

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL

FOR THE HOMELESS

Texas Workforce Commission Annex
Room 304B
1117 Trinity Street
Austin, Texas

July 12, 2016
10:13 a.m.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair
VALINDA BOLTON
MICHAEL DeYOUNG (proxy for BROOKE BOSTON)
KELLY KRAVITZ
KAREN LASHBROOK
PAM MAERCKLEIN
GEORGE McENTYRE
ANNA SONENTHAL
NAOMI TREJO
AMY FELTER (via telephone)
FRANCES GATTIS (via telephone)

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

ERIC SAMUELS
DARILYN CARDONA-BEILER (via telephone)
DENNIS M. SCHOLL (via telephone)

OTHER ATTENDEES:

ANNA BAKER
MONA MURO
AALIYAH NOBLE
MICHAEL WILT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

CATE TRACZ
ELIZABETH YEVICH

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. DOYLE: Welcome, everyone. Those that are
3 here in person and those that are here on the phone,
4 welcome to the July meeting of the Texas Interagency
5 Council for the Homeless. We do have a quorum present and
6 voting, so let the record reflect that.

7 Also, for my remarks, I'm going to talk a
8 little bit later on in the agenda about committees, but at
9 the same time I want you to know that we have a court
10 reporter with us today for some of our legislative
11 requirements, so when you make a comment, if you make a
12 comment, it will be helpful if you stated your name so
13 that we can get that in the record.

14 So that being said, you have before you the
15 minutes from our April meeting, and I would entertain a
16 motion to approve those.

17 MS. TREJO: So moved, Naomi Trejo.

18 MR. DOYLE: There's a motion by Naomi. Is
19 there a second?

20 MS. MAERCKLEIN: Second by Pam Maercklein.

21 MR. DOYLE: Second by Pam. Any further
22 discussion, corrections, changes?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. DOYLE: All in favor say aye.

25 (A chorus of ayes.)

1 MR. DOYLE: Opposed same sign.

2 (No response.)

3 MR. DOYLE: Those do pass.

4 Okay. We're going to move down Naomi's
5 discussion, since it could be a little bit lengthy, and go
6 to our volunteer report, and Aaliyah, you're going to do
7 that?

8 MS. NOBLE: Yes. So the last time I spoke with
9 you all, I was on my way to Beaumont to go and train the
10 interns, and that was successfully done. I went there on
11 the 31st of May and we did our employment navigator
12 training. I trained them on rights and responsibilities,
13 their specified duties, all of the organizational
14 information for all the partners that are involved, and
15 then we went into engaging strategies for people
16 experiencing homelessness, as well as individualized
17 employment plans which will be the bulk of their duties,
18 and how they're going to keep records and do evaluations.

19 Both interns at the end of training were very
20 excited about the project, however, a Beaumont navigator
21 resigned shortly after. She needed a job that just paid
22 more, she was just out of college, so that's what she
23 reported. So I worked with the site, Henry's Place, to
24 identify another navigator. They had a Lamar University
25 intern that was already there that was working on intake

1 for people experiencing homelessness so in the morning
2 when people come in to get services there, she's the first
3 person that they contact. So what we decided was that I'd
4 train her and then she would add that as an additional
5 duty, so after she does the initial intake, then she would
6 go ahead and do an individualized employment plan and work
7 on employment planning for them. So she has already been
8 trained and is starting this week, and she's very excited
9 about the new responsibility and the ability to help a
10 little further.

11 Port Arthur is going very well. She's spent
12 the most of her time so far doing marketing because she
13 works at the YMCA, and the YMCA in Port Arthur doesn't
14 have a great population of people experiencing
15 homelessness that come every day, so she's having to do a
16 bit more marketing for showing the community what she
17 does, so she's going around to different organizations,
18 giving out flyers. And she's also been able to meet with
19 the staff at the workforce center and they have allowed
20 her to work there every week too, so she's splitting her
21 time between the YMCA and the workforce center, so we
22 think that's really going to help strengthen the
23 relationship between the workforce and the local community
24 agency, so it's all going great.

25 They have some additional trainings coming up.

1 I'm going to train them on navigating employment where
2 we're going to talk about specifically how to meet the
3 needs of homeless job seekers, and then also how to meet
4 the education needs of homeless job seekers.

5 So everything is good to go and I am preparing
6 to start evaluations.

7 MR. DOYLE: Cool. George, is that a good
8 enough understanding that you can make a report if you see
9 them before I do?

10 MR. McENTYRE: Sounds good to me.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Great. We thank you for
12 that.

13 Update on Continuum of Care awards, or lack
14 thereof. Eric.

15 MR. SAMUELS: So that's the thing, there
16 actually has been a lack of them across the state. So I
17 don't know how many of your received this. I have this
18 and then the list of awards by CoC. It's back there on
19 the table if you don't have it.

20 I think overall it's very clear, I made a
21 statement with this last competition that permanent
22 housing is the priority, so that includes transitional
23 housing and permanent supportive housing, and CoCs that
24 don't have permanent housing or don't have enough and
25 aren't using Housing First need to reallocate to implement

1 those programs. If they don't, HUD is going to do it for
2 them, and HUD did it for several CoCs across the nation.
3 Three CoCs in Texas were hit pretty hard with those what I
4 like to call forced reallocations, and those CoCs are
5 dealing with that.

6 But overall, though, there was a \$10 million
7 increase, and I will say \$9 million of that was in
8 Houston, so really the result is most CoCs kept about what
9 they had in annual renewal demand, or actually a little
10 bit more or they received a little bit more. But what
11 we've lost within several of our CoCs, and I guess three
12 in particular, was transitional housing and any supportive
13 service only funding that we had.

14 So Fort Worth lost all their transitional
15 housing. Luckily, they replaced it with permanent housing
16 with a their bonus projects, but they did lose all their
17 transitional housing. Dallas lost nearly \$2 million in
18 renewal funding and a lot of that was transitional
19 housing. As Cindy reported to me, they got their butts
20 handed to them, and she predicted that. And the Balance
21 of State lost four projects. The majority of those were
22 transitional housing, but there was two supportive
23 permanent housing and a supportive service only project
24 that was lost.

25 And it's particularly devastating in the

1 Balance of State CoC because it's not as if -- I mean,
2 it's devastating everywhere, but in Tarrant County when
3 you lose transitional housing funding, you gain permanent
4 housing funding but it's all within the county, it's all
5 right there, and the Balance of State CoC you lose funding
6 and in some communities you lose all the funding. And
7 it's not as if Beaumont is right next to Bastrop so
8 Bastrop can help out Beaumont. We're not in a situation
9 like that. So it's a little different animal when you're
10 talking about the Texas Balance of State CoC. So it's
11 been pretty devastating this year.

12 Our staff is working with the CoC board to
13 reallocate all of the transitional housing that is left in
14 the Balance of State to create permanent housing so HUD
15 doesn't force reallocation again without the CoC's say-so.

16 Some other notes with this. Permanent housing
17 did increase so it's conceivable that despite all of these
18 cuts, homelessness will decrease which is what HUD wants.

19 And there were two HMIS projects that lost funding, and
20 one of them was the Balance of State, the other was in
21 Amarillo. So those two CoCs are trying to regain that
22 funding.

23 So there were losses, specific areas were
24 really hurt, but overall in the state, we actually did
25 better than we did in 2014. So if you look at it like

1 that, it's good.

2 MR. DOYLE: Michael.

3 MR. WILT: I have two questions. Michael Wilt,
4 Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation.

5 The first is did HUD give CoCs fair warning
6 that they were going to make these cuts to transitional
7 housing and encourage you to use Housing First?

8 MR. SAMUELS: So over the years, definitely the
9 priority has been on permanent housing, so any CoC lead
10 agency that says they didn't see this coming somewhat is
11 lying. I mean, you should have seen it coming. So we
12 knew that they were headed in that direction. Each year
13 before this past fiscal year, though, it's been just
14 chipping away a little bit, taking a little bit of
15 permanent housing. This time it's very clear that HUD
16 said, Okay, we're not messing around, all of that
17 transitional housing is going away if you don't score at
18 this really high level. So we have been seeing a trend,
19 we've been warning the communities we work with as the CoC
20 lead about that, but we didn't expect it to be this much
21 this soon.

22 MR. WILT: And then where are these two CoCs
23 going for HMIS?

24 MR. SAMUELS: So I talked to Amarillo
25 yesterday. They are funding HMIS with CDBG and I think

1 ESG dollars. They're trying to be as efficient with those
2 dollars as they can because they know it takes away from
3 the services. THN, as the Balance of State CoC lead, we
4 are asking HUD for an extension on our current HMIS grant
5 so we can continue on through December with that funding,
6 and then we are searching for additional funding. We've
7 identified a way we can continue on until the coming year
8 when we can reallocate to a new HMIS grant, a smaller one
9 but a new HMIS grant.

10 MR. DOYLE: It's still a requirement that you
11 have it.

12 MR. SAMUELS: You have to have HMIS, you have
13 to provide it one way or another.

14 MR. DOYLE: And if you can't replace the
15 funding, what happens?

16 MR. SAMUELS: You can't replace the funding
17 that's lost, it's gone.

18 MR. DOYLE: But I mean if you can't do the HMIS
19 system anymore or coordination, what's HUD going to say
20 with the Balance of State?

21 MR. SAMUELS: Well, we wouldn't be meeting a
22 pretty major requirement, so HMIS would have to be
23 provided from someplace.

24 MR. DOYLE: Or in fact, the participants in the
25 Balance of State could lose all funding.

1 MR. SAMUELS: That's true, that's a
2 possibility. THN will continue to operate HMIS, it's just
3 going to be a little rough going for a few months. In
4 this competition money will be reallocated to start a new
5 HMIS project, though. Again, a small one but a new one.

6 MS. SONENTHAL: Anna Sonenthal with DSHS. So
7 did I miss something? Why did they degrade those HMIS
8 projects?

9 MR. SAMUELS: HUD had a line at which they cut
10 and everything below it lost funding.

11 MS. SONENTHAL: As far as productivity?

12 MR. SAMUELS: No. It was just from what we can
13 tell, and you don't get a lot of detail from the program
14 competition notes, and I will say that we had a one-on-one
15 debriefing with the CPD lead, and it was very clear they
16 had a funding line and everything below the funding line
17 got cut, and it happens that in Amarillo and the Balance
18 of State HMIS was under that funding line.

19 MS. SONENTHAL: One more question. So I know
20 that Texas is interesting. Is there any possibility of
21 partnering or combining areas for HMIS, sharing data and
22 having kind of a bigger project?

