

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
HOUSING & HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM SERIES
DRAFT 2012-2013 BIENNIAL PLAN

PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday,
June 7, 2012

Corpus Christi City Hall
1201 Leopard
Corpus Christi, Texas

BEFORE:

ASHLEY SCHWEICKART, TDHCA
Council Coordinator

MEMBERS PRESENT:

STEVE ASHMAN
KENNETH DARDEN
MICHAEL GOODWIN
AMY GRANBERRY
PAULA MARGESON

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PROCEEDINGS

MS. SCHWEICKART: My name is Ashley Schweickart. I am the council coordinator of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council. It's a Texas interagency organization and I have a brief presentation on the 2012-2013 Biennial Plan which is the plan that we are taking public testimony on at our public forum series, which this is the second forum of the four forum series.

But why don't I first allow the council members who are present to introduce themselves.

MS. GRANBERRY: Good morning. I'm Amy Granberry, and thank you all for being here. I have to say that when we were in Austin yesterday we had a smaller turnout and I appreciate Corpus Christi's supporting this project, and thank you all for being here.

(Pause.)

MS. GRANBERRY: I actually am from Corpus Christi and I serve on this Council as a Governor appointee for health services.

MR. GOODWIN: My name is Mike Goodwin. I'm an appointee and I serve on the Council representing developers.

MR. ASHMAN: My name is Steve Ashman. I'm with the Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services.

MS. SCHWEICKART: All right. So there is a PowerPoint presentation that was provided at the front that has a couple of slides that are some background about the Council and about our biennial planning process that we've been going through.

So just to give you first some background -- the Council was created

by the 81st Texas Legislature in 2009 and it was based on a recommendation by the Legislative Budget Board in their 2009 Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report.

The Council has 16 members. There are eight members appointed by the Governor. There are seven members that are state agency representatives and then the last, the chair of the Council is the executive director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

We meet quarterly. Our next meeting is going to be Monday, September 10, in Austin and we have a website which is provided on the last page that has all the information about any upcoming meetings, what we're working on, all that. And TDHCA provides the clerical and advisory support, myself as the coordinator.

So what our main task is for assisting the Governor and the legislature is to provide a biennial plan and that plan is due on August 1 of every even numbered year. So August 1 of this year is when our 2012-2013 plan is due to the Governor and the Legislative Budget Board. And so right now what we're doing is we are putting that plan out there in draft form to receive your input.

To give a little background on what the legislation says about this Council, there are five main duties of our Council members. The first is to develop and implement policies, to coordinate and increase state efforts to offer service-enriched housing.

The second is to identify barriers preventing or slowing service-enriched housing efforts. That can be financial barriers, administrative barriers, regulatory barriers, or barriers that deal with coordination of agencies.

The third is to develop a system to cross-educate staff in housing and

health services so we have experts in those state agencies in both fields.

The fourth is to identify opportunities for state housing and health services agencies to provide technical assistance and training at the local level, so to our local housing and health service partners --

And then, finally, to develop performance to track the progress of barrier elimination, coordination between those housing and health service staff and provision of technical assistance. So all of those items we address in the biennial plan.

To also give a little bit of background, for those of you who are unfamiliar with the phrase "service-enriched housing," because I know it's not one that's widely used, the Council was asked to define service-enriched housing for their purposes.

And so there is a slide that had that definition, which is, Service-enriched housing is defined as integrated, affordable, and accessible housing that provides residents with the opportunity to receive on site or off site health-related and other services and supports that foster independence in living and decision making for individuals with disabilities and persons who are elderly.

So the process that we're currently in, like I said, was our biennial planning process and we have the four public forums. We had one yesterday in Austin. This is the second, in Corpus. We also are going to Plano on Monday and to Lubbock on June 19. So we're basically trying to find out what people are thinking of the draft plan, either by providing testimony or in writing. They can provide public comment in writing as well.

But to give a little breakdown of what this plan looks like, there is a slide on the biennial plan structure. In the structure there are four main sections.

The first section addresses the current state of service-enriched housing in Texas and what activities have been undertaken since the last plan created by the Council in 2010. And so our chapters discuss basically the progress we've made on our previous recommendations, the progress that the legislature has made on those recommendations, and also seeing what the 82nd Legislative Session, how it impacted the state agencies that are represented on this Council in terms of how it impacted the policies and the funding sources that support affordable housing as well as community-based services and supports. So that's Section 1.

Section 2 is the research and information gathering effort that was undertaken by Council staff to help inform the Council on methods for implementation of service-enriched housing. So the first chapter in that section addresses conceptualizing the need for service-enriched housing for persons with disabilities and person who are elderly.

The next chapter evaluates what the local capacity of affordable housing providers and local service providers is so we undertook a capacity survey back in March and April of 2011 and received about 350 responses from different organizations around the state to find out what their capacity is to provide that low income housing for those persons who are most in need of support services to remain housed stably.

And then also, on the services side, we were surveying service providers to find out how they are able to provide services to those most in need but also to connect to that local housing organization to find out if there is an on-site or off-site service provision connection happening.

The next chapter, Chapter 5, analyzes interviews with best practice

service-enriched housing providers. So what we looked at there was -- we were trying to find out how projects that are service-enriched housing, how they are developed and financed. We know that it's very hard to provide housing to very, very low income individuals who also need some type of support services to remain housed stably.

So we looked at development finance mechanisms through these interviews. So that chapter is a series of case studies of nine different organizations that we interviewed across the state.

