

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HOMELESS

Health & Human Services Commission
Room PHR 164
909 West 45th Street
Austin, Texas

July 11, 2017
10:05 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair
D.J. BINGLER
VALINDA BOLTON
FRANCES GATTIS
KELLY KRAVITZ
PAM MAERCKLEIN
TODD NOVAK

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

ERIC SAMUELS
DR. DENNIS M. SCHOLL
MICHAEL WILT

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

CATE TRACZ (TDHCA)
MEGAN SYLVESTER (TDHCA)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. DOYLE: Okay. We're going to go around the
3 room and introduce ourselves so you'll know who all is
4 here that you're speaking to, in case you've got a
5 complaint against somebody and you won't get embarrassed.

6
7 I'm Mike Doyle representing the Governor's
8 Office.

9 Eric?

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

11 MR. SAMUELS: Eric Samuels, President and CEO
12 of Texas Homeless Network.

13 MS. VOYLES: Molly Voyles, VISTA Program
14 Manager at Texas Homeless Network.

15 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, Texas State Affordable
16 Housing Corporation here on behalf of David Long.

17 MS. BOLTON: Valinda Bolton, Community Affairs
18 Liaison at CPS at DFPS.

19 MS. BINGLER: D.J. Bingler at Texas Workforce
20 Commission.

21 MS. KRAVITZ: Kelly Kravitz, Texas Education
22 Agency.

23 MS. MAERCKLEIN: Pam Maercklein for Texas
24 Veterans Commission.

25 MR. GOURIS: Tom Gouris with TDHCA.

1 MS. MOLINARI: Jennifer Molinari with TDHCA.

2 MR. LYTTLE: Michael Lyttle, TDHCA.

3 DR. SCHOLL: Dr. Dennis Scholl, private
4 citizen.

5 MR. NOVAK: Todd Novak, Texas Juvenile Justice
6 Department.

7 MR. DOYLE: Ken, you want to go back there?

8 MR. MARTIN: Ken Martin, Texas Homeless
9 Education Office.

10 MS. STAMP: Hi, Jeanne Stamp, Texas Homeless
11 Education Office.

12 MS. BURNS: Jana Burns, Region 10 Education
13 Service Center.

14 MR. DOYLE: Good.

15 MS. TRACZ: Would you guys pull that table
16 around to see if you can?

17 MS. BURNS: If you want us to. We're okay.
18 We're fine.

19 MS. TRACZ: Okay.

20 MC. MAERCKLEIN: All of the Homeless Education
21 people are here.

22 (Laughter.)

23 MS. GATTIS: Do you want us to finish up, Mike?

24 MR. DOYLE: Oh, yes. I'm sorry.

25 MS. GATTIS: It's okay. Francis Gattis with

1 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

2 MS. SYLVESTER: Megan Sylvester at TDHCA.

3 MR. DOYLE: And our Court Reporters are?

4 MR. SCHAFER: Joe and Celeste Schafer.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Well, welcome everyone and I
6 will call this meeting to order.

7 The only remarks that I have from the Chair is
8 we have several voting items to take care of, so if you're
9 a voting member, don't leave until we take care of these
10 voting items because we're just right at quorum.

11 We'll announce that we do have a quorum present
12 and voting, so I would want to remind you at the last
13 meeting we asked you to bring today a legislative update
14 from your agencies. It doesn't have to be in writing, but
15 we'd like to hear from all of you about how the session
16 has gone and anything that we need to know about what's
17 going to be there or not be there.

18 So just keep that in mind as we go through.

19 Cate sent us the minutes and I would entertain
20 a motion to approve those minutes?

21 MS. MOLINARI: I'll second.

22 MR. DOYLE: Jennifer seconded. We need a
23 motion.

24 Jennifer made a motion.

25 MS. MOLINARI: All right. I'll make a motion

1 to accept it.

2 MR. DOYLE: And I need a second?

3 MS. MAERCKLEIN: I'll second.

4 MR. DOYLE: Second by Pam.

5 All in favor say, "Aye."

6 MANY VOICES: Aye.

7 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign?

8 (No audible response.)

9 MR. DOYLE: Motions passed.

10 Next voting item was last month you -- or last
11 time we were together in April you remember it is this
12 time of year that we appoint a Chairman. So we -- I asked
13 you to send those to Cate and so I'll turn it over to
14 Cate.

15 MS. TRACZ: Sure, but you know, I received
16 nomination of Mike Doyle as the Chair.

17 MR. DOYLE: Which I accepted and need your
18 approval since there were no other nominations.

19 So if you agree to appoint Mike Doyle Chair
20 again for the next fiscal year, say, "Aye."

21 MANY VOICES: Aye.

22 MR. DOYLE: All opposed?

23 (No audible response.)

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you very much. I'll
25 be glad to serve again.

1 I'll be appointing a Vice-Chair as the year
2 goes along in accordance with our bylaws. Legislation
3 only provides a presiding officer, but we'll adhere to
4 bylaws, as well.

5 Michael Lyttle is going to start us off on
6 Agenda Item 5 with the Legislative updates.

7 Michael, good to have you again -- with us
8 again.

9 MR. LYTTLE: Thanks, Mike. Great to be here.

10 Two items to share for you all from TDHCA's
11 perspective when it comes to the program serving homeless
12 populations. The first is a budget issue and it involves
13 the HHSP program on Homeless and Housing Services Program,
14 which as you know is the only state-funded program that
15 serves homeless populations.

16 It was a tough budget session for sure. There
17 wasn't much money to be had. A lot of agencies took cuts.

18 We ended up having to decrease our budget, our general
19 revenue in our budget approximately 4 percent, and the
20 HHSP program was not immune to that, so what ended up
21 happening was it lost about \$100,000 over biennium.

22 That's the bad news.

23 If there's good news, it's that we have focused
24 that \$100,000 on admin costs only. So there will not be
25 an impact on the persons served through HHSP.

1 And hopefully next session there will be
2 efforts by folks, Eric and others, to get that money
3 increased. I'm not allowed to lobby, of course, being a
4 state employee, but I know that Eric and others tried to
5 fight the good fight this session to make that happen. So
6 HHSP down \$100,000 over the biennium, but again, no impact
7 to direct services.

8 The other thing to mention -- and this is
9 really exciting news actually -- is that thanks to Senator
10 West, Senator Royce West from Dallas, an Ending
11 Homelessness in Texas Fund has been created. This is a
12 fund that folks that are renewing driver's vehicle
13 registration can give funding to.

14 Right now the Department of Motor Vehicles has,
15 I believe, four different -- four or five different funds
16 that when you sign up to give -- to renew your vehicle
17 registration, you can give to these funds. One of them, a
18 new one, will be this Ending Homelessness in Texas Fund.

19 What we're doing right now at TDHCA is we're
20 working with DMV on that. Also, I believe, TDCJ is
21 involved with this, as well. They're going to be working
22 on that with DMV from their end of things, but we are
23 working with DMV to come up with a logo for this fund and
24 basically a website or web page that will -- people can
25 look at if they're considering giving money to this fund.

1 So the first thing we're going to do is work on
2 this logo and then basically URL for the web page. We
3 hope to have something on that over the next two months, I
4 would say, and here's why: DMV has told us that it takes
5 about six months from the time you give them a logo and a
6 URL and information for them to get out the information on
7 their printed materials and other things and to basically
8 get it active.

9 So if we can get this to DMV by early
10 September, by February or March of 2018, they'll have it
11 active and at that point people can start to give money to
12 this fund. Hopefully by the end of next summer, we'll
13 have a corpus of some funding as a result of this.

14 This fall, I know that I met with Jennifer
15 Molinari here, and Tom Gouris and some others, on the --
16 how we're going to do this program. How are we going to
17 fund it? How is the distribution going to happen and what
18 are the rules going to look like because the bill, which
19 was House Bill 4102 directs TDHCA to do that.

