

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL  
FOR THE  
HOMELESS

Omni Austin Hotel Southpark  
4140 Governors Row  
Austin, Texas

September 26, 2018  
11:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MIKE DOYLE, Chair  
BROOKE BOSTON  
NAOMI CANTU  
CARISSA DOUGHERTY  
CLAIRE IRWIN  
CAL LOPEZ  
TODD NOVAK (via telephone)  
JOE RAMIREZ

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

DARILYNN CARDONA-BEILER  
CHRISTINE GENDRON  
ERIC SAMUELS  
DENNIS M. SCHOLL (via telephone)

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

CATE TRACZ (TDHCA)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. DOYLE: Thank you. Well, let me call the  
3 October meeting of the TICH to attention. And we will do  
4 some welcomes and introductions.

5 I want to introduce first to you Joe Ramirez,  
6 who is our new appointee from the Veterans Commission.  
7 Joe, tell us a little bit about yourself.

8 MR. RAMIREZ: Hi. How are you doing? Thank  
9 you for inviting me. My name is Joe Ramirez. I am with  
10 the Texas Veterans Commission. I am the Justice-Involved  
11 Homeless State Coordinator. We are trying to create some  
12 new initiatives. We are just seeing what we can do.

13 I do let everybody know, at the Texas Veterans  
14 Commission, we have eight different divisions. And one of  
15 them is the funds preventions assistance. So we do have a  
16 scratch off lottery ticket. And we do give funds back to  
17 the community.

18 So we encourage anybody in 501(c)(3) status to  
19 apply for some of this money, so that we can help some of  
20 our veterans in the community. Thank you.

21 MR. DOYLE: Great. Great. Thank you so much  
22 for being here.

23 MR. RAMIREZ: Thank you.

24 MR. DOYLE: I don't have any remarks, other  
25 than just thank you all for all the great work you do out

1 in your communities and at the state for the homeless.

2 And we just really appreciate it.

3 I just know that when I travel around, I just  
4 feel that there is some energy around this issue again.  
5 For a while there, I think we slipped into neutral a  
6 little bit, with all the other stuff going on. But I feel  
7 some energy around this.

8 I know Fort Worth has just finally instituted  
9 an end to veterans homelessness with the next 100 days  
10 thing. And knowing our mayor, that will happen. And so  
11 we are really excited about that, and I hope the same  
12 things are happening in your communities.

13 From the members, I would entertain a motion to  
14 approve the minutes from July.

15 MS. BOSTON: So moved.

16 MR. DOYLE: Moved by Brooke. Is there a  
17 second?

18 MR. NOVAK: Second.

19 MR. DOYLE: Second by Todd.

20 MR. NOVAK: Yes, sir.

21 MR. DOYLE: Any discussion?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: Changes?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. DOYLE: All in favor, say aye.

1 (A chorus of ayes.)

2 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

3 (No response.)

4 MR. DOYLE: Those do pass. Next we have a  
5 Performance Committee report from Cate.

6 MS. TRACZ: That is me.

7 MR. DOYLE: Sorry, Cate.

8 MS. TRACZ: Okay. So this will be pretty  
9 short. There has not been a lot of activity with this  
10 committee since the last meeting. My hope is now that the  
11 state fiscal year has ended, we can take a look back at a  
12 full year of performance data that we have collected from  
13 certain state agencies, and then apply that going forward.

14 So just to give a quick overview to some of our  
15 new members, and our attendees here. One of the charges  
16 of the TICH is to look at kind of a statewide view of the  
17 resources available. And this actually was a Brooke idea  
18 from a couple of years ago, that I have happily taken  
19 over.

20 And we are trying to look at kind of a standard  
21 data set on how to measure homelessness within all of the  
22 state agencies that represent the TICH. So one of the  
23 ideas was to look at the state performance measures that  
24 each agency reports to the Legislative Budget Board, and  
25 to kind of dive in to see what key elements existed in all

1 of those performance measures.

2 So we are taking a deep dive. We have got one  
3 of our data folks at TDHCA really assisting with this, as  
4 well. And the goal is within the next year to have met  
5 with all of the state agencies. We have gotten about a  
6 third of them so far that represent the TICH and have  
7 something that we can use going forward, so.

8 MR. DOYLE: Great. Thank you. Eric, annual  
9 committee report? Annual report committee?

10 MR. SAMUELS: I don't have a whole lot to  
11 report on this. I think Cate will probably have a little  
12 bit more than me. We -- me, Dr. Scholl and Alison Wynn  
13 [phonetic] all worked together to put together a pretty  
14 expansive draft, I would say.

15 We tried to include a lot of information from  
16 the agencies that are on the council and do a good job of  
17 reporting about what happened in the past year. And then  
18 we handed it off to Cate. And I think that is when the  
19 real work began.

20 So she has whittled it down to a coherent  
21 report that, I think, covers what we need to cover, under  
22 our requirement.

23 MS. TRACZ: Right. Yes. So the Committee did  
24 a fantastic job. Thank you to everyone for their work on  
25 that. I know, Dennis is in the phone as well, and gave a

1 lot of good information. So yes.

2 I just, like Eric said, kind of culled it down  
3 to, you know, what we did discuss in 2017. You know,  
4 really wanted to address each of the requirements that are  
5 in statute. And I think that is reflected in the report.

6  
7 So I had sent the finished product. I emailed  
8 that out to members about a week ago and asked for any  
9 comments or edits. And I hadn't received any.

10 So if there is any other comments or edits, we  
11 could discuss that now. If not, we could -- it will come  
12 up for a vote in the next item.

13 MR. DOYLE: Well, we were given plenty of time  
14 to comment. So if we are just now commenting, it is too  
15 late, in my estimation. We have had our time.

16 And I want to encourage you, too. I read this.  
17 And then I read it again on the plane coming down here.  
18 And I think this was very informative.

19 I told Cate, you know, the reason I like it, is  
20 that I actually learned something reading it. And if you  
21 can learn something from the report, it is worthy of you  
22 to read it. It is only 13 pages, or 14 pages.

23 So give it a read. If you didn't, shame on  
24 you. If you did, thank you for reading it. But that  
25 being said, I would entertain a motion to approve the

1 annual report that goes to the member agencies.

2 MS. CANTU: I move.

3 MR. DOYLE: Moved by Naomi. Second?

4 MS. BOSTON: Second.

5 MR. DOYLE: Second by Brooke. Thank you. Any  
6 comment or discussion?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. DOYLE: All in favor, say aye.

9 (A chorus of ayes.)

10 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 MR. DOYLE: And that does pass. Okay. We are  
13 going to make a little adjustment in the agenda. Because  
14 Eric has a few things going on today. And a keynote  
15 speaker would kind of like to know what to do.

16 MS. TRACZ: Cal is also here.

17 MR. DOYLE: Hi, Cal. Do you need a chair.

18 MR. SAMUELS: She wants to go ahead and give  
19 her report.

20 MR. DOYLE: Oh, you want to give a report?  
21 Okay.

22 MS. LOPEZ: Yes. Thank you. Thank you  
23 everyone for being here today. And let me jump into the  
24 agenda, a little ahead of schedule.

