

PCC Meeting
4/8/2025, 12:30 PM
In-Person and Via TEAMS

Meeting Minutes and Notes

Attendance:

| Representatives | Agency/Division/Program |
|---|---|
| Jim Parisi | Texas Hospital Association (THA) |
| Michelle Havelka | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) |
| Nicole Nixon proxy for Ginny Lewis Ford | Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) |
| John Henderson | Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH) |
| Stephanie Duke | Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) |
| Greg Bennett | United Way of Texas |
| Scott Smith | Texas Funeral Service Commission (TFSC) |
| Dr. David Fleeger | Texas Medical Association (TMA) |
| Chris Earp proxy for Jim Elliot | Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) |
| Jeff Hoogheem | DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR Director |
| Dana Birnberg | DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR PMU Director |
| Aimee Wong | DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR PMU |
| Michelle Jones | DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR PMU |
| Paul Spock | DSHS IIS Training Manager |
| Amanda Brant | DSHS/RLHO Legislative and Policy Advisor |
| Chris Medina | DSHS/RLHO/CHEPR RRU SMOC Director |
| Sabrina Lee Richardson | MT Information Specialist III/Investigator - Special Projects |



Discussion Item #1 Beginning Remarks Jim Parisi

- Welcome and introductions

Agencies gave introductions and provided a brief description of their organizational duties.

Discussion Item #2 – PCC Business by Jim Parisi

Quorum

- Quorum was not met.

Questions/Discussion:

- January 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes to be approved during next meeting: July 21, 2025
- Future Meeting Dates:
 - July 21, 2025
 - October 20, 2025

Vice Chair Updates

- Need to fill this position and will accept nominations. Consider nominating yourself or someone you know to fill this role.

Discussion Item #3 – ImmTrac, Paul Spock, DSHS IIS Training Manager

- **Introduction to the ImmTrac2 registry**- Provided overview and general information of ImmTrac2. Paul clarified that they are a voluntary registry for immunization records, not an electronic health record. ImmTrac was initially created in response to a large measles outbreak in 1989 to 1991.
- **Disaster Consents**- Defined what constitutes a disaster and a disaster client. Provided information related to requirements of submitting, retaining and removing disaster registry information: Any antiviral, immunization, or medication (AIM) administered in response to a declared disaster must be entered into ImmTrac. Disaster consent does not allow for storing of non-disaster immunizations in the registry. Disaster consent only affects AIMs.
- **Standard/non-disaster consents**- Texas is an opt-in state, so consent must be given to be input immunizations into the registry. Defined the different types and requirements of consents. Provided website address for the various consent forms [Forms | Texas DSHS](#)
- **Electronic Data Sent to Registry**- Defined the parameters and components of data that is sent to the registry. Overview of how data flows into the registry.



- **Data from Registry available for the Public**- Provided information on how to request data from the registry. Consent Forms webpage details were provided.
- **Changes to the registry**- a variety of different reports have been implemented and improvements made. Information provided on how to sign up for Immtrac2 and withdraw Immtrac2 consent.
- **Legal Resources**- Provided Legal Resources
 - [Home - Rules & Meetings](#)
 - [HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE CHAPTER 161. PUBLIC HEALTH PROVISIONS](#)
- **Registry Resources**- provided various websites and contact options for obtaining resources or assistance with the registry. The 3 Methods of reporting data to the registry provided.
- Unidirectional vs bidirectional data exchange differences explained.
- Instructions on how to download a Request Form for immunization history provided.

Questions/Discussion:

[Are clients informed before data is purged \(for both disasters and otherwise\)](#)

- Outside of the reminder postcards sent to 18- and 25-year-olds, the answer is no.

[Is the ImmTrac data available to identify individuals that got a bad lot of vaccine?](#)

- The data would be available if it was entered into the registry, and could be queried. Clients could be contacted. The problem is having outdated or incorrect contact information in the registry.

[Has Immtrac2 been used to determine vaccination rates in Texas](#)

- Yes, this is one of the main uses of an immunization registry, however, since Texas Immunization Registry is opt-in, the vaccine coverage rates are much lower than the published National Immunization Survey (NIS) vaccination coverage rates.
- If you go to <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/data/program-data> and select "Download Vaccination Administration Data (Excel Spreadsheet)" you will see immunization data broken down by county and vaccine.
- Through the Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) Program, immunization coverage data for children and adolescents (clients under 18) is sent out to local health departments every month to assist providers in their jurisdiction in increasing their coverage rates.



Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2)

The Texas Immunization Registry (ImmTrac2) consolidates and stores immunization records from multiple sources in one centralized system for Texans who have consented to the registry. With more than 164 million immunization records, ImmTrac2 is a major component of our initiative to increase vaccine coverage across Texas. [Learn more about the Texas Immunization Registry](#). The following vaccination administration data is updated on the 15th of every month.

