

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HOMELESS

via GoToWebinar

April 20, 2021
10:01 a.m.

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PROCEEDINGS

2 MR. DOYLE: Welcome to everybody. I don't know
3 if you all can see who all is on here? But thank you all
4 for being here. We do have a quorum. So I wanted to
5 announce that.

6 And I wanted to introduce Jeremy to you from
7 TDHCA, to give us some housekeeping rules.

8 MR. STREMLER: Yeah. Thank you, Mike. So this
9 is mostly for those attendees watching all of our
10 panelists. Just a reminder, everyone who is on the TICH,
11 you -- to speak, you just need to unmute yourself, should
12 you have any comments.

13 For those that are attendees who are muted and
14 in listen-only mode, this applies to you, and for
15 everyone, this first part, just to get you familiarized
16 with GoToWebinar. Of course, where it says, "webinar
17 housekeeping," you should see these slides.

On the right-hand side of your screen will be your control panel. That control panel helps you with your audio. You can select "computer audio." If you select "phone call," it will give you a phone number to call in and be able to listen to the audio.

23 There should also be a questions box and
24 probably a chat box on your control panel, should you have
25 any questions or comments and maybe do not wish to unmute

1 yourself, or if you're an attendee, have a question or a
2 comment and don't want to participate verbally, you can
3 put that there, and we can read that out loud.

4 Again, using your computer's audio or phone
5 call, you can use the sound check feature for your
6 computer's audio to make sure your computer's audio is
7 working. If you dial with a phone number, if for some
8 reason you get disconnected, please wait a minute or two
9 before calling back in, because it will take a minute for
10 the system to realize that you've been disconnected and
11 allow you back with that same phone number and access
12 code.

13 For our attendees, when we get to points of the
14 meeting that are open for discussion, should you want to
15 speak, there is a raise-your-hand button on your control
16 panel. If you click that, I can see that your hand is
17 raised and can unmute you so that you can participate in
18 the meeting.

19 And then again, also, should you have any
20 questions and don't wish to actually speak, you can put
21 them in the questions box and I can read them out loud for
22 the TICH members to hear. And that's everything.

23 Thanks, Mike.

24 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Jeremy. Appreciate
25 that. I don't really have any remarks, other than the

1 fact that I don't know about y'all, but with COVID going
2 on and all the different places that have different things
3 about the mask stuff, but all the rental assistance going
4 on, it is extremely busy.

5 I know y'all are finding the same thing
6 probably. But I was going to retire, but -- or at least
7 work four days a week or closer to 40 hours a week, but it
8 just doesn't look like that's going to happen. So anyway,
9 I hope that you all will take care of yourselves.

10 There's a lot of money out there. We got
11 talked into taking some for Homelessness Prevention, and
12 it's just been such a blessing to those folks that are
13 being able to get their rent paid, that it made us also
14 agree to take some more from the City.

15 We're still working on details there, but I
16 just hope that -- I know what it's done to me, as far --
17 physically. I mean, nothing's wrong, but it's just a lot
18 of work. So I just want to ask you all to be sure and
19 take care of yourself.

20 The homeless population needs you. The
21 organizations need you. And the stress of all of this
22 doesn't need to cause people to have health problems such
23 that we lose you. So just careful out there, if you will.

24 Okay. Approval of minutes, need a motion to
25 approve the minutes from the January 21 meeting.

1 MS. BOSTON: This is --

2 MR. DOYLE: Raise your hand or something.

3 MS. BOSTON: I don't know if you heard me.

4 This is Brooke. So moved. I don't know if --

5 MR. DOYLE: So I see it now. So Brooke made
6 the motion. Is there a second?

7 MS. LOPEZ: I'll second. This is Cal.

8 MR. DOYLE: Hey, Cal. Thank you. All in
9 favor, say aye.

10 (A chorus of ayes.)

11 MR. DOYLE: Or thumbs up or something. All
12 opposed, say no.

13 (No response.)

14 MR. DOYLE: I assume that passes.

15 So this is kind of tedious. Next item is
16 election of a TICH chairperson. Brooke, were you going to
17 do that?

18 MS. BOSTON: I was, yeah. I feel that Mike has
19 so ably led us up to this point, and we are eternally
20 grateful for his leadership over these years. And if he's
21 still willing, I would love to nominate him again to
22 continue to be our leader.

23 MR. DOYLE: Thank you. Are there any other
24 nominations? They would be gladly accepted.

25 (No response.)

1 MR. DOYLE: Hearing none, then, I would ask for
2 a vote on electing Mike Doyle as chairperson for the 2021
3 year at the TICH. Since we don't have a standing
4 committee, Brooke, you're going to have to make the
5 recommendation again.

6 MS. BOSTON: Sure. Yes. I move that we
7 approve Mike Doyle as our chairman.

8 MR. DOYLE: Is there a second?

9 MS. POHLMAN: I'll second. This is Joyce
10 Pohlman in Health & Human Services Commission

11 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Joyce. All in favor,
12 say aye or thumbs up or whatever we can see on the screen
13 there.

14 (A chorus of ayes.)

15 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

16 (No response.)

17 MR. DOYLE: And that does pass. So thank
18 you. It's an honor to work with you guys. Y'all do such
19 great work. And again I just want to tell you, be careful
20 with your health.

