



HRS Leadership Council's All Stakeholders Minutes

Duration:	TIME: 12 pm - 2 pm	Date: 4/7/2025
		Meeting Place: VIRTUAL MEETINGS Meeting ID: ZOOM INFO

P = Present
A = Absent

Leadership Council Members

P	Dr. Larry Wallace	P	Linda Jackson	P	Monique Coleman		
P	Coni Stogner	P	Candace McGary	P	Ebonie Trice		
P	Liz Baker	P	Paola Silvestre	P	Ashley Jones		
P	Dylan Shubitz	P	Amanda Jasso				
P	Jacob Emerson	A	David Gray				

Committee Chairs

Guest Attendees

	Guest Attendance is Recorded						
	Rocio and Team from Housing Department						
P							
P							

ECHO Staff Presenting (Collaborative Applicant)

P	Helen Eisert						
P							
P							

AGENDA	PRESENTER	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>Helen</p>	<p>Welcome & Agenda Overview: The meeting began with a welcome to all attendees. The agenda was reviewed and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brief administrative updates. ● Introduction of Tim Mercer as a new Leadership Council (LC) member. ● Presentation by Rocio and the City of Austin Housing Department team on the Action Plan. ● Persons with Lived Expertise (PLE) update. ● Public comment period. <p>Public Engagement & Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helen announced that the chat is now operational and encouraged the public to submit questions during the Q&A segment. ● Chat Monitoring: LC members were asked to help monitor the chat during the meeting to ensure all questions are seen and addressed. ● Public Comment Guidelines: Community members were asked to keep comments to 3–5 minutes to ensure equitable participation. ● Future Agenda Item Submissions: Helen informed that the public can now submit agenda items for upcoming LC public meetings via the ECHO website, under the Leadership Council section. Submissions will be monitored by Shan biweekly for LC consideration. 	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Quick Business</p>	<p>Liz</p>	<p>Liz provided a brief review of the Leadership Council Values, highlighting the value of systems-thinking.</p> <p>Jacob reviewed the Group Agreements, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing and honoring BIPOC voices in discussions and decisions.</p> <p>Liz informed the Council of anticipated changes from HUD for CoC-funded projects. It is expected that HUD will request re-submission of documents typically submitted during the application process.</p> <p>The Leadership Council will take responsibility for reviewing documents for HUD compliance over the next two months.</p> <p>Liz announced that the vacant LC seat has been filled by Tim Mercer, representing Central Health.</p> <p>Tim introduced himself, shared a brief overview of his background and accomplishments, and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve.</p> <p>Liz provided context for Central Health’s appointed seat, referencing previous Council discussions on elected versus appointed positions and the importance of healthcare alignment in system planning.</p> <p>Dylan provided an update on the remaining LC vacant seat designated for a non-HUD funded system provider.</p> <p>The decision was made to keep the seat open temporarily while the LC application is being revised to better assess applicant qualifications and insights.</p> <p>An announcement will be made once the new application is live on the ECHO website. Previous applicants will be encouraged to reapply.</p> <p>Jacob requested clarification on the eligibility of providers with non-HUD funding.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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		<p>Dylan confirmed that organizations funded by non-HUD sources, such as the VA, may be eligible.</p> <p>The Leadership Council approved the minutes from the March 3, 2025, public meeting.</p> <p>Jacob requested to reflect his vote via proxy through Linda, voting "yes."</p> <p>Dylan confirmed that no additional votes were taken during the March meeting.</p> <p>Helen noted she would add the proxy vote to the meeting record.</p>	
<p>City of Austin, Housing Department</p>	<p>Rocio and team</p>	<p>Rocio – Housing Department Action Plan Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presented FY 23–24 Action Plan for four federal grants: CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, ESG. ● Noted limited public demographic reporting for HUD grants. ● Gave overview of programs/activities, including racial/ethnic breakdown of ESG. ● 1,856 households served last fiscal year. ● Shared visual plan for how funds may be used in the new grant year. <p>Transparency & Community Feedback Efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Displayed 2024 community needs assessment and feedback themes. ● Introduced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New policy and data team. ○ "Housing Hub" webpage (upcoming). ○ Evergreen survey for year-round community input. 	<p>N/A</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Internal focus on improved data sharing and continued monitoring of partner agencies. <p>Public Feedback & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dylan summarized plan goals: review past usage, seek input for future use, collect feedback, then draft and release plan for public comment. ● Liz inquired about large public facilities funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ James (Housing & Community Dev. Officer): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$5M to Salvation Army, \$8M to Southbridge, \$2.5M annually for Colony Park. ▪ Colony Park is a 200+ acre infrastructure/community dev. project, not specifically for homeless services. ● Liz expressed concern about fewer funds going to homeless services, hopes for more program support. ● Tim asked about rental vs. homeownership assistance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ James: rental assistance addresses broader, more immediate needs; homeownership demand exceeds availability. <p>Public & Council Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Member asked if Roberts Rec Center infrastructure included in Colony Park funds. ● Kaylee from the chat: asked if shelter and rapid rehousing funds were fully expended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ James: not sure, contracts managed by HSO. ○ Helen: HSO contact is David Gray. <p>HOPWA Program Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dylan: suggested \$2.6M HOPWA funding could have stronger impact if focused on permanent housing. ● Wants to examine functionality of HOPWA programs. <p>Budget & Reporting Clarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Toby Nunley: asked about budgeted vs. actual expenses. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rocio: data from past report; some based on individuals, some on households. ● James: line-item data will be available in FY25–26 Action Plan. ● Helen: presentation and materials will be uploaded to ECHO website. <p>Economic Development Funding Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Liz: noted disparity in family business loan program – \$300M budgeted vs. \$1.5M used. ● James: number likely closer to \$3M; EDD manages this, not housing dept. ● Julie: will confirm number; noted challenges finding qualifying business owners. <p>Funding Gaps & Suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Candace: asked if underspending was due to programmatic issues. <p>Rocio: yes; outcomes vary by line item. Amanda: asked about adapting to potential new HUD regulations. Rocio: no new HUD requirements yet; each department adjusts are having conversations.</p> <p>Travis County CDBG/Home Office Updates</p> <p>Monique</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Travis County serves unincorporated areas and small cities. ● Recently completed community needs survey. ● Focus areas: infrastructure and home rehabilitation. ● Pending approval for recapture provisions. ● Will administer home investment partnership funds for first time since 2006. ● Possible changes in fair housing certification requirements coming. <p>CDBG Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● James: federal regs (Davis-Bacon, environmental, etc.) deter private developers. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large-scale projects preferred for use of federal dollars (e.g., Colony Park, Salvation Army). <p>More Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Liz: asked about challenges with CDBG operations vs. admin. ● James: will check; depends on funding timing. <p>Monique: clarified which requirements apply to construction vs. admin funds.</p> <p>Affordability in Colony Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helen: asked a question from the chat about 30%–60% MFI housing in Colony Park. ● James: 20% affordability required, with mix of rental and ownership from 30% to market rate. <p>Justice-Involved Populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Julie: new needs category added for vulnerable populations including justice-involved individuals. ● James: tenant legal aid funded through contract with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, rental assistance handled by displacement prevention team. <p>See Presentation here: HRS Action Plan Needs Assessment</p>	
<p>Compensation for People with Lived Experience</p>	<p>Helen Eisert, ECHO</p>	<p>Helen provided context on the origin and importance of PLE compensation.</p> <p>Emphasized the historical lack of inclusion of people with lived experience (PLE) in decision-making spaces.</p> <p>Explained compensation as a step toward equity in governance.</p> <p>Outlined the three-part structure of PLE compensation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leadership Council: Sets the policy. ● ECHO: Fundraises, implements the policy, and reports outcomes. ● TOOF (Third Party Payee): Processes and distributes payments. 	<p>N/A</p>

