

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 10, 2018  
10:01 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MIKE DOYLE (by ERIC SAMUELS)  
D.J. BINGLER  
VALINDA BOLTON  
BROOKE BOSTON (by CATE TRACZ)  
NAOMI CANTU (by TOM GOURIS)  
CARISSA DOUGHERTY  
JESSICA HISSAM  
CLAIRE IRWIN  
CAL LOPEZ  
JOYCE POHLMAN  
JEANNE STAMP (by KEN MARTIN)  
TODD NOVAK (via telephone)

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

DENNIS M. SCHOLL (via telephone)  
DAVID LONG (by MICHAEL WILT)  
MOLLY VOLES (via telephone)

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

CATE TRACZ (TDHCA)

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(a) The final 2018 quarterly TICH meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, in conjunction with THN's Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness in Austin.		
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. SAMUELS: So I'm Eric Samuels, and I'm  
3 serving as proxy for Mike Doyle today, so I am, like I  
4 said, channeling my inner Mike Doyle. Big job.

5 So we do have a quorum so we are able to take  
6 the one vote that we have on the agenda, but before we  
7 get to that, let's go ahead and go through introductions.

8 I'll start. Eric Samuels, president and CEO  
9 of Texas Homeless Network.

10 MS. TRACZ: I'm Cate Tracz with TDHCA. I'm  
11 standing in also for Brooke as her proxy today, so Cate  
12 and Brooke.

13 MS. BINGLER: D.J. Bingler, I'm with TWC,  
14 Texas Workforce Commission.

15 MS. IRWIN: Claire Irwin with Texas Health and  
16 Human Services Aging Services Coordination Office.

17 MR. SHEPHERD: Hi. I'm Keegan Shepherd. I'm  
18 the Statewide Initiatives Coordinator for the Texas  
19 Homeless Network.

20 MS. MOORE: Hi. I'm Meagan Moore. I'm the  
21 VISTA program manager for Texas Homeless Network.

22 MR. GOURIS: I'm Tom Gouris with the Texas  
23 Department of Housing and Community Affairs, director  
24 over there for various things, and helping out filling in  
25 for Naomi Cantu today.

1 MS. LOPEZ: I'm Cal Lopez with the Texas  
2 Education Agency with the McKinney Vento Homeless  
3 Education Program.

4 MR. MARTIN: I'm Ken Martin with the Texas  
5 Homeless Education Office, filling in for Jeanne Stamp.

6 MR. DARUS: I'm Nathan Darus with the Texas  
7 Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Fair Housing  
8 Department.

9 MS. DOUGHERTY: I'm Carissa Dougherty. I'm  
10 senior analyst with HHSC Senior Mental Health Policy.

11 MS. MERFISH: I'm Brett Merfish. I am the  
12 director for Youth Justice for Texas Appleseed.

13 MS. HISSAM: I'm Jessica Hissam, Health and  
14 Human Services, Adult Mental Health Unit.

15 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, Texas State  
16 Affordable Housing Corporation, proxy for David Long  
17 today.

18 MR. SAMUELS: And can we get the folks on the  
19 phone to announce yourselves? I know, Dr. Scholl, you're  
20 on.

21 DR. SCHOLL: This is Dr. Scholl. I'm a  
22 retired colonel psychologist from the Air Force, living  
23 in South Bexar County, public citizen member, with  
24 special interest in housing needs for veterans and for  
25 those with mental illness in rural areas.

1 MR. NOVAK: Good morning again, everyone.  
2 This is Todd Novak. I am a representative from the Texas  
3 Juvenile Justice Department.

4 MR. SAMUELS: And do we have anyone else on  
5 the phone?

6 MS. McGEE: Good morning. Tammy McGee with  
7 the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Nice to hear your voice, Tammy.  
9 Thanks for joining us.

10 Anyone else?

11 MS. WHITE: Hi. This is Marjorie White, the  
12 Homeless administrator in San Antonio, Texas.

13 MR. SAMUELS: And anyone else? I guess that's  
14 it.

15 MS. TRACZ: Mona said that she would be  
16 calling in at some point.

17 MR. SAMUELS: That may be Mona right there.  
18 Is this Mona? Who just joined us?

19 LAUREN: This is Lauren from the Tarrant  
20 County Homeless Coalition.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Well, thank you, Lauren. We  
22 have a lot of interest from Tarrant County Homeless  
23 Coalition. Oh, we're going to hear from Lauren later  
24 maybe? No, no. But we're going to get a report on  
25 Lauren's work later.

1                   And we had one more person sign in so can you  
2 announce yourself?

3                   MS. VOYLES: It's Molly Voyles with the Texas  
4 Council on Family Violence.

5                   MR. SAMUELS: Thanks for joining us, Molly.

6                   Last call for the people on the line. And  
7 I'll go ahead and introduce who just walked in, Joyce  
8 Pohlman from HHSC.

9                   So the next thing we have on the agenda is  
10 review of our minutes. You have them right here. If you  
11 don't have them in your hand, they are over on the table.  
12 If you could take a look through these or if you already  
13 have reviewed these, you will let us know if you would  
14 like to approve them.

15                  MS. TRACZ: You have to call for a motion from  
16 a member.

17                  MR. SAMUELS: Yes. We need a motion from a  
18 member to approve the minutes as written. So take time  
19 if you need it.

20                  MS. IRWIN: I can make a motion to approve the  
21 minutes as written.

22                  MR. SAMUELS: So Claire Irwin with HHSC has  
23 made a motion. Do we have a second?

24                  MS. LOPEZ: I'll second.

25                  MR. SAMUELS: And Cal Lopez has seconded. So

1 all those who want to approve the minutes as written say  
2 aye.

3 (A chorus of ayes.)

4 MR. SAMUELS: And those opposed same sign.

5 (No response.)

6 MR. SAMUELS: So the motion passes. My one  
7 big responsibility.

8 MS. TRACZ: Good job.

9 (General laughter.)

10 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So next we have a report  
11 from Mr. Gouris on TDHCA's Homeless staff on programs.  
12 We have a report on the Ending Homelessness Fund,  
13 Emergency Solutions Grants Program, and the Homeless  
14 Housing and Services Program.

15 MR. GOURIS: If it's okay with you, I'm going  
16 to do the Ending Homelessness Fund last, and I'll start  
17 with the ESG, the Emergency Solutions Grants Program.

18 Just by way of update, we did a funding cycle,  
19 a two-year funding cycle last year, a competition was  
20 held, and we're in the process of finishing out that year  
21 and going into the second year of that. Those contracts,  
22 we gave notice that the 2018 funds will decrease  
23 slightly, by a little less than one percent, it's  
24 actually .6 percent, and so that will adjust everyone's  
25 contracts for 2018 by that amount, and we're aiming to

1 have those contracts in place by November 1.

2 With regard to HHSP, new rules were just  
3 adopted at the June TDHCA Board meeting and one new city  
4 has met the population threshold of 285,500 and that's  
5 the City of Plano, and they do want to participate in the  
6 HHSP, so now it's no longer the Big Eight, it's the Big  
7 Nine. We're aiming to have those contracts in place by  
8 September 1.

9 Finally, as far as the Ending Homelessness  
10 Fund, this is that new legislative program that was  
11 introduced last year, went into place January 1. We have  
12 averaged around \$10,000 a month in voluntary donations  
13 that go through the Department of Motor Vehicles when you  
14 register your vehicle, and have had actually a slight  
15 increase over time but still around a \$10,000 a month  
16 rate.

17 We're taking public comment. We've had four  
18 roundtables on the use of those funds. We are taking  
19 public comment and perusing the staff draft of a rule to  
20 post in an online forum at the end of July, hopefully,  
21 and then taking a proposed rule to the Board September 6.

22 The concept right now is still that at \$10,000  
23 a month, \$120,000 a year, that's still a very small  
24 amount of money to stand up a separate program with a  
25 whole slew of rules, so what we're proposing is finding a

1 benchmark of size to make a stand-alone program viable  
2 that's part of the rule. Until that time, we'll either  
3 collect and save up those funds or distribute those funds  
4 that have been collected through the HHSP or ESG route,  
5 or both, and just tack on a little bit to those contracts  
6 that goes to the counties, because the statute requires  
7 that the EH Fund go to cities and counties.

8 So that's what I have for you. I'll take  
9 questions if you have any.

10 MR. SAMUELS: I have a question. So is there  
11 a consensus on how much money should be raised before it  
12 becomes a stand-alone?

13 MR. GOURIS: Well, we adopted a Board policy,  
14 I think it was \$100,000, that the proposal we kind of  
15 redrafted to be \$150,000. We got a lot of public comment  
16 that it should be more like half a million to a million  
17 dollars. So we're still seeking comment. To set up a  
18 statewide program with less than that, you don't have a  
19 lot of money to work with.

20 One of the comments we did receive was any  
21 kind of funding allocation that is for a separate kind of  
22 program should be not less than \$50,000 per allocation,  
23 so as you can see, with \$150,000 that would be three  
24 awards for the whole state. Still it's really cool that  
25 people are giving and donating but still a pretty small

1 program, so we're interested in your input on if that's  
2 the right size of an award, if we should hold on that  
3 money in one place and then allocate it, or if we should  
4 allocate it every year until we get to a level that makes  
5 for an annual program allocation, among other things.

6 MS. DOUGHERTY: This is Carissa. That's  
7 really exciting. I think it would be really be  
8 interesting to find out what kind of programming, because  
9 I think he programming would determine the amount of  
10 funding that's required to support it. In my mind, half  
11 a million or a million could mean ongoing rental  
12 subsidies, but may not even need that much. But if we're  
13 thinking other types of programs, you might not need that  
14 much money. What is TDHCA thinking in terms of a program  
15 that they would operate?

16 MR. GOURIS: Well, I think we're looking at  
17 the types of things that are already being done. One of  
18 the things that was suggested was that we try to develop  
19 some sort of demo program to try to do something new.  
20 More conversation about that was no, we shouldn't do that  
21 but we should fulfill the existing demo programs that are  
22 out there because there are a lot of demo programs out  
23 there that may be need a little bit more to be  
24 accomplished. But the activities, we're open to  
25 suggestion, and that's part of the problem, there's so

1 much to do and this is a pretty small resource, so if we  
2 focus it on one aspect, it would allow for a great  
3 variety of things.

4 MR. SAMUELS: What seems exciting to me is  
5 that if we did raise the money, if it got up to that half  
6 a million -- I hope it does at some point -- the  
7 flexibility in the funding, that's what's exciting, that  
8 you can do something that is filling a gap that hasn't  
9 been filled.