23 MR. SAMUELS: Well, sharing data, I think
24 that's a whole other thing there, but the partnering,
25 that's a possibility. We have talked to other CoCs about

1 that; if we need to go that direction we'll talk more.
2 Right now it's not something that were planning to do as
3 the CoC lead for the Balance of State. That's a
4 possibility, and CoCs sharing data, that's something we've
5 talked about in the past.

6 MS. SONENTHAL: For this last like ten years or
7 something.

8 MR. SAMUELS: It would be great to resume that
9 again, but we're not there right now.

10 MR. DOYLE: This is Mike Doyle. In the context
11 of this council and our strategic plan, if you will, or
12 our state plan which was coordinating activities between
13 state agencies and local CoCs, if that's something that's
14 going to really be a hindrance to bringing money into
15 Texas for use with the homeless, maybe we should look at
16 some creative ways that the council can advocate in some
17 way, form or fashion, whether it be from TDHCA, whether it
18 be from the Governor's Office, and we can't lose this
19 funding, we need some project money to do that with.

20 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, obviously I would
21 advocate for that. We'll try to get funding from wherever
22 we can to support HMIS and if there's a possibility of
23 sharing data between CoCs to accomplish the goal, I'll
24 tell you right now, we would love to help support that.

25 MR. DOYLE: As far as the Balance of State

1 goes, it sounds like Amarillo is going to get it taken
2 care of, but as far as the Balance of State goes, can you
3 give me, email me something that says how much money the
4 HMIS lost, what happens if you don't replace it, as kind
5 of a statement of fact of what we need.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Sure. And how much we need to
7 move forward. I've got those numbers.

8 MR. DOYLE: If you'll send that to me.

9 MR. SAMUELS: I've been putting those out quite
10 a bit lately.

11 MR. DOYLE: Good.

12 MR. WILT: Another question. Michael Wilt
13 again. If you absorbed Amarillo into the Balance of
14 State, would you be above that cutoff line?

15 MR. SAMUELS: Above the cutoff line for?

16 MR. WILT: The HUD cutoff line you mentioned.

17 MR. SAMUELS: In the last competition, we would
18 not have, no.

19 MR. DOYLE: Now, you're not talking about
20 ranking. In Tarrant County we rank those projects, and
21 then the ones that we don't rank high enough fall into
22 tier two.

23 MR. SAMUELS: It's based on ranking but how far
24 the funding extends within the ranking. So we had in the
25 Texas Balance of State there were 42 projects. We had

1 estimated that about 36 would get funded. HUD's formulas
2 moved the line up to about 21, and then everything below
3 that got cut.

4 MR. DOYLE: So had you put HMIS number one,
5 would it have been funded?

6 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, yeah, it would have been
7 funded. It's number one in this year's competition.

8 (General laughter.)

9 MR. DOYLE: There's nothing that would preclude
10 you from putting it up there other than you might look bad
11 if you ranked yourself number one all the time, but you
12 can't do the rest of them without number one.

13 MR. SAMUELS: Right. And I think that's going
14 to be the policy from now on out. And I don't know about
15 looking bad, I think a lot of CoCs do that.

16 MR. DOYLE: What did Amarillo do, do you know?

17 MR. SAMUELS: They thought they were in the
18 tier one. They're the same as the Balance of State, the
19 tier one line moved up higher than what was estimated.

20 MR. DOYLE: Sounds like to me that all HMIS
21 funding is going to be way up there, should be number one
22 from now on.

23 MR. SAMUELS: There were several CoCs from
24 across the nation that lost HMIS funding for the same
25 reason, but I think probably most of those are going to be

1 carried as number one moving forward.

2 MR. WILT: Thank you.

3 MR. DOYLE: Any other questions for Eric?

4 MS. TREJO: I have some.

5 MR. DOYLE: Naomi.

6 MS. TREJO: Naomi Trejo with TDHCA.

7 So can you clarify for Dallas, they lost \$2
8 million in transitional housing but their overall award
9 went up.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Their overall award went up.
11 They lost \$2 million in renewal, but a lot of that was
12 transitional housing. I tried to go through the list
13 yesterday and identify. It's hard looking at the award
14 list what is transitional and what's what.

15 MS. TREJO: And do you have the amount for the
16 HMIS that you're looking for?

17 MR. SAMUELS: So the Balance of State lost
18 \$540,022 -- I know it down to the dollar -- and what we
19 are approaching funders with, the number we are
20 approaching funders with is \$300,000. That's bare
21 minimum, that's bare staff, that's fairly simplified.

22 MR. DOYLE: But what do you need?

23 MR. SAMUELS: We really need what I've
24 estimated is \$415,000. But I'll send you all of those
25 numbers.

1 MR. DOYLE: I would encourage you to ask for
2 what you need.

3 MR. SAMUELS: Well, the number that I talked
4 about, \$300,000, is what we're asking for reallocated
5 funds.

6 MR. DOYLE: From HUD.

7 MR. SAMUELS: From HUD but also from other CoC
8 programs. So we're trying to limit that amount because
9 that takes away from housing which, of course, we don't
10 want to do if we don't have to.

11 MR. DeYOUNG: Michael DeYoung, TDHCA. What was
12 Amarillo's figure, do you know?

13 MR. SAMUELS: I don't know. I want to say it's
14 probably \$40-, \$50,000. I'm guessing on that, though; I
15 could check for sure.

16 MS. TREJO: This is Naomi Trejo again. Can you
17 talk a little bit about Houston and Montgomery and the,
18 pilot program. and they're actually expanding their CoC.
19 Right?

20 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. Well, first of all, Houston
21 did very well, I think I can say that again. We're very
22 proud of them. I started working with a lot of other CoCs
23 around the state that are in larger metropolitan areas to
24 consider taking on their donut counties, and Houston is
25 one of them.

1 MS. TREJO: Can you explain the donut counties?

2 MR. SAMUELS: I'm sorry. It's actually Harris
3 and Fort Bend counties, they make one Continuum of Care.
4 There are several counties that surround them that they
5 already work with, there are people that are experiencing
6 homelessness in those counties that they work with as a
7 Continuum of Care. So my argument is that CoC needs to
8 consider taking on that county as part of their geographic
9 area. The Way Home, which is the CoC in Houston, has
10 agreed to take on Montgomery County which is where Conroe
11 and The Woodlands is located. And so they had actually
12 merged, and so now they're a three-county CoC.

13 In my opinion, that helps the services, makes
14 it more efficient at that level CoC level, and it lessens
15 the burden on the Balance of State Continuum of Care
16 because we're a little less spread out in terms of the
17 area that we cover.

18 MS. TREJO: Would something like that work in
19 Amarillo?

20 MR. SAMUELS: Something like that would, yes.
21 And Amarillo I've approached several times about just
22 taking the entire Panhandle, but they are led by a city,
23 the city leads their CoC, so they have to stay within the
24 city limits. They don't even have the counties.

25 MR. DOYLE: And that's cities in two counties,

1 isn't it?

2 MR. SAMUELS: It is, but the Balance of State
3 takes the remainder of Potter and Randall County funding.

4 MS. TREJO: This is Naomi Trejo again. I had
5 one question about the upcoming because the CoC
6 competition is currently out.

7 MR. SAMUELS: It is.

8 MS. TREJO: So there was a notice from HUD
9 about youth and having youth programs in the Continuum of
10 Care competition for this year. Can you say anything
11 about that?

12 MR. SAMUELS: So programs that serve youth, and
13 that includes transitional housing, are highly
14 prioritized. That's the same for domestic violence. But
15 yes, there's been a push to reduce and eliminate youth
16 homelessness, of course, and these programs build in
17 platforms to do that.

18 MR. DOYLE: This is Mike Doyle again. So do
19 you see local CoCs now outreaching new organizations?
20 Because typically youth organizations have not been in the
21 CoCs.

22 MR. SAMUELS: I can't speak for all of the
23 CoCs. I know that there are a lot of new agencies -- new
24 Continuum of Care program funded agencies in CoCs. I know
25 Dallas has some agencies that now receive CoC funding that

1 did not in the past. I'm not entirely sure about the
2 youth. I know with the Balance of State CoC there was a
3 lot -- not a lot -- three were three or four new youth
4 projects that were funded through CoC program funding over
5 the years. Unfortunately, some of that got cut this last
6 competition.

7 MR. DOYLE: Some of the youth programs did?

8 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. It is highly prioritized
9 but if it doesn't go above that scoring line, it doesn't
10 matter.

11 MR. DOYLE: So that's up to the local Continuum
12 of Care review system to place it high enough that it
13 would get funded.

14 MR. SAMUELS: It is.

15 MR. DOYLE: Knowing HUD, what they've done with
16 transitional housing and the way they started putting it
17 in some arbitrary number of at least 50 percent of the
18 housing has to be permanent housing, then it went down to
19 15 percent is a fair number, and then zero, I'm just a
20 little bit afraid they're going to be doing the same thing
21 with youth, that if it's not there, you're not going to
22 get it. But that's a different provider than who's
23 providing housing now.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Traditionally it is, yes.

25 MS. SONENTHAL: I have another question about

1 Houston. This is Anna Sonenthal, DSHS. I don't know if
2 you would even know the answer to this, this is just out
3 of my curiosity. So they're absorbing Montgomery and
4 that's going to be a part of their CoC now. What's going
5 to happen with their housing authorities. Are their
6 housing authorities going to do the same thing as
7 Houston's housing authorities?

8 MR. SAMUELS: The housing authorities should
9 work in the same geographic area.

10 MS. SONENTHAL: Will they absorb vouchers from
11 those places like the Houston housing authorities?

12 MR. SAMUELS: I don't think so. I would need
13 to talk to them, but I don't think so.

14 MS. SONENTHAL: I can talk to them. It will be
15 really interesting to see how that looks because I've just
16 heard that there's been not issues but communication may
17 be problems with the housing authorities.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Maybe we should talk more
19 afterwards. But I don't think Houston would absorb those.

20 MR. DOYLE: Any more questions for Eric?

21 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. This is Darilyn from
22 Integral Care.

23 Eric, I have a question about do you have a
24 sense on how many people were affected by the non-renewal
25 of transitional housing throughout the Balance of State?

1 And following that question, how are the communities
2 responding to meeting the need for those people that
3 potentially will be displaced?

4 MR. SAMUELS: On the way up here I was thinking
5 I need those numbers. I don't have the numbers right now,
6 I'm sorry, Darilyn, but I can send those to you. I know
7 that hundreds of beds were lost, so that can probably tell
8 you about the numbers of people.

9 I will say, though, within the Balance of State
10 CoC and the communities that had transitional housing that
11 was lost, at least half of those, we think maybe a little
12 bit more than half of those are going to continue their
13 program. For example, Abilene, Abilene Hope Haven there
14 that has transitional housing, and they are going to
15 continue programming there and continue to operate the
16 transitional housing with just local funds, CDBG funds,
17 and just the local community support.

