

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL  
FOR THE  
HOMELESS

via GoToWebinar

July 21, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

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I N D E X

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
I. Welcome and Introductions	3
II. Remarks from Chair	4
III. Approval of draft minutes from the January 21, 2020, TICH Meeting	5
IV. Proposed Edits to TICH Bylaws	--
V. Family First Prevention Services Act	60
VI. Updates from Texas Homeless Network	6
VII. Updates from Member Agencies	
(a) TDHCA	
I. Emergency Solutions Grants through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act	26
ii. Homeless Housing and Services Program	34
iii. Community Services Block Grant	35
iv. Section 811 Project Rental Assistance	44
(b) Texas Education Agency	49
(c) Health and Human Services Commission	55
(d) Other updates	68
VIII. Public Comment	none
IX. Closing Comments	71
X. Adjourn	72

P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
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MR. DOYLE: I will call to order the meeting  
and --

FEMALE VOICE: The broadcast is now starting.  
All attendees are in listen-only mode.

MR. DOYLE: I'll announce the fact that we have  
a quorum present, and so thank you for being here. If  
you're on the webinar, I think you can see up here on your  
right-hand side who all is here, so thank you for all of  
that.

I don't think we need to go through -- is there  
anybody that's on audio only that identify themselves?

MS. SYLVESTER: This is Megan Sylvester with  
TDHCA.

MR. DOYLE: Thank you. Hi, Megan. Dennis is  
there, but he's on --

DR. SCHOLL: Yeah. I'm on audio only.

MR. DOYLE: -- audio only.

DR. SCHOLL: Thanks, Mike.

MR. DOYLE: And I'm looking to see if there's  
anybody else.

MR. SHEA: It looks like Michael Wilt is also  
on audio only.

MR. DOYLE: Okay.

MR. WILT: I'm here.

1 MR. DOYLE: Good.

2 MR. SHEA: David Long is on audio only.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Well, we'll get started.  
4 We've got a few remarks. We're not going to be able to do  
5 anything about it today, but I got word from Naomi that  
6 the \$10,000 that TWC normally gives us that we've been  
7 using to hire VISTA do work around homelessness and jobs,  
8 there's just not enough money there for TDCJ -- or TDHCA  
9 to administer it.

10 We don't want to cause a burden on that, so  
11 I've talked to Ed Cerna, who is the new Executive Director  
12 that took over Larry Temple died, on the telephone, and  
13 explained to him what we try to do with that, and asked  
14 him if he please find a way to contract directly with THN  
15 to do that work, and he said he would get right on it.

16 So that was just yesterday that I talked to  
17 him. So we'll know more about that in the months to come,  
18 but really I don't want to burden TDHCA more than we  
19 already burden them, providing all the administrative  
20 support that they do for us.

21 So I'll keep you updated on that, and Eric,  
22 I'll keep you updated on that, but that's all I know about  
23 that particular subject right now. There were no pushback  
24 by Ed to say we can't do it this year. It was just a  
25 matter of let's try to figure how to do it directly with

1 THN. So --

2 MS. BOSTON: Thank you for doing that, Mike.

3 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. You have before you that you  
4 should -- that Danny sent everybody the minutes from the  
5 January 21 meeting. So that's a voting item. So I need a  
6 motion and a second to accept those minutes.

7 MS. BOSTON: So moved.

8 MR. DOYLE: Who was that?

9 MS. BOSTON: Brooke.

10 MR. DOYLE: Brooke? Okay. And a second?

11 MS. IRWIN: Claire seconds.

12 MR. DOYLE: We have a second. Are there any  
13 corrections or comments?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Then members all in favor  
16 say aye.

17 (Chorus of ayes.)

18 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

19 (No response.)

20 MR. DOYLE: Those do carry.

21 Stephanie, are you on? Stephanie Ridgway?

22 MR. SHEA: Mike, Heather Thorpe is actually  
23 going to be presenting from DFPS. She had a schedule  
24 conflict this morning, so she's going to present after the  
25 rest of the other agency updates.

1 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So we'll move on to Item  
2 No. VI. Eric Samuels, update from THN?

3 MR. SAMUELS: All right. Let me get my  
4 bearings, and first of all, thank you for talking to them,  
5 Mike, about possibly contracting with us directly. I  
6 would be interested to learn more. So I really appreciate  
7 that.

8 I think that money is being put to good use,  
9 and you'll hear about how we're using that money in just a  
10 second. Let me pull up my notes here. So before we  
11 begin, I think those joining us from Texas Homeless  
12 Network and joining me are Nick Thompson, our Statewide  
13 Initiatives Manager; and Joe Schultz, maybe Samantha Fox  
14 as well.

15 But could I have them introduce themselves if  
16 they're on, if they can?

17 MR. SCHULTZ: It may not be --

18 MR. SAMUELS: There you go. Go ahead.

19 MR. SCHULTZ: I guess I can do my video. Hi.  
20 I'm Joe Schultz. I'm a Statewide Data Sharing Initiatives  
21 Associate with Texas Homeless Network and currently an  
22 AmeriCorps VISTA position. I got entered into the meeting  
23 as a panelist, so that might not be exactly correct. Not  
24 quite sure, but nice to see y'all.

25 MR. SAMUELS: And in spite of the fact that

1 he's listed as me, he's not me. There.

2 Can Nick -- can you introduce yourself? He may  
3 be muted. I see a lot of faces, but I don't see Nick. So  
4 Nick is our Statewide Initiatives Manager, and among his  
5 tasks, he is the lead for the VISTA project that Mike  
6 referred to earlier, and he's been working to place VISTA  
7 members working with global entities, and primarily rural  
8 communities, to find help for veterans exiting  
9 homelessness or trying to stay out of homelessness, gain  
10 employment or better their employment opportunities.

11 Nick --

12 MR. THOMPSON: Now, Eric, I'm here.

13 MR. SAMUELS: There you go.

14 MR. THOMPSON: They had me muted before. I  
15 don't know if y'all can see me or not. I was muted by  
16 the -- it said, by the organizer. But hello, everyone.  
17 I'm the Statewide Initiatives Manager, like Eric was  
18 saying.

19 So far the progress that we have on our TICH  
20 VISTA project is that we have two sites confirmed, and  
21 those sites are United Way of Denton County and Central  
22 Texas Council of Governments. So we have a site in Denton  
23 and then a site in Belton.

24 Recruitment has definitely taken longer due to  
25 the pandemic and kind of the ebbs and flows of when

1 AmeriCorps VISTA -- when people actually apply to those  
2 positions as well, but we are actively recruiting.

3 MR. SAMUELS: And those should be two really  
4 good placement sites working with really established local  
5 homeless coalitions. So once they get someone in there,  
6 they should be off and running and doing good work.

7 So before I get to what's on the slide, let me  
8 just give you an update on our Texas Conference on Ending  
9 Homelessness. As you might imagine, the pandemic has  
10 really affected that conference and our planning for our  
11 conference.

12 You also may have seen -- if you are invited or  
13 a part of our newsletters or a part of our membership, you  
14 have seen that we have canceled that in-person conference  
15 that was to be held at the end of September or early  
16 October in south Austin at the Omni Southpark.

17 So that is cancelled. So that does affect the  
18 Council because we do have a meeting annually at our  
19 conference, so we probably should talk at some point today  
20 or after the meeting about when we can reschedule that.

21 Obviously, we'll not be at that conference. We  
22 are not trying to replace the conference with an online  
23 conference, per se. Well, we're not doing an online  
24 conference. We have -- we just feel like people are  
25 Zoomed out and they're webinar-ed out, and so we're not

1 going to ask people to pay, you know, hundreds of dollars  
2 to attend the webinar conference that they just might not  
3 have the endurance for at this point.

4 But we are going to try to add a few events  
5 throughout the fall and going into 2021, so just keep an  
6 eye out about that. One of the ideas that we're talking  
7 about around the same time of our conference is a State of  
8 Homelessness address, in which we look at homelessness  
9 statewide after analyzing our 2020 point-in-time count  
10 numbers some more, and then getting input from all of our  
11 continual leads from around the state, and then hopefully,  
12 maybe getting some policymakers involved.

13 So that's one thing. But we're also working on  
14 a few other things. So the number one takeaway from that,  
15 the annual conference, if you hadn't heard, is cancelled.

16 So I am sorry. It's been -- we've had the conference for  
17 about 18 years, I think, so it's really sad to have it  
18 cancelled one year.

19 We didn't want to do it, but we felt like we  
20 had to. Okay. Let me --

21 MR. DOYLE: So Eric?

22 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah? Go ahead.

23 MR. DOYLE: Have you discussed with TDHCA about  
24 the next TICH meeting that's usually at the conference?  
25 Are we doing to do a webinar like this, you think, or --

1 MR. SAMUELS: Well, I mean, I would be open to  
2 a webinar like this. I have not talked to anybody, and I  
3 apologize, Danny and Elizabeth, for not bringing this up  
4 earlier. If we have time, we could talk about it today,  
5 maybe schedule a time, or we could talk about it directly  
6 after.

7 MR. DOYLE: Well, if you can talk to Danny and  
8 Brooke or Elizabeth or whoever and just -- I mean, if  
9 we're going to a webinar like this one, it makes sense.  
10 We could do it just like this in October. But we just  
11 have to make it official and notice -- and let everybody  
12 know.

13 So discuss it and see what you want to do. But  
14 I don't think we need --

15 MR. SAMUELS: -- got to hold it the same time,  
16 too.

17 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Yeah.

18 MR. SAMUELS: So I just wish we were holding it  
19 and then going into opening session right afterwards, but  
20 that's not happening this year.

21 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. I understand. It's a  
22 strange --

23 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

24 MR. DOYLE: -- world we live in.

25 MR. SAMUELS: It sure is. So speaking about

1 that, let me give you an update on COVID-19 and what THN's  
2 been doing with that. And I'm going to try to get through  
3 this fast, but please, stop and ask questions -- stop me  
4 and ask questions if you need.

