

TICH Quarterly Meeting

10:30AM

Tuesday May 21st, 2024

at

221 E. 11th Street

Room #116

Austin, TX 78701

Mike Doyle (00:00:00):

Ok, lets begin. We are officially counting Quorum. Could the folks that are on the phone give us your name and who you're representing? If you're a member of the council, not if you're an advisory member. Just members of the council. Would you please speak out so that we can record your attendance?

Brooke Boston (00:00:19):

Brooke Boston.

Mike Doyle (00:00:21):

Hey, Brooke.

Claire Irwin (00:00:23):

Hi. Claire Irwin with Texas Health and Human Services.

Mike Doyle (00:00:30):

Thanks, Claire.

Marcus Butler (00:00:32):

Hey, Marcus Butler with Kelly Davis, justice Department,

Mike Doyle (00:00:38):

Kelly Davis. Marcus Butler.

Ann Charlotte (00:00:43):

Ann Charlotte-Profit with Texas Network of Youth Services. I'm filling in for Lauren and Fedora today.

Mike Doyle (00:00:49):

Who are you filling in for? I'm sorry.

Ann Charlotte (00:00:51):

Lauren Rose. Lauren Rose and Fedora Velazquez TNOYS. This is Ann Charlotte-Profit.

Mike Doyle (00:00:57):

Okay, thank you.

Brittany Hinton (00:01:00):

Brittany Hinton with Texas Health and Human Services.

Mike Doyle (00:01:08):

Okay, is there anyone else that's a member?

Valinda Bolton (00:01:13):

This is Valinda Bolton with Department of Family and Protective Services.

Mike Doyle (00:01:21):

Hi, Valinda. Thank you very much.

Valinda Bolton (00:01:24):

Sure. Good morning.

Mike Doyle (00:01:30):

Okay, well we do have a quorum, so I will call the meeting to order and announce the fact that we do have a quorum present. I don't think I need to do this under remarks from the chair, but I want to introduce to you Bobby Wilkerson, the executive director of TDHCA, and then from the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget, Gabe Ochoa. He's here in pretty new in that position, and so he is coming to hear what all is going on. I think they have the new plan and it's in their executive review, and I would love to see a copy of that, but at the same time, whenever you do that, that would be great. I just want to give you a quick update. I know I've missed a little bit here lately. I've had some health issues, had a heart attack in December, and they told me to go home and die at the hospital literally, and because they didn't have the technology to fix it, but I went to the University of Texas Southwest, is that the name of it?

(00:02:39):

UT Southwestern. UT Southwestern. And they had the technology and so they put in six stents and while they were putting in six

stents, they found stage four cancer. And so it was a real, real nice holiday season. But if you've never been told you're going to die and you've been sitting and you lay there for three days, considering that prospect, it's quite staggering. It changed my entire focus on what was important and what was not important. But they got, the cancer's not curable, but it's treatable. And so the guy from UT Southwestern, our oncologist, he's got me on all kinds of pills and stuff like that. So I'm doing well now. Drove down this morning and playing golf again. But you just have a different perspective. You think about the important things in life when you hear that word, but thank goodness for UT Southwestern who had the technology to put in all those stents. So anyway, Sean sent us out the minutes a few days ago, and so if you had a chance to read those, I hope you have. I would entertain a motion to approve those. I don't know much about 'em since I wasn't here, but those that were present, I need the motion in a second to approve the minutes.

Naomi Cantu (00:04:00):

I can move.

Mike Doyle (00:04:01):

Naomi. Okay. Have a motion. Do we have a second?

Brooke Boston (00:04:12):

This is Brooke. Second.

Mike Doyle (00:04:14):

Thanks Brooke. Okay. All in favor of approving the minutes to submit, say aye members?

All Board Members (00:04:23):

Aye.

Mike Doyle (00:04:25):

All opposed? All opposed. Same sign. And those do pass unanimously. Okay. Item number four on our update for member agencies. We're starting with TDHCA and Bobby, if you don't want to make any comments, we'll move right on to Gavin to give us a report. Thanks, Gavin.

Gavin Reid (00:04:45):

Thank you. So yes, I am Gavin Reid. I work in the community affairs division here at TDHCA. I've asked to be put on this agenda to present a community service block grant overview. I believe I was on this TICH agenda a couple years ago to do this. We like to get on every couple years just to get the word out on CSBG and it's also part of our state plan as far as outreach. So anyway, and then another thing that I see is some familiar faces. So it's the same speech as last week, so don't get too

bored. For those of you who were listening in on last week's HHSC meeting. So anyway, as far as we call it CSBG Community Services Block Grant and CSBG is funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services. It comes to us and then we distribute it out to sub-recipients throughout the state. Our sub-recipients are nonprofit organizations and units of local government. The purpose of CSBG is to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities and empower low income Texans to become self-sufficient. That is the primary purpose of CSBG. I'll get into it a little bit, but there's many ways in which it can do that. So USHHS, as I said, funds this from the federal government. They allocate it to the 50 states and some territories and some Native American tribes and they distribute it by formula. So Texas is going to receive more than Rhode Island.

(00:06:39):

For example, in Texas last year 2023, we received \$37 million in CSBG funding and it slightly increases each year. So we are going to get about the same this year. It may be closer to 38 million this year. When we received the funds, like I said, we distributed out utilizing a formula also to 38 CSBG sub-recipients throughout the state. That formula is based off of a poverty population. That's the primary factor that determines the amount of funding for each CSBG provider throughout the

state. As I said, there's 38 of them. We refer to them is eligible entities, but you can also call 'em CSBG Sub-recipients, but the proper name is eligible entities. They serve all 254 counties in Texas. So all counties are covered under this. And like I said, they're typically private nonprofit organizations, but also units of local government or council of governments. And by the way, you should have a flyer that I'm kind of running through right here and then on the back of it there's a map and I'll talk a little bit about the map here in a moment.