10 MR. GOURIS: These weren't part of my posted  
11 remarks, but really this is the little symbol we have,  
12 it's on the community website, and you click this, you go  
13 to our website, and you find out about what we do now,  
14 and you make your contribution that you will. I don't  
15 know that we've gotten a lot of interaction with a lot of  
16 organizations to make sure that this is something that  
17 they're all aware of. I don't think we have a marketing  
18 plan because that's not what we do per se, but if you all  
19 want to do that, I think it would be a great thing.  
20 That's kind of an unsolicited comment.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Texas Homeless Network has, we  
22 need to do more of it, but other agencies who can, please  
23 market this and get this out there.

24 MS. DOUGHERTY: And couldn't the initial funds  
25 be used for marketing?

1 MR. GOURIS: In theory they could because  
2 there's not a limit or limitation on kind of  
3 administration funds, but I don't know if that would be  
4 the smartest thing. Folks sent us their dollars to end  
5 homelessness and all we're doing is trying to promote  
6 ending more homelessness but not actually doing anything  
7 about it, I don't know if that would be something that  
8 the Board would be accepting of.

9 MS. DOUGHERTY: Maybe not all of it, maybe  
10 some if could be.

11 MR. GOURIS: These kinds of conversations,  
12 making people aware of it, making sure people can connect  
13 to it with your websites and your stuff, kind of word of  
14 mouth sort of marketing, whatever you want to call it,  
15 that's probably as good as we're going to get as far as  
16 how to initiate folks.

17 MS. TRACZ: So how have you been doing the  
18 marketing?

19 MR. SAMUELS: The social media, just telling  
20 people, but social media has been the primary way to get  
21 it out there.

22 MS. LOPEZ: Any time I can get at the  
23 conference in September, I'm thinking about that.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Great idea.

25 MS. LOPEZ: We have our conference coming up

1 in September. I think maybe you could give a little  
2 spokes-ad there for it.

3 MR. SAMUELS: Sure, and it would be a great  
4 kickoff for next year raising funds. It started in  
5 January.

6 MR. GOURIS: It started in January.

7 MR. SAMUELS: But will it start this next year  
8 in September or will it start again in January?

9 MR. GOURIS: Well, it's going to continue, it  
10 doesn't stop.

11 MR. SAMUELS: I know, but I mean --

12 MR. GOURIS: How we hold the funds, if we hold  
13 them through the fiscal year or the calendar year?

14 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

15 MR. GOURIS: That's a question that hasn't  
16 been -- it's not stated. We're not required to hold or  
17 not hold, we could hold and wait or we could spend them  
18 every month if we get them every month, so there's no  
19 constraint there. That's part of the conversation of  
20 what we're going to create as far as our rule goes. It's  
21 really an open playing field, there are not a lot of  
22 rules.

23 MR. SAMUELS: That's exciting.

24 MR. MARTIN: So it's not going on the print  
25 invoice that goes out, just on the online?

1 MR. GOURIS: You're not seeing it on the print  
2 invoice?

3 MR. MARTIN: No. I just got one about a month  
4 ago.

5 MR. SAMUELS: It's on the electronic.

6 MR. GOURIS: So I know we've had some  
7 difficulty getting it connected to all of their places,  
8 but it should be on the print too so I'll look into that.  
9 Those are the kind of things we want to hear too because  
10 we don't have a way to check other than our own cars.

11 MR. SAMUELS: The print, that they were only  
12 allowed to put the top three on the print but I'll check.  
13 I have mine from whenever I registered, and I did  
14 contribute, by the way. Peer pressure.

15 (General laughter.)

16 MR. SAMUELS: Any other questions about this,  
17 or questions about HHSP or ESG?

18 MS. MOORE: Is it not possible to create an  
19 RFP and have people submit these ideas of like how much  
20 money they would want and really get the community input  
21 beyond public comment, and say this is how much I would  
22 need for this program, and then maybe have a better  
23 understanding of the actual need. Instead of trying to  
24 guesstimate when we should distribute the money, how much  
25 money would actually be enough.

1 MR. GOURIS: So if we do an RFP we have to go  
2 out with an amount of money.

3 MS. DOUGHERTY: An RFI, a request for  
4 information.

5 MR. GOURIS: We could do that. And six of  
6 one, half a dozen of the other, the rulemaking process,  
7 since it's really tied to the rulemaking process, if we  
8 chose to go that way, I suppose we could get enough  
9 public comment.

10 MR. SAMUELS: One last thing, when is the next  
11 opportunity for public comment? I mean, I know it's  
12 ongoing.

13 MR. GOURIS: Yes, it's ongoing, so you can  
14 share it with me or Tammy or Abigail, it will get to the  
15 right place, but we're slotted to try to get the draft  
16 rule for public forum at the end of July, and then go to  
17 the September Board meeting with what we collected. At  
18 that point we go with the draft rule and then that would  
19 start the normal public comment process. So it started  
20 with these roundtables and conversations, now we'll have  
21 the forum online to look at what's been drafted and  
22 comment on that, and then the final draft will go the  
23 Board and then the official public comment period starts  
24 after that.

25 MR. SAMUELS: So anything else on this?

1 MS. DOUGHERTY: I'm just curious, is there  
2 anything you can share about what you guys have been  
3 talking about?

4 MR. GOURIS: A lot of it has to do with when  
5 we stand up a program by itself and the size of awards.  
6 Lots of ideas, folks, like I said, wanting to fund a  
7 specific project or type of project, but that's kind of  
8 it.

9 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So moving on, updates  
10 from the Texas Homeless Network. It has my name beside  
11 it but I'm not the one giving these updates. The first  
12 thing we have is we were finally able to aggregate the  
13 2018 Point-in-Time Count statistics for the state, and  
14 Keegan has put together this nice little graphic, fact  
15 sheet for you, and I'll let him walk us through it.

16 MR. SHEPHERD: Hi, everyone. I think it's  
17 pretty digestible. Figures are up overall almost 7  
18 percent. When we drilled down and where is that coming  
19 from, it's entirely from unsheltered, and even the  
20 unsheltered is an underestimate on top of what we already  
21 know is an underestimate because we have one CoC that did  
22 not do an unsheltered count this year, so that 22 percent  
23 increase is probably more like 25. That said, when we  
24 look at sort of the year to year versus sort of a five  
25 year view, when we look at a longer view, the overall

1 count is still down about 10 percent when we compare to  
2 2014. The thing that is notable is that despite that  
3 overall decrease, the unsheltered count is now higher  
4 versus 2014.

5 So these are the types of questions that are  
6 perhaps worth drilling into and thinking about why. Is  
7 it improved methods? Are there cases of natural  
8 disaster? What is going on that is creating this? And  
9 the answer is probably, of course, as we all know, a  
10 combination of several factors at once.

11 On the back you can see it's split up by CoC.  
12 What's notable is that we now have one CoC where the  
13 unsheltered count is more than half of the Balance of  
14 State. We also have two other CoCs where the unsheltered  
15 count is above 40 percent of their overall count. That  
16 said, there are some good decreases. The chronic  
17 homelessness count decreased notably, and more notably,  
18 that was through unsheltered chronic homelessness, number  
19 of vets experiencing homelessness decreased considerably,  
20 and on top of that, the number of families experiencing  
21 homelessness decreased considerably.

22 So you know, numbers really don't tell  
23 stories. Right? And so the next step when we're thinking  
24 about these numbers is what are the stories that are  
25 creating these numbers because we now we can actually

1 work with CoCs to take action.

2 MR. SAMUELS: And one of the things when  
3 Keegan and I talked about this last week -- and by the  
4 way, he just got these statistics last Thursday?

5 MR. SHEPHERD: Thursday night.

6 MR. SAMUELS: So he put this together pretty  
7 quickly. It's really hard to determine -- well, it's  
8 hard to pull information from a Point-in-Time Count and  
9 really get into the weeds with it, but it seems that  
10 there may be more episodically homeless during this last  
11 Point-in-Time Count than there has been in the past, and  
12 so that might be worth looking into.

13 One of the things on figure 2, if you need to  
14 know what the CoCs are, I can go ahead and tell you.  
15 Starting from the top, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Fort  
16 Worth, El Paso -- El Paso is 603, El Paso is the one you  
17 see that did not do the unsheltered count -- Waco 604,  
18 Balance of State 607, Amarillo 611, Wichita Falls 624,  
19 Houston 700, and Bryan College Station 701.

20 And one of the things that Keegan did mention  
21 is the possibility that natural disaster is contributing  
22 to this increase. As I think we reported during the last  
23 meeting that we asked all the CoCs to ask whether or not  
24 someone became homeless because of Harvey, and each one  
25 of them did -- well, 9 and 11 did actually, and there was

1 an estimated number of 540-something?

2 MR. SHEPHERD: It was around 300- and then  
3 with a multiplier estimate it was in the low 500s.

4 MR. SAMUELS: And that was just those surveys  
5 that were administered to the unsheltered population. So  
6 Harvey definitely had an effect, but that alone is  
7 probably not the reason for the increase.

8 The overall increase nearly 7 percent is  
9 alarming. Being still lower than 2014 is encouraging,  
10 but the unsheltered ended up being higher than 2014.

11 So any questions about the Point-in-Time  
12 results?

13 MS. BINGLER: What's the 607?

14 MR. SAMUELS: That's Texas Balance of State  
15 Continuum of Care. So that covers 215 rural and mid-size  
16 counties.

17 MS. BINGLER: I wasn't familiar with the term,  
18 so thank you.

19 MR. SAMUELS: So that is the Continuum of Care  
20 that the Texas Homeless Network manages, or leads, I  
21 guess is a better way to put it.

22 MS. POHLMAN: In Houston it shows that the  
23 unsheltered number is lower than the sheltered number,  
24 which is not what I would expect.

25 MS. TRACZ: Joyce, would you mind speaking up

1 a little bit?

2 MS. POHLMAN: Oh, sorry. In Houston the  
3 unsheltered number is lower than the sheltered number,  
4 which wasn't what I would expect, unless were there  
5 counts in the hurricane shelter areas? Do you have any  
6 thoughts about why that is?

7 MR. SHEPHERD: I think one thing to clarify is  
8 that this count takes place in January so we're six  
9 months out, and so again, we're thinking about how  
10 numbers really don't tell us much on their own. Like  
11 what we don't have is that gradual decrease.

