

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HOMELESS

via GoToWebinar

April 26, 2022
1:35 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL DOYLE, Chair
VALINDA BOLTON (absent)
BROOKE BOSTON
SUZIE BRADY (absent)
MARQUS BUTLER
NAOMI CANTU
SHERRI COGBILL
KELLY DAVIS (absent)
HELEN EISERT
DR. BLAKE HARRIS (absent)
CLAIRE IRWIN
CAL LOPEZ (absent)

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:

DARILYN CARDON-BEILER
FEDORA GALASSO
DAVID LONG (absent)
ANN-CHARLOTTE PROFFITT (absent)
LAUREN ROSE (absent)
ERIC SAMUELS
MOLLY THIBODEAUX (absent)
MICHAEL WILT
MOLLY VOYLES

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

ELIZABETH YEVICH
SPENCER DURAN
ROSY FALCON
SEAN LONERGAN
JEREMY STREMLER (Host)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. DOYLE: We'll call the April meeting of the
3 Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless to order. And I
4 don't have any remarks other than soon to be winding down,
5 at least in Fort Worth and maybe around the state as well,
6 with the COVID relief money. And we are certainly going to
7 miss the money, as far the people who need it are concerned.

8 But it has been a job. We have had to have five
9 more staff to just hand out the money. So, it has been crazy,
10 but anyway, it came at a great time. I think it is probably
11 winding down to some degree.

12 So thanks to all of you all who participated in
13 that. That was a big boon for those that were hurting because
14 of COVID.

15 If all of you had a chance to review the minutes
16 that Sean sent out to us. And if you have, or even if you
17 haven't, I will entertain a motion to accept those minutes
18 as presented.

19 MS. CANTU: This is Naomi Cantu. I so move to
20 accept the minutes.

21 MS. DURAN: Okay, Naomi. Is there a second?

22 MS. IRWIN: This is Claire Irwin, and I second.

23 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Claire. All in favor of
24 accepting the minutes, say aye.

25 (A chorus of ayes.)

1 MR. DOYLE: Raise your hand, or do something. And
2 I assume that those do pass. So, thank you.

3 I asked you, the last time we got together, for
4 people to send me or Brooke nominations to chair the Council
5 this year, and nobody sent anything to me. And i don't know
6 if anybody sent anything to Brooke. But we are -- no. Nobody
7 sent anything to Brooke.

8 So, we are required to elect a Chair. So, I told
9 Brooke, I would do it again, if she would make the nomination.

10 So, I think that is kind of where we are.

11 So, Brooke, if you will make the nomination, we
12 will see if there is anybody that just goes crazy objecting.

13

14 MS. BOSTON: Sir, I think Naomi actually wanted
15 to do it.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Naomi.

17 MS. BOSTON: So, we were talking about it earlier.

18 MS. CANTU: We were talking about who was going
19 to do the honors this year. And I am happy to do it. I so
20 nominate Mike Doyle to be Chairperson of the TICH for this
21 coming year.

22 MR. DOYLE: Thank you. There is a second.
23 Alright, coming from the Nominating Committee, we can go ahead
24 and vote. So, is there -- I should say, raise your hand, wave,
25 if you are okay with that, if you vote yes. If not, we will

1 raise your hand after the yeases.

2 (A show of hands.)

3 MR. DOYLE: Are they any noes or abstentions?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. DOYLE: As far as I can tell, that passes.

6 So, thank you for that honor again. I will be glad to do that.

7 I enjoy you guys, and hearing all the great work you are
8 doing.

9 Speaking of that, let's go into our member agencies
10 reports. And it looks like we are going to hear from Rosy
11 on the Emergency Solutions Grant, ESG grant, Economic Security
12 - CARES Act grant.

13 So, Rosy.

14 MR. LONERGAN: Mike, before we proceed, would you
15 mind reading into the record for the reporter and the
16 transcript the TICH members who are present.

17 MR. DOYLE: If I can see them all. Here we go.

18 The TICH members. I shamed some of them. So, I am just going
19 to tell you who is there. For anybody recording, just tell
20 me who, the ones that -- if they are members, count them.

21 Aubrey Fetzner. Brooke Boston. Claire Irwin.
22 Darilyn Cardon-Beiler. Elizabeth Yevich. Eric Samuels.
23 Fedora Galasso. Helen Eisert. Marqus Butler. Michael
24 Wilt. Mike Doyle. Molly Thibodeaux. Naomi Cantu. Rosy
25 Falcon. Sean Lonergan. Sherri Cogbill. And that's the

1 ones. Spencer Duran.

2 That is the ones that I have that are on the side
3 of my screen. Thank you, Sean.

4 MR. LONERGAN: Thank you for that, Mike.

5 MR. DOYLE: Are you ready?

6 MR. LONERGAN: Please proceed.

7 MS. FALCON: Thank you. Good afternoon,
8 everyone. Can you hear me? Okay. We have some exciting
9 updates for both our ESG annual and CARES programs.

10 As some of you might have already known, HUD
11 recently sent a notice, 22-6, bringing some updates to our
12 CARES program. And so, I am going to highlight some of that
13 notice.

14 The first one, it replaces the March 31, 2022,
15 deadline for having 80 percent of the funds expended. It is
16 a deadline of June 16th to have 50 percent of the funds drawn
17 down from IDIS and not expended any longer. This is great
18 news.

19 And greater news is that we have both met both
20 benchmarks for September and the June expenditure benchmark.

21 We are currently at 63.73 percent expended, while the average
22 is 44.13. So, we do -- we are looking forward to this
23 extension change on the deadline. And we are hoping to be
24 able to be extremely more expended after these next couple
25 of months.

1 The second thing that updated in the CARES was that
2 it extends the September 30, 2022, overall expenditures
3 deadline to September 30, 2023. And this is for the first
4 and second CARES allocations for direct line services. Any
5 funds used for administration and HMIS funds are going to be
6 extended until December 31st, 2023.

7 And then of course, there is the possibility of
8 additional funds. If we do receive any additional funds, and
9 that's having been moving ahead of target -- but the September
10 and the June deadline, I think we are very likely to be able
11 to receive additional funds. And for these, we would have
12 until June 30th of 2024 to expend. And that is the update
13 for our CARES funds.

14 For ESG regular allocation, our expenditure ratios
15 for the 2020 are at 91.02 percent. And we are at 32.23 percent
16 from our 2021 allocation.

17 A bigger update for our ESG annual funds since our
18 last meeting is that we have completed and presented our
19 proposed reward dates for the ESG program. The rules were
20 presented for print for publication and public comment during
21 the January 10th Board meeting.

22 And we held virtual roundtables to discuss the
23 different draft options that staff had come up with. We had
24 about 187 individual stakeholders attend these virtual
25 roundtables.

1 And our public comment just closed. It was open
2 between March 25th and April 25th. We have received a total
3 of seven comments or comments from seven agencies that are
4 currently under review by the Homeless Programs team. We are
5 gathering all of that, and making sure that we have staff
6 responses for each one of them.

7 I do want to take a little bit of time to highlight
8 some of the major changes for which we did receive comment
9 for, that we are preparing for. Some of the biggest overall
10 proposed changes for the annual ESG is that we are planning
11 or proposing to set aside no less than 70 percent of the
12 allocation to offer continuing awards to high performing
13 annual ESG subrecipients.

14 This amount will still be subject to the regional
15 allocation, and the award amount will proportionate to the
16 most recent award. Any remaining funds after the continuing
17 awards have been offered and accepted will be made available
18 in the competitive awards cycle.

19 The second bigger change to our program that we
20 are proposing are updates to the competitive award and funding
21 process by removing the use of local competitions, and
22 simplifying the competition process by performing only two
23 competitions. The first would be a regional competition.
24 Any funding remaining after the continuing awards process is
25 completed will also remain within their respective COC region

1 during the competitive award process.

2 After that, any funds remaining will be made
3 available for competition statewide. So, any applicants not
4 funded under the regional competition will then compete for
5 this source of funds.

