



**Task Force of Border Health Officials
Bernstein Building Room G107
1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, TX
February 7, 2018**

Task Force of Border Health Officials attendance at the February, 2018 meeting.

Member Name	Yes	No	Professional Representatives (non-members)
Esmeralda Guajardo, MAHS	✓		
Hector Gonzalez, MD, MPH	✓		
Steven M. Kotsatos, RS	✓		
Josh Ramirez, MPA, CPM	✓		
Eduardo	✓		
Arturo Rodriguez, MPH, CPM	✓		
Robert Resendes, MBA, MT (ASCP)	✓		
Emily Prot, DO, MPH	✓		
Mary Anderson, MD, MPH. FACPM		✓	
Lillian Ringsdorf, MD, MPH	✓		
State Representative Bobby Guerra		✓	Represented by Justin Cantu
Senator Eddie Lucio	✓		Accompanied with staff: Daniel Esparza, Elsa Garza and Luis Villarreal

Attendees Present

Dr. John Hellerstedt, David Gruber, Dr. RJ Dutton, Dr. Rosamaria Murillo, Francesca Kupper, Allison Banicki, Mack Harrison, Janna Zumbrun, Stephen Pont, John Villarreal, Jennifer Shuford, Melissa Hardin, Ricardo Garcia, Laura Ozuna, Edith DeLaFuente.

Agenda Item I: Call to order

Ms. Guajardo (Chair) called meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. on February 7, 2018.

Agenda Item II: Roll Call

Chair, completed roll call to confirm a quorum. A quorum was established.

Agenda Item III: Welcome and Meeting Logistics

Ms. Guajardo thanks and welcomed everyone to the Task Force of Border Health Officials (Task Force) meeting. Ms. Guajardo invited Dr. Hellerstedt, Senator Lucio, and Dr. Gonzalez to say a few words. Ms. Guajardo asked Task Force members and audience to introduce themselves.



Agenda Item IV: Approval of December 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes (Vote Required)

Motion to approve minutes: Eddie Olivarez moved to approve; Art Rodriguez seconded motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item V: Strategic Planning Session

Ms. Guajardo discussed the purpose of the strategic planning session and addressed the importance truly assessing the entire border. She introduced Ms. Francesca Kupper as the facilitator of the session.

- a. Purpose of Strategic Planning Session - Ms. Kupper discussed the strategic planning process and lead the group in a discussion about the vision and mission of the Task Force.
- b. Vision and Mission - Members provided feedback; workgroups were formed to finalize the vision and mission.
 - Hector Gonzalez, Josh Ramirez and Arturo Rodriguez and Dr. Prot were going to work on finalizing vision and mission statements.
- c. Historical Context (Discuss prior Border prioritization) - Discussions and commentary by Task Force Members.
- d. Review Border Data by Region and Local Health Departments - Dr. Allison Banicki provided a comprehensive border data and historical context addressing:
 - Previous efforts to prioritize Border health needs:
 - Texas Senate committee on border affairs 2000
 - Binational Health Council's strategic planning workshop II 2010
 - Healthy Border 2020 report 2015
 - Border Data by region or county
 - Priorities identified at December 2017 task force meeting
 - ❖ Comments made by Task Force Members
 - Eddie Olivarez – Recommended that steps be considered about reinvigorating the US-Mexico Border Health Commission
 - Arturo Rodriguez – Recommended that we consider inviting other state entities who also either work or have a vested interest in border issues. (Daniel Esparza reminded members that the bill allows for cross collaboration.)
 - Dr. Hellerstedt – Requested clarification on definition of “late” diagnosis (as it relates to “access to care.” He also asked about the rates for our Mexican counterparts?
 - Arturo Rodriguez - Art noted that Binational Health Councils/Cobinas are key to addressing these issues. (He also mentioned a study by Harvard School of Public Health ranking local state public health practitioners as high in trust.)



- e. Review List of Priorities from December Meeting – Task Force reviewed list of priorities from the December 2017 meeting and had an opportunity to provide updates.

Agenda Item VI: Lunch

Task Force members took a lunch break at 12:20pm- 12:50pm.

- f. (Continued) Part I – Prioritize by issue/topic – Task Force members grouped and categorized priorities by dot placement.
 - Dr. Hellerstedt mentioned how the reality of public health is that Public Health Equals Public Safety – a Paradigm Shift.
 - Senator Lucio mentioned consideration of incorporating public health universities that may have data on nutritional health at public schools.

