
Texas Diabetes Council (TDC)
FINAL: Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Physical Location: Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Robert D. Moreton Building
Room M100, First Floor
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756
Teams Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 1: Call to order, roll call, and welcoming remarks

Mr. Chris Carmona, Chair, called the Texas Diabetes Council (TDC) meeting to order at 1 p.m. Dr. Ponder resigned from the Texas Diabetes Council in December and Mr. Carmona thanked him for his service.

Ms. Jessica Arevalo, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) read the logistical announcements and stated the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ms. Arevalo conducted the member roll call and announced the presence or absence of quorum.

Table 1: The Texas Diabetes Council member attendance at the January 25, 2024 meeting.

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
Mr. Chris Carmona	Y	Ms. Maryanne Strobel	Y
Mr. Dirrell Jones	Y	Mr. John Trischitti, III	Y
Dr. Gary Francis	Y	Vacant	
Ms. Sharon Lemons	Y	Dr. Kelly Fegan – Bohm Non-Voting Member	Y
Ms. Aida (Letty) Moreno Brown	N	Dr. Mitchel Abramsky	Y
Dr. Ninfa Peña-Purcell	Y	Ms. Lisa Golden Non-Voting Member	Y
Mr. Jason Ryan	Y	Mr. Blaise Duran Non-Voting Member	Y
Dr. Christine Wicke	Y	Ms. Umme Salama Oan Ali Non-Voting Member	Y

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of October 19, 2023, draft meeting minutes

Mr. Chris Carmona, Chair, referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. Hearing none, Mr. Carmona called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2023, meeting.

Motion: Mr. John Trischitti, III moved to approve the minutes as presented from the October 19, 2023, meeting. Dr. Gary Francis seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 9 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Francis, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Ryan, Strobel, Trischitti, Wicke), 0 nays, and 1 abstention from (Moreno-Brown, Strobel).

Agenda Item 3: Updates from Workgroups

a. Health Professionals Outcomes Workgroup (HPOW)

Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm provided a verbal update.

- Mr. Scott Wallace gave a presentation on Efforts to Increase Access to Eye Care Initiatives. His presentation addressed problems related to blindness.
- HPOW outreach efforts to personally invite attendees has resulted in an increase in attendees to the workgroup meeting.
- Discussed topics for social media outreach with DSHS to educate the public.
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee update from Dr. Wicke and Ms. Lemons was provided.

b. Advocacy and Outreach Workgroup (AOW)

Mr. Jason Ryan provided a verbal update.

- Attendees discussed breaking into smaller workgroups to focus on specific sections of the State Plan.
- A request was made for a basic inventory of programs offered by DSHS, local health departments, and community partners.

Agenda Item 4: Appointment of Workgroup Co-Chair

- Dr. Christine Wicke was appointed as the new HPOW co-chair.
- Dr. Wicke replaces Dr. Ponder, the previous HPOW co-chair.

Agenda Item 5a: Activities Outline in the State Plan

- The State Plan serves as a map for diabetes care for people in Texas.
- Efforts should be focused on accomplishing 4-5 items in the State Plan instead of trying to accomplish everything in the State Plan.

Agenda Item 5b: Updates to the Guidelines for Training School Employees on Diabetes (UDCA) School Document

Highlights of the updates on each of the two subcommittees include:

- In 2005, the legislature tasked the TDC to create a training document for unlicensed diabetes care assistants in schools.
- The document was revised in 2009.

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- Changes in diabetes have occurred since the document was first written and the updated document should reflect those changes.
 - DSHS has received inquiries from parents, schools, and healthcare providers to update the document.
 - Updating the document is an action item in the 2023 State Plan.
 - Members were asked to volunteer to help review and update the document.
 - Schools are required to have a management plan for any student with diabetes.
 - The document is a tool for schools to use.

Agenda Item 6: Updates from State Agency Representatives

a. Department of State Health Services- Ms. Rachel Wiseman, Chronic Disease Unit Director, DSHS provided the update.

DPCP Staffing Updates

- Julia Robinson's last day with the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program was November 3, 2023.
- The DPCP is in the processing of hiring for her position (Program Specialist III), hoping to fill the vacancy soon.