18 We only know of two programs that have
19 completely shut their doors, the others we hope will
20 continue services.

21 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Well, it's good to know
22 that at least there's the drive from the community to
23 develop the funding to be able to support the programs.

24 Have you seen at move towards adopting the
25 Housing First principles in those communities as to where

1 the funding is going?

2 MR. SAMUELS: Yes, there's definitely a move
3 towards that, especially this competition because it's
4 required, within the Balance of State CoC it is. It's
5 very clear that HUD is making that a priority so I think
6 most CoCs, and that includes the Balance of State CoC, are
7 responding that. So yes, there's a move in that
8 direction.

9 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Thank you.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions for
11 Eric?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. DOYLE: All right. We're on item number
14 VIII because we moved IV and V down, so item VIII,
15 Committees. We are void of a chair in the Homelessness
16 Prevention, so I'm assuming there's not a report.

17 Housing and Supportive Services, David Long.
18 Mike, are you going to do that?

19 MR. WILT: Yes. We don't have much to report.
20 I've been helping out with the veterans report product
21 that Naomi has been working on, and David and I are going
22 to NAEH in D.C. next week, so we'll be at that convention.

23 MS. TREJO: And just for the record -- this is
24 Naomi Trejo -- NAEH is National Alliance for Ending
25 Homelessness.

1 MR. DOYLE: And then Data and Research. Eric.

2 MR. SAMUELS: So we didn't have a meeting but I
3 did provide some statistics here. Each year we put
4 together the CoC for the point-in-time count and the sub-
5 population table. In addition to that, we'll be putting
6 together a few more reports that we'll use at NAEH for
7 education purposes. But I highlighted the things that are
8 important, a few of the things that are important, but the
9 overall number 23,000 people are experiencing
10 homelessness. And then you go to the second page and you
11 see the number of chronically homeless individuals.

12 MR. DOYLE: Now, tell me where this data came
13 from.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, I'm sorry. This came from
15 each of the eleven Texas Continuum of Cares in their
16 point-in-time count reports.

17 So the number, did it go down from last year,
18 the overall number? Not much but it did go down. And the
19 chronically homeless number, I think went down, but I'll
20 have to check that for sure. But you can see the very
21 back page, we like to see that direction, so hopefully
22 that will continue.

23 MS. TRACZ: Eric, could you send me a copy of
24 this?

25 MR. SAMUELS: I will. I'm sorry, Darilyn and

1 whoever else is on the phone. I'll send that. And I'll
2 have more later but this is what I was able to put
3 together yesterday afternoon.

4 MR. DOYLE: And this is a good number to look
5 at, but I think that it should be noted that with the move
6 away from transitional housing, transitional housing
7 recipients were still homeless.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

9 MR. DOYLE: So when you change transitional
10 housing to permanent housing, you now make them not
11 homeless, and so every transitional housing voucher that
12 went away was recounted. So I guess this number, is that
13 a real number? I mean, how do you feel about reporting to
14 the governor that homelessness is down when we know all
15 they did to get it down was change the definition?

16 MR. SAMUELS: The definition was changed prior
17 to this, of course, a couple of years ago, but this was
18 before the big change in grants, grant funding. It will
19 be interesting to see what happens next January, see if
20 that number changes. Say, for example, if you had 3,000
21 vets that are in transitional housing, all of those are
22 reallocated to be permanent housing and they're all
23 individuals, then this number will conceivably go down by
24 3,000. And that's what HUD wants. We'll see if that
25 happens.

1 MS. TREJO: And this is Naomi Trejo again.

2 In reality, or maybe my thoughts on
3 transitional housing is they'll actually be counted as
4 emergency shelter instead of permanent housing because a
5 lot of them are acting as emergency shelter so they would
6 still be a part of this anyway.

7 MR. SAMUELS: So emergency shelter and
8 transitional housing, they are considered homeless, so
9 they are within this 23,000 number.

10 MS. TREJO: But I'm saying that transitional
11 housing that -- the change in definition for transitional
12 housing, it doesn't always go to permanent housing, some
13 of the transitional housing projects are going to go to
14 emergency shelters, they're going to go the other way.
15 Right?

16 MR. SAMUELS: Well, yes, they could. You're
17 saying how they will operate after losing funding.

18 MS. TREJO: Right.

19 MR. SAMUELS: That's right.

20 MR. DOYLE: If the person who would have
21 typically been in transitional housing has to go to
22 emergency shelter, you're right, but if they don't, they
23 don't.

24 MS. TREJO: Right. But then they will
25 technically be in a permanent home. Right?

1 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Another thing is to see if this
3 number goes down. I mean, if we have more permanent
4 housing, it should go down, that's what we're hoping.
5 We're heading in the right direction. That's, I think,
6 the important thing to show.

7 MR. DOYLE: But at the same time.

8 MR. SAMUELS: At the same time we have a big
9 challenge ahead of us in a lot of our communities.

10 MR. DOYLE: As this number continues to go
11 down, the perceived need for funding goes down.

12 MR. SAMUELS: I think that's true, but when you
13 look at this number, it's still huge.

14 MR. DOYLE: It's still huge, no question.

15 MR. SAMUELS: And when HUD looks at this
16 number, they see Texas as a huge priority. I've been told
17 that. So we're still seen in this state as having a huge
18 need, so we've got a while before we start getting to a
19 level where people are saying, well, there's no problem
20 there.

21 MS. TREJO: This is Naomi Trejo again.

22 Point-in-time counts is just one measure that
23 HUD uses, and you can see for Houston's success their
24 number has been going down and they got a huge increase in
25 their CoC funding, so there could be differences.

1 MR. SAMUELS: There's a lot of measures HUD
2 uses. I think speaking even beyond HUD, we're looking at
3 community leaders and whether or not they identify this as
4 a big need. I think it's easy to make the case that
5 there's still a big need, 23,000, and within communities
6 the number per capita is really large still.

7 MR. DOYLE: So as a council would we feel
8 comfortable all reporting to whoever we report to that the
9 number of homeless in Texas was 23,078?

10 MR. SAMUELS: This is what was reported to HUD,
11 so I think we should be comfortable doing that. I will
12 have one small disclaimer with this: HUD always looks at
13 this data after it's been turned in and almost always they
14 massage it a little bit. So this number could go down to
15 22-, it could go up to 24-.

16 MR. DOYLE: So every agency you represent on
17 the council, whether as a member or as a guest, advisory
18 member, if you are asked, the number is somewhere around
19 23,000 homeless people in Texas. If we are together on
20 that, then somebody is not saying 150,000 and somebody not
21 saying 1,000, it's 23,000, roughly.

22 MR. SAMUELS: I think it's important we have a
23 consistent number.

24 MR. DOYLE: I do too.

25 MR. SAMUELS: This is what I'm taking to D.C.

1 in a couple of weeks.

2 MR. DOYLE: I heard in D.C. that we had 150,000
3 homeless people in Texas. And I said, What? So if we're
4 the Interagency Council for the Homeless, we need to know
5 the number, and so all of us in this room and the people
6 that you influence, there's about 23,000 homeless people
7 in Texas. Which how much population do we have? So about
8 1 percent.

9 MR. SAMUELS: I looked it up, I think it's
10 about .65 percent or something like that.

11 MS. KRAVITZ: And just speaking to that, being
12 with TEA and the school definition, I operate within a
13 community that has a definition, 112,000 is what I tell
14 people in training. I know when I'm speaking about
15 homelessness, my numbers are different.

16 MR. DOYLE: And so when you hear that number as
17 compared to this number, is this adults?

18 MR. SAMUELS: This includes children but it
19 doesn't include all the children that are included in the
20 school definition of homelessness.

21 MR. DOYLE: But didn't HELP get those closer?

22 MR. SAMUELS: They're a little closer but still
23 within the school definition you have folks that are
24 doubled up, that includes a lot, that's a big category.

25 MR. DOYLE: And Kelly, you said how many per

1 TEA?

2 MS. KRAVITZ: 112,000.

3 MR. DOYLE: So we can say of the 23,000 that we
4 counted -- but you're just talking children, you're not
5 talking the parents.

6 MS. KRAVITZ: Right.

7 MR. DOYLE: There could be as many as 115,000
8 children that are not in this number, but an additional
9 115,000 children that are counted differently by the
10 school system.

11 MS. KRAVITZ: Yes.

12 MR. DOYLE: So as long as we get those numbers
13 in the ballpark, all of us, 23,000 the way HUD counts the
14 homeless, 116 --

15 MS. KRAVITZ: 112,000.

16 MR. DOYLE: -- 112,000 children the way TEA
17 counts them.

18 MS. KRAVITZ: The Department of Ed.

19 MR. McENTYRE: This is George McEntyre. Can
20 you send out an email with the exact definition? And that
21 way when you say how many homeless, 23-, well, does that
22 include what about this, what about that, it's easiest to
23 say, well, of this demographic such-and-such, the official
24 number is 23,000, and just leave it at that. Because
25 you're going to get a lot of ifs, ands and buts and what

1 about this and what about that. If we just give the
2 definition and say the official number according to this
3 demographic is 23,000, that would probably be the easiest
4 way and just cut it off.

5 MR. SAMUELS: I'll add that to the statistics
6 that I send out. I'll send it to Cate, all of that
7 information.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you, Eric.
9 State Infrastructure. Anna.

10 MS. SONENTHAL: I don't have an updates except
11 that I got a new job so I will be transitioning from being
12 a council member. I'm still with Department of State
13 Health Services in the Quality Management Department, so
14 I'm going to talk to my new boss about what he wants me to
15 keep versus leave, but I'll probably still be coming to
16 meetings, just maybe not as a council member. And I've
17 spoken with Cate many times, so we're looking for someone
18 to take this chair.

19 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

20 Let me move us into number IX, and this is
21 where I want to spend a little bit of time, not much but a
22 little bit of time. These are not standing committees,
23 these are committees that we put in place several years
24 ago to do the plan, to write the plan for ending
25 homelessness in Texas. So is there a need for these

1 committees anymore? That's a question to all of you:
2 what do you think? We have a hard time meeting at the
3 committees. We certainly are interested in each one of
4 these things, but do we need to report out on them every
5 single quarter.

