

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL  
FOR THE  
HOMELESS

Brown Heatly Building  
Room 3501  
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, Texas

January 31, 2017  
10:10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair  
D.J. BINGLER  
VALINDA BOLTON  
BROOKE BOSTON  
NAOMI CANTU (via telephone)  
ROBERT DOLE  
FRANCES GATTIS (via telephone)  
JESSICA HISSAM  
KELLY KRAVITZ  
PAM MAERCKLEIN  
TODD NOVAK (via telephone)  
EMILY SASSER-BRAY

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

JANA BURNS  
DARILYN CARDONA-BEILER (via telephone)  
DAVID LONG  
ERIC SAMUELS  
DENNIS M. SCHOLL (via telephone)  
JEANNE STAMP  
MOLLY VOYLES  
MICHAEL WILT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

CATE TRACZ (TDHCA)  
MEGAN SYLVESTER (TDHCA)

*ON THE RECORD REPORTING*  
*(512) 450-0342*

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. DOYLE: Let me call us to order. We note  
3 the fact that we have a quorum present, so thank you for  
4 that. I'd also like to thank all of you for showing up.  
5 This is a good crowd that we've got today, and we really  
6 appreciate it. I hope it's indicative of how we'll spend  
7 the rest of the year. I hope the days of worrying about a  
8 quorum are over, however, we still don't have anybody from  
9 the Lieutenant Governor's Office and the Speaker of the  
10 House's Office, but we're working on that, so hopefully  
11 that will get done. So just welcome to all of you.

12 We have a couple of new members. D.J. Bingler  
13 from TWC is taking George's place, and Robert Dole from  
14 HHSC is taking Amy's place.

15 For those of you that are on the phone, we're  
16 going to do some introductions here. I don't have any  
17 remarks so we'll pick up some time, but if you can  
18 introduce yourself if you're on the phone to let everybody  
19 else know who's out there.

20 MR. NOVAK: Good morning. Todd Novak. I'm  
21 calling from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department out of  
22 Houston.

23 MR. DOYLE: Thanks, Todd.

24 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Good morning. This is  
25 Darilyn Cardona Beiler, calling from Integral Care here in

1 Austin.

2 MS. CANTU: This is Naomi Cantu with the Texas  
3 Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

4 MS. GATTIS: Frances Gattis with TDCJ in  
5 Huntsville.

6 MS. CASTILLO: Camille Castillo with the El  
7 Paso Coalition for the Homeless.

8 MR. DOYLE: Dennis, are you out there?

9 DR. SCHOLL: Yes. This is Dr. Scholl, private  
10 citizen from Somerset, Texas.

11 MS. CRAIN: Cindy Crain, Metro Dallas Homeless  
12 Alliance.

13 MR. DOYLE: Hey, Cindy.

14 MS. CRAIN: Hey, Michael.

15 MR. SAMUELS: She would have been in person but  
16 she had car trouble.

17 MR. DOYLE: Yes. I hope you weren't on the  
18 road when you had car trouble.

19 MS. CRAIN: I was not, but I'm still headed to  
20 Houston.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Let's start introductions  
22 around the table so you guys on the phone will know who's  
23 here. I'm Mike Doyle, appointee of the Governor's Office,  
24 with Cornerstone Assistance Network in Fort Worth.

25 MR. SAMUELS: Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless

1 Network.

2 MS. BECKORTH: Bettie Beckworth, Health and  
3 Human Services, Veterans Services Office.

4 MS. MAERCKLEIN: Pam Maercklein with the Texas  
5 Veterans Commission.

6 MS. BAKER: Anna Baker with the Texas Veterans  
7 Commission.

8 MS. KRAVITZ: Kelly Kravitz with the Texas  
9 Education Agency.

10 MS. SASSER-BRAY: Emily Sasser-Bray with the  
11 Health and Human Services Commission.

12 MS. STAMP: Jeanne Stamp with the Texas  
13 Homeless Education Office.

14 MS. VOYLES: Molly Voyles with the Texas  
15 Council on Family Violence.

16 MS. MURO: Mona Muro, also with the Texas  
17 Council on Family Violence.

18 MS. BOSTON: Brooke Boston with the Texas  
19 Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

20 MS. HISSAM: Jessica Hissam with legacy  
21 Department of State Health Services.

22 MS. BINGLER: D.J. Bingler with Texas Workforce  
23 Commission, Policy Department.

24 MR. LONG: David Long, Texas State Affordable  
25 Housing Corporation.

1 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, Texas State Affordable  
2 Housing Corporation.

3 MR. DOLE: Robert Dole, Office of Mental Health  
4 Coordination, HHSC.

5 MS. MOLINARI: Jennifer Molinari with TDHCA.

6 MR. GOURIS: Tom Gouris with TDHCA.

7 MS. BURNS: Jana Burns with Region 10 Education  
8 Service Center.

9 MS. TRACZ: I'm Cate Tracz with TDHCA.

10 MS. SYLVESTER: Megan Sylvester with TDHCA.

11 (Inaudible speaker.)

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm Tomas Rodriguez with the TB  
13 Program at DSHS.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you all for being  
15 here.

16 We will now will take from the members of the  
17 council, if you've had a chance to look over the minutes  
18 that Cate sent us, we'd entertain a motion to approve  
19 those minutes.

20 MS. BOSTON: So moved.

21 MR. DOYLE: There's a motion by Brooke. Is  
22 there a second?

23 MS. KRAVITZ: Second.

24 MR. DOYLE: Second by Kelly.

25 There is one correction on the back part of the

1 minutes. Cate, do you want to tell them about that?

2 MS. TRACZ: Yes. Item number 8 of the minutes,  
3 I had mistakenly said that today was Thursday but it's  
4 obviously Tuesday, January 31. Thank you to Dennis for  
5 reviewing and pointing that out. So I can go ahead and  
6 make that tiny clerical correction.

7 MR. DOYLE: So with that correction, all in  
8 favor of accepting the minutes as presented say aye.

9 (A chorus of ayes.)

10 MR. DOYLE: Opposed same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 MR. DOYLE: Those do pass. Thank you very  
13 much.

14 Now, Eric Samuels is going to discuss the  
15 Continuum of Care awards for 2016.

16 MR. SAMUELS: And so I can go over this pretty  
17 quickly, but first I want to say that you heard a couple  
18 of CoC leads on the call, Camille and Cindy, and I think  
19 Marilyn might actually be on there too. And we expect  
20 over the next couple of the meetings, or at least the rest  
21 of the meetings in 2017 that the Continuum of Care leads  
22 will be playing a bigger part with the Interagency  
23 Council, or hope to, so hopefully that's a welcome thing.

24 And I think it's good timing because we're  
25 looking at updating the annual report, and I think getting

1 feedback from the CoC leads on that and on ways that might  
2 energize this group around our statutorily required  
3 duties, I think that would be a good thing I think the  
4 CoC leads could play a big part in that, so let me just  
5 get that out of the way. We were hoping for a lot more  
6 people to be here today but we had family emergencies and  
7 other things pop up, so hopefully next time we'll be a  
8 bigger group.

9 Okay. On to the awards. So for the State of  
10 Texas the fiscal year 2016 Continuum of Care program  
11 competition overall was good. You can look at all of the  
12 individual awards by CoC if you look at this handout.

13 MS. TRACZ: Excuse me, Eric.

14 For those of you on the phone, there's two  
15 handouts that Eric provided, and I will send those out by  
16 email to you on the phone and post them on the website.

17 MR. SAMUELS: So if you're on the phone and you  
18 do have those handouts -- some of you do, I know, I  
19 believe I sent those to the CoC reps -- this is the  
20 Continuum of Care competition on homeless assistance award  
21 report, the report sent out by HUD. So that shows all the  
22 individual awards and awards by CoC.

23 And then I summarized it all on this worksheet  
24 here where you can see the pie graph first that shows the  
25 CoC amounts for each of the eleven CoCs. I had the



1 percentages on here before but I don't think it really  
2 showed exactly what you would want to see or as well as  
3 the totals did. You can see that Houston obviously did  
4 very well and other CoCs did very well. All of these  
5 award amounts for 2016 for the most part, for I would say  
6 nine, probably ten out of the eleven CoCs -- probably  
7 nine, actually, it's a little bit more than what they  
8 received in the past or a little bit less. It's right  
9 around that line. I'm saying a little bit more than they  
10 received in 2015.

11 Now, there were a couple of CoCs that had  
12 pretty big differences. One CoC had a big difference in  
13 the wrong direction, we won't dwell on that. Hopefully  
14 that CoC will regain all that money in the next  
15 competition. And the other CoC that had a pretty big  
16 difference was the Texas Balance of State which received  
17 quite a bit more than it received in 2015.

18 Overall the amount that Texas received in 2015  
19 was slightly more than 2016 but really close to the same,  
20 it's a good amount. And when you compare it to other  
21 states, I think we still have a long ways to go to bring  
22 Texas up to those levels, but we're getting there.

23 And I think what we're starting to see is I  
24 think you can see this funding is going to good use  
25 because you can see the point in time count line which is

1 the blue line, it's going down while the funding is going  
2 up, which would stand to reason. The only thing I'm a  
3 little worried about is in the last couple of years here  
4 where the funding has started to kind of level off and  
5 then you see how some of the point in time counts  
6 decreases aren't as high. So I'm worried that we're going  
7 to start flatlining there and maybe even start increasing  
8 that number. Hopefully that won't happen.

9 We should find out something soon about where  
10 we're headed with that because the 2017 point in time  
11 count just occurred for most of the state, in fact, all of  
12 the state last week, so hopefully we'll get the numbers  
13 from those counts and surveys very soon.

14 So I think overall we're in a pretty good place  
15 with this. Like I said, a lot of the CoCs out there  
16 increased a little bit or decreased a little bit.

17 MR. DOYLE: And for those of you on the phone  
18 who don't have this chart, in 2015 the state got  
19 \$87,245,000 and in 2016 \$86,315,000, a difference of about  
20 \$568,000, so it was a difference but it wasn't an  
21 appreciable difference.

22 MR. SAMUELS: But of course, there's individual  
23 programs out there that were certainly affected by that  
24 difference, so if you know anyone in those communities,  
25 please keep that in mind. But I think it shows that we're

1 heading in the right direction. The funding that we do  
2 have is being used a lot more for permanent housing  
3 solutions, Housing First practices, and I think that's  
4 also making a big difference in the homelessness and  
5 moving down that PIT number.

6 MS. CANTU: Eric, this is Naomi Cantu.

7 I have a question about the transitional  
8 housing awards for '16. I remember in '15 that the  
9 transitional housing had been dramatically cut. For '16  
10 was there any level funding for the existing transitional  
11 housing providers, or were there more cuts, and what's  
12 happening with the transitional housing, does this  
13 directly get funded? Do you know?

