

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL  
FOR THE  
HOMELESS

Room 124T  
Texas Workforce Commission  
1117 Trinity Street  
Austin, Texas

January 21, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MIKE DOYLE, Chair  
VALINDA BOLTON  
BROOKE BOSTON by ELIZABETH YEVICH  
MARQUS BUTLER (via telephone)  
NAOMI CANTU  
CARISSA DOUGHERTY (absent)  
SHERRI COGBILL  
HELEN EISERT (absent)  
CLAIRE IRWIN (via telephone)  
SHIRLEY JONES  
CAL LOPEZ  
JOYCE POHLMAN  
JOE A. RAMIREZ

ADVISORY MEMBERS:

DARILYNN CARDONA-BEILER (absent)  
CHRISTINE GENDRON (absent)  
DAVID LONG (absent)  
DENNIS M. SCHOLL (absent)  
ERIC SAMUELS  
JEANNE STAMP (absent)  
MOLLY VOYLES by MOLLY THIBODEAUX (via phone)

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

DANNY SHEA

*ON THE RECORD REPORTING*  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. DOYLE: Welcome to the January meeting of  
3 the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless. I'd like  
4 to welcome Shirley Jones, who took D.J. Bingler's place  
5 for TWC. So we are glad to have you. Thank you for being  
6 here.

7 Who all is on the phone? Could you give us  
8 your name and who you're representing?

9 MS. THIBODEAUX: Hi. Excuse me. This is Molly  
10 Thibodeaux with the Texas Council on Family Violence. I'm  
11 here for Molly Voyles.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

13 MS. IRWIN: Claire Irwin with Texas Health and  
14 Human Services Aging Services Coordination Office.

15 MR. DOYLE: Thank you. Anyone else?

16 MR. BUTLER: This is Marqus Butler with TJJB.

17 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Marqus.

18 MS. FOSS: Samantha Foss with Texas Homeless  
19 Network.

20 MR. DOYLE: Anyone else?

21 MS. STAHL: Hello, can you hear me?

22 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

23 MS. STAHL: Sorry I don't have a voice. My  
24 name is Marcy Stahl, and I'm with the Health and Human  
25 Services Substance Use Disorder Unit, as the housing and

1 employment official.

2 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Was it Marcy?

3 MS. STAHL: Yes, sir.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Anybody else?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Well, we're going to let you  
7 guys know who all's here, and I'll start. I'm Mike Doyle,  
8 representing the Governor's Office. Eric?

9 MR. SAMUELS: Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless  
10 Network.

11 MS. YEVICH: Elizabeth Yevich, TDHCA, sitting  
12 in for Brooke Boston.

13 MS. CANTU: Naomi Cantu with Homeless Programs  
14 at the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

15 MS. SYLVESTER: Megan Sylvester with TDHCA  
16 Counsel, working with community issues.

17 MR. LOPEZ: Cal Lopez with the Texas Education  
18 Agency.

19 MS. BOLTON: Valinda Bolton, Department of  
20 Family and Protective Services.

21 MS. POHLMAN: Joyce Pohlman, Health and Human  
22 Services Commission.

23 MS. JONES: Shirley Jones, Texas Workforce  
24 Commission.

25 MR. RAMIREZ: Joe Ramirez with the Texas

1 Veterans Commission.

2 MS. COGBILL: I'm Sherri Cogbill, Texas  
3 Department of Criminal Justice.

4 MR. SHEA: Hi. I'm Danny Shea with the Housing  
5 Resource Center at TDHCA. I provide administrative  
6 support for the TICH, and will just add a quick  
7 housekeeping note for everyone on the phone. If you could  
8 have your phone on mute until you are going to talk, just  
9 so we can cut down on background noise?

10 Thank you. And I think we had one person join  
11 on the phone.

12 MS. WHITE: Hi. Good morning. This is  
13 Morjorie White from the City of San Antonio.

14 MR. DOYLE: And then Michael?

15 MR. WILT: Yeah. Michael Wilt, Texas State  
16 Affordable Housing Corporation.

17 MS. CHECA: Sophia Checa with Texas Homeless  
18 Network.

19 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

20 MS. ADAMS: And Kali Adams from TDHCA  
21 Homelessness Program.

22 MR. DOYLE: Welcome, everyone. And we will get  
23 right into the agenda. And I want to start off by making  
24 a couple of remarks. I don't know if y'all are getting  
25 any calls or questions about homeless issues going on in

1 Austin here, but I just want to remind you that the Texas  
2 Interagency Council is not taking an official position, so  
3 please don't speak for the Council, even though you may be  
4 called because you're on the Council.

5 Even as an advisory member, we are not making  
6 at this time any statement about what we feel like needs  
7 to happen or how we feel about the situation, other than  
8 we think people shouldn't be homeless. So just keep those  
9 things to your agency or to your personal self.

10 But as far as the TICH, we will not be making  
11 an official statement. So that being said, you all should  
12 have gotten a copy of the minutes, voting members, and if  
13 you have read through those, I would entertain a motion to  
14 approve those as submitted.

15 MS. CANTU: Motion. So moved.

16 MR. DOYLE: Motion by Naomi. Is there a  
17 second?

18 MR. LOPEZ: I second.

19 MR. DOYLE: Second by Cal. All those in favor,  
20 say aye.

21 (A chorus of ayes.)

22 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. DOYLE: And those do carry. We -- each  
25 year, by -- per the bylaws, we have to appoint a Chair and

1 a Vice Chair, and so we had no nominations. So --

2 MS. CANTU: Can we move at this meeting?

3 MR. DOYLE: Yes, we can.

4 MS. CANTU: Okay. I nominate Mike Doyle for  
5 Chair.

6 MS. BOLTON: Second.

7 MR. DOYLE: Are there others?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. DOYLE: There was a second. I guess I will  
10 accept. So all those in favor, say aye.

11 (A chorus of ayes.)

12 MR. DOYLE: Opposed, same sign.

13 (No response.)

14 MR. DOYLE: And then if it's okay with you  
15 guys, I will appoint a Vice Chair.

16 MS. CANTU: Oh, yeah. Okay.

17 MR. DOYLE: So I will be on the phone to some  
18 of you, and let you know, if you would like the Vice  
19 Chair. This one is getting a little elderly, and chairs  
20 break from time to time, so I just wanted to make sure we  
21 have somebody in the wings.

22 So I'll be making some phone calls. Okay.

23 Next item of -- is an annual --

24 MS. SYLVESTER: Would you put the appointment  
25 to -- for the whole Board to ratify on a further agenda?

1 MR. DOYLE: The appointment of the --

2 MS. SYLVESTER: Of the Vice Chair.

3 MR. DOYLE: -- Vice Chair? Yes, I will.

4 MS. SYLVESTER: Okay.

5 MR. DOYLE: I will. Thank you, Megan. Annual  
6 Report Committee update. Eric?

7 MR. SAMUELS: Well, so the update is that I  
8 need people to serve on the Annual Report Committee with  
9 me to update the annual report. So any takers?

10 And I will say, Michael Wilt and Dr. Scholl  
11 have helped me the past two years on this. They would  
12 probably appreciate someone else stepping up to help me  
13 update the report.

14 MR. DOYLE: Can you give us a little bit about  
15 the job description?

16 MR. SAMUELS: Well, I think what it would  
17 require, more than anything, is someone to go through and  
18 make sure what I have written makes any sense whatsoever,  
19 and filling in the gaps.

20 What I do, it's really simple. I take last  
21 year's report. I put it into a Google doc. I update it  
22 as much as I can, according to my notes, and then I ask  
23 for whoever is serving with me to check on the accuracy of  
24 that, and sometimes reduce the wordings, because I can get  
25 pretty wordy.



1           But that's basically it. I think we did it  
2 over two meetings, two, an hour-or-less meetings. So it's  
3 really not that time-consuming. So it's pretty easy. We  
4 didn't even meet in person. We met over the phone.

5           MR. DOYLE: Megan, do they have to be voting  
6 members of the TICH? So --

7           MS. SYLVESTER: Not for an advisory committee.

8           MR. SAMUELS: I mean, I'm not. So --

9           MR. DOYLE: Just want to get that out there.

10          MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

11          MR. DOYLE: So anybody on the phone or here  
12 that -- we need two people to volunteer to proofread what  
13 Eric's written and sign off on it, and then we can vote on  
14 it at the next meeting or two?

15          MR. SAMUELS: Sure. It isn't -- and it could be  
16 more than two.

17          MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

18          MR. SAMUELS: It could be just one.

19          MR. DOYLE: So anybody interested in doing  
20 that?

21          MR. SAMUELS: I'll make it easy on you.

22          MS. POHLMAN: How long is the document, how  
23 many pages?

24          MR. SAMUELS: Wow. I don't remember. Thirty,  
25 40 pages?

1 MS. POHLMAN: Yeah. Thirty pages?

2 FEMALE VOICE: Yeah -- it --

3 MS. YEVICH: Thirty. Around that. It's not  
4 real long.

5 MR. SAMUELS: And you know, some of it is  
6 just -- it's just restating what the Interagency Council  
7 is and what it does, so --

8 MS. POHLMAN: And there are charts?

9 MS. YEVICH: Yeah, charts and -- yeah.

10 MS. POHLMAN: Okay. At risk of overloading  
11 myself, I'll volunteer.

12 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Joyce.

