



# The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

## **MINUTES**

### **ASH Redesign Housing Work Group**

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 ▪ 10:00 – 11:00am ▪ Conference Call

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#### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Housing presentation and Q&A
3. Next Steps
4. Close

#### **Attendees**

Cory Morris, Helen Eisert, Francela Brazil Williams, Suzie Brady, Sydney Harris, Christa Signor, Sonja Burns, Lexie Grove, Melissa Shearer, Marilyn Hartman, Ashley Trust,

#### **Minutes**

##### *Welcome*

Group was welcomed and the agenda was reviewed.

##### *Housing presentation and Q&A*

An HHSC representative presented on the Housing Choice Plan. Presentation included the process, housing continuum, key findings and next steps for BHAC Housing subcommittee. Reviewed the impetus for the Housing Choice Plan and principles for the group. Provided a list of stakeholders involved. Housing Choice Plan is a comprehensive environmental scan of housing opportunities, gaps, and recommendations. Presenter discussed continuum of housing from less choice to more choice and institutional setting to community housing. Member discussed “intentional communities” vs institutional settings. Group discussed how individuals are placed in setting and what is evaluated, such as functionality vs symptom set. Presenter suggested hosting another guest to provide more details. Clarified that the more/less choice line is based on tenants’ rights and less about individual choice. Provided definition for “Housing Programs”. The key findings are that there is a lack of affordable housing; addressing housing needs to the target population must include providing support people need to find and maintain housing; the current housing continuum available in most communities across Texas needs to be flexible and more robust to accommodate the different needs and preferences of people at different points in their lives. Gaps were then reviewed and included lack of options. Gaps provided by individuals with mental health conditions were lack of funds, inability to find a place that offers what they need, criminal records limiting options, and past experiences with landlords limit options. A member discussed why it is important to ensure mental health needs are not criminalized. A member mentioned the possibility of a diversion center in Austin, but no one in the group knew the status. Discussed criminal records as potentially being a barrier for transitioning off of campus-based housing as well. A member discussed the need for more data on outcomes for housing programs. Recommended better utilization of the HCBS-AMH program. Presenter advised that exceptional items and statutory initiatives need to be submitted by December. Discussed where funding for housing would come from and what role HHSC can play in obtaining funding. Presenter shared additional states HHSC spoke with regarding

housing continuum – individuals with criminal records were not discussed. Confirmed there are tangible housing recommendations in the Housing Choice Plan.

#### *Next Steps*

Co-Chairs will work on obtaining more specific data on the 365 list to move forward on housing needs for that group.

*Close*

#### **Resources**

- [ASH Redesign Project Website](#)
  - [All HHSC Hospital Projects](#)
  - [The Network \(New York Housing Funding Site\)](#)
  - [Work Group Timeline](#)
  - [Options for Community Living, Inc](#)
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