Name: Karen Absher
Organization: Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston
Contact Phone Number: 713.276.3027
Contact Address: P.O. Box 662590, Houston, TX 77266

My comments/questions are in regard to the (Check appropriate box):
☐ PY 2008-2012 Consolidated Plan
☑ PY 2008 Annual Action Plan
   (If you are commenting on the Annual Action Plan, state the project or section)

   Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston (Dental Care
   for the Homeless)

Please print your comments in the space provided.

Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston is pleased to be included in the PY 2008 Annual Action Plan and appreciates the concern for the needs of the homeless addressed in the Consolidated Plan. The Coalition for the Homeless survey from 2005 (the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission report) among those surveyed identified the need for healthcare (70%) and dental care exceeded that (75%). In a needs assessment conducted in Aug 2007 by Baylor College of Medicine, 35% of homeless men and women surveyed listed dental care as the highest priority. More than 76% indicated they had needed dental care in the previous year but only about 25% had received it.

We applaud HCCHD's attention to the needs of the homeless and respectfully request that, if additional funds become available, consideration be given to an increase in funding for dental care.

Thank you for attending the Public Hearing.