

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HOMELESS

Room 116
TDHCA Offices
221 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas

January 29, 2019
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MIKE DOYLE, Chair
D.J. BINGLER
VALINDA BOLTON
BROOKE BOSTON
MARQUS BUTLER
NAOMI CANTU
CARISSA DOUGHERTY (absent)
SHERRI COGBILL (absent)
HELEN EISERT
CLAIRE IRWIN
CAL LOPEZ
VERONICA NEVILLE (via telephone)
JOYCE POHLMAN (absent)
YOLANDA MOTEN for JOE A. RAMIREZ

ADVISORY MEMBERS:

JANA BURNS (absent)
DARILYNN CARDONA-BEILER (absent)
CHRISTINE GENDRON
DAVID LONG
MONA MURO (absent)
DENNIS M. SCHOLL
ERIC SAMUELS
JEANNE STAMP
MOLLY VOYLES (via telephone)

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I am going to call us to
3 order. And remember, let's put our phones on silent. I
4 just did myself, too.

5 And welcome to the January meeting of the Texas
6 Interagency Council for the Homeless. Those that are
7 joining us by phone, could you introduce yourselves,
8 please?

9 MS. VOYLES: This is Molly Voyles with the
10 Texas Council on Family Violence.

11 MS. MOTEN: My name is Yolanda Moten and I am
12 with the Texas Veterans Commission, sitting in for Jose
13 Ramirez.

14 MS. NEVILLE: Hi. This is Veronica Neville
15 with HHSC.

16 MR. DOYLE: Say that one more time?

17 MS. NEVILLE: Hi. This is Veronica Neville
18 with HHSC.

19 MR. DOYLE: Veronica. Okay. Anyone else?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay. For you guys information, we
22 are going to introduce ourselves and who we are with, so
23 that you will know who is in the room.

24 I will start. I am Mike Doyle, and I represent
25 the Governor's Office, and am the current Chair. Helen?

1 MS. EISERT: Yes. I am Helen Eisert with HHSC,
2 in mental health program services.

3 MS. BOSTON: Brooke Boston, Texas Department of
4 Housing and Community Affairs.

5 MR. SCHOLL: I am Dr. Dennis Scholl. I'm a
6 private citizen from Somerset, Bexar County, Texas, and
7 have been attending TICH sessions for about four years.

8 MS. STAMP: Hello. I am Jeanne Stamp with the
9 Texas Homeless Education Office.

10 MS. IRWIN: Claire Irwin from HHSC's Aging
11 Services Coordination Office.

12 MS. LOPEZ: Cal Lopez with the Texas Education
13 Agency, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program.

14 MS. BINGLER: D.J. Bingler with the Texas
15 Workforce Commission.

16 MS. SNYDER: Gwen Snyder with the Texas
17 Workforce Commission.

18 MR. BUTLER: Marqus Butler with the Texas
19 Juvenile Justice Department.

20 MR. LONG: David Long, Texas State Affordable
21 Housing Corporation.

22 MR. WILT: Michael Wilt, from the same.

23 MS. ADAMS: Kali Adams from TDHCA.

24 MS. GENDRON: Christine Gendron, excuse me,
25 Texas Network of Youth Services.

1 MS. MOORE: Meagan Moore, Texas Homeless
2 Network.

3 MS. CANTU: Naomi Cantu, TDHCA.

4 MR. SAMUELS: Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless
5 Network.

6 MS. MORGAN: Alena Morgan, Texas Department of
7 Housing and Community Affairs.

8 MR. MARTIN: Ken Martin, Texas Homeless
9 Education Office.

10 MR. SHEPHARD: Keegan Shephard, Texas Homeless
11 Network.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Well, welcome, everybody.
13 Thank you for making it up. It is kind of crowded when
14 session is going on. But it is well worth the effort,
15 when we hear what is going on in the state, and the good
16 jobs you guys are doing.

17 You have got the minutes from Kali in advance.

18 So I would -- we did not have anybody contact me, at
19 least, about corrections. So I would entertain a motion
20 to approve the minutes as submitted.

21 (No response.)

22 MR. DOYLE: Members, this can't be done without
23 your help.

24 MS. BOSTON: Move to approve.

25 MR. DOYLE: Brooke, move to approve.

1 MS. CANTU: Second.

2 MR. DOYLE: A second by Naomi. All in favor,
3 say aye.

4 (A chorus of ayes.)

5 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. DOYLE: Those do carry. Now, we have some
8 updates from the Committees. And Performance Data, we
9 don't have a current Chair. Does anybody have any insight
10 into the Performance Data Committee?

11 MS. BOSTON: So the Performance Data Committee,
12 as you guys know, I have been doing it for a while. And
13 then Cate Tracz took it over.

14 She actually just moved positions within TDHCA.
15 And so she is no longer within the Housing Resource
16 Center or over helping staff in HRC. So some of you will
17 end up crossing paths with her.

18 She actually is now our Fair Housing Manager,
19 which is very exciting, but it left a hole for this. So
20 we had not, from the perspective of the fact that the
21 Performance Data Committee was primarily focused on doing
22 research, just kind of slogging through agencies' LARs and
23 then going and meeting with the agencies, we haven't
24 decided inside of TDHCA who is going to be doing that.

25 So I think it will probably take until we fill

1 Cate's vacancy in HRC until we know the answer to that
2 question. So I don't know if we want to just kind of
3 leave it vacant until the next time, because by then we
4 will know.

5 And my thought would be the Chair would
6 continue to be the person who gets that position. But we
7 can do it another way, if other people have --

8 MR. DOYLE: No. I think that makes perfect
9 sense. Just let me know who that person is, and we will
10 assign them to the Chair of that Committee.

11 MS. BOSTON: Okay.

12 MR. DOYLE: Thank you. Eric?

13 MR. SAMUELS: So I guess I am --

14 MR. DOYLE: Annual report.

15 MR. SAMUELS: The Committee Chair by default.

16 MR. DOYLE: Yes, you are.

17 MR. SAMUELS: So I was just talking to Brooke
18 about this. I don't have anything to report. But last
19 year when we worked on the report, I asked for people to
20 work on the Committee with me.

21 Dr. Scholl did, and Alison Winney did. But
22 Allison is not involved anymore. So -- and I am not
23 expecting maybe you will do it again, but I am --

24 MR. SCHOLL: Actually, I just remember last, I
25 read it all, and gave feedback on it. I feel I

1 contributed a whole lot of man hours.

2 MR. SAMUELS: It was a ton of mail as well.

3 MR. SCHOLL: Yes. I know.

4 MR. SAMUELS: But --

5 MR. SCHOLL: I am happy to do that again, and
6 work with you.

7 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

8 MR. SCHOLL: Sure.

9 MR. SAMUELS: Would there be anyone else that
10 would like to work on the Committee with me and Dr.
11 Scholl?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. SAMUELS: It looks like it might be just
14 us.

15 MR. WILT: I will help you out, Eric.

16 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. Thank you, Michael.

17 MR. DOYLE: And Eric, tell, as a reminder, what
18 the annual report consists of, and why we do it.

19 MR. SAMUELS: So it is our update on how the
20 Interagency Council is doing meeting the statutory
21 requirements that we are required to meet. And we end up
22 reporting on other activities outside of that. So yes,
23 that is basically it.

24 MS. BOSTON: And it gets provided to the LBB,
25 is this -- LBB and the Governor's Office, I think, is who

1 receives the report.

2 MR. DOYLE: Do the individual member agencies
3 receive it?

4 MS. BOSTON: I think we just, I mean, I think
5 we post it, and just email it to the group. So yes, just
6 through the informal mechanism of the TICH, not formal
7 entities or anything.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

9 MS. BOSTON: But it can be.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions or
11 comments about it?

12 MR. SAMUELS: So that is all I have --

13 MR. DOYLE: Now, did the 2018 report --

14 MR. SCHOLL: When is the next one due?

15 MR. SAMUELS: So, and help me with this, Brooke
16 and Naomi. But I believe it is not normally, it is not
17 really due until the end of the --

18 MS. CANTU: I don't think that there was a due
19 date.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Very good. Okay.

21 MS. CANTU: I think that is why. It is an
22 annual report, but without a due date.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

24 MS. CANTU: In the statute.

25 MR. SAMUELS: So we approved at the last

1 meeting, in September. So, I mean, I think we would like
2 to get it done before that, if at all possible, the third
3 quarterly meeting, I think. That is what we tried to do
4 in the past.

5 MR. DOYLE: So it will be available by the end
6 of the year. And the last, the 18 report, or the 17
7 report was available by the end of the year and was sent
8 out. So that one is behind us.

9 MR. SAMUELS: That one is behind us. We are
10 done with that one.

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay. That is good. Good work.
12 Any other questions on the annual report?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay, Brooke. The Nominating
15 Committee. And thank you for chairing that for us.

16 MS. BOSTON: Sure. So each year, we need to
17 re-nominate the Chair. And we have on here, Vice Chair.
18 But it dawned on me, I don't think we have a serving Vice
19 Chair right now.

20 MR. DOYLE: No. We do not. We never have, I
21 don't think.

22 MS. BOSTON: Yes. Although, it would be a good
23 idea, because I think, in the instances where Mike may
24 need to be absent, it makes it clear who would need to run
25 the meeting, instead of it just being TDHCA folks.

1 MR. DOYLE: Right.

2 MS. BOSTON: So first, I guess, let's deal with
3 the Chair position. So we would allow -- I think Kali had
4 sent an email about this to you guys, just letting you
5 know we would be accepting nominations.

6 We didn't get any email. Is there anyone who
7 wants to make a nomination from the floor?

8 MS. CANTU: I nominate Mike Doyle.

9 MS. BOSTON: Okay. Are there any other
10 nominations for the position of Chair?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. BOSTON: Are you willing to --

13 MR. DOYLE: Absolutely. I will be glad to do
14 that.

15 MS. BOSTON: Then I move to nominate Doyle as
16 Chair.

17 MR. DOYLE: We have a motion from the standing
18 committee. We don't need a second, but we do need a vote.
19 So all in favor, say aye.

20 (A chorus of ayes.)

21 MR. DOYLE: All opposed, no.

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DOYLE: That passes. So thank you, I will
24 be glad to do that again.

25 MS. BOLTON: Keep being successful, you are

1 just going to keep being the Chair.

2 MR. DOYLE: Well, I just had all my blood work
3 done. He said I had the blood work of a 25-year-old. So
4 I may be Chair for life.

5 MS. BOSTON: Are there any nominations from the
6 floor for Vice Chair?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. BOSTON: No?

9 MR. DOYLE: Would it be a conflict if it was
10 from TDHCA?

11 MS. BOSTON: I don't know.

12 MR. DOYLE: It was just a question. I don't
13 have a nomination.

14 MS. BOSTON: Yes.

15 MS. CANTU: I think that person has to be a
16 member, right, of the TICH.

17 MS. BOSTON: So you or I, right? Because we are
18 the two members --

19 MS. CANTU: -- of TDHCA, yes. Or other state
20 agencies. Because we don't have any other non-profit
21 members.

22 MS. BOSTON: Right.

23 MR. LONG: Brooke, does it have to be someone
24 who is on the -- a member of the Committee? I mean, a
25 member of the TICH? I.e., a standing member organization

1 in that organization?