25 During this conference, this is a mandatory

1 training for all our subgrantees for our Texas Education  
2 for Homeless Children and Youth Grant. So we are in the  
3 process of doing a training right now for one of the  
4 agency's priority initiatives regarding services for  
5 students who are homeless, experiencing homelessness, and  
6 now, victims of human sex trafficking.

7 This is a priority that comes from the  
8 Governor, Attorney General's office, and from the agency.  
9 Homeless children and youth are some of the most at-risk  
10 children, who could be victims of human sex trafficking.

11 We are actually having a training right now,  
12 introducing that new initiative to our subgrantees. We  
13 have, I would say, over 150 attendees participating right  
14 now in our mandatory session. That is one of the highest  
15 attendance we have them for, which serves our 76  
16 subgrantees and our 51 member districts.

17 So I just kind of wanted to bring that brief  
18 highlight. And thank you for your support, and for  
19 helping us here provide this training at this conference.

20 MR. DOYLE: Thank you very much.

21 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you.

22 MR. DOYLE: We appreciate this. And I forgot  
23 to announce, if you could, say your name for the recorder,  
24 when in fact, you do speak, if you speak.

25 So we are going to move up the update from THN,

1 so Eric can get about the business of the conference,  
2 before we hear from Carissa. So Eric, why don't you talk  
3 to us about -- or you and Megan talk to us about your two  
4 items on the agenda.

5 MR. SAMUELS: Sure. So for the VISTA volunteer  
6 project, I am actually just going to let Megan report out.

7 And then Data Warehouse, Keegan and I can share those  
8 with you.

9 MS. MOORE: Hey everyone.

10 MR. DOYLE: Hi.

11 MS. MOORE: It is Megan from Texas Homeless  
12 Network. Thank you so much for coming this morning. So I  
13 have a couple of updates.

14 First, I wanted to give you updates on the  
15 overall VISTA program. We are recruiting for a couple of  
16 positions. The positions are in Longview, Lubbock,  
17 Taylor, Abilene, Austin and Waco.

18 And so we are really looking for some people  
19 who are interested in helping end homelessness in these  
20 areas throughout the State of Texas. And all of our  
21 current listings are on our website at THN.org. You can  
22 go to the VISTA site.

23 We are also recruiting for a new project. So I  
24 know that a lot of different agencies are represented  
25 here. So if you have a project that has maybe been on the

1 back burner, that you think that a VISTA could help  
2 with -- a VISTA serves for a year. They serve 40 hours  
3 per week, and they can't do direct service. But  
4 everything else.

5 It is really good for getting those projects  
6 off the ground that you have sitting on the back burner.  
7 So if you -- if you are interested in hosting a VISTA  
8 member, please come by. I have some cards and we can talk  
9 more about that.

10 So specifically with our TICH VISTAs, we have  
11 two in place now. One in Tarrant County, and one in  
12 Travis County, working with ECHO. And I don't know, do we  
13 have the Tarrant County coalition represented here?

14 MR. SAMUELS: Tammy was unable to make it.  
15 There may be someone else.

16 MS. MOORE: Okay. Well, so we have had our  
17 Tarrant County VISTA member in for just over a quarter  
18 now. She has evaluated -- or I am sorry, surveyed 67  
19 different stakeholders, including organizational  
20 representatives as well as clients. Figuring out what the  
21 gaps are between homeless services and employment  
22 navigation. All of that has culminated into a proposed  
23 plan, which I will go over briefly with you guys.

24 So this plan has been proposed in three  
25 different stages, though if the community decides to

1 implement all three stages at once, that is also an  
2 option. So the challenges that were often talked about  
3 were transportation, like, having difficulty accessing  
4 proper transportation, either to case management or to  
5 jobs themselves.

6 Education, the education of clients needed to  
7 be augmented and improved for them to qualify for jobs  
8 that could actually give them a living wage. Lack of  
9 affordable and flexible childcare. Impact of criminal and  
10 legal background checks. And then children housing  
11 policies were also an impediment to finding connections to  
12 careers.

13 The recommended system changes that came from  
14 those surveys were focused resources on supporting  
15 employment success, an integrated transportation system  
16 across the COC, more employer engagement, development, and  
17 cultural competency. So we're actually working directly  
18 with employers to help them understand what it is to  
19 employ someone experiencing homelessness.

20 More flexible options for training. So that  
21 would include weekends or evenings so that if someone did  
22 have a job that maybe wasn't just wasn't enough to  
23 actually bring them out of homelessness, they could still  
24 train for something better while retaining that  
25 employment. And improved communication and data

1 integration throughout the COC.

2 So the three stage process is to augment  
3 coordinated entry and start having conversations about  
4 employment within coordinated entry, and also bring SOAR  
5 into that. Introduce a process for triaging clients and  
6 having a concrete referral process. And then the final  
7 stage would be to create additional resources within the  
8 community for employment navigation, done in a variety of  
9 ways.

10 That is a little bit ethereal right now,  
11 because we are prior to implementation. And right now,  
12 just presenting this three stage process to stakeholders  
13 who are -- will be working with Tarrant County COC to  
14 implement everything.

15 Finally, we are focusing on leveraging the  
16 strength of the COC community while addressing key gaps.  
17 And while it is called employment navigation we are really  
18 focusing on including SOAR with that. Because not  
19 everyone -- a job isn't right for everyone.

20 And so trying to get -- for people who don't  
21 know SOAR is SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery. And  
22 it is a facilitated way -- application for getting  
23 benefits if you cannot work or have a disability.

24 And also focusing on linking the current  
25 resources that are already available and making it more of

1 a research-rich community, where you can go -- kind of  
2 like with coordinated entry, accessing everything you need  
3 from hopefully one place. But if you can't do it from one  
4 place, that one place knows about what is available.

5 Travis County is still in the very early  
6 stages. Our VISTA member has just completed her first  
7 month, I think, yesterday, so still in training and  
8 figuring out, but soon we'll have some stuff to report on  
9 her work in the community.

10 That was a lot of information. Does anyone  
11 have any questions?

12 MS. HOWARD: What did you mean by a TICH VISTA?  
13 I should know. But does --

14 MS. MOORE: So we have the Texas Interagency  
15 Council -- the workforce board, has given, granted THN a  
16 grant to work on employment navigation with people  
17 experiencing homelessness.

18 MS. HOWARD: Okay.

19 MS. MOORE: And so the VISTAs at ECHO and in  
20 Tarrant County, the COC, are supported through that grant.

21 MS. HOWARD: Got it.

22 MR. SAMUELS: I think it could be a difference  
23 in language.

24 MS. HOWARD: Yes.

25 MR. SAMUELS: This is Eric Samuels. We

1 internally call it the TICH grant, even though the money  
2 comes from Texas Workforce Commission through TDHCA to us.