The next chapter, Chapter 6, looks at the ongoing barriers to service-enriched housing that have been identified by our public stakeholders. So we held an online discussion forum where we posed some questions to the general public and received feedback on what they consider the barriers that are of critical importance in Texas that prevent the increase of service-enriched housing in Texas.

Then, Section 3 of the plan is our recommendation section. So we have two chapters of recommendations. The first was created by one of the subcommittees called the Housing Issues Subcommittee of this Council and are related to the housing policies and programs at the state level.

And then the second chapter is from the Services Committee which is the other subcommittee of the Council and focused a lot on the policies and funding sources provided by the state for those community-based long-term services and supports. So those are the two recommendations chapters are found in Section 3.

Finally, Section 4 looks ahead to the future for implementing the Council's recommendations as well as looking at current efforts that are already underway to provide more service-enriched housing in Texas. So currently there is a grant that the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Texas

Department of Aging and Disability Services are partnering on to provide greater infrastructure for service-enriched housing for persons with disabilities.

And also that grant is preparing the states to apply for a brand-new source of funding from the federal government from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, which will allow states to receive project-based rental assistance for persons with disabilities who are extremely low income. So that effort to apply for those funds is currently under way through that partnership between TDHCA and DADS.

So that basically wraps up all of the chapters that are in the biennial plan and the last slide that I have on the handout is just to provide you a way to provide comment and also to check out the Council's website to see what has been accomplished by the Council, what they're currently working on.

And, as I said, we are accepting written comment until Friday, June 22, so there is always that opportunity to provide your comments.

Do we have anyone that wants to provide any public testimony today?

(Pause.)

MS. SCHWEICKART: Okay. Great. Thank you. Go ahead and come up and if you just want to tap the microphone. You might have to press the button. Press the green button.

MS. SHERRILL: Good morning. My name is Deborah Sherrill. I'm with the Corpus Christi Housing Authority. One of the issues that I'd like to bring up, and I don't know if I should but I'm going to, is in regards to veterans. We received some VASH vouchers and one of the issues that we're finding out is that we have veterans that are placed into housing and we're having a big turnover of them leaving

and I don't know what the reason is for it.

The only thing that I could think of is that once they're placed into housing and here they have an apartment and they're staying there, and then all of a sudden, they have to worry about bills, you know, and I don't know if that becomes overwhelming for a veteran and it's easier for them to go back onto the streets again and become homeless again and not have to worry about having to pay bills or groceries or what have you.

So I don't know if there's any kind of services that we can provide for the veterans to, I guess, get accommodated to having to, you know, the structure of having to pay bills monthly or buy groceries or whatever, you know, the fact that they have an apartment now.

So that was just an issue that has been brought up in the past in some of our meetings and I don't know if the Housing Authority has partnered with any, you know, community services organizations but I will find out on our end, and I just wanted to kind of bring that up. That was really the only issue that I have at this time.

MS. GRANBERRY: Deborah, I had a question. On the VASH vouchers, those pay just for the housing. Correct?

MS. SHERRILL: Yes.

MS. GRANBERRY: And how many do we --

MS. SHERRILL: I believe we have 25.

MS. GRANBERRY: Twenty-five, Corpus Christi.

MS. SHERRILL: Yes.

MS. GRANBERRY: Okay.

MS. SHERRILL: Yes, in Corpus, and they were just recently issued

to the Housing Authority. But I do know the gentleman who's over our Section 8 program who handles also the VASH vouchers had mentioned that he was having a turnover of the veterans that were -- they'd come in and stay maybe a month or two and then they're out again, so --

MR. ASHMAN: And don't they have to have active treatment through the Veterans Administration to receive those VASH vouchers?

MS. SHERRILL: I'm not sure.

MR. ASHMAN: I wonder whether money management skills is part of that training that could --

MS. SHERRILL: Right. I'm sure that that probably is the case. Since I'm not the person who oversees that particular program, I don't want to give you any incorrect information.

MS. SCHWEICKART: Thank you very much.

MS. SHERRILL: Thank you.

MS. SCHWEICKART: Anyone else have any comment or testimony that they'd like to bring forward at this time?

(Pause.)

MS. SCHWEICKART: All right. Thank you.

MS. McKAMIE: Good morning. I'm Linda McKamie with Catholic Charities and the Mother Theresa Shelter and I really just kind of wanted to comment back to make sure that your residents knew two things: that Catholic Charities offers an organizational payee program that does just exactly what you're stating that the residents need assistance with.

Currently we're providing that type of financial oversight for about

150 clients where we manage their benefit check for them and they don't have to worry about any bills; we pay all their bills for them. So that might be one way that we can assist.

And then the other is just to bring out that through TDHCA we did just complete a transitional housing facility for 24 individual single males and it is transition which means we do have the staff on site to help them with programs. So -- just information. Thank you.

MS. SCHWEICKART: Thank you very much.

Anybody else interested in coming up and talking?

(No response.)

MS. SCHWEICKART: Are there any comments by our members of our Council?

(No response.)

MS. SCHWEICKART: All right. Well, if we don't have any other comment, please know that you can provide anything in writing if you'd like to and submit it to us and please do visit our website to find out more about what we're up to, and thank you so much for attending. We appreciate it.

(Whereupon, at 9:25 a.m., the public hearing was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

IN RE: TDHCA Housing and Health Services
Coordination Council Public Forum Series
Draft 2012-2013 Biennial Plan
Public Hearing

LOCATION: Corpus Christi, Texas

DATE: June 7, 2012

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 12, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Joe Schafer before the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

6/15/2010
(Transcriber) (Date)

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