

Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (TCCVDS)

Monday, May 12, 2025

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, introductions, roll call, and welcoming remarks

Suzanne Hildebrand, Chair, called the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (TCCVDS) meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, Chair, 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 12, 2025, meeting.

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

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of February 10, 2025, draft meeting minutes

- Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, Chair, referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. Hearing none, Ms. Hildebrand called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, meeting.

Motion: Dr. Aguilar made a motion to approve the February 10, 2025, minutes as presented. Dr. Maud seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed with 7 yeas (Duchman, Hall-Hewlett, Hildebrand, Maud, Franks-Meeks, Aguilar, Morris), 0 nays, and 3 absent (Balesh, Cuellar, Simon-Campbell).

Agenda Item 3: SNAP-Ed Overview- Anne (Annie) Porfirio, Program Supervisor, HHSC

Highlights from the presentation:

- Partners with 16 organizations across Texas who provide direct education intervention to eligible individuals.
- Focuses on policy system and environment work which entails making sustainable changes and makes the healthy choice, the easy choice.
- Works with internal HHSC/DSHS partners, non-profits, and universities.
- Started social marketing campaign to make the public aware of what SNAP-Ed is.
- A highlight of the program has been Healthy Texan Week, which is a statewide effort to promote healthy eating. In 2024, Governor Abbott proclaimed June 10-16 as Healthy Texan Week.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation: Overview of Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Data Landscape- Mr. Joseph O'Donnell, Epidemiologist, DSHS

Highlights from the presentation:

- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a group of heart and blood vessel disorders like heart disease, heart attack, stroke, and arrhythmia.
- Heart disease (HD) refers to several heart conditions, i.e., heart attack, arrhythmia, and heart failure.
- In 2019-2020: U.S. HD costs were \$252.2 billion.
 - \$33.5 billion in hospitalization charges in Texas in 2023.
- U.S. stroke-related costs were \$56.2 billion in 2019-2020.
- BRFSS is a federally supported landline and telephone survey that collects data among Texas adults regarding their health-related behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services.
- High blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, lack of physical activity, diabetes, and tobacco use are all comorbidities for HD.
- The prevalence of cardiovascular disease, heart disease, heart attack, and stroke in Texas has not changed significantly during the years 2019-2023, but cardiovascular disease, heart disease, and stroke prevalence have decreased.

Agenda Item 5: Consideration of the DSHS approved Rulemaking Notification Form for proposed amendments to Texas Administrative Code Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 15, Rule §1051, Conduct of Council Meetings-Ms. Rachel Wiseman, Chronic Disease 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.
- I'm happy to answer any questions or discuss any proposed changes.

Motion: Dr. Maud made a motion to approve the DSHS approved Rulemaking Notification Form for proposed amendments to Texas Administrative Code Title 25, Part 15, Rule §1051, Conduct of Council Meetings as presented. Ms. Hall-Hewlett seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed with 7 yeas (Duchman, Hall-Hewlett, Hildebrand, Maud, Aguilar, Morris, Simon-Campbell), 0 nays, and 3 absent (Balesh, Cuellar, Franks-Meeks).

Agenda Item 6: Agency representative reports

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

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Heart Disease & Stroke Program (Program) Updates

- DSHS welcomed Samuel Ortiz Severiano to the team as the new manager of the Diabetes and CVD Branch. Samuel previously worked as a manager in the DSHS Infectious Disease Prevention Division (IDPD) in the Immunization Section.
- The Heart Disease and Stroke Program published their newsletter on May 12, 2025. If you would like for us to add your resources in future newsletters or be added to the distribution list, please email cardio@dshs.texas.gov.

- The Program is seeking Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or clinics that are interested in a collaboration to implement or work towards Target BP implementation. The FQHCs and clinics will need to serve the population of focus in Dallas, Harris, or Jefferson Counties. For more information or if interested, please contact us at cardio@dshs.texas.gov.

CDC Grants

- The Program recently submitted its continuation application for Year 3 for the CDC's Cardiovascular Health Innovative Grant.
- Our partners have been hard at work on different grant activities.
 - UTHealth Houston completed needs assessments on EHR screening, tracking, and referral processes for patients with hypertension and/or high cholesterol. UTHealth Houston is currently analyzing the data collected and will use the results to develop recommendations to automate and standardize the collection of hypertension and/or high cholesterol clinical quality measures data. The automation and standardization of data will help clinics better understand, identify, and address healthcare disparities for the populations of focus.
 - The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB/AHEC) worked with external IT consultants to develop a chatbot feature for the Community Health Integrated Response Portal (CHIRP). The CHIRP chatbot feature uses motivational interviewing to empower individuals to manage their blood pressure and overall health. The chatbot follows a script that provides personalized conversations. These conversations include personalized support and education on behavior change and connect the user to tailored community resources.

Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke Learning Collaborative (LC)

- In collaboration with the American Heart Association, the Texas Cardiovascular Disease Learning Collaborative (LC) quarterly meeting was held during the Texas Hypertension Summit on May 2, 2025. The meeting highlighted University of Texas College of Pharmacy's remote patient monitoring program and the DSHS Office of Border Public Health's community needs assessment for Maverick County. The DSHS Alzheimer's program presented on the connection between brain health and heart health. The LC's Chair, Roy Champion, also presented on recent CVD research and findings published from the AHA Circulation and Journal of Stroke. If you would like to be part of the LC please e-mail HDSP at cardio@dshs.texas.gov.
- The LC's **Membership Work Group** is conducting its first meeting and will be held on Friday, May 16th from 1:00-2:00pm to discuss the co-chair selection process and goals for the workgroup. If you would like to join the Membership Work Group or become a co-chair, please e-mail the HDSP at cardio@dshs.texas.gov
- The LC's **Census Tract Work Group** met on March 21, 2025, to review the results of the Office of Border Public Health's (OBPH) patient satisfaction survey for their Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Management Program (CDPMP). The Work Group provided feedback on the survey, which OBPH will use to revise the survey and its dissemination. The next Census Tract Work Group meeting will take place May 16, 2025, from 11:00-12:00pm. UTHealth Houston will present the results of a community assessment from San Jose Clinic that serves census tracts in Houston.

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

No Wrong Door (NWD)

- HHSC established a governance structure (see figure 1) to allow for a bidirectional flow of information and streamlined approach to decision making. The NWD Stakeholder Workgroup has divided into three subgroups to focus efforts. For more information about the Texas NWD efforts, visit Texas No Wrong Door | Texas Health and Human Services or email AgingTexasWell@hhs.texas.gov.

Statewide Interagency Aging Services Coordinating Council

- The Statewide Interagency Aging Services Coordinating Council (SIASCC) was established by [House Bill 728](#), 88th Texas legislature, regular session, to ensure a coordinated interagency approach to aging services. Visit [SIASCC](#) to learn more about council and to download council reports including the 2025-2030 Texas Statewide Interagency Aging Services Strategic Plan. The next council meeting is set for June 4, 2025. HHSC will post the meeting agenda and link to the webcasting for public attendees at [Live and Archived Meetings | Texas Health and Human Services](#) prior to meeting. For more information about SIASCC, email SIASCC@hhs.texas.gov.

Multisector Plans on Aging (MPA) Learning Collaborative

- Office of Aging Services Coordination OASC is participating in the current multi-state cohort for the Center for Health Care Strategies MPA Learning Collaborative. This collaborative brings states together to learn about best practices and tools for enhancing the development of state's MPAs. Texas will utilize lessons learned and resources provided through the collaborative to inform the development of the 2028-29 Aging Texas Well (ATW) Strategic Plan which acts as the state's MPA. For more information about the ATW Strategic Plan, email AgingTexasWell@hhs.texas.gov

Bridging Aging and Disability Grant

- HHSC Office of Disability Services (project lead) in collaboration with OASC is overseeing the implementation of a grant funded by [National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities](#). The grant focus is to improve aging services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as their aging families. HHSC established the State Alliance Team (SAT) comprised of external partners including the [Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities](#) to help guide this work. The SAT identified three goals for this project which include 1) enhancing cross-training efforts between aging and disability networks, 2) integrating aging and disability efforts within existing HHSC initiatives and strategic plans, and 3) examining current respite care and disaster management structure. For more information about the Bridging Aging and Disability project, HHSCOfficeofDisabilityServicesCoordination@hhs.texas.gov.

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

- No updates.

Agenda Item 7: Liaison reports

a. American Heart/American Stroke Association-Mr. Alec Puente, Director of Government Relations

- No updates

b. Office of Acquired Brain Injury-Ms. Cassandra Saucedo, Office of Acquired Brain Injury Manager

- 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

- HB 8 from the last biennium provided money for scholarships to improve the EMS workforce.
 - Almost 8,000 EMS personnel were added which helped with the workforce shortage.
- GETAC Cardiac Care Committee is looking at door in, door out time for referral centers to transfer cardiac patients from a rural hospital to a tertiary care center with PCI capabilities. In addition, the Committee is interested in how to designate cardiac care facilities like stroke facility designation that occur at the regulatory level.
 - There isn't a strong mechanism without the designation to compare EMS data with hospital and outcome data.
 - There is regulatory oversight for EMS partners and that is where some data comes from.
- Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) data set designed for EMS agencies to input the cardiac arrests the agency resuscitates.
 - Organizations that participate in CARES are mostly located along the I-35 and I-10 corridors and there is a good representation of patients. Rural Texas is underrepresented.

ii. GETAC Stroke Committee Dr. Novakovic-White, Professor of Radiology and Neurology, UT Southwestern

- Dr. Novakovic-White was called for clinical duties and was unable to provide an update.

Agenda Item 8: Plan for 2025 Stroke Survivors and Caregivers Conference- Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, TCCVDS Chair, Drs. Alberto Maud and Oscar Aguilar, council members

- Conference will be held in El Paso.
- Ms. Hildebrand and Drs Maud and Aguilar will meet via conference call to discuss details.

Agenda Item 9: Review of action items and agenda items for next meeting- Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, TCCVDS Chair

- No updates.

Agenda Item 9: Discussion of meeting day- Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, TCCVDS Chair and Julie Ketelsen, Council Liaison, DSHS

- Council members discussed the day and time of 2026 council meetings.
- Friday was the 1st choice, followed by Monday.
- Afternoons are the preferred meeting time.

- ACCO facilitation will need to be confirmed before changes are made.
- Council members will vote on the day and a 1:00pm start time during the August 2025 meeting.

Agenda Item 11: Upcoming Meeting Dates

- August 11, 2025
- November 17, 2025

Agenda Item 12: Public Comment

No one registered for public comment.

Agenda Item 13: Adjourn

Ms. Hildebrand thanked members for attending, DSHS and HHSC staff, and members of the public who attended. Ms. Hildebrand adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m. CST.

Please click on the link to the archived HHSC webcast of the May 12, 2025, 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/342307>