3 And then we work with your group --

4 MS. HOWARD: I have got you.

5 MR. SAMUELS: -- and Tarrant County on  
6 hopefully getting better collaboration between your local  
7 workforce boards, and workforce centers and your homeless  
8 crisis response systems. So we were talking before the  
9 meetings started.

10 We have a great group of VISTAs. Not only in  
11 our office, but around the state. So we are almost  
12 getting to 20. Hopefully we will be soon. So it has been  
13 a big benefit, I think, not only for our agency, but the  
14 communities that we work with.

15 MS. MOORE: And all of our current VISTAs are  
16 here, so we might see them around. I welcome you to say  
17 hi to them and talk to them about their projects.

18 MR. DOYLE: Is the Tarrant County VISTA here?

19 MS. MOORE: Yes. Not in the room, but she is  
20 here.

21 MR. DOYLE: What is her name?

22 MS. MOORE: Laura. I am blanking on her last  
23 name. I have a lot of Lauras. I am so sorry.

24 MR. DOYLE: That is all right.

25 MR. SAMUELS: I met her yesterday, and I can't

1 think of her last name, either.

2 VOICE: Wait until you get 70, and see how you  
3 think --

4 MR. SAMUELS: Well, I am there with the memory  
5 already. So okay. Data Warehouse. So I will talk about  
6 a little bit about this. And then Keegan will be able to  
7 jump in and fill in the gaps where I missed probably key  
8 points.

9 So I think at the last meeting, I reported that  
10 we were working with Amazon Web Services on trying to  
11 implement Data Warehouse throughout the state. And just  
12 so you know, Data Warehouse is an attempt to bring --  
13 right now, we are envisioning just bringing data from our  
14 separate Continuums of Care together and aggregating that  
15 data, so we can analyze that and can measure things like,  
16 how clients navigate the space, how clients move from one  
17 COC to another and what happens when they do.

18 And then hopefully, the end outcome would be  
19 that we are all working as one system. So when we say  
20 coordinated entry, we are not just saying it is only  
21 coordinated entry for this county, this specific  
22 geographic region, it is coordinated entry throughout the  
23 state, because we are all working together in harmony.

24 And then down the road, it would be great if we  
25 have other systems involved: HHSC, our criminal justice

1 system, so we can do even more with that data. But we are  
2 a long ways from that.

3 So what we are doing is, we are working with  
4 Amazon Web Services on creating a Data Warehouse proof of  
5 concept right now. And we are currently working with the  
6 Texas Balance of State because we happen to have a close  
7 relationship with that Continuum of Care.

8 And then we are working with Houston and San  
9 Antonio. Now, I will say, we are in the preliminary  
10 stages. No agreements have been signed, or anything like  
11 that.

12 So right now, we are in the planning stages.  
13 But it is looking -- we are optimistic about what can  
14 happen. We already had data uploaded to Amazon Web  
15 Services console and we have a database architect who is  
16 helping us out with all of that work. And I really think  
17 this could be a successful endeavor.

18 And if we prove that this could work, I think  
19 we could expand out and hopefully create a Data Warehouse  
20 for the state. One key thing we are missing with all  
21 this, is funding to do this, and funding for someone to  
22 manage this.

23 So Keegan has been doing a great job reaching  
24 out to foundations, and any group that may support this  
25 endeavor and hopefully one of those efforts will come

1 through, if not more. And we can get that funding to  
2 carry forward.

3 So Amazon Web Services is here. They are a  
4 sponsor of our conference. Jessie Metcalf is not in the  
5 room, is she? You may see her around. Jessie Metcalf is  
6 our representative with AWS.

7 And if you get a chance, I will introduce you.

8 And you can get a chance to talk to her. Ann has  
9 actually met her. So those of you who haven't, I would  
10 encourage you to meet her.

11 Is there anything you would like to add?

12 MR. SHEPHERD: No. The big thing is, it is a  
13 way to figure out how to navigate space, right. So with  
14 subpopulations or natural disaster in your COC navigation,  
15 we are hoping that by integrating the data, we can get  
16 better insight into that.

17 Obviously, the reason that we are cautious  
18 about the time table now, is that anyone who has worked  
19 with data before, even a little bit, knows that it is a  
20 lot of work to take two systems, let alone three, and  
21 stitch them together. So we have our ambition for when we  
22 would like to be able to talk about this in a more  
23 concrete way.

24 But even if we take up the table, there is core  
25 of momentum and things are happening. And we are excited

1 to say that.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. That was great. We were up  
3 in the Amazon offices last week. Was it last week? I  
4 think it was last week --

5 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes.

6 MR. SAMUELS: -- talking about how we can  
7 actually do this. And I thought it would be easy, just  
8 looking at one Continuum of Care's data. No, it is not so  
9 easy, even looking at that, but we are working through  
10 those problems.

11 And we have some other groups coming in to help  
12 us to try to navigate those pitfalls. So yes. It is  
13 exciting.

14 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Good project.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Good progress.

16 MR. DOYLE: A good project.

17 MS. CANTU: I do have a question. This is  
18 Naomi Cantu with TDHCA. Is the web, Amazon Web Services,  
19 are you getting in a grant from them, or how you  
20 contracting with them?

21 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. So that is a good question.  
22 It would be great if we did. Maybe we can put that on  
23 the record.

24 No, so they are supporting us through providing  
25 their expertise from the database architect. They are

1 actually helping us with data storage. So we presumably  
2 would be paying for that.

3 So that is in-kind support, I guess you could  
4 say. I think having them shine a light on this is very  
5 beneficial, them partnering with us and us being able to  
6 say, hey, we are partnering with Amazon Web Services. I  
7 think that is also beneficial.

8 So far, well -- I shouldn't say there is no  
9 money, because they sponsor our conference. So they are  
10 very generous with their support of our conference. But  
11 there is no actual funding of the Data Warehouse yet.

12 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Eric, I have a question.  
13 This is Darilynn from Integral Care.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

15 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: So if the idea to have the  
16 data from HMIS, from the different continuums come  
17 together to not only track how many individuals are in the  
18 system, but track individuals as they move through COCs,  
19 or the regions.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

21 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Is that their normal --

22 MR. SAMUELS: It is. And so you know, I think  
23 there is a lot of advantages, if you are looking at it  
24 from a project perspective.

25 Say you have a gentleman exit your program.

1 And from what you can tell, that is an effective exit.  
2 They had a stable housing situation. If they move into  
3 another Continuum of Care, you don't really know what  
4 happens with that person.

5 But wouldn't it be nice if you could see that  
6 that person was still in a stable housing situation six  
7 months, twelve months, 18 months down the road. So I  
8 think tracking performance is great like that.

9 I also think it just provides better continuity  
10 of service. We saw that really after Harvey. People were  
11 scattering throughout the state. And there are some -- I  
12 mean, I saw it when I was in Port Arthur.

13 This person wasn't homeless, but they had a  
14 medical team that worked with them. When she got  
15 displaced, she didn't have those people that were helping  
16 her with her medications. She lost all of that.

