

**Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC)
Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, March 2, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**

Teleconference from Texas Health and Human Services Commission, 4900 North Lamar Boulevard, Brown-Heatly Building, Room 1410, Austin, Texas 78751.

MS Teams link: https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_ZDQxMDY2MTgtZGU2OC00MzY1LWJIZGUtZjdhOTIzMDgwNjdjoi%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: 713 070 061#

Members Attending

Aelia Akhtar, MS
Jimmy Blanton, M.P.Aff.
Carol Boswell, Ed.D., RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN
Chelsea Elliott
Courtney Harvey, Ph.D., MA
Kimberly N. Haynes, D.M.D.
Ken Holland
Emily Hunt, D.N.P, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC
Quincy C. Moore, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Protas (Chair), P.T., Ph.D.
Tamara Rhodes, MSN, RN
Melinda Rodriguez, D.P.T, PT
Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D.
Cheletta Watkins, M.D.
D. Bailey Wynne, R.Ph., M.H.A.
Yasser Zeid, M.D.

Members Absent

Elizabeth Mayer, M.P.Aff. (Excused)

Staff Present

Ann Barnett, MS, MS, Manager, Health Provider Resources Branch
Ky Burke, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies and Health Professions Resource Center
Lissette Curry, Ph.D., Program Specialist, Health Professions Resource Center
Kayla Davis, MS, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies
Kristina Juarez, MPH, Research Specialist, Health Professions Resource Center
Abigail Melick, Government Affairs Specialist
Pamela Lauer, MPH, Manager, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies
Cheyenne Neese, MPH, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

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<p>1. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Dr. Protas called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. Dr. Curry introduced herself to the council for the first time. Dr. Protas announced that members should state their name for the record when making comments and to mute themselves when not speaking. Dr. Curry reminded the Council to keep their cameras on to maintain quorum if attending virtually.</p>
<p>2. Establish a Quorum – Roll Call and Possible Action to Approve Excused Absences</p>	<p>A quorum was established. Elizabeth Mayer requested an excused absence. A motion to approve all requested excused absences was made by Dr. Courtney Harvey and seconded by Dr. Carol Boswell. The motion carried.</p>
<p>3. SHCC Discussion and Possible Action to Approve October 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>A review of the October 13, 2022 minutes elicited no revisions. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Melinda Rodriguez and seconded by Ken Holland. The motion carried.</p>
<p>4. Presentation by Robert Dole, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Rural Mental Health at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, on the 2022 All Texas Access report</p>	<p>Robert Dole presented on the All Texas Access (ATA) program and its impacts on rural mental health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program began in the 86th Legislative Session with SB633, and SB 454 in the 87th Legislature continues their work. • They work with Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA's) who provide crisis and routine services in local areas. They serve 39 counties, and 30 count as rural-serving (counties serving 250,000 people or less). • All Texas Access aids in the development of plans with various regional groups. • ATA produces an annual report, the last one published on December 1, 2022. They address costs for local government, transportation for individuals, the incarceration of individuals with a mental health condition, and emergency room use. • On All Texas Access's website, they contain dashboards with data on mental health services accessible to rural Texans. • All Texas Access challenged the LMHA's in Fiscal Year 2022 to develop at least one jail diversion strategy to counteract the tendency for individuals with mental health conditions to become incarcerated. ATA has also developed community integration strategies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Dole presented the plans that each regional group created to meet its specific needs.• For Fiscal Year 2023, ATA is focused on the workforce and bettering services for people in rural counties, including their community engagement pilot project. <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Yasser Zeid asked about the training of law enforcement and how they handle mental health crises.• Robert Dole spoke about the de-escalation techniques and mental health first aid protocols that law enforcement agencies have.• Dr. Cheryl Sparks spoke about mental health during this 88th Legislative Session. She asked whether her part of the state in Big Spring could have All Texas Access’s information and services disseminated.• Robert Dole responded and stated that ATA visits Big Spring and surrounding areas, as well as the state grant funding that is going toward those areas. After the community engagement pilot, they plan to expand to other parts of the state that have partnerships with ATA.• Dr. Bailey Wynne spoke about issues faced in her rural community in East Texas of all ages.• Robert Dole commented that it is wonderful that so many of the departments and efforts in the state are integrated under this effort.• Aelia Akhtar expressed appreciation and excitement about the ATA’s work and how their offices work together.• Dr. Kimberly Haynes asked whether ATA had considered conducting any efforts that are more technology-based for younger generations.• Robert Dole spoke about 988 and its abilities. ATA does have the capacity to provide those services, but frequently, many individuals are in crisis and need a live crisis response most times.• Dr. Emily Hunt asked whether this survey includes pediatric patients, or only adults.• Robert Dole responded that there is a category for those under 18, and a few have participated.• Dr. Cheryl Sparks raised the point that many Texans do not have access to technology, or the technological literacy needed, and they often need assistance filling things out.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Dole spoke about a local library who has increased rural technological literacy, and the importance of libraries to help with this.
<p>5. Overview of next steps for the State Health Plan Update</p>	<p>Dr. Curry presented the overview for the Update to the State Health Plan, and the outline of staff responsibilities for the coming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Curry gave an overview of the State Health Plan (SHP) and the update requirements, as well as the sections for the current for the current update. • The next update to the SHP is due November 1, 2024. • Dr. Curry then went over the previous recommendations recently approved in the 2023-2028 SHP. She also went over the timeline for the update. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bailey Wynne suggested considering the issue of food deserts in Texas in the next update. Availability and access to healthy food options. • Dr. Courtney Harvey echoed Dr. Bailey Wynne’s comments and for other social drivers of health like access to food, housing, and education to be inserted in the update. • Dr. Kimberly Haynes addressed oral health and how it affects communities. She requested that it be addressed as a subset of a topic in the upcoming update. • Dr. Cheryl Sparks spoke about mental health topics and emphasized that there is still work to be expanded upon. • Dr. Courtney Harvey agreed with Dr. Cheryl Sparks and asserted the importance of considering those in the justice system and prevention of incarceration. • Dr. Cheletta Watkins addressed the issue of pharmacy drug cost, coverage, and its importance. • Dr. Melinda Rodriguez spoke about working in a post-acute health services industry. She spoke about overregulation and seeking guidance. Dr. Rodriguez elaborated about the effects of Long Covid-19 and considering discussing that in the update. • Dr. Bailey Wynne proposed the topic of the targeting of fentanyl to children and the necessity for community-wide education and services to address addiction. • Dr. Cheryl Sparks expressed concern about how many nurses statewide are retiring, as well as how community colleges may be seeing changes in their funding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Cheletta Watkins expressed the importance of addressing the need for primary care providers in Texas as there continues to be a shortage. • Dr. Emily Hunt agreed with the two prior comments and depicted the struggles seen in urban areas like Houston, detailing the issues she sees in pediatric care. She shared anecdotal evidence that vaccination status of pediatric patients is declining and ask to look into that.
<p>6. SHCC Agency Representatives' Reports</p>	<p>a. Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): Dr. Harvey with HHSC gave an update on the Behavioral Health Services Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council's (SBHCC) Suicide Prevention Subcommittee has been meeting monthly since January to track bills that affect organizations represented on the SBHCC. The majority of the bills cover workforce, and the SBHCC has seen bills covering the funding of behavioral healthcare workers' student loan repayment programs, making the process of credentialing less arduous, and the establishment of multi-state compact certifications. • Some of the bills SBHCC are watching also include the providing of mental health services to people who are incarcerated, mental health services for minors, and suicide prevention through the expansion of treatment services. <p>Jimmy Blanton with HHSC's Medicaid Program gave an update including the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020 at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid was expanded through continuous coverage, and is still standing. This increased the amount of people covered to approximately 6 million people currently. The Medicaid Office has been told to wind down continuous coverage over a 12-month period. They have planned different programs to mitigate the loss of coverage for millions of Texans. • In February 2023, HHSC released a report on non-medical drivers of health which addresses root causes of poor health. Food, housing, and transportation were some of the areas seen where the agency could offer the highest amount of assistance to Texans. • The value-based payment plan is evolving to cover more holistic models of care, which may lead to being