(00:08:07):

But so this isn't available to anybody who applies. Probably most of us in here wouldn't qualify. This is to be eligible, you have to be, normally it's 125% of the federal poverty guide. You can't exceed 125% of income of federal poverty, but temporarily since covid, it's been 200%, it continues to be 200% Congress, whenever they keep on passing these continuing resolutions and bills, they keep that language in there. So that's a good thing. Right now it's 200%, but it could end and go back to 125% at any passing of bill. So as I said, there's many numerous ways that CSBG can be administered to the low income population, but it kind of depends on the sub-recipients and what their priorities are. They have to submit us a plan, a well thought out plan for their communities. When I say communities, that's their service

area. Looking on your map, say up here in the panhandle, that's Panhandle Community Services.

(00:09:22):

They may have 20 or 30 counties. They have to kind of come up with a strategic plan and an action plan on how they're going to serve their communities and their priorities may differ than somebody down in South Texas or east Texas. So there's a lot of flexibility and variability in how they provide services, but some of those services can be for education and employment. So education can help them fill out an application for college or help them get a GED, pay for application fees and such for employment, it could be helping them 'em get a practice for an interview, getting them to the interview. They're paying for transportation to the interview, even helping them pay for tools if they need tools for work or uniform. And it can do other things such as I said, transportation in around their community can help out. Some sub-recipients have food pantries, but the big thing is for CSBG is case management and coordination of services. It's a good place for an eligible client to go into and say, Hey, I need help. I want to get out of my poverty situation. I don't want to become homeless. Please help me prevent from becoming homeless. How do I get into a better position? And CSBG case managers can help case manage them out of that situation into a better situation and hopefully

stabilize them. That's probably one of the larger biggest things for CSBG.

(00:11:14):

So to give you an idea of what was done in 2023 CSBG eligible entities in Texas assisted approximately 320,000 persons. And again, that can be from, those numbers include very minimal services, maybe like just providing case management or maybe a \$25 gift card to go get a blanket or something at Walmart to receiving a bachelor's degree. So it's all that. It's a wide range of services and approximately 880 persons achieved incomes above poverty on their way to self-sufficiency. So we measure that by, they have to retain an income over the poverty guidelines, as I just mentioned, over 125% for 90 days. So that tells us that they've achieved a stable income and that's when we classify them as achieving above poverty or stabilizing their self-sufficiency. So how do we find a CSBG provider? Well, you can get on our website and some of you may have heard of Help For Texans. I've supplied the, or I've written down the website for Help For Texans there. Or you can just search for it on the internet, Help For Texans in your browser. And then there's three easy steps. We try to make it as easy as possible.

(00:12:42):

There's a radio button that says once you get to that website, there's a radio button that says Select Emergency and Homeless Services. That's what CSVG falls under. You enter a city or the city or county in which they live and then you click find help. So a client can do this when somebody calls me, that's the website I go to and it depends on the county they live in and who then they get the phone number of that sub-recipient or eligible entity that they need to go through. They need to apply to first determine if they're eligible and then just go through them for services. They don't come through us. We don't really interface with the client and the applications. It's through the sub-recipient, so that's who we get them to. There's another way also on our website, just go into our search bar and look for master list of community affairs of Sub-recipients and that details all our sub-recipients for all our programs and one of the columns is for CSBG and it tells you the columns that you got to go through.

(00:13:48):

And then finally, of course I have a point of contact down there. I put Rita on here, Rita Gonzalez Garza. She's a good point of contact and of course you can contact me if you see my, I guess my email on the invite. And so then let's kind of look at the map here. Really not much to say, but as I said, there's 38 CSBG eligible entities. They all have acronyms. They're

listed on the side there. I know you can't identify the counties, but that kind of gives you a rough idea of where all these are and those sub-recipients are the ones that the clients need to go through to apply and receive services. There's only one change on here, it's being worked on, but on the left or actually out in West Texas, big Bend has been replaced by CCSCT, which is Community Council of South Central. That's the only update that's needed on this and we're hoping to get that updated soon. I believe that's it. Did I cover everything? Jeremy?

Mike Doyle (00:15:02):

Thank you. Thank you Gavin. Any questions for Gavin? I have one. Is it typical when you send it to the funds to a sub-recipient for them to then send out grant requests to go somebody to distribute those funds or do they usually keep it themselves and do it all?

Gavin Reid (00:15:22):

The latter. They keep it themselves. Yeah.

Mike Doyle (00:15:25):

And the funding, do we know the funding is going up? I'm assuming it's going up this

Gavin Reid (00:15:29):

Next fiscal year? Yes. I'd say it's maybe going up 300 to \$500,000 as a whole. So yeah, it goes up slightly each year.

Mike Doyle (00:15:39):

Thank you very much for that.

Gavin Reid (00:15:40):

You're welcome.

Mike Doyle (00:15:41):

Okay. Who's doing emergency shelter Grants, Rosie?

Rosey Falcon (00:15:48):

Yes, good morning. And then I do have a handout along with my report. I've got some very exciting news all around from the homeless programs. We are in the closeout officially in the closeout phase of the CARES Grant. We've got 12 contracts that were active up until pretty much the end that we are closing out in the coming week with the majority of those sub-recipients reported. We have reported in our internal contract system, we show that we are at 99.67% expended leaving us roughly with about \$300,000 left to spend, which we do have until June 30th, 2024. So those are going to be coming from the remainder draw that hasn't completely been processed from our internal system

to IDIS and of course administrative costs for the department because we do report that a little bit behind by the time all of accounting is done. So I do still have really, really the goal is to reach a hundred percent. We may be falling into the 99.9 percentage on there, but we do 300,000 is what we estimate that is left to spend in the last couple of months.

Mike Doyle (00:17:07):

Great. Good job.

Rosey Falcon (00:17:10):

The handout that I included in your packet or with your materials has the breakdown of what we've spent so far. That is the amount that has officially been reported in IDIS. So there is that slight difference of about, I believe like \$28,000 or so. So out of all of the funds that were expended, of course our lowest amount that we keep is for administration. We are allowed federally to spend in this grant 10% of the funds in administration collectively between the sub-recipients ourselves. We were a little under 6% overall. So most of these funds did go for direct services between street outreach, homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, with of course the highest expenditures being done with homeless prevention and rapid rehousing initiatives. Altogether. So far as of this morning, the last report I got is we've helped about

a hundred thousand people, but again, that's probably with April numbers.