14 MR. SAMUELS: So the transitional housing  
15 programs that were cut in 2015, that funding went away,  
16 but in 2016 there -- well, basically in 2016 there wasn't  
17 as many transitional housing programs to cut, so there  
18 weren't as drastic of cuts. There were some programs that  
19 were cut. And I don't want to single out any one CoC, but  
20 we know CoCs that had project applicants that did not jump  
21 at the chance to allocate money to rapid rehousing and  
22 permanent housing had a greater chance of losing that  
23 transitional housing funding, and I think that did happen  
24 in some of our CoCs. So yes, the transitional housing  
25 stuff did decrease. There was some renewal funding

1 provided and I believe that was primarily for domestic  
2 violence and youth programs.

3 The CoC leads on the call, if they want to they  
4 can jump a little bit on this, but overall the  
5 transitional housing stock has decreased quite a bit in  
6 the past two years.

7 Does that answer your question?

8 MS. CANTU: Yes, that does. Thank you.

9 MR. DOYLE: Any other comments or questions for  
10 Eric?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. DOYLE: All right. Thank you, Eric.

13 MR. SAMUELS: You're welcome.

14 MR. DOYLE: Update on the Youth Homelessness  
15 Demonstration Program. Is Ann here?

16 MS. TRACZ: I don't see her.

17 MR. DOYLE: Ann Howard, are you on the phone?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. DOYLE: Does anybody know we enough to get  
20 this?

21 MR. SAMUELS: I wanted her to be here to get  
22 all the applause.

23 Austin, while it did lose a tiny bit of money  
24 in their CoC program funding, they gained a tremendous  
25 amount of money for this Youth Homelessness Demonstration

1 Project, and they're all very excited about it. It's \$5.2  
2 million.

3 I know we have some other folks that work with  
4 homeless youth here in the room and they can add to what  
5 I'm saying, but it's an enormous win for Texas. That's  
6 the way I see it. Obviously it's specific to Austin, and  
7 I talked to Ann and some of the staff after they found out  
8 they were awarded this money and they were overly excited,  
9 and I think maybe a little overwhelmed at what's coming  
10 up, but everybody is just really excited about what  
11 they're going to be able to do. They've already done a  
12 lot of good work in identifying the homeless youth that do  
13 need to be housed and starting to work with those youth  
14 and housing a lot of those youth already.

15 I'll just say one other thing and then maybe  
16 someone else can jump in. Last week we met with the mayor  
17 and his staff who happened to help us out by meeting with  
18 the Laredo mayor on behalf of the Texas Balance of State  
19 Continuum of Care, and I can tell you that on that level  
20 they're super excited about what they're going to be able  
21 to do. And they intend to do just like they did with  
22 veteran homelessness and end youth homelessness and get  
23 the community behind that goal, using this as a catalyst.

24 MR. LONG: Ann, your presentation is going  
25 great.

1 (General laughter.)

2 MS. HOWARD: Sorry, apologies.

3 MR. SAMUELS: I'll let Ann talk more about it  
4 since she is the one.

5 MS. HOWARD: Are we talking about the youth  
6 grant?

7 MR. DOYLE: We are.

8 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, thank you.

9 Well, we're very honored to represent the Great  
10 State of Texas in launching this initiative. \$5.2 million  
11 doubles the HUD funding that Austin-Travis County has to  
12 address homelessness.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. HOWARD: So that's a great thing. I'm  
15 curious is did that sort of played into. We only had \$5.6  
16 million from HUD. And so we really believe that we're  
17 building on the success we've experienced housing veterans  
18 and then work with Jeanne and others to address youth  
19 homelessness. And so we want to use the money to prevent  
20 and end homelessness. And youth is young adults, it's  
21 really folks younger than 25, so it allows us to work with  
22 the schools and the CPS.

23 I'm sort of looking around the table. Do we  
24 have anybody here from CPS? And so we know, the data  
25 tells us that kids coming out of foster are sort of on,

1 for many of them -- sad to say -- a pathway to  
2 homelessness, and so one of our goals during a recent 100-  
3 day challenge was to make sure that nobody left foster  
4 care into homelessness. And that happens. Right? So we  
5 were excited that we had CPS leadership at the table with  
6 us during the fall when we were doing this 100-day  
7 challenge. We were able to write about that in the grant  
8 application and it is certainly a significant focus of  
9 where we want to take this work. And that should really  
10 help us sort of focus on the prevention angle, among other  
11 things.

12 We hope to use the money to try some new things  
13 like host homes. What would it look like if Michael and  
14 his wife took a young person into their home? I'm sure it  
15 wouldn't be easy but some communities have figured things  
16 like that out so it's a new thing. We do not have a youth  
17 specific shelter here in Travis County. I misspoke.  
18 LifeWorks runs one but it's very small. And one thing  
19 that doing this work to secure this grant caused us -- and  
20 I think Darilyn is on the phone -- Integral Care was a key  
21 partner with us over the last few months to figure out how  
22 we could position ourselves to address youth homelessness.

23 But one thing we found out from the data was  
24 that we had as many young people in our adult shelters as  
25 we did getting care from LifeWorks which was and is our

1 go-to youth agency. And we didn't know that, we assumed  
2 youth got taken care of by LifeWorks. And so it's really  
3 taught us that it's bigger than one agency, it's as this  
4 room represents, it's cross sectors and it's got to be a  
5 focus of all of us.

6 So things we're going to try differently are  
7 the host homes, maybe looking at creating a shelter  
8 specifically for this age group, and then doing a lot more  
9 rapid rehousing for young adults, and that's getting 18-  
10 year-olds and 20-year-olds and 22-year-olds to sign a  
11 lease and helping them get connected to employment to keep  
12 that lease.

13 We tried something during the 100-day challenge  
14 which was sort of creating roommates. That's not  
15 typically how we house adults. Right? But we had access  
16 to some single family rental units and so we put four  
17 youth in there. And I'm a parent of three youth and my  
18 kids have lived in all kinds of living situations since  
19 they left home, you know, and some of them work and some  
20 of them don't work. And so I think as we address young  
21 adults, we have to think about what were you like when you  
22 were 20. They're going to need abilities to stop and  
23 start and try something different. One strategy we did  
24 was six-month leases instead of twelve-month leases so  
25 that we can get them out of there without too much



1       detriment to their record, if you will.

2                   What the federal government is looking for in  
3 this grant is some similar sort of stuff to what we did  
4 with veterans. They want to know that we're doing  
5 outreach to the community and we have by-name list of  
6 individuals that are under 25 and homeless. It's also  
7 allowing us to look at the several definitions of  
8 homelessness. You know, I come from the CoC world where  
9 we follow the HUD definition. Now we get to look at the  
10 Department of Education definition, so all of a sudden  
11 we're responsible for young adults who might be sleeping  
12 in their cousin's apartment or their friend's apartment.  
13 AISD has over 2,000 kids, we have eleven school districts  
14 in Travis County, over 2,000 young people who are  
15 registered as homeless, so it could be a much bigger  
16 number that we're dealing with.

17                   And one of the things that HUD has not quite  
18 figured out is we showed them that with veterans we could  
19 create a system where we're housing, hitting a functional  
20 zero, we're housing as many as we're identifying, but we  
21 continue to identify them. And so they thought it would  
22 get to a point where it was sort of a zero sum, like there  
23 would be no more homeless veterans. We are still housing  
24 homeless veterans. And at one point we were housing a  
25 whole bunch of homeless veterans, and they say how can we

1 declare you effectively having ended veteran homelessness  
2 when you still have so many veterans. I'm like, well,  
3 because we're housing that many, we're doing what you  
4 asked us to do.

5 So this time they are going to come up with a  
6 number that says if you have more than this many homeless  
7 youth, you have not done it. And I'm not sure what that  
8 will do to the sort of challenge to hit that effective  
9 zero.

10 What we found in Austin -- and I don't think  
11 we're different -- is that if you remember RunTex, the  
12 shoe sales guy, and I can't remember that guy's name but I  
13 liked him a lot -- Paul Cardoza -- Paul said, I'm going to  
14 keep putting on races so you keep having a race to run so  
15 you keep buying shoes. And what I think we've seen in our  
16 community is when we have this challenge around veteran  
17 homelessness, we did it, when we had this challenge around  
18 youth homelessness, we did it, this 100-day challenge we  
19 did where we exceeded the goals.

20 Do we need to create state challenges so that  
21 we rally around it and create urgency and do it? Part of  
22 me says yes because that's sort of where we're seeing that  
23 we can harness energy and do things differently.

24 I might should be quiet and let you ask me  
25 questions. I am late because I was talking to somebody

1 and I was like, oh, my gosh, I've got to go.

2 Our first phone call with HUD is tomorrow about  
3 the grant, and we're not used to being like a funder, if  
4 you will, of having \$5 million to dole out in the  
5 community, but that's what this is looking like. Our CoC  
6 money, I don't know if you realize this, but even thought  
7 we CoC leads are responsible for sort of the renewal  
8 process and vetting those grants at the local level, each  
9 nonprofit organization, each agency has their own contract  
10 with HUD, ECHO, I'm not a contractor over that \$5.6  
11 million that comes to Travis County. But this grant looks  
12 like ECHO got the grant and we'll be subcontracting with  
13 others, so that's going to ratchet up our fiscal  
14 management responsibilities, put me in the nuthouse, I'm  
15 sure.

16 (General laughter.)

17 MS. HOWARD: But we're real excited about it.  
18 We're grateful to the work that was done around the youth  
19 counts in Texas. We had also participated with University  
20 of Chicago, Chapin Hall youth count, and then chosen to do  
21 this 100-day challenge. So we were going to be really mad  
22 if we didn't get it because we felt like they were setting  
23 us up to get it in a way, but we're really proud of the  
24 community, with Integral Care and AISD and Texas Homeless  
25 Education Office, the housing authority and Caritas of

1 Austin, and we all just sort of worked together.

2 MR. DOYLE: the length of the grant?

3 MS. HOWARD: I don't really know. We know with  
4 the craziness going on that we need to get the money and  
5 spend it as fast as possible, because one of the cool  
6 things is that the way it's designed, it becomes then part  
7 of the Travis County HUD allotment, all those good words,  
8 so it becomes renewable that amount.

9 MR. SAMUELS: So that's extremely important.

10 MS. HOWARD: That's why I said it doubled our  
11 HUD funding.

12 MR. SAMUELS: That I was not aware of. So what  
13 that means is this funding that you're seeing here where  
14 it says \$5.6 million for Austin, they will be eligible to  
15 apply for a total of \$10 million in the next competition  
16 because of this. That's amazing. I was not aware of  
17 that.

