

**Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC)
Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, October 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**

Teleconference from Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

There was not a physical location for this meeting.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/774453605>

Call-in Number: +1 (872) 240-3412

Access Code: 774-453-605

Members Attending

Jimmy Blanton, M.P.Aff.

Carol Boswell, Ed.D., RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN

Chelsea Elliott

Courtney Harvey, Ph.D., M.A.

Doris J. Jackson, DHA

Elizabeth Protas (Chair), P.T., Ph.D.

Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D.

Bharath Thankavel, M.D.

D. Bailey Wynne, R.Ph., M.H.A.

Shaukat Zakaria

Yasser Zeid, M.D.

Members Absent

Kimberly N. Haynes, D.M.D.

Melinda Rodriguez, PT, DPT

Stacey Silverman, Ph.D.

Staff Present

Ann Barnett, MS, MS, Manager, Health Provider Resources Branch

Ashlee Bledsoe, Ph.D., MSC, Program Director, Health Professions Resource Center

Cate Campbell, MPH, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Kayla Davis, MS, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Courtney Dezendorf, Director, Office of Academic Affairs

Zachary Flores, Government Relations Specialist, Government Affairs

Genice Harris, Nurse, Medicaid & CHIP Utilization Review

Jessica Hyde, Program Specialist, Center for Public Health Policy and Practice

Debbie Kane, Nurse Program Manager, Medicaid and CHIP Services

Pamela Lauer, MPH, Program Director, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Anne Nordhaus, MA, Research Specialist, Health Professions Resource Center

Emily Rocha, Senior Policy Nurse, Medical Director's Office

Lisa Wyman, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health Statistics

SHCC Meeting Minutes October 14, 2021

<p>1. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Dr. Protas called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Dr. Bledsoe announced that members should state their name for the record when making comments and to mute themselves when not speaking. Dr. Protas stated the meeting would be recorded, and that Fu-An Lin would be stepping in for Stacey Silverman today. Instead of taking all responses, Dr. Protas announced that she would only ask for key responses in order to streamline the process via web conference. Dr. Protas took roll. Dr. Protas welcomed the council members present.</p>
<p>2. Establish a Quorum – Roll Call and Possible Action to Approve Excused Absences</p>	<p>A quorum was established. Dr. Haynes and Dr. Rodriguez requested an excused absence. A motion to approve excused absences was made by Dr. Protas and seconded by Dr. Boswell. The motion carried.</p>
<p>3. SHCC Discussion and Possible Action to Approve June 3, 2021, Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>A review of the June, 3, 2021, minutes elicited no revisions. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Carol Boswell and seconded by Dr. Jackson. The motion carried.</p>
<p>4. Round Table Discussion on Areas of Inclusion in next SHP</p>	<p>The SHCC discussed the Areas of Inclusion in the next Statewide Health Plan.</p> <p>Dr. Bledsoe reviewed survey results.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Covid-19, Access to Care including Medicare and Medicaid, as well as health equity and social determinants of health. 2. Rural Communities 3. Mental health of the Homeless 4. Health and Technology, including data sharing, connectivity, behavioral healthcare workforce and telehealth availability (currently and post-Covid-19) <p>Dr. Protas stated that the topics most discussed by the council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 • Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health • Access to Care • Rural Communities <p>Second Tier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness • Telehealth • Behavioral Healthcare Workforce <p>Dr. Protas asked if there was anything else that should be added onto the list.</p>

- Dr. Carol Boswell noted that mental health as a topic should be expanded to encompass more than solely the homeless population on the final plan.
- Bailey Wynne requested receiving the results of the survey prior to the meeting in order to fully review them. Dr. Bledsoe and Dr. Protas were in agreeance.
- Dr. Protas stated that there were concerns in particular about the Nursing Workforce and other health professionals that doesn't show up, but could be a part of the Covid-19 discussion

Dr. Protas asked the Council for a vote on whether to expand the topic of Mental Health to beyond only homelessness. She stated there are many aspects to the crisis of mental health in Texas.

- Dr. Cheryl Sparks was in agreeance with Dr. Protas.
- Dr. Thankavel stated that all topics on the list have a mental health component to them. Dr. Thankavel emphasized the role of data and reporting, noting the state and federal limitations of reporting and confidentiality, and that it limits the ability of payors and providers to collaborate in an effort to get the right care. Dr. Thankavel opened this up as another topic to address and asked to look into opening up guidelines for more effective care.
- Dr. Protas agreed that the council could address the topic.