21 Legislative update. Michael Lyttle was going
22 to give it, but I believe Elizabeth is going to give it.

23 MS. YEVICH: That is correct. First, I need to
24 unmute myself. Y'all can hear me now, right? Yes.

25 Good morning, and on behalf of Michael Lyttle,

1 who is the chief of our TDHCA's External Affairs, he
2 apologizes but he got called away this morning. So he has
3 sent me his speaking points, and I'm actually just going
4 to read them verbatim.

5 On the topic of homelessness, he said is the
6 subject matter of at least a dozen bills being closely
7 followed by TDHCA this year. He said, in fact, it's one
8 of the more prominent social issues in play for this 87th
9 Texas Legislature.

10 Several of the bills appear to have good
11 movement and there's only six weeks left in this
12 session. So reviewing them, I'm going to start with
13 Senate Bill 987, and that's by Senator Dawn Buckingham,
14 and it establishes a statewide ban on camping in public
15 places, as there currently is no statewide restriction on
16 camping in public places.

17 TDHCA was not a part of the bill originally as
18 filed. However, a committee substitute of the bill
19 introduced just last week added TDHCA as the state entity
20 who would have to approve city purchases of property to
21 house the homeless.

22 Local governments intending to do this must
23 submit a plan to TDHCA with the agency to ensure that
24 appropriate services, health care, law enforcement and
25 public transportation were in place. The bill is

1 currently pending in the Senate Local Governments
2 Committee.

3 It also has a House companion bill, filed by
4 Representative Giovanni Capriglione, which was heard and
5 voted out of the House State Affairs Committee. The House
6 bill, however, does not have TDHCA in it, and mirrors the
7 Senate as originally filed. So there's that one.

8 Next up, we have -- there's a number of bills
9 dealing with homelessness, and they have been voted out of
10 the House Committee on Urban Affairs. There are about
11 five of them. There's House Bill 1226 by Representative
12 Liz Campos, and that would create a statewide text-to-
13 donate program creating funds for local programs serving
14 homeless.

15 Next up is House Bill 1260 by Representative
16 Rhetta Bowers which would have this Council, the TICH,
17 doing a feasibility study on establishing a centralized
18 homelessness crisis response data system. Then there is
19 House Bill 1277, also by Representative Campos, which
20 would direct TDHCA to use funds from the Ending Homeless
21 Fund to create a transitional housing pilot program for
22 local governments to administer.

23 Then there is House Bill 1278, again by
24 Representative Liz Campos, which would direct this
25 Council, the TICH, to hold one public hearing a year in an

1 urban area and one in a rural area of the state on the
2 issue of homelessness.

3 And finally, yet again by Representative Liz
4 Campos, it would charge the TICH with identifying a State
5 agency to create a comprehensive statewide homeless data
6 system. The bill would combine all levels of government,
7 law enforcement, courts, schools, and emergency services
8 to work together in sharing data and providing to each
9 other in order to better serve the state's homeless.

10 Some of these have fiscal notes, which is the
11 cost to State government. So it really remains to be seen
12 which of these will still move through the process and
13 which ones have reached their farthest point.

14 Michael went on to add that there's several
15 other bills which were referred to committees, but they
16 have not yet had a hearing. And so due to that, the way
17 the process works, those bills likely will not be moving
18 at session.

19 So he then adds, if you have any questions, to
20 please contact him, and once again, he apologizes for not
21 being here. So there you have it.

22 MR. DOYLE: So did he give you any indication
23 if they -- the Legislature said, we're not going to not
24 even -- this is a hypothetical -- but we're not even going
25 to argue the one that you want the most. Which bill would

1 it be?

2 MS. YEVICH: That, I am not going to answer,
3 because I don't have any indication on that. I don't know
4 if Brooke or Abi, who are more in tune with this, could
5 respond to that?

6 MR. DOYLE: I'm just asking, in case we need to
7 do any advocacy. I mean, I need some direction.

8 MS. VERSYP: I don't feel comfortable answering
9 that question, so I'm going to defer to Brooke.

10 MR. DOYLE: All right.

11 MS. BOSTON: Yeah, yeah. I think I'm going to
12 get back to you. I'm not sure either. We'll have to
13 check in with Michael.

14 MR. DOYLE: That's okay. I can call Michael.
15 It's not a big deal. I was just curious.

16 I mean, the one meeting a year in a rural area,
17 we're doing that now for all intents and purposes.
18 Everybody can Zoom in. But the one about the database
19 seems interesting.

20 I think that was 1260. Or what was the last
21 one that you did, Elizabeth?

22 MS. YEVICH: That -- there was House Bill 3034.
23 That's the statewide homeless data system --

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

25 MS. YEVICH: -- comprehensive statewide data

1 system. Uh-huh.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

3 MS. LOPEZ: Mike, this is Cal Lopez with TEA.

4 Those bills were actually sent for us to review. So I
5 would just highly encourage you to go look at what the
6 bill is proposing and how feasible the components are in
7 that, and how clearly the purpose, the intent and the
8 definitions are stated.

9 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

10 MS. LOPEZ: That would be the -- I wouldn't
11 recommend. I would just say, I would highly encourage
12 you, because I've already looked at the bills and provided
13 feedback.

