



**Task Force of Border Health Officials
Moreton Building, Room 100
1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, TX
December 11, 2017**

Committee Members

Dr. Mary Anderson
Texas Senator Eddie Lucio, not present
 Represented by Daniel Esparza and Elsa Garza
Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Vice Chair
Esmeralda Guajardo, Chair
State Representative Bobby Guerra
Steven M. Kotsatos
Eduardo Olivarez
Dr. Emily Prot
Josh Ramirez
Robert Resendes
Dr. Lillian Ringsdorf, not present
Art Rodriguez

Other Attendees

Bernadette Ebans
Jennifer Shuford
David Rivera
Stephen Pont
Ricky Gonzalez
Kirk Cole
Janna Zumbrun

Call to order

Chair, Esmeralda Guajardo called meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. on December 11, 2017.

Roll Call

Chair, Esmeralda Guajardo completes the roll call to assure there is a quorum. Identified as not present are Texas Senator Eddie Lucio and Dr. Ringsdorf. However, Daniel Esparza – Legislative and Committee Director and Elsa Garcia are representing Senator Eddie Lucio.

Welcome

Esmeralda Guajardo, Chair – Welcomes the group with excitement to the first Task Force Border Health Officials (TFBHO) Meeting. Chair provides her own description of the opportunity to work on this project (Senate Bill (SB) 1680) with her colleagues who work along the border. She asked Daniel Esparza to share a few words on behalf of Senator Eddie Lucio.

Daniel Esparza expresses Senator Eddie Lucio's heartfelt apologies for not being present due to a longstanding out of state policy commitment that could not be rescheduled. However, Senator Eddie Lucio asked Daniel Esparza and Elsa Garcia to provide welcoming remarks and technical support to the group. As the author of SB 1680, Senator Lucio asked Daniel Esparza to provide the Task Force his legislative intent and answer any questions regarding any concerns towards SB 1680.



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Daniel Esparza shared some history of the development of SB 1680. SB 1680 was created specifically through working with Esmeralda Guajardo who provided firsthand knowledge on issues occurring along the border; especially with the history of Zika in the Valley. The recommendations were vetted and shared during a meeting hosted by Senator Lucio with Local Council Government (Representation from Members of Congress and Members of Disease Control attended), held on December 16, 2016. In conclusion, now SB 1680 is a monumental accomplishment and will bring focus and attention to the challenges and hardships that the entire border regions face every day. As Director and Staff of Architecture of SB 1680 and the many years of experience that Daniel Esparza carries, he offers to share insight information and his resources to the TFBHO.

Chair, Esmeralda Guajardo provided her gratitude for the support Daniel Esparza and Elsa Garza offer to the group. In addition, she asked Representative Bobby Guerra to say a few words.

Mr. Guerra talked about his concern regarding Zika and emphasized that the TFBHO continue their collaboration with local university and colleges to assure progress on these issues like Zika, diabetes, and obesity health issues that are important and unique to the Valley.

Chair, Esmeralda Guajardo provided her gratitude for all the support that Dr. Hellerstedt and DSHS-Office of Border Public Health (OBPH), Rosamaria Murillo, RJ Dutton and David Gruber have provided and asked Dr. Hellerstedt to say a few words.

Dr. Hellerstedt acknowledged that he is aware of the unique and important challenges along the border regions. He is very grateful that he has a group willing to serve on this committee together with outstanding leadership, Chair, Esmeralda Guajardo and Vice Chair, Dr. Hector Gonzalez. Dr. Hellerstedt recognized that the committee has tremendous potential to bring him the identified short-term and long-term recommendations to improve the health of the entire region. Dr. Hellerstedt talked about how Texas/Mexico border is diverse, urban, rural and frontier areas which bring special challenges and the need of public health.

Dr. Hellerstedt announced that the Texas Legislator charged the TFBHO with studying and making both short-term and long-term recommendations regarding ways to improve the health and well-being of the people, individual communities, and across the entire regions. Dr. Hellerstedt believes that the TFBHO will think in both public and population health. Dr. Hellerstedt urged the TFBHO to:

- Understand the interest to speak in a formal and official voice on behalf of the residents in the communities.
- Understand the value and speed of trust.
- Look at your participation in the TFBHO with a similar desire to speak forthrightly and understand each other's needs and devise recommendations that advance the



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mutually health public and population health challenges along the entire bi-national border.

Chair, Esmeralda Guajardo mentioned that this is a national level opportunity and a great challenge for all to come together and find a common ground. However, TFBHO will work together to find plans with solutions. Chair gives Vice Chair the opportunity to say a few words.

Vice Chair, Dr. Hector Gonzales encourages TFBHO to prioritize with their colleagues, help each other, and overcome any barriers with best practices shared along the border and maximize the resources upon them to get the best bank for the dollar.

Open Meeting Requirements

Mack Harrison, Assistant General Counsel provided TFBHO orientation on the following:

- Open Meeting Government
- Creation of TFBHO
- Enabling Legislation
- Duties of the TFBHO
- Border Health Improvement Plan
- TFBHO meeting requirements and government aspects that apply
- Ethics
- SB 1680 – addition of Chapter 120 to the health and safety code.