17 So all of that had to be rebuilt. So that case  
18 file -- that electronic case file would carry on,  
19 presumably, across these imaginary boundaries. And I  
20 think ultimately, that is really what we are trying to do,  
21 is more effectively serve people in that situation. So we  
22 can move them out of homelessness faster.

23 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: And it would be fantastic  
24 if you have HHSC with CCP -- I am sorry. With -- what is  
25 the system that we use? Oh, CMBHS. CMBHS to be able to

1 bring those two datasets together.

2 I know that there is a lot of legalities in  
3 terms of protecting health information and things of that  
4 nature, but that is a system that tracks individuals  
5 across the state. And we can look, okay. This person  
6 moved here, moved there, and they are active in services  
7 or not. If we have those systems speaking with, you know,  
8 talking to one another, I think it would be wonderful

9 MR. SAMUELS: And I feel like we get that. Go  
10 ahead, Keegan.

11 MR. SHEPHERD: Yes. No. A, Yes. And B.  
12 Especially because, not to sort of load another news item  
13 but because THN was able to get the FUSE initiatives with  
14 the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

15 This is something that is not only like, a  
16 hardy-har airy-fairy idea. This is the definite stuff in  
17 the conversation we have to have over the next few months.

18 So I look forward to talking to all of you about that.  
19 That is a must.

20 MR. SAMUELS: And obviously, a Data Warehouse  
21 would help you identify those frequent users more easily.

22 And hopefully match them with services and support.

23 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Great project, thank you.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. But the tech part of it,  
25 that is difficult. But those agreements, and making sure

1 that each crisis response system's information is  
2 protected, that -- those, that is going to be the  
3 difficult thing to navigate. We really need, you know, to  
4 be very purposeful on how we do that.

5 MR. DOYLE: Yes, sir.

6 MR. SHUBITZ: Dylan Shubitz, Housing Authority  
7 of the City of Austin. Just out of curiosity, is there  
8 any motion from HUD to sort of make this even like a  
9 nationwide thing? Because like, they already sort of do  
10 it with -- you know, pick the public entity and the  
11 housing programs.

12 Like, at a program admission for a voucher  
13 program, we are able to see, like, is this person in a  
14 federally-assisted program already. There is already a  
15 duplication at HMIS, with putting in information that is  
16 already going to pay for the HUD VASH program and  
17 potentially the FEP program, and the new mainstream  
18 voucher awards.

19 I was just wondering, is there anything from  
20 the community development part of HUD that just doesn't  
21 talk to public entity in housing, about replicating a  
22 program like -- or a system like that.

23 MR. SAMUELS: I don't know if HUD is in the  
24 room.

25 MS. SHUBITZ: I was thinking, like, you know,

1 it is something that sort of exists already at the federal  
2 level, and it has been a real frustration for me. Like,  
3 backfilling 500 HUD VASH entries into a system that is  
4 essentially duplicating what already exists.

5 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, I hear you. That is --  
6 them not speaking between the departments, that is the  
7 reality. Them supporting something like this, I think  
8 they would say, this is great. You should do it.

9 Supporting it from a financial standpoint, so  
10 far, no. They do, within Continuums of Care. But not a,  
11 you know, cross Continuum of Care. And I will say one  
12 more thing.

13 That is one of the things we saw at Port  
14 Arthur. Red Cross, FEMA, they were collecting the same  
15 exact information, but weren't sharing it. And it is so  
16 frustrating.

17 MR. DOYLE: I think the charge of this  
18 committee at the TICH would be to coordinate that  
19 information with the COCs. And then let's see what else  
20 other agencies might glean from that. If we can focus on  
21 the COCs, we are really going to make some headway, but we  
22 have got to get to them first.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Right. I mean, I think  
24 ultimately, if this is going to work, the COCs have to be  
25 engaged and they have to be -- they have to feel like they

1 are being supported in this.

2 They are being protected in this. And it  
3 starts with that. And I think there was one more  
4 question.

5 MS. SHARP: Hi, Charletra Sharp, City of  
6 Dallas. So the point, I guess to both comments that have  
7 been made, is the plan that it would be available for  
8 public housing authority within the state? Because I  
9 think there is a huge connection as it relates to who we  
10 serve in the COC, in those with the housing authority. So  
11 maybe nationally is a stretch, than maybe just emailing in  
12 the state to be able to interface that data.

13 MR. SAMUELS: So I mean I think that would be  
14 ideal down the road. Again, I think we need to start with  
15 our COCs, make sure we have the correct agreements between  
16 them. And then when we start opening up to other systems,  
17 or before even we do that, we make sure all our COCs are  
18 on board.

19 Because ultimately, it is their data. It is  
20 the clients that they are working with. We have to  
21 respect that above all else. But, yes. That would be --

22 MS. SHARP: I just didn't know if there were  
23 specific communities that you are already working with, if  
24 there is conversation about -- so for instance if you  
25 said, Harris County or Houston, whichever one, to San

1 Antonio, can there be conversations about COC plus their  
2 housing authority data or will you just --

3 MR. SAMUELS: Not yet. And by the way, we are  
4 looking at past data. We are not looking at real time  
5 data.

6 We are just trying to test it, proof of  
7 concept. Yes. But down the road that would be ideal.

8 MR. DOYLE: A lot of work. Thank you for your  
9 committee, for all -- yes. Teri.

10 MS. HOLTKAMP: Teri Holtkamp. I am on the  
11 Board here. One of the things that I hear going around  
12 all the time is, if you could start out with something  
13 small, just the COCs buying into the Data Warehouse, what  
14 happens is, if you are going to be rare, brief and non-  
15 recurring, then you have got to start somewhere.

16 And then the housing authorities say, hey, this  
17 is working. The veterans say, hey, this is working. And  
18 then that gives you the momentum that you need to get  
19 everybody else involved that you -- but Texas has got to  
20 take that first step.

21 So TICH being in here, in this Texas Homeless  
22 Network, and willing to move this forward, we are just  
23 going to have really work together and then get all these  
24 different agencies, who so far have been really good at --  
25 I mean, we have learned how to break down silos.

1           It is up above that they have got to work on a  
2 little better than we have. And I think you can see great  
3 things come from that. But if we can stop at Texas, where  
4 we meet those three criteria, they will take notice. They  
5 will take notice.

6           MR. SHUBITZ: Just have one more thought, if  
7 you don't mind.

8           MR. DOYLE: Last one, and then we have got to  
9 get going.

10          MR. SHUBITZ: So everyone is, or every COC  
11 recipient is uploading their APRs to a Sage system.

12          MR. SAMUELS: Right.

13          MR. SHUBITZ: Like, that is one place where all  
14 this data is coming straight out of HMIS and into  
15 something at the federal level. Is there a way to just  
16 tap into that data? Is that something that is --

17          MR. DOYLE: That makes way too much sense.

18          MR. SAMUELS: Well, yes. Getting it from HUD,  
19 I don't know that we could do it, except in aggregate  
20 form, if you can do it in aggregate form. But there have  
21 been talks about doing that very thing, before it gets  
22 done, yeah. But I think would also just -- that would be  
23 a little bit of a limitation too. We may not get the full  
24 credit for all we need.