14 I would highly encourage you or anybody on the
15 Committee to go look at the bills that affect TICH and
16 look at -- review the language and make any notes
17 regarding clarity of definition, intent, purpose, who
18 would participate, feasibility, infrastructure, et cetera,
19 et cetera, and then move forward. I think once you look
20 at that, you'll see how you would most -- probably want to
21 move forward with any advocacy.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thanks, Cal. Appreciate
23 that.

24 MS. LOPEZ: Okay. And I wanted to let you know
25 that they are on our radar at the agency.

1 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

2 MR. STREMLER: And Mike, I have a question.

3 What bill number was that again?

4 MR. DOYLE: I think, 3034.

5 MR. STREMLER: 3034.

6 MS. LOPEZ: I want to look. There's multiple,
7 actually. Let me see here.

8 MR. DOYLE: I've got 1260, 1277. Campos bill
9 about the once-a-year meeting in a rural area, I didn't
10 get that number. But 3034, I think we talked the
11 statewide database.

12 MS. LOPEZ: Correct. And then the other one
13 is, I believe bill -- was it 1278? Am I correct on
14 that? 1278?

15 MS. YEVICH: Yeah, it's 1278.

16 MS. LOPEZ: Yes.

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Yeah. I'll look at those.
18 Good. Thanks. And unbelievable, only six weeks left in
19 the session. That's crazy. All right. Thank you.

20 Updates from agencies. First, TDCHA on the
21 Emergency Solutions Grant.

22 Somebody is talking for Naomi. Who was that
23 going to be?

24 MS. VERSYP: That's me.

25 MR. DOYLE: Abigail? Okay. Thank you,

1 Abigail.

2 MS. VERSYP: I'm here in Naomi's stead this
3 morning, just to provide updates about ESG CARES. So I
4 have an update that the ESG CARES funds are all
5 contracted. So the State's allocation of ESG funds are in
6 contracts with subrecipients and underway.

7 On the great news front, we have received some
8 guidance from HUD that specifically impacts our use of
9 funds for homelessness prevention. HUD has provided
10 guidance throughout the term of the CDC moratorium that
11 that moratorium, in and of itself, is treated as a
12 resource that prevents homelessness.

13 However, with the expiration and the Texas
14 Supreme Court guidance to the courts that they are not
15 required to enforce the CDC moratorium, HUD has allowed us
16 to provide guidance to our subrecipients that that would
17 be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. It's not an
18 ineligibility factor across the board.

19 So we hope that that helps us move our homeless
20 prevention funds a little more quickly, because most folks
21 that were seeking that assistance were not eligible
22 because of the HUD guidance on the moratorium.

23 In other news, our ESG CARES 1 contracts are
24 ending on July 31, 2021. So those are coming to a close
25 shortly. We're working through contract management with

1 our ESG CARES 1 awards, and we're kind of reallocating
2 funding to agencies that are -- have a very high
3 expenditure rate.

4 So we have some agencies that are between zero
5 and 30 percent expended. So we're reaching out to them to
6 find out what their plan is, and you know, if they think
7 they're going to be utilize the money. And if not, we're
8 going to program it to those that have shown that they are
9 able to spend that money to meet the community needs more
10 rapidly.

11 We're not working to reallocate ESG CARES 2 at
12 this point, but we may be taking an amendment to our
13 action plan specifically related to ESG CARES 2 in June,
14 as we evaluate how expenditures under that grant are
15 going.

16 So that's what I have on ESG CARES. Does
17 anybody have questions?

18 MR. DOYLE: Do the same things apply, Abigail,
19 to CARES 2?

20 MS. VERSYP: ESG CARES 2, those contracts don't
21 expire until later. So we're leaving the funding as it is
22 for now, but we'll be touching base with them as we get
23 further into those contracts. Those were just awarded in
24 January.

25 So they're just kind of getting the ball

1 rolling. We don't want to pull the rug back from under
2 them and ask for money back when they've just started.

3 MR. DOYLE: But if they're still a case-by-case
4 basis on the moratorium being -- making it ineligible?

5 MS. VERSYP: Yes. That is across-the-board
6 guidance for the ESG program. So that would apply not
7 only to our CARES funds, but our annual allocation.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

9 MS. VERSYP: So it gives us a lot more
10 flexibility, because it was really a situation.

11 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Great news. Thanks. Okay.

12 Pandemic response from TDHCA. Brooke?

13 MS. BOSTON: Sure. Instead of going back
14 through all of the activities we've done relating to
15 pandemic response, I would focus on some of the newer
16 activities.

17 So the first, you guys probably have heard
18 quite a bit about is the Texas Rent Relief Program.
19 That's funded with Emergency Rental Assistance funds from
20 the Treasury. It can provide up to 15 months of rent and
21 utility assistance, which can include arrears.

22 The program is being run by us directly. We
23 aren't using subrecipients. We have a vendor who's been
24 helping us, and then when we were seeing that they were
25 struggling to have the capacity to review all the

1 applications, we've added two additional vendors, and
2 they've now been on board a couple weeks as well.

3 As of right now, we have issued -- we've paid
4 out 13 million to about 1,900 households, but we are
5 seeing exponential growth every day, you know. We've been
6 hitting about a million a day in draws, up to 2 million.

