

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HOMELESS

via GoToWebinar

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I N D E X

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
I. Welcome and Introductions	3
II. Remarks from Chair	3
III. Approval of Minutes from the April 20, 2021 TICH Meeting (Voting Item)	4
IV. Legislative Session Update	4
V. Updates from Member Agencies	
(a) Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)	
I. Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) annual funds and ESG through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act	13
ii. Ending Homelessness Fund (EHF)	15
iii. Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP)	16
iv. Emergency Housing Vouchers Issued to TDHCA	19
v. HB1925 Update and Draft Rule	21
(b) Other Agency Updates	30
VI. Pathways Home Update Discussion	36
VII. Updates from Texas Homeless Network (THN)	41
(a) VISTA project	
(b) Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network Project	
VIII. Public Comment	52
IX. Closing Comments	53
X. Adjourn	56

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
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14
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MR. DOYLE: Do we have a quorum, Jeremy?

MR. STREMLER: Yes.

MR. DOYLE: Well, let me call us to order and thank you for your patience. I'm not real technologically savvy anyway, and then when you get a new computer that's supposed to make everything better, sometimes it does, sometimes it doesn't.

So anyway, let me call us to order and just say that as my remarks that I sure appreciate the work I know you all are doing. There have been a lot of incidents here in Tarrant County around homelessness, but at the same time there's been a lot of money thrown at this issue and people are really -- I mean, we just paid a year's back rent for somebody yesterday, so I mean, there's money going around.

And I'd like to hear from the rest of you, at some point during the meeting, about if the money is getting out to those that really need it the most, because we're just getting inundated with it in Fort Worth -- I'm not saying that we don't want to but there just seems to be a lot floating around. And y'all have money at TDHCA, Tarrant County has money, City of Fort Worth has money, so I think there's some good going on anyway.

Okay. Elizabeth sent us the minutes, so if

1 somebody has read those minutes, we would entertain a
2 motion to approve those minutes.

3 MS. BOSTON: So moved. This is Brooke.

4 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Brooke.

5 Need a second.

6 MR. HARRIS: Second.

7 MR. DOYLE: Who seconded that?

8 MR. HARRIS: Blake Harris.

9 MR. DOYLE: Blake, okay. Thank you, Blake.
10 Appreciate that.

11 We have an old friend, Michael Lyttle, who is
12 going to give us a legislative update.

13 Looking forward to this, Michael. Good to see
14 you again.

15 MR. LYTTLE: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. It's
16 great to see you too, and I thank you for the invitation
17 to present today to the council.

18 My name is Michael Lyttle. I'm the director of
19 External Affairs for TDHCA, and as part of several of my
20 duties, I handle legislative affairs.

21 So I wanted to just provide a brief report to
22 you all on the legislative session -- the regular session,
23 that is -- and some of the results that may be of interest
24 in particular to this council.

25 First of all, the budget that TDHCA had

1 approved by the legislature was basically what we asked
2 for in our legislative appropriations request. We were
3 very fortunate to get through that process without any
4 major cuts in the budget and pretty much everything that,
5 like I said, we asked for we got.

6 Overall there was \$801.6 million that is in the
7 agency budget per se. That doesn't include all of the
8 programs, other things that are sort of off budget, like
9 tax credits and bonds and things like that. But for the
10 biennium the amount in general revenue was \$26 million,
11 and we'll talk a little bit more about some of the general
12 revenue here in a moment.

13 Agencies have what's called exceptional items
14 that they ask for and those are generally things that are
15 above and beyond your normal baseline budget. We only had
16 one exceptional item, and it was really a capital budget
17 item that was related to computer information technology
18 needs for the agency.

19 And kind of the way the legislature worked it
20 this time was, they separated all the agencies' IT
21 requests and had agencies asking for those things as
22 exceptional items. So it was kind of a wish list item, it
23 was sort of a necessity that we felt that we needed to do
24 some upgrades and a couple of projects for the agency.

25 The Homeless Housing and Services Program,

1 which I know is of great interest to this council,
2 received \$12.6 million in general revenue over the
3 biennium. As a reminder, that program goes out to the
4 nine [inaudible] --

5 MS. YEVICH: Michael, you faded out for a
6 minute; we couldn't hear you.

7 MR. LYTTLE: Okay. Where did you lose me?

8 MS. YEVICH: About two sentences ago.

9 MR. DOYLE: It went up to the nine and then it
10 stopped.

11 MS. YEVICH: There we go.

12 MR. LYTTLE: Did I talk about HHSP yet?

13 MS. YEVICH: You were just starting on that.

14 MR. LYTTLE: Okay. \$12.6 million over the
15 biennium, all general revenue. Again, that program goes
16 out to the nine largest cities in the state.

17 Also of note, the Ending Homelessness Fund, we
18 estimated -- again, this is sort of a staff guess, but
19 based on what we have in the agency budget and what we've
20 received, we estimate about \$400,000 over the biennium.
21 As a reminder, that Ending Homelessness Fund is money that
22 when you register your vehicle or re-up registration,
23 there are five or six different options that you can do to
24 donate. And the Ending Homelessness Fund is one of those,
25 so we're getting roughly about \$200,000 or so a year

1 coming in right now on that program.

2 Next slide, please. So that covers the budget.

3 I'm not going to go into this next bill too much, but let
4 me start with sort of a very brief review to tell you all
5 that I've done this job for TDHCA for 21 years now, and I
6 don't think I've seen a session where we had more bills
7 filed about homelessness or homeless issues than this one.

8 It was a highlight item for various reasons.
9 It was a very political item for obvious reasons, and you
10 know, it was just a lot of discussions that were going on
11 this session.

12 Just as a side note for you all, it was
13 interesting to me that before session began, with the
14 pandemic and everything, none of us really knew how things
15 were going to work out, and a lot of the members they were
16 saying that they thought as a result there would be less
17 bills filed this session. And I think there were more
18 bills filed this past session than in the last few. And I
19 know that when it came to fiscal note requests that came
20 to TDHCA, we had about 30 percent more this session than
21 we did last session, so it was very busy.

22 The big highlight bill was this one, just to
23 tell you all, House Bill 1925, by Representative
24 Capriglione -- Brooke Boston is going to talk in great
25 detail about this bill and what TDHCA is doing on it in

1 just a moment. So I'm not going to go into much detail on
2 this, other than to tell you that about halfway through
3 the legislative process TDHCA got added to this bill to
4 sort of do reviewing of municipal plans for cities where
5 they would put their public camping areas to serve the
6 homeless.

7 A number of things in the bill that talk about
8 the guidelines for these plans and things that the agency
9 has to be looking for such as, you know, how close these
10 public camping areas would be to health care and indigent
11 services, availability of public transportation, law
12 enforcement resources close by, and how closely local
13 governments are coordinating with local mental health
14 authorities.

15 So as I said, Brooke is going to talk a lot
16 more about this, but we were added to this bill, and you
17 know, it officially becomes law September 1. And that was
18 definitely the biggest bill when it came to homelessness
19 as far as we were concerned.

20 Next slide, please. So the next one is about
21 you all and it came from Representative Liz Campos who is
22 a freshman from San Antonio. Rep. Campos filed a bunch of
23 homelessness related bills this session. It's a subject
24 that's very clearly important to her, and all of her
25 bills, in fact -- or most of them regarding homelessness

1 made it out of Urban Affairs Committee, which is our
2 oversight committee and also a committee that
3 Representative Campos sits on.