18 MS. BOSTON: Do you know if that was depleted  
19 from other places in Texas or is the true Texas allotment  
20 increased by that?

21 MS. HOWARD: This was new money appropriated by  
22 the last Congress, \$33 million to address youth  
23 homelessness. That's our understanding as of today.  
24 We'll learn more on this call tomorrow. It's the first  
25 communication from them since the announcement.

1 MR. DOYLE: But your guess is that's going to  
2 increase your pro rata share?

3 MS. HOWARD: Yes. Annual renewal demand.  
4 That's a big one too.

5 MR. SAMUELS: And that's actually even more  
6 important, and that's what it sounds like you're getting  
7 increased.

8 MS. HOWARD: Yes. That's the way we read it,  
9 because it's CoC funding.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Wow, that's big.

11 MR. DOYLE: It could be long term.

12 MR. SAMUELS: So I have a question, the number  
13 that they're going to use to determine the effectiveness,  
14 any idea what that's going to be based on? You're a  
15 guinea pig, you and Cleveland and a few others.

16 MS. HOWARD: You know, they might tell us -- I  
17 don't know, did I miss the benchmark conversation?

18 MR. LONG: No.

19 MS. HOWARD: We don't know.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Well, it's exciting.

21 MR. DOYLE: Congratulations.

22 Any other questions for Ann?

23 MS. MAERCKLEIN: I have a question.

24 MS. CANTU: Ann, I do have a question.

25 MR. DOYLE: Let's go with Pam first. Just one

1 second. Pam, you go ahead first.

2 MS. MAERCKLEIN: Just put this in the back of  
3 your head, do you know if any of these homeless youth  
4 their parents are veterans?

5 MS. HOWARD: I don't know.

6 MS. MAERCKLEIN: Because that would be  
7 something, you know, they might not get some money but  
8 maybe some education benefits if they are runaways from  
9 veterans, so that could be maybe something to put in your  
10 questionnaires.

11 MS. HOWARD: Absolutely. That's a great  
12 connection.

13 MR. DOYLE: Naomi.

14 MS. CANTU: Naomi Cantu with TDHCA.

15 Ann, can you talk a little bit more about the  
16 100-day challenge? I saw some news clips about that and  
17 that you had dramatically decreased youth homelessness in  
18 Austin but there wasn't funding, as far as I understand,  
19 associated with that 100-day challenge. Can you talk a  
20 little bit about that and how you were able to accomplish  
21 that?

22 MS. HOWARD: Yes. You're right that it did not  
23 come with funding, it came with energy and excitement and  
24 technical assistance on how you do a 100-day challenge.  
25 Looking for results, it was not a planning process, and so

1 the team, which Darilyn was part of, really looked at how  
2 can we sort of -- I don't want to say shape ourselves but  
3 coordinate so that as we find youth we can connect them to  
4 financial assistance and housing. And this is where we  
5 used some sort of tools that we think are sort of new.  
6 One is to use rapid rehousing with youth. Typically in  
7 our community it's been transitional housing. You know,  
8 young adults come in, they get to stay for 12-18 months  
9 and then they need to be moving on. And this was much  
10 more, as I mentioned, housing with a lease and they can  
11 stay as long as they're paying the lease. And so we have  
12 subsidies up front. We just dedicated the funding we have  
13 for rapid rehousing to youth during that time period,  
14 there wasn't new money.

15 Another thing we've been doing in Austin is  
16 basically creating affordable housing by buying down the  
17 rent. So we used private money to take a rent instead of  
18 it being \$800 a month, we worked with the landlord and  
19 made it \$550 a month by paying \$250 times twelve up front.

20 And that's just cheaper than building a new unit and when  
21 we don't have any it's just what you've got to do. And we  
22 call that rent buy-downs, and we did it a lot with  
23 veterans.

24 And the tradeoff for us with the property  
25 owners, they've got to lower their screening criteria so

1 that we'll work with them, which means if they typically  
2 require three times the rent in income, our kids don't  
3 have three times the rent in income, or you know, they  
4 don't want an eviction on their record, well, got to get  
5 rid of that, and then there's the criminal history thing.

6 So just working with landlords to break down those  
7 barriers by lowering their screening criteria and then  
8 maybe buying down the rent.

9 Darilyn, do you have anything else to say?

10 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Yes. I share Ann's  
11 excitement. It's really a unique opportunity. With the  
12 100-day youth initiative, we were able to leverage  
13 resources of the community that I don't think we have done  
14 before. It was amazing to see the community come together  
15 and really look at what resources do we truly have and how  
16 can we work together to house the youth. We were able to  
17 house I think it was 53 youth, and using very innovative  
18 ways of doing that that we had not tried before. And the  
19 work continues, the teams are still meeting on a weekly  
20 basis. There is a by-name list and everyone comes  
21 together to share how things are going, and even though we  
22 were able to house 53 youth, the list is longer than that,  
23 of course, and the team is committed to continue looking  
24 at that list and keeping the initiative alive.

25 The only thing I wanted to say is just because



1 of Ann's leadership, this has really brought a lot of  
2 attention to our state and how we do things, and this  
3 grant was one out of ten and there were hundreds of  
4 applications. So she doesn't talk about that but it is a  
5 very big deal for our state and how people are looking at  
6 innovative ways to bring together multiple to get things  
7 done.

8 MR. DOYLE: Brooke, you had a question.

9 MS. BOSTON: Yes. Actually, it just was a  
10 comment which I just wanted to remind you that the 811  
11 Program at TDHCA provides rental assistance for youth  
12 aging out of foster with disabilities. So similar to  
13 finding out if they have a parent who's a veteran, also  
14 figuring out if they have a disability, the appropriate  
15 ways without asking questions you're not supposed to, that  
16 could help potentially refer them to the 811 Program.

17 MS. HOWARD: And I'm glad you brought that up,  
18 and Darilyn, in trying to help us make sure that we're  
19 figuring out how to access that resource, I think one  
20 thing this group could do is like when there's that  
21 resource there, it talks about folks with mental illness  
22 and folks coming out of CPS and just disabilities but it  
23 doesn't call out homelessness or it doesn't call out  
24 working with the CoC. Like how do we drive that resource  
25 to make it clear how we access it. So I'd love to work on

1 that, or you guys to work on that.

2 MR. DOYLE: Bettie.

3 MS. BECKWORTH: Ann, I'm with Veterans Services  
4 at HHSC, so this is a two-pronged thing. There are more  
5 kids who are from military families who are going into the  
6 juvenile justice system. Todd is on the phone in Houston,  
7 and in my brain injury office days we had a big federal  
8 grant to determine if kids had developmental disabilities  
9 or brain injuries and we got help for them. So I'd like  
10 to encourage you, and I'd love to talk to you about it  
11 too, to work with the Texas Department of Juvenile Justice  
12 and see how maybe you could do a program within that  
13 because so many of those kids are in trouble because they  
14 didn't have families in the first place and it's a special  
15 subset that I know that Juvenile Justice would be happy to  
16 work with you on. And I bet Todd will say amen.

17 MR. NOVAK: Yes. I certainly would appreciate  
18 any support, absolutely.

19 MS. HOWARD: And just yesterday we secured the  
20 commitment of a former public defender and judge, Bill  
21 King, here in Travis County, that is going to sit on our  
22 advisory council for a while to help us make that  
23 connection, so it's definitely on our radar.

24 MS. BECKWORTH: On your radar. That's  
25 wonderful.

1 MR. DOYLE: Michael.

2 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, TSAHC.

3 Ann, I think we all share, like Darilyn, our  
4 enthusiasm for you, so congratulations.

5 The by-name list that you and Darilyn were  
6 referring to, does that include that expanded definition  
7 where you work with AISD and CPS to identify youth?

8 MS. HOWARD: Yes, it does.

9 MR. DOYLE: Cindy. Cindy, you're kind of  
10 cutting out if you're still talking.

11 MS. CRAIN: Is that better?

12 MR. DOYLE: No, it's not. All we heard was:  
13 Is that better? If you're driving, maybe you're going  
14 through a dead spot. I don't know if you can hear us but  
15 we can't hear you. We'll come back to you. Break in  
16 again when you get a second.

17 And we'll move on, and we're talking about the  
18 same thing, youth homelessness, but David is going to give  
19 us some benchmarks and stuff from the U.S. Interagency  
20 Council.

21 MR. LONG: Thanks, Mike.

22 Everybody should have gotten a copy of the  
23 benchmarks that I handed out a second ago. These were  
24 recently released by the U.S. Interagency Council on  
25 Homelessness. To kind of make sure we had all of our

1 thoughts together, we actually called our USICH rep, Bob  
2 Poster, and talked with him, Michael and I did that, and  
3 kind of walked through the benchmarks. So what I'll do is  
4 I'll just go over these with you and kind of give you some  
5 of our thoughts as well as some of the thoughts that are  
6 coming down from the USICH regarding the development of  
7 these criteria and benchmarks.

8 First and foremost, as you can probably  
9 imagine, these are modeled after the benchmarks and  
10 criteria that were created for ending veteran  
11 homelessness. If you're a community that's either been  
12 identified as being certified for ending veteran  
13 homelessness or working towards that, you can pretty much  
14 assume that this is kind of where they're going to head  
15 towards that same criteria and level of benchmarks. They  
16 obviously will be varied because they'll have different  
17 criteria and different individuals we're trying to work  
18 with.

19 You kind of think of the criteria as the  
20 vision, if you will, for ending youth homelessness and the  
21 benchmarks are the system or the metrics that you use to  
22 measure your progress and/or success in meeting that  
23 vision. Kind of broadly speaking regarding the criteria,  
24 they're designed to create really a coordination,  
25 transparency and accountability in a model for ending the

1 youth homelessness activities that put together in your  
2 plan. Specifically working with all of the stakeholders  
3 and partners because one of their big envisioned ideas,  
4 and as we all try around this table, is to all work  
5 together. I mean, look around the table, there's 10 or 15  
6 different groups or organizations or agencies and we all  
7 need to work together and that needs to be something that  
8 we do in coordination so that we have transparency and  
9 we're still able to come to a goal and kind of bring that  
10 to bear with our partners. So let me go through each of  
11 the five criteria that you have and I'll just kind of give  
12 you a quick summary and then kind of the focus on it.

13           So the first criteria requires the community to  
14 get to an accurate count of unaccompanied youth  
15 experiencing homelessness, and the USICH emphasizes that  
16 this could be pretty difficult, and as Ann mentioned  
17 earlier, there's a lot of different definitions for  
18 counting and identifying amongst the agencies what is  
19 defined as youth homelessness. The population, in our  
20 opinion, should include youth who are couch surfing or  
21 living at relatives' houses because they either lack  
22 stable housing or don't have a place to go, and along with  
23 all the other factors, they're actually on the street.

