

Texas Diabetes Council (TDC)

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2025

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: Welcome, logistical announcements, introduction of new members, and call to order

Mr. Chris Carmona, Chair, called the Texas Diabetes Council (TDC) meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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 April 24, 2025, meeting.

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
Mr. Chris Carmona (Chair)	Y	Ms. Maryanne Strobel	Y
Mr. Dirrell Jones	Y	Mr. John Trischitti, III	Y
Vacant (formerly Dr. Gary Francis)		Dr. Michael Kelly	Y
Ms. Sharon Lemons	Y	Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm Non-Voting Member	Y
Ms. Aida (Letty) Moreno Brown	Y	Dr. Mitchel Abramsky Non-Voting Member	Y
Dr. Ninfa Peña-Purcell (Vice-Chair)	Y	Ms. Lisa Golden Non-Voting Member	N
Mr. Jason Ryan	Y	Ms. Amy Chamberlain Non-Voting Member	Y
Dr. Renee' Yarbrough-Yale	Y	Ms. Laura Cervantes Non-Voting Member	Y

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of January 30, 2025, draft meeting minutes

Mr. 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 January 30, 2025, meeting.

Motion: Dr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes as presented from the January 30, 2025, meeting. Mr. Trischitti III seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 10 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Kelly, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Ryan, Trischitti III, Yarbrough-Yale, Moreno-Brown, Strobel) and 0 nays.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation: Overview on Limb Preservation- Dr. Javier La Fontaine, Dean and Professor, UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine

Highlights from the presentation are below.

- Nearly half of all unhealed neuropathic ulcers result in death within 5 years.
- 56,864 diabetic amputations occurred in Texas from 2011-2016.
 - 6.79% of those amputations occurred in the Vally (n=3863).
- Neuropathy is one of the main risk factors for foot ulcers.
- Risk Factors: neuropathy, deformity +/- PAD or neuropathy, H/o ulcer or amputation, PAD, male, DM> 10 years, nephropathy, retinopathy
- There is a correlation between Ankle Brachial Pressure Index (ABPI) and disease severity.
- Feet are not on most hospital staff's radar.
- Physicians-administrators are unaware that complications are avoidable or that there are tools for prevention.
- <3% of eligible patients receive shoes-insoles.
- Effective limb preservation takes a multi-disciplinary approach.
 - Protocol driven from diagnostic to therapeutic.
 - Raise awareness.
 - Goals: Enhanced healing, preserve functional limb and patient satisfaction.
 - Success is driven by passion and coordination.
 - Fosters education, prevention, and research.
- Patients get identified as having a foot ulcer in the emergency room, podiatrist's office, or primary care office.
 - If the foot ulcer is identified in a podiatrist's or primary care office, the patient gets referred to a wound care clinic or a podiatrist's clinic.
 - ERs generally don't have a foot specialist on call and a patient is referred to a surgeon. The pathway to amputation begins.
- In hospitals, there should be streamlined processes in place for when a patient with an acute diabetic foot problem shows up in the ER. The patient should automatically be referred to the foot service team or vascular service team instead of undergoing a MRI, bone scan, being prescribed antibiotics, etc.

Agenda Item 4: Overview: American Diabetes Association Texas Legislative Priorities-TABLED

Agenda Item 5: Consideration of the Rulemaking Notification Form for proposed amendments to Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 9, Chapter 651, §651.1-651.5, Conduct of Council Meetings – Ms. Rachel Wiseman, Unit Director, DSHS

- During the 2024 council meetings, council members voted and adopted to one, review the Texas Administrative Code rules, two, delegate the review process to DSHS staff, three, publish the Notices of Proposed and Adopted Rule Reviews in the Texas Register, and four, open a Rule Amendment Project.
- The next step in the Rule Amendment Project is for members to review the DSHS Commissioner approved Rule Notification Form or RNF for short to determine whether changes need to be made or if the Council will adopt the RNF as presented today.
- The RNF helps to show any potential economic impact the rule project may have. As indicated on the RNF, DSHS does not expect for this rule project to increase or decrease revenue or have any adverse economic effect on small businesses, micro-businesses, or rural communities.
- DSHS anticipates the rule project will be positively received by the public because language will be updated to reflect virtual attendance options, public participation, and the requirements of quorum for voting.
- Council members were sent the DSHS Commissioner approved RNF in advance of today's meeting.
- During today's meeting, there are two options. One, members can adopt the RNF as presented or two, make recommended changes to the RNF.
- If members adopt the RNF as presented today, DSHS will continue the steps for the Rule Amendment Project which is to submit the adopted DSHS Commissioner approved RNF to the HHSC Rules Coordination Office.
- If members make any recommended changes to the RNF, DSHS will internally review the recommended changes and present the revised RNF during a future council meeting for a second attempt at member adoption.
- If there aren't any recommendations for changes, I would like to ask the Council to make a motion to adopt the DSHS Commissioner approved Rulemaking Notification Form as presented today.

