

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL  
FOR THE  
HOMELESS

Room 644  
Texas Workforce Commission  
101 East 15th Street  
Austin, Texas

July 30, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MIKE DOYLE, Chair  
D.J. BINGLER by PAMELA WILLIAMS  
VALINDA BOLTON  
BROOKE BOSTON  
MARQUS BUTLER  
NAOMI CANTU  
CARISSA DOUGHERTY (absent)  
SHERRI COGBILL (absent)  
HELEN EISERT (via telephone)  
CLAIRE IRWIN (via telephone)  
CAL LOPEZ (via telephone)  
JOYCE POHLMAN (via telephone)  
JOE A. RAMIREZ

ADVISORY MEMBERS:

JANA BURNS (absent)  
DARILYNN CARDONA-BEILER  
SAMANTHA FOSS (absent)  
CHRISTINE GENDRON (absent)  
DAVID LONG  
ANISHA PYAKURYAL (absent)  
DENNIS M. SCHOLL (via telephone)  
ERIC SAMUELS  
JEANNE STAMP  
MOLLY VOYLES (absent)

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

ELIZABETH YEVICH (TDHCA)  
DANNY SHEA (TDHCA)  
MEGAN SYLVESTER (TDHCA)

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. DOYLE: Let me call the July meeting of the  
3 Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless to order. I'd  
4 like to, by way of introduction, hear from who's on the  
5 phone with us today. Anybody on the phone?

6 MS. LOPEZ: Yes. This is Cal Lopez with the  
7 Texas Education Agency.

8 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Cal.

9 MS. IRWIN: This is Claire Irwin with Aging  
10 Services Coordination.

11 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Claire. Anyone else on  
12 the phone?

13 MS. HENRY: Christian Henry with the Texas --

14 MR. DOYLE: Say again? Hello?

15 MALE VOICE: Yeah, Christian Henry.

16 MS. HENRY: Yeah. This is -- yeah. Christian  
17 Henry with the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Anyone --

19 MS. HOLT: Karen Holt, East Texas Aging and  
20 Disability Resource Center, housing navigator.

21 MR. DOYLE: Say your name one more time.-

22 MS. HOLT: Karen Holt.

23 MR. DOYLE: Karen Holt. Welcome. Anyone else?

24 DR. SCHOLL: Hi, Mike. This is Dr. Scholl from  
25 Somerset, just dialed in. Sorry I couldn't drive up for

1 the meeting.

2 MR. DOYLE: That's okay, Dennis. Thanks for  
3 being here. Okay. And then I'm going to go around the  
4 table and introduce the ones so that you guys on the phone  
5 will know who's here. I'm Mike Doyle with Cornerstone  
6 Assistance Network representing the Governor's Office.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm Pamela Williams. I'm  
8 representing the Texas Workforce Commission.

9 MS. BOSTON: Oh, sorry. Hello. Brooke Boston  
10 with Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

11 MS. CANTU: Naomi Cantu with the Texas  
12 Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

13 MR. RAMIREZ: Joe Ramirez with the Texas  
14 Veterans Commission.

15 MR. BUTLER: Marqus Butler with the Texas  
16 Juvenile Justice Department.

17 MR. SAMUELS: Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless  
18 Network.

19 MS. STAMP: Jeanne Stamp, Texas Homeless  
20 Education Office.

21 MR. LONG: David Long, Texas State Affordable  
22 Housing.

23 MR. SHEA: I'm Danny Shea, TDHCA, and I am  
24 providing administrative support to the TICH.

25 MR. DOYLE: And in the chairs in the back?

1 MS. ADAMS: Kali Adams with the Texas Department  
2 of Housing and Community Affairs.

3 MR. STREMLER: Jeremy Stremmer, Texas Department  
4 of Housing and Community Affairs.

5 MS. YEVICH: Elizabeth Yevich, also with TDHCA.

6 MR. MULLINS: Joel Mullins, Texas Workforce  
7 Commission.

8 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, Texas State Affordable  
9 Housing Corporation.

10 MR. BORREGO: Carlos Borrego, Department of  
11 Housing and Urban Development.

12 MS. SYLVESTER: Megan Sylvester, TDHCA.

13 MR. DURAN: Spencer Duran, TDHCA.

14 MR. ESTRADA: Rodrigo Estrada, Governor's  
15 Office.

16 MS. DINGAS: Faith Dingas, Governor's Office.

17 MR. DOYLE: Welcome, everyone. And with that,  
18 I'll announce that we do have a quorum present and voting,  
19 so we will move to our agenda, and let me just make a  
20 couple of quick remarks. Homelessness is in the spotlight  
21 nationally, and we want to be aware that anything that is  
22 projected negatively on the homeless does not represent the  
23 entire homeless population.

24 We have much -- many more people in housing  
25 working towards independent living again and treatment than

1 we do -- we see on the news. So just be aware, because I  
2 don't know about y'all, but I've got several calls.

3 What would you do in San Diego? What would you  
4 do in Los Angeles? What would you do in San Francisco?  
5 And now, what would you do in Austin? So this is not a  
6 political body. Please do not -- and this is a message  
7 from the Governor -- please do not represent yourself as  
8 speaking for the Texas Interagency Council for the  
9 Homeless.

10 If you -- Eric was interviewed by a newspaper.  
11 He represented THN, not the Interagency Council. I've been  
12 interviewed. I represented Cornerstone, not the  
13 Interagency Council. So please just deflect those  
14 questions, if you will.

15 In a training I did when Governor Bush appointed  
16 me to this Council, one of -- the lady from Washington who  
17 came and did the training said, the press can ask you any  
18 question they want to, but you can answer any question you  
19 want to.

20 So just keep up with the good work we're doing  
21 around the homelessness in Texas, and leave it at that, but  
22 just do not represent Interagency Council. Make sure you  
23 void those from your comments and appropriate them to the  
24 right organization.

25 But I -- other than that, it's going to be a fun

1 time to be working in this area, because it is in the news,  
2 and it gives us a great opportunity on both sides of the  
3 aisle to come together and talk about solutions. And I  
4 think we've done a great job of this in Texas, but I think  
5 we're going to be getting calls from a lot of people  
6 about -- specifically about the numbers.

7 So in our counts and numbers that we say and  
8 present in conversation, we need to make sure that they're  
9 accurate. So let's -- and we know those, but just word of  
10 caution.

11 MR. SAMUELS: Accurate and consistent, as well.

12 MR. DOYLE: Accurate and consistent.

13 MR. SAMUELS: And --

14 MR. DOYLE: That's correct.

15 MR. SAMUELS: -- I have statistics for you all  
16 that I'll hand out in a second.

17 MR. DOYLE: Great. Thank you, Eric. Okay. For  
18 those voting members, I would entertain a motion to approve  
19 the minutes of the last meeting.

20 MS. BOSTON: Move to approve.

21 MR. DOYLE: There's approval -- move to approval  
22 by Brooke. Is there a second?

23 MS. CANTU: Second.

24 MR. DOYLE: Second by Naomi. All in favor, say  
25 aye.

1 (A chorus of ayes.)

2 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

3 (No response.)

4 MR. DOYLE: Those do pass. Okay. Now, then, we  
5 have an update for our Workforce Commission funds. Joel,  
6 are you or Naomi going to take the lead on that?

7 MR. MULLINS: I think Naomi.

8 MS. CANTU: Yes.

9 MR. DOYLE: Naomi, okay?

10 MS. CANTU: Yeah. So my name's Naomi Cantu.  
11 I'm with the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
12 Affairs. And this isn't so much of an update as something  
13 that we're going to be voting on. It's regarding the  
14 \$10,000 generously donated by -- or not donated, but  
15 contributed by the Texas Workforce Commission for purposes  
16 of use with the TICH statute.

17 So with that in mind, we have a few -- two  
18 agencies that might -- or a few agencies, really, that  
19 might be eligible for these funding sources, and so we're  
20 asking for any proposals to come forward at this meeting in  
21 order to use that \$10,000. And at the end of this  
22 discussion on the proposals, then we will be taking a vote  
23 on how to use the funding.

24 MR. DOYLE: Great. Any questions about that?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. DOYLE: I would assume that anybody is  
2 eligible to present how we might use those funds, and not  
3 just Council members.

4 MS. CANTU: So not just Council members,  
5 definitely not just Council members. It is in the statute  
6 that Texas Homeless Network is mentioned specifically, and  
7 then the statute also includes youth-oriented service  
8 providers, homeless youth-oriented service providers.

9 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

10 MS. BOSTON: And in the statute, it specifies  
11 that those are groups that we could contract without -- our  
12 attorney has interpreted that we are allowed contract with  
13 those organizations without procuring. So in the past,  
14 we've done that as the pass-through, to make it more  
15 streamlined.

16 MR. DOYLE: So it doesn't take two -- one and a  
17 half years to get the money from one organization to the  
18 other --

19 MS. BOSTON: Right.

20 MR. DOYLE: -- working --

21 MS. CANTU: Right. Yes.

22 MR. DOYLE: And thank you, Texas Workforce  
23 Commission, for hanging with us in those early years.  
24 Okay. Any questions about that?

25 MR. SAMUELS: So I don't know if this is the

1 time to say it, but I'm handing around --

2 MS. CANTU: Yeah.

3 MR. SAMUELS: -- the proposal, and I'll just  
4 quickly summarize it. What we are proposing to do is to  
5 use these funds to build on what we've learned over the  
6 past few years, especially what we've learned from our  
7 VISTA member in Fort Worth, who works now with Tarrant  
8 County Homeless Coalition.

9 She did a good job of connecting Workforce  
10 Solution agencies with a local continuum of care and  
11 getting folks into employment services and building that  
12 into the coordinated entry process. So we want to build  
13 upon that, but focus on veterans, focus on veterans in  
14 communities like Abilene, Lubbock, communities that have  
15 reached functional zero or are very close to doing that,  
16 because we want to maintain those folks in their housing.

17 We want to help them maintain their housing, and  
18 employment, obviously, is a good way to do that. So the  
19 goal of this project would be to connect these Workforce  
20 Solutions agencies better with the local homeless  
21 coalition, without the continuum of care so much in this  
22 case, because we're talking about rural and mid-sized  
23 communities.

24 And then develop a community mentoring network,  
25 if you will, a group of people that can help to build

1 avenues towards employment, build relationships with  
2 employers, and then also just sort of as direct assistance  
3 through employment navigation.

4 And we can learn a lot about that from looking  
5 at Houston and their Income Now program. And the ultimate  
6 goal is to maintain the housing for veterans that have  
7 escaped homelessness or help people experiencing  
8 homelessness get out of that situation, with a focus on  
9 veterans.

10 I've also handed out statistics from the past  
11 year.

12 MR. DOYLE: You know, that's very helpful.  
13 Thanks much.

14 MR. SAMUELS: I will say one disclaimer on this.  
15 HUD always changes this a little bit later in the summer,  
16 so when it's updated, I'll update it, but this is -- these  
17 are the results I have from every Texas continuum of care.

18 MR. DOYLE: So without taking the time to go  
19 through this, homelessness -- up or down in Texas after --

20 MR. SAMUELS: Unfortunately, it's gone up  
21 slightly. We had a big decrease over the past 10 years,  
22 but in the past three, it's gone up. It's gone -- since  
23 2016, it's gone up 12 percent.

24 MR. DOYLE: Gone up --

25 MR. SAMUELS: Twelve percent.

1 MR. DOYLE: -- in the past three years?

2 MR. SAMUELS: Uh-huh. Which is not the way we  
3 want to see it going.

4 MR. LONG: What's the population growth of Texas  
5 in that same time frame?

6 MR. SAMUELS: You know, that's a good question.  
7 It may have kept up with that. Regardless, we need to  
8 drive that number down.

9 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

10 MR. SAMUELS: But it probably has coincided with  
11 that growth.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Naomi, do you want to set a  
13 time limit, or want me to set a time limit for these  
14 proposals to come in, how you would use the funds, so we  
15 could get on with the process?

16 MS. CANTU: Yes. I think that it would have to  
17 be during the meeting.

18 MR. DOYLE: Oh, during this meeting?

19 MS. CANTU: Yes.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay. And is the only proposal  
21 we've had from the agencies?

22 MS. CANTU: Yes, though it's going to be  
23 presented during the public meeting.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. And that will be --

25 MS. CANTU: This meeting.

1 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

2 MS. CANTU: Yes, uh-huh.

3 MS. BOSTON: Yeah. I think -- but the reason  
4 for that is because of the timing of the contract. Right?

5 MS. CANTU: Right, uh-huh. So the TWC funds  
6 start on September 1, and our next TICH meeting is not  
7 until after September 1. So what we're looking for is  
8 proposals before that so we can -- when TDHCA receives the  
9 funds from TWC, we can then know what we're using them for,  
10 on behalf of TICH.

11 MR. DOYLE: Is there time -- and this is a  
12 question --

13 MS. CANTU: Yeah.

14 MR. DOYLE: -- not -- is there time for us to  
15 look at the full proposal and then get back by the end of  
16 the week, if we object?

17 MS. CANTU: So what we could do -- and I'm  
18 looking at our legal counsel to see if -- to help guide  
19 this conversation, if necessary -- is propose a motion that  
20 gives you broader authority on behalf of the TICH to  
21 negotiate a contract with the proposal, and the ins and  
22 outs of those specifics, and then go from there, so we have  
23 more time -- or you have more time, specifically.

24 However, we -- the TICH would vote in order to  
25 do that.

1 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

2 MS. CANTU: To provide some more time.

3 DR. SCHOLL: Mike, I'm sorry to interrupt. This  
4 is Dennis. If there's a way to turn up the speakers a  
5 little bit, everybody is hard to hear except for you.  
6 Could be my old ears.

