

**Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC)
Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, March 4, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**

Teleconference from Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

There was not a physical location for this meeting.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/331927277>

Call-in Number: +1 (872) 240-3412

Access Code: 331-927-277

Members Attending

David Allen, D.N.P., RN, CCNS-BC, CCRN

Jimmy Blanton, M.P.Aff.

Carol Boswell, Ed.D., RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN

Chelsea Elliott

Peter Hajmasy

Kimberly N. Haynes, D.M.D.

Doris J. Jackson, DHA

Elizabeth Protas (Chair), P.T., Ph.D.

Melinda Rodriguez, PT, DPT

Courtney Sherman, DNP, RN, WHNP-BC

Stacey Silverman, Ph.D.

Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D.

Bharath Thankavel, M.D.

D. Bailey Wynne, R.Ph., M.H.A.

Yasser Zeid, M.D.

Members Absent

Trina Ita, M.A.

Shaukat Zakaria

Staff Present

Nicole Avellanet, MPH, Research Specialist, Health Professions Resource Center

Ann Barnett, MS, MS, Manager, Health Provider Resources Branch

Ashlee Bledsoe, Ph.D., MA, Program Director, Health Professions Resource Center

Cate Campbell, MPH, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Kayla Davis, MS, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Zachary Flores, Government Relations Specialist, Government Affairs

Pamela Lauer, MPH, Program Director, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Anne Nordhaus, MA, Research Specialist, Health Professions Resource Center

Lisa Wyman, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health Statistics