6 Did you raise your hand, Anna?

7 MS. SONENTHAL: Yes. I was thinking, so you
8 said that the committees were put in place to write the
9 plan. I have a couple of thoughts that are more kind of
10 like long term nebulous but haven't happened yet. We're
11 going through the transformation right now of becoming
12 HHSC and so who knows what that will mean for membership
13 for the TICH. But just thinking about things like the
14 CABHI grant or if that's a possibility maybe not this year
15 but the year after, we would need the TICH to be involved
16 to help write the plan. So I think the committees are
17 good but maybe more directional or like purposeful. I
18 don't know if it needs to happen every quarter.

19 MR. SAMUELS: It just depends on the plan, you
20 know. I mean, right now we're meeting basically to update
21 the plan and that's basically it. The plan doesn't have
22 benchmarks per se in it. It does have kind of ambiguous
23 benchmarks, but it doesn't have things that say, you know,
24 from the data coming in it needs to accomplish this by
25 this date and this by this date, so we don't have

1 something to work on as a committee. I guess what I'm
2 looking at is quantitative measures, it doesn't have that.

3 If we had that in place but I think the committees maybe
4 would have more of a purpose. But like you said, it's
5 difficult to meet, and that's part of the problem too. I
6 guess the committees could drive that purpose as well.

7 MR. DOYLE: Naomi, what do we need to write the
8 report at the end of the year to the member agencies?

9 MS. TREJO: I'm not sure you're looking at the
10 right person here.

11 MS. TRACZ: So it's basically more of an update
12 on how we're meeting the statute, how we meet the nine
13 charges in the statute, which I've got here as a handout,
14 and typically the committees will divvy it up this
15 committee gets three charges to update how your activities
16 updated it. It's worked pretty well but we could start
17 revisit and revise the way we do that.

18 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, TSAHC, Texas State
19 Affordable Housing Corporation.

20 So it may make sense to have a committee that
21 just deals with the annual report and updates that on an
22 annual basis, and then like Anna was saying, if there is a
23 need for ad hoc committees, like the CABHI grant or ones
24 that are directed by the legislature, youth homelessness,
25 veterans homelessness, to have those ad hoc committees

1 that are contingent upon policy directives that are coming
2 down, or policy initiatives that the council need to
3 address.

4 DR. SCHOLL: Mr. Chairman, this is Dennis
5 Scholl, private citizen. I'll make a quick comment.

6 It occurs to me the concern about the
7 committees, a lot of it has to do with the inability to
8 meet efficiently, and if really the focus was on a product
9 and progress towards goals and a product, that a lot of
10 that can be done more in electronic and virtual fashion
11 and maybe your executive committee could discuss how you
12 do that without having to have a whole fandango meeting,
13 so to speak. Just a suggestion.

14 MR. DOYLE: Good point, Dennis. Good
15 suggestion. Thank you.

16 I just want this to be effective and not be a
17 burden and yet get something out of it that we can use for
18 the report that we produce particularly, and for any kind
19 of information that anybody were to ask us how are we
20 doing, those kind of things. So I'm not saying we need to
21 do away with them, I'm not saying we need to keep them,
22 I'm just saying we need to think about what do we want out
23 of them.

24 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, obviously I would love
25 for us to have some more substance to the plan, and I

1 think having committees, if we had that, they would be
2 more effective, we could do more work. I think it would
3 provide more purpose for me in getting together data and
4 research if I knew we need me because we need to meet this
5 goal by this date, but I don't have that pushing me right
6 now.

7 MR. DOYLE: But Cate, you're saying really the
8 report that we generate to the member agencies is about
9 the nine charges within the legislation.

10 MS. TRACZ: Right. It's in how we've been
11 meeting those requirements.

12 MR. DOYLE: So really, that's not what --

13 MR. SAMUELS: That's not what I'm talking
14 about.

15 MR. DOYLE: No. You're talking about something
16 that relates to the plan itself.

17 MR. SAMUELS: Right. Basically if this body
18 adopted a plan to end homelessness and here are the things
19 that we identify that we need to do to end homelessness,
20 and the committees will work on those things and they will
21 accomplish X number of those things by this date, X number
22 in five years, that kind of thing.

23 These statutory requirements, you could
24 interpret them -- right now the way they're interpreted is
25 pretty basic, but I mean, there's a lot that you could

1 build in underneath each one. Right now it's not like
2 that, and I think that's probably on purpose and that's
3 probably appropriate right now. But yes, I would love for
4 the plan to be more of a plan on ending homelessness.

5 MR. DOYLE: Well, all of you think about that
6 between now and the next meeting and get your comments and
7 thoughts to me, Mike Doyle, or to Cate, and we'll do some
8 brainstorming around how to best move that structure into
9 something that's proactive.

10 MR. SAMUELS: I'm sorry. This is Eric Samuels,
11 Texas Homeless Network. I don't think I've introduced
12 myself once.

13 Have you seen other states that use their ICH
14 in a different way, I should say.

15 MR. DOYLE: Yes, because the other states had a
16 true ten-year plan. If you remember back at the very
17 beginning -- this is a long time ago -- our former
18 governor didn't want anything but a one-year plan, and we
19 flew past that. And this is just a plan/direction how
20 state agencies can work with local continuum, but there's
21 no measurements, as you said, in it. And Governor Abbott
22 has not even seen it that I know about, and so we're
23 trying to fix that. So it would be, I think, within our
24 purview to be able to say here's what we'd like to see,
25 and then if we can get the governor to sign off on that,

1 we would have a charge.

2 MR. SAMUELS: I would like for that to happen.

3 I'll try to do a little research about other
4 states. I know in Missouri the ICH does quite a bit, so
5 I'll check on other states.

6 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Well, get those comments and
7 suggestions to Cate or to me and we'll put that on our
8 next meeting agenda.

9 Suzanne, you're going to give us an update on
10 state homeless services.

11 MS. HEMPHILL: Yes. A Fair Housing update.
12 I'm Suzanne Hemphill, Fair Housing project manager at
13 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Feel
14 free to chime in if you have any questions.

15 Thanks for inviting me this morning. I wanted
16 to give you an update on some of the department's fair
17 housing work, address HUD's new Affirmatively Furthering
18 Fair Housing rule, and give you a brief overview of the
19 proposed draft rule changes related to fair housing and
20 TDHCA's homelessness programs. Those are going to be
21 going to the Board at the end of August.

22 TDHCA provides its board with reports on fair
23 housing action steps the department is currently planning,
24 implementing or have completed to reduce barriers to fair
25 housing choice. A report was provided at the March 31

1 board meeting and a periodic update is going to the July
2 28 board meeting. So fair housing work touches nearly
3 every division at the department. In March our 38-page
4 report detailed all of the work that we've done. That's
5 available publicly on our website under Board Meeting
6 Information, and today I just wanted to give you a few
7 examples of that work.

8 The first example relates to the Emergency
9 Solutions Grant with Naomi Trejo. So it's a HUD funded
10 program that provides funding for homelessness prevention.

11 The Fair Housing team has worked really closely with
12 Naomi. We conducted a webinar for ESG recipients on the
13 intersection of fair housing and how clients are able to
14 access services, so coordinated access. The training
15 included information on how to screen for clients, direct
16 them into different services and how to apply criteria
17 evenly cross protected classes, as well as checking in on
18 Subrecipients making referrals to all eligible resources
19 to promote choice.

20 So ESG and Fair Housing staff also provided
21 additional guidance related to serving persons with
22 limited English proficiency. So that comes with different
23 HUD regulatory provisions for ESG funds, and in 2016,
24 TDHCA is requiring a language access plan with the ESG
25 application. So along with that, we've translated a

1 number of forms that tenants will use, so the intake
2 application, income screening tool, request for unit
3 approval, those have been translated into Spanish, and for
4 the department, Spanish is a mandatory language to
5 translate documents into based on local need and
6 beneficiary involvement.

7 April was Fair Housing Month, and as part of
8 that celebration we conducted three webinars in
9 collaboration with Texas Workforce Commission, so those
10 webinars touched on an intro to fair housing, reasonable
11 accommodations and accessibility, and then best practices
12 for multifamily developments in tenant selection. The
13 good news is those webinars are now available for free,
14 24-7 on our website. We also have a transcript for
15 persons with disabilities or even if you just want to
16 print it out and see what we're talking about, and the
17 slides are also available.

18 Last summer in August, HUD released a new
19 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, so that
20 governs what block grant recipients of HUD funds and
21 public housing authorities must do to affirmatively
22 further fair housing. The rule requires meaningful
23 actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that
24 overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive
25 communities free from barriers that restrict access to

1 opportunity based on protected classes. So meaningful
2 actions, as defined by HUD, are those that are designed
3 and can be reasonably expected to achieve a material
4 positive change that affirmatively furthers fair housing
5 by, for example, increasing fair housing choice or
6 decreasing disparities in access opportunity.

7 So this rule replaces the analysis of
8 impediments and it replaces it with an assessment of fair
9 housing tool. So the AFH that uses HUD generated data, as
10 well as local sources, to complete an analysis, including
11 local and state policies. And it also includes a very
12 robust community participation process to identify four
13 main areas, so it covers racial and ethnically
14 concentrated areas of poverty, patterns of integration and
15 segregation, disparities in access to opportunity, and
16 disproportionate housing needs.

17 So all that information is going to go into an
18 assessment of fair housing, and that will be linked
19 directly with the consolidated plan. It is anticipated --
20 this could change pending release of a final state tool --
21 but it's anticipated that Texas will complete this and
22 submit it to HUD in May 2019. There's a bunch of
23 information online at HUDuser; if you want to learn more,
24 I can send you a link.

25 So the last piece of information that I wanted

1 to share is a preview on the proposed draft rule changes
2 related to fair housing and TDHCA's homelessness rules.
3 So we're anticipating releasing a staff draft at the end
4 of July and having a short period for informal comments.
5 Then TDHCA intends to take a draft of the proposed rules
6 to the August 25, 2016 meeting. Under the proposed draft,
7 homelessness programs will be in their own chapter, so
8 they're be separate. Hopefully that's a little bit
9 easier.

10 There are several fair housing specifically
11 related elements for the Emergency Solutions Grant and
12 Homeless Housing Services Program, HHSP, so the proposed
13 rule changes relate to affirmative marketing requirements
14 and tenant selection criteria. For the most part, the
15 rule clarifies the current requirements, they're not new.

16 There is specific language on reasonable accommodations
17 and how a person with a disability may request one. For
18 ESG only there will be notifications required for VAWA,
19 the Violence Against Women Act of 2013, so notifications
20 for denial, non-renewal or termination of assistance.
21 Written documentation will be required for affirmative
22 fair housing marketing plans, including outreach efforts
23 to folks that are least likely to apply or know about
24 services and housing.

25 After the August board meeting, draft rules

1 will be posted in the *Texas Register*, and a public comment
2 period will be open from September 9 to October 10. We'd
3 encourage you to take a look at the rules and provide
4 comment or reach out to staff with any questions you may
5 have.