2 MS. BOSTON: I think so.

3 MR. LONG: Just asking.

4 MS. BOSTON: Would you like to self nominate?

5 MR. LONG: I was going to suggest Eric.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Do I fall into that category?

7 MR. DOYLE: No. You don't. It would be a
8 conflict, since we fund THN, I think.

9 MR. LONG: Okay. Just --

10 MR. DOYLE: So I would hate to even --

11 MR. LONG: Understood. The perception would
12 be --

13 MR. DOYLE: Yes. The appearance of that, the
14 perception of that. But let me give that some thinking,
15 too. I am going to be at the Capitol a lot. So maybe I
16 can get the Lieutenant Governor or the Speaker to come
17 through, finally, and appoint somebody.

18 MS. BOSTON: Okay.

19 MR. DOYLE: You know, Dennis has tried. But we
20 haven't had the -- we don't have the result.

21 MR. SCHOLL: I mentioned, I spoke to Speaker
22 Strauss, but he's leaving.

23 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

24 MR. SCHOLL: So that rabbit trail didn't get to
25 the end, but I just today dropped off an application to

1 the Lieutenant Governor's office.

2 MR. DOYLE: The fall back is always, well, the
3 session. So we will wait until next year to get this
4 done. But we will see.

5 MS. BOSTON: Okay.

6 MR. DOYLE: Well, thank you for that report.
7 Member agency reports.

8 Gwen Snyder's with TWC here with us, so you're
9 going to give us a report.

10 MS. SNYDER: Yes. Hello. I am going to do a
11 quick overview on the child care program, for homeless
12 families.

13 MR. DOYLE: It says here, 45 minutes.

14 MS. SNYDER: More like 4.5. So that is a typo.
15 I am going to try not to read this. I did send out a
16 PowerPoint, which they were up at the table, just so you
17 guys would have this to take home, you know, for your
18 reading pleasure later on.

19 And I am kind of just going to do a brief
20 overview of what is on these pages. Like I said, I am
21 going to try not to read it to you, but I probably will.
22 So forgive me in advance.

23 Just to give you a little background, in
24 October of 2016, there was a rule change, or some new
25 regulations that came out that we had to follow. And this

1 was due to the Child Care Redevelopment Block Grant, which
2 is the CCDBG Act of 2014 was reauthorized.

3 So that meant by October of 2016, October 1st,
4 unless anybody requested a waiver, we had to be appearing
5 and rolling out the new rules. So one of the rules that
6 came about was that we had to start -- all states had to
7 start serving homeless families, the homeless population
8 for childcare.

9 So what we did is, of course, we changed our
10 rules. And we added homeless to our priority groups, as a
11 result of the rule change. So homeless families are now
12 part of our second priority group.

13 Just to give you a background, we have three
14 priority groups for the State of Texas. The first
15 priority group is considered what we call our mandatory.
16 Those are populations that are part of the Choices
17 program, those that receive TANF, and SNAP-ENT as well as
18 transitional child care.

19 Now, the second priority group is due to
20 available -- with availability of funds. So that just
21 means that as long as there is funding available, the
22 second priority group takes precedence over the general
23 population or any board group that they have designated.

24 Those are people, and they are served in this
25 order: children who receive DFPS services. And so we kind

1 of consider them mandatory, because if DFPS sends over a
2 referral, we have to serve them. So even though they are
3 not in that first priority group, they really are a
4 mandatory population.

5 On the second group of priority is qualified
6 veterans or qualified spouse. Then there is children of
7 foster youth.

8 And then we added the new category for children
9 experiencing homelessness. Additionally, we also serve
10 children of parents on military deployment, children of
11 teen parents, and children with disabilities.

12 Now, there is a third priority group, that is
13 served prior to the general population that applies. And
14 that is any priority group that is adopted by the Board.

15 Just so you all know how this is set up, there
16 are 28 board areas in the State of Texas, which also means
17 there is 28 different ways of doing things. Now, they
18 have rules they have to follow. They have policies that
19 they have to put in place.

20 But then procedurally, there are some local
21 flexibilities that they can do. Just so you will kind of
22 have an idea of what is going on.

23 Now, as far as the total number of homeless who
24 are being served right now, because as of October 1, 2016,
25 that became a priority group, and that population was

1 being served. So right now, as of -- I have actually got
2 some updated numbers. I have November 2018 on these
3 slides. But the December numbers are a little bit higher.

4 So at December, we were serving 2,049 homeless
5 children. The Gulf Coast is our largest area in the state
6 and also, of course, serves the most. We have 414.
7 Southeast actually dropped a little from November. Now
8 they are down to 194 homeless children. And Borderplex is
9 216.

10 MR. SCHOLL: What is the total number, again?

11 MS. SNYDER: The total number is 2,049 for
12 December. So it actually went up a little bit.

13 MR. DOYLE: Can I ask questions as you go?

14 MS. SNYDER: Sure.

15 MR. DOYLE: I, for full disclosure, I am the
16 Vice Chair of our Workforce Board in Tarrant County.

17 MS. SNYDER: Uh-huh.

18 MR. DOYLE: So with this new priority of
19 homelessness going above the general population, what are
20 you going to do with the requirement to work or be looking
21 for a job?

22 MS. SNYDER: Well, the way -- that would kind
23 of be going to the next slide. The way this program is
24 set up, for three months, anybody who identifies
25 themselves as homeless, they get three months of child

1 care. They don't have to be participating. They don't
2 have to show they are working. Basically, there is no
3 requirements at all, just the identification that they are
4 homeless.

5 They are going to get three months. Then after
6 that third month -- and within those three months, they
7 have to identify or show some proof that they are working
8 at any level.

9 MR. DOYLE: So they have to make that criteria
10 where the general population has to do it right up front,
11 they just have three months to start looking for a job.

12 MS. SNYDER: Right. Exactly.

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

14 MS. SNYDER: It is to try to give them some
15 support to help them, because they are already in a
16 difficult situation. Let's not make it worse. Let's give
17 them some level of stability, especially with children.
18 Because we really believe strongly in the benefits of
19 early education.

20 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Right.

21 MS. SNYDER: And I realize three months doesn't
22 sound like a lot, but it is something that we could offer.

23 MR. DOYLE: So the chronic homeless probably
24 aren't going to meet that qualification for child care.

25 MS. SNYDER: Probably not. And I don't have

1 those numbers, excuse me, right now, to tell you how many,
2 at the end of those three months.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

4 MS. SNYDER: I know we are trying to get those.
5 Because of the limitations of the system that we have in
6 place, which is TWIST. It wasn't as -- he understands
7 TWIST.

8 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

9 MS. SNYDER: It wasn't designed for child care
10 from the very beginning. We were kind of added at the
11 end. So there are some things that we would love to be
12 able to track.

13 But because that system wasn't designed for
14 child care originally, we kind of have to tie and tack on
15 at the end. And so we don't always get the things that we
16 need.

17 Additionally, as I mentioned, about 28 boards
18 doing it 28 different ways. There are some things they
19 have to go into TWIST and do and identify, in order for us
20 to be able to pull the data that they are homeless.

21 And we did discover that there were some
22 families that were being treated as homeless, but they
23 weren't being identified in TWIST as homeless. So these
24 numbers that I am giving you could actually be on the low
25 side.

1 We do try to do data scraping periodically and
2 try to identify families. Because are ways that we can
3 try to catch it as they are falling through the cracks.

4 And we know we are now two years into
5 reauthorization. So everybody should be doing it
6 correctly at this point.

7 MR. DOYLE: You can explain this if you would
8 like to. But just for general information for all of you,
9 because I didn't really realize this until I started
10 hearing from other states, that Texas is one of the few
11 states where TWC controls the child care dollars.

12 MS. SNYDER: Yes.

13 MR. DOYLE: The TANF dollars. And so every
14 time we go to a meeting in Washington or anywhere, it is,
15 oh, you are from Texas. What that means is, big deal.

16 It is \$38 million in Tarrant County for child
17 care. And we manage it all. And so it is a big, big deal
18 when you are combining child care and work opportunities.

19 MS. SNYDER: Yes.

20 MR. DOYLE: And so we are at a great advantage
21 in Texas, because everywhere else, it would be two
22 competing agencies trying to work out how they would do
23 their child care. So it is a --

24 And then my other question for you was, the
25 Choices program.

1 MS. SNYDER: Uh-huh.

2 MR. DOYLE: I mean, the numbers of people on
3 TANF anymore is dwindling. We started out, when I first
4 joined the Board about 15 or 20 years ago, there was about
5 5,000 people in the Choices program.

6 MS. SNYDER: Yes.

7 MR. DOYLE: We have got about 800 now.

8 MS. SNYDER: Right. We are seeing those
9 numbers drop.

10 MR. DOYLE: Yes. So is there any thought about
11 at some point, making a different mandatory population
12 than TANF, or is that just still the policy? I think they
13 put it together in the Bush administration.

14 MS. SNYDER: I am not aware of anything they
15 are trying to do to change it.

16 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

17 MS. SNYDER: And internally, we have our own
18 discussions. But as far as what is going on above us, it
19 is basically, as they say, above my pay grade.

20 So you know, I wish I could give you more
21 information, and say yes, we are about to change that.
22 But I can't.

23 MR. DOYLE: For years, we had these dashboards,
24 where we never would meet the Choices numbers. And they
25 would say, you are never going to meet the Choices

1 numbers, because the numerator keeps going down and down.

2 Or the denominator, whichever one of those things it is.

3 But it is just great. We should all know that
4 Texas is way above scale on handling child care for the
5 homeless now, and those looking for work. It is really a
6 great program, I think.

7 MS. SNYDER: It is a great program. And we
8 know that there is, excuse me, more outreach that can
9 definitely be done.

10 And we do encourage our boards to partner with
11 agencies to help identify homeless families. Because
12 there is still, of course, some embarrassment and some --
13 I am not going to be able to talk now.

14 Some embarrassment about identifying as
15 homeless. They don't want to be classified. They don't
16 want to have that moniker. Even though they can get
17 services.

18 MR. DOYLE: Whenever we are working with a
19 family --

20 MS. SNYDER: Right.

21 MR. DOYLE: And the mama or the dad or both
22 say, I don't have child care. I can't go look for a job.
23 We can say now, yes you can. Meet with your local
24 Workforce board.

25 MS. SNYDER: You are right. If they identify

1 as homeless. And that is the key.

2 They have to be willing to say, identify as
3 homeless or go through the questionnaire. Because some
4 families, of course, don't even realize that they fall
5 under that definition.

6 MR. DOYLE: So and of course, we know the
7 definition problem. But in TEA then if you are couch
8 surfing and you can identify that you are homeless because
9 you are couch surfing, you don't have to meet the criteria
10 that HUD sets as homeless anymore.

11 It is just, you have got to identify, self-
12 identify. Is that correct?

13 MS. SNYDER: Right. That is correct. And we
14 follow the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless.

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

16 MS. GENDRON: So the family goes to the
17 Workforce board, they get like a voucher. And then they
18 shop around? Or is there a certain health care provider
19 that they are supposed to use?

20 MS. SNYDER: Okay. I will give you a little, a
21 kind of a brief overview of how the program works. If you
22 are the general public, if I go to a Workforce center, and
23 I identify, and I say, I need child care, they can apply.

24 Now, if in a situation, like they are homeless,
25 they go through the same process. They apply. And as

1 long as there is not a wait list, they can be served
2 immediately, because they are considered a priority group.

