



Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) APPROVED Meeting Minutes 1:00 p.m., December 10, 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 December 10, 2025, 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 October 8, 2025, draft meeting minutes

Dr. Taneja called for any edits or changes to the October 8, 2025, draft meeting minutes. Receiving no edits or changes, Dr. Taneja called for a motion to approve the draft.

MOTION:

Dr. Richard Chamberlain moved to approve the October 8, 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 border region demographics update

Ms. Rhae Cisneros, Border Epidemiologist, Office of Border Public Health, DSHS, reviewed the PPT titled, "TFBHO Border Region Demographics". Highlights included:

- Demographic comparisons were made between the 16-county region currently represented by TFBHO members and the 53-county border region defined by HB1240, which will take effect September 1, 2026.
Data on health infrastructure in the 53-county border region definition indicates that 11 of the border counties have no registered primary care provider listed.

**Agenda Item 4: Texas A&M University study on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias**

Dr. Matthew Smith, Texas Research, Analytics, and Innovations Lab Director, School of Public Health, Texas A&M University, reviewed the PPT titled, "ADRD Needs Overview Border". Highlights included:

- A recent statewide needs assessment was done to better understand the services and resources available for unpaid Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) caregivers.
- Caregivers in border counties reported need and under-utilization of services, especially health and wellness programs.
- The aging population emphasizes the need for more ADRD healthcare and service providers.

**Agenda Item 5: South Texas Alzheimer's Disease Research Center**

Dr. Gladys Maestre, South Texas Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Co-Director, School of Medicine, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. reviewed the PPT titled, "STAC-The Door to Hope for Dementia". Highlights included:

- 40% of dementia cases can be prevented. Also, some changes in the brain are reversible.
- Participants for STAC studies register themselves if they recognize the condition, are concerned, or have family history. They don't collect any reimbursement from them.
- Biomedical research dominates current funding. The funding is not enough in the Texas border region and has different needs than the rest of the state.

**Agenda Item 6: Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) workforce update**

Ms. Lesley Brannan, Operations and Business Services Director, Office of the Division for Regional and Local Health Operations Deputy Commissioner, DSHS, informed TFBHO members that Danyale Bryant, DSHS Business Support and Planning Director, is the DSHS Workforce Director for PHIG. PHIG workforce strategy is the largest piece of the grant, and 46 local health departments receive part of this funding via DSHS. There is no new information about the continuation of this grant after November 2027.

**Agenda Item 7: Public comment**

No public comment was received.

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

Dr. Taneja thanked TFBHO members who expressed interest in participating in workgroups to help develop the upcoming recommendation report. He also requested TFBHO members review the previous report.

Dr. Taneja adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

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***Please click on the link to the archived HHSC video to view, and listen to, the entirety of the December 10, 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 \(TFBHO\)](#)