.

12 MS. SONENTHAL: I have really enjoyed talking
13 with them and working with them. They do a really good
14 job. Does anyone else have any questions?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. SONENTHAL: Thank you.

17 MR. IRVINE: Thank you very much.

18 MS. SONENTHAL: You are welcome.

19 MR. IRVINE: We have a couple of members that
20 have joined the meeting since we went around the table
21 and gave introduction. I see somebody sitting in David
22 Danenfelzer's seat.

23 MR. WILT: Do I need to speak into this mic?
24 I am Michael Wilt with the Texas State Affordable Housing
25 Corporation. I am the less intelligent but equally

1 affable version of David Danenfelzer for the next few
2 months.

3 (General laughter.)

4 MR. IRVINE: You've got to introduce yourself,
5 Penny.

6 MS. LARKIN: Again?

7 MR. IRVINE: You weren't here when we went
8 around the room.

9 MS. LARKIN: I am Penny Larkin with Department
10 of Aging and Disability Services.

11 MR. IRVINE: Okay. That's right; you came in
12 after we called the roll. That is what it was.

13 MS. LARKIN: That's what it was.

14 MR. IRVINE: Yes. The record will reflect
15 that you are here.

16 MS. LARKIN: Thank you.

17 MR. IRVINE: We will now have a presentation
18 from Angie English.

19 MS. ENGLISH: I want to thank Terri for
20 inviting me today.

21 MS. RICHARD: Glad you could join us.

22 MS. ENGLISH: I am Angie English. I am the
23 Executive Director for the Texas Governor's Committee on
24 People with Disabilities. So Terri asked me to just come
25 and tell you guys a little bit about what the Governor's

1 Committee does.

2 MS. RICHARD: Angie, may I just see if --

3 MS. ENGLISH: Sure.

4 MS. RICHARD: Can you folks on the phone hear
5 Angie?

6 FEMALE VOICE: No, I can't.

7 MS. ENGLISH: Shall I move down there?

8 MS. RICHARD: Yes. Unfortunately, it is
9 easier to move the person than it is the phone.

10 MS. ENGLISH: Yes. Absolutely.

11 MS. RICHARD: Thanks, Angie. As Tim said, we
12 are informal here.

13 MS. ENGLISH: Sure. Absolutely. The same on
14 our Committee when we meet.

15 So I will just go ahead and start over so that
16 people on the phone can hear me.

17 MS. RICHARD: Thank you.

18 MS. ENGLISH: I am Angie English. I am the
19 Executive Director for the Texas Governor's Committee on
20 People with Disabilities. And I want to thank Terri for
21 inviting me to your committee meeting.

22 MS. RICHARD: Glad you could come.

23 MS. ENGLISH: You guys are doing some
24 important work. I appreciate what Anna had to say,
25 because of the ten -- of the 25 years that I have worked

1 in state government, ten of those were with the old
2 legacy MHMR agency.

3 And I was a mental health quality surveyor.
4 So I would go out to the local mental health centers and
5 survey them, based on our mental health quality
6 management standards.

7 And one of the sections was supportive
8 housing, and I always enjoyed surveying supportive
9 housing, because I got to go out in the community, see
10 where people lived; meet consumers, meet with providers,
11 meet with public/ private entities who provide services.
12 And it was always just a great way to see how Texas
13 really cares about people with mental illness.

14 So about the Governor's Committee, we have
15 been around -- I say we. The Committee has been around
16 since September of 1950, a long time.

17 We are the oldest Governor's Committee and the
18 strongest Governor's Committee in the nation. Most
19 states have a Governor's Committee or a committee that
20 functions like a Governor's Committee.

21 Some of them are located in the Governor's
22 Office. Sometimes they are located in other parts of
23 state government. But most states have a Governor's
24 Committee.

25 And we are what is called a Trustee Committee.

1 And a Trustee Committee is an advisory committee that is
2 set up to advise an Executive office. So other Trustee
3 Committees within the Office of the Governor are the
4 Music Office, the Film Office. So on a particular
5 subject matter, they advise an Executive office.

6 And I am trying to get over a cold here, but I
7 am also at that stage where I'm resisting going to get
8 real glasses, full-time glasses, and I am still using
9 drugstore glasses, so it's that up periscope, down
10 periscope thing for me.

11 So just the Committee makeup is -- we have
12 4.75 FTEs. We are state employees; we are not appointed.
13 But whoever the Governor is, he or she can appoint twelve
14 committee members, and seven of those committee members
15 must be people with disabilities.

16 The people usually serve a two -- at least a
17 two-year term. Our legislative language is in the Texas
18 Human Resources Code, Chapter 115. And it outlines
19 eleven functions that we do. You all may know that we
20 were going through the sunset process. The Sunset
21 Commission did recommend that we continue for another
22 twelve years.

23 So some of the things that we do, we get calls
24 from the public on any issue that you can imagine. And
25 we try to answer them. So we try to keep our finger on

1 the pulse of what is going on, not only in the state but
2 federally.

3 And we try to -- I love the word navigator.
4 We try to navigate people through the system, whether it
5 is state or federal, and connect the dots for folks,
6 because that is sometimes hard for people who are trying
7 to get into state services.

8 We don't provide any direct care services.
9 But we do try to link people up and get them to the right
10 place. We break our work into ten issue areas: access,
11 communications, emergency management, education, health,
12 housing, recreation, transportation, veterans and
13 employment. So we feel like those ten broad areas we can
14 fit most of our work under.