5 I'm not getting quite to that yet, Danny, but  
6 that's fine. So since March, our offices closed right  
7 around March 13, and almost immediately, we were contacted  
8 by HUD.

9 We started working with the HUD Disaster TA  
10 team to identify communities that were reacting and  
11 responding well to the pandemic, and then working with  
12 other communities to help them replicate some of these  
13 best practices, decompress their shelters, trying to  
14 implement food distribution programs that didn't bring  
15 everyone together, you know, in a big clump and  
16 potentially infect people. We worked with communities to  
17 try to get FEMA funding for hotel rooms so they could  
18 isolate.

19 So that work continued for a few months. It's  
20 kind of slowed down now, but it may be ramping back up. I  
21 don't know if Sophia is on the call, but Sophia, with our  
22 team, she's our Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care  
23 Lead.

24 She and her team have done an amazing job doing  
25 this with communities around the Balance of State, and

1 that will also -- I just want to applaud all of our CoC  
2 leads and our CoC teams and all the members for really  
3 stepping up around the state and doing great work.

4 One of the things we did is, we would reach out  
5 to Office of Emergency Management staff, public health  
6 departments, and bring on people from HUD and CDC to try  
7 to explain the importance of implementing some of these  
8 interventions. Again, that could be starting up again  
9 soon. We'll see.

10 We also worked with MCOs, our managed care  
11 organizations, to try to coordinate with them, and they've  
12 really helped us out a lot. Many of those managed care  
13 organizations donated PPE, which our team has been able to  
14 distribute around the state.

15 And I know a lot of other communities have  
16 benefitted from donations from not only managed care  
17 organizations but other organizations. We have sent  
18 around over 10,000 masks to 35 agencies who then  
19 distribute it to places around Texas.

20 We had a really good partnership start up with  
21 Texas Hospital Association. They worked with us to  
22 coordinate discharge planning for anyone who's homeless  
23 who goes into a hospital. When they're leaving, the  
24 hospitals in that hospital association have a good contact  
25 list of all of our CoC leads to help with a discharge

1 planning process.

2 I guess, beyond that, we received some money  
3 from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, 100,000,  
4 to help out in responding to this in terms of talking to  
5 policymakers, but also providing communities with money  
6 that's needed until some of the federal funding was able  
7 to come down. And that brings me to Nick talking about --  
8 well, actually, no. Nick already talked about the VISTA  
9 project.

10 So let's just get into the slides. I'm trying  
11 to do this fast. Danny, if you wouldn't mind going to the  
12 second slide?

13 So we had some preliminary findings from the  
14 2020 point-in-time count, finally. That was also delayed  
15 due to the pandemic. I'm not going to go through these  
16 number by number, but you can see the -- under the total  
17 column, the second row down, 27,229, that's the point-in-  
18 time count.

19 That is the one-day census of people  
20 experiencing homelessness, as counted by our 11 continua  
21 around the state. That represents a nearly 18 percent  
22 increase from five years before. Here in a little bit,  
23 you'll see a grid, a line graph, showing those numbers  
24 going up.

25 If you look down at the bottom, all the way to

1 the right, the number of people experiencing chronic  
2 homelessness. Luckily, that number hasn't increased  
3 dramatically from last year, but the bad thing is, it has  
4 increased. So if you wouldn't mind going to the next  
5 slide?

6 I'll just go through these next two real fast.

7 This is the slide on veterans. That number,  
8 unfortunately, did increase as well, again, not dramatic  
9 increase, but the bad thing is, it increased. And the  
10 number you're looking at is, under the total, the second  
11 row down, total number of persons.

12 That represents about a 200-person increase,  
13 which is not good.

14 MR. DOYLE: Hey, Eric?

15 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. Go ahead.

16 MR. DOYLE: This is Mike. Clarify for me, are  
17 these numbers that we were going to report as statewide  
18 homeless count numbers of all the 11 continuums, including  
19 Balance of State?

20 MR. SAMUELS: They are.

21 MR. DOYLE: So --

22 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

23 MR. DOYLE: -- back to the previous slide.

24 You're saying there are 27,000 in the state of Texas that  
25 were homeless?

1 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I just wanted to be --

3 MR. SAMUELS: Last year, there were --

4 MR. DOYLE: -- get my numbers right.

5 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. Last year, there were  
6 25,848, so --

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

8 MR. SAMUELS: -- just under 26, so we did have  
9 an increase.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

11 MR. SAMUELS: So the next slide is veterans,  
12 and then after that, I believe we have youth. Again,  
13 broken record, this -- the numbers went up from the year  
14 before. There's a lot of numbers in this table.

15 So what you want to look at is total number of  
16 persons, which was a -- this is total number of persons in  
17 parenting youth households, 600. That went up. I don't  
18 remember exactly by what percentage that went up, but it  
19 went up.

20 We'll have more detail for you. I literally  
21 did this last night. So I'll have more detail for you  
22 later. And then the last slide that has the statistics,  
23 this is just a summary of the subpopulations.

24 These numbers have -- they're up from the year  
25 before, for the most part. The percentages hold about the

1 same as they did the year before, but again, the bad thing  
2 is, they went up. Again, we'll have more information for  
3 you after that.

4 And I think the slide after that, I think  
5 that's the one with the line graph, Danny. No, it's not.

6 I forgot to put that in. I'll just tell you, the line  
7 graph did indicate that the increase in homelessness from  
8 five years ago to now, it's just under 18 percent.

9 It was 17.8 percent. So five years ago, we  
10 were in a position where we were showing a big decrease in  
11 homelessness. Unfortunately, over the last five years, we  
12 have steadily showed an increase, so we are not going in  
13 the right direction.

14 And if there is -- results of COVID, as  
15 predicted, are correct, that number could go up to as high  
16 as 40,000. So we need to do what we can to prevent that  
17 from happening, and we're working with our State agencies,  
18 many of whom are on here to do that.

19 Okay. One last --

20 MS. CANTU: Eric?

21 MR. SAMUELS: -- thing, or actually two last  
22 things -- go ahead.

23 MS. CANTU: This is Naomi Cantu with TDHCA. So  
24 is there any one region where it went up, or did it go up  
25 universally across Texas?

1 MR. SAMUELS: It went up, for the most part,  
2 across all of our communities. There are some communities  
3 where it went up a little higher than others. And I  
4 thought about showing those numbers, but I want to talk to  
5 the CoC leads before I start showing that information, and  
6 one of the reasons I want to do that is because, always,  
7 every year, where I get these numbers, these are the  
8 numbers that are sent to HUD.

9 HUD right now is looking at these numbers, and  
10 then they sometimes go back to those COCs, and they say --  
11 you know, they ask why these numbers are the way they are,  
12 and then sometimes those numbers change slightly. So I  
13 don't want to -- I don't know, for lack of a better  
14 word -- expose the CoC for having an huge increase when, a  
15 month or two from now, HUD may work with them to change  
16 the data or update the data, correct the data, so it  
17 doesn't show a big increase.

18 But for the most part, across the board, there  
19 was an increase.

20 MR. DOYLE: Hey, Eric? Do you got any  
21 conjecture on why?

22 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, I think -- I always point  
23 to lack of affordable housing. I think that's probably a  
24 big factor. Beyond that, I don't know -- a couple of  
25 years ago, I would have said Harvey was a big contributor,

1 but obviously it wasn't this year.

2 But I'd like to look into the numbers more to  
3 see. Unfortunately, this doesn't tell us a whole lot,  
4 these point-in-time numbers. We need better data to do  
5 that.

6 MR. DOYLE: I can look this up, but do you  
7 remember from the line graph you forgot to put in what the  
8 homeless population was five years ago when you said there  
9 was an 18 percent increase as of this point-in-time count?  
10 Because I'm wondering, as a percentage of population,  
11 what was it?

12 Texas had tremendous growth in the last five  
13 years. I'm just wondering what the percentage of homeless  
14 people are, compared to population?

15 MR. SAMUELS: You know, and that's an  
16 interesting question. I mean, that is something we can  
17 look at to see if that's keeping pace. Regardless, I  
18 mean, the number of people experiencing homelessness has  
19 gone up.

20 But yeah. That's something we should look at  
21 again. Six -- five years ago, it was 23,122, and --

22 MR. DOYLE: 23,122. Okay.

23 MR. SAMUELS: So yeah. Any other questions  
24 about the point-in-time count?

25 DR. SCHOLL: I have one question if I could,

1 Eric or Mike. This is Dr. Scholl. I just want to know  
2 where I might go for the best description of the point-in-  
3 time sampling methodology.

4 I'm kind of a statistics research guy from an  
5 old background, and sometimes, looking at the correlation  
6 between -- hey, is there somebody in the forest to hear  
7 the trees fall makes a big difference in what you count.  
8 And I think, from what I've seen over the last eight  
9 years, Texas has done a phenomenal job of being better at  
10 trying to address homelessness and to count it.

11 So I'm just wondering if we've factored out  
12 things such as, hey, how many people and how many  
13 communities, how any agencies, were involved each year in  
14 counting? And the point of vector, is there a correlation  
15 with the increased number of counters?

16 And you should see an increased number of  
17 people found homeless. So there may be some sort of  
18 margin or measurement error -- well, overall, a better  
19 result because it's like you've got the State paying  
20 better attention.

21 But like Mike said, maybe percentage-wise, in  
22 terms of total population, we're not getting worse, but we  
23 still have big problems. So I was wondering if there's a  
24 place where the statistical approach to point-in-time  
25 counting is best described? Thank you.

1           MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. And I can send out that  
2 information. I will say, every continuum of care does  
3 their count slightly different. So you do have that  
4 variability there. But you're right, Dr. Scholl. The  
5 greater number of volunteers you have out there, the  
6 better you're doing.