7 MR. DOYLE: Well, just -- thanks, Dennis. Are  
8 you saying I'm loud? No, I --

9 DR. SCHOLL: I'm saying you're quite clear.

10 MR. DOYLE: The microphone's right in front of  
11 me. That's why. Sure. We'll try to get that done. So  
12 how would we like to --

13 MS. CANTU: So --

14 MR. DOYLE: -- proceed?

15 MS. CANTU: -- are there any questions about the  
16 proposal?

17 MR. BUTLER: I had a question about --

18 MS. CANTU: Yeah.

19 MR. BUTLER: -- this.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Uh-huh.

21 MR. BUTLER: Can I ask you -- I'm sorry.

22 MR. SAMUELS: No. That's okay.

23 MR. BUTLER: So I see the -- there's been a  
24 reduction with veterans and also with children, so the  
25 increase in the number of homelessness, is it contributing

1 to more youth being identified as being homeless or --

2 MR. SAMUELS: Households without children, so  
3 primarily single --

4 MR. BUTLER: Okay.

5 MR. SAMUELS: -- adults.

6 MR. BUTLER: Okay.

7 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

8 MR. BUTLER: All right.

9 MR. SAMUELS: They make up three-quarters of the  
10 population.

11 MR. BUTLER: Okay. All right.

12 MR. WILT: I've got a comment on this, too,  
13 Eric.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

15 MR. WILT: This -- Michael Wilt, by the way,  
16 Texas State Affordable Housing. This bottom, right one --  
17 I mean, I understand how -- the difference between  
18 households with children and households with only children,  
19 but I might not, if I'm not --

20 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, yeah. So --

21 MR. WILT: -- in this world. So is there a way  
22 to just say, like, single adults, families, and youth?

23 MR. SAMUELS: It's funny. I've given  
24 presentation in Amarillo and Temple on this, and I always  
25 say, it's kind of ironic that HUD requires us to categorize

1 people experiencing homelessness by household. You know, I  
2 think they want to be positive and say, this is where  
3 people end up.

4 But yeah, I can do it. Households with only  
5 children -- an example would be a 17-year-old mother with  
6 her child. So I can change that to reflect the fact that  
7 households with children would be, like, my family, me, my  
8 wife and kids.

9 Households with only would be, like, me whenever  
10 I was a VISTA member -- households without kids, I mean.  
11 Whenever I was single --

12 MR. WILT: Oh, okay.

13 MR. SAMUELS: -- but yeah.

14 MR. WILT: I see what -- and then on the --

15 MR. SAMUELS: It's not as simple as saying  
16 single or in a family, though.

17 MR. WILT: Right. And then some consistency  
18 between either saying a reduction or decrease between these  
19 two, because you can use reduction both times or decrease  
20 both times, but just make sure it's consistent.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

22 MR. DOYLE: Oh, I see. Where he's saying  
23 12 percent reduction, and then decrease --

24 MR. WILT: Right.

25 MR. DOYLE: -- for 11, either say decrease both

1 times or reduction both times?

2 MR. WILT: Right.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So is there any more  
4 discussion needed? I don't want to -- but if anybody is  
5 saying, man, I'd like to read this --

6 (Meeting is interrupted by prerecorded  
7 advertisement on speaker phone.)

8 MS. BOSTON: The person who just came back on  
9 from San Antonio, could you make sure you don't put us on  
10 hold again?

11 FEMALE VOICE: Absolutely.

12 MS. BOSTON: Thank you.

13 MR. DOYLE: And I may want to talk to you about  
14 that. I'll be down there tomorrow.

15 (General laughter.)

16 FEMALE VOICE: My apologies.

17 MR. DOYLE: That's okay.

18 MS. BOSTON: One thing I want to say about this  
19 is, I apologize that we didn't have it broken out, or at  
20 one meeting, we could hear proposals, and then at a  
21 subsequent meeting, have a vote. So I think we'll make  
22 sure we note for ourselves for next year at this time --  
23 Danny, if we could make sure we kind of stage it, so --

24 MR. SHEA: Uh-huh.

25 MS. BOSTON: -- that the first time it's

1 discussed and proposed and pitched, is so that the vote  
2 still takes place before the contract effective date --

3 MR. DOYLE: Sure.

4 MS. BOSTON: -- but gives us more time. So in  
5 this case, we didn't do that. So --

6 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Members, voting members, is  
7 anybody not okay with going ahead and voting on this today?

8 Or do you want to have a day or rest of this day to read  
9 it over and then get back? And if I don't hear from you,  
10 I'll make a decision?

11 MS. CANTU: Let me justify a little bit, more  
12 background. So --

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

14 MS. CANTU: -- we have used the \$10,000 from TWC  
15 with THN in the past.

16 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

17 MS. CANTU: We've done several projects with  
18 VISTA volunteers and the local Workforce Development Boards  
19 in several areas of the state, in terms of creating  
20 coordination between Workforce Development Boards and the  
21 COC in relation to people experiencing homelessness.

22 And so, Eric, this would be building on those?

23 MR. SAMUELS: It would be building on those,  
24 with a focus on veterans experiencing homelessness --

25 MS. CANTU: With a focus on --

1 MR. SAMUELS: -- or veterans who have just left  
2 homelessness.

3 MS. CANTU: Yeah. And then a difference would  
4 be that it's not particularly with a COC outside of THN.  
5 It's more rural focus then.

6 MR. SAMUELS: More rural. We've gone more urban  
7 in the past --

8 MS. CANTU: Yes.

9 MR. SAMUELS: -- but that's primarily because we  
10 haven't had the funds to support the rural --

11 MS. CANTU: Uh-huh.

12 MR. SAMUELS: -- projects, and that's what this  
13 would do.

14 MS. CANTU: Is this going to also support a  
15 VISTA volunteer?

16 MR. SAMUELS: Right. So the VISTA --

17 MS. CANTU: Okay.

18 MR. SAMUELS: -- volunteer would lead these  
19 communities and build this volunteer base --

20 MS. CANTU: Had --

21 MR. SAMUELS: -- provided by training.

22 MS. CANTU: You mentioned which areas again?

23 MR. SAMUELS: Well, I'm just envisioning Abilene  
24 being one of the communities, Lubbock, probably another,  
25 and then perhaps Denton, or maybe in a community like the

1 Central Texas Homeless Coalition, where Temple/Killeen are.

2 MS. CANTU: Would it be fair to say, up to two,  
3 up to three?

4 MR. SAMUELS: Up to three.

5 MS. CANTU: Uh-huh.

6 MR. DOYLE: Up to three what?

7 MS. CANTU: Communities?

8 MR. SAMUELS: VISTA members.

9 MR. DOYLE: VISTA members.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Uh-huh.

11 MS. CANTU: Oh, up to three --

12 MS. BOSTON: Oh, okay.

13 MS. CANTU: -- VISTA members?

14 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah --

15 MS. CANTU: Okay.

16 MR. SAMUELS: -- and -- well, and communities  
17 that would --

18 MS. CANTU: Okay.

19 MR. SAMUELS: -- coincide. It could be two to  
20 three. When we say, three, we're giving those communities  
21 less support --

22 MS. CANTU: Uh-huh.

23 MR. SAMUELS: -- because we're spreading the  
24 money out more.

25 MS. CANTU: But up to two or up to three, so it

1 gives you more --

2 MR. SAMUELS: I think up to three is --

3 MS. CANTU: -- flexibility.

4 MR. SAMUELS: -- fair. Yeah, but --

5 MS. CANTU: Uh-huh. And then after we vote, and  
6 if we decide to go through with it, then we can negotiate  
7 those details out after -- throughout the process of the  
8 contract.

9 MS. SYLVESTER: I want to say --

10 MS. CANTU: Uh-huh?

11 MS. SYLVESTER: -- that there's a new reporting  
12 thing -- we have to do by service area. So we can amend to  
13 add, but we would need to have a service area that we can  
14 identify in the contract.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. A geographic area?

16 MS. SYLVESTER: Yeah.

17 MR. SAMUELS: But -- so each local homeless  
18 coalition has that?

19 MS. SYLVESTER: Uh-huh.

20 MR. SAMUELS: So it --

21 MS. SYLVESTER: Well, I mean, I can work with  
22 you --

23 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

24 MS. SYLVESTER: -- later with the language.

25 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

1 MS. SYLVESTER: I just was letting you know  
2 that's kind of a --

3 MR. SAMUELS: That's another --

4 MS. SYLVESTER: -- a new TDHCA thing -- needs to  
5 be --

6 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

7 MS. SYLVESTER: -- in the contract.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

9 MS. SYLVESTER: Yeah.

10 MS. CANTU: Anything else to support the  
11 project?

12 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, I think, you know, if we  
13 have these communities that are right there, that have  
14 effectively ended veteran homelessness or are really close,  
15 so we --

16 MS. CANTU: These are communities that have done  
17 that?

18 MR. SAMUELS: Abilene has.

19 MS. CANTU: Okay.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Lubbock's close.

21 MS. CANTU: Uh-huh.

22 MR. SAMUELS: We would love to see them continue  
23 that, and not fall out of that designation, and I think  
24 this is a way we can do that. And we're so close with that  
25 number, you know --

1 MR. DOYLE: So --

2 MR. SAMUELS: -- just under 2,000. I wanted --

3 MR. DOYLE: -- my only comment would be, if in  
4 fact we're working with communities that have already done  
5 what we're sending the VISTA there to do --

6 MS. CANTU: Uh-huh?

7 MR. DOYLE: -- are they going to create some  
8 kind of best practices -- here's how we did this -- for the  
9 rest of the state to use? Because there's other areas in  
10 the state --

11 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

12 MR. DOYLE: -- that are larger and more urban,  
13 that would love to glean some of the information.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Right. And they would. I mean,  
15 only one of the communities would be a community that has  
16 accomplished that goal. There's no other communities in  
17 this geographic area that has accomplished that goal. So  
18 any other communities these VISTA members would work with,  
19 you know, they've not met that goal yet of veteran --

20 MR. DOYLE: Would it make any sense to focus on  
21 that community that has been successful from lessons  
22 learned, and then make that the primary focus, and then  
23 spread it out to those areas who are close, from a rural  
24 perspective?

25 Because jobs in a rural area are still hard to

1 come by.

2 MR. SAMUELS: They sure are. We can, and we can  
3 look at best practices for Abilene and build upon that in  
4 other communities. I just saw this as a way to, like I  
5 said, maintain -- help veterans maintain their housing, as  
6 well as helping veterans get into housing.

7 MR. DOYLE: I mean, I don't want to throw a wet  
8 blanket on this, but you say that you've ended veteran  
9 homelessness in your area -- there's a lot of skepticism on  
10 the table.

11 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

12 MR. DOYLE: What about a new one comes in the  
13 door, just gets released from the service? So I think we  
14 need to define what that means. Because when I say  
15 somebody has ended veterans' homelessness, they would say,  
16 yeah, right.

17 MR. SAMUELS: Uh-huh. So --

18 MR. DOYLE: No way.

19 MS. BOSTON: But it is defined. Right?

20 MR. SAMUELS: Right. It is defined --

21 MS. BOSTON: Because HUD had a definition for  
22 it.

23 MR. SAMUELS: -- and Abilene has -- they work  
24 with Build for Zero on this, so they have a more stringent  
25 definition. If someone falls into homelessness, you have

1 to -- the community has to have a place for them --

2 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

3 MR. SAMUELS: -- and if they have a place for  
4 them, that's considered effective --

5 MR. DOYLE: But knowing that TWC money and the  
6 jobs connection to that --

7 MR. SAMUELS: Uh-huh.

8 MR. DOYLE: -- is quite critical, I think that  
9 we should define right up front, so that we won't be  
10 setting unreal expectations or -- so that the Commissioners  
11 will know what we're -- or the new executive director will  
12 know what we're talking about, when it comes to ending  
13 veteran homelessness.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

15 MR. DOYLE: Because with all the other things on  
16 their plate, I doubt that they've taken the time to read  
17 what the --

18 MR. SAMUELS: Right. I --

19 MR. DOYLE: -- definition is.

20 MR. SAMUELS: -- and I will bullet-point it,  
21 make it really easy.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

23 MR. SAMUELS: In fact, I've already done that.  
24 So I'll add that to this. But I also will say, you know,  
25 like Naomi said, we've had this money for three or four

1 years. The thing that is most important to me is, this  
2 money goes to a community that's working to end  
3 homelessness.

4 So if you need to take time and get more  
5 proposals, I -- you know, this -- the money is very welcome  
6 of course --

7 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

8 MR. SAMUELS: -- but we need to make sure that,  
9 as a Council, we're doing what's most important.

10 MR. DOYLE: With this being the only proposal  
11 before us, I just -- maybe we just took the time to discuss  
12 all the discussion we needed to do -- I mean, I would be  
13 comfortable voting on it, if the rest of the members would.

14 MS. CANTU: Sure, uh-huh.

15 MR. DOYLE: So then, Naomi, since you kind of --

16 MS. CANTU: Yeah.

17 MR. DOYLE: -- led, would you like to make the  
18 motion?

19 MS. CANTU: Yes. Let's see if I can phrase  
20 this?

21 MR. DOYLE: Megan, are you awake?

22 MS. SYLVESTER: Yeah.

23 MS. CANTU: So moved that we, as the TICH, will  
24 vote on the -- propose to approve the proposal submitted  
25 today by the Texas Homeless Network to use the \$10,000

1 donated or contributed by the Texas Workforce Commission,  
2 in order to contract for next year with negotiating powers  
3 also given to the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
4 Affairs.