12 MR. SAMUELS: And there were some temporary  
13 shelters set up for Harvey evacuees and people would have  
14 been in those at this time, so that may have contributed  
15 to that.

16 One of the things that I'm really worried  
17 about, there's 100 households primarily in the  
18 Jefferson -- it's in the Beaumont-Port Arthur area --  
19 there's 100 households that don't have a housing plan or  
20 didn't as of the time that financial sheltering  
21 assistance ended, and so we're worried about what's going  
22 to happen to households like that. And you know, after  
23 January when people started going off of this assistance,  
24 we don't know what happened to the numbers, so this only  
25 tells you so much.

1 MR. GOURIS: And those households you were  
2 talking about, those would be in the Balance of State.

3 MR. SAMUELS: Those would be in the Balance of  
4 State. Jefferson and why can't I think of the other  
5 county.

6 MR. SHEPHERD: Orange.

7 MR. SAMUELS: Orange, yes. Thank you.

8 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, TSAHC.

9 When you went over these numbers last year, I  
10 think it was Valinda that brought up how do these numbers  
11 correlate with state population growth. Is the state is  
12 growing faster than 6.81 percent.

13 MR. SHEPHERD: No, it didn't grow at 6.81  
14 percent.

15 MR. WILT: But like from 2014 to 2018, I'd be  
16 curious at what the state's population growth is.

17 MR. SHEPHERD: That I don't know. What I do  
18 know is relative to other large states, we do have a  
19 relatively low Point-in-Time Count over the past few  
20 years, so when you compare it to Florida or you compare  
21 it to California, especially, or we compare it to New  
22 York, our proportional size of people experiencing  
23 homelessness that are captured in the count is markedly  
24 lower, even though all of those states are continuing to  
25 grow at rapid pace. But versus 2014, I don't know, but I

1 do know that we did not grow by 7 percent.

2 MR. SAMUELS: That is a good question.

3 MS. IRWIN: I had a question. I was just  
4 curious of the numbers were broken out by age at all.

5 MR. SHEPHERD: So what they've started doing  
6 is asking if somebody is under 25 because 24 and younger  
7 is considered now youth by HUD standards, and so there  
8 are those figures.

9 MS. IRWIN: [INAUDIBLE].

10 MR. SHEPHERD: It's just 25 and up. What  
11 they're really trying to focus on now is capturing that  
12 18 to 24 range because that's when a lot of people fall  
13 out of certain services and access, and so how do people  
14 sort of migrate.

15 MR. MARTIN: So there's a 1.8 percent growth  
16 rate.

17 MS. BOLTON: The whole world at your  
18 fingertips, but the current growth rate for Texas is the  
19 third highest in the country at 1.8 percent, but that's  
20 for the year.

21 MR. SAMUELS: So it's not keeping pace with  
22 this.

23 MR. WILT: Well, over a one-year period.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Well, in this past year, though,  
25 it increased by 6.8 percent for the Point-in-Time Count.

1 MR. WILT: I just think it's important.

2 MR. SAMUELS: It's important, it is important  
3 to note that.

4 MS. DOUGHERTY: On this sheet or whatever kind  
5 of would give a really strong indicator because people  
6 could minimize the 7 percent. They might not understand,  
7 to have a reference point.

8 MR. SAMUELS: That's a good point.

9 MS. BOLTON: The growth in homeless percentage  
10 rate is far outpacing the general population growth.

11 MR. DARUS: Nathan Darus, TDHCA.

12 I just did a little bit of quick calculation.  
13 Population growth from 2014 to 2018 is 8-1/2 percent.

14 MR. SCOTT: So you're saying the population  
15 went up 8-1/2 percent. So as it was going up 8-1/2  
16 percent, the overall rates were going down about 10 to 11  
17 percent.

18 MR. SAMUELS: So we're making really good  
19 progress over the past four years, and now we're in a  
20 little bit of an upswing so we're not headed in the right  
21 direction. That's the primary thing. But we're going to  
22 look at these statistics a little bit more, put together  
23 some more infographics, things like that, so we can get  
24 into a little bit more. It would be nice if we had some  
25 system of collecting on a more regular basis so we could

1 have some of those details like age.

2 MR. MARTIN: What would that be called?

3 MR. SAMUELS: I think we can do that and I  
4 think there's work on the way.

5 MS. DOUGHERTY: Just another idea, the Ending  
6 Homelessness Fund could support the efforts of data  
7 collection statewide.

8 MR. SAMUELS: So what I understand is we  
9 actually can't because those are supposed to be services  
10 for people.

11 MR. GOURIS: I think that's where we're  
12 headed. I'm not sure that the statute is as clear on  
13 that. The interpretation, the clarity is that it has to  
14 go to cities and counties. It doesn't say if we can use  
15 it for admin and use it for admin for non cities and  
16 counties. So I think it's kind of a stretch to say,  
17 since it's supposed to go to cities and counties, that we  
18 could hold it or use all of it to do some administrative  
19 work that doesn't go to cities and counties.

20 MR. SAMUELS: That's the way I understood it.  
21 I asked about it, trust me.

22 MS. DOUGHERTY: CoCs are cities and counties.  
23 Right?

24 MR. GOURIS: Unfortunately the statute doesn't  
25 have a lot of specificity but it does say the funding is

1 supposed to go to the cities and counties, and I think  
2 the distinction is to those entities, not to entities  
3 within cities and counties, if that makes sense.

4 MS. HISSAM: Give it directly to a city, not a  
5 CoC in a city.

6 MR. GOURIS: Correct.

7 (General talking.)

8 MR. SAMUELS: We're hopeful that there will  
9 other sources. And that system that I'm referring to --  
10 just in case you can't read it from the line -- is a data  
11 warehouse. So we're hopeful that there are other  
12 potential funding sources.

13 So I don't want to stay on this item when we  
14 have some others.

15 Joyce Pohlman, question?

16 MS. POHLMAN: What if we did a road trip to El  
17 Paso in January to help them to do their count?

18 MR. SAMUELS: Well, that would be fun and I  
19 love their food, but I think they have it under control.  
20 I think it was one particular provider, so I think they  
21 have it under control. They've been able to produce an  
22 unsheltered count in the past few years.

23 MS. POHLMAN: Okay. I was just thinking we  
24 could offer to help.

25 MR. SAMUELS: Any other questions or offers to

1 help?

2 (General talking.)

3 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So I'm going to move us  
4 on to a report on the THN's VISTA project from Meagan  
5 Moore.

6 MS. MOORE: Hi, guys. How are y'all? I feel  
7 like no one asks how everyone is.

8 So we are well into our VISTA project in  
9 Tarrant County. Lauren is actually on the phone. And so  
10 she's been kicking off our workforce development project  
11 for Tarrant County. She's been in there since April 23.  
12 Thus far she has interviewed 25 stakeholders in the  
13 county, trying to figure out, get a sense of what  
14 services are actually needed and what kind of workforce  
15 development services for people experiencing homelessness  
16 are going to make this project work, so that's where  
17 she's been focusing. She's developed a couple of  
18 analysis and assessment tools to do that and has just  
19 presented her executive summary to the CoC, and next  
20 steps we're looking at starting to get some client  
21 stakeholder information and input, and then going from  
22 there to start creating plans. So definitely still in  
23 the assessment phase and working to see what the needs of  
24 the community are.

25 Additionally, we have another VISTA member.

1 She was originally supposed to be starting July 23, but  
2 unfortunately we'll have to delay her start until August  
3 20, so just about a month. She will be starting  
4 alongside another seven VISTAs, so we'll have a full  
5 house soon.

6 MR. SAMUELS: And she will be at ECHO here in  
7 Austin.

8 MS. MOORE: She will be at ECHO here in  
9 Austin. Thank you.

10 And that's really all we have thus far, but I  
11 think we're doing some exciting work, getting so many  
12 stakeholders and community providers interviewed and  
13 assessed.

14 MR. SAMUELS: So Meagan is not bragging on  
15 herself enough, so I'm going to jump in. I've heard  
16 really great things out of Fort Worth and the work that  
17 Lauren is doing, so yay Lauren. And yay Tammy too. So  
18 Meagan said we have seven VISTAs coming on, but what she  
19 failed to mention is that as the statewide intermediary  
20 for homeless programs, we have 20 slots and we are  
21 getting very close to filling all 20 of those slots, and  
22 that's never been done before. So the VISTA project is  
23 doing better than it ever has. So great job, Meagan.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. SAMUELS: And I think the workforce CoC

1 project will continue to grow, we hope it will, because  
2 of this involvement.

3 MS. MOORE: So thank you to the workforce.

4 MR. SAMUELS: Any questions about VISTA  
5 project?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So the next thing we have  
8 on the agenda is THROW, Texas Homeless Resource  
9 Organizational Workshops. And Keegan has worked on this.  
10 I know it's talked to Ken about this some, I know Keegan  
11 has put a lot of work into this. You should have a  
12 handout, this document, and Keegan can summarize that for  
13 us.

14 MS. TRACZ: For those on the phone, I'll email  
15 the handouts out after the meeting.

16 MR. SHEPHERD: Sure. I don't want to bore you  
17 by reading line by line, we all need to live our lives,  
18 but to sort of summarize, we know that there's an ongoing  
19 problem that a lot of communities want to address  
20 homelessness in their area but for various reasons  
21 they're not talking to each other. This is particularly  
22 true in metropolitan areas where you might have two or  
23 three CoCs, several school districts, different city  
24 boundaries, and so there's just a lot of service  
25 providers, as broadly as you want to define that term,

1 that want to talk to each other, that need to talk to  
2 each other but simply aren't.

3 And so the purpose of THROW would be to have a  
4 statewide coordinator get into these communities, arrange  
5 these communications, hold workshops so that different  
6 service providers, and not just your obvious sort of  
7 service providers like case managers, but also guidance  
8 counselors, health providers, hospitals, street outreach,  
9 criminal justice, public defenders, as broadly as we're  
10 going to define service provider, are getting into a room  
11 and talking to each other about what services they can  
12 offer, what they can't, what their limits are, and how  
13 they can grow the relations with one another.

14 The point of that would then to be to lead to  
15 a dynamic sort of digital resource guide that could  
16 ultimately even be integrated with 2-1-1 so that when  
17 somebody is entering and trying to access services, their  
18 information broker has this information ready, it's  
19 dynamic, it's updated, and so there isn't a lag or a  
20 delay in a person getting connected with services.

