

**Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC)  
Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, March 3, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

**Teleconference from Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), 1100 West 49th Street, Robert Bernstein Building, Room K-100, Austin, Texas 78756.**

**MS Teams link: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NDFIYzgwZTQtMDhkMC00NGY4LWJjYzEtNjkzN2ViZTUxZjBm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229bf97732-82b9-499b-b16a-a93e8ebd536b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2230a8645b-8b77-4bb6-80fb-3f4299415740%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDFIYzgwZTQtMDhkMC00NGY4LWJjYzEtNjkzN2ViZTUxZjBm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229bf97732-82b9-499b-b16a-a93e8ebd536b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2230a8645b-8b77-4bb6-80fb-3f4299415740%22%7d)**

**Call-in Number: +1 (512) 580-4366**

**Access Code: 698 180 739#**

**Members Attending**

Jimmy Blanton, M.P.Aff.

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

Chelsea Elliott

Courtney Harvey, Ph.D., MA

Ken Holland

Emily Hunt, D.N.P, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC

Doris J. Jackson, DHA

Elizabeth Mayer, M.P.Aff.

Tamara Rhodes, MSN, RN

Melinda Rodriguez, D.P.T, PT

Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D.

Bharath Thankavel, M.D.

Yasser Zeid, M.D.

**Members Absent**

Kimberly N. Haynes, D.M.D.

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

D. Bailey Wynne, R.Ph., M.H.A. (Excused)

**Staff Present**

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

Ashlee Bledsoe, Ph.D., MA, Program Director, Health Professions Resource Center  
Ky Burke, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies and 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

Jordan Hill, Government Relations Specialist, Government Affairs

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

Abigail Melick, Government Relations Specialist, Government Affairs

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

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<p><b>1. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>Dr. Zeid called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Bledsoe announced that members should state their name for the record when making comments and to mute themselves when not speaking.</p>
<p><b>2. Establish a Quorum – Roll Call and Possible Action to Approve Excused Absences</b></p>	<p>A quorum was established. Dr. Protas and Dr. Wynne requested an excused absence.</p> <p>A motion to accept the quorum was made by Dr. Boswell and seconded by Dr. Jackson. The motion carried.</p>
<p><b>3. SHCC Discussion and Possible Action to Approve October 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<p>A review of the October 14, 2021 minutes elicited no revisions.</p> <p>A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Rodriguez and seconded by Dr. Harvey. The motion carried.</p>
<p><b>4. SHCC Review of 2023-2028 Statewide Health Plan</b></p>	<p>The SHCC discussed the sections of the 2023-2028 Statewide Health Plan.</p> <p>a. Access to Care, Health Equity, and Social Determinants of Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council spoke about Medicaid programs which increase reimbursement to providers and compare to other states' programs. they spoke about how incentives for providers to participate in Medicaid programs and how expanding Medicaid would allow more access to care.</li> <li>• Jimmy Blanton spoke about the uncertainty of programs, and how the SHP needs some updating. The reliability of said programs may increase by the summer when the report is finished.</li> <li>• The council discussed metrics surrounding quality of care, however, such metrics would only pertain to urban areas. They concurred that there exists a need for allowing legislators to understand there's more than payment differential to consider when contemplating access to care.</li> <li>• Dr. Boswell mentioned that there are other levels of healthcare providers that can provider quality care, which need to be embraced to allow the physicians to provide the complex care that is appropriate for their level. This could help provide more access to care.</li> <li>• The council discusses barriers in rural areas as well as directing efforts toward lowering barriers to</li> </ul>