4 But this was one of them that did make it to
5 the finish line and crossed, and it's House Bill 1278. It
6 directs you all to have public hearings in urban and rural
7 locations. I know TDHCA staff will be working with
8 Chairman Doyle and you all on scheduling this meetings and
9 whatnot, but this is something that received widespread
10 support from the legislature and passed on pretty quickly.

11 So this is something that we'll all be implementing.

12 Let's go to the next slide, please. Again, the
13 only thing I covered in my report is stuff that I thought
14 might be of great interest to you all. There were a
15 number of bills that we tracked at TDHCA; this is just
16 sort of a handful of them, again, that are, I think, very
17 relevant to the TICH.

18 House Bill 1558 by Representative Chen Button
19 filed and passed, and basically it directs TDHCA to
20 provide a scoring incentive in the Tax Credit Program for
21 any tax credit development that's going to be located
22 within two miles of a veterans medical facility. That
23 could be a hospital, that could be a clinic. I know the
24 agency is working on defining what exactly those terms
25 mean, but it will, generally speaking, involve anything

1 that I think will be serving veterans from a medical
2 capacity, possibly outpatient clinics, things of that
3 sort.

4 But the interesting thing about this bill is
5 that it was bracketed to just several counties. So that
6 means it doesn't go statewide; it only impacts Dallas,
7 Tarrant, Bexar and Travis counties. Houston, Harris
8 County, they are not affected by this bill.

9 Actually some people in the county had
10 expressed concern about being in it. And I think it was
11 Chairman Bettencourt, who chairs the Senate Local
12 Government Committee -- which is our oversight committee
13 in the Senate -- he had sponsored something to get Harris
14 County removed from this.

15 So it just impacts a few counties. But again,
16 any kind of tax credit development that's going to be
17 located close to these veterans medical facilities and has
18 a leasing preference for low income veterans will get some
19 kind of scoring incentive. Most likely it will be a point
20 or two.

21 But if you know the tax credit program, you
22 know that sometimes all it takes is one additional point
23 and in a highly competitive program, that can make the
24 difference between getting an award and not getting an
25 award. So that's an interesting bill that got passed this

1 session.

2 Next slide, please. So we've got, as you
3 know -- I'm not going to talk much about this because it's
4 highly controversial, and as a state agency person I have
5 no opinion on legislation or on things like this
6 officially -- but we are in the midst of our first called
7 special session. As you know, the Democrats broke quorum
8 and many of them are in Washington, D.C. right now. This
9 first called session ends August 6.

10 There's likely going to be other special
11 sessions, based on what the governor has said publicly and
12 legislative leadership. And I think what's of interest to
13 this group is that in the fall, there's going to be a
14 special session on redistricting and federal pandemic
15 response funds that agencies get.

16 So the legislature will be looking at all the
17 state agencies, including TDHCA, what we've received,
18 where is our money going, who is it serving, and they may
19 decide to make some changes. We really don't know at this
20 point, but there could be an impact on how we expend some
21 of these funds and serving homeless communities with some
22 of them -- homeless populations, I should say, we don't
23 know yet.

24 But we do know that that's going to be a
25 subject matter, and again, the governor said this fall at

1 some point. I think speculation is October for that
2 special session, so we'll see what happens.

3 But that's kind of the general information that
4 I have that I wanted to present to you all this morning,
5 and I'm happy to answer any questions that anyone might
6 have.

7 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Michael.

8 Anybody have any questions for Michael?

9 MR. SAMUELS: The HB 1278, is that just one
10 meeting per biennium or is that one meeting each year? I
11 forgot how it reads.

12 MR. LYTTLE: Each year, annually, yes.

13 MR. SAMUELS: Okay.

14 MR. LYTTLE: TICH will be going on a road trip,
15 at least one.

16 MR. SAMUELS: We will work with you on trying
17 to find a location.

18 MR. DOYLE: Michael, does that count Zoom
19 calls, Webex calls if we included other areas? Does that
20 count, or are they talking about physical presence?

21 MR. LYTTLE: They're talking about physical
22 presence. Although, Mr. Chairman, I will tell you that's
23 an interesting legal question that I may need to look
24 into, is how the current state of things with online
25 meetings and access for anyone, whether you're in a rural

1 or urban area, would impact that legislation. I'll be
2 happy to look into that and get back to you.

3 MR. DOYLE: Go ahead.

4 MS. YEVICH: This is Elizabeth Yevich, and when
5 I get to my agenda item maybe I can put forth a solution
6 that might help with this, a suggestion on a hearing, so I
7 think we'll be covered.

8 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Good. Everybody likes road
9 trips, I just was curious because it seems like right now
10 everybody has access if they wanted to log in, so anyway.

11 Okay. Anything else for Michael?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. DOYLE: Well, Michael, thank you so much
14 for your time, and what a great job you do and have done
15 for years with the Department, and we thank you and
16 appreciate all of that.

17 MR. LYTTLE: Thank you, sir.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Naomi, you're going to give
19 us a report on Emergency Solutions Grants?

20 MS. CANTU: Yes. I have some good news on
21 those.

22 So we have two rounds of ESG CARES money, ESG
23 CARES-1 and ESG CARES-2. The first round was about one-
24 third of our total fund and the second round was about
25 two-thirds of our total fund. So for the first combined

1 total, we have met our 20 percent benchmark federally, so
2 we have met one of three benchmarks that we are working
3 towards and we met it more than two months ahead of time,
4 so we're very pleased with that progress. That is
5 initiatives 1 and 2 combined.

6 ESG CARES-1 contracts have been in effect over
7 a year and ESG CARES-2 contracts started in January. We
8 are now working toward our second benchmark, which is 80
9 percent expended in March of next year. So we still have
10 a lot of work to do, but we are very pleased to have met
11 that 20 percent benchmark.

12 We are working on our contract management base
13 at this moment. As I mentioned, ESG CARES-1 contracts
14 have been in existence about a year and some of them are
15 closing and some of them have voluntary returned funds
16 based on the expenditures and projections, and we are in
17 the process of reallocating those funds. We have ESG
18 CARES-2 contracts underway and we're looking to increase
19 expenditures for those. So overall, very positive news
20 and also lots of work ahead of us.

21 They did give us a new HUD notice allowing more
22 flexibility. HUD is going to have an information session
23 on Thursday, so I don't have information on all of those
24 flexibilities yet, but information session on Thursday.

25 The bigger news than that is that the shelter

1 limitation has been lifted. Before, we could only spend
2 money on emergency shelter until January of 2022 and they
3 have lifted that. But in terms of all the other
4 flexibilities, we want to see what HUD says before we
5 interpret it for Texas.

6 Any questions?

7 MR. DOYLE: Just out of curiosity, Naomi, when
8 you say you've met the 20 percent threshold, does that
9 include the cities that you gave money to in that number
10 or is that just money that TDHCA is distributing?

11 MS. CANTU: Good question. It's only TDHCA's
12 number.

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay. The cities are all at
14 different levels, I'm sure.

15 MR. DOYLE: Anyone have any questions for Naomi
16 on ESG?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

19 MS. CANTU: I think I have the next item too.

20 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Ending Homelessness Fund.

21 MS. CANTU: Michael touched on this. Yes,
22 we're averaging, I believe, it's about \$20-, \$25,000 a
23 month in donations from this fund, which is incredible and
24 very generous for people when they register their vehicles
25 to donate to the Ending Homelessness Fund.