3 So what they do is, they go in. They fill out
4 the paperwork. And it is very basic for a homeless
5 family, because they have got that three-month initial
6 term. Then what they do is, they take a pre-approved
7 list, because we have providers around the state of Texas
8 that have agreed to go into contract with a local board
9 area.

10 MS. GENDRON: Okay.

11 MS. SNYDER: And then they choose from that
12 list of providers that have agreed to take, we call them
13 CCS children, which -- child care services, CCS children.

14 And then so they do have consumer choice. That is part
15 of a federal reg. So they get to choose which provider.

16 MS. GENDRON: Okay.

17 MS. SNYDER: And now, of course, if that
18 provider doesn't have room, they are going to have to find
19 another provider. So there is no money that ever changes
20 hands.

21 What happens is, they go. They choose their
22 provider. And the child starts. That provider is paid
23 directly from the Board for that child.

24 And normally, if you are general population, it
25 is based on a sliding scale. There would be a parent

1 share of cost amount that that parent or family is
2 responsible for. And it is based on their income.

3 MS. GENDRON: Okay. Are there areas where we
4 don't have enough contracted providers, so we are not
5 spending all the money, or is just that we spend the money
6 we have, and then we run out.

7 MS. SNYDER: They try really hard to spend all
8 the money. There are what we call child care deserts in
9 the State of Texas.

10 MS. GENDRON: Okay.

11 MS. SNYDER: Those are areas that there just
12 are not enough providers. And we try to work with family
13 homes and registered homes, which are much smaller.

14 And of course, we also offer relative provider
15 care. Which means that a family member, a great-
16 grandparent, or a grandparent, aunt, uncle or sibling who
17 is the age of 18 and lives outside the home could actually
18 apply to be caregiver for that child.

19 MS. GENDRON: Oh, really.

20 MR. DOYLE: And you know, and I think it is
21 very very forward thinking of TWC. The better child care
22 facility that the family chooses, particularly if they are
23 a Texas Rising Star provider, the more money the provider
24 gets paid.

25 MS. SNYDER: Right.

1 MR. DOYLE: So there is a benefit to the parent
2 by choosing the quality child care. When you would think,
3 they are homeless. They are probably going to be stuck in
4 some -- that is not the case. They can go to a quality
5 child care facility, that is a Texas Rising Star.

6 MS. SNYDER: Right.

7 MR. DOYLE: And the provider themselves have
8 qualified for Texas Rising Star, because all they offer to
9 the programs they bid, and the number of ratios and those
10 kinds of things. So it is really a neat thing, whether
11 you are homeless or not, to be able to have access to
12 quality child care.

13 MS. SNYDER: Right.

14 MR. DOYLE: Big difference.

15 MS. SNYDER: Yes. And you need to come work
16 for TWC. TRS has a quality rating system for the State of
17 Texas. And providers can apply to be a part of it. And
18 if they qualify, it is two, three and four star.

19 And each star level gets them an enhanced
20 reimbursement rate. Because of course, there is a
21 reimbursement rate, and that is based on what their
22 published rate is.

23 So it is whatever the Board's maximum rate for
24 that particular level of care, or what their published
25 rate is, whichever is higher. I am sorry. Whichever one

1 of those is lower. And then on top of that, they can get
2 the enhanced reimbursement rate, if they choose to be in
3 the Texas Rising Star program.

4 And those are also on the provider list that
5 they are given. They are given all providers that are in
6 the area that are contracted to take our children.

7 MR. DOYLE: And the thing that moves a provider
8 up to a Texas Rising Star, because we face this in Tarrant
9 County. And my first thought, because of my interest in
10 people that are underserved was, how does somebody get
11 from a provider to a Texas Rising Star two or a three?

12 And really, for the most part, it is not
13 facility. It is more administrative stuff. So we got a
14 big grant from the Rainwater Foundation to be able to
15 provide financial services for those childcare providers
16 who all they lacked was the ability to manage their funds.

17 So really, it was a huge impact. And some of
18 our low income areas, being moved to Texas Rising Star
19 quality, because it was a financial management issue, and
20 not a facility issue.

21 MS. BOSTON: You had mentioned that if there is
22 not a waiting list, they can go to the front.

23 MS. SNYDER: Right.

24 MS. BOSTON: So what is an average waiting list
25 for a family who needs child care.

1 MS. SNYDER: It depends around the state. We
2 have some areas where they still have thousands of
3 children on the waiting list. And then there are other
4 areas where there is no waiting list. So it just depends.

5 And now the waiting list has dropped. That was
6 another problem that we kind of ran into, when
7 reauthorization came about. One of the mandates was that
8 we had to offer twelve months of continuous care.

9 What used to happen is, children would kind of
10 fall in and out, based on were the parents adhering to the
11 rules and regulations of the program. So there was a lot
12 of in and out.

13 We made it much simpler because of federal
14 regulations that there are very few reasons that they
15 could be terminated during that twelve months. One of the
16 ways that they can be terminated is if they permanently
17 lose their job.

18 Now, if somebody loses their job, they have
19 three months to seek re-employment or go to training.
20 Just have to be working at any level. And when we say any
21 level, it means if they were working 40 hours a week
22 before they lost their job, now the only job they could
23 find is ten hours a week, because there is a 25 hour
24 minimum that they are supposed to meet to be, to come into
25 the program, unless you are homeless.

1 But that allows them -- as long as they get a
2 job of any kind, working even one hour a week, they go
3 back into the remainder of their twelve months of care,
4 and now by the time they come up for the end of their
5 twelve months, when they get redetermined, they have to be
6 again meeting the 25 hours. And they are told all of this
7 up front. But we want to try to keep the child in a
8 stable environment for twelve months, if we can.

9 MR. DOYLE: Used to, Brooke -- correct me if I
10 am wrong, Gwen. But as every three months rolled over,
11 you had a lot of people rolling on, a lot of people coming
12 on to the waiting list. We kept it rather short.

13 When we went to the twelve-month thing in
14 Tarrant County, we went from no waiting list to 5,200 on
15 the waiting list in one day. Just by the policy change.

16 So it takes it longer. But it is better for
17 the child to not get on and off, on and off, on and off,
18 to stay stable for a year.

19 And it gives a parent a chance to regroup, if
20 they retrained. If they, in fact, need to find a better
21 job.

22 MS. SNYDER: Yes.

23 MR. DOYLE: It is kind of -- I would not say
24 that there was anywhere that you could say, I will never
25 get on that child care thing. It turns over quicker than

1 you think.

2 MS. SNYDER: Yes. And it also depends on, like
3 I said, the areas of the state. There are some states
4 with zero waiting list, and they never really ever had a
5 waiting list, even with reauthorization, because the total
6 children they serve is 500 kids. Where then you go to
7 Gulf Coast, and they serve 22,000.

8 So -- and the need. Of course, we know we are
9 never going to be able to provide the child care that is
10 actually needed with the funds that we have. We try to
11 serve as many families as we possibly can. Yes.

12 MS. MOORE: When looking at the rates of
13 children experiencing homelessness in child care do you
14 ever compare that to rates of homelessness in that
15 population area for the board? So for instance, on this
16 Workforce, Capital Area, is on here.

17 Do you ever have, like go back to the specific
18 local board and say, hey. Just by proportion of how many
19 people are experiencing homelessness in your community, we
20 would expect to see a lot more children in child care;
21 what are you doing to --

22 Like, what can we do to like -- or do you think
23 we are not identifying people? Do we -- like, do you kind
24 of explore that?

25 MS. SNYDER: Yes. We do. We actually have a

1 different department that does that, as technical
2 assistance. And they actually go out on board visits.
3 And one of the things they do prior to their board visit,
4 is they review numbers.

5 Now, they get these numbers every month. That
6 is the numbers I just gave you, just came out this
7 morning, actually. And they do look at it.

8 In fact, we have one board specifically that
9 has zero homeless. And we know that there is a homeless
10 population in their area. And they have reached out to
11 that board to say, hey. Is there anything we can do to
12 support you? Because that is their role.

13 Now, we are only able to do, only so much as
14 far as -- because they do have the ability to run their
15 program locally.

16 MS. MOORE: Sure.

17 MS. SNYDER: So all we can do is kind of point
18 out to them and say what could we do to help you. Or do
19 we maybe need to do some data review, and see if maybe you
20 do have some homeless families you are serving and they
21 are just not being identified correctly, when you do the
22 data entry into TWIST.

23 MS. MOORE: Yes.

24 MS. SNYDER: So yes. We do look at that.

25 MS. MOORE: Because I have anecdotal stories

1 about Workforce Solutions not historically being very
2 welcoming to people experiencing homelessness.

3 MS. SNYDER: And unfortunately, that is
4 probably true. I mean, I will admit, that there is --
5 there is still some -- like I said, better outreach is
6 what needs to happen.

7 They need to get the word out. And they need
8 to also be very careful and walk, you know, tread very
9 lightly when they are speaking to these families. Because
10 there have been times, they will shut down.

11 Because they are scared. They don't want to
12 DFPS to get involved. So they don't want to identify
13 themselves.

14 So there is actually one of the slides we
15 talked about, was some of the things we gave them, was you
16 know, try and maybe not to use the word homeless, because
17 they don't like that word. That is a word that is very
18 sensitive to them. They don't consider themselves
19 homeless, even though they may fall into that definition.

20 MR. DOYLE: Sorry to get you off track.

21 MS. SNYDER: No. That is fine.

22 MR. SAMUELS: It sounds like to me that the
23 homeless crisis response systems in these areas, the one
24 that says there is zero people experiencing homelessness.

25 MS. SNYDER: Right.

1 MR. SAMUELS: They should not wait for the
2 outreach to get to them. They should go meet that
3 Workforce Solutions board, at least halfway.

4 MS. SNYDER: Right.

5 MR. SAMUELS: So we are meeting with the CoC
6 leads tomorrow. I am going to definitely mention that.

7 MR. DOYLE: I just rode down here. I had to go
8 talk to Tammy next week.

9 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

10 MR. DOYLE: And tell her, did you realize this
11 new change in TWC policy?

12 MS. SNYDER: Yes.

13 MR. DOYLE: Because the child care dollars
14 comes through a committee that I chair at the board. And
15 so we need to know how exactly that works. And I
16 appreciate that.

17 MS. SNYDER: I want to say Tarrant is actually
18 one, Tarrant and Dallas, up in North Texas, they actually
19 have been proactive. And they actually partner with some
20 of the local organizations.

21 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

22 MS. SNYDER: I might be misremembering.

23 MR. DOYLE: You are right, at least in Tarrant
24 County. I can't speak for Dallas.

25 MS. SNYDER: Right. But I know they actually

1 will partner, and that is what we need. We need more of
2 that. And we definitely need the organizations that you
3 are aware of, to make sure that they are telling those
4 organizations that this is a service that is available to
5 them.

6 MR. DOYLE: So let me ask you this. I am
7 always thinking politically on these things. But could
8 the homeless population, in taking advantage of this
9 program, overwhelm the system where people would say, I am
10 already trying to get a job. And I am not homeless. And I
11 am getting shoved out because of priorities.

12 MS. SNYDER: Yes. And that happens. Sometimes
13 you will have people say that. And it is like, well, we
14 are trying to make one part of their life a little easier,
15 which will help them hopefully get a job.