6 The other two -- those were the bigger impact
7 changes. But the other two changes that we did receive comment
8 on are -- and were more significant -- was the prohibition
9 of legal purchase or lease with any Homeless Programs funds.

10 And ESG funds will no longer be used for new construction,
11 renovation, rehabilitation, or conversion. However, minor
12 repairs will still remain eligible under shelter operations.

13

14 And that is all I have for our ESG update. Any
15 questions?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Rosy. And I know, I have
18 talked to people who are way behind on their meeting their
19 percentages. So, great job on getting that done.

20 MR. FALCON: Thank you.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. We'll move on to Naomi. You
22 are going to talk to us about the American Rescue Plan.

23 MS. CANTU: I am. So, HOME American Rescue Plan
24 is HOME-ARP. And you can all hear me, right? All right.
25 I sometimes have a delay. Okay.

1 This is HOME-ARP. It is called -- one reason that
2 we continue to report on it for the TICH is because of the
3 qualified populations of homeless, at risk of homelessness,
4 at risk of homelessness with a higher area median income; up
5 to 50 percent AMI. We also have victims of domestic violence;
6 formerly homeless, but currently housed, and also -- formerly
7 homeless. Oh, severe cost-burdened.

8 Sorry, had to look at my notes. So, they are cost
9 burdened at very low income, extremely low income, at 30
10 percent AMI.

11 What we are doing with the funding, as a reminder,
12 for the \$132 million in a one time funding source, we have
13 programmed the funds into rental housing and non-congregate
14 shelter, pretty much evenly. And we have also funded
15 capacity-building and non-profit operating funds, and then
16 administration as well.

17 We submitted -- the plan went to the Board with
18 some changes on April 14th, and was submitted to HUD on April
19 15th. Our Fort Worth office got it back to us in record time
20 last week, last Friday. Yes, the 22nd. And we are currently
21 updating and clarifying some of the questions that they had
22 and we will resubmit.

23 Once they do receive approval from HUD, we plan
24 to release NOFAs. The first NOFA will be for a National
25 Housing Trust Fund setaside for HOME-ARP. So, that is pairing

1 with the National Housing Trust Fund units that might have
2 significant cost increases.

3 That will necessitate additional investment in
4 order to not lose that money for that commitment deadline.

5 So, we have \$10 million in that setaside. We anticipate
6 another \$40 million or so in the rental assistance NOFA that
7 will come out in the summer.

8 We also, at the -- I don't want to say at the same
9 time, but similarly to the National Housing Trust Fund
10 setaside, we plan to release a capacity-building/non-profits
11 operating cost assistance to build capacity for non-congregate
12 shelter. And then, there will be a delay on our non-congregate
13 shelter NOFA as we are working through the capacity-building
14 aspect of those organizations that are going through that other
15 process.

16 So, things are moving along. We are hoping to get
17 NOFAs and applications out in the coming months. Any
18 questions?

19 MR. DOYLE: I've got one, Naomi. I was approached
20 by a shelter here in Tarrant County about -- that they had
21 heard that TDHCA was coming out with some money to maybe -- they
22 are trying to build 144 affordable housing units for their
23 residents into -- and they are in the middle of a capital
24 campaign, doing quite well.

25 But they were just wondering if, whatever they

1 heard about, if it is really coming out. Would that be a place
2 to ask for capital, for a project like that?

3 MS. CANTU: That is one thing. That is what we're
4 funding, capital --

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

6 MS. CANTU: -- for non-congregate and rental
7 housing. And if it is a homeless shelter that is also doing
8 rental housing, it sounds like they are familiar with the
9 qualified populations --

10 MR. DOYLE: Right.

11 MS. CANTU: -- that we are focused on.

12 MR. DOYLE: So what program would that be?

13 MS. CANTU: Again it's the HOME-ARP; the HOME-ARP,
14 American Rescue Plan. And that is the NOFA that we will
15 hopefully release in the summer, early summer.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay. All right.

17 MS. CANTU: We are aiming to, once our plan is
18 approved.

19 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

20 MS. CANTU: Any other questions?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. CANTU: Thank you all.

23 MR. DOYLE: Great job, as usual. Emergency
24 housing vouchers. Spencer.

25 MR. DURAN: Thank you all. Spencer Duran --

1 MR. DOYLE: I can see it --

2 MR. LONERGAN: Spencer, I think it's in --

3 MR. DURAN: Is that better?

4 MR. LONERGAN: Perfect.

5 MR. DURAN: Thank you all. I have an unrelated
6 PowerPoint I was going to try and do, if I could share my screen.
7 I am not sure if I could.

8 (Pause.)

9 MR. DOYLE: I don't see why you just can't read
10 it.

11 (Pause.)

12 MR. LONERGAN: Spencer, I think it is on
13 presentation mode. So, we are seeing part of the screen with
14 the notes, and part of the screen with the presentation. So,
15 is there anyway to blow it up a bit?

16 MR. DURAN: Yes. Is that better?

17 MR. LONERGAN: Perfect.

18 MR. DURAN: Okay. Sorry about that. So, yes.

19 I'm Spencer Duran, Section 811 Director. And I am here to
20 present about our Emergency Housing Voucher program,
21 essentially tenant-based rental assistance coming through the
22 American Rescue Plan.

23 And essentially, what we are talking about is a
24 Section 811 housing choice voucher program where HUD allocated
25 to TDHCA nearly 800 additional Section 811 vouchers that are

1 specifically designed to serve targeted populations. And
2 those target populations are those that are homeless, at risk
3 of homelessness, those who are domestic violence involved.

4 Homeless families, as you can kind of see on the screen.

5 So, it is a unique target population for TDHCA's
6 Section 8 program. We have other, kind of, I guess, other
7 Section 8 initiatives that serve specific target populations.

8 But this is a new population for us.

9 So, this is some quick background about Texas.
10 So, we are one of 45 public housing authorities that are awarded
11 emergency housing vouchers by HUD -- and made those awards
12 based on a formula that they set, which includes things like
13 the poverty rate, the point-in-time count, and things like
14 that. So, Texas overall received 4,500 EHV's.

15 So what we decided to do with our 800 was to try
16 and be the EHV-awarded housing authority who would try and
17 fill those gaps in the state that did not have an EHV-awarded
18 housing authority.

19 So we are trying to just define that service area
20 as those areas not otherwise served. And that was basically
21 approved by our Board. And we are kind of working in this
22 dual kind of framework to roll the program out, ever since.

23 So, one of the unique things about the program is
24 HUD requires an actual contract with a Continuum of Care or
25 other homeless or victims of domestic violence service

1 providers. So, in trying to be that overall provider, we have
2 partnered with Texas Homeless Network to serve the balance
3 of state area that doesn't have an EHV award or a PHA in it,
4 and also, Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition.

5 So, we only have two people housed so far with Texas
6 Homeless Network. But you know, we are building a brand new
7 huge machine that will be able to serve up to 380 families
8 with these vouchers. The average housed rate for PHAs is about
9 25 percent, so we are definitely behind the curve on getting
10 these vouchers leased up.

11 But after we have established that we have a
12 functioning referral pipeline, a target population to Texas
13 Homeless Network, to TDHCA, to then, you know looking for and
14 finding properties that are participating. So we are kind
15 of just developing our program still. And we really hope to
16 have a lot more people housed in the near future. But we are
17 working on it.

18 It kind of -- it kind of is what it is. But the
19 Texas Homeless Network has done a lot of work. You know, this
20 is the area they are trying to serve; all of the counties in
21 red and orange.

22 So, as you can see, it is underserved areas of the
23 state. It is more rural by nature. So, it is a pretty big
24 challenge ahead of us, so far.

25 But we knew -- with THN uniquely to, you know, kind

1 of develop the program. And I think that one of the great
2 things that they are bringing to the table is a lot of great
3 ideas on best practices on negotiating with property owners
4 to serve people that have -- that are ending homelessness are
5 a pretty hard-to-house population in general.

6 So, I think we kind of have established that the
7 dual framework of the program is working. Now, it is just
8 all about kind of wrapping up and going from there. So,
9 that is all I have, if anyone has any questions.

