

**HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATION COUNCIL
POLICY & BARRIERS COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Minutes**

April 15, 2010 10:30am

Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs, Room 107
221 E 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Call to Order, Roll Call

Committee Chair Jonas Schwartz called meeting to order at 10:33am and asked each person present to introduce himself/herself.

Committee Members Present:

Jonas Schwartz
Jean Langendorf
Michael Goodwin
Paige McGilloway
Marc Gold
Jim Hanophy

TDHCA Staff Present:

Elizabeth Yevich
Ashley Schweickart
Marshall Mitchell

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Jonas Schwartz asked for any changes regarding the March 2nd meeting minutes. There being none, a motion was made and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion of Biennial Plan Recommendations

Ashley Schweickart, Council Coordinator, began the discussion regarding Chapter 3 of the Biennial Plan – “Defining Service-Enriched Housing and Supporting Terminology.” Terminology under discussion included: ‘Elderly,’ ‘Disability,’ ‘Homeless,’ ‘Accessibility,’ ‘Integration,’ ‘Independence,’ ‘Affordability,’ and ‘Health-Related and Other Service and Supports.’

Definition of Service-Enriched Housing: For the purpose of directing the work of the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council and its work product including the biennial plan, 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.

Elderly

- Committee decided to use the Administration on Aging (AoA) definition of ‘elderly’ as it is the broadest definition of those used by Texas state agencies and will minimize potential of the plan to create barriers to program funding.

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- Quantitative data sources to be included in this section: AARP, AoA, Texas Area Agencies on Aging, DADS, National Council on Independent Living, etc.

Disability

- Committee decided to use the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definition as the basis for their own definition, as it is the broadest definition of those used by Texas state agencies. Also, this definition clearly states the inclusion of persons with mental illness.
- An addition to the ADA definition would be the inclusion of persons with substance abuse.

Homeless

- Council debated whether or not a subsection of the chapter is needed to discuss the homeless population, given that this population is included within the other definitions – persons with disabilities and persons who are elderly can also be homeless (co-occurrence).
- Council decided to include, either in the public forums summary or in an appendix, “profiles” of the people who would benefit from service-enriched housing. These profiles would be based on the testimony given from the public forums.
- Council also decided to create a Statement of Purpose or Preface for the entire biennial plan, which sets the tone for the reader

Accessibility

- Committee decided to use the TX Accessibility Standard used by the TX Dept. of Licensing & Regulation pertaining to architectural barriers in multifamily properties
- Also referencing Sec. 2306.514 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) pertaining to construction requirements for single family affordable housing
- Committee discussed the possible inclusion of standards for non-architectural issues related to meeting the needs of those with non-mobility impairments. Also discussed issues of visitability.
- Don’t want to limit use of existing housing stock for service-enriched housing, although its exempt from accessibility standards

Integration

- Committee decided to use the Title 10, Part 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Rule 1.15 of the TAC as the definition of integration, as the public is familiar with it and is very broad

Independence

- It was decided that no additional language was necessary to define the term independence

Affordability

- Committee decided to use the 1st sentence of the TDHCA definition, which states: “Housing where the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for gross housing costs, including utility costs.”
- Committee decided not to create income qualifiers for this section

Health-Related and Other Service and Supports

- Committee decided that the first priority is to help an individual access services that already exist

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- Definitions of broad service categories should be included, such as “medical services,” “acute services,” “long-term services,” etc.
- Language within this section will emphasize that the services offered are based on the needs of the individual

An additional discussion ensued regarding the inclusion of licensed facilities under the definition of service-enriched housing. The Committee decided that licensed facilities will not be included. This will be stated in the preamble/purpose section of the biennial plan.

Discussion of Staff Research Assignments

Staff will research those quantitative data sources mentioned during the discussion. Staff will also pull excerpts from the transcripts of the public forums to use as “profiles” of those that need assistance that can be helped through service-enriched housing. Finally, staff will write-up the Preamble and Chapter 3 of the plan for further review.

Discussion of Next Steps for Committee

Committee decided on Friday, April 30th at 2:00pm for the committee’s next conference call. It was decided that the topic for discussion will be Chapter 5: Identifying Barriers.

Adjourned

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:55am.