DPCP Program Updates:

- The February edition of the Diabetes News You Can Use quarterly newsletter is under review. It should be published the first week of February.
- The diabetes education materials Taking Charge of Your Health and Food for Life have been approved and are in the final designing stages. We anticipate they will begin to be distributed through the DSHS website and partners in February.

DPCP Special Projects:

- The DPCP is participating in a CDC special project to increase the engagement of Promotores and community health workers (CHWs) in diabetes prevention and management. The DPCP is participating in a supportive capacity, outside of grant funded activities, as a representative of Texas only. The project's goals are to:
 - Increase usage and knowledge of Promotores and CHWs in the US/Mexico border regions.
 - Adapt the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) curriculum to meet the needs of the Hispanic/Latino populations in Texas in order to delay or prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes.
 - Increase utilization of diabetes management programs (DSMES) in the US/Mexico border regions.
 - Educate and onboard CHWs as lifestyle change coaches and diabetes educators for NDPP and DSMES
 - Eventually scale the program to a national level with Comagine Health and the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

CDC-RFA-DP-23-0020 Grant

- The Diabetes Program has been invited to participate in the Family Healthy Weight Program (FHWP) Co-Learning Alliance (CLA), hosted by the American Academy of

Pediatrics, the National Association of Community Health Centers, and the CDC Science Partners. The FHWP CLA is a peer network to support CDC-funded recipients working on family healthy weight programs, which is one of the 2320 strategies.

- The Diabetes Program has completed the continuing application for Year 2 of the 2320 grant. The application is going through the internal DSHS review process and will be submitted to CDC in February.

GR Funded Partners FY24

- The City of Laredo Health Department and City of El Paso Department of Public Health were featured in the news for their diabetes programs and events.
- Additionally, on November 1, 2023, Laredo Mayor Dr. Victor D. Trevino proclaimed November "[Diabetes Awareness Month](#)" at the City of Laredo Health Department.

Grand Rounds

- DSHS Grand Rounds is hosting Dr. Pamela Thornton on January 31, 2024.
- Dr. Thornton from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health will present on NIDDK's Strategic Efforts to Advance Health in Diabetes and Improve Pathways to Health for All.
- Hosting a TDC Grand Rounds on diabetes and health disparities is part of the 2023 State Plan.

b. Health and Human Services- Dr. Mitchell Abramsky, Associate Medical Director, HHSC, provided the update.

- On February 1, there will be some major updates to the diabetic equipment and supplies continuous glucose monitoring policies to align with CMS and recommendations from the American Diabetes Association.
- Criteria for minimum number of injections and blood tests per day will be eliminated from the current policy.
- Language is changing from physician to client's treating practitioner to make it more all-inclusive.
- Telehealth visits will be allowed as part of the requirements for CGM utilization.
- Working on getting a State Plan amendment through CSM to allow non-drugs, like Omnipod, to be available through the pharmacy.

c. Teacher Retirement System of Texas- Ms. Umme Salama Oan Ali, TRS

- Laura Cervantes will take over as the TRS representative for the Council.
 - Laura is a senior clinical consultant for TRS, registered nurse, and a master's prepared pediatric nurse practitioner.
- SB 1854 was passed during the last legislative session, and it allows TRS to offer optional vision and dental coverage to TRS retirees and their dependents through the TRS Cares Program.

d. Employees Retirement System of Texas- Mr. Blaise Duran, ERS

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- On January 1, 2024, Express Scripts became the new administrator of the pharmacy benefits manager.
 - The 3rd party administrator of the Health Select insurance program has been awarded to Blue Cross, Blue Shield.

e. Texas Workforce Commission- Ms. Lisa Golden, TWC, provided the update.

- The Texas Workforce Commission Rehabilitation Division has an independent living program for individuals 55+ who are blind and do not want to go to work but want to remain independent in their homes.
- TWC has received additional funding to support more Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) workers.
- An intensive independent living training has been reinstated.
 - Once a month, approximately 8 older individuals gather and learn the skills to live independently despite having vision loss.
 - The training takes place in a different location across the state.

