

**Public Health Region 65S Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional  
Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2023  
2 PM – 4 PM**

**Microsoft TEAMS**

Table 1: PHR 6/5S Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee member attendance at 6/21/2023 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Clare Gentry	X				
Jared Risinger	X				
Charlene Offiong	X				
Violeta Chavez	X				
Rachel Britt		X			

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

Ms. Vanessa Pierce called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.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 improve antimicrobial stewardship (AS) in Public Health Region (PHR) 6/5S. Each member introduced themselves as follows:

- Dr. Clare Gentry is an infectious diseases physician at the University of Texas Health Science Center. She is the current medical director of the AS programs at Kindred Hospital-Houston Medical Center and Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.
- Jared Risinger is the Vice President of Clinical Services for Gulf Coast leading twenty-one facilities for the past ten years. Previously he was a Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) surveyor for four years.

- Dr. Charlene Offiong is the Healthcare-associated Infection (HAI) Coordinator for the Houston Department of Health for the past six years. She leads the HAI program including laboratory and epidemiology services. She is a pharmacist with experience in clinical pharmacy, the pharmaceutical industry and academia.
- Dr. Violeta Chavez is on the faculty at the McGovern Medical School in Houston. She is the Director for Microbiology at the LBJ Hospital and Associate Director of Microbiology at Memorial Hermann Hospital.
- Dr. Rachel Britt was unable to attend. Ms. Pierce provided an overview of her biography. Dr. Britt is a pharmacy clinical practice specialist in infectious diseases at University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Health in Galveston. She received her Doctorate in Pharmacy from University of Texas in Austin College of Pharmacy and completed her post graduate residencies in pharmacy practice and infectious diseases at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Her practice interests include antimicrobial stewardship, gram-negative resistance, precepting, and mentorship.

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

Ms. Pierce thanked the following Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Texas HHSC attendees who joined the meeting: Ms. Kajal Amin, PHR 6/5S HAI Epidemiologist; LaKese Brown, PHR 6/5S HAI Epidemiologist; Mr. David Reisman, Chief Ethics Officer, HHSC; and Ms. Sheri Mead, Quality Monitoring Program Representative, HHSC.

Ms. Pierce thanked Dr. Carlos Plasencia, Regional Medical Director, PHR 6/5S for his attendance. Ms. Pierce also acknowledged many other attendees from PHR 6/5s.

### **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: Regional Information Discussion**

Ms. Kajal Amin, Ms. LaKese Brown and Ms. Danielle Kim, Antimicrobial Resistance Epidemiologist, DSHS presented the regional AS and multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) information for PHR 6/5S. 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)
- Fifteen counties in PHR 6/5S had at least one reportable MDRO in 2021. Cases are counted by patient's county of residence.
- Fourteen counties in PHR 6/5S had at least one reportable MDRO reported 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).

The Committee members voiced the following questions or comments:

- Dr. Gentry asked if NHSN is the source for antibiogram data. Ms. Kim will find the answer and report back to the Committee.
- Dr. Chavez asked if long term facilities are required to report data used for the antibiograms or if they use separate antibiograms.

- Mr. Risinger reported long term care facilities are not required to report data and in his experience information for antibiograms is gathered from local and regional hospitals.

### **Agenda Item 6: Vote on Chairperson**

Ms. Jacqueline Castillo introduced 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. Chavez nominated Dr. Gentry.
- Mr. Paul Tankersley seconded the nomination.
- Dr. Gentry accepted the nomination.
- Ms. Pierce launched a poll for vote by ballot. Only committee members were permitted cast a vote.
- Dr. Gentry received four votes and was unanimously chosen as the PHR 6/5S Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee Chairperson.

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

Ms. Castillo introduced the vote on the advisory committee bylaws. The proposed bylaws were sent to members on June 14, 2023 for review and opportunity to suggest revisions. No revisions were suggested prior to or during this meeting.

- Dr. Gentry motioned to hold a verbal vote to approve the bylaws.
- Ms. Chavez seconded the motion.
- Ms. Pierce called on each of the four members to cast a verbal vote.
- The bylaws were approved as written with four yes votes.
- The bylaws will be sent out to the committee members for signatures and stored on record.

### **Agenda Item 8: Public Comment and Open Forum**

Ms. Pierce allowed time for public comments to be shared. No members of the public offered comments.

Ms. Pierce opened the floor for Open Forum:

- Dr. Gentry is interested in sharing information with other Regional Advisory Committees on AS activities and goals.

- Dr. Offiong requested the number of long-term care facilities in the PHR 6/5s to understand the scope of need for AS educational resources and support.
- Dr. Gentry is interested in reviewing Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) data to determine educational needs and infection prevention practice gaps in long term care facilities.
- Dr. Offiong and Dr. Gentry are both interested in antibiograms that are current and reflective of the community and all healthcare settings.
- At Dr. Gentry's request, Dr. Michael Fischer suggested other activities to promote AS:
  - Improve communication between nursing homes and hospitals on infection control measures
  - Educate staff and patients on antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic use
  - Educate on use of antibiograms
- Dr. Chavez noted the CDC has resources on AS that can be shared as educational tools for various healthcare settings.
- Dr. Offiong noted the tools and core elements of AS may not be meeting the needs of some healthcare facilities and the challenge is to identify those specific needs through outreach.
- Dr. Fischer described the annual DSHS workshop for writing policy and procedure to address the core elements of AS
- Dr. Fischer reported the workshop helped healthcare leadership understand AS.
- Ms. Pierce agreed to share the slides from the policy writing workshop with the committee.

### **Agenda Item 9: 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.

- Ms. Pierce called on each member to cast a vote. The proposal to meet again this year passed unanimously with four 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:

- Develop and distribute educational materials about AS
- Share survey results from the policy writing workshop that will be held this summer

- Review the requests for number of facilities and the ICAR data to decide next steps and focus activities.
- Consider as a standing agenda item an update on AS activities in other regions or identify other means of ongoing communication
- Mr. Risinger will provide an overview of the regulatory requirements for AS in long term care facilities for committee review prior to the next meeting.

### **Agenda Item 10: Adjourn**

Ms. Pierce adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

**[NOTE: The DRAFT watermark should be left on the document until the committee has voted to approve the minutes as the official record of the meeting.]**