Dr. Bledsoe shared the screen of the survey report.

Dr. Protas prompted the council for further comments.

- Dr. Protas asked Dr. Bledsoe if the council had to make a vote on the topics at the current meeting.
- Dr. Bledsoe stated, "yes." She stated that she needs a vote in order to assemble subcommittees surrounding approved topics after the meeting.
- Dr. Protas reiterated which topics had been discussed by the committee.
- Dr. Bledsoe noted that those comprise of Seven topics, implying the assembling of Seven subcommittees. Some people would need to sit on more than one subcommittee.
- Dr. Cheryl Sparks asked if the Social Determinants of Health and Access to Care would be similar. She also asked if Mental Health and Behavioral Healthcare

	<p>Workforce would be similar, in order to eliminate a couple of subcommittees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bledsoe agreed that there are similarities, as well as differences in those groups. She agreed that Mental Health and Behavioral Healthcare Workforce could be paired together. Social Determinants of Health and Access to Healthcare contain differences, but could be framed in a way that combines them. • Dr. Cheryl Sparks proposed linking Access to Care and Telehealth and Technology together. Dr. Bledsoe stated that it might, be too broad, but there’s potential in linking them together at a later time. She stated that 5 topics, thus, subcommittees makes sense. • Dr. Protas agreed that five topics seemed reasonable, noting that none of the topics are mutually exclusive. • No objections were made at the proposition of Five topics. The motion carried. • Dr. Protas repeated the Five new topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Covid-19 2. Access to Care, Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health 3. Rural Communities 4. Mental Health and Behavioral Healthcare Workforce 5. Telehealth and Technology <p>Dr. Protas stated that there would be five subcommittees going forward for the Statewide Health Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Protas asked for a motion to approve these five areas of concern. • Dr. Jackson made a motion to approve those five stated areas. Bailey Wynne seconded the motion. • No objections. The motion carried.
<p>6. SHCC Agency Representatives’ Reports</p>	<p>a. HHSC: Mr. Blanton provided an update on HHSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Blanton discussed the current projects, stating that many are associated with legislative reports. HHSC will be work on over 71 reports over the next year to year and a half. They will cover a large range of topics, including: interoperability, technological readiness, telehealth/telemedicine services, initiatives that improve maternal health, managed care organizations, identifying quality benchmarks, and access to therapy services. • Mr. Blanton spoke about HHSC’s initiative on telehealth, which is related to HB4. HHSC is doing a comprehensive review on policies. HHSC will look at

	<p>opportunities to expand telehealth services based on lessons learned during public health emergencies, stating that HHSC was not looking to go back to how things were before the public health emergency, creating more space for flexibility in telehealth services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Blanton stated that HHSC is continuing to negotiate with CMS on their loan 15 waiver, as well as a one-year extension on their district program meant to catalyze investment and quality improvement across the state.• Mr. Blanton spoke about the quality program's value payment initiative where they promote that MCO's pay their providers for at least some portion of their work based on outcomes on quality metrics. HHSC is in the process of re-vamping that program.• Mr. Blanton stated that within quality metrics, HHSC is highlighted more on health disparities, the first step potentially being through the Medicaid program.• HHSC is encouraging their MCO's to address more underlying root causes of poor outcomes, and really looking at social determinants of health.• Mr. Blanton addressed that HHSC is experiencing serious logistical challenges of safely transitioning their workforce back to part-time in-person work.• HHSC is also working on consolidating their programs, as they've opened a North Austin complex for Medicaid programs. <p>b. DSHS: Dr. Bledsoe stated that Dr. Peter Hajmasy has found a new position, and DSHS is currently finding a replacement member for the council. Dr. Protas stated that there would be no report from DSHS until next meeting.</p> <p>c. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: Dr. Lin provided an update on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Lin, at the previous session, listed a few bills related to funding medical education. The board has discovered two additional house bills from the regular session that might be of interest to the council. Most of the bills would be implemented by Dr. Lin's division, The Division of Academic and Health Affairs under Dr. Silverman's leadership.• Dr. Lin brought the council's attention to House Bill 2509, with regard to support or enhancement of
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graduate medical education for the practice of pediatric medicine. The bill will expand the definition of graduate medical education programs (GME) to include those that were initially accredited: Post-Doctor of Pediatric Medicine (PDM). This bill could allow GME programs to qualify for participation in our GME grant programs. The bill went into effect on June 14, 2021.