7 We are planning to be at or around 6 to
8 7 million a day within a few weeks. And then that should
9 kind of maintain for the remainder of the program until we
10 get all the funds expended and then out to households and
11 landlords.

12 The eligibility for that program is 80 percent
13 of area median income, and a portion of the funds from
14 that activity are eligible to be used for stabilization
15 services. It's only been pretty recent that Treasury has
16 provided some added clarification on that, and I don't
17 have kind of direction or authorization from State
18 leadership yet to pursue with that.

19 It may be that it's permissive. So it may mean
20 that we just roll that into rental assistance and don't do
21 the stabilization activity with that, because the other
22 activity I wanted to talk to you about is a newer fund
23 under the American Rescue Plan Act, ARPA.

24 One of the allocations in that program is a
25 second round of emergency rental assistance. We call it

1 ERA 2.0. That one also has funds that can be used for
2 stabilization, and the deadline for spending is much
3 further out than the first round.

4 And so it may be that we use stabilization
5 funds under the second round for stabilization activities
6 so that anyone we contract with, subrecipients or service
7 providers, doesn't have as fast of a deadline. We do not
8 have an amount yet for ERA 2.0, but we think it will be
9 about another billion.

10 So the first one -- I just realized I failed to
11 say the first pot was for 1.3 billion. We think the
12 second one will be right around a billion.

13 Several other activities under the Rescue Plan
14 Act. One is a topic that is already dear to Abi's heart,
15 which is the Homeless Assistance in Support of Services
16 Program. And it's actually kind of coming through the
17 grant structure of HOME, but it allows activities that are
18 probably more expansive than HOME.

19 In addition to being able to be used for rental
20 assistance for development, like normal HOME, it also
21 allows funds to be used for supportive services, non-
22 congregant shelter, permanent supportive housing, and
23 operating costs for eligible nonprofits.

24 So that one, we do have an amount. We know
25 that Texas is going to get 132.9 million, so that's a

1 nice, healthy chunk. Also, it's specifically for people
2 who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, those fleeing
3 domestic violence or other housing instability.

4 And so that one, we'll need to proceed with a
5 plan amendment. But at this point, we are ready to do
6 that, primarily because HUD has indicated to us that
7 they're going to provide more guidance, which is good. So
8 while we're waiting for guidance from HUD, we'll have it
9 just sit, and then as soon as HUD releases it, we will
10 then probably take an action to our Board authorizing a
11 plan amendment that, depending on -- you know, that will
12 probably have to go out for comment for five days at
13 least, and then we'll be able to pursue it.

14 So when we get to that point for the five days
15 of comment, we'll make sure that Jeremy passes that along
16 to you guys as an opportunity to comment, like he's been
17 doing.

18 A few other funds, also created through
19 ARPA. One is called the Homeowner Assistance Fund, HAF,
20 not h-a-l-f. And that one is specifically like the rental
21 one, if you kind of -- or it's some Treasury, but instead
22 of paying for rent and rent arrears, it pays for mortgage
23 payment arrears.

24 It can include anything from reinstating
25 mortgages, principal reductions, interest rate reductions,

1 utilities, homeowners and flood insurance, HOA fees and
2 liens, and then helping with repayment on -- if the
3 household has gotten a down payment assistance loan, it
4 can also help with that. So I think they did a really
5 good job of being thorough about everything it could
6 cover.

7 It also includes property taxes and housing
8 counseling. So AMI for that is 150 percent of AMI across
9 the board, but at least 60 percent of the funds have to be
10 for households at 100 percent of AMI.

11 And then there's also a priority required for
12 disadvantaged -- socially disadvantaged individuals, which
13 has not been defined yet by Treasury. The big thing with
14 that pot in terms of kind of where we are -- we know it's
15 842 million, and what we do know is that Treasury requires
16 to do a plan that's due by the end of June.

17 And so that plan requires a pretty intensive
18 data-driven needs assessment, public engagement,
19 explanation of our program design, the method for
20 targeting our goals, our readiness, and then a budget. So
21 that's going to consume the next couple months for us on
22 that program's efforts.

23 And then last but not least, utilities. The
24 ARPA also had two -- another round of LIHEAP, which is our
25 Utility Assistance Program, about -- we think it will be

1 around 234 million for Texas. It will go through -- we're
2 fairly certain it will continue to go through our existing
3 network of utility providers -- subrecipients, excuse
4 me -- who then turn around and make commitments on behalf
5 of [inaudible].

6 And then they also have created under the
7 Appropriation Act a new program called, LIHWAP, which is
8 Low Income Home Water Assistance Program. So it kind of
9 mimics the Utility Assistance Program under LIHEAP, but in
10 this case, it's just for home water costs.

11 And they had done an allocation under the
12 Appropriation Act. And then under the ARPA, they added
13 another pot of that. In both cases, we've heard very
14 little from HHS on what that looks like, how much we're
15 going to get, whether it's going to follow the same model
16 as LIHEAP.

17 So we know very little about that, other than
18 the Governor's Office has designated TDHCA as the
19 recipient. And that's it.