15 And because we do that, we have the
16 responsibility and the privilege, really, over the
17 biennium to develop policy recommendations to the
18 Governor and the Legislature. And we are formatting
19 those recommendations. After the new Governor takes his
20 seat on January 20th, we will hand those recommendations
21 over to his staff. And once they have a chance to read
22 through them, talk with us about them, approve them, then
23 we will release those to the public.

24 We also conduct awards programs throughout the
25 state. We have -- right now, we have two awards

1 programs. The Barbara Jordan Media Awards are given to
2 media professionals that portray people with disabilities
3 in a positive, empowering way. We also have the Lex
4 Frieden employment awards that award employers who employ
5 people with disabilities.

6 And we love to hold hands with other state
7 agencies. We do a variety of things. As an example, I
8 have worked on several things with the Division of
9 Emergency Management, the latest being the catastrophic
10 emergency plan standards.

11 So if Texas were to have another 1918 flu
12 episode where we had 500,000 people to die -- we are
13 working on standards for a catastrophic event. So people
14 with disabilities play a part in that. So we love to
15 hold hands with other state agencies.

16 And I was talking to Terri that one of the
17 things the Sunset Commission asked us to do was to look
18 at all of these long-range state plans, consolidate
19 those, or to analyze those in a critical analysis way and
20 to look for similarities or gaps. And so we look forward
21 to that task.

22 We think it will be a big one. I might need
23 some more help for that, Terri. But we are looking
24 forward to that.

25 So in terms of housing, housing just like

1 other critical infrastructure services, is a complex
2 adaptive system. And I like to think about the work that
3 we do as a system of systems, because we know that they
4 are interconnected.

5 One of the things that we did this year was to
6 develop an interim study on paratransit services in
7 Texas. The Legislature said, We want the Governor's
8 Committee to study two provisions of transportation, and
9 we did that. But these were very small elements of a
10 very large federal Transportation Code.

11 One of the recommendations that we did make is
12 that we try to point out to legislators that an
13 accessible, affordable and reliable transportation system
14 is interconnected to health, housing, employment,
15 education, recreation.

16 Think about it. If none of us have access to
17 transportation, how would we get to the doctor, to the
18 HEB, to the pharmacy? How would we get to the movie? So
19 how would we be employed?

20 So that is an important point. And so we made
21 the recommendation that the State of Texas needs to do a
22 comprehensive study on the transportation needs in Texas,
23 which in that complex adaptive system, would affect
24 housing.

25 And so we hope that -- we will kind of watch

1 that as it goes through the legislative session. But I
2 think transportation issues are going to be big this
3 session. And I am hoping that they will look at those
4 recommendations and give some critical thought to those.

5 The Texas Transportation Institute says that
6 the Texas population is estimated to grow by 400,000
7 people every year. That would add 30 million people over
8 the next four decades.

9 In that complexity is our aging population.
10 Our aging population -- in 2011, people that are in the
11 baby boomer cohort -- those people that were born in 1946
12 to 1964 -- I'm one of those, and some of you around the
13 table, I notice, got a few gray hairs, too.

14 So we started aging in January of 2011. And
15 we age at 10,000 people a day, and we will do that for
16 the next 20 years. So if we just look at Texas, that is
17 going to be about 5.3 million people who, in Texas, are
18 going to be aging.

19 So in terms of housing, these issues related
20 to aging are important, because people want to -- you
21 have probably heard of the term age in place.

22 They want to stay in their homes as they age.
23 And the baby boomers have a very distinct personality
24 trait. And that is we like to be independent. We like
25 to travel. We like diversity.

1 And so people want to age in their homes. And
2 so when you think about the very basic things to age in
3 your homes, that means that you have got to get in the
4 front door. You got to be able to cook. You have got to
5 be able to get into the restroom and shower and those
6 kinds of things.

7 So if you look at those very complex issues,
8 that will be an issue for Texas, not only for other
9 states too, but for Texas, because people like to come to
10 Texas. People like to retire to Texas for a variety of
11 reasons.

12 So I think housing and affordable, accessible
13 usable housing would also be an issue. I think part of
14 our recommendation, also in terms of housing, look to the
15 Complete Streets model where you -- instead of
16 retrofitting -- it is always costly to retrofit. Right?
17 It is always costly to add on.

18 But if you look to the future and you design
19 your community so that everyone can use the critical
20 infrastructure, then it benefits people with
21 disabilities. So we are encouraging long-range planning.

22 What do we want Texas to look like? We don't
23 always have to -- how are we going to put duct tape on
24 that. Or how are we going to fix that pothole.

25 Let's look to the future and say what kind of

1 Texas do we want? And let's work toward that, where
2 everybody can participate in our Texas life. So those
3 are kinds of -- some of the thoughts that we have in
4 disability services.

5 We also know that according to the National
6 Low Income Coalition, in Texas, they did some work. And
7 they said, if people in Texas spent 30 percent of their
8 income if they were a full-time employee, they would have
9 to make \$16.77 to be able to afford a two-bedroom rental.
10 We are not there yet.

11 So cost is a big deal. It is a big deal. So
12 those are also some of those interconnected complex
13 issues that we have to think about if we want to provide
14 accessible affordable housing.

15 So that is kind of some of the things that we
16 do. I am happy to entertain any questions on the phone
17 or here. It is good to see you, Sara. We have worked on
18 some things over the years, haven't we? You have been
19 around about as long as I have, right?

20 MS. MILLS: Sure.

21 MS. ENGLISH: We started when we were 12,
22 right.

23 MS. MILLS: That is right.

24 MS. LARKIN: Could I ask for a clarification
25 about what you said about the paratransit study. Is that

1 something you are recommending happen, or is that
2 something that you all have already undertaken?