(00:18:15):

So we do have some sub-recipients that are still active through the end of April and then a little bit into May. So those numbers may be up. There are preliminary numbers we're still kind of going through making sure those are unduplicated numbers. Although the majority of the funds were spent in homeless prevention and rapid rehousing, the majority of the people helped are still under emergency shelter. But that's still great. That's still, I'm tremendously proud of all of the work that our sub-recipient network has done, our internal care team has done to get all of these funds out quickly to the people that need it. Spending most of these funds in direct services, that's always great and they are still going strong. We still have, we've got one temporary staff still working. We've got Natalie, our administrator, working strong until the end making sure everything is taken care of for both the closeout process and support for our sub-recipients that may not be annual sub-recipients in getting that their expectations for the coming year since there will be some contractual obligations that would need to be fulfilled still with reporting. That is my prepared report for CARES. Dunno if anybody has any questions before I move on to our regular annual program.

Mike Doyle (00:19:36):

Questions for Rosie, Move forward.

Rosey Falcon (00:19:40):

Okay, so our second update today has to do with a second table on your handout and it's the very exciting news that we received. Our allocation from HUD, our fiscal year 24 allocation did decrease slightly this year we received 9,000,723 and \$237,000. That's roughly a little less than 2% decrease from the 23 allocation, but nonetheless we are very exciting and it's very timely because our competition for these funds open this Friday. So we're very, very excited to have the allocation done. It is preliminarily the numbers that you'll see for competition and I'll go into a little bit of the set asides and how we determine that shortly. We do the number that you see on the sheet, it is less than what we received because we retain 4.5% of it for TDHCA administration. So the NOFA this year is 9,285,691 that would be available for awards for the 24 funds.

(00:20:57):

These allocations or these funds are allocated through a regional formula. So we do run it through formula using data from the census, the point in time count, we take into account instances of domestic violence, homeless veterans, homeless

youth. We take all of that data that is the most recently available and this year we do have all of to date data to determine how much of the allocation is going to go to each of the 11 COCs. There was a decrease in some of these allocations from last year to this year. The biggest factor being some of the point of accounts with the prior allocations because of covid, there were some that some COCs did not have a fully sheltered and unsheltered count. Some COCs did not have an update and so that this year everybody would use the same year and up-to-date data. So we did see a slight decrease in that and it's mostly coming from that point in time count. El Paso did see an increase, so that was a bigger shift from there.

(00:22:06):

These funds are allocated through two or people can receive these funds through two different set-asides. So the NOFA will have two competitions. One is the continuing awards and for this we withhold 75% of the total allocation per region. This is non-competitive. So sub-recipients that are eligible for these pot of money are current ESG sub-recipients. These are not CARE subrecipients which have at least three out of the last four ESG annual allocations. So that's the first marker. The rest of the items that they have to meet would be timely reporting high expenditures, less than 5% in involuntary Deobligations. All monitorings for TDHCA will have to get resolved timely and no

disallow costing greater than \$5,000. So if any of our sub-recipients, and we do this every year for the last closed program year, if any of those sub-recipients meet all of those points, then they're eligible to receive a continuing award and not have to wait for competition.

(00:23:18):

We do this internally and we send this information to each of the sub-recipients. So everybody has already received their either eligible or ineligibility status. What they haven't received yet is their allocation amount because we received it a few weeks ago, so I don't have the sub recipients to share with you because we haven't contacted them yet and actually gotten their firm. "Yes, we will accept this award offer or not." So that's the first point of what makes our 25% item that I have on the table tentative because what happens is after these sub-recipients either accept or don't accept or potentially accept less, that happened last year, we did have a sub that took slightly less. We will take all of those funds and then transfer them to the competition. And so that amount will be final by May 31st and we'll have that on our website and send a listserv to everybody so they are aware how much they can actually compete for.

(00:24:19):

We arrived at the 75% set aside based on a preliminary review of who would qualify. So what we try to do for our ESG sub-recipients for those high performance that would qualify, we try to give them an award offer that is as close to their prior year award. There are a couple of things that would prevent us from doing that. One is our total allocation. So this year we did have a decrease, so all the awards were decreased proportionately based on how much we received from HUD. The second section that could increase them is if there is enough funds available from this set aside that we have that we could increase each one of those eligible awards up to 115%. And so we do that to the most extent that we can't possibly. If it's feasible to do that, we do maximize all of those dollars. And so after that those amounts will go into the competition. There are some COCs that do not have any eligible entities that are, or I shouldn't use your term, that means something different that don't have any sub-recipients that are eligible for an offer of continuing award. And this year, Waco, McClennan County do not have any continuing award eligible sub recipients, Amarillo, Wichita Falls wise, Pallo Pinto, Brian and College Station. So those are the ones that will be unaffected by the process that we'll be doing within the next week.

Mike Doyle (00:25:50):

So is that because they maybe didn't do such a good job last year, why did they become ineligible?

Rosey Falcon (00:25:57):

It could be that they would have to meet all of the five points to be able to do that. So some of 'em could be that they don't have three out of the last four allocations. We do have a lot that have one or two of the last four HUD allocations and that is the only thing that prohibited them from being eligible because after that we don't continue eligibility. Others is expenditure rate. We did have some that expressed due to some of the COVID funding and some of the issues with FMR waivers not being extended, things like that, it impacted their expenditure rate. We had a few sub-recipients that that's the only thing that they didn't meet and others were reporting or monitoring and so that would accept them. You do have to meet all of the criteria.

Mike Doyle (00:26:41):

So we need to be locally involved in finding out where they stand in their allocations. If they're going to get it for next year, we need to kind of push them to make sure you're meeting all five things so you can get the money back in the community the next year.

Rosey Falcon (00:27:00):

And all of these factors that I went over, they are codified in our rules and we do let the sub-recipients know. So we will have an application webinar. Part of that webinar will be explaining this process. So anybody that's coming in that's been aware of this that maybe doesn't have isn't their first thought is to go to the rules and where to find them. We do cover this. So every sub-recipient is aware of where they stand. We did this year start a quarterly report that sends where they're at with all of their expenditures reporting. Anybody that is late in reporting two or more months, we'll get a specific email asking if they need anything from us, if they're aware. So there is a lot of communication from the team to the sub-recipients And then at the very, very end they will get what we call a contract snapshot that lets them know if they met all of these points, not in this verbiage, right? It'll just be data saying that this is how much you committed to match, this is how much you have reported, this is your expenditure rate and these are your last three reports, whether they later were they not. And so it gives them information for both this type and the competitive.