1 We just issued awards in July to nine cities.
2 Let me go ahead and pull that up to make sure I have it
3 right here. And the amounts were \$51,804 was distributed
4 evenly among all nine cities, so we have Amarillo,
5 Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort
6 Worth, Plano and San Antonio.

7 So they all received awards. We're getting
8 those contracts underway. It's a very flexible source of
9 funding and they can pair it with existing resources, most
10 likely the Homeless Housing and Services Program funds.

11 Any questions about the Ending Homelessness
12 Fund?

13 MR. DOYLE: Did it come through the local
14 agencies to distribute the ESG funds?

15 MS. CANTU: It can. We have one ESG provider.
16 So one of the statutory restrictions for the Ending
17 Homelessness Fund is it needs to be a city or county. We
18 don't have many cities or counties that work on ESG, most
19 of them are nonprofits, so the pairing most often is with
20 HHSP, the Homeless Housing and Services Program.

21 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

22 MS. CANTU: And speaking of Homeless Housing
23 and Services Program, this is our busy time of year, and
24 you can tell. We did issue awards on those as well at the
25 July meeting. It's almost exactly the same list, however,

1 Amarillo did not make the population cut, and it is
2 Houston that is added to that list, and Haven for Hope is
3 administering the general revenue portion of that in San
4 Antonio.

5 So Homeless Housing and Services Program, as
6 Michael said, was renewed for our cities with a population
7 above 285,500. There are two pots of money in this. One
8 is a general fund for a general population and one is for
9 the youth set-aside.

10 There's \$1.5 million for youth set-aside and
11 about \$4.7- for general. The City of San Antonio is
12 administering the set-aside for youth and the Haven for
13 Hope is administering the general set-aside in San
14 Antonio, but in all other regards, both pots of money are
15 administered by the cities.

16 So we did award about \$6.2 million at the last
17 Board meeting. Those contracts with start in September.
18 Again, a more flexible pot of funding than ESG and a lot
19 pairing, hopefully some match as well, included in that
20 when they have contracts.

21 MR. DOYLE: Naomi, let me ask a question. This
22 is just a general question -- and Eric, you may know
23 better -- but I just got back from San Antonio and I was
24 driving by Haven and there's a large tent city right under
25 35. Are they full?

1 MS. CANTU: I can tell you they have a
2 temporary shelter they are working with. I have not heard
3 that they are full, they have not reached out to us in
4 those regards. They are highly extended on their
5 contracts and so that they are eligible for additional
6 funding when it's available and they were awarded some
7 reallocated funding at this last Board meeting as well.
8 But they have not reached out to us and said that they are
9 completely full, and they do have overflow in existence.

10 MR. DOYLE: I was just a little bit taken aback
11 that there were that many tents under 35 when they are
12 just right across the street virtually, or within a mile
13 of Haven. I just didn't know. I hadn't heard from them
14 in a while and so I didn't know. That's not a comment,
15 it's just something I noticed.

16 MS. CANTU: I went to San Antonio last weekend,
17 or two weekends ago but didn't drive through Haven. But
18 yes, it's something that is on my mind outside of work as
19 well.

20 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

21 Next, housing vouchers. Naomi?

22 MS. BOSTON: This should be Spencer, I think.

23 MS. CANTU: Spencer is on.

24 MR. DOYLE: Oh, yes, Spencer. You're right.

25 Sorry.

1 MR. DURAN: Good morning, everybody. Thank you
2 so much for your time.

3 I'm going to provide an overview of a new
4 initiative that was committed to us by HUD called the
5 Emergency Housing Voucher Program. So TDHCA was awarded
6 798 new Section 8 housing choice vouchers that are part
7 of -- they were issued to us by HUD as part of their
8 American Rescue Plan appropriation. So those almost 800
9 vouchers means that TDHCA got almost 20 percent of all the
10 vouchers that were awarded in Texas, and 800 vouchers
11 represents essentially a doubling of our Section 8
12 Program. So it's a huge award for us to try and kind of
13 handle this and roll out a program.

14 So these Section 8 vouchers are limited in who
15 they can serve, and I'll kind of quickly run through the
16 priority population real fast. So these vouchers must
17 serve persons who are experiencing homelessness, people
18 who are at risk of homelessness, persons who are fleeing
19 domestic violence or sexual assault, stalking or human
20 trafficking, or those who are recently homeless. So those
21 are the four target populations that we must serve with
22 these specialty Section 8 vouchers.

23 So we've identified the large service area that
24 is essentially the Balance of State counties, plus our
25 current 34-county Section 8 jurisdiction that we already

1 operate in, and then we backed out those areas that are
2 already receiving their own emergency housing vouchers.
3 There's thousands of vouchers that were issued to the
4 State of Texas and so a lot of public housing authorities
5 around the state already have their own program, so we
6 didn't want to double serve those areas.

7 So that means, if you take that footprint I
8 just described, that comes out to 190 counties being
9 eligible for these 798 vouchers. A lot of this is kind of
10 HUD-driven, and also it's what we're trying to accomplish
11 to serve areas that are otherwise not served.

12 So the vouchers do come with some funding that
13 is really flexible. It's \$3,400 per voucher has been
14 given to TDHCA, and then we are then to convey that over
15 to the continuum of care that serves those counties, our
16 service providers and service coordination organizations,
17 or organizations that serve or coordinate services for
18 people who are survivors of domestic violence.

19 So it's a pretty huge undertaking, and we don't
20 have any contracts signed yet with any of the counties
21 that are in that area or the victim services
22 organizations. So we don't have those contracts signed
23 yet, but we're working on it. And HUD, they've made it
24 clear that this should be a dynamic process where the
25 housing authority and the service provider will come to an

1 agreement through a memorandum of understanding on how the
2 referrals will be made and then how those housing sort of
3 assistance and other services will be delivered.

4 So if anybody has any questions on this new
5 program, I can answer them now.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. DOYLE: No questions?

8 Well, thank you, Spencer. That's good news.

9 MR. DURAN: Thank you.

10 MR. DOYLE: Okay, Brooke, back to 1925.

11 MS. BOSTON: All right. So as Michael
12 introduced -- you guys can hear me. Right?

13 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

14 MS. BOSTON: So during session, HB 1925 was
15 passed. Governor Abbott signed it into law on June 15.
16 That bill did several things. It established prohibitions
17 on camping in public places, it created a criminal offense
18 in the Texas Penal Code prohibiting camping, it prohibited
19 a local entity from adopting or enforcing a policy that
20 prohibits or discourages the enforcement of the camping
21 ban, and if a local entity does do that, that they are not
22 allowed to receive any state grant funds.

23 And then lastly what the bill does, and what I
24 wanted to talk about with you today, is that it
25 established a new Subchapter PP of Chapter 2306 of Texas

1 Government Code, which is TDHCA's governing statute. That
2 new Chapter PP is relating to properties designated by
3 political subdivisions for camping by homeless
4 individuals. So basically what that new subchapter added,
5 is that a political subdivision can't designate a property
6 to be used by homeless individuals to camp unless TDHCA
7 has approved a plan as described by that subchapter.

8 So that bill goes into effect on September 1,
9 so needless to say we knew we needed to act quickly. We
10 knew that there's going to be potential for pretty diverse
11 sentiment on this issue from all different perspectives,
12 so we wanted it to be pretty clear where we stood on the
13 handling of those plans, so we thought the best way to do
14 that was to release a rule for public comment that would
15 outline how that process would be governed.

