



PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 8th, 2016
12:00 noon – 1:30PM
700 Lavaca, Room 1.112

Minutes

Voting Members Present: Sherry Blyth, Sandra Eames, Darla Gay, Darwin Hamilton, Melissa Orren, Jorge Renaud, Danny Smith, Douglas Smith, Laura Sovine, Pete Valdez, Sarah Worthington, Bree Williams

Staff: Caity Barillas, Lauren Johnson, Kelly Nichols

Guests: Lauren Marsiglia, Claire Morel, Reginald Smith, Brenda Musgrove

I. Introductions (Sarah Worthington)

Sarah welcomed the council and facilitated a round of introductions.

II. Approval of May 2016 Minutes (Sarah Worthington)

Correction: Item 3, bullets 6 and 7 should read: “Central Health and ATCIC,” not “Travis County”. Item 11, bullet 4 should read “Darwin Hamilton made an announcement that” instead of “The Council discussed contributing.” Jorge Renaud motioned to approve the July minutes, Bree Williams seconded the motion and the July minutes were approved.

III. Discussion and Approval of Locked Out: Addressing Criminal History Barriers to Accessing Affordable Rental Housing in Travis County Report (Melissa Orren)

Melissa offered an introduction and Kelly Nichols gave a presentation on the report. The report is one of the key deliverables for the County and City and will be submitted in September. Kelly briefly covered the legal background of the report and presented the local research and key findings:

- Adherence with the Texas Property Code
- Lookback Periods
- Consideration of Mitigating Circumstances
- Transparency

Kelly presented the recommendations and next steps:

- Education
- Monitoring
- Partnerships

The council discussed HUD's guidance to housing providers in the state of Texas. The findings indicate that not all locations are following the guidance, but the law remains in place that requires properties to house individuals fairly.

Council members discussed that only multi-family units were visited for the reports and this may not present a full picture of what is happening in housing. Taking the dialogue beyond affordable housing into all of housing is a potential next step for the report. Formal rules will be the next steps put in place by HUD. The council discussed that the HUD guidance needs to be expanded upon. TDHCA has some recommendations that can be followed up on as well.

It was suggested that the Roundtable focus on giving funders tools and guiding principles on how to deal with the issues that currently exist in affordable housing. There can be a small piece in the report that highlights the letters from the New Orleans reports. The deliverables for next year are to work on ways to make this report something that can be implemented. The council discussed the challenges of the report:

- Education for properties is a broad topic and it is difficult to see the education piece being implemented. Documentation is the key piece of education, and providing a toolkit for landlords will be helpful.
- Developing a sample policy may offend some landlords. The only way to create that type of change is a partnership.
- For the 11 properties that did not respond there may need to be some drilldown looked into.
- The report needs to include more information about the county instead of just focusing on the city.
- The report needs an executive summary.

Action Item: Kelly asked the council to give feedback by the end of the week. The report will be released in September. Bree will send Danny and Sherry the HUD Continuum of Care NOFA funding language related to criminalization of homelessness.

IV. Behavioral Health Issue Area Update (Sherry Blyth and Danny Smith)

Sherry Blyth and Danny Smith updated the council on recent Health Justice Learning Collaborative activities:

- Danny and Dr. Lawson from the Dell Medical School are looking at jail data to assess disparities in booking.
- The initiative is seeking to link central booking with the mental health crisis outreach team (MCOT) in order to divert some persons with mental health challenges at the time of booking. They will be working with the municipal judges to review the bookings and release processes.
- Mental health training for Travis County Sheriff's Office staff is underway. The training is focused on suicide prevention.
- The jail staff is coordinating with the MCOT team and with municipal judges to coordinate the release of inmates with substantial mental health needs.

- The team is also coordinating to ensure continuation of benefits upon release including Medicaid and Social Security (there was a suggestion to check with the Federal Bureau of Prisons on this issue as it has been a federal focus).
- There are also conversations underway regarding coordination with first responders to have a joint MCOT dispatch when they have repeat offenders who are detained for minor charges. For instance, “criminal trespass” calls have a very high probability of having a mental health component.
- The team is also working on developing a quarterly newsletter to keep system partners updated on the project activities.

Action Item: Once implemented, integrate the newsletter with the monthly Roundtable newsletter.

V. Misc. Announcements and Roundtable

The DSHS Cross Systems Summit is taking place on August 16-17th.

Next Meeting:

September 12th, 2016

Noon – 1:30pm

700 Lavaca, Room 1.112