6 So that's all the fair housing news I wanted to
7 share. Please feel free to ask me any questions.

8 MS. POHLMAN: Joyce Pohlman, HHSC.

9 I have a question about the limited English
10 proficiency. Many of the individuals that we work with
11 with limited English proficiency also relates to reading
12 comprehension, and I'm wondering if you've done any work
13 in ensuring that the language of brochures and information
14 is at a 6th grade level or approximately that level.

15 MS. HEMPHILL: That's a really good point.

16 MS. POHLMAN: It's not just translation, it's
17 basic -- these programs are complicated even for me.

18 MS. HEMPHILL: What we've focused on so far is
19 marketing, so making sure folks know a program exists so
20 that wouldn't be a barrier to entry. And then a lot of
21 the forms are also like intake things so it might be more
22 simple like asking for your name and address and
23 eligibility information. Some of the more complicated
24 programs or guidance, that's definitely something for us
25 to think about, but right now we're looking at things that

1 beneficiaries might interface with.

2 Megan, I don't know if you have any other
3 thoughts on that.

4 MS. SYLVESTER: Well, there's some forms that
5 HUD has also made available with their program, so when we
6 say materials, we're just translating things that
7 beneficiaries would come into contact with and for TDHCA
8 that's not a whole bunch because we don't administer
9 programs directly. It's only when we told our
10 subrecipients that they have to use specific intake forms
11 or that sort of thing, with the exception of our Section 8
12 Program.

13 But I think your point is a really good one.
14 Our marketing director has some things that we have
15 translated and I know for the Section 8 Program tried to
16 do exactly what you've said to market it to more of a
17 sixth grade reading level.

18 MS. POHLMAN: And maybe among the subrecipients
19 as well we could encourage that. So thank you.

20 MR. DOYLE: Good point.

21 Any other questions for Suzanne?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Suzanne. Very difficult
24 subject.

25 We're on (b), call for state agencies and

1 advisory members to provide updates on homeless prevention
2 activities.

3 MS. TRACZ: If anyone else from another agency
4 wanted to bring to the next meeting an update.

5 MR. DOYLE: If in fact you've got any kind of
6 update, advice, opinions, plans or prevention activities,
7 bring to the next meeting or get them to Cate so we can
8 distribute them at the next meeting because it's going to
9 be on the agenda to talk about prevention.

10 Okay. Naomi, back to you, House Bill 679,
11 Youth Homelessness.

12 MS. TREJO: Yes. So let's all take a deep
13 breath and shift perspectives here.

14 My name is Naomi Trejo with TDHCA. I'm going
15 to give a brief update on one of the legislatively
16 required studies on youth homelessness, and then I'm going
17 to go more in depth on the second legislatively required
18 studies on homelessness.

19 So the first one is about youth homelessness,
20 that's House Bill 679. We did this in three phases, and
21 we're in the third phase which is one reason why I'm
22 updating because we we're in the data crunching phase and
23 we're till crunching the data so we don't have as much to
24 report as in the other stages at this time.

25 So phase two is still wrapping up. That was

1 the actual youth count, and we have a process study that
2 was talked about last meeting. The process study is being
3 finalized and it's going to be posted on our website and I
4 believe I can get a link to Cate for that. It probably
5 will be posted on the TICH website, actually, the process
6 study on how the youth count went, and then that be there
7 for everyone to look at.

8 MR. DOYLE: So your youth count is based on
9 HUD's definition.

10 MS. TREJO: It's the bill's definition.

11 MR. DOYLE: The bill's definition.

12 MS. TREJO: That's right. House Bill 679 has
13 its own definition.

14 MR. DOYLE: Different than Education and HUD?

15 MS. TREJO: That's correct.

16 (General laughter.)

17 MS. TREJO: So in phase three, TDHCA has
18 contracted with the University of Houston for data
19 analysis of the youth count data, the data that was
20 collected during the point-in-time counts and with
21 separate youth counts, and so that is the data analysis
22 that's currently underway.

23 The University of Houston, I believe, is going
24 to be hosting either a roundtable or a presentation at the
25 Texas Network of Youth Services Conference in August, and

1 the Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness in September.

2 So they're doing outreach efforts on the data analysis
3 and the plan that goes with phase three.

4 There will be an update at the next TICH
5 meeting on some of the data. I can't say the data
6 analysis will be completed but some of the progress. And
7 then in November when we have our meeting, the specially
8 called TICH meeting, November 17, there will be more
9 information about that final report on the youth study.

10 Any questions about the youth study?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay, good.

13 MS. TREJO: All right. So now it's down to the
14 meat, the nitty-gritty. We've had some good discussions
15 about this so far and also today just in general, so going
16 down to Senate Bill 1580.

17 So as a reminder to everyone, this was the
18 process that we used for Senate Bill 1580 which requires a
19 study about homelessness among veterans. We got input
20 from two roundtables and an online forum, and then we
21 grouped the input into common recommendations, and now
22 we're vetting those recommendations for consideration,
23 such as input about consequences of the recommendations,
24 information about existing programs and initiatives and
25 questions about the recommendations. So that's what we're

1 doing here, this is the vetting process.

2 These that you have in front of you, the
3 concept of identification, increased sharing of
4 identification, increased sharing information and
5 increased coordination, and concept of more housing
6 resource and increased use of existing housing resources,
7 these are two of the meatiest sections of recommendations
8 that came from public input. So these were sent to you
9 last Tuesday, I hope you've had a chance to review them,
10 and we'll talk about sections of these now.

11 Before they got to you, they were vetted by
12 TDHCA senior staff and also the TICH Veterans workgroup
13 and so that's how there's already considerations about
14 consequences and information and questions already
15 considered for each of these recommendations. This is the
16 second set of recommendations that we looked at. In April
17 we looked at a set. This is probably going to be the
18 biggest set, and then in September at the TICH meeting
19 we're going to be looking at the mental and physical
20 health recommendations, the Workforce Commission
21 recommendations -- George stepped out so I can't look at
22 that, but he has that -- and then miscellaneous
23 recommendations and that's things that don't fit easily
24 into any overall concept, they're kind of miscellaneous.
25 Then we're going to talk about the final draft on November

1 17. It was originally November 15 and it got changed to
2 November 17 for a specially called meeting to talk about
3 this study, and also the previous study.

4 If you have any comments on these
5 recommendations that we don't talk about here, feel free
6 to contact me, or if you want to review the initial draft
7 document, you can contact me and join the TICH Veterans
8 workgroup, as well. So there's other ways to give input
9 offline than this meeting.

10 All right. So let's put on our brainstorming
11 caps, let's think about this, let's consider consequences.

12 We're going to start with housing resources. And for
13 your reference, you should all at least have it in front
14 of you, right, everyone has them? They are on the table
15 if you don't have a copy.

16 George, you're back. I made a comment that at
17 the next TICH meeting in September we'll be talking about
18 the Texas Workforce Commission considerations of those
19 recommendations. Right?

20 MR. McENTYRE: Hopefully.

21

22 MS. TREJO: Hopefully.

23 All right. So we had a great discussion last
24 time and in order to be considerate of the TICH time,
25 we're going to point out where open for discussion certain

1 items on the recommendations to discuss. Not all the
2 recommendations we will discuss today, so I'm going to go
3 over those in the table of contents at the top of each
4 recommendation just so everyone is aware. We're going to
5 go over: A.3, Affordable housing and housing services in
6 rural areas; A.4, Development of mini housing and communal
7 living; and B.1, Housing First model. And we're also
8 going to go through on the coordination, A.1, Uniformly
9 assess veteran status; B.1, Increased use of 2-1-1 Texas
10 Information and Referral Network; and D.2, Coordinated
11 access. That said, if there's anything that you really
12 want to discuss at the TICH meeting, you can let me know
13 and we can open it for discussion here based on whatever
14 of the table of the contents you want to open.

15 So we're going to go to A.3, Affordable housing
16 and housing services in rural areas. It's on page 2 of
17 the housing recommendations concept. So we received a
18 number of recommendations specifically for rural areas,
19 mainly to increase housing resources in rural areas.
20 Rehabilitation of housing stock in rural areas was
21 mentioned several times in order to make sure that there
22 is housing available in rural areas for people to move
23 into. Also, development of housing in rural areas, and
24 expanding the geographic area for housing resources.

25 So for example, we talked lot about Continuum

1 of Care today One thing about a Continuum of Care is
2 they have a service area and you might not be able to go
3 outside that service area and still get services, that's
4 why it's a service area. Sometimes those services areas
5 don't go into rural areas which is why we have Balance of
6 State. So that was the overall idea was to expand those
7 service areas.

8 There was also recommendations to expand HUD
9 VASH vouchers or HUD Veteran Assisted Supportive Housing
10 vouchers. So those are all the recommendations about
11 rural areas.

12 Some of the considerations that we are vetting
13 and making comments on, considerations that there are many
14 programs available in rural areas. USDA has some, the
15 HOME Program which is a HUD program and TDHCA runs the
16 HOME program as well, the Housing Tax Credit offers a set-
17 aside for rural developments, and Eric actually mentioned
18 Community Development Block Grants, or CDBG, is also
19 available in the rural areas, so there many programs
20 available.

21 In TDHCA's experience, even though there are
22 programs available, a lot of times there's a lack of
23 capacity in rural areas to actually administer the
24 programs. As we know and we just talked about, these
25 programs are complicated, so trying to get some areas with

1 limited administrators to take on the programs can be a
2 challenge.

3 MR. DOYLE: A question about that. Has TDHCA
4 ever given any thought to having reciprocal agreements
5 with organizations that are community housing development
6 organizations, CHDOs, to do work in other parts of the
7 state for that very reason of administrative incapacity?
8 In other words, for example, we are a CHDO in Tarrant
9 County but we have an affiliate office in Hondo where
10 housing is a huge issue, dilapidated housing that they're
11 not going to mess with it, but a CHDO might be able to use
12 HOME set-aside funds if I could become a state approved
13 CHDO where we could deal with other locations.

14 MS. SYLVESTER: So how it works at TDHCA is
15 that we don't fund projects in the abstract, you respond
16 to a NOFA, and if you respond to a NOFA as part of your
17 CHDO certification packet, if you can show that you have
18 coverage in whatever your service area, it can't be the
19 whole state, if you show that that's your service area,
20 then your CHDO can do a project in the area that is your
21 service area. There is, as I'm sure you know, a statewide
22 limitation on we can only fund 5 percent of our funds in
23 other PJs but we typically do CHDO projects in non-PJs.