Mack Harrison provided answers to questions regarding the Walking Quorum and provided clarification on voting and non-voting members. Chair, Esmeralda Guajardo requested a motion to acknowledge the presentation. Motion by Dr. Hector Gonzalez, Vice Chair and seconded by Dr. Prot. Motioned carried.

Border Health Officials Introduction

TFBHO provided a brief introduction of themselves and included an overview of their department, location, population and services.

DSHS Overview, Task Force of Border Health Officials and Deliverables

David Gruber, Associate Commissioner presented the DSHS Overview, Task Force of Border Health Officials and deliverables. The presentation provided information on what the TFBHO will concentrate:

- DSHS Overview-
 - Dr. Hellerstedt provided additional input on the DSHS organization chart and Jana Zumbrun, Laboratory & Infectious Disease Services introduced Jennifer Shoford.
- SB1680
- Timeline for implementation of the bill



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Comment: Brownsville Health Department Director Art Rodriguez brings up the fact that he needs a veterinarian in the Brownsville area, due to the fact that ticks is coming up for discussion next year and feels it is a topical issue. Mr. Gruber offers the veterinarian services in our region and in Austin.

Request: Eddie Olivarez: For a small DSHS group to provide technical assistance to TFBHO regarding the timelines.

Task Force of Border Health Officials discussed items regarding the timelines, assigned technical assistance for the TFBHO and reporting due dates.

David Gruber: OBPH is the Technical assistance for this task force.

Chair: Confirmed the assigned technical assistance in SB 1680 and TFBHO bylaw is the Office of Border Public Health.

David Gruber: Provided additional information regarding the internal report process to TFBHO. (Report to submit to OBPH when TFBHO has reached agreement and all is in order before report submitted to OBPH so OBPH can submit to Commissioner's office for review and questioning).

David Gruber: OBPH will work with the Chair, Esmeralda Guajardo to come up with the most appropriate report.

Daniel Esparza talks about what the meaning of short-term recommendation/plan (ex. identifying objectives) and provides some examples regarding timeline for reports that are due. In addition clarified the number of meetings that the TFBHO needs to meet.

Esmeralda Guajardo, Chair requested a motion to approve presentation by David Gruber. Motion moved by Art Rodriguez and seconded by Dr. Prot. Motion carried.

Task Force of Border Health Officials took lunch from 12 noon to 12:30 pm.

Esmeralda Guajardo, Chair call meeting to order at 12:35 upon return of the lunch hour.

Task Force Bylaws

Task Force Border Health Officials review the draft TFBHO bylaws. Task Force Border Health Officials discussed and agreed on necessary revisions/changes on the draft bylaws. John Villarreal, Office of Border Public Health made note of revisions of bylaws.

Dr. Dutton requested, the TFBHO to consider providing Dr. Hellerstedt the recommendations of any future members to the Task Force of Border Health Officials prior to appointing a member.

Ms. Flores, with Office of General Counsel (OGC) clarified that OGC will review the draft bylaws before the next meeting.



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Motion by: Mr. Resendes recommended that all changes be subject to legal review. Requested to include finalized bylaws as an agenda item and to have legal present during the next scheduled meeting.

*Note: Legal will review revisions made to draft bylaws before the next meeting.

Task Force Border Health Officials identified and discussed the short-term and long-term priorities that are issues in the areas along the border. John Villarreal made note of the priorities and will share them Dr. Murillo, liaison to the TFBHO.

Vice Chair, Dr. Hector Gonzalez motion moved for second meeting to be held February 7, 2018, seconded by Josh Ramirez. Motion carried.

List of Potential Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Approved revised bylaws with legal present
- Discuss OBPH Data presentations (to be shared for homework)
- Review draft list of short- and long-term priorities and discuss into more details
- Overview of municipalities data for each department
- Set/Approved TFBHO 2018 meeting dates, times and locations

Vice Chair, Dr. Hector Gonzalez motioned to have the next TFBHO meeting on February 7, 2018 at 10:00 am, location TBD, seconded by Josh Ramirez. Motion moved.

Public Comment

Bernadette Banks: Representing Women's Health Family Planning Association of Texas-Title X Administrators for the state who fund 28 agencies and about 100 clinic sites. They served 28,500 patients in the border region last year.

Ms. Banks would like the TFBHO to consider some of the real sensual issues to the border regions regarding women's health. If the TFBHO can include in the short and long term priorities and strategy sessions to focus on the STI's as well as immigration being an intersection to lack of access. Including from Health Border 2020, Teen pregnancy, which Texas has the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the nation. Not to mention women's health since women are literally the heart of their families.

Recommendations:

By Eddie Olivarez to move public comments to the beginning of the meeting.

By Eddie Olivarez to ask Rosamaria Murillo to send tentative meeting date to TFBHO as surveying best meeting dates.

Chair, Esmeralda Guajardo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion moved by Josh Ramirez, seconded by Vice Chair, Dr. Hector Gonzalez. Motion carried.



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Vice Chair, Dr. Hector Gonzalez: Motion moved to adjourn meeting seconded by Josh Ramirez.

Motion carried - Chair meeting adjourned at 3:48 pm.