[Explore Vaccination Administration Trends with this Interactive Dashboard](#)

[Download Vaccination Administration Data \(Excel Spreadsheet\)](#)



- Providers can also see their own immunization coverage rates by running the Client Benchmark Report or the Immunization Coverage Rate Report in the online ImmTrac2 web application.

Discussion Item #4 – DSHS Update

DSHS Update:

EMS Update (Sabrina Lee Richardson, EMT, Information Specialist III/Investigator-Special Projects; Joe Schmider, State EMS Director, DSHS)

- SB 8 ended, were able to process more scholarships and added more personnel across the state.
- Upgraded to Version 3.5 of registry
- Annual EMS conference will be in Fort Worth, Texas starting November 22 – 25, 2025 for more information please go to; <https://texasemsconference.com>
- The next Governors EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) meeting will be June 4th through the 6th in Austin. For more information and the meeting agenda please go to the following website. <https://dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/governor.shtm>
- GETAC has developed a Whole Blood Task Force, headed by Eric Epley. The mission of this task force is to develop a statewide pre-hospital whole blood program.

CHEPR Update (Jeff Hoogheem, Director of Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, DSHS Chris Medina, Operations Branch Director, DSHS)

- Provided overview organizationally, as well as operational. Recently announced there is an agency-wide hiring freeze.



- Funding for HPP and PHEP- as far as we know today, is expected to continue to be funded at the same levels next year.
- Preparing for an upcoming Hurricane Season
- Trainings are scheduled leading up to an exercise for May 19-20.
- World Cup preparations are in full swing to prepare for next year.
- Flood response continues for lower Rio Grande Valley.
- Wildfire response: over 2.7 million dollars have been spent so far.
- Measles Response, update from Chris Medina (SMOC Director): We have been coordinating, tracking, and there has been deployment of Public Health Region staff to PHR 1 (Panhandle Area). Over 30 contract staff are being used to help with operations center and administering vaccine. Federal partners have also been deployed to help with operations as well. Provided information related to case counts, counties involved, and related information. Over 50 hospitalizations and 2 deaths due to measles. Vaccine administration efforts continue. CDC staff have been deployed to assist.

PH Region Update

- Report will be emailed out

Questions/Discussion:

No Questions.

Discussion Item #5 – Legislative Update by Amanda Brant, RLHO Legislative and Policy Advisor

- Dates to remember- Filing deadline has now passed and we now know the universe of legislation we will be dealing with. Future milestone dates were provided to give an overview of the process ahead.
- Filing deadline was March 14th.
- 1st Chamber is May 14th.
- Committees stop working May 33-27, 2025.
- Sine Die June 2nd.
- Senate Priorities- Lt. Gov. announced 40 policy priorities, such as school choice, electric grid reliability, wildfire response, and establishing Homeland Security Division. This is a greater number than usual.
- House Priorities- 25 priorities such as regulatory reform and efficiency, interoperability council and grant program, healthcare services to rural counties.
- Provided overview and makeup of House and Senate committees.
- Exceptional Items- discussed the 9 items listed and provided high level information about each request. The largest ask is to expand the laboratory capacity.
- By the Numbers- 10,309 legislation pieces filed (5,608 house bills, 1,660 resolutions, 3,041 senate bills). 1,100 being tracked by DSHS (60+ are being analyzed by RLHO)

- Public Health Topics to Watch- Food Safety, Restaurant Regulations, Vaccines, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Information Access, Medical Choice

Questions/Discussion:

How would this affect the hospitals and resources? (Jim Parisi)

- No, it's allowing people to quarantine and isolate at home, instead of at a hospital. The other one would require an individual with a control order to have an opportunity to prove that they don't need to comply with those. It would also require quarantines over 5 days to have a court order.

Discussion Item #6: Updates/Information Sharing from PCC members

- Dr David Fleeger- Legislative Session. Hot topics include trying to increase reimbursements for rural health care providers. Following about 2,000 bills related to business impacts to physicians.
- Greg Bennett- Looking at ways as to how to best support flooding response.
- Michelle Havelka- Busy with legislative session and focusing on emergency disaster response activities. Weather response has been keeping their office busy. Natural disaster workgroup held hurricane exercise in Corpus Christi recently.
- Nicole Nixon- Watching legislative items.
- Stephanie Duke- Texas VOAD- supporting regional response for flooding and fires as well.
- Scott Smith- TFDA- monitoring about 35 bills in legislation.
- Chris for Chris Elliot (TDEM)- Rellis Campus – conducting first phase of hurricane exercise with partners. Next month will be phase 2. Planning- working to update basic plan and annexes (they are posted on TDEM website). Monitoring bills for the legislative session.
- Jim Parisi (THA)- focusing on legislative session.

Closing Remarks

Is there anything in particular anyone wants to hear about? Future of state lab- would that be of interest to hear from the lab of the services they do for Texas?

- Dana Birnberg- yes, will reach out to preparedness partner in lab and get something together.
- Will send out survey to hear from members on suggestions for future meetings.



Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.