24 MS. TREJO: Thank you, Megan. And for
25 everyone, a CHDO is a Community Housing Development

1 Organization.

2 MR. DOYLE: And then another question regarding
3 veterans and VASH vouchers that you mentioned. There is a
4 program in Tarrant County that's working with veterans to
5 make them homeowners using VASH vouchers as homeownership
6 vouchers, they can turn them into a mortgage. But it
7 seems like it's the rule that we're coming across now that
8 it has to be a 30-year mortgage. That doesn't make any
9 sense at all to be a 30-year mortgage with these interest
10 rates. So we've got ten veterans ready to buy homes using
11 their VASH voucher as mortgage payment security, but this
12 30-year mortgage is causing some headaches with the
13 housing authority.

14 MS. TREJO: So we talked about HUD-VASH and we
15 included HUD-VASH in this recommendation because TDHCA in
16 its rental developments accepts HUD-VASH, so one of the
17 considerations is that we are expanding the use of HUD-
18 VASH because our developments can accept HUD-VASH.

19 In terms of responding to HUD programs or
20 federal programs, recommendations for federal programs
21 aren't included in this report because it's a state report
22 and it can't affect the federal.

23 MR. DOYLE: So that's a federal guideline and
24 not a state guideline.

25 MS. TREJO: I don't know if that is a federal

1 guideline; it's definitely not a state guideline; it might
2 be a local guideline.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I'll check it out. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. TREJO: Pam has offered to look into it
6 also.

7 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Pam.

8 MS. TREJO: In terms of service area in rural
9 areas, Section 8, we know it as like a housing voucher of
10 Section 8, allows for porting a voucher which means that
11 you could actually go outside of your service area, so we
12 do know that was part of the education considerations.
13 That is possible to go outside of the service area by
14 porting the voucher, and then actually under the Continuum
15 of Care rule -- I'm pointing at you, Eric -- the proposed
16 Continuum of Care rule that's out for public comment right
17 now, they have an option to include portability outside of
18 the service area.

19 MR. SAMUELS: I should say yes to that but I'll
20 take an alert to that. Well, we don't want to get into
21 the details. I was going to say Section 8 is just limited
22 whenever it's used.

23 MS. TREJO: Section 8 is limited but if you
24 have Section 8, you can port it.

25 MR. SAMUELS: Port it out, yes, which is

1 important.

2 MS. TREJO: To another PHA that accepts it.

3 MS. SYLVESTER: And so the PHA side of HUD --
4 this is Megan -- has recently expanded the -- let me say
5 it a different way -- they've limited the reasons a
6 housing authority cannot accept a ported voucher, so it
7 used to be it was pretty easy for a housing authority to
8 say no, they had a whole list of reasons which they could
9 do that, and HUD has since limited those reasons.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Okay, good.

11 MS. TREJO: Are there any other considerations
12 that we might want to include regarding affordable housing
13 and housing services in rural areas? Any other
14 information on existing programs that wasn't covered or
15 consequences or initiatives, questions?

16 DR. SCHOLL: Is that Naomi?

17 MS. TREJO: Yep.

18 DR. SCHOLL: This is Dr. Scholl. I'm assuming
19 from having read that you're either going to or have
20 already sent that through the Texas Veterans Commission,
21 the Land Board folks and all that? They took part in the
22 veterans report part. Is that correct?

23 MS. TREJO: So the Texas Veterans Commission is
24 part of the report and Pam, here sitting next to me, is on
25 the TICH veterans subcommittee workgroup.

1 DR. SCHOLL: I just know also the Land Board
2 has various offerings for land purchase for veterans, and
3 I'm sure that's reflected in the coordinated work.

4 MS. TREJO: That was in our last series of
5 recommendations about working with the private sector, and
6 we spent quite a while looking at that. Those are still
7 going to be in the final report, we're just not talking
8 about them all at the same time.

9 DR. SCHOLL: Okay.

10 MS. TREJO: Anything else?

11 MR. SAMUELS: I like that they included HOME in
12 there. I think that's an area where we need communities
13 to take advantage of that, probably the CHDOs in those
14 communities, so anything we can do to do that, we want to
15 push.

16 MS. TREJO: Thank you, Eric.

17 The next one is develop mini-housing and
18 communal living. This is an interesting one and I wanted
19 to bring it up to the TICH. So the recommendation is
20 micro-housing, mini-housing, it goes by several names,
21 it's the tiny houses. They've been in the news quite a
22 bit. Some of them are in Austin and that's discussed in
23 the considerations. The considerations includes the
24 Community First! Village in Austin by Mobile Loaves and
25 Fishes. It's micro-housing that's built for lower cost,

1 although some of them can get quite pricey, and these can
2 be as small as 144 square feet. Often it is incorporated
3 in communal living.

4 Right now the main source of information we
5 have about these is from the news sources. I haven't
6 seen, and if anyone knows of any studies on the
7 effectiveness, that would be great, but that's what our
8 consideration mainly says is we don't know how effective
9 these actually are yet in order to put this forward as a
10 solution.

11 MS. BOLTON: This is Belinda Bolton with DFPS.
12 I'm a self-professed HGTV addict.

13 (General laughter.)

14 MS. BOLTON: They have two separate shows about
15 tiny housing. I also have this odd fascination with RVs
16 which is sort of like these -- I don't really understand
17 the difference between tiny houses and Rvs except may be
18 building materials. A lot of the tiny houses can be built
19 on a trailer and they're movable.

20 MS. TREJO: As soon as you put the moving part
21 in that, it creates a whole other set of issues.

22 MS. BOLTON: Right. I was going to say they
23 can be built on a trailer but they can be site-built as
24 well, but they are sort of like modern Rvs.

25 MS. MURO: I heard of a recent initiative in

1 Dallas, Operation South Dallas, and I'd have to try to
2 remember what organization was a part of that.

3 MR. DOYLE: City Square. Cottages of Hickory
4 Crossing.

5 MS. MURO: That sounds very familiar, but I
6 know that it was working, from what I remember kind of
7 following it last year when I was living in Dallas, was
8 that they were up and running, they were still in not
9 necessarily fully kind of implementation phase, let
10 several families and singles move in, but they were still
11 kind of in the process of that infrastructure. So if
12 you're looking for research, that might be a place to
13 start.

14 MS. TREJO: Great. Thank you.

15 And Darilyn, are you still on the phone?

16 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes, I am. And I wanted
17 to share a little bit about what's going on here in
18 Austin. Integral Care is working with Mobile Loaves and
19 Fishes, and we are the service provider for the Community
20 First! Village, and this is a very innovative thing across
21 the nation and not much research has been done, so we're
22 working in cooperation with UT to do an evaluation on the
23 effectiveness of the process and have been engaging HUD to
24 be able to utilize CoC vouchers to pay for some of the
25 units under the premise that it's permanent supportive

1 housing.

2 So I think it is definitely something to
3 explore in areas where we do not have access to affordable
4 housing because it's definitely cheaper than having to
5 build huge buildings to be able to house homeless
6 individuals. So we could definitely share information
7 with the group as we move forward. We have already 30
8 residents at the facility and we expect to have 250 by the
9 end of the year.

10 MS. TREJO: That's excellent information.

11 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: It's a very exciting
12 initiative, and I invite all of you to come and visit if
13 you haven't done so.

14 MR. DOYLE: What's the name of it, Darilyn?

15 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: It's the Community First!
16 Village. It's run by Mobile Loaves and Fishes; it's on
17 the outskirts of Austin. It's beautiful. It has really
18 brought together the public sector and nonprofits, a lot
19 of businesses have been the primary contributors in
20 purchasing micro-homes for individuals. It's a pretty
21 neat initiative.

22 MS. BOLTON: Twenty-seven acres.

23 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. It's a very large
24 property.

25 MS. BOLTON: With micro-housing you could house

1 an awful lot of people on 27 acres.

2 MR. DOYLE: And is it rural?

3 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: What we're doing in this
4 community is we're very much treating it utilizing the
5 Housing First principles so we're using coordinated
6 assessments to be able to identify individuals coming to
7 the community, so we're able to house the most vulnerable
8 in Austin. And of course, it's by choice but the 30
9 people we have there so far, they love it.

10 MS. TREJO: I was able to find a lot of
11 information on the Community First! Village in Austin, I
12 wasn't aware of the Dallas one. But Darilyn, that would
13 be excellent to get an update on that study. That would
14 be really, really helpful.

15 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Sure.

16 DR. SCHOLL: Can I ask a quick question?

17 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Go right ahead, Dennis.

18 DR. SCHOLL: Are some of those residents that
19 you mentioned, I couldn't tell if you said 3 or 30, are
20 they veterans and are you able to track if they're from
21 Austin or are unable to return to their preferred home
22 communities when you provide them service and housing and
23 shelter?

24 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. We currently have
25 30, 30 individuals have already moved into the community,

1 and we anticipate housing 250.

2 At the community we have prioritized veterans
3 across the continuum, so any of the availability of
4 housing is going for them, and then move down the list to
5 the next person. And we do have several vets moving into
6 the community.

7 DR. SCHOLL: And they're from Austin, or are
8 they unable to return to their preferred home of record,
9 so to speak?

10 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. The community is to
11 serve Austin and Travis County, primarily, and it's
12 permanent but people could move to other residences if
13 they choose. I don't know if that's what you meant by
14 relocate.

15 DR. SCHOLL: I'm just concerned about sometimes
16 with different programs a tendency to take folks who'd
17 rather be back in their small community but you can only
18 get services in large areas so they have to go there, so I
19 was wondering if that's tracked and if there's some
20 ability to assist them if they have plans to try to go
21 back to their homes of record that might be more rural.

22 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. What we have done
23 with individuals wanting to move back to their
24 communities is we coordinate with the local mental health
25 authority in that area to make the appropriate transfers

1 to those communities or providers if they're not engaged
2 with an LMHA.

3 DR. SCHOLL: Thanks a lot.

4 MS. TREJO: And Dennis, that goes along with
5 what we were talking about about the rural geographic
6 service areas, especially as Darilyn was saying they're
7 using the CoC vouchers for permanent supportive housing.
8 The CoC rule is out to allow for more portability of those
9 vouchers, so if that veteran or person wants to go back to
10 their communities, if they are from another community,
11 that may be a possibility depending on what the final rule
12 says for the CoCs with a housing part.

13 DR. SCHOLL: thanks.

14 MS. POHLMAN: This is Joyce Pohlman again,
15 HHSC.

16 I'm not sure we're bringing this up, but when I
17 was working with veterans, there's a new population,
18 relatively new, of women and those women have children, so
19 I would like if somewhere in this report that that is
20 brought up because I have personally lived in a 400 square
21 foot house.