20 So we'll be working on that this fall. We'll
21 be having some roundtables, some public hearings on that,
22 and the plan is that, you know, by the end of this
23 calendar year, everything will be in place and hopefully
24 next year we can really get going on this.

25 So that's our report.

1 MR. DOYLE: So the money goes to the TDHCA; you
2 don't have to go through the Governor's Office for it or?

3 MR. LYTTLE: We don't. Actually the money
4 will come to us from the Comptroller.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

6 MR. LYTTLE: As we understand it, if someone is
7 for the first time registering a vehicle in Texas, they
8 would provide that money to their local Tax Assessor
9 Collector who would then send the funds up to the
10 Comptroller. If it's DMV with renewals, they will send
11 the money that they get over to the Comptroller. The
12 Comptroller is establishing an account outside the
13 treasury for this fund, and it will provide access to
14 TDHCA to use the funds accordingly.

15 MR. DOYLE: Wonderful. The new ultimate, once
16 the decisions are made on the priorities for that fund,
17 you'll put out RFPs or something to that regard. Is that
18 kind of what you're thinking now?

19 MR. LYTTLE: Yes.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

21 MR. LYTTLE: Basically, and the good news about
22 being outside the treasury, too, is that it can't
23 theoretically get swept.

24 MR. DOYLE: Right.

25 MR. LYTTLE: So we wouldn't lose that funding,

1 per se. The money will stay there. It will build, it
2 will build, it will build.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good. Any anticipation of
4 the potential revenue?

5 MR. LYTTLE: You know, it's hard to say. We've
6 got -- let me see if I've got these numbers here that -- I
7 don't think I have them now, but Jennifer, when we did a
8 fiscal note on the bill back during session, we looked at
9 some of the other funds, and you know, some of them that
10 had very popular giving causes, like veterans, grew pretty
11 quickly. You know, several hundred thousand dollars
12 within the first year.

13 Others were more on the level of, you know, 10,
14 20, \$30,000. So you know, it could be somewhere between
15 those two figures. We just don't know.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

17 MR. LYTTLE: Hopefully the latter, or yeah, the
18 former, the higher money.

19 MR. DOYLE: Good.

20 MR. SAMUELS: So I would say a couple of
21 things. This is Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network.

22 I want to thank TDHCA for trying to absorb the
23 4 percent cut through other means. I know we're trying to
24 make it -- make sure that the HHSP money and other monies
25 that provide direct services was not touched. So I really

1 appreciate that.

2 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

3 MR. LYTTLE: And in regard to the Ending
4 Homelessness Fund, I should make you aware, it would be --
5 first of all, it would be great if one of the hearings
6 could be at the conference -- the Texas Conference on
7 Ending Homelessness that we partner with THEO on, on
8 October 4 through 6, so I take it we haven't had a great
9 -- we're also in communication with Senator West's office
10 about him possibly coming up to speak about that. So I
11 would just make sure that you're aware of that, as well.

12 MR. SAMUELS: That's great.

13 MR. LYTTLE: So I --

14 MR. SAMUELS: Good. It's exciting.

15 MR. DOYLE: Any other comments or questions for
16 Michael from TDHCA?

17 MS. TRACZ: He's coming to the --

18 MR. LYTTLE: Well, I don't know that he's
19 coming. We're trying to get him to come.

20 MS. TRACZ: Okay.

21 MR. LYTTLE: We worked closely with his office
22 and testified on that and yeah, we're really happy for the
23 effort.

24 MR. DOYLE: Good, good. Okay. Since you
25 mentioned TDCJ, Frances, you want to go next?

1 MS. GATTIS: Sure. So I have just one bill
2 that I'll mention as affects TDCJ. When we met last I
3 explained what we have in place for our releasing
4 population and that discharging offenders are the only
5 part of our population who might release homeless because
6 they release free and clear of any TDCJ supervision. So
7 we do have House Bill 3130 that doesn't speak specifically
8 to homelessness, but requires a pilot program for the
9 state jail population, that is, part of that discharging
10 population that's free and clear when they leave TDCJ.

11 We don't provide housing. They don't have any
12 obligation to us when they leave. One component of that
13 bill is those who participate in the pilot must arrange
14 viable housing as part of their re-entry and release
15 planning, so it's small, but it's a start for that
16 population that turns over a lot.

17 We have a fairly high recidivism rate in TDCJ
18 of that population and this would give us a chance to see
19 if these dedicated re-entry services that includes a home
20 plan will have a positive impact on that population.

21 MR. DOYLE: Just to give you an idea, if you
22 don't know, what she's talking about the discharging
23 population, they come out without any supervision
24 whatsoever and the recidivism rate may have changed
25 recently -- in Tarrant County the recidivism rate is

1 43 percent when they come back straight discharge. But
2 when they come out on any kind of supervision and parole
3 is down to 21 percent from a state level. So it's nearly
4 doubled.

5 With regards to what you think about probation,
6 it keeps recidivism rates down and keeps your jail
7 populations down and is that -- that's why the focus has
8 always been on those discharged straight -- who do
9 straight time. You go in for two years or less in a state
10 jail facility and you get out -- you know the date you're
11 getting out, the day you go in. It's not like that in the
12 prison system, so.

13 MS. GATTIS: Right. So that pilot population
14 will release on probation supervision.

15 MR. DOYLE: They will, oh.

16 MS. GATTIS: Yes.

17 MR. DOYLE: Coming out of state?

18 MS. GATTIS: Just keep in mind that it's small.

19 MR. DOYLE: Will they still do straight time?

20 MS. GATTIS: Yes.

21 MR. DOYLE: So the incentive is what?

22 MS. GATTIS: The incentive is programs and
23 services targeted to reduce recidivism rate to help them
24 succeed once they're no longer under supervision.

25 MR. DOYLE: So when they refer as part of the

1 personal -- when they are referred to the first stop in
2 Tarrant County, they could be referred there from state
3 jail facilities now?

4 MS. GATTIS: Potentially, yes.

5 MR. DOYLE: Good.

6 MS. GATTIS: The bill requires that the agency
7 identify locations, work with local community supervision
8 departments and local courts because there has to be
9 buy-in for the pilot to succeed. So it will be lengthy
10 process that must be in place by September 1st of '19.

11 MR. DOYLE: Side note: Tarrant County
12 Workforce Board signed an agreement with the Windham
13 School District.

14 Are our education people familiar with Windham?

15 FEMALE: Uh-huh.

16 MR. DOYLE: They did 6,000 GEDs in the last
17 year as the largest provider of GEDs we are hearing in the
18 United States. And Windham, we know where their jobs are
19 in Tarrant County and we know the skill sets that need to
20 be able to -- the inmate needs to be able to attain to get
21 the job, so it makes sense for us locally, how do we train
22 in the prison system to get them straight to a job out of
23 prison or jail?

24 And so we had signed an agreement with Windham
25 that they potentially can find the training that fits the

1 job and transfer them to a facility -- because they're
2 coming back to Tarrant County -- that does that
3 certification and so that when they walk out of prison,
4 not only do they get their ID, which is marvelous, they
5 also have a certification that's industry-specific and a
6 potential job opening at Alliance Airport.

7 So we're hoping to shorten that because when
8 they don't go with a job quickly, within the first six
9 months, their chance of homelessness is about 70 percent
10 in Tarrant County.

11 So we've got to shorten that pipeline to get
12 them the jobs. If you know where your jobs are and you're
13 not working with your workforce boards, you need to find
14 out where the jobs are and what the skill sets that are
15 needed on your jobs.