16 So on July 8, we presented our Board with a
17 draft rule and they approved that. No one spoke at the
18 meeting on that rule proposed, so it was approved by the
19 Board and is now out for public comment. So what that
20 rule does is it outlines how political subdivisions can
21 submit those plans, what the plans have to include, the
22 process to be used for submission and for our review, and
23 then the criteria by which we would approve or deny the
24 plan.

25 A few key items to know about. Plans can be

1 turned in at any time, and while they may be denied, they
2 can be resubmitted as often as a local entity wants.
3 There will be a deficiency process in place but because
4 the statute requires that we approve the plan within 30
5 days, we kept that deficiency process pretty short. So
6 it's five days, and if within those five days the local
7 community doesn't provide us with what we really felt like
8 is missing, then most likely it would be denied and then
9 they can just resubmit when they are ready. There will be
10 an appeals policy in place so if we deny, a local entity
11 can appeal that.

12 The statute provided the five factors that we
13 needed to consider. We are not proposing adding
14 additional factors beyond those, but we are putting some
15 parameters around those factors so that local entities
16 will have some sense of whether their plan will be
17 approved before they turn it in.

18 As Michael had read to you, the five factors of
19 the statute relate to local health care, indigent
20 services, public transportation, law enforcement
21 resources, and coordination with local mental health
22 authorities, LMHAs.

23 The rule lines out for each of those factors
24 what the plan needs to tell us or provide us as
25 attachments, and then it also in a subsequent section lays

1 out what we need to see in what they've turned in for us
2 to approve a plan. So we do specify in the rule -- and
3 again, this is a draft rule, so we encourage everyone to
4 look at, and so what I'm describing may not end up being
5 approved in final form -- but right now the rule says that
6 all five factors will have to be sufficiently addressed to
7 be approved, however, if four of the five are sufficient
8 and the fifth factor isn't directly addressed as provided
9 by the rule but seems to have some sufficient alternative
10 mitigation, then we would still allow that.

11 So the draft rule is out for comment until
12 August 23, so almost a month. I would really encourage
13 all of you guys to look it over, those who work within
14 your communities to look at it.

15 You know, there's different ways we could have
16 gone on this and we did not take any kind of stance but
17 because this is not permanent, we are not saying it needs
18 to hit all the requirements in that consideration that we
19 would if we were locating permanent housing or doing a tax
20 credit property. That being said, though, for the five
21 factors, we are expecting those to be things that the
22 homeless individuals at the site would be able to access.

23 So I don't know if you guys kind of know where
24 to go on our website so I'll talk you through that. If
25 you go to our main web page for TDHCA, along the left

1 there's a link called "TDHCA Public Comment Center" and if
2 you click on that, that's where it will take you. The
3 link is always there and it will take you to anything that
4 we currently have out for comment. There's a section
5 called "Items Open for Comment" so click on that one and
6 then it will have this as well as, I think, our Regional
7 Allocation Funding is on there right now.

8 So the last thing I want to mention is kind of
9 about the plan and the rule. The remaining next steps are
10 that once we receive all the comments after the 23rd we'll
11 summarize that. We may get to come to our September Board
12 meeting, but that meeting is on September 2 so it's quite
13 possible that if input is comprehensive enough that we may
14 not have time to address in time, in which case it would
15 be adopted at our October 14 Board meeting.

16 The other thing I wanted to mention is the
17 approval of these plans and this process is going to be
18 under the Housing Resource Center, so under Elizabeth and
19 Jeremy's leadership. And then our plan is also that
20 around the time this rule is adopted and it goes into
21 effect, we'll also have a plan template that political
22 subdivisions can use. We'll have an informational web
23 page outlining the process and having these funds
24 available, we'll probably have some FAQs up there. And
25 then our intent is that any plan that gets submitted and

1 decisions about those plans will also be posted on that
2 website, so locals can kind of see how it's gone with
3 their communities.

4 And with that, I'm happy to answer any
5 questions.

6 MR. DOYLE: Just a general question, Brooke.
7 What do you consider the purpose of 1925?

8 MS. BOSTON: Well, that's a big question and I
9 don't know that there's a good apolitical answer for you.

10 MR. DOYLE: Let me just kind of coach this
11 since I'm not in state government. My understanding is
12 it's not to eliminate camping on public property but to
13 manage it. Is that fair?

14 MS. BOSTON: Yeah, yeah. I mean, it kind of
15 eliminates it in part, but then yeah, it seems to leave
16 the door open for it to be in other places with state
17 oversight.

18 MR. DOYLE: Do the location parameters seem
19 overly restrictive?

20 MS. BOSTON: Well, I think in the statute, no.
21 It's very kind of vague. It just lists the factors, it
22 doesn't specify proximity or anything like that. I would
23 say our exact rule is putting some specific proximity
24 measurements in there partly because we're trying to have
25 the rule be something that's objective enough that

1 Elizabeth and Jeremy, and ultimately Bobby and our Board,
2 can make a decision that's not entirely subjective and
3 just based on a lot of what may be emotional input.

4 But I don't know if I would say too much or not
5 enough. We didn't draft the rule thinking it was perfect,
6 we drafted it thinking this was for getting comments. And
7 so I tend to really hope that organizations who work with
8 this population would be able to look at it and think a
9 couple of these factors we put in are just totally
10 unrealistic, and we may need to open it up or tighten it
11 up, or whatever.

12 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you.

13 MS. BOSTON: Yeah. Most of the factors, if you
14 were to look at the rule -- I want to say that most of
15 them are that the provision of those factors are within a
16 half mile or a mile, unless there's public transportation,
17 in which case the public transportation is sufficient. We
18 feel like that's pretty fair and reasonable. If there's
19 not public transportation, I don't know how the folks on
20 those sites would be able to access anything unless it's
21 really, really close.

22 MR. DOYLE: Yeah. Okay.

23 Other questions for Brooke?

24 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: I do have a follow-up
25 question. Thank you so much for the information, that was

1 very helpful.

2 You mentioned that one of the rules includes
3 the provision that the camp needs to coordinate with the
4 LMHA. Can you expand in terms of the nature of that
5 coordination and what is expected from the LMHA?

6 MS. BOSTON: Yes. Right now the way we have
7 that drafted -- and keep in mind that, you know, this
8 could be revised after the rule is out for comment -- so
9 right now the applicant -- so this isn't the LMHA, it's
10 just the local entity. So it's -- say it's City of
11 Houston, they need to provide us a description of the
12 steps that the political subdivision has taken to
13 coordinate with the LMHA to provide services to the
14 proposed campers.

15 A description needs to include what
16 communication has taken place between that local community
17 and the LMHA and the coordination efforts that are
18 underway, and really that's all they have to tell us on
19 the front-end. What we say for the criteria of approval
20 is that we have to see that the political subdivision has
21 had at least one meeting to discuss an initial efforts of
22 coordination with the LMHA specific to that particular
23 property and the volume of service needs of the campers
24 that are expected to be there.

25 So for instance, Austin, the places they're

1 talking about recently, if one of those sites they think
2 would house, let's say 200 folks, you know, we want to
3 know from the Austin LMHA on how specifically at that site
4 roughly that volume of people could be assisted. You
5 don't have to have figured everything out to get a plan
6 approved, as we have the rule drafted right now.

7 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Thank you. And just one
8 follow-up question. Would this be effective in the future
9 or can it be retroactive to existing camps?

10 MS. BOSTON: It is -- I believe [audio
11 interference]. Hold on, let me double-check, I know we
12 have it somewhere.

13 It's applicable only to the designation of
14 property designated for camping after September 1
15 except -- unless it's a public park. In which case [audio
16 interference] to September 1, it's still not allowed.
17 Yeah, so if the City of Austin gets theirs all done before
18 then, you know, then they wouldn't have to send in a plan.