22 And then the other thing I wanted to mention
23 was that one of the things that makes this and other
24 Housing First models work better is a money management or
25 rent payee piece in which a certified individual may

1 receive a Social Security check on behalf of someone who
2 is unable to handle their money adequately themselves
3 because of a disability, brain injuries. It's used here
4 in Austin, Family Eldercare does it for a lot of these
5 individuals in Mobile Loaves and Fishes properties, and it
6 helps ensure that the rent gets paid first. So I would
7 encourage you to look at that.

8 MS. TREJO: That's actually a great transition
9 to the next thing we'll talk about which is Housing First,
10 but I'm not going to close the discussion on micro-
11 housing, so Michael, if you wanted to comment.

12 MR. WILT: I was just going to say to make sure
13 that these are truly Housing First models. Even though
14 Community First! Village runs a Housing First model, they
15 can refuse people who are registered sex offenders or if
16 they have violent crimes. There are a number of reasons
17 that there are still barriers to entry even in Community
18 First! Village. So in the context of veterans there may
19 be one or more red flags in his/her background that's a
20 barrier for them to come into housing, so when we talk
21 about considerations for Housing First to make sure that
22 it is truly a Housing First model.

23 MS. TREJO: And before we move on to Housing
24 First, which is a great discussion already, is there
25 anything else about the micro-housing?

1 MS. SONENTHAL: I did want to ask Darilyn a
2 question. Darilyn, I know I've asked you this before, but
3 I wanted to just confirm because I got two different
4 answers. Is the Community First! Village only like you're
5 required to have a disability to live there, or not?

6 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: There is a background
7 noise and I really couldn't hear you. I'm so sorry, Anna.

8 MS. SONENTHAL: Sorry. Darilyn, can you hear
9 me now?

10 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes.

11 MS. SONENTHAL: In the Community First! Village
12 are they required to live there if they have a disability
13 or can they live there if they don't have a disability?

14 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: The community is open to
15 anyone who is homeless, they don't need to have a
16 disability.

17 MS. TREJO: Actually I think it's chronically
18 homeless. I'm pretty sure it's chronically homeless, and
19 the definition of chronically homeless is that they have
20 some sort of disability, it doesn't have to be a physical
21 disability.

22 MS. SONENTHAL: Okay.

23 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Community First! actually
24 has a variety of homeless and chronically homeless, and
25 for the use of resources, either state resources or CoC

1 resources, of course we're focusing on the chronically
2 homeless. So just to clarify, the community is open to
3 homeless and chronically homeless.

4 MS. TREJO: All right. Thank you.

5 MR. DOYLE: And Naomi -- this is Mike Doyle --
6 you may have this in your report but there are several
7 locations where zoning would preclude this type of
8 housing. Are you going to make any kind of
9 recommendations that if you're getting HUD funds as a city
10 that's an entitled city that they can in fact must have a
11 certain percentage of this that are allowable? Because I
12 can just hear our counties and our cities sticking with
13 their 1,500 square foot requirements.

14 MS. TREJO: So right now the considerations on
15 this recommendation is we don't have a lot of input about
16 it, we don't have a lot of research on it to see if it's
17 actually effective or not, so that's our main input and
18 then two examples in Texas. What would you suggest?

19 MR. DOYLE: I would just like to see some input
20 and some research done on how many urban communities would
21 allow this type of housing through their zoning. There
22 are very strict 1,200 square foot, 550 foot front zoning
23 requirements for houses in Tarrant County, and I don't
24 know where you'd put this. But it's a great need, I've
25 seen these work, and I think they're kind of neat, and if

1 you have to go rural, you have to go rural. But you say
2 the one here in Austin is in the city.

3 MS. TREJO: It's Travis County. Right?

4 MS. BOLTON: Darilyn, this is Valinda Bolton.
5 Is Community First! actually in the city limits, or is it
6 in Travis County?

7 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: You know, it's pretty
8 close to the city limits but it's actually pretty rural.
9 It's next to the Expo Center, so it's built right in
10 between the city and the county line.

11 MS. BOLTON: I know it's out by 130.

12 MS. TREJO: I think it's unincorporated.

13 MR. SAMUELS: And they purposely put it out
14 there.

15 MR. DOYLE: I wouldn't blame them a bit.

16 MS. BOLTON: But I know it would be in the
17 Austin ETJ but I think it's right outside the city limits.

18 MR. SAMUELS: There's a bus line right there,
19 they made sure it had that.

20 MS. BOLTON: Decker Lake Park is right there.

21 MR. SAMUELS: At the National Alliance to End
22 Homelessness Conference I'll see what I can find out about
23 the tiny homes, but I don't know of any research.

24 MS. HEMPHILL: If you have concerns about
25 zoning, you might be able to raise those through the new

1 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule if you were to
2 provide comment on the assessment of fair housing if you
3 were identifying a need for zoning that might get in the
4 way of housing choice. And cities and counties that
5 receive HUD funds and want to stay in those programs will
6 be required to do that, so that might be a great venue to
7 voice those concerns.

8 MS. TREJO: Moving on to Housing First.

9 MR. DOYLE: I have to leave but Michael is
10 going to finish sharing the council meeting.

11 MS. TREJO: Thank you, Michael.

12 The next one is Housing First model. We've
13 been talking about Housing First quite a bit at this
14 meeting here. It connects the client to stable affordable
15 housing and optional individualized case management care
16 and supports. It should be noted that more than one
17 online participant actually stated that housing should be
18 the last provided, not housing first, but there's a lot of
19 discussion about how this works, whether it works, all
20 that stuff.

21 In the considerations we actually have a draft
22 report out now that has strong support for Housing First
23 model, and it should also be noted that case management
24 for Housing First could be provided with services of
25 housing and service providers.

1 Michael Wilt, you had already said that you
2 wanted to make sure Housing First was housing first? Is
3 that what your comment is?

4 MR. WILT: Barrier-free.

5 MS. TREJO: Completely barrier-free, so the
6 landlord has no option for denial.

7 MR. WILT: That's not my recommendation, it's
8 just a consideration to take, that even in Housing First
9 models there may be some barriers to entry.

10 MS. TREJO: Anything else about Housing First?
11 Nothing? I guess we talked about it already.

12 MS. BOLTON: This is Valinda Bolton with DFPS.
13 So you brought up the criminal history. It
14 would be almost impossible, I would think, to be in this
15 population and not have had some kind of criminal history,
16 but are we saying like not sex offenders, that's the
17 barrier?

18 MS. TREJO: The idea that Michael brought up
19 before was in the Community First! Village they do take
20 people with criminal history based on whatever
21 backgrounds, the only thing that they don't take is
22 registered sex offenders.

23 MS. BOLTON: So when we say barrier-free, is
24 that the sort of thing

25 MR. WILT: Yes. That would be a barrier to

1 entry thing, a registered sex offender and being denied
2 housing. But if you look at Caritas in Austin, they
3 operate Housing First units and they do allow registered
4 sex offenders, so it really depends on how far the
5 provider wants to go to really embrace Housing First as
6 completely barrier-free.

7 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: This is Darilyn. I wanted
8 to say something related to the sex offenders. I think
9 that the providers as a whole, it's important for us to
10 respect the implementation of Housing First and the
11 Housing First principles, however, the barriers come
12 primarily from the landlords not willing to accept
13 individuals, especially sex offenders, and the proximity
14 of the housing location to schools or neighborhoods that
15 completely oppose that. So I think that there's a
16 distinction between the landlord and the service provider
17 who is actually trying to implement Housing First.

18 For example, we work with anyone who comes
19 through our doors, however, we have many landlords who
20 will not in any way accept someone who with a sex offense.

21 So if there is a way of making the distinction that it's
22 not the program, it depends on who is providing the
23 housing option.

24 MS. TREJO: Okay. Thank you.

25 MS. LASHBROK: This is Karen Lashbrook. I just

1 wanted to say that if I'm understanding correctly, it
2 would be a registered sex offender at this point, it
3 wouldn't be waiving, deferred, non-public?

4 MS. TREJO: That's only that one example,
5 Community First! Village, it's not Housing First in
6 general. The Housing First there's a range.

7 MS. LASHBROOK: And there's a push for the
8 juveniles right now, they've got some committees reviewing
9 whether they're going to do non-public or not register or
10 those kind of things, just because of the nature of the
11 fact that when you score them for registration, the age of
12 onset is what throws them into that category to begin
13 with, so unless it's waived, deferred, or just not court
14 ordered, they're going to be in that category. So anyway,
15 just something to think about.

16 MS. TREJO: Thank you, Karen.

17 Anything else before we move on? And anything
18 else before we move on to housing recommendations?
19 Anything anyone wants to open for discussion that wasn't
20 on the list?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. TREJO: All right. We're going to move on
23 to coordination. The first one I want to talk about, we
24 went round and round on this in the TICH Veterans
25 workgroup and with the TDHCA executive, which is uniformly

1 assess veteran status. Now, this is different than
2 qualifying for programs, and that's where we went round
3 and round about. It's not about easily qualifying for
4 veterans assistance programs, it's just about identifying
5 the veteran in case there could be a referral to qualify
6 for programs.

7 So the idea was instead of asking are you a
8 veteran, instead ask did you serve in the military. This
9 is the entire recommendation. And some of the discussions
10 at the roundtables were that this was in line with the
11 U.S. Interagency Council for the Homeless plan on ending
12 veteran homelessness, that they serve veterans regardless
13 of their discharge status, regardless of whether they
14 qualify for services or not. The idea was they count as
15 veterans for ending veteran homelessness, whether they
16 qualify or not.

17 So the considerations are this is a first step,
18 it's a vital first step but it's still a first step, and
19 it could definitely be done to identify veterans as a best
20 practice to say did you serve in the military instead of
21 are you a veteran.

22 Any ideas, any considerations about this
23 recommendation? No? This one generated a lot of
24 discussion so I wanted to bring it up to the TICH
25 membership as a whole.

1 DR. SCHOLL: Naomi, this is Dr. Scholl again.
2 Grain change. We've run into that problem in the rural
3 areas that is serve in the mental health business, and
4 that's the right way to change the question. Thanks for
5 doing that.

6 MS. TREJO: Good. That was more simple than I
7 thought. I was hoping Betty Beckworth would be here from
8 HHSC who had been working with us about the veterans study
9 because she had a lot to say about the increased use of
10 2-1-1, but we had a lot of input.

11 MR. McENTYRE: One thing on that list -- George
12 McIntyre -- on that question, though, if anybody is
13 documenting that, they need to document it just like that,
14 you know, the person served in the military and not
15 document it as they are a veteran.