16 For Tarrant County, there's more applicants
17 than jobs for minimum wage and any job under \$15, there's
18 more applicants than jobs for master's degrees and
19 doctorate degrees, but there's 8,000 more jobs than
20 applicants at Alliance Airport alone for a skill set that
21 requires only a certification or a two-year associate's
22 degree.

23 So those coming out of the prison system need
24 to go to work.

25 MS. GATTIS: Absolutely.

1 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

2 MS. GATTIS: The risk of recidivism is
3 significantly reduced if they are employed within the
4 first 30 days past release.

5 MR. DOYLE: Good. That's good news.

6 DR. SCHOLL: Mr. Chairman, can I ask a
7 question?

8 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

9 DR. SCHOLL: On the recidivism rate is there --
10 this is Dennis Scholl, sorry.

11 Any differentiation based on different
12 demographics, such as gender, urban, rural, anything of
13 that sort, that if you considered them in this pilot
14 program might increase your likelihood of a successful
15 program?

16 MS. GATTIS: It's a good point. The bill
17 actually requires us to target diverse areas, so we can't
18 identify all four populations in our large metropolitan
19 areas where we know we have more resources than we do in
20 the more rural areas.

21 So the agency will have to look at some
22 diversity in determining what four locations or more we
23 pilot on.

24 MR. DOYLE: If you were to drill down on
25 recidivism rates, you'd find a high degree of recidivism

1 comes from younger people?

2 DR. SCHOLL: Yeah.

3 MR. DOYLE: People that spend a lot of time in
4 jail are less likely to go back, if they get out in their
5 50s and 60s than ones that are still young and feisty, if
6 you will. But yeah, there's a lot of drilling down that
7 goes into those recidivism studies, and is it a two-year
8 re-arrest, three-year re-conviction?

9 DR. SCHOLL: Right.

10 MR. DOYLE: All those kind of things complicate
11 recidivism a lot. So thank you, Frances.

12 Who's next? Legislative update.

13 MS. BOLTON: I'll go.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

15 MS. BOLTON: Valinda Bolton with DFPS.

16 We had a lot that was a big session, for CPS in
17 particular, but I just want to highlight a few bills that
18 impact us. Probably the biggest -- one of the biggest
19 ones -- there were several big omnibus bills, but one of
20 them is House Bill 5 and that returns DFPS to being a
21 standalone agency, so we will no longer be part of the
22 HHSC enterprise.

23 There will be some functions that stay in the
24 HHSC area and then some that are going over there, like
25 our child-care licensing and some of our Adult Protective

1 Services services. So the investigations will stay at
2 DFPS. So that's a biggie.

3 So I would say we had some interagency Bills
4 that I think might be of interest to this group, since
5 these agencies are all represented here.

6 One was House Bill 1608 that has to do with
7 creating internships for foster youth and working with TWC
8 on that. House Bill 1556 had to do with education
9 decision making for foster parents, particularly of
10 disabled children, so it kind of clarifies that and makes
11 it an easier thing to accomplish.

12 House Bill 1521 with TJJD, which has to do with
13 information sharing to better support and assist kids
14 because as we know, there's a huge overlap between foster
15 kids -- youth, teens in foster care and involvement in the
16 Juvenile Justice System.

17 And there were a whole lot more, but those are
18 the main interagency ones, and then we had one that I
19 thought you-all might be interested in. It pertains to
20 Adult Protective Services. And it has to do with
21 financial institutions and securities, all different kinds
22 of financial institutions being able to -- and --

23 (Music is audible.)

24 MS. BOLTON: Okay. I have to break.

25 (Laughter.)

1 MS. BOLTON: To place a hold on suspicious
2 transactions for vulnerable adults, which is very possibly
3 I think -- this is an editorial comment, but I think that
4 that is very possibly homelessness prevention.

5 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

6 MS. BOLTON: And it also --

7 MS. TRACZ: If someone's phone could be turned
8 off, please?

9 MS. BOLTON: -- requires reporting of suspected
10 financial exploitation, so they can both put holds on
11 suspicious transactions and then they are required to
12 report suspicious transactions for vulnerable adults, the
13 elderly adults, but also adults with disabilities who
14 aren't necessarily elderly.

15 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

16 If there's someone on the phone who just put us
17 on mute or hold? We're getting wonderful dance music, but
18 we're not dancing over here, so if you could take us off
19 of mute, that would be great.

20 MS. BOLTON: There you go.

21 MR. DOYLE: They may have gone --

22 MR. SAMUELS: The background to "Dukes of
23 Hazzard."

24 (Laughter.)

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Who's next? Who wants to go

1 next?

2 MS. KRAVITZ: I'll go.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay, Kelly.

4 MS. KRAVITZ: But I also want to say that I'm
5 going to share some things with -- if he wants to add his
6 share, he says something. I'm not actually sure if the
7 House Bill is the second Bill, but the Education Code 2507
8 is -- there are a lot of provisions and things that school
9 districts are supposed to do to support homeless students
10 and students in foster care in transition from one school
11 to the next, like creating procedures for the first two
12 weeks of school, ensuring partial credit, ensuring
13 extracurricular.

14 There's been all these things that the agency
15 was supposed to have done, but there was no rule-making
16 authority in our -- in the statute, and so we're really
17 kind of hindered in our ability to implement that, those
18 provisions and the laundry list of things that we're
19 supposed to do.

20 But in this session, the agency's ability to do
21 rule-making, it said the agency, you know, may adopt rules
22 to support implementation, and so we're going to be
23 pushing to do that in this next year, and it's really
24 going to provide school districts kind of more of the
25 boundaries, and more of the guidance regarding how they're

1 to implement this transition assistance.

2 And so I really see this as being a big
3 strength. Although it's a small statutory change, it's a
4 big shift for our agency. We'll going to be able to do to
5 implement that set of laws that's really critical for
6 kids that are mobile and coming into this school not on
7 traditional time lines.

8 Another thing that I wanted to highlight is
9 Senate Bill 2039, and this actually requires the agency to
10 develop one or more of sexual abuse and sex trafficking
11 instructional modules that may be used in the health
12 curriculum. And as we know, our homeless students are
13 very much at risk for trafficking, and so we're going to
14 be -- we're actually doing some work with the Governor's
15 Office and with the different folks across the agencies.

16 They're going to be working on development of
17 that and obviously this impacts our homeless population
18 and just another avenue, and schools or folks will be
19 aware and have opportunities to learn more about
20 trafficking in particular.

21 Is there anything else you guys want to share?

22 (No audible response.)

23 MS. KRAVITZ: Anything else?

24 Okay. Okay. And then next time I'll have more
25 updates on subject changes regarding dual credit,

1 counseling, and some other changes that impact all
2 students. I'm still really worrying about what those mean
3 and the agencies figuring out how we're going to make
4 those changes, but as I get that information, I'll provide
5 that update because it's relevant to all kids, but it's
6 just important students, as well.

7 MR. DOYLE: Great.

8 MS. KRAVITZ: Thanks.

9 DR. SCHOLL: What have you seen with your
10 homeless students and your accounts, how are they doing
11 numbers-wise? They up, down?

12 MS. KRAVITZ: Pam, where are they at?

13 MS. STAMP: We're up.

14 MS. KRAVITZ: Okay. Go ahead.

15 MS. STAMP: Last official count was 2415 and
16 that was 113,064. We have an unofficial count for 1516
17 was like over 120,000, so that is \$7,000 more.

18 MR. DOYLE: Any idea where you -- or
19 speculation where they may be coming from?

20 MS. STAMP: Well, a lot of things go into when
21 the counts go up. Some of it is just for awareness on the
22 school district's part and they do a better job of
23 identifying and counting, and so until we really look at
24 the specifics, we could be saying it's actually because
25 the numbers are going up, or because school districts are

1 doing a better job. But generally speaking, it's the
2 largest school districts that usually see an increase.