7           You know, you're going to find more people,  
8 because we know we aren't finding everyone. So that also  
9 is part of it. So I mean, we should look for all of those  
10 points of view.

11           Couple more things. Sorry. I know I'm taking  
12 up a long time. We -- just real quick update on our  
13 data -- Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network project. We  
14 are moving along, not as fast as I would like, but we're  
15 moving along.

16           Last fall, I think I reported during our  
17 meeting at the conference in Houston that we were in the  
18 planning phase for this Data Sharing Network. We  
19 completed that in March, and we completed a model of how  
20 we would share the data. And then if you'll go to the  
21 next slide? We created a governing body that's made up of  
22 members from each of our 11 continua -- actually, there  
23 are nine continua involved right now.

24           We're hoping the other two involve themselves.  
25 We call it the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network Board.

1       They govern the activities that are performed through  
2 THN. We have contracted with a vendor for -- to create a  
3 data warehouse which is the hub of the Data Sharing  
4 Network.

5               And right now, we have -- well, next week, we  
6 are interviewing for applicants for the Texas Homeless  
7 Data Sharing Network project manager. So we should have  
8 someone in place to guide this project full-time, and not  
9 be reliant upon me and Joe trying to spend what time we  
10 can on it.

11               So that, and then the data sharing agreement,  
12 we're finalizing. So hopefully, we'll start to implement  
13 this, late summer -- probably, actually, we're  
14 realistically looking -- probably early fall. And then  
15 the last slide is just kind of the representation of how  
16 that data is shared.

17               And that phase one is at the top. So we'll  
18 start pretty simple, adding the continuums of care shared  
19 data to the network, which is the right box there above  
20 the line. And then we will duplicate the data. We'll run  
21 analysis, start to get a better idea of the databases in  
22 the state of Texas, and then eventually, use it for  
23 external analysis and maybe create some public-facing  
24 dashboards.

25               And then eventually, the ultimate utility would

1 be that homeless crisis response systems and case managers  
2 could work with clients to gain consent to access data  
3 that may prove that they meet the level of primacy that  
4 would put them into a permanent housing project.

5 So that's just one example of how we could  
6 really benefit from the utility of this. So that's --  
7 we're in our implementation phase, and looking for more  
8 funding to continue on beyond that. But I think that's  
9 going to be something we'll have to engage in every year  
10 to keep this going.

11 But it's exciting because we're actually doing  
12 something. We're not just talking about it.

13 MR. DOYLE: Any questions for Eric?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. DOYLE: Well, I do. Continuum of care  
16 funding. Have you heard anything about the status of it,  
17 the amount of it?

18 MR. SAMUELS: No and no. We have talked to  
19 Senator Cornyn's office, Senator Cruz's office, to just  
20 try to get an idea of where it's at. Honestly, I don't  
21 know that anyone really knows when it might be released or  
22 if it's going to be released.

23 I think it would be -- this would be the  
24 year -- if we're not going to release it and not have a  
25 competition, this would be the year to do it. That's not

1 saying not to distribute the money. I think the programs  
2 that received the money in the past, it would be nice if  
3 they got the money again, and then we start looking  
4 towards the FY '21 competition.

5 But we don't know. We haven't heard for sure  
6 either way. We're gearing up for -- as if it will be  
7 released, just at a later time than it normally would.  
8 There could be some CoC leads on this call that you might  
9 want to --

10 MR. STREMLER: Mike, this is Jeremy. Sophia  
11 Checa from THN had a response to Dr. Scholl about  
12 methodology. So Sophia, I'm going to unmute you.

13 MS. CHECA: Oh, hey. Sorry. Dr. Scholl, what  
14 I said in the chat was that every continuum of care has to  
15 fill out questions about the point-in-time count,  
16 including their methodology, in their annual CoC  
17 application that they have to submit to HUD every year.

18 We're also required to post that on their  
19 website. So if you're interested in learning more about  
20 the specific methodology for each CoC, I recommend you  
21 check out the CoC application.

22 DR. SCHOLL: Thank you.

23 MS. CHECA: Yeah.

24 MR. DOYLE: So Eric, are you saying that you  
25 think that they -- Washington might in fact just fund the

1 renewals with no competition this year and go back to  
2 competition next year?

3 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, I don't know that I can  
4 predict what Washington is going to do, but I know that  
5 there has been talk of that. I'm not sure about in  
6 Washington -- when I say, talk about that, I mean, talk  
7 about that among CoC leads --

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

9 MR. SAMUELS: -- well [inaudible 29:07] across  
10 Texas.

11 MS. CHECA: I mean, Eric, if you want me -- so  
12 I've been hearing the same thing as Eric. I've been  
13 trying to ask our technical assistance providers if they  
14 can give me info on the sly, but they're good, and they  
15 don't tell me.

16 It also, I think, highly depends on whether  
17 the -- I think if the Heroes Act passes -- because I  
18 believe there is language in there about canceling  
19 competition this year. But I think, from what I've kind  
20 of heard from HUD, if they go any route, it would be to  
21 fund our renewal projects. So those that were funded last  
22 year -- but not necessarily require new applications.

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay, okay. And then, Eric, can  
24 you send to Danny these -- the slides, at least the  
25 numbers of the point-in-time count and get them out to the

1 Council so that we can have them in our little hands? And  
2 I know you might want to go over them and review them and  
3 talk to the COCs and -- but once they're official, will  
4 you get them to us?

5 MR. SAMUELS: Yes, I will. I will say, what I  
6 send out will be preliminary --

7 MR. DOYLE: Right.

8 MR. SAMUELS: -- because, like I said,  
9 [inaudible 30:16] sometimes changes those numbers.

10 MR. DOYLE: Right.

11 MR. SHEA: Mike, Nicole Wiscombe submitted in  
12 the questions thing. She said, she's a CoC lead  
13 administrator and her HUD TA provider for YHTP has  
14 indicated, as of July 16, that she was told to tell  
15 communities that COCs shouldn't worry about the CoC NOFA  
16 this year, but couldn't give more information than that.

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you, thank you.  
18 Anything else for Eric?

19 MR. SAMUELS: Well, I should mention, the  
20 annual report, which I'm responsible for updating, it's  
21 not updated, but I'm meeting with Joyce and Michael Wilt  
22 about it -- Joyce Pohlman. I'm sorry. I just know her as  
23 Joyce.

24 I thought everybody knows her as Joyce. Joyce  
25 Pohlman and Michael Wilt are going to meet with me next

1 week to start to update that, and hopefully, that won't  
2 take too long.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Great. All right. Item  
4 No. VII. Naomi, you're going to give us update on the  
5 Emergency Solutions grants?

6 MS. CANTU: Yes, I can do that. I've been  
7 working on that pretty consistently over the last several  
8 days. So TDHCA receives, typically, to give you context,  
9 about \$9.5, \$9.6 million a year in ESG, Emergency  
10 Solutions Grants funds.

11 Through the CARES Act, the first -- in the  
12 first allocation that was released by HUD in May, we  
13 received about 33 million, so almost three times the  
14 amount. And then in the second allocation released by HUD  
15 in -- what month is it?

16 I don't even know. In July, I believe. It was  
17 64 million. So we have about \$97 million through ESG  
18 CARES. So anyone keeping track, that's about 10 times the  
19 amount that we normally get through ESG. So right now, we  
20 have programmed the first allocation amount.

21 So again, that's the 33 million. We have  
22 programmed that, and we're working to get that out the  
23 door in contracts. So we did three main things with that  
24 money.

25 The first one was, we offered our existing ESG

1 subrecipients an award of ESG CARES funds, either in the  
2 amount of 100 or 200 percent, based on their expenditure  
3 rate of their current contract. So out of that, we got 49  
4 new contracts for ESG CARES. We're still working on  
5 activating some of those. So that's the number one thing  
6 we did with the money.

7 The second thing that we did with the money  
8 was, we contracted with the continuum of care leads, of  
9 which Texas Homeless Network was one, and they did a local  
10 subrecipient selection process throughout the state in  
11 each CoC region. We had eight CoC leads participate, but  
12 we have 11 COCs overall, so that means that three CoC  
13 regions did not have a coordinator.

14 So we reached out to the continuum of care  
15 awardees in those areas directly and asked if they would  
16 be interested in an ESG CARES contract. And we did have  
17 success in reaching those areas that have historically  
18 been underserved with ESG, and we now have providers in  
19 those areas that we're working for approval from our Board  
20 this Thursday, to work on a contract with them. So that  
21 was about 17 million through that second piece.

22 And then the third piece, which we're still in  
23 negotiations about, was general coordination and legal  
24 services. So part of it was with the CoC leads. That's  
25 part of the third piece that we are doing for that local

1 subrecipient selection. And also HMIS, or the Homeless  
2 Management Information System, updates so that reporting  
3 will be easier for our ESG CARES subrecipients.

4 So that's part of that. And then about 1.5  
5 million of that, we are working with legal service  
6 providers in order to, among other things, help prevent  
7 eviction. So we are in contracts with -- sorry --  
8 negotiations for contracts, I should say, with legal  
9 service providers throughout the state in order to procure  
10 their services for referrals for people who are facing  
11 eviction or other legal issues covered by ESG, usually  
12 related to housing.

13 So we are working on that as well. So those  
14 are the three things that we did. And then, of course,  
15 TDHCA admin for this -- the last pot of money through that  
16 amount. For the 64 million, we are still in the planning  
17 stage of that, and we do not -- we are still working on  
18 that, and we will be going out with outreach on that  
19 second amount, but we do have -- are going full steam  
20 ahead on that first amount, that 33 million.

21 Any questions?

22 MR. DOYLE: What -- Naomi, what is your hope  
23 that the increased funding will do?

24 MS. CANTU: There's a lot of things I would  
25 like it to do. So some of it is definitely to do street

1 outreach and emergency shelter. It can also be used for  
2 rental assistance, and a special thing that ESG can do  
3 that many other funding sources cannot do is, pay arrears.