3 MS. ENGLISH: We did it. The 83rd Legislative
4 Session asked us to do an interim study on two very
5 limited provisions in the Federal Transportation Code.
6 And they were to standardize the eligibility process and
7 to look at the 21-day visitor rule.

8 We did that, but we also made six other
9 recommendations that we felt were win-win solutions.

10 MS. LARKIN: And that is what you expect to
11 have some discussion during the legislative session.

12 MS. ENGLISH: I hope so.

13 MS. LARKIN: Thank you. Okay. That clarifies
14 that.

15 MS. ENGLISH: Thank you for asking.

16 MS. LARKIN: Sure.

17 MS. ENGLISH: Penny and I used to work at the
18 old MHMR a long time ago.

19 MS. LARKIN: We certainly did. I was a Penny
20 Steele then, not Penny Larkin.

21 MS. ENGLISH: Yes. That is right.

22 MS. LARKIN: That would be so helpful. I know
23 our transportation planners have been working on
24 establishing reciprocity between DART and the Ts, so that
25 if somebody certifies with one authority, the others

1 would be able to accept that instead of recertifying.

2 I know we are going through some challenges
3 now with changes in transit providers in Collin County,
4 where Collin County residents are having to go to Peak
5 Street in Dallas to be deemed eligible. And that is
6 really creating a barrier.

7 MS. ENGLISH: It is a very complicated system.
8 Very complicated. And it is related to housing. So if
9 you are using a wheelchair and you don't have an
10 accessible sidewalk from your house to the bus stop, that
11 is a barrier.

12 And then if your bus stop is not covered, who
13 is going to stand out in the 103 degree heat to catch a
14 bus stop, especially if you are taking psychotropic
15 medication that makes you sensitive to the sun.

16 So again, it is a very complicated,
17 interconnected system. And we tend to think about these
18 things in a linear way. But it is really a complicated,
19 complex adaptive system that we are really looking at
20 here.

21 MR. MAYFIELD: In rural areas, it would be
22 nice to just have a bus stop.

23 MS. ENGLISH: Yes, sir. I hear that.

24 MS. GREEN: We fund transportation, but it is
25 curb to curb, and a lot of people do need assistance in

1 getting out of the home, getting from the driveway to the
2 curb.

3 MS. ENGLISH: Well, and I say, Texas can't
4 spare the talents and gifts of anybody that wants to
5 serve her. And we have some very talented people with
6 disabilities that want to serve Texas. And if we have
7 barriers that keep them from the workplace, or keep them
8 from other things that they need, we want to fix that.

9 MS. RICHARD: I thought of Angie, just because
10 as I kind of started looking at different organizations
11 and different documents that are being produced, and
12 looking at housing goals. I am working on the Promoting
13 Independence Advisory Committee.

14 There are housing goals in that plan that you
15 are getting ready to do. We obviously have housing goals
16 in the biennial plan that this council creates. You have
17 housing issues in your plan.

18 So I was just trying to look a little better
19 picture and try to see where all of those plans are and
20 how they integrate or not. Or you know, where you could
21 sort of have, you know, sort of a unified or whatever
22 word you want to use. But sure, it's something that it
23 really --

24 MS. ENGLISH: Well, I think that is an
25 important point. And I just recently graduated with

1 another master's degree in homeland security and defense.

2 And one of the things that I recommended in my
3 thesis was that like the State of Texas, we consolidated,
4 and we are getting ready to consolidate again. The
5 Department of Homeland Security did that with 22 federal
6 agencies, and yet they remain quite siloed. And it has
7 to do, I think, with their social identity.

8 But if we rethought that and looked at
9 providing services by function, organization by function,
10 so that DADS function with housing sits beside the person
11 in DARS or HHSC, so that you work by function, so that
12 you don't have that system where you have housing in so
13 many different agencies and nobody knows that they are
14 connected. So maybe that is an idea. We could think
15 about that as part of that.

16 But I think it is important. I love what you
17 guys are doing. Thank you for everything you are doing.

18 MS. RICHARD: Thank you. I appreciate your
19 coming.

20 MS. ENGLISH: Okay. I am going to go back to
21 my seat.

22 MR. IRVINE: Can you email the link to the
23 studies?

24 MS. ENGLISH: Excuse me?

25 MR. IRVINE: Can you email us the link to the

1 studies?

2 MS. ENGLISH: Sure. I had to submit those to
3 the Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor on the first of
4 January.

5 MR. IRVINE: Okay.

6 MS. ENGLISH: And once they put them up on
7 their websites, we will be able to --

8 MR. IRVINE: That would be great.

9 MS. ENGLISH: Then they become public.

10 MS. RICHARD: We will make sure to stay in
11 touch.

12 MS. ENGLISH: Okay. Great.

13 MS. RICHARD: I really appreciate it. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. IRVINE: Thank you so much.

16 It's almost 811.

17 MR. DURAN: Spencer Duran with the Texas
18 Department of Housing and Community Affairs. I work on
19 the Section 811 program. On the agenda was Kate Moore to
20 give the update. She is out today, so you got me.

21 There has been a lot of really exciting
22 things. I am going to start with what is kind of a
23 reintroduction to the Section 811 program to give some
24 new folks a quick background. And I also will say that
25 it is a pretty complicated program.