13 MR. SAMUELS: Are you sure?

14 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

15 MS. POHLMAN: Yeah.

16 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Joyce.

17 MS. POHLMAN: As long as there's somebody else  
18 there.

19 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

21 MS. YEVICH: Yeah.

22 MR. SAMUELS: Maybe we can rope in Carissa? It  
23 looks like she's not here.

24 MS. POHLMAN: Because I like to edit.

25 MR. DOYLE: Anybody else like to volunteer?

1 MR. WILT: I'll help you again, Eric.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. Thank you.

3 MR. DOYLE: So do you want anybody else? You  
4 got enough?

5 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, I think that's enough.  
6 Like I said, I'll make it as easy as possible on you.  
7 After doing it the last two years, I think I'm starting to  
8 get the hang of it. And so yeah, yeah. So I'll be in  
9 touch.

10 MR. DOYLE: Great.

11 MR. SAMUELS: I've actually started the Google  
12 doc. So it should be -- we should get it done a little  
13 earlier last year, which was late.

14 MR. DOYLE: We -- this is the 2019 report.  
15 Correct?

16 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

17 MR. DOYLE: And it should be in by the summer,  
18 do you think?

19 MR. SAMUELS: That would be ideal.

20 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Last year, it was not in by the  
22 summer --

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

24 MR. SAMUELS: -- but this year, we'll shoot for  
25 being on time.

1 MR. DOYLE: Good, good.

2 MR. SAMUELS: That's way better than the last  
3 two years.

4 MR. DOYLE: Speaking of being on time, thank  
5 you very much. Thank you, Michael, and thank you, Joyce,  
6 for volunteering to do that. About every four or five  
7 years, we need to be looking at our bylaws and things.  
8 Most of your agencies do that anyway.

9 And I think we need to look at our bylaws  
10 again. There are some dates in there that are probably no  
11 longer appropriate, that show to be benchmarks that we  
12 don't really need. So I'm going to ask myself and  
13 Elizabeth and whoever else we --

14 MS. YEVICH: Danny, probably.

15 MR. DOYLE: Danny --

16 MS. YEVICH: Yeah.

17 MR. DOYLE: -- to go through those and see what  
18 they look like. Then, we'll get them out to you to make  
19 comment on, and then from that point forward, we'll try to  
20 get them approved at the next meeting or the following  
21 meeting, and if that's okay with you, that's kind of what  
22 I'd like to do.

23 There's no reason for us, since we don't even  
24 have the bylaws in front of us, to start trying to discuss  
25 what changes are made. So let us make some -- a running

1 start at it, and then we'll bring it to you or email it to  
2 you to see what you think.

3 But they're very simple bylaws. They're not  
4 anything major. Of course, Megan will have to look at  
5 them to get us -- make sure we've got all the I's dotted  
6 and T's crossed, but we'll do that. So with your  
7 permission, we're going to go ahead and start the process  
8 of looking at those bylaws.

9 I know some of you just wait for somebody to  
10 call you and say, could you help me with our bylaws? But  
11 we're just going to --

12 MS. BOLTON: Please, could we do bylaws?

13 FEMALE VOICE: Right.

14 MR. DOYLE: We'll take a look at them and move  
15 forward. Updates from THN? Point-in-time count, Eric.

16 MR. SAMUELS: Point-in-time count. So Danny  
17 asked me to report on last year's point-in-time count,  
18 which was almost at this time last year.

19 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

20 MR. SAMUELS: So here is an infographic showing  
21 last year's results, and then, if you want a lot of  
22 detail, here is HUD's chart showing last year's results.  
23 I mean, the summary is there were nearly 26,000 people  
24 counted at that point-in-time date across 11 continuums of  
25 care across Texas.

1           And then you can see the breakdown. A little  
2 over 1,800 were veterans. A little over 1,300 were  
3 unaccompanied youth. Households with children, under  
4 2,000. If you want a little more -- a higher-level  
5 breakdown and even more detail, I actually have this  
6 presentation that I gave to the Girls' School of Austin  
7 last week, and I forgot to leave the handouts, so I  
8 figured I'd bring them up here and get rid of them, so  
9 I'll hand those out, and you can get some more detail.

10           The numbers did tick up from the last year and  
11 the year before that. So for the past three years, we  
12 have seen a little bit of a tick-up, and that's  
13 concerning, of course. I think I've mentioned this  
14 before.

15           I think some of that is due to Harvey, but I  
16 don't think that's the entire reason for the tick-up, of  
17 course. So we're hoping this year that number goes down.

18           I'm not sure that it's going to, but we'll find out  
19 shortly, because this week, all -- I think each one of our  
20 continuums of care -- maybe except for one -- will be  
21 conducting their point-in-time count, their 2020 point-in-  
22 time count.

23           MR. DOYLE: Great.

24           MR. SAMUELS: And Sophia asked me to mention  
25 this. This Saturday, Austin is holding their point-in-

1 time count, and they are still in need of volunteers. So  
2 if you're interested, well, you can get in touch with me  
3 or Sophia, and we'll let you know who to talk to with  
4 ECHO. That's the continuum of care lead here in Austin.

5 If you've never done that, I think it's a  
6 pretty good experience. I know Mike and I have done it a  
7 lot throughout the years, and Sophia and probably many of  
8 you have. So that's being done.

9 I also have a list of point-in-time dates this  
10 year for each one of the continuums of care across Texas,  
11 just in case you're interested. The Texas Balance of  
12 State Continuum of Care, that Sophia Checa is the director  
13 of, is having their point-in-time count across 215  
14 counties this Thursday.

15 I think we have enough -- well, I don't know if  
16 we have enough volunteers across all these 215 counties,  
17 but they've mobilized -- what -- 26 -- 30 communities --

18 MS. CHECA: Yes.

19 MR. SAMUELS: -- around this, across that  
20 region.

21 MR. DOYLE: This might be a Santa Claus deal to  
22 get to that many people that quick.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

24 MR. DOYLE: In one day.

25 MR. SAMUELS: It's amazing what our partners

1 out there can do.

2 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

3 MS. CHECA: It is.

4 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. It's really come a long  
5 way since we all did it as a Council back in 1999. I  
6 don't know who was around then. I know Mike was, and I  
7 was, but we went out as a Council and actually conducted  
8 the count across the state of Texas.

9 That was the first time --

10 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

11 MR. SAMUELS: -- we did, so it's come a long  
12 ways.

13 MR. DOYLE: It has.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Twenty-plus years.

15 MS. BOLTON: So I Googled Austin point-in-time  
16 count volunteer --

17 MR. SAMUELS: Uh-huh?

18 MS. BOLTON: -- and it took me to the sign-up  
19 page.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Hey.

21 MR. DOYLE: Oh.

22 MS. BOLTON: So this is the get-up-and-be-out-  
23 there-at-three-o'clock-in-the-morning thing. Right?

24 MS. CHECA: It depends on what shift you have.  
25 There's a breakdown also by different sections in, like,



1 the downtown area. The main core of the city is, like,  
2 the 3:00 to 6:00 a.m. but if you do, like, the outer parts  
3 of Travis County, those shifts are later in the day, and  
4 you can do the training online.

5 FEMALE VOICE: That's good to know.

6 MR. SAMUELS: So any questions about the 2019  
7 point-in-time count?

8 MS. POHLMAN: I have a question. This data  
9 that you handed out, is this the Balance of State or is  
10 this the whole state?

11 MR. SAMUELS: That should be the whole state,  
12 unless I printed out the wrong thing. Did I --

13 FEMALE VOICE: No, it's the whole state.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. If it says 25,848  
15 people --

16 MS. YEVICH: Yeah. That's the whole --

17 MR. SAMUELS: -- that's the --

18 MS. YEVICH: -- state.

19 MR. SAMUELS: -- whole state.

20 MR. DOYLE: And the population of the state is  
21 about what?

22 MR. SAMUELS: So that was actually -- you know  
23 what? I spoke at the Girls' School of Austin. They're  
24 sixth-graders. They asked that question. They asked some  
25 pretty amazing questions.

1 MR. DOYLE: Wow.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Because they were, like, what's  
3 the rate of homelessness in Texas, and I said --

4 MR. DOYLE: Are you saying, I've got the mind  
5 of a sixth-grader?

6 (General laughter.)

7 MR. SAMUELS: I said I'm not being asked this  
8 by legislators. I mean -- so -- but I think the -- last I  
9 looked, it was 28, 29 million. So I did the math for them  
10 at the time. I can't do the math in my head, but I did it  
11 in Excel for them.

12 I think it's, like, .01 percent of the  
13 population. So that could be wrong, but yeah. So it's --

14 MS. BOLTON: Could any of the uptick be counted  
15 per -- just better skill and effort in counting?

16 MR. SAMUELS: I definitely think that's part of  
17 it, especially in communities like the Balance of State,  
18 because we have communities that were not counting before,  
19 that are counting now, because of our great team getting  
20 the word out and our great partners around the state.

21 So there's definitely that. And that's not  
22 just Balance of State. I think all the continuums of care  
23 are doing a much better job. So I think that's part of  
24 it. I think housing affordability in a lot of communities  
25 is declining, so I think that's part of it as well.

1           So I think it's a combination of those factors,  
2 for sure.

3           MR. DOYLE: Plus the fact that there's people  
4 moving in that -- you know, that we've had a lot of people  
5 move in.

