



PCC Meeting
January 7, 2025, from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
In-Person and Via TEAMS

Meeting Minutes and Notes

Attendance:

Representatives	Agency/Division/Program
Jim Parisi	Texas Hospital Association (THA)
Serena Bumpus	Texas Nurses Association (TNA)
Michelle Havelka	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Captain Ryan Hammett	Texas Military Department (TMD)
Holli Tietjen	Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)
John Henderson	Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH)
Ginny Lewis Ford	Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC)
Scott Smith	Texas Funeral Service Commission (TFSC)
Eric Epley	Governors EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)
Clarissa Perez	Urban and Local Health Department
Bryan Mares	National Association of Social Workers/Texas Chapter
Will Francis	National Association of Social Workers/Texas Chapter
Dr. David Fleeger	Texas Medical Association (TMA)
Dr. Carlos Plasencia	DSHS Region 6/5S, Regional Medical Director
Dana Birnberg	DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR PMU Director
Aimee Wong	DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR PMU
Michelle Jones	DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR PMU
Erin Mitchell	HHSC/Behavioral Health Services
Rachel Lindsay	HHSC/Behavioral Health Services



Discussion Item #1 Beginning Remarks

- Welcome by Jim Parisi.
- Council members introduced themselves.

Discussion Item #2 – PCC Business by (speaker)

Quorum

- Quorum met.
- Eric Epley motion and Ginny Ford seconded.

Questions/Discussion:

- None

Discussion Item #3 – Behavioral Health Services: Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities by Erin Mitchell and Racheal Lindsay

- Behavioral Health Services gave a presentation on services they can provide.
- Outline of the BSCA Grant Project. Divided into phases 1 & 2 include education, planning, drills and exercises.
- Presenters outlined the Deployable Teams Standard Operating Guide, describing the roles of the different teams and personnel.
- Can support Capabilities 4 (Information Sharing and Warning), 5 (Fatality Management), 7 (Mass Care), 14 (Responder Safety and Health)
- A State of Texas Asset Request (STAR) will need to be submitted for assistance to be provided.
- Reference guide for 1st responders and their families has been created and is unique to each of the different response fields. Stress Mgt Trainings are provided free of charge.
- Provides support for community preparedness, mass care, and responder safety and health.
- DBHC conducts mass care activities around all supporting areas and is devoted to developing preparedness plans for those communities.
- 39 LHAs training and curriculum have been developed and are being shared to help strengthen their preparedness activities and planning for such events.
- 2nd phase staff will travel to each community and review plans and assist local jurisdictions ensuring they meet each requirement for their area.

They will assist in helping those partners test the plans in future exercises.

- Offer Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and Psychological 1st Aid training.
- Function 4 helps provide Crisis Counseling Assistance. They can provide long term needs after the Family Crisis Centers are closed. This funding is provided by a state grant. Have provided support and training to Uvalde area event.

Questions/Discussion:

Who would put in the STAR request?

- Local Mental Health and Behavioral Health Authorities or at the state level.

Discussion Item #4 – DSHS Updates: Public Health Region by Dr. Carlos Plasencia – Region 6/5S Regional Medical Director & EMS by Joe Schmider – State EMS Director

Public Health Region Update

Overview on illnesses of interest within Texas.

- Covid cases reported to DSHS remain low. This may increase when it becomes a reportable illness.
- ILI's are increasing. Emergency room visits are peaking.
 - Wastewater testing shows an uptick in ILI's.
 - H5N1 was reported in an individual from Louisiana. This patient passed. This strain has shown the potential to mutate. Large numbers of wild birds have been found dead and tested positive for Bird Flu. Dr. Placencia recommended not picking up dead or ill birds.
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough) has increased throughout the state. Prophylaxis is available. School districts have been active partners.
- Mpox is still present.
- Undiagnosed disease in (Democratic Republic of Congo) DRC had been determined to be malaria by WHO.
 - PHR1 was involved in CHEMPACK sustainment's and POD training. Provided support for H5N1 vaccination of farm workers.
- Began planning for the world cup events that will be in Dallas.
- In E. Tx they are doing Stop the Bleed training.
- PHR7 investigated PAM.



- PHR8 provided training for 1st responders on the use of Narcan which proved vital as responders used their knowledge the next day.
- PHR11 began preparing for operation Boarder Health.

Questions/Discussion:

Public lacks knowledge about the risks of bird flu and how to avoid it

- Local partners are mainly using social media to get the message out, additional information is available online.

EMS Update

- Our State EMS Director, Joe Schmider was unable to make it to the meeting today but the EMS Update will be attached to the meeting follow-up

Discussion Item #5 – Strategic National Stockpile and CHEMPACK by Robyn Brown

- Robyn Brown presented on behalf of Michael Poole
- Brief history of the program: Established in 1999 and is the federal government's largest repository of emergency medical countermeasures (MCM's). Warehouses are managed by private companies and Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR).
- A brief timeline of SNS responses followed, the most recent being the COVID-19 response.
- Federal Medical Stations (FMDs) are available in 50 and 250 bed configurations.
 - FMDs were used during hurricane Harvey.
- Can be requested when Jurisdictional stockpiles are depleted or not available through commercial market.
- Various methods of delivery from the warehouses to the areas they are needed including the latest model using commercial supply chains to transfer products directly to the Point of Care.
- Point of Dispensing (POD) used to minimize the effects of a public health emergency. These can be Closed, Open, Drive Through, or Walk Through. More closed PODS will result in fewer open pods being required.
- CHEMPACK program was established in 2002 and officially launched in 2008.
 - Used to treat Chemical nerve agent exposure.
- Containers are federally owned and locally managed. 90% of US population within 1 hour of a container.
- EMS containers have 454 doses, hospital containers have 1000 doses.

Questions/Discussion:

Have ventilators and supplies within the SNS been restocked?

- Yes, the stockpile has been resupplied and additional contracts have been implemented to ensure there are adequate supplies.
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Are Hospital containers (CHEMPACK) used for hospital staff only?

- They are intended to be used for both hospital staff and the public. If a large-scale event happens in the community, those supplies are to be used. We can quickly get additional supplies if needed. Some locations have more than one container, especially in urban areas where we would have 4 to 5 times the amount.

Updates from PCC Members

- Texas Military – None
- United Way of Texas – None
- TDEM – None
- VOADS – None
- TMA – None
- National Association Social Workers - None
- TCEQ - Preparing for potential winter weather. Working new legislature.
- Texas Nurses Association – Preparing legislation and bills for the Legislative Session. Policy and position papers are online.
- Texas Association of Regional Councils – Preparing for the Legislative Session. Ginny Lewis Ford asked for someone from DSHS or HHS to provide update on legislative session at the next meeting. A discussion regarding local authorities' responsibilities regarding terrorist attack in public areas followed between her and Jim Parisi.
- Texas Hospital Association – Nothing to report.
- Texas Funeral Service Commission – Nothing to report.
- Texas Animal Health Commission – responding to poultry flocks exposed to avian influenza, raw milk will begin testing in the near future. New World Screw Worm.
- Texas Society for Infection Control – None

Closing Remarks

- Legislative updates need to be provided at the next meeting.
- Bylaws need to be updated/edited and revised. These will be sent out for review.



- Vice Chair position available. People are encouraged to think about whether they would like to be nominated.

Next meeting to be held April 8, 2025.

Adjourn