Bobby Wilkinson (00:28:10):

Now if a sub-recipient isn't eligible for the continuing 75%, they can still compete?

Rosey Falcon (00:28:16):

Yes, that's a great question.

Bobby Wilkinson (00:28:17):

And all the money stays in that seriously region regardless.

Rosey Falcon (00:28:19):

Yes. So all through the competition, the money that you see here, so for example, San Antonio 764 will stay with San Antonio all the way through the end of competition. So the first filter is 75% set aside and then anybody or any funds that are left over for any reason will move to the competition side. Then after that we do have other metrics. So at the 25% you are way based on score and if we have, for example, too many emergency shelter street outreach that are high ranking, but we've already met our cap federally, we can't expect more than 60% per CFC on these type of awards, then we would have to go to the next highest unless there's less than \$30,000 left. Let's say those scenarios are all troop, then that money then does move from San Antonio COC into a statewide competition and anybody who isn't ranked high enough in the competitive side then gets re ranked. It's not a new application. So up until that point, all of this allocation here will stay with the COC.

Mike Doyle (00:29:28):

Good. Okay. Thank you for that clarity. Sure. Anything else?

Rosey Falcon (00:29:34):

Not for annual.

Mike Doyle (00:29:37):

Do we have something for semi-annual?

Rosey Falcon (00:29:39):

Well I have one more thing. One more thing and it's very exciting to me. Okay. I want to talk to you all about a funding opportunity. Now this isn't an established funding opportunity, it's brand new. During the last legislature there was an appropriation of supplemental funds about a million dollars for Fort Bend County. So the only requirement for this fund is for the creation of a program providing youth and young adult homeless housing and services of course in Fort Bend County. So the big criteria is this 24 years and younger has to be homeless. Other than that, it is a very, very flexible pot of money, much like HHSP, there are no limitations on administration, case management, a certain component. So really it's there for any sub recipient that has had this great idea to serve youth homeless that didn't have the money. The money is there but it is only slated for Fort Bend County.

(00:30:44):

We are accepting applications now they're on our website and I put the link on the PDF should be an active link, but it's in our HHSP web page, our regular web page. There's a little bit more information there. We've got a manual to help people fill it out. And then the submissions are done to the department through our file transfer survey and the information's in the manual, but I posted it on here as well. We are reviewing applications as they're coming in. I'm very excited to get applications. So please, anybody that would love to give this a try or has questions, they can reach out to me and I'll be happily talk to them about them. But I included a little fact sheet with your hand up that has the main points to consider on there.

Mike Doyle (00:31:29):

Good. Thank you Rosie's. Good news and good job. Andre, you're going to be talking about EHV. Is he on the phone? Yes.

Andre Adams (00:31:43):

Hey, good morning. My name is Andre Adams. I'm the program manager for Section 8 program. They just want to provide you an update on the emergency housing vouchers. I gave up an update last week, but there's been a slight change of this week. Good news now we have reached achieved 96.2% lease up leading up to

764 families that had secured housing, 24 vouchers left that are swiftly moving toward lease position. They are on the brinks of selling into their new home, just a matter of days understanding. Through our collaboration, our COCs, the Homeless Network, Waco Heart of Home, and Terrance Homeless Coalition.

Mike Doyle (00:32:40):

You still there Andre? You're cutting out on us

Andre Adams (00:32:42):

Understanding. Yes. Okay, I'm sorry. So through the collaboration working for COC, this has been an enlightening journey where staff have learned how to work a different population normally than our, so we definitely like the experience that we've went through and through the EHB program we identify the power of the community, definitely cooperating work better and determining navigating challenges for the country holders to ensure are safe housing. So we definitely are re-engaging the families now that they've been on the program for a little over year, trying to make sure that there's no families that are in units without notifying the authority, staying in contact with the landlords. We're staying in contact also with the community partners to make sure that they are helping us as well because we don't want all this work to be in vain. We want to continue leasing these vouchers. This program

is good until funding this program until 2035. We want to continue to keep these vouchers on the program. We do understand that over the time we will lose vouchers through attrition. So basically just trying to make sure that the engagement is being met with our families. And that concludes my update for EHB vouchers.

Mike Doyle (00:34:19):

Okay, sounds like a great report. Any questions for Andre?

Eric Samuels (00:34:26):

I don't have a question. I just want thank everybody at TDHCA, Bobby and Brooke and everybody else for working with us so closely. And Andre too because there were some challenging calls early on and I wasn't on many of them so I didn't have to deal with the challenging aspects of this project, but it's been, it was very beneficial. We housed a lot of folks and worked with TCFV really closely to get some folks out of the shelter and into housing that desperately needed it. So we really appreciate it, you all being flexible with us and working with us on this. We know it wasn't easy on your side either, so we appreciate it.

Mike Doyle (00:35:04):

Could you identify yourself for those?

Eric Samuels (00:35:06):

Oh, I'm sorry. Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network.

Marcus Butler (00:35:11):

Hey, I have a question. This is Marcus Butler.

Mike Doyle (00:35:17):

Go ahead Marcus.

Marcus Butler (00:35:20):

Okay. Hey, so on the Fort Bend County Homeless Youth Prevention project, I heard you describe they're taking applicants. Are they taking applications from young people that are experiencing homelessness or organizations that are wanting to do the work in the community in Fort Bend County?

Rosey Falcon (00:35:41):

Thank you for that question. Yes, it's an important clarification. We do not provide any direct services. So this would be applications from either units of local government or nonprofits. They do not have to be situated in Fort Bend County, but the service delivery does have to be in Fort Bend County.

Marcus Butler (00:35:58):

Okay, thank you. Thank you.

Mike Doyle (00:36:00):

Good question. Thanks. Alright. The highlight of our day, Naomi's report.