	<p>more cost-effective and produce better health outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1,000 bills may be added to the Medicaid Office’s tracking system. They are following 33 priority-1 bills where they expect large impacts if passed. Some of the key themes include: postpartum coverage expansion out to 6 months, and some, 12 months, extending coverage for lawfully present people in the U.S., and extending coverage to those who experience a miscarriage. Workforce is first priority, so they are following some bills that would help. Some other bills include ones for homelessness and housing, establishing a minimum wage of \$15 for attendants, incentives for using community health workers or promotores, and supporting housing to support those with housing insecurity. The General Appropriations Act would increase reimbursement for providers and attendants. <p>b. Department of State Health Services (DSHS): Aelia Akhtar with DSHS gave an update on the agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health disparities grant, also known as the Community Conversations on Health, is at a halfway point, and the funding expires in mid-2024. They are focusing on rural health, and one of the topics is sustainability plans for ongoing work in the communities. • Abigail Melick of DSHS Governmental Affairs gave a Legislative Session update on what the agency is focusing on and tracking. Public health bills and those affecting the broader agency include: ones cover food, meat, & drugs, pandemic response, vaccine-specific bills, COVID-19-specific bills, and bills that are chronic disease-related. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 733/SB 76 would require the SHCC to form a subcommittee on health literacy. Similar bills have been previously filed. HB 1578/SB 589 would require the SHCC to create a health literacy plan, but not form a subcommittee. <p>c. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no update from the THECB at this time.
<p>7. Report on SHCC Representation on the HHSC E-Health</p>	<p>There was no report on the HHSC E-Health Advisory Committee (E-HAC) at this time.</p>

<p>Advisory Committee</p>	
<p>8. Health Professions Resource Center and SHCC Coordinator's Report</p>	<p>Dr. Curry provided an update on the Health Professions Resource Center (HPRC) and SHCC activities. She discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPRC is working on updating the supply distribution tables, and some have been uploaded to Texas Health Data's website. The rest are on HPRC's website. • They are working on health professions factsheets that accompany the supply distribution tables and provide more details. Half of those are also on Texas Health Data's website. • HPRC is tracking the bills that will affect SHCC and HPRC.
<p>9. Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Report</p>	<p>Pamela Lauer provided an update on the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) and discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCNWS has been busy preparing the Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and on March 1, their Advisory Committee met and approved vocational nursing, professional nursing, and graduate nursing education reports produced from the 2022 survey. Those reports will be post to the website over the next week or two. The nursing education dashboards will also be updated with that data. The next focus will be editing the survey instruments. • The 2022 Employer Nurse Staffing Study reports have been uploaded to TCNWS's website. • They are also working on supply and demand projections focusing on vocational nurses, professional nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists. The new projections will be available in the next several months. • TCNWS will conduct an individual nurse survey over workplace violence and other topics related to nursing practice. • The Workplace Violence Grant Program made four awards in August, but there are leftover funds. They are working to develop an accessible rolling application period.
<p>10. Administrative Items and Next Steps</p>	<p>SHCC tentative meeting dates: June 8 and October 5th, 2023.</p>
<p>11. Public Comment and Adjourn</p>	<p>There were no public comments.</p>

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	<p>A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Bailey Wynne and seconded by Dr. Cheryl Sparks. The motion carried.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.</p>
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