21 So it's not rocket science.

22 MR. SAMUELS: Any questions or comments on  
23 this idea?

24 MS. TRACZ: This is going to be staffed at  
25 THN, you guys are going to support this?

1 MR. SAMUELS: Well, we hope to, so there are  
2 hopes that we can get funding for this, so we're already  
3 looking for potential funders out there, and hopefully  
4 will someone will partner with us on this.

5 We are hoping -- and maybe Keegan will get  
6 into it -- hoping that partners from groups that are  
7 statewide on this as we progress with it.

8 MR. SHEPHERD: The more buy-in that we have --  
9 not to use a cheap term such as buy-in, but the more sort  
10 of investment that we have from agencies, organizations  
11 from the get-go makes it easier to sort of bring up those  
12 conversations in communities. So if you are interested  
13 in this idea, my contact information is right at the  
14 bottom, hit me up, HMU, and then we can continue to have  
15 the conversations because it depends on that. Right?  
16 You can't just be one person just sort of parading around  
17 the state going I have an idea for the community. Right?  
18 So the more sort of investment and collaboration we have  
19 from the get-go among the fellow agencies in this room,  
20 the better.

21 MR. MARTIN: So just to throw my little two  
22 cents in, since we met about this a couple of times,  
23 those of you who have been around for a while may kind of  
24 recognize parts of this because we did have a project  
25 when I was at THN, working with THEO and the Food Stamp

1 office and TWC and TDHCA, and we did a few workshops that  
2 were similar in nature that were very, very much well  
3 attended and people were excited and they learned a lot  
4 about their own communities through these kind of  
5 workshops. And unfortunately, funding was lost for that  
6 so we weren't able to continue. But this is a bigger,  
7 better, badder -- I mean, it's everything that we were  
8 kind of missing before and expanded into really it looks  
9 like it could be a really well used resource for the  
10 state.

11 MS. DOUGHERTY: Thank you for that. This is  
12 exciting. I wonder how that will play out in the Balance  
13 of State areas and work with the local homeless  
14 coalitions if they exist in those communities, so there  
15 wouldn't be a duplication, partnering and leveraging  
16 resources.

17 MR. SAMUELS: So Ken and I actually had this  
18 experience. I can think of a few times, but one time in  
19 particular we were in Tyler meeting with groups that were  
20 in the business of helping people who are maybe not  
21 experiencing homelessness but at risk of homelessness and  
22 bringing together groups like Food Stamp office, like  
23 Veterans Affairs, like TDCJ, and bringing them all  
24 together to get them talk about how they could help this  
25 group, and believe it or not, even in a small community

1 like that, these groups are talking.

2 MS. HISSAM: This is Jessica Hissam, HHSC.

3 This is imperative. It's something that we've  
4 been talking about in the adult mental health world.  
5 It's almost the biggest gap and people don't realize it,  
6 and it's really causing a lot of ripples. So I'm happy.

7 MR. SAMUELS: So it would do a lot of what the  
8 summits did but hopefully it would be continuous and have  
9 someone who was kind of leading the way.

10 MR. MARTIN: You were saying about Tyler. I  
11 think as a result of this meeting, they now have the East  
12 Texas Human Needs Network that is ending poverty in Tyler  
13 or in Smith County. It's huge. And I mean, I'm not  
14 saying that it's a direct result of this but I think this  
15 was a good kickstarter for that program.

16 MR. SAMUELS: I'd like to say it was direct.  
17 Anyway, I think it's a good program and I think the  
18 continuous aspect, and what we call the electronic  
19 database -- I'm sorry, not in this case but the resource,  
20 but having that component I think is very helpful as  
21 well.

22 Any questions or comments about this, about  
23 THROW? Great acronym, by the way.

24 MS. LOPEZ: I'm thinking that maybe we are  
25 going to have a large group of our subgrantees, our

1 homeless liaisons at the state conference. Maybe Keegan  
2 and Ken could have time to come in, share what you have  
3 just shared, and then gather input from them on what they  
4 would need, where the disconnect is.

5 At the agency we are currently looking at  
6 assessing our training and technical assistance. Some of  
7 the feedback is a lot of what we provide is more for the  
8 large urban areas and we have a very large rural  
9 population, so we're looking at training that will  
10 address both. But I think that might be a good time  
11 because we will have our subgrantees there that we  
12 consider our role models and being more innovative, and  
13 maybe have a session that explains it and kind of talking  
14 to them about input on what supports and what input, or  
15 where they see the disconnect and what would help them  
16 come to the table.

17 I speak from previous experience. In the  
18 school district that I worked in it was very hard because  
19 there were three cities zoned for the district, two  
20 different counties, two different housing authorities, so  
21 that was very hard to maneuver, and oftentimes when we  
22 went to meetings it was like only this small percentage  
23 belongs to this service area, this one doesn't have a  
24 Continuum of Care, this one wasn't part of it, and that  
25 was very hard to negotiate services. So maybe that's

1 something that we can discuss moving forward. I think  
2 that would be a great platform to get some feedback.

3 MR. SAMUELS: It sounds like something we  
4 should take advantage of, being that we're all in the  
5 same room

6 MS. LOPEZ: Yes.

7 MR. SAMUELS: And Ken and Keegan will  
8 definitely be there.

9 MS. LOPEZ: As we all will.

10 MR. SAMUELS: As we all will. Well, hopefully  
11 we all will.

12 MS. LOPEZ: So I think it's something we can  
13 consider and maybe have a meeting and discuss that.

14 MR. SAMUELS: That would be great.

15 Any other comments on this?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So next on the agenda we  
18 have Cate, on behalf of Christine Gendron, is going to  
19 give an update on the TNOYS Youth Homelessness Workgroup.

20 MS. TRACZ: So at the last couple of meetings  
21 TNOYS and Texas Appleseed had presented their work that  
22 continued on from Youth Count Texas, so to keep that  
23 momentum going, Christine has been working at TNOYS, with  
24 Texas Appleseed and Texas Homeless Education Office, to  
25 facilitate a statewide workgroup on youth homelessness,

1 so she asked me to provide an update on that today.  
2 She's on leave this month but did want to officially roll  
3 it out to the TICH.

4 So she gave me some bullet points here that I  
5 wanted to share with you. So the group is going to  
6 unofficially report to the TICH on which TNOYS and THEO  
7 are both advisory members. They're going to have their  
8 first meeting August 17, and you can contact Christine if  
9 you wanted to be a part of that meeting. We'll send out  
10 contact information after this meeting.

11 The goal of the workgroup is to facilitate  
12 collaboration between state agencies, statewide  
13 organizations and local efforts to strengthen services  
14 and supports for Texas's homeless youth.

15 Agenda items for the first meeting coming up  
16 in August is updates on statewide initiatives to address  
17 youth homelessness, updates on local initiatives to  
18 address youth homelessness, updates from state agencies,  
19 and discussion on agenda items and advocacy opportunities  
20 for the upcoming legislative session. And then Christine  
21 just says, More details coming soon.

22 So I just wanted to share that with you, and  
23 any questions can be directed back to TNOYS or Texas  
24 Appleseed. We've got a couple of attendees here.

25 Did you want to introduce or say anything?

1 MS. MERFISH: We're working with Christine, we  
2 have that meeting in August, and the idea is to try and  
3 coordinate a lot of things but one of them would be like  
4 our legislative agenda. And since she's on leave, I can  
5 leave my email in case anyone wants to email me since I'm  
6 not on leave, and I can answer any questions before the  
7 August meeting.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Any other questions or comments?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. Next we have an update  
11 from TEA, and Ms. Lopez has asked if she could have a  
12 standing slot on the agenda to provide an update, so  
13 we're going to start having that each meeting.

14 MS. LOPEZ: Well, thank you very much for  
15 providing that slot.

16 So I'd say we're very excited at the agency.  
17 At the last meeting we had discussed that our 2019-21  
18 competitive grants cycle was administered by our TEA  
19 Grants Division and historically had been administered by  
20 ESC Region 10 on TEA's behalf. As part of the  
21 transition, we did have a name change of our program and  
22 our grants to the Texas Education for Homeless Children  
23 and Youth, or TECHY Program Grants. This is a  
24 discretionary competitive grant program and the  
25 applicants are awarded and selected every three years,

1 and so the funding would be for 2018-19, 19-20 and 20-21  
2 school years.

3 And so the grant program recipients were to  
4 improve the academic success of homeless students. The  
5 application had been published in February, all the  
6 applications were due in April. We had over \$5 million  
7 of funds available for the recipients, and so we awarded  
8 76 grants, and I'm very excited about that. And we are  
9 in the process of negotiating those grants right now so  
10 we are reading all the grants and assisting the school  
11 districts with ensuring that they meet all the statutory  
12 and TEA program requirements.

13 Out of the subgrantees, 72 of them are from  
14 what we call local education agencies or school  
15 districts. Four of the subgrantees are from our  
16 educational service centers, and they participate in what  
17 we call a shared service arrangement, or SSA, in which  
18 smaller rural districts who are not eligible for our  
19 large amount of funding can all come together with the  
20 educational service center and apply through them for  
21 this grant so they can participate. So within those four  
22 shared service arrangements we have 55 school districts  
23 that were able to apply, so we have 123 participating  
24 school districts. Twenty-two of the subgrantees  
25 are new and had not applied in the past, and we are very

1 excited to say that we saw about a 20 percent increase in  
2 the number of applications, a 30 percent increase in new  
3 applicants, and that we had applicants from 17 out of our  
4 20 educational regions. 49 percent of the applicants  
5 were from Hurricane Harvey designated disaster counties,  
6 and 48 percent of the applicants had a 70 percent or more  
7 economically disadvantaged percentage rate for the 16-17  
8 school year. As part of the grant application we were  
9 able to provide some bonus points that were targeted for  
10 districts that were in the Hurricane Harvey impacted  
11 areas and that had a very high economically disadvantaged  
12 percentage.

13 So very excited about that. Our grant starts  
14 in September, September 1, so we're in the process of  
15 negotiating all those grants, and all those districts  
16 that were awarded the grants were published on the Texas  
17 Education website.

18 Which leads me to the segue on the Texas  
19 Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness that's coming up  
20 in September, and so we are very excited to be  
21 collaborating with the Texas Homeless Network, Region 10  
22 and THEO and working with the programming. One of the  
23 requirements of all the subgrantees is they do have to  
24 attend this conference, it's part of their annual  
25 training, and we will have a subgrantee mandatory STRANS

1 [PHONETIC] for them, and we're very excited because the  
2 agency will be providing a lot of direct presentations  
3 training to the subgrantees, so we're very excited about  
4 that. And we're also hoping to increase the attendance  
5 of the LEAs, the school districts that have grants, and  
6 for them to bring additional staff members with them.

