



Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO)
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
1:00 p.m., August 9, 2023

Physical Location: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Robert D. Moreton Building, Room M-100, First Floor
1100 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756

TEAMS Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

Table 1: TFBHO attendance at the August 9, 2023, meeting.

Table with 6 columns: MEMBER NAME, YES, NO, MEMBER NAME, YES, NO. Rows list attendees like Dr. Richard Chamberlain, Ms. Esmeralda Guajardo, etc., with attendance status (X for YES).

Agenda Item 1: Call to order, welcome, Chair remarks, meeting logistics, and roll Call

Mr. Eduardo Olivarez, Chair, convened the TFBHO meeting at 1:00 p.m., and welcomed attendees. Ms. Francesca Kupper, Project Manager, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), provided logistical announcements, conducted the roll call, and noted a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of June 7, 2023, draft meeting minutes

Mr. Olivarez called for any edits or changes to the draft June 7, 2023, meeting minutes. Receiving no edits or changes, Mr. Olivarez called for a motion to approve the draft.

MOTION:

Mr. Steven M. Kotsatos moved to approve the June 7, 2023, draft meeting minutes as written. Ms. Esmeralda Guajardo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Update: COVID-19 vaccines and boosters

Ms. Mona Crowley, Lead Nurse-Immunizations Unit, DSHS, provided members with an update on the COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. Key points included:

- This Fall, the COVID vaccines will be all monovalent and will specifically address the threat created by XB 1.5, a strain of Omicron. This is expected to cause potentially the most health problems for our population.
The immunizations for the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) will be covered for children up to the age of 24 months through the Texas Vaccines for Children program.
TFBHO members asked about guidance for Rider 40. DSHS will release specific guidance for local health departments and public health regions.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation: OBPH CHW Training Center

Ms. Ursula Solorzano, OBPH Community-Based Healthy Border Program Coordinator, DSHS, presented a PowerPoint titled "Office of Border Public Health (OBPH) Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Center."

Key points included:

- A training about pediatric and adult vaccinations was created and translated into Spanish. It also has a toolkit in both English and Spanish.
- In collaboration with DSHS Immunizations Unit, there will be a chart comparing vaccination for Mexico and Texas. The TFBHO Chair encourages OBPH to disseminate this to all the regional educational centers throughout the state when completed.
- CHWs are looking for spaces and facilities where they can educate committee members about different public health topics. TFBHO members offered to help when an opportunity comes.
- The development of a 160-hour CHW certification course to certify CHWs in the state of Texas. It will include a health intervention in their community based on the needs identified. Local health departments could be internship sites.

Agenda Item 5: Update: 2023 Operation Border Health Preparedness

Mr. Abdul Kamara, Preparedness, Response and Epidemiology Manager, Preparedness and Response Program, DSHS Public Health Region 11, DSHS, presented a Power Point titled, "2023 Operation Border Health Preparedness Overview" with photos of the event.

Highlights included:

- Operation Border Health Preparedness, formerly known as Operation Lone Star, is considered one of the largest operations of its kind in the U.S. This year it was held July 24-28.
- It's a military and civilian full-scale exercise to practice emergency response roles and simultaneously providing health services to the border population. DSHS works alongside various partners, including local county and city public health departments, and counties where DSHS acts as a local health department.
- In various sites within the Rio Grande Valley, they provided health care for patients with diabetes, blood pressure screenings, sports and school physicals, dental services, mental health services, various other screening, prescription lenses, and veterinarian services. These help people with no insurance or those who don't have enough health insurance.
- Dr. Emilie Prot, DSHS Regional Medical Director for South Texas, added that for this year's exercise they added certain services and supplies.

Agenda Item 6: Update: 2024 Meetings Confirmation and Report Timeline

Ms. Karin Hopkins, OBPH Director, and Mr. Guillermo Zenizo-Lindsey, OBPH Binational Coordinator, DSHS, presented a PowerPoint titled, "2023-2024 Upcoming Meetings and Report Timeline (slides 1-3)." Key points included:

- The upcoming TFBHO calendar years 2023-2024 meetings are:
 - Wednesday, October 11, 2023
 - Thursday, December 7, 2023
 - Wednesday, February 14, 2024
 - Wednesday, April 10, 2024
 - Thursday, June 13, 2024
 - Wednesday, August 14, 2024
 - Wednesday, October 9, 2024
 - Wednesday, December 11, 2024
- All meetings will be held at Robert M. Moreton Building; M-100 (first floor), 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756.

- A proposal regarding the 2023-2024 Recommendations Report due next year. The idea is that each TFBHO member will bring recommendations to each meeting on a specific topic, instead of working in sub-committees. The former sub-committees will become the report content outline.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion: Reporting Method and Sub-Committees

Mr. Olivarez and Dr. Art Rodriguez, TFBHO Vice Chair, reviewed the Power Point presentation, "2023-2024 Upcoming Meetings and Report Timeline (slides 4-6)." Mr. Olivarez opened the discussion with members on the reporting method and subcommittees, and provided an overview of the proposed topics; Ms. Hopkins and Dr. Rodriguez explained the proposed schedule. Key points included:

- The topics for the 2023-2024 Recommendations Report were distributed and scheduled for the upcoming meetings, from October 11, 2023, to June 13, 2024. The report is due on November 1, 2024. It would be approved by the TFBHO members on August 14, 2024. Then it would go through the DSHS review process, and the final version would come back for members to review and vote on October 9, 2024.
- TFBHO members and their staff would work on recommendations according to each topic and bring it to the respective meeting for discussion and adoption by the members.
- OBPH will support with data and developing the draft report. Also, OBPH would look for a way to work collaboratively in an online document prior to each meeting.
- OBPH will find subject matter experts (SMEs) to speak on each topic at the meetings. TFBHO members can send OBPH requests for anyone they would like to hear at the meetings.

Agenda Item 8: Public comment

No public comment was received.

Agenda Item 9: Recognition of outgoing Chair Eduardo Olivarez

Ms. Rachel Samsel, Deputy Commissioner, Regional and Local Health Operations, DSHS, provided recognition of outgoing TFBHO Chair Mr. Olivarez and thanked him for his service to the people of Texas.

Agenda Item 10: Closing remarks, thank you and adjourn

Mr. Olivarez welcomed Dr. Rodriguez as the new TFBHO Chair and Dr. Ocaranza as the new TFBHO Vice-Chair as of the next meeting on October 11, 2023, and thanked Dr. Allison Banicki, OBPH Epidemiologist, DSHS, for her years of service upon her retirement from the agency. Mr. Olivarez adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Please click on the link to the archived HHSC video to view, and listen to, the entirety of the August 9, 2023, Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) meeting; this video will be available for approximately two years from the date the meeting video is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule:

[Task Force of Border Health Officials \(TFBHO\)](#)