16 But I haven't seen any kind of pushback from
17 any board, saying you know, we are having to serve these
18 people, and we are not being able to serve these other
19 people. But the wait list has been the biggest issue
20 because the twelve months.

21 That was the biggest thing that we heard as far
22 as making it difficult for people who, you know, they want
23 to get a job, or they can't keep their jobs, because they
24 don't have child care. You know, any of us that have
25 children, we know how expensive child care is. It is not

1 an inexpensive part of your life. So it is difficult.

2 MR. DOYLE: So we work with a homeless mom and
3 her kids, and she gets a job. Immediately, she gets three
4 months care. Or she is looking and training, and those
5 kind of things.

6 MS. SNYDER: Right.

7 MR. DOYLE: She gets now a job that is over 25
8 hours a week, moving towards full time. Will she get
9 another twelve months at the time she gets work, is that
10 nine more months into the year?

11 MS. SNYDER: It is nine more months. They get
12 a total of twelve months, inclusive of the three initial.

13 Basically, those three initial are just to help
14 get them up on their feet, to hopefully find a job. And
15 for a homeless population, it can be at any level.

16 So she doesn't have to meet that 25-hour mark.

17 If she gets a job for ten hours a week. Somebody is
18 willing to like just give her part of a job, the children
19 will still receive the care.

20 And then she can hopefully maybe find a better
21 job while she is employed at that initial job. And
22 hopefully, find more employment.

23 Now, for homeless populations, that is further
24 on the slides. When they get to the end of their twelve
25 months, as long as -- if they still identify, and they

1 still meet the criteria, or they like I said, self
2 identify as homeless, they will get another twelve months
3 of homeless care.

4 And the benefit of homeless, they get the
5 initial three months. But they also have no parent-shared
6 costs for the entire twelve months. So their child care
7 is free.

8 MR. DOYLE: Wow. So this is big. Because I
9 know our clients say, I can't work, don't want to lose my
10 benefits. I don't have child care. Well now, all of a
11 sudden the child care excuse is taken off the table.

12 MS. SNYDER: Right.

13 MR. DOYLE: We can get you child care if you
14 can get a job.

15 MS. SNYDER: Right. If you get a job within
16 that three months, we can continue to keep you in the
17 program at any level. Like I said, they don't have to
18 meet -- because for other populations, of your regular
19 general public low-income client, if they come in. They
20 don't get the benefit of that three months. They have to
21 come in and be initially meeting in the 25-hour
22 requirement.

23 And it is 50 for a two-parent household. Now,
24 if they lose their job within that twelve months, if it is
25 a single-parent family, and she loses her job, or he loses

1 his job, then they would have that three month, what we
2 call, an activity interruption. And it can be for various
3 reasons. But mainly, it is because they have lost their
4 job.

5 As long as they get a job working at any level
6 within that three-month period that they are given, they
7 go back into their twelve months, the same as they were
8 previously. And they can only be working an hour a week,
9 as I said. But we are trying to keep them in the program.
10 It is all about keeping the children stable.

11 Because what used to happen is, they would get
12 a 28-day job search. Which, I don't know if anybody here
13 has been unemployed. Sometimes it takes you a little
14 longer than 28 days to find a job. But at the end of that
15 28 days, they would lose their care.

16 And then let's say two days later, they find a
17 job. Well, if there is a waiting list in that area, they
18 are back at the back of the waiting list, and they start
19 the process all over.

20 And that child might cycle in and out of care
21 several times in a year. So this is to hopefully give
22 some level of stability.

23 MR. SCHOLL: Can I ask a pretty quick question?

24 MS. SNYDER: Sure.

25 MR. SCHOLL: About half the total numbers

1 represented on those three areas on your website. The
2 other areas are probably listed on there, different areas.

3 MS. SNYDER: As far as like, you are talking
4 about --

5 MR. SCHOLL: First, you said 2,049 total. You
6 talked about the Gulf Coast.

7 MS. SNYDER: Yes. Those are just the largest
8 areas.

9 MR. SCHOLL: That is only half of them.

10 MS. SNYDER: Yes. That is just the largest
11 areas.

12 MR. SCHOLL: They are listed on a website at
13 TWC?

14 MS. SNYDER: Not the homeless numbers.

15 MR. SCHOLL: Okay.

16 MS. SNYDER: No. Those are internal numbers.

17 MR. SCHOLL: If they are interested in a less
18 populated area, like in pre-occupational rural counties.

19 MS. SNYDER: Yes. I can give you --

20 MR. SCHOLL: Brought a bunch of cards today.

21 MS. SNYDER: -- my card and you can send it to
22 me.

23 MR. SCHOLL: The child care facilities, is
24 there some inspection of them? We talked about quality
25 child care. Is that also true at TWC, that that gets

1 done, or HS -- who does that?

2 MS. SNYDER: It is HHSC. It is child care
3 licensing.

4 MR. SCHOLL: Okay.

5 MS. SNYDER: In order to be a provider, you
6 still have to meet the requirements of Child Care
7 Licensing. You have to be a licensed provider to be a
8 licensed center.

9 Now, there are other centers. Right. There is
10 registered homes. There is different classifications, as
11 far as inspections that have to occur in order to maintain
12 those designations.

13 MR. SCHOLL: The last question is probably
14 silly. What is the management projection about the
15 availability of funds to meet the need? Run out of money
16 after three months of the fiscal year, or what?

17 MS. SNYDER: No. No. As far as the -- you
18 know, each board is allotted. They are given an
19 allocation at the beginning of the fiscal year. And then
20 they take that allocation and they manage it. And we
21 haven't had any problems with anybody running out of
22 money.

23 MR. SCHOLL: Okay.

24 MS. SNYDER: Sometimes, it is trying to spend
25 it, really, is what it comes down to. Because it takes

1 manpower.

2 MR. SCHOLL: Yes.

3 MS. SNYDER: When reauthorization happened, we
4 actually had to shut down across the state all child care
5 enrollments. We had to tell them, you have to freeze it.

6 Because we were worried about that. Because
7 there was also a mandatory number. We were seeing the
8 DFPS numbers and Choices continuing to go up --
9 specifically, DFPS placements.

10 So they had to stop until we saw how this
11 twelve months, you know, enactment was going to affect us.

12 Now, child care is not a speed boat or an aircraft
13 carrier. We turn very slowly, because it is a process.

14 If you're a low-income family, for you to
15 apply, once they get the application, they have to review
16 the application. And there could be two or three weeks
17 before you actually get into the program.

18 Sometimes, longer, if you have been on the
19 waitlist for a while. So it is -- and that has been the
20 issue with trying to actually spend the money as fast as
21 they can.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Let me just give you a
23 little back up a step. Legislation, when the Workforce
24 system was created doesn't allow boards to operate
25 anything. So don't go to the board thinking that they can

1 control child care.

2 It goes through somebody that they -- we
3 contract with CCMS in Tarrant County to spend 30 -- or we
4 allocate to them \$35 million in child care. So then we
5 also have a firm that operates, C2 Global that operates
6 our centers, to put forward, provide the resource. But we
7 don't manage anything.

8 MS. SNYDER: Yes.

9 MR. DOYLE: So don't fuss at the Workforce
10 members. You may want to get somebody to connect you with
11 your local child care provider who is doing all that work.

12 But it is not the boards that really mandate that. They
13 just make the policies.

14 MS. SNYDER: Right. TWC, the money comes down
15 from the federal government to TWC. TWC allocates it to
16 all 28 boards. Those 28 boards are required to have a
17 contracting agency.

18 And sometimes it could be more than one
19 contractor within a board area. They could have a
20 contractor that runs the provider side, or their quality
21 side, and then a different contractor that runs their
22 subsidy child care side.

23 So they have performance measures that they
24 have to meet. Of course, the state has performance
25 measures that we have to meet. And so it all kind of

1 trickles down.

2 MR. SCHOLL: So the child care providers are
3 reimbursed? They submit it --

4 MS. SNYDER: Yes, exactly. There is no money
5 that changes hands, in that there is no money loaded on a
6 card. Now, they do have, we do have a swipe card system.
7 And that is where some banks and people get confused.

8 Because they are given a swipe card. Now, the
9 swipe card is for attendance. Because before
10 reauthorization, providers were actually only paid on
11 attendance of the child. So if the child was out for that
12 day, they actually wouldn't get paid for that day.

13 When reauthorization came around we realigned
14 with what is happening in the private pay market. Because
15 it is very difficult for a provider to run their business
16 if they don't know how many children are going to be in
17 that class every day. And do I need one or two or three
18 teachers in that toddler room.

19 So we aligned it with private pay. So that
20 means, regardless of how many days that child is there,
21 that provider is going to get paid for the authorization.

22 So if that child is authorized to be there Monday through
23 Friday, they are going to get paid for Monday through
24 Friday. Now, on --

25 MS. BOLTON: So you are paying for a slot, not

1 a day.

2 MS. SNYDER: Right. Exactly. Exactly. And
3 then what happens, as far as the flip side of that.
4 Because somebody said, well what consequences does a
5 parent have to take their child? Because the provider
6 could be getting paid for no child.

7 And I said, well, that is a lot like a private
8 pay situation. If I don't take my child, I still have to
9 pay for the whole month.

10 Now, in our situation, because this is a
11 program where they have to meet requirements, there are
12 attendance requirements that the parent has to meet for
13 each child. So now if the child is absent for more than
14 40 days in a twelve-month period, their care can be
15 terminated. And we do that.

16 Sometimes people think it is harsh. But we do
17 that because obviously, they may not need the slot, and we
18 need to be able to open it up to give it to another family
19 or another child. So that is what the swipe cards are
20 for.

21 And we are actually trying to actively get away
22 from that, and maybe have smartphone applications where
23 they can check in for child care through that way. And we
24 are hopefully working. We are going to come into the 21st
25 century one day.

1 MR. DOYLE: There was a time when there was
2 abuse to some degree in that they would leave their swipe
3 cards with the provider. The provider would swipe them.

4 MS. SNYDER: That is called fraud.

5 MR. SCHOLL: Sometimes you get housing from
6 that kind of activity.

7 MS. BOLTON: So the parent and the provider
8 were moving to a pay by the slot, not pay by the day
9 system before?

10 MS. SNYDER: Before we ever did. Yes. Before
11 we got -- right.

12 MS. BOLTON: Before we caught up to them.

13 MS. SNYDER: Right. Yes. So and I am kind of,
14 I am going to flip through some of these, because we have
15 already talked on some of these. And of course, you can
16 read this.

17 I will have my business cards available, and my
18 email will be on there if anybody has any questions after
19 we leave. Because I don't know how much time I have been
20 given today. And I may be already over my allotted time.

21 MR. DOYLE: Forty five minutes.

22 MS. SNYDER: Was I really given 45 minutes?

23 MR. DOYLE: I just know, child care is so
24 important to the homeless population.

25 MS. SNYDER: Yes.

1 MR. DOYLE: When they heard this, even if I had
2 to prompt it, there was going to be questions.

3 MS. SNYDER: Yes. Well, you know, I am glad
4 you invited me to come here and talk about this.

5 As I mentioned earlier, eligibility means, for
6 homeless, means they meet the definition of McKinney-
7 Vento. And one of the short ways we kind of talk about it
8 is, individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate
9 night-time residence. That is kind of a high level.
10 Because it has been difficult, trying to get it down to
11 the contractor level, to make sure that they understand.