3 MR. DOYLE: As we get up to the Agenda, this
4 chart here shows 31 percent decline in homelessness among
5 Texans over the last five years and that's kind of
6 contradictory to where --

7 MS. KRAVITZ: Those school numbers.

8 MR. DOYLE: -- school numbers.

9 MS. KRAVITZ: Yep.

10 MS. STAMP: Well, I think it goes back a lot to
11 the difference in definition.

12 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Okay. A tightening maybe of
13 the adult rates, thinking we always do a different
14 application for schools.

15 Yes, ma'am.

16 MS. BOLTON: Do we track that relative to
17 population group? Like is it -- you know, like, is it
18 percentage-wise that big of an increase? Or is it just
19 tracking along with population growth and as we get more
20 and more people.

21 MS. STAMP: That's a good question. Well, and
22 I think there is a piece of that. That's -- I think
23 there's a piece of a lot of different things that go into
24 that increase, so it's really difficult to say, oh, yes,
25 the numbers are just going up because we have more

1 homeless kids.

2 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

3 MS. STAMP: So it could be a part of just the
4 population growth and we would really need to do that
5 specifically by region or school district to know if
6 that's the growth there.

7 But it could also again be just awareness and
8 people doing a better job of identifying.

9 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Okay.

10 Any other questions for TEA?

11 For Kelly?

12 (No audible response.)

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Who wants to go next?

14 MS. MAERCKLEIN: I'll go.

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Pam.

16 MS. MAERCKLEIN: This is Pam with Texas
17 Veterans Commission. We really didn't have anything to do
18 with any bills passed for homelessness. The main one,
19 well, for the woman's program was -- I'm a little confused
20 about this bill because they're the same, Senate Bill 1677
21 and 805, to where we collaborated with HHSC if they have
22 any women that -- if they have any women coming into their
23 programs, they have to ask if they're veterans and if they
24 are, then they have to send that information to us.

25 So that could be -- I mean, if anybody is

1 applying for food stamps or SNAP. That could be --

2 MS. TRACZ: Is that specifically with HHS or
3 all state agencies?

4 MS. MAERCKLEIN: I think it's just -- because
5 we're just working with HHS, yeah.

6 MS. TRACZ: Okay.

7 MS. MAERCKLEIN: So I think it's supposed to be
8 for all things, but specific to HHS.

9 MS. TRACZ: Okay.

10 MR. DOYLE: Good. The more that we can
11 identify, the better.

12 MS. MAERCKLEIN: Yeah.

13 MR. DOYLE: Todd, do you want to --

14 MR. NOVAK: Sure.

15 MR. DOYLE: -- go next?

16 MR. NOVAK: Yes. Todd Novak from the Texas
17 Juvenile Justice Department.

18 One thing to bring to your attention is House
19 Bill 932. We're going to have to count and determine the
20 number of youth committed to our agency that are in foster
21 care and report out accordingly.

22 There's another Bill, HB 1521. That is going
23 to help with the information exchange with the HPS -- the
24 HBS? Yes, HPS.

25 So that information exchange will assist us

1 with our collaboration obviously and most importantly with
2 our re-entry planning so we can ensure that we have viable
3 places for youth to transition to whenever they're finally
4 released from our agency.

5 So those are a couple to bring to your
6 attention.

7 We had another one, HB 3705, and that one was
8 related to information sharing between our County
9 Probation Departments and us, the Texas Juvenile Justice
10 Department, and what types of information can be shared in
11 what we call the "Juvenile Corrections Management System."

12 It's, again, a really good Bill to help us
13 exchange information so we can plan for the youth as
14 they're committed and assist with their eventual re-entry
15 back into the community.

16 MR. DOYLE: Good.

17 MR. NOVAK: So those are the Bills.

18 Some of the things else that I'd like to bring
19 up, the budget. Of course, we're still going to be lean,
20 efficient, and resourceful, but one thing I do want to
21 bring to your attention that I think is exciting: We have
22 a target to expand our independent living budget, which,
23 of course, is there to assist the transition of youth that
24 might have -- be at high risk for homelessness, not have
25 families to go back to. We're targeting that increase to

1 \$80,000, which is exciting to me.

2 If you remember when Alana was here, she was
3 our re-entry specialist. So part of those things work
4 hand-in-hand. And so we're going to be working to that
5 end to assist with those high risk youth.

6 MR. DOYLE: Do you have a handle at all on -- I
7 mean, do you release without a housing plan, just
8 sometimes they do their time and they're released. Is it
9 like the adult system where you could come out on a
10 specific date and just, "Thanks, see you next time." Or
11 is there always a parole or probation officer involved?

12 MR. NOVAK: Yes. In most cases. Now there
13 might be a rarity, but there could be circumstances to
14 where youth are released -- like we call it "aging out."

15 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

16 MR. NOVAK: So if they reach the age of
17 majority, which is 19, that could happen in very limited
18 circumstances; however, that does not mean that planning
19 for that return home has not occurred.

20 The large majority of our youth -- just about
21 all of them -- are definitely subject to parole services
22 that are there for re-entry and helping them get, you
23 know, accustomed to their new life and helping them out
24 until they actually earn parole discharge.

25 So that's a very rare occurrence, but it is

1 possible that kids could age out from whatever, so.

2 MR. DOYLE: So TDHCA has 127-or-something
3 re-entry specialists around. Do you have re-entry
4 specialists in the local facilities that house youth?

5 MR. NOVAK: Yes. We have education re-entry
6 specialists. I've got help in that area, and we have
7 one -- Alana, as I mentioned before -- she is our re-entry
8 specialist statewide.

9 So they work hand-in-hand. And of course, they
10 also collaborate with the parole officer. The parole
11 officer takes a tremendous role in the re-entry planning
12 and obviously the execution of that plan once the youth
13 get home.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good. Any other questions
15 about Juvenile Justice System?

16 (No audible response.)

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay. D.J., before you -- I want
18 to thank you because the next Agenda item we're going to
19 get here pretty quick is about the \$10,000 that TWC gives
20 us, and has now for the third consecutive year, and I'm
21 just going to -- D.J. has replaced George, and I was in a
22 conference with all three TWC Commissioners and Larry
23 Temple, who is the executive director, and I thanked them
24 on your behalf for that money, and Larry Temple said:
25 That was George's deal. That wasn't my deal.

1 So I don't know what that means --

2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. DOYLE: -- but now that George is not here,
4 that mantle falls on DJ. So if you see TWC Commissioners
5 or Larry Temple around, continue to thank them because I'm
6 always telling them how much we've -- how much value their
7 money has added to this.

8 And I want to remind you, as representatives of
9 your agency, we would like every agency at some point to
10 contribute \$10,000 to this cause so we can do things that
11 are progressive and outside the box so we can think about
12 ending homelessness all over Texas.

13 So some flexible money that will allow us to do
14 the things that TWC money allows us to do, so thank you,
15 DJ.

16 So how did the session go for you? Or TWC?

17 MS. BINGLER: Well, it was busy, but I don't
18 recall any specific legislation passed for any of the
19 homeless programs. And honestly I don't remember now that
20 much detail, but I know that it was busy and we survived.

21 MR. DOYLE: That's good.

22 And there have been some changes in child care,
23 but --

24 MS. BINGLER: Right.

25 MR. DOYLE: -- nominal changes, and if you hear

1 the statement, which is: I serve on our local workforce
2 board and so we hear all the time, agencies from all over
3 the United States coming down to Tarrant County into Texas
4 to talk about the "Texas Model." We're the only state
5 that allows the money for child care to flow through the
6 local workforce boards and access TANF money directly.

7 For example, our child care dollars in Tarrant
8 County are \$35 million, so -- and we monitor it as a
9 workforce board. So that's what is now being labeled
10 around the country as the "Texas Model," as more and more
11 direct local use of those funds.