10
11 MR. DOYLE: I have got a question. This is Mike.
12 I have got a question. Can you call that map back up?

13 MR. DURAN: Sure.

14 MR. DOYLE: See that orange county up there in
15 North Central Texas?

16 MR. DURAN: Yes.

17 MR. DOYLE: The Fort Worth area. What is that
18 county, that is part of this eligible, but partially --

19 MR. DURAN: That is Denton County. So, Denton
20 County. The City of Denton has their own EHV award.

21 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

22 MR. DURAN: So, our first goal is to serve the areas
23 outside of the City of Denton, to kind of not serve that area.
24 It has its own kind of incumbent EHV program. But we can
25 definitely serve within the municipality.

1 So, we have a statewide jurisdiction for this.
2 So we can serve Addison and Denton. But we are definitely
3 trying to be the provider that fills in those gaps. So, we
4 are working on, right now, the area outside of the City of
5 Denton, but we can also serve voucher holders within the City
6 of Denton as well.

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you for the
8 clarification.

9 MR. DURAN: Sure. Yes, Denton is interesting.
10 There is a lot of activity up there, so.

11 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

12 MR. DURAN: Particularly with Denton.

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you. We appreciate that
14 update.

15 MR. SAMUELS: I just wanted to thank TDHCA staff
16 for working so closely with us on that. I thought Shane was
17 going to be on with us, but he may not be. We have a great
18 team working with their great team.

19 So, thank you, Spencer. We are kind of building
20 this airplane in the air, but we are going to make it. And
21 we are going to help a lot of people.

22 We have already helped two households, I guess,
23 as of this morning. Right, Spencer?

24 MR. DURAN: Exactly. We got our second family
25 housed. I was wanting to hold off on sending this PowerPoint

1 out.

2 And we actually have a lot. We have a lot more
3 people. I think we have maybe, I don't know, maybe 30 families
4 that are house hunting right now.

5 So, no one -- so they have about 120 days to find
6 a unit, once they are issued their voucher. So, I think the
7 30 families are out there house hunting. And nobody has
8 exceeded that 120-day, you know, house hunting window yet.

9

10 So we are really optimistic that we will get those
11 folks housed. And TDHCA is rolling out all those owner
12 incentives and really kind of clarifying their policies on
13 how do you use some of the additional funds that come through
14 that. It is \$3,500 that come with the voucher for services.

15

16 And TDHCA has invested some of our Housing
17 Stability Services funds as well, to supplement. So we have
18 a lot of cool pools. It is just, it is a new activity, and
19 it is complicated. But I think the fundamentals of the program
20 have kind of been proven.

21 MR. DOYLE: Great. Great. Okay, any other
22 agencies have any updates?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

25 Elizabeth, the Homeless Individual Camping, HB

1 1925. What is the update there?

2 MS. YEVICH: Well, this is Elizabeth Yevich,
3 Director of the Housing Resource Center. And as I think most
4 of you know, administrative support for the TICH has always
5 been under HRC, the Housing Resource Center.

6 So when this bill passed, HB 1925, it also came
7 under HRC. And my update is the same as the previous two
8 quarters of the TICH meeting, we have no update. We have not
9 received any plans or reports to date. So I have a very brief
10 and quick update for that.

11 However, I am very excited to say that the next
12 agenda item is going to be far more robust. And I really want
13 to officially introduce Sean Lonergan. Some of you might
14 remember, I introduced him briefly at the last TICH meeting,
15 but it was his second day here. He had just basically come
16 straight out of TDHCA orientation into a TICH meeting.

17 And Sean has just really dug into what we used to
18 call Pathways Home. It still doesn't officially have a new
19 name yet, but he is going to be talking about that.

20 He has also been working with other staff at TDHCA.

21 He has been working closely with Brian Thornton, who is also
22 very new staff over in our External Affairs Division, under
23 Michael Lyttle. And as you know, Michael joins
24 us -- sometimes Michael Lyttle participates in these meetings.

25 So, Sean is next. So, we do have an update on that.

1 And very proud that Sean is under HRC and doing a great job.

2

3 And I am going to turn it over to Sean.

4 MR. LONERGAN: Thank you, Elizabeth. Let me pull
5 up the slide real quick. All right, great. Well, I will just
6 try and introduce myself, everyone.

7 My name is Sean Lonergan. I am a Homeless Policy
8 Advisor for the Texas Department of Housing and Community
9 Affairs, and the Housing Resource Center. And I am here to
10 provide an update regarding our new strategic plan to address
11 homelessness.

12 Just to touch real quick on the agenda of what I
13 will cover today. First, I want to touch base on the Pathways
14 Home report that Elizabeth mentioned, to provide a little more
15 color there, since it was published in 2012. So it has been
16 quite a bit of time since that point and a lot has changed.

17 I am also going to cover the work that I have been
18 doing since starting in late January, in terms of developing
19 that report. So, that is going to pertain to background
20 research as well as other methods I have pursued to crowdsource
21 feedback, including surveys and informational reviews in which
22 I will go into more detail in this presentation.

23 Touch on the project timeline a little bit, both
24 generally for the report, and regarding public hearings. And
25 last, as many of you may have seen on the agenda, touching

1 on workgroup formation to inform this report as well.

2 So, to start, regarding Pathways Home. Just to
3 provide more context, the primary objective of the report,
4 which was the first stated Strategic Plan to Address
5 Homelessness, published in late 2012, to coordinate state
6 administered programs with CoC, Continuum of Care planning
7 to address homelessness, and provide Pathways Home for Texans.

8
9 We really wanted to hone in on the categories that
10 organize this report -- four categories, as you can see
11 here -- and just provide each one of the overarching goals
12 that guided the objectives and strategies for each one of these
13 categories.

14 So for affordable housing and supportive services,
15 the goal was to identify opportunities to increase housing
16 options for homeless individuals and families who face
17 multiple barriers to secure housing. For homelessness
18 prevention, the goal was to develop a statewide crisis response
19 mechanism that identifies at-risk individuals and families
20 in order to connect them with preventative resources.

21 For the third category, data, research, and
22 analysis, the goal was to strengthen Texas' capacity to
23 systematically gather, analyze and report precise data of
24 homelessness. And the last organizing category, the state
25 infrastructure, with a goal to take increased communication

1 and collaboration among all service providers and units of
2 government to sustain, just planning efforts and
3 implementation of the Pathways Home report.

4 So now, regarding the need to revamp this report.

5 It was identified that we need to rewrite the report to
6 accommodate the present context in 2022, both relevant to
7 resource and service delivery for homelessness programs, both
8 targeted at mainstream as well as to accommodate the present
9 state and federal policy environment, especially as it relates
10 to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

11 And then, to elaborate on what I touched on in this
12 agenda, focusing on looking at the background research and
13 how it is developed, both on a national scale as well as in
14 the Texas context. In addition to seeing what sort of feedback
15 we can get from the survey that we are developing, which I
16 will go into more detail in a second -- informational
17 interviews, as well as workgroups. These will all
18 collaboratively inform this new report and new set of
19 recommendations.

20 So, to go into a little bit more detail regarding
21 the research I have been doing, here's a slide providing some
22 examples of the sources that I have been taking a deeper dive
23 into, just to give more color, how this report will be
24 substantiated.

25 Looking at state reports and data. Some of the

1 benchmark reports I have been looking at are the State Low
2 Income Housing Plan, published by TDHCA, which provides great
3 context regarding homeless programs, as well as more
4 mainstream programs that assist individuals and families
5 experiencing or at risk for homelessness, as well as more
6 focused programs, such as Youth Count Texas. As well as the
7 report on homelessness among veterans, which provided more
8 focused research on unaccompanied youth experiencing
9 homelessness, as well as veterans experiencing homelessness.

10 And then, looking on the national research side
11 of things, focusing on three primary modes on that side,
12 including U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness federal
13 strategic plans, which are published on a semi-regular basis,
14 the first of which was published in 2010. And national
15 organizational reports as well -- the National Alliance on
16 Homelessness being a key player there.

