

Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee
Texas Department of State Health Services

Microsoft Office Teams Live
Friday, October 14, 2022
10:00 a.m.

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Table 1: Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee October 14, 2022 meeting attendance roster

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Bethea, Louise, MD	X		Jeffrey, Douglas, MD	X	
Bird, Drew, MD	X		Rivera, Jose, Pharm.D.	X	
Bostic, Natalie, RN	X		Rozneck, Paulette, MSN		X
Davis, Carla, MD		X	Ruiz, Raiza	X	
Freeman, Theodore, MD		X	Swan, Sally, RN	X	
Gonzalez-Reyes, Erika, MD		X	Varshney, Pooja, MD	X	

Agenda item 1: Welcome/Call to Order/Introduction of members and staff

The meeting of the Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee (SEAC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Friday, October 14, 2022, by Dr. Drew Bird, committee chair. Dr. Bird welcomed committee members and members of the public and asked Ms. Raisa Ruiz to introduce DSHS staff and she asked committee members to introduce themselves.

Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, HHSC Advisory Committee Coordination Office, announced the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ms. Thompson conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum of the Committee was present.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the minutes for the October 15, 2021 Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee meeting.

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair called for a motion to approve the October 15, 2021, meeting minutes.

Motion: Dr. Louise Bethea moved to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2021, meeting as presented. Dr. Pooja Varshney seconded the motion. The October 21, 2021 draft meeting minutes were approved by a vote of eight Approves (Bethea, Bird, Bostic, Jeffrey, Rivera, Ruiz, and Varshney), zero Disapprove, and two Abstentions (Rivera and Swan).

Agenda item 3: Consideration of revised SEAC Bylaws

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair recognized Mr. Hayden Evans to facilitate the proposed changes to the SEAC bylaws.

- Mr. Evans stated the bylaws were created using the Advisory Committee Coordination Office standard template. Ms. Morgan Constantino, HHSC Legal Services Division, and Mr. John Chacón,



HHSC Advisory Committee Coordination Office, were in attendance to answer any questions SEAC members may have about the bylaw changes. Mr. Hayden Evans presented the bylaws by stating each section in the bylaws and provided a brief overview of the respective section.

- Dr. Drew Bird, Chair asked about the current terms and expiration for current members. He states the committee members were all brought on to the committee at the same time and asks what the plan for expiration date is, when the expiration dates are, and when is expected the committee will have many members turnover.
 - Ms. Raiza Ruiz stated the committee has currently 12 members, so we have one vacancy. The year after, there will be three vacancies. There will be four vacancies that won't be the during the same term. Ms. Ruiz states it will be hard to stagger the terms if the same members continue but at the very least, there will be four positions in the committee that won't fall in the same term.
- Dr. Drew Bird asked if the School Health Program is able to provide a list of when committee members' terms expire.
 - Ms. Raiza Ruiz stated the list is posted on the DSHS website and will be sent to the committee members.
- Dr. Drew Bird asked a question regarding the conflict-of-interest statement. He mentioned his interpretation of it was pretty broad and didn't understand exactly how the state was interpreting conflict of interest, how will this affect the group, and what level of conflict is this stating.
 - Ms. Morgan Constantino stated that whether there's a conflict of interest depends on what is involved in serving in an advisory capacity to a manufacturer. If the committee member is being paid to serve on an advisory committee that may constitute a conflict of interest because the committee member would personally benefit. She further explains conflicts can be broad, and if a situation presents itself to reach out to her or the Chief Ethics Officer, David Reisman, to get more clarity.

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair called for a motion to approve the bylaws for the Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee.

Motion: Dr. Louise Bethea moved to approve the SEAC bylaws as drafted. Dr. Pooja Varshney and Ms. Natalie Bostic seconded the motion. The SEAC bylaws as presented were approved by a vote, with eight (8) approvals (Bethea, Bird, Bostic, Jeffrey, Rivera, Ruiz, and Varshney), no disapprovals, and no abstentions.

Agenda item 4: Discuss document revision for Food Allergy Guidelines

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair recognized Dr. Pooja Varshney to lead the discussion regarding the work group document revision for Food Allergy Guidelines. Highlights of presentation and member discussion included:

- Dr. Pooja Varshney stated the group consolidated the food allergen definition to be used consistently throughout the document and expanded the description of symptoms of an allergic reaction, including change in mental status and findings specific to young children.
- Dr. Pooja Varshney stated the work group provided further detail about who a school district should designate to oversee food allergy policy and suggested the role could be a health service coordinator or lead nurse at the district level.
- Dr. Pooja Varshney stated the workgroup ensured resources are referenced appropriately and are up to date, providing some additional updated research to guide users and updating websites for some of the major resources provided.
- Dr. Louise Bethea asks if information on treatment of anaphylaxis will be changed.
 - Dr. Pooja Varshney stated the workgroup decided to keep the recommendation to access emergency medical services if epinephrine is administered but this is a topic they plan to keep open.
- Dr. Louise Bethea asked if sesame seeds will be added to the list of food allergens.

- Dr. Pooja Varshney answered stating sesame seeds are included.

