

Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (TCADRDR)

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Physical Location: Department of State Health Services
Robert Bernstein Bldg., Room K-100
1100 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756
TEAMS Virtual Meeting

Table 1: Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders member attendance at the Wednesday, March 23, 2022, meeting.

| MEMBER NAME | YES | NO | MEMBER NAME | YES | NO |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|----------------------------------|-----|----|
| Mr. Byron Cordes | X | | Dr. Char Hu | | X |
| Dr. Laura DeFina | X | | Ms. Valerie Krueger (Ex Officio) | X | |
| Dr. Marc Diamond | | X | Dr. Eddie L. Patton Jr. | X | |
| Mr. Joe A. Evans Jr. | X | | Dr. Mary Quiceno | | X |
| Dr. Vaunette Fay | X | | Dr. Sudha Seshardi | X | |
| Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm (Ex-Officio) | X | | Mr. Terrence Sommers | X | |
| Ms. Ana Guerrero Gore | | X | Ms. Angela Turner | | X |
| Dr. Michael Gayle (Ex Officio) | X | | | | |

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting. **No:** Indicates did not attend the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Logistics, Roll Call and Introductions

Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm, presiding officer, called the Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (TCADRDR) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., welcomed attendees, introduced Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO) staff. Dr. Fegan-Bohm turned the meeting over to Ms. Francesca Kupper, ACCO facilitator, to read the meeting logistical announcements and to conduct the member roll call. Ms. Kupper stated the presence of quorum. Dr. Fegan-Bohm announced that in February 2022 the Governor reappointed Dr. Eddie Patton, Jr., and Mr. Joe Evans, Jr., each for a six-year term.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of October 25, 2021, draft meeting minutes

Dr. Fegan-Bohm referred members to the draft minutes from the October 25, 2021, meeting and called for any edits or discussion of the minutes. Hearing no discussion, Dr. Fegan-Bohm requested a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Byron Cordes moved to approve the draft October 25, 2021, minutes as presented in the meeting. Dr. Vaunette Fay seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by roll call vote with 7 yeas (Cordes, DeFina, Evans, Fay, Patton, Seshadri, Sommers), no nays nor abstentions.

**Agenda Item 3: Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
representative report**

Dr. Fegan-Bohm introduced Ms. Raiza Ruiz, Manager, Chronic Disease Branch, who provided the DSHS report.

Ms. Ruiz introduced herself as the new Manager for the Chronic Disease Branch and thanked Rachel Wiseman who served as acting branch manager.

Highlights of the report included:

- The DSHS Grand Rounds series was pleased to feature Council member Dr. Sudha Seshadri on February 23, 2022. As you know, Dr. Seshadri is the Director for the Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases and Professor of Neurology at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Seshadri's topic was "The South Texas Alzheimer's Disease Center: Pioneering new and timely concepts in the Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care of Dementia." There were 132 attendees.
- The 2020-21 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019 appropriated \$1 million over the biennium for DSHS to produce an Alzheimer's disease awareness campaign. Sherry Mathews Group (SMG) was selected in November 2019 to design and develop the campaign to help people recognize the signs of Alzheimer's disease and start a conversation about it to get the right care. The campaign launched in August 2020. For fiscal year 2020, the campaign reached potential caregivers with more than 21 million impressions total (television, radio, print, digital, social media, webpage, email). And for fiscal year 2021, there were more than 31 million impressions total. The campaign was also featured nationally in AARP magazine online and in print.
- The same funding amount was appropriated in the 2022-23 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session 2021. In October 2021, DSHS selected SMG to enhance the existing 2020-2021 campaign with additional public service announcement messages for paid media to include statewide television, radio, digital, and print ads. In response to partner input to reach diverse populations of different racial,

ethnic, and nationality backgrounds, the 2022-2023 campaign will have an emphasis on Asian American and African American populations.

- We proposed to add caregiving and cognitive decline modules to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) in 2022. However, the modules were not included in the 2022 survey due to the overwhelming number of proposals and additional questions required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We plan to propose the modules to include in the 2023 survey.
- DSHS will use the unused fiscal year 2022 funds saved for the BRFSS modules to develop a 25-page educational booklet with SMG for the general public. The purpose of this booklet is to offer information on two broad areas: 1) how and where to get a diagnosis, and 2) first steps people should take after getting a diagnosis with acknowledgment that it is not always easy to know what to do. The intent is to address gaps in information that can help community support organizations, healthcare providers, and the public use the booklet to work together. The booklet will be provided electronically on the program website.
- Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 99A.004 requires DSHS to prepare a biennial update regarding the implementation of the Texas State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease. This report is due September 1, 2022.
- Member discussion - How can the Texas Neurological Society partner with this campaign regarding dissemination of resources? DSHS stated collaboration is key and it will be electronic and on the website. DSHS will be in touch with partners.

Agenda Item 4: Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) representative report

Dr. Fegan-Bohm introduced Dr. Michael Gayle, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Long-Term Care Regulatory Program Operations, who provided the HHSC report.

Highlights of the report included:

- Health and Human Services Commission and Long-Term Care Regulatory are giving increased numbers of provider trainings related to Alzheimer's and dementia disorders.

- Each month we offer provider trainings and have a series that are consistent with supporting the providers across the long-term care facilities and other provider types to address this population's needs.

Agenda Item 5: Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC) representative report

Dr. Fegan-Bohm introduced Dr. C. Munro Cullum, PhD., Scientific Director of TARCC, who provided an interim update on recent TARCC activities.

