

Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (TCCVDS)

Monday, May 6, 2024

1:30p.m.

FINAL

Virtual: Teams Meeting Platform
In Person Meeting Site: Robert D. Moreton Building
Room M-100, First Floor
1100 W. 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

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

Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm served as the presiding officer in lieu of Ms. Hildebrand who had an emergency. Dr. Fegan-Bohm, presiding officer, called the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (TCCVDS) meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Dr. Fegan-Bohm, presiding officer, welcomed committee members, agency staff, and the public in attendance.

Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, 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. Jacqueline Thompson conducted the member roll call and announced the presence of quorum.

Table 1: The Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke member attendance at the Monday, May 6, 2024, meeting.

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
Dr. Elie Balesh	N	Dr. Oscar Aguilar	Y
Dr. Stanley Duchman	Y	Dr. Alberto Maud	Y
Ms. Janett Hall-Hewlett	Y	Ms. Remmy Morris	Y
Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, Chair	N	Non-Voting Members	
Dr. Sherron Franks-Meeks	N	Ms. Karen Brajcki, TWC	Y
Dr. E'Loria Simon-Campbell	N	Ms. Chelsea Couch, HHSC	N
Ms. Marcie Gonzales Wilson	N	Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm, DSHS	Y
Ms. Lourdes Cuellar	Y		

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of February 12, 2024, draft meeting minutes

- Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm, presiding officer, referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. The February 12 meeting minutes need to be updated to reflect Dr. Fegan-Bohm was present during the meeting.

Motion: Dr. Alberto Maud made a motion to approve the February 12 minutes as amended by Dr. Fegan-Bohm. Ms. Janet Hall-Hewlett seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 6 yeas (Duchman, Hall-Hewlett, Maud, Aguilar, Morris, Cuellar), 0 nays, and 5 absent (Hildebrand, Franks-Meeks, Wilson, Balesh, Simon-Campbell).

Agenda Item 3: Presentation: Nutrition Training in Medical School-Dr. Oscar Aguilar, M.D., MPH, FACC, FAHA, Director, Texas Integrative Medicine and Cardiology

Highlights from the presentation:

- Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Insulin resistance precedes Type 2 Diabetes by 5-20 years.
- There is a very high variability in nutrition training among medical schools.
 - Main barriers have been lack of funding and faculty expertise.
- Sugar is addictive.
 - Neural adaptations include changes in dopamine and opioid receptor binding, enkephalin, and mRNA expression and dopamine and acetylcholine release in the nucleus accumbens.
- Diet is pivotal determinant of the gut microbiota.
 - Deficiencies in iron, magnesium, zinc, selenium, nitrite and nitrate, Vitamins A and D, and flavonoids have shown to alter the microbiota.
 - Artificial sweeteners induce glucose intolerance by altering the gut microbiota creating metabolic syndrome.
 - Microbiota typically found in blood of diabetic patients has also been observed in atherosclerotic plaque.
 - High intake of fermentable fiber and plant polyphenols appears to regulate microbial activities in the gut acting as prebiotics.
- The Mediterranean Diet is the only diet to convincingly show results preventing heart attack and stroke while also creating a healthier human being.
 - Medical students should be trained on the Mediterranean Diet.
- Medical schools in Texas should include medical nutrition training on the following: science of nutrition, macro and micronutrients, metabolism of nutrition, microbiota, and research.
- As of January 1, 2024, all registered dietitians are required to have a Master of Science degree.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion of Texas Administrative Code, 25 TAC §1051.1- Ms. Rachel Wiseman

- During the February TX CVD & Stroke Council meeting, there was discussion for the Texas Administrative Code or TAC rules to be reviewed.
- Council members voted to review the rules but did not vote on who should review the rules.

- For your reference, I have provided a copy of the current TAC rules and a copy of the template used to review TAC rules.
- Today, we need to conduct two votes.
 - The 1st vote is to determine if DSHS staff or the Council will review the rules.
 - The 2nd vote is to approve the Notice of Proposed Rule Review or NPRR for short, which I will explain after the first vote.
- 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.
- I would like to ask the Council for a motion on who should review of the rules. The motion should include one of the three mentioned methods for review.

Motion: Dr. Maud made a motion to allow DSHS staff to review and make recommendations for updating TAC, Rule §1051.1 relating to the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke. Dr. Aguilar seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 6 yeas (Duchman, Hall-Hewlett, Maud, Aguilar, Morris, Cuellar), 0 nays, and 5 absent (Hildebrand, Franks-Meeks, Wilson, Balesh, Simon-Campbell).