6           MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. And you know, that's  
7 because the economy in Texas, you know, compared to other  
8 states, is really good.

9           MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

10          MR. SAMUELS: Unfortunately, the housing costs  
11 are really high, so it's not always working out real well.

12          MR. DOYLE: And even the housing costs that  
13 aren't high, like in Tarrant County, it's -- you can buy  
14 probably a house three times cheaper than you can in  
15 Austin --

16          MR. SAMUELS: Uh-huh.

17          MR. DOYLE: -- but there's such a housing, in  
18 general, shortage that people who are looking to buy are  
19 buying lesser-value homes as starter homes, and it's  
20 cutting out the people who have a need --

21          MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

22          MR. DOYLE: -- for affordable housing, so --

23          MR. SAMUELS: Right, because of the  
24 additional people moving in. Yeah.

25          MR. DOYLE: You're exactly right. And we're

1 getting 1,000 a week in Fort Worth.

2 MS. YEVICH: Really?

3 MR. DOYLE: 1,000 new residents a week.

4 MR. SAMUELS: Well, there's a lot of new jobs  
5 there, too.

6 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

7 MR. SAMUELS: So -- yeah. If -- I have one  
8 other thing, unless there are other questions about the  
9 point-in-time count?

10 MS. CANTU: I do have one.

11 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah?

12 MS. CANTU: Was there one CoC in particular  
13 that had an increase? Where was it, in general, across  
14 the board?

15 MR. SAMUELS: Well, there were a few that had  
16 increases. I don't have that chart, do I? I can't  
17 remember exactly. I mean, I know Austin had a bit of an  
18 increase. Balance of State had a bit of an increase. I  
19 think quite a few CoCs did.

20 Houston -- I don't remember. I can get those  
21 numbers for you.

22 MR. DOYLE: Tarrant County was up just a tad.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

24 MS. CANTU: Okay.

25 MR. DOYLE: Less than 1 percent.

1 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. Most regions were up just  
2 a small percentage. There weren't -- there wasn't a huge  
3 increase in any one CoC. I don't remember. So any other  
4 questions?

5 MS. POHLMAN: I do. I'm sorry.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah?

7 MS. POHLMAN: It's been a couple of years since  
8 I've done the PIT, so I'll walk through this year. How do  
9 we get the reporting of the seriously mentally ill,  
10 chronic substance abuse? Is that self-reported?

11 MR. SAMUELS: Well, so I -- most -- well, in  
12 fact, I don't know a community that does not use self-  
13 reporting data to determine that. Yeah. That's the short  
14 answer. So --

15 MS. POHLMAN: Thank you. That's it.

16 MR. SAMUELS: I'm used to questions from you.  
17 So --

18 MS. POHLMAN: You already answered more  
19 questions. No. This is really good data. Thank you.

20 MR. SAMUELS: So the -- last week, HUD released  
21 their FY '19 Tier 1 HUD CoC awards, and so I've compared  
22 that to 2018. Now, given my linear look on this, at this,  
23 the 2018 award amounts are Tier 1 and Tier 2, but they  
24 released the awards in two tiers.

25 So there is still a Tier 2 to come out for

1 2019. Despite that, you're going to see that there was  
2 a -- I'm not -- right around, a little over a \$4 million  
3 increase for the state of Texas, and one CoC had a pretty  
4 dramatic increase.

5 Austin had a \$3.2 million increase. Now,  
6 that -- Sophia, if you'll explain what that is, I think  
7 that would help.

8 MS. CHECA: So the last two years, HUD has been  
9 releasing through the Continuum of Care Program funding,  
10 what is called domestic violence bonus funding, and so  
11 Austin -- what they did through this Tier 1 award is, they  
12 also awarded them domestic violence funding, because they  
13 pull it out of your tiering, and they award it, kind of,  
14 like, separately.

15 It's complicated, but --

16 MR. SAMUELS: So they had a huge --

17 MS. CHECA: They had a huge --

18 MR. SAMUELS: -- domestic violence bonus  
19 program. So that's great, because the need is high.

20 MR. DOYLE: Uh-huh.

21 MR. SAMUELS: So if you can't tell, Sophia is  
22 now the go-to at THN for continuum of care.

23 MR. DOYLE: I saw that.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. So that's all I have.

25 MR. DOYLE: Anybody got any questions about the

1 funding.

2 MS. CANTU: Can you explain it two -- one and  
3 two again?

4 MR. SAMUELS: So I'll probably have to turn to  
5 Sophia again for this, but --

6 MS. CHECA: So --

7 MR. SAMUELS: -- yeah.

8 MS. CHECA: -- I can --

9 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. No, go, go for it.

10 MS. CHECA: So HUD -- we have what is called  
11 our annual renewal demand, which is the amount of funding  
12 HUD needs to give us in order to re-fund everything that  
13 we were awarded the year prior, and so since -- I want to  
14 say, like, 2012, 2013, they have had continuums of care do  
15 tiering or prioritization of --

16 MR. SAMUELS: Uh-huh.

17 MS. CHECA: -- projects. So Tier 1 is 94  
18 percent. Last year, it was 94 percent of your ARD, and  
19 then Tier 2 was the remaining 6 percent, plus any bonus  
20 funding. So it's -- again, they left -- it's very  
21 convoluted, but -- so that's what Tier 1 and Tier 2 means.

22 MR. DOYLE: It gives -- correct me if I'm  
23 wrong, but it gives some flexibility to the local  
24 continuum of cares to say what we want to put in Tier 1.

25 MS. CHECA: Yes.

1           MR. DOYLE:  If you had a sex trafficking thing  
2 was causing homelessness and you wanted to prioritize it  
3 within your community, you would make -- definitely make  
4 it a Tier 1 funding priority.  But if you had something  
5 like we did where we gave out starter kits for furniture  
6 and dishes and those kind of things, because of the lack  
7 of affordable housing, it went to a Tier 2, and so most of  
8 those will not get funded.

9           Some will, but you rank Tier 2 as well, so it  
10 gives some local flexibility.

11          MR. SAMUELS:  It's kind of like here's the  
12 programs we want to keep safe.  We want to --

13          MR. DOYLE:  Right.

14          MR. SAMUELS:  -- ensure that they are funded.  
15 These are the programs that may not be performing as well,  
16 and also they may be lower priority --

17          MR. DOYLE:  Right.

18          MR. SAMUELS:  -- but we hope that those get  
19 funded as well.  So this -- so the number will definitely  
20 increase.  I don't know by how much.  Hopefully, a lot.

21          MR. DOYLE:  Good.  Any other questions on  
22 anything from the point-in-time count from last year?  
23 Anything about the continuums, the amount of money we have  
24 this year to spend?

25          MS. THIBODEAUX:  Hi.  This is Molly Thibodeaux



1 from Texas Council on Family Violence. Eric, do you have  
2 a list of all the dates of the point-in-time that are  
3 coming up, available online? Or is that just a handout  
4 that you have?

5 MR. SAMUELS: I can send that out. Actually I  
6 can share it with --

7 MS. THIBODEAUX: Okay.

8 MR. SAMUELS: -- Danny. And in fact, I'll do  
9 that before I leave today. I brought my laptop, so I can  
10 send that to you, and then he can send it out.

11 MS. THIBODEAUX: Okay. Great. Yeah.

12 MR. SAMUELS: But if you're interested in  
13 Austin, it's this Saturday.

14 MS. THIBODEAUX: Yeah. What's that?

15 MR. SAMUELS: If you're interested in Austin,  
16 it's this Saturday.

17 MS. THIBODEAUX: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. DOYLE: And that will be on the --

19 MS. THIBODEAUX: I'm actually in --

20 MR. DOYLE: -- TICH website?

21 MS. THIBODEAUX: -- Dallas. So please send --

22 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. I can post it with the  
23 meeting materials on the website, but I can also send it  
24 out in an email to --

25 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

1 MR. SAMUELS: -- folks.

2 MR. DOYLE: Good.

3 MS. THIBODEAUX: Thank you.

4 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

5 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Molly.

6 MR. SAMUELS: Dallas is this Thursday.

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay. The VISTA project.

8 Samantha?

9 MR. SAMUELS: They're on --

10 MS. CANTU: Samantha's on the phone.

11 MS. FOSS: Thank you. So the main update for  
12 our VISTA project is, we are actually doing pretty good  
13 with recruiting. We currently have VISTAs in Longview,  
14 Texarkana. We have three in Austin right now -- Fort  
15 Worth, El Paso, Dallas.

16 I think that covers all the ones we currently  
17 have. And we are currently recruiting for a few more in  
18 Austin, Taylor, and our main project I want to bring up is  
19 a veteran project that we've been funded to do for VISTA,  
20 recruiting for members that would work with veterans  
21 experiencing homelessness, and connecting them to  
22 employment, help them gain employment and secure or  
23 maintain housing.

24 So we are currently recruiting for sites around  
25 the state that would ideally be rural or mid-sized

1 communities that would already be working on some type of  
2 veteran program, and this would really just help them  
3 build capacity within their program to specifically target  
4 veterans in their area that may be experiencing  
5 homelessness or unstable housing.

6 And we would work to create and strengthen  
7 their workforce, develop community support for veterans  
8 through pathways to employment or direct assistance  
9 programs, and then also help to house or assist them in  
10 maintaining their housing.