4 So we can pay up to six months' worth of  
5 arrears in ESG in a one-time lump sum, and that might be  
6 very helpful, especially with the evictions looming, the  
7 moratorium lifting in the near future.

8 MR. DOYLE: I think that's --

9 MS. CANTU: But --

10 MR. DOYLE: -- lifting Friday, and that's what  
11 we're -- all of us are anticipating is -- we're going to  
12 not see people that need one month's rent. We're going to  
13 see people that need three months' rent or more. And so  
14 you're saying, ESG -- and is that a local option?

15 Or if our local CoC says, we can't pay arrears,  
16 can we say, yes, you can? Because you're [inaudible  
17 36:40].

18 MS. CANTU: So I don't know of any COCs that  
19 have said, definitely not arrears. And so that's a  
20 good -- that's good, in that sense. It is a federal  
21 allowance, so that they can pay arrears. They can limit  
22 it if they want to, but I have not heard anyone that's  
23 limiting that.

24 We are still working on getting a lot of the  
25 contracts out. Well, we haven't even awarded the second

1 17 million yet. That's going to be on Thursday. And then  
2 we're going to get those contracts out. So the money is  
3 going out the door into the communities, and that's what  
4 we're really aiming for.

5 We're going for speed as much as we're able.  
6 And there was one more thing about rental arrears I wanted  
7 to say, but I'm sorry. I forgot. It's the -- it's  
8 definitely something unique for ESG that I hope that can  
9 reach into the communities, especially coming up.

10 We do have several contracts for homeless  
11 prevention and rapid rehousing out there already, so that  
12 hopefully will be helpful.

13 MR. DOYLE: Great.

14 DR. SCHOLL: Mike, just a quick question?

15 MS. CANTU: Oh, sorry.

16 MR. DOYLE: Yes, Dennis?

17 DR. SCHOLL: This is Dennis again. I'm just  
18 wondering what the figures about the emergency and other  
19 homelessness, somewhere between 64 million of that -- is  
20 there a way to calculate, based on the 80,000 to maybe  
21 250,000 per year, what the, like, per homeless person  
22 investment and solutions comes to be?

23 Like, if a legislator said, well, how much do  
24 you spend per homeless person per year, could you do that  
25 math, based on Eric's figures and your figures?

1 MS. CANTU: That would be ambitious to try to  
2 do, because I work on one of the homeless programs out  
3 there, and continuum of care funds is another big -- a  
4 much larger homeless program. So trying to give an  
5 average amount for each person experiencing  
6 homelessness -- I can -- I mean, we can pull average  
7 amounts spent for ESG with some, you know, footnotes on  
8 what is actually paid for it, because someone in a shelter  
9 is going to cost different than someone who has rental  
10 assistance, for example.

11 So there's lots of different ways someone  
12 experiencing what we call homelessness, you know, is going  
13 to be assisted, but it's definitely something that we work  
14 on getting those averages for. Yes.

15 DR. SCHOLL: That came to mind between Eric's  
16 presentation and yours, reminded me of a project I was  
17 involved in, in Alaska, where they had to define the  
18 mental program of Alaska. And they got very expansive  
19 with all the departments, and finally added it all up,  
20 because individual legislators would want to know, how  
21 much money we are spending on each mentally ill person in  
22 our state.

23 It's kind of a simplistic question, but it's  
24 probably worthwhile having an approved answer to that.  
25 For example, if you're spending, per homeless person in

1 Texas, in excess of \$1,000 a month, it's, like, well, why  
2 don't we just buy you a home and be done with it?

3 So I think it's probably worth trying to do the  
4 math or logic it out, because sometimes the expenses seem  
5 enormous compared to the measured problem. So just a  
6 suggestion.

7 MS. CANTU: Thank you. And I did remember what  
8 I wanted to say about rental arrears. Mike, you asked if  
9 it's a local issue as well. I did want to tell everyone  
10 that the State got a large portion of ESG CARES, but lots  
11 of local communities that already got ESG also got ESG  
12 CARES.

13 So again, TDHCA is not the only game in town  
14 when it comes to ESG CARES. There's lots of larger cities  
15 and counties that also get ESG CARES directly from HUD.

16 DR. SCHOLL: Okay. Thank you.

17 MS. CHECA: Can I -- this is Sophia with the  
18 Balance of State. Can I ask a quick question?

19 MR. DOYLE: Sure.

20 MS. CHECA: Naomi, this might be a silly  
21 question, but I don't quite understand how continuums of  
22 care can restrict rental arrears when the contract isn't  
23 between the continuum of care and the subrecipient, but is  
24 rather between y'all and the subrecipient.

25 MS. CANTU: That's a good question. So you

1 can -- okay. Not you, as in the CoC, but some CoCs have  
2 written standards for their entire CoC, especially when  
3 they're smaller CoC areas, and then the ESG subrecipient  
4 will adopt those written standards.

5 So if that CoC written standard does limit  
6 activity in a certain way, then that would be a way that  
7 the CoC can affect what is offered through ESG. Does that  
8 help?

9 MS. SYLVESTER: Naomi, this is Megan. Let me  
10 clarify this a little bit. As part of the ESG regulation,  
11 if a CoC has adopted those written standards, all of the  
12 ESG subrecipients in the CoC's area have to follow those  
13 written standards.

14 ESG doesn't have a choice there generally.  
15 There's some exceptions to that --

16 MS. CANTU: Yes, yes.

17 MS. SYLVESTER: -- around --

18 MS. CANTU: We have exceptions there --

19 MS. SYLVESTER: -- and I think -- and  
20 especially around persons experiencing domestic or family  
21 violence. But generally, the State has taken the position  
22 that if, you know -- if a CoC has adopted the standards,  
23 that's the standards that need to be followed in that area  
24 so that -- it's kind of like you're getting the same  
25 benefit, no matter which door you applied through. So --

1 MS. CHECA: Got you. Yes. That makes sense.

2 MS. SYLVESTER: Okay.

3 MS. CANTU: So Megan's talk about coordinated  
4 entry or access, and I was talking about the written  
5 standards which are adopted by our local ESG  
6 subrecipients, which outline what can be offered by that  
7 subrecipient, but maybe we're cross-channeling here.

8 MS. BOSTON: One other -- this is Brooke. So  
9 I'll also just mention -- I don't know. Naomi, did you  
10 mention the second batch of ESG funds?

11 MS. CANTU: The 64 million?

12 MS. BOSTON: Uh-huh.

13 MS. CANTU: Yeah.

14 MS. BOSTON: Okay.

15 MS. CANTU: And that we're still in planning  
16 process for that.

17 MS. BOSTON: Right. Yeah. We'll hopefully  
18 take something to our board in September.

19 MR. DOYLE: Good. Okay. Naomi, you were going  
20 to talk about homeless housing.

21 MS. CANTU: Yes. So this one's a smaller one,  
22 a smaller update. We did get permission from the  
23 Comptroller to reuse some of the funds that were not used  
24 in previous years through the Homeless Housing and  
25 Services Program.

1           So let me back up one bit. So Homeless Housing  
2 and Services Program is a State general revenue program.  
3 It had about 4.9 million a year in the general set-aside  
4 for general homeless activities, and then 1.5 million a  
5 year for youth set-aside activities.

6           We had some funds that were not spent in 2018  
7 and 2019 fiscal years, and we got permission from the  
8 Comptroller to reallocate that funding specifically for  
9 COVID-related issues. So we were able to reallocate about  
10 \$239,000. So not a huge chunk of money, but it is  
11 something that is going to hopefully make a difference in  
12 the communities, and we were able to get it out there  
13 relatively quickly.

14           So that is the update for that. As a reminder,  
15 the HHSP, or Homeless Housing and Services Program, its  
16 population -- it goes to the cities with the population --  
17 based on population, and it affects nine largest cities in  
18 Texas.

19           MR. DOYLE: Good. Okay.

20           MS. CANTU: That's my update on that.

21           MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Naomi. Gavin, you're  
22 going to talk about the Community Services Block Grant?

23           MR. REID: That is correct. Yes. Thank you.  
24 I'm Gavin Reid, Manager of Planning and Training in the  
25 Community Affairs Division at TDHCA. Nice to meet

1 everyone. I like to get on here every couple years. I  
2 mean -- and on here, I mean, the TICH -- a TICH meeting,  
3 to remind everybody and give an overview of the Community  
4 Services Block Grant, which I'll refer to as CSBG from  
5 here on out as, you know, a shortened acronym.

6 But the whole purpose of me asking for this  
7 agenda item is just to take a few minutes and kind of give  
8 a surface-level overview of Community Service Block Grant  
9 funds, which TDHCA administers, with the hopes of, you  
10 know, just sharing information, collaboration, maybe  
11 partnering with some of your organizations.

12 I know we already partner with THN because they  
13 get some CSBG funds. But -- and you'll see in front of  
14 you a little information sheet. It's only a couple pages.

15 And the organizer will be sending this out to everyone.  
16 I'm just going to kind of cover some of the highlights of  
17 it, and I'll talk more about kind of this little  
18 information sheet or quick reference guide, I guess, to  
19 CSBG at the end also.

20 But as far as CSBG goes, the purpose is to  
21 alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in  
22 communities and empower low-income persons to become self-  
23 sufficient. So we have similar goals in all this. It's  
24 funded by the United States Department of Health and Human  
25 Services, which I'll call, the grantor, and it's

1 distributed to all the states and some territories and  
2 travel organizations, which I'll call the grantee.

3           So -- and we are -- TDHCA is the grantee. We  
4 kind of act as a pass-through to eligible entities who  
5 actually do the front-line work with the low-income  
6 persons throughout the state. So we have 40 eligible  
7 entities throughout the state, and when I get to the math  
8 on the second page here, you can -- you'll be able to kind  
9 of see the entities and how small some of them are and how  
10 big some of them are.