25          MR. DOYLE: Good. Thank you so much, Eric and

1 Keegan. Okay. Carissa?

2 Carissa, you are going to talk to us. You and  
3 Claire.

4 MS. DOUGHERTY: Yes. Thanks for having us  
5 here. I am going to turn it over to Claire first.

6 MS. IRWIN: So my name is Claire Irwin and I am  
7 with Texas Health and Human Services in the Aging Services  
8 Coordination office. And we were asked to just highlight  
9 some of the programs and initiatives that HHS has that  
10 supports the issues of housing and homelessness. And so I  
11 reached out to some offices that work specifically with  
12 older adults, and got some updates from them.

13 The Office of the Area Agencies on Aging  
14 supports area agencies on aging across the state, and they  
15 have two initiatives that impact housing and homelessness.

16 One is through the Older Americans Act, Title III(B)  
17 funding. And that goes out to the AAAs for residential  
18 repair. Those repairs can be made to housing that is  
19 owned by an older individual, age 60 or over, and the idea  
20 is for them to be able to age in place, and not have to  
21 transition to another type of housing.

22 Another project that they have is funded  
23 through state General Revenue, and again distributed  
24 through the office of the AAAs to the Area Agencies on  
25 Aging across the state. And it directs funds to be used

1 for older adults to obtain housing. There is a cap of  
2 \$5,000 per household, per year, and it can be used in a  
3 number of different situations.

4 For emergency situations, such as obtaining  
5 temporary shelter, or if the older adult is a part of an  
6 adult protective services case, to obtain permanent  
7 housing if a person needs updates to their housing to make  
8 sure that it is safe and secure for them to continue to  
9 live there. Or if it is a situation where they are  
10 transitioning from a long term care situation back into  
11 the community. That can be used for that as well.

12 I also received an update from the Office of  
13 the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. They have  
14 housing navigators and those housing navigators do a  
15 number of different things.

16 They participate in coalitions across the  
17 state. They create and maintain an inventory of  
18 accessible and affordable housing within their regions.  
19 They work with local and state officials to create housing  
20 policies and practices that support their mission, and  
21 contribute to the development of affordable and accessible  
22 housing. And they also work with housing developers and  
23 their communities.

24 In our office, we have an initiative called  
25 Aging Texas Well. It was created by an executive order in

1 2005 and it has an Advisory Committee that is connected to  
2 it. And it works directly with different departments and  
3 organizations across the state, that work with older  
4 adults.

5 And their focus is they have 16 issue areas.  
6 One of them is housing, and it is not something that they  
7 have been focusing on a great deal so far. But this year,  
8 they are putting a new focus on housing and creating an  
9 issue brief that highlights the issues that older adults  
10 face in finding affordable and accessible housing.

11 MR. DOYLE: Great. Thank you.

12 MS. HISSAM: Okay. Hi, everybody. This is  
13 Jessica Hissam. I am also at HHSC. I am currently a  
14 program specialist in the adult mental health unit.

15 I did want to introduce Helen. We actually  
16 have more staff that are focusing on housing, which I am  
17 very excited about. Helen is going to be taking over  
18 quite a few of my programs. I am going to be moving over  
19 to forensics. But I am very excited.

20 So Health and Human Services, we do a variety  
21 of things. Our contractors are the LMHAs. The local  
22 mental health authorities, local behavioral health  
23 authorities. And every one of them across the state is  
24 contracted with us to provide permanent supportive housing  
25 services.

1           How that looks depends greatly on the community  
2 and the need. But within that, we also have a variety of  
3 other programs that sort of supplement the expectations of  
4 providing housing services.

5           So the health and community collaboratives are  
6 in the four main cities in Texas. So Austin, Dallas, Fort  
7 Worth and San Antonio. In 2017, they had 19,000 clients  
8 enrolled, and 461 individuals were actually placed in  
9 permanent supportive housing.

10           We are expanding to the rural communities.  
11 These initiatives are going to start in 2019. These rural  
12 communities have to serve at least two counties. Have  
13 less than 100,000 folks in population. And their purpose  
14 is to expand or establish their own health and community  
15 collaboratives.

16           I am sure the majority of you guys are familiar  
17 with the PATH program. HHSC also administers that. In  
18 2017, there were 15,000 contacts made, and about half,  
19 7,000 of those clients were enrolled in PATH. We actually  
20 found out that about 55.3 of that population were  
21 chronically homeless.

22           And about the same percent had a co-occurring  
23 disorder. And about 15.2 of those folks have been placed  
24 in permanent supportive housing within the 90 day period  
25 they are enrolled in PATH.

1           SHR, the supportive housing rental assistance  
2 is given to about 20 of our LMHAs. This is actually like  
3 an ancillary -- I can't say the word. It is a side  
4 program, basically. It is funding.

5           So we have \$11.9 million that is distributed  
6 across the biennium that is also going to be the amount  
7 for 2018, and 2019. The program has been around since  
8 2013.

9           It is 100 percent General Revenue funds. The  
10 big benefit of this program is that since it is not HUD  
11 funded, we don't have to necessarily go by a lot of HUD's  
12 eligibility.

13           So this is more focused on people who are  
14 intermittently homeless, folks who are exiting  
15 institutions. It is a bridge subsidy. So it is one year.

16           It is not meant to be permanent supportive housing. It  
17 is meant for people to have a chance to get on their feet.

18           MR. DOYLE: Is that program required to have a  
19 mental health diagnosis to access it?

20           MS. HISSAM: Yes. So you have to be in a full  
21 level of care at the LMHA. You just have to be eligible.

22           From there, anybody can use it. So -- and that program  
23 is really great. We do a lot of measures for those  
24 programs.                           And in 2017, we saw a 48  
25 percent decrease in crisis services during the time, from

1 the inception, of somebody being in that program to exit.

2 And a 71 percent decrease in hospitalization. So it  
3 really -- it works.

4 We are applying to try to expand it. We have  
5 talked a lot with stakeholders, you know. We got motion  
6 behind it. It is a very important program.

7 And last but not least, Section 811, which HHSC  
8 and TDHCA partner on. We have kind of gone past -- and  
9 you guys feel free to jump in, if you want. We have kind  
10 of moved past the ramp-up period, and are now seeing folks  
11 moving into housing, and sort of going from the  
12 maintaining housing -- of the obtaining to the maintenance  
13 phase.

14 We have had about a 1,200 referrals, and housed  
15 75 families. So it is moving. It is moving fast, and  
16 things are going well.

17 And that is all I have. Does anybody have any  
18 questions?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. HISSAM: Thank you guys.

21 MR. DOYLE: Thank you very much. Carissa, are  
22 you forfeiting your time to the other side, or what are  
23 you --

24 MS. DOUGHERTY: I just have a little bit of  
25 updates.

1 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good.