Agenda Item VII: Continue Strategic Planning Session

- a. Part II – Task Force had in-depth discussions to prioritize Short and Long Term goals. Task Force decided to continue to prioritize public health topics to decide develop a consensus on top public health priorities prior to discussing short and long-term priorities to be determined by workgroups formed.
 - Conduct analysis: strengths, opportunities, what’s working, what’s missing? Task Force identified core groups to discuss root causes/problems among priorities.
 - Categorize priorities by “Short Term and Long Term” Task Force decided to have work groups discuss short and long-term recommendations.
 - Workgroups will report finding at next meeting.
- a. Discuss Next Steps – Task Force formed small groups to research and discuss in-depth public health issues.
 - 1. Public Health Infrastructure (Sen Lucio, Arturo Rodriguez, Robert Resendes, Esmer Guajardo)
 - To include lab capacity (need for quick turnaround of results)
 - Core Public Health Funding
 - Give local health departments autonomy to be flexible enough to respond instead of react to incidents and emergencies
 - Surveillance and data-sharing capacity improvements
 - Binational Collaboration/Communication enhancement practices
 - 2. Communicable Diseases (Dr. Prot, Dr. Ringsdorf, Stephen Kotsatos and Eddie Olivarez)
 - Collaboration with universities and DSHS
 - Latent TB issues
 - Surveillance and data-sharing capacity improvements



- Binational Collaboration/Communication enhancement practices
 - Immunization Education Campaigns and role intervention
 - Need for universal immunization system along the border
 - Regional educational centers
 - Food and Water Safety Education
 - Joint collaboration with TCEQ
 - On-site sewage facilities
 - Untreated water – working with state and federal partners to correct contaminated dumping (requires binational collaboration)
 - Minimum housing standards
 - Leading to water-borne and other public health illnesses
 - Legislation to afford county governments authority to positively affect sub-standard housing issues that affect public health
3. Arbovirus (Arturo Rodriguez, Dr. Hector Gonzales and Josh Ramirez)
- To include Zoonotic and funding emphasis
 - Funding is limited to only impact certain diseases (i.e. specific Zika funding can't be used to treat other arboviruses such as Dengue and Chikungunya)
 - Include other zoonotic issues to include flea and tick-related illnesses
 - Surveillance (infrastructure support for arboviruses and building a Center of Excellence for vector control)
 - Data-sharing capacity to increase binational collaboration (i.e. inconsistency of cases of Dengue on Mexican sister city and zero cases in American sister city)
 - Binational Collaboration/Communication enhancement practices
4. Next Steps: Border Health Priority Matrix (workgroups discussions and community/stakeholder feedback)
- Develop Problem Statements
 - Include qualitative and quantitative data
 - Resolution/Recommendation Statements
 - Surveillance and data-sharing capacity improvements
 - Binational Collaboration/Communication enhancement practices

Motion to acknowledge Strategic Planning Session made by Esmer Guajardo. Dr. Hector Gonzales moved to acknowledge and Art Rodriguez seconded motion.

Agenda Item VIII: Review Task Force of Border Health Officials Deliverables and Timelines

- a. Dr. Dutton mentioned the aggressive timeline with recommendations for the Executive Commissioner. Recognized strategic planning initiative by Task Force.



Agenda Item IX: Approval of Task Force Draft Bylaws (Vote Required)

- a. Task Force discussed bylaws revisions - Mack Harrison mentioned current revisions followed by questions from Task Force members if they had questions regarding revisions.
 - Esmer Guajardo asked about Section 2.6 "non-participation vs. absences"
 - Esmer Guajardo asked about Section 4.6 "time in advance of meetings" (unchanged)
 - Esmer Guajardo asked about Section 4.8 "voting vs. non-voting participants" – Discussion regarding
 - Dr. Hellerstedt referenced that Commissioner appointees be voting members (language changes to reference "each member authorized by statute" because statute does not specify whether Commissioner appointments be voting or non-voting members.

Motion to have Legal Counsel and Commissioner review appointee issue (representation of appointees of counties without a health department be voting members of Task Force) made by Eddie Olivarez. Dr. Hector Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- b. Draft Bylaws will be revised and approved at next meeting.

Agenda Item X: Approve Task Force 2018 Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations (Vote Required)

- a. Tentative meetings dates approved.

Motion to approve prospective meeting dates made by Esmer Guajardo and seconded by Eddie Olivarez.

- b. Robert Resendes requested open discussion to expand meetings to two days and reduce number of meetings (still keeping quarterly meetings per statute.)

Agenda Item XI: Potential Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. Continue Strategic Planning Sessions.

Agenda Item XII: Public Comment

No public comments.

Adjournment: Ms. Guajardo adjourned the meeting at 4:32pm.