11           But you know, some can contain -- some can have  
12 a jurisdiction over 25 counties, and others, just maybe  
13 one county. So the sizes vary. But we call them  
14 "eligible entities" in terms of CSBG, maybe rather than  
15 "subrecipients," so don't get confused by that  
16 terminology. That's just CSBG terminology.

17           But there's 254 counties in the state of Texas.  
18 All 254 counties are covered by one of these CSBG-  
19 eligible entities. And these eligible entities, they can  
20 be private nonprofits or local government, or units of  
21 local government.

22           So just to kind of give you an idea of the  
23 money we're talking about, in 2020, which is this year,  
24 Texas received 35-1/2 million for regular CSBG. I'm  
25 calling it regular CSBG because this year is an odd year,

1 as everybody knows.

2 And we received \$48 million for CARES, what  
3 we're calling CSBG CARES. Of course, you know, that  
4 48 million, that's due to the pandemic, of course, and for  
5 the heightened need, I guess, because of the pandemic.  
6 That's distributed.

7 That money, that allotment of 35-1/2 million  
8 and 48 million is distributed by a formula, which is in  
9 our rules, and it goes -- it's based on poverty, you know,  
10 to all of those 40 eligible entities, but they all get a  
11 slice of that allocation.

12 Now, importantly, one of the more significant  
13 points here is CSBG funding or assistance, I should say,  
14 is not for everyone, you know. It's not for everybody in  
15 the state. So there's certain requirements, and the major  
16 requirement, of course, is income eligibility.

17 So normally, it's 125 percent, or below, of  
18 federal poverty income guidelines, but for CARES, it's --  
19 we've raised it up to 200 percent for COVID-related  
20 issues. So again, you know, going back to, hey, it's an  
21 odd year, but normally, it's 125 percent, but this year,  
22 for COVID-related purposes, it's 200 percent.

23 MR. DOYLE: Gavin?

24 MR. REID: Yes?

25 MR. DOYLE: Is that through December?

1           MR. REID: No. It goes beyond December. This  
2 is going through September 2022.

3           MR. DOYLE: Oh, okay.

4           MR. REID: Yes, yes. Okay. And so what can  
5 you do with CSBG assistance? Now, that's really at the  
6 local level, but it's a broad array of services, depending  
7 on the entity who's providing the assistance. But let me  
8 give you some examples of this broad array of services.

9           It can be used for transportation, like if  
10 somebody has difficulty getting to their job or school.  
11 It could be used for that. Bus passes, or you know, even  
12 Uber. I've seen Uber requests come along. Again, I'm not  
13 handling the requests myself from the clients or TDHCA  
14 isn't, but these eligible entities are, and they're at the  
15 front lines.

16           But it could also be used for case management,  
17 just getting people through -- you know, out of this  
18 poverty cycle that they may be in. Education and  
19 employment programs, that's probably the biggest piece of  
20 this, you know, trying to get educated. More assistance  
21 with education and employment, because that's what's going  
22 to get people out of poverty is -- it tries to get at the  
23 root causes of this stuff.

24           Utility assistance, although we have our own  
25 program for utility assistance, which I'm not talk about

1 today, but in certain cases, CSBG can provide utility  
2 assistance. Food pantries, which means, you know,  
3 assistance for food, if somebody's needing food.

4 And probably another big part of it is  
5 coordination with other organizations in that community,  
6 so, you know, it's a network. You know, somebody comes  
7 into one of these CSBG-eligible entities, they can get  
8 information on, you know -- hey, the church down the  
9 street does this, and you know, the -- you know, some  
10 other organization down the other street does this.

11 So it's a connecting -- a networking assistance  
12 also. And to kind of give you an idea, kind of my last  
13 bullet down there, is -- in 2019, CSBG-eligible entities  
14 assisted approximately 362,000 low income persons, and  
15 assisted just over 1,000 persons achieve incomes above  
16 poverty, on their way to self-sufficiency.

17 We call that transitioning out of poverty.  
18 That's a big deal, trying -- and there's a certain method  
19 to do that. They have to achieve 90 days of above the  
20 federal poverty income guidelines, and then we consider  
21 that transition out of poverty. And on their way to  
22 hopeful, increased success and not come back into poverty  
23 cycle.

24 So I've just kind of given you, again, wave  
25 tops of CSBG. It's just a basic overview, and down here,

1 kind of towards the bottom, when you get -- receive this  
2 flyer, if you want -- if you're more interested in the  
3 eligible entities that provide services throughout the  
4 state at the local level, there are a couple ways to look  
5 that up, and that's what I've got down there at the  
6 bottom, kind of one and two.

7           You can go on our website, TDHCA website, and  
8 there's a Help for Texans tab, and I've provided the  
9 direct link for you there. You can go in there, and  
10 there's three easy steps. Some of you may or may not be  
11 familiar with this, but step one is to find the service  
12 that they're looking for.

13           You'll see a bunch of others. Maybe rental  
14 assistance is one, utility assistance or weatherization is  
15 another. But the one for CSBG, if you're looking for the  
16 CSBG organization, it's considered emergency and homeless  
17 services, and you click on that.

18           Then, you'd enter either the city or the  
19 county, because we need to know that, and according to the  
20 map, which I'll show you here in a bit. That will tell  
21 you which -- you'll enter that, and then you just click,  
22 "find help."

23           So if any of you were interested -- hey, I want  
24 to -- you know, I want to connect somebody with one of  
25 these CSBG-eligible entities in, you know, Smith County,

1 and you could type in -- you could follow those three easy  
2 steps to find that organization, or you can also go on the  
3 TDHCA website, and at that link right there, we have a  
4 listing of all the eligible entities by county, located  
5 there.

6 So that's another way to look at it. Or you  
7 know, you could always contact one of us. I've put Rita  
8 Gonzalez Garza's phone number and email at the bottom  
9 there. Now, it's probably -- because TDHCA [phonetic  
10 55:45] staff are working remotely right now, to -- you  
11 know, email is better than calling.

12 It just might be a quicker, easier way during  
13 this virtual period. But anyway, those are some ways to  
14 find the eligible entities in your area. So yeah. Let's  
15 go to that second page there. So in front of you, you can  
16 kind of see the map.

17 And again, this will be sent out to you. It's  
18 kind of small here, but on the left, if you were to count  
19 them up, there's 40 eligible entities, and the acronyms --  
20 we go by acronyms, because some of them have long names,  
21 and that's their names.

22 And then, you know, on the map itself, you can  
23 kind of see the wide range of sizes of these eligible  
24 entities. It hasn't changed since October 2017, because  
25 once an eligible entity gets on, you know, they pretty

1 much stay on for a while, and so don't be alarmed by  
2 just -- October 2017.

3 This is updated. It's just that's the last  
4 time we had to update it. But you can see some  
5 counties -- or some eligible entities just cover one  
6 county, and others, like in the Panhandle, PCS there in  
7 the upper left, they cover, like, 25 or 26 counties.

8 So all that is to say, to kind of bring it  
9 around to the beginning of what I said, trying to partner,  
10 collaborate, share information, that's part of the goal.  
11 That's part of the CSBG Act. And I kind of wanted just to  
12 read a small, little segment of that, which is the reason  
13 I'm on here with you, with your other organizations.

14 CSBG Act partially states in it that "the state  
15 and eligible entities" -- whom I just talked about -- "in  
16 the state will coordinate programs with and form  
17 partnerships with other organizations serving low income  
18 residents."

19 So that's kind of why I'm on here. So how can  
20 you help with this? If you can send maybe this info, if  
21 you aren't the person to handle this, if you know somebody  
22 in your agency, or you know somebody you might know, take  
23 this information sheet and send this them, and say, hey,  
24 you might be interested in more on this.

25 Contact Rita, you know, whose name is on the

1 bottom of that first page. And you know, we can start  
2 sharing, maybe coming up with some sort of coordination  
3 and partnership. I can give you information about the  
4 local office, whatever area of the state you're talking  
5 about.

6 Or if you have -- if you're in an organization  
7 that does have field offices and you can just take this  
8 information sheet and send that to your local field  
9 office, and then they can talk -- contact the CSBG  
10 provider in that area and maybe work together to come up  
11 with better solutions to alleviate poverty.

12 So anyway, that's my spiel. I hope I haven't  
13 taken up too much time, but again, I like to get on here  
14 every couple years and remind everybody of this. So if  
15 there's any questions, I'm able to ask them -- I mean,  
16 answer them.

17 MR. DOYLE: Any questions for Gavin?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Gavin. That was  
20 helpful.

21 MR. REID: Okay. You're welcome. Thank you.

22 MR. DOYLE: Spencer, 811 Project?

23 MS. McCARTHY: Hi. This Monica McCarthy, and  
24 I'm going to be speaking instead of Spencer today.

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

1 MS. McCARTHY: I'm Program Specialist on our  
2 Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program. And so I  
3 provide support and manage our waiting list to our 148  
4 properties in the eight MSAs across Texas. And as you all  
5 know, we're a HUD-funded program providing rental  
6 assistance to extremely low-income adults with  
7 disabilities and their households.

8 These would be adults who are eligible for  
9 supportive services and are referred to our program by our  
10 partner referral agencies. The vast majority of our  
11 referrals and our tenants in the program continue to come  
12 from one of the three target populations we serve, which  
13 would be those with serious mental illness, and these  
14 referrals generally come from the local mental health and  
15 behavioral health authorities.

16 The vast majority of these applicants and  
17 tenants self-report that they're experiencing homelessness  
18 or they would be at risk of homelessness. So we didn't  
19 receive any specific CARES funding on our program, but I  
20 was just asked to provide a general update around our  
21 program, with everything that's going on with COVID and  
22 also just some of what's happened since January.