19 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Thank you.

20 MS. BOSTON: Since I live here and I've been
21 reading the news, I know that's part of the plan now.

22 So I would just really encourage everyone to
23 read the rule, let us know what you think about it. Tell
24 us what you think needs to be different, we'd love the
25 input.

1 MR. DOYLE: Thanks, Brooke. Lots of good
2 stuff.

3 Are there any other agencies on the council
4 that have an update?

5 MS. BOSTON: This is Brooke. I actually had a
6 few other TDHCA updates, if that's okay.

7 MR. DOYLE: Yes, absolutely.

8 MS. BOSTON: Okay. So I won't go into a litany
9 of all the cool things going on at TDHCA, because there's
10 a lot, and you mentioned earlier, Mike, we have a lot of
11 pandemic funds. And Naomi did a great job of sharing with
12 you already some of the homeless related funds that we are
13 working on.

14 A few other good updates. Our Texas Rent
15 Relief Program, I know I had updated you on it the last
16 time we met. We now have made big strides and we have
17 paid out just under \$600 million as of this morning.

18 We have about another \$28 million that's
19 approved pending payment. So we lead the nation in
20 getting our assistance out. What I'm more happy about
21 even is that we're nationally kind of being held up as a
22 model of having a strong eviction diversion program.

23 A lot of states have not started out with one,
24 and so as Treasury is now strongly encouraging eviction
25 diversion activities, you know, they're kind of looking at

1 Texas as a strong model, and so those efforts with the
2 Office of Court Administration on the part of Texas early
3 on are really panning out, which is wonderful. We're also
4 getting a lot of good feedback finally from landlords and
5 tenants on their needs. So there's always room for
6 improvement and we're continuously making improvements
7 with this program, but it's really gratifying that we're
8 effectively getting to help Texans.

9 Within the ERA Program -- and that's the fund
10 source behind the Rent Relief Program -- we're allowed to
11 use up to 10 percent of the funds for something called
12 housing stability services, which is a kind of fluid fund
13 as long as it's tied directly to services. And so we had
14 a couple of months ago started moving forward on a \$20
15 million contract with the Texas Access to Justice
16 Foundation, TAJF. So they will be providing legal
17 services, helping support eviction diversion activities.

18 They're kind of trying to help shore up more of
19 what a household needs as they're facing these issues and
20 trying to get stabilized. They don't all have to be tied
21 to an eviction, although many are. And so that's
22 exciting.

23 And just at the Board meeting last week, we
24 approved another 31 providers for more than \$50 million of
25 additional stability services, and while we don't have

1 entire statewide coverage, it's in different areas across
2 the state.

3 And then for that same pool of stabilization
4 funds, we will releasing a NOFA, probably in the next
5 couple of months, to make those funds available out of the
6 second pot of ERA. Those funds have a much longer
7 spending timeline and so that's how we have the luxury to
8 do a NOFA in that case. Many of you know Cate Tracz. She
9 has been both in the Housing Resource Center and then
10 subsequently has been our Fair Housing manager, and she's
11 going to be heading up that program.

12 Another thing I'm really excited that we're
13 collaborating on is Texas Health and Human Services and
14 TSAHC -- Michael has participated -- that we submitted as
15 a team to participate in a virtual community of practice.

16 This is hosted by the Council of State Governments
17 Justice Center and the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

18 And the initiative focuses on strategies that justice and
19 housing managers need to collaboratively look at trying to
20 improve housing for people with behavioral health needs
21 who are leaving incarceration or have been diverted from
22 the justice system.

23 And so TDHCA is a participant in the task force
24 of the state, but they don't tend to usually focus much on
25 housing. And so we were pretty excited to get to work

1 with TSAHC and HHSC on this.

2 Another thing, I know over the years we often
3 update TICH on Project Access vouchers because a lot of
4 times there is intersection between the homeless
5 population and the Project Access. And I wanted to say
6 we're pretty excited, we just issued 74 vouchers, which is
7 a pretty big chunk for us. And it's cool for two reasons.

8 First is that our Project Access list is the
9 probably the shortest it's been in a long time, so we're
10 down to about 40 people who still are waiting on a
11 voucher. But I think one of the really cool interesting
12 things about this is that because of some additional
13 flexible funds we have from HUD, all 74 voucher-holders
14 were offered a landlord incentive letter so that they can
15 hopefully get housed more quickly, so we'll actually pay
16 the landlord to accept that assignment. So it will be
17 interesting to kind of see in scale if having that
18 incentive letter makes a measurable change.

19 And then the last thing I wanted to mention --
20 I know a few of you guys have even asked me about this
21 offline -- is there are some HOME funds under the American
22 Rescue Plan Act, and I think in this bill they call it the
23 Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program,
24 Section 3205, but most people just kind of call it the
25 HOME ARP funds. The program has given \$132 million to

1 TDHCA. And it does allow the typical HOME activities but
2 it also allows homeless services, non-congregate emergency
3 shelter, permanent supportive housing, and can even
4 include operating costs for eligible nonprofits.

5 And these funds have a really long expenditure
6 deadline; they don't have to be spent until 2030.
7 Unfortunately, because of that, HUD has been really clear
8 that they're going to release actual guidance, not just a
9 quick memo like they've done with many of the funds that
10 we've gotten.

11 And so the drawback to that is that they've
12 told us they don't think they're even going to issue
13 guidance until fall, which to mean in HUD-speak probably
14 means Christmas. So we're kind of stuck in being able to
15 do anything with those funds or plan much for them until
16 we see what the guidance from HUD says. When we get the
17 guidance from HUD, only then are we allowed to do a
18 consolidated plan amendment that shows what we're going to
19 propose and then take that to our Board and then submit
20 that to HUD.

21 So I just wanted you guys to know about it.
22 It's out there. Right now our hands are tied. I know
23 Naomi, Abby and I are all pretty frustrated that HUD is
24 planning on taking so long, but we'll definitely keep this
25 group informed as we hear anything about that.

1 And that's it. Thanks.

2 MR. DOYLE: You mean that's it, that's all.
3 That's a few things going on at TDHCA, all good.

4 MS. BOSTON: Good stuff, yes.

5 MR. DOYLE: Yep. All right. Elizabeth,
6 Pathways Home update.

7 MS. YEVICH: Actually before we start, Michael
8 Wilt, did you say you wanted to add some more on what
9 Brooke was saying or some other things with TSAHC?

10 MR. WILT: Yeah, a quick update, Mike. Michael
11 Wilt, external relations at the Texas State Affordable
12 Housing Corporation.

13 We're offering our Supportive Housing Institute
14 again this year. We launched it last year in partnership
15 with the Corporation for Supportive Housing. They're the
16 ones that provide the training. We had a great group of
17 teams last year that went through it, four from the
18 Dallas-Fort Worth area and another one from South Texas
19 CDC Brownsville. So we're doing it again.

20 The applications are actually open right now,
21 and the deadline for applying is on Friday. We're looking
22 for teams from Austin, San Antonio, Houston and Waco, but
23 really we encourage anyone to apply. And all the sessions
24 are virtually starting in September until the end of the
25 year, and then the participation also comes with technical

1 assistance one-on-one with Corporation for Supportive
2 Housing, and then also a follow-on grant.