24           This effort requires coordination with all the  
25 different groups within Texas and that may vary, but

1 including CPS, school districts, criminal justice system  
2 and other entities to help us get an accurate and complete  
3 count in terms of what the number is in terms of youth  
4 homelessness.

5 The second criteria is community working and  
6 uses the criteria for the prevention and diversion methods  
7 when possible or otherwise provides immediate access to  
8 low barrier housing. The preferring housing intervention  
9 is reunification with their family, obviously, and other  
10 natural supports or provide supports to the youth's  
11 identified family to keep them at home. Obviously it's  
12 always better to have them go home if it's a stable  
13 environment. We certainly don't want to put them back in  
14 a home where there is either trauma or the reason they  
15 left was due to a harmful situation. If that's not  
16 possible and they're fleeing an unsafe situation, then we  
17 probably want to work to connect them to low barrier  
18 temporary housing just to get them off the street.

19 The third criteria is to connect youth to  
20 housing and services that are tailored for their needs.  
21 Basically, the answer here is not every youth has the same  
22 situation and not every youth has the same needs. So some  
23 interventions need to focus more on protective factors  
24 like addressing why someone feels unsafe at home, or  
25 focusing on reducing risk factors like making sure you

1 don't place someone in a living situation where they're  
2 exposed to drugs or alcohol if they're coming from an  
3 abusive situation or where they're in a substance abuse  
4 situation themselves.

5           The fourth criteria is that the community acts  
6 with urgency to swiftly assist youth into permanent  
7 housing with appropriate services. The main take-away  
8 from this is to make sure that youth are shuffled around  
9 or passed off. I mean, the last thing we want to do is  
10 create a continuing transition for them. We want to give  
11 them some stability that they can kind of walk into and  
12 create some solid footing to move forward with. So there  
13 should be a permanent housing solution and a plan in place  
14 for each individual given each one's needs.

15           The fifth criteria is that the community has  
16 resources, plans and system capacity in place to continue  
17 to prevent and end future experiences of homelessness  
18 among the youth. This is to make sure that the  
19 community's plan is sustainable, i.e., we want to make  
20 sure that whatever you put together has longevity in it  
21 and that it has the capacity to address youth homelessness  
22 on an ongoing basis.

23           So that's kind of the criteria in a quick  
24 overview. Obviously you have the guidelines in front of  
25 you. I will tell you that if you go to the website and

1 look this up, they have guidelines and a variety of other  
2 information that goes and kind of takes these a little  
3 deeper. I encourage you to go look at that the U.S.  
4 Interagency's website. Some of the references are here in  
5 the actual handout I gave you.

6 With regards, Mike, if you don't mind kind of  
7 going over the benchmarks a little bit?

8 MR. DOYLE: Go right ahead.

9 MR. LONG: Just as a summary. As I said  
10 before, these are the metrics and how you want to measure  
11 how well your community is performing and the progress  
12 that you're making in ending youth homelessness. Again,  
13 there's several benchmarks, I'm not going to read over  
14 them all so I encourage you all to kind of go through  
15 those benchmarks. I would note some of these benchmarks  
16 obviously aren't final. As I said before, the U.S.  
17 Interagency Council on Homelessness is still working to  
18 kind of figure out what it's going to take to make this  
19 come into play, and as they move forward, I'm sure those  
20 benchmarks will morph a little bit, just as they did with  
21 the veterans homelessness initiative. They may vary a  
22 little different but also kind of keep that in mind as you  
23 work towards certification and being certified as a  
24 community that has effectively ended youth homelessness.

25 I would add that based on our discussion with



1 Bob that Austin specifically -- and congratulations again  
2 to Ann -- the State of Texas, but more importantly, the  
3 City of Austin has a mayor who is very supportive of this.

4 I think Eric mentioned that earlier in his presentation  
5 and I think Ann will tell you the same. So we have a  
6 mayor that's pretty supportive. We have received  
7 phenomenal amount of awards, if you will. We go the 100-  
8 day youth challenge demonstration that we worked through  
9 that Ann just got through discussion, we had the Bloomberg  
10 grant, Pay for Success. The City of Austin was certified  
11 as a community that ended veterans homelessness, and now  
12 we have this huge award from HUD of \$5.2 million that Ann  
13 will be able to use and effectively work towards some  
14 goals of ending youth homelessness there.

15 Their thought is that that's a great model for  
16 us to grow from as a state. I recognize that we are just  
17 a small part of all that information and we all have to  
18 work together, but quite honestly, they view it as a great  
19 opportunity as to create some models and some strategies  
20 to work it out as a state level. So I'll just throw that  
21 out.

22 And I'll end with I think the key word that I  
23 read in all of this stuff and the things that I wrote down  
24 as my notes is that community is really the factor here  
25 when you're dealing with youth homelessness. We all have

1 to work together, both within the communities as well as  
2 the organizations that are providing and delivering those  
3 services, and so if we can continue to work together, both  
4 amongst the stakeholders, the partners, service providers  
5 and the financial resources that are being provided, I  
6 think we can certainly go a long way in achieving and  
7 becoming a state that can be recognized that's done a good  
8 job of trying to achieve ending youth homelessness.

9 And with that, Mike, I'll take any questions.

10 MR. DOYLE: Brooke.

11 MS. BOSTON: David, I don't know what the  
12 answer to this was for the veterans either so it may just  
13 be that they're using the same, is the USICH or HUD who's  
14 kind of the arbiter of that? And when Ann was talking  
15 earlier about she wasn't sure what kind of metrics HUD is  
16 going to use, are they going to be different?

17 MR. LONG: I don't have an answer for you. I  
18 think USICH has put this stuff out, so I'm going to assume  
19 they're the ones driving it. Whether or not they have the  
20 communication and coordination with HUD as the funding  
21 source, I don't really know. I'll throw out a couple of  
22 interesting things that Bob told us and Michael may say I  
23 don't want you talking about that, but with the new  
24 administration, you know, I asked Bob: So what's the  
25 changes that might be coming your way at USICH, is Matthew

1 going to continue to be the executive director? The  
2 answer was yes. But they're currently authorized from the  
3 current continuing resolution through April, they're  
4 authorized through September, so we're very hopeful that  
5 the new administration will step up and recognize the  
6 phenomenal work that's been put together and the guidance  
7 and the leadership that's come down from USICH to help put  
8 together these types of guidelines and coordinate with HUD  
9 and make sure funding goes to the right places to make  
10 sure those resources are dispensed properly.

11 So I throw that out to answer the question. I  
12 don't really know the answer to the question. Assuming  
13 everything we just heard, I would imagine USICH would be  
14 driving a lot of the benchmarks and criteria in terms of  
15 development for certification. That's my take, but I'm  
16 not the last say on it.

17 MS. HOWARD: And I would agree because last  
18 time it was HUD -- for veterans it was VA dollars that we  
19 were spending and HUD dollars and yet it was USICH who  
20 worked with Obamas and created the Mayors Challenge to End  
21 Homelessness. And so there's an initiative how called A  
22 Way Home America and that is this campaign to end youth  
23 homelessness, and it's got private funding, it's got  
24 leadership through HUD and USICH.

25 When we did this youth challenge, USICH was

1 sort of the convener and we had executives from all these  
2 different agencies at the launch and some at the sustain  
3 ability kind of wrap-up. And so I think we'll be looking  
4 to USICH to sort of run the race, like who's achieved  
5 what. This demonstration grant is a HUD thing and so I'm  
6 sure we're going to have outcomes and metrics measured by  
7 HUD but this benchmarks stuff is USICH.

8 MS. BOSTON: Okay. Thanks.

9 MS. BAKER: I have a question. Anna Baker with  
10 the Texas Veterans Commission.

11 So maybe I'm misunderstanding. So in the  
12 criteria, like number one you mentioned couch surfing, and  
13 maybe I misunderstand but in the PIT count, couch surfing  
14 is not counted. Isn't that correct?

15 MS. HOWARD: So the PIT county is HUD, and so  
16 it has rules, and basically you're only homeless if you're  
17 sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, and  
18 there's other stuff. But the Department of Education has  
19 another definition and it includes couch surfing. So the  
20 HUD grant is to look at all of youth homelessness no  
21 matter what federal definition it is, or using all the  
22 federal definitions.

23 MR. LONG: That was really the biggest point is  
24 that there's multiple definitions and some of them  
25 incorporate a variety. I said couch surfing and living in

1 relatives because it may not be exactly where they should  
2 be but it's a temporary situation for them. So trying to  
3 find all those definitions, as Ann said, and figuring  
4 which ones incorporate everybody's thought would be kind  
5 of where the goal is here.

6 MS. BAKER: Gotcha. Thank you.

7 MR. DOYLE: Other questions for David?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. DOYLE: Good stuff. Thank you very much.

10 MR. LONG: You bet.

11 MR. DOYLE: Kelly, you're going to talk about  
12 the Every Student Succeeds Act.

13 MS. KRAVITZ: And I've got our whole homeless  
14 team here. So often you hear us talking about definitions  
15 and how the schools serve because we want to provide you  
16 an overview of that today. I'm here with Jana Burns from  
17 Education Service Center Region 10, as well as Jeanne  
18 Stamp at the Texas Homeless Education Office, and we want  
19 to update you on the Every Student Succeeds Act, but we  
20 also want to give you some information about the McKinney-  
21 Vento Homeless Program at large and some of the work that  
22 we're doing here in the state.

23 So we've got a couple of handouts for you. And  
24 another thing, I brought a bunch of sticky notes and so  
25 I'd like for you to write out some of your questions.

1 We're hoping that in the future we will be able to use  
2 this opportunity here to be able to answer some of your  
3 questions regarding McKinney-Vento homeless education.  
4 We're talking about coordination and the importance of  
5 collaboration and all of the stakeholders at the table  
6 being involved, and we realize that this is an  
7 opportunity, this is a forum where we can do a better of  
8 empowering folks with information about what's going on  
9 regarding homeless students in Texas schools, questions  
10 regarding McKinney-Vento, and we want to be able to  
11 provide that information back to you.

12 So on these sticky notes please just write down  
13 questions. We've got about 20 minutes so we're not going  
14 to be able to get into all of it. We will answer a few  
15 questions at the end, but what I'd like is on your way out  
16 or after the presentation to just go ahead and stick it up  
17 on the wall and then we'll take these back, and then we'll  
18 work to provide this information in the future.