12 So just if you hear of the Texas Model around
13 workforce, that's what it's about. So very, very
14 progressive. Everybody says, well, yeah, you've got the
15 Texas Model -- talking about like it's easy to get people
16 jobs.

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. DOYLE: But, you know, 4.2 percent
19 unemployment rate doesn't hurt either, so.

20 MS. BINGLER: No.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Anything else, D.J.?

22 Questions for D.J.?

23 MS. BINGLER: I'm sorry.

24 MR. DOYLE: That's all right.

25 Let's see. Have I missed anybody that's here

1 or anybody wants to --

2 MR. SAMUELS: So HHSC is not here, but I had
3 something.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

5 MR. SAMUELS: Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless
6 Network.

7 HHSC, they administer the Health and Community
8 Collaborative's money and there was a Bill introduced this
9 session that changed the use of that money or could change
10 the use of that money somewhat.

11 It is Senate Bill 1849, and what it does is the
12 Health and Community Collaborative's money has been
13 allocated to the five largest cities in Texas. This would
14 open it up to more rural areas. Two counties together,
15 that would be under 100,000 in total, so very small areas,
16 but there will be some other areas in Texas that could
17 access this money.

18 The one change with this is that they have to
19 collaborate with the rules of law enforcement because I
20 think Senate Bill 1845 is the Sandra Bland Act. I know
21 it's a Criminal Justice Act, so.

22 So they would be collaborating with their local
23 law enforcement, and the one-to-one match in funding still
24 remains, so a little minor change with that.

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Question for Eric that he

1 might be able to answer on HHSC?

2 (No audible response.)

3 MR. DOYLE: All right. Eric, keep going now.
4 I'm going to go onto Agenda Item 6 on the \$10,000 from
5 TWC.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So we're talking about the
7 \$10,000 that we're working on with NAEH, correct? Where
8 is the proposed?

9 MS. TRACZ: About 50/50 served with now and --

10 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. Yeah, so okay. We'll
11 start with we, Texas Homeless Network was lucky enough to
12 get funding through the Texas Workforce Commission.
13 Again, thank you -- and administered by TDHCA to help us.

14

15 All of the work that this member completed for
16 us in the 2015-16 year. In her research, she worked with
17 and interviewed Workforce Development Boards about their
18 work with people exiting homelessness and their work with
19 the local community to do that.

20 So we're extending the network and we are now
21 turning -- we're adding to that research by turning our
22 attention to Continuum of Care leads and determining how
23 they are working with their local workforce development
24 boards and what they need to do that, if they're not.

25 So we're in the early stages of that. This is

1 an abbreviated project, but we're going to get it done.
2 Our next step is to -- well, is to announce this and then
3 survey all of the Continuum of Care leads.

4 So we'll be sending out that survey to
5 everyone, hopefully tomorrow, and getting results back
6 from that and using the results from that to determine
7 which of up to five sites that we will conduct end up
8 interviews with to find out who -- what communities we
9 might best work with going forward if THN is able to get
10 the money to work with on a project that would follow.

11 MR. DOYLE: This may be common knowledge to a
12 lot of folks, but explain more why it's important that the
13 Continuum of Care leads work with their local workforce?

14 MR. SAMUELS: So the -- it's important for them
15 in both ways, too. It's important that the Workforce
16 Development Board knows who they contact with the
17 Continuum of Care to help people that they're working with
18 best access the services that they're not able to get at
19 their Workforce Solutions Office.

20 So the reverse is true for the Continuum of
21 Care. Someone comes in and they're experiencing
22 homelessness and one of the things they need is employment
23 training or access to employment activities or employment
24 resources. Then the Continuum of Care should have a
25 contact that they can work with directly at the Commission

1 or the Workforce Solutions Office.

2 And it would be ideal if at the Workforce
3 Solutions Office they had a person or persons that were
4 experienced in guiding someone who has experienced
5 homelessness through that process.

6 MR. DOYLE: There used to be money through
7 something called "WISH," Workforce Innovative Solutions
8 for the Homeless, but it went away 10 years ago and I know
9 this isn't for programmatic funding, but getting the
10 workforce boards to work with the continuum seems to be
11 very fruitful.

12 MR. SAMUELS: Right. And from the research
13 that was conducted in the past it appears from the results
14 we read that the Workforce Development Board
15 representatives are really interested in this, so we've
16 got to think also the Continuum of Care leads are, too, so
17 we think it'll be -- we'll have a lot of sites that we
18 could potentially work with down the road.

19 MR. DOYLE: Yet I see in the Continuum of Cares
20 agencies who are being funded by the Continuum of Care and
21 tell us how much Continuum of Care statewide Texas got
22 last year?

23 MR. SAMUELS: I --

24 MR. DOYLE: Not pitching?

25 MR. SAMUELS: I'm not -- I can't.

1 MR. DOYLE: It's about 100 million dollars
2 statewide, isn't it?

3 MR. SAMUELS: I think it might be a little bit
4 less than that, but I think that's close, yeah.

5 MR. DOYLE: So it's a good deal of money, but I
6 don't see a whole lot of applications or applicants that
7 their focus is jobs. I mean, it's housing, it's
8 management, but down the road they speak about jobs.

9 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

10 MR. DOYLE: This will help them get a job. But
11 boy, I would love to see the Continuum of Care tied into
12 homeless folks getting employed for those that aren't
13 mentally ill or have a disability and can't do it.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Right. And for those grantees,
15 it's in their best interest to help the people they work
16 with gain employment. That's one of the things that HUD
17 measures when they're determining whether or not someone
18 will receive that funding. So if they want to continue to
19 receive that money and get people off the streets, they
20 would maybe advise for them to work with the Workforce
21 Solution Offices.

22 MR. DOYLE: So to clarify, because this is
23 voting item, you're --

24 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

25 MR. DOYLE: -- you want us to, in fact, say

1 it's okay to use that \$10,000 to build a bridge between
2 the Continuum of Cares and Workforce Solutions?

3 MR. SAMUELS: So of course, I always draw
4 things out. I was just talking about the first part.

5 So the second part in the proposal for next
6 year if we're able to access the FY 2018 funds would be
7 that. It would be that usually we've learned to work with
8 delay by having up to three sites to provide them with
9 resources that could improve that collaboration between
10 the Workforce and Continuums of Care.

11 And resource, the main resource that we could
12 provide to them would be a VISTA member. It would be
13 someone that could work for the entire year on this
14 project instead of an intern that worked for a little less
15 than -- I think it was like six weeks in the previous
16 VISTA project, so a lot more could be accomplished.

17 So there would be that, a VISTA member, plus us
18 monitoring or measuring the performance and in the end us
19 assessing whether or not this works and if it can be
20 replicated.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any questions for Eric?

22 (No audible response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Dennis?

24 DR. SCHOLL: Not so much for Eric, but on the
25 whole topic of the \$10,000, to me it doesn't sound like a

1 whole lot of money, but I hope it continues. I've been
2 sort of a citizen member for a couple of years and I'm
3 wondering about the continued kind of appeals to the other
4 member agencies to, if they want to think about throwing
5 in 10 because I think it would come to \$110,000 if each
6 vested agency would lend a hand with that; is that
7 correct?

8 MR. SAMUELS: Uh-huh.

9 DR. SCHOLL: But essentially nobody's got a
10 hammer to compel that and sometimes represent to a body,
11 let's say, don't want to deal with contentious issues
12 within their own agency. Is there an avenue without
13 putting the attendees in any hot seat that would allow for
14 some appeal to the department level to get an increase in
15 the funding to get this work done?

16 MR. SAMUELS: The original --

17 DR. SCHOLL: We spent a lot of time on just
18 10,000 bucks -- 110,000, yeah, maybe it's worthwhile
19 debating if we could help the attendees get their bosses
20 to think about it.