11 So really, our moment in time right now is to  
12 try to see if anyone knows a community that may be  
13 appropriate. We have reached out to counties and places  
14 such as McAllen, Sherman, Corpus, San Angelo, and Denton.

15 And we are currently in the process of hopefully securing  
16 Killeen as one of our locations.

17 But ideally, we will have at least one,  
18 potentially two more sites, because our hope is to create  
19 a bigger project than just having one site be the only  
20 bearer of doing this work. So I don't know if Eric wants  
21 to add anything to it, but that is the main thing I wanted  
22 to talk about today, as an opportunity for anyone's  
23 community that may think that this is an appropriate  
24 project for them.

25 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. So I'll say, we have

1 contacted all of those communities and had meetings with  
2 them and we were hopeful that we would place someone in  
3 those communities. Unfortunately, the costs that are  
4 associated with it, the time associated with it, it makes  
5 it difficult.

6 We are very hopeful about Killeen. We're  
7 working with the Council of Governments there. So we are  
8 really hopeful that that will be a site that will have  
9 come to fruition. We're going to approach a few other  
10 sites after that, that we are hopeful for.

11 MR. DOYLE: And the project scope is what  
12 again, Eric or Samantha?

13 MR. SAMUELS: So I'll jump in. So it's -- it  
14 would be assisting veterans that are at risk or  
15 experiencing homelessness, either maintain employment or  
16 access employment.

17 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

18 MR. SAMUELS: So -- and we are wanting to look  
19 at communities where they are making progress on ending  
20 veteran homelessness, and maybe stay from, like -- our  
21 Abilenes that have ended -- hopefully ended veteran  
22 homelessness.

23 But I will admit that as the communities that  
24 we're thinking about looking at in the near future -- if  
25 we keep getting turned down. One of the problems with the

1 economy being good is it's hard to get someone who want to  
2 serve as a VISTA member and earn poverty-level wages.

3 So it does make that difficult.

4 MR. DOYLE: We had a pretty good-sized VISTA  
5 project up in Tarrant County, and I think we had 24 --

6 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

7 MR. DOYLE: -- or 25 VISTAs, and we didn't  
8 renew because of that very reason. Nobody wanted to work  
9 virtually part-time. There were so many full-time jobs up  
10 there that it was just really hard to recruit people.

11 And so if you find somebody that needs a VISTA,  
12 that's willing to work for about eight or -- about 900 and  
13 something dollars a month or 1,000 bucks --

14 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

15 MR. DOYLE: -- stipend, just --

16 MR. SAMUELS: Well, yeah. And so if -- any of  
17 you work with agencies across the state that already have  
18 volunteers that do work, maybe, that falls along the lines  
19 of this work, those folks could -- you know, they could  
20 transition to something like this.

21 So we don't have to find someone brand-new.

22 MS. FOSS: One of the things also, just to let  
23 folks know is, if you already have a good relationship  
24 with your VA or veterans in your community, they can have  
25 the VISTA stipend and it doesn't impact their veteran

1 benefits.

2 So we have a few veterans that are currently  
3 VISTAs, because essentially it helps supplement their  
4 income, and then also for SSI we have, I think, two  
5 retired VISTAs right now that want to continue to impact  
6 their community.

7 It doesn't impact their SSI. So that, again,  
8 it can supplement their income, so they use that as their  
9 living cost, and then their retirement or their SSI as a  
10 supplement. So we're starting to be more creative, than  
11 just going for the folks that may be college graduates in  
12 thinking about other people that may have other ways to  
13 support a lower wage.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

15 MS. CANTU: And part of this project is  
16 supported through the Texas Veterans Commission -- the  
17 Texas Workforce --

18 MR. SAMUELS: Workforce.

19 MS. CANTU: -- Commission. Sorry.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

21 MS. CANTU: Which is supporting \$10,000 of  
22 the --

23 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

24 MS. CANTU: -- oversight of this.

25 MR. SAMUELS: And so that money -- the majority

1 of that money is being -- it's being used to help reduce  
2 the cost for a host site, to host a VISTA.

3 MS. CANTU: And you said there was one  
4 confirmed?

5 MR. SAMUELS: Not one confirmed. One that we  
6 are waiting for their decision --

7 MS. CANTU: Okay.

8 MR. SAMUELS: -- in Killeen.

9 MR. DOYLE: In Fort Worth?

10 MR. SAMUELS: Well, in --

11 MR. DOYLE: Killeen?

12 MR. SAMUELS: -- actually, Temple, I guess. Is  
13 it Temple or Killeen, Samantha? I think it's Temple. I  
14 mean, they work with the region.

15 MS. FOSS: That's a really good question.

16 MR. SAMUELS: I'm pretty sure it's Temple.  
17 It's -- well, it's the group we worked with. It's George  
18 Losoya.

19 FEMALE VOICE: He's great.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, he is great. And so yeah,  
21 we're hopeful that we place someone there, and that would  
22 be ideal, that -- with the proximity next to Fort Hood.

23 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

24 MR. SAMUELS: In fact, they could have two, if  
25 they would like. So --

1 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

2 MR. SAMUELS: And I'll say one more thing.  
3 Samantha Foss is our new director of development and  
4 communications as of the beginning of this year,  
5 basically. So --

6 MR. DOYLE: Congratulations, Samantha.

7 MR. SAMUELS: -- yeah.

8 MS. FOSS: Thank you.

9 MR. SAMUELS: They took over for Jennifer  
10 Paulson, if you remember her. She is now traveling the  
11 country and living with her husband in an RV van.

12 MR. DOYLE: Wow.

13 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. You saw the post.

14 MR. RAMIREZ: Yeah.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. So you know, just  
16 something that they wanted to do, so --

17 MR. DOYLE: Cool.

18 MR. SAMUELS: -- that's what they're out doing.  
19 Yeah.

20 MR. DOYLE: That's great.

21 MS. COGBILL: Is there a restricted population  
22 that they won't be able to serve, like, for example,  
23 incarcerated, released, criminal history --

24 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, I don't think so, but I  
25 mean, obviously, veterans. They need to be veterans.



1 That's the main thing. I think they would be limited  
2 in -- unfortunately, they would be limited in how they can  
3 help someone who has criminal history, but I don't see why  
4 they would be restricted to working with people outside of  
5 that group.

6 In fact, I don't think they should be.

7 MR. DOYLE: No, I don't think they are. I  
8 don't think they are.

9 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, they are by the grant.

10 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

11 MR. RAMIREZ: Well, I knew -- I know House Bill  
12 714 just came about, and we're going to get with Texas  
13 Workforce Commission, and it's basically employment  
14 services for any veteran that's under community  
15 supervision, so if they're on probation, parole or any of  
16 those things.

17 I know usually homelessness and justice-  
18 involved background issues overlap, so maybe we can try to  
19 work that in somehow.

20 MR. SAMUELS: I just thought about something,  
21 Joe. So TVC, they do a Facebook live every week.

22 MR. RAMIREZ: Yes, sir.

23 MR. SAMUELS: So maybe we can schedule a time  
24 for us to go on there and talk about the need to find host  
25 sites for this.

1 MR. RAMIREZ: We can --

2 MR. SAMUELS: So --

3 MR. RAMIREZ: -- coordinate that, sir.

4 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. That sounds like that  
5 might be a good opportunity. With that, the THN hour is  
6 over.

7 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Naomi --

8 MS. CANTU: Yes?

9 MR. DOYLE: The Homeless Fund and Burdens and  
10 Solutions Grant Program.

11 MS. CANTU: So the Ending Homelessness, again,  
12 this is a voluntary -- based on voluntary contributions  
13 when you register a vehicle. We've been keeping steady at  
14 about 10,000 to 12,000 that donated to the fund, and we  
15 are accumulating money at this point, because we have our  
16 contracts underway from last year, from this current  
17 fiscal year 2020.

18 So that's going along steady. For Emergency  
19 Solutions Grants Program, we have started our program in  
20 November 1 for our contracts. We have 50 sub-grantees  
21 throughout the state. We are planning to do a small rule  
22 update, but we're not planning to update the criteria for  
23 the scoring, because we want another round to see how it  
24 plays out, and have more predictability for the sub-  
25 grantees.

1           So we are working on that. So please expect a  
2 chance for public comment on parts of the rule, but not  
3 all of the rule, coming up for that. And also, I just  
4 wanted to point out, Brooke's not here at the moment, but  
5 we did work on -- or we did talk about the update to the  
6 Qualified Allocation Plan, that we didn't do as an agency  
7 here, but it's in the Qualified Allocation Plan regarding  
8 special needs. So if development receives points for  
9 serving special needs, an additional 2 percent of those  
10 units are referred --

11           MS. SYLVESTER: Two of the five.

12           MS. CANTU: Two of the five percent. Right.

13           MS. SYLVESTER: Yeah. If they pick -- if they  
14 choose to get the points for special needs, they can get  
15 additional points for having two percent of their units,  
16 and if you want to, you can read that.

17           MS. CANTU: Okay.

18           MS. SYLVESTER: Up to --

19           MS. CANTU: Two percent of the units are going  
20 to be accepting referrals from the continuum of care --

21           MR. DOYLE: Okay.

22           MS. CANTU: -- or local homeless service  
23 providers for those experiencing homelessness. So this is  
24 in the Qualified Allocation Plan for our community  
25 developments and it mentions homelessness specifically and

1 continuum of care referrals, and it does a clause about  
2 rejection of an applicant's tenancy, for those referred,  
3 may not be for reasons of credit history or private, prior  
4 rental payment history.