5 MR. DOYLE: Sounds good to me. Is there a  
6 second?

7 MR. RAMIREZ: I second.

8 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Joe. All -- any  
9 questions or comments?

10 (No response.)

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

12 (A chorus of ayes.)

13 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign. Opposed, same  
14 sign.

15 (No response.)

16 MR. DOYLE: That does pass, unanimously. Thank  
17 you very much. And we look forward to lessons learned, Mr.  
18 Samuels. That would be great. Okay. Commission --  
19 committee updates. Eric? Annual Report Committee.

20 MR. SAMUELS: So the Annual Report. On May 21,  
21 I believe, I met with Dr. Scholl and Michael Wilt on  
22 updating the Annual Report, and we drafted an update, and  
23 we have everything done except for a few pieces. There's a  
24 section about youth homelessness that I would love to get  
25 TNOYS -- their input on.

1           There's a section about the Homeless Data  
2           Sharing Network that we're working on, that I'll update.  
3           And then I'm going to need some help from TDHCA to get some  
4           updated information about the -- I don't know if you use  
5           that -- if you use SLIHP, but S-L-I-H-P statistics --

6           MS. BOSTON: We call it, "slip."

7           MR. SAMUELS: Slip? Do you?

8           MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

9           MR. SAMUELS: Well, that makes sense. I've  
10          never used that. State Low Income Housing statistics. I  
11          think I have those updated, so I just need someone to check  
12          those, and then I need an update with the Healthy Community  
13          Collaboratives project.

14          And I -- oh, yeah. And then we'll provide an  
15          update to the TICH Workforce progress from -- it always  
16          confuses me, because this is like all of last year --

17          MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

18          MR. SAMUELS: -- the calendar year. Right?  
19          Okay. It's not fiscal year. It's calendar year.

20          MR. DOYLE: Calendar year.

21          MS. BOSTON: So yeah.

22          MR. SAMUELS: And so it always confuses me. So  
23          I'm looking at things from Harvey --

24          MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

25          MR. SAMUELS: -- in this report. So I'm reading

1 through it to make sure I've maintained that consistent  
2 time frame -- would also be good. So I'm just going to  
3 work with Danny to get it out to folks, with -- I have  
4 tracked changes inside of it, and so if you'd just help me  
5 finish it up, we'll be ready to go.

6 MR. DOYLE: And this is to be in the hands of  
7 the agencies, State agencies on the Council, by the end of  
8 the year? First part of next year?

9 MS. CANTU: I can't remember the deadline. Do  
10 you remember what the deadline is?

11 MS. YEVICH: There -- this is one of those where  
12 there really isn't --

13 MS. CANTU: Oh, okay.

14 MS. YEVICH: -- so we -- yes. We -- it's  
15 usually about this time of the year we try to publish it --

16 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. I would think --

17 MS. YEVICH: -- and start --

18 MR. DOYLE: If you're going to get your report  
19 out for 2018, it should be before you go into 2020, so I  
20 would think --

21 MR. SAMUELS: Sure, sure. Last year, we  
22 actually voted on it at our conference.

23 MALE VOICE: Yeah, that's right.

24 MR. DOYLE: In October.

25 MR. SAMUELS: In October. So --

1 FEMALE VOICE: Yeah, in October. Yeah.

2 MR. SAMUELS: -- we're ahead of that schedule.

3 FEMALE VOICE: Yeah.

4 MS. CANTU: Way to go.

5 MR. SAMUELS: I'm setting the bar fairly low.  
6 I'm slipping on that. Oops. But yeah. So I think we can  
7 get it done relatively quickly.

8 MR. DOYLE: So if someone were to ask us, they  
9 should have the annual report at their agencies by the end  
10 of the year?

11 MR. SAMUELS: By the -- oh, by the end of the  
12 calendar year for sure --

13 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

14 MR. SAMUELS: -- but by the end of the --

15 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. The calendar year.

16 MR. SAMUELS: -- hopefully the fiscal year --

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

18 MR. SAMUELS: -- for sure.

19 MR. DOYLE: Good.

20 MS. CANTU: So we hope to vote on it next  
21 meeting?

22 MR. SAMUELS: I think it would be ready.

23 MS. CANTU: Okay, okay.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Providing I get someone else to  
25 look at it. I mean, I'm sure Michael and Dr. Scholl look

1 at it again --

2 MS. CANTU: Yeah.

3 MR. SAMUELS: -- but getting another pair of  
4 eyes --

5 MS. BOSTON: TDHCA will review it. Yeah.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

7 MS. CANTU: Yeah.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Thank you.

9 MS. CANTU: Yeah.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Very good. Elizabeth, you  
11 get the --

12 MS. YEVICH: Oh.

13 MR. DOYLE: -- the Performance Data Committee?

14 MS. YEVICH: Well, let me sit up here so people  
15 on the phone can hear. Elizabeth Yevich, TDHCA. And my  
16 update about Performance Data Committee is sitting right to  
17 my right. His name is Danny Shea, and he is our new hire  
18 in the Housing Resource Center, and he's providing  
19 administrative support to this Council.

20 He was actually at the last meeting but he  
21 wasn't on staff yet. Actually, he didn't know he was going  
22 to be on staff. He had just interviewed. So he is just  
23 learning everything in the Housing Resource Center, TDHCA,  
24 and all things TICH, and hopefully, either by the October  
25 meeting -- although I know that's usually a little bit of

1 expedited -- different meeting, because that will be in  
2 Houston in conjunction with the conference -- either that  
3 meeting or the one in January.

4 Then he will have gotten into the performance  
5 data and we'll have an update for you then. So --

6 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any questions?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. DOYLE: I would just take this opportunity  
9 to say that I was invited to a data meeting at the White  
10 House about several things, but the -- what I heard was  
11 quite interesting, in that they want to hear from  
12 interagency councils, from reentry councils.

13 They want to take the position -- and this was  
14 coming from assistant secretaries who were there -- you  
15 tell us what data you need to make informed decisions, and  
16 we'll put it together for you. So there seems to be some  
17 energy around data from a large perspective.

18 I'm just saying that because I'm going back to  
19 the Mark Gold days when he was doing his performance data  
20 thing, and he said -- somebody said, well, there's no way  
21 to do this. And he said, oh, yeah. If you've got enough  
22 money, there's a way to do it.

23 And -- but it would take a lot of money. I  
24 don't think the technology, the way it is 15 years later,  
25 that it seems to be that big of an issue. They seem, in

1 Washington -- want to be able to provide us any kind of  
2 data we need.

3 And I forget the lady's name, but she gave me  
4 her number and said, whatever data you need, let us know  
5 and we'll gather it. And I said, I just got to tell you  
6 what I want, and you'll go get it? And she said, yeah,  
7 that's what we're going to do.

8 So if that helps at some point, I can look back  
9 through my notes and see who that lady was. I mean, if  
10 they were all young people, I felt like I was a dinosaur in  
11 this meeting, you know, with all these young, brilliant  
12 kids up there running the country.

13 And I'm going, wow. Of course, they quit, had  
14 lunch at 11:00, and went home at 1:00. Just kidding. For  
15 any millennials on the phone. So anyway --

16 MS. CANTU: Sure.

17 MR. DOYLE: -- that data could be -- boy, it  
18 would -- you know, we've always talked about how much data  
19 can we get if we just really had all the stuff together for  
20 the --

21 MR. SAMUELS: We're working on it.

22 MR. DOYLE: -- oh, man.

23 MS. YEVICH: There we go.

24 MR. SAMUELS: We're working on it. We have five  
25 proposals on the way here --

1 MR. DOYLE: That's great.

2 MR. SAMUELS: -- back from --

3 MR. DOYLE: That's great.

4 MR. SAMUELS: -- creating this.

5 MS. YEVICH: And on an amusing note, Mike, I  
6 have to say, it was only a couple days ago, when I was  
7 training Danny on something, I said, at some point,  
8 probably soon, you're going to hear the name Mark Gold,  
9 because it's always still talked about, and here you go --

10 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

11 MS. YEVICH: -- so --

12 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, yeah. He was good. Okay.  
13 The five-year consolidated plan. Jeremy?

14 MR. STREMLER: Yes. I will also come to the  
15 table so that people on the --

16 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Elizabeth.

17 MR. STREMLER: -- phone can hear us. So as I  
18 mentioned last meeting, TDHCA coordinates the creation and  
19 submission of the five-year consolidated plan, which  
20 encompasses multiple programs from three different  
21 agencies: TDHCA, who operates HOME, ESG, and National  
22 Housing Trust Fund monies and programs; and then TDA, Texas  
23 Department of Agriculture, who operates the CDBG, Community  
24 Development Block Grant funding; and Department of State  
25 Health Services, who operates HPWA, or Housing for

1 Persons --

2 MR. DOYLE: With AIDS.

3 MR. STREMLER: -- with AIDS. And so this is  
4 kind of a follow-up. We mentioned at our previous meeting,  
5 if any State agencies wanted to provide consultation,  
6 whatever that might look like, and coming to this meeting,  
7 you know, and you know, we're working through our draft of  
8 the consolidated plan.

9 I know Danny provided you with a little bit of  
10 information ahead of time, where to find previous one-year  
11 action plans in the previous consolidated plan and some  
12 examples of consultation that was provided previously, both  
13 from individuals on this Council, as well as other groups.

14 And I just kind of wanted to follow up on that.

15 And I understand that a lot of the groups here don't  
16 necessarily directly interact with these specific programs,  
17 because many of us obviously are working for State agencies  
18 that do not access those programs.

19 So just to give a little broader idea of what  
20 consultation could look like from individuals on this  
21 committee and the groups that they work for, it can be data  
22 that you want to see highlighted in the five-year  
23 consolidated plan, because we do have a needs assessment  
24 and housing market analysis section of this plan.

25 So if there's any specific data that you feel

1 needs to be represented somewhere, as it relates to, you  
2 know, the housing situation in Texas or homelessness in  
3 Texas, that is welcomed, if you feel so moved to provide  
4 that data or information.

5 Danny also sent along a short one page that kind  
6 of gives a general idea of what the five-year consolidated  
7 plan is, and lists those programs and activities that are  
8 affected. Of interest to this Council would be ESG,  
9 obviously, and Naomi runs the programs at TDHCA.

10 And those activities specifically are emergency  
11 shelter, rapid rehousing, and homeless prevention and  
12 outreach. So again, if anyone wishes to make any comment  
13 now, you're more than welcome to. Also, I do have extra  
14 copies of the one pager that Danny sent out.

15 But my phone number and email address is on  
16 that, if anyone wants to provide that consultation via  
17 email or call me to have a conversation about that. Again,  
18 it does not necessarily have to be -- oh, specifically,  
19 about ESG programming.

20 It could be data that you want to see  
21 represented kind of on a statewide level, representing the  
22 needs of our communities and both -- whether it's homeless  
23 needs or housing needs across the state, we are open to  
24 solidifying data that we already have in that plan,  
25 corroborating it with other agencies' input, that might not

1 be necessarily directly related in our HUD funding, but it  
2 gives, you know, the idea that, you know, we're not  
3 creating this document in a vacuum.

4 There are other agencies that are seeing the  
5 same concerns and needs in our community across the state,  
6 and you know, are out there thinking about ways to fix  
7 those problems. So that being said --

8 MR. DOYLE: Any questions? I do. I have a  
9 question.

10 MR. STREMLER: Uh-huh?

11 MR. DOYLE: It's only a refresher, since it's  
12 only done once every five years. Will you just address --  
13 let's say that we put the wrong thing in there. Are we  
14 stuck with that for five years, or is there a way to -- I  
15 mean, the importance of this seems to be huge, but it -- we  
16 don't give it very much time.

17 So -- from our perspective, as a Commission.

18 MR. STREMLER: Right.

19 MR. DOYLE: So talk to that a little bit.

20 MR. STREMLER: So a lot of the baseline data  
21 that is in the document, needs assessment market analysis,  
22 is provided by the HUD, because HUD has a data set that  
23 they compile information. It's a few years behind, just  
24 because, you know, combining such large sets of data takes  
25 a while -- that kind of serve as a baseline for a lot of

1 the information that is in those needs assessment market  
2 analysis reports.

3 It's information HUD has collected over the  
4 previous five-year period and is in there. But you know,  
5 if you put in the five-year plan that, you know,  
6 homelessness has -- over the past three years, has  
7 increased by 12 percent in the state of Texas, it is not  
8 a -- you know, because the plan is really looking at --  
9 here is the needs we've been -- we're looking at, the needs  
10 that need to be addressed, the market analysis, what's out  
11 there, what is happening right now that's addressing some  
12 of those needs.

13 But really, the point of them is to say, look.  
14 These are the issues we have identified, and this is how we  
15 need to move forward with the programs that we are  
16 providing through HUD with their funding to address those  
17 needs.

18 So I wouldn't say that, you know, if you mention  
19 that, that's fine. You know, we're not stuck to saying,  
20 like, well, 12 percent, every year, you know, for the next  
21 five years, that's our homelessness increase. Because we  
22 do also have one-year action plans that we come out with  
23 every year that, you know, really speak to our progress and  
24 what we're doing, as well as, you know, the CAFR documents,  
25 the analysis of what we've done, and we can speak to --

1 we've address needs.

2 We, you know, reduced -- maybe we reduced the,  
3 you know -- maybe homelessness decreased next year by 3 or  
4 4 percent. And there are additional documents to reference  
5 those changes. This one is just kind of a, you know,  
6 general, overall planning document.

7 You know, if we say, oh, well, homelessness has  
8 increased by 12 percent over the last three years, you  
9 know, we feel that we need to do something to address that.

10 Now, here's -- you know, moving into our strategic plan  
11 for the next five years, and then the one-year action  
12 plans -- this is how we're going to make sure that we are,  
13 you know, chipping away at that, decreasing homelessness.