Naomi Cantu (00:36:11):

Well, there's so much good stuff going on. I will try to add to it. Naomi Cantu HOME ARP director. So we got \$132 million from the American Rescue Plan of which we programmed into three activities. One is rental development, one is nonprofit capacity building and operating, and one is non congregate shelter development. So our rental pot has been awarded and we have 280 rental units obligated under contract. So we're hoping we're going to get our first one on the ground this summer and we'll see because they're now being developed. And so that's about 43 million committed for that. We did sign and have in place our nonprofit capasability operating funds contract in April with the other one's foundation. So that is now in place and we are working for the June board meeting to get our non congregate shelter invitation to apply ready. And that is application, but only for recipients of the nonprofit Capasability Building operating award. So right now, currently, that would be the other one's foundation, but we do have additional funds in the nonprofit capacity building that may be awarded in the future. So we have about 56 million anticipated for that invitation to

apply it scheduled for that. And I did want to just highlight that our population is vulnerable populations including homeless and at risk of homeless and other vulnerable populations. So that's the specific population that we're trying to serve. So questions on where we are?

Mike Doyle (00:38:07):

Any questions for Naomi? Thank you very much.

Naomi Cantu (00:38:12):

Thank you.

Mike Doyle (00:38:13):

Okay, Sean, the plan,

Elizabeth Yevich (00:38:16):

We've sort of done that,

Mike Doyle (00:38:18):

Have we?

Elizabeth Yevich (00:38:19):

Well, I think it's still under executive review. We had mentioned earlier.

Mike Doyle (00:38:23):

We're going to try to get some secrets to come out, but if not Sean, have anything else to add?

Sean Longerman (00:38:34):

Nothing to add. Elizabeth covered it well.

Mike Doyle (00:38:38):

Okay. Sounds like she have to come from a higher source.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:38:43):

There we go. So I will add, Sean has, he's already announced it to me. He will be leaving TDHCA in August, but I think we're going to have another TICH meeting in July. That Sean will still be serving his administrative report for the TICH. While we're doing that, could we go around the room and sort of announce who else is here for our advisory members like Mr. David Long and the rest here?

Mike Doyle (00:39:11):

We sure can.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:39:12):

So have that on record.

Mike Doyle (00:39:13):

Do we need to go around the outer circle as well?

Elizabeth Yevich (00:39:16):

We can, if you like, that would be great. And those especially on the phone as well.

Mike Doyle (00:39:24):

So who else has joined us on the phone? Okay, let's start with those in this room, will you start and we'll go around the outer edge and then we'll come around the inner edge.

Tahmoor Chadury (00:39:36):

My name is Tahmoor Chadury, I'm the program specialist in the Homeless Programs division.

Mike Doyle (00:39:40):

Thanks for coming.

Jim Ward (00:39:42):

Jim Ward, Texas Homeless Network.

Bobby Wilkinson (00:39:44):

Bobby Wilkinson, executive director at TDHCA

Michael Lyttle (00:39:51):

Michael Lyttle, TDHCA and president of the Mike Doyle Fan Club.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:39:55):

There we go.

Mike Doyle (00:39:58):

And then I'm Mike Doyle, representing the governor's office.

David Long (00:40:03):

David Long, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation.

Eric Samuels (00:40:06):

Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network.

Naomi Cantu (00:40:09):

Naomi Cantu, HOME ARP Director

Lisa Medina (00:40:11):

Lisa Medina, TCFE.

Michael Wilt (00:40:14):

Michael Wilt, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation,

Rosey Falcon (00:40:18):

Rosey Falcon. Homeless Programs Manager,

Gavin Reid (00:40:20):

Gavin Reid, manager of Planning and the community affairs division,

Jeremy Stremmler (00:40:24):

Jeremy Stremmler, manager of the Housing Resource Center, TDHCA.

Christina MacArthur (00:40:27):

Christina MacArthur, sitting for Megan Sylvester, TDHCA.

Elizabeth Yevich (00:40:30):

And Elizabeth Yevich, TDHCA.

Mike Doyle (00:40:34):

And anybody that has not introduced themselves on the phone or have a guest back here.

Boliver Allmon (00:40:40):

Boliver Allmon with Interpreters on Demand recording the program.

Mike Doyle (00:40:45):

Okay, thank you. Thank you for being here. And on the phone,

Anya Taylor (00:40:52):

Anya Taylor, Texas Homeless Network,

Peg McCoy (00:40:58):

Peg McCoy, TDHCA.

Sean Lonergan (00:41:08):

Sean Lonergan, TDHCA, TICH administrative of support.

Marcus Butler (00:41:14):

Marcus Butler, Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Mike Doyle (00:41:23):

Anyone else on the phone?

Claire Irwin (00:41:26):

This is Claire Erwin, Texas Health and Human Services.

Mike Doyle (00:41:36):

Well thank you and thanks Elizabeth for reminding me to do that.

I should have done that. Any other member agency updates? Okay,

Eric, Texas Homeless Network updates.

Eric Samuels (00:41:53):

Yeah, I was just told David, I don't have much to speak about here because others are going to speak, but I do need to mention that our annual conference on ending homelessness is September 11th through the 13th in Houston at the Omni Galleria. And I'm hoping, I'm assuming our TICH meeting will be held that morning of the 11th. I mean I know we will and I'm just hoping you all can be there. If you can't, I guess we'll listen to you on the phone, but it'd be great if you could be there for those of you, I don't know if there's anyone in this room that it would matter for, but we're having a head startup conference, a head startup training the day before on the 10th. So they're all coming down from Fort Worth and the Houston office is joining us there too. And I'm going to pass it off to Anya Taylor, who's going to give a update on the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network. Before I do that, just wanted to say that there's a blog that she has written that if you want to see a copy of it, I can pass it around while she's giving her report. I'll just start passing it around and you can take one if you want. Anya, you can go ahead and take the lead.

Anya Taylor (00:43:07):

Thank you Eric, and good morning everyone. Anya Taylor, Texas Homeless Network. Before I jump into my update on the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network, I just wanted to take a moment to welcome Mike back to the board. I'm happy to have you back, and

I just wanted to thank you for your vulnerability in your earlier remarks at the beginning of this call and reminding us about our perspectives and what is important in life. So I'm wishing for continued healing for you, Mike.

Mike Doyle (00:43:40):

Thank you, Anya. It was a recording

Eric Samuels (00:43:46):

That was very nice Anya.

