

**HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL
January 7, 2013 Council Meeting**

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COUNCIL MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2013, 10:00 am**

Meeting began: 10:04 am

**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL
Tim Irvine, Chair**

The quarterly meeting of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) on January 7, 2013 was called to order by Chair Tim Irvine at 10:04 am. The meeting was held at the Brown Heatly Building, Room 4501 at 4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751.

Members Present:

Tim Irvine, Chair
Paula Margeson, Vice Chair
Amy Granberry, Member
Becky Dempsey, Member
David Danenfelzer, Member
Doni Green, Member
James Hill, Member
Jean Langendorf, Member
Jim Hanophy, Member
Jonas Schwartz, Member
Marc Gold, Member

Members Absent:

Felix Briones, Member
Jessica McKay, Member
Kenneth Darden, Member
Laura Vanoni, Member
Mike Goodwin, Member

TDHCA Staff Present:

Michael Lyttle, Chief of External Affairs
Elizabeth Yevich, Director of Housing Resource Center
Ashley Schweickart, Coordinator of HHSCC
Kate Moore, Policy Advisor
Spencer Duran, Program Coordinator for Persons with Disabilities

AGENDA

Public Testimony

There was no general public testimony provided at the meeting.

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Approval of September 10th Meeting Minutes

Approval was motioned by Ms. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Hanophy. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Status Update on Comprehensive Analysis of Service-Enriched Housing Financing Practices

Kevin Martone and Jim Yates of the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) joined the Council meeting by conference call to present the Draft State Best Practices Report, the first deliverable of the *Comprehensive Analysis of Service-Enriched Housing Financing Practices* contract. Mr. Martone explained that TAC staff traveled to each of the six states discussed in the Best Practices Report, reviewing key documents and conducting interviews with state housing and health service agencies, as well as public stakeholders. These efforts informed the summary of findings that make up the Best Practices Report.

Mr. Martone and Mr. Yates proceeded to go through the high level themes and findings of the Report, starting with the catalyst for the creation of service-enriched housing. While some states had a high degree of willingness at the state agency level, others had Olmstead litigation and Department of Justice settlement agreements that mandated aggressive changes which create service-enriched housing programs. Mr. Martone stated that leadership is an important feature in creating service-enriched housing programs, both at the front end and on an on-going basis.

In terms of the different models of service-enriched housing that exist nationwide, Mr. Martone explained that most states are moving to an integrated, scattered site approach, at the same time that federal policy and resources are also shifting in that direction. Additionally, each state interviewed had set aside state appropriations towards either tenant or project based rental assistance, or development operating subsidy. Most states were also moving away from facility based services, utilizing models of community based support services where the service provider is separate from the housing provider, but can bring the services to the tenant on-site. Many of those interviewed are trying to devise methods for utilizing Medicaid funding towards service-enriched housing efforts.

Mr. Yates complemented the State of Texas on early response to the Olmstead Decision, with the creation of the Promoting Independence Advisory Committee and the on-going partnership between TDHCA and DADS. Mr. Yates also complemented the state's Project Access and HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) programs, as well as the state's Section 811 application and accompanying Interagency Partnership Agreement. Mr. Yates identified the key challenges for Texas including a lack of state general revenue specifically allocated for rental assistance for special needs populations and a lack of capacity at the local level in the smaller urban and rural areas of the state.

In terms of next steps, Mr. Martone stated that recommendations will be drafted and provided within the *Comprehensive Analysis of Service-Enriched Housing Practices Report* at the next Council meeting. Given that this Report won't impact the current legislative session, Ms. Langendorf suggested that these recommendations focus on existing funding sources, such as the tax credit program and HOME TBRA program, and how they can be utilized to relocate people from institutional settings. Mr. Irvine suggested that TAC narrow their focus to a few manageable but transformative recommendations. Mr. Irvine agreed that the lack of capacity in smaller and rural communities may necessitate greater technical assistance. He also stated that a key feature of service-enriched housing should be ensuring success over the entire affordable period and working with developers to maintain affordability. Finally, Mr. Danenfelzer suggested that TAC move the financial details from Appendix D of the Best Practices

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Report into the body of the document, so that readers can better understand the debt structure and unit mix for the properties highlight in each best practice state.