21 MR. DOYLE: We did -- we changed legislation
22 the last session because the original legislation that
23 chartered us said that each agency -- as a member of the
24 Council HHS agency would commit resources, but that's all
25 it said and it was all, except for TEA and TDHCA and in

1 the very beginning MHMR --

2 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, yeah.

3 MR. DOYLE: -- did some funding -- created a
4 funding, but other than that, everybody committed
5 administrative resources.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Gotcha.

7 MR. DOYLE: Sending somebody immediately.

8 When we changed the legislation back last
9 session, we cleaned it up a lot and defined who the
10 agencies were now that some of them were gone, but it
11 still sent material representation because nobody wanted
12 to say you'll give us \$10,000. I mean, it probably
13 wouldn't have flown, everybody would be mad at us. We'd
14 have been -- these are the people that are making us.

15 So I sent a letter to all the department
16 heads --

17 MR. SAMUELS: I remember.

18 MR. DOYLE: -- and said, "Please consider
19 this -- doing this" and TEA and DEA said no, but TWC said
20 yes and George drove it as the member of this Council.
21 George drove it and we've been getting it for three years.

22 Now TEA gave us some money, did they not? But
23 you gave it directly to the Texas Homeless Network; is
24 that correct?

25 MS. TRACZ: Right. So maybe you could help out

1 with the details, as well. This is Cate Tracz with TDHCA.

2 The TEA funds, there was two different
3 structures on how the funds would get to THN which was,
4 you know, we had voted on that would be the designated
5 recipient, either through TDHCA or directly to -- and
6 there was a lot of administrative difficulty putting the
7 funds either through or not through TDHCA because we had
8 to do contracts. And it became a little bit of an
9 administrative burden, so we've been trying to creatively
10 think of how not to get caught up in the administration of
11 the funds, but you know, awarded and, you know, do the
12 work that's intended.

13 MS. SYLVESTER: But we understand that some
14 agencies, you know, it's much easier for them to award
15 funds to a state agency and we appreciate it.

16 MR. DOYLE: And you know, from my perspective
17 as a local person, when they would say, well, how do we
18 get this money to you? I'd say, well, write a check. I
19 mean, that's pretty simple.

20 (Laughter.)

21 MR. DOYLE: It's not that simple. There's
22 interagency agreements, there's who's going to monitor
23 this, it's going to cost us more to monitor than it is to
24 institute it.

25 DR. SCHOLL: Than it is to actually move the

1 money.

2 MR. DOYLE: So finally we're just thankful to
3 TWC that they've hung with us. And we're going to get
4 this figured out so there can be a simple pipeline so the
5 other agencies can contribute, because you're right.

6 This is a non-funded Council and except for the
7 grace of TDHCA primarily, TWC and TEA in the beginning and
8 TWC now, it wouldn't be here. I mean, it would just be:
9 What are you all doing? Well, I'm doing good.

10 But given a little bit of operating that we can
11 kind of explore things, it helps.

12 MS. KRAVITZ: Yeah, and that the agency, like
13 we were able to give 10,000, but there was just exactly
14 the difficulty. Like we have to -- if I'm going to give
15 \$10,000, I have to articulate exactly how it's going to be
16 used. I have to have some kind of reporting mechanism on
17 what I got for my 10,000 and was that deliverable produced
18 and what did that look like and why is this a part of our
19 work?

20 And I mean, so there's even a simple, like a
21 template or something that's kind of standard that could
22 create -- that agencies could use, because without that,
23 there's just a lot of work associated with it that even
24 now I can't just say, oh, they're asking for \$10,000. I
25 have to define it before I can get it, you know?

1 MR. DOYLE: And we've had some say, absolutely
2 not.

3 MS. KRAVITZ: Yeah.

4 MR. DOYLE: They're cutting my budget. Where
5 am I going to get it? I mean, I'm cutting my billion-
6 dollar budget. Where am I going to get my 10,000, you
7 know? Golly.

8 But it's hard.

9 MS. MOLINARI: So if I could add like a little
10 bit to it? So Eric has been talking about what was
11 previously approved which was the \$10,000 for that survey
12 and we were able to define it into the scope of work with
13 deliverables and had miniature benchmarks and so on, it's
14 going to be a 2-1/2 month contract effective with TWC's
15 funding June 15th and it'll wrap up on August 31st.

16 And so we've got kind of parameters around what
17 that is to look like as we've been talking with them and
18 have that contract in place with TWC and now with -- we
19 don't have THN at the moment. And so this voting item
20 that we're talking about is for that supplementing of
21 that, what's gone into the original \$10,000 to continue
22 that, like Eric has said, and trying to help with the
23 administrative piece on that.

24 Taking a voting item now so that we're not down
25 the road again trying to get the same approval, kind of

1 try to wrap it all up together. For our agency that kind
2 of, as the conduit, helps --

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

4 MS. MOLINARI: -- kind of put some parameters
5 and structures around that. So just for that clarity, the
6 voting item itself is just for the next step in what we
7 started with the \$10,000 contribution.

8 MR. DOYLE: Will you make that in the way of a
9 motion, since Eric can't make it since he's not a member.

10 MS. MOLINARI: Sure.

11 MR. DOYLE: If you'll make that in the way of a
12 motion, we can vote on it.

13 MS. MOLINARI: All right. I'll make a motion
14 to approve the fiscal year 2018 \$10,000 contract to
15 continue the work that has been approved by the previous
16 -- at a previous DSHS meeting.

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

18 MS. MOLINARI: If that's sufficient?

19 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Is there a second?

20 MS. MAERCKLEIN: I'll second it.

21 MR. DOYLE: Second by Pam.

22 Any further discussion, corrections, or
23 anything like that?

24 (No audible response.)

25 MR. DOYLE: All in favor say, "Aye."

1 MANY VOICES: Aye.

2 MR. DOYLE: All opposed?

3 (No audible response.)

4 MR. DOYLE: Then it passes unanimously. Thank
5 you very much.

6 Okay. Eric, I guess you're just going to keep
7 going and going. I'm going to move while you're talking,
8 unless you want a break, to your annual report committee.
9 We formed two committees, you'll remember last time we
10 were together. The Performance Data Committee, which Cate
11 is going to talk about in just a second, and the Annual
12 Report Committee that Eric has chaired.

13 I do want to make one comment. You chaired or
14 were involved in something before when we were doing
15 Pathways Home --

16 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

17 MR. DOYLE: -- on a data warehouse thing. I'm
18 just going to bring this to I was hearing a presentation
19 with our local Criminal Justice Committee about an agency
20 here in Austin or a department at the University of Texas
21 here in Austin who says they can share data with anybody
22 for any reason anytime they want it. And I brought up the
23 data warehouse thing.

24 She said -- and the architect, this guy said,
25 it's because we don't talk about people. We talk about

1 places.

2 And I said explain that to me.

3 And she said let's just assume that there's an
4 alleyway in Tarrant County, that there's been five
5 muggings in that alleyway. I can tell you the alleyway is
6 unlit. It's unoccupied, those kind of things, and we can
7 talk about the alleyway.

8 I can't talk about why people are being raped
9 there, other than the fact -- or mugged there, other than
10 the fact that it needs to be lit. It needs to have
11 flowers around it -- those kind of things.

12 And she said that there should be no reason --
13 and it's free to the University of Texas, whatever this
14 center was called, that you couldn't make all that data
15 made available among agencies around places.

16 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

17 MR. DOYLE: So I just think at some point,
18 since I'm not in Austin, I'll get you the name of that
19 lady --

20 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

21 MR. DOYLE: -- and her organization, to make a
22 contact with them if we can really do that.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, I'd be happy to do that and
24 find out if we can really do that.

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

1 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Now back to your report.