14 MR. DOYLE: But HUD kind of sets parameters --

15 MR. STREMLER: Essentially --

16 MR. DOYLE: -- going in?

17 MR. STREMLER: -- in terms of data, we can add  
18 our own data. That's why I'm saying, you know, if there's  
19 anything specifically that you want to see or that -- feel  
20 that, you know -- provide input for what could possibly  
21 also be mentioned in a needs assessment or market analysis  
22 in Texas, to you know, give us that data so that we can put  
23 it in.

24 But it's HUD just looking at it and saying, this  
25 is what you've identified as your -- the needs for the

1 next -- you know, in the past and how you're moving forward  
2 for the next five years, and all of it is, you know,  
3 subject to -- every year, we create a new one-year action  
4 plan.

5 You know, those needs can change over the course  
6 of a year, and we can address that year by year in those  
7 action plans, and if anything too drastically happens, you  
8 know, no document is chiseled in stone. You know, we can  
9 amend and --

10 MR. DOYLE: So if HUD changes its direction  
11 altogether, there's flexibility for us to change our  
12 direction --

13 MR. STREMLER: Yes.

14 MR. DOYLE: -- altogether? Because I had  
15 heard -- whoever said they were here from HUD, I've heard  
16 that the Secretary is making some sweeping changes that I  
17 wouldn't want to -- we would be stuck with for five years.

18 So --

19 MR. STREMLER: Every --

20 MR. BORREGO: (from audience.) Yes. As those  
21 changes do occur, they'll flow down. So the communities or  
22 entitlement cities -- there are 40-some entitlement cities  
23 throughout Texas --

24 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

25 MR. BORREGO: -- that all write the five-year

1 consolidation plans through community development. The  
2 criteria that you're talking about [inaudible] economists  
3 that are working those data for the communities.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I just want to make sure  
5 that --

6 MS. BOSTON: And I would mention too that part  
7 of one of the areas that we like to get input on this is  
8 definitely on the data side, but even more so, like -- if  
9 there's something about the way we do ESG that people  
10 think -- you know, we -- so for instance, you know, with  
11 ESG right now, we go out for bid for vendors to do the  
12 competitions for us in as many areas as we want to.

13 And then we do the competition for every area  
14 that doesn't come in. So if someone didn't like that model  
15 and thought we should do ESG differently, if out of the  
16 ways we -- our rules say we're going to use ESG, if someone  
17 said, I don't think you should ever do outreach; you should  
18 only do, you know, rapid rehousing, you know, I mean, this  
19 would be kind of the forum where you give that kind of  
20 input.

21 With the HOME dollars, you know, we do tenant  
22 based rental assistance. We do home buyer rehab  
23 assistance. We have a new program called HANK [phonetic]  
24 we're rolling out. So if you said, well, you know, there's  
25 so much need for single-family home, we don't think you

1 should ever do multifamily home. This is that opportunity.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

3 MS. BOSTON: It's like the big programming of  
4 the dollars --

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

6 MS. BOSTON: -- you know, at a policy level.  
7 Yeah.

8 MR. STREMLER: And this would be the time to  
9 come in and make those suggestions and clarifications on  
10 anything that you feel might need to change or be  
11 different, prior to the document, you know, going to our  
12 Board for a draft, because then it's a public comment  
13 period, and you know, major changes to a document are much  
14 harder to do than that, you know, if there's any major  
15 policy, you know, comment about -- we should change this.

16 The way that ESG goes out for subrecipients  
17 completely -- and you know, during a 30-day comment period,  
18 that's probably, you know, most likely not going to happen,  
19 because that would be a total overhaul of the program,  
20 whereas, you know, if we were to receive comments like that  
21 now, we could have time to consider them in the writing of  
22 that document, because the document -- we do have to -- to  
23 some extent, what we put in the document now is how we see,  
24 as of right now, for the next five years how our program  
25 will be managed.

1                   There are, of course, the ability to change  
2 that, if need be.

3                   FEMALE VOICE: [inaudible].

4                   MR. SAMUELS: But -- and then we -- you know,  
5 that gives us the -- making that comment now provides us  
6 with more flexibility to make any changes, and also, so we  
7 know, moving forward, that you know, what the kind of  
8 general feel is for how we're operating our programs, and  
9 if there is any, you know, really major change we need to  
10 make, if we really are doing something that the community  
11 feels strongly should be different.

12                  MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

13                  MR. DOYLE: And --

14                  MS. BOSTON: And actually, an example of one  
15 that had been mentioned to us the last time we were working  
16 on rules for ESG was that -- as you guys know, the urban  
17 areas who receive ESG themselves are not exempt from also  
18 coming in for RESG, and there was comment that they did not  
19 think that that was the right thing to do.

20                  They saw that as double-dipping. And in theory,  
21 I guess that's true, and I see the merits of both ways of  
22 looking at it. You know, the urban areas who do that  
23 double-dipping, so to speak, have the largest homeless  
24 populations and the funds are so small, you'll never get to  
25 help everybody.

1           So you know, does it exhaust the resource? No.  
2           So -- but I can also see the perspective that why should  
3 the urban areas get two hits at ESG, whereas if you spread  
4 all that out among the areas that aren't covered, you know,  
5 you'd get more ESG in other parts of the state.

6           So that's something that we may be contemplating  
7 in there. I don't know.

8           MR. DOYLE: Well --

9           MS. BOSTON: We know that it's a big -- it's  
10 kind of third rail for the urban communities. We know  
11 they'll come after us. So --

12           MR. DOYLE: Isn't it also the same case with the  
13 majority of the -- your HOME funds going to rural Texas? I  
14 mean, you seem to always have a hard time spending those  
15 rural HOME funds. Is there some point where you could put  
16 in there -- and if by this date they're not allocated, we  
17 might re-proportion some to the urban areas?

18           MS. BOSTON: Sure, sure. That would be a good  
19 compromise. Yeah.

20           MR. STREMLER: Yeah.

21           MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

22           MR. STREMLER: So that's kind of the general  
23 feedback we're looking for, if anybody has any. So again,  
24 you know, you all did receive the one-page document ahead  
25 of time that Danny sent out. I also have additional copies

1 of it, if anybody wants one.

2 And like I said, you can feel free to email me  
3 or call me anytime to discuss it, provide that  
4 consultation, and you know, I will ensure that it gets  
5 to -- if it's program-specific, I will ensure that it gets  
6 to the proper director of that program to be evaluated  
7 and --

8 MR. DOYLE: So what's -- when do we need to have  
9 it to you?

10 MR. STREMLER: Our consultation deadline is end  
11 of October to provide any of that consultation feedback on  
12 any section, whether it's programmatic-specific or data-  
13 specific, whatever it might be, so that we can ensure that  
14 we can get the plan -- a draft of the plan done in a proper  
15 amount of time to get to the Board --

16 MR. DOYLE: Sure.

17 MR. STREMLER: -- public comment and all of  
18 that.

19 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So everybody on the call  
20 and --

21 DR. SCHOLL: Mike?

22 MR. DOYLE: Yes?

23 DR. SCHOLL: Mike, this is Dennis. I just had a  
24 quick question about the urban and rural thing, and if I  
25 read the report or graph, probably I'll figure this out.

1 But is there a relatively easy way to find out what the  
2 statewide, for example, homeless population, their -- the  
3 home of origin for folks in urban areas?

4 And here's where my interest comes from. I know  
5 there are -- many veterans, before they go in the service,  
6 are from smaller, rural towns. But if they're getting  
7 served in an urban area because they can't get homing back  
8 in their hometown, that can be addressed by programmatic  
9 types of solutions.

10 So I'm wondering, do we know the homeless  
11 individuals -- in some way, an estimate of their community  
12 of origin? Is that available in the report?

13 MR. SAMUELS: I don't know if it's available in  
14 this report. I know that through our surveys in the past  
15 we've asked that question, but not every community in Texas  
16 does ask that question. I will say, what we've observed is  
17 that 75 percent or higher in a lot of communities, that  
18 indicate that that is the community where they are from.

19 We ask the question, because you get people in  
20 communities saying, well, if you build it, they'll come --

21 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

22 MR. SAMUELS: -- and that's just not true. Of  
23 course, there is a percentage of people that move from  
24 outside of a rural area into an urban area to receive  
25 services, but it's not the overwhelming majority of folks.

1 Is that what you were asking, Dennis?

2 DR. SCHOLL: It sounded like it was related. I  
3 really couldn't hear much of what you said, but I can check  
4 with you later. Just send me a text. I'll give a call.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you, Jeremy.

6 MR. STREMLER: No problem.

7 MR. DOYLE: Appreciate it. Good report. And  
8 for all of us that were listening in, now's your time.  
9 This is one of those speak-now-or-forever-hold-your-peace  
10 things. If you've got some ideas about how these funds  
11 should be used, TDHCA is willing to hear it, but not unless  
12 you can put it in writing and send it to them. So --

13 MS. CANTU: So speak now, or at the next TICH  
14 meeting, too. Right?

15 MR. SAMUELS: Or in between. Right?

16 MR. STREMLER: Yeah. I will --

17 MS. CANTU: Yeah. Or in between.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. Okay.

19 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

20 MR. STREMLER: I will also be at the next TICH  
21 meeting in Houston, because --

22 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

23 MR. STREMLER: -- we'll also be receiving the  
24 same feedback from COCs as well. So --

25 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. We'll prep for that.

1 MR. DOYLE: Where do we send our feedback?

2 MR. STREMLER: You can send it to my email  
3 address.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

5 MR. STREMLER: It is on the one-page handout. I  
6 think --

7 MR. DOYLE: Got it. Yeah.

8 MR. STREMLER: -- you've got it right here,  
9 next -- yeah, right there.

10 MR. DOYLE: Got you.

11 MR. STREMLER: Uh-huh.

12 MR. SAMUELS: And I --

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

14 MR. STREMLER: -- again, I have extra copies of  
15 that, if anybody wants a hard copy, so --

16 MR. DOYLE: Very good. Okay.

17 DR. SCHOLL: Mike, with that one-page handout,  
18 is that available if I go to TDHCA website?

19 MR. STREMLER: So I sent it out over email. I  
20 can make sure to send it out as follow-up to the meeting as  
21 well.

22 DR. SCHOLL: Thank you much.

23 MR. STREMLER: Sure.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Member agency updates,  
25 starting with TDHCA.

1 MS. CANTU: Yes. I have an update. This is,  
2 again, Naomi Cantu. We are taking our Ending Homelessness  
3 Fund awards -- we plan to take them to the September Board  
4 meeting. Is very excited there. This is the first  
5 allocation of the Ending Homelessness Fund which, as a  
6 reminder, is when people register their vehicles, they can  
7 donate to this fund to end homelessness.

8 We have adopted rules so that we are pairing  
9 these funds with existing programs. Right now, we are  
10 considering five subrecipients. This would be Arlington,  
11 Austin, Dallas, El Paso, and Plano. They're all Homeless  
12 Housing and Services Program, subrecipients already.

13 The -- it was approximately \$175,000 that is  
14 being distributed for about 35,000 each, so smaller  
15 contracts, which is one reason why we are pairing them with  
16 an existing program. So very excited about that.

17 MR. DOYLE: Now, who was the other one?  
18 Arlington, Austin, Dallas --

19 MS. CANTU: El Paso --

20 MR. DOYLE: -- El Paso --

21 MS. CANTU: -- and Plano.

22 MR. DOYLE: Plano.

23 MS. CANTU: Plano's new for HHSP two years  
24 ago --

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

1 MS. CANTU: -- so they passed that -- the  
2 population threshold. For Emergency Solutions grants, we  
3 are in the middle of our competition now. As Brooke had  
4 mentioned, we did also procure three vendors to run a local  
5 competition.

6 Texas Homeless Network is one of them. And then  
7 we also have South Alamo Regional Alliance for the  
8 Homeless. So San Antonio is running their own competition.  
9 And also Tarrant County Homeless Coalition. So they're in  
10 the midst of their competition as well.

11 We do plan to take our awards to September Board  
12 meeting. It is still again in process, so we don't have an  
13 update on that application process results yet.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

15 MS. CANTU: And I do have one more, and that's  
16 the Homeless Housing and Services Program funds. I wanted  
17 to -- it's also very exciting there, because we were able  
18 to award at our last Board meeting, July 25 Board  
19 meeting -- we were able to award our youth set-aside funds  
20 for the Homeless Housing and Services Program.

21 So that's an additional 1.5 million. We were  
22 able to award about 1.2 million. We're waiting on one  
23 subrecipient there, at the last session -- or I'm sorry --  
24 at the last Board meeting, and the funds, again, are  
25 specifically for unaccompanied homeless youth.

1                   And it was passed during the last legislative  
2 session to be 1.5 million per year, so very excited about  
3 that.

4                   MR. DOYLE: And that's in addition to the  
5 HHSP's --

6                   MS. CANTU: Yes.

7                   MR. DOYLE: -- allocations for the cities?

8                   MS. CANTU: Right.

9                   MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good.

10                  MS. CANTU: Uh-huh. So they already get  
11 4.9 million divided among the nine cities. This is an  
12 additional 1.5 million divided among the nine cities.

13                  MR. DOYLE: The same nine cities?

14                  MS. CANTU: The same nine cities. Yes.

15                  MR. DOYLE: Great.

16                  MS. CANTU: So most of the cities are  
17 administering the funds themselves, with the exception of  
18 Corpus Christi and San Antonio, for the general set-aside.  
19 Corpus Christi decided to also give the youth funds to  
20 their designated nonprofit.