7 I think I have here this provides a great  
8 opportunity to gather input and feedback on how we can  
9 help support our school districts regarding training and  
10 technical assistance, which I think THROW falls right  
11 into there. And the great thing about having our  
12 educational service centers, we have 20 of them, there is  
13 a designated homeless liaison at each regional  
14 educational center, but they also assist the agency with  
15 training to their school districts, especially the  
16 smaller rural school districts who many not be able to  
17 attend the conference, they come and attend and will take  
18 back a lot of that training, and that is the goal, to the  
19 smaller rural districts, and we'll be looking at how we  
20 can help implement that through different mediums moving  
21 forward.

22 I'm also very happy to announce that the  
23 National Association for the Education of Homeless  
24 Children and Youth, or NAEHCY, has a national conference  
25 every year and October 2020 the site will be Dallas,

1 Texas, so we've been working with the NAEHCY board, the  
2 agency, as state coordinator with the agency. We will  
3 serve on the board for the planning year of the national  
4 conference, so our next push is going to be starting at  
5 our conference with our school districts and regional  
6 educational centers to start thinking of presentations.  
7 I want NAEHCY to be inundated by presentations from  
8 Texas, from service providers, from Continuums of Care,  
9 from school districts. I want Texas to have a huge  
10 presence -- I should say we at the agency want Texas to  
11 have a huge presence to kind of highlight a lot of the  
12 great work that we do here. I think it's a great  
13 opportunity.

14 Each year the attendance to the national  
15 conference increases. I want to highlight that Ken will  
16 be presenting this year. It's going to be held at  
17 Anaheim, California this year, and then Washington, D.C.,  
18 so we're very excited to make that announcement. I want  
19 to say it's been about ten years, eight or ten years  
20 since it was last here in Texas. It was last held in  
21 Houston previously. So very excited about that.

22 And one last thing, here at the end of the  
23 month in June, the McKinney Vento Homeless Education  
24 Program was invited to present at the Charter School  
25 Summer Summit. And so charter schools are the same but

1 not the same when it comes to school districts and  
2 enrollment and identification, and so we were very  
3 excited that the Charter School Division within TEA  
4 invited the Homeless Education Division to come present.  
5 We drafted a power point that was vetted by both  
6 programs, and so we're very excited about that.

7           When we look at overall identification of  
8 students in charter schools, they identify 3 percent of  
9 the homeless population that are in schools, so I was  
10 able to pull some data there and so 3 percent overall is  
11 identified by charter schools. Over the past three years  
12 we looked at their numbers and the numbers show an  
13 increase, but when you look at the overall charter school  
14 enrollment numbers and the number of homeless students  
15 identified, it's held up one percent for the past three  
16 years. So when we look at their economically  
17 disadvantaged population, they have 41 percent of their  
18 students that are considered economically disadvantaged  
19 but they're only identifying one percent. Historically,  
20 10 percent of the economically disadvantaged population  
21 usually is homeless, so I got a bunch of ahas in the  
22 audience when we shared that data. So we're very  
23 excited, we've gotten some great input and feedback from  
24 the audience regarding the identification of coding, and  
25 so just kind of excited to share all of that information.

1                   And I'm hoping when we meet in September at  
2 the conference that I'll be able to provide a report of  
3 our 16-17 identification numbers. I was actually on the  
4 phone with the Department of Ed before I came here about  
5 some questions. We do report the total identification of  
6 homeless students enrolled in schools and their nighttime  
7 residency, and so we should have that validated  
8 information in an infographic for our next meeting.

9                   MR. SAMUELS: Any questions? Actually, I have  
10 one. Forty-nine applications from the Hurricane Harvey  
11 affected areas. Do we have a sense of how that compares  
12 to years past, is that more applications or about the  
13 same?

14                   MS. LOPEZ: I can go break that down a little  
15 more but that's a great question, I can look at that --  
16 as you can ask Ken, I come with a lot of fun charts all  
17 the time -- and so I can look at the percentage of ISDs.

18                   MR. SAMUELS: And I would assume that there  
19 may have been more applications because of what they went  
20 through.

21                   MS. LOPEZ: Because when we look at the 30  
22 percent increase in the number of applicants and the 20  
23 percent being new, they were from districts from Harvey  
24 impacted areas but also from our South Texas area because  
25 some of the counties were impacted in that region, what

1 we call Region 1 which is there on the southern tip of  
2 the coast as well, and then we are also looking at the  
3 part of northern Texas, kind of in the Orange area there  
4 were some districts that got impacted. So it's a broad  
5 range. We went with the governor's list of impacted  
6 districts, not the federal, which then increased the  
7 numbers of counties that would qualify for the priority  
8 points. So that's a great number and I can make sure and  
9 incorporate that at our next meeting.

10 Any other questions?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. SAMUELS: Well, if there are no other  
13 questions, thank you.

14 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you.

15 MR. SAMUELS: So we have updates from our TICH  
16 committees, and even though my name is by one, Cate is  
17 going to give both of the updates.

18 MS. TRACZ: The work for both of the  
19 committees is continuing, not a ton of huge updates over  
20 the summer. The performance data work is pretty slow  
21 going, it's digging into performance measures for state  
22 agencies which is taking a lot of time, so I don't have  
23 many updates for that.

24 But I'll jump into the annual report. For the  
25 2017 report, the timeline we planned for that is to have

1 it out to the members to review August 1, and then by  
2 August 31 we would have a final. And with the extra time  
3 that I've taken over this year with the input of the  
4 committee members, we have some time to include all of  
5 the extra metrics and data that Keegan and Cal and some  
6 of the other agencies have been working with, so I think  
7 it will beef up the data portion and the data analysis of  
8 the report going forward, so I think it will be a good  
9 product. So it's moving forward.

10 MR. SAMUELS: I should know this, because I  
11 worked on it -- in fact, I drafted the first draft -- and  
12 I was talking to D.J. earlier, do we report on the work  
13 the CoC and workforce project with those annual reports?

14 MS. TRACZ: So it had been kind of a  
15 highlighted section in the last report, but we can expand  
16 on that because we've been talking about it and updating  
17 at every meeting and it's been such a huge focus of our  
18 funding and the work that we've all collaborated on  
19 between THN and the TICH, so that is going to be a much  
20 bigger part. So a lot of the updates that Meagan has  
21 provided have worked their way into the report.

22 Excellent work.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Any questions, comments?  
24 Someone on the phone want to chime in? It sounds like  
25 maybe they do.

1 (No response.)

2 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So before we get into the  
3 next section which is the Analysis of Impediments to Fair  
4 Housing Choice, I want to ask for some public comments.  
5 I don't think we're going to run out of time so I don't  
6 think there's a worry, but the thought was that if we  
7 started to run out of time, we could have public comments  
8 now and then if we needed to carry on with what Mr. Darus  
9 is going to talk to us today about beyond noon, we could.  
10 So do you still want to go with that, public comments  
11 right now?

12 MS. TRACZ: Yes.

13 MR. SAMUELS: So are there any public  
14 comments, anything you want to bring up that's not on the  
15 agenda?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. SAMUELS: So I guess not.

18 So we're going to go ahead and hand it off to  
19 Nathan Darus, and he is going to walk us through the AI  
20 to Fair Housing Choice and get out input hopefully.

21 MR. DARUS: So hi. I'm Nathan Darus, the  
22 housing research specialist with the Texas Department of  
23 Housing and Community Affairs. I'm here at today's TICH  
24 meeting to discuss fair housing issues in Texas. This  
25 agenda item at today's meeting is part of the State of

1 Texas citizen and community participation plan for the  
2 analysis of impediments to fair housing choice.

3 Funds that the state receives from the United  
4 States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or  
5 HUD, come with the duty to affirmatively further fair  
6 housing. This obligation comes from the Fair Housing Act  
7 of 1968 which gives HUD a lead role in administering that  
8 act. The General Land Office, Department of State Health  
9 Services, Department of Agriculture, and the Department  
10 of Housing and Community Affairs are state recipients who  
11 disburse federal funds for the Community Development  
12 Block Grant, CDBG, Disaster Recovery programs, Housing  
13 Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS, HOME, National  
14 Houston Trust Fund, and Emergency Solutions Grants  
15 programs. Together these four agencies are responsible  
16 for carrying out the work of the AI, or the analysis of  
17 impediments.

18 In the development of the AI, the state is  
19 following the citizen and community participation plan  
20 required by federal regulations. Because we want to be  
21 ensuring comprehensive input before we even begin  
22 drafting the AI, a significant degree of public  
23 consultation and engagement is scheduled across the  
24 state. Only after that extensive input is obtained will  
25 staff then compile those results as input with objective

1 data analysis and research efforts to present a draft AI  
2 to the Department's Governing Board for consideration in  
3 the fall or winter of 2018. The draft will then be  
4 published and released for a formal statewide public  
5 comment period to follow. Public comment will be  
6 considered and then a final AI will be presented to the  
7 Department's Governing Board for consideration and  
8 approval. That final state AI is due on May 7, 2019.

9 Discussion on this agenda item today will be  
10 considered what HUD calls consultation and your input on  
11 the needs of Texans and matters relating to fair housing  
12 and equal access to program resources are encouraged.  
13 Input from participants will be summarized and noted and  
14 the transcript from today's TICH meeting will be publicly  
15 available but no names will be used in the final report  
16 but comments will be summarized by the location or  
17 stakeholder group. So for example, today it would be  
18 state official, state agency, TICH, community development  
19 or advocates. And so with that in mind, I have a series  
20 of specific questions on matters that were looking for  
21 soliciting constructive input on.

22 The first is that there are seven protected  
23 classes under the Fair Housing Act: race, color,  
24 national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and  
25 disability. For those of you who represent agencies and

1 organizations that provide direct services to  
2 individuals, have you observed specific issues related to  
3 a protected class in the clients you provide homelessness  
4 services to?

5 MS. POHLMAN: What do you mean by specific  
6 issues?

7 MR. DARUS: So by that we mean --

8 MS. POHLMAN: Are you looking for specific  
9 cases?

10 MR. DARUS: Either specific cases, although  
11 you may want to not give too much detail to identify  
12 anything, but also we're looking for patterns that have  
13 emerged that relate to a protected class or protected  
14 classes, if that makes sense.