3 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So two things: I had to
4 look for this description on my phone and recently I
5 learned that I can't read things on my phone unless
6 they're landscape.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. SAMUELS: So I had to write it down. So I
9 hope I wrote it down correctly and it's long, so that's
10 why I say that.

11 MR. DOYLE: Let me preface that by saying I
12 asked Brooke and Eric both to come up with a purpose for
13 their Committee. Why do we have this Committee in the
14 first place? And they both sent it to me, so.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So let me read through
16 this. Okay. This Committee will assess and report our
17 progress in meeting the statutorily required duties of
18 this Council during the past year. The Committee will
19 also review the goals and objectives of Pathways Home,
20 formerly known as the Strategic Council to Prevent and End
21 Homelessness to determine progress and current relevance
22 of the goals and objectives published five years ago.

23 The Committee will draft updated goals and
24 objectives as needed for tentative membership review.

25 MR. DOYLE: Great.

1 MS. TRACZ: Sounds great.

2 MR. DOYLE: And your report? Any?

3 MR. SAMUELS: My report is, what I need to do
4 is start building up that Committee.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

6 MR. SAMUELS: So I've frankly sent out some
7 emails asking people to join the Committee this morning.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

9 MR. SAMUELS: But I will also ask anyone in the
10 room if they're interested in joining the Committee to let
11 me know afterwards, okay?

12 DR. SCHOLL: I wouldn't mind doing kind of a
13 review. I'm not privy to the data, sir, but I actually
14 can review reports and offer suggestions pretty
15 efficiently.

16 MR. SAMUELS: This Committee will be more than
17 data --

18 DR. SCHOLL: Okay.

19 MR. SAMUELS: -- but we will certainly look at
20 data, so yeah.

21 DR. SCHOLL: No, I mean, the narrative and
22 explanation.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

24 DR. SCHOLL: Yeah, so you can add me in.

25 MR. SAMUELS: I contacted Cate yesterday to ask

1 when this was due to make sure I wasn't too far behind.
2 So it seems like I'm not, so I'm shooting for our first
3 meeting to be at the end of this month.

4 MR. DOYLE: Good, great.

5 And then the Performance Data Committee was --
6 Cate's was going to give the report for Brooke.

7 MS. TRACZ: Right. So Brooke asked me to
8 provide an update and being prepared, she typed out a
9 whole update for me. So I'll just read this for you all,
10 if you have any questions at the end.

11 So Brooke is heading up the Performance Data
12 Committee and asked that I share her update with you. As
13 you recall, the purpose of the Committee is to achieve the
14 requirements set forth in the TICH bylaws, specifically
15 regulating to each agency reporting their performance
16 data.

17 The Committee's work has several components:
18 to evaluate existing agency performance data, to work with
19 each member to identify that data, and how the data can be
20 adjusted to reflect homeless outcomes, to discuss what
21 other data can be compiled, and to provide the TICH report
22 that uniformly reflects the combined agency data.

23 So the Committee is striving to do this in a
24 way that limits the short- and long-term burden of the
25 agencies. We fully realize that if we design the annual

1 data process that is too unwieldy, then agency members may
2 not have the time or ability to contribute what is needed
3 in a recurring and useful way.

4 So we decided to tackle this project through
5 the lens of existing data that each agency is already
6 required to provide to the LBB. By reviewing LBB
7 performance measures -- that's the Legislative Budget
8 Board -- for each agency, we are not creating significant
9 new reporting requirements.

10 However, there is initial work to be done
11 because each member's agency programs are not explicitly
12 related to homelessness. So we are working to identify
13 the most germane and appropriate performance data to
14 compile and to share with the TICH.

15 So Brooke has been working with a TDHCA staff
16 member. She's in our data management and reporting
17 section. Her name is Julie Lang. So you may get a
18 contact from Julie or Brooke on this.

19 They've begun to review performance measures
20 from each member agency using the most recent LAR to do
21 so. As they review, they are generating a list of
22 questions to ask the other member agencies. The purpose
23 of the questions is to identify which measures are most
24 likely closely tied to homelessness, and which measures
25 estimate proportion of homeless served per general agency

1 measures.

2 So questions to the agency members are couched
3 to address not only programs serving those who experience
4 homelessness, but also to consider programs through which
5 the provision serve -- services working to prevent
6 homelessness.

7 Questions for member agencies are divided into
8 two parts: The first is a general set of questions to be
9 asked of each agency and then the second is a specific set
10 of questions that really drills down to each agencies'
11 measures.

12 So a couple examples of the general agency
13 questions that everyone will be asked:

14 Number 1, do you have any performance measures
15 for which beneficiaries are specifically stated to include
16 homelessness population or even if one population -- it's
17 one population among several --

18 MR. DOYLE: Can I stop you right there?

19 MS. TRACZ: Sure, absolutely.

20 MR. DOYLE: And bring up to date some of the
21 newer members. I'm trying to remember the guy's name, but
22 I can't remember, but he was from DADS. DADS was way back
23 when.

24 MR. MARTIN: Lance.

25 MR. DOYLE: Lance, there you go. Thank you,

1 Ken.

2 And we asked him kind of that question. Do you
3 serve homeless people? And he was with the Department of
4 Rehabilitative Services -- is that right, or something
5 like that?

6 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, I think so.

7 MR. DOYLE: And he was disabled and he said,
8 Yes, we serve homeless. So I go to our local
9 representative there in Tarrant County and they said, "We
10 don't serve homeless."

11 And so I got to asking Lance, they said they
12 didn't serve homeless. And so he got to looking, they
13 don't even ask the question. And so at least he got it
14 put on the application, "Where did you spend the night
15 last night? Are you homeless?"

16 So that was a big -- that's a big question for
17 us. So some of your agencies may be thinking that they
18 serve homeless people, but it's not really, unless
19 somebody decides they want to ask that question. So
20 that's a little background for that question.

21 MS. TRACZ: Right, right. And that's -- yeah,
22 that is a good point. So when you are contacted by Brooke
23 or Julie, you know, be thinking about those things, what
24 performance measures may also capture the homeless
25 population in data that currently does exist.

1 So I'll skip ahead to some examples of the
2 agency-specific questions. So we've look at the TDCJ
3 measures and one question is: Is any data gathered on a
4 parole or probation population experiencing homelessness?

5 Does the ISYS or the Offender Tracking System have a data
6 field on whether the offender or the parolee has
7 experienced homelessness. So really drilling down into
8 the specific populations.

9 And example for TVC is: Of the general
10 assistance grants, the FPC grants given to local
11 organizations, do any of these organizations work closely
12 or specifically with the homeless?

13 So it's your partner agencies -- you know, your
14 subrecipients, as well, if you collect that type of data.

15
16 So at this point the reviews of the measures
17 and generation of questions have been fully completed for
18 three agencies: TVC, TDCJ, and TEA, so those are the
19 first three that we've received contacts.

20 MR. DOYLE: Mention those again.

21 MS. TRACZ: TVC, Veterans Commission.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

23 MS. TRACZ: TDCJ and TEA, so.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

25 MS. TRACZ: So Brooke has reached out to all

1 member agencies and has requested meetings and I think
2 we've got some set on the calendar. Let me see.

3 We realize that not each of us as TICH members
4 know all of the details of our agencies and our
5 performance measures, so if you could identify -- Brooke
6 has asked that if you could identify additional staff
7 members at your agency that might have a little bit more
8 working knowledge of the performance measures and how you
9 could, you know, drill down and find appropriate data,
10 that would be very helpful. So think about that before
11 they contact you.

12 So after the first three interview sessions,
13 then they'll proceed with setting up any more and, you
14 know, if you would like to, you know, reach out to Brooke
15 now and get something on the calendar, we would welcome
16 that, too, so.