20 MR. DOYLE: Great. Thank you, Brooke. Are
21 there any questions for Brooke?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: Well, I've got one. I hear a lot
24 from at least the City of Ft. Worth that, because some of
25 us got started late in this process, they're having a hard

1 time spending the money. Are you hearing that from any
2 other places?

3 MS. BOSTON: I mean, nationally, a lot of the
4 states, when we're on state calls, are worried about
5 that. I think there's concern. There's kind of a
6 disconnect between how much they decided to give, and how
7 much true need the properties are actually experiencing in
8 terms of rent arrears.

9 So far, we turned our program on February 15,
10 and we have requests -- you know, like I said, we have
11 1.3 billion available, and our requests so far are already
12 in excess of 500 million. So I don't know. I do think
13 that the demand is there.

14 I think it's intimidating for both the
15 landlords and the tenants in a lot of cases. We've been
16 trying to do a lot of outreach on ARDS. I can say that we
17 definitely hear from folks that they're applying with
18 their cities and with us to kind of just hedge their bet,
19 which is smart.

20 Like, if I were a low income household, I would
21 do the same thing. I would apply -- you know, you can't
22 receive duplicate assistance, but it doesn't mean you
23 can't apply to both programs and at least try to figure
24 out who's going to give it to you first.

25 So no. I mean, I think a lot of cities are

1 worried that's going to happen, but I haven't heard yet
2 that it is happening.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Well, I know that cities
4 easily panic sometimes if they feel like they're not going
5 to spend all their money, and sometimes they push a little
6 hard on those that are providing the service. But you
7 know, once you hear what the funds are supposed to go for,
8 and it gets down into the funnel where -- who actually
9 qualifies, there's a lot less people that qualify than the
10 regs are allowing to qualify, even though they probably
11 have a legitimate need.

12 So I'm just -- I was just curious. And I
13 hear --

14 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

15 MR. DOYLE: -- I hear it.

16 MS. BOSTON: Yeah. And I would say -- I mean,
17 the cities have been communicating with us, definitely
18 letting us know that they would prefer that we not provide
19 our program statewide. Forty-one of -- no, I think it was
20 38 entities received these funds themselves. And they
21 kind of feel like we shouldn't be making our funds
22 available everywhere, that we just shift the balance of
23 state, kind of removing all those little Swiss-cheese
24 holes of the cities.

25 And you know, the Governor's Office and state

1 leadership felt strongly about making sure people
2 everywhere could access this, and so that's what we've
3 been doing. If, in fact, the need in the communities is
4 there, there shouldn't be an issue of -- you know, if we
5 provide it, then they can't.

6 So you know, and maybe it's a point where we
7 need to coordinate on outreach and hitting those. And
8 different folks are interpreting things differently.

9 So whereas our interpretation is that we can't
10 pay for arrears if the household is no longer in the unit,
11 I think some states and other cities may be interpreting
12 that differently. So --

13 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Okay. Thanks, Brooke. Just
14 a personal question. Sorry about that.

15 MS. BOSTON: Yeah.

16 MR. DOYLE: Any other agencies have an update?

17 MS. LOPEZ: I do have updates from TEA, if
18 that's okay to go --

19 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Cal.

20 MS. LOPEZ: -- ahead and proceed? Okay.

21 So I have a lot of exciting updates, and I'll
22 go ahead and provide all the information and the links to
23 Elizabeth so they can go out with the minutes. So when
24 the -- due to the impact of the severe winter weather, a
25 storm, we quickly developed an FAQ to provide guidance for

1 our families that may have lost their housing due to the
2 severe winter storm. And so we got that out to our school
3 districts right away, within a few days after that
4 occurred. So I kind of wanted to share that resource.

5 But one of our really big announcements and I
6 wanted to highlight, is that we want you to save the date
7 for our 2021 Texas Education for Homeless Children and
8 Youth Program Summit. I'm very excited to share that we
9 are continuing our partnership with the Texas Network of
10 Youth Services. And I see that Fedora, their fearless
11 leader and executive director, is on with us.

12 So I wanted to -- it will be occurring on
13 Tuesday, August 3 and Thursday, August 5. We will be
14 going virtual again, and here's the big mic drop. It's
15 free registration, free for anybody and everybody who
16 would like to come and learn more about how to support our
17 students experiencing homelessness.

18 Our theme will be the road to impact, and we
19 chose that theme because we at the agency see education
20 not just as a destination, but it is a road with
21 continuous improvement for education for our students. So
22 we're -- that is our theme for this year.

23 I also -- and I'll put it here in the chat.
24 Our call for proposals is still open. So we would like to
25 go ahead and encourage everybody to consider maybe

1 presenting at our conference, and I just put that in the
2 chat.

3 So our call for proposals would be open and has
4 been extended until Friday, May 7, and again, I'll provide
5 that -- all that information to Elizabeth with the
6 links. So we're very excited to share that.

7 So the three take-aways -- or four
8 take-aways: our continued partnership with Texas Network
9 of Youth Services; save the date, Tuesday, August 3 and
10 Thursday, August 5; virtual pre-registration; call for
11 proposals is still open, and our registration, we'll be
12 opening here within the next week or two.

13 And so I encourage you to sign up for our
14 newsletters, both TNOYS and our TEA McKinney-Vento
15 newsletter, to get all the updates and information about
16 our summit. So very, very excited to share that with you.