Anya Taylor (00:43:50):

So for the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network, every time I present at this group, I always want to share an update on our data dashboard. What are the numbers? What is the state of homelessness looking like in Texas? That's the big question. So we do have our data dashboard for quarter one of this year. That would be January 1st all the way through March 31st updated. I did want to point out that in this latest update we have received all data from each of our participating COCs, with the exception of Austin and Travis County, Austin. Travis County is having some issues with their HMIS vendor that unfortunately is presenting them at least right now from making the HMIS upload to our data warehouse. So I just wanted to give the disclaimer that the numbers that you're seeing on this handout and if you

visit our data dashboard, do not include statistics from Austin Travis County, but it will be updated hopefully soon.

(00:45:02):

With that being said, right now for quarter one, we have identified 19,635 unique individuals or 16,902 households of which 19% were unsheltered that have been serviced across participating COCs of this project. This is pretty consistent with where we were last year. Around the same time, I think last year this number was approximately 26,000. But again, remember we had statistics from Austin, Travis County at that time, so we're about roughly the same as we were in 2023. And just as a quick reference, in 2023 across the entire year, there were 61,365 individuals or approximately 0.2% of the state population served by Texas POCs that we were able to capture in our data warehouse.

(00:46:08):

Eric mentioned a recent report that Texas Homeless Network published. This report actually dives into these numbers a little bit deeper. So we wanted to go beyond just collecting this data from our COC partners and really begin to analyze trends over time. And that's what is written about in this recent blog or report published in mid-March of this year. So in this report we talk about homelessness trends from 2018. So of

course pre covid what the state of homelessness looked like during the pandemic or during the early onset of the pandemic. And then how has the homelessness trends changed somewhat post covid. So in addition to homelessness trends, this report provides a breakdown of the homeless population for 2023. So you can really get a sense of the demographics of this population, the specific types of households that were served. And so I would encourage you to reference this report and share it with others as a resource. You're wanting to learn a little bit more about this project and the individuals that are being serviced across Texas COCs. We are going to be publishing another report focusing specifically on the veteran population. I would imagine that this report will be published or available for public viewing in early June. So this will be found on the Texas Homeless Network social media site as well as our website once it is published.

(00:48:05):

And then finally, this project I shared with this group before that one of our challenges that is ongoing is funding this project. I cannot understate the importance of the Texas Home State Sharing network because it allows us to get a sense of the population that is being serviced and how to target case management to better assist clients. And yet we find ourselves in a similar position as we were last year with searching out

funding to sustain this project beyond 2024, which is when we are currently funded until. So we have recently submitted a grant application to the Meadows Foundation. This application was submitted for the amount of a hundred thousand dollars in direct support of our data warehouse. We are also in the process right now of finalizing the application for the 2024 Amazon Web services or AWS Imagine Grant. This is an opportunity that we applied for the last two years and unfortunately haven't received funding through this particular opportunity, but we're optimistic that this year, third year's in charm. So these are some of the opportunities that we're pursuing right now. But if you have any ideas or suggestions or you come across any funding opportunities that may align with the work that we're doing, please feel free to reach out to me or pass that information along to us. We'd be happy to look into it.

Mike Doyle (00:49:45):

Hey Anya.

Anya Taylor (00:49:45):

That's all I have.

Mike Doyle (00:49:47):

Anya, this is Mike Doyle on page four of your podcast or whatever you call that thing in the jail on that statewide

homelessness trend. Am I reading this right in that in 2022 there are about 80,000 in the state that were homeless?

Anya Taylor (00:50:18):

That's right.

Mike Doyle (00:50:22):

In 2023 there was about 60,000 that were homeless. Is that what I'm seeing? Is it fair then to say that homelessness in Texas was down 20% over last year?

Anya Taylor (00:50:41):

Just looking. Thank you for pointing out that question. That's a great question. So if you just look at the numbers, you can see a big discrepancy and it looks like that homelessness or the rate of homelessness is down in Texas quite a bit from 2022. But we go into this into more detail in the actual report itself. Trying to explain that some of the spike that you see during the early onset of the pandemic, particularly in 2021 and in 2022 really comes from, for example, more individuals being serviced by Texas EOCs due to the increase in covid release funding. And then we go into other details about why you see this big spike in the numbers, but relatively over time, comparing the numbers pre covid, they're remaining relatively the same.

Mike Doyle (00:51:46):

Okay, well I think that's great information and it shows that the programs are working if we're even down at all over the last year. So I was just trying to get that clear in my mind. Sure, I'll use that right or wrong somewhere along the way, but I wanted to make sure I was looking at that correctly.

Eric Samuels (00:52:11):

Yeah, I mean, so these are people that fell in and out of homelessness throughout the year, so that's why these numbers are so high. And we had a lot of folks covered with CARES funding, so we had a lot more folks out there gathering data on these folks. So that's another reason for that increase. But yeah, please use the data to,

Mike Doyle (00:52:32):

Yeah, that looks like stuff from TDHCA and the local COCs people are doing great work out there. That's an impressive number. Okay, that's all I wanted to clarify Anya.

Anya Taylor (00:52:48):

Thank you.

Mike Doyle (00:52:50):

Thank you. Good job. Oh, Michael,

Michael Wilt (00:52:56):

Yeah, Anya, this is Michael Wilt. I have two questions. One is to expand upon Mike's question. Were your nine COCs reporting all their data 2018 to 2023? I know it took y'all a while to get all those nine COCs on board.

Mike Doyle (00:53:15):

Yeah,

Anya Taylor (00:53:16):

That's a good question. So in those years they were not reporting. However, when the COCs have been onboarded to this project, they have uploaded data dating back about 10 years.

Mike Doyle (00:53:32):

Oh wow.

Anya Taylor (00:53:32):

So we do have data from each of our participating COCs for those years. Although they were not participating in the year we've collected it since then,

Mike Doyle (00:53:44):

We have data from San Antonio and Wichita Falls.

Eric Samuels (00:53:47):

No,

Anya Taylor (00:53:48):

Unfortunately, no, not yet. But we're, we've been working very diligently in trying to get San Antonio and Wichita Falls to join us in this initiative.