17 Are there any questions?

18 MS. BINGLER: I had to respond initially and
19 provided the contact that would help you with the
20 performance data.

21 MS. TRACZ: Okay.

22 MS. BINGLER: But yeah, I hadn't heard anything
23 so I was wondering is it better to follow up with her now
24 or just wait?

25 MS. TRACZ: She is on two weeks of vacation,

1 which is -- I'm her proxy for this meeting, so maybe next
2 week follow up and I'll leave a note, as well.

3 MS. BINGLER: Okay.

4 MS. TRACZ: So when she gets back it'll be at
5 the top of her box.

6 MS. BINGLER: Okay.

7 MS. TRACZ: Okay.

8 MS. BINGLER: I was just wondering if there was
9 anything else to help you.

10 MR. DOYLE: Any questions for Cate on Brooke's
11 report?

12 (No audible response.)

13 MR. DOYLE: Well that's exciting.

14 MS. TRACZ: Yeah. It's a lot of work initially
15 to dig through all of the performance measures and see
16 what may or may not capture homelessness prevention or
17 homelessness data, but it should be some good results.

18 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, to be able to get the
19 performance measures and see if they really even address
20 homelessness, or what areas of homelessness they do
21 address, as a Texas Interagency Council, would be valuable
22 information to know that yes -- well, I'm just going to
23 pick on TWC because I know them so well -- but, yes, TWC
24 would like to put homeless people to work, but there's
25 nothing specific.

1 As an example -- this is an example, there's
2 nothing specifically points to targeting that population.
3 That would be good information to have as we deal with
4 those people.

5 Good. Okay. Any public comment?

6 MR. SAMUELS: I should just point out this
7 graph that's out on our table. It does show, as Mike
8 earlier referred to, a 31 percent decline in the last few
9 years, but I don't think I made this as clear as I wanted
10 to on the infographic. But what I really -- what I'm
11 really trying to point out is that we got down to 32
12 percent last year.

13 This year the population increased a little.
14 So we lost a percent in that decrease, so this is not the
15 direction I hope we're heading, but it is -- it does
16 represent a slight increase across the state of Texas in
17 the past year. Hopefully it will go back down in 2018.

18 MR. DOYLE: And hopefully the real numbers
19 begin to stabilize after the administrative decision to
20 make transitionally homeless folks not homeless anymore
21 because of the big dip in the number count.

22 MR. SAMUELS: Sorry, the transitional?

23 MR. DOYLE: People that used to be in
24 transitional housing were homeless and they were counted
25 in the count.

1 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

2 MR. DOYLE: But when they changed that -- or
3 got away from transitional homelessness pretty much, they
4 said they're not homeless anymore if you're in
5 transitional homeless -- if you're transitionally
6 homeless. So that definition change caused some of that
7 decrease.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Well, transitional homeless --
9 people in transitional programs are homeless, but a lot of
10 programs switched from transitional to rapid rehousing.

11 MR. DOYLE: Right.

12 MR. SAMUELS: Then they became --

13 MR. DOYLE: Right.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, you're right.

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. That's what I was talking
16 about.

17 MS. TRACZ: Valinda has a question.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay, Valinda.

19 MS. BOLTON: And I don't want to sound like a
20 broken record, but again, I'm going to bring up the issue
21 of population increase. It's really on my mind right now
22 because I read an article this weekend, said that the
23 projected population of Texas by 2050 is 54 million, which
24 would make it the most populated state in the country.

25 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

1 MS. BOLTON: Like more than New York and
2 California combined. So I think as we think about that in
3 looking at numbers, of course the raw numbers are going go
4 up, but they're not going to be as informative as they
5 could be, if we don't peg them to an increase -- a
6 percentage increase in population, so you know?

7 MR. SAMUELS: And bringing this against the
8 rate would probably be more accurate.

9 MS. BOLTON: Yeah.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Or putting this number into a
11 rate of homelessness.

12 MS. BOLTON: Right, you know because --

13 MR. DOYLE: Per 100,000 people or per --

14 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

15 MS. BOLTON: -- because it's going to be like
16 -- it's just going to keep going --

17 MR. DOYLE: That's a good point.

18 MS. BOLTON: -- up and up and up, but relative
19 to the size of the population, it could actually be going
20 down, --

21 MR. DOYLE: That's a good point.

22 MS. BOLTON: -- but we won't know that if we
23 don't start trying to get a handle on that now.

24 MR. GOURIS: Yeah, that's a good point. Very
25 good point.

1 Eric?

2 MR. GOURIS: These are the point in time count
3 numbers, right?

4 MR. SAMUELS: They are. I also should have put
5 this on, this 2017 number is preliminary and I add this
6 data in the kitchen last night, so.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. SAMUELS: So I could have made a mistake,
9 but I think it's right.

10 MR. DOYLE: You mean, you didn't just flip a
11 coin in the kitchen?

12 (Laughter.)

13 MR. SAMUELS: No.

14 MR. DOYLE: No stipulations of the point?

15 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, I took all 11 COCs and --

16 MS. KRAVITZ: Industry groups.

17 MR. SAMUELS: -- yeah, just like, well, this
18 looks like this is going to be right.

19 No, no, I agree with COCs and I'll have other
20 data later on, but that's -- I just got the overall number
21 first.

22 MR. DOYLE: Good job.

23 Dennis?

24 DR. SCHOLL: A member of the public, just
25 especially given the two committees and where we're headed

1 and some 25-year-old recollection of an article called
2 "Chaos in the Capitol" when I lived up in Alaska. And it
3 had to do with the problems that come from departmental
4 budgeting as to program versus programmatic budgeting. We
5 had to analyze for a particular for the Mental Health
6 Program in the state of Alaska for a big lawsuit.

7 And really we had to go to multiple different
8 departments. It wasn't just the Department of Mental
9 Health and Developmental Disabilities at the time that was
10 the program because the legislature really wanted to know:
11 What is their program? What are the real dollars?

12 So in pursuing both the data thing and the
13 annual report, it makes some sense to me that there's
14 attention to the Legislative Budget Board and what
15 satisfies the legislature through that board's analogies
16 for departments before you start picking individual, hey,
17 how do we guess each department's measure that might be
18 related to homelessness.

19 It is a big challenge to change from
20 departmental budgeting to really give a picture of a
21 program for a purpose, with something as concise as the
22 issue of homelessness across the state.

23 So the fact that the things, let's say, aren't
24 perfect and somebody might be irritated. They don't get
25 any answers to their questions, should be -- hey, you've

1 got to tolerate that.

2 You can't make an answer on the data's chaos,
3 but it will -- I look forward to working with you and
4 seeing what progress you make about this LBB contact and
5 finding out from their staff, hey, what do you guys got to
6 use to satisfy the legislature for each department, would
7 be a key first step.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, I agree.

9 MR. DOYLE: Any other comments?

10 (No audible response.)

11 Let me remind you our next meeting is
12 October 4th in Dallas at the Texas Homeless Network Annual
13 Conference. It's in conjunction with THEO, is that
14 correct?

15 MR. SAMUELS: That's right.

16 MR. DOYLE: So I hope you'll make that. We'll
17 have a session one afternoon or morning, depending on when
18 that comes out to be. There will also be the meeting of
19 the Texas Interagency Council, so please try to be there.
20 It's only about a three-hour-and-15-minute drive. I know,
21 I make it every quarter, if not more often.

22 So just drive up there and enjoy the
23 conference. It's a nice area.

24 If there's going to be no other comments, we
25 are adjourned.

1 (Whereupon, at 11:11 a.m., the meeting was
2 adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
LOCATION: Austin, Texas
DATE: July 11, 2017

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 62, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
made by electronic recording by Joseph M. Schafer before
the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

/s/ Mary Henry 7/19/2017
(Transcriber) (Date)

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