3 So all the information is on our website,
4 TSAHC.org, and email me, happy to answer any questions
5 that you have.

6 MR. DOYLE: Good. Good program, by the way,
7 too.

8 MR. WILT: Thanks, Mike.

9 MR. DOYLE: Anybody else before Elizabeth?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. DOYLE: Okay, Elizabeth, Pathways Home.

12 MS. YEVICH: Hi. As Brooke mentioned, I'm
13 Elizabeth Yevich and I'm director of the Housing Resource
14 Center, and for those of you who might be on the call and
15 don't know, the Housing Resource Center for about eight
16 years now has provided administrative support to the TICH.

17 And as Michael Lyttle mentioned earlier on in the first
18 agenda item, homelessness was certainly referenced and
19 highlighted in the past legislative session and in the
20 majority of our conversations of late.

21 I know that Chairman Doyle in previous TICH
22 meetings has spoken about the TICH's overarching Pathways
23 Home which was published back in 2012, and every year
24 there is an annual report on that but maybe revisiting
25 that Pathways Home. And all of this is on the TICH

1 website, the Pathways Home and all of the annual reports
2 and I can send that out to everyone after this meeting.

3 So with that in mind, it's been proposed that
4 revisiting the Pathways Home, this would be a good year to
5 do it. It's been ten years. And with that, I drew up
6 sort of a draft timeline of what that might look like, and
7 I think that Jeremy -- there we go -- up on the screen.

8 Basically this work would come -- of course
9 working very closely with TICH membership, it would be led
10 by the Housing Resource Center -- either it will be a new
11 staff position or a restructuring of some current staff
12 positions. That's a little bit in flux right now. If we
13 end up advertising for a position, I will certainly let
14 the TICH membership know as soon as that posting would go
15 up. So within the next few months we anticipate having
16 someone onboard in HRC who would be the lead person over
17 this.

18 To remind everyone, ten years ago, back in
19 2012, TDHCA brought on a VISTA person and he turned out to
20 be quite wonderful. I did not work with him at that time.

21 Again, TICH was not under HRC, but he stayed with the
22 agency for about a year, year and a half, and did a
23 wonderful job with this document.

24 But again, with everything, it's time to look
25 at this document with fresh eyes and move forward. So

1 tentatively putting on this timeline that we would have
2 someone in place that could really begin looking at the
3 document in early October.

4 There's reevaluating the four goals, the
5 objectives, reassessing the strategies and targets. Then
6 there would be just, you know, normal things you do when
7 you're rewriting a report or looking at it, looking at the
8 national research, analyzing the current data, seeing
9 what's out there, and then sort of maybe hopefully by the
10 January meeting having a good restructuring framework to
11 present, hopefully, to the TICH body in January.

12 And then the exciting part in February would be
13 what I alluded to earlier, which I think it's called HB
14 1278 and that's the bill that Michael Lyttle mentioned
15 where TICH has to have some public hearings, both in urban
16 and rural settings. Well, we have a wonderful
17 opportunity -- by that time, hopefully, Mike, we would be
18 having in-person public hearings.

19 And so that would satisfy that legislation if
20 we conducted public hearings on the revised goals and
21 objectives in Pathways Home. Ten years ago I think they
22 took it out to ten different localities in Texas, and I
23 see Eric Samuels shaking his head, I think he remembers
24 all this. So you know, I think that would certainly
25 satisfy that bill and we wouldn't have to worry about

1 that.

2 Then we're looking at hopefully, you know, we
3 have to evaluate public comment, maybe really presented a
4 true draft at next April's meeting, editing and finalizing
5 it, and hopefully by June or July next year we would have
6 a published document. So that's a proposed draft timeline
7 as of this writing, and as we all know, things change, but
8 there you have it.

9 MR. DOYLE: That's good work, Elizabeth. Can
10 we do that in a year?

11 MS. YEVICH: It's proposed draft timeline, but
12 sure, of course we can.

13 (General laughter.)

14 MR. DOYLE: I think that first three things
15 there are the biggest things: getting somebody on board
16 that can dedicate themselves to it.

17 MS. YEVICH: Exactly. And I see Eric Samuels
18 shaking his head. I know he and I have already chatted a
19 little bit. I know Eric has sort of spearheaded the
20 annual reports, which is taken out of the Pathways Home
21 each year, and I'm sure that whomever we have will be
22 working closely with THN and Eric.

23 MR. SAMUELS: And do we need to update this
24 next annual report? I'm assuming we still do.

25 MS. YEVICH: I think so. Maybe that's

1 something that the chair and the membership and you should
2 decide.

3 MR. SAMUELS: I just didn't know if we're
4 required to.

5 MS. BOSTON: Maybe we could have it be far more
6 abbreviated and like have our report kind of just allude
7 to the fact that it's ten years old, we feel like it's a
8 prime opportunity to redo it, and that way we could do a
9 little report that we can provide fast so we put our
10 energy into the new product instead.

11 MR. SAMUELS: That would be ideal. I already
12 told Brooke and Elizabeth that I have not even started on
13 that at all, so that would be great.

14 And by the way, that VISTA was Collin, and he
15 was amazing.

16 MS. YEVICH: He was amazing.

17 MR. DOYLE: And I would agree with Brooke on
18 the abbreviated, and I think since it's going to be the
19 last report for the old Pathways Home that maybe we ought
20 to have some accomplishments within that ten-year period
21 that you deem noteworthy. But really keep it abbreviated,
22 looking to the fact that we're going into a new plan. So
23 yeah, nothing real detailed.

24 MS. YEVICH: Perfect.

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

1 Anybody got any more questions for Elizabeth?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. DOYLE: All right, Eric.

4 MR. SAMUELS: All right. Well, the first thing
5 I have is the results from the 2021 point in time count.
6 And since you were talking about us highlighting our
7 accomplishments over those ten years, it made me think I
8 wish we could have put five years in so we can look at
9 what our point in time count is at that point as opposed
10 to five years ago. Instead it will show it going back up
11 a little bit.

12 We'll have a little bit of success there but
13 not as big as we would have five years ago. Anyway, so
14 every year I ask the CoCs to send me what they sent to HUD
15 and then I aggregate the numbers for an overall point in
16 time count of everyone experiencing homelessness, and then
17 I look at the sub-populations and put together something
18 like this. We also put together something more extensive
19 later on, but I need people's help with that because I'm
20 limited in what I can do in terms of these infographics.

21 So I think really what we need to point out
22 with this is 2021 -- the count in 2021 was different than
23 any other year. It really should not be compared to any
24 other year. In fact, I would encourage you all really not
25 to compare year to year that much because things can

1 change so much due to the weather or other circumstances,
2 but this year was definitely different.

3 I estimate that we might have captured about 60
4 percent of the population overall, and that's based on our
5 last count, so it could even be lower than that. The last
6 full count in 2020 right before -- no, the last full count
7 in 2019, right? Boy, time is just slipping away from me
8 right now. No, it was 2020, the last full count was
9 27,000, so about 10,000 below, and then it could have gone
10 up in between those times too.

11 But overall, the size of the number, the
12 percentages, they're roughly equal to what we've shown in
13 the past. There are a few exceptions. Homelessness by
14 household type, that's far off than what it normally would
15 be. Normally single individuals, households without
16 children, they make up a smaller percentage than what is
17 shown here. They normally make up around 77 to 75
18 percent, so that's a little off from what we've seen in
19 the past.

20 And I don't think that's an indication that
21 homelessness among that group has risen for the people
22 with children, I think it could just be an indication of
23 how the count was done. We'll know more, hopefully, in
24 early 2022 if we can do a normal count.

