

Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee (TNAC)

Final Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026

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, welcome, introductions, roll call, and opening remarks

Dr. Jaclyn Albin, called the Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee (TNAC) meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Kaitlyn Quinton, 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. Quinton conducted the member roll call and announced the presence or absence of quorum.

Table 1: The Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee member attendance at the March 11, 2026, meeting.

Member name	Attended
Dr. Jaclyn Albin (Chair)	X
Dr. Ann Shippy	X
Commissioner Sid Miller	
Dr. Natalie Bachynsky	X
Ms. Cheryl Sew Hoy	X
Dr. Kathleen Davis	X
Dr. Padmaja Patel	X

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of March 11, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes

Dr. Albin referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. Hearing none, Dr. Albin called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026, meeting.

Motion: Dr. Patel moved to approve the minutes as presented from the March 11, 2026, meeting. Dr. Bachynsky seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed

by a majority vote with 6 yeas (Albin, Bachynsky, Davis, Sew Hoy, Shippy, Patel), and 0 nays.

Agenda Item 3: Review drafted content for report sections

Highlights:

Dr. Davis gave a rundown of the group's progress. The group met three times over the past month. For the Ultra Processed Food chapter, the group relied heavily on Erin Hudson's (UT Ph.D. student) dissertation chapter on the subject as a starting point. Additional content was drafted. A diagram from Dr. Shippy is forthcoming.

Dr. Albin gave a rundown on the current state of the Scientific Evidence Chapter.

Discussion:

Dr. Albin iterated that we may need to update the Ultra Processed Chapter once the federal guidelines are published.

Committee Action:

Dr. Albin called for a motion to place the current draft of the Ultra Processed Food Chapter in the report with the stipulation that it may be updated once the federal guidelines are published. Dr. Davis moved to accept. Dr. Shippy seconded the motion.

Dr. Albin called for a motion to place the current draft of the Scientific Evidence Chapter in the report. Dr. Shippy moved to accept. Dr. Patel seconded the motion.

Agenda Item 4: Discuss external subject matter expert collaboration for report

Dr. Albin reviewed the committee's strategy for Subject Matter Expert (SME) inclusion. She also discussed topic areas in the report that need SME input, such as the Texas agricultural environment and global dietary guidelines (Canada, Latin America, Europe). Dr. Albin will have a section on the background of nutrition and chronic disease in Texas ready for review during next month's meeting. Dr. Albin also gave a brief rundown of the search strategy being used for the report.

The committee currently has strong SME representation on metabolic health, cancer, gastrointestinal disease, brain health, and reproductive health. We need SMEs for immune health system health and mental health. SMEs will present summaries of their work during the May meeting for committee consideration.

Working Group II has begun preparing relevant sections that will form the Texas Dietary Guidelines. Ms. Cheryl Sew Hoy has begun creating a visual graphic for this portion of the report. The guidelines will inform on nutritional education. SMEs with expertise on how

nutrition is taught in public schools and medical schools have been invited to participate. SMEs with expertise in nursing and early childhood education are also needed.

Discussion

Both working groups can work on sections that are still in need of SMEs. Dr. Albin mentioned that SMEs are also needed with expertise on the barriers and facilitators to healthy nutrition, which Dr. Davis volunteered to work on.

Committee Action

Working Group I will receive missing content areas for SME review of articles, outline on the section on facilitators and barriers to healthy eating, and SME work currently in progress. Dr. Albin asked committee members to send to Mr. Tiner all SME work currently in progress, who will then send to Dr. Albin.

Agenda Item 5: Committee discussion on the creation of bylaws

Ms. Wiseman gave an update on the committee bylaws and informed on the relevant areas that need committee review, notably chair and vice-chair term length, meeting frequency, and member absences.

Discussion

Discussion focused on the continuity of the committee's work, and how term lengths would impact it. Ms. Wiseman suggested two-year terms with the chair and vice-chair having the option to run for re-election when their term expires. Dr. Albin called for the Working Groups to be adjusted to allow for the chair and vice-chair to work more closely together.

No members objected to having the bylaws state that chair and vice chair terms are two years in length.

No members objected to having the bylaws state that meetings will be held four times a year, with the chair having the ability to call additional meetings as needed.

No members objected to having the bylaws state that members can be removed from the committee if they are absent for over 50% of meetings scheduled in a calendar year.

The bylaws will be voted on during the May 2026 meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Committee discussion on standards for using Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Albin reviewed HHSC policy on the use of AI. She suggested that AI could be used to draft proposals or summaries.

Discussion

Dr. Patel asked if Open Evidence can be used. Dr. Albin iterated that it is not prohibited, but it may not be appropriate for use at this stage in the report's progress.

Dr. Davis asked how we should approach the use of different AI platforms. Ms. Wiseman iterated that the issue has not come up with other committees. DSHS staff will confirm if there is a prohibition on any specific AI platform.

Agenda Item 7: Upcoming Meeting Dates and Times

Dr. Albin gave a rundown of upcoming meeting dates:

- May 27 – 10:00am (SMEs will present their drafts)
- June 25 – 10:00am (If SMEs are unable to present during May Meeting, this meeting will be their last possible opportunity to present)
- July 14 – 1:00pm (Committee must have the report finalized by this meeting)
- August 19 – 1:00pm (This meeting will be used to set the agenda for CY 2026)
- September 9 – 1:00pm

Next Steps

- After report is published, Committee will hold meetings every two months, beginning in September and November 2026.

Agenda Item 8: Review of action items and agenda items for the next meeting

Dr. Albin gave a rundown of action items for the May meeting:

- Approve April meeting minutes
- Ratify and vote on new bylaws
- Invite SMEs who have completed summaries
- Review background sections on Texas nutrition environment and federal and global dietary guidelines

Agenda Item 9: Public Comment

Ms. Quinton, ACCO facilitator, read the public comment announcement and coordinated with the ACCO production team for requests from stakeholders who registered prior to the meeting or were onsite to provide public comment.

Oral Comment

Anne Larson spoke on the limitations of the NOVA classification system, particularly its inability to accurately assess exposure to additives.

Erin Hudson spoke on the definition of processed food and asked when additional SMEs should reach out and offer their expertise.

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn

Dr. Albin briefly brought up the reorganization of the working groups. From this point forward the working groups will be composed as such:

Working Group I: Dr. Natalie Bachynsky, Dr. Padmaja Patel, Dr. Kathleen Davis

Working Group II: Dr. Ann Shippy, Dr. Jaclyn Albin, Ms. Cheryl Sew Hoy

Dr. Albin thanked council members for attending, and adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

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

<https://texashhsc.v3.swagit.com/videos/382534>