- Prior to making any changes to the rules, the Council will need to vote on approving the Notice of Proposed Rule Review or NPRR for short.
- The NPRR is a standard notice developed by HHS legal and the Rules Coordination Office that is posted for public awareness and comment on all rule reviews.
- Julie sent council members a copy of the NPRR.
- If in favor, the NPRR will be published to the Texas Register for public comment for 31 days. All comments will be sent to the Rules Coordination Office, who will then share them with DSHS staff. Program staff will add any public comment to the 4yr Worksheet along with the notes made by DSHS during their review.
- If not in favor, program can get clarification on recommended changes from members, discuss with Community Health Improvement staff and the new version will have to be voted on during a future meeting.
- If not in favor because members changed their mind about the 4yr Rule Review, program will propose a motion to cancel the previous motion in favor of conducting the 4yr Rule Review and try again next year.
- Now the council will need to take a vote.

Motion: Dr. Duchman made a motion to publish the Notice of Proposed Rule Review in the Texas Registrar. Ms. Hall-Hewlett seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 6 yeas (Duchman, Hall-Hewlett, Maud, Aguilar, Morris, Cuellar), 0 nays, and 5 absent (Hildebrand, Franks-Meeks, Wilson, Balesh, Simon-Campbell).

Agenda Item 5: Agency Representative Reports

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

Strategic Plan

- On April 3, DSHS held a public hearing where agency's leadership provided an overview and received input on the FY 2025-2029 DSHS Strategic Plan.
- The agency's vision, mission, goals, and objectives were discussed. These elements guide the agency's work.
- Oral and written feedback was provided by private individuals and organizations as well as non-profits and coalitions.

Legislative Appropriations Request FY24-25

- On May 1, the agency conducted a public hearing and received input on public health program funding for the 2026-2027 biennium Legislative Appropriations Request.
- Oral and written feedback was provided by 50 organizations including, but not limited to non-profits, membership organizations, health departments, and private organizations.
- DSHS received feedback and recommendations for funding public health programs such as chronic disease prevention and promotion, immunizations, public health data, maternal and child wellness, emergency preparedness and response, and EMS.
- Written feedback was not shared during the meeting but was shared with appropriate DSHS staff.
- To view the Legislative Appropriations Request and the strategic plan in their entirety, please visit <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/about-dshs/legislative-information>.

DSHS HDSP Staffing Updates

- The HDSP filled the Program Specialist V- Cardiovascular (CVD) Learning Collaborative Coordinator position. Cayla Palmer will be working closely with stakeholders to align the CVD & Stroke Learning Collaborative (formally the Texas Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke Partnership) with the CDC grant goals.
- The HDSP also filled the Program Specialist IV- Heart Disease and Stroke Program Specialist. Tess Kucera started April 29th and will serve as subject matter expert in CVD and will be providing technical assistance to contractors to effectively implement program interventions to achieve CDC grant strategies.
- Nallely Trejo's last day with the Diabetes and CVD Branch was April 1, 2024. Her position (Manager IV) has been posted.

New CDC Grants

- The HDSP has completed the continuation application for Year 2 of the 2305 grant. The application was submitted to CDC in April.
- HDSP is in the process of executing contracts to implement activities to implement both of their federal grants.

HDPS Program Updates:

- The HDSP formed a Learning Collaborative Steering committee that will work on updating charter documents, establishing a LC model, develop action plans, and recruiting members for the CVD & Stroke Learning Collaborative.
- The HDSP will publish the next edition of the HDSP newsletter in mid-May. To be added to the distribution list, please email cardio@dshs.texas.gov.

Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke Learning Collaborative

- The CVD & Stroke Learning Collaborative met April 26, 2024. The quarterly meeting highlighted the census tracts selected for our grant activities and how the tracts were

selected for both grants. Additionally, the chair presented on the relationship between hypertension and cognitive decline.

- To participate in future quarterly meetings, please e-mail Heart Disease and Stroke Program at cardio@dshs.texas.gov.

B. HHSC- Ms. Chelsea Couch, Aging Texas Well Coordinator

- Ms. Couch wasn't in attendance, but her updates were provided to council members via email.

C. Texas Workforce Commission- Ms. Karen Brajcki, Program Specialist – Physical Disabilities

- The program has been focusing on support for all brain injuries.
- The program has been working on a seamless transition from HHSC Comprehensive Rehab Services to TWC's program to help individuals train or retrain so they can reenter the workforce.
- Melissa Houston is a recently hired program specialist and will eventually replace Ms. Brajcki on the Council.
- The Council will be updated when it's open enrollment for new hospital rehabilitation facilities.

