

**HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2012, 10:00 am**

Meeting began: 10:05am

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Paula Margeson, Vice Chair

The quarterly meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) on March 5, 2011 was called to order by Vice Chair Paula Margeson at 10:05am. It was held at the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation Building, Board Room, at 2200 East MLK Jr. Boulevard, Austin, TX 78702.

Members Present:

Paula Margeson, Vice Chair
Doni Van Ryswyk, Member
Amy Granberry, Member
Kenneth Darden, Member
Jonas Schwartz, Member
Mike Goodwin, Member
Mark Wyatt, Member
Jean Langendorf, Member
Jim Hanophy, Member
Marc Gold, Member
Bill Carpenter, Member
Paige McGilloway for David Danenfelzer, Member

Members Absent:

Tim Irvine, Chair
Felix Briones, Member
Sherri Gothart-Barron, Member

TDHCA Staff Present:

Michael Lyttle, Chief of External Affairs
Elizabeth Yevich, Director of Housing Resource Center
Ashley Schweickart, Coordinator of HHSCC

AGENDA

Public Testimony

Amanda Calzada, Director of Client Services at the Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation (CBAF) spoke on behalf of her organization and the Corpus Christi Recovery Oriented Systems of Care. Ms. Calzada stated that without transitional housing options in her area, many of their clients with substance use disorders cannot remain in recovery. And while there are three sober homes in her area, the need is so great that all beds are filled and there is a low turnover rate. Organizations like CBAF provide recovery

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services for 28 days, but after that clients need housing resources where they're surrounded by sober peers and/or have access to support groups. Ms. Calzada stated that many of CBAF's clients spend 6 months trying to find affordable housing because the area has long waiting lists for public housing authority assistance or because property managers won't accept them due to criminal history. Councilmember Amy Granberry mentioned that her organization, Charlie's Place, provides residential treatment for CBAF clients, but their 70 beds of transitional housing are kept completely full year-round. Ms. Calzada also answered demographic questions, stating that approximately 65% of CBAF's HIV clients receive Ryan White funding and are on Medicare or Medicaid, but the remaining clients do not have health insurance. Most of these HIV clients are also receiving SSI benefits and are unemployed, primarily due to criminal history.

Marilyn Hartman of NAMI Austin also provided testimony in regards to persons with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Ms. Hartman stated that there is a critical need for appropriate community interventions to keep persons with mental illness from cycling through the criminal justice system or the state hospital system. One of these interventions is permanent supportive housing in the form of small group homes. Ms. Hartman stated that the State has no urgency when addressing the needs of the homeless and disabled, but without cost effective, community based solutions, persons with mental illness receive institutional treatment at a great cost to taxpayers. Councilmember Jonas Schwartz encouraged Ms. Hartman to provide her feedback to HHSC and DSHS during their Legislative Appropriations Request formulation, as the state needs a Legislative appropriation to provide Medicaid 1915(i) services.

Approval of December 5th Meeting Minutes

There were no changes made to the December 5th meeting minutes. Approval was motioned by Mike Goodwin and seconded by Jim Hanophy. Minutes were approved unanimously.

TDHCA Feedback on FY2012-2013 Council Budget Recommendations

TDHCA Chief of External Affairs Michael Lyttle presented feedback from TDHCA on the four budget recommendations made by the Council's Housing Issues Committee and Service Issues Committee concerning the use of SFY2012 general revenue funds. Concerning the budget recommendation regarding TDHCA capital financing sources, Mr. Lyttle stated that TDHCA could procure a vendor to research other states' best practices, but the Council should be mindful of the active role that the Governor's Office and the Legislature play in proscribing funding allocation policies, particularly with the Housing Tax Credit Program. Concerning the capacity building budget recommendation, Mr. Lyttle stated that TDHCA could move forward with procuring a vendor to conduct technical assistance surrounding implementing supportive services in an affordable housing property.

Concerning the recommendation on researching barriers in state rules and regulations that prevent service-enriched housing, Mr. Lyttle mentioned that this recommendation could be focused on issues of integration barriers and fair housing barriers, given recent Council and Committee discussions on these topics. Finally, concerning the recommendation on education and outreach, Mr. Lyttle stated that through a recent award of CMS Money Follows the Person Administrative Funding through DADS, TDHCA will be hiring a staff member to undertake outreach activities to educate local providers on housing assistance for persons with disabilities.