21                  But San Antonio decided to run these --  
22 administer these funds themselves, so we're working to  
23 contract with them, because they're going to be a new  
24 subrecipient for this program, so that's why we're holding  
25 that one contract back, so that we can run our previous

1 participation and contracting process with them.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

3 MS. CANTU: So that's the City of San Antonio.  
4 So funds can be used for case management, street outreach,  
5 emergency shelter, and transitional living for that  
6 program, so we'll see how that one goes. It is the first  
7 year.

8 MR. DOYLE: Cool.

9 MS. CANTU: Yeah.

10 MR. DOYLE: Cool.

11 MR. DURAN: Hi. My name is Spencer Duran. I'm  
12 the next presenter on the agenda.

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

14 MR. DURAN: I work for Texas Department of  
15 Housing and Community Affairs. I manage the Section 811  
16 Project Rental Assistance Program, and I was asked today to  
17 give a brief update on Section 811 PRA. Specifically, I  
18 believe, y'all wanted to hear about how we're serving youth  
19 with disabilities who are aging out of the State foster  
20 care system.

21 Just to give you a quick understanding of what  
22 the 811 program does, we have a -- TDHCA has been awarded  
23 \$22 million to be used for the rental assistance to house  
24 approximately 600 households, and we're trying to hit our  
25 600 goal by 2021, and to date, we've served 268 households,

1 and we've received referrals to house 29 youth with  
2 disabilities who are aging out of the State foster care  
3 system, and we have successfully housed eight referrals of  
4 youth with disabilities who are aging out of the State's  
5 foster care system.

6 So they represent a pretty small fraction of our  
7 overall 811 households who are being served.

8 MR. DOYLE: Spencer, can you, for some of us  
9 older people who can't -- don't always remember these  
10 things, 811, talk to me about what that generally is.

11 MR. DURAN: Absolutely. Great question. I've  
12 also realized it is my first time reporting to the TICH, so  
13 let me take a second and kind of go back a little bit. So  
14 Section 811 Project Rental Assistance is a HUD-funded,  
15 project-based, rental assistance program, where --  
16 Section 811 used to exist where HUD would directly grant  
17 capital development funds and rental assistance funds to  
18 nonprofit organizations, nonprofit developers.

19 That program was changed under the Melville Act.

20 I believe that was in 2009. And then HUD published notice  
21 of funding availability for their 2012 fiscal year, and so  
22 TDHCA, together with the Texas Health and Human Services  
23 Commission and the Department of Family Protective  
24 Services, we all got together and decided to jointly  
25 partner to apply for the -- these funds.

1                   And so --

2                   MR. DOYLE:   And they were to go to what, now?  
3   Instead of capital, they were to go to --

4                   MR. DURAN:   So now the funds are only rental  
5   assistance.   So the capital development component was  
6   removed, and now, instead of going to nonprofit developers,  
7   it goes to the State housing finance agencies, which is  
8   what TDHCA is.

9                   So there's about 35 states that are  
10   participating in the 811 Program.   And the whole point is  
11   obviously to house people who have disabilities, but it's  
12   also designed to further that coordination and  
13   communication between housing and state Medicaid agencies  
14   to try and kind of catalyze that housing and health  
15   connection.

16                   And so that's what we're trying to accomplish.

17                   MR. DOYLE:   So 811, one of the criteria is, you  
18   have to be serving a disabled population?

19                   MS. BOSTON:   Yes.   And it's more narrow than  
20   that.   We have three specific subpopulations.

21                   MR. DURAN:   Exactly.   And so those three  
22   specific subpopulations are persons exiting institutions,  
23   and in our world, people exiting institutions include  
24   people exiting nursing facilities and people exiting the  
25   State-supported living centers.

1           We are also targeting --

2           MR. DOYLE: Prisons?

3           MR. DURAN: No, not prisons. We are also  
4 targeting people who have severe mental illness. These are  
5 people who are typically served by the local mental health  
6 authorities and/or they could be receiving service  
7 coordination through the managed care organizations, or we  
8 could get a direct referral from a State hospital.

9           And then finally, youth with disabilities aging  
10 out of foster care is our -- the target population that I  
11 was going to focus on today. The other kind of unique  
12 thing to know about 811 is that it's designed to serve non-  
13 elderly people with disabilities who also have extremely  
14 low incomes.

15           So for example, here in the city of Austin where  
16 I live, that is -- I believe you can make no more than  
17 15,000, I think, for a single individual. So it's designed  
18 to serve those households who are essentially relying on  
19 SSI, and SSI right now, I think, pays about 775 a month,  
20 and so as you can imagine, trying to find housing and take  
21 care of your other needs on less than \$800 a month in the  
22 city of Austin is essentially impossible.

23           And so that leads to high numbers of people  
24 being unnecessarily institutionalized and people being  
25 homeless, because of the lack of available affordable

1 housing options. So this program brings a new tool to  
2 house people with disabilities who are non-elderly, have  
3 disabilities and other -- you know, hit those other target  
4 population criteria.

5 So \$22 million spread across seven of the  
6 largest metropolitan statistical areas --

7 MS. BOSTON: Eight.

8 MR. DURAN: -- is what we're operating right  
9 now, and like I said, our goal is to successfully house 600  
10 overall, and to date, we've housed eight young adults with  
11 the 811 Program, those young adults who are exiting the  
12 State foster care system.

13 And those young adults pay, on average, about  
14 \$196 per month in rent, whereas the average monthly rent  
15 for a one-bedroom apartment in Texas is \$755. So to the  
16 811 Program, those who are participating get a pretty good  
17 deal, and it's not time-limited.

18 It's not transitional housing. The other really  
19 unique aspect of 811 is it's what's called income-based.  
20 So that means that the rent that -- and utilities that that  
21 participating household pays is based on their income.

22 So if someone moves in and they don't yet have  
23 their first SSI check, they have zero income, that's no  
24 problem with our program. We can move them in with zero  
25 income. They move into housing. They get stabilized.

1 They start receiving SSI.

2 We taper that subsidy down and they begin paying  
3 30 percent of their income towards rent and utilities. If  
4 they get a job, their income goes up -- we taper the  
5 subsidy back down. If they lose the job, we crank the  
6 subsidy back up.

7 So it's just really unique. You don't find that  
8 type of income-based program design in very many affordable  
9 housing programs. Most affordable housing programs just  
10 charge a discounted rent, and whatever your life  
11 circumstance may be, you still have to make that rent.

12 So with 268 households being housed with the  
13 goal of 600, I feel like we're well on our way to hitting  
14 our goal, getting our money committed, serving our 600  
15 households. We're just always trying to, you know, really  
16 figure out how our program can be responsive to the needs  
17 of people with disabilities across the state of Texas.

18 MR. DOYLE: And this is coming straight from  
19 HUD?

20 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

22 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

23 MR. DURAN: Yeah.

24 MR. DOYLE: Cool.

25 MR. DURAN: And kind of --

1 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

2 MR. DURAN: -- unlike some of the programs that  
3 Jeremy was talking about in the five-year plan, these are  
4 not funds that are allocated to us. This is something that  
5 TDHCA, together with HHSC and DFPS, chose to go after,  
6 because we were trying to bring more resources to Texas to  
7 better serve a typically underserved population.

8 MR. DOYLE: This probably doesn't exactly fit,  
9 but I think it's something that you should be aware of, and  
10 I can't tell you the foundation, but it is in the Fort  
11 Worth area, but they are going to experiment with families  
12 that just can't make enough money, and there's usually a  
13 disability involved.

14 And they're going to pick five, and Cornerstone  
15 is going to study them over the next year, and they're  
16 going to increase their income by \$2 an hour. And so it  
17 takes about \$5,000 a family to do that, but the effect of  
18 increased income on their ability to keep their housing is  
19 kind of what we're going to study.

20 It's a unique concept that I had never had  
21 presented before, but I thought that's far enough outside  
22 the box, that got my attention.

23 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

24 MR. DOYLE: And so it's going to be an  
25 interesting thing to see, that instead of paying for

1 housing costs, they're going to subsidize the income, and  
2 it will give the Workforce Board then a chance to work with  
3 them on skills-related job opportunities that are out in  
4 the alliance area, where we have 2,500 jobs a day  
5 available.

6 So it's really going to be an interesting study  
7 to see what the effect of income is on keeping their  
8 housing. And a lot of times, as you say, if there's a slip  
9 in the SSI, they can't live. In Austin, they can't live.

10 MR. DURAN: When does that study start and end?

11 MR. DOYLE: We're looking at October.

12 MR. DURAN: Okay.

13 MR. DOYLE: That's when it's going to start.

14 MR. DURAN: Okay. And the rest is in --

15 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

16 MR. DOYLE: -- I was hearing about that.

17 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. It's --

18 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

19 MR. DOYLE: -- I just thought that was a fun  
20 idea to think about.

21 MR. DURAN: So the 811 -- so you're well  
22 underway to goal, but would you say it's fully utilized,  
23 under-utilized, or you can't really --

24 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

25 MR. DURAN: -- describe it that way, I guess,

1 but --

2 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. It's -- what I always --  
3 what I was -- I think that, you know, we have -- so we have  
4 about 1,700 households that are waiting for one of our  
5 units.

6 MR. DURAN: Okay.

7 MR. SAMUELS: So -- and when we first started,  
8 one of the first things that we were trying to troubleshoot  
9 was getting more referrals into our program, and so we've  
10 kind of solved that problem.

11 MR. DURAN: Okay. So that's not a problem any  
12 more?

13 MR. SAMUELS: Not a problem anymore. We're now  
14 shifting towards, you know, working on -- you know, another  
15 thing to know is, we have -- we bring properties to the  
16 program by incentivizing participation through the state's  
17 largest creator of income-reduced housing, and that's the  
18 Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

19 MR. DURAN: Uh-huh.

20 MR. SAMUELS: So we've been, you know, a point  
21 item or a threshold item in the QAP, the Qualified  
22 Allocation Plan, since 2015, and that's gotten us  
23 119 properties to participate in the program. So I feel  
24 like we have a good universe of supply, and we have a  
25 pretty good universe of demand, and so now we're really

1 trying to concentrate on making sure those 119 -- and we  
2 just got a lot more properties from the most recent 2019  
3 cycle.

4 That 119 does not include that number. We  
5 haven't signed contracts yet. So we're going to get even  
6 more properties. So I'm really excited to kind of, you  
7 know, move past this kind of start-up phase of bringing new  
8 properties, you know, training property managers.

9 We've also trained almost 600 local referral  
10 agents, so that's managed care service coordinators, local  
11 mental health authority caseworkers. We've trained a lot  
12 of registered nurses. So I feel like we kind of have now  
13 our properties, our referral agents, our families that are  
14 waiting, and I just really want to kind of look a little  
15 more inward now, and make sure that we're nurturing and  
16 investing in those relationships and that kind of  
17 infrastructure that we've built.

18 So yeah. I think that having a lot of people  
19 waiting is kind of one unfortunate measure of success. I'm  
20 really kind of wanting to focus on issues of equity, like  
21 geographic equity. We are so kind of lagging behind in the  
22 number of referrals we get in some areas of the state.

23 And so we're deploying a few ideas about how to  
24 fix that, you know, conference calls, more focused  
25 technical assistance. We want to have a series of webinars

1 to help people better understand 811. And then also we  
2 really want to see a lot more referrals from youth aging  
3 out of foster care.

4 I think that having only eight housed is  
5 something that I'm really trying to fix, knowing the need  
6 of people with disabilities who age out of the State's  
7 foster care system.

8 MS. BOSTON: And I would mention that the  
9 disconnect -- since he was saying we have supply and we  
10 have demand, so you ask, then, well, then why aren't the  
11 units occupied? The units are currently occupied by  
12 existing tenants in a lot of the cases.

13 So there's two situations. People could  
14 contribute a previous, existing property that may have been  
15 100 percent occupied. So let's say, Trails at the Park,  
16 which is a Foundation Communities property here in Austin,  
17 they committed 20 or 30 811 units over several years, but  
18 their turnover is only, like, a unit a year.

19 So we get them at a really slow rate. So the  
20 requirement is, on those properties, the minute they free  
21 up a unit, they give it to us first. But it -- obviously  
22 at that rate, it would take a very long time. The other  
23 facet of it is, if we were given new construction units,  
24 it's taking a couple years to get it built from the time  
25 you got the commitment.

1                   So that's why we have the properties and units,  
2 but they're not really available.

3                   MR. DURAN: Right.

4                   MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

5                   MR. DURAN: Yeah. So we have, like, a zero  
6 percent vacancy rate. There's no unoccupied 811 units out  
7 there. So there's no unit that's been committed to the  
8 program that isn't either filled with an 811 tenant or  
9 filled with a non-811 tenant --

10                  MR. SAMUELS: Right.

11                  MR. DURAN: -- that we're waiting on natural  
12 churning of units.

13                  MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

14                  MR. SAMUELS: Sure. Okay. And one thing. And  
15 so you have the three that you target for this. Do you  
16 have another level of preferences that you --

17                  MR. DURAN: We have no --

18                  MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

19                  MR. DURAN: -- preferences currently. We try to  
20 just -- it's almost like a competition --

21                  MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

22                  MR. DURAN: -- and the local mental health  
23 authorities, much to the credit of our HHSC partners,  
24 have -- they've just really figured out how to maximize  
25 this program to their benefit. We thought if we had a

1 preference, that --

2 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

3 MR. DURAN: -- you know, it might go -- might  
4 cause undue delay. So it's kind of a competition. If  
5 you --

6 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

7 MR. DOYLE: -- give us a referral, we look at  
8 the date and time stamp that the application hit our  
9 server, and that's the date and time stamp we use for the  
10 next available unit.

