
Texas Diabetes Council (TDC)
FINAL Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Physical Location: Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Robert D. Moreton Building
Room M100, First Floor
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756
Teams Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 1: Call to order, roll call, and welcoming remarks

Mr. Chris Carmona, Chair, called the Texas Diabetes Council (TDC) meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Ms. Jessica Arevalo, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) read the logistical announcements and stated the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ms. Arevalo conducted the member roll call and announced the presence or absence of quorum.

Table 1: The Texas Diabetes Council member attendance at the April 18, 2024 meeting.

| Member name | Attended | Member name | Attended |
|-------------------------------|----------|---|----------|
| Mr. Chris Carmona | Y | Ms. Maryanne Strobel | Y |
| Mr. Dirrell Jones | Y | Mr. John Trischitti, III | Y |
| Dr. Gary Francis | Y | Vacant | |
| Ms. Sharon Lemons | Y | Dr. Kelly Fegan – Bohm Non-Voting Member | Y |
| Ms. Aida (Letty) Moreno Brown | N | Dr. Mitchel Abramsky | Y |
| Dr. Ninfa Peña-Purcell | Y | Ms. Lisa Golden Non-Voting Member | Y |
| Mr. Jason Ryan | Y | Ms. Amy Chamberlain Non-Voting Member | Y |
| Dr. Christine Wicke | Y | Ms. Laura Cervantes Non-Voting Member | Y |

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of January 25, 2024, draft meeting minutes

Mr. Chris Carmona, Chair, referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. Hearing none, Mr. Carmona called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2024, meeting.

Motion: Mr. John Trischitti, III moved to approve the minutes as presented from the January 25, 2024, meeting. Dr. Gary Francis seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 7 yeas (Carmona, Francis, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Ryan, Trischitti, Wicke), 0 nays, 1 abstain (Jones), and 2 absent (Strobel, Moreno-Brown).

Agenda Item 3: Presentation: Anti-Obesity Medications in the Treatment of Overweight and Obesity: The Disconnect Between Evidence and Access- Dr. Jennifer Seger, BMI of Texas and Dr. Suzanne Cuda, Alamo City Healthy Kids & Families

Highlights from the presentation:

- Obesity related cancers have increased by 7%.
- Obesity is the only chronic medical disease that can be excluded in federal/state/commercial based insurance programs.
- Numerous organizations endorse treating obesity with pharmacotherapy.
- In a 2023 study, there was a 20% risk reduction of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) in patients who used Wegovy.
- If the current population of obese Texans lost anywhere from 5% to 25% of body weight using anti-obesity medications, there could be a potential cost savings in the billions.
- Comprehensive obesity treatment focuses on nutrition, physical activity, behavioral modification, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric surgery.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation: Addition of Omnipod 5 to the Vendor Drug Program Formulary- Stacey Pietropaolo and Barbara Fortanelly, Health and Human Services Commission

- An overview was provided on the Vendor Drug Program (VDP).
 - VDP manages the formulary for fee for service and managed care.
 - VDP sought approval to cover certain non-drugs on the formulary through a state plan amendment (SPA) that was submitted to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.
 - CMS approved the SPA on February 13, 2024.
 - VDP added Omnipod 5 to the formulary in March 2024.
- The CGM and Diabetic and Supplies-Home Health policies implemented February 2024.
 - Eliminated minimal number of daily insulin injections and minimal number of daily self-blood glucose monitoring tests as long as other policy criteria are met.
 - Updated inclusive language.
- A competitive \$75K grant was awarded to Texas Medicaid to increase CGM access in Texas Medicaid clients.
 - Three goals to increase access:
 - Work towards expanding CGM to a pharmacy benefit.
 - Implement strategies to overcome barriers to CGM use.
 - Discern financial implications of CGM coverage expansion through pharmacy.

Agenda Item 5: Update on participation in the Texas Association Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES) Conference- Dr. Ninfa Peña-Purcell

- Presentation provided an overview of the TDC, listed major accomplishments, and initiatives over the last 40 years.
- Roundtable discussions occurred during Dr. Peña-Purcell's presentation and one major takeaway was the importance of TDC hearing about successful programs and initiatives from individuals across Texas.

