

**PHR 11 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
10 AM – 12 PM**

**Microsoft TEAMS**

Table 1: PHR 11 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee member attendance at 5/2/2023 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Campo Maldonado, Jose Ernesto	X				
Cerda, Luis	X				
Frescas, Brian	X				
Knerr, Melissa	X				
Vidal, Juan	X				

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Call to Order**

Ms. Vanessa Pierce called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She announced the meeting was being recorded and transcribed. The minutes of the meeting will be available later for public review. Attendees were asked to turn cameras and microphones on when speaking and off when not speaking.

**Agenda Item 2: Introduction of Members**

Ms. Pierce welcomed and thanked the members for their time and dedication to improving antimicrobial stewardship (AS) in Public Health Region (PHR) 11. Each member provided a self-introduction as follows:

- Dr. Jose Campo Maldonado is a physician specializing in infectious disease medicine. He is on the faculty at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) School of Medicine where he is the director of the School of Medicine Quality Improvement Elective. He is on the medical staff at Valley Baptist Medical Center where he serves as Director of AS.
- Ms. Melissa Knerr is a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with 35 years nursing experience with twenty-six of those years in long term care. She is committed to addressing antimicrobial stewardship in the vulnerable long term care patient population.

- Dr. Luis Cerda is a doctor in healthcare administration currently serving as preventive care service administrator for the city of Laredo health department. He oversees more than twelve programs related to primary care and preventive medicine. He has a Masters in Public Health and certification in infection control. Previously he practiced medicine in Mexico for 10 years and later worked as an epidemiology supervisor for the Laredo health department.
- Dr. Brian Frescas is an infectious disease pharmacist and currently serves as the antimicrobial stewardship director for the Christus Spohn Health System hospitals. He received his undergraduate degree at University of Texas - El Paso and a doctorate in pharmacy at the University of Texas – Austin. He completed pharmacy and infectious disease residencies in San Antonio, Texas and Boston, Massachusetts, respectively.
- Mr. Juan Vidal is the system director for infection prevention and epidemiology for the South Texas Health System in McAllen, Texas. He is a member of his health system’s AS committee and is working on various improvement and educational initiatives. He is a Registered Nurse currently working on a doctorate in nursing, with a focus on antimicrobial stewardship in the Hispanic population along the US/Mexico border.

### **Agenda Item 3: Introduction of DSHS/HHSV Representatives**

Ms. Pierce thanked the following Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) attendees who joined the meeting: Mr. David Reisman, Chief Ethics Officer, HHSC; Ms. Sheri Meade, Quality Monitoring Program Representative, HHSC; Mr. Angel Guevarro, Healthcare-associated Infection (HAI) Epidemiologist, DSHS; and Ms. Melba Zambrano, Epidemiologist, PHR 11.

Ms. Pierce also acknowledged Dr. Emilie Prot, Regional Medical Director, PHR 11 and Ms. Sylvia Hobbs, Deputy Regional Director, PHR 11 who were unable to join the meeting today.

### **Agenda Item 4: Ethics Discussion**

Mr. David Reisman presented an overview of advisory committee ethics. Highlights of the overview included:

- Representation
- Confidential Information
- Disclosure
- Misuse of Department Property

- Honoraria
- Conflicts of Interest
- Prohibition on Lobbying
- Open Meetings Act/Public Information Act
- Bribery
- Public Servants

There were no questions after the presentation

### **Agenda Item 5: Introduction on AS and Committee Purpose**

Dr. Melissa LeBrun presented an overview of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Elements of AS programs. Highlights of the overview included:

- Leadership commitment to dedicate resources
- Accountability from a single leader
- Pharmacy expertise
- Implementation of at least one recommended action
- Tracking antibiotic prescribing and resistance patterns
- Reporting antibiotic use and resistance
- Education to clinicians

Dr. LeBrun provided an overview of Texas Health and Safety Code requirements related to AS. Highlights included:

- Texas Health and Safety Code 81.014 requires long term care facilities to monitor key infectious agents including multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in their infection control programs
- Texas Health and Safety Code 81.015 requires each public health region to establish an advisory committee to address AS in long term care facilities through collaborative action

### **Agenda Item 6: Regional Information Discussion**

Ms. Catie Bryan and Ms. Danielle Kim presented the regional AS and MDRO information for PHR 11. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Texas Notifiable Conditions list is used to guide reporting of certain diseases and outbreaks to local, regional and state health departments [Notifiable Conditions | Texas DSHS](#)
- MDROs included on the Texas Notifiable Conditions list include *Candida auris* (*C. auris*), carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* (CRE), *Klebsiella* species and *E. coli*; vancomycin intermediate *Staphylococcus*

*aureus* (VISA), and vancomycin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA)

