



Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) APPROVED Meeting Minutes 1:00 p.m., February 11, 2026

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 February 11, 2026, meeting.

Table with 6 columns: MEMBER NAME, YES, NO, MEMBER NAME, YES, NO. Rows include Dr. Richard Chamberlain, Ms. Elizabeth Diaz, Ms. Esmeralda Guajardo, The Honorable State Representative Bobby Guerra (Ex Officio), Ms. Shannon Harvill (Vice-Chair), Mr. Steven M. Kotsatos, Dr. Emilie Prot, Dr. Lillian Ringsdorf, Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Ms. Dairen Sarmiento Rangel, Dr. Veerinder Taneja (Chair), Ms. Nancy P. Treviño, and VACANT (Ex Officio).

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

Dr. Veerinder "Vinny" Taneja, 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 December 10, 2025, draft meeting minutes

Dr. Taneja called for any edits or changes to the December 10, 2025, draft meeting minutes. Receiving no edits or changes, Dr. Taneja called for a motion to approve the draft.

MOTION:

Dr. Arturo Rodriguez moved to approve the December 10, 2025, draft meeting minutes as written. Ms. Shannon Harvill seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: DSHS Regional and Local Health Operations Community Health Worker Coordination

Ms. Ursula Solorzano, Statewide Community Health Workers (CHWs) Liaison for DSHS, reviewed the PPT titled, "Community Health Worker Training Needs Assessment". Highlights included:

- CHWs consistently identified outreach and enrollment/navigation of services and advocacy as their top priorities.
• CHWs prefer bilingual materials for communication, with flipbooks emerging as the most effective tool for field-based education.
• Mornings generally see the highest attendance for training sessions. Email subscriptions are vital for CHWs to receive notifications about training opportunities.

**Agenda Item 4: Congenital Syphilis Provider Consultation Hotline**

Dr. Kelly Fegan Bohm, Associate Deputy Commissioner and Medical Director for DSHS Community Health Improvement Division, and Ms. Christine Murphy, Director of Public Health Nursing, DSHS, reviewed the PPT titled, "DSHS Congenital Syphilis Surveillance and Prevention Program". Highlights included:

- DSHS has a team focused on congenital syphilis surveillance activities and data analysis.
- Nine nurses are being hired, one for every public health region and one for central office, for case management, community engagement and education.
- DSHS is working with health providers, partners and big organizations to spread awareness about the congenital syphilis medical consultation hotline.

**Agenda Item 5: Recommendations report timeline**

Ms. Amanda Brandt, Legislative and Policy Coordinator for DSHS Regional and Local Health Operations Division, reviewed the PPT titled, "Legislatively Mandated Reports". Highlights included:

- DSHS will help the TFBHO to deliver at the same time two mandated reports to the Texas Legislature: the DSHS report on actions and activities taken by the TFBHO, due on September 1, and the TFBHO recommendations report, due on November 1.
- TFBHO members will join workgroups focused on topics for the recommendations report. Non-members can be invited to join workgroups.
- The workgroups can suggest topics to be discussed at future meetings.

**Agenda Item 6: Public comment**

No public comment was received.

**Agenda Item 7: Closing remarks, thank you, and adjourn**

Dr. Taneja adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

---

***Please click on the link to the archived HHSC video to view, and listen to, the entirety of the February 11, 2026, 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 \(TFBHO\)](#)**