Agenda Item 6: Updates from Workgroups**a. Health Professionals Outcomes Workgroup (HPOW)**

Dr. Christine Wicke provided a verbal update.

- An ad-hoc subcommittee was formed to review the TDC webpage, make it more user friendly, and add links to non-profit organizations that are updated on a continuous basis.
 - Ad-hoc subcommittee members will curate links to resources that would be useful to professionals and the general public, especially those who aren't certified diabetes educators.
 - The DSHS TDC webpage is standardized and can't contain any information from for profit organizations.
- The ad-hoc subcommittee would like to also create a list of resources to direct Texans on where to find help with items such as cost of medications, access to food, healthcare supplies, etc.
- Project ECHO Diabetes is in Florida and there was consensus on inviting someone from Florida Project Echo to present at a future TDC meeting.

b. Advocacy and Outreach Workgroup (AOW)

Mr. Jason Ryan provided a verbal update.

- DSHS staff presented an overview of Diabetes and Control Program projects.
- The presentation focused on different areas including diabetes self-management, education, improving quality of care for priority populations with diabetes, diabetes prevention programs, and childhood obesity programs.
- After the presentation, workgroup members engaged in discussions stemming from the presentation.

Agenda Item 7: Reminder on Quorum Limitations at Workgroup Meetings

- Mr. Carmona reminded council members that quorum is a majority of voting members at a meeting.
- Council members who attend workgroup meetings should self-monitor to ensure there isn't a quorum and violate the Open Meetings Act.
- People violating the Open Meetings Act could be subject to criminal penalties.

Agenda Item 8: Interaction with Legislators

- There is a fine line between lobbying and advocacy.
- If council members would like to move legislative recommendations forward or if there is a piece of legislation TDC members would like changed, TDC members should work with ex-officio members of the Council. Ex-officio members represent state agencies.
 - State agencies, just like TDC members, aren't allowed to lobby.

-
- It's fine if individuals go to their representative and advocate for change as that is their right as a Texan.
 - It is not permissible for an individual to approach their representative and say, On behalf of the Texas Diabetes Council, I would like to see this change unless prior permission has been given by the Texas Diabetes Council.
 - The State Plan is the document that includes all the policy changes the TDC wants to see.
 - Document is sent to the Governor and legislators.

Agenda Item 9: Guidelines for Training School Employees on Diabetes (UDCA) School Document-Julie Ketelsen

Highlights:

- Individuals representing specific organizations were contacted about editing the document.
- In mid-May, the contributors will meet to review the compiled document and discuss the suggested changes.
- TDC members will vote on the document at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 10: Updates from State Agency Representatives

a. Department of State Health Services- Ms. Rachel Wiseman, Chronic Disease Unit Director

DPCP Staffing Updates

- Nallely Trejo, the manager over the Diabetes and CVD Branch has left DSHS to pursue other opportunities. Her position was posted, and we have started the interview process.
- The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program recently hired Gracie Alvarado De Garcia as the new Diabetes Program Specialist.
- Additionally, Camilla Ekker Runde was just promoted to the Diabetes and CVD Branch Grants Coordinator position. Her previous position will be posted soon.

DPCP Program Updates:

- The diabetes "Food for Life" resource booklet in English has been electronically published on the DSHS DPCP website and printed copies will be available in April or May. The Spanish version is anticipated to be ready in May.

CDC-RFA-DP-23-0020 Grant

- Grant activities have begun in East Texas, with a focus on DPP expansion and DSMES capacity assessments to start a pilot.
- Two contracts are still in the process of being executed.

GR Funded Partners

- Program staff have begun planning state funded DPP and DSMES implementation and expansion for FY25.