Status Update on the Balancing Incentives Program (BIP)

Council member Marc Gold presented an update on the Balancing Incentives Program (BIP), which was first discussed at the September 2012 Council meeting. In fiscal year 2009, roughly 46.9% of Medicaid eligible individuals in the State of Texas were served in community care settings – as this was under the 50% threshold, the state qualified for BIP funding. The BIP is a federal grant providing enhanced funding to rebalance the state’s long term services and supports systems in order to assist more Medicaid eligible individuals in community care settings, rather than institutional settings. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires the states receiving BIP funds provide assurances of structural changes in three areas, for which \$301.5 million has been allocated: (1) Providing no wrong door eligibility and enrollment system, (2) Developing standardized assessment instruments for those receiving funds, and (3) Ensuring conflict-free case management activities.

Mr. Gold stated that the next public meeting to discuss BIP projects would be held on January 18th in the Winters Building. Currently, the BIP funding has been proposed to implement ten major projects, including: expansion of managed care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and the mental health needs, revising the Your Texas Benefits website to increase efficiency and access, creating behavioral health intervention teams, increasing promoting independence waiver slots for individuals with IDD who are exiting institutions, implementing a comprehensive assessment for individuals with IDD, creating a Nursing Facility Diversion Program at the state’s Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and expanding the state’s health and human services data systems to connect homeless data (HMIS).

Mr. Gold stated that the next step for the BIP is for CMS to approve all proposed projects by mid-January. All projects over \$100,000 have been sent to the LBB for approval.

Update on HUD Section 811 Demonstration Program Grant

TDHCA Policy Specialist Kate Moore and Council Coordinator Ashley Schweickart explained to the Council that the State was still awaiting the announcement regarding awarding of Section 811 Program funds, therefore there was no update to provide the Council at this time.

Update on CMS Real Choice Systems Change Grant Activities

Ms. Moore presented an update on the CMS Real Choice Systems Change Grant, for which the Council plays an advisory role. Ms. Moore explained that the two current activities underway are the creation of the Housing & Services for Persons with Disabilities Online Clearinghouse and the Housing & Services Partnership (HSP) Academies. The 811 Team created by this grant was provided the HSP Academies application materials for feedback – the proposed release date for the application is the end of the month, followed by an informational webinar explaining the purpose and goals of the HSP Academies. Ms. Moore provided the application materials and draft agenda for the Academies to the Council and requested that they also provide edits or feedback.

In order to create the Online Clearinghouse, TDHCA is partnering with HHSC’s 2-1-1 Texas staff to create the clearinghouse as a portion of the 2-1-1 Texas website. Currently, work is underway to create

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clear, accurate service descriptions for each category and subcategory of assistance specified within the Clearinghouse. Staff intends to release the Clearinghouse for stakeholder feedback before the official launch and is currently creating a survey mechanism for stakeholders to submit their input.

Update on CMS Money Follows the Person Administrative Funding Activities

Ms. Moore explained that through TDHCA's partnership with DADS, the agency received administrative funding to provide TDHCA's housing programs to persons with disabilities. This funding provides one FTE that will serve as the agency's Housing Coordinator for Persons with Disabilities, a half FTE to support the Project Access program, and a half FTE to support the HOME Program's activities for persons with disabilities. Ms. Moore then introduced Spencer Duran, the staff member hired as the Housing Coordinator for Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Duran discussed his first task, which is to assess the need that exists throughout the state and the capacity of current providers to administer TDHCA funding for persons with disabilities. Then, his goal is to build this capacity by increasing and diversifying the provider network, starting with the HOME TBRA program. Mr. Duran asked that the Council assist him with his outreach to organizations across the state that could be potential providers.

Discussion of Next Steps & Staff Assignments

The Council decided that the next quarterly meeting would take place on Monday, April 8th, 2013 at 10am. Council members would like to discuss the second deliverable of the Technical Assistance Collaborative, which is the Comprehensive Analysis of Service-Enriched Housing Practices Report.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.