23 So at this time, we -- the program in the  
24 lifetime of the program has housed 506 households and  
25 we're currently housing 439. Under COVID, we've had, of

1 course, challenges that others have been seeing around  
2 limiting face-to-face contact, be it for our service-  
3 providing partner agencies or our properties.

4 So this has certainly slowed some of the  
5 leasing and that sort of thing, but we have been able to  
6 continue to house new households, and we're providing  
7 training and support to our properties and referring  
8 agents virtually.

9 We have written out two grants from HUD, about  
10 \$12 million each, and so we have recently fully committed  
11 our first grant. And under this grant, we'll stabilize to  
12 be housing somewhere around 275 households. That number  
13 is lower than what we had initially predicted, just due to  
14 increasing rents, mostly.

15 And we continue to house new households under  
16 our second grant, and we hope to house somewhere between  
17 80 to 100 more households, as we work to commit those  
18 funds. We did, back in February, apply for more funding  
19 from HUD, and we have not yet heard back on that  
20 application, so we're -- it could be any day now.

21 We look forward to hearing about that. In  
22 February and in April, we've begun to have to close many  
23 of our waiting lists due to excessive wait times. So  
24 right now, we have five counties closed, which is meaning  
25 we cannot accept new applications for properties in those

1 areas, and those would include Bexar County, Dallas,  
2 Harris, Travis and Nueces.

3 That's not to say that -- we still have 34  
4 other counties that we're serving, where we are accepting  
5 new applications. And we're continuing to house  
6 applicants in all of the areas. It's just that we want to  
7 be able to manage expectations and serve those who are  
8 already sitting on our wait list.

9 We're excited to announce that we have launched  
10 a new damage fund for our participating properties, and  
11 this is funded through the Money Follows the Person  
12 Program, and through this program, we are able to  
13 reimburse repairs that properties might make on units that  
14 were occupied by one of our 811 tenants.

15 And we launched this about a month ago, and  
16 we've already had two requests come through for minor  
17 repairs on some of our units. And we really want to use  
18 this as a buoy of support for our property managers in the  
19 program.

20 In the next month or so, we'll also be  
21 launching what we're calling our Barrier-Busting Fund.  
22 And these are going to be funds available for applicants  
23 in our program who have been rejected by a property due to  
24 either credit, criminal or landlord history, where we'd  
25 essentially be offering to the property payment in order

1 for them to lower their screening criteria and house that  
2 individual.

3 So that's something we're excited about and  
4 we'll be putting more information about, once that's  
5 started. Back in February, we had a new full-time  
6 employee, who's Kaitlin Devlin, our program liaison,  
7 start, and she's been doing a great job supporting  
8 applicants and tenants in our program, and she's also  
9 funded through Money Follows the Person.

10 So really happy to have Kaitlin on board. And  
11 also excited to report out that we've begun having our  
12 first move-ins in the McAllen MSA. So this was sort of  
13 the last MSA where we had properties finally coming on  
14 board and beginning their leasing.

15 And so that was another thing that we are  
16 excited about, to now be housing folks in each of the MSAs  
17 that we are serving. And I think that was all that I had,  
18 so I'm happy to take any questions, if there are any.

19 MR. DOYLE: Anybody for Monica?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Monica. That was  
22 helpful.

23 MS. MCCARTHY: Sure thing.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Cal, nothing going on at the  
25 education system these days?

1 MS. LOPEZ: Well, good morning. I have lots of  
2 updates for everyone. I first wanted to start off with,  
3 any websites or resources that I mention in my update,  
4 I'll go ahead and provide to Danny so he can send them out  
5 to the group.

6 I want to share that, first, if you have not  
7 visited our TEA COVID-19 webpage, I highly encourage you  
8 to do that. It is updated on a weekly and sometimes even  
9 a daily basis with new resources regarding how to support  
10 our school districts or county updates about COVID-19.

11 It has FAQs, guidance documents, YouTube  
12 videos, and so I'll be providing that information. There  
13 is a section for special populations in which you will  
14 find resources for students experiencing homelessness, in  
15 foster care or military-connected, mental health  
16 resources.

17 And so we did develop and release an FAQ  
18 document for students experiencing homelessness. There  
19 was multiple iterations of that document, and I'll provide  
20 the link to that as well. In addition to that, we also  
21 had a COVID-19 webinar, a statewide COVID-19 webinar on  
22 how to support students experiencing homelessness.

23 And so in addition to that, we also developed  
24 five tools. They were checklists for strategies and best  
25 practices for school districts to consider when

1 identifying students, given now that they were  
2 participating through at-home curriculum, identification  
3 tool that teachers and other school staff could utilize to  
4 help identify students while they were receiving at-home  
5 curriculum, and strategies and best practices to support  
6 students and families who are living in shelters or living  
7 in hotels and motels, and who were doubled up.

8           And so this information can be found on our  
9 TEHCY COVID-19 webpage, and again, I will send out all the  
10 links and the resources to share with everyone in the  
11 group. And so in addition to that, as we're getting ready  
12 for the '20-'21 school year, we're in the process of  
13 developing another FAQ to help support school districts  
14 and our Regional Educational Service Centers and other  
15 stakeholders to support students as they either re-enroll  
16 or come back to whether on campus, remote or blended  
17 curriculum.

18           So additional resources are in the process  
19 right now. Even a highly mobile and at-risk student guide  
20 has been completed and is in the vetting process. So very  
21 excited to share all of this information. In addition to  
22 that, on the grant front, we have been very busy.

23           We actually received one of the largest grants  
24 that we have ever gotten from the U.S. Department of  
25 Education. We are on year three, the final year, of our

1 competitive subgrant that does go out to school districts  
2 and our Regional Educational Service Centers.

3 We are anticipating awarding over \$9 million  
4 this year, which is a little more than a \$2 million  
5 increase from the previous year. This will go out to 75  
6 of our subgrantees, which includes 71 school districts and  
7 four of our Regional Educational Centers that have a  
8 shared service arrangement with other districts for a  
9 total of 120 participating districts.

10 The grant period is from September 1 to  
11 August 31. The grant application is due here on  
12 August 10, and we did increase the funding allocation for  
13 our homeless students from \$75 to \$130. So we are glad to  
14 increase the funding for our current subgrantees, as we  
15 know that we are anticipating an uptick in identifications  
16 of students experiencing homelessness for the upcoming  
17 year.

18 I also wanted to share that, given that this is  
19 the final year of the competitive grant, we'll be in the  
20 process of developing the new grant competition, which  
21 will be held on early spring 2021. I anticipate that new  
22 application being released either January or February  
23 2021.

24 So I'm excited to share the increase in the  
25 funds and how it's going out to our districts. In

1 addition to that, we also have a grant called our  
2 Educational Service Center Capacity Grant. We're going to  
3 continue this grant.

4 We're wrapping up the first year and going into  
5 the second year. This is a noncompetitive grant, but it's  
6 awarded to all 20 of our Regional Educational Service  
7 Centers across the state of Texas. The purpose is to  
8 strengthen statewide regional and local infrastructure we  
9 have, and to also support the very small and rural  
10 districts that do not have or receive some of these  
11 competitive grant funds.

12 Each one of our 20 Regional Educational Centers  
13 will be receiving \$40,000 through this grant. This is an  
14 increase from last year in which they each received  
15 25,000. So we're excited again to provide those  
16 additional funds regionally to help support  
17 identification, enrollment and other support services.

18 And then lastly, we have another grant which is  
19 for our Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth  
20 and Program Summit. I had shared previously that the  
21 Texas Network of Youth Services, or TNOYS, received this  
22 grant to help TEA develop our statewide conference.

23 It was originally supposed to be a face-to-face  
24 conference held in August, but due to COVID, we've done a  
25 pivot, and we're going 100 percent virtual. This

1 conference will be in September, on Tuesday, September 15  
2 and September -- and Thursday, September 17.

3 We'll have multiple keynote speakers. We'll  
4 have seven training tracks, approximately 35 to 40  
5 sessions. The slogan is "The Texas Education for Homeless  
6 Children and Youth Program Summit: Spotlight on  
7 Resilience." And so we want you to join the Texas  
8 Education Agency, our Texas Education for Homeless  
9 Children and Youth Program, and TNOYS.

10 We've got an exciting line-up of speakers,  
11 workshops and valuable trainings. Some of the training  
12 tracks that we will be providing are McKinney-Vento  
13 Fundamentals. We'll have a COVID-19 track, connecting to  
14 community services.

15 We'll have two tracks for advancing equity for  
16 special populations, a trauma and resilience track, and a  
17 program management track. The two-day summit, as I  
18 indicated, will be on a virtual platform. We're holding  
19 it over two days, but we've kind of separated those days  
20 to ensure our participants have the flexibility to  
21 participate.

22 In addition to that, I am excited to share that  
23 the registration fee will only be \$25. So we want to  
24 highly market this unique training -- sorry -- unique  
25 training opportunities statewide. And so again, I'll be

1 providing all this information to Danny to share out with  
2 the field.

3 With a registration fee of \$25, we hope that we  
4 will be able to have -- firstly, my goal is representation  
5 from every school district across the state. We are  
6 working closely with our 20 Regional Educational Centers  
7 to help market this information, given that it is on a  
8 virtual platform, that our homeless liaisons across the  
9 state will still be able to monitor any needs in their  
10 district and still participate in this great training  
11 opportunity.

12 And so we will be sending out information about  
13 our registration. It will be open at the end of July.  
14 And that's it.

