



Austin-Travis County Health & Human Services Department



» Board and Care Home Update

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State Changes in Boarding Home Regulation

The Texas State Legislature

- May 2009 - Passed House Bill 216
 - Enables local government regulation authority over private boarding homes
 - Law was passed for use on a voluntary basis
- Directed Health and Human Services Commission to develop model standards for the operation of private boarding homes
 - HHSC completed and provided in August 2010



Council Resolutions

The City of Austin met with the UHNA Disabled Group Home Task Force beginning October 2009, to answer questions and provide updates.

- Council resolution 20091022-043
 - Directed HHSD to investigate if a permitting and inspection process was needed for boarding homes.
 - Planning and Advisory Team created to review rules and develop a proposal for a permitting and inspection program. Aug 2010 – March 2011
 - Conducted public meetings for community and home operator input and feedback from April 2011 – May 2011
 - Convened Stakeholder Group meetings Sept. 2011 – Feb. 2012
 - Reported findings periodically to the Public Health and Human Service Council Subcommittee
- Council resolution 20120524-086
 - Allowed for a survey to be conducted using current resources



State Regulated Homes

- » The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) regulates
 - > Long term care facilities
 - + Assisted Living Type A, B, C, E
 - > Nursing facilities
 - > Home & Community-based Services (HCS)
 - + Program set up for mentally handicapped clients who meet criteria
 - > ICF/MRs
 - + Program to assist in housing for persons with Intellectual Disability or Related Conditions



Current City of Austin Code for Boarding Homes

Code Compliance Department

- Licenses, inspects and responds to complaints
- City Code §25-12-213
 - Boarding house is a building, other than a hotel, where lodging with meals for more than six (6) unrelated persons is provided for compensation
 - Rooming house is a building, other than a hotel, where lodging without meals for more than six (6) unrelated persons is provided for compensation
- Fee is based on number of units; starting at \$110/yr.

Health and Human Services Department

- Permits, inspects and responds to complaints as a food enterprise
- City Code §10-3-61
 - (B) A person must hold a permit issued by the health authority to operate a group residence: (1) with six or more residents when food is provided to the residents; or (2) with 25 or more residents, when all food is not bought and prepared by the residents.
- Fee is based on number of employees; starting at \$310/yr.



Site Survey Timeline & Results

Timeline:

- May 25 - June 4, 2012
 - Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) and Code Compliance Department (CCD) collaborated and assigned personnel for site visit's to be conducted jointly
 - Addresses were compiled from boarding home lists of area NGO's, Austin/Travis County EMS data, APD, and complaints received by EHSD and CCD
 - Questionnaire developed to document property use/condition information by EHSD
 - Code Compliance to use current procedure to address any violations encountered
- June 5 – July 26, 2012
 - EHSD & CCD conducted site survey's of 104 properties
 - **Goal to identify and document properties that meet board and care definition**

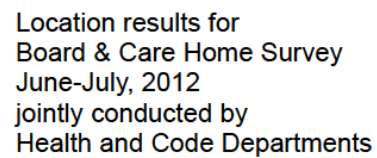


Site Survey Timeline & Results

Results:

- 104 Properties visited:
 - 67 properties inhabited by traditional families/roommates either renting or owner occupant
 - 31 (46%) addresses obtained from EMS, APD, EHSD & CCD complaints
 - 36 (54%) addresses obtained from area NGO's & internet searches
 - 29 properties are a group home of some type
 - 16 (55%) addresses obtained from EMS, APD, EHSD & CCD complaints
 - 13 (45%) addresses obtained from area NGO's and internet searches
 - 8 properties meet the board and care definition
 - 6 (75%) addresses obtained from EMS, APD, EHSD & CCD complaints
 - 2 (25%) addresses obtained from area NGO's and internet searches
- Code Compliance case was initiated on 5 of the visited properties





Staff Recommendations

- > Permit, inspect and obtain compliance using current regulations with Code Compliance Department and Environmental Health Services Division.
 - + Additional ordinance changes not required.
 - + Create ongoing collaboration between CCD, EMS, APD and HHSD for investigations and compliance. Establish Department SPOCs.
 - + Refer any abuse or neglect issues to APS, DADS, DARS, A/TCIC and other area agencies.
 - + HHSD has availability to conduct and/or make referrals for assessments.
 - + Service provider list of permitted homes to be developed and used by general public and placement facilities.
 - + HHSD and CCD will initiate a strategy to inform the public of this initiative.
 - + Annual reporting of the results of this initiative will be submitted to the City Manager's Office.
 - + Initiate Outreach education:
 - Current Code restrictions on dwelling usage and modifications.
 - Guide given regarding safe food handling practices.
 - Permitting requirements (based on current regulations).
 - 24 hour complaint/request line with HHSD.(512-978-0375)
 - Web page with information, list of permitted homes and email link for complaint submittal.





Questions?