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The Council then discussed how to move forward with a funding recommendation. Council members discussed the possibility of hiring an outside consultant to provide recommended actions for directing funding and policy decisions in order to increase service-enriched housing. Other members mentioned the need for Council actions to reflect the intent of enabling legislation, to clarify what types of assistance fall within the definition of service-enriched housing, and to avoid duplication of what Council staff has already accomplished. Council members agreed that an outside consultant would have the advantage of not being associated with any state agency or with the Council and could analyze the programs and policies of Texas and other states from a different perspective. Council members also asked Mr. Lyttle to ask the Legislative Budget Board for further guidance on the utilization of the allocation of HHSCC general revenue. Finally, Council members requested that staff review the possibility of the bringing forward a recommendation on behalf of the Council to TDHCA's Board regarding funding requested in the Legislative Appropriations Request.

Public Forums on the Draft 2012-2013 Biennial Plan

Council Coordinator Ashley Schweickart presented a draft calendar for the upcoming public forum series, which provides the public an opportunity to give feedback on the Council's draft 2012-2013 Biennial Plan. The four locations are: Austin, Corpus Christi, Lubbock, and Plano. All forums will be held during the first three weeks in June. Council staff is also working to locate community partners for each forum that would be willing to co-host and conduct outreach to local stakeholders, inviting them to participate in the forums.

Fair Housing Update

TDHCA Fair Housing Coordinator Jennifer Molinari presented on current efforts to update the State of Texas Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). Ms. Molinari mentioned that Phase I of the AI has been completed and works to address fair housing issues in areas impacted by the 2008 hurricanes. Phase II of the AI will cover the entire state and an outside consultant has been procured to collect stakeholder input through interviews, and phone and online surveys. Ms. Molinari invites Council members to contact her if they want to be involved in this public input process. In-person focus groups will begin meeting in June or July and the draft Phase II AI will likely become available in October for public comment.

Ms. Molinari responded to Council question regarding education and outreach, stating that many consumers are unaware of their fair housing rights and local jurisdictions often do not know who to refer to when someone has a fair housing complaint. Part of the Phase II AI is education and training for consumers, local jurisdictions, and industry players such as housing developers. Ms. Molinari clarified that the Texas Workforce Commission has resources on fair housing, but only as it relates to the Fair Housing Act.

Discussion of CMS Money Follows the Person (MFP) Round #2 Administrative Funding

Councilmember Marc Gold provided an update to the Council regarding MFP Round #2 Administrative Funding. During the MFP Demonstration, CMS realized that states needed a greater infrastructure for relocating persons with disabilities out of institutions. DADS recently received a second round of administrative funding from CMS to accomplish a number of activities:

- To meet specific benchmarks on the number of people relocated into the community;

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- To provide more relocation contractors;
- To hire 25 staff members to help remove barriers keeping persons with IDD living in State Supported Living Centers from relocating into the community;
- To fortify the Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) with benefits counselors;
- To start a supported employment pilot project with DARS;
- To extend the MFP Behavioral Health Pilot currently administered with DSHS;
- To fund staff within TDHCA to educate local housing providers regarding assistance for persons with disabilities, such as Project Access and Tenant Based Rental Assistance;
- To fund positions within DADS Ombudsmen's Office.

Council members asked questions about the impacts of the Medicaid 1115 waiver and Mr. Gold stated that this program will assist in the development of local voluntary consortia that can draw down federal CMS dollars. Councilmember Jonas Schwartz also stated that he will work with HHSC staff to determine which components of the 1115 waiver are most relevant to the Council and create a future presentation to the Council.

Discussion of Next Steps & Staff Assignments

The Council requested that Council staff work to create a Request for Proposals around the Council's budget recommendation for hiring an outside vendor to research how state housing finance resources have been utilized in other states to produce service-enriched housing and produce recommended actions for the State of Texas. The Council also decided to move the next quarterly meeting up from June to mid-May, in order to discuss both the recommended use of HHSCC general revenue funds and to provide feedback on the draft 2012-2013 Biennial Plan before it is released for public comment and the public forums. Council Coordinator Ashley Schweickart stated that she would solicit input on possible meeting dates from the Council by email and schedule the next meeting for May.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.