19 So I'm Kelly Kravitz and I work at the Texas  
20 Education Agency, so this is actually a little graphic  
21 that kind of shows you. Our funding has actually just  
22 gone up, over \$6 million, a little over \$6 million from  
23 the U.S. Department of Education to implement the  
24 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. In  
25 Texas we outsource this program, so we work with Education

1 Service Center Region 10, who in turn contracts with the  
2 Texas Homeless Education Office to implement the McKinney-  
3 Vento program in Texas. There is a sub-grant portion of  
4 the program, there's 66 sub-grants serving 131 local  
5 education agencies. Jana is going to talk a little bit  
6 more about that. And as you all know, Jeanne Stamp from  
7 the Texas Homeless Education Office and the robust  
8 technical assistance that they run, all of the information  
9 and wealth of knowledge that both of these organizations  
10 have regarding homeless education.

11 So I feel very honored to be at the agency,  
12 really an internal champion for this work and helping to  
13 support the great work that they are doing to serve  
14 homeless across our state in Texas schools, and really my  
15 efforts are within the agency just more coordinating and  
16 advocating and pushing along these efforts internally.

17 So this graphic shows U.S. Department of Ed,  
18 TEA, Region 10 and then THEO, so we really are a team that  
19 work together to implement this program. On the back  
20 there are resources. I mentioned THEO's website and also  
21 Region 10, excellent training and resources regarding the  
22 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program in Texas. Also,  
23 for training needs, stakeholder collaboration  
24 opportunities and all those things, these are the folks  
25 that you want to go to regarding increasing awareness

1 within your respective communities and programs across the  
2 state.

3 The Every Student Succeeds Act, now switching  
4 to the legislation, this is historic legislation. As many  
5 of you are familiar with No Child Left Behind, well, that  
6 was essentially reauthorized to become the Every Student  
7 Succeeds Act, ESSA, depending on who you're talking to.  
8 This was signed in December of 2015. There were numerous  
9 changes regarding our McKinney-Vento Homeless Education  
10 Program that actually became effective October 1, 2016.  
11 So one of those things, we were talking about the  
12 definition, students awaiting foster care are no longer  
13 served under the McKinney-Vento definition. There are  
14 changes how where those students will be served under  
15 Title 1, Part A under the new foster care provision.

16 School of origin now includes preschool as well  
17 as feeder patterns, which is outstanding for maintaining  
18 school stability. Jeanne will talk more about some of  
19 these details and kind of how they play out. And there  
20 are also new data reporting requirements, so we will now  
21 as a state be producing graduation and dropout rates for  
22 students in homeless situations, we will be factoring  
23 these students into accountability ratings, as well as  
24 different work that the agency by subgroup. Districts as  
25 well as the state will be required to break out this



1 student group which is outstanding as far as looking at  
2 outcomes and really starting to get a better picture of  
3 how our students are faring.

4 Additionally, in the law were changes about the  
5 requirements for state as well as local education agencies  
6 to make sure they have the capacity to do the work.

7 There's 24 pages of federal law that is the McKinney-Vento  
8 Homeless Education Program where we are responsible to  
9 implement these laws and support students in Texas public  
10 schools. We have over 113,000 students identified yet we  
11 know there's more students that meet the education  
12 definition of homelessness that we need to be identifying  
13 within our schools.

14 Some aspects of the law that relate to you all  
15 in coordination specifically is homeless liaisons will now  
16 be able to verify folks for HUD and HUD housing, so that  
17 is a new change in the law. Additionally, homeless  
18 liaisons are required to recommend homeless youth, as well  
19 as their families, to mental health, health care, dental,  
20 but now housing services as well as substance abuse  
21 services has also been added in the law. So again, the  
22 need for our school folks to be coordinating locally in  
23 the community, understanding the resources that are  
24 available. Again, those are just a few highlights of ESSA  
25 and some of the changes.

1                   Is there anything else I should add?

2                   MR. DOYLE: Clarification real quick. Did you  
3 say that homeless youth will now be funded by the  
4 Department of Education and not by McKinney-Vento?

5                   MS. KRAVITZ: So awaiting foster care was a  
6 part of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education definition,  
7 so folks that were awaiting foster were served as homeless  
8 eligible in Texas schools. Well, now there are now  
9 provisions in ESSA for students in foster care  
10 specifically, so now those students will no longer be  
11 served under McKinney-Vento but they'll be served under  
12 the foster care provision. So there's not a dollar amount  
13 tied to those students but there is just a change.

14                   We're still working to understand how that  
15 definition will play out. As we know there are students  
16 in foster care that are in homeless situations, like a  
17 crisis in our state sleeping in offices and other  
18 placements an scenarios that would traditionally meet our  
19 definition of homeless. So we're still waiting for  
20 guidance from Ed regarding how some of this will shake  
21 out, but on the whole, that was removed from the  
22 definition of McKinney-Vento.

23                   And with that, I'm going to go ahead and turn  
24 it over to Jeanne.

25                   MS. STAMP: Awesome. Thank you very much.

1           So we do have a couple of handouts, and I want  
2 to go over this first one which is kind of info-graphic of  
3 our annual report. And this is an annual report that we  
4 did for the '15-16 school year, but as you will see, the  
5 data that we have is 2014-15. That's the last verified  
6 certified numbers that we have through TEA. There's  
7 always a little bit of a lag there because TEA  
8 meticulously goes through those numbers to make sure that  
9 there isn't duplication of numbers that are reported.  
10 These are reported to the Department of Education and they  
11 come out with the consolidated performance report that  
12 USDE does eventually. So there's always a little bit of a  
13 lag there, so I'm going to be talking really about two  
14 years.

15           So as Kelly said, in the '14-15 school year we  
16 had 113,063 students that were identified as homeless  
17 through the public schools. Now, keep in mind that we  
18 think this is an under-identified number for a number of  
19 reasons. When they're younger children and they have been  
20 identified by a school district, they're not enrolled in  
21 pre-K or something of that sort, we don't have them. Kids  
22 who drop out wouldn't be considered in this. You know,  
23 many times older students who leave but still should be in  
24 school because they're 18 but not 19, sometimes we don't  
25 have those involved in those numbers as well.

1           Also, there's usually issues with school  
2 districts in identifying because a lot of kids don't want  
3 to come forward and tell the schools that they're  
4 homeless, they're embarrassed about it, or if they're on  
5 their own they're afraid that the schools are going to  
6 call CPS or the authorities. Families are embarrassed  
7 many times to let schools know. So we know that every  
8 year we try to shore up that identification piece because  
9 obviously if we don't identify them, we can't serve them,  
10 and those numbers being reported to USDE have a lot to do  
11 with the money that comes into our state to serve those  
12 kids.

13           So if you look at our little state of Texas,  
14 you'll see in the '12-13 school year that was the first  
15 year really that we had a PEIMS indicator, and PEIMS is  
16 the Public Education Information Management System that  
17 TEA uses so that all school districts when they identify  
18 students are putting it into this information management  
19 system. And this was the first year that we actually had  
20 homeless indicator to put in there, so the numbers prior  
21 to the '12-13 school year are a little less reliable than  
22 what we have because they were reported in a different way  
23 and almost looked like estimates in some ways.

24           MR. DOYLE: Question, Jeanne. So if they're  
25 under counted and you're pretty sure they're under

1 counted, and Ann is going to get an estimate for how many  
2 there are, how do you keep from raising her number, how do  
3 you get on the same page as far as that number for Austin?

4 MS. STAMP: For Austin. Well, they will do as  
5 good a job as possible of identifying. Every year the  
6 schools go through training to do identification, they  
7 really try to improve and work on that identification, but  
8 we just know that there's always going to be a few that  
9 we're going to miss.

10 One of the ways that we really are hoping that  
11 identification is improved is by coordination with the  
12 community. So this very grant, as well as the 100-day  
13 challenge, brings all the different organizations to the  
14 table so that you might have a community service provider  
15 that's serving families with another kind of thing and  
16 they will have the information to say, hey, did you know  
17 your children can be in school, they can stay in the  
18 school that they were in even though you had to move. And  
19 so we have a much more robust referral system going back  
20 and forth where everybody understands the same information  
21 and can really refer families and get those kids in  
22 school.

23 So we see that working both ways. Schools  
24 obviously have to refer to the community to get services,  
25 but we're seeing really a robust coming back to the

1 schools from community service providers who are referring  
2 families to the schools to make sure that kids are in  
3 school. So we think working in collaboration and  
4 coordination that that's going to improve that a great  
5 deal.

6 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good. Sorry about the  
7 interruption.

8 MS. STAMP: No. That's a great question, and  
9 I'll get to a little piece about collaboration later.

10 But as you can see from the graphic, we have  
11 the 2014-15 numbers that talk about numbers of kids  
12 enrolled and the number of school districts, 1,219, so our  
13 office has a big task with that many school districts  
14 trying to reach all of them. We have a number that are  
15 sub-grantees and really most of the kids that are served  
16 in Texas are in those sub-grantees, and Jana will talk a  
17 little bit more about that.

18 If you look at the pie chart for '14-15, it  
19 brings up again what we're talking about with the number  
20 of kids that are doubled up with families, staying with  
21 someone, couch surfing are the largest number. In Texas  
22 it's very similar to what it is nationwide. Generally  
23 it's anywhere between 80 and 83 percent nationwide that he  
24 largest number are doubled up kids that are staying  
25 places.

1           And I know sometimes people feel like, well, if  
2 they're staying with somebody, they have a roof over their  
3 head, and yes, that is better than sleeping under a  
4 bridge. But those housing situations are really  
5 precarious because they're generally not doubled up with  
6 wealthy relatives, they're doubled up with other people  
7 who are living on the edge and financially have  
8 difficulties, have overcrowded housing anyway, have very  
9 few resources to share. They end up moving from place to  
10 place and doing the kind of couch surfing that you see a  
11 lot of times.

12           And we a couple of years ago had a videographer  
13 who went around Texas and videoed a lot of the doubled up  
14 situations and you can find the video on YouTube and it's  
15 called "Worn-out Welcome Mat" and I really encourage you  
16 to look at that because they interviewed a lot of young  
17 people and families that they were staying with and it  
18 really does show you just kind of the precarious housing  
19 that these students have. Even though they may  
20 technically have roof over their head, they never know how  
21 long they're going to have that roof, we don't know if  
22 that roof is going to have actually holes in it, just  
23 really situations that you would not see a child as being  
24 to thrive, go to school, get their education, feel safe  
25 and secure in those housing situations. So I really

1 encourage you to look at that video, it's very telling.

2           You'll see the little pie chart breaks down by  
3 grade and the largest number identified through the school  
4 districts are primary which would be K through 12. We  
5 also have a chart that shows you different things like  
6 disabilities, English language proficiency, migratory, and  
7 then unaccompanied homeless youth. And of course,  
8 unaccompanied homeless youth, when we think about them  
9 we're thinking about them as being teenagers, but that's  
10 not really what the count totally is through the schools.