25 Overall I would just say we're presenting this

1 because we present it every year. I know this
2 specifically is not statutorily required -- at least I
3 don't think it is -- but it's something that we do every
4 year for THN. Just keep in mind it's different, far
5 different than any other year.

6 There were communities that did partial counts,
7 communities that did no counts, and then almost every
8 community -- well, every community I talked to, every CoC
9 I talked to, they had far fewer volunteers than they ever
10 had, so they definitely just did not have the manpower to
11 cover the community like they normally could.

12 So I know that wasn't on the agenda but I
13 wanted to go ahead and talk about that first. Any
14 questions about this?

15 MR. DOYLE: I just want to make sure I'm
16 reading this right, Eric. Granted that this was a whole
17 different year, but according to this there were 17,286
18 homeless people that were counted in Texas.

19 MR. SAMUELS: On one day in January.

20 MR. DOYLE: Yeah, one day in January. On the
21 chart on the bottom right, 89 percent of them were
22 homeless individuals with no children.

23 MR. SAMUELS: That's right.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay. And then 17 percent of them
25 were chronic -- chronically homeless.

1 MR. SAMUELS: Right, and that's opposed to 15
2 percent in the last full count.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

4 MR. SAMUELS: And also I should give you this
5 disclaimer, HUD routinely comes back to the CoCs and asks
6 them to slightly change their numbers, so this number
7 could change by the next time that we have a TICH meeting.
8 If it does, I'll update you all. But the overall thing
9 to keep in mind is this is different than any other year.

10 MR. DOYLE: Is this on your website?

11 MR. SAMUELS: Not yet. I just put it together
12 on Friday.

13 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Will it be on your website?

14 MR. SAMUELS: I'm sorry. What?

15 MR. DOYLE: Will it be on your website?

16 MR. SAMUELS: It will once we have a little
17 further indication that the numbers will stay the same.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

19 MR. SAMUELS: So there's that.

20 And the next thing I'll report out on is the
21 VISTA project. So it looks like I have no other THN
22 staffer here, so I did ask for an update on the VISTA
23 project. We do have a VISTA grant going for another year,
24 so that's really good, and it really looks like we will be
25 funded the following year as well. That's just an

1 indication we're getting.

2 We do have five members in active service,
3 including one that is focused on veteran employment and
4 housing. We have some of the important numbers, since the
5 last TICH meeting our VISTAs have put in 13 new systems or
6 processes within the communities they serve, and they
7 helped five organizations receive capacity-building
8 services.

9 And we are still recruiting for two VISTA
10 positions. One is our VISTA leader and then also one is
11 going to be working on our data sharing network --
12 actually three, and we're also recruiting a VISTA to work
13 on coordinated entry analysis. So if you know some people
14 that are interested in VISTA, send them our way.

15 Maybe we could get a VISTA to work on the plan.

16 I don't know that we'll find another Collin. I can't
17 promise that, but we might find someone good.

18 I think I just have one more thing. So I
19 wanted to give you a quick update on the data sharing
20 network. Now, I have these slides, I'm not going to go
21 through them all but I'll ask Jeremy to go to a few
22 specific slides here in a second.

23 But the first thing I want to say is with this
24 project we are wrapping up it's not really the first year,
25 it's almost like the first year and a half. Our

1 implementation has kind of extended past your normal year,
2 but we have funding to carry out this project through the
3 end of September. And we're continuing to work with our
4 communities and all of our CoCs to do that.

5 So at the end of September if we don't have
6 funding then we'll just put the project on pause,
7 hopefully find funding, and then revive it. But we are
8 searching for funding right now and we hope we can
9 continue on for what I'm calling a second year. But we
10 have accomplished a lot since we started.

11 If you would go to slide 4, if you don't mind,
12 Jeremy.

13 So the thing I want to point out here, and I
14 know this is really small, we have been operating in Phase
15 I where we just share the data at a very high level with
16 our CoCs. Last month our Texas Homeless Data Sharing
17 Network Board voted on starting to share data with
18 agencies, specific agencies that have access so that they
19 can carry out their client coordination of people who have
20 moved from one CoC to the next using the warehouse.

21 So we haven't had one instance of that yet but
22 that should be starting soon, and I'm hopeful that that
23 will start to show a utility of this network for those
24 that are working on the ground directly with people who
25 are homeless and at risk of homelessness. Stop me if you

1 have questions.

2 The next slide, if you don't mind, Jeremy.

3 So just to point out we are working with all of
4 our CoCs and they all have a seat at the table for our
5 governance, and we also have seats for people who have
6 lived experience that can serve alongside those reps for
7 each CoC, and the board has continued each month so we're
8 still doing it on that. Not every member of this
9 governance committee is fully participating in the sense
10 that they're not contributing data yet but we do have six
11 CoCs that are doing that.

12 And if you could move to slide 7, you'll see
13 that, Jeremy. There you go.

14 So we now have two cohorts that are
15 contributing data -- have agreed to contribute data. So
16 we started with Balance of State, Houston and Fort Worth
17 and we have data from them and have had data from all of
18 them for months, but we've brought on Dallas, Waco and
19 Amarillo. That last group they've all contributed data so
20 far, except for Amarillo which they're in the process of
21 contributing data.

22 So this makes up 90 percent geographically of
23 the state, not 90 percent of the overall population. But
24 we have pretty good coverage right there so we're pretty
25 far along with this.

1 And then slide 8. And you can see here we have
2 over 500,000 de-duplicated cases in here. Now, keep in
3 mind this is data from almost ten years ago all the way to
4 the present so there's a lot of cases in here.

5 This doesn't include Amarillo; Amarillo will
6 probably put us closer to 600,000. And it looks like Waco
7 doesn't have their full data set uploaded yet on this
8 slide.

9 MR. DOYLE: Eric, while you're there, where is
10 Bexar County?

11 MR. SAMUELS: They're not in yet, they're not
12 participating yet. So we still don't have data use
13 agreements with San Antonio, El Paso, Austin, Brazos
14 Valley, and Wichita Falls. So we're talking to them about
15 it.

16 Bexar County -- some of you know this
17 already -- that CoC is different than a lot of other CoCs
18 in that the CoC lead agency, SARAH, South Alamo Regional
19 Alliance for the Homeless, is separate from the HMIS lead
20 agency which is Haven for Hope. And they work closely
21 together but they do have two different leads in that CoC,
22 so I think it makes it a little bit more complicated.

23 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Just curious.

24 MR. SAMUELS: But we are trying to make that
25 happen. And we're real close with El Paso. We think we

1 have them almost on board.

2 Slides 9 through 13, I'm not going to go
3 through them in detail but these are kind of all the
4 statistics that you can look at and just get an idea. I'm
5 sure Jeremy will send this out afterwards and you can look
6 at it and let me know if you have questions.

7 MR. STREMLER: Yeah, everything will get posted
8 on the agency page once we get the final transcript back,
9 which will probably be next week. And I'll send out an
10 email letting everyone know when it's up.

11 MR. SAMUELS: Okay, thank you.

12 And these are the type of macro reports that we
13 can put together. So you can look through the whole slide
14 deck as you wish, if you wish. But I think that might be
15 all I have.

16 Oh, I should not forget we do have the
17 conference coming up in October, October 4 through 6.
18 I'll send a link out in the chat box. That is something
19 we're working with the hotel on.

20 We are concerned, of course, with how things
21 are going with COVID so we're continuing to monitor that
22 and work with the hotel. But we are continuing to move
23 forward and very hopeful that we'll have a normal
24 conference -- well, as normal as can be.