SHCC Meeting Minutes March 4, 2021

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</p> | <p>Dr. Protas called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. It was announced that members should state their name for the record when making comments and that the meeting was being recorded. Instead of taking all responses, Dr. Protas announced that she would only ask for nay responses in order to streamline the process via web conference. Dr. Protas took roll. Dr. Protas welcomed the council members present.</p> |
| <p>2. Establish a Quorum – Roll Call and Possible Action to Approve Excused Absences</p> | <p>A quorum was established. Ms. Ita and Mr. Zakaria requested an excused absence. A motion to approve excused absences was made by Dr. Zeid and seconded by Dr. Boswell. The motion carried.</p> |
| <p>3. SHCC Discussion and Possible Action to Approve October 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes</p> | <p>A review of the October 15, 2020 minutes elicited no revisions. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Jackson and seconded by Dr. Rodriguez. The motion carried.</p> |
| <p>4. SHCC Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2021-2022 Update to the State Health Plan (SHP)</p> | <p>The SHCC discussed the 2021-2022 Update to the SHP.</p> <p>The vaccines section elicited comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Wynne asked if anything would be added in relation to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines. Dr. Protas commented that, at the time of writing, there had been no COVID-19 vaccine rollout. • Dr. Boswell commented that there is a failure to get vaccines in the COVID-19 period, including COVID-19 vaccines and routine vaccines. Dr. Boswell commented that this should be monitored. • Ms. Wynne commented that the section is for all of Texas and that COVID-19 may be a scheduled vaccine similar to the flu. Ms. Wynne commented that something should be added about COVID-19 vaccines. Dr. Rodriguez agreed about adding an update on COVID-19 vaccines. • Dr. Protas asked if anyone was opposed to her working with Dr. Bledsoe to add something about COVID-19 vaccination. Dr. Haynes asked if this addition needed to be included now since the SHP Update needs to be approved at the meeting. • Dr. Protas asked for a suggestion of what language to add. • Ms. Wynne asked if the SHCC has to vote today. Dr. Protas confirmed yes. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the COVID-19 vaccine effort has been implemented in the state, the SHCC encourages people to take it as it becomes available. • Discussion followed about where the edit should be added. • “Finally, although the SHCC recognizes the importance of coronavirus vaccination, this section focuses on four common vaccines.” was the agreed-on language. • Mr. Blanton confirmed that this language would not need approval from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). • Dr. Boswell moved to vote on the edit. The motion carried. <p>There were no comments on the following sections: maternal health, vaping, nutrition and physical activity, rural health, mental health workforce, and clinical training site availability.</p> <p>A motion for approval with modification of the 2021-2022 Update to the SHP was made by Dr. Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Wynne. The motion carried.</p> <p>Dr. Zeid and Dr. Protas thanked staff members for their work on the SHP Update.</p> |
| <p>5. Round-Table Discussion on Areas of Interest for Next SHP</p> | <p>The SHCC discussed possible topics for the next SHP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COVID-19 pandemic was discussed, including workforce issues and changes related to COVID-19, including physicians, nurses, and respiratory care practitioners, were discussed. • Mr. Blanton suggested social determinants of health and health equity in relation to Medicaid. Mr. Blanton also suggested highlighting organizations that already exist. • Dr. Sparks brought up the recent cold weather disaster and disproportionate effects on the homeless and disadvantaged. • Dr. Zeid followed up by discussing mental health and homelessness. • Dr. Thankavel discussed the broader issue of mental health being a huge issue in the pandemic. Dr. Thankavel also discussed data sharing, including state regulations around what can be shared between providers, insurers, and corporations. • Dr. Silverman discussed the importance of connectivity and telehealth in rural health and the need for residency training spots to keep residents in Texas. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rodriguez brought up the issues of COVID-19 and the ice storm. Dr. Rodriguez also discussed relaxed telehealth regulations, the reimbursement issues in telehealth, and how telehealth promotes use and improves access for health services. • Ms. Wynne discussed the social determinants of health and homelessness, disparities and racism, and health care for noncitizens. • Dr. Zeid brought up access to care, including physicians not accepting Medicaid, Medicaid parity, and Medicaid expansion. • Dr. Sparks discussed that over the last year two great forces (the COVID-19 pandemic and Winter Storm Uri) impacted the state. Dr. Sparks questioned whether the state is prepared for emergencies and their impact on health. • Dr. Sherman discussed the inclusion of women’s health and sexual and reproductive health services. |
| <p>6. SHCC Agency Representatives’ Reports</p> | <p>a. HHSC: Mr. Blanton provided an update on HHSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Blanton discussed the current legislative session, noting that HHSC is currently tracking 261 bills. The major themes of these bills include the following: Medicaid expansion, telehealth/telemedicine, rural health clinics participation in telemedicine, audio only telehealth behavioral health reimbursement, and teledentistry reimbursement. • Mr. Blanton also discussed Medicaid coverage for women’s health, including that the coverage period during COVID-19 went to a year. • Mr. Blanton further discussed interstate compact and licensing, as well as the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment transition to value-based care. <p>b. DSHS: Mr. Hajmasy provided an update on DSHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hajmasy thanked health care providers and first responders. • Mr. Hajmasy noted that DSHS has now been on emergency response for over 400 days due to COVID-19. There have been over 44,000 fatalities and 2.3 million cases. There has been good progress recently; 4,532 new cases a day and 226 fatalities a day. • Mr. Hajmasy discussed that antibody treatments are being allocated to those who face a disproportionate disease burden. |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hajmasy noted that 6 million vaccines have been distributed, with 25 percent distributed to those 65 years and over, and childcare and school workers have now been added. • Dr. Boswell commented that the rural vaccine rollout needs to be addressed. • Ms. Wynne discussed antibody treatment access to minority communities, noting that many are not aware that it is available and that health literacy affects this. <p>c. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: Dr. Silverman provided an update on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Silverman discussed the transition to remote learning and commended the hard work of community colleges and universities. • Dr. Silverman also discussed the 5 percent reduction to programs and noted that this reduction affects the Joint Admission Medical Program. • Dr. Silverman further discussed emergency aid, higher education, and economic recovery. • Dr. Silverman noted that there are more first year residencies than graduates. • Dr. Protas commented that the \$150 million budget down from \$157 million will maintain but not increase residencies. |
| <p>7. Report on SHCC Representation on the HHSC E-Health Advisory Committee</p> | <p>No update was provided. Dr. Haynes volunteered to be the SHCC representative on the HHSC E-Health Advisory Committee. A motion was made to approve by Dr. Protas. The motion carried.</p> |
| <p>8. Health Professions Resource Center and SHCC Coordinator's Report</p> | <p>Dr. Bledsoe provided an update on the Health Professions Resource Center and the SHCC. Dr. Bledsoe discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHP Update changes; • Texas Primary Care Office's needs assessment; • Processing of licensure files, which has been completed; • New fact sheets; • J-1 spots, which have all been filled; and • Bill analyses. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>9. Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Report</p> | <p>Ms. Campbell provided an update on the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies and discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education reports and dashboards, which have been approved by the advisory committee; • Nurse employer survey, which is postponed to Spring 2022; • Advanced practice registered nurse survey and workplace violence survey, which are postponed; • School nurse survey, which may be postponed; • Workplace Violence Grant Program, which will extend grant terms due to COVID-19 and target other facilities for proposals, as only hospital proposals have been received; • Updated website and new web address; and • New data products. <p>Dr. Protas discussed issues related to burnout and the pandemic. Ms. Campbell will speak with the advisory committee.</p> <p>Dr. Allen commented on burnout among staff and floor nurses, especially due to post-traumatic stress disorder caused by the amount of death witnessed during the pandemic. Dr. Allen asked that the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies not wait to survey nurses, since the pandemic has been going on for a year now. Ms. Campbell will follow up with her team.</p> <p>Dr. Sparks commented on travel nurses and how rural areas are losing nursing staff because nurses make more money working for staffing groups.</p> |
| <p>10. Administrative Items and Next Steps</p> | <p>a. 2021 tentative SHCC meeting dates: June 17, 2021 and October 14, 2021.</p> |
| <p>11. Public Comment and Adjourn</p> | <p>There were no public comments.</p> <p>A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Wynne and seconded by Dr. Zeid. The motion carried.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.</p> |