

HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes Summary January 19, 2022

On Wednesday, the nineteenth day of January 2022, at 10:00 a.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. Blake Harris, PhD, Texas Veterans Commission
5. Mike Goodwin, Multifamily housing developer representative
6. Helen Eisert, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
7. Donna Klaeger, Rural Communities Representative
8. Suzie Brady, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
9. Suzanne Barnard, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
10. Barret Reynolds, Consumer Representative
11. Michael Wilt for David Danenfelzer, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC)
12. Kenneth Darden, Advocate for Minority Issues

Welcome and Introductions

Bobby Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. 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 October 13, 2021 HHSCC Meeting Minutes

Bobby Wilkinson introduced the meeting minute summaries from the October 13, 2021 HHSCC meeting. Donna Klaeger moved to approve the minutes and Mike Goodwin 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

Brooke Boston, Deputy Director of Programs presented an overview of TDHCA activities related to federal funds received in response to the pandemic. TDHCA Community Development Block Grant CARES (CDBG-CV) program rolled out its Community Resilience program, which is focused on non-entitlement areas, small metros and rural Texas. Funds allow communities to address gaps in their ability to prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID or another pandemic by improving their public facilities, which can include medical care facilities, social services and emergency housing. Goal of the program is to increase communities long-term resiliency.

Texas Rent Relief Program stopped taking applications in November due to total requests exceeding total funds available. The program currently has left \$20 million in funds, which is

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being used to process appeals as the program wants to make sure they cover appeals that they are in a position to grant. The program has asked the U.S. Treasury Department to reallocate funds to TDCHA from other providers who aren't using theirs, but so far have not received a response. Also, tied to the ERA funding is the Housing Stability Services Program (HSS). Initial portion of funds for HSS were used to fund a series of service providers. Funds are used to provide local communities or nonprofits resources so they can provide eligible Texans with a variety of services to help households maintain or obtain stable housing.

HOME-ARP draft plan was approved by the TDHCA Board in January and is out for comment. The plan focuses the funds primarily on capital investment in both rental housing and non-congregate shelter. Additionally the Department was allocated \$842 million in Homeowner Assistance Funds (HAF), to help homeowners with mortgage payments. The Department initiated a pilot program that is beginning to assist households but because Treasury has yet to approve TDHCA's plan the Department is limited in what can be done so far. Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV), the Department executed agreements with two Continuums of Care to generate referrals and provide services while TDCHA handles the voucher. See pages 7-17 in the transcripts for more detail and conversation about these topics.

3. 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. Currently working with HUD on the contract for the third Section 811 award. Spoke about the damage fund, TDCHA has paid almost \$11,000 for six different households. There are two barrier busting funds, the program is focusing on marketing and outreach on these funds to get more traction with them. There is a lot of interest in the barrier busting funds but it is a new activity for everyone involved so the program is still working through everything. The program has trained 30 additional referral agents for the program as well. For more information on Section 811 updates see the January 19, 2022 meeting transcript pages 17-24.

4. Review of 10 TAC §1.11 Definition of Service-Enriched Housing

Council discussed the current Service-Enriched Housing definition and was in agreement to look over the rule and provide their suggestions to Jeremy Stremmer, HRC Manager and at the April meeting will discuss any suggestions and finalize the rule to be put out for public comment and final approval by the TDCHA board.

5. Update on HHSCC Biennial Plan and Report

Jeremy Stremmer, TDCHA HRC Manager, provided an update that he has begun work on the 2022 HHSCC Biennial Plan and Report and that a few members may be asked to update some sections of the plan.

6. Update on HHSCC Projects

Jeremy Stremmer, TDHCA HRC Manager, provided an update on HHSCC projects. Showed the Council the properties that are on the Service Enriched Housing (SEH) database spreadsheet. Bobby Wilkinson suggested adding eligibility definitions for the types of housing listed.

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7. Senior Housing Policy Advisor, Office of Mental Health Coordination

Helen Eisert, HHSC, spoke to the multiple projects and work she oversees. See pages 33-40 of the January 19, 2022 meeting transcript for more detail.

8. Public Comment

One person asked when the next meeting would be, Bobby Wilkinson noted that it would be April 20th.

Marilyn Hartman provided the following public comment "I just want to go on record that I find it very disappointing that we never do have enough affordable housing in this state, and I'm a strong advocate for people with severe mental illness, and that is one group that we certainly are not serving enough."

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

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.