2 MS. DOUGHERTY: Because there is some statewide  
3 stuff that we are doing as well.

4 MS. HISSAM: Right.

5 MS. DOUGHERTY: Some programmatic stuff that is  
6 really cool.

7 MS. HISSAM: Yes.

8 MS. DOUGHERTY: The state, since 2017, has been  
9 receiving targeted technical assistance to really  
10 investigate kind of cross-agency collaborations at a state  
11 level, to figure out how to sustainably finance health and  
12 housing programs. So we finished up a CMS funded  
13 innovative accelerator program. That was nine months.

14 We have now entered into a contract with the  
15 National Academy for State Health Policy, who is funded by  
16 HRSA for a two-and-a-half year stint as well. And so we  
17 are trying to use as many resources that are available to  
18 us at the state to educate ourselves about options, as far  
19 as Medicaid -- not expansion, I will just censor myself  
20 with that.

21 Medicaid options that are being explored in  
22 other states that might be replicated or altered for this  
23 environment that we are in. On the housing end, we are  
24 partnering with Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation  
25 as our housing partner, who has been new and an innovative

1 partner as well. I think Michael is here.

2 To help us kind of learn about the housing  
3 aspect side of things, and how the state may be able to  
4 assist with some of the stuff that we are exploring, we  
5 are really interested in data as well. So we are in full  
6 support of the Texas Homeless Network's work.

7 We are tracking what is going on historically  
8 from a project that aligns with what we are doing. So  
9 four COCs have entered into data use agreements with HHSC  
10 to do a data match. They are looking at expanding it to  
11 five years for a look-back period of individuals who  
12 receive permanent supportive housing within HMIS system.

13 I think it is going to be amazing what we get  
14 from that data set, because it will be the first time that  
15 our leadership and the state agencies can really see.  
16 They can make the connection, and we need the data to make  
17 that case.

18 And so we are really tracking that. And it is  
19 coordinated internally to move forward. There are some  
20 contract executions. Our lovely contract process takes  
21 some time.

22 We are also working with our managed care  
23 organizations to partner and figure out what they are  
24 doing. Because there is some stuff going on in the state  
25 that we want to help promote and support where it makes

1 sense.

2 We are also exploring an opportunity to  
3 possibly pilot either an actual intervention or dovetail  
4 it with something that is already existing, to evaluate  
5 kind of the intersection between that service coordinator  
6 role, and our local mental health authorities. How we  
7 might tighten and streamline, and work with what we  
8 already have in support of, for the behavioral health  
9 population.

10 Medicaid reimbursement is around case  
11 management or mental health rehab, right. So how could we  
12 do that better, stronger in support of tenants in  
13 supportive services.

14 So I also wanted to share briefly that we also  
15 received funding for money follows the -- CMS money  
16 follows the person, to put on -- support eleven regional  
17 housing summits throughout the state, in the next fiscal  
18 year, to identify areas of the state who might be  
19 interested, have an emerging kind of interest to get --  
20 kick start something and/or if there is an interest in an  
21 area where there is something that has already happened  
22 that needs another kind of reinvigoration.

23 We are going to try to -- we are going to work  
24 with another party entity to help make that happen. So we  
25 are excited, because we will gather the information on a

1 regional level to then inform policy decisions, help  
2 educate, those kind of things.

3 MR. DOYLE: Very important work. Thank you so  
4 much. Okay. Naomi.

5 MS. CANTU: Yes. I am actually going to  
6 forfeit some of my time to Brooke Boston. She is at  
7 TDHCA.

8 MR. DOYLE: All right.

9 MS. BOSTON: Sixty seconds. I just wanted to  
10 mention since it has been a little while since I have been  
11 at one of our TICH meetings. TDHCA is a small public  
12 housing authority and we had pursued an application for  
13 the MVP vouchers, so that we could try and use those to  
14 deplete some of our project access waiting list. And we  
15 were successful on that.

16 So I wanted to announce that. We were given 50  
17 vouchers. Yes. So and we have already issued some of the  
18 vouchers to our waiting list folks. So it was fairly  
19 immediate. We have people on the ground, looking for  
20 their units.

21 So and then we also had pursued going after the  
22 last announcement of VASH vouchers. Specifically, so  
23 TDHCA only has a 22 county jurisdiction, other than the  
24 project access programs. So we had looked for the VA  
25 medical centers who were in those 22 areas to see if there

1 was interest in collaboration in going for VASH.

2 We did submit an application for Fort Bend in  
3 Galveston County and we were awarded 20 vouchers. So we  
4 are very excited about that.

5 MR. DOYLE: Great.

6 MS. BOSTON: That is it. Sorry.

7 MR. DOYLE: Great. All right.

8 MS. CANTU: Great. So some updates on homeless  
9 specific programs. The Ending Homelessness Fund, it was a  
10 new fund created from the last Texas legislative session,  
11 for voluntary donations when someone registers their  
12 vehicle. It has raised, since January, approximately  
13 \$93,000.

14 So that is great news, about \$12,000 a month.  
15 And we have a rule out currently for public comment on how  
16 we are going to distribute those funds. And that rule is  
17 out until October 22nd.

18 So we are accepting comments on that rule,  
19 which is in the Texas Register, and on our website for  
20 comment. When we get the rule in place, the final rule in  
21 place, we have a possible distribution by early 2019. So  
22 that is the time line on what we are looking for through  
23 that.

24 MR. DOYLE: Naomi, that -- it is already  
25 predetermined that that is going to go through state

1 agencies, or cities.

2 MS. CANTU: It needs to go through cities or  
3 municipalities, and that is per statute.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

5 MS. CANTU: And so what we are looking at is,  
6 ESG and HHS Emergency Solutions Grants and Homeless  
7 Housing and Services Provider subrecipients who are in  
8 cities and counties already, and distribute it among them.

9 MR. DOYLE: So it would not be something the  
10 COC could try to access, unless they accessed it through  
11 their municipalities.

12 MS. CANTU: Possibly. Possibly. Right. So  
13 that is the update on the Ending Homelessness Fund. For  
14 Emergency Solutions Grants program, we are moving forward  
15 with the contracts for 2018 program year.

16 Which we're working to get in place by November  
17 1st of this year. We went -- we had a slight decrease  
18 from last year, of less than 1 percent, which is great  
19 news for us in terms of our award process.

20 We are directly contracting with our  
21 subrecipients instead of allowing subgrantees. So we went  
22 from about 30 contracts to about 65 contracts. But there  
23 is -- it is the same providers in the area. So it is not  
24 an actual increase in the providers.

25 And there is an online forum open currently for

1 possible changes to the 2019, 2020 ESG application  
2 process. So that is open currently. It opened last  
3 Friday. It is going to stay open until October 1st, which  
4 is Monday, and we put on broad concepts of what that  
5 application process is going to look like, and we are  
6 looking for input on that.

7           The Homeless Housing and Services Program. We  
8 added Plano. The City of Plano crossed the threshold for  
9 TDC funding from the state General Revenue grant. They  
10 started September 1st. And so that makes nine cities,  
11 instead of eight cities receiving funding for Homeless  
12 Housing and Services Program, which is a very flexible  
13 source of funding.