5 So possible evictions --

6 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

7 MS. CANTU: -- included there. So that could  
8 be a tool used in many communities, and hopefully, there  
9 will be a connection between the developments and the  
10 continuum of care local providers in terms of referrals.

11 MR. SAMUELS: And make sure that everyone is  
12 aware of that.

13 MS. SYLVESTER: And just -- it's only starting  
14 for development to get -- that choose to elect points and  
15 get awards in the 2020 9 percent application cycle.

16 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

17 MS. SYLVESTER: So anything before that will  
18 not come under this. So --

19 MS. CANTU: And --

20 MS. SYLVESTER: Yeah.

21 MS. CANTU: -- it's good for about 12 months or  
22 six months after the developments have been ready.

23 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

24 MS. CANTU: And then --

25 MS. SYLVESTER: And then they still have a

1 preference for those units for the affordability period,  
2 but they will no longer have to reserve the units --

3 MR. SAMUELS: After that?

4 MS. SYLVESTER: -- for the 12 months. They'll  
5 just have a preference for those units, but they won't be  
6 reserving those units. And then if a development -- HOME  
7 has this weird thing about you got to lease your units in  
8 12 months.

9 If the development has HOME, they only have to  
10 have a preference, not a reservation because it conflicts  
11 with the HOME rule to try to get somebody in there within  
12 12 months.

13 MS. CANTU: So this is one of the -- our  
14 largest programs that develops affordable housing in the  
15 state, and so this is homelessness in this document awards  
16 points for a very competitive program. So --

17 MR. SAMUELS: And you said that goes into  
18 effect -- was it 2020 QAP?

19 MS. SYLVESTER: For 2020.

20 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

21 MS. SYLVESTER: So 2020. So folks will get  
22 awards in July, and if it's new construction, those units  
23 would be leasing up in about two years, so July 2022 --

24 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

25 MS. SYLVESTER: -- and then for the rehab

1 developments, there are usually tenants, especially if  
2 it's a -- they just have a preference, then, on the  
3 waitlist, because those units are full, but sometimes it's  
4 a more extensive rehab, so they -- you know, they clear  
5 everybody out, and they will have a preference for the 12  
6 months, just like a new construction --

7 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

8 MS. SYLVESTER: -- development would.

9 MS. CANTU: So they don't -- aren't required to  
10 go after these points --

11 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

12 MS. CANTU: -- but many of them do --

13 MS. SYLVESTER: And --

14 MS. CANTU: -- because it's very competitive.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

16 MS. SYLVESTER: And probably the vast  
17 majority --

18 MR. SAMUELS: Will.

19 MS. SYLVESTER: Last year I think we only had  
20 one development or maybe two that were awarded that did  
21 not elect the special needs points.

22 MR. SAMUELS: All right. So we could  
23 definitely look at who was awarded, then determine which  
24 developers are going for those points.

25 MS. SYLVESTER: Uh-huh. And that will --

1 MS. CHECA: Will be able to see that?

2 MS. CANTU: It's online.

3 MS. CHECA: Once the awards come out, that they  
4 chose to serve special pops and got those points?

5 MS. SYLVESTER: So it is -- the election is in  
6 their application. It will also be reflected in their  
7 land use restriction agreement --

8 MS. CHECA: Okay.

9 MS. SYLVESTER: -- once the development starts  
10 leasing up.

11 MS. CHECA: Okay.

12 MS. CANTU: But it's not really in a  
13 spreadsheet --

14 MS. CHECA: Okay.

15 MS. CANTU: -- kind of format.

16 MS. SYLVESTER: If that is something you would  
17 be interested in, I can give Sharon Gamble --

18 MS. CHECA: Okay.

19 MS. SYLVESTER: -- your contact information and  
20 you kind of ask, and maybe that is something -- I just  
21 don't want to speak for her.

22 MS. CHECA: Yeah.

23 MS. SYLVESTER: It definitely is -- the  
24 application definitely is online, so you could go in and  
25 look --

1 MS. CHECA: Yeah.

2 MS. SYLVESTER: -- to see if a particular  
3 development selected those points, but I don't know if  
4 they're planning to have, like, a separate document to  
5 just reflect that.

6 MS. CHECA: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. SAMUELS: That's great news.

8 MR. DOYLE: Naomi, would you explain again what  
9 the 10,000 a month from the Ending Homelessness Fund is  
10 going to be used for?

11 MS. CANTU: Sure. So we have, in our current  
12 rule, a threshold of \$500,000 for a new program. So right  
13 now, in order to get the funds out and working in our  
14 communities as quickly as possible, we're pairing it with  
15 our existing programs, if it's under \$500,000 in a year --  
16 so -- or within the allocation period, which is typically  
17 a year.

18 So we are pairing it with our Emergency  
19 Solutions Grant Program and our Homeless Housing and  
20 Services Program, which is a state general revenue  
21 program. Now, a stipulation of these funds is that they  
22 have to be used by cities or counties.

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

24 MS. CANTU: They cannot be used by non-profits  
25 directly. So it limits the pairing to mainly Homeless



1 Housing and Services providers subrecipients, which is a  
2 state general revenue, which already goes to cities and  
3 counties. So --

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

5 MS. CANTU: -- that's where it's going. And I  
6 actually want to mention one more thing about our ESG --  
7 well, remotely related to our ESG and regarding Texas  
8 Homeless Network, that we -- Texas Homeless Network has  
9 reached out to us to work on a reporting system for your  
10 Homeless Management Information Systems.

11 So HMIS -- it's the main port that -- as far as  
12 the port for homeless programs -- to work on our report to  
13 match our Emergency Solutions Grants monthly report. It's  
14 been very helpful for us internally, and hopefully it will  
15 be easier for our subrecipients in the Balance of State,  
16 and for anyone else, hopefully, that uses the same HMIS  
17 program to do this.

18 Right now, subrecipients that are reporting on  
19 our monthly report for Emergency Solutions Grants have to  
20 go to several different screens in order to gather that  
21 information, and this will hopefully have it all on one  
22 spot so that they know what they're trying report and what  
23 they're asking for and can just fill it in.

24 So that's been very helpful. So thank you for  
25 that --

1 MR. DOYLE: That's great, great.

2 MS. CANTU: -- for reaching out.

3 MR. DOYLE: Thank you. Okay. Spencer? 811  
4 Rental.

5 MR. DURAN: Good morning.

6 FEMALE VOICE: Good morning.

7 MR. DURAN: Spencer Duran, Texas Department of  
8 Housing and Community Affairs, Section 811 manager. I  
9 sort of provide a general update on the Section 811  
10 Project Rental Assistance Program, and let the --

11 MR. DOYLE: And so some of our new members --  
12 explain Section 811.

13 MR. DURAN: Sure, sure. So in Texas, at TDHCA,  
14 in partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services  
15 Commission and Department of Family Protective Services,  
16 we're operating the Section 811 PRA or Project Rental  
17 Assistance Program.

18 And it's a program where we piggy-back onto our  
19 multifamily programs, like Naomi was just talking about,  
20 that are funded through the Qualified Allocation Plan,  
21 like the Tax Credit Program and Multifamily Direct Loan.  
22 And these are scenarios where developers set aside units  
23 in their larger development specifically for extremely low  
24 income people who have disabilities and also meet certain  
25 other discrete target population types, such as youth with

1 disabilities, aging out of foster care, people exiting out  
2 of institutions such as nursing facilities, state-  
3 supported living centers and others, and individuals with  
4 serious mental illness who are eligible for services  
5 through local mental health authorities.

6           So we have secured \$24 million to provide  
7 rental assistance for these populations and we've been  
8 spending that money down since -- I think we housed our  
9 first tenant in 2016. We now have almost 400 tenants that  
10 have been housed, and we're also currently applying for an  
11 additional \$7 million that will allow us to serve about  
12 140 additional households, and so that will bring us up to  
13 a capacity of -- I don't know -- maybe 700 over the next  
14 30 years.

15           So it's -- one of the great things about it is  
16 the subsidy is income-based so we can dial up or dial down  
17 the amount of subsidy, depending on if somebody gets a  
18 job, loses a job, and it's not time-limited. So it's a  
19 really unique -- you know, like, there's a lot of other  
20 great affordable housing programs, but those that are  
21 income-based and not time-limited are somewhat rare.

22           So we're super proud of the work that we've  
23 done so far. It's also a great example of interagency  
24 partnership. We've been partnering with, you know, what  
25 was DADS and all of that previous, but we have a great

1 relationship with HHSC and DFPS, and so the cross-training  
2 of and the de-siloing of housers versus social versus  
3 medical folks -- we're all kind of coming together.

4 So as great as 811 is, and I love it, the real  
5 project, I feel, is learning how to collaborate with each  
6 other across these various sectors. I want to share just  
7 a few quick updates.

8 We will be focusing more on our keeping our  
9 tenants housed. In the past, we've been working really  
10 hard at generating referrals, but we have -- we've started  
11 to get huge waiting lists now, and so we're starting to  
12 look a lot like other housing authority programs with  
13 long, long waiting lists. And so we'll be proposing soon  
14 that we'll be closing the waiting lists for Dallas County,  
15 Nueces County, which is where Corpus is, Bexar and Travis  
16 Counties, and we're kind of working on the language to  
17 make that happen, so -- but I just want to let y'all know  
18 the project that we're kind of working on.