11 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. I knew that's what it was.  
12 I didn't know if you put a --

13 MR. DURAN: I've thought about -- I'd be open to  
14 some ideas, but you know, I'm just so wanting to -- if you  
15 give me a household and I've got a unit for you --

16 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

17 MR. DURAN: -- let's just get you housed  
18 immediately.

19 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

20 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: I wanted to -- I'm sorry.  
21 Back here. My name is Darilynn, with the Integral Care, a  
22 local mental health --

23 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

24 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: -- in Travis County, and I  
25 just wanted to say, thank you for the program. It has been

1 well utilized by our agency. It is really helping  
2 individuals that do not have access to the continuum of  
3 care units generally.

4 One recommendation that we have, moving forward,  
5 is to bring developers to provide units that are able to  
6 accept individuals with higher barriers. We have  
7 individuals, especially the younger population that we're  
8 trying to attract, or people who had been in the system for  
9 a very long time, with criminal histories, and the  
10 properties that we're bringing on board are the -- are not  
11 able to take the individuals, and that creates a barrier  
12 for many of the people who we're trying to house.

13 Having said that, there are many served by our  
14 assertive community treatment teams that are individuals  
15 that are really high in-and-out of the State hospitals, who  
16 have really benefitted from the program. And I just wanted  
17 to say thank you.

18 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Darilynn.

19 MS. BOSTON: Valinda?

20 MR. DURAN: Hi, Valinda.

21 MR. DOYLE: Valinda?

22 MS. BOLTON: Do you know -- so the youth with  
23 disabilities that are aging out of foster care -- do you  
24 have a sense of how they're finding you?

25 MR. DURAN: Uh-huh, absolutely. So previously,

1 we had one DFPS staff person, Kristin Jones --

2 MS. BOLTON: Yes.

3 MR. DURAN: -- who -- yeah -- who was working on  
4 the State level as one of our what we call, coordinators.  
5 But she was also serving as the referral -- an actual  
6 referral agent. So that's -- no other State agency has set  
7 up their referral pipeline like that.

8 So we -- Kristin was identifying, as I  
9 understand it, by looking at data, potentially qualified  
10 individuals, and then reaching out to a local PAL  
11 specialist or other local support staff or support  
12 personnel, and then they would then work to help the  
13 individual fill out an 811 application, and then Kristin  
14 would kind of facilitate that to TDHCA.

15 So it was kind of a -- I don't know exactly  
16 how -- what methodology Kristin was using to do that,  
17 because it wasn't a typical network of, like, Integral Care  
18 across the state, like -- it wasn't like a local PAL  
19 specialist was sending referrals.

20 It was Kristin somehow identifying people  
21 centrally and then getting us referrals that way.

22 MR. DOYLE: Well, good stuff.

23 MS. BOLTON: We have disability specialists also  
24 across the state. She may have been getting from --

25 MR. DURAN: Yeah.

1 MS. BOLTON: -- them.

2 MR. DURAN: And I know that Kristin --  
3 everything that she did to make a referral to 811 was also  
4 outside of her normal job responsibilities, because she was  
5 mostly a mental disability specialist, and so anytime she  
6 gave us an 811 referral, it was oftentimes people with a  
7 behavioral health or mental health condition and/or people  
8 with physical disabilities.

9 And so she was -- and to Kristin's credit, I  
10 mean, everything -- all 29 referrals we've received have  
11 been from her hard work and really trying to make this  
12 program work, and she's now left to go --

13 MS. BOLTON: Changed -- right.

14 MR. DURAN: -- somewhere else.

15 MS. BOLTON: Well, she's still -- she's --

16 MR. DURAN: I'm really scared --

17 MS. BOLTON: -- in the same office, same -- she  
18 works right down the --

19 MR. DURAN: Yeah.

20 MS. BOLTON: -- hall from me. She's in the  
21 exact same place --

22 MR. DURAN: Yeah.

23 MS. BOLTON: -- but she's doing a different --

24 MR. DURAN: Yeah.

25 MS. BOLTON: -- thing. So I -- that's kind of

1 why I'm wondering, like, if we need to be thinking about  
2 how this is done?

3 MR. DURAN: Yeah.

4 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

5 MS. BOLTON: But it sounds like you've got more  
6 right --

7 MR. DURAN: Uh-huh.

8 MS. BOLTON: -- now than you can -- you have  
9 more referrals from us right now than you can house.

10 MR. DURAN: I have more referrals right now than  
11 I can house from any population, just like any other  
12 housing authority would --

13 MS. BOLTON: Right.

14 MR. DURAN: -- but because it is that  
15 competition, we need to make sure that we have people with  
16 applications into us as soon as possible in all parts of  
17 the state so that whenever their name is called, we can  
18 make sure they get a shot at housing.

19 MS. BOLTON: Okay.

20 MS. SYLVESTER: Spencer, would you want to talk  
21 a little bit about some geographical disparity -- MR.  
22 DURAN: Yeah. So we do have some -- yeah. So in addition  
23 to -- it's not just this target population disparity. We  
24 have a geographical disparity. You know, some of the areas  
25 that we would like to see more referrals come from are

1       Brownsville and McAllen.

2                       Those are two areas that we've been really  
3       trying hard. I'm really excited also to just kind of, you  
4       know, focus on troubleshooting those types of issues.  
5       Honestly, we have a tiny team, and we haven't really had a  
6       lot of time to be more proactive in how we administer the  
7       program.

8                       But I really want to focus on target population  
9       equity and geographic equity.

10                      MR. DOYLE: Okay. Valinda, you're next on the  
11       agenda.

12                      MS. BOLTON: Well, how about that?

13                      DR. SCHOLL: Mike, may I ask a quick question  
14       on --

15                      MR. DOYLE: Sure.

16                      DR. SCHOLL: -- from the last person? Do you  
17       have summary data where you indicate the number of  
18       referrals, the number of family units or individuals by the  
19       categories you listed, distributed across the various  
20       mental health authorities, or do you do it by some other  
21       regionalization?

22                      MR. DURAN: I would say that -- yes. We likely  
23       have -- if anyone has any data questions or would like to  
24       take a deeper dive into any element of the population, I  
25       think that this program -- we collect tons and tons of

1 data, because we are really excited about, you know,  
2 researching it and sharing it and trying to figure out what  
3 works.

4 So anybody has any specific questions about  
5 wanting to look at any slides of the households served or  
6 the referrals or anything at all, may you please contact  
7 Danny or anyone else, and I would be happy to share any  
8 data I have with you in any way that you would want to see  
9 it.

10 MR. DOYLE: Great. Thanks.

11 DR. SCHOLL: Okay. Thanks.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Valinda?

13 MS. BOLTON: Okay. Hi, everybody. I don't have  
14 a huge amount, but I do have a couple of things. So I  
15 think I mentioned at our last meeting about the Family  
16 First Prevention and Services Act, which is federal  
17 legislation, and then during the legislative session here,  
18 Senate Bill 755 and -- that's wrong -- Senate Bill 355 and  
19 781 -- passed, which have to do with, like, implementing  
20 several things, including FFPSA in Texas.

21 So we had talked about doing a overview of those  
22 issues for the TICH, and so I've been emailing back and  
23 forth with Danny, and I -- at one of the meetings during  
24 the calendar year 2020, our associate commissioner,  
25 Christine Blackstone, is going to come to one of the

1 meetings and do an overview for everybody.

2 And there will be some other opportunities.  
3 Also, we're going to have a huge stakeholder engagement  
4 process for this over the next year. So you can make the  
5 TICH a part of that. So just a head's-up. The other thing  
6 is -- actually, I have a project we're working on.

7 The question for some of you -- so another bill  
8 that passed during the legislative session had to do with  
9 making sure that homeless youth and youth in foster care  
10 are able to get their -- copies of their birth  
11 certificates, you know, like legit, certified copies, not  
12 photocopies, of their birth certificate, and then also fee  
13 waivers for being able to get state IDs or their driver's  
14 license, or as they say at DPS, driver license.

15 So we're working on that, and that's coming  
16 along very nicely, and in the bill that passed, there's  
17 some provisions for youth who are homeless or in care. So  
18 like, if they're in FPS care, they can work with the youth  
19 specialist or with their caseworker to get their birth  
20 certificate, but some of them want to be able to do that on  
21 their own, and also, homeless youth who aren't in care need  
22 to be able to do that on their own.

23 And so there's -- so they can present themselves  
24 and to verify that they're homeless. So my question is, do  
25 any of y'all have or know of forms or affidavits or

1 something that we could use that already exists that these  
2 youth could be using to demonstrate -- I'm thinking about  
3 education and McKinney-Vento, or you, Eric, just if you  
4 know of any of your network?

5 So if y'all have anything and we don't have to  
6 reinvent the wheel?

7 MR. DOYLE: You know, Valinda, that -- I know  
8 that in the TDC system, Texas Department of Corrections  
9 system, people that leave state jails and prisons with  
10 Texas IDs. It's not their prison ID, where you go show  
11 somebody that you want to get your -- want to rent an  
12 apartment and you've got your jumpsuit on.

13 Not that one. But to get them the Texas ID,  
14 TDCJ has made arrangements to get their birth certificates  
15 before they leave the unit, and so I don't know what forms  
16 they use to do that, or if it's an interagency agreement.  
17 I don't know.

18 But they talk to somebody and get their birth  
19 certificates if they were born in Texas.

20 MS. BOLTON: So we have typically,  
21 traditionally, up until recently, it's kind of fallen on  
22 the individual caseworker to work with the kid when  
23 they're, like, 16 to get their birth certificate and their  
24 ID, and you know, that was hit-or-miss, you know.

25 Kids don't meet with caseworker. Caseworkers

1 leave. You know, all kinds of things happen. So we've  
2 started a new system where -- when kids are 15, rather than  
3 waiting till they're 16, so that by the time they turn 16,  
4 they will have it.

5 So we are doing, like, a batch request. So our  
6 transitional living services, our folks that work with  
7 youth that are teams in aging-out, they do a -- every  
8 quarter, they look at who all is going to be turning 16 in  
9 the next quarter, and they batch request that over to DSHS,  
10 and then we get all of those birth certificates for that  
11 quarter.

12 Then they get FedExed out to the caseworkers,  
13 and then the youth sign that they've received them. So  
14 everybody seems to be -- that's -- I think that's only been  
15 in the last couple of quarters, we started doing that.

16 But it seems to be working and people are much  
17 happier with it, than with the kind one-at-a-time. And  
18 DSHS doesn't -- we're going to process the same number of  
19 birth certificates, whether you send them to us all at  
20 once, or like, you know, one at a time.

21 So that seems to be working. So this is like --  
22 those get lost, you know, or you know, kids move. They may  
23 not have all their things. So when they're between the  
24 ages of 18 and 21, they are able to utilize the provisions  
25 of this bill to get another certified copy of their birth

1 certificate.

2           So -- but if y'all have anything that you know  
3 of, that they are already being able to use to demonstrate  
4 that they are in fact homeless, that meet all the  
5 criteria -- because I think in the law, in the bill, it  
6 lays out what the criteria are for homeless, and they're  
7 straight out of McKinney-Vento, you know, all those same  
8 criteria.

9           So we just need to be able -- that they have  
10 something that says, okay, here you go.

11           MR. RAMIREZ: I know a lot of places that if  
12 you're working with a case manager, they can usually get an  
13 official letterhead --

14           MS. BOLTON: Uh-huh.

15           MR. RAMIREZ: -- to say that you're enrolled in  
16 the program, that you're on the homeless status, so the fee  
17 may be waived, so those --

18           MS. BOLTON: Okay.

19           MR. RAMIREZ: -- are a lot of the --

20           MS. BOLTON: Yeah. We're working on a -- kind  
21 of an affidavit, a form, that the --

22           MR. RAMIREZ: So --

23           MS. BOLTON: -- DFPS would, you know -- the  
24 caseworkers could print off and fill out. So maybe that  
25 will be sufficient. We'll see how it works.

1 MS. STAMP: For the school -- this is Jeanne  
2 Stamp -- for the schools, the schools are used to giving a  
3 letter from the homeless liaison for unaccompanied homeless  
4 youth so that they can be independent students on the FAFSA  
5 or for their college applications.

6 So you know, it could well be then, particularly  
7 with TEA's support, that that letter would go for them also  
8 to be able, not just unaccompanied, the homeless, period,  
9 to be able to get this ID or driver's license.

10 There might have to be some things worked out  
11 around confidentiality or something to do that, but it's  
12 not outside the realm of possibility. You know, one of the  
13 laws that just passed last legislative session makes Texas  
14 one of the few states that's going to require that all  
15 students complete the FAFSA before they leave school, and  
16 so that will be all homeless students as well, and that's  
17 not been the case before, and we do have a lot of districts  
18 where there's very low FAFSA applications, particularly for  
19 homeless students.

20 And we think this is going to really improve and  
21 increase access for those kids for college. So if those  
22 kinds of things are in place for the higher ed piece, it  
23 does seem likely that there could be something similar in  
24 place for them to be able to get the IDs and birth  
25 certificates, et cetera. Yeah.