14           A quick update about Community Services Block  
15 Grant. It is not homeless only, but they have a large  
16 overlap with homeless programs. There is a handout. And  
17 the handout is also online, as well.

18           Key points is that there are 40 Community  
19 Services Block Grant or CSBG eligible entities throughout  
20 Texas, serving all 254 counties. They do -- the  
21 beneficiaries need income of about -- at or below 125 of  
22 the federal poverty guidelines. And they offer an array  
23 of services, such as education and employment, utility  
24 assistance, food pantries, transportation.

25           And how you can find your provider in your

1 county, is you can go online with the website provided on  
2 the handout or also on TDHCA's website, or we have a  
3 direct link to the providers. Or you could call a program  
4 specialist at our department, Rita Gonzales-Garza, whose  
5 information is on the handout.

6 And it has a handy map showing every single  
7 county that is covered and the service provider for that.

8 So it is federal funding, but it is a flexible source of  
9 funding, so much as federal funds can go. So that is the  
10 update for TDHCA. Any questions?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. DOYLE: Great. Thank you.

13 MS. CANTU: Great.

14 MR. DOYLE: Interesting stuff. And if you  
15 track that, she tracked the same thing that was written in  
16 the plan. So it seems a good thing to read, since it is  
17 our annual report from this committee, or this group.  
18 Okay.

19 Christine? Where is Christine? There she is.

20 MS. GENDRON: Okay. So first of all, thank you  
21 for putting us on the agenda. So this new Youth  
22 Homelessness Workgroup is separate from TICH. But we  
23 greatly appreciate the collaboration of the TICH, and  
24 those of you at TDHCA.

25 So there was an update on this in July. TNOYS

1 is working with Texas Homeless Education Office, and with  
2 Texas Appleaseed to create a new statewide workgroup on  
3 youth homelessness, and the first meeting was scheduled  
4 for August.

5 We had people get sick, people in the hospital,  
6 a family emergency and a broken air conditioner. So we  
7 rescheduled for next week, and so the first meeting  
8 instead is October 3rd. I believe that is next Wednesday.

9 And it is from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. It will be at  
10 Settlement Home for Children.

11 If you are already registered, you will be  
12 getting an email this week with the location details and  
13 the agenda and all of that. If you are not, there are  
14 details on the TNOYS website. I can also send you the  
15 information directly. So just let me know after the  
16 meeting.

17 But the purpose of this group is to facilitate  
18 collaboration at the statewide level for reducing and  
19 addressing youth homelessness. As you all know, there is  
20 not one state agency responsible for this issue.

21 And there shouldn't be, because youth  
22 homelessness intersects with education, with juvenile  
23 justice, with foster care, with housing, with the work of  
24 so many of our state agencies. That is why we have this  
25 interagency group here.

1           And so the goal of our workgroup is to create  
2 an opportunity to really dive into the issue of youth  
3 homelessness. And long term, we think the group will look  
4 at youth homelessness in general, including families that  
5 are homeless, but we are starting our focus on  
6 unaccompanied homeless youth.

7           We have a jam-packed agenda. So we want to use  
8 the first meeting to focus on connecting people to each  
9 other. So there is a lot of great work happening within  
10 our state agencies, within our advocacy organizations,  
11 within our local communities. And so we are going to be  
12 focused on helping to make those connections.

13           And we have someone from the Governor's Office  
14 Child Sex Trafficking Team scheduled to be there to talk  
15 about the work they are doing. They are building an  
16 amazing infrastructure of programs to serve survivors of  
17 trafficking, and those who are at risk.

18           And really, they are doing that by partnering  
19 with our providers that serve homeless youth, because as  
20 someone mentioned earlier, it is our homeless youth who  
21 are most at risk. We have got someone from the Juvenile  
22 Justice Department coming.

23           We have got Kim Gibbons as the Director of  
24 Field for CPS. And she will be there to talk about what  
25 the Department is doing to prevent youth from running from

1 care. And also to respond, once youth do run, to make  
2 sure that we can keep them safe.

3 We have got Cal, who spoke earlier from TEA --  
4 will be there. Several people from HHSC will be there,  
5 which we are excited about. And then also people who are  
6 doing really cool work in their communities.

7 So Ann will be there to talk about the youth  
8 homelessness demonstration program. We will have folks  
9 who lead the Homeless Youth Network in Houston, who will  
10 be there. And also some leaders from a youth homelessness  
11 committee in Dallas, which has actually done amazing work  
12 there, working with their city government and bringing all  
13 of their providers together.

14 So we hope you guys will join us, if you are  
15 interested in this issue. We are still trying to figure  
16 out how often the group will meet moving forward. We are  
17 thinking probably quarterly.

18 There will be some discussion about legislation  
19 and the legislative session, but that is not the purpose  
20 of this group. The purpose of this group is not to create  
21 a legislative agenda. We want our state agencies and  
22 other partners to feel comfortable, and feel like they can  
23 participate fully.

24 TNOYS is a network of providers who serve these  
25 youth, and we are having our own discussions with our

1 members about our legislative agenda. And if anyone is  
2 interested in being involved in those, we would love to  
3 include you in that.

4 There is a lot that we are looking at. And I  
5 would love to mention some of that when we get to the  
6 public comment on this agenda.

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you. We are now at  
8 Item 9, about the conversation with Continuums of Care.  
9 So those of you that are with a local Continuum of Care,  
10 let us hear from you about what you are finding out there,  
11 what you need, what the TICH could do for you.

12 A collaboration and communication seems to be  
13 coming up all the time from a lot of places. And I am  
14 going to try to keep us, because I know that you all are  
15 having lunch on your own, and you need time to do that.

16 I would like to keep this to about ten or 15  
17 minutes, if I could, so we could get out of here early,  
18 and you can have a chance to grab something to eat before  
19 your 1:00 sessions start. So conversations with Continuum  
20 of Care.

21 (No response.)

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Now, public comment.  
23 Christine, just go right ahead.

24 MS. GENDRON: Thank you. Okay. So a few  
25 announcements I want to share. So TNOYS has been working

1 with Jean and her team at Texas Homeless Education Office.

2 And I think Eric left. But also at the Texas  
3 Homeless Network team, to do -- to support schools with  
4 dealing with the influx of students they have who are  
5 homeless as a result of Hurricane Harvey.

6 And we recently got a joint grant of \$1 million  
7 from the Rebuild Texas Fund. And so we are now in a  
8 position to offer grants of up to \$50,000 to service  
9 providers who can specifically serve students. So really,  
10 children, youth and families who are experiencing  
11 homelessness as a result of the hurricane -- and also free  
12 training and technical assistance.

13 We need help figuring out who should get this  
14 money, who needs it the most. And so if you guys have  
15 insight on that, if you know providers, or schools that  
16 need help, let us know. There is a sense of urgency with  
17 this project.