17 Assessing all the data, relevant data to inform
18 the report. In particular, point-in-time counts from HUD,
19 as well as HUD's annual homelessness assessment report, which
20 are greatly informed by point-in-time counts to substantiate
21 the way that -- the context for addressing homelessness
22 nationally.

23 And then, best practices. Especially on the
24 peer-reviewed study side of things, looking at robust research
25 that is being done to address homelessness, as well as

1 non-Texas state reports, plans, and strategies from other
2 similarly situated states that can -- that may inform this
3 new set of recommendations that we are in the process of
4 developing.

5 Okay, going a little bit more detailed regarding
6 survey and informational interview planning, looking at survey
7 in particular -- survey development in particular, this is
8 something which I will also touch on in the timeline slide
9 forthcoming. But the purpose of the survey is to assess the
10 temperature among the TICH members and advisory members of
11 to what extent the work that is being done from a program side
12 of things is aligning with the objectives and strategies that
13 were outlined in the Pathways Home report.

14 So, the primary goal of the survey is to provide
15 both a baseline for this workgroup discussion, which I will
16 go into more detail in a second, as well as to get
17 engaged -- either the alignment between service providers and
18 state agencies, or the potential impasse that may remain.
19 That is a secondary goal of conducting the survey as well.

20 Regarding informational interviews, the purpose
21 of the informational interviews is to provide more in-depth
22 feedback among TICH members and advisory members, as well as
23 service providers that we planned to interview throughout the
24 state. Some of these organizations providing those
25 boots-on-the-ground services that we plan to interview include

1 Haven for Hope, Foundation Communities, New Hope Housing among
2 others.

3 So, we are really trying to get a robust gauge of
4 what kind of work is being done on a state scale. And also,
5 how to be geographically representational at the state.

6 And really, the key goal for conducting these
7 interviews is to inform case studies for this new strategic
8 plan that really hone in on actionable ways that service
9 providers and agencies across the state can address
10 homelessness in a way that seems -- that is realistic, and
11 something that can be used from various organizations who have
12 different ways of being successful in our own context.

13 Now, transitioning into a timeline, I first want
14 to focus on general timeline and really just hone in on the
15 time from now until we have a draft in place. The first item
16 that I have on my agenda in terms of priorities is getting
17 the survey out to TICH members and advisory members, to get
18 that completed.

19 Start -- in the next -- the forthcoming slide, we
20 will go more into workgroup formation. But once that occurs,
21 the idea is we will be organizing workgroup meetings at which
22 I will be facilitating, as well as the informational interviews
23 with the organizations providing those boots-on-the-ground
24 services.

25 And then, synthesizing all the data collected from

1 the feedback methods that I have mentioned -- excuse me -- for
2 the surveys, workgroup meetings, informational interviews,
3 and substantiating it with national research and state data
4 to create a robust set of recommendations and larger report.

5 And then, from July onward, the process of running
6 it through the state, and getting the necessary approvals and
7 the edits will ideally culminate in the report being published
8 in the last quarter of 2022. As you can see, it might have
9 been cut off a little bit here, but we have October as the
10 publish date.

11 But ideally, if we can get the report published
12 before -- on or before January of 2023, before things start
13 to heat up with the new upcoming legislative session, that
14 is the date that we are targeting for the ultimate publish
15 date for the report. Next slide.

16 And this is just to provide a little more color
17 regarding public hearings in terms of what that is going to
18 look like, and how we plan to have it accelerated on a three
19 to four week timeline to mirror that timeline of what was
20 brought forth in the Pathways Home report. As you can see,
21 we are trying to bunch them together to minimize travel time,
22 to really make things as efficient as possible.

23 For example, looking at Fort Worth, Dallas, Plano,
24 you can see those are all compacted into one day. Really,
25 with the idea of trying to get all the input that we want that

1 is representational of the state relevant actors across the
2 state, and stakeholders.

3 And the one other thing I wanted to emphasize here
4 is that per state statute, we have to ensure that at least
5 one meeting is held in a rural county in the state, and one
6 is held in an urban county. And as you can see here, all those
7 locations are urban. So, we have the potential of either
8 flexing one of those locations to a rural setting, or
9 potentially adding an additional rural meeting as well, to
10 get that geographic representation with these public hearings.

11 So, that leads me to the next sub-item in the report
12 workgroup: formation. I first want to provide some color
13 regarding why we are forming these workgroups and why we are
14 seeking TICH members and advisory members to participate, and
15 have obviously value in it.

16 We see it as a collaborative brainstorming and
17 planning forum, to inform the new plan, especially given the
18 function of the TICH's risk intersection of all these agencies
19 and organizations that have varying and valuable perspectives
20 related to addressing homelessness. So, the idea is that
21 those perspectives will inform each one of these workgroups
22 as you can see up here.

23 We have elected to tentatively keep three of the
24 categories that I mentioned to you earlier in the presentation.

25 And we have elected to amend state infrastructure in favor

1 of another potential fourth category which you -- as you can
2 see at the bottom of the slide.

3 We have talked about the potential for an emergency
4 response planning category, covering COVID-19 response, as
5 well as natural disasters and general emergency planning.
6 As well as the potential subpopulations or demographics
7 category as well, which could be potentially be re-labeled,
8 addressing disparities to focus on groups that are
9 overrepresented experiencing homelessness. And we also
10 considered the potential for just maintaining three
11 categories.

12 Again, it is still very fluid. And this is why,
13 you know, first we are bringing this up for the purpose of
14 forming these workgroups. But also, we are bringing it up
15 for the engagement from you, the members of the TICH, to engage,
16 and see what kind of temperature there is regarding what people
17 seek to see as being represented in this report, and how it
18 is to be categorized, since we want as much input as possible
19 in that regard.

20 And then last, I want to mention the -- Jeremy,
21 would you go back real quick.

22 Regarding Open Meetings Act restrictions. I have
23 Megan Sylvester, our TDHCA Counsel on as well, to clarify if
24 I miss anything. But I do want to hone in on the second bold
25 point.

1 People may be seeing the workgroup has no
2 decision-making authority, and be like, what is the point of
3 doing the organizing of workgroups if we are not going to have
4 any ultimate decision-making authority. To clarify, the idea
5 is that these will be very informative in informing the
6 recommendations and the details of this report, once we get
7 a draft out.

8 But ultimately, the powers that be, the Office of
9 the Governor will be taking the final look and have the final
10 say on what is kept. So just having that disclosure in there
11 to know that, that will -- that is also part of the process.

12 And regarding the other restrictions, no quorum
13 is permitted for these meetings. So, we can't have more than
14 six TICH member participants.

15 The workgroup may make reports to the full TICH.

16 And deliberation of the reports and voting may take place
17 at a public meeting posted on the *Texas Register*.

18 And with that, I would like to turn it over to
19 Elizabeth to facilitate things regarding the formation of
20 these workgroups.

21 MS. YEVICH: Either me or Mike. Again, I don't
22 know how you would like to handle this today. You know,
23 whoever is on today -- and we have a pretty full slate of TICH
24 members, if anybody wants to respond, especially about whether
25 or not we should have a fourth group.

1 And you know, Sean -- do you want to go back one
2 more slide, Jeremy, again.

3 Sean had put out some possibilities down in the
4 asterisk about what that fourth workgroup might be called.

5 Should we not have one? Does anybody here want to volunteer
6 to be on one?

7 Would you like, Sean, after this meeting, to send
8 out an email? And then you respond back to Sean, and we sort
9 of see. You know, would you like to be on one or two? How
10 often would you like to meet?

11 So, that is the type of discussion we need. I see
12 Naomi right there, jumping in. But I want to say something.

13 And again, I know personally, you know, whenever
14 you have workgroups like this, you are like, oh no. It is
15 a subgroup, a subcommittee. But I think these are going to
16 be very, very useful, informative. And you know, nobody is
17 required to be on all of them.

18 But we certainly feel that each of these that we
19 had before, the first three especially are important. Unless
20 of course, the membership decides one of these maybe shouldn't
21 be there or you want another one.