1 And we have been putting stuff up on our
2 website as we produce it to try and keep the public
3 informed. So if you go to the TDHCA website, in the top
4 part of the website, under the red tabs, under programs,
5 you will now find Section 811 under the program tab. And
6 it sits alongside all of the other programs the
7 Department offers. We produced FAQs and policy
8 statements and all kinds of stuff.

9 So the 811 program, essentially is a project-
10 based voucher program. It is a collaboration between the
11 Texas Department of Housing and the Health and Human
12 Services Commission.

13 And the idea is to issue project-based
14 vouchers and housing vouchers essentially pay a portion
15 of the rent on behalf of the occupant. And the occupant
16 household pays what they can afford towards rent. So it
17 is an income-based type of voucher.

18 And all the participants in the program have
19 services available to them through the Health and Human
20 Services Commission. So we are not putting people into
21 housing who do not have a service package there to
22 support them.

23 So all of the participants in the program will
24 have a service package there for them that is community-
25 based, that is responsive to their needs, so they can be

1 successful in the community. It does hit three target
2 populations.

3 It is people with disabilities who are exiting
4 institutions such as nursing facilities, and state
5 supported living centers. There is also people with
6 severe mental illness and youth with disabilities who are
7 exiting the foster care system.

8 So if you know those three different
9 populations, you know that they are each served by a
10 different agency in the State of Texas. And so it has
11 been a pretty interesting collaboration with Penny and
12 Anna and a few other folks across the agencies within the
13 Health and Human Services Commission. So it is a really
14 unique program.

15 It is a really unique opportunity for us to
16 have a big impact. We have got \$12 million secured from
17 HUD. And we estimate it will serve about 360 people.

18 Like Anna was saying, it will greatly vary --
19 how many people we can serve, based on where they are
20 being served. Obviously, Austin or Midland it is going
21 to have a higher cost per tenant than it would in other
22 areas of the state.

23 So yes, we have \$12 million. It is about 360
24 people. And the current status of the program is we
25 basically have been working for the past two years on

1 coordinating with our Health and Human Services partners.

2 And we have an interagency agreement between
3 TDHCA and HHSC that dictates the different roles and
4 responsibilities, so that is who we have been working
5 through to develop the program.

6 We just ended a contract with the Technical
7 Assistance Collaborative. It is the national leader --
8 it's a consulting organization, the national leader, I
9 think, on all things 811 and also on supportive housing
10 and people with disabilities in general.

11 And we had a contract with them to produce a
12 lot of materials. Thank you, everybody, for that. And
13 that will all go to support the program.

14 So a tenant is going to get a manual on how
15 they can use the program, and it lets them know key
16 information about the program. The landlords, the person
17 at the leasing office will have a manual. There is an
18 owner/manager manual on how to operate the program.

19 And so every key element is going to have --
20 and also, the people that are going to make referrals to
21 the program will have a manual on how to make referrals
22 to the program and what the beneficiaries that they are
23 serving can expect.

24 Also more recently, 811 was incentivized in
25 the Qualified Allocation Plan. And that is tied to our

1 largest affordable housing program, the tax credit
2 program. So in this upcoming round, developers can elect
3 to participate in 811 if they want to.

4 And there are points available to them if they
5 want to do that. So we are really excited about that
6 development. We see it as a hugely important element of
7 the program to kind of be the catalyst to get it going.

8 Recently, we posted on our website an
9 application so that the 9 percent tax credit Applicants
10 who are electing those two points, they have the option
11 to defer those units onto an existing property in their
12 portfolio. So now if you go to the 811 website, you can
13 look at that application that those applicants are using
14 to get those existing properties vetted and approved.

15 So you get the points through the 2015 tax
16 credit round. You can either place them on their new
17 property or you can defer them to a property on your
18 portfolio.

19 So it is good for the developer, because there
20 is less environmental hurdles. And it is also good for
21 us because we are able to serve people a lot faster than
22 waiting for two years to physically construct a property.
23 So we are happy either way.

24 If they want to take the units on their new
25 property or their rehab or whatever their 2015 property

1 is, or defer to somebody in their portfolio. They are
2 going to get a really high quality development either
3 way, based on the criteria that we have devised and our
4 Board has approved.

5 So that is exciting. So Applicants can upload
6 applications today to get those existing properties
7 developed. And so with all of that being said, we hope
8 to sign the contract with HUD very soon. We are
9 resolving some of our last remaining obstacles to that.

10 And then once that is under -- once that is
11 signed, we will be entering into a contract with a
12 contractor who will help us out with a key database
13 element called TRACS, which is kind of the medium that
14 the vouchers are applied from HUD to us to the actual
15 property on the ground. So we need a contractor to help
16 us out with that.

17 And then also we hope to start serving people
18 as soon as the tax credit commitments are made in August.
19 So we could theoretically start serving people as soon as
20 September 2015. Yes.

21 So there is other information on the website.
22 Also, I would encourage you to sign up for TDHCA's email
23 list. We have a new category. You can sign up for -- to
24 just receive any loan updates if you want to. But it is
25 alongside all of the other TDHCA programs.

1 MS. SYLVESTER: Spencer, hi. I was in D.C.
2 for a conference, and I met with Danielle, who is the 811
3 coordinator.

4 MR. DURAN: Hold on, Megan. This is Megan.
5 She is an attorney with us at TDHCA.

6 MS. SYLVESTER: Right. And I met with her
7 yesterday. And she gave a presentation about the next
8 round of 811 funding. And I thought, because Texas put
9 in an application, that we could just share that with the
10 group.

11 Basically they had hoped to announce those
12 allocations sometime this winter, but it is kind of a
13 good news, bad news kind of thing. They found some
14 additional funding for the 811 program. When they did
15 the second round of the competition, it was for two
16 fiscal years of funding.