- The board also oversees the Institution of Reporting and Funding working on the implementation of HB2509.
- On the Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) side, UT-RGV will have their first inaugural class for the School of Podiatry that have been approved to start in Fall 2022.
- The other bill from the regular session, Senate Bill 1251, allows the Board of Regents from the UT System to offer certain joint graduate degree programs at UT Health Science Center Houston and MD Anderson. The strings attached are that those programs must be separately established at UT Health Science Center Houston, and they must be related to the growing populations in public health. Any programs will be subject to review and approval at THECB. The bill went into effect on May 28, 2021.
- With the third special session going on, THECB is tracking and analyzing a few bills. They address Covid-19 policies and requirements. HB134 would allow employees to request exemptions for vaccine requirements set by employers.
- With the executive order by the Governor on October 11, 2021, there might be additional bills at THECB to track.
- Another few bills from the third special session deal with making additional appropriations with the Covid-19 relief funds from the federal government. These include SB8, HB2, and HB145. They all include a potential for an additional \$113 Million for the Texas Child Mental Healthcare Association.
- THECB has a few funding programs in progress. The best way to get updates on grant programs will be through E-updates at the THECB website.

Dr. Harvey has joined the meeting. Dr. Protas asked for an update on the area of mental health by Dr. Harvey.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2021, The Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (SBHCC) will publish a five-year Behavioral Health Strategic Plan. Dr. Harvey anticipates a greater focus on behavioral health services and supports for children and youth in the area of trauma and suicide prevention amidst the increases seen during the Covid-19 Pandemic. • In December 2021, Texas’ first forensic strategic plan will be published surrounding the over 1,800 people waiting for treatment in the state mental health hospital. “Eliminate the Wait,” is being announced at the annual Mental Health Summit today and tomorrow.
<p>7. Report on SHCC Representation on the HHSC E-Health Advisory Committee</p>	<p>No update was provided. Dr. Haynes volunteered to be the SHCC representative on the HHSC E-Health Advisory Committee.</p>
<p>8. Health Professions Resource Center and SHCC Coordinator’s Report</p>	<p>Dr. Bledsoe provided an update on the Health Professions Resource Center and the SHCC. Dr. Bledsoe discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating Factsheets • Getting yearly licensure information ready • Working with Deloitte to put all information in a cloud-based system, which creates new opportunities for data. • Working on SB18 report ready • Border Health Professions Website information sent to council
<p>9. Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Report</p>	<p>Pamela Lauer provided an update on the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies and discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biannual Report to the SHCC • TCNWS is moving forward with data collection in Spring 2022. • Current work is focused on Annual Nursing Education Program Information Survey in collaboration with the Texas Board of Nursing. • TCNWS is performing a K-12 school nurse survey and looking to disseminate that information in Spring 2022. • Recently published fact sheet on school nurses. • TCNWS will include questions in nurse staffing studies surrounding Covid-19 and turnover. • TCNWS will establish a taskforce to develop a survey over individual nurses’ experiences with Covid-19. • Workplace Violence Grant Program will close RFA’s on November 29th, 2021.

SHCC Meeting Minutes October 14, 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grantees from the last cycle will complete their programs and reports in Summer 2022. <p>Bailey Wynne asked what type of information TCNWS has gathered so far about Covid-19 and Covid-19 mandates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pamela Lauer shared information gathered from TCNWS literature review on Covid-19 and Nursing. <p>Dr. Protas spoke about nurses being at the frontlines of the Covid-19 Pandemic and how the impacts of the pandemic on nurses are revealed daily. Dr. Protas thanked Pamela Lauer for her contribution.</p>
10. Administrative Items and Next Steps	<p>a. 2022 SHCC meeting dates: March 3, June 2, and October 13, 2022.</p> <p>b. Dr. Protas asked Dr. Bledsoe how the assembling of subcommittees should commence. Dr. Bledsoe stated she would send out an email with information on how to sign up.</p>
11. Public Comment and Adjourn	<p>There were no public comments.</p> <p>A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Jackson and seconded by Dr. Harvey. The motion carried.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.</p>