- Twelve counties in PHR 11 had at least one reportable MDRO in 2021. Cases are counted by patient's county of residence.
- Twelve counties in PHR 11 had at least one reportable MDRO in 2022. Data is provisional, not final.
- The Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) was established to enhance laboratory capacity to quickly identify and contain antimicrobial resistance, track changes, and provide outbreak response support.
- The DSHS State Lab in Austin is the ARLN for Texas.
- Although certain MDROs are required to be reported as a notifiable condition, the submission of isolates to the ARLN for testing is voluntary. *Candida auris* is the only isolate required to be submitted.
- The case counts may differ between the MDROs identified by the ARLN and those reported as a Texas Notifiable Condition.
- Antibiograms are tables created to show an organism's antimicrobial susceptibility and guide appropriate treatment selection.
- Antibiograms for 2020 and 2021 were created for each of the Texas public health regions using isolate susceptibility data of HAI-causing organisms reported to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).

## **Agenda Item 7: Vote on Chairperson**

Ms. Pierce announced the vote for committee chairperson and read the list of responsibilities of the chairperson, as stated in the bylaws. No nominations were received prior to the meeting. Members were asked to nominate a chairperson.

- Dr. Maldonado nominated himself.
- Dr. Frescas and Dr. Cerda also nominated Dr. Maldonado.
- Dr. Maldonado accepted.
- Dr. Maldonado was given the opportunity for a brief speech for his chairperson candidacy.
- Ms. Knerr motioned to vote by ballot for the chairperson.
- Dr. Frescas seconded the motion.
- Ms. Pierce launched a poll for vote by ballot. Only members were permitted to cast their votes.
- Dr. Maldonado received five votes and was unanimously chosen as the PHR 11 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee Chairperson.

## **Agenda Item 8: Vote on Bylaws**

Ms. Pierce introduced the vote on the advisory committee bylaws. The bylaws were sent to members for review on April 18, 2023. No revisions were suggested prior to or during the meeting.

- Dr. Frescas motioned for a verbal vote on the bylaws.
- Mr. Vidal seconded the motion.
- Ms. Pierce called on each member to cast a verbal vote.
- The bylaws were approved unanimously with five votes.

## **Agenda Item 9: Public Comment and Open Forum**

Ms. Pierce announced no public comments were provided prior to the meeting. Time was allowed for public comments to be shared at this time and none were offered.

Ms. Pierce opened the floor for Open Forum:

- Dr. Frescas suggested having an antibiogram that is relevant to all care settings, including outpatient settings, to help guide appropriate antimicrobial treatment.
- Dr. Maldonado agreed it would be beneficial to have an antibiogram reflective of the community and all patient care settings.
- Dr. Maldonado suggested education to providers on how to use antibiogram for treatment decisions.
- Mr. Vidal suggested gaining a better understanding of the border population and cultural values on antibiotic usage to guide educational efforts on stewardship.
- Dr. Maldonado mentioned addressing the cultural practice of crossing the border to obtain antibiotics.
- Dr. Frescas recommended education to providers about antimicrobial therapy duration by sharing evidence-based guidelines and resources.
- All members agreed educational efforts should include:
  - Healthcare providers to guide treatment decisions
  - Patients and families to guide treatment expectations
  - Nursing staff to foster collaboration for AS
  - Facility leaders to ensure administrative buy in and availability of resources.
- Mr. Vidal suggested it would be helpful to review data on antimicrobial prescribing practices to guide educational needs.

Links shared during meeting:

[Shorter Is Better | mysite \(bradspellberg.com\)](https://mysite.bradspellberg.com)

[Oral Is the New IV. Challenging Decades of Blood and Bone Infection Dogma: A Systematic Review - The American Journal of Medicine \(amjmed.com\)](https://www.ajmed.com)

[Measuring Outpatient Antibiotic Prescribing \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov)

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/antibiotic-resistance-multidrug-resistant-organisms/antibiotic-stewardship#:~:text=Antimicrobial%20stewardship%20is%20a%20coordinated,caused%20by%20multidrug-resistant%20organisms.>

### **Agenda Item 10: Next Meeting and Agenda Items**

Ms. Pierce suggested members should decide on future meetings. According to House Bill 1848, members are only required to meet once per year. The members need to vote to meet additional times this year.

- Dr. Frescas motioned to vote for another meeting this year.
- Dr. Maldonado seconded the motion.
- Ms. Pierce called on each member to cast a vote. The proposal to meet again this year passed unanimously with five votes.
- Ms. Pierce announced she will reach out to members within the next few months to schedule another meeting.

Ms. Pierce asked for suggested agenda items for the next meeting. The following ideas were proposed:

- Identify available educational resources and guidance documents
- Create education to healthcare providers, staff, leaders, families, and patients
- Develop antibiograms applicable to the community and all healthcare settings
- Identify available data resources on antibiotic prescribing practices
- Establish committee priorities
- Confirm if the committee can form subcommittees to accomplish work

### **Agenda Item 11: Adjourn**

Ms. Pierce adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.