

**Public Health Region 2/3 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional
Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2023
10 AM – 12 PM**

Microsoft TEAMS

Table 1: PHR 2/3 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee member attendance at 6/13/2023 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Christina Yen	X				
Marlise Curlee	X				
Amanda Ortez	X				
Andrew Thompson	X				
Edwin Choque	X				

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Call to Order

Ms. Vanessa Pierce called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Agenda Item 2: Introduction of Members

Ms. Pierce welcomed and thanked the members for their time and dedication to improving antimicrobial stewardship (AS) in Public Health Region (PHR) 2/3. Each member introduced themselves as follows:

- Dr. Christina Yen is an infectious diseases physician and associate director for the antimicrobial stewardship program at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.
- Dr. Marlise Curlee is a nurse with twenty years of experience in long term skilled nursing. Her work includes experience in antibiotic stewardship. She is currently working in the DeSoto, Texas area.
- Ms. Amanda Ortez is the director of the Grace County Health Department. She has been with the health department since 2004 working in various roles.
- Dr. Andrew Thompson is the division Vice President for pharmacy services for HCA Healthcare North Texas branded as Medical City Healthcare in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Prior to his current role, he

was the division infectious disease pharmacist working on infectious diseases and antimicrobial stewardship programs.

- Mr. Edwin Choque is the Clinical Educator for Cantex, a long term care company. His work in clinical education includes infection control and antimicrobial stewardship.

Agenda Item 3: Introduction of DSHS/HHSV Representatives

Ms. Pierce thanked the following Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) attendees who joined the meeting: Mr. David Reisman, Chief Ethics Officer, HHSC; Ms. Sheri Mead, Quality Monitoring Program Representative, HHSC; and Ms. Sarah Work, PHR 2/3 Healthcare-associated Infection (HAI) Epidemiologist.

Ms. Pierce thanked Dr. Aurelia Schmalstieg, Regional Medical Director, PHR 2/3 for attending today.

Agenda Item 4: Ethics Discussion

Mr. David Reisman presented an overview of advisory committee ethics. Topics of the overview included:

- Representation
- Confidential Information
- Disclosure
- Misuse of Department Property
- Honoraria
- Conflicts of Interest
- Prohibition on Lobbying
- Open Meetings Act/Public Information Act
- Bribery
- Public Servants

There were no questions after the presentation.

Agenda Item 5: Introduction on AS and Committee Purpose

Dr. Melissa LeBrun presented an overview of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Elements of AS programs. Highlights of the overview included:

- Leadership commitment to dedicate resources
- Accountability from a single leader
- Pharmacy expertise

- Implementation of at least one recommended action
- Tracking antibiotic prescribing and resistance patterns
- Reporting antibiotic use and resistance
- Education to clinicians

Dr. LeBrun provided an overview of Texas Health and Safety Code requirements related to AS. Highlights included:

- Texas Health and Safety Code 81.014 requires long term care facilities to monitor key infectious agents including multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in their infection control programs
- Texas Health and Safety Code 81.015 requires each public health region to establish an advisory committee to address AS in long term care facilities through collaborative action

Agenda Item 6: Regional Information Discussion

Ms. Sarah Work and Ms. Danielle Kim presented the regional AS and MDRO information for PHR 2/3. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Texas Notifiable Conditions list is used to guide reporting of certain diseases and outbreaks to local, regional and state health departments [Notifiable Conditions | Texas DSHS](#)
- MDROs included on the Texas Notifiable Conditions list include *Candida auris* (*C. auris*), carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriales* (CRE), *Klebsiella* species and *E. coli*; vancomycin intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus* (VISA), and vancomycin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA)
- Twenty-six counties in PHR 2/3 had at least one reportable MDRO in 2021. There were 346 total cases. Cases are counted by patient's county of residence.
- Twenty-six counties in PHR 2/3 had at least one reportable MDRO reported in 2022. There were 476 cases. Data is provisional, not final.
- The Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) was established to enhance laboratory capacity to quickly identify and contain antimicrobial resistance, track changes and provide outbreak response support.
- The DSHS State Lab in Austin is the ARLN for Texas.
- Although certain MDROs are required to be reported as a notifiable condition, the submission of isolates to the ARLN for testing is voluntary. *Candida auris* is the only isolate required to be submitted.
- The case counts may differ between the MDROs identified by the ARLN and those reported as a Texas Notifiable Condition.

- Antibiograms are tables created to show an organism’s antimicrobial susceptibility and guide appropriate treatment selection.
- Antibiograms for 2020 and 2021 were created for each of the Texas public health regions using isolate susceptibility data of HAI-causing organisms reported to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).

Agenda Item 7: Vote on Chairperson

Ms. Pierce announced the vote for committee chairperson and read the list of responsibilities of the chairperson, as stated in the bylaws. No nominations were received prior to the meeting. Members were asked to nominate a chairperson.

- Dr. Thompson nominated himself.
- Ms. Ortez seconded the nomination for Dr. Thompson.
- Dr. Yen supported the nomination for Dr. Thompson.
- Dr. Thompson accepted.
- Dr. Thompson provided a brief speech for his chairperson candidacy.
- Ms. Ortez motioned to vote by ballot for the chairperson.
- Mr. Choque seconded the motion.
- Ms. Pierce launched a poll for vote by ballot. Only members were permitted to cast their votes.
- Dr. Thompson received five votes and was unanimously chosen as the PHR 2/3 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee Chairperson.

Agenda Item 8: Vote on Bylaws

Ms. Pierce introduced the vote on the advisory committee bylaws. The proposed bylaws were sent to members on June 6, 2023 for review and opportunity to suggest revisions. No revisions were suggested prior to or during this meeting.

- Dr. Thompson motioned to hold a verbal vote on the bylaws.
- Dr. Curlee seconded the motion.
- Ms. Pierce called on each of the five members to cast a verbal vote.
- The bylaws were approved as written with five yes votes.
- The bylaws will be sent out to the committee members for signatures and stored on record.

Agenda Item 9: Public Comment and Open Forum

Ms. Pierce announced no public comments were provided prior to the meeting. Time was allowed for public comments to be shared at this time and none were offered.

Ms. Pierce opened the floor for Open Forum. There were no additional comments or questions at this time.

Agenda Item 10: Next Meeting and Agenda Items

Ms. Pierce suggested members should decide on future meetings. According to House Bill 1848, members are only required to meet once per year. The members need to vote to meet additional times this year.

- Dr. Thompson motioned to vote to hold an additional meeting this year.
- Dr. Curlee seconded the motion.
- Ms. Pierce called on each member to cast a vote. The proposal to meet again this year passed unanimously with five votes.
- Ms. Pierce announced she will reach out to members within the next few months to schedule another meeting.

Ms. Pierce asked for suggested agenda items for the next meeting. The following ideas were proposed:

- Ms. Ortez is interested in continuing to review the information and numbers for the MDROs in the region.
- Ms. Ortez suggested reviewing the findings from outbreak and infection prevention assessments conducted in long term care facilities to identify areas of focus and intervention.
- Mr. Choque suggested a discussion about infection prevention education.
- Dr. Thompson suggested a discussion to identify what information is needed to educate both healthcare workers and patients to increase awareness about AS.
- Ms. Work suggested adding communication strategies to the discussion about education.

Agenda Item 11: Adjourn

Ms. Pierce adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.