19 And those waitlists have just -- you know,  
20 they're really, really long, and we want to focus more  
21 on -- our energy more on those who are coming up for  
22 housing and those tenants who are being housed as well.  
23 We are bringing on our second social worker to the  
24 program, so as the housing finance agency, I think it's  
25 kind of exciting to have not one, but two social workers

1 on board to make sure that the tenants that we have are  
2 successful, and that's just 811.

3 Obviously, Danny has -- most of you know today,  
4 but two social workers are working specifically on this  
5 project. I just got back from D.C. talking about this  
6 kind of stuff, and everyone thinks that that's a really  
7 cool idea and a really unique thing, that a housing  
8 finance agency has social workers on board for program  
9 implementation.

10 So we're also going to be rolling out some new  
11 funds to support the program. We have a damage fund that  
12 we'll be rolling out soon for any units that get damaged  
13 by 811 tenants. We have a barrier-busting fund we'll be  
14 rolling out, and a lot of this kind of modeled off of  
15 ECHO's landlord outreach program.

16 You know, we've had really good success with  
17 keeping our tenants housed. They've been really, really  
18 sticky previously, but we're starting to see our turnover  
19 rate start to creep up. And so we had about a 10 percent  
20 churn rate, but it's starting to kind of slowly drift up,  
21 and so we want to have more tools to make sure that when  
22 we get someone housed that the conversation doesn't stop,  
23 but we support the landlord.

24 We support the tenant, to make sure we have  
25 resources and energy and the staff time to try and solve

1 any problems that are leading to people losing their  
2 housing after they get in our program. So that's going to  
3 be a big focus for us.

4 So closing the waiting list will allow -- in  
5 those areas will allow us to better focus on the tenancy  
6 experience and having some tools funding by the Money  
7 Follows a Person program. I should say, Money Follows a  
8 Person is really important to our program, so to use those  
9 Money Follows a Person funds to create these little  
10 pockets of funding to kind of solve some problems to keep  
11 people housed is a huge, huge, huge benefit to our  
12 program.

13 So -- oh, yeah. So one more thing I want to  
14 talk about real fast is we're working on our project right  
15 now to better focus on serving youth with disabilities  
16 aging out of foster care. We're really engaged with  
17 Superior Managed Care Organization, since they're the  
18 single MCO that provides health insurance for youth aging  
19 out of -- the foster care kids -- or young adults.

20 And so we're working really closely with  
21 Superior and also the Department of Family and Protective  
22 Services. We haven't done a great job of serving this  
23 population. They've been a little bit underserved in our  
24 program.

25 So we want to just really -- so we have regular

1 meetings set up and training materials and trainings  
2 scheduled, and we're just kind of deploying a bunch of  
3 stuff to make sure that we're affirmatively reaching out  
4 and serving that population.

5 We're doing the same thing to try and better  
6 serve people who are exiting state-supported living  
7 centers also. So those are kind of some -- two big, kind  
8 of, like, sub-initiatives within 811. And with that, I  
9 can answer any questions that y'all may have.

10 MR. SAMUELS: So I was wondering. The social  
11 workers, do they work with the local continuums of care at  
12 all, to collaborate with them?

13 MR. DURAN: We don't generally receive  
14 referrals from CoC.

15 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

16 MR. DURAN: Our conduit is the local -- the  
17 health authorities.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

19 MR. DURAN: And so someone could potentially  
20 start out as a CoC referral.

21 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

22 MR. DURAN: Then they go to the LMHA, but we  
23 wouldn't necessarily know that from where we're sitting.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. And then I worry about  
25 those that are exiting, losing their housing --

1 MR. DURAN: Yeah.

2 MR. SAMUELS: -- maybe falling back into --

3 MR. DURAN: I worry about that, too.

4 MR. SAMUELS: -- homelessness, and so if there  
5 were communication between the CoC and the social worker  
6 or the LMHA that's working with the household or  
7 individual, I think that would be helpful.

8 MR. DURAN: Yeah. We do know that about 40  
9 percent of the people we served are at risk for  
10 homelessness --

11 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

12 MR. DURAN: -- or are homeless. We don't have  
13 a really good technical homeless definition in our  
14 program but we do know that people are experiencing  
15 homelessness or exiting out of homelessness. I -- so  
16 we're happy to do whatever we can -- we want to really  
17 focus on keeping people housed so however that looks, we  
18 want to make sure that we're doing that.

19 MR. SAMUELS: Maybe as we begin to implement to  
20 the Homeless State Assuring Network, we're linking all the  
21 HMIS systems up, maybe that would be an ideal time for --  
22 to involve those -- the social workers on this program.

23 MR. DURAN: Sure.

24 MR. SAMUELS: And then one other question.

25 The -- you said the churn is about 10 percent and going



1 up?

2 MR. DURAN: Yeah, yeah.

3 MR. SAMUELS: I'm assuming you've looked at the  
4 data and seen that most of that is people exiting to a  
5 situation that's either homelessness or a worse situation  
6 than they were in before, but is it possible some that are  
7 exiting into something better?

8 MR. DURAN: Moving up the housing continuum?

9 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

10 MR. DURAN: I don't know. I don't -- no. We  
11 know that it's -- there -- yes, there are some people that  
12 move into permanent housing, or a non -- out of 811. Yes.  
13 But the majority are getting evicted.

14 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

15 MR. DURAN: Some are going back into  
16 institutions because of -- maybe they had a new health  
17 situation come up, and also honestly, we want -- we are  
18 seeing that sometimes people would get housing, and then  
19 they disconnected from services --

20 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

21 MR. DURAN: -- and services are, of course,  
22 voluntary --

23 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

24 MR. DURAN: -- but we're seeing that sometimes  
25 people disconnect from services, and that kind of harms

1 their ability to maintain their tenancy.

2 MR. SAMUELS: Right.

3 MR. DURAN: So I think that they're definitely  
4 moving down the continuum and not up the continuum.

5 MR. SAMUELS: I mean, it's very similar to  
6 Forensic that are operating permanent -- supportive and  
7 permanent housing projects. Yeah. Sounds like the same  
8 struggle.

9 MR. DURAN: Yeah, yeah.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thanks very much.  
11 Appreciate that.

12 MS. SYLVESTER: Future funding --

13 MR. DOYLE: Good work.

14 MS. SYLVESTER: -- opportunity?

15 MR. DURAN: Oh, sorry. Thank you, Megan. Just  
16 real fast. Okay. So we've got \$22 million now. We're  
17 spending about \$260,000 a month in subsidy, and then --  
18 yeah -- so we're applying for \$7 million right now, for an  
19 additional 140, and that grant application is due February  
20 10 to HUD, so we are working with our partners right now.

21 MR. DOYLE: Great, great.

22 MR. SAMUELS: Good luck.

23 MR. DOYLE: Good luck on that.

24 MR. DURAN: Thank you.

25 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Valinda?

1 MS. BOLTON: Yes. So part of my update feeds  
2 right into what Spencer was just saying, that -- excuse  
3 me. I hate cedar. We are working closely with HUD and  
4 the Department on the Foster Youth Initiative, the tenant  
5 protection vouchers.

6 We have a HUD lead contact named Lorraine  
7 Wells, who's working with us, so we have a good connection  
8 there. Our CPS state office has designated regional  
9 liaisons to reach out to the local housing authorities,  
10 working on establishing those relationships that we  
11 haven't always had, and to enter into MOUs between the  
12 Department and the local housing authorities.

13 This is really, you know, in its infancy, just  
14 getting started. But in Harris County, our Harris County  
15 CPS folks are already working really closely with the  
16 housing authority and we've had seven young adults there  
17 in Harris County that have received vouchers so far.

18 So that's great news. I might, and if it's  
19 okay, invite -- we have a new youth specialist at our CPS  
20 state office, and a big part of her work, the main focus  
21 of her work, is working with and representing youth,  
22 foster youth, that are transitioning out of care.

23 So I'd like for her -- I mean, I -- it's a  
24 public meeting, I know, but I'd still like to invite her  
25 to come and --

1 MR. DOYLE: Sure.

2 MS. BOLTON: -- just get a better sense of all  
3 that's happening at the state level, and then also if  
4 there was, you know, interest in hearing from her, if  
5 y'all have more specific questions -- because I can report  
6 to y'all on what they're doing, but it's not my area of  
7 expertise.

8 So -- and then the other thing is that our  
9 Associate Commissioner, Kristine Blackstone, is scheduled  
10 to come to the April meeting to talk about Family First  
11 Prevention and Services Act, which is federal legislation,  
12 and how it -- how that potentially relates to our impacts  
13 and overlaps with the homelessness work.

14 Commissioner Blackstone recently announced her  
15 retirement --

16 FEMALE VOICE: Oh.

17 MS. BOLTON: -- so --

18 MR. DOYLE: Oh.

19 MS. BOLTON: -- she will be gone by our April  
20 meeting, and congratulations to her on that. But we would  
21 still like to have somebody come and talk about FFPSA. We  
22 have a couple of subject matter experts at CPS state  
23 office who can come and give y'all a brief on FFPSA is,  
24 because you're going to be increasingly hearing more about  
25 it.