17 And basically funding from the old 811 program
18 that is not utilized -- rolled into by a certain date, it
19 rolls into the funding round, and so they are actually
20 going to have more money than they thought to allocate.

21 But that means they have got some additional
22 applications to review. And so they said that they
23 expect to have those awarded announcements some time in
24 late spring.

25 MR. DURAN: Late spring. Okay. Great. Yes.

1 Thanks for filling that in there. I forgot to make the
2 update. So yes, we got the funding awarded to us to
3 serve approximately 360 individuals.

4 And we also -- what Megan was referring to, we
5 applied for additional funding, an additional \$12 million
6 that we hope to serve a similar amount of people. So
7 that would be, if we did win the second round, that would
8 be a total of approximately \$24 million for this
9 activity.

10 MR. IRVINE: Thank you, Megan.

11 MR. GOODWIN: First question she generates,
12 late spring of what year?

13 MR. DURAN: Of this year, I would assume.

14 MS. SYLVESTER: Well, it could be soon enough.
15 But it just said late spring on the PowerPoint
16 presentation.

17 MR. DURAN: We have waited so long, so maybe
18 they meant 2019. Who knows?

19 MR. GOODWIN: Do you have a feeling where we
20 stand among -- I think it was, what, five agencies that
21 got the first round, were awarded the first round, as far
22 as being ready to execute. Are there already people with
23 agreements in place that are putting money out there?

24 MS. SYLVESTER: They said that there are
25 eleven states that have executed their agreement and

1 there are two that have not. But of those eleven states
2 that have executed their agreement, some of them have --
3 my understanding, from talking to the states, not talking
4 to HUD, they delayed some of these.

5 So even though they have signed the agreement,
6 basically, they had a delayed effective date. Three or
7 four of the states have already started production and
8 they actually are starting to -- because their program is
9 a little bit different, they're starting to place people
10 in units as early as the next couple of months.

11 MR. GOODWIN: And then our QAP for the current
12 round has 811 incentives for the awards that we have.

13 MR. DURAN: Correct.

14 MR. GOODWIN: So you better hurry, because he
15 is going to be spending the money.

16 MR. MAYFIELD: Spencer, how are those
17 structured? Say if you are building a 42-unit senior
18 property in rural Texas, you know, is there some -- is it
19 formula-driven to where you qualify for those two points?
20 Is it five units. Or is it derivative of the amount of
21 units to be developed? Or how does that --

22 MR. DURAN: Right.

23 MR. MAYFIELD: How do you take something like
24 this and put it into rural Texas?

25 MR. DURAN: Absolutely. So first of all,

1 rural areas are eligible, as long as they are within the
2 seven metropolitan statistical areas for the
3 administration. So I have a list of those.

4 I might say, it is kind of the big ones. You
5 know, Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, Houston,
6 things like that. But the rural pockets within the
7 counties of the MSA will be eligible. The senior project
8 that you mentioned as an example would not be eligible,
9 because you can't stipulate any other additional
10 conditions onto the 811 voucher.

11 So for example, if it's a 55 and up, 811 isn't
12 compatible, because it is supposed to serve 18 to 62. So
13 your example of a senior property wouldn't necessarily
14 work. But otherwise, yes, they would accept at least ten
15 units onto their property. And so --

16 MR. MAYFIELD: Which would be 25 percent on a
17 property of that size.

18 MR. DURAN: Correct. Which would not exceed
19 the integration rule of TDHCA. And then there is also an
20 additional integration rule, max of I think 25 percent
21 with HUD for 811.

22 So we are basically trying to find properties
23 that are interested in participating and then have them
24 take on the maximum allowed that they can to integrate
25 these voucher holders into the general TDHCA portfolio.

1 So you would also have to be an existing property that
2 had received funding from us.

3 MR. MAYFIELD: Have you done a blast to what I
4 will call the population of credit properties in Texas
5 that says, This program is now available; here is where
6 you get your application?

7 MR. DURAN: Yes. So our multifamily division
8 was really kind to us and let us kind of tag along on
9 almost everything they did with the 2015 round. So we
10 went on their open road show. We went to Dallas,
11 Houston, Austin whenever they were having their 2015 Q&A
12 presentations. We were a module within the larger tax
13 credit presentation.

14 We have had email listservs go out. We are on
15 the multifamily web page, for example. We are also
16 listed in the 2015 QAP frequently asked questions.

17 So developers are extremely aware of this
18 program. And they have actually been a partner of ours;
19 the development community at large, in how we craft this
20 program.

21 We had lots of public input meetings, lots of
22 written testimony when we were actually crafting the QAP
23 itself. And the development community has played a large
24 role in that. So I would say in general they are
25 definitely aware of this opportunity.

1 MR. WILT: Spencer, going back to the rural
2 question, how do you all define rural? Is it 25,000 or
3 less population cutoff?

4 MR. DURAN: We don't. We don't have a
5 definition, because all we care about is whether or not
6 you are in one of the MSA counties.

7 MR. WILT: Okay.

8 MR. IRVINE: Any other questions?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. IRVINE: Thank you so much.

11 MR. DURAN: And please call me, email me if
12 you have questions or sign up for the listserv. So
13 thanks.

14 MR. IRVINE: And I believe it is your turn,
15 Terri.

16 MS. RICHARD: Okay.

17 MR. IRVINE: Update on the Academy.

18 MS. RICHARD: Yes. I wanted to give an update
19 on the Housing and Services Partnership Academy. So I
20 want to do just a brief high level. There are a few new
21 folks. And so I just want to give a high-level overview.