18 Our job is to get money out there, and other  
19 resources, fast. We also have money that can go to  
20 schools for things like clothing closets, school supplies,  
21 anything they need to support homeless students. And we  
22 are just trying to figure out where it should go right  
23 now.

24 So we encourage you to get plugged in. As far  
25 as legislative stuff, we are doing a lot of work in

1 partnership with the Department on strengthening the  
2 preparation for adult living program for kids who age out  
3 of care.

4 And as you know, too many kids who age out of  
5 foster care end up homeless. And so if that is something  
6 that you are interested in, let us know. We have been  
7 doing focus groups around the state and DFPS is required  
8 to submit a report to the Legislature on this topic. And  
9 we have been working with them on that.

10 And then also one of the things we have been  
11 looking at with some folks at HHSC is, can we expand the  
12 YES waiver, which is a program that has been very  
13 successful at keeping kids with severe mental illness or  
14 emotional disturbance in their communities, instead of in  
15 psychiatric facilities. Can we expand that to some of our  
16 homeless youth who have mental health needs. And so we  
17 are excited about that.

18 And then also working with the Governor's  
19 Office on this issue of trafficking. So right now, we  
20 have this problem in Texas, where if you have a 17-year-  
21 old in foster care who is trafficked, they are considered  
22 a kid in the eyes of CPS.

23 CPS is supposed to provide therapeutic  
24 supports. But our criminal justice system views them as  
25 an adult, as a prostitute. They end up in our adult

1 correctional system. And so looking at that issue.

2 So those are just a few of the things. And we  
3 would love to work with you guys on those.

4 MR. DOYLE: Thanks, Christine. Ms. Ann.

5 MS. HOWARD: A quick update from Austin.

6 First, as I look around the room, so many of you have been  
7 engaged with us in Austin. So I just want to thank you  
8 for that, in different agencies, especially at the local  
9 level.

10 October kicks off a whole bunch of really cool  
11 stuff in Austin. The homeless youth demonstration  
12 project. Money, finally, after two years starts to flow.

13 And so Lifeworks, and Caritas of Austin and SafePlace,  
14 now called SAFE, will be starting some rapid rehousing for  
15 youth, with a long runway to staying involved in the  
16 youths' lives.

17 We're working with the education folks and  
18 Project HELP at Austin Independent School District and the  
19 local juvenile justice group on how to see which students  
20 and clients they might have that are housing insecure, or  
21 need some intervention, as well as trying a new project,  
22 which it's sort of transitional housing and a rapid  
23 rehousing, in one.

24 I am sure I am botching that description. But  
25 you know, it is just -- it has been long in coming. And

1 we are really looking to help the rest of Texas learn from  
2 this initiative.

3 We are also really close with our local  
4 government in signing the Pay for Success contract, where  
5 we'll use the local government to make a return to private  
6 investors after our partner agencies successfully offer  
7 permanent supportive housing to folks who have been  
8 frequent users of jail and hospital. And so when we prove  
9 their behavior changed, and we reduced the impact on those  
10 public systems, the Government would make a return on that  
11 investment.

12 So it will be Texas' first social impact bond,  
13 or Pay for Success project. We have got the Meadows  
14 Foundation out of Dallas. We have got the Episcopal  
15 Health Foundation out of Houston.

16 It is a big swirl. It is like the Texas thing.  
17 And you know, it is going to kill me if we don't do this.  
18 Like, we are so close. But it has been about three years  
19 in coming.

20 So what we are hoping is that once this happens  
21 in Texas, then other communities can more easily  
22 replicate. We want to do that kind of a contract in our  
23 community. So we have sort of taken it on the chin for  
24 the state.

25 And I think it is going to be worth it,

1 especially when 250 households are created. It will be  
2 some of our newest PSH, in Austin. Like, we need this to  
3 end chronic homelessness, but we don't have that much PSH.  
4 So it is pretty exciting.

5 I am sure that we worked real hard with the  
6 Housing Authority to apply for the vouchers, the -- what  
7 do we call them? The mainstream non-elderly vouchers.  
8 And we got how many -- 89, 79-something. And I think that  
9 was like, you know, we have got the example of the United  
10 States Interagency Council. Then, you have got the TICH.  
11 And at the local level, it is the COC. Right.

12 So Darrilyn from Integral Care was working with  
13 the Housing Authority, was working with us. We are  
14 working with the City. You have got Taylor Cook over  
15 there from the Innovation Office. You know, we are  
16 meeting with the state ladies over here.

17 You know, like, we are all doing it, I think,  
18 in this communication, but it is pretty complicated. So I  
19 appreciate, as you all help educate state agencies -- and  
20 it is just a lot of work.

21 MR. DOYLE: It is a lot of work. Tarrant  
22 County is in the middle of it, is two years into a Pay for  
23 Success model around recidivism. The same kind of thing.

24 MS. HOWARD: There you go.

25 MR. DOYLE: And it is difficult. We got to the

1 feasibility study stage.

2 MS. HOWARD: We have done that. We are  
3 contracted on evaluation. We are trying to get our  
4 providers lined up. So it is happening.

5 MR. DOYLE: Yes. We wish you great success so  
6 that we can glean from you.

7 MS. HOWARD: Thank you.

8 MR. DOYLE: Thank you very much. Anything  
9 else?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. DOYLE: Well, I have no closing comments.  
12 But I will tell you that we are looking next year at the  
13 last Tuesday of January, April, July and then again in  
14 October at the THN conference.

15 Those aren't in stone yet. But Cate will be  
16 getting something out. We are pretty good about January,  
17 but we don't know about the rest of them yet.

18 MS. TRACZ: Yes. Just let me know if you have  
19 major conflicts, if I missed a big conference that  
20 everyone is going to go to. Just let me know.

21 MS. HOWARD: I have one more quick -- this is  
22 great cocktail party or, you know, baseball kind of  
23 conversation. When we met first with Amazon Web Services,  
24 you know, it is an odd partner, right. Why is this global  
25 back end of the internet talking to us about homelessness?

1                   And what their sales teams who make pitches to  
2 local and state governments, it is mostly local  
3 government, like hire Amazon Web Services. What they were  
4 being asked by mayor after mayor was, can you help us with  
5 homelessness?

6                   And I think that is scary and interesting.  
7 That you know, across the country -- and it was North  
8 Carolina and California, you know. When they are sitting  
9 there talking about the internet or cloud services, the  
10 local government is saying what we want help with is  
11 homelessness.

12                   And so that is how we got Amazon Web Services  
13 to the table, which is fascinating, you know, and  
14 problematic. Like we have got a problem.

15                   MR. DOYLE: Yes. Good point. Okay. Thank you  
16 very much. You guys do great work. Keep it up. And we  
17 will see you in January.

18                   (Whereupon, at 12:02 p.m., the meeting was  
19 concluded.)

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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: September 26, 2018

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
numbers 1 through 53, inclusive, are the true, accurate,  
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording  
made by electronic recording by Donna Boardman before the  
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

DATE: October 2, 2018

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(Transcriber)

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