15 Do you have any questions?

16 MR. DOYLE: Questions for Cal? I've got one.

17 MS. LOPEZ: Sure.

18 MR. DOYLE: In January, you said there were  
19 about 114,000 homeless children. Where do you think that  
20 is now?

21 MS. LOPEZ: Well, like I said, we're  
22 anticipating an increased identification. Whether we're  
23 going to see that in our '19-'20 numbers, or whether  
24 that's going to occur in the '20-'21, that is the  
25 question. Right now, the districts are in the process of

1 submitting their data on enrollment and identification  
2 that comes to the agency here later in the summer, and  
3 then they start working on cleaning up the data.

4 So I hope by our next meeting I may have some  
5 preliminary numbers about the identification of homeless  
6 students and then some additional data that's specific to  
7 COVID-19. We're in the process of collecting that  
8 information from the districts right now.

9 For instance, there were some crisis codes that  
10 were developed that monitored student engagement, and  
11 whether we lost communication with a student, whether a  
12 student was considered un-contactable. And so there is  
13 some preliminary data on the TEA website just in general  
14 of what the trends look like, but we are working to gather  
15 data that is specific by special population.

16 So we hope to have this information by our next  
17 meeting.

18 MR. DOYLE: That's great. Thanks. Thanks so  
19 much.

20 MS. LOPEZ: Sure. No problem.

21 MR. DOYLE: Anything else for Cal?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Kevin, you're up.

24 MR. JAMES: Hey, good morning, everybody. I'm  
25 Kevin with HHSC. Probably not familiar with me, but I

1 replaced Helen for some of our housing programs, more  
2 specifically, our Section -- I mean, our HCC, Healthy  
3 Community Collaboratives program, as well as our  
4 Supportive Housing Rental Assistance program.

5 So I just wanted to give you some updates on  
6 some of those things as we go through here. So most  
7 recently, I believe Helen informed you that we have about  
8 36 of our 39 LMHAs and BHAs that have funds for SHRA. And  
9 those services that are outlined for SHRA are rental and  
10 utility assistance, deposits, as well as moving  
11 assistance, and most recently, CMS, Center for Medicare  
12 and Medicare Services, they approved our rebalanced Money  
13 Follows the Person funds to expand our SHRA funds just for  
14 this year.

15 So those funds have to be expended August 31  
16 for those LMHAs. A very small pot of money was approved,  
17 so we are distributing those funds based on expenditure  
18 rates, as well as COVID impact for those -- for our  
19 already-existing grantees.

20 Additionally, with our Healthy Community  
21 Collaboratives program, you may be aware that we had rural  
22 expansion based on one of the Senate bills a couple of  
23 years ago. We did receive one application, which we are  
24 evaluating at the current moment.

25 So that's in the works as we speak. And then

1 also, we are preparing for our fiscal year '22  
2 procurement, which is our large grant. I'm kind of  
3 excited for that, because this is the second wave of HCC  
4 funds that will be pushed out.

5 It's a seven-year funding cycle. And  
6 initially, HCC was slated for our five most-populous areas  
7 in the state to build these community collaboratives, but  
8 now, since some of the expansion with some of the other  
9 Senate bills, we have expanded into some rural areas.

10 So I'm excited to see what those applications  
11 look like next year with both rural and our metropolitan  
12 areas throughout the state. And those are the only  
13 updates that I have for you guys.

14 Any questions, comments, concerns for me?

15 DR. SCHOLL: Mike? What --

16 MR. DOYLE: Kevin --

17 DR. SCHOLL: This is Dennis. Is there a way to  
18 get to the HHSC website and see the allocation per local  
19 mental health authority across the state, of these funds?

20 Is that on your website, where each local mental health  
21 authority's allocation of these funds could be listed?

22 MR. JAMES: I do not believe they're on our  
23 website. However, I can send that data. Would I send  
24 that to Danny to send out to the group, would that be --

25 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

1 MR. JAMES: -- the best person?

2 MR. DOYLE: Yes, please.

3 MR. JAMES: Okay.

4 DR. SCHOLL: Thank you.

5 MR. JAMES: Perfect. Yeah. I can send that to  
6 Danny for the group to get that information out.

7 DR. SCHOLL: Okay. Thank you. I'm mostly  
8 concerned for rural areas south of Bexar County -- is the  
9 one I'm most interested in. I used to work there, and  
10 hope they're getting some help. Thanks.

11 MR. JAMES: Definitely.

12 MS. CHECA: Hi. This is Sophia with the Texas  
13 Balance of State Continuum of Care. Kevin, I was  
14 wondering if you could share who the rural applicant was?  
15 We have a large rural geography, which is why I'm asking.

16 MR. JAMES: Yeah, yeah. No worries at all. So  
17 since it's still under evaluation and we have not made the  
18 determination or gave that information to the grantee, we  
19 cannot share that as of right now.

20 But at some point, when we are able to share  
21 that information, I -- and we -- if we're able to, I am  
22 more than willing to share that with you. Because I  
23 definitely feel, since there was only one application,  
24 that maybe there is some improvement we can do marketing-  
25 wise for the rural -- for our rural expansion, especially

1 if that involves maybe partnering with the Balance of  
2 State and some of those LMHAs and BHAs with -- inside the  
3 Balance of State as well.

4 MS. CHECA: Totally. And that's why I wanted  
5 to introduce myself to you, and we'll be reaching out to  
6 you, because we would love to be more engaged in that  
7 outreach that happens.

8 MR. JAMES: Yes --

9 MS. CHECA: So --

10 MR. JAMES: -- please.

11 MS. CHECA: Yeah.

12 MR. JAMES: Please --

13 MS. CHECA: You'll see an email from us.

14 MR. JAMES: Yes, please. My first question  
15 was, did we engage the Balance of State? So I am -- I'm  
16 here. So let's definitely have some conversations to see  
17 what that looks like, because I think HCC is a great  
18 opportunity, and when we look --

19 MS. CHECA: Uh-huh.

20 MR. JAMES: -- at the intersection of housing  
21 homelessness and behavioral health, I see no better use of  
22 funds to -- and not duplicating our efforts than HCC and  
23 how we can help push some of those services out to our  
24 rural communities.

25 So yes, that's --

1 MS. CHECA: Absolutely.

2 MR. JAMES: -- certainly, yes.

3 MS. CHECA: Perfect. Okay. Thanks.

4 MR. DOYLE: Great. Okay. Are there any other  
5 updates?

6 MR. SHEA: So Mike, real quick. Again I  
7 mentioned earlier in the meeting, Heather Thorpe was  
8 unable to join us earlier, but it looks like she's on now,  
9 so I believe she was doing an update on -- for DFPS before  
10 we get to the other updates, if that's okay.

11 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Thanks for reminding me about  
12 that. Please, go right ahead.

13 MS. THORPE: Hi, everyone. Thanks for having  
14 me, and thanks for being flexible with my schedule. I  
15 apologize for not being able to be on when I was  
16 scheduled.

17 And so I am with Child Protective Services. I  
18 am the Division Administrator for the Family First  
19 Prevention Services Act. And the Family First Prevention  
20 Services Act, which commonly we just call, FFPSA, passed  
21 in February 2018, and targets services and outcomes for  
22 four main populations: children placed in congregate  
23 care, kinship caregivers and the children they care for,  
24 parents who struggle with substance abuse and their  
25 children, and children who are at imminent risk of removal

1 as defined by Texas for entering foster care.

2 FFPSA is a budget bill. It essentially  
3 restructures the Federal child welfare funding, Title  
4 IV-E, and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, which  
5 Texas uses to pay for services for children in foster care  
6 and their families.

7 FFPSA aims to elevate the quality of specific  
8 types of prevention services and encourages support for  
9 kinship placements. It also supports pregnant and  
10 parenting foster youth, and aims to decrease the use of  
11 and time spent in congregate care settings. The Act also  
12 allows children to be placed with their parents in  
13 substance abuse treatment facilities.

14 And in November 2018, Texas notified the  
15 Administration for Children and Families that we intended  
16 to seek a delay of implementation of FFPSA. So we delayed  
17 that through September 2021. And the primary reason for  
18 that was just assessing the program impact and the fiscal  
19 impact of implementing FFPSA and also taking time to  
20 engage stakeholders and get input from various  
21 stakeholders across the state.

22 And we're also working on a strategic plan that  
23 is due to the Legislature on September 1, and this is  
24 primarily to inform the Legislature about our potential  
25 options for implementing FFPSA in Texas, and getting some

1 guidance from the Legislature on the direction they would  
2 like to see the state go.

3 FFPSA includes some required provisions, as  
4 well as some optional provisions. The required provisions  
5 that all states have to implement are the creation of an  
6 interstate compact on the placement of children, national  
7 electronic interstate enterprise system.

8 So currently, DFPS uses a manual system when  
9 we're receiving placements from other states or when we're  
10 placing children in other states. So we did receive a  
11 federal grant to work on this system, and we will be in  
12 compliance.

13 We're not required to have this done until  
14 2027, but we anticipate we'll be in compliance much  
15 sooner, by 2023. And this will really allow a speedier  
16 process when we're trying to place kids, and we can get  
17 kids where they need to go with their families across  
18 state lines.

19 It also requires the creation of a statewide  
20 fatality prevention plan, and the -- Texas is currently in  
21 compliance with this provision. We've done this work for  
22 many years through our Office of Child Safety, and those  
23 plans are publicly published.

24 So we're also in compliance with that  
25 provision. Establish protocols to prevent inappropriate

1 diagnoses and ensure appropriate placements. Texas is  
2 also in compliance with that provision. We use a third-  
3 party contractor who determines children's level of care  
4 and ensures that they are in appropriate placements for  
5 their level of care.

6 Another required provision is to create  
7 procedures for abuse and neglect registry and criminal  
8 background checks. Texas is also currently in compliance  
9 with that provision, based on our current procedures and  
10 protocols for us running background checks on families who  
11 will be taking children.

12 And it also requires compliance with federal  
13 model licensing standards. We submitted a plan to the  
14 feds. Our plan was approved. However, we have a few  
15 provisions that we'll be updating -- HHSC will be  
16 updating when they complete their larger minimum standards  
17 update that they're currently working on.

