

Texas Diabetes Council (TDC)

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 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 July 17, 2025, meeting.

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

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of April 24, 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 April 24, 2025, meeting.

Motion: Dr. Yarbrough-Yale moved to approve the minutes as presented from the April 24, 2025, meeting. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 8 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Kelly, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Ryan, Trischitti III, Yarbrough-Yale), 0 nays, and 2 absent (Moreno-Brown, Strobel).

Agenda Item 3: Overview: American Diabetes Association update: Mr. Douglas Dunsavage, Director of State Gov't Affairs, Southeast and South-Central Region, American Diabetes Association

Highlights from the presentation are below.

ADA Priority Legislation

- Amputation Prevention- Senate Bill 1677 (Sen. Menendez/Rep. VanDeaver)
 - Mandates a study by a top-tier research university (UTSA) to explore preventing and reducing diabetes-related amputations.
 - Findings will be reported back to the Governor and legislature by November 2026.
- Obesity Prevention – House Bill 2677 (Rep. Thompson)
 - Did not pass.
 - Would have expanded Medicaid to cover obesity and diabetes prevention medication.
- Diabetes Prevention – SB 1 – Included in Budget Bill
 - The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), in collaboration with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), is directed to study the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of a diabetes prevention program for Medicaid recipients.
 - This includes evaluating alternative interventions for those at risk of Type 2 diabetes.
 - HHSC must submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Governor and legislative committees by November 1, 2026.

Agenda Item 4: Current TDC Workgroup Structure-Mr. Chris Carmona, Attorney, TDC Chair

Highlights from the discussion are below.

- Workgroups each started out with a specific purpose and were very distinct. Over the course of the last couple years, the workgroup agendas have become very similar.
- The idea of combining the two workgroups into one was discussed internally amongst DSHS staff, and workgroup members have also voiced this idea/wondered why there are two workgroups.
- The DSHS attorney was consulted and it's up to the Council on the structure of their workgroups; there aren't legal concerns.
- Each workgroup has value, but the distinct purpose needs to be clarified by TDC.
- The workgroup agenda(s) are posted on the Secretary of State's website in advance and meetings are open to the public to attend and participate.
- The name, clearly defined objectives, and tasks members want to work on should be discussed during the October workgroup meeting.
 - The purpose of the workgroup should be defined by TDC members, not by DSHS.
 - Tasks could be based on the 2025 State Plan priorities.
 - As the workgroup agenda is created, keep the two separate tracts in mind.

- If combined, a request was made for the workgroup to report back to the TDC on the new name and tasks, specifically getting a jump start on the 2025 State Plan.

Motion: Dr. Kelly moved to approve combining the two TDC workgroups into one. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 8 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Kelly, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Ryan, Trischitti III, Yarbrough-Yale), 0 nays, and 2 absent (Moreno-Brown, Strobel).

Agenda Item 5: Discussion and approval of draft State Plan – Mr. Chris Carmona, Attorney, TDC Chair and Ms. Rachel Wiseman, Unit Director, DSHS

- Mr. Carmona and Ms. Wiseman thanked council members for their contributions to the 2025 TDC State Plan.
- After TDC members vote to approve the document, DSHS will internally route it before it's submitted to the Governor by November 1, 2025.
- Council members had an opportunity to provide feedback and edits after the final draft document was sent to them.
- Council members voted to approve the document with the suggested edits.

Motion: Dr. Kelly made a motion to approve the draft State Plan, as presented, giving DSHS staff authority to make any necessary non-substantive edits to the report before submission. Dr. Yarbrough-Yale seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 7 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Kelly, Lemons, Peña-Purcell, Trischitti, Yarbrough-Yale), 0 nays, and 3 absent (Moreno-Brown, Ryan, Strobel).

Agenda Item 6: Discussion and approval of draft assessment of programs—Mr. Chris Carmona, Attorney, TDC Chair

Highlights from the update are below.

- [Texas Health and Safety Code Section 103.0131](#) requires the TDC to conduct a biennial statewide assessment of existing state programs for the prevention and treatment of diabetes.
- DSHS Diabetes Prevention and Control Program staff completed the assessment on behalf of the Council.
- The assessment includes information collected from DSHS and HHSC.
- Programs have addressed diabetes prevention and treatment in different ways, covering the entire state for some programs while targeting specific regions and counties for others.
- Julie emailed a copy to council members before today's meeting and will email a final copy when it becomes available.
- After asking for questions or recommendations for changes, Mr. Carmona asked the Council to make a motion to approve the Texas Diabetes Council Assessment of State Agency Programs for the Prevention and Treatment of Diabetes.