1           So we'll -- if it's okay, we'll keep that on  
2 the agenda. We'll just have a different --

3           FEMALE VOICE: Different person.

4           MS. BOLTON: -- person to -- so that's about  
5 it.

6           MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any questions for Valinda?

7           (No response.)

8           MR. DOYLE: Okay. Cal?

9           MR. LOPEZ: Well, good morning. I have several  
10 updates to share with you since our last meeting. I  
11 wanted to provide some new data that I just received from  
12 our data warehouse at the Texas Education Agency. We have  
13 submitted our 2018-19 numbers to the Department of Ed, and  
14 so we had 114,055 students who were identified as homeless  
15 in Texas public schools.

16           This is actually a decrease from the previous  
17 year, but we think it's more on track to where it should  
18 be. The previous year, we were over 231,000, but we --

19           MR. DOYLE: Wow.

20           MR. LOPEZ: -- attributed that to Hurricane  
21 Harvey. So when we look at the overall state enrollment  
22 growth rate, compared to the identification of homeless  
23 students, we're back at the 2.1 percent, which is where we  
24 were, pre-Harvey.

25           So in 2016 and '17, we had identified almost

1 112,000 students, which was 2.1 percent of the total  
2 number of students enrolled in Texas schools, and so we're  
3 back at that 2.1 percent, even though it's a higher  
4 number, because of the growth rate of overall students  
5 enrolled in the state of Texas.

6 So I wanted to share this with you. You are  
7 actually one of the few entities -- the first to hear this  
8 data. So 78 percent of our students are in what we call  
9 doubled-up living situations, meaning they're living with  
10 multiple families in one home, followed by 10 percent  
11 living in shelters, 7 percent living in hotels, and  
12 5 percent considered in unsheltered housing situations.

13 One new requirement that the Department of Ed  
14 now tracks is the identification of our unaccompanied  
15 youth and their living situations. And so 15 percent of  
16 our students identified were unaccompanied youth. And so  
17 we also look at their living situations.

18 They mirror the overall population of a  
19 majority being in doubled-up situations. So I will have  
20 more of this data dis-aggregated by the time we have our  
21 next meeting, and we'll have some nice fliers with that  
22 information, but I wanted to share that with you --

23 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

24 MR. LOPEZ: -- but like I said, we'll look at  
25 '16-'17, which is what we used as our baseline data as we

1 move forward with our initiatives, that this is more in  
2 alignment with that than the year during Hurricane Harvey.

3 By our next meeting, I'll also be able to share  
4 with you, as I told you, part of our initiatives. We're  
5 tracking the number of school districts that do not  
6 identify any homeless children and youth, and I got that  
7 data. But the way Ed has it is, with school districts, we  
8 can have school districts with the same name, and so  
9 they're assigned county district number, but Department of  
10 Ed doesn't send us that information.

11 So literally, you have to go look at the school  
12 district and the county to figure out which one it may  
13 be --

14 MR. DOYLE: Wow.

15 MR. LOPEZ: -- and so that takes a little more  
16 time. I think last year we had -- '16-'17, we had over  
17 200 school districts that did that, so still working on  
18 that data. We are also anticipating a projection of an  
19 increase in funds for the 2021 school year. As I had  
20 shared at the last meeting, we awarded 6.6 million to our  
21 sub-grantees, and we're anticipating a step increase to at  
22 least 7 million for 2021, which will be the third year of  
23 our grant cycle.

24 And in addition to that, I will actually be  
25 going to D.C. February 25 for -- where all the state

1 coordinators convene with the Department of Ed, and  
2 they'll share more about the projected funding, because in  
3 anticipation of the increase, we will start to work on  
4 competing out the next three-year grant cycle in 2021.

5           Some training events -- I will go ahead and  
6 send out the flyer, so we can send it out. We're going to  
7 have a McKinney-Vento 101 webinar on Thursday, January 30,  
8 from 1:00 to 2:30. And so I will go ahead and forward the  
9 flyer to Danny to send out to everyone, or you can  
10 register in advance, and I can give you the website real  
11 quick.

12           It's at [bit.ly/MV101webinar](http://bit.ly/MV101webinar). And so we have  
13 invited every homeless liaison across the state to  
14 participate in this webinar. So that's over 1,200. So  
15 we're excited to share that. And then some quick updates  
16 on our Summit and conferences.

17           So our TEA Program Summit, we have awarded the  
18 grant to TNOYS. So TNOYS will be working on our  
19 conference. And right now, they are working quickly, fast  
20 and furious, to find us a venue. We're anticipating in  
21 having it either the last two weeks of July or the first  
22 week of August.

23           So as soon as I have that update and a flyer,  
24 again, I will provide it to Danny so you can disseminate  
25 to the -- to everyone. And we have lofty goals. We want



1 to increase attendance by 150 percent, so we are --

2 MR. DOYLE: Wow.

3 MR. LOPEZ: -- at a venue that will hold no  
4 less than 500 attendees, with eight to 10 tracks for -- to  
5 help us with homeless education. In addition to that, I  
6 did go to D.C. in November to the National Association for  
7 the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference,  
8 and I'm going to give these to Pastor Brown.

9 So this is the national conference, and we are  
10 going to be the host state, so we want to -- these are,  
11 like, little, kind of, save-the-date cards, if you want to  
12 take some back to your staff? We are the host state for  
13 this year.

14 Texas has not been the host state for the  
15 national conference in 10 years. It will be in Dallas. I  
16 also have the honor of sharing -- of serving on their  
17 board of directors as the state coordinator of the whole  
18 state.

19 MR. DOYLE: Congratulations.

20 MR. LOPEZ: So I will be making several trips  
21 to Dallas, actually two in February, as we work towards  
22 planning this conference here, and we will be working very  
23 closely with our school districts and community  
24 collaborators in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

25 I've shared with the national committee that it

1 can't just be Dallas. It's Dallas-Fort Worth.

2 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

3 MR. LOPEZ: And so I said, you can't have one  
4 without the other.

5 MR. DOYLE: And if you wanted to say, Fort  
6 Worth-Dallas, that would be okay too.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Okay. So I have made that very  
8 clear to them that it has to be collaborating with our  
9 school districts, which we would say in Region 10 is  
10 Dallas. Eleven is Fort Worth. And that it needs to be a  
11 combined effort, because we also have student performers  
12 and talent and volunteers, and that needs to be  
13 represented by both major metropolitan areas.

14 MR. DOYLE: Great.

15 MR. SAMUELS: So excited to share that. And  
16 then, let me look here. So that will be at the Hyatt  
17 Regency in Dallas October 31 to November 3. As you can  
18 see, our theme is dreaming big for all students, and  
19 that -- we worked on developing that with our  
20 Communications Department at TEA, and it was approved by  
21 the national conference.

22 So as we get more information, especially when  
23 we release the request for proposals, I am hoping that  
24 there will be several of you in this room that will submit  
25 your proposals to present at this national conference. I

1 really do want the committee to be inundated by Texas  
2 presenters.

3           And I will also be advocating -- I don't know  
4 if I'll get it -- but it's a Texas-specific track, because  
5 there are a lot of programs that are very specific to  
6 Texas and I know we're going to have a large number of  
7 attendees from Texas, so I'm trying to see how much we can  
8 weigh that in.

9           So -- and additional to that, we did have  
10 Commissioners' goals on transition assistance for highly  
11 mobile students who are homeless and in substitute care,  
12 that had recently been posted to the *Texas Register*  
13 November 22 through December 23.

14           We are in the process of reviewing and  
15 responding to all those public comments, and once they  
16 have been completed and reviewed by our Legal Department,  
17 then it will be determined if any revisions to the  
18 proposed rule will need to occur, and if so, that amended  
19 rule text will then be posted for a second public comment.

20           So as we get more information for that, we'll  
21 also send that out. And then, finally, ta da, ta da, I  
22 had shared with you at the last meeting that we were  
23 working on our posters, and they literally got delivered  
24 to the office on Friday.

25           MR. DOYLE: Oh, wow.

1 MR. LOPEZ: So after the meeting, if you would  
2 like our new, redesigned McKinney-Vento posters, come see  
3 me. I brought plenty. This is the one for our families  
4 with homeless children and youth, and this is the one for  
5 our unaccompanied youth, and it also has our 1-800 number  
6 and a website for our technical support center, that has  
7 now has increased 800-number hours from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00  
8 p.m., to work with our school districts and families,  
9 because we know that they never really end the day when  
10 the school bell lets out.

11 So I'm very excited to share these. I also  
12 have them in Spanish, and so I just figured, after the  
13 meeting, if you'd like to take some posters back to your  
14 agency, I would love to give you some.

15 MR. DOYLE: Great. Thank you so much.

16 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

17 MS. CANTU: Cal?

18 MR. DOYLE: I'm excited.

19 MS. CANTU: Can you give an example of what the  
20 tracks will be for your conference? Just a few. You said  
21 eight to 10.

22 MR. LOPEZ: So eight to 10. So we're still  
23 very much in the planning stage, but we do envision a  
24 housing track. We do want there to be several sessions  
25 for our LEAs to learn more about housing programs. Also,

1 one would be more about social services that are out in  
2 the state of Texas, working with, for instance, the Texas  
3 Workforce Commission, working with the WIC Office, working  
4 with Early Headstart Childhood, working with veterans.

5 So we definitely envision that. There will  
6 also be one that's more for our sub-grantees, one that  
7 will be, I would say, specifically for our counselors or  
8 administrators, one that's specific to homeless liaisons.