22 So, I am going to -- I guess, Mike, if it is okay,
23 Naomi is going to speak. And I will leave it to you all to
24 figure this out.

25 MS. CANTU: I just have one question. I just have

1 one question. And by the way, Sean, very nicely laid out and
2 taking us through all the way to July. That is great.

3 Can we go back to the timeline so that we can see
4 when the meat of the workgroups have to be done? And then,
5 how often do you think workgroups will meet?

6 MR. LONERGAN: So, I have in my mind, no more than
7 one to two meetings. I know it is difficult to coordinate
8 with everyone being as busy as they are.

9 So, I wanted to be realistic about that and respect
10 people's time. But at the same time I want, you know, people
11 who are participating in these workgroups to be motivated and
12 be mindful that I will be the facilitating factor here. It
13 is really -- all you bring is your expertise.

14 And I will be facilitating the conversations that
15 are happening. So, it is -- I am taking the initiative when
16 it comes to organizing everything and putting forth the
17 questions and everything related to that.

18 It is more of, you know, we will have in that
19 timeline, of May to June -- we will find a time where everybody
20 can meet. Hopefully have -- I envision like an hour to an
21 hour-and-a-half-long meeting where we touch on these items
22 that I have gleaned from the surveys and everything else from
23 my research. And then, we draw conclusions from there.

24 And if we see necessary, hold additional meetings
25 that may further parse that out. But no more than two

1 meetings, just because of the constraints of everybody's time,
2 is what I envision.

3 MS. YEVICH: And I want to jump in, one thing.
4 This is not just members. It is also advisory members.

5 MR. LONERGAN: Yes.

6 MS. YEVICH: Megan might want to jump in here.
7 I think that others may participate. Is that correct, Megan?
8 Are you on?

9 MS. SYLVESTER: I am. Megan Sylvester, Federal
10 Compliance Counsel. So if it is a posted meeting, other people
11 can attend. And you can sign up, and ask to meet unofficially.

12 But unless they are posted, they are not open to
13 the public. So, it is not a public meeting. And that is why
14 we have the limitation of the TICH members.

15 MS. YEVICH: All right. So thank you for
16 clarifying that. So, yes. It would be just TICH members and
17 advisory members.

18 MS. CANTU: Great. Thank you, Megan.

19 MR. DOYLE: So, hey Megan, this is Mike. So, Open
20 Meetings doesn't apply if the meeting isn't posted?

21 MS. SYLVESTER: No, it does. It still does apply.
22 Which is why, if it is -- if they are workgroups, they are
23 not meetings. And that is what I was trying to say.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

25 MS. SYLVESTER: If you are having a meeting, the

1 meeting has to be posted. And so, if it is just a
2 workgroup -- and you can decide to be a workgroup, but it can't
3 be any more than six, six members.

4 Sean, is that six, or is that really five? Because
5 it is --

6 MR. LONERGAN: I was under the impression that it
7 couldn't be seven or above, so I put six. But if I am
8 incorrect --

9 MS. SYLVESTER: I think I might need to get with
10 you on that math. Because it is not the amount of spots that
11 we have, it is the amount of spots that are filled.

12 MR. LONERGAN: Okay.

13 MR. DOYLE: Yes. You know, if you can go forward
14 on that.

15 Naomi, are you through?

16 MS. CANTU: Yes. He answered my question. Thank
17 you so much.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So, will you go back to
19 the -- go forward on the slide. There is a couple. To where
20 you have got the workgroups, right there.

21 So, are you saying that there is a workgroup on
22 affordable housing and supportive services, there is one on
23 prevention, and there is one on data research? Those are the
24 three workgroups.

25 MR. LONERGAN: That's correct. At the very least,

1 there is those three categories. And then, there is still
2 deliberation regarding what additional categories we may
3 include, which is part of the reason why I am soliciting input,
4 if anybody has any strong feelings one way or the other, for
5 an additional category.

6 MR. DOYLE: I would like to suggest that we get
7 out those three headings, of what the workgroups are to the
8 members and advisory members. And ask them to sign up for
9 one of those workgroups, to give everybody a full opportunity.
10 And then, let's see what we have got.

11 And I would like that response back to Sean by May
12 5th. Close of business, May 5th. That is next Friday. And
13 then we will see where we stand on those workgroups.

14 And we may have to ask other people to step off,
15 if we get in violation of too many voting members on one of
16 the committees. Or we may have to ask people to join, if we
17 need more input into one of those committees. So, is that
18 something we can do, to get out something to all of the members
19 and advisory members, giving them a choice of those workgroups?

20 MR. LONERGAN: Yes. That sounds like a good plan
21 to me.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

23 MR. LONERGAN: And I can facilitate that.

24 MR. DOYLE: And if we can get that out. And we
25 will need the response back by next Friday. Not this coming

1 Friday, but the following Friday.

2 So that we can have ample time to give Sean time
3 to put the workgroups together and notify you that you are
4 on this group. And then, begin to schedule our meetings.
5 Okay. Great.

6 MS. GALASSO: I have a quick question about the
7 timing for those public meetings. Is that scheduled, or is
8 that something that you are still finalizing?

9 MR. LONERGAN: That is something that was purely
10 as an exercise to indicate our intentions with accelerating
11 these public hearings. So, this was using the previous
12 Pathways Home report structure for the public hearings that
13 were held to inform that previous report.

14 So, like the idea of having the Fort
15 Worth/Dallas/Plano meeting all in one day, that was -- that
16 did occur. And similarly, where the other locations were held
17 close to one another, the idea is to keep those close together
18 as well.

19 So, to answer your question, no, it is not. Those
20 dates aren't set in stone. But they do provide a framework
21 for what our intentions are with the proximity of the hearings
22 to one another.

23 MS. GALASSO: And when will they be finalized?
24 I just know, I remember some entities across the state would
25 love to attend some of them.

1 MR. LONERGAN: As soon as possible. I know, you
2 know, this is something. I am prioritizing getting the survey
3 out first, but this is the next thing on that list I am getting
4 organized.

5 It is something that I will be sure to communicate
6 with all TICH members and advisory members, to get that word
7 out. So, we can get as much public input as possible at each
8 one of these hearings.

9 MR. DOYLE: So, I --

10 MS. GALASSO: And another quick question.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

12 MS. GALASSO: About the three meetings, or the
13 three titles. One is prevention, one is data and research,
14 and the other one is supportive services.

15 But I see that there was the possibility of doing
16 one on subpopulations. So, I am trying to understand where
17 youth would actually be fit in most specifically.

18 MR. LONERGAN: Yes. I'm glad you brought that up,
19 because previously, in the previous report, subpopulations
20 were interspersed. Actually, there was an entire demographic
21 section prefacing the categories for all those objectives and
22 strategies.

23 So, the idea is that it is -- in a nutshell, it
24 is still fluid. And there is still ways that we are
25 considering to either intersperse the subpopulations, whether

1 that be unaccompanied youth, veterans, families experiencing
2 homelessness, individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

3 Either interspersing those throughout or creating an entirely
4 separate section that addresses disparities among certain
5 subpopulations.

6 We are doing both. I guess part of what I am trying
7 to communicate is, we found certain structural shortcomings
8 with the Pathways Home report, as in this present context,
9 that we see as an opportunity to correct. Which is part of
10 the reason why we are soliciting input as to what we
11 think -- what TICH members and advisory members would think
12 is a sound way to organize it otherwise.

13 So, to answer your question, still to be
14 determined, but there are options for us to do it. What we
15 decide to do ultimately lies with these workgroups.

16 You have surveys, the informational interviews.

17 Seeing what the temperature is, and then making a firm
18 decision from that.

19 MR. GALASSO: Okay. Thank you.

20 MR. DOYLE: Thanks, Fedora.

21 So, let me ask you this. In Pathways Home, if I
22 remember correctly, we asked TICH members to make themselves
23 available at these meetings in the communities. Do you want
24 that to happen this time as well?

25 MR. LONERGAN: That's something that I think can

1 only serve to benefit the report. Of course, to the extent
2 that it is possible, and that people can make these meetings.