17 In addition to that, we did launch a 2021-2022
18 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth
19 competitive grant. It was posted on our TEA Grants
20 Opportunities page on Friday, March 19.

21 All our school districts, open-enrollment
22 charter schools, and our Education Service Centers are
23 eligible applicants. We are anticipating awarding
24 approximately \$7.7 million, which should be about 80
25 grants. This is a three-year grant cycle.

1 We did have an applicant webinar on April 7,
2 and this webinar is posted on our TEA Grants Opportunities
3 page. And our goal is to provide our school districts,
4 our open-enrollment charter schools, and our Education
5 Service Centers additional capacity to provide equitable
6 opportunities and outcomes for our McKinney-Vento
7 students.

8 We are looking for applicants that will
9 implement a comprehensive approach to increase attendance,
10 on-time promotion and graduation, that will be developing
11 innovative academic programs and support services. As you
12 know, our students experiencing homelessness -- you know,
13 due to their high mobility, have always had some learning
14 slide that's occurred due to the various moves.

15 They also include -- also have some loss of
16 learning over the summer, and now, we're also seeing some
17 loss of learning due to the impact of COVID-19. So we're
18 really looking at applicants that are going to leverage
19 these grant funds, along with other local, State, federal
20 and community resources to address the specific needs of
21 our students to help drive student outcome.

22 And our key push here is, in order to have
23 equitable outcomes, we must first provide equitable
24 opportunities for our students in our school settings.
25 And so for more information, you can go to our TEA Grants

1 Opportunities page. Again, I will share all this
2 information with Elizabeth.

3 And then lastly, our Technical Support Center
4 has several trainings that will occur here in late April
5 and in May. And so I'm going to go ahead and drop their
6 webpage here.

7 We will have training about supporting our
8 seniors and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness
9 with post-secondary planning and access, about school-of-
10 origin transportation, how to build community resources,
11 and also our McKinney-Vento five -- or what we consider
12 our best practices to help implement McKinney-Vento.

13 So that is my update. And then, Mike, I just
14 wanted to make sure you got all three House bills. The
15 ones that have come across to us is House Bill 3034, 1278
16 and 1260.

17 MR. DOYLE: I've got them.

18 MS. LOPEZ: I'll bring you --

19 MR. DOYLE: That and --

20 MS. LOPEZ: -- okay.

21 MR. DOYLE: -- 1277.

22 MS. LOPEZ: Yes.

23 MR. DOYLE: I've got those.

24 MS. LOPEZ: So we're following those as well.

25 MR. DOYLE: Good. Thank you, Cal.

1 MS. LOPEZ: Sure.

2 MR. DOYLE: Any other agency updates?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Eric Samuels, update from
5 THN?

6 MR. SAMUELS: Sure. And before I hand it off
7 to Nic to talk about, just -- let me just say, Mike, I'm
8 glad you're hanging on another year. But you know,
9 there's always going to be something going on, so you
10 can't just keep delaying retirement.

11 You got to be able to, you know, enjoy the --
12 enjoy all the fruits of all your labor at some point, but
13 thank you.

14 MR. DOYLE: Thank you. This is the fruit I
15 enjoy. Kay and I decided after having COVID and then
16 spending about a month either in quarantine or through our
17 holiday season in December when we were off between
18 Christmas and New Year's, staying at home was not for us.

19 So we decided, we're not going to retire. If I
20 retire, I'll be -- you'll be getting a funeral notice.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Well, okay. I don't want that.
22 So anyway, let me hand it off to Nic, and he can tell you
23 about these statewide VISTA project through THN.

24 MR. THOMPSON: Sure. Good morning,
25 everybody. So we have our ongoing VISTA project

1 throughout the state of Texas right now. We do have one
2 site that is working only on veteran employment as it
3 relates to those exiting homelessness, and that's up in
4 Bellevue.

5 We are recruiting for a few different positions
6 right now, if you know anyone trying to enter into this
7 line of work. We have one in Kaufman County, another in
8 Denton, and then we have a data sharing network VISTA that
9 will work with Eric and Shrabya, and of course, our
10 facility area as well.

11 So right now, we're kind of in the more of the
12 recruitment timeline for us, which aligns well with the
13 busy summer recruitment period typically anyway. Eric,
14 I'll pass it back off to you, or Shrabya.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. And just to note, because
16 it's curious, I think, we also have a site -- two sites,
17 actually -- no, two members in New Mexico. So we're
18 expanding out of the state, somewhat, barely out of the
19 state.

20 Las Cruces, I believe, is where they are.

21 MR. DOYLE: Is One Star Foundation still kind
22 of spearheading that, Eric?

23 MR. SAMUELS: So One Star -- they're still very
24 involved, but we work through the State agency, and I
25 mean -- and now, it's a regional corporation for National

1 and Community Service Agency. And so we're the Texas
2 intermediary for homelessness.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

4 MR. SAMUELS: So we don't really work with One
5 Star, but they are a big player.

6 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

7 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

8 So next, we're going to provide an update on
9 our Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network pilot. And
10 Shrabya is here to do that.