	<p>providing care, improving quality, and ensuring providers have the resources they need to practice.</p> <p>b. Mental Health and Behavioral Healthcare Workforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Harvey raised the point that “Behavioral Health” is inclusive of substance abuse and mental health components. She noted how the existing title, “Mental Health and Behavioral Health Workforce,” unnecessarily compares those two populations.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dr. Bledsoe replied that the section is supposed to address the state of Mental/Behavioral Health in the state and its workforce, and that it could be titled, “Behavioral Health and Its Workforce.”</li></ul></li><li>• The council discussed the workforce shortage in the Behavioral Health field, and how this section adequately exhibits that. They spoke about the challenges for employer-based healthcare when providers go out-of-network, and the potential benefits of Telemedicine services in years to come.</li><li>• The council agreed to reference the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council’s (SBHCC) five-year plan, which covers much of the same topics addressed within the section.</li></ul> <p>c. Rural Communities and Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The council discussed the difficulties of obtaining access to specialists in rural areas. They spoke about making a policy recommendation for getting specialists to visit centralized regions of rural areas. They noted the recommendation could include incentives like loan repayment programs.</li><li>• Jimmy Blanton suggested for the staff writing the Statewide Health Plan to reach out to the Texas A&amp;M University Rural and Community Health Institute (ARCHI) for further insight.</li></ul> <p>d. Telehealth and Technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The council discussed improving upon and expanding Telemedicine services, as there has been increased access to care and convenience throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic.</li><li>• The council spoke about the benefits and challenges of Telemedicine services for different populations such as pediatric and geriatric patients.</li></ul>
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<p><b>5. SHCC Agency Representatives' Reports</b></p>	<p>a. Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jimmy Blanton, HHSC representative of the Medicaid Office, spoke about how vital Medicaid is to Texan Health as it serves 5.2 million Texans.</li><li>• Medicaid has been an important part of the state's Covid-19 emergency response. 1.2 million more people have signed up than were enrolled at the beginning of the pandemic.</li><li>• The Medicaid program is following 60 projects from the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative session and continuing to work on policies that benefit Texans' health, such as House Bills 4 and 5. They are looking toward adopting Teleservices on a permanent basis.</li><li>• HHSC is also working with other agencies to improve how they use healthcare data for quality improvement analytics and participating in the state's new dataset.</li><li>• The Medicaid program is undergoing programs to address social determinants of health in a formal way within the program that addresses quality and patient experience without increasing costs. They are transitioning to more of a value-based system.</li></ul> <p>Dr. Harvey with HHSC gave an update on Behavioral Health Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From March 1-3, 2022, The Texas Suicide Prevention Symposium was hosted by the Office of Intellectual and Development Disability and Behavioral Health Services Department. The increase in rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide have been on the rise, and the conference opened the door for people to understand what is happening from local to national levels, as well as new actions for prevention.</li><li>• The national and statewide implementation of 988, which is a suicide prevention help line will begin July 2022.</li><li>• HHSC released the Texas Statewide IDD Strategic Plan in January 2022 covering how the state services individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.</li><li>• The Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council will publish the Statewide Behavioral Health Plan in late March or early April 2022. During the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, the legislature required the addition of a plan surrounding substance abuse. The</li></ul>
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	<p>SBHCC has also included a sub-plan titled, “The Texas Strategic Plan for Diversion, Community Integration, and Forensic Services,” which was recommended by the Joint Committee on Access and Forensic Services. This plan focuses on alternative options for sending people to juvenile and criminal justice systems, and how to serve them when they do enter them.</p> <p>b. Department of State Health Services (DSHS): There was no update due to the current DSHS vacancy on the SHCC.</p> <p>c. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth Mayer announced the THECB has given their awards for the FY 2022-2023 Medical Education Expansion Program. They are going through the process of seeing where residents end up matching, and the THECB staff expects to deliver those funds on July 1, 2022.</li> <li>• The THECB will be holding their Advisory Committee meeting in May 2022, and they will determine the funding allocations for the Family Practice Residency Program.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Report on SHCC Representation on the HHSC E-Health Advisory Committee</b></p>	<p>Dr. Haynes was not in attendance, so there was not a report.</p>
<p><b>7. John Henderson’s, President of Rural and Community Hospitals, Presentation and Discussion Regarding Rural Health</b></p>	<p>John Henderson, President of the Texas Organization for Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH), provided information on rural hospitals and the state of their operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas has 158 rural hospitals (defined by Medicaid as a hospital serving 60,000 people or less), which is more than any other state. There have not been any rural hospital closures since January 2020.</li> <li>• There’s been many innovations around Telemedicine in rural hospitals, and rural hospitals are focused on workforce issues.</li> </ul> <p>The SHCC discussed rural hospitals with John Henderson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Zeid spoke about the devastation a community can face when a rural hospital closes, and how improving features of a hospital goes a long way in a rural community.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jimmy Blanton asked whether John Henderson had ideas about improving rural health going into the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ John Henderson spoke about building momentum around telehealth and expanding services to meet demand. Workforce is a priority, especially increasing the pipeline and supply of nurses with clinical experience and nurse faculty.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dr. Thankavel spoke about the effect of Covid-19 on the workforce supply in nursing. He asked John Henderson whether he’s seen these effects on his hospitals.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ John Henderson replied that the first wave of the pandemic was more about PPE. Now, the issues have stemmed from workforce and keeping enough nurses and providers to take care of patients. Nurses have taken travel assignments, and many have left their professions due to the difficulty of the pandemic.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dr. Zeid asked whether rural hospitals can sustain themselves with the increased need of traveling nurses.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ John Henderson answered that the state has provided funding that’s been immensely useful for rural hospitals.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Health Professions Resource Center and SHCC Coordinator’s Report</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bledsoe provided an update on the Health Professions Resource Center (HPRC) and SHCC activities. Dr. Bledsoe discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HPRC is undergoing a major data transformation process with Deloitte.</li> <li>• HPRC is continuing to provide data to those who request license data on many health professions within Texas.</li> <li>• They are wrapping up the SB18 report. This report will focus on medical education aspect of physician supply pipeline. Undergraduate and Graduate Medical Education will be highlighted in the report.</li> <li>• HPRC has been working on the SHP and coordinating the SHCC.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Report</b></p>	<p>Cate Campbell provided an update on the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) and discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursing education reports have been approved by the TCNWS Advisory Committee and will be posted on the TCNWS website.</li> <li>• The RN and VN dashboards will be updated, and the Graduate education dashboard is still being developed.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 2022 Staffing Studies, which cover hospitals, long-term care, home health and hospice, and governmental public health nursing facilities, will be going out this Spring 2022.</li><li>• For the Nurse Workplace Violence Grant Program, the grant term for the 2020-2021 program will come to an end on April 30, 2022, and grantees will submit their final reports May 31, 2022. TCNWS will develop the program report after that. TCNWS expects the agency will publish the final report by September 2022. The 2022-2023 grant program request for applications closed on November 29, 2021, and there were 4 applicants. TCNWS is working on determining and evaluating awards.</li><li>• The School Nurses Study is ready for distribution, and TCNWS is waiting for updated contact information.</li><li>• The individual survey on Nurse Workplace Violence will be updated with the help of the taskforce dedicated to that survey.</li><li>• There are two new surveys: one on newly licensed nurses and one of APRNs. Those taskforces will be convened in late summer/early fall 2022.</li></ul>
<b>10. Administrative Items and Next Steps</b>	SHCC tentative meeting dates: June 9, and October 13, 2022.
<b>11. Public Comment and Adjourn</b>	<p>There were no public comments.</p> <p>A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Sparks and seconded by Dr. Jackson. The motion carried.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.</p>