3 And I think, to Fedora's point, you know, the
4 quicker we get these meetings -- these public hearings and
5 these meetings organized, the better. So, that people are
6 aware well in advance, and we can plan accordingly. But if
7 there is the opportunity to have them there, then that is
8 certainly preferable.

9 MR. DOYLE: Okay. And I think what we should maybe
10 ask, as we get out the sign-up sheet, if you will, for the
11 three workgroups, is if the members, not -- if the members
12 are able to travel to some of the meetings. That ought to
13 give us a good idea.

14 If we have got one group that there is five people
15 that can travel. We have got another group that there is
16 nobody that can travel, maybe we want to try to have one TICH
17 member at that community meeting somehow, if we can realign
18 it.

19 So, just tell us also in that if you are willing
20 to travel to a community meeting. Okay.

21 Any other questions, comments for Elizabeth or
22 Sean?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Mr. Samuels.

25 MR. SAMUELS: I was going to say this time, I am

1 definitely traveling to as many as I did last time.

2 MR. DOYLE: Well, you were helping write it last
3 time.

4 MR. SAMUELS: And that was many years ago. I'm
5 a little older now. I don't want to be doing that. That was
6 a very ambitious travel schedule.

7 So, but that is great work, though, Sean.

8 Actually, could I show my own PowerPoint share?
9 Great. You know, that is fine, actually. Go ahead.

10 MR. STREMLER: I can get you to present --

11 MR. SAMUELS: Because I have a mistake on the
12 second slide. And I don't want to shortchange our team here.
13 Okay.

14 Let's see. I want to make sure that I am showing
15 the right one here.

16 (Pause.)

17 MR. SAMUELS: Bear with me. Okay. It should be
18 good now. All right.

19 So, I want to just give you a few quick updates
20 about our Agency. And then we will get into the data sharing
21 network. Ask questions as needed, of course.

22 I think you all know our mission. But for those
23 of you who don't know how we fulfill our mission, we do so
24 by working with the entire state through our statewide
25 initiatives. We work with all eleven homeless response

1 systems or Continuums of Care.

2 And then, of course, we are the lead agency for
3 the Texas balance of state. That is the largest effort
4 undertaken by our Agency. And that is where most of our 30
5 staff work.

6 As you can see, it is a pretty big undertaking.

7 And through that work, we have had a lot of successes. We
8 just got through registering all 215 counties in the balance
9 of state for the FY '22 Continuum of Care competition.

10 Our annual renewal demand should be around \$12.7
11 million. That was the mistake I had to correct, because I
12 had it at \$9.5 million.

13 We are starting to talk to not only the balance
14 of state regions, but other Continuums of Care about the
15 point-in-time results. We are starting to see that in some
16 areas, apart from some metro areas, that their unsheltered
17 counts are going up. But I have heard from other CoCs that
18 their sheltered counts are going up.

19 So, we need a way to see what is going on. But,
20 just like always, we will ask our Continuums of Care for their
21 point-in-time reports, and then we will aggregate the numbers
22 and then report out to you hopefully in July, if we can be
23 at the meeting.

24 And then, just another reminder. The Texas
25 Conference on Ending Homelessness will be in Austin this year.

1 And if you want to submit a presenter application, you still
2 have time. I can get you the link here in Austin a little
3 bit later, or we can send it out, after the meeting.

4 Okay. Just a few things. I want to brag on the
5 team here. It seems like more and more are staffed at THN
6 with providing more technical assistance and training.

7 To date, you can see kind of our coverage area.

8 I know it is really small. We'll send out the file, so you
9 can look at it a little closer. But our technical assistance
10 is already up from last year, when it was the highest it has
11 ever been. We are up 11 percent over last year at this time.

12 And then, the training -- our median training
13 events for the year has also gone out. Some of that is because
14 we have more staff. But a lot of it is just demand. And our
15 staff is meeting demand. So, I just really want to brag on
16 them for the work they are doing.

17 And then, finally, I want to point out that even
18 though our role isn't to provide information referral
19 assistance to people experiencing or who are at risk of
20 homelessness, we keep getting more and more calls about that
21 from people that just don't have nowhere else to turn. And
22 we started tracking that, those records, over the past, you
23 know, three or four years.

24 And this is just kind of a breakdown of where those
25 calls are coming from. You can see that most of them are coming

1 from Travis and Williamson County. Probably because this is
2 where we are located, in Travis County. But we get calls from
3 around the state.

4 And we do refer these people to our Continuum of
5 Care partners around the state. But I mean, it is just -- it
6 is something good to see. It is a good indication of kind
7 of what we are seeing.

8 I know Jim, who is a visitor on the call, and went
9 to everyone the other day, on our team, and asked if they were
10 getting more calls for help. And we have seen that. We have
11 seen the calls for help just increasing.

12 We got to around a hundred a month last year. So,
13 that is a lot of calls to an agency that doesn't provide direct
14 assistance. Just something that I wanted to make sure that
15 everyone was aware of and something that we would like to talk
16 to, at Texas Information and Referral Network again, about.

17 Because I think we could be of assistance, at least with the
18 choices that we have.

19 That is all I have for the update from THN. I can
20 give you an update -- actually, I can hand it off to Aubrey
21 to give an update on the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network
22 next.

23 MS. FETZER: Yes, so real quick, since I know, kind
24 of last second, we were deciding back and forth. Did you want
25 to run through the PowerPoint, just as I do a refresher of

1 what the Data Sharing Network is?

2 Or, I can just go through. Because I was planning
3 on giving specific updates of what we have done since the last
4 meeting.

5 MR. SAMUELS: I'll drive, and then you can present.

6 But before we get to that, are there any questions about what
7 I just went over from anybody?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. SAMUELS: I think we have a question like that
10 typed in. Thank you, Molly. We like our partnership with
11 TCFE as well. Okay.

12 Okay, so let me bring it over to Texas Homeless
13 Data Sharing Network. And Aubrey, I will let you go ahead
14 and go. And if you need to, tell me how to move the slide.
15 If not, I can probably keep up.

16 MS. FETZER: That sounds good. Okay, again, a
17 refresher. I am Aubrey Fetzer and I am the Texas Homeless
18 Data Sharing Network associate, through Americorps VISTA.

19 And we can get started with the PowerPoint, Eric,
20 if you want to go. Okay. This looks like a different format.

21 So, for where we are at in our phase of capacity
22 with the Data Sharing Network is, we are pretty much -- and
23 Eric can chime in and correct me if I am wrong. But we are
24 pretty much on the cusp between Phase One and Phase Two.

25 We have gotten to a pretty good point with the CoCs

1 that are currently participating, getting you know, their
2 understanding of the Data Sharing Network. Getting their
3 uploads in.

4 And now we are transiting to -- you can see in Phase
5 Two. We have gotten -- which I will cover more later, we have
6 gotten a version of the public-facing dashboard of Statewide
7 Homelessness Report up on the THN website. We are just not
8 publicly marketing it yet because we are still working with
9 our internal and external partners to clean it up.

10 And for governance, as always, even though there
11 are still four CoCs remaining that we're actively trying to
12 contact and connect with, to get their participation, there
13 is a spot within our governance for every CoC to have at least
14 one voting rep, like a CoC rep. And
15 then, there is one space for each CoC to have a person with
16 lived experience as a voting rep. So, in total, each CoC can
17 have up to two voting reps. MR.

18 SAMUELS: And I'll also say that if -- just as an advisory
19 member, we can have any person from a state agency come and
20 attend at the meetings. We have Texas Veterans Commission
21 that is coming every month to our meetings now. They just
22 don't have a vote. They are able to attend and participate,
23 though.

24 MS. FETZER: And just to address what -- because
25 I reviewed the minutes from last meeting. And since the last

1 update was talking about us trying to recruit more individuals
2 with lived experience, to engage them more with the project,
3 as you will see later on, from the reporting.