11           So the count for unaccompanied homeless youth  
12 will be any child who's in a homeless situation that's not  
13 living with a parent or a legal guardian. So they could  
14 be with a relative, they could be with a family friend,  
15 they could be with a stranger, we don't know the  
16 circumstances. Some of our kids are made to pay for where  
17 they're sleeping at night in various ways. So again, that  
18 can be a very unsafe and a little bit scary situation.

19           So we see this number kind of going up and down  
20 each year. Some of that may be, again, whether or not  
21 students want to let the school know that they're on their  
22 own, that they've either been kicked out or there's been  
23 conflict in the family and they've left or they've run  
24 away from home or something like that.

25           At the bottom you'll see in the dark green the



1 state mandated assessment proficiency, and this, again,  
2 matches federal kind of indicators as well in that our  
3 kids generally tend to perform 10 to 15 percent below  
4 other students when it comes to state assessments. They  
5 tend to graduate at a lesser rate too, anywhere from 50 to  
6 54 percent of homeless kids graduate. If they're  
7 unaccompanied homeless youth, that really increases, they  
8 only have a 25 percent chance of graduating on time.

9 Now, I say that but we also have some school  
10 districts that report higher graduation rates for their  
11 homeless kids than they do for their district overall, so  
12 we have an idea of what works with that, and what counts  
13 is having designated staff to perform those duties that  
14 normally parents would perform, making sure the children  
15 get to school, get to school on time, making sure they're  
16 doing their homework, they're handing it in, for the kids  
17 to know there's somebody who cares about them and cares  
18 about their education and how they're going to do and  
19 really pushes them along and pushes them through and helps  
20 them get their needs met.

21 And of course, doing all of that takes money  
22 and a lot of our grant-funded programs -- which Jana will  
23 speak about -- that's what they do with their money is  
24 they scoot those kids along so that those districts that  
25 get that grant money tend to have some pretty good

1 performance measures for their homeless kids. And we just  
2 wish we had a whole lot more money so that every single  
3 school district could have those kinds of designated  
4 staff.

5           If you flip over to the other side, you'll see  
6 that in the districts where we have sub-grants, usually  
7 around 61 to 63 or 64 percent of our school districts'  
8 homeless students are in those sub-grant districts. And  
9 why is that? We have 1,200-and-some school districts but  
10 only 131 grant projects. Well, that's because the school  
11 districts that have the most students period are the ones  
12 who generally have the grant as well. They apply for the  
13 grant, it's a competitive grant, so our large school  
14 districts like Dallas, Houston, San Antonio area,  
15 Amarillo, El Paso, a lot of those folks are the ones who  
16 have applied for the grant and so they're reported  
17 numbers. So even though we have a small number of actual  
18 LEAs that get the grant when you compare that to 1,200,  
19 they have a lot of the students that end up being served  
20 by that grant money which is a good thing. We're happy  
21 about that.

22           If you look here, again you'll see kind of the  
23 things that our office does as far as training and  
24 outreach. As Kelly mentioned, we have a rather robust  
25 technical assistance program where we really help

1 districts to make sure that they're following the law,  
2 they know what they're supposed to do, they're in  
3 compliance, but really moving from compliance to really  
4 being committed to making sure that kids get the education  
5 that they need because we all, I think, in this room would  
6 agree that education is the way out of homelessness for  
7 young people. We want to make sure that we don't see them  
8 as adults coming back into our shelters and our homeless  
9 programs when they have been homeless as children, so  
10 really breaking that cycle is one of the things that  
11 education does.

12 We do a lot of in-person interaction with  
13 school districts, we do a lot of trainings, we do  
14 trainings in all 20 of the education service centers  
15 around the state at least once a year, if not twice a  
16 year. We do trainings at individual school districts, we  
17 have webinars and we have information on our website and  
18 we have power points people pull down. And we've just  
19 completed a robust training of the trainer curriculum that  
20 we're hoping to get out and do some training for our  
21 service centers in all 20 areas so that we build that  
22 capacity throughout the state because school districts  
23 can't identify and serve kids if they don't know the law  
24 and they don't know how to do it. So really getting out  
25 there and getting that information is important.

1           We have a little bit of an umph this year with  
2           ESSA going into effect, because believe it or not, even  
3           though McKinney-Vento has been around since 1987, there's  
4           never been a mandate for training. Even the homeless  
5           liaisons, there's a requirement for a homeless liaison in  
6           every district, they haven't been mandated to have  
7           training before, so they're assigned a job for which they  
8           have no training to do that job. So with ESSA, one of the  
9           really good pieces was putting some teeth into that  
10          training, that homeless liaisons are required to get  
11          training and homeless liaisons are required to see that  
12          their district staff that identify enrolled kids and help  
13          kids in school are trained to do that job. So that  
14          training piece is really important for us, and we were  
15          thrilled to see that go into ESSA.

16                 You'll see the little pie chart gives you the  
17          breakdown of the kinds of calls that we get, so we track  
18          all of our calls in an electronic system so we can see  
19          what are the most questions that we get, what topics, so  
20          we can really gear our training and our technical  
21          assistance to those topics. And then what you see under  
22          that really is the homeless definition for McKinney-Vento.

23          These housing situations are what's reported by TEA to  
24          USDE, these are what school districts report to the PEIMS  
25          system and are counted.

1           We make sure that we get the information out  
2 that homeless kids can enroll without proof of residency,  
3 birth certificates, immunization records, school records,  
4 legal guardianship. If you're an unaccompanied youth on  
5 your own, you can enroll in school, you don't need your  
6 parent or guardian's signature, you're able to do that.  
7 You're able to stay in your school of origin which is the  
8 school that you were in when you became homeless or the  
9 last one that you attended because we know from research  
10 that that school continuity is the number one thing that  
11 really helps these kids. So they don't have to move  
12 around from school to school to school every time they're  
13 moving to a different couch somewhere. And believe it or  
14 not, that did happen in the past and that's why the law  
15 was passed in the first place so that that wouldn't  
16 happen.

17           Transportation is a mandate for school of  
18 origin, so the old thing of, well, if you want to go back  
19 to your old school, how are you going to get there,  
20 doesn't play anymore because school districts are required  
21 to make sure they can get back there. So for instance, if  
22 we had a child who became homeless in Austin, had to move  
23 in with a relative in Round Rock, if they wanted to go  
24 back to their AISD school, they are able to do that and  
25 they get transportation to go back to that school. So

1 keeping those kids stable in school is really the heart of  
2 the McKinney-Vento law and the reauthorizations of it, and  
3 anything that can be done to that is really important.

4 And as Kelly mentioned, ESSA now brings pre-K  
5 as well as feeder schools into that school of origin  
6 definition. We hadn't that in the past, so pre-K kids  
7 weren't covered no matter how many times their parents  
8 moved around, and then feeder schools, once kids ended in  
9 elementary, they didn't have a right to go with the rest  
10 of their cohort on to middle school, or middle school on  
11 to high school. They have that now where they can stay  
12 with their friends, they can get veered on to that next  
13 step, and that's going to be a really important piece, we  
14 think.

15 MR. SAMUELS: So I have a little bit of a  
16 question. If I was Ann and I was looking at these  
17 numbers, I'd have a big lump in my throat looking at all  
18 of these numbers, especially the doubled up numbers.  
19 Doubled up, of course, is putting someone in a vulnerable  
20 position. I wonder if there's any studies out there that  
21 you know of -- I don't know of them -- that measures the  
22 vulnerability of those children at that time in doubled up  
23 situations. Because it's going to be hard to quantify for  
24 Austin that number and identifying where they need to get  
25 to meet those goals. Do you know of anything?

1 MS. STAMP: You know, I don't know anything of  
2 what exactly you're talking about, but what happens in the  
3 school districts is every year you check on the homeless  
4 status. Right? So let's say we have a child who was  
5 living with grandparents last year. The next year when  
6 they enroll in school, they would be checked for is this  
7 child still considered homeless, so that would really  
8 depend upon how stable they are in that grandparents'  
9 home. So if you're the grandparent who's saying yes, I  
10 plan on keeping this child until they graduate from high  
11 school and they have a fixed, regular, adequate and stable  
12 house, we might not consider that child homeless anymore  
13 and they would drop off that status.

14 But if we have a grandparent who is living on  
15 the edge financially, is saying gee, we don't know how  
16 long we can keep this child, we're having issues with this  
17 child, we don't know how long we can manage them, health  
18 problems, anything that would cause that be like I don't  
19 know that this child is going to be able to stay here,  
20 they may have to move on to somewhere else, then they  
21 would continue to be considered as homeless. So just  
22 because they have been identified one year doesn't mean it  
23 happens every year, although there is no time limit in the  
24 law for homelessness, it really is how long that child  
25 meets that definition of homeless.

1           So you can't just throw a child off the rolls  
2 automatically, and that's why being in that doubled up  
3 situation is not an automatic gee, you're homeless. If  
4 you're in a shelter, you're automatically homeless.  
5 Right? But if you're in a doubled up situation, we have  
6 to ask some questions about that situation, how they got  
7 there, loss of housing, the instability of it, how long  
8 they've been there, the substandard or standardness of the  
9 housing. So there's a lot of things that go into making  
10 that decision.

11           MS. KRAVITZ: Kelly is going to send me and  
12 Eric to the principal's office because we were supposed to  
13 write our questions down and stick them on the wall.

14           (General laughter.)

15           MS. KRAVITZ: I know we're over time, but I did  
16 want to give Jana the opportunity to talk about our grant  
17 program they administer.

18           MS. BURNS: I can be very brief. So Kelly and  
19 Jeanne both mentioned the sub-grant program and so if you  
20 look at your info-graphic on the back page, you'll see in  
21 the top right corner, in '15-16 Texas was allocated \$5.8  
22 million to support the homeless education program in  
23 Texas. The requirement is that we spend at least 75  
24 percent of that directly in the schools, and you'll see  
25 the chart, you'll notice that in Texas we proudly sub-



1 grant over 86 percent of those funds and keep a small  
2 portion of that to actually implement the program in  
3 Texas.

4 Kelly and Jeanne have mentioned the number and  
5 the percent of an LEAs that qualify for those sub-grants.  
6 The amount of money is based on a needs assessment that  
7 they do and that requires the collaboration with their  
8 community service providers. And so when they collaborate  
9 and they look at what the needs of their homeless  
10 population is within their community, then they're able to  
11 apply for an amount based on a percentage of their  
12 students that are have been identified as homeless.

13 In that grant they identify those things that  
14 their community has said they feel like would be best  
15 practices for serving their homeless, and we try to  
16 capture that information, and we will, again, as Jeanne  
17 mentioned, use that information to support those districts  
18 that maybe don't qualify for those fundings.