	<p>Compensation breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$80 – Initial onboarding/training ● \$400/month – Leadership Council members ● \$240/month – Committee co-chairs or workgroup leads ● \$160/month – Committee or workgroup members ● TOOF receives an administrative fee for processing payments. <p>Noted a policy change in July 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limits compensation to participation in three groups maximum. ● Aligns spending with the approved budget. ● Equity advocates will no longer be compensated, only people with lived expertise of homelessness will be compensated. ● Budget is set at \$75,000 for governance only <p>Questions:</p> <p>Jacob acknowledged the rationale behind the compensation change but raised concerns regarding delays in payments by TOOF. He recommended that ECHO engage in a discussion with TOOF to address the issue.</p> <p>Helen acknowledged Jacobs concerns and explained the payment process.</p> <p>Dr. Wallace suggested revisiting the allotted budget to explore potential opportunities for increasing the budget annually, either through a reassessment of current funding or by implementing a yearly percentage-based increase.</p> <p>Helen advised having a conversation with ECHO on who can fundraise. Governance is limited in their budget to just compensated seats.</p>	
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		Dylan informed that the compensation policy is never compensated solely based on race or gender. Advised any committee or workgroup having difficulty recruiting persons that reflect the diversity of the community to reach out to LC rep or ECHO support staff.	
Public Comments	All	<p>Toby mentioned raising questions about assisting with fundraising and having PLE's help with that.</p> <p>Helen responded that fundraising efforts were made in 2024 and set at 75K. If there's good feedback but concerns it still not enough, that when revisions are considered ensuring ECHO should not take it on alone as there is a community.</p> <p>Tim asked how we compare with other cities.</p> <p>Helen will find out more but shared that other cities reach out to us to see how we are compensating.</p> <p>Sasha raised points about having equitable representation. Advocated that funding be allocated specifically to ensure more diverse representation.</p> <p>Dylan reiterated the importance of connecting with Leadership Council representatives and sharing information to enhance participation and attract more diverse representation.</p> <p>Bart mentioned that to raise money ECHO could charge a small fee based upon each HMIS user which could be a constant flow of income. He also asked would administer HOPWA if Ryan White funding was no longer.</p>	N/A

		<p>Tracey mentioned that when she originally came in as a PLE, compensation was really bad and currently it has progressed a lot.</p> <p>Toby had concerns about increasing rent in Austin, substandard living conditions and lack of amenities.</p> <p>Jacob referenced made to Toby's concerns and urged Dylan to look into the increasing rent rates.</p> <p>Dylan commented that every rental unit assisted with a voucher undergoes a review to ensure the requested rent is aligned with what unassisted tenants are paying. This process is built in to prevent vouchers from driving up rent and to ensure property owners are not exploiting the system. The review confirms that rent rates are comparable.</p> <p>Linda suggested looking into how were evaluating because she has seen a drastic increase, and it affects the quality of life that those that have vouchers.</p> <p>Perla brought awareness about Housing Connector in the chat.</p> <p>Liz explained that the city of Austin just secured a contract with housing connector which is a centralized resource for landlord engagement and housing placement.</p>	
Adjournment	All	Meeting adjourned	N/A

Next Public Meeting: Monday May 5th, 2025
12pm-2pm

Actions taken by Leadership Council during the meeting on 4/7th/2025 Public Meeting

- 1) Approval of the 3/3/2025 Public Meeting Minutes