16 MS. TREJO: Right. That's a good point.

17 MR. McENTYRE: So if they're collecting any
18 information and surveys and everything, they can't say,
19 well, we get so many veterans, we have so many people that
20 served in the military, or if they're referred to another
21 agency or whatever, they need to be referred as this
22 person served in the military, we don't know if he's a
23 veteran per the definition. As long as that's done.

24 MS. TREJO: Anything else before we move on?

25 (No response.)

1 MS. TREJO: Okay. Increased use of 2-1-1, both
2 in the number of people who access it and the number of
3 resources in 2-1-1. So actually as a result of this
4 recommendation, 2-1-1 is already working on including
5 veteran county service officers into 2-1-1, so they're
6 already beginning to look at that. We also note that the
7 2-1-1 is voluntary, organizations can voluntarily ask to
8 be included in 2-1-1, and so we make note of that. We
9 also quote another study that found that we could do
10 possibly a more standard and unified job of including more
11 state resources in 2-1-1 so it doesn't always have to come
12 from the local level. And that there could be some sort
13 of outreach campaign to reach people that are not aware
14 that 2-1-1 exists as a resource. So those are the
15 considerations of that.

16 Anything else about 2-1-1?

17 MS. POHLMAN: This is Joyce Pohlman at HHSC.

18 A lot of the Aging and Disability Resource
19 Centers, ADRCs, are also 2-1-1 information centers, and
20 the ADRCs are charged with being knowledgeable about
21 veteran services as well. I don't know if we'd want to
22 include that.

23 MS. TREJO: They're in the 2-1-1 network, so if
24 you call, then they're referred out.

25 MS. POHLMAN: Yes, but some of them are not in

1 the 2-1-1 network as well.

2 MS. TREJO: Some of them are not?

3 MS. POHLMAN: Yes. It's not universal that
4 they are a 2-1-1 center. Many of them are but not all of
5 them are.

6 MS. TREJO: But if someone calls 2-1-1, they'll
7 get referred to the ADRCs?

8 MS. POHLMAN: Yes, they would.

9 MS. TREJO: So some of the ADRCs are 2-1-1
10 centers?

11 MS. POHLMAN: Functioning as a 2-1-1 referral
12 entity.

13 MS. TREJO: Do you have a list of something
14 like that?

15 MS. POHLMAN: DADS would.

16 MS. TREJO: Okay. Anything else about 2-1-1?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. TREJO: All right. The next one is
19 coordinated access. Eric is coming back right in time.
20 We're going to talk about coordinated access.

21 The recommendation was to use coordinated
22 access which is a requirement of the Continuum of Care
23 program which is a HUD program, to make sure that there's
24 broad participation, including agency and government
25 programs that might be working in silos in order. To have

1 them be in coordinated access, we would break down those
2 silos. And possibilities including locating all service
3 intake processes in one location which is one option of
4 coordinated access, having veteran status be screened
5 during coordinated access, which actually now that George
6 made that comment, I actually might say military service
7 status because trying to screen for veteran status for
8 eligibility is very difficult during coordinated access,
9 so maybe we could change that to military service. And
10 having non-traditional partners in coordinated access such
11 as the local property management companies, which was a
12 success in Austin.

13 Overall, coordinated access has been
14 established in many areas and it can be used to track a
15 veteran's progress. There are eleven CoCs active in
16 Texas, which we talked about a lot today, and states could
17 offer incentives for coordinated access practices with
18 state homelessness funds, but other than that, we don't
19 have any jurisdiction over Continuum of Care.

20 MR. SAMUELS: I think most CoCs that have entry
21 to coordinated access intake, whether they use the VIs for
22 data or whatever it is, they screen for veteran status,
23 and then, you know, once the person gets in then they
24 start determining the level of eligibility.

25 MS. TREJO: Right.

1 MS. MURO: This is Mona. Would you repeat you
2 mentioned non-traditional partners? Can you explain that
3 a little more?

4 MS. TREJO: Sure. The City of Austin Mayor's
5 Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness, they had a success
6 in that they opened up their coordinated access to include
7 property management companies, so property management
8 companies were able to work within the Homeless Management
9 Information System, or HMIS, and check veterans' progress,
10 see what veterans were flagged and say that they actually
11 had open units or not. That's the way that I understood
12 that they did that. Most of the traditional providers in
13 coordinated access would be service providers,
14 governments, housing providers, not necessarily for
15 profit, so that's what we were talking about was not
16 traditional.

17 Anything else for coordinated access?

18 MS. POHLMAN: This is Joyce at HHSC, once
19 again.

20 The Health and Human Services Enterprise has
21 implemented something called an LTSS screen. Are you
22 familiar with that?

23 MS. TREJO: I have heard of it, LTSS screen.

24 MS. POHLMAN: And it's a very basic screening
25 process that's used to assist individuals who are in need

1 of long-term services and supports and direct them to the
2 right entity or place, and they actually have as one of
3 their questions have you served in the military.

4 MS. TREJO: Great. So in the housing world.

5 MS. POHLMAN: In the housing world, work with
6 the ADRC.

7 MS. TREJO: That's true.

8 MS. POHLMAN: They will know who has approached
9 them, who's identified. So maybe those connections need
10 to be made better.

11 MS. TREJO: Well, a suggestion would be just
12 having broad approach to coordinated access because
13 coordinated access is already set up, so maybe one
14 approach would be making sure that ADRC is included in
15 that coordinated access.

16 MS. POHLMAN: Yes. Thank you. I wasn't sure
17 how to phrase it.

18 MS. MURO: This is Mona with the Texas Council
19 on Family Violence. I just had a followup question about
20 the partners. Is one of the recommendations then to
21 follow a similar model with having partners such as
22 property management companies as well involved in this
23 piece? Is that going to be a recommendation or a
24 consideration at this point?

25 MS. TREJO: It's a recommendation from the

1 public. It's not something that we in the learning
2 process have deemed as feasible, it's one of best
3 practice.

4 MS. MURO: Thanks.

5 Anything else? And anything on the
6 coordination recommendations that we didn't open up that
7 someone would like to discuss? We still have a few
8 minutes left in the meeting.

9 DR. SCHOLL: Cate, this is Dr. Scholl. I'm
10 going to fess up to being the culprit that caused the
11 background noise. My mute button disengages on its own
12 and I've been pounding on my keyboard on occasion, so my
13 apologies to the group for being inconsiderate.

14 MS. TRACZ: Thank you.

15 MS. TREJO: And if you go through these
16 documents and find that you want to comment or consider
17 some sort of consequences or information that should be
18 included, go ahead and email me. My information is on the
19 TICH website and also in all the emails that were sent
20 out. And let me know before the TICH meeting. Actually,
21 if you can let me know by August 5, that would be great,
22 because the TICH Veterans workgroup is going to be
23 reviewing all the materials mid August, the final chance
24 to make changes in August.

25 (General talking and laughter.)

1 DR. SCHOLL: Is that Naomi still?

2 MS. TREJO: It's Naomi, yes.

3 DR. SCHOLL: I just wanted to know if Cate got
4 you a couple of typos that I caught.

5 MS. TREJO: She did, she forwarded those.
6 Thank you.

7 DR. SCHOLL: Okay. Thanks.

8 MS. TREJO: All right. With that, my section
9 will be ended.

10 Michael, you're taking over.

11 MR. DeYOUNG: Okay. The next thing on the
12 agenda is public comment.

13 MS. KRAVITZ: The Every Student Succeeds Act
14 that was signed in 2015, December 2015, is going to be
15 going into effect and there's quite a few laws that
16 pertain to homeless liaisons and efforts that schools will
17 be required to do on behalf of homeless students. And I'm
18 just wondering how much of that information this group
19 would like.

20 I could request to be on the next agenda and
21 provide updates on the ESSA legislation. I don't want to
22 get too in the weeds, there's a definitely a big emphasis
23 on community coordination that ramped up in ESSA as well
24 as in numerous other requirements. So I just wanted to
25 inquire with you guys about what you would want to hear,

1 and then I can bring that information to this group.

2 MS. TRACZ: I think that would be really
3 helpful, so I'll put you on the next agenda, and maybe we
4 can go back and forth about the level of detail.

5 MS. KRAVITZ: Okay. Sounds good.

6 MS. YEVICH: And while we're talking about the
7 next agenda, Cate may not be here.

8 MS. TRACZ: For those of you on the phone, I'm
9 eight months pregnant so I will be gone September and
10 November for those two meetings, back in December. But my
11 supervisor, Elizabeth Yevich, who is here will be
12 coordinating a lot of the administrative parts of the
13 meeting, so you'll get emails from Elizabeth as well.

14 MS. YEVICH: Either me or another one of my
15 staff, Terri Richard. And several of you actually know
16 her, because Terri coordinates our Housing and Health
17 Services Coordination Council, and both of these councils
18 sort of are the same. So either myself or Terri Richard
19 will be your contacts for the next three to four months.

20 MR. DeYOUNG: Any other public comment?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. DeYOUNG: So the next thing is closing
23 comments, and Mike already left and I don't have any
24 closing comments prepared.

25 So our next meeting will be scheduled for

1 Wednesday, September 21, in conjunction with THN's Annual
2 Conference on Ending Homelessness. We will, from TDHCA's
3 perspective, in the next couple of days put out an email
4 so everybody has Elizabeth's contact information in Cate's
5 absence so that we can continue the communication
6 function. Also, we have a second meeting scheduled
7 Thursday, November 17, and you will get information
8 through emails on both of those meetings. And then Cate
9 will be back to start resuming her activities.

10 Don't forget to contact Naomi before August 5
11 if you want to have input into the documents. And then
12 any agenda items that you want to be included at the next
13 meeting will go to Elizabeth and Cate in that email
14 configuration so that we can get you included on the
15 agenda so we can actually discuss the business.

16 MR. SAMUELS: I was going to say if you come to
17 the meeting, stay for the conference. So go to THN.org to
18 sign up.

19 MS. SYLVESTER: Gavin wasn't here the last time
20 we met as a group. Right? Did you want to introduce
21 yourself, Gavin?

22 MR. REID: Sure. Gavin Reid, TDHCA. I work
23 for the Community Affairs Division. I'm the manager of
24 planning and training, so I work a lot with Naomi Trejo
25 with the ESG and HHSP programs. I've been on board for

1 about two months now. I work with other programs, but ESG
2 is one. So anyway, nice to meet you all.

3 MR. DeYOUNG: For those of you who remember
4 Sharon Gamble, he took over Sharon Gamble's position.

5 With that, it looks like we have no other
6 agenda items. The meeting is adjourned.

7 (Whereupon, at 12:01 p.m., the meeting was
8 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
LOCATION: Austin, Texas
DATE: July 12, 2016

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 81, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

(Transcriber) 07/16/2016
(Date)

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