22 Before the award of the Section 811, there was
23 a Real Choice Systems Change Grant that Texas was also
24 awarded. And that was where we were one of five states,
25 Mike. And part of that grant was to coordinate a housing

1 and services partnership academy. We did that in May of
2 2013.

3 I know there are a number of you that helped
4 us and participated in that Academy. It was held in the
5 Dallas-Fort Worth area. We had 16 teams that were --
6 that applied to come to this academy.

7 And the teams had to consist of at least one
8 person in housing, one person that represented services,
9 and the team had to include a person with a disability.
10 They applied and became part of this training and
11 technical assistance effort.

12 So part of what they did was participated in
13 pre-conference or pre-Academy webinars where -- there was
14 one on housing and there was one on services. And the
15 whole goal of this academy was to be able to cross-
16 educate housers about services and services about
17 housers, which, if you go back to the statute and the
18 charge of this council, that is a big part of what the
19 Council is charged with doing, is cross-educating housing
20 and services staff and providing technical assistance.

21 So we -- and Kate and Spencer were the ones
22 that coordinated that. We also worked with -- the
23 University of Texas partnered with us to do that. It was
24 an intensive day and a half onsite. We had roundtables.
25 We had different speakers.

1 And we have talked at council meetings before
2 about some anecdotal information that teams that develop
3 the goals at the Academy went back and then made some
4 efforts in expanding service-enriched housing. So we had
5 some anecdotal information, things like somebody who
6 didn't know about the entity, who didn't know about the
7 Amy Young barrier removal program applying and becoming
8 one of our administrators.

9 But also some anecdotal information that some
10 of those teams continue to meet in their local
11 communities to try to generate ideas and come up with
12 plans of how to expand and serve the populations that
13 really are in need, based on their local issues and
14 concerns and their population.

15 So what we wanted to do in the biennial plan,
16 there was a number of different committees that we -- and
17 individuals that we talked to that recommended that we
18 replicate that housing and services partnership Academy.
19 So at the last meeting, we had a consensus among the
20 group that yes, we would like to do that.

21 The charge for me was to go back and get some
22 dollar amounts, which I provided. But then one of the
23 other things that we did is we met with Kate and Spencer,
24 who were intimately involved in that, who also -- there
25 was a white paper produced that kind of looked at what

1 worked, what didn't work, what could be improved.

2 And so when we met with Kate and Spencer, you
3 know, they said one of the things that they would really
4 like to do is to have more follow-up and technical
5 assistance. And one last step would be to really
6 evaluate a comprehensive evaluation of what worked, what
7 didn't work.

8 And so I kind of went back and looked at the
9 statute. And one of the other things we talked about in
10 meetings previously is performance measures. And the
11 council is charged with identifying and creating some
12 performance measures of how we are going to track the
13 service-enriched housing projects that go on across the
14 state.

15 So what we did was we looked at -- and this
16 was something that Kate and Spencer -- it was great to
17 meet with them and come up with some ideas -- is to do
18 three things. And that is to contract with an outside
19 entity, so to do a Request for Proposal competitive
20 procurement. And too, you have the scope of work in your
21 folders.

22 But to do three things. One is to coordinate
23 another Academy. And so what I have given to you is just
24 a draft of what we would include in an entire Request for
25 Proposal. So this is just the scope of work part.

1 So one would be to have an Academy. The
2 deliverable -- the second deliverable would be technical
3 assistance. So that would be pre- and post-Academy
4 technical assistance.

5 I included in here some of that needed to be
6 onsite. Require them to go to the local communities,
7 meet with the team members and do some onsite but then
8 also produce some phone follow-up. And then the third
9 deliverable would be a formative evaluation and a
10 summative evaluation.

11 And our thought was that this would be
12 something that could be ongoing. So it could be
13 something that we could do multiple years.

14 The contracting rules, I think, require that
15 we have to follow the contracting rules, of course. But
16 I think it would require that we would have to then go
17 out and competitively bid it, I think every two years, is
18 what we were looking at.

19 So one of the things I wanted to do is just
20 let you look at this. I -- we just had it reviewed, so I
21 didn't have a chance to get it out ahead of time.

22 I tried to put some specific things in each
23 one of the deliverables so that as people apply, we could
24 get some real specifics in the applications about what
25 they plan to do, how they plan to do it, when they plan

1 to do it, and how much it is going to cost to do it. So
2 if you have any -- you know, if you want to just take a
3 few minutes to look at that, we can have some discussion
4 about that.

5 And then I think one of the other things that
6 we are going to do after we get input about this Request
7 for Proposal, we do have a meeting with Senator Nelson's
8 office, who was one of the original legislators that
9 created the Senate bill that created this council. We
10 are going to be meeting with one of her staff persons on
11 Friday.

12 So what we would like to be able to do is to
13 mention that we have shared this plan to move forward and
14 to build on what the council has already done and then
15 move forward.

16 And so I wanted to get -- we wanted to get
17 your feedback. If you think this is the right direction
18 before we then go and meet with Senator Nelson's office
19 and propose that we move forward in this manner.

20 So I just wanted to -- I know you haven't had
21 a chance to read it ahead of time. But any thoughts,
22 questions, criticisms, anything on the deliverables. You
23 think we are on the right track. Or any other thoughts?

24 (Pause.)

25 MS. GREEN: It seems to be silent on selecting

1 the teams. Is that a function that TDHCA would assume?
2 Or would these -- would the technical assistance be
3 provided to the first round participants? Are you
4 looking at just continuing to support those teams that
5 were part of it years ago? Are you looking at opening it
6 up to new folks?