Motion: Mr. Trischitti III made a motion to approve the draft assessment of programs, as presented, giving DSHS staff authority to make any necessary non-substantive edits to the report before submission. Dr. Yarbrough-Yale seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 7 yeas (Carmona, Jones, Kelly, Lemons,

Peña-Purcell, Trischitti, Yarbrough-Yale), 0 nays, and 3 absent (Moreno-Brown, Ryan, Strobel).

Agenda Item 7: Updates from State Agency Representatives

a. Department of State Health Services- Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm, Medical Director and Ms. Rachel Wiseman, Unit Director

DPCP Staffing Updates:

- No staffing updates at this time.

DPCP Program Updates:

- From our team, Sanober Ismaili recently certified as a DSMES State Quality Specialist and Victoria Solis certified as a DPP State Quality Specialist.
- Our contractor UHealth Science Center in Tyler received their DSMES ADCES accreditation!
- Two DPCP contractors recently expanded their efforts to support children and families trying to implement a healthy lifestyle.
 - UTMB just started their first cohort in a Family Healthy Weight Program.
 - San Antonio Metro Health is piloting a youth focused lifestyle change curriculum.

CDC-RFA-DP-23-0020 Grant:

- The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program has received the Notice of Award (NOA) for Year 3 of the CDC DP23-0020 grant.

Diabetes News You Can Use

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

b. Health and Human Services- Dr. Ryan D. Van Ramshorst, Chief Medical Director, interim HHSC representative

- Dr. Mitchel Abramsky was the previous HHSC representative on the TDC, and we wish him well in his professional endeavors.
- HHSC is working to identify a permanent replacement to serve the TDC.
- HB26 (Representative Lacey Hull) directs the HHSC to cover nutrition counseling for adults enrolled in Medicaid.
- Rider 38 directs HHSC in collaboration with DSHS to evaluate the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of implementing and administering a diabetes prevention program for Medicaid recipients.
 - HHSC and DSHS staff met earlier this month to discuss Rider 38.
 - There wasn't a lot to share because it's still early in the implementation phase.
- Texas Medicaid has covered continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) for some time.
 - Based on stakeholder feedback, HHSC provided clarification to providers that there isn't a need for recipients to submit glucose logs for a 30-day period prior to authorization which will hopefully increase access for more Medicaid members.

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

- Effective September 1, 2025, Care Standard (Retirees) participants will now participate in the enhanced member rewards option by BCBS. Member rewards earned will be paid after each service, via a check, and will not accumulate. This includes specialist and primary care providers.
- Effective September 1, 2025, we will enhance our member rewards program across all ActiveCare plans by including quality Primary Care Providers and Specialist who currently participate in the Physician Efficiency, Appropriateness, and Quality Program (PEAQ). Member rewards may apply toward the costs of future medical or pharmacy expenses by reducing the costs of copays or coinsurance for participants, including covered dependents for ActiveCare. Rewards earned can be used similarly to an HSA account.
- We are now providing all benefit and rate materials to all TRS participants in Spanish, including push-cards, benefit plan highlights, etc.

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

- No updates to share.

e. Texas Workforce Commission- Ms. Lisa Golden, Diabetes Program Specialist/Vocational Rehabilitation/ Division for Blind Services

- July is Disability Pride Month.
- Diabetes technologies and programs should be as accessible as possible.

Agenda Item 8: General Announcements- Mr. Chris Carmona, Attorney, TDC Chair

- Mr. Carmona thanked Dr. Peña-Purcell for her service as the current vice-chair.
- There will be a vice-chair election during the October TDC meeting.
- Mr. Carmona reiterated his thanks to TDC members for their contributions to the 2025 TDC State Plan.
- During the most recent legislative session, the TDC did not receive further clarification regarding lobbying. Members should continue to rely on industry partners to advocate on the Council's behalf.
- Some council members will be attending the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES) Annual Conference in August.

Agenda Item 9: Review of action items and agenda items for next meeting

- Julie will reach out to workgroup co-chairs about outlining tasks for the October workgroup meeting.
- During the October TDC mtg., there will be two presentations.
 - Dr. Golareh Agha, with San Antonio Metro Health, will present on a project with HEB to set up insulin access for economically challenged persons with diabetes.
 - Mr. Don Erickson with Sanofi will provide a non-branded presentation on targeting Type 1 diabetes autoantibody screening particularly within the Medicaid patient population.

Agenda Item 10: Upcoming meeting dates

- October 30, 2025
- January 29, 2026
- April 23, 2026

Agenda Item 11: Public comment

- Ms. Brandi Pillow from BraveONE submitted written comments that were provided to council members in advance of the meeting.
- Ms. Pillow's comments were positively received by council members.

Agenda Item 12: Adjourn

Mr. Carmona, Chair, thanked council members for attending, and adjourned the meeting 2:20 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/350057>