**BHAC Housing Subcommittee**

**Of the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

**11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Health and Human Services Commission**

**6330 East Hwy 290, Office of Mental Health Coordination, Room 300G**

**Austin, TX 78723**

**Teleconference**

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Attendance**

The BHAC Housing Subcommittee meeting commenced at 11:00 a.m. with Jason Howell, Co-Chair providing a welcome and conducted roll call. Mr. Howell reviewed agenda for today’s meeting and noted the reading materials sent out to members in advance that will be covered during the meeting:

* March 26th meeting agenda
* DRAFT minutes from February 26th meeting
* HANDOUT – Understanding Fair Housing and Civil Rights When Exploring an Array of Housing Options for Persons with Disabilities
* Additional reading materials:
  + The Fair Housing Act Amendments Act of 1988 and Group Homes for the Handicapped
  + American Association of Community Psychiatrist (AACP) Position Paper: Housing Options for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness

Table 1 shows attendance for the meeting.

Table 1: The BHAC Housing Subcommittee member attendance at the Tuesday, March 26, 2019 meeting.

| **BHAC MEMBER NAME** | **YES** | **NO** | **BHAC MEMBER NAME** | **YES** | **NO** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jason Howell | X |  | Andrea Richardson |  | X |
| Liz Castaneda |  | X | Windy Johnson | X |  |

**Subject Matter Experts in Attendance**

* Marilyn Hartman, NAMI Austin
* Myra Chandler, Texas Department of Juvenile Justice
* Davin Davis, Texas Workforce Commission
* Missy McDaniel, Texas Department of Criminal Justice
* Marcus Butler, Texas Department of Juvenile Justice
* Tanya Lavelle, Hogg Foundation
* Carissa Dougherty, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Office of Mental Health Coordination (OMHC), Housing Coordinator
* Soila Villarreal, HHSC, OMHC, Committee and Council Liaison
* Helen Eisert, HHSC, Behavioral Health Services – Housing Programs

**Agenda Item 2: Vote - Approve February 26th Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Howell presented draft meeting minutes from the February 26th Housing subcommittee meeting for participant review. No edits were identified. The minutes are approved by the BHAC members of the subcommittee.

**Agenda Item 3: Discussion Fair Housing, Civil Rights, and Group Homes**

Mr. Howell introduced open discussion topic by highlighting the discussion last month with Home and Community-Based Services-Adult Mental Health (HCBS-AMH) program that highlight the various types of group housing options needed for persons with mental health disabilities and ways in which quality housing can be ensured (licensed facilities, unlicensed boarding homes/local ordinances, and voluntary certification programs similar to recovery housing). Ms. Hartman asked why there is such a concern about licensure of mental health group homes when there exist similar licensed IDD group homes. Mr. Howell reported both populations are protected under fair housing laws and governments are able to put regulations on housing for these populations only for specific reasons. He provided the example of licensed assisted living facilities, the criteria include whether a person has difficulty self-evacuating from the facility.

Ms. Hartman acknowledged that there are many gaps in the housing continuum for different types of group housing options. Participants discussed the availability and need of assessment tools that might help individuals and providers make recommendations for housing and levels of care. There do not appear to be any tools that do this, especially none that incorporate activities of daily living (ADLs), regardless of whether the type of housing and mix of services currently exists in the community. Ms. Eisert shared information about the homeless continuum of care (CoC) coordinated assessment that is self-report information and the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) that doesn’t currently, but may could eventually, include a housing module to assist clinicians in asking more targeted housing questions of individuals.

Participants agreed that initial steps include working to define the array of group home options that currently exist and what is missing from the state’s housing continuum, including mapping out the types of funding and levels of supportive services that may be needed. Mr. Howell mentioned the potential for securing technical assistance from Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale-Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS-TACS).

**Agenda Item 4: Opportunity for Interested Members to Share Legislative Agendas**

Mr. Howell opened discussion to any participant wanting to share legislative updates. Ms. Lavelle provided information on House Bill (HB) 3254 that will create a set aside for supportive housing within the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program on the Qualified Allocation Plan. Ms. Lavelle also shared other proposed legislation that would remove the requirement on the QAP to provide letters of support for tax credit deals from state representatives; which is something only Texas requires and can have Not in My Back Yard (NIMBY) implications. Mr. Howell shared HB 1465 is getting traction as more representatives sign on to the bill. This was one of the subcommittee’s recommendations to have HHSC study recovery housing.

**Agenda Item 6: Action Items/Next Steps**

Ms. Dougherty will seek permission to submit request for technical assistance through BRSS-TACS on behalf of the BHAC Housing Subcommittee. Ms. Dougherty will also send out a copy of Mr. Howell’s Analysis of Impediments public comments to members. Ms. Eisert will explore the potential for developing a housing module within the ANSA.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2019 from 11 a.m. to noon at 6330 East Hwy 290, Austin, TX 78723.