4 That, and especially with the new addition of our
5 new project manager, Anya Taylor, for the Data Sharing Network
6 project, we are still working together to reevaluate exactly,
7 yes, give the right order of the most efficient way for our
8 expansion. So, I just wanted to address that, since I know
9 that that was a major thing I touched on at the last meeting.

10 But for project status, as you can see, those are
11 the cohorts. That is just the same format that we had used
12 before. But you see, of the three cohorts, those are the seven
13 that are participating and potential new partners for Austin
14 and Brazos Valley.

15 So, we -- the four remaining are Austin, Travis
16 County, Brazos Valley, Wichita Falls, and San Antonio. And
17 so, we have been able to get in contact with three of the four
18 of them.

19 Wichita Falls, over the last several months, we
20 have tried to get in contact with them. We haven't gotten
21 a response back. So, we are still working on that. But that
22 is where we are at with Wichita Falls.

23 And then, San Antonio, I will talk more a little
24 later, but they are a little more complex of a situation.

25 But with Austin and Brazos Valley, we -- just, so

1 we are meeting with Brazos Valley again tomorrow. Since we
2 last met with them, I think, mid-December. And then, Austin,
3 we met with two weeks ago.

4 And so, for both of them, we are addressing
5 their -- in Brazos Valley case, their capacity needs. And
6 then, in Austin's case, we have addressed their concern with
7 old, older clients with either old ROIs, or who were in the
8 system and have no ROIs. So, we have addressed that concern
9 that they have.

10 So, for both of these partners, we can tell their
11 great interest in wanting to be involved in the Data Sharing
12 Network as well. So, that is why those two specifically are
13 listed as potential new partners, because we are pretty hopeful
14 that will be pretty soon. So, yes.

15 And then for data sources, we have gotten four.

16 We only have three more CoCs of those participating that still
17 need to do their first upload of 2022. Those were all our
18 most recent additions, as well as kind of our small CoCs
19 currently participating.

20 But that is part of -- and I will talk about this
21 again a little more later. But one of our efforts for this
22 matter, even of just current participating CoCs, their
23 engagement, we are working to -- we already have a grant
24 application out there asking for funding for either automated
25 data uploading for CoCs that are compatible with our HMIS

1 system.

2 And then, for those that it is not, we would give
3 them the extra stipend for -- as like, encouragement,
4 appreciation for doing the data upload, for doing that work.

5 But so that is how we are trying to address that as well.

6 And then, this is a snapshot of what one of our
7 reports looks like. Okay, so this looks like the newest
8 version. So, this is my first time seeing this version as
9 well.

10 This is one of the sections of our public-facing
11 dashboard. And I actually, I am going to drop a link in the
12 chat if you all want to view it now or on your own time, so
13 you can see the full version.

14 Like I had mentioned, since this looks new to me,
15 we are still actively -- the version that I just put in the
16 chat, that you all will see, there are still parts of it that
17 are going to be edited. And it is not going to look like that.

18 But those major components, like the breakdown of the way
19 that we are presenting the data is what is the core of the
20 data and what is going to be presented.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Let me point out two things. So,
22 what Aubrey is talking about, we are going to edit some of
23 the language about 54,850 people. That is not the total number
24 of homeless -- people that are homeless in Texas. That is
25 the total number of people in the network for seven CoCs.

1 So, that does not include the four CoCs that are
2 not included, and it also does not include all of the people
3 in agencies that don't use HMIS. Which -- across the balance
4 of the state, that is a lot of agencies. So, this is just
5 the total number of people in participating CoCs and agencies.

6 And then, 2020, when you see that dip, that is
7 entirely caused by, you know, shelters decompressing. So,
8 you are going to see smaller numbers because we had smaller
9 number of people in the shelters for safety.

10 MS. FETZER: Yes. So, exactly what Eric
11 mentioned. That is why -- for the dashboard, why we are not
12 publicly marketing it yet to everyone.

13 We are showing it to our partners, but -- it is
14 open to the public, but we are not advertising it or marketing
15 it for those exact reasons.

16 We are working with two -- we have been working
17 the last couple of weeks with our data warehouse vendor, Green
18 River; THN's Director of Development and Communications, Sam
19 Foss; and two THN Board members who have their own specific
20 expertise in displaying this type of information from a public
21 health perspective, and then just from like, a web page -- like
22 the, you know, logistics of the layout perspective.

23 So, yes. That is part of -- and that is one of
24 my major tasks and one of my major focuses is focusing on the
25 language to frame this data properly.

1 So that has been the two main adjustments or
2 discussion points with that working team is, one, figuring
3 out exactly what data we want to present, or what all we want
4 to include. Because this report is pulled directly from the
5 Statewide Homelessness Report we have access to in the Open
6 Path system, which is the Data Sharing Network.

7 And so, with that team, we have been discussing
8 and are very aware that this dashboard is going to be -- there
9 is going to be a wide range of people with a wide range of
10 knowledge viewing this data. And so we want to make it useful
11 to CoC leads, and you know, anyone in the homeless response
12 world, to have this data actually useful to them.

13 As well as, if the lay person just comes to THR's
14 website, and just wants to kind of see you know, data. Because
15 you know, this is the most comprehensive data that Texas has
16 so far. And we will most definitely expand it as much as
17 possible.

18 This is the most comprehensive data that is
19 available. And so, making sure that we don't overwhelm them
20 with certain data that might not seem necessary right now,
21 but just overall.

22 Even when we get to a point -- that is just kind
23 of extra context, that even when we get to a point where we
24 are publicly marketing it to people, we are still very aware
25 that the dashboard will -- the layout of it is constantly

1 changing, can constantly change.

2 And ideally, we will be -- I think to start, we
3 will be updating it quarterly, the data. And again, you know,
4 that will -- the frequency of it will also be dependent on
5 when -- if and when we are able to either get that funding
6 for the CoCs, or, you know, as time moves on, and capacity
7 builds for us and our partners to be able to upload data more
8 frequently.

9 So that -- and that will also be listed in the
10 beginning like, disclaimer on the web page. So, that is just
11 some information there. And I am just going to check my notes
12 really quick to see if there is anything else I wanted to
13 mention.

14 Oh, the other main thing I wanted to mention was
15 for our funding development. We did -- again, to kind of
16 address what I had talked about from the last meeting, we did
17 find out that we did not receive funding from Applied
18 Materials. But we are still waiting on the two other grants
19 that we had applied to over the last couple of months.

20 We met with Andreas, Amazon's Imagine Grant rep,
21 yesterday to determine our eligibility for applying and it
22 looked pretty good. And during that meeting, we found out,
23 it seems unofficially, that we did get funding from their
24 Health Equity Grant that we applied to back in November of
25 2021.

1 And then, lastly we are -- as I mentioned with our
2 new -- the Data Sharing Network's new project manager, Anya
3 Taylor, which hopefully and ideally, she will be here -- she
4 will be in this meeting in July, or whatever that next meeting
5 is. We are going to be meeting soon, to reevaluate exactly
6 where. Because we have secured that necessary funding, at
7 least to keep like -- in this case, keep the project manager
8 on for two years, as well as keep our data warehouse vendor
9 agreement on for like, team support.

10 So now, we are going to reevaluate in terms of our
11 own funding efforts, our funding acquisition efforts, what
12 exactly we want to ask for, and how we want to expand the Data
13 Sharing Network.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Thank you, Aubrey. Yes. And two
15 of those things. We are entering into a data sharing agreement
16 with the University of North Texas, delegating migration
17 between urban and rural areas. So, whenever we finalize that
18 and get results, we will let you know about that.

19 And working with HHSC, it is too early. We are
20 trying to, trying to determine how we can match this data with
21 Medicaid, and do a Medicaid matching project. But we are not
22 there yet.

23 So, anyway. That is where we are with the project,
24 and hopefully we will have more to present next time.

25 MR. DOYLE: Very good. Man, I am sure glad that

1 you all are involved in that. Because that just sounds so
2 tedious to me. But my -- man, but good work.

3 We really appreciate that. We have been trying
4 to do this for a long, long time. And if we can get it
5 accomplished, it really is going to be a boon to non-profits
6 in the local areas who are using that data for raising funds.