9 And so we will be breaking those down.

10 Those have not been cemented yet, but we are --  
11 we'll be reaching out to you to have a large presence at  
12 this conference. We will also have a large TEA presence,  
13 and so we will have our different TEA programs, presenting  
14 Title I, Early Childhood, our EL Department, our Gifted  
15 and Talented.

16 So that will also -- mental health will  
17 definitely have a presence there. Human trafficking.  
18 Teen pregnancy-related services. And so those are all  
19 programs from within the agency. There will also be a  
20 track for social workers, and we'll be providing CEUs as  
21 well.

22 So that's just kind of what the big vision is.

23 I'll definitely have a lot more information by our next  
24 meeting.

25 MR. DOYLE: Great, great. Thank you. Okay.

1 That ends the updates. Are there any other updates?

2 MS. SYLVESTER: Since Brooke isn't here, I had  
3 prepared something for Brooke, and --

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

5 MS. SYLVESTER: -- I'll give it. Part of my  
6 job responsibility is to read the appropriations --  
7 federal appropriations language when it comes out. And  
8 aren't you jealous that that's not part of your job?

9 MR. DOYLE: Darn.

10 MS. SYLVESTER: And one -- and so there's  
11 some -- mostly really good budget news from a housing  
12 standpoint. The CDBG HOME homelessness programs all had  
13 increases from last year, so that's very exciting.  
14 There's new -- potentially new money for 811 PRA, in  
15 addition to the money that's already out from previous  
16 appropriations, and they did at least renewal levels for  
17 project-based vouchers and tenant-based vouchers.

18 So depending on whose numbers you use, it's --  
19 they're even or a tiny little bit of an increase. So  
20 that's very exciting. Something specifically that's in  
21 the appropriate language, that is -- that this group might  
22 be interested in is -- HUD has authorized -- occasionally,  
23 people return funds from a CoC or from an ESG grant or  
24 some other grants that SNAP's office has overseen, and  
25 that money was just kind of sitting there, because HUD

1 didn't have authority to do things with it, and it didn't  
2 come to its -- it hadn't yet come up to the time that it's  
3 got to be returned to Treasury.

4 And so in this appropriations, it authorizes  
5 HUD to make disaster relief grants, and those would run on  
6 ESG rules, except they would not be required to have  
7 match, which is very exciting. When we had Harvey, we  
8 applied for a bunch of waivers from HUD, and one of those  
9 was the ESG match requirements, and we were turned down on  
10 that one, because HUD said they didn't have the statutory  
11 authority to waive that.

12 And that was disappointing to hear, and so  
13 hopefully this will be an opportunity for HUD to provide  
14 disaster relief, ESG grants to communities or to the state  
15 that have experienced disaster. So --

16 MS. CANTU: Can it go to ESG and CoC?

17 MS. SYLVESTER: No. I believe the language is  
18 such that it has to go to a ESG recipient. Now, it may be  
19 that it would be awarded to a CoC area --

20 MS. CANTU: Uh-huh.

21 MS. SYLVESTER: -- but I believe the grantee  
22 with HUD is going to have to be someone who is already an  
23 ESG subrecipient or a grantee, but you know, HUD may  
24 decide differently. But that's just my reading of it.

25 MR. DOYLE: Cool, cool.

1 MR. SAMUELS: And those funds can be used  
2 for -- I mean, it's for construction, rebuilding or just  
3 whatever?

4 MS. SYLVESTER: That is an eligible activity.

5 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

6 MS. SYLVESTER: Right now, you can't do new  
7 construction --

8 MR. SAMUELS: Right. Well, yeah, I shouldn't  
9 have said, construction.

10 MS. SYLVESTER: -- but you can do, like, a  
11 rehabilitation, and we have occasionally had our ESG  
12 funds -- it's not a great use of ESG funds, because --

13 MR. SAMUELS: Sure.

14 MS. SYLVESTER: -- you've got to do --

15 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

16 MS. SYLVESTER: -- environmental review,  
17 there's timeframes and you've got to have a use agreement,  
18 use local money --

19 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

20 MS. SYLVESTER: -- to do your rehab. But in  
21 theory, yeah, you could do that.

22 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. And with those CDBG DR  
23 funds -- and there are funds to do a lot of that --

24 MS. SYLVESTER: Yeah. In --

25 MR. SAMUELS: -- type of work already.



1 MS. SYLVESTER: -- CDBG DR, shelter  
2 construction is an eligible activity too, but we don't do  
3 that. That's Sheila, thankfully.

4 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

5 MR. DOYLE: Well, boy. A lot of good stuff.  
6 Thank you. Glad to hear that the funding's going up.  
7 Sorry to hear a little bit about that the homelessness  
8 population is going up, but I think that's very  
9 explainable.

10 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah.

11 MR. DOYLE: Very explainable.

12 MR. SAMUELS: Well, maybe we'll see the number  
13 go down.

14 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, we will.

15 MR. SAMUELS: But hopefully, we will  
16 eventually.

17 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Are we at announcements, or --

19 MR. DOYLE: We are.

20 MR. SAMUELS: So I had a question. So we've  
21 heard that the U.S. Interagency Council for the Homeless  
22 executive director is coming here for a panel on Friday.  
23 We don't know where or what panel, so we are interested if  
24 anyone here knows where that is or what panel that is?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. The mystery will continue  
2 then.

3 MR. DOYLE: Yeah.

4 MR. SAMUELS: We know that ECHO, the local CoC  
5 lead agency, has been contacted about it, but that's all  
6 we know.

7 MR. DOYLE: Huh.

8 MR. SAMUELS: So we'll do some more research.

9 MS. SYLVESTER: You might check with the  
10 housing authority, and I get a lot of emails, but I think  
11 they're doing something this weekend, so --

12 MR. SAMUELS: Oh, maybe that's it, then.

13 MS. SYLVESTER: -- it might be that, but I  
14 don't --

15 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

16 MS. SYLVESTER: -- know. You just might check  
17 with them.

18 MR. SAMUELS: Okay. We will do that. Okay.

19 MR. DOYLE: Great. Any other comments? Do we  
20 have any public comments? Go ahead, Joyce.

21 MS. POHLMAN: Yeah. I just wanted to make a  
22 couple of comments about the things that HHSC, Health and  
23 Human Services Commission, is involved in right now.  
24 We're doing a series of regional housing summits around  
25 the state, about five of them planned between now and

1 June, and I'll make sure I send out those announcements to  
2 Danny, so if he can help me, hopefully, distribute them to  
3 you.

4 And the purpose of the housing summits is to  
5 get local information on what the housing need is for  
6 people who are what we're calling vulnerable populations.

7 Obviously, our focus is on individuals who have  
8 disabilities and older adults.

9 And they're just mainly getting input from the  
10 local community about what the needs and the concerns are,  
11 and trying to build partnerships to address those needs.  
12 In addition, Behavioral Health Advisory Commission housing  
13 subcommittee has requested that HHSC do something called a  
14 housing choice plan.

15 This is a plan that's designed to outline the  
16 current landscape of housing options for individuals with  
17 mental health conditions, individuals with substance use  
18 conditions, and individuals who have intellectual or  
19 developmental disabilities.

20 So it's a pretty broad call for information.  
21 We're going to be looking at what are the current housing  
22 options that are available to people and where are the  
23 gaps and how do we address those gaps? So we have started  
24 that process, and we're expecting to have that complete  
25 within one year.

1 MR. DOYLE: Oh.

2 MS. POHLMAN: So it will be a busy year.

3 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, it will be, it will be.

4 Anyone else?

5 MR. RAMIREZ: I've got a quick one, sir.

6 MR. DOYLE: All right. Thank you, Joe.

7 MR. RAMIREZ: Texas Veterans Commission.

8 Tomorrow, we're coordinating the Texas Coordinating  
9 Council for Veterans Services. We're encouraging  
10 everybody to attend, and basically, we're going to come up  
11 with some solutions for unmet needs and try to see if we  
12 can push them up to the next level, legislation level.

13 So any input is highly appreciated.

14 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

15 MR. RAMIREZ: Thank you.

16 MR. DOYLE: Great, great.

17 FEMALE VOICE: I'm on the phone. I couldn't  
18 really hear that last comment about a meeting and -- could  
19 you repeat that? I'm sorry.

20 MR. RAMIREZ: Yes, ma'am. Tomorrow, we're  
21 going to start with the Coordinating Council for Veterans  
22 Services. We have 10 work groups across the board, and  
23 I'm Joe Ramirez with the Texas Veterans Commission. I'll  
24 be heading up the housing work group with Dr. Yevich  
25 [phonetic], and we're inviting everybody to attend.

1                   So you could put in your input so we can  
2 hopefully assist some of these veterans with their unmet  
3 needs.

4                   FEMALE VOICE: Thank you.

5                   MR. RAMIREZ: Thank you, ma'am.

6                   MR. DOYLE: Okay. If there are no more  
7 updates, we are adjourned.

8                   (Whereupon, at 11:17 a.m., the meeting was  
9 adjourned.)

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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 21, 2020

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,  
numbers 1 through 70, inclusive, are the true, accurate,  
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording  
made by electronic recording by Elizabeth Stoddard before  
the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

DATE: January 24, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Transcriber)

On the Record Reporting  
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