11 MS. POUDYAL: Hi, everyone. So the last time
12 we met, I had shared that we received three commitments or
13 three CoC commitments, and these were from Texas Balance
14 of States, Houston-Harris County, and Ft. Worth/
15 Arlington/Tarrant County CoCs to participate in the Data
16 Sharing Network and provide data.

17 So we have -- currently, we have over 460,000
18 client records in the warehouse from these three CoCs.
19 They have access to 30 reports and dashboard in the
20 warehouse that they can utilize, and this is for the
21 individual CoC data.

22 And in the future, they will also have access
23 to aggregate-level data of all participants. So the CoCs
24 can run these for data analysis, of course, and also to
25 support HMIS data. There is room to work with our vendor,

1 which is Green River, based in Vermont, to create
2 customized dashboards and reports for -- you know, based
3 on their needs. So this is something that we're actually
4 coordinating right now for a few of our CoCs and working
5 with our vendor to meet their public dashboard needs.

6 In addition to that, we are analyzing data from
7 these three CoCs that I have mentioned. And one of the
8 areas that we're looking into is overlapping our shared
9 client findings.

10 We -- and from the last meeting, I mentioned
11 that we had submitted a work plan for receiving assistance
12 for -- TS assistance from ICF to HUD. So that had been
13 approved. And the three main areas that ICF will be
14 providing assistance are TSDS and policy support, CoC
15 support and technical support as well.

16 And I want to talk a little bit about the
17 policy support category, because this would consist of us
18 drafting a TSDS and release of information, or RI, as this
19 would be a key element as we start planning for our care
20 coordination effort, so that's something we are gearing up
21 for.

22 We also recently submitted a comprehensive
23 infographic report to the TSDSM board and their HMIS
24 teams. And this included dashboards and aggregate
25 findings on multiple areas including permanent supportive

1 housing, disability, client overlap or shared clients,
2 population and core demographics, and this was again, of
3 those three participating continuums of care.

4 And lastly, in regards to our second cohort of
5 CoCs, right now, we have active or ongoing conversations
6 with the City of Amarillo, Austin, Waco and Dallas. And I
7 would say we are closest with the City of Amarillo in
8 terms of receiving a signed data use agreement.

9 That is all I have for you today. If you have
10 any questions, just let me know.

11 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, and so --

12 MR. DOYLE: Anybody got any questions? Eric?

13 MR. SAMUELS: No. Go ahead.

14 MR. DOYLE: I was just asking.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Well, so I was just going to say,
16 Amarillo and Waco -- one of the reasons that they haven't
17 signed yet is because their CoCs are led by their
18 city. And we had an arbitration clause in our data
19 sharing agreement, and cities -- we did not know this --
20 but Texas cities cannot go through arbitration.

21 So we had to slightly amend the data sharing
22 agreement to work out outside of that process. So we're
23 doing that with our legal team, and we're hopeful that,
24 after that, they'll sign. In addition to Dallas and
25 Austin, we also hope El Paso will sign too.

1 So we could be growing quite a bit over the
2 summer. But right now, it is just three CoCs. But I will
3 say that those cover 220 counties in the state of Texas.

4 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

5 MR. SAMUELS: So it's a pretty --

6 MR. DOYLE: So what --

7 MR. SAMUELS: -- large area.

8 MR. DOYLE: -- what's the hold-up with San
9 Antonio?

10 MR. SAMUELS: Well, San Antonio is in a
11 different situation. They have -- Haven for Hope runs
12 their HMIS, and then their continuum of care lead agency
13 is SARAH. So they have -- you know, there's multiple
14 hoops to go through with them, but we are working with
15 them.

16 And you know, we have good relationships with
17 Haven and SARAH. So we're hopeful that we can work with
18 Kenny and his team and Katie and her team to make that
19 happen.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

21 MR. SAMUELS: And I should also point out, HB
22 1260, what it would do is, it would study the
23 effectiveness of what we're doing right now. We worked
24 fairly closely with Representative Bowers to get that out.

25 And then the HB 3030 -- or 3034, that is

1 something we're continuing to work with Representative
2 Campos on. I will say, we did not work with the
3 Representative beforehand. In fact, we were surprised
4 that that bill was filed.

5 But we worked with them on the language to
6 remove -- there was some references to the public
7 searching the database. That would not be the intention
8 of this Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network. In fact,
9 there's very limited access for even providers at this
10 point, because we want to protect the client
11 confidentiality.

12 So -- and then I will say one more thing. We
13 are having our annual conference this year. We are
14 planning on doing it in person in Houston at the Omni
15 Galleria. And it is from October 4 through the 6th.

16 We are awaiting confirmation from Secretary
17 Castro about speaking on the fourth. He did agree to
18 speak on the third. I realized that I needed to ask him
19 for the fourth, so hopefully, his schedule will allow that
20 change.

21 But we are planning on doing that. We are
22 probably going to have a component for those who can't
23 join us in person, but it will not be all online. It will
24 just be partially online. That's the plan right now, at
25 least.

1 MR. DOYLE: Are you planning on -- and this may
2 be a question for all of us, but are we planning on having
3 the TICH meet with the CoCs down in Houston?

4 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, I would love for that to
5 happen. I think that a lot of it depends on, you know,
6 State agencies, whether or not they'll allow the staff to
7 do that, you're comfortable -- you know, if you're
8 comfortable with that.