12 If somebody says, I am homeless, we take that
13 at face value. We are not asking you to go into any
14 database and verify if they are homeless. Because there
15 is no database to verify that. They are homeless.

16 The other slides, slide -- I can't read with my
17 glasses -- eight is just giving the definition that we use
18 for McKinney-Vento. Now, documenting eligibility, what we
19 do require after the three months is not only does the
20 parent need to be working at any level, or participating
21 as a type of educational or training activity.

22 We do require that they give us the
23 documentation of the child. That can be a birth
24 certificate. Basically, you have to verify that the child
25 is a citizen. So that is a documentation that we have to

1 have.

2 Now, that is a federal requirement. Because
3 the family does not have to be a citizen, but the child
4 does, in order to receive services. And that is something
5 that we have to have after the three months.

6 But they are given the three months. And of
7 course, the Workforce offices will support them and try to
8 help them get any of that documentation that they need in
9 order to meet that requirement.

10 MR. DOYLE: Gwen, let me stop you there and say
11 that, I may have misunderstood this. But you said there
12 is no system to document that they are homeless. But
13 doesn't HMIS do that?

14 MR. SAMUELS: There is no one system that does
15 that.

16 MS. SNYDER: Right.

17 MR. SAMUELS: But that one system, HMIS can.

18 MR. DOYLE: For example, in Tarrant County, we
19 would call the Homeless Management Information System
20 which is required by HUD that all cities receiving
21 continuum of care funds be on an HMIS system. But I could
22 document who was homeless, if Jane Smith was homeless in a
23 matter of minutes.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Sure, in a lot of cases, you
25 could. But then there are a lot of people --

1 MS. SNYDER: There are a lot of people who
2 aren't. And then see, I think that is why we kind of
3 shied away from maybe letting them. Because that is a
4 great resource.

5 But we don't want them to think -- because
6 unfortunately, or fortunately however you view it, some of
7 the contractors are very specific and can be sometimes a
8 little difficult. It can make, it can add additional
9 barriers to services when they shouldn't be there.
10 Because it is not a requirement.

11 MR. SAMUELS: And let's be honest. There are
12 some, just like you were saying, there are some households
13 with children that you know, they don't want to fall into
14 that category. They are doubled up.

15 MS. SNYDER: Right.

16 MR. SAMUELS: They still need this assistance.
17 But they are not going to fall into that HMIS database.

18 MS. SNYDER: Right.

19 MR. SAMUELS: And you know, they are at a point
20 where they don't need to. They don't have to.

21 MS. SNYDER: Yes. They don't want to bring
22 attention to themselves. But yet, if we look at the
23 definition that we are asking them to -- you know.

24 Because what we would do, we made an
25 eligibility documentation. Along one of the sheets is

1 some basic questions that we got -- we gathered from other
2 agencies to try to help them identify if somebody is
3 homeless. Even if they won't say the word, I am homeless.

4 They could go through this system and say, so
5 are you this, are you that. And then say, well, there is
6 this other program where we can get you some child care
7 for at least three months, and help you get on your feet.

8 And maybe not ever use the word homeless.

9 MR. DOYLE: Okay. This is just a -- take this
10 scenario, which we have all heard. I am going to be
11 evicted Friday. I am going to be homeless.

12 And they may have to go to a shelter, a women
13 and children's shelter. Until they check in there, and
14 kind of identify that they are homeless. Can they be
15 engaged right there, and start their three months.

16 MS. SNYDER: Well, yes. They could be referred
17 to a Workforce office and definitely start the program.

18 Or, like I said, if there is a waiting list,
19 there could be, you know, maybe not immediately, but
20 hopefully within a few, a couple of weeks. We could
21 definitely help them.

22 MS. BOLTON: So like a family violence shelter?

23 MS. SNYDER: Yes.

24 MS. EISERT: From TCFV. Yes on the phone. So
25 the battered women's shelter.

1 MS. VOYLES: I turned up the phone but I am
2 having trouble hearing the presentation. So if you all
3 could share that PowerPoint, that would be great. I
4 emailed you, Kali. This is Texas Council on Family
5 Violence.

6 MS. ADAMS: We can do that.

7 MS. BOLTON: So that, so if they are -- because
8 you might not have been homeless yesterday.

9 MS. SNYDER: Right. And we also support, there
10 has been some discussion, transitional housing. Because
11 there are people that are in transitional housing.

12 They have an apartment. They have an address,
13 but they are still considered homeless. Because that is
14 one of the definitions, if they are in transitional
15 housing.

16 And we have gotten some pushback from boards
17 and contractors about that sometimes. Well, they have a
18 house. They have a place to go. And they are paying
19 rent. It is still classified as a transitional housing
20 situation. We want to help them.

21 As far as residency, that is another question
22 we got. Like, if you are homeless, you don't necessarily
23 know where you are going to be living from day to day. At
24 the time, the board area that will service them is the
25 board area that they apply to, basically.

1 So even if they were in Austin, and now today
2 they have driven to Houston, and they were homeless here
3 and now they are homeless in Houston. So the Houston
4 board would serve them. That is how they establish
5 residency, basically, wherever they are.

6 We have already kind of went over the wait
7 list. We do require the boards to have a process in place
8 for identifying homeless families. Now, if a homeless --
9 if a family identifies as homeless, we don't ask for any
10 kind of documentation for them to apply. And of course,
11 when services are available, and they come up on the list,
12 they are going to immediately be outreached, and care can
13 start immediately.

14 Income, this is something that we kind of go
15 back and forth with. We, of course, don't ask for any
16 type of income documentation. So even if somebody
17 identifies as homeless but they have a job, we are not
18 going to ask for any of their income information. Now,
19 the program as a whole, the CCS program, there is a
20 federal reg. So you can't be making more than 85 percent
21 SMI in order to qualify for our program.

22 But with the homeless population, we never look
23 at their income. So even if they get a really good job
24 within that twelve months, and they come in and say, here
25 are my pay stubs at my really great job. They are not

1 supposed to do anything with it.

2 They are supposed to say, that is great. File
3 it away. Do no income calculation. Because we are not
4 going to apply any kind of parent share of costs to their
5 services for that twelve months.

6 Now, when they come up for redetermination, if
7 their situation has changed, and they are no longer
8 identified as homeless, then they would go into the low-
9 income group. And their income would be looked at. And
10 there could be a parent share of costs assessed at that
11 time.

12 And as I said, you know, boards shall not
13 assess a parent share of costs when a family obtains
14 housing, employment, other income. In other words, we are
15 not going to make their lives any harder than it has
16 already been.

17 We want to support them for the full twelve
18 months. The only time care will end for a homeless family
19 who has come into care, is if their eligible e-
20 verification when the child was not eligible at initial
21 determination.

22 In other words, they get their three months.
23 And at the end of their three months, they have never
24 provided any proof that the parent is working or any kind
25 of training at any level, and they have not supplied the

1 documentation for the child to prove that the child is a
2 citizen. Then care would end.

3 Now, that three months is still free. Nobody
4 goes back and tries to get that money back from the board
5 or from the parent.

6 As far as redetermination, as I mentioned, if
7 they get to the end of the twelve months, and they still
8 identify as homeless, then they are still going to get
9 another twelve months of care under the homeless
10 designation, and that would be with no parent share cost.

11
12 And that is basically everything I have gone
13 over. If you have any other questions, I would be happy
14 to try to answer. And if not, I will leave my cards. I
15 put them up there on the desk. And you are welcome to
16 email me.

17 MR. DOYLE: I just want to reiterate.

18 MS. SNYDER: Sure.

19 MR. DOYLE: If all of a sudden, Eric talks
20 tomorrow to the CoC and they just think this is the
21 greatest thing since sliced bread. And you start getting
22 a bunch of calls. You are not going say, oh, crap. What
23 did I do?

24 MS. SNYDER: Yes. I probably will say that.
25 But -- and I think the issue is, it is not that we don't

1 have the money. I think the money is there.

2 It is the manpower and the ability to process
3 these families as quickly as possible. But they are in a
4 priority group, so they are going to jump the waitlist.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay. That's good.

6 MS. SNYDER: They are not -- you know, they are
7 served ahead of the general population, and ahead of
8 several, you know, other priority groups.

9 MR. SCHOLL: Do you have a manning formula for
10 case load and that sort of thing?

11 MS. SNYDER: I am not sure. A manning formula?

12 MR. SCHOLL: Usually, it is the staffing of an
13 agency, to see how many staff you need, based on the
14 number of customers you have to serve.

15 MS. SNYDER: Yes. They are supposed to. That
16 is, once again, handled at the contractor level. We are
17 kind of like, however they run their business. They just
18 have to be meeting the performance targets that the board
19 has set and that the State has set as a whole.

20 MR. DOYLE: Well, Gwen. That was very
21 informative. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

22 MS. SNYDER: You are welcome. Thank you.

23 MR. WILT: I have got one more question.

24 MS. SNYDER: Sure.

25 MR. WILT: I am curious how you are doing

1 outreach, because if this is my first time experiencing
2 homelessness, I wouldn't necessarily know to go to TWC for
3 child care, intuitively.

4 MS. SNYDER: Right. As far as the state, like
5 I said, the programs are all run at the local level. So
6 as far as the state doing any specific outreach, we don't.
7 That would be done locally.

8 So I would encourage you, if you know of any
9 agencies in your area, or across the state, that are
10 statewide, get the information out to them. And tell them
11 to reach out to their boards.

12 Now, some boards are more proactive than
13 others. And they do reach out to those organizations
14 themselves. But I can't say that that is happening across
15 the state.

16 MR. DOYLE: Mike, I would just call the Capital
17 Area Workforce board, Workforce Solutions, Capital Area,
18 and just say, I want to have a discussion about this.
19 That is where you would start.

20 MS. SNYDER: Right, and I might get my hand
21 slapped for saying this. But I do encourage you to push.
22 You know, make sure they are aware of this program.

23 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

24 MS. SNYDER: Because I know, they know that
25 they have a number that we want them to meet, as far as

1 children in care. But we don't have a specific number
2 tied to, we want you to serve X amount of homeless
3 children.

4 Because that is just not -- that would be
5 really probably too difficult for us to force down to
6 them. But there is a number they have to meet. This is a
7 way for them to help them meet their number. And at the
8 same time, help a population that desperately needs it.

9 MR. DOYLE: Yes. And I can't tell you how many
10 times I have heard, well, I really can't get a job. I
11 can't afford the child care.

12 MS. SNYDER: Yes.

13 MR. DOYLE: So I am just going to stay home.

14 MR. SAMUELS: It is vital. Vital for us. I am
15 definitely going to talk to you afterwards. I have
16 questions.

17 MS. SNYDER: Okay.

18 MR. DOYLE: Thanks again, Gwen. And I want to
19 say thanks again to TWC, who has been for the most part,
20 our only other supporter of this work. The Interagency
21 Council was a non-funded mandate.

22 And so I have always told Chairman Alcantar
23 when he was there and I am still telling Chairman Hughes
24 now, that we really appreciate that. Larry kind of went
25 and died on us. We are still going to -- I am going to

1 talk to Ruth next month, when we are here about continuing
2 that.