Agenda Item 6: Liaison Reports

a. American Heart/American Stroke Association coverage update- Mr. Alec Puente, Director of Governmental Relations

May is American Stroke Month

- Stroke Toolkits are available for different stakeholders like schools or policymakers to share with constituents, connecting them with resources like infographics and interactive activities.
- [Stroke.org/strokemonth](https://stroke.org/strokemonth) includes those resources and others for both providers and the general public.

Healthcare by Food

- The American Heart Association awarded grants in January totaling \$7.8 million to researchers as part of the initiative, which aims to provide large-scale clinical evidence for making healthy food access a covered medical benefit.
- Hosted 20 funded research teams for workshops and training at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) last month.
- Led by experts in food and nutrition, behavioral science, epidemiology and cardiovascular health, the [research projects](#) will pilot ways to equitably increase enrollment and engagement in food is medicine interventions. Areas of focus include food resource coaching for patients of a safety-net clinic, food is medicine interventions in under-resourced communities, produce delivery for patients with heart failure and food prescription programs for older adults.

HeartCorps

- Goal: growing sustainable pipeline of public health workers; reducing CVD risk among rural Texans; accelerating adoption of systems changes to improve quality Summer term begins May 20.
- Finalizing Year 3 contracts now so recruiting can begin for vacancies. Begins in August/September.
- As always, please contact us if interested in serving in host sites for Service Members (can be clinical or community-based).
- We have 7 active members continuing service with 4 additional members beginning service for the summer term.
- Counties in Texas: Lubbock, Tom Green, Nacogdoches. There are still 4 vacancies: Midland/Odessa, Mason & Junction.

Federal Menthol Rulemaking

- FDA has been considering rulemaking that would ban menthol flavoring in cigarettes.
- As multiple media outlets have reported, the rule was likely delayed for political reasons because the White House was concerned that the rule could negatively impact the President's reelection bid.
- It is unclear what will happen next, and when. The White House could keep the rule "under review" until after the election and release it in November, or the rule could be "returned" to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for reconsideration. If the rule is returned to FDA it would lead to even more significant delays.

b. Office of Acquired Brain Injury- Mr. Blake Agee, Office of Acquired Brain Injury Manager

- There were no updates.

c. Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)

i. GETAC Cardiac Care Committee Dr. David Wampler, Professor of Emergency Health Sciences, UT Health San Antonio

Current Activities Status

- Partner with DSHS to identify cardiac data elements currently available in the National Emergency Medical Service Information System (NEMSIS).
- Refining DSHS request for ongoing collaboration Data review.
- Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest – AED access/bystander CPR – assessment.
- Partnering with DSHS on areas of low AED use and CPR delays.

In Progress Committee Priorities

- Telecommunicator CPR (Coordinated clinical Care/EMS).
- Working with DSHS on collaborating with statewide 911 services to identify gaps in telecommunicator CPR.
- Dwell time in transferring facilities for time sensitive emergencies.
- Partnering with DSHS to evaluate opportunities to determine dwell times in EDs for patients requiring transfer for cardiac emergencies. In progress

RAC Data Collaborative

- Mechanism to link prehospital and hospital data.

- Stroke – Get With the Guidelines.
 - Cardiac –
 - Cardiac Arrest – CARES (Cares is currently a Statewide Initiative)
- ii. **GETAC Stroke Committee-** and Dr. Robin Novakovic-White, Professor of Radiology and Neurology, UT Southwestern
- There were no updates, but Dr. Novakovic-White will present on Get with the Guidelines during the August meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Review of action items and agenda items for August 5, 2024, meeting

- There isn't a presentation currently scheduled for the August meeting.
- Council members should contact Julie Ketelsen if they have someone in mind to present.

Agenda Item 8: Upcoming Meeting Dates

- August 5, 2024
- November 4, 2024
- February 10, 2025

Agenda Item 9: Public Comment

No one registered for public comment.

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn

Dr. Fegan-Bohm thanked members for attending, DSHS and HHSC staff, and members of the public who listened in. Dr. Fegan-Bohm adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m. CST.

Please click on the link to the archived HHSC webcast of the May 6, 2024, Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke meeting that will be available for viewing for approximately two years from the date of the meeting.

<https://texashhsc.v3.swagit.com/videos/304253>