



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., October 8, 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 October 8, 2025, meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Dr. Richard Chamberlain	X		Dr. Arturo Rodriguez	X	
Ms. Esmeralda Guajardo	X		Ms. Dairen Sarmiento Rangel	X	
The Honorable State Representative Bobby Guerra (Ex Officio)		X	Dr. Veerinder Taneja (Chair)		X
Ms. Shannon Harvill (Vice-Chair)	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, vice-chair remarks, meeting logistics, and roll call

Ms. Shannon Harvill, Vice-Chair, convened the TFBHO meeting at 1:01 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 August 13, 2025, draft meeting minutes

Ms. Harvill called for any edits or changes to the August 13, 2025, draft meeting minutes. Receiving no edits or changes, Ms. Harvill called for a motion to approve the draft.

MOTION:

Dr. Richard Chamberlain moved to approve the August 13, 2025, draft meeting minutes as written. Ms. Dairen Sarmiento Rangel seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Texas A&M H5N1 Project

Dr. David I. Douphrate, Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, and Dr. Anabel Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of Environmental & Occupational Health, both from Texas A&M University School of Public Health, reviewed the PPT titled, "Avian Influenza on Dairy Farms in the U.S.-The Human Impact in a Challenging Working Environment".

Highlights included:

- Agriculture, poultry and fishing represents the industry with the highest fatality and injury rates out of all industrial sectors in the U.S.
- Since it was detected in Texas on March 25, 2024, H5N1 has been spreading to other U.S. states.
- Texas A&M University researchers are waiting for confirmation on the specimen results for the samples collected from farm workers.

Agenda Item 4: New World Screwworm

Dr. Susan Rollo, State Public Health Veterinarian, DSHS, reviewed the PPT titled, "New World Screwworm". Highlights included:

- To protect the U.S. border, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has increased the number of tick riders to look for stray cattle. At least 100 traps were installed to analyze suspected flies.
- Different state agencies at different levels are working to create awareness and educate the public about new world screwworm.
- USDA staff related to this response are continuing to work through the current government shutdown.

Agenda Item 5: Recommendations report process

Mr. Guillermo Zenizo Lindsey, Binational Communications Coordinator, Office of Border Public Health, DSHS, reviewed the PPT titled, "2025-2026 Recommendations Process" sharing general guidance about the TFBHO recommendations report to be prepared by members by November 1, 2026. Members provided a variety of topics of interest to be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Agenda Item 6: Public comment

No public comment was received.

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

Mr. Niko Tapangan introduced Ms. Elizabeth Diaz as the new City of Pharr Public Health Department Director, who will take his place as TFBHO member from the City of Pharr. Ms. Harvill adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Please click on the link to the archived HHSC video to view, and listen to, the entirety of the October 8, 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 \(TFBHO\)](#)