7 It is going to give us consistency in what we say.

8 One agency is not going to say there is a million homeless
9 people in Texas, and another is not going to say that there
10 is 25,000. It is just going to give us some credibility.
11 So, I really, really appreciate the hard work.

12 Okay. I don't know who is supposed to do this,
13 but there is a notification that we are going to return to
14 in public meetings, I would assume in our July meeting. So,
15 somebody help me here.

16 MS. YEVICH: I'll help you out, Mike.

17 MR. LONERGAN: Elizabeth, before, could I
18 interject real quick. I think Fedora had an agency update
19 and I think we proceeded without her providing one.

20 MS. YEVICH: Okay.

21 MR. LONERGAN: So, would it be possible for her
22 to provide an update before we --

23 MR. DOYLE: Yes. That would be good.

24 MR. LONERGAN: It's Fedora Galasso from TEA.

25 MR. GALASSO: Hey, everyone. So, a couple of

1 updates. And I don't think Cal from TEA is on, is she? Okay.

2 So, I will do that update for TEA as well.

3 So, just a couple of updates with sort of the Texas
4 Education Agency and TNOYS co-host the annual Texas Education
5 for Homeless Youth and Children program summit. And so, our
6 call for proposal is out right now.

7 So, I can, you know, send that out to you, Sean
8 so that you can send it to the group to distribute. So, if
9 folks are interested in participating in that conference,
10 again, it is for all school professionals that are working
11 directly with youth and families experiencing homelessness.

12 We normally have about 1,200 participants annually.

13 This is -- we are going back in person, and it is
14 going to be a hybrid model. So, some virtual, some in person.

15 But it is -- the location is still to be determined, but the
16 dates are set in stone.

17 We will be hosting it the last three days in August.

18 So, right at the end of our fiscal year. So, we are excited
19 about that. So, if anybody is interested in participating
20 or joining, I am sure we will reach out for some presentations
21 from some folks on the call.

22 The second thing that we did is, at the last
23 meeting, we had our relaunch of the statewide collaborative
24 on youth homelessness. We are really excited. We had about
25 120 folks join that call, lots of interest around youth

1 homelessness and youth homelessness topics.

2 We were joined by the United States Interagency
3 Council on Homelessness to talk a little bit about their
4 strategic planning process. And we had held some listening
5 sessions specifically around youth homelessness to inform the
6 federal strategic plan.

7 And then, we had updates from agencies. Naomi did
8 the TDHCA update. We had folks from the Office of the
9 Governor, and other folks like that participate.

10 So, our next meeting will be June 16th, from noon
11 to 12:00. So, we will send that out in case folks are
12 interested to join around that.

13 We will be having some workgroups specifically
14 around policy, also around the youth homeless demonstration
15 project site. As you all know, we have five youth homeless
16 demonstration project sites here in Texas. And two are new,
17 one in the Tarrant County area, and one in the Houston area.

18 So, we will also have some of those working groups focused
19 on youth homelessness topics.

20 And lastly, we have our annual conference is coming
21 up. And so I will send out that information for any folks
22 who are interested on -- specifically on youth homelessness
23 topics. So we have lots of exciting conference presentations
24 that are specifically around youth experiencing homelessness
25 and the providers that work with them daily.

1 So, those are our updates. Thanks, everyone.

2 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Fedora. Appreciate it.

3 Okay, TICH in person. I guess our June meeting.

4

5 Elizabeth, you were going to jump in there?

6 MS. YEVICH: Well, I was just going to say, this
7 of course, is a directive from our Executive Director and
8 Legal, that meetings are supposed to go back in person.
9 Generally, we have a July meeting and I was looking at the
10 calendar. And you know, if we kept to the schedule here, it
11 would be like, July 26th.

12 But again, I don't know if that would interfere
13 when Sean has got everything out on the road, or how that would
14 work. Or, maybe we want to do a -- I don't know. You know,
15 again, I think that is up for you all to talk about, whether
16 you would want it in July or August, or maybe even in June.

17

18 But returning to in-person, we always held it in
19 a different -- not at TDHCA, because our conference room
20 just -- usually just wasn't large enough. We would have the
21 Polycom system so people could call in.

22 And Megan, if you are still on the phone, please
23 correct me if I am wrong, but for TICH, members can call in,
24 and that does count as quorum. Some of our other external
25 workgroups, we don't have legislation like that. And so, it

1 is a little bit more difficult.

2 But with TICH, we have always allowed that. And
3 in fact, I think that is what has been in the legislation,
4 I believe. So, in fact, Mike, I think you were instrumental
5 in that change a few years back, so people could call in.

6 So, they will return to in person but with the
7 Polycom, the call-in number. So, we won't be seeing each
8 other, but we will still be hearing each other.

9 So that is -- I wanted to then, of course -- we
10 are putting this on as an agenda item. We did that with some
11 of our other Councils, in case there is discussion, or some
12 other state agency people have, you know, thoughts on this
13 matter.

14 So, Mike, I am going to turn it back to you to turn
15 it over to the membership, if they want to discuss this in
16 any way.

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you, Elizabeth.

18 You know, my opinion is that this kind of hinges
19 on the community meetings that Sean is going to be scheduling.
20 To meet and then have the report that we are still meeting
21 doesn't make much sense.

22 I would rather put it off until those meetings are
23 done, so we have something to report progress on that, even
24 if we go into August. So, I mean, I think our requirements
25 are we meet four times a year, and one of them, of course,

1 is the conference.

2 And I guess it is going to be in September or October
3 again, Eric?

4 MR. SAMUELS: Right at the end of September. Yes.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay. So, if we can somehow move up
6 the community things a little bit, so that we can meet in the
7 first part of August, the last part of July, to where the
8 meetings are over with, would be my suggestion. But I am open
9 to anything. I can come to any one of them. So
10 any members have any opinions, strong opinions one way or the
11 other?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Sean, why don't you try to get
14 the meetings, the community meetings somewhat pinned down,
15 at least within a week or two, and then we can make a
16 determination on when the TICH meeting is. But I think it
17 needs to happen after we have gone to at least some of the
18 community meetings, so we will have a report of what we think
19 we are looking at.

20 MS. SYLVESTER: Mike, this is Megan. I wanted to
21 clarify something that Elizabeth said about counting for
22 purposes of quorum. The statute actually says the member has
23 to reside 20 miles or more away from where the meeting is
24 scheduled, in order to count for quorum.

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay. We'll just schedule all the

1 meetings in El Paso.

2 (General laughter.)

3 MS. SYLVESTER: But that is just --

4 MR. DOYLE: Yes. I remember.

5 MS. SYLVESTER: I know we have some new members
6 who weren't around the last time we did an in-person meeting.

7 So, I just wanted to clarify that.

8 MR. DOYLE: I was almost positive that was the
9 case, that there was a mileage requirement too. But I couldn't
10 remember what it was. So, thanks for clarifying that, Megan.

11 Okay. So, we'll get a notice out to you, as soon
12 as we can get some dates on the community meetings, listening
13 sessions, or whatever that may be those things are called on
14 the workgroups. And then, we will be able to then come up
15 with a date for the TICH meeting. Does that sound alright?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I did not get any notifications
18 that there was public comment. So, I don't hear any of those.

19 So, I don't have any closing comments, other than
20 thank you for the vote of confidence to be able to chair this
21 one more time. I am not saying that I am going to retire.

22 But I am getting -- I am 74 years old. So, you know, things
23 happen.

24 So anyway, I will entertain a motion, or tell you
25 that we are going to adjourn. So, you guys have a safe rest

1 of your week.

2 And then we will talk to you by email giving you
3 some dates on the next TICH meeting, as soon as we know them.

4 Thanks. You all have a great week.

5 MS. YEVICH: Thank you, Mike.

6 (Whereupon, at 2:56 p.m., the meeting was
7 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
LOCATION: Austin, Texas
DATE: April 26, 2022

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 60, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and
complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made
by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the Texas
Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

DATE: May 2, 2022

/s/ Carol Bourgeois
(Transcriber)

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