1 MS. BOLTON: Okay, yeah.

2 MS. STAMP: But it does sound like a  
3 conversation maybe to have with the TEA.

4 MS. BOLTON: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

5 MR. DOYLE: Anything else, Valinda?

6 MR. SAMUELS: Well, I was going to say, Brett  
7 Merfish with Texas Appleseed --

8 MS. BOLTON: Yeah.

9 MR. SAMUELS: -- she was going to be here today.  
10 I guess she has a conflict. So maybe she's on the phone.  
11 But we're talking about this issue --

12 MS. BOLTON: Yeah.

13 MR. SAMUELS: -- later this week.

14 MS. BOLTON: She's actually on this work group.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

16 MS. BOLTON: We have a work group that's been  
17 working on this.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

19 MS. BOLTON: Yeah. So -- but she has been  
20 really helpful --

21 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

22 MS. BOLTON: -- so just rather than reinvent the  
23 wheel --

24 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: I'm sorry. I would like to  
25 add, as a provider organization, it's really helpful when

1 individuals have access to their documents. We know that  
2 they are misplacing their documents, and it creates very  
3 significant barriers for them to move through, and not only  
4 just anxiety, and people give -- so it costs them -- if  
5 there was a pilot, and I wonder if something that could be  
6 done to perhaps assist them to be able to create a  
7 mechanism where the documents are uploaded with a client  
8 portal, if they lose the documents; we know most of them  
9 will.

10 They can go into the portal and access the  
11 documents, and the documents are certified by the agency  
12 who was providing the documents. So they live up in the  
13 cloud, and then a person will go in and retrieve, or their  
14 provider organization will go in and retrieve that  
15 information.

16 I think that providing the kids or providing  
17 individuals currently homeless with documents, it's almost  
18 a guarantee that they're going to lose them. I mean, it  
19 happens all the time and it creates really significant  
20 barriers for case managers, people trying to remove off the  
21 streets.

22 If that's something that can be done? I'm  
23 thinking about, you know, the Washington people have sent  
24 data. You know, give us whatever it is that you need. Can  
25 you bring everyone together to create a system where all

1 those documents are uploaded, rather than giving the kids  
2 the information.

3 MS. BOLTON: I think we would need DSHS here for  
4 birth certificates.

5 MR. SAMUELS: What Darilyn was talking about,  
6 they've started calling it Bypass Austin. It's a  
7 blockchain project.

8 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: It's a blockchain project.  
9 Yeah.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. I've been involved with  
11 that, and that's very interesting. It's not even fully  
12 implemented in Austin yet.

13 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Right.

14 MR. SAMUELS: But that -- it does what you say  
15 it does, and I think --

16 MS. BOLTON: But does it include birth  
17 certificates?

18 MR. SAMUELS: It can include any documentation  
19 that people need, and it can also be stored in various  
20 places around the city, for example.

21 MS. BOLTON: Wow.

22 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. Kind of like a digital  
23 wallet, and digital wallet, digital locker, or blockchain.

24 MR. DOYLE: It's a document -- exists  
25 somewhere --

1 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

2 MR. DOYLE: -- technology the way it is today --

3 MR. SAMUELS: You need someone to attest that  
4 they have it.

5 MR. DURAN: Yeah.

6 MR. DOYLE: Exactly right.

7 MS. BOLTON: Yeah, yeah.

8 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

9 MS. BOLTON: Wow.

10 MS. LOPEZ: Hello, Valinda?

11 MS. BOLTON: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. LOPEZ: Hello. Can everybody hear me? This  
13 is Cal Lopez, with the Texas Education Agency.

14 MS. BOLTON: Hi.

15 MR. DOYLE: Hi, Cal.

16 MS. BOLTON: Yes. We can --

17 MS. LOPEZ: Hi.

18 MS. BOLTON: -- hear you.

19 MS. LOPEZ: Valinda, I was going to tell you  
20 that right now at TEA we're working closely with our  
21 Government Relations department. They, with some of our  
22 other departments' leadership, are looking at all the  
23 legislation that passed and how it impacts our various  
24 programs, including our Texas Education for Homeless  
25 Children and Youth Program.

1           So I was making a note so we can go ahead and  
2 look at this legislation, and see if we can make one of our  
3 priorities to come up with some sort of draft document that  
4 would help facilitate --

5           MS. BOLTON: Oh, wow.

6           MS. LOPEZ: -- our homeless youth in gathering  
7 their documentation, now that this legislation has passed.  
8 We can come up with a template and provide it to our  
9 school districts as a sample, but our school districts  
10 could also modify it to meet their needs of our documents.

11           So I will take that back to the agency, about  
12 that need, and then follow up with you as we move forward  
13 with that.

14           MS. BOLTON: That's --

15           MS. LOPEZ: How does that sound?

16           MS. BOLTON: That sounds awesome. Thank you.

17           MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Cal.

18           MS. LOPEZ: Okay.

19           MS. BOLTON: That would be great, because --

20           MS. LOPEZ: Sure.

21           MS. BOLTON: -- we have on this work group -- we  
22 have Texas Appleseed. We have DFPS. We have DSHS. We  
23 have DPS. And we have Texas CASA.

24           MS. LOPEZ: Okay.

25           MS. BOLTON: So having some help and connection

1 with TEA on this would be great. So thank you.

2 MS. LOPEZ: Okay.

3 MR. BUTLER: So are you --

4 MS. LOPEZ: Sure. No problem.

5 MR. BUTLER: -- wanting a form to get the kids  
6 IDs? Is that what you're --

7 MS. BOLTON: We got the -- the IDs, we got.

8 MR. BUTLER: Uh-huh.

9 MS. BOLTON: That's -- we have that. They can  
10 get their IDs or their driver's license, and there's going  
11 to be a mechanism in place for a fee waiver, so that even  
12 if they do --

13 MS. LOPEZ: Correct.

14 MS. BOLTON: -- lose them, they'll be able to  
15 get them. But the birth certificate is a little -- it's a  
16 whole -- it's a little --

17 MS. LOPEZ: The biggest issue.

18 MS. BOLTON: -- trickier. It's a whole  
19 different system.

20 MR. BUTLER: Okay, okay.

21 MS. BOLTON: Yeah. But --

22 MR. DOYLE: Cal, you're next on the agenda.  
23 Just keep it up.

24 MS. LOPEZ: Okay, okay. So I'm next on the  
25 agenda. Let me get to my notes here. Well, first of all,

1 good morning. I hope everybody's having a great summer.  
2 I'm glad I was able to call into the conference call and  
3 participate on today's meeting, and I wanted to go ahead  
4 and inform you of some upcoming changes regarding our Texas  
5 Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

6 First, in the spring of 2019, TEA conducted a  
7 grant competition for the program's technical assistance  
8 professional development and support provider. We had  
9 discussed this at prior meetings. And Educational Service  
10 Center 13, which is housed here in Austin, was selected as  
11 the recipient of this grant for the 2019-20 school year,  
12 and is now responsible for the staffing and support of our  
13 program's Technical Assistance Center.

14 The current technical assistance grant has  
15 historically been with Educational Regional Center 10,  
16 which is located in Dallas, who has subcontracted with the  
17 UT Data Center and the Texas Homeless Education Office,  
18 will end on August 31.

19 I wanted to say we recognize and appreciate the  
20 longstanding history, commitment and support that ESC 10  
21 and THEO has provided to TEA and Texas schools to ensure  
22 services and support for homeless students. We look  
23 forward to working with ESC 13 through General Educational  
24 Center 13, to advance and evolve and implement our Texas  
25 Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

1           Collectively, we all share a resounding  
2           commitment and resolve to see that all homeless students  
3           are properly identified and served within Texas public  
4           schools, and we'll be working over the summer to ensure a  
5           streamlined transition and continuity of services between  
6           all entities.

7           This is also an alignment with our time line  
8           within the agency. Our programs need to develop and goals  
9           and desired outcomes for the next school year or two, and I  
10          wanted to share what has been approved by the Texas  
11          Education Agency for this program is our four goals, of  
12          number one, increasing the number of school districts  
13          identifying homeless students by 10 percent.

14          Our baseline data is from the 2016-17 school  
15          year, and we had 278 districts in the state of Texas that  
16          identified zero homeless children and youth. Our next goal  
17          is to increase the number of homeless students graduating  
18          by 3 percent.

19          Our third goal is that 80 percent of our school  
20          districts, of our Educational Regional Centers, complete  
21          our Trainer of Trainers by the fall of 2020. And our  
22          fourth goal is that 80 percent of our school districts that  
23          have subgrants will incorporate our training component that  
24          will cover the risk factors and indicators of students  
25          experiencing homelessness.

1           So our theory of action is by competing out the  
2 technical assistance grant, by developing new creative  
3 resources that can be provided online and face-to-face, and  
4 by also providing additional grants to build capacity with  
5 our training Regional Educational Centers, that this will  
6 help to support and increase identification of homeless  
7 children and youth.

8           Now, I know at the last meeting I had shared  
9 about our posters. I unfortunately could not be there  
10 today, but in October, I will have the final version of the  
11 posters to provide. Our plan for the unveiling and  
12 dissemination of these posters is still to be -- for the  
13 posters to be sent out to our 20 Regional Educational  
14 Centers, and they will be distributing them to every school  
15 district in their region, both in English and Spanish, and  
16 that the Regional Educational Centers will also be the  
17 point of contact for any type of community collaborators,  
18 such as shelters, food pantries, so they can go ahead and  
19 receive the posters from the Educational Service Centers.

20           But it also gives the Educational Service  
21 Centers that point of contact with any type of community  
22 collaborators, and to help build that bridge between  
23 districts that are in need of those additional services,  
24 between the districts and those community collaborators.

25           So in addition to that, we will be providing

1 another grant that we're in the process of developing. We  
2 are very excited to say that we did go to a core meeting,  
3 and a core meeting is where all 20 of the Educational  
4 Regional Service Centers, either their executive directors  
5 or their deputy executive directors come together and have  
6 these meetings on a monthly basis.

7 We were able to come present to them, to share  
8 what our goals are for the upcoming year and to ask for  
9 their support as we continue to lay the building blocks and  
10 creating infrastructure to increase awareness of our  
11 statewide programs and how to support homeless students.

12 All 20 ESCs were very receptive to our proposal,  
13 and that for the first time historically in this program,  
14 we will be providing a -- what we call an ESC capacity  
15 building grant to all 20 ESCs to help support hopefully a  
16 part-time staff member at each Regional Educational Service  
17 Center to help support for them to be the first line of  
18 technical assistance out in their region, to be our first  
19 Trainer of Trainers, to help develop, invent any resources  
20 that we will be developing, to help -- to attend and  
21 present at our statewide conferences and to help expand the  
22 capacity out within the region.

23 Because as we've looked at the districts that  
24 we're identifying zero homeless children and youth, we did  
25 see that a large percentage of those districts are very

1 small, rural areas. And so part of our targeted technical  
2 assistance with our new grantee, Region 13, and with the  
3 ESC, through the capacity-building grant, will be to reach  
4 out to the ESCs that have the districts -- the largest  
5 number of districts that are identifying zero homeless  
6 children and youth, and provide some targeted technical  
7 assistance and training to see how we can help these  
8 districts identify students.

9           Because as we know, there are homeless children  
10 and youth in all areas in the state of Texas.

11           MR. DOYLE: So Cal, back to --

12           MS. LOPEZ: Was that it?

13           MR. DOYLE: -- your number one --

14           MS. LOPEZ: Okay.

15           MR. DOYLE: -- goal. You said to increase the  
16 number of school districts reporting zero homeless  
17 students, you said that 200 and how many were now reporting  
18 zero?

19           MS. LOPEZ: 278 school districts --

20           MR. DOYLE: Out of --

21           MS. LOPEZ: -- identified zero homeless children  
22 and youth.

23           MR. DOYLE: -- out of how many?

24           MS. LOPEZ: Out of over 1,200.

25           MR. DOYLE: 1,200 districts?

1 MS. LOPEZ: 1,200 -- yes. So 1,200 -- there --  
2 we serve over 1,200 districts. I believe it's 1,233. We  
3 had about 278 districts for the 2016-17 that identified  
4 homeless children and youth --

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

6 MS. LOPEZ: -- and we used the 2016-17 data as  
7 our baseline because 2017-18 was the year that Hurricane  
8 Harvey hit, and those numbers are higher than usual because  
9 of Hurricane Harvey.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I was just trying to get that  
11 number down. About 25 percent of the districts say they  
12 have no homeless students?

13 MS. LOPEZ: Yes, that is correct.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay, okay. Thank you for that.  
15 Anything else?

16 MS. LOPEZ: Oh, one more -- I just wanted to  
17 share. We're really excited about our program initiative  
18 and goals and desired outcomes for the upcoming year, and I  
19 should have a lot more information when we meet in October.

20 Several of these initiatives will be launched or  
21 pretty close to being developed. I also wanted to let you  
22 know that our planning and next steps include the  
23 development and implementation of our ESC capacity building  
24 grants, more updates on the transition to our new grantee,  
25 which is Region 13, having the final version of those

1 posters, and already being in the process of disseminating  
2 them, and we are trying to finalize the last items for the  
3 development of our grant for our statewide conference.

4 MR. DOYLE: Great. Keep up the good work.  
5 Sounds like y'all are doing great.

6 MS. LOPEZ: All right.

7 MR. DOYLE: Helen, are you --

8 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you.

9 MR. DOYLE: -- Helen, are you still on the  
10 phone?

11 MS. EISERT: I am on the phone.

12 MR. DOYLE: Tell us --

13 MS. EISERT: So hi.

14 MR. DOYLE: -- about HHSC.

15 MS. EISERT: Yeah. Hi, everybody. Sorry I  
16 joined late and that I can't be there in person, but like  
17 Cal, I am also very happy to be able to call in.

18 So I have four programs I wanted to provide  
19 updates on. And I think, Danny, were you able to print off  
20 copies?

21 MR. SHEA: Yeah. Everybody has a handout.

22 MS. EISERT: Yay. Okay. Good. So yeah. With  
23 our SHR, which is our Supportive Housing Rental Assistance  
24 Center, which we've been doing since, I believe, 2013,  
25 2014, and so those last few years, we've only -- we've had

1 20 of our 39 local mental health authorities and local  
2 behavioral health authorities that have been receiving  
3 funds to provide direct rental assistance to people, to  
4 their clients at their agencies, and then we're adding 16  
5 more centers beginning September 1.