3 MS. GENDRON: Can we get an electronic copy of
4 this, so we can share it?

5 MR. DOYLE: I'm hoping we can put it on the
6 website, where you can download it. So all right. Thanks
7 again.

8 Cal?

9 MS. LOPEZ: Okay. So I have a few updates for
10 the Texas Education Agency. One of the first ones is a
11 staffing update. Our deputy Commissioner Penny Schwinn
12 has accepted the position to be the Commission of
13 Education in Tennessee.

14 And so we, our Department of Special
15 Populations, and our highly mobile and at-risk division
16 were housed under Penny Schwinn. So there is a little
17 minor reorganization. We are now going to be under the
18 office of educator and system support, under Deputy
19 Commissioner Martin Winchester.

20 And so that is just a little minor change, so
21 far. So we will see if there will be any other updates.
22 I will have them by the next quarter. But we are very
23 excited for her. And it is a great opportunity for her to
24 go to the State of Tennessee.

25 With our division of highly mobile and at-risk

1 students, that is where the McKinney-Vento Homeless
2 Education Program is housed. We will be using the Texas
3 Education Telecommunication Network. I know that is a
4 mouthful. We call it a TETN.

5 And as a newly-created division, we are
6 actually launching our first TETN for our highly mobile
7 and at-risk student programs division to help build
8 capacity with our educational service centers. And we
9 have 20 across the state.

10 Our first meeting with them will be on February
11 7th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. And it is for the regional
12 educational centers, the first meeting, and then we will
13 expand. And we are going to provide them updates and
14 announcements that include foster care and student
15 success, mental and behavioral health, military-connected
16 students, migrant education, and McKinney-Vento homeless
17 education.

18 And so we are going to launch that first
19 meeting. And then many of these other departments will
20 break out into having additional meetings, moving forward.

21 And then incorporating our school districts as well. So
22 we are really excited about that. It will be our launch
23 there.

24 Legislative, the Legislature is in session.
25 This is actually my first session, so everybody has been

1 blessing me as I go through this rite of passage. We have
2 already had five bills come in to be -- for bill analysis,
3 that would impact homeless education.

4 So some of those bills are including looking at
5 out-of-school suspension and how that would impact
6 homeless students. Also, there are some bills under --
7 that would impact public institutions of higher ed that
8 are looking at providing more transition and housing
9 supports available for students who are homeless.

10 And so some of those House bills, in case you
11 are interested and want to go read up, House Bill 99,
12 House Bill 692, House Bill 811, Senate Bill 311, and
13 Senate Bill 424. And so those have already come down, and
14 we haven't even finished January.

15 So it has been a pretty active season already.

16 So we are really excited to be providing input on that.
17 And some of them also are dual bills. They impact our
18 students who are homeless, and also our students in foster
19 care. So I just wanted to give that update.

20 And in the Agency, whenever we do receive a
21 bill, we do set up a tracker so we can follow the life of
22 the bill, and see how that will occur. The highly mobile
23 division, I think this is one of the first few times that
24 we will have several people in our division following the
25 bills as they proceed up the chain. So we are really

1 excited about that.

2 Development of resources. In collaboration
3 with Educational Service Center 10, and the Texas Homeless
4 Education Office, and some stakeholders, we will -- we are
5 in the process of updating our McKinney-Vento Homeless
6 Education poster. Our TEA communications department is
7 working on the final edits.

8 And so the target release date for that poster
9 is February of 2019. And we will be advertising that, as
10 soon as it comes out. All school districts are required
11 to post the educational rights of students under McKinney-
12 Vento. And so these posters will be distributed to the
13 school districts, to post that.

14 And we will have two posters. One that is for
15 parents with school-aged children. And one that our
16 poorer students -- our unaccompanied students that are
17 couch surfing. So we are really excited about that
18 announcement.

19 And then my last update is -- we just posted a
20 grant. It is the 2019-20 Texas Education for Homeless
21 Children and Youth Technical Assistance, Professional
22 Development and Support grant. That was just released.

23 And it is a grant that is out to help assist
24 TEA with administration and implementation of the program.

25 And the initial period of the grant is for one year. It

1 is for a million dollars.

2 The application due date is March 26th, and the
3 grant start date is July 1st. If you want more
4 information, it is posted on our grant application page on
5 TEA.

6 MR. DOYLE: Great. There seems to be some
7 networking opportunities between the homeless liaisons and
8 what we heard from TWC as well.

9 Okay. Great. Thank you, Cal.

10 MS. LOPEZ: Sure.

11 MR. DOYLE: Naomi.

12 MS. CANTU: Yes.

13 MR. DOYLE: Now that you are back at work
14 officially.

15 MS. CANTU: Yes. Less than a week, so far. My
16 three updates. So the bill to fund the final Texas
17 Administrative Code was adopted at a board in December.
18 It allows us for the same activities as Emergency
19 Solutions Grants, or Homeless Housing and Services
20 Program.

21 And the entities that are eligible, again,
22 which are cities and counties, under the rule will be
23 notified in Spring of their eligibility. Approximately
24 \$130,000 will be distributed. So we are looking forward
25 to getting that up and running.

1 For Emergency Solutions Grants, the final Texas
2 Administrative Code is to be adopted in February. It is
3 going to our Board. Our draft rule, which was released, I
4 believe in November, received no public comment. The
5 change -- so that is for 2019, the issue funds.

6 In 2018, ESG, the one that we are undergoing
7 now, we made a change so that subrecipients may not
8 subgrant their awards. So that resulted in more contracts
9 at the state level, but approximately the same number of
10 providers.

11 So it used to be where we would have one
12 contract, and they would subgrant. And now we are
13 contracting with the subgranter directly. The 2019 ESG
14 applications may be released after HUD releases the amount
15 available for ESG, and after a NOFA, a Notice of Funding
16 Availability, has been approved by the Board, by our
17 Board.

18 For HHSP, those are going. Nine contracts
19 underway. As a reminder, City of Plano has been added
20 this year. So we went from eight cities to nine cities
21 running Homeless Housing and Services Program. Those are
22 my updates.

23 MR. DOYLE: And what was the HHSP amount? Do
24 you remember the total amount?

25 MS. CANTU: I think it is \$4.9 million a year.

1 Something along those lines.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

3 MR. SCHOLL: Is that for the check off thing
4 that they did, that we talked about in the past? I am
5 sorry. I am confusing something.

6 I remember somebody, they imitated what the
7 Texas Veterans Commission did. And there was something
8 about rule from that money, different than --

9 MR. SAMUELS: That was the Ending Homelessness
10 Fund.

11 MR. DOYLE: Why don't you explain to those that
12 might be new, how you might participate in the Ending
13 Homelessness Fund. Isn't that something that you can do
14 on your title transfers or something?

15 MS. CANTU: It is for when you register a
16 vehicle.

17 MR. DOYLE: Register a vehicle.

18 MS. CANTU: Any vehicle. When you register,
19 there is a donation section at the bottom of the form, or
20 online if you do that.

21 And you can make a voluntary contribution to
22 the Ending Homelessness Fund. And we are mirroring the
23 activities under Ending Homelessness Fund under what we
24 currently offer under it.

25 MR. SCHOLL: You just made me feel a whole lot

1 better about my memory.

2 MR. SAMUELS: But so that, \$130,000 raised by
3 the end of 2018.

4 MS. CANTU: So \$130,000 to be distributed. So
5 I actually don't have the current balance on here.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Actually, it probably would have
7 been raised by October, right?

8 MS. CANTU: I would have to check.

9 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

10 MS. CANTU: Yes.

11 MR. SAMUELS: I am just curious of how many
12 months it took to get to that. I know we started a little
13 late.

14 MS. CANTU: Yes. We did. We have been
15 averaging between \$11,000 and \$13,000 a month.

16 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. Really.

17 MR. DOYLE: That is great. Very good. Okay.
18 Christine?

19 MS. EISERT: I have got some updates.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

21 MS. EISERT: I am other updates. So yes. This
22 is Helen with HSSC. So I did want to give you all an
23 update on the Healthy Community Collaborative program,
24 which is in its fifth year.

25 And that is funding from HHSC to contractors

1 around the state to provide housing services, criminal
2 justice employment services, mental health, substance use.

3 It is kind of an all encompassing services for people
4 that are homeless with mental health issues or substance
5 use issues.

6 So right now, there is currently still four
7 sites. It is Haven for Hope in San Antonio. It is
8 Integral Care in Austin. The City of Dallas, and then
9 Tarrant County MHMR. So those are our main four
10 contracting sites.

11 So just to get -- there is a legislative budget
12 report that came out -- or legislative report that came
13 out. And so I just wanted to point you guys to that.

14 You can go to the HHSC website, and just put
15 in, you know, reports and presentations. And it will pull
16 up. It is a nice little snapshot of what is going on.

17 But I did want to go over some highlights. So
18 since FY 2014, the State of Texas has invested \$54 million
19 in the HCC program. Over 4,300 HCC participants were
20 housed by the providers, since the start of FY 2017.

21 Housed participants showed significant
22 improvement in general functioning, including a lower
23 number of crisis episodes and psychiatric
24 hospitalizations. And a decreased severity and duration
25 of substance use when compared with those that are not

1 housed.

2 Both housed and not-housed participants showed
3 a significantly higher rate of employment. And both
4 housed and not-housed participants were more likely to
5 have fewer medical emergency room visits.

6 So those were really important outcomes for us,
7 because it showed that even if someone wasn't housed,
8 there is still improvement for individuals in the HCC
9 program. But obviously, if you are housed, you are going
10 to have greater income or greater outcomes.

11 So the last one is, house participants were
12 more likely to have a lower incidence of arrests in the
13 past 30 days, compared with non-housed participants. So I
14 think the next big question we'll be asking will be kind
15 of what is the cost attached with that.

16 If you see lower incidence of arrests, less
17 recidivism, things like that, less emergency reviews,
18 we'll attach a cost to that. So I don't know if anyone
19 has questions on that piece, before I move to the next set
20 of updates I have.

21 MR. SCHOLL: When you get with you, can we
22 check on the information sources. Because it sounds like
23 you have got access to information that could dovetail
24 with the missing data source persons, TDC, whatever,
25 TDHCA.

1 MS. EISERT: Oh, you mean the performance data.

2 MR. SCHOLL: Yes. You are able to use a lot of
3 assessment on the effectiveness of the 54 million for
4 4,300 people.

5 MS. EISERT: Right.

6 MR. SCHOLL: A lot of proof that worked.

7 MS. EISERT: Yes.

8 MR. SCHOLL: I like to see the data.

9 MS. EISERT: Yes. So definitely, that report
10 that we put up online is a really great place to start.
11 We have a third party evaluator, the University of Texas
12 Institute on Excellence in Mental Health.

13 So they have been doing a lot of the data
14 analysis. And then this actually goes into one of my
15 updates. So one of my roles is looking at all of the
16 different programs within adult mental health at HHSC and
17 where housing touches those programs.

18 And so I am in the process of going through the
19 different grants and contracts and figuring out what are
20 the data pieces we can pull from that, internally, within
21 HHSC. So that is going to include things that include
22 specialty care, which is early onset.

23 House Bill 13, which is the mental health grant
24 program, which is a huge chunk of money that has gone out
25 to not just the local mental health authorities but also

1 quite a few non-profits around the state. So that is
2 something that is sort of an ongoing project, but I am
3 really excited about that.

4 And then the other piece, is we did get \$3
5 million from the Mental Health Block Grant that was not
6 spent. And so we were able to reallocate that for
7 supportive housing rental assistance that we give out to
8 our local mental health authorities. So out of all the
9 local mental health authorities, there is a certain -- not
10 all of them.