9 We will have space for that. We've already
10 planned with the hotel that space for that.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay. We can look at that further.

12 MR. SAMUELS: Hopefully, things will continue
13 to get better.

14 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, yeah. Thanks, Eric. Thanks,
15 THN. Did we have any public comments, Jeremy?

16 MR. STREMLER: Let's see. Looks --

17 MR. SCHOLL: Mike, this is Dennis Scholl.

18 MR. DOYLE: Say again?

19 MR. SCHOLL: This is Dennis Scholl. Can you
20 hear me okay, Mike?

21 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Hi, Dennis.

22 MR. SCHOLL: Hey, it's good to see you all
23 again. I just, earlier, about a half-hour before the
24 meeting, sent some typed public comment in from my
25 perspective to Elizabeth, and I sent a copy to Eric. I

1 didn't have your email, Mike, so I didn't send that.

2 It was about a four or five paragraph thing.

3 But since -- having missed a couple of meetings and sizing
4 up that I'm getting old enough to sort of like Jeff
5 Dunham's favorite ventriloquist character, Walter, a
6 grumpy old man, I decided it's about time to stop my
7 nearly, I think, 10-year volunteer service on the panel as
8 a public citizen member.

9 So I put my kind of feelings about that, a
10 couple comments in there, to share with y'all. I do want
11 to let you know it's been an honor on the Committee as a
12 citizen member. I admire the work of all of the agencies
13 and the TICH oversight that you do, and will continue to
14 honor that.

15 If any of the agencies or the TICH somehow
16 needs participation from a public citizen member, call me
17 anytime, and I'll jump in and fill that role if you have
18 the requirement. But I think it's about time for me to
19 kind of pass the baton, and have you find some other
20 regular participant, public citizen member.

21 Thank you for what you do, and I ask that you
22 continue to look at what have always been my kind of
23 interests, rural, south Texas homeless veterans, and
24 persons with mental illness and their families, and keep
25 that on your radar.

1 And thank you so much for letting me take part
2 for so many years.

3 MR. DOYLE: Dennis, thank you. You've been a
4 real blessing and a real help to keep that population on
5 the forefront of what we're trying to, and I know what
6 TDHCA is trying to do. So thank you for your service.
7 You've been a real asset to us all.

8 MR. SCHOLL: Yeah. I wish I could have done
9 more, but you know, to contribute some makes me feel good
10 and to have you guys listen to me also makes me feel
11 good. It's very therapeutic for a psychologist to get
12 some good feedback from y'all.

13 So call me if you need me or email me if you
14 need me. Just let me know. Thanks a lot, you guys, and
15 good luck. Okay?

16 MR. DOYLE: You too, buddy.

17 MR. SCHOLL: Bye-bye.

18 MR. DOYLE: All right. Are there any other
19 closing comments?

20 MS. YEVICH: Mike, if you wouldn't mind, I
21 have, like, two administrative --

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

23 MS. YEVICH: -- I'm noticing that some people
24 have signed in. I want to read into the record for our
25 report the members that are here, because we have a few

1 more.

2 So officially, we have Mike Doyle, Suzie Brady,
3 Brooke Boston, Abigail Versyp in for Naomi Cantu, Cal
4 Lopez, Shirley Jones, Joyce Pohlman, Claire Irwin, and we
5 also Valinda Bolton and Sherri Cogbill.

6 And then for our advisory members, we had
7 Dennis Scholl, and of course, Eric Samuels. Molly Voyles,
8 I see, is also signed in. Darilynn Cardona-Beiler --
9 sorry if I missed mispronounced that -- Beiler is also
10 signed in.

11 And I wanted to introduce Fedora Galasso. Am I
12 pronouncing that correctly? She's the new executive
13 director over at TNOYS. So there's some housekeeping
14 there.

15 MR. DOYLE: Thank you for that, Elizabeth.

16 MR. STREMLER: So there was a request by
17 someone in the attendees -- if we could send out the links
18 to the conferences upcoming this year? So I don't know if
19 that would be something that y'all could send to
20 Elizabeth, so that we can post it with the materials we
21 post on the TDHCA website, so that it is available for
22 everybody?

23 MR. DOYLE: Good idea. I'm sure we can.

24 MS. GALASSO: And I just wanted to say hello to
25 everyone. Fedora Galasso from TNOYS. Excited to be back

1 on the TICH. I was on the TICH many years ago when I was
2 at HHSC, so it's good to be back in this space with the
3 folks on the group.

4 And TNOYS actually -- we have our annual
5 conference. So in addition to a conference that we plan
6 with TEA, we have our annual conference that's coming up
7 the first week of June. So I will send that out to be
8 sent out to folks as well.

9 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Fedora. Welcome.
10 Anybody else?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. DOYLE: All right. Thank you all for being
13 here. We are officially adjourned. And you guys be safe
14 and have a great week.

15 MS. YEVICH: Thank you, Mike.

16 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, at 10:51 a.m., the meeting was
18 adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

3 MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
4 LOCATION: Austin, Texas
5 DATE: April 20, 2021

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 41, 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.

11
12 DATE: April 23, 2021

/s/ Adrienne Evans-Stark
(Transcriber)

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