19 In addition to that, you asked a question about  
20 how we're hoping to identify more children. One of the  
21 things that we think may be a concern is those districts  
22 that aren't sub-grantees that maybe don't have that  
23 awareness that our TEXSHEP sub-grantees have, we have an  
24 initiative this year of really trying to target some of  
25 those and take the best practices that we've learned from

1 the sub-grant process and share that with those districts  
2 so that if they don't necessarily have as robust of a  
3 system as our sub-grantees do, they can learn from what  
4 our sub-grantees are doing.

5 It's a three-year cycle, the sub-grant is. The  
6 first two is competitive, the subsequent years the award  
7 is based on the efficacy of the program in the years  
8 prior, so it's not an automatic grant. If you have  
9 financial concerns, that's taken into consideration. If  
10 the program is not accomplishing the goals that they set  
11 out, that's considered as well. There is a twice a year  
12 monitoring of the grant, there's a midyear review, and  
13 that's in conjunction with the THEO office and then  
14 there's an end of year report that's due as well. So it's  
15 not future money you just go to, we monitor that money  
16 very carefully and make sure that the students are getting  
17 those services.

18 MR. DOYLE: Great.

19 MS. STAMP: Can I just a couple more things?

20 MR. DOYLE: Sure.

21 MS. STAMP: I know I ran over my time, but I  
22 wanted to call your attention to this document because we  
23 did this in conjunction with the Texas Homeless Network  
24 who worked with us, and we're really trying to make sure  
25 that school districts are reaching out to their

1 coalitions, the homeless coalitions, their CoCs and  
2 working with them, and so we did this kind of document to  
3 explain to homeless liaisons just what that means, what is  
4 a homeless coalition, what's a CoC. Because as you know,  
5 the homeless liaisons in school districts, that's just an  
6 assigned title and job. Right? It's not something  
7 somebody applies to be the homeless liaison, it's assigned  
8 to a lot of different people who wear a lot of different  
9 hats and are very, very busy and often find that they  
10 don't have the time to really get out in the community the  
11 way they really need to and would like to. So we're  
12 really trying to reinforce that that's an important  
13 activity and giving them some knowledge about that.

14 And then the last one that I didn't talk about  
15 really comes through the National Center for Homeless  
16 Education. It's just a little bit of tools while we're  
17 waiting on additional ESSA guidance that school districts  
18 or those of us going out and training can hand out. It  
19 talks about what the definition is and some real tips for  
20 helping kids in schools who are in a homeless situation.

21 MS. BURNS: I wanted to say something about  
22 Texas Homeless Network, and Jeanne mentioned training, and  
23 we are so proud to partner with the Texas Homeless  
24 Network. What started out as a sub-grants conference has  
25 turned into something even better, and because of their

1 support of homeless education, we're able to bring in  
2 liaisons from across the state to collaborate with service  
3 providers and collaborate with one another on ending  
4 homelessness. So we really appreciate their work.

5 MR. SAMUELS: That's nice. And I think it was  
6 very valuable the last conference when we did that.

7 MR. DOYLE: And there will be another one this  
8 year.

9 MR. SAMUELS: That's right.

10 MS. KRAVITZ: Thank you all. Please put your  
11 sticky notes up or pass them this way, but we definitely  
12 want to work to provide you guys more information in the  
13 future. So thank you.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay. On the (b) part of number 7,  
15 it's very critical that we also continue to consider  
16 prevention activities. So I'm just asking each one of you  
17 to think about between now and our next meeting, which is  
18 April 11, the prevention activities that your agencies may  
19 be doing, and give us a report on what those may or may  
20 not be at our meeting in April. And we'll be sending out  
21 a note, a reminder to that effect that you're looking for  
22 prevention activities that you can update us on at our  
23 next meeting.

24 Okay. Our draft annual report. I hope that  
25 you all got that and had a chance to go through it. It

1 was, I thought, very well done, but what I would do is ask  
2 for volunteers to serve, two or three of you to serve on a  
3 report committee to just read over that one more time and  
4 get with Cate on anything that you think might be wrong.  
5 And so you education people, you're educated and all that  
6 stuff, you might want to do that.

7 (General laughter.)

8 MR. DOYLE: But anyway, and then bring your  
9 recommendation to the April meeting and we'll vote on it  
10 as the council. So can I get a couple of people to  
11 volunteer, look that over again, get with Cate and make  
12 any corrections?

13 MR. SAMUELS: I'll volunteer.

14 MR. DOYLE: There's one.

15 MS. STAMP: I'll help.

16 MR. DOYLE: And Jeanne is another. Can we get  
17 one more?

18 MS. BOSTON: I'm happy to volunteer. I read it  
19 a whole bunch anyway.

20 MR. DOYLE: Brooke, if you would kind of  
21 coordinate that, facilitate those discussion with Jeanne  
22 and Eric.

23 MS. BOSTON: Sure.

24 MR. SAMUELS: And can I just say in the  
25 previous reports we addressed each statutory requirement,

1 in this one I noticed it's not in there yet. Cate and I  
2 talked about it yesterday, the thought is that it would be  
3 eventually be added or could be.

4 MS. TRACZ: The way we've got it written is  
5 every year in our statute we're supposed to do certain  
6 things to address homelessness in the state, so we're just  
7 calling out a couple of major things that we've done in  
8 the past year, and then there's something in the report  
9 that says we want to address all of these statutory  
10 required things, here's the highlights. If there's  
11 something that the advisory committee thinks that the  
12 report is lacking, I would love your input on that. This  
13 is just a draft from TDHCA to really get the report  
14 moving, but do want input from the members and advisory  
15 members. If this new structure you feel it's not meeting  
16 the statute, we can certainly look at that, and it would  
17 be the committee's recommendation to maybe edit that  
18 structure.

19 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. And what are the thoughts  
20 on we're going to be working more, hopefully, with the  
21 CoCs, what are the thoughts of them contributing to this?

22 MS. TRACZ: I'm just administrative support. I  
23 think that's great if that would be a committee  
24 recommendation.

25 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

1 MR. DOYLE: This is more about a report to the  
2 agencies than it is a CoC funding matter, so I don't want  
3 to bog the thing down. I'd like to get this in by the end  
4 of the summer. So if that helps, that's wonderful, but  
5 that's what your committee can decide. But in April, if  
6 you'll bring us the thing you're ready to recommend, that  
7 will be marvelous. And if the members could get it a  
8 couple of weeks prior to or a week where we could at least  
9 review it.

10 MS. TRACZ: We can coordinate on a timeline to  
11 say by this date we'll have something for all the members  
12 to review prior to the next meeting so we'll have a  
13 finished product to vote on.

14 MR. DOYLE: Good. Thank you.

15 Okay. Miss Megan, you're going to review  
16 membership designations and duties. I've been looking  
17 forward to this all day long.

18 (General laughter.)

19 MS. SYLVESTER: Well, I saved you all the  
20 trouble of reading HB 200 which as many of you know was  
21 the bill last session that reauthorized and reorganized  
22 the Health and Human Services Commission.

23 MS. CANTU: Sorry to interrupt, but we're  
24 having trouble hearing o the phone.

25 MS. SYLVESTER: Sure. I'll move closer to the

1 mic.

2 MR. DOYLE: The mic or me Mike.

3 (General laughter.)

4 MS. SYLVESTER: And it's very, very long. And  
5 basically that bill talked about who in various committees  
6 of HHS should take various interagency committees and it  
7 didn't name ours, but it has this catchall language that  
8 says that notwithstanding any other section of law or code  
9 the functions of this agency that served on the committee  
10 shall continue to serve. So long story short, I think  
11 that means for us if and when there's a cleanup bill that  
12 addresses the DARS and DADS functions, HHS will have an  
13 additional spot, as will TWC. Unless somebody has a  
14 different opinion or their legal counsel has a different  
15 opinion, I'd be happy to listen to that, but I discussed  
16 that with our general counsel and he thinks that because  
17 the legislation doesn't directly address us that that's  
18 probably the most reasonable interpretation.

19 MR. DOYLE: So then, are we saying that I need  
20 to get somebody other than TWC that represents DARS?

21 MS. SYLVESTER: That represents the function  
22 that DARS did, so somebody from that division that would  
23 work on homelessness, and the same thing for HHC who  
24 represents the population that was served by DADS.

25 MR. LONG: And that would continue until such



1 time a cleanup bill is filed to correct any of the stuff  
2 you're talking about.

3 MS. SYLVESTER: Or the legislature could  
4 continue that, they could take it out so there's just one  
5 representative from each agency, we don't know what  
6 they're going to do.

7 I checked on Friday last week, there has not  
8 been a Senate bill filed so far.

9 MR. DOYLE: We did that last session. We don't  
10 know where it is, but now we need another one. We're just  
11 cleaning up after the legislature every session.

12 MS. TRACZ: So if I can interrupt, between now  
13 and the next meeting we'll talk with Megan and if your  
14 legal counsels have any input, we'll work on looking at  
15 the duties of each of the membership appointees and reach  
16 out to your agencies as appropriate, but that will come  
17 through Mike.

18 MS. SYLVESTER: Thank you.

19 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Megan.

20 We have at least one public comment. Tomas  
21 Rodriguez is going to speak, and Tomas, because of our  
22 rules, if you'd keep it to three minutes, that would be  
23 great.

24 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Three minutes, oh, boy.

25 Hello. My name is Tomas Rodriguez. I'm with

1 DSHS with the TB Program. I'm public health advisor from  
2 the Centers for Disease Control and I'm assigned to work  
3 in the TB Program, and I'm here just to talk a little bit  
4 about TB and homeless shelters and the homeless  
5 population.

6 In the United States, Texas has the second most  
7 amount of cases of TB in the country. In a recent  
8 surveillance overview of TB, the proportion of homeless  
9 cases among total TB cases have been increasing since  
10 2009. Previous trends showed a decrease proportion of  
11 homeless cases of TB among 45-year-olds have increased  
12 since 2009. There's an increase across race and ethnic  
13 groups since 2009, greatest increase among white and black  
14 populations. The proportion of homeless cases increased  
15 in males mostly, steady in females.

16 The TB Program has a homeless plan which  
17 doesn't cost money -- I'm not here for money. The  
18 increased community awareness of TB remains an important  
19 health threat that requires attention, not only from  
20 public health authorities but also from homeless service  
21 providers. Some TB programs do not have sufficient  
22 resources to screen at homeless shelters, so involvement  
23 of other community partners in these activities is  
24 essential to encourage emergency shelters to enhance and  
25 enforce their policies and procedures for routine TB

1 screenings and other TB prevention and control efforts and  
2 emphasize the importance of TB training to the shelter  
3 employees. TB transmission can be prevented when shelter  
4 employees and volunteers are able to recognize TB signs  
5 and symptoms and are prepared to take appropriate actions.