18 MR. DOYLE: Heather?

19 MS. THORPE: So -- yes?

20 MR. DOYLE: Can I ask a question before you  
21 leave that slide?

22 MS. THORPE: Of course.

23 MR. DOYLE: What is an inappropriate diagnosis?

24 MS. THORPE: So really for this bill, it's  
25 really ensuring that children are not placed in higher

1 restrictive settings than they need to be. So it's just  
2 ensuring that they're properly evaluated for what their  
3 level of need is, and that they're placed in the least  
4 restrictive setting possible.

5 MR. DOYLE: So can you give me an example of  
6 that?

7 MS. THORPE: Well -- and related to this bill,  
8 and I'll talk about it a little bit later, there's a new  
9 placement setting that this bill creates called, the QRTP,  
10 and it's a very restrictive setting, you know, meant for  
11 children with high acuity needs.

12 So this is just, I think, protection that  
13 children are not deemed at a higher level of care, so they  
14 can go into these settings, and then the State try to pull  
15 down federal funding. Now, this is something that we've  
16 always done outside of this bill, so it's not really a  
17 change for us, because we've always had this -- the third-  
18 party contractor who evaluates.

19 You know, they look at the child's  
20 psychological evaluations, their records, and they -- for  
21 the higher need children, higher acuity needs, they have  
22 more frequent evaluations to make sure that these kids are  
23 diagnosed appropriately and placed in the least  
24 restrictive setting.

25 And the court also, you know, has a role in

1 this as the permanency hearings happen and the courts are  
2 evaluating and looking at where these children are placed  
3 and if it's appropriate.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you. That's  
5 interesting.

6 MS. THORPE: Uh-huh. And for FFPSA prevention  
7 eligibility, like I said, there are some provisions that  
8 are optional, that states can choose to implement, and  
9 there is a prevention -- provision of the bill that is  
10 optional.

11 So states are not required to implement this,  
12 and this is one of the things that we will be presenting  
13 to the Legislature, the different options, to get some  
14 direction in the 87th Session. And the prevention  
15 services that the bill calls out are mental health,  
16 substance abuse treatment, and parenting skills and  
17 supports.

18 And in order for the State to draw down a  
19 federal match for these services, the services have to be  
20 evaluated by the feds. They created a federal  
21 clearinghouse, and you have to select a program that's on  
22 this federal clearinghouse in order to get the federal  
23 match for providing these services.

24 I will say, it's been a little bit slow to get  
25 programs approved right now across all three: the mental

1 health, substance abuse and parenting. There are only  
2 [inaudible 1:29:32 audio glitch] models that are currently  
3 approved for states to select.

4 So they're consistently evaluating new  
5 programs. States can put these programs up to be  
6 evaluated by the feds, or the model developers can put  
7 their programs up to be evaluated. And as far as FFPSA  
8 eligible federal matching, placement requirements for  
9 federal foster care reimbursement will change.

10 I will say, this is not going to impact where  
11 we place children. We will still place children where it  
12 is appropriate. It just changes how these placements will  
13 be funded. So if a placement does not meet the new  
14 requirements, IV-E funding can only be used for two weeks  
15 of the placement.

16 So federal match is -- will continue to be  
17 available for pregnant and parenting youth, supervised  
18 independent living for youth 18 and older, specialized  
19 placements for youth who are victims of or at risk of  
20 becoming victims of sex trafficking, foster family homes  
21 that have no more than six children, and the qualified  
22 treatment program, the QRTP, which I mentioned earlier,  
23 which is essentially congregate care.

24 So currently [inaudible 1:31:01 audio glitch]  
25 residential treatment facilities in Texas who are licensed

1 as a Q RTP. So the Q RTPs are an optional provision of  
2 FFPSA. So again, this is another component of the bill  
3 that we will be presenting some options to the Legislature  
4 through our strategic plan so they can weigh in on that  
5 and provide some direction.

6 And as I mentioned before, we will have an  
7 opportunity to receive federal matching funds for some  
8 evidence-based prevention services for children and  
9 families who are at imminent risk of entering foster care.

10 So Texas has been using the 86 interim to study  
11 implementation options' costs for FFPSA, and like I said,  
12 we'll be informing the 87th Legislature of the options.

13 And there were two bills that passed in the  
14 86th Session that directed us to complete the strategic  
15 plan. So Senate Bill 355, which focuses on the prevention  
16 provisions, and then Senate Bill 781, which focuses on the  
17 placement provisions of FFPSA. And we're essentially  
18 combining these two plans together to create one strategic  
19 plan that we will submit to the Legislature, and then also  
20 post on our public website.

21 And we do have an FFPSA mailbox. If anybody  
22 has questions, you can always submit questions through the  
23 mailbox. You can always contact me directly as well.

24 And I'd be happy to take any questions.

25 MR. DOYLE: Any questions for Heather?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Appreciate all of you giving  
3 us this information. It's very helpful. It's been a  
4 while since we've been together, so I really enjoyed  
5 hearing all of it. Is there any public comment?

6 MR. SHEA: Mike, real quick, I think we do have  
7 a couple of other updates, one from Michael Wilt at TSAHC,  
8 and then one from Brooke.

9 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

10 MR. WILT: Hey, Mike, it's Michael Wilt.

11 MR. DOYLE: Hi, Michael.

12 MR. WILT: Thanks. I have a quick update. In  
13 June -- so last month, we launched a Texas Supportive  
14 Housing Institute, in partnership with the Corporation for  
15 Supportive Housing. And this reflects a standing  
16 relationship that we had with Health and Human Services  
17 Commission to try and put more supportive housing units on  
18 the ground.

19 We're focused on six markets for this, for the  
20 2020 Supportive Housing Institute, those being Dallas-Ft.  
21 Worth, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and the Rio  
22 Grande Valley. We're accepting applications through  
23 tomorrow, and we're accepting up to 16.

24 And thanks to Eric and others who have  
25 communicated the application out there. Bob Pulster did

1 as well with the USICH. We've gotten a handful of  
2 applications already, and we're just excited to launch  
3 this Institute.

4 It will all be held virtually from September to  
5 December, and I believe it's the first ever of its kind,  
6 and so we're super excited to be able to provide this to  
7 organizations interested in being more -- or interested in  
8 [indiscernible 1:34:44] TSH units on the ground.

9 MR. DOYLE: Great. Thanks, Michael.

10 MR. WILT: Thanks, Mike.

11 MR. DOYLE: Are there any other updates?

12 MS. BOSTON: Yeah, I have one update. This is  
13 Brooke.

14 MR. DOYLE: Hi, Brooke.

15 MS. BOSTON: Hi. I just wanted to let you guys  
16 know -- you may remember that in -- back in the late fall  
17 of last year, we revised the QAP, which is the rule that  
18 governs the housing tax credit competition, and we revised  
19 the scoring to encourage an extra point if the tax credit  
20 properties would set aside 2 percent of their units for  
21 people referred from the continuum of care or local  
22 homeless service provider.

23 And the awards are going this week. And I just  
24 wanted to say, it looks like we'll have 52 properties, and  
25 that number might change by one or two, but we'll have 52

1 properties who are committing to this, and that means, in  
2 their land use restriction agreement, it will say that  
3 they have to have these [indiscernible 1:35:54] percent of  
4 units set aside.

5 For the first six months, they have to --  
6 excuse me -- 12 months in urban areas and six months in  
7 rural areas -- they have to set them aside for referrals  
8 from the CoC. And probably the best part about it is they  
9 cannot have their tenancy denied for credit or past rental  
10 history.

11 MR. DOYLE: Wow.

12 MS. BOSTON: So -- now, granted, it will --  
13 yeah. It's pretty exciting. So you know, getting an  
14 award next week means that these come online still a  
15 couple years from now, but I think it's good for those  
16 local homeless providers, hopefully, to learn about it and  
17 they can maybe reach out to those parties and try and make  
18 sure they've set up that relationship before the marketing  
19 period starts.

20 So they can be sure to get -- help get those  
21 referrals in from day one. So I just wanted to share. I  
22 think that's exciting when these things actually start  
23 coming to fruition.

24 MR. DOYLE: Well, I've got a question, Brooke.  
25 Would it be public knowledge for the local continuums

1 where the tax credit projects were funded to find out who  
2 they were, so that we can begin the process of making a  
3 relationship with them before the completion of the  
4 project?

5 MS. BOSTON: Definitely. We actually provided  
6 a separate report to our Board at this meeting with that  
7 specific list, just for this item, but Danny can get that  
8 around to you guys as well.

9 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thanks. That would be very  
10 helpful.

11 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

12 MR. DOYLE: Good work.

13 MS. CHECA: This is -- Brooke, this is Sophia.  
14 And Mike, thank you for asking my question.

15 MR. DOYLE: Any other updates?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any public comment?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. DOYLE: Well, in closing, just thank all  
20 you guys -- I hope -- and ladies -- I hope you stay safe  
21 during all of this time. We will get past this. I think  
22 it's just great, some of the things that are going on,  
23 that have just made us a lot more creative.

24 I don't know that we've had this many people at  
25 an in-person meeting. So -- and I didn't have to make a

1 three-hour drive one way. So that was great. So anyway,  
2 you guys, stay safe. Keep up the great work. Very  
3 encouraging.

4 I'll be sending a report or my notes of this  
5 meeting to the Governor's Office, and I know he  
6 appreciates all you guys do. So thanks so much for your  
7 commitment to the homeless.

8 (Whereupon, at 11:42 a.m., the meeting of the  
9 TDHCA Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless was  
10 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 21, 2020

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
numbers 1 through 73, inclusive, are the true, accurate,  
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording  
made by electronic recording by Latrice Porter before the  
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

DATE: July 27, 2020

/s/ Adrienne Evans-Stark  
(Transcriber)

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