



**Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) Meeting
1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, TX
December 7, 2018**

Member Name	Yes	No	Professional Representatives (non-members)
Esmeralda Guajardo, MAHS	✓		
Hector Gonzalez, MD, MPH	✓		
Steven M. Kotsatos, RS	✓		
Josh Ramirez, MPA, CPM	✓		
Eduardo Olivarez	✓		
Arturo Rodriguez, MPH, CPM	✓		(telephone) also represented by Chris Haggstrom
Robert Resendes, MBA, MT (ASCP)		✓	
Emilie Prot, DO, MPH	✓		(telephone)
Lillian Ringsdorf, MD, MPH	✓		
State Representative Bobby Guerra		✓	Represented by Anne Drescher
Senator Eddie Lucio		✓	Represented by Daniel Esparza and Elsa Garza; called in during the meeting.

Attendees Present

David Gruber, Francesca Kupper, John Villarreal, Dr. RJ Dutton, Edith Gomez, Gilberto Cedillo, Sebastian Laroche, Jacqueline Carta, Gabriela Marquez, Dr. Suad Ghaddar, Dr. Belinda Reininger, Dr. Stephen Pont.

Agenda Item I: Call to Order, Welcome/Chair Remarks, Meeting Logistics and Roll Call

Chair Guajardo called meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Chair Guajardo welcomed everyone to the Task Force of Border Health Officials (Task Force) Meeting. She expressed the need for an efficient meeting due to the expectation of inclement weather and asked Ms. Kupper to initiate the roll call.

Ms. Kupper read open meeting guidelines and completed roll call to confirm a quorum. A quorum was established. Drs. Rodriguez, Prot and Ringsdorf confirmed their attendance by phone (Dr. Ringsdorf clarified she was on her way).

Agenda Item II: Approval of Sept 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Chair Guajardo asked Task Force members to review the December 7 meeting minutes. Mr. Esparza asked that Senator Lucio be counted as attending the meeting due to his phone call



during the September 21 meeting. A motion to approve minutes with the correction of Senator Lucio being counted as “present” was made by Mr. Olivarez and Dr. Gonzalez seconded the motion. Task Force members attending by phone also accepted the minutes and were unanimously approved.

Chair Guajardo asked attendees and members to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item III: Webcast Guidelines

Ms. Kupper stated that future TFBHO will be webcast from the Brown-Heatly Public Hearing Room. She mentioned the benefits of webcasting for members, stakeholders and the public. She explained that webcasting tends to increase attendance and stated guidelines for webcasting. She also explained that she’d likely be on her phone a lot more than usual due to details of webcasting such as communication with HHSC, web and vendor staff (monitoring video/sound equipment, etc.). Meetings will be indexed and archived for two years and stressed the importance of using microphones and stating names before speaking.

She also expressed how webcasting will change the atmosphere of future meetings, making them more formal. She also mentioned the need to monitor voice, language and diction.

Mr. Villarreal expressed that much of the webcast guidance had already been covered by Ms. Kupper and suggested that members review the Webcast Guidance Document provided in the packet, noting the steps to webcast and what to expect on screen when doing so. He reminded members that all meeting in 2019 will be held in the Public Hearing Room at HHSC’s Brown-Heatly Building, located on the other side of the parking garage.

Mr. Esparza advised that members should also be cognizant of their facial expressions and body language, which can be revealing of positions on certain issues without actually vocalizing opinions.

Ms. Kupper agreed and mentioned that there will be a Member’s Only telephone line to participate in such calls when they can’t appear in person. She also referenced that there can be a one-two minute delay on webcast closed captioning.

Chair Guajardo asked a clarifying question regarding the in-person requirement for the Chair and/or Vice Chair to be present to officially conduct the meeting.

Dr. Gonzalez asked about the status of the November 1 report regarding distribution. Mr. Villarreal stated that it was a matter of open record, had already been distributed to all members and available on the TFHO page on DSHS’ Office of Border Public Health web site.



Chair Guajardo agreed that the document needed visibility to bring Border Public Health to the forefront and that this matter will be discussed later in Agenda Item VIII.

Agenda Item IV: Presentation- State Public Health System as it relates to Border Public Health

Chair Guajardo welcomed Mr. Gruber, Associate Commissioner for Regional and Local Health Operations, DSHS. He initiated his presentation on the State Public Health System and explained the nature of how it's set-up in Texas. He stated that the presentation was originally presented to the Legislative Budget Board and explained the system's core components including:

- Health Authorities
- Local Health Departments
- Regional Health Director roles
- Geographical issues
- Resources and capacity
- Differences among health districts/jurisdictions/units

Members shared views on the presentation and Chair Guajardo thanked Mr. Gruber for attending the meeting.