Agenda Item 7: Participation in the Texas Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists Conference

- Dr. Peña-Purcell will present at the Texas Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES) Conference on March 25 in Grapevine.
- The purpose of the presentation is to raise awareness of the TDC.
 - Presentation will include the mission, overview of the state plan, structure, accomplishments.
- One goal of the presentation is for TDC and TX ADCES to work together more in the future.
- It's important to look at work that is being done at the grass roots level and connections that are being made between individuals and leaders.
- Connecting with individuals at the grass level provides a potential opportunity for TDC members to receive presentations from said individuals during council meetings.

Agenda Item 8: Consideration of Officer Election Procedure and election of Vice-Chair

- Ms. Tessa Buck-Ragland, ACCO Facilitator read the vice-chair election procedure.
- Council members voted on the vice-chair election procedure.

Motion: Mr. John Trischitti, III moved to approve the vice-chair election procedure. Ms. Maryanne Strobel seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays and 1 abstention (Carmona, Jones, Francis, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Ryan, Strobel, Trischitti, Wicke), 0 nays, and 1 abstention from (Moreno-Brown). Dr. Peña-Purcell was nominated for vice-chair.

With a total of 9 votes, Dr. Peña-Purcell was elected as vice-chair.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion of Texas Administrative Code, rules 651.1-651.5

- In 1984, rules were adopted in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) on the conduct of Texas Diabetes Council meetings.

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- The rules have not been amended, and possibly not reviewed for potential amendment, since that time.
 - According to current legislation, all TAC rules are to be reviewed every four years to ensure the rules are still applicable.
 - Rule review is a fairly simple process and review of the TDC rules falls to Council.
 - If Council votes to review the rules, a future vote on whether to amend the rules (if amendments are necessary) will also be needed after the review is complete.
 - The Council can review the rules in one of several ways:
 - as a full council during a future meeting,
 - as a small ad hoc workgroup between council meetings with a vote on the final review document at a future council meeting, or
 - delegate the rule review to DSHS with a vote on the final review document at a future council meeting.

Motion: Mr. John Trischitti, III moved to approve the review of Texas Administrative Code, rules 651.1-651.5. Ms. Maryanne Strobel seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 9 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Francis, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Ryan, Strobel, Trischitti, Wicke), 0 nays, and 1 abstention (Moreno-Brown).

Motion: Mr. John Trischitti, III moved to approve to allow DSHS staff to review and revise Texas Administrative Code, rules 651.1-651.5 and submit a draft to the Council. Ms. Maryanne Strobel seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 9 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Francis, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Ryan, Strobel, Trischitti, Wicke), 0 nays, and 1 abstention (Moreno-Brown).

Agenda Item 10: Announcements

- Mr. Carmona encouraged member participation during meetings.
- A suggestion was made to push the start times of the workgroup meetings back by 30 minutes and shortening the meeting times to one hour.
 - DSHS staff will reach out to the workgroup co-chairs to discuss the change.
- There is interest in having a presentation on newly approved FDA Continuous glucose monitoring (CGMs) devices at a future meeting.
 - The preference is to have an unbiased presenter who is focused on education, rather than promoting a product.

Agenda Item 11: Review of action items and agenda items for next meeting

- DSHS will present on recommended changes to the rules.
- DSHS will also provide an update on the revisions of the Guidelines for Training School Employees on Diabetes (UDCA) School Document.
- Dr. Jennifer Seger will present on enhancing access to medical/pharmacologic weight loss therapies-help with obesity and diabetes.

Agenda Item 12: Upcoming meeting dates

All meetings will start at 1:00pm and the workgroup meetings will be the mornings the day of the council meetings.

- April 18, 2024
- July 18, 2024

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- October 10, 2024

Agenda Item 13: Public Comment

- Rafat Fields serves in an advocacy role for Abbott and provided a public comment.
- Per Ms. Fields, Abbott has resources to help support the TDC's goals and it would be helpful to know the level of engagement industry representatives could be involved in.
- Mr. Carmona suggested attending workgroup meetings.

Agenda Item 14: Adjourn

Mr. Chris Carmona, Chair, provided closing remarks, and adjourned the meeting 2:49 p.m.

Below is the link to the archived video recording of the Texas Diabetes Council meeting to view and listen for approximately, two years from date meeting is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule.

<https://texashhsc.v3.swagit.com/videos/295877>