Highlights of the TARCC report included:

- TARCC investigators continue to publish and present their work, and we have stepped up efforts to highlight this on social media. Follow us and like us on Twitter and Facebook to keep up with the research and support TARCC's efforts.
- We continue to send bio samples and data to investigators across the state. We are still part of major international biomarker studies and repositories.
- The TARCC collaborative Hispanic cohort study continues to grow, and all projects funded in the last round have made progress on their aims despite some setbacks due to COVID restrictions over the past two years.
- We are particularly proud to remind everyone that our San Antonio site under the direction of Dr. Sudha Seshadri had a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Alzheimer's Disease Research Center awarded last year, which added an important component back to our TARCC network. This of course is in addition to the Rio Grande Valley Alzheimer's Resource Center for Minority Aging Research that is directed by another TARCC investigator, Dr. Gladys Maestre.
- This year, we used a new grant application and tracking system which has streamlined the process. Overall, we had 68 completed applications, with all TARCC institutions again represented.
 - Investigator Initiated Research Grants: 40
 - Junior Investigator Research Grants: 13
 - Collaborative Research Grants: 9
 - Postdoc Fellowship Grants: 5
 - Predoc Fellowship Grants: 1
- Submissions range widely from pathogenesis, biomarkers, clinical manifestations, and public health to dementia care, with 40 applications

focusing on basic science, 22 on clinical, and 6 training grants. We were very pleased to again see a high level of interest in the TARCC grants program.

- The annual TARCC symposium was postponed from January 2022 as a result of COVID with the new date being May 12, 2022.
 - Kelly Dineley, PhD, University of Texas (UT) Medical Branch at Galveston, is the Program Chair for the event, and the program will include the following:
 - State of the TARCC by Munro Cullum, PhD, ABPP, TARCC Scientific Director, UT Southwestern Medical Center.
 - Virtual Keynote Lecture: Sterling Johnson, PhD, Jean R. Finley Professor of Geriatrics and Dementia and Associate Director & Biomarker Core Leader, Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center: *New discoveries in the presymptomatic phase of Alzheimer's Disease: Findings from the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention.*
 - We will then hear presentations on the South Texas Alzheimer's Disease Center by Sudha Seshadri, MD, and the Rio Grande Valley Alzheimer's Resource Center for Minority Aging Research by Gladys Maestre, MD, PhD, followed by lunch and a poster session that will include poster judging and an award.
 - Thereafter, two breakout research groups will meet, followed by a summary of the discussions.
 - At the end of the day, the winning research poster will be announced prior to closing comments.
- The grant applications are already under review. We should have all the reviews back by the end of March with our external advisory committee doing reviews and rankings in the months after that as well.

Agenda Item 6: TCADR discussion and possible action on TCADR activities; TCADR's 2022 biennial report; and TCADR work groups

Dr. Fegan-Bohm and Ms. Lynda Taylor led the member discussion of the TCADR's 2022 biennial report.

Highlights of the TCADR 2022 biennial report discussion included:

Dr. Fegan-Bohm provided an overview of the 2022 biennial report development.

- The Council submits a report to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House and the Legislature in every even-numbered year. It is due before September 1.

- The biennial report is the Council's opportunity to suggest to the executive and legislative branches top priorities that the Council believes to be important to public health regarding Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.
- At the previous TCADRD meeting on October 25, 2021, the Council discussed the draft report recommendations to make any changes and offer any new recommendations. No votes were taken.
- DSHS staff provided administrative support to update the draft recommendations with Council input and emailed a draft to the Council for review on January 31, 2022. No further input was offered by the Council.
- DSHS staff provided administrative support to prepare a draft of the entire report that included Council activities and recommendations and emailed a draft to the Council on March 9, 2022. No further input was offered by the Council.
- For the final report, DSHS program staff will update Appendix A with data from the newly released 2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report from the Alzheimer's Association.
- Members did not offer any changes to the report and did not have any further discussion.

Dr. Fegan-Bohm requested a motion from the members to approve the TCADRD 2022 biennial report with edits as discussed in the meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Vaunette Fay moved to approve the TCADRD 2022 biennial report with edits as discussed in the meeting. Dr. Eddie Patton, Jr., seconded the motion. The biennial report approved by roll call vote with 7 yeas (Cordes, DeFina, Evans, Fay, Patton, Seshadri, Sommers), no nays nor abstentions.

Dr. Fegan-Bohm requested a motion from the members for program staff to have authority to make any non-substantive edits to the TCADRD 2022 biennial report before submission.

MOTION: Mr. Byron Cordes moved to approve authority for program staff to make any non-substantive edits to the biennial report before submission. Dr. Laura DeFina seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote with 7 yeas (Cordes, DeFina, Evans, Fay, Patton, Seshadri, Sommers), no nays nor abstentions.

Dr. Fegan-Bohm introduced Dr. Eddie Patton, Jr., who provided members with an update on the TCADRDR work group activities.

Highlights of the TCADRDR Activities Work Group:

- Dr. Patton stated that the work group considered activities to increase public awareness and increase access to resources for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias and their families in Texas.
- The work group is discussing the possibilities for researching and creating a video to describe how to navigate the patient journey from diagnosis throughout the disease process. The workgroup discussed the need for more information regarding funding for the video.
- The work group is developing an issue brief regarding the topic of social isolation and how it affects those with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Dr. Seshadri will be leading the development of the issue brief. The workgroup welcomes input from the Council. Ms. Taylor requested to be copied on all input.

Agenda Item 7: Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 8: Announcements

Dr. Fegan-Bohm announced the next meeting for the TCADRDR will be scheduled for the fall of 2022.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment

Dr. Fegan-Bohm provided closing remarks, thanked members and staff, and adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m. CST.

Please click on the link to the archived HHSC webcast of the March 23, 2022, TCADRDR meeting that will be available for viewing approximately two years from date of meeting.

[Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders](#)