11 But quite a few of them receive funds to
12 provide direct rental assistance to people with mental
13 illness, and they can prioritize that in different ways
14 within their local center. But there are some that don't
15 have those funds yet, so we sent this out to that group.
16 And there were some people, some centers that came back
17 that were interested. So they will be getting direct
18 rental assistance funds, which is super exciting.

19 And that particular set of money will be
20 prioritized for people that are homeless. So yes. And
21 then the last little update. One more update.

22 MR. WILT: Real quick on that.

23 MS. EISERT: Yes, sir.

24 MR. WILT: Is that operated like a housing
25 choice voucher that they can -- or do they -- is there a

1 unit.

2 MS. EISERT: Similar. The goal is twofold.
3 Most people will not self sustain. So the goal is really
4 to bridge them to a permanent subsidy. So that is kind
5 of -- so it is up to twelve months of support, but it can
6 be extended.

7 MR. WILT: Where can they use the rental
8 assistance?

9 MS. EISERT: Anywhere, scattered sites.

10 MR. WILT: Okay.

11 MR. DOYLE: What do you consider a permanent
12 solution. When you say, to bridge them to --

13 MS. EISERT: Right. So that would be accessing
14 any usually federal subsidy program, whether it is 811-
15 PRA. Whether it is a housing choice voucher, some other
16 PSH program. So some centers run it like a rapid
17 rehousing program. And they would still qualify for some
18 of those programs.

19 MR. DOYLE: So while they are waiting to get
20 into permanent supportive housing or public housing, that
21 this is a bridge for them.

22 MS. EISERT: Right.

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

24 MS. EISERT: Yes. So the last little piece, we
25 have been doing PSH webinars for a couple of years now.

1 And this is the second round that we are doing where we do
2 monthly sort of TA webinars to all of our local mental
3 health authorities around the state.

4 And this time, we have -- you know, some of the
5 topics, it is like, housing first principles. It is
6 supporting choice. Strategies for increasing capacity for
7 supportive housing services.

8 But I think it has been a little bit more
9 robust this year, where we are generating more discussion
10 from the centers saying, hey, we are having trouble
11 developing this kind of support, supportive housing
12 services. How do we embed people within our different
13 types of teams.

14 I don't want to go into too much LMHA lingo.
15 But it is really good. It is a good process, where, I
16 think, in terms of what the strategy for the state,
17 specifically HHSC, to really make a good dent in
18 increasing capacity for supportive housing services.

19 And definitely, the work with the local mental
20 health authorities is a huge piece. Because so many of
21 those tie into the local continuum of cares, have PSH
22 programs and all these different programs. But they all
23 do it slightly differently.

24 And so in that, in addition, I have been also
25 traveling around to some of the local mental health

1 authorities and just learning from their housing teams,
2 like what they are doing. What are ways we can coordinate
3 better within each community. So it is exciting.

4 MS. CANTU: I did have a question about the
5 Healthy Community Collaborative. Is that something
6 anticipated to be ongoing, or is it ending?

7 MS. EISERT: It is anticipated to be ongoing.
8 I think how the Legislature prioritizes that is unclear.
9 So that was a little update I forgot.

10 So Senate Bill 1849, which was the last session
11 changed the prioritization from the urban centers to the
12 rural counties. So now, there is actually a current
13 request for applications out for two counties or more with
14 a population of less than 100,000. That is the
15 prioritized group.

16 MR. DOYLE: There you go, Dennis.

17 MS. EISERT: Yes.

18 (Simultaneous discussion.)

19 MR. DOYLE: Continuance? Continuous.

20 VOICE: Yes. Counties touching.

21 MS. EISERT: No. There is nothing about that.

22 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, there's nothing about --

23 MS. EISERT: No. No. Yes. So you could have
24 one. Yes. So that closes on February 15.

25 You can go to HHSC if you just Google "grant

1 applications for HHSC," it is going to pull up. You will
2 see the RFA.

3 But we don't know what will happen this
4 session. Will it shift again, I don't know. Do they want
5 new places established outside of those urban centers and
6 rural counties, we will see.

7 MR. SAMUELS: So the rental assistance money,
8 is that being used, from what you can tell so far?

9 MS. EISERT: The SHR funds?

10 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

11 MS. EISERT: Yes. I mean, right now, it has
12 been used for, I think since 2014, they have been doing
13 that. But the \$3 million, I think will go out.
14 Hopefully, it should be pretty quick, because it is
15 reallocated.

16 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

17 MS. EISERT: So did that answer your question?

18 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. I mean -- yes. I just want
19 to make sure people are out there using --

20 MS. EISERT: Oh, are they being expended? Yes.
21 The funds are being expended.

22 MR. SAMUELS: Yes.

23 MS. EISERT: And then basically, if there is
24 one by the last quarter, we can shift the funds to, like,
25 a higher performing area.

1 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

2 MR. DOYLE: Thanks, Helen. Good information.
3 Christine.

4 MS. GENDRON: Thank you. I am Christine
5 Gendron with Texas Network of Youth Services. And many of
6 you know that earlier this summer, we kicked off a new
7 group called the Statewide Workgroup on Youth
8 Homelessness. And we have been collaborating with Texas
9 Homeless Education Office, and Texas Appleseed on that.

10 We are looking at changing the name from
11 Statewide Workgroup to Statewide Collaborative. One, to
12 kind of capture the collaborative spirit of the project.
13 But two, because we are looking at having some workgroups
14 within the larger group.

15 And so you will probably see the name change to
16 the Statewide Collaborative on Youth Homelessness. But it
17 really kind of stems from this idea that, you know, kind
18 of like the reason for this group, that homelessness is
19 not an issue that can be addressed by one agency alone.
20 And youth homelessness, in particular, we need a bunch of
21 different players and groups at the table.

22 And so the goal right now is to bring people
23 together for information sharing, for learning, for making
24 connections. We might dive into some specific projects at
25 a later date. But we have had two meetings so far.

1 We are -- the vision right now is a quarterly
2 meeting schedule. We have been using the meetings to make
3 sure that everybody has opportunities to connect with
4 others who have something to bring to this work, and
5 really to learn the lay of the land, or the landscape in
6 regard to what is available to serve young people who are
7 experiencing homelessness.

8 And between our first two meetings, we had the
9 Governor's Office present on the work that they are doing
10 to address child sex trafficking. We have had two
11 different DFPS presentations.

12 So someone from Child Protective Services
13 presented on the work that they are doing to prevent youth
14 from running from foster care. And then also to respond
15 appropriately after youth do run.

16 And something that is really exciting to me,
17 that has come as a result of that, is that TNOYS is now
18 partnering with the Department on some training workshops
19 in three major cities on how do we prevent youth from
20 running from care. How do we create cultures and
21 organizations and programs where they feel like they have
22 some control over their life, and so they don't want to
23 run.

24 We have also had the Texas Juvenile Justice
25 Department share information specifically on homelessness

1 among youth leaving juvenile justice facilities. Cal
2 joined us at our first meeting to share information on
3 what TEA is doing in regard to addressing student
4 homelessness and McKinney-Vento and some of the changes
5 and new initiatives over there.

6 We also had someone from HHSC talk about CRCGs
7 and how they can be resources for serving those
8 experiencing homelessness. And also someone from
9 Workforce Commission talk on some of the different
10 services and supports available for youth who age out of
11 foster care.

12 But it sounds like, I mean, just being here
13 today, there are others from -- we would love to hear
14 something about child care from Workforce, and then also
15 about some of the other things happening at HHSC. So that
16 has been kind of the state agency participation.

17 TDHCA has also been represented at these
18 meetings, which we have appreciated. So in addition to
19 hearing from state agencies, we have been hearing from
20 other groups about other -- about statewide as well as
21 regional or local initiatives to address youth
22 homelessness.

23 So for the statewide stuff, TNOYS, Texas
24 Appleseed and others have talked about legislative
25 priorities. What we are working on this legislative

1 session.

2 We have had groups talk about regional
3 projects. So in Houston, there is a group called Homeless
4 Youth Network. It is basically a collaboration of
5 providers and other stakeholders, working to end youth
6 homelessness in Houston. They have been active
7 participants.

8 There is a very active committee in Dallas that
9 works closely with their local government to address the
10 issue of youth homelessness. One of the things that they
11 unveiled recently that is exciting is a partnership
12 between their service providers and Dallas Independent
13 School District, to open a shelter.

14 And I don't know of an example where that kind
15 of partnership has happened before. So they were able to
16 talk a little bit about that. And THEO has talked about
17 some of the work that they have done in the Rio Grande
18 Valley, in particular.

19 And then also, so THEO, TNOYS, and Texas
20 Homeless Network have been working together on this safety
21 nets for students and families project. And we are giving
22 out about a half a million dollars in grants to
23 organizations to build capacity to serve young people who
24 are homeless, due to the hurricane, as well as providing
25 free TNTA for schools and for providers.

1 And so these meetings have been a really good
2 opportunity just to connect, learn what everybody is
3 working on and how we can work together. The next meeting
4 will be on March 28, here in Austin.

5 We are going to do the meeting in collaboration
6 with the Austin Youth Homelessness Demonstration grant
7 project leadership council meeting. So most of you know,
8 Austin has a big federal grant for a demonstration project
9 to end youth homelessness.

10 There is a ton of money. They are able to do
11 some really awesome planning. They are the only group --
12 they are the only city in Texas that has gotten this,
13 though. So it is an opportunity for others to learn from
14 them, and the work they have been able to do.

15 And so we will be working together on that
16 March 28th meeting. And I imagine there will also be some
17 time to talk about the legislation that has been filed.

18 The group doesn't have an agenda. The group
19 doesn't advocate. But it is about information sharing.
20 And so obviously, people are interested in hearing, and
21 learning about what is happening down the street. So I
22 think that is all. Jeanne, is there anything that you
23 want to add?

24 MS. STAMP: I think that is pretty thorough.

25 MS. GENDRON: Thank you.

1 MR. DOYLE: Thank you. I am just hearing
2 connectors all over the room. I won't take the time to go
3 through them. But that is just marvelous.

4 But I will do one. So when you heard from the
5 Governor's Office on sex trafficking, you ran across a
6 young lady who has a child. What age does child care for
7 a youth kick in, or does it?

8 MS. SNYDER: What do you mean, kick in?

9 MR. DOYLE: A homeless youth with a child, are
10 they eligible for child care?

11 MS. SNYDER: Yes. That would be a teen parent.
12 Basically, anybody, even a -- yes. Even.

13 MR. DOYLE: So there is not 18 and above?

14 MS. SNYDER: No. No. We will service -- they
15 will be served the same way.

16 MR. DOYLE: Great. Great. Okay. Meagan.

17 MS. MOORE: Yes. I wanted to give Eric an
18 opportunity to talk about the Homeless Awareness Day at
19 the Capitol.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Sure. Thank you for prompting me
21 on that.

22 MR. DOYLE: He forgot all about it.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Well, you know, so honestly, I
24 wonder. I am tentative to bring it up at the Council
25 meeting. But we are, Texas Homeless Network has our

1 Homelessness Awareness Day, April 4th. We are meeting
2 with a THN advocacy committee on Friday to work on the
3 planning for that, work on the coordination of that.