Agenda item 5: Discussion and recommendations related to resources for the SEAC Allergies and Anaphylaxis webpage

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair led the discussion regarding recommendations related to resources for the SEAC Allergies and Anaphylaxis webpage. Highlights of member discussion included:

- Dr. Drew Bird asked if there is data on how commonly the web page is being accessed.
 - Ms. Raiza Ruiz stated there is data on it and the School Health Program will compile a report and provide to the committee.
- Dr. Drew Bird and Dr. Pooja Varshney requested to add the EpiPens 4 Schools Program on the website.
 - Ms. Raiza Ruiz stated the department does not post anything on the website from private entities or for-profit institutions, but because this is a free resource if the committee recommends it, the program staff will present it to leadership for approval.
 - Dr. Jose Rivera suggested to keep this as an open option in case other manufacturers decide to offer free EpiPens.

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair called for a motion to approve the recommendations related to resources for the SEAC Allergies and Anaphylaxis webpage.

Motion: Ms. Natalie Bostic moved to approve the recommendations related to resources for the SEAC Allergies and Anaphylaxis webpage. Ms. Natalie Bostic seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the minutes by voice vote, with seven approvals, no disapprovals, and one abstention.

Agenda item 6: Updates from the Department of State Health Services.

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair recognized Ms. Raiza Ruiz to provide an update from the Texas Department of State Health Services Highlights of the update and member discussion included:

- Ms. Ruiz discussed the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section has gone through some reorganization. The goal of the reorganization was to better align programs that are similar in focus and processes. The school health program moved under the Community Health Worker and School Health Branch, under the Health Promotion Unit.
- Ms. Raiza Ruiz discussed vacancies in the program and shared that applications are open.
- Ms. Raiza Ruiz shared the food allergies workgroup has completed their edits to the document and it is routing internally for review and approval. She encouraged all SEAC members to review and submit any comments or edits that they may have.
- Ms. Raiza Ruiz reminded members that Item 6, Page 3 of the Bylaws discusses resignations and vacancies. She also stated if any member wishes to resign, the member will contact in writing and the current presiding officer and the DSHS committee contact will request the appointment of an alternate member.
- Ms. Calandra Jones provided an overview of the 2021-2022 Epinephrine Auto-Injector Use in Texas Schools Report and Asthma Medication Use in Texas School Report. Ms. Jones emphasized that data for both reports could have been affected by impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with reduced in person attendance as well as the availability of virtual learning throughout the school year. She also stated that the Asthma Medication Use in Texas School Report went into effect of February 2021. Data was collected from August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022.
- Dr. Bird expressed the importance of the data considering half of those who received epinephrine had a known allergy, half were not identified with having a history of anaphylaxis.
- Dr. Bird asked Ms. Jones to compare data to prior years, considering the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Ms. Calandra Jones stated there were a lot of people who didn't report during the 2020-2021 school year.
 - Ms. Raiza Ruiz mentioned that the previous reports are posted online.



- Dr. Jeffrey stated that this work is doing great things and ask if the committee could address increased use of individual's own epinephrine auto-injector instead of unassigned epinephrine auto-injector.
 - Dr. Bird agreed.
- Ms. Natalie Bostik thanked Ms. Jones for sharing the data. She asked if there was a way to differentiate between the nurse's office and clinic as the place the medication was administered in the reporting form.
 - Ms. Jones stated that the difference between the nurse's office and clinic was based on the response provided in the reporting form.
 - Ms. Raiza Ruiz shared there is a data collection tool on the DSHS website, and the program staff are open to recommendations on changes.
- Dr. Jose Rivera asked about availability of epinephrine auto injectors and if this impacted school districts in any way.
 - Ms. Raiza explained we don't collect that data and haven't received correspondence reporting this concern.
- Dr. Pooja Varshney thanked Ms. Jones for the presentation and asked to look at both trends in terms of the year. She stated this is enlightening learning about the 89% unassigned epinephrine and the top symptoms listed in the presentation.
 - Ms. Jones explained the top symptoms reported.
- Dr. Drew Bird asks DSHS how to address questions and additional changes to the reporting forms or other items that have been discussed.
 - Ms. Raiza Ruiz requested that committee members to reach out to her or the program specialist.

Agenda item 7: Future SEAC agenda topics and priorities

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair led the discussion regarding future SEAC agenda topics and priorities. Highlights of member discussion included:

- Dr. Louis Bethea requested a subcommittee be formed to look more closely at the data being collected and data analysis. She also requested either that subcommittee or another group could look more specifically at the at the data forms collected.
 - Ms. Jacqueline Thompson and Ms. Raiza Ruiz explained any decision made needs to be made in a public forum versus online or email because that would be a violation of the Open Meetings Act.
 - Dr. Douglas Jeffrey suggested an agenda item for the next meeting to present information from the discussion for any possible voting topics.
 - Dr. Rivera expressed interests in looking at the data and add recommendations.

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair called for a motion to appoint a workgroup analyze data that will consist of no more than six members of this committee.

Motion: Dr. Louis Bethea moved to approve appointing a workgroup analyze data that will consist of no more than six members of this committee. Dr. Pooja Varshney seconded the motion. Dr. Bethea, Dr. Varshney, Dr. Rivera, Dr. Bird volunteered for the workgroup.

Agenda Item 8: Public Comment

Oral and written public comment received from:

Dr. Daniel A. Deane, MD
Retired Pediatric Pulmonologist
Phone: 210-618-9186
Email: dandeane@msn.com



Agenda item 9: Adjournment.

Dr. Drew Bird, Chair, provided closing remarks and thanked committee members and members of the public for their attendance. Dr. Drew Bird, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Below is the link to the archived video of the October 14, 2022, Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee meeting will be available for viewing approximately two years from the date the meeting was posted on the HHS website and based on the DSHS records retention schedule. (To view and listen to the entirety of the meeting click on the link below).

[Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee](#)