25 MR. DOYLE: Where is it going to be, Eric?

1 MR. SAMUELS: The Omni Galleria in Houston.
2 It's where we were two years ago.

3 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

4 MR. SAMUELS: And I'll send that link out.

5 MR. STREMLER: And Mike, I know our next thing
6 is public comment, but Fedora Galasso wanted to make an
7 update for TNOYS, and if we can give her an opportunity to
8 do that now.

9 MS. GALASSO: Awesome. Thank you so much. I
10 think I was just a little bit too slow before.

11 Hi, everyone. This is Fedora Galasso with the
12 Texas Network of Youth Services. I just wanted to make a
13 couple of quick announcements.

14 With the Texas Education Agency, TNOYS hosts
15 the annual Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth
16 Summit. Our summit is next week and we're really excited
17 about that. It is a virtual summit and we have about
18 1,500 folks signed up and most of the audience is staff
19 from the local education agencies working with youth
20 experiencing homelessness in school such as the homeless
21 liaisons, et cetera.

22 And so we have had an increase from last year,
23 and in case you missed the summit and weren't able to sign
24 up, registration closed last Friday, but you can always
25 reach out and we can get you in. The summit is completely

1 free, and like I mentioned, it's virtual and it's on
2 August 3 and 5. We have lots of exciting updates and
3 really critical information about youth experiencing
4 homelessness.

5 Another quick announcement that I wanted to
6 make is that we recently were awarded our AmeriCorps grant
7 that is specifically for youth who have experienced
8 homelessness, foster care or other systems involvement.
9 It is a unique AmeriCorps program in that it is only for
10 that population. And it's really about a peer-to-peer
11 model of youth who have experienced homelessness working
12 with organizations on the ground to really help that
13 youth-adult partnership and making sure that they are
14 receiving the services that they need to be successful as
15 they transition into adulthood, which we all know is
16 really critical as a prevention method to prevent
17 homelessness as youth are transitioning out of care or
18 other at-risk situations.

19 So we have ten folks and they will be placed at
20 organizations on the ground. We have some that are
21 specific to youth experiencing homelessness, like Covenant
22 House or Promise House, things like that. So we'll
23 definitely be providing updates about that model and we'll
24 be expanding the program as we move forward.

25 And I think those are just the updates that we

1 have for today, so thanks, everyone.

2 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Fedora.

3 Did anybody sign up for public comment,
4 Elizabeth?

5 MR. STREMLER: I've got one person, Deborah
6 Arellano, who has her hand raised.

7 And Deborah, I might have missed you earlier on
8 this hand raise, but you are unmuted if you still want to
9 ask a question.

10 MS. ARELLANO: Thank you so much, and I don't
11 have a question anymore. I'm good. Once the conversation
12 kept going, I got what I needed. Thank you.

13 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

14 MS. YEVICH: I think she is a replacement
15 member. Correct, Debbie? And you're now a member of the
16 TICH.

17 MS. ARELLANO: Yes, ma'am. Thank you so much
18 for that. Yes, ma'am. I replaced, I believe, Shirley
19 Jones, and I am in the same department as she was in the
20 Texas Workforce Commission. I'm with the Workforce
21 Development Division and work as a policy analyst, so I
22 will be representing TWC from hereon.

23 MR. DOYLE: Great. Welcome.

24 MR. STREMLER: Sorry about missing you,
25 Deborah, and then moving you to a panelist. I didn't

1 realize that you had replaced someone else. So you will
2 be on the primary screen next time and moving forward.

3 MS. ARELLANO: Thank you very much, I
4 appreciate that.

5 MR. DOYLE: Okay. I have no closing comments.
6 Does anybody have any closing comments?

7 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: Chairman, I want to make
8 sure that I ask a question if I can. This is not
9 necessarily a public comment, but I wanted to ask as we
10 are looking at these opportunities across the state with a
11 lot of resources coming to TDHCA, HHSC, counties, cities,
12 how are we coordinating and where is that coordination
13 taking place to leverage the resources. And this is
14 staking to me to the first comment you started, how are we
15 coordinating these resources to ensure that we are
16 leveraging and creating programs that are matching what
17 each institution or each department is supposed to be
18 doing in coordination with one another.

19 I don't know if that is something that we can
20 look at including as part of our Pathways Home plan,
21 ensuring that we have shared strategic goals outlined or
22 if that is something that is taking place outside of this
23 meeting.

24 MR. DOYLE: Brooke, you want to comment?

25 MS. BOSTON: Yeah, I'd be happy to.

1 It is, Darilynn, happening outside of this
2 meeting. There are several different councils and
3 committees that work on that generally, even separate from
4 the pandemic. A couple of those include the Housing and
5 Health Services Coordination Council which is a council of
6 TDHCA, and then Elizabeth and I are really enmeshed in the
7 Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, SBHCC,
8 and that group -- Naomi just presented and shared what's
9 going on with all of our homeless funds, and then I report
10 out to them pretty regularly what's going on with all of
11 our pandemic funds.

12 And then as they have money come up -- so even
13 just this week, Naomi and Abigail Versyp, who works with
14 Naomi, for instance DFPS has some additional funds that
15 they were getting and so they reached out to make sure
16 kind of that we weren't stepping on each other's toes or
17 duplicating effort.

18 So I think as each fund arises that some of
19 that is happening, and then at the more macro level it's
20 happening at least quarterly, if not more often.

21 Elizabeth, do you want to add anything to that?

22 MS. YEVICH: No. I would completely agree. I
23 think it really is happening and just sort of as these
24 pots of money come in, you know. And I agree these could
25 certainly be discussed in Pathways Home, I think it's far

1 more timely now that all of this is happening. I think by
2 the time that gets published a lot of the coordination
3 will have had to have already taken place, and I would
4 agree it is taking place.

5 MS. CARDONA-BEILER: That's wonderful to hear.
6 Thank you so much. Very helpful. Thank you.

7 MR. DOYLE: Thank you.

8 MS. YEVICH: The only other thing I was going
9 to add, Mike, for those who are new to TICH or listening
10 in today, historically the fall meeting of TICH is always
11 held in conjunction with the Texas Homeless Network
12 Conference. And as Eric mentioned, as of this writing it
13 is being planned to be in person in Houston, and so I'll
14 be getting together with Mike Doyle, Chairman Doyle and
15 Eric on deciding. Usually it's like the morning of the
16 day the conference starts is usually when the TICH meeting
17 is held, and so that's what we're planning on right now,
18 so just to let everybody know.

19 It will be in Houston but I can imagine that we
20 will certainly have a call-in number or other technology
21 that we've all learned in the past year, so GoToWebinar or
22 whatever, so that those who would not be able to travel to
23 Houston could also attend.

24 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, we'll be set up for people
25 to join the meeting from elsewhere.

1 MR. DOYLE: Good point. And those dates again,
2 Eric, for the conference?

3 MR. SAMUELS: October 4th through 6th, so this
4 will be the morning of the 4th, and then you can stick
5 around and watch HUD Secretary Castro speak and then stick
6 around for the entire thing.

7 MR. DOYLE: All right. Well, thank all of
8 y'all. Keep up the good work. And with that October 4th
9 announcement as the next TICH meeting, we'll officially
10 adjourn. Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, at 11:34 a.m., the meeting was
12 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: July 27, 2021

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 57, 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: July 30, 2021

/s/ Nancy H. King
(Transcriber)

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