Mike Doyle (00:54:00):

Though these numbers were absent of San Antonio, Wichita Falls and some in Travis County.

Eric Samuels (00:54:07):

Not on this, but on the report from earlier.

Mike Doyle (00:54:09):

Okay.

Eric Samuels (00:54:10):

Yeah, Travis County was the one that did not have data attributed yet. Yeah, but that's a good question though because that Michael asked, sorry, Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network because in 2012 you had less agencies overall using HMIS. So yeah, there is a gradual increase in the number of entities that are gathering data, so that does need to be factored in. But

Anya's right, we have data all the way back to 2012. Oh, great.
For all the nine CLCs that are participating.

Michael Wilt (00:54:43):

Great. And then Anya on page five, can you help me make sense of the race breakdown? I was particularly curious about the Hispanic numbers that seem really low compared to what the National Alliance sustain Homelessness report out. And I'm guessing some of that population may be factored in multiracial because the multiracial numbers seem fairly high in black percentages are close to in line with kind of the national numbers, but it's the Hispanic number that really sticks out to me.

Eric Samuels (00:55:21):

Exactly.

Anya Taylor (00:55:24):

That's a really great question and I appreciate you pointing that out. We reported the numbers for race and ethnicity as they are represented in our data warehouse. However, one of the things that I want to note and why you see that discrepancy in the Hispanic population and the multiracial population from 2022 to 2023 is because in late 2023, HUD released some new HMIS data standards that change the way in which race and ethnicity is

collected for clients accessing services. And so the way that it is changed or has been changed in HMIS makes the numbers look a bit wonky when you're looking at the race and ethnicity population comparatively from 2022 to 2023. We didn't put that disclaimer in our report or go into detail on why that is because this is something that we learned a little bit more about once we had published this report.

(00:56:34):

But it's something that we are aware of, and I think with this, from what my understanding is, since this change was just recently implemented, it's going to take a couple of years for the data to be collected under these new HMIS data standards for there to be more consistent year to year comparisons, because now that these are implemented, if you compare it to years before you're going to see those discrepancies, I know that that's not maybe the best explanation, but I'm hoping that provides a little bit of clarity of speed to the new HMIS data standards that were released at the end of 2023.

Michael Wilt (00:57:21):

Okay. I have one more follow up question, and that's about the LGBTQIA plus population are COCs reporting data on that. I only ask because when we're seeking funding for some of our programs tied to homelessness, banks have been asking for that

demographic information a lot when it comes to the population experiencing homelessness. And I didn't know if that was being collected by COCs. My guess is it is not. It's not.

Eric Samuels (00:57:56):

Well, we do collect a percentage of folks that identify as transgender and other, so that's right.

Anya Taylor (00:58:04):

Gender

Michael Wilt (00:58:05):

Yeah, but not orientation.

Eric Samuels (00:58:07):

Well, no, I guess, yeah.

Michael Wilt (00:58:10):

Okay. Thank you.

Mike Doyle (00:58:13):

Thank you, Michael. Good question. Okay, Anya, thank you very much. Very thorough.

Anya Taylor (00:58:21):

Thank you so much,

Mike Doyle (00:58:22):

Jim.

Jim Ward (00:58:22):

Yes, sir. Hi everyone. My name is Jim Ward, director of planning for the Texas Homeless Network. I just want to make sure everyone can hear me that the folks on the phone can hear as well. Yeah. So my agenda item is the ambiguously titled Texas Violence of State or TX VOS, continuum of Care Update. I think there is, it's going around right now. Okay. There is going around right now a slide deck from the May General membership meeting of the Texas Balance of State. So the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care is one of, as y'all have heard, 11 COCs in the state. We are by far the largest by geography. They're approximately 84% of the state's land mass is in the state Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care. There's about 40% of the state's population, 215 counties in a single continuum of care. Unfortunately, this slide deck, there is not a map of the COCs. This content was originally developed for folks working in the balance of state. So in November of 2019, and I'm not going to go through this slide by slide necessarily, I just wanted the membership to have the content in late 2023, the Texas Balance

of State COC board directed staff to explore the concept of regionalization.

(00:59:51):

It was not the first time we've explored this concept in an effort to better serve the communities within the Texas Balance of State. So we were directed by the board to take some action in exploring regionalization. We contacted the Snaps office at HUD who oversee the Continuum of Care program, and were assigned the TA providers that you see there on slide two with Cloudburst Consulting. So staff from Texas Homeless Network on behalf of the Continuum have been meeting with Cloudburst Consulting now since January. And then I think kind of where we've landed on a question that we'd like to answer, which is what would it look like to split the balance of state into two or more continuums?

(01:00:44):

The reasons for that are varied. One of the kind of biggest and low hanging, and I apologize for the way this is stapled, I can't even know. The biggest and low hanging reason is the added capacity that that split would bring. Right now the Texas Balance of State is capped in the amount of planning dollars that we can receive from HUD at 1.5 million for all 215 counties a split into two COCs could increase that by as much as \$1.3 million depending on the ending geography of the balance state.

So we are endeavoring to seek input from a variety of stakeholders. We've met with the board, obviously we've met with the general membership. We are planning to engage our local homeless coalition leaderships and local governments. You can see the list there. And the slides are not numbered, but we do plan to seek as much community input as we can gather before we bring this back to the September meeting of the general membership, where we hope to have a little bit more clarity on proposed geography and some kind of the bigger questions around governance, that sort of thing. So recognizing that I could be opening a can of worms here by bringing just a little bit of information and not, we could spend a long time on this topic, obviously, but wanted to bring this to the TICH again to seek input or make everyone aware. Okay.

Eric Samuels (01:02:30):

Thank you. And in case you're wondering why we're talking to Interagency Council about this, the Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network, the Balance of State in a lot of ways was born out of the Interagency Council. I don't know that a lot of people, we know that. I don't know that a lot of folks know that. So we felt that it was appropriate to bring this potential change to the council.

Elizabeth Yevich (01:02:54):

When would that have been? Like 2003Ish or something?

Eric Samuels (01:02:57):

It was 98. You remember really? Well, it was 2005, I think is when it was official. And at that time, the Interagency Council was the lead for the project. Over time, that changed where we had a balance of state COC board, which is now, they're basically the entity that directs our staff the way we want to go with the COC planning. So yeah.

