

# HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes Summary July 29, 2021

On Thursday, the twenty-ninth day of July 2021, at 01:00 p.m., the quarterly meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) was held via videoconference.

The following members were present:

1. Bobby Wilkinson, Texas Dept of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), Chair
2. Doni Green, Promoting Independence Advisory Committee representative, Vice Chair
3. Diana Delaunay, Financial institutions representative
4. Jennifer Gonzalez, PhD, Nonprofit organization representative
5. Blake Harris, PhD, Texas Veterans Commission
6. Mike Goodwin, Multifamily housing developer representative
7. Claire Irwin, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
8. Derrick Neal, Health services entities representative
9. Carissa Dougherty in place of Helen Eisert, HHSC
10. Barrett Reynolds, Consumer of Service-Enriched Housing
11. Suzie Brady, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Bobby Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 01:05 PM. After all attendees introduced themselves, it was determined that quorum was present. Jeremy Stremmer, Housing Resource Center (HRC) Administrator at TDHCA, provided an overview of GoToWebinar for webinar attendees.

### **1. Approval of April 14, 2021 HHSCC Meeting Minutes**

Bobby Wilkinson introduced the meeting minute summaries from the April 14, 2021 HHSCC meeting. Dr. Blake Harris moved to approve the minutes and Diana Delaunay seconded the motion. There were no additional comments and members voted aye unanimously to approve the minutes.

### **2. Texas Rent Relief, CARES Act, and American Rescue Plan Update**

Elizabeth Yevich, Director of the Housing Resource Center at TDHCA presented in place of Brooke Boston, presented an overview of the funds TDHCA received via the CARES Act and gave highlights of a few of the programs. Texas Rent Relief Program has paid out more than \$600 Million to roughly 100,000 households, Texas leads the nation in getting assistance out to those that need it, there is still room for improvement and we are constantly making adjustments. 10% of Emergency Rental Assistance funds are able to be used for Housing Stability Services. TDHCA is in the final stages of executing a \$20 million contract with the Texas Access to Justice Foundation to provide legal services and support eviction diversion activities. CDBG-CV recently reprogrammed approximately \$71 million for food bank expenses and community resiliency activities for non-entitlement communities. ESG-CV good news that the program has expended 20% of the funds received and met our first federal expenditure benchmark, two months early. Department was allocated \$842 million in Homeowner Assistance Funds (HAF), to help homeowners with mortgage payments,

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Treasury requires that each state have a plan, it was originally due June 30 and was pushed to July 31, Bobby notes it has been extended again. We are also still waiting on guidance from HUD on HOME-ARP funds which can be used for typical HOME activities as well as homeless services, non-congregate emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, and operating cost for eligible nonprofits.

### **3. TDHCA Legislative Update**

Michael Lyttle, Director of External Affairs, presented an update on the legislative session and updates on bills that pertained to HHSCC. First, HB 1558 directs TDHCA to add a scoring incentive to HTC application that are within two miles of a veterans' medical facility and that those developments have to have a leasing preference for low-income veterans, only impacts four counties Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar and Travis. Second, SB 403 expands the list of entities who are eligible to sell their tax credit development, or offer it for sale within the first 60 days of what is the 180-day right of first refusal period, narrow bill mainly impacts deal where a PHA or PFC has ownership in a development. Bills of interest that did not pass include HB 249, would have removed the 90-mile proximity requirement for nonprofit board members of organizations participating in ownership of HTC development. HB 1225, would have required HHSCC to do an extensive evaluation of the 2-1-1 network every year. Mr. Lyttle then noted some other bills that did not pass related to HTC, more information can be found in the transcript on page 19 & 20.

### **4. Update on HHSCC Projects**

Jeremy Stremmer, TDHCA HRC Administrator, provided an update on HHSCC projects. First, through research more data was located for the service-enriched housing (SEH) database project; noted that next step is to determine if more properties TDHCA funds that are considered SEH should be added to the document and that if so, then determine the best format for the information.

### **5. Update on Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program**

Spencer Duran, TDHCA Section 811 Program Director, presented an update on the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) program. Program is paying out \$360,000 in rental assistance to 115 property partners monthly. The program just trained 65 new referral agents who work with youth with disabilities who are aging out of foster care to better serve that population. Section 811 staff working on trainings and have a series of meetings and webinars on how to better serve people with IDD as they are looking to to expand the program to serve those populations. Still waiting on award notification and funding from the Section 811 2019 NOFA. This 2019 grant agreement is expected to provide another \$7 million for the program. Fully committed all funds from Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 grants. Kaitlin Devlin, the program's Waiting List Lead then provided an update about the program's barrier busting and damage funds, of which \$2,000 and \$3,000 have been used respectively.

### **6. Emergency Housing Vouchers issued to TDHCA**

Spencer Duran, TDHCA Section 811 Program Director, presented an update on the new emergency voucher initiative. TDHCA has been awarded 798 Section 8 vouchers that are funded from the American Rescue Plan (ARP). These 798 vouchers effectively double the size of the TDHCA housing authority. Vouchers are limited to serving certain target

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populations including, people experiencing homelessness, people at risk of 20 homelessness, and persons fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and those who are recently homeless. The Department anticipates partnering with CoC organizations to try to serve the entire Balance of State and hopes to work with the Texas Homeless Network (THN). Greater detail can be found in the transcripts on pages 27-29.

### **7. Area Agencies on Aging/Aging and Disability Resource Centers**

Doni Green presented an overview of her work at the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the services and programs that are available from local AAAs and ADRCs. For more information, please see meeting materials posted on TDHCA HHSCC webpage and the meeting transcript pages 30-43.

### **8. Public Comment**

No Public Comment

### **9. General Updates/Next Steps/Staff Assignment(s)**

Doni noted that the next HHSCC Quarterly Meeting will take place October 13<sup>th</sup>

Jeremy Stremmer, TDHCA Housing Resource Center Administrator, provided an announcement that the Texas Department of Agriculture is putting on a Fair Housing roundtable on August 4<sup>th</sup>. He noted that an email would be sent out to council members should they wish to attend.

### **ADJOURN**

The Council meeting adjourned at 02:17 PM. Doni Green adjourned the meeting.