



TEXAS

Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

**Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO)
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
1:00 p.m., June 11, 2025**

**Physical Location: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Robert D. Moreton Building, Room M-100, First Floor
1100 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756**

TEAMS Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

Table 1: TFBHO attendance at the June 11, 2025, meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Dr. Richard Chamberlain	X		Dr. Arturo Rodriguez (Chair)	X	
Ms. Esmeralda Guajardo	X		Ms. Dairen Sarmiento Rangel	X	
The Honorable State Representative Bobby Guerra (Ex Officio)		X	Dr. Veerinder Taneja (Vice-Chair)	X	
Ms. Shannon Harvill	X		Mr. Niko Tapangan	X	
Mr. Steven M. Kotsatos		X	Ms. Nancy P. Treviño	X	
Dr. Emilie Prot	X		VACANT (Ex Officio)		
Dr. Lillian Ringsdorf	X		VACANT		

Agenda Item 1: Call to order, welcome, Chair remarks, meeting logistics, and roll call

Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Chair, convened the TFBHO meeting at 1:00 p.m., and welcomed attendees. Ms. Francesca Kupper, Program Specialist, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), provided logistical announcements, conducted the roll call, and noted a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of April 9, 2025, draft meeting minutes

Dr. Rodriguez called for any edits or changes to the April 9, 2025, draft meeting minutes. Receiving no edits or changes, Dr. Rodriguez called for a motion to approve the draft.

MOTION:

Dr. Veerinder Taneja moved to approve the April 9, 2025, draft meeting minutes as written. Dr. Richard Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Update from DSHS Immunizations Section

Mr. Greg Leos, Director of Assessment, Compliance and Epidemiology Unit, Immunizations Section, DSHS, reviewed the PowerPoint presentation (PPT) titled, "Influenza Immunizations Data Update". Key points included:

- There was a decline in the total doses administered in Texas border counties in the recent flu season (2024-2025) compared to the previous.
- The upcoming Annual Report of Immunization Status 2024-2025 will report vaccination rates for almost all vaccine preventable conditions below 95% in border counties.
- There has been an increase in the rate of vaccine exemptions and delinquency.

Agenda Item 4: Infectious diseases in the Texas border region

Ms. Rhae Cisneros, Border Epidemiologist, Office of Border Public Health, DSHS, reviewed the PPT titled, "Texas Border Infectious Diseases Data Overview". Highlights included:

- Tuberculosis disproportionately impacts the Texas-Mexico border population, but cases in border area have higher treatment completion rate than the state average.
- The rate of total syphilis diagnoses (not including congenital syphilis cases) has more than tripled in the last decade.
- The overall number of chagas disease cases decreased statewide from 2015 to 2025.

Agenda Item 5: Health care workforce in the Texas border region

Ms. Gracia Dale, Nursing Workforce Analyst, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, and Ms. Clarisse Manuel, Healthcare Workforce Analyst, both with the DSHS Center for Health Statistics, reviewed the PPT titled, "Health Care Workforce in the Texas Border Region". Key points included:

- The number of primary care physicians and dentists has grown more in the non-border region than in the border region. For both healthcare providers, the demand is projected to be more than the supply in the border region.
- Licensed vocational nurses have a higher provider-to-population ratio in border counties compared to non-border counties.
- Projected unmet demand by 2036 is higher in border counties than non-border counties for all healthcare providers except licensed vocational nurses.

Agenda Item 6: Preparedness in the South Texas border region

Mr. Abdul Kamara, Preparedness, Response and Epidemiology Manager, DSHS South Texas (Public Health Region 11), DSHS, reviewed the PPT titled, "Hurricane Preparedness in the Rio Grande Valley. Highlights included:

- Areas with limited infrastructure, like colonias, experience more mortality after hurricanes.
- Texas hasn't experienced a category 5 hurricane inland, which would be devastating.
- Hurricanes normally create flash flooding, which often leads to the proliferation of mosquitos.

Agenda Item 7: Public comment

No public comment was received.

Agenda Item 8: Closing remarks, thank you, and adjourn

Dr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Please click on the link to the archived HHSC video to view, and listen to, the entirety of the June 11, 2025, Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) meeting; this video will be available for approximately two years from the date the meeting video is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule:

[Task Force of Border Health Officials \(TFBHO\)](#)