6 Increase emergency shelters awareness of  
7 resources available in their communities and encourage  
8 collaboration between health departments and shelters  
9 before or during TB outbreaks or contact investigations.  
10 The TB Program funds all the regional health departments  
11 that are part of the state, but also we fund 31 different  
12 local health department for TB prevention services. Most  
13 of the programs are not funded enough to prevent as well,  
14 but most of them provide services.

15 And the whole goal of my being here is to try  
16 to connect shelters, homeless programs with their local  
17 health departments. Local health departments are there to  
18 provide a service and I'm just kind of mentioning that we  
19 want that service to be used. TB is still an issue, and  
20 I'm within my three minutes.

21 MR. DOYLE: You're doing great.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: As a New Yorker, I can speak  
23 fast. I appreciate that.

24 (General laughter.)

25 MR. DOYLE: I'd like to hear does anybody have

1 any problems with TB in their shelters. Cindy, are you  
2 still driving?

3 MS. CRAIN: It's Cindy, I'm back.

4 MR. DOYLE: Did you hear that?

5 MS. CRAIN: Yes, I did on the TB.

6 MR. DOYLE: Tell us what we did in Tarrant  
7 County with that card.

8 MS. CRAIN: Very simply, we allowed the public  
9 health department to have access to the HMIS, they're part  
10 of the consent, so our HMIS we had a scan card so that if  
11 you were entered into the HMIS system, we generated a  
12 card, especially for the unsheltered and emergency  
13 sheltered, and we attached the expiration date of that  
14 card for 30 days to give you opportunity to get a TB test.

15 And so when you got your test, which was coordinated,  
16 through the shelter, and it was clear, through a batch  
17 process we then cleared those dates so that the HMIS card  
18 expiration date would be one year for them, so that would  
19 also trigger a one-year re-TB test, and so it kept it  
20 really smooth. And if there was anyone who was positive,  
21 they would know exactly what shelter so they could do the  
22 necessary followup. And our TB tests, of course, included  
23 skin tests and x-rays.

24 MR. DOYLE: So when it expired, if I remember  
25 correctly, if they scanned their card at the shelter, they

1       couldn't get in if their TB test had expired.

2               MS. CRAIN:  Yes.  Well, what would happen is  
3       your card, there's two colors, yellow meant it was a  
4       temporary card so what would happen is they would reissue  
5       a new card so that you had no suspension of shelter or  
6       eating, and converted it to yellow with the 30-day  
7       expiration date to make sure you got retested.  But  
8       hopefully that didn't happen so often because we would  
9       hope that your homelessness would have been ended within a  
10      year, but sometimes it did happen.  But yes, so you would  
11      just go back to temporary and convert.

12              And then we also offered those cards pretty  
13      much seven days a week because people use their cards like  
14      they would use their ID to make sure that that did not  
15      stop receipt of services.  And it was a very excellent way  
16      also to have consistent continual recording of services  
17      that are received, especially at the shelter level.

18              MR. RODRIGUEZ:  Many counties do wonderful jobs  
19      with the shelters.  The problem in Texas is that there's  
20      no one agency that oversees all the programs to make sure  
21      everyone is doing the same thing.  If that program was in  
22      Dallas, was in Houston, whatever, that program is there,  
23      there's not similar programs throughout the state, and  
24      that's an issue where it's really great there but then  
25      these folks also travel to other places or they go to jail

1 and they're transferred to other places. There's a  
2 hodgepodge of laws and regulations and there's no one  
3 agency, and that's something the TB Program is very  
4 concerned about. San Antonio has a wonderful program with  
5 their homeless shelters, it's terrific, but that one  
6 program does not coordinate with all the other programs.

7 MR. DOYLE: That's a good word. So we just  
8 need to keep that in front of everybody because that thing  
9 can get out of control quick, as you know.

10 MS. KRAVITZ: Is there a website or a link or  
11 something that you can share.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I can send it out to you.

13 MR. SAMUELS: And we can help get the  
14 information out to all of the CoCs and I think that would  
15 help, but replicating what Cindy is talking about among  
16 all ten, that would be difficult.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: There's already rules and regs  
18 about shelters and TB and all that. For you just let them  
19 know that this is a high priority, and that's something I  
20 think would be very helpful to us. Just a notice that  
21 it's an issue. If someone comes in coughing, go over  
22 there, or have some kind of infectious disease program or  
23 plan in place, they should have something. It doesn't  
24 cost money, it's just a matter of downloading rules and  
25 regs. There's also memorandums of agreements that you can

1 do, a shelter with a local health department, so you have  
2 a contact person, you have a person at the local health  
3 department. If you're not sure if it's influenza, if it's  
4 tuberculosis or whatever, you can call that health  
5 department and then you can ask them the question.

6 MR. SAMUELS: I want an example of that so  
7 maybe afterwards we can talk.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sure. Be happy to.

9 MR. DOYLE: Appreciate that.  
10 Any more public comment?

11 MS. BOSTON: I'd like to mention something.  
12 This is Brooke Boston.

13 One of the programs that we have at TDHCA is  
14 the Community Services Block Grant Program and it's very  
15 flexible, it's funds that come through US HHS and it's  
16 primarily for the poverty prevention programs, really  
17 helping the really low poverty and try to help them  
18 gradually work above that or get out of poverty, not  
19 necessarily through employment, although that's definitely  
20 a huge facet. And every county in the state is covered  
21 through this network of community action agencies, and we  
22 do a lot to work with them and keep them in those  
23 positions and they're kind of like I wouldn't quite say  
24 evergreen but they are entitled to their status of being  
25 an eligible entity.

1           Well, in Dallas County our entity is no longer  
2 there, we had to take their status away, and so we are  
3 seeking a new eligible entity provider. It's almost \$3  
4 million a year, it's a huge amount, and it's for pretty  
5 flexible use.

6           However, like with any federal grant, you have  
7 to comply with all the federal regulations, you have to  
8 comply with all the circulars, all that kind of stuff,  
9 there's reporting, there's metrics and all that kind of  
10 stuff, it's not just a gimme, but it is a really neat  
11 flexible opportunity. And we put out the request for  
12 applications to find a new provider before Christmas, and  
13 probably in part because of the holidays and everything  
14 else, we didn't get respondents, so we're going to release  
15 it again in a week or so and keeping that open for 60  
16 days. So if you guys are aware of anyone in the Dallas  
17 area, a pretty strong nonprofit who could try and take on  
18 something like this.

19           MS. CRAIN: Yes.

20           MR. DOYLE: I'm just going to bet you that's  
21 Cindy Crain.

22           MS. CRAIN: It's Cindy. I missed it, so if you  
23 email me that immediately, even the one that closed, I  
24 will move very quickly on that.

25           MR. DOYLE: She's with the Metro Dallas



1 Homeless Alliance, and she was in Tarrant County as the  
2 director of the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition.

3 MS. BOSTON: Okay. And just to elaborate a  
4 little bit, it's for all of Dallas County.

5 MR. DOYLE: It's all of Dallas County, Cindy.

6 MS. CRAIN: I'm in charge of all of Dallas  
7 County.

8 MR. DOYLE: All right.

9 MS. BOSTON: I'll pass that along and I'll make  
10 sure that we release the new announcement. And so for any  
11 of you, obviously competition is a good thing, we were  
12 really hoping to see multiple applications come in and  
13 having a scoring process be kind of healthy and robust  
14 because it's one of the biggest counties in the country.  
15 So anyway, just wanted to put that out.

16 MS. CRAIN: This is Cindy. Who lost the grant,  
17 remind me.

18 MS. BOSTON: It used to be called the Urban  
19 League of Greater Dallas, and I think they renamed  
20 themselves to something else, Urban Central Communities,  
21 it's UCC.

22 MR. DOYLE: All right. There you go. Thank  
23 you for that information, Brooke.

24 MS. CANTU: Mike, I do have one closing  
25 comment.

1 MR. DOYLE: This is Naomi.

2 MS. CANTU: This is Naomi, yes.

3 I thought it might come up under 8 or 9 but the  
4 committees that the TICH has, I know that they haven't met  
5 in a while which is one reason that the draft 2016 annual  
6 report is a major accomplishment and not the committees'  
7 work because two of the committees haven't had meetings  
8 for the whole year, and if we don't get the committees  
9 active for '17, then we'll have very little for a report  
10 for '17. So I know the committees have been on the agenda  
11 in previous TICH meetings but not actually discussed, we  
12 ran out of time. I'm asking is there any motivation to  
13 keep those committees going besides annual reports, or any  
14 discussion about that?

15 MR. DOYLE: We talked about this at one time in  
16 this regard, those committees were more active when we  
17 were writing Pathways Home, and I'm not for having  
18 committees just to have committees, and I guess I need  
19 somebody to look at our bylaws, if we have bylaws, and  
20 make sure that they're not standing committees. If  
21 they're not standing committees, I think we need to  
22 rethink the committees that we now need in light of  
23 today's work and find out what they may be and appoint ad  
24 hocs, if we can.

25 The bylaws just say that we can appoint

1 standing committees or ad hoc committees specific to  
2 ongoing issues, and as far as those particular committees,  
3 again, they were Pathways Home basically, and I don't  
4 consider them active right now.

5 MR. SAMUELS: Would that be something we would  
6 address as a committee to the annual report?

7 MR. DOYLE: The annual report committee that we  
8 just talked about, if you think we need new committees, it  
9 says I can appoint them, and I'm happy to do that. I  
10 don't get to do anything at my house so this is good for  
11 me.

12 (General laughter.)

13 MR. DOYLE: Great point, Naomi. Thanks for  
14 bringing that up.

15 So April 7 back here in Austin. We probably  
16 don't have a location.

17 MS. TRACZ: April 11.

18 MR. DOYLE: April 11 back here in Austin. I  
19 don't know if we have a location. We do?

20 MS. TRACZ: We do. The next two meetings will  
21 be at 909 West 45th Street. We've had meetings there  
22 before. It's the public hearing room for HHSC. I'll go  
23 ahead and send around the meeting details for that  
24 meeting. There's plenty of parking, it's easy to get  
25 into. We've been there before, so our next two meetings

1 will be there.

2 MR. DOYLE: And that's April 11 and July 11,  
3 and then, as mentioned earlier, October 4 in Dallas is the  
4 Texas Homeless Network annual convention and the Texas  
5 Education and THEO will be there, so make your plans for  
6 those.

7 Any other business we need to do?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. DOYLE: We are adjourned. Thank you.

10 (Whereupon, at 11:51 a.m., the meeting was  
11 adjourned.)

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MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the  
Homeless

LOCATION: Austin, Texas

DATE: January 31, 2017

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
numbers 1 through 77, 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.

/s/ Nancy H. King      2/4/2017  
(Transcriber)                      (Date)

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