State Public Health
System as it relates to

Agenda Item V: Presentation- Operation Lone Star: Sociodemographic and Health Profile

Chair Guajardo introduced the second presenter, Dr. Suad Ghaddar, Assistant Professor, Health and Biomedical Sciences, College of Health Professions, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Chair Guajardo briefed members on Operation Lone Star (OLS). Dr. Ghaddar initiated her presentation regarding data collected in the last few years of OLS. Her presentation included:

- Background/Methodology/Descriptive Analyses
- Health Literacy/eHealth Literacy/Telehealth
- Emergency Preparedness
- Zika Awareness
- UTRGV staff input

Members shared their thoughts and experiences regarding OLS and how it becomes the medical home for many underinsured or uninsured south Texas residents. Chair Guajardo referenced the emergency planning and exercising aspects of OLS as well. She thanked Dr.



Ghaddar for attending and presenting and requested a five-minute break before continuing on to the next presenter.



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Agenda Item VI: Presentation- Border Public Health Interventions

Chair Guajardo introduced the second presenter, Dr. Belinda Reininger, Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, University of Texas (UT) - Houston School Regional Campus at Brownsville, and Interim Chair, Department of Population Health and Biostatistics, School of Medicine, UT Rio Grande Valley. Dr. Reininger commenced her presentation by highlighting two interventions with epidemiological findings, including relatively new data, focusing on obesity and diabetes with much data referencing border vs. non-border findings including:

- Epidemiological Findings and Interventions
- Recruitment/Data Collection and Management
- Chronic Disease Conditions- Obesity and Diabetes
- Models for diabetic care and self-management education
- Behavioral Health Services
- Case Management Review/Evidence-based Community Preventive Services
- Social Support/Risk Factors Screenings/Environmental Changes and Policy Improvements

Chair Guajardo and other members shared their expertise regarding the issues covered, including community partnerships in public health. Dr. Reininger repeated the importance of how 100% of people with pre-diabetes were not aware of their condition. Chair Guajardo and other members thanked her for her presentation.



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Agenda Item VII: Lunch

Chair Guajardo mentioned that we had scheduled 45 minutes and asked that it be changed to a 30 minute working lunch, in the interest of time. Lunch break was initiated at approximately 12:40 p.m. Dr. Pont was scheduled to begin his presentation at 1:05 p.m.

Agenda Item VIII: Review of November 1, 2018 Report



The November 1 Report was briefly discussed in Agenda Item X.

Agenda Item IX: Presentation - Public Health Priorities

Chair Guajardo introduced the next presenter, Dr. Stephen Pont, Medical Director, Office of Science and Population Health, DSHS. Dr. Pont presented on DSHS' Public Health Priorities including specifics from tobacco use to Tuberculosis and its relation to stakeholders:

- Morbidity, Mortality and Quality of Life
- Economic Impact
- Health Disparities
- Urban, Rural and Border Health
- Feasibility and Opportunity
- Across the Lifespan

Members shared concerns regarding the inclusion of border vs. non-border in state reports to differentiate the importance of disparities of Border Public Health in an effort for leadership to take notice of the border vs. non-border aspects of public health in Texas. Chair Guajardo and members thanked Dr. Pont for his presentation.



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Agenda Item X: Timelines/Next Steps/Announcements and Discussion of future meeting dates

Chair Guajardo mentioned that Friday, March 8 is the next meeting date. She asked if there were any complications regarding that date. Members expressed the date was fine for the next meeting.

Mr. Olivarez suggested that a review of the CoPHII collaborative effort, headed by Dr. Leo Vela, be considered for a future meeting.

Mr. Esparza stated that Senator Lucio or his representatives will be busy during the 2019 Legislative Session and may not attend the next few meetings. However, they did express being available as individual resources if needed.

Dr. Gonzalez and Chair Guajardo mentioned receiving feedback from the November 1 Report from DSHS. Mr. Villarreal stated that an initiation phase should be set to follow through with the November 1 Report findings. Members agreed and Chair Guajardo expressed the need for DSHS leadership to respond to the report.



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Agenda Item XI: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item XII: Adjourn/Thank you

Chair Guajardo thanked Task Force members for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.