Motion: Mr. Trischitti III made a motion to approve the DSHS Commissioner approved Rulemaking Notification Form, as presented. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 10 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Kelly, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Ryan, Trischitti, Yarbrough-Yale, Moreno-Brown, Strobel) and 0 nays.

Agenda Item 6: Updates from Workgroups-Mr. Jason Ryan, Attorney, TDC Advocacy and Outreach (AOW) co-chair

Highlights from the update are below.

- The next steps for the 2025 TDC State Plan are below.
 - Council members will discuss the draft priority documents during agenda item #7.
 - Suggestions, comments, etc. will be shared with the state plan workgroups.
 - The state plan workgroups will meet to discuss the compiled comments/suggestions and finalize the language.
 - The document will be internally reviewed by DSHS staff before it's sent to council members in advance of the July TDC meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion of 2025 State Plan Priorities- Mr. Chris Carmona, Attorney, TDC Chair

Highlights from the discussion are below.

- The Legislature does not want anything too academic.
 - Document should be high level.
 - It's important to have the citations on hand, but a long reference list isn't necessary in the document.
- Footnotes would be kept as is throughout the document and not moved to the end of the document.
- Move recommendations towards the beginning of the document.
 - There is a standard format that is followed for legislative reports.
- Recommendations should be evidenced based.
- Brevity is generally viewed as a positive.
- The document should be realistic on what the TDC can do.
- It's important to recognize that diabetes is a complicated disease and should be addressed from different directions.
- There are a lot of great resources already available and TDC shouldn't recreate the wheel.
- Questions/comments incorporating suggestions from Dr. La Fontaine's presentation.
 - Is there a way to incorporate that into the next subcommittee workgroup? What should we incorporate as far as access to diabetes treatment and education? Would it be a pipeline process or protocol to foot/vascular service for a patient with an acute diabetic foot problem who shows up at the ER?

Agenda Item 8: Updates from State Agency Representatives

a. Department of State Health Services- Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm, Medical Director

DPCP Staffing Updates:

- We welcome a new member of the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program. Samuel Ortiz Severiano started on March 3, 2025, as the new manager of the program. We're very happy to have him on board!
- Gracie Alvarado de Garcia left DSHS April 17. We hope to fill her position soon.

DPCP Program Updates:

- One of our contractors successfully submitted their DSMES ADCES accreditation application.
- Other DPCP contractors are currently working on integrating community health workers (CHW) into team-based diabetes care through providing trainings. Already trained CHWs are working to develop resources that will provide additional support to participants enrolled in DSMES and National DPP programming.

CDC-RFA-DP-23-0020 Grant:

- The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program has completed and submitted the 2320 grant continuation application for Year 3 of the CDC diabetes cooperative agreement. The application is under review by CDC, and the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program is ready to implement any edits requested.

Diabetes News You Can Use

- The latest issue of Diabetes New You Can Use is going out May 1. Email diabetes@dshs.texas.gov to get on the distribution list.

b. Health and Human Services- Dr. Mitchell Abramsky, Associate Medical Director

- Getting ready to launch a provider survey on CGMs.

c. Teacher Retirement System of Texas- Ms. Laura Cervantes, Sr. Clinical Consultant

- Items are pending with the board.
- No updates to share.

d. Employees Retirement System of Texas- Ms. Amy Chamberlain, Government Relations and Special Projects

- On September 1, ERS is launching Omada a new diabetes management plan for participants in our Health Select of Texas and Consumer Directed HealthSelect plans.
- Participants with Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes are eligible to apply for the program. This program is not meant to replace the care the participant receives from their provider(s); it is meant to supplement the care they are getting to better manage and improve the condition.
- The flier and an FAQ that were provided as handouts include a lot of great information.
- ERS just began "soft-launching" this program, so it's available but is not yet promoted on the [HealthSelect of Texas website](#) or in Blue Access for Members as staff are working on developing a communications strategy.
- BCBSTX clinicians may also recommend applying for the program to participants they are working with through ERS' Care Management program if clinically indicated.
- If a participant receives a virtual or work-site wellness screening through Catapult Health, another provider available in our plans, they may receive a recommendation to apply for Omada if clinically indicated.

- To apply, participants can visit the Omada website (<https://go.omadahealth.com/healthselect>) to check if eligible for the program. This information is also in the documents attached.

e. Texas Workforce Commission- TABLED

Agenda Item 9: General Announcements- Mr. Chris Carmona, Attorney, TDC Chair

- Dr. Yarbrough-Yale shared her background information with council members.

Agenda Item 10: Review of action items and agenda items for next meeting

- During the July TDC mtg., Josh Guerra, medical scientist for San Antonio Metro Health, will present on a project with HEB to set up insulin access for economically challenged persons with diabetes.
- Council members will vote on the 2025 TDC State Plan.

Agenda Item 11: Upcoming meeting dates

- July 17, 2025
- October 30, 2025
- January 29, 2026

Agenda Item 12: Public comment

- Dr. Ken Snow submitted written comments and they were provided to council members.

Agenda Item 13: Adjourn

Mr. Carmona, Chair, thanked council members for attending, and adjourned the meeting 2:53 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/341007>