4 We are going to be in the Capitol Extension
5 Auditorium, which seats about, I think, a little over a
6 hundred. So the person that I worked with on setting that
7 up said, you had better get a lot of people in here or it
8 is going to look silly. So --

9 MS. BOLTON: The Capitol Extension Auditorium.
10 It seats more like 250.

11 MR. SAMUELS: Well, we need a lot more people.
12 So this Committee is going to help recruit people to
13 come. We already have 50 people, I believe, who have
14 signed up to come. I think we are going to get the people
15 from Houston, rent a bus, and come up.

16 And so I think we are going to get t-shirts.
17 So we'll really make a splash, when we are walking around
18 the Capitol, everyone can see who we are. So yes, we are
19 working on that.

20 And thanks for prompting me on that, Meagan.
21 And you are all welcome to attend. Not as official
22 council members, but in your own capacity.

23 MS. BOLTON: It is April.

24 MR. SAMUELS: April 4th. It starts at -- we
25 are going to have a briefing at 9:00 a.m. in that

1 auditorium.

2 And then I believe we are going to do another
3 one at 10:30, for the people that have to travel up that
4 day. Because what we are finding is that hotel rooms
5 during that time are extremely expensive and rare. So
6 yes. So both those things.

7 And we are going to set up visits with
8 legislators and have all the materials that we'll leave
9 behind, our priorities and everything, ready to go. So
10 you don't have to do anything but show up.

11 MR. DOYLE: Great. Good.

12 MS. BOLTON: Good for you, for not scheduling
13 it on a Friday or a Monday.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. Well, we were told by the
15 staff up there at the Capitol, don't do it on a Friday.
16 We won't like you, if you do that.

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Meagan, the VISTA project.

18 MS. MOORE: Yes. So we have reached the final
19 quarter for Tarrant County. Laura Hopkins has made
20 incredible strides as far as getting Workforce Solutions
21 and the Tarrant County Coalition connected and working
22 together.

23 So for anyone who doesn't remember, our grant
24 from this Council and also from Workforce Solutions is all
25 about connecting local workforce boards to local CoCs, and

1 getting them interacting. And expand employment
2 opportunities and income opportunities as well, for people
3 experiencing homelessness.

4 MR. DOYLE: And just for Gwen, and I think,
5 D.J., CoC is continuum of care. It is the money that
6 comes to the communities from HUD to do work with the
7 homeless.

8 MS. MOORE: Yes.

9 MR. DOYLE: That's the way TWC's generous
10 contribution to us are utilized.

11 MS. MOORE: Yes. So we are really excited. I
12 believe yesterday, or sometime this week, Laura designed a
13 presentation for the CoC board, for a employment and
14 income mobility plan. Basically, that would mean people
15 would have that income discussion at the same time as
16 their entry into the coordinated entry system.

17 So they are going to be talking about, can you
18 work. If not, do you receive SSI. Do you receive SSDI?
19 And really, having a comprehensive assessment on their
20 ability to receive income and where that income is likely
21 to come from.

22 And it is really exciting. They have worked a
23 lot with Workforce Solutions. They have modeled this
24 program off the Income Now in Houston, I think, I hope.
25 If you are not familiar with the Income Now program in

1 Houston, it is incredible.

2 I really, really recommend that you look it up
3 and see what they are doing in Houston. It is incredible.

4 And hopefully, Tarrant County can join that group of
5 being an incredible resource for people experiencing
6 homelessness, and trying to access services to jumpstart
7 their career.

8 Travis County is about halfway through their
9 VISTA year. Dylan is working with the income and
10 employment workgroup. And just working on beefing up the
11 collaborative relationship between Workforce Solutions and
12 ECHO, the CoC in Travis County.

13 Both of these, we put these in different areas
14 to see how different areas would take the same mission,
15 and work with it. And they have worked a lot differently.

16 Tarrant County also had worked a lot more with the
17 Workforce Solutions when we were starting.

18 So Travis County is starting really, like, at
19 the beginning, but working with Workforce Solutions.
20 Definitely making some really good connections, and
21 researching some best practices to help create that
22 collaborative environment.

23 MR. DOYLE: Would you have Laura contact me? I
24 would love for her to make a presentation to our workforce
25 delivery systems committee.

1 MS. MOORE: Okay.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Great opportunity.

3 MS. MOORE: I will happily do that.

4 MR. DOYLE: It would be a briefing. And I
5 would have to get it on the agenda.

6 MS. MOORE: Okay.

7 MR. DOYLE: So just have her contact me. I
8 will see if she can. We are going to have a meeting in
9 two weeks. So it will have to be probably in a couple of
10 months.

11 MS. MOORE: Okay. She has only three months
12 left on her term. So we are winding down. But I will
13 definitely let her know.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you.

15 MS. MOORE: Does anyone have any questions?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. MOORE: And just to tack on, our VISTA
18 program, I have contacted a couple of you all.

19 But we do have three project openings. So if
20 your state office, non-profit, is interested in having a
21 VISTA project to build some kind of capacity, some kind of
22 media program, maybe do some research for you, we would
23 love to do that.

24 They can't -- VISTA members, as a reminder,
25 cannot do any direct service with clients. So this is

1 really all about building the background capacity.

2 So we have three project slots open right now,
3 possibly a fourth coming up. I have my card. And if you
4 are interested, I would love to talk to you.

5 MR. DOYLE: Thank you very much. Keegan.

6 MS. MOTEN: I was going to ask a question right
7 quick. This is Yolanda Moten with Texas Veterans
8 Commission. What is the name of her organization, again?

9 MS. MOORE: Texas Homeless Network.

10 MS. MOTEN: Okay. Thank you so much.

11 MS. MOORE: Of course. Thanks, Yolanda.

12 MR. DOYLE: Keegan. Data Warehouse project.

13 MR. SHEPHARD: Sure. So the long and short of
14 it, because your time is precious, is that we are working
15 toward finalizing a data sharing agreement between several
16 continuums of care. Eric, can we say their names?

17 MR. SAMUELS: Yes. We can say their names.

18 MR. SHEPHARD: Okay. Yes. So we are
19 finalizing arrangements with the Houston CoC and the San
20 Antonio CoC, in order to get a proof of concept off the
21 ground, that will serve as the foundation for a data
22 sharing network among all eleven continuum of care in
23 Texas.

24 So that sounds really fancy and 33rd Century,
25 but proof of concept is just noodling around. You know,

1 it is just getting those papers signed, getting those data
2 sets together.

3 And then figuring out what we should be doing
4 with this information when we synchronize it. And what
5 can be possible, if we add additional data, either from
6 other sectors or other data sets.

7 So we are working with Amazon Web Services
8 right now, to figure out what is possible, once we get all
9 those together. We are most of the way there in getting
10 all of those papers signed. So hopefully, the next time,
11 you know, you all convene, there will be a more
12 substantive update on that.

13 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

14 MS. CANTU: I have a question.

15 MR. DOYLE: Naomi.

16 MS. CANTU: Do Houston and San Antonio use the
17 same HMIS program?

18 MR. SHEPHARD: No. Houston and balance of
19 state use the same HMIS vendor. San Antonio's is
20 different. What also complicates it a little bit is that
21 the lead agency for San Antonio is not the same as the
22 HMIS.

23 So there are some discussions in terms of just
24 getting things squared away, so that everyone feels
25 comfortable sharing. Especially because you are dealing

1 with different vendors as well.

2 MR. SAMUELS: We have officially moved into the
3 realm of speaking with legal teams on this. But it will
4 strengthen the work going forward, because you know, we
5 have this all shored up.

6 Then if we ever get an opportunity to launch it
7 in full, then we will have the paperwork we need. I want
8 to say something.

9 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

10 MR. SAMUELS: So VISTA members are great.
11 VISTA Members bring so much energy to your agency, your
12 programs. The bad thing about VISTA members, they go
13 away. Well, not this one. But they don't all hang around
14 for 20 plus years.

15 And unfortunately, Keegan, and Melina in our
16 office, who has been helping to run the SOAR program, they
17 are ending their service on February 4th. So we are going
18 to be sad to see Keegan and Melina go.

19 But I want to publicly thank Keegan, especially
20 since I work so closely with him, on all of the things
21 that Keegan and Melina have brought to the program.
22 Especially through data warehouse and continuum of care
23 coordination work.

24 So thank you, Keegan. And I hope that the
25 Council thanks you as well.

1 MR. DOYLE: Yes. We do appreciate it. Thank
2 you, Keegan.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Great. Is there any public
5 comment?

6 MR. SCHOLL: I will just do a little quick one.
7 I'd be interested with a couple of folks in particular
8 from TSAHC because I still am trying to address rural
9 veteran mental health homeless situations. And do have
10 just one asset, 55 acres of property in a small town.

11 So maybe in the spirit of trying to do the
12 right thing with an asset, folks who I should be talking
13 to, to develop a plan for that. I need to talk to on the
14 phone.

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Very good. Good
16 information.

17 MS. GENDRON: I have a quick comment. So the
18 TNOYS annual conference of services to youth and families
19 will be held in Houston, the last week of June.

20 We are looking for presenters, if any of you
21 are interested or know someone who might be interested.
22 Also, we will be opening registration soon, but the
23 audience is primarily providers who serve youth who are
24 homeless, or at risk, as well as increasingly young people
25 themselves, who are homeless or at risk.

1 And so we are looking for information on skills
2 for working with youth, as well as resources and supports
3 that are available to them, as how they connect to those
4 resources and support. So some of you in here might have
5 some really good information to share. There is info on
6 our website, or you can just email me, if you are
7 interested.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you.

9 Hey, Marqus, thank you for joining us.
10 Appreciate you being here.

11 MR. BUTLER: Thank you.

12 MR. DOYLE: And we would love to hear from you
13 in the months to come --

14 MR. BUTLER: Okay.

15 MR. DOYLE: -- about how you perceive
16 homelessness as an issue at Juvenile Justice.

17 Do you experience, do some of your guys
18 experience it, or girls experience it. You know, all of
19 the kinds of things, how that affects reentry. We would
20 love to hear about that.

21 MR. BUTLER: Yes. Okay.

22 MR. DOYLE: At some point.

23 MR. BUTLER: Okay.

24 MR. DOYLE: But Kali will get in touch with
25 you. Okay.

1 Our next meeting is April 30th. We don't know
2 where yet, probably. I like this room.

3 MS. BINGLER: We do know.

4 MR. DOYLE: We do know?

5 MS. ADAMS: Yes.

6 MS. BINGLER: Yes. We have reserved the room
7 in our TWC building.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Great.

9 MS. BINGLER: On Trinity and 11th. Trinity and
10 12th.

11 MR. DOYLE: The TWC, which?

12 MS. BINGLER: On Trinity.

13 MR. DOYLE: On Trinity.

14 MS. CANTU: And that one, you need ID to get
15 into the building, right?

16 MS. BINGLER: It is similar to yours. Yes.
17 You would get a visitor's badge.

18 MR. DOYLE: April 30th.

19 MS. BINGLER: We do have a room reserved.

20 MR. DOYLE: That is great. Thank you, D.J.

21 MS. BINGLER: Yes.

22 MR. DOYLE: Okay. We are adjourned. Thank you
23 all.

24 (Whereupon, at 11:35 a.m., the meeting was
25 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: January 29, 2019

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 89, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
made by electronic recording by Elizabeth Stoddard before
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(Transcriber)

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