



Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2010
The University of Texas at Austin
Joe C. Thompson Conference Center
2405 Robert Dedman Drive
Austin, Texas 78712

The Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders met on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at The University of Texas at Austin, Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, 2405 Robert Dedman Drive, Austin, Texas 78712.

<p><u>Council Members Present</u> Ronald DeVere, MD Rita Hortenstine Deborah S. Hanna, Chair Grayson R. Hankins The Honorable Clint Hackney, Vice-Chair Susan Rountree, MD Kate Allen Stukenberg Lauri Kalanges, MD MPH Melissa L. King Robert A. Vogel, MD Angela Hobbs-Lopez, DO, DSHS Rep. Winnie Rutledge, DADS Representative</p> <p><u>Council Members Absent</u> Carlos Escobar, MD Carolyn Casey Frazier, RN Frank Genco, HHSC, Representative Ray Lewis, DO Lilani Muthali, MD, DADS Representative</p>	<p><u>Guests Present</u> James W. Hinds, MPA Robert Barber, Ph.D. Sid O'Bryant, Ph.D. Rick Schwertfeger, MAT, DSHS Bobby Schmidt, M.Ed., R.S., DSHS</p> <p><u>Staff Members Present</u> Susan Ristine, MSHP, DSHS Mary Somerville, DSHS</p>
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1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Excuse Absent Members

Debbie Hanna, Chair

Debbie Hanna, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Members and guests were welcomed.

Debbie Hanna moved that absent members be excused. The Honorable Clint Hackney seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the following members were excused:

Carlos Escobar, MD
Carolyn Casey Frazier, RN
Frank Genco, HHSC, Representative
Ray Lewis, DO
Lilani Muthali, MD, DADS Representative

2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2010 Debbie Hanna, Chair

Debbie Hanna asked Council members to review the minutes from the April 23, 2010 meeting. Dr. Ronald DeVere moved that the minutes of the April 23, 2010 meeting be approved as presented. Mr. Grayson Hankins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as presented.

3. Introduction of New Council Member – Dr. Lauri Kalanges Debbie Hanna, Chair

Ms. Hanna welcomed Dr. Kalanges to the Council and asked her to introduce herself.

Dr. Kalanges, MD MPH, Director of the Health Promotions & Chronic Disease Prevention Section and interim Medical Director for the Section is currently serving as the Acting Director for HPCDPS. Dr. Kalanges reported that she has more than 20 year's clinical experience in all levels of preventive healthcare through an initial career in plastic and reconstructive surgery and for the past eight years, a secondary career in public health. Her experience ranges from private clinical practice and academics with a broad research background to both the private and public sectors in public health. In addition, she has served in medical executive positions with several health organizations. From 2007 to 2009, she was the Medical Director for the Community Health Services Section at Texas Department of State Health Services.

4. BRFSS Cognitive Impairment Module

Susan Ristine

Susan Ristine presented an update on the BRFSS Cognitive Impairment Module. Ms. Ristine reported that the 2011 Cognitive Impairment Module was presented to the Health Survey Users Group and that the proposal is being considered. Susan reported that there were two strong proposals presented from two entities, DSHS and the Methodist Neurological Institute (Houston). Susan stated that two separate entities proposing the same module made a strong case for the great interest in this baseline data. Susan reported that we should know in October if the proposal was accepted by the DSHS BRFSS Coordinator.

5. TARC Research Projects and Funding

Jim Hinds

Mr. Hinds provided the following update to the Council on the Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium.

1. International Conference on Alzheimer's (ICAD)
2. Creation of a TARC blood test that identifies protein biomarkers in blood serum, which when combined with other clinical information, accurately diagnosed AD in 94% of study subjects
3. Increased recruitment of Hispanic subjects and patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)
4. TARC Funding for the Current Biennium:

a. Appropriations for the Biennium:	\$6,850,000
b. Returned to State:	\$342,500
c. Available Funds for the Biennium:	\$6,507,500
d. Estimated Expenditure FY1:	\$3,388,359
e. Available Funds for FY2:	\$3,119,141

5. Meeting of TARC External Advisory Committee (EAC) will be held in Houston on October 11, 2010

EAC Members:

- Chairman: Ronald C. Petersen, PhD, MD – Mayo Clinic
- Kristine Yaffe, MD – University of California, San Francisco
- Gerard D. Schellenberg, PhD – University of Pennsylvania
- Douglas R. Galasko, MD – University of California, San Diego

Drs. Barber and O'Bryant then reported on the 5 following presentations made by TARC scientists at the 2010 International Convention on Alzheimer's Disease. He noted that these were some of the most exciting and promising new developments in Alzheimer's research unveiled at this year's convention. The TARC presentations included:

- A simple, inexpensive blood test for Alzheimer's, accurately classifying those with or without the disease 95% of the time. The test could facilitate the early detection and treatment of this devastating condition and augment current diagnostic methods which are time consuming, expensive, and still less than 100% accurate.
- Two presentations on new discoveries about the relationship between Alzheimer's and genetics. The first identified mutations in two genes that indicate a significant risk for Alzheimer's. The second detailed a new technique for identifying genes related to the disease, improving the ability to locate genes and enabling identification of previously undetectable genes.
- New data on the long-suspected link between Alzheimer's and inflammation. TARC research sheds important light on the exact nature of the connection. While inflammation was confirmed as a significant risk factor, it was found to be present in only some Alzheimer's patients. This suggests Alzheimer's is a complex disease and that there may be multiple causes for the disease. This understanding may facilitate more effective research in the future and strengthen efforts to develop improved treatments.
- Discoveries regarding the relationship between Alzheimer's disease, depression, and gender. TARC scientists discovered that even low levels of depression can impact an individual's performance during neuropsychological testing, but that the relationship is a complex one. First, the nature of the effect varies between normal and cognitively impaired subjects. Second, gender has a significant impact on specific test performance.

6. State Plan Implementation

No discussion was held.

7. Time and Date for Next Council Meeting

Ms. Hanna reported that she and Susan Ristine will determine a date for the next Council meeting soon – possibly to coincide with a partnership meeting in May 2011.

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8. Public comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.