15 MS. POHLMAN: This is Joyce Pohlman with the  
16 Health and Human Services Commission, and work a lot with  
17 individuals who have disabilities and I think that there  
18 is a need for increased education around the reasonable  
19 accommodation practice, which allows individuals to  
20 request a second consideration when they've been rejected  
21 from housing as a result of some prior history which may  
22 be negative, so some prior credit history or rental  
23 history or criminal history. I think this affects a lot  
24 of the state agencies that are in the room, certainly the  
25 foster care people and the individuals who work with

1 youth and adults who have criminal justice backgrounds.  
2 And so there are opportunities to advocate on behalf of  
3 those individuals.

4 I'd like to say that HHSC Medicaid staff do  
5 really great work in that area, but there's certainly a  
6 lot more need for that and so I'd like to see some  
7 stronger efforts to do outreach and education to people  
8 that work with those individuals, advocacy organizations,  
9 state agencies to help educate them about helping them  
10 through the reasonable accommodation process.

11 That was long.

12 (General laughter.)

13 MS. DOUGHERTY: I can echo, if I can jump on  
14 that comment. And specifically it would be great because  
15 we're concerned that there might be patterns of  
16 discrimination, like Joyce was mentioning, in the tax  
17 credit properties that have come to light through a  
18 partnership that we have with TDHCA in a specific  
19 program, and that relates to kind of maybe their tenant  
20 selection plans, what's in them, what's allowed to be in  
21 them that could be possibly reviewed and/or through that  
22 kind of teaching/coaching might be helpful to reevaluate  
23 that at a state level.

24 MR. DARUS: If it's okay, I'd like to ask a  
25 followup question. So you're saying that tenant

1 selection plans are containing provisions that might be  
2 considered discrimination?

3 MS. DOUGHERTY: Maybe. We're not really sure,  
4 so that's part of that investigation that it would be  
5 helpful to have, but I think it's more the practice of  
6 operationalizing them where we get back to the training  
7 and the kind of blanket kind of decisions that we're  
8 experiencing where HUD just put out guidance to say you  
9 cannot do that. And so we need all hands on deck to do  
10 that full push education and compliance monitoring at the  
11 right time to support that and changing those.

12 MS. POHLMAN: This is Joyce again. I think  
13 that there just need to be more education around the HUD  
14 guidance that has been issued on criminal justice. It's  
15 not simple guidance, it's not easy to understand, I had  
16 to read it several times to understand it and I still  
17 couldn't totally explain it to you. But it does provide  
18 for consideration outside of an individual's criminal  
19 history background, and so being the housing agency and  
20 any other entity that's involved in that, just more  
21 education on that.

22 MR. DARUS: I'm going to go a little off  
23 script again and say that is an area involving law, and  
24 so part of the problem is that the guidance that comes  
25 out today may not necessarily even be relevant the next

1 week as cases come before different agencies. So it's an  
2 area that, yes, does need a little bit of clarity but  
3 it's evolving so clarity is hard to come by sometimes.

4 MS. POHLMAN: I appreciate that. Working in  
5 Medicaid I certainly understand that problem. But just  
6 with some efforts to do some education of property  
7 managers and property landlords about this provision  
8 while it is in place.

9 MS. HISSAM: This is Jessica Hissam. I just  
10 want to echo real quick and kind of emphasize what  
11 Carissa mentioned about really assessing and analyzing  
12 the policies of notification in terms of compliance  
13 monitoring for reasonable appeals, accommodations,  
14 anything like that, maybe looking internally at not only  
15 TDHCA's but kind of getting a scope for the properties'  
16 policies and really adhering to reasonable accommodation  
17 and getting the person that denied you and it has to be  
18 within this amount of time, has to be this language in  
19 the denial letter, those sort of things I think it would  
20 be important to look at, because like she said, we're  
21 just finding programmatically through experience that a  
22 lot of properties may be aren't educated or aren't used  
23 to this process and so they're violating a lot of fair  
24 housing. So just kind of looking at that would be good.

25 MS. DOUGHERTY: I would say potentially we're

1 just not sure.

2 MS. HISSAM: It would be good to investigate.

3 MR. SAMUELS: Did someone on the phone have  
4 something to say?

5 MS. VOYLES: Hi. This is Molly with the Texas  
6 Council on Family Violence, and I would just add that  
7 when it comes to gender, though we certainly acknowledge  
8 family violence happens to everyone, it is  
9 disproportionately against women, and we know in the last  
10 plan there really wasn't any mention of support around  
11 fair housing issues for survivors, so we'd love to work  
12 with you on assessing and including pieces around that.

13 MR. DARUS: Absolutely. I would give you my  
14 business card right now.

15 MS. TRACZ: I can connect you two by email.

16 MR. DARUS: Okay, perfect. Because that's one  
17 of the areas where we don't have a lot of expertise  
18 ourselves, and so that would be wonderful because we are  
19 accepting, obviously, comment here but we're also  
20 accepting written comment and input up until August 10.  
21 So it's better to get it in when we're trying to write  
22 the first draft than to wait until it's public comment  
23 time because that way we have the ability to get it in in  
24 the first draft rather than trying to shoehorn it in  
25 later. So that would be great.

1 MS. VOYLES: Wonderful. And thank you for  
2 connecting us, Cate.

3 MS. TRACZ: Sure.

4 DR. SCHOLL: Cate, this is Dr. Scholl down in  
5 Somerset. I'd like to be connected as well, maybe I'll  
6 offer some comment in writing. Again, my areas of  
7 particular interest are with rural challenges for  
8 adequate housing, fair housing in particular for veterans  
9 who are having transition problems, but also for those  
10 with mental challenges, the mentally ill or individuals  
11 with intellectual developmental delays.

12 I'm concerned about there being any program in  
13 particular where individuals may be served for a good  
14 long time but then for a particular program's  
15 responsibility age out, so to speak, whether it be  
16 through the educational system or IDD type programs. At  
17 a certain point what happens should they be served well  
18 in a rural area and then transition to adulthood and then  
19 a lot kind of disappears. So I'd like to offer some  
20 written comment to options to that in rural areas.

21 And then in general in rural areas, the nine  
22 counties I'm most familiar with, it's one of those deals  
23 where if there's nobody in the forest to hear tree fall,  
24 it doesn't make any noise. It's the adequacy or the  
25 availability of people who perceive the social adjustment

1 and shelter challenges for folks who have additional  
2 personal challenges in rural areas.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DARUS: So just to kind of follow up on  
5 that really quickly. This isn't so much a followup  
6 question as it is a followup comment. In written comment  
7 one of the best things you can do, one of the most useful  
8 things you can do to make it especially easy and viable  
9 for us to put this in the analysis of impediments is as  
10 you identify these issues, also try to think about data  
11 sources that would back that up so that there's not just  
12 observations but we also then have statistics to say and  
13 this is the extent of this problem or the depth of the  
14 problem. Those are the kinds of things that we're  
15 looking for to help fit that into the narrative of the  
16 AI.

17 DR. SCHOLL: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. DARUS: Anybody else on that first  
19 question then?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. DARUS: Second question: in regards to  
22 protected classes under the Fair Housing Act, have you  
23 encountered specific obstacles to assisting persons who  
24 are at risk of homelessness or who are experiencing  
25 homelessness, and how do these obstacles relate to

1 protected class under the Fair Housing Act? I think we  
2 covered a little bit of that prior, so if nobody has any  
3 response to that, I imagine we covered that a little bit,  
4 I'm going to move on to the third one, and you can stop  
5 me at any point in time and go back to any of these  
6 previous questions.

7 Have you observed any instances of prohibited  
8 discrimination in housing for persons who are at risk of  
9 homelessness or who are experiencing homelessness?  
10 Please provide specifics. We kind of covered a little  
11 bit of that.

12 Are there affordable housing options dispersed  
13 throughout the community that is served by your  
14 organization?

15 MS. HISSAM: Never enough. No.

16 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. So to kind of dig down  
17 into that, is it really just more of the amount of the  
18 actual housing stock, the amount, or is it a question of  
19 dispersion as well?

20 MS. HISSAM: I think it's both, especially in  
21 rural communities. I mean, there may be a lot of effort  
22 and a lot of want to help but due to a variety of things,  
23 administrative burdens of how to do TBRA, the  
24 communication problems are rampant, that's a big issue  
25 overall, I would say.

1 MR. SAMUELS: So is that question trying to  
2 get at are there rural areas that there just is not any?

3 MR. DARUS: Not even necessarily rural areas.  
4 You know, one of the things that when I went to Amarillo  
5 I heard about was that as oil prices rise, in Amarillo to  
6 build really fast, well, the housing stock can't be built  
7 fast enough to contain that demand. And so for them the  
8 dispersion problem is actually both dispersion and  
9 amount. So I think it's kind of looking at both, not  
10 just in rural areas but also in more urban areas too.

11 MR. SAMUELS: And I assume you're going to get  
12 comments like that from the Gulf Coast area that were  
13 affected.

14 MR. DARUS: You know what, I'll tell you in  
15 July because I'm heading to Brownsville to do another  
16 meeting, and I think we already had a meeting in Corpus  
17 Christi. I haven't had a chance to look at the comments.

18 MS. TRACZ: I'm doing that in three weeks.

19 MR. DARUS: Oh, okay. So you're going the  
20 week before I am. You're on the 20th. Right?

21 MS. TRACZ: Yes.

22 MR. DARUS: Okay. So we'll have information  
23 on that.

24 MR. SAMUELS: I would imagine, we were talking  
25 about Jefferson and Orange counties, those would fall

1 into that same boat, I would think, for different reasons  
2 but still same situation.

3 MR. DARUS: Exactly. And so it could be urban  
4 or rural on this.

5 MS. MOORE: I think another challenge with  
6 this, we've already mentioned people with criminal  
7 backgrounds, but they have a lot of overlap for the  
8 protected classes under the Fair Housing program, and so  
9 even when there is affordable housing, people with a  
10 criminal background are often blocked from that  
11 affordable housing and that only piles on to these  
12 issues.

13 MR. DARUS: So I have to then follow up with  
14 is this still sort of a generic problem or are you aware  
15 of specific instances where this has occurred?