7 MS. RICHARD: Okay. Doni's question was, it
8 seems to be silent on, you know, how we are going to
9 select the teams and whether they will be new teams or
10 just work with the existing teams.

11 What I had in my head was that it would be
12 something that we could do and continue to get new teams
13 each round. And what we have is, build on the materials
14 that we already have.

15 So depending on a vendor that would come on
16 board, Kate and Spencer, University of Texas, have
17 already developed evaluation tools and a lot of different
18 materials. We would plan to share that with them, but
19 then also get ideas from ways those could be improved.

20 And so I think we could be open to how the
21 teams are selected. I know that -- and, Spencer, you may
22 correct me on that. I think the selection was between
23 TDHCA and DADS representatives at the time. Is that
24 correct?

25 MR. DURAN: Yes. That is correct. We had a

1 developer, a housing developer, a service provider and a
2 consumer or a person with disabilities on those teams.
3 And you had to have all three of those elements.

4 I think you also had to sort of represent a
5 geographic area, so that you could have an actual impact
6 on your community whenever you left the Academy and went
7 home. I think those were the three basic elements and
8 also represent a geographic area.

9 MS. RICHARD: And so what we did -- TDHCA,
10 though, is responsible for releasing the solicitation,
11 saying, Hey, this opportunity is coming; we would like
12 for you to apply.

13 MR. DURAN: Yes. We sort of treat it like an
14 RFP.

15 MS. RICHARD: Right.

16 MR. DURAN: Sort of.

17 MS. RICHARD: Okay. But then once the teams
18 apply, those -- the applications were reviewed by TDHCA
19 staff and DADS staff.

20 MR. DURAN: Yes.

21 MS. RICHARD: Is that right?

22 MR. DURAN: Uh-huh.

23 MS. RICHARD: Okay. And I mean, I think it
24 could be open to who would do that in the future.

25 MR. IRVINE: I think though, that it is

1 important that teams that have already been through this
2 continue to be refreshed and brought current. And you
3 know, maybe there needs to be some sort of
4 stratification. You know, like an Academy for new ones
5 and a refresher course for existing ones or an update
6 course.

7 MS. GREEN: Because some, I am assuming - I
8 know, because I was a member of one team- encounter
9 roadblocks, and might be able to move forward if provided
10 access to technical assistance.

11 MS. RICHARD: Okay. Great. Okay. So I will
12 put something in there about the existing teams that we
13 already have. That is good feedback. Great.

14 MS. LARKIN: Remind me, Terri. I think we
15 talked about this before when we were sort of
16 prioritizing among the various things you presented to
17 us, what the available dollars are.

18 MS. RICHARD: Yes. And you know, yes.
19 Elizabeth, I think we were -- no. I think --

20 MS. YEVICH: I thought, I just can't remember.
21 I don't have my materials.

22 MS. RICHARD: I think I estimated somewhere
23 around 80, 90.

24 MS. YEVICH: Yes. That is what I said.
25 Between 70 and 80 and 90.

1 MS. RICHARD: Yes. I think we have somewhere
2 around 70, 80, 90,000. Any other thoughts?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. RICHARD: Does that sound like a plan?

5 MR. GOODWIN: One question. Right now, we are
6 building or talking of building a program with dollars
7 unspent on the current budget. Correct?

8 We have got that money available now. Or are
9 you talking about blocking -- this Committee blocking X
10 dollars in the future every year to run the program?

11 MR. IRVINE: No. We are talking about
12 spending the current biennium, aren't we?

13 MS. RICHARD: The current biennium. But then
14 if we write in such a way that we could renew it every
15 two years --

16 MR. IRVINE: Sure. Yes.

17 MS. RICHARD: We could then spend that same
18 money year after year if we wanted to.

19 MR. IRVINE: It would be our money. We would
20 just give you that flexibility.

21 MR. GOODWIN: I think that is critical, is
22 that we train the teams, send them back home. And then
23 how do we know we are kept in the continuum of this
24 ability -- to follow and assist, I think, would be
25 critical to the program. So that you can measure the

1 worth of it.

2 And you know, if somebody starts to falter,
3 you might could rejuvenate a program. You did a lot of
4 good work for two years, and all of a sudden it has
5 dropped off of the face of the Earth.

6 MS. RICHARD: Absolutely. And I think that is
7 exactly what Kim and Spencer recommended. You know, the
8 academies are great, but to make them really effective --
9 and then particularly to be able to measure how effective
10 they were, we really need to have the follow-up. Okay.
11 Anything else?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. RICHARD: Well, if you think of something
14 later, I think you all know you are more than welcome to
15 give me a call. Send me an email and let me know if you
16 have some other thoughts after you have really read
17 through it.

18 I think the evaluation part is really
19 critical, and being able to evaluate as you are going.
20 But then also to be able to evaluate at the end of a
21 process in a program is also really critical. So all
22 right. I think that is all I had.

23 MR. GOODWIN: Okay.

24 MR. IRVINE: All right. We are to the final
25 stretch. Setting the next Council meeting date. It

1 looks like April 8th.

2 So unless anybody got serious problems with
3 that, we will note that as our next scheduled date. Is
4 there anybody else who has any comments or requests for
5 specific things that you would like to have placed on
6 future agendas?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. IRVINE: Terri will send out emails,
9 always, to keep people advised of that kind of stuff.