TDC State Engagement Call

- The next State Engagement Call will be held on April 11th at 1pm
- DSHS staff will be presenting on multi-directional platforms and the CDC DSMES toolkit
 - Presentation will cover:

-
- Benefits of multi-directional platforms
 - Various platforms CDC has highlighted and their functions
 - Data sources to help with Non-Medical Drivers of Health (NMDOH)
 - BRFFS and HRSA
 - How to use the CDC DSMES Toolkit and contents to help establish new DSMES sites or expand to new locations

Grand Rounds Update

- 331 people registered and 196 attended the January 2024 Grand Rounds titled NIDDK's Strategic Efforts to Advance Health in Diabetes and Improve Pathways to Health for All.
- A DSHS Grand Rounds on diabetes and health disparities was one of the items in the State Plan.

b. Health and Human Services- Dr. Mitchell Abramsky, Associate Medical Director

- Continuing to work on CGM Accelerator Project with DSHS.
- Currently working with DSHS to identify resources DSHS has for provider patient education to decrease health disparities in CGM prescribing of use.

c. Teacher Retirement System of Texas- Ms. Laura Cervantes, | Sr. Clinical Consultant Health Ops.

- No updates.

d. Employees Retirement System of Texas- Ms. Amy Chamberlain, Government Relations & Special Projects

- Health Select Medicare Advantage Part D now includes Wegovy for patients who are at risk of a major adverse cardiac event.
 - In order to receive coverage, documentation must be provided showing a prior myocardial infarction, prior stroke, or history of symptomatic peripheral arterial disease.
 - Diabetes is not included.

e. Texas Workforce Commission- Ms. Lisa Golden, Diabetes Program Specialist

- Texas Confidence Builders Training occurred earlier in the week.
- The Disabled Access Credit established under Section 44 of Internal Revenue Code designed to help small businesses cover ADA expenditures for accommodations.
 - Small businesses with revenues of less than \$1 million or fewer than 30 full time employees the previous tax year.
 - Expenditures can include but are not limited to the cost of providing sign language interpreting services to the deaf and hard of hearing, providing provisions to individuals with visual disabilities, and for acquiring/modifying adaptive equipment for customers and employees with disabilities.

Agenda Item 11: Discussion of Texas Administrative Code, sections 651.1-651.5 Rule Review

- During the January TDC meeting, council members voted to review the Texas Administrative Code or TAC rules and to delegate the review process to DSHS staff.
- Prior to staff making any changes to the rules, the Council will need to vote on approving the Notice of Proposed Rule Review or NPRR for short.

-
- The NPRR is a standard notice developed by HHS legal and the Rules Coordination Office that is posted for public awareness and comment on all rule reviews.
 - Julie sent council members a copy of the NPRR.
 - If in favor, the NPRR will be published to the Texas Registrar for public comment for 31 days. All comments will be sent to the Rules Coordination Office, who will then share them with DSHS staff. Program staff will add any public comment to the 4yr Worksheet along with the notes made by DSHS during their review.
 - If not in favor, program can get clarification on recommended changes from members, discuss with Community Health Improvement staff and the new version will have to be voted on during a future meeting.
 - If not in favor because members changed their mind about the 4yr Rule Review, program will propose a motion to cancel the previous motion in favor of conducting the 4yr Rule Review and try again the following year.

Motion: Mr. John Trischitti, III moved to publish the Notice of Proposed Rule Review in the Texas Registrar. Ms. Maryanne Strobel seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 9 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Francis, Lemons, Pena-Purcell, Ryan, Strobel, Trischitti, III, Wicke), 0 nays, and 1 abstention (Moreno-Brown).

Agenda Item 12: Announcements

- TDC is always open to speaker recommendations.
- It's highly encouraged and allowable for there to be discussion among council members during council meetings.
- It's not in scope for TDC to host community discussion round tables.

Agenda Item 13: Review of action items and agenda items for next meeting

- Dr. Anastasia Albanese-O'Neil from JDRF will present on Type 1 Diabetes screening at the July 18 meeting.
- Celebrating TDC's 40th anniversary is a potential agenda item for the July meeting.

Agenda Item 14: Upcoming meeting dates

All meetings will start at 1:00pm and the workgroup meetings will be the mornings the day of the council meetings.

- July 18, 2024
- October 10, 2024
- January 30, 2025

Agenda Item 15: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 16: Adjourn

Mr. Chris Carmona, Chair, provided closing remarks, and adjourned the meeting 3:29 p.m.

Below is the link to the archived video recording of the Texas Diabetes Council meeting to view and listen for approximately, two years from date meeting is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule.

<https://texashhsc.v3.swagit.com/videos/303162>