16 MS. MOORE: Yes. So I was a BSS-Plus housing  
17 case manager cumulative for around a year and a half here  
18 in Austin, so I'm most familiar with it here in Austin.  
19 And yes, so I would have people with criminal backgrounds  
20 with families but basically you have two options for  
21 affordable housing with a family, you have Section 8 and  
22 HACA which the wait lists are long and dreary, and you  
23 have Foundation Communities. And Foundation Communities  
24 is doing a lot of great work here in the community, but  
25 in my opinion -- I can't back this up with numbers -- my

1 experience, rather, the biggest stock of affordable  
2 housing that's not HACA and Section 8 but you can't stay  
3 there at the family properties with a criminal  
4 background. Now, there's good reasoning for that but  
5 there's one apartment complex that I know of that will  
6 accept a sex offender into their apartment, one apartment  
7 complex that is affordable and will accept a sex  
8 offender. Now, again, there are a lot of good reasons  
9 for why an apartment complex wouldn't accept a sex  
10 offender, but at the same time, everyone needs a place to  
11 live.

12 MR. DARUS: And I hate to dig a little bit  
13 deeper but I do want to. So when you're talking about  
14 criminal history, there's a few different things that  
15 could mean. That could simply mean an arrest record,  
16 felony arrest record, conviction or guilty plea, or a  
17 felony conviction or guilty plea. And so are these  
18 policies that properties have, are they blanket any  
19 criminal history, meaning arrest?

20 MS. MOORE: No. So with a misdemeanor it's  
21 typically three years before they'll accept and with a  
22 felony, a conviction on both areas, if it's a conviction,  
23 definitely seven years or a blanket no for a felony. So  
24 what people are left to do within these three and seven  
25 years is an issue. A lot of the times there's specific

1 bars on people with a violent offense, less people are  
2 concerned with the non-violent offenses.

3 MS. LOPEZ: I was going to chime in and concur  
4 with you. From my educational experience, a lot of the  
5 families that I had that lived in hotels is because they  
6 had a felony on their record and it was definitely more  
7 than seven years and it was still preventing them from  
8 getting into any of the housing programs, and so what  
9 they were left to do was to live in hotels. They can  
10 afford the rent but they cannot get in because of that  
11 felony record. That happens at shelters as well.

12 MS. MOORE: Yes.

13 MS. LOPEZ: And so for my experience, it was  
14 also a lot of single parents that had the felony record,  
15 and when I've had the discussions, it was I was young or  
16 I was with the wrong partner, I'm not with them anymore.

17 MS. MOORE: Or it's a domestic violence charge  
18 that was brought on to the woman for fighting back and  
19 she got the felony arrest.

20 MS. LOPEZ: And it can also happen to the dads  
21 as well. That's something that's not addressed a lot of  
22 the time, the single dads who were in a domestic abuse  
23 situation, did not fight back, but when the police came,  
24 they were the ones that got cited.

25 MS. MOORE: And my experience has been that

1 Austin seven years ago was a lot more loose with these  
2 restrictions but as the housing stock diminishes, these  
3 apartment complexes don't have to bend over backwards or  
4 bend at all to get tenants and it's become worse over  
5 time as the population has grown.

6 MR. WILT: Just to add to that, and that goes  
7 what Carissa and Joyce and Meagan and everybody said,  
8 it's really an education factor. The property managers  
9 don't know what an appropriate look-back period is, they  
10 don't know the type of offenses to look back for, and  
11 they're not following HUD guidance. If you look at the  
12 work the reentry roundtable did in Austin, they  
13 interviewed all the multifamily providers in Austin and  
14 overwhelmingly, more than 90 percent of them said it's  
15 manager's discretion on which tenant to select. And  
16 that's not a policy, so it's really a lack of education  
17 and they need to know what the appropriate time period is  
18 and what offenses to look out for because they don't.

19 MS. HISSAM: Right. I've seen some  
20 programmatically in the last year that have looked back  
21 on felonies for ten years, and correct me if I'm wrong, I  
22 think we've experienced some properties that have  
23 screened for arrests and denied on just arrests, which my  
24 understanding is that's not applicable.

25 MR. WILT: And some of the worst offenders are

1 affordable housing providers who have tougher  
2 restrictions than market rate providers, tax credit  
3 properties.

4 MS. POHLMAN: I'd like to just add that there  
5 is specific need or a deficit in housing that's  
6 accessible, physically accessible and affordable, and  
7 that's a primary factor that keep people in nursing  
8 facilities rather than being able to move to the  
9 community. I don't have a specific location for you.

10 MS. DOUGHERTY: I would echo that as well,  
11 just a lack of a full range of a continuum of affordable  
12 housing options, outside of what was mentioned before  
13 with Section 811 and tax credit, that there are like  
14 recovery homes and mental health group homes that are  
15 unlicensed, unregulated, but those are often alternative  
16 options when we can't help someone enter a federally  
17 funded program, and there's other challenges.

18 MR. DARUS: We're on the last question then  
19 which is do you believe people looking for housing and  
20 housing providers know about Fair Housing laws.

21 MS. POHLMAN: They know the basics.

22 MS. HISSAM: I think they know what the little  
23 symbol looks like, maybe.

24 MS. DOUGHERTY: I don't know that our  
25 population, persons with behavioral health issues, fully

1 understand their rights and know how to advocate for  
2 themselves, and then they're working with a workforce  
3 that doesn't understand housing as well, so that's where  
4 our challenges lie in terms of education, educating the  
5 whole workforce to then assist someone with asking for  
6 reasonable accommodation when it's appropriate and being  
7 comfortable with that role.

8 MS. LOPEZ: I think at times, at least with  
9 the families that I work with, there were repercussions.  
10 Once they get into the housing and find that it doesn't  
11 meet certain standards or accommodations, they're afraid  
12 of the repercussions.

13 MR. DARUS: I'm going to move on to the next  
14 section, close to the last section so don't worry. So  
15 the next questions that I have for you all is tied to the  
16 handout that's coming around. The handout lists the  
17 impediments to fair housing that were identified in 2013  
18 as part of the state's analysis of impediments in 2013.  
19 I'm going to ask you to look over that list of  
20 impediments and then hear from you about whether you are  
21 experiencing those impediments in the community served by  
22 your organization.

23 And to summarize, the list shows there were  
24 six main impediments identified in 2013 which I will list  
25 out. The first is that Not In My Backyard syndrome, or

1 NIMBYism, can create barriers to housing choice for  
2 protected classes in some communities. Two, there is  
3 inadequate information available to local governments,  
4 stakeholders and the public about fair housing  
5 requirements and programs to assist persons with  
6 disabilities and low income residents. Three, the public  
7 is not sufficiently aware of how to obtain assistance  
8 necessary to protect fair housing rights. Four,  
9 protected classes may experience disparities in home  
10 mortgage loan denials and high cost loans. Five, lack of  
11 accessible housing and visitability standards limits fair  
12 housing choice for persons with disabilities. And six,  
13 there are barriers to mobility and free housing choice  
14 for protected classes.

15 Have you experienced any of the identified  
16 impediments in the communities served by the organization  
17 you represent, and can any of you comment on your  
18 experiences with any of these issues and impediments?

19 MS. MOORE: Yes, absolutely. Number three is  
20 the one that stuck out to me the most, especially with  
21 working with survivors of domestic violence and people  
22 who left housing to seek drug treatment.

23 MR. MARTIN: I will echo back. Ken Martin  
24 from Texas Homeless Education Office.

25 Number three, we talk to people all over the

1 state that are experiencing homelessness, living in  
2 hotels/motels, doubled up, and a lot of times they're not  
3 able to get into housing because of what appears to be  
4 fair housing issues, and it's difficult to get them first  
5 to get to the website and then to actually follow through  
6 with anything because there's not the appeal of  
7 assistance.

8 MS. DOUGHERTY: This is Carissa from HHSC. I  
9 would say number one has especially touched HHSC for the  
10 last nine or ten months. We've had legislative inquiries  
11 related to Oxford House which is a democratically peer  
12 run recovery house contracted by the state which falls  
13 under that umbrella of recovery houses and it's directly  
14 related to liberal constituent inquiries and concerns  
15 about that type of housing, the individuals that are  
16 living in that type of housing recovering from substance  
17 use.

18 MR. DARUS: Okay. I just want to make sure  
19 that I understand. Are you saying that you're getting a  
20 lot of inquiries from housing providers?

21 MS. DOUGHERTY: These are the neighbors of the  
22 type of housing, recovery housing.

23 MR. DARUS: So neighbors of like Oxford House.

24 MS. DOUGHERTY: Neighbors of Oxford Houses,  
25 and it extends to other types of recovery housing that

1 we're becoming aware of through this process where  
2 neighbors are concerned and raising issues. And what  
3 we've heard from other providers is that it's actually  
4 prevented owner/operators from moving into areas as a  
5 result, so that decreases the overall housing options in  
6 a certain area based on biases related to the people that  
7 are living in that home.

8 MS. VOYLES: This is Molly with the Texas  
9 Council on Family Violence, and I think, like Carissa  
10 mentioned, there's a number of those that affect  
11 survivors but maybe just looking at a holistic way to  
12 lead survivors and the issues they face as they flee  
13 violence.

14 MR. DARUS: All right. I know that it's a  
15 little awkward for me to present you with six things to  
16 look at and then you've got to try to reach back, and so  
17 with that in mind, I'm going to move on to the last stage  
18 here but I'm going to come back to something important at  
19 the end here, so just hold that in mind.

20 So thank you so much. My last question is not  
21 specifically related to the AI but to the larger planning  
22 document called the 2020-2024 State of Texas Consolidated  
23 Plan. Today's consultation is an early opportunity for  
24 input on the state's next five-year consolidated plan.  
25 This plan lays out the major ways the state would use its

1 HUD funds. Would you like to give input as to how the  
2 state should spend its HUD funds? Specifically, do you  
3 have any suggestions as to how any of the HUD funds could  
4 be used to address the fair housing matters we've been  
5 discussing? Is there any input for the consolidated  
6 plan?

7 MS. VOYLES: This is Molly with the Texas  
8 Council on Family Violence. I know this is going to be  
9 surprising, but more funds for survivors to get housing.

10 (General laughter.)

11 MR. SAMUELS: I don't know that I'm advocating  
12 for it, but is there money to do what Carissa was saying,  
13 educating the public, and not just the public that would  
14 potentially be receiving this assistance but those, for  
15 example, neighborhoods where housing may be placed? Is  
16 there money in that?