6 So that will be a huge deal for those local  
7 communities where -- especially the smaller ones where  
8 that's -- you know, that might be the only housing resource  
9 that they have available to them. So I'm -- we're  
10 definitely excited to kind of see the impact of that over  
11 the next couple years.

12 With the Healthy Community Collaborative  
13 Program, House Bill 4468 will go into effect on  
14 September 1. So the big thing with Healthy Community  
15 Collaborative, one of the major challenges for our  
16 providers with the grant program, was the dollar-for-dollar  
17 private cash match that was required, and so the  
18 Legislature went ahead and passed the House Bill 4468,  
19 which changes the match to allow in-kind match.

20 And then for counties that have a population  
21 under 250,000, they're able to do a private cash match of  
22 25 percent of the grant, instead of 100 percent. So that's  
23 huge.

24 MR. DOYLE: Now, the handout says 100,000  
25 population. Is it 250?

1 MS. EISERT: Oh, no, I'm sorry. That's my  
2 fault. It's -- 100,000 is -- never mind. That's -- it's  
3 250,000. Yeah. So yeah. So we're really excited about  
4 kind of how it's seen, how -- what impact that has as well  
5 on the providers and future providers.

6 So on the Project Access pilot program -- so  
7 traditionally -- this has been around since 2012. It's a  
8 partnership with TDHCA where they take 10 percent of their  
9 vouchers for their Project Access program that are  
10 traditionally for people coming out of nursing homes and  
11 they -- but they designate it for people coming out of the  
12 state hospitals.

13 And so it's been primarily in Travis County  
14 that -- like, the waitlist is made up of people mostly from  
15 Travis County and ASH and Integral Care. And so we rolled  
16 that -- we did webinars this month to roll it out to the  
17 rest of the state.

18 And so my understanding from Andre with TDHCA is  
19 that they're definitely getting calls and requests to set  
20 up secure servers and things like that so that they can  
21 actually upload applications in different parts of the  
22 state.

23 So we're really excited to kind of see that  
24 waitlist have people from other areas of the state other  
25 than Travis County. So I think that will be a big deal. I

1 think it's going to require some probably more technical  
2 assistance on our end and on TDHCA's end, but we'll just  
3 keep collaborating together in figuring that out.

4 And on the 811 PRA Program -- so we have a firm  
5 called the Home and Community-Based Services Adult Mental  
6 Health, HCBSAMH, and there are recovery managers that are  
7 assigned to each participant in that Medicaid program, and  
8 so those people are going to get trained to be referral  
9 agents.

10 So we're really excited, because that program  
11 targets people that have been institutionalized for at  
12 least three of the last five years, and then there's  
13 people -- it targets to other groups, people that have had  
14 a high, kind of, utilization of the jail and also high  
15 utilization of the emergency room.

16 So yeah. I think that's my main update. I  
17 don't know if anyone's got any questions about that.

18 MR. DOYLE: Any --

19 MS. EISERT: I went through it pretty quick.

20 MR. DOYLE: -- any questions for Helen? Okay.

21 Thank you, Helen.

22 MS. EISERT: Okay. Thank you.

23 MR. DOYLE: Keep up the good work. Any other  
24 agencies have updates?

25 MS. BOSTON: I have a few things.

1 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

2 MS. BOSTON: One, for anyone who doesn't know,  
3 we have a new executive director starting on August 15.  
4 We've had an acting or interim director since November,  
5 David Cervantes, and you've done a great job, and now our  
6 new ED starts, and his name is Bobby Wilkinson.

7 He's been our liaison at the Governor's Office  
8 for quite a few years, so we're very excited. We're  
9 looking forward to him starting. Just as an update, we had  
10 applied for VASH, as you guys know, and just to update you  
11 on it, it's a tenant-based program.

12 We had been awarded 20 vouchers specifically to  
13 do work in the Galveston area. We have only received two  
14 referrals from the VA. So we've offered vouchers to the  
15 two we've gotten, but it's definitely slow-going. So I  
16 think the VA is struggling to find people who kind of fit  
17 the whole set of criteria that are required to be met for  
18 them to do the referral, which is disappointing by the --  
19 so we'll keep plugging away at that.

20 Two weeks ago, I think, the *Governing* magazine  
21 came to Austin and did a homeless event. I just wanted to  
22 tell you guys about it briefly. They sponsored it jointly  
23 with Amazon Web Services. There were -- it was mostly --  
24 most of the people in the room were from Austin and Travis  
25 County, people involved in homeless delivery, but there

1 were a few of us from the State.

2 Michael Wilt was there. And then a few folks  
3 from the Governor's Office. So it was nice. They just  
4 kind of talked through some different homeless issues going  
5 on, tried to, you know, brainstorm. So it was only two  
6 hours, and we talked about six issues.

7 So it was pretty high-level. But -- and then  
8 last, I would mention, one other source of homeless money  
9 that comes up periodically -- our Community Service Block  
10 Grants, CSBG, has a discretionary pot, and every two years  
11 we take a plan to the Board looking for approval on how to  
12 use that, and this time, when we took our draft out for  
13 comment, we had put in an increase.

14 In the past, we've done 50,000 in there to THN,  
15 and this time, we increased it to 75, and that got approved  
16 at our last Board meeting. So it's specifically so that  
17 THN can do collaborative efforts across the COCs, so not  
18 just within the BoS CoC, which is already their  
19 responsibility.

20 But then doing it -- trying to just kind of get  
21 the COCs talking more. So yeah.

22 MR. SAMUELS: And we truly appreciate that. You  
23 may not know, but the people behind the governing.com, that  
24 roundtable, they called me and asked me who to invite.  
25 You're one of the names I --

1 MS. BOSTON: Oh.

2 MR. SAMUELS: -- suggested, and I was going to  
3 do it, too, but I had the Mayors' Summit on Homelessness in  
4 Amarillo.

5 MS. BOSTON: Oh, wow.

6 MR. SAMUELS: So I had -- if the mayor is asking  
7 you do that, then I should do that --

8 MS. BOSTON: Yeah, yeah.

9 MR. SAMUELS: -- so I did that instead.

10 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

11 MR. SAMUELS: But thank you.

12 MR. DOYLE: Well, congratulations, and thank you  
13 again.

14 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

15 MR. DOYLE: In my discussion with several issues  
16 in the last couple of weeks with the Governor's Office  
17 around the issue of homelessness, I mentioned that, you  
18 know, it would be multiple times worse had TDHCA not  
19 intervened and provided support and leadership over these  
20 last years, and they were quite glad to hear that we set  
21 under y'all's leadership, so thanks again --

22 MS. BOSTON: Oh, good.

23 MR. DOYLE: -- for all you're doing.

24 MS. BOSTON: Certainly. Likewise.

25 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Okay. Anything else? Any

1 public comments?

2 MS. STAMP: I just have one.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

4 MS. STAMP: Thanks. So as Cal said, the grant  
5 funding has been given to Region 13. So our office will be  
6 closing as of August 31. Uh-huh. After 23 years, so we'll  
7 no longer exist, and the functions of our office then will  
8 be shifted over to Region 13 Educational Service Center.

9 So I want to say that again because there's --  
10 people sometimes don't make that connection between -- you  
11 know, is this the money that currently pays THEO, and it  
12 is. So for the last 23 years, that funding has gone to  
13 Region 10 Educational Service Center, and they contracted  
14 with us to do the work.

15 So it's now going to Region 13 Educational  
16 Service Center. So August 31 will be the last --

17 MR. DOYLE: No more THEO?

18 MS. STAMP: No more THEO.

19 MS. BOSTON: So she mentioned that there will be  
20 a transition. I guess --

21 MS. STAMP: Well, the transition's currently  
22 happening, because ESC 13 started on July 1, so --

23 MS. BOSTON: Oh, okay.

24 MS. STAMP: -- for the -- yeah. And our  
25 contract ends on August 31, so there's two months of

1 looking at trying to transition things over.

2 MS. BOSTON: Okay.

3 MR. DOYLE: So what happens to Jeanne?

4 MS. LOPEZ: I just wanted to chime in there.

5 Thank you, Jeanne. So there will be a transition, and also  
6 a rebranding of the program as well. The -- we will  
7 maintain the website and also the current website as we  
8 transition to the new website.

9 All the current resources will be archived and  
10 moved over to the new website. We are also in the process  
11 of maintaining the same 800 number. So all the work that  
12 has occurred in the past, that THEO and Jeanne and her team  
13 have done on our behalf, will continue.

14 It will just now be Region 13 who will be  
15 housing and staffing the team to do the same work. The  
16 project director for Region 13 -- her name is Willa,  
17 W-I-L-L-A, Rosen, R-O-S-E-N, and she will be the new  
18 project director for the technical assistance and training  
19 team.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay. All right. Any other  
21 updates? Public comments?

22 MR. SAMUELS: Two things, and I promise I won't  
23 talk too long. But number one -- so I wear two hats under  
24 our agency. We're the lead agency for the Texas Balance of  
25 State, and that continuum of care has its own board, and

1 one of the seats that we have reserved on that board is for  
2 a member of the Interagency Council.

3 We had Molly Voyles with TCFV, a member or  
4 whatever you call us, adjunct member. Anyway, we need  
5 someone to take that spot. So if there's interest from any  
6 of you in serving on the Texas Balance of State board on  
7 behalf of TICH, let me know, and we need to know by Friday.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

9 MR. SAMUELS: So there's -- I got one more  
10 thing.

11 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

12 MR. SAMUELS: And I -- so I just want to thank  
13 Jeanne and THEO for --

14 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

15 MR. SAMUELS: -- everything throughout the  
16 years, throughout the 23 years?

17 MS. STAMP: Twenty-three years at UT, though  
18 some of our staff actually started at TEA in 1988.

19 MR. SAMUELS: Wow.

20 MS. BOSTON: Wow.

21 MS. STAMP: So lots of historical institutional  
22 knowledge in the group.

23 MR. SAMUELS: But I mean, they've been partners  
24 with Texas Homeless Network since --

25 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

1 MR. SAMUELS: -- forever.

2 MR. DOYLE: Since --

3 MS. STAMP: Yeah.

4 MR. DOYLE: -- Barbara Wand James.

5 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, right. And not only on our  
6 annual conference on homelessness, but day in and day out,  
7 fielding calls from us. Over Thanksgiving, and at night,  
8 and so I just wanted to thank her and she'll pass along --

9 MS. STAMP: Yeah. It's been --

10 MR. SAMUELS: -- to her team.

11 MS. STAMP: -- a real honor to have the program  
12 and to serve everybody, and of course, we have wonderful  
13 relationships with school district staff, and that's really  
14 served us with being able to get kids enrolled and served  
15 in a way that they need to do, because we know everything  
16 happens out of relationships.

17 Right? Yeah.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. I was on my way up to  
19 Arkansas fo Thanksgiving one time, and I got a call from  
20 this really small town in central Texas. I've forgotten  
21 the name of it, but they said that we have a student --  
22 that he's been staying in our gym after the school closes  
23 because he has no place to go.

24 And we've got him. We obviously can't leave him  
25 in the gym over Thanksgiving holiday. So I called their

1 office. I think I got a hold of Patrick. In between  
2 Patrick and the liaison, they were able to find that kid  
3 some housing.

4 So we really appreciate your work. Thank you.

5 MS. STAMP: Well, you're very welcome. And it's  
6 been really great in that, with being able to work with  
7 groups like this on a state level, but then we're also able  
8 to be kind of hands-on with school district and the kids  
9 and the families, and so --

10 MR. DOYLE: Didn't that whole homeless liaison  
11 program start with THEO?

12 MS. STAMP: Well, it's a federal law, so the  
13 homeless liaison is a requirement of McKinney-Vento law.  
14 Right? But you know, over the years, obviously, it's  
15 getting everybody on board, and getting --

16 MR. DOYLE: Right.

17 MS. STAMP: -- school districts trained and  
18 making sure they try and do the right things for kids, you  
19 know, so it's -- yeah. It's been a 23-year project that  
20 we've just been very honored to be able to be a part of.

21 MR. DOYLE: Well, you've built a great  
22 foundation. Thank you for all --

23 MS. STAMP: Well, thank you.

24 MR. DOYLE: -- that happens. Okay. Our --

25 MS. LOPEZ: I just wanted to -- this is -- I

1 just wanted to chime in one last time. I'm sorry. This is  
2 Cal. But I also wanted to say a huge shout-out to THEO and  
3 to Region 10, in helping us transition as we move between  
4 the two grants.

5 Their support has been unbelievable, and we  
6 truly appreciate all their hard work.

7 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Cal. I appreciate that.

8 Okay. Our next meeting is October 8 at 11 o'clock at the  
9 Omni Hotel in Houston during the Texas Homeless Network  
10 Conference, so --

11 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. Please come.

12 MR. DOYLE: -- please make sure that you --

13 MR. SAMUELS: Register.

14 MR. DOYLE: -- at least call in by phone.

15 We'll -- we may have a voting item, and we won't -- we  
16 always have a hard time with quorum in those things. So if  
17 you can't come to the conference, be sure you call in by  
18 phone.

19 MR. SAMUELS: But do come to the conference.

20 MR. DOYLE: But do come to the conference.

21 Yeah. Okay. Thank y'all. Have a great rest of your  
22 summer.

23 (Whereupon, at 11:52 a.m., the meeting was  
24 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 30, 2019

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
numbers 1 through 101, inclusive, are the true, accurate,  
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording  
made by electronic recording by Elizabeth Stoddard before  
the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

DATE: August 5, 2019

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(Transcriber)

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