10 MS. RICHARD: One thought is, would we want to
11 have legislative updates from the different state
12 agencies, perhaps, at the next meeting. Kind of how the
13 session is going?

14 Is that something anybody would be interested
15 in, or just wait until July, until it is all said and
16 done? And then have an update. That is just one agenda
17 idea.

18 MR. WILT: I like April.

19 MS. RICHARD: April. Okay. So we could kind
20 of see how it is going so far. Okay. April 8th.

21 MS. YEVICH: Easter.

22 MS. RICHARD: Okay. And I am sorry. I don't
23 even know what day Easter -- I should have --

24 MS. YEVICH: Yes. Easter is, I believe, the
25 6th or the 5th. It would be the 5th. So I didn't know

1 if schools were off sometimes anymore, or anything like
2 that.

3 MS. RICHARD: I don't think that they are.
4 Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. IRVINE: Okay. Well, good meeting. We
6 got through a little earlier than usual. I hope that the
7 new members will feel free to call on Terri or Spencer or
8 me or any of us. And also, your co-members; just really
9 jump in.

10 I think that the work of this council is that
11 we each come from a specific perspective, and
12 periodically, maybe every year, maybe every quarter -- I
13 don't know -- we need to sit there and say, do I know
14 more about other people's perspectives, and how it fits
15 with my perspective.

16 Am I moving the ball in terms of getting a
17 more holistic look? And am I moving the ball in a way
18 that makes it easier for persons who are trying to access
19 these services and programs to get the assistance that
20 they need and deserve.

21 MS. RICHARD: I did have one update that I
22 forgot to mention. We did just go in and revamp the
23 website, so I just wanted you to know, we tried to make
24 it a little more intuitive and just rearrange it.

25 There is really nothing new on there, other

1 than the 2-1-1 analysis that Texas State did. That is a
2 new document that has been added. And then we are in the
3 process of trying to add the PowerPoints that the
4 Technical Assistance Collaborative did. But other than
5 that, it is just rearranged.

6 So all things council are up here. We have
7 put all of the different meetings and conferences and
8 public hearings that go with each biennial plan with the
9 biennial plan instead of this whole separate page that
10 has all of the meetings, but you don=t really -- we
11 didn't really understand which biennial plan it went
12 with.

13 So I just wanted you to know we have kind of
14 revamped that, and hopefully it will be easier.

15 And then just wanted to remind everyone that I
16 do send out listservs. Those are funding notifications
17 and funding opportunities and notifications. I send
18 those out every month. I don't know if all the council
19 members know to go to sign up for those.

20 And I would really like at some point to get
21 some feedback about those, good, bad, the ugly. You
22 know, if they are helpful, if you use them, if there is
23 something different you want to do with that.

24 That is something that was in the statute that
25 was a staff duty, was to try to identify funding

1 opportunities. So I would really like to get feedback on
2 that.

3 And then state agency representatives, if you
4 have notifications, public hearings, any kind of things
5 that you think might be helpful, please send those to me.
6 If you can just send them directly to my email and I
7 could include those on the listserv.

8 I think we have more than 300. I think we
9 have almost 400 people that look at those listservs that
10 get sent to email. So I just kind of wanted to give you
11 some heads up about that, and some feedback.

12 Susan.

13 MS. BARNARD: I just wanted to mention, since
14 we are talking about funding opportunities, we do have an
15 application cycle coming up on the 27th. Housing is
16 difficult under the CDBG program -- eligible,
17 challenging. But housing, or accessibility improvements
18 for housing, is one of our most successful housing
19 programs. And so by the next meeting, I might be able to
20 report back, if we do actually receive any applications
21 for those kinds of projects.

22 MR. IRVINE: That would be great.

23 MS. BARNARD: Most communities prioritize
24 infrastructure, utility improvements for these funds,
25 because there are some other sources for housing. But

1 occasionally, we do receive those housing projects. So
2 if I do receive one, would you all be interested?

3 MR. GOODWIN: Absolutely, we would.

4 MS. RICHARD: So the notification has already
5 gone out, Suzanne?

6 MS. BARNARD: The notification actually went
7 out back in October, so it's kind of a long process --

8 MS. RICHARD: Okay.

9 MS. BARNARD: But the applications are due,
10 both cities and counties, February 27.

11 MS. RICHARD: Okay.

12 MS. BARNARD: So we have a little bit of time
13 still.

14 MS. RICHARD: Okay. Great, thank you.

15 MS. BARNARD: And everything is on the website
16 as far as the application guide and all that.

17 MS. RICHARD: Okay. That is great. Yes,
18 Angie.

19 MS. ENGLISH: I just wanted to extend an
20 invitation before the legislative session starts, we will
21 start tracking bills based on our ten issues areas. And
22 the State uses a system called Telicon. You probably are
23 familiar with that.

24 And so you are looking at the person that
25 usually tracks those 6,000 things. So I look at them,

1 and I think, is this one related, and the least -- which
2 track does it go with.

3 So as with all legislation, it starts with an
4 inverted, you know, it starts as a funnel. So it starts
5 big and as the bills don't get out of the committee or
6 whatever, we track it down. And there is a small number
7 at the end.

8 But we do track bills related to housing. So
9 if you are interested in our weekly reports, just send
10 your -- give Terri an email and she will send me the
11 email addresses and I will sign you up.

12 MS. RICHARD: Great. Okay. Anyone else.

13 MR. IRVINE: Well, it is 11:17. And we are
14 officially adjourned.

15 MS. RICHARD: Thank you, everyone.

16 (Whereupon, at 11:17 a.m., the meeting was
17 concluded.)