Bobby Wilkinson (01:03:24):

Eric, Bob Wilkinson, TDHCA, who is the ultimate decider on whether y'all split or not? Is it the HUD decision or,

Jim Ward (01:03:34):

That's a great question. COCs are essentially locally governed and in order for a continuum to be recognized, they have to satisfy a number of criteria by lead. Is there a functional coordinated entry system? Is there HMIS in place? They will look for evidence of this type of community input. You have to also remember that typically a continuum of care is a single county, not 85% of the state of Texas. That our continuum is absolutely an outlier in the United States. So it doesn't really look like what other COCs look like, but ultimately there isn't one entity that is responsible for that other than the continuum of care

board. They'll look for evidence that there's been a vote by the COC board, but also the COC general membership.

Bobby Wilkinson (01:04:29):

And then you're looking at east, west, north, south, or

Jim Ward (01:04:32):

North, south,

Bobby Wilkinson (01:04:33):

North, South.

Eric Samuels (01:04:34):

That's the way it breaks down best for the funding and support. And I should also mention that our COC board, I was getting ready to say my name again, but I think. Yeah, that's right. I mean, we have a broad representation. We have representation of, I think every subpopulation. For example, we have a seat just for veterans. We have a seat for chronic homelessness, things like that. And then we also have a large seats that are spread throughout the balance of state. So that's the best way for us to get a representation of our community, which is 215 counties, which is impossible, but that's the way we do it.

Jim Ward (01:05:15):

Yeah, I mean the hope would be that through a smaller geographic area, under the continuum of care, that we're able to get more into the needs that exist in communities right now. We're really not able to serve the function. And you can see some of the quotes here in the document review that the TA folks did. We're really not able to get into communities the same way as Echo or the Houston Coalition or Housing Forward are. And so the goal is to increase capacity in the communities, all 215 of them, whichever COC they end up in.

Michael Wilt (01:05:53):

Thanks for this, Jim. Michael Wilt again. I think it makes sense considering you reached your maximum allocation at 1.5 million and you said this is kind of an outlier, COC across the country. And are there examples you can look to maybe Montana or Utah or Nevada places with just a few urban areas, but really predominantly rural? I mean, do they have a similar structure with one entity representing all those rural areas, one COC, representing all the rural areas?

Jim Ward (01:06:29):

Yeah, that's a good question. So the balance of state structure as a concept is not unique to Texas, right? There's a balance of state in many of the community or the states that you mentioned. I'm not as familiar with how other states are structured. The

ones that I am familiar with are kind of the way ours is structured, where there's cities and mostly rural areas under a single continuum, and then your metro areas under another continuum with limited exceptions. I'm not sure if that answers your question.

Michael Wilt (01:07:04):

I think it does. I'm just wondering if there's an example of probably a Western state where there are a couple concentrated population areas and then the rest is rural. And if those states have collapsed all those rural areas into a singular COC or if they kind of

Jim Ward (01:07:23):

Split them up, expand the footprint

Michael Wilt (01:07:25):

Like y'all are considering if there's Western Oregon and eastern Oregon or

Jim Ward (01:07:31):

Ah, yes. I see. No, actually there are examples of east and west kind of like balance state. Pennsylvania is one example, but there really aren't any other examples that where the CS have

been or the balance of state has been large enough to split in that way.

Michael Wilt (01:07:50):

There's no other state dealing with 200.

Mike Doyle (01:07:52):

Yeah, there's no state.

Eric Samuels (01:07:53):

They weren't thinking of Texas when they identified a cap on the planning money that you can get. They weren't thinking about Texas when they built out a lot of things. So.

Michael Wilt (01:08:04):

Okay.

Mike Doyle (01:08:06):

Thank you. Jim, are you through?

Jim Ward (01:08:08):

Yes, sir.

Mike Doyle (01:08:08):

Very good. Is there any public comment out there? I don't see anybody, so let me just make a closing comment. I'm always just amazed at the dedication of the people around this table and the people on the phone and the people in the communities that couldn't get up here. I just want to commend you for doing great, great, great work. It's hard work, it's frustrating work. You pour your heart and your resources into a family and they mess up again. But we've all messed up again too. So it is just great to see you guys and girls and ladies and be so committed because it keeps me committed. So I appreciate that very much. And with that being said, I think we can call this meeting to be adjourned so we can get to lunch meeting,,,.

Ann Charlotte (01:09:06):

I have a quick announcement. Okay. If you don't mind. Sure. Sorry, this is Ann Charlotte from TNOYS. So we just wanted to share that the statewide collaborative on youth homelessness will have our quarterly meeting in person this June at TNOYS annual conference in Houston. I think everyone knows the statewide collaborative on youth homelessness, but just a quick refresher, it's the statewide work group that TNOYS convene focused specifically on the needs of Texas youth and young adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. So this collaborative of over 200 members meets regularly to share resources and collaborate on solutions to prevent and end youth

homelessness. So all statewide collaborative participants and all of you are invited to attend this next meeting. You don't have to attend the conference to come. I think we did just close conference registration within the last hour. But if you're interested in attending the conference as well, definitely reach out to one of us on the TNOYS team and we can get you registered on the backend. Just try to do that this week so we can get it added to our numbers.

(01:10:17):

So a little more about the meeting. So in addition to networking with stakeholders, serving youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, we'll have updates from state agency leaders. So we've confirmed leadership from DSPS TJJD TWC, TDHCA, and the governor's office child sex trafficking team. So we're really excited to have all that representation. I think also the children's commission that we're looking on my list, I think they also just confirmed. So this meeting will be over breakfast on Friday, June seven from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM at the Omni Hotel Houston. So if you want to attend or if you just want to get on the statewide collaborative distribution list, you can email policy@TNOYS.org or if you email fedora Lauren or maybe we can get it to the right person. Yeah. Does anyone have any questions about that? I know I talked really fast. I want to get everyone to lunch.

Mike Doyle (01:11:42):

And saying that, having said that, our next meeting is sometime in July. We'll let you know when that is and then we know it'll be September the 11th in Houston and we'll get you more information about that. Thanks for coming. We appreciate you

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