17 MR. DARUS: So I would not know where the  
18 money is. This is probably a little bit more in your  
19 wheelhouse.

20 MS. TRACZ: This is Cate Tracz with TDHCA.

21 So I lead the consolidating planning process  
22 so the AI is the beginning part of the state's look at  
23 how we use and spend our HUD funding, and then it goes  
24 into a full five-year plan. So our real input gathering  
25 process is going to start in January, and then we'll

1 develop the plan over all of 2019, but we're kind of  
2 getting some early input through these hearings if  
3 anything comes up. But it's really the use of the HUD  
4 funds for ESG, CDBG, HOME and HOPWA, so it ties back to  
5 the federal rules for those specific, so it would be the  
6 ESG specific rules that we're really asking for input on.

7 Does that answer your question?

8 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

9 MS. BOLTON: This is Valinda Bolton with DFPS.  
10 Youth and young adults are so unaware of a lot  
11 of their rights in general. If they've just reached 18,  
12 the idea that they have very many is probably new to  
13 them, so other than in a very general sense, so they're  
14 not aware of them, I don't think, very much and they  
15 don't have really an idea about how to take  
16 responsibility of what rights are available to them. So  
17 maybe some education for folks who work with that young  
18 adult population, whether it's community colleges or  
19 organizations like LifeWorks. Instead of trying to reach  
20 every young adult, maybe target the providers who work  
21 closely with them so that they know to say to somebody in  
22 that population: You know, you have this available to  
23 you or you have this right available to you.

24 MR. MARTIN: And I'm going to jump right off  
25 of that. That's very similar to a comment that I was

1 going to make. Again, Ken Martin from THEO. I wonder if  
2 there's money available to go into the public school  
3 systems where there's already a system set up to educate  
4 young people about what their rights are when they  
5 graduate or when they leave school. This is part of what  
6 civics class or whatever, maybe materials could be  
7 provided. There's many ways that could happen.

8 MS. LOPEZ: This is Cal, and I'm going to  
9 chime in on that, which brings me to think of our  
10 unaccompanied homeless youth. Oftentimes when they turn  
11 18 or before they're asked to leave the home but other  
12 thing that we see is that their parent or guardians hold  
13 onto those Social Security cards, those birth  
14 certificates. If they are eligible for certain benefits  
15 they're still receiving those checks and oftentimes  
16 schools are put in that uncomfortable situation of trying  
17 to help the youth assert their rights to their documents  
18 and their funding. And that would definitely tie into  
19 the housing because sometimes these young students  
20 already have credit issues because somebody else is using  
21 their documentation, and that's something that we've seen  
22 that's a way they are taken advantage of.

23 And so that would be something to look at as  
24 well, somebody to help them bridge those situations given  
25 that, because they could turn 18 at the beginning of the

1 year and lose their housing, they're seen as legal as 18,  
2 but when there's a parent or guardian that's  
3 circumventing their rights or their opportunities, that  
4 becomes a big issue.

5 MS. BOLTON: A lot of them even in that 17 to  
6 25.

7 MS. LOPEZ: And if they're a teen parent, that  
8 just kind of magnifies that.

9 MR. DARUS: So this is the more important  
10 thing that I want to let you know. I recognize that it's  
11 awkward and you didn't really know exactly what I was  
12 going to come in here and ask of you, so what I do want  
13 to let you know is that written input for the analysis of  
14 impediments can be submitted to me at any time prior to  
15 5:00 p.m. on August 10 of this year.

16 I have my business cards back at the back.  
17 Please take them, I don't know what else I'm going to do  
18 with them other than give them out to people. It has all  
19 of my contact information, email address, phone number  
20 and the mailing address for TDHCA and how you can address  
21 that to me. So any written comment that anybody has in  
22 input, we are happy to take all the way up until, like I  
23 said, August 10, 2018, and anything that gets to us by  
24 the would be considered consultation for the Draft  
25 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. So it

1 would be the same as if you said something today but it  
2 gives you that time to have a thought-out response or  
3 thought-out input. And like I said to folks on the  
4 phone, try to think of it in terms of, okay, these are  
5 things that I've seen but tying that in with some kind  
6 of -- you don't have to necessarily supply the data but  
7 it needs to be something that we can point to and say,  
8 yes, this exists, here's how prevalent it is. So kind of  
9 think of in terms of is there data available to show  
10 this.

11 MR. SAMUELS: So provide comments  
12 electronically via email. Is it also on the website  
13 anywhere?

14 MR. DARUS: I don't know if there's a place on  
15 the website necessarily to put that comment. I mean,  
16 emailing it to me is probably more effective than a web  
17 form anyway, just simply because I'm the one that's going  
18 to be collating it anyway, so getting it to me it cuts  
19 out kind of a middle man.

20 MS. DOUGHERTY: But this consultation is from  
21 these entities represented at the TICH. Right? It's not  
22 to be disseminated.

23 MR. DARUS: No. It can be disseminated.

24 MS. DOUGHERTY: It can? So your name and  
25 contact information.

1 MR. DARUS: It's already on the website, I'm  
2 already on the hook for all this anyway. Yes, please do  
3 disseminate it to people who would be informed in this  
4 area. I mean, that's one of the reasons why we're going  
5 all over the place.

6 MS. DOUGHERTY: So I can send this to my  
7 providers?

8 MR. DARUS: Yes, absolutely.

9 MR. SAMUELS: We did in the past send it out  
10 to providers. I think those that are on the front lines  
11 are going to provide the most.

12 MR. DARUS: I mean, that's kind of the reason  
13 why we're going to places like Texarkana. I've never  
14 been to Texarkana so I don't know what issues are there  
15 but people in Texarkana know and they're on the ground  
16 there. So yes, please do disseminate it to anybody you  
17 think that might be interested in it.

18 MR. WILT: We've disseminated it but we didn't  
19 know -- the questions you just asked weren't available.

20 MR. DARUS: So if you would like, I can  
21 actually get those questions to you.

22 MS. TRACZ: Do you want to maybe type up a  
23 summary email of what we asked today and then I can send  
24 that out to the group with your contact information and a  
25 link to everything on the website that explains the whole

1 process.

2 MR. DARUS: Yes, absolutely.

3 MS. BOLTON: That would be really helpful  
4 because I want to forward this on to a couple of other  
5 people in our agency and I need to know what we're  
6 asking.

7 MR. WILT: And those are specific to  
8 homelessness but you'll have some generic questions.

9 MR. DARUS: Yes, we have plenty of generic  
10 questions too and I'll include those in the email that I  
11 sent to Cate. Again, this was supposed to be more  
12 specific towards homelessness but fair housing and fair  
13 housing choice isn't just a homelessness issue, it's  
14 really broad and it touches a lot of things. So yes, I'd  
15 be happy to get the more generic questions that we've  
16 been asking, I'll also get the impediments that we had  
17 listed so that you can disseminate those with it.

18 MS. DOUGHERTY: I have a followup question.  
19 Are you implying that what goes into the final report  
20 will need to be substantiated in some hardcore data?

21 MR. DARUS: I won't say hardcore data, I will  
22 say that -- I'm trying to think of how to say this  
23 diplomatically which is, you know, a lot of people have  
24 feelings about what happens and a lot of people see  
25 things that happen, and it's hard to tell the difference

1 between what somebody believes is happening and what  
2 somebody sees is happening, it's hard to tell the  
3 difference without some sort of evidence to back it up.

4 MS. DOUGHERTY: And so my concern is our  
5 providers, just as an example, will have those thoughts  
6 and feelings and I'm just wondering if all the legal aids  
7 could be reached out. I would think they're on the front  
8 lines.

9 MR. DARUS: Actually that was one of the  
10 things in Amarillo, the North Texas Legal Aid was very  
11 interested in that, and I haven't heard back from them  
12 yet.

13 MS. DOUGHERTY: And the local public housing  
14 authority. I mean, those are the people on the front  
15 lines who are kind of assisting and would be in the best  
16 position to capture this data because our providers  
17 aren't required by contract to do that. Maybe in the  
18 future we need to require that of them if that's the way  
19 that it's going to go, so just to substantiate what we're  
20 kind of experiencing on the ground.

21 MR. DARUS: Right. And something that's  
22 important is that while this is just preliminary input,  
23 and it's great to have that up front because it's  
24 forefront in our minds when we're building this document,  
25 come December-January, we're also going to have a second

1 comment period for the actual document itself before it  
2 goes out for final review with our Board, so we're going  
3 to be taking input then too. So if it doesn't seem like  
4 enough time between now and August 10 to kind of get that  
5 other information or reach out for that, there is going  
6 to be another chance. This is all preliminary. I think  
7 we have an outline of the document, I don't think we  
8 really have any words that are written yet. So I mean,  
9 you have some time, I don't want to say you have a ton of  
10 time, but if the need is to bring more people in and get  
11 a lot of people aware of it so you can gather that  
12 information, there is that time.

13 MS. TRACZ: And this is one of 40-plus  
14 opportunities and outreach sessions that TDHCA is  
15 holding, so hopefully we're connecting with those  
16 providers in several different ways.

17 MR. DARUS: I think one of the things that  
18 we're doing is we're trying to get hold of PHAs, and like  
19 is aid, the Legal Aid, different parts of Legal Aid, is  
20 also part of what we're trying to get hold of, and I  
21 think we've done all right with getting hold of some of  
22 them. And we still have consultations to be done  
23 actually later this week with fair housing initiatives  
24 and advocacy programs that receive HUD funds too, so  
25 that's going to happen later this week. So there's going

1 to be plenty of opportunities, like Cate said, for  
2 getting those people involved as well maybe  
3 independently.

4 MR. SAMUELS: I think that objective data  
5 would be very valuable, but the accumulation of  
6 subjective anecdotal data, especially if the numbers are  
7 really large.

8 MR. DARUS: That is also very true. I mean,  
9 at some point in time anecdotal data stops being  
10 anecdotal data and it becomes survey data. Right? So  
11 yes, that's great.

12 MR. SAMUELS: Subjective if you have it.

13 MR. DARUS: Right, exactly.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. Thanks for all the input.  
15 I told Cate I didn't think we would talk this long, I was  
16 dead wrong on that.

17 MR. DARUS: I'm happy that it went this long.

18 MR. SAMUELS: It's good to have that input.

19 So before we close, just want to say our next  
20 TICH meeting will be on Wednesday, September 26, about  
21 five miles south -- I don't know if I got that right --  
22 at the Omni Southpark at the Texas Annual conference on  
23 Ending Homelessness, so please be there and come to the  
24 conference after, become one of our attendees.

25 With that, I close the meeting, and we are

1 adjourned. Thank you.

2 (Whereupon, at 11:46 a.m., the meeting was

3 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 10, 2018

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.

DATE: July 12, 2018

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(Transcriber)

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