

FINAL DRAFT Meeting Minutes Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (TCCVDS)

Friday, August 12, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

**Microsoft Teams Hybrid Meeting – Texas Department of State Health Services,
Robert D. Moreton Bldg., Room M-100, First Floor, 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin,
Texas 78756**

TCCVDS MEMBERS	In Attendance
J. Neal Rutledge, MD (Vice Chair)	A
Elie Balesh, MD	A
Lourdes Cuellar	P
Stanley Duchman, MD	P
Janet Hewlett, RD, LD	P
Suzanne Hildebrand (Chair)	P
Samantha Kersey	P
Sherron D. Meeks, RN, PhD	P
Harry "Kyle" Sheets, MD	P
E'Loria Simon-Campbell, PhD	P
Maricella "Marcie" Gonzalez Wilson, RN	A
NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
HHSC - Chelsea Couch	P
DSHS – Kelly Fegan-Bohm, MD	P
TWC - Karen Brajcki	P

"P" – Present - indicates attended the meeting. "A" - Absent indicates did not attend the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Welcome, Logistics

Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, Chair, convened the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (TCCVDS) called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Ms. Hildebrand introduced Ms. Sallie Allen, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Ms. Allen introduced Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, ACCO, HHSC who will assume facilitation duties of TCCVDS beginning on November 18, 2022. Ms. Thompson was asked to give a brief introduction. Ms. Hildebrand welcomed Ms. Thompson before turning the floor back over to Ms. Allen for roll call. Ms. Allen requested members to introduce themselves. Ms. Allen advised the chair a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of May 13 ,2022 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Allen advised members the next item on the agenda was the consideration of the May 13, 2022 draft meeting minutes. Ms. Allen asked if there were any corrections or additions to minutes. There were known. Ms. Allen requested a motion to approve the May 13, 2022 draft meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION:

Dr. Stanley Duchman moved to approve the May 13, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand.

Ms. Hildebrand instructed Ms. Allen to conduct a roll call vote. The motion carried by a vote of Eight (8) For, Zero (0) Against, Zero (0) Abstain, and Three (3) Absent.

Agenda Item 3: Agency Representative Reports

3a. Department of State Health Services – Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm and Ms. Nimisha Bhakta, DSHS

Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, chair introduced Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm to provide DSHS updates. Dr. Fegan-Bohm advised that she did not have any agency updates at this time.

Dr. Fegan-Bohm turned the floor over to Ms. Nallely Trejo, Manager, Heart Disease and Stroke Program. Ms. Trejo advised council members of the following program updates:

- The Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention section has been reorganized. The Heart Program and The Diabetes Program have been merged into one program for the purpose of synergizing Grant activities. Ms. Trejo stated the new program is now under her management which is also under the Chronic Disease Unit.
- Under the DSHS reorganization, heart disease and stroke staff will now report to Ms. Trejo. Ms. Trejo reassured council members the restructuring will not affect and program activities which will continue to run as they have in the past.
- As for staffing updates, Ms. Trejo advised that Ms. Nancy Eichner (sic) left the Heart and Stroke Program after seven (7) years with DSHS. Her position has been posted and will close on Monday. Ms. Trejo also noted the Nurse II position remains vacant.
- Ms. Trejo went on to note the heart disease and stroke Program in collaboration with the Office of Border Public Health hosted a free Community Health Worker (CHW) instructor training entitled: "Medication, Education, and Adherence Counseling". The event was attended by one-hundred and sixty-two (162) certified Community Health Workers, thirty-four (34) Community Health Worker Instructors, and two (2) noncertified Community Health Workers all qualified for Two (2) Continuing Education credits (CEU) for attending the training.

There were no questions or comments regarding Ms. Trejo's updates.

3b. Health and Human Services Commission – Ms. Chelsea Couch

Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand introduced Ms. Chelsea Couch, Texercise Coordinator, Office of Aging Services, HHSC to give agency updates. Ms. Couch advised council members of the following:

- Office of Aging Services (OAS) is coordinating / overseeing AmeriCorps VISTA Project.
- OAS has received an Opioid Grant. HHS-OAS will use to address Opioid misuse by older adults in Texas. The grant will conclude on August 31, 2022. Three (3) different Interventions in collaboration with the HHSC Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to impact the older adult population on Opioid misuse and prevention by doing the following:
 1. Offering enhanced medication reviews.
 2. Provided approved evidence-based Intervention programs for non-opioid chronic pain management.
 3. Capacity building activities.

Ms. Couch highlighted some of the successes with this grant which included:

- Medication reviews increased self-efficacy and demand for older adults and encouraged new conversations with their Providers about opioids.
- Pharmacist reviews increased awareness and reduced opioid prescriptions for older adults.
- Collaborative efforts expanded local councils on Alcohol and Drug Awareness and distribution of drug deactivation packs.
- Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR)
- Opioid misuse and prevention components enhanced local health fair participation.
- Marketing efforts and new promotional material increased public awareness of opioid use and its impact on older adults.

Ms. Couch mentioned ASC's monthly newsletter which provides monthly updates on ASC programs. Email to receive updates: AgeWellLiveWell@hhs.texas.gov.

Ms. Hildebrand thanked Ms. Couch for her update. There were no questions from council members. Ms. Hildebrand introduced Ms. Karen Brajcki, Texas Workforce Commission.

3c. Texas Workforce Commission update – Ms. Karen Brajcki

Ms. Karen Brajcki provided an update on the Employment Supports for Brain Injury (ESBI) services. Highlights included:

- Eight (8) active contracts and one (1) pending which equates to coverage for most of regions across Texas.
- Some still going through mergers or rebranding/renaming which accounts for difficulties and delays.
- ESBI Open Enrollment may resume by Fall 2022.
- Appreciative of continued support by council members to spread the word to increase participation and buy-in from rehab facilities and rehabilitation hospitals for residential and non-residential treatments in all areas of Texas.
- ESBI has referred Thirteen (13) customers since June 2022; with another 35-50 in the works.

Ms. Brajcki noted ESBI is lacking support in two areas of the state: El Paso and Austin. Ms. Hildebrand thanked Ms. Brajcki for her presentation and asked if there was anything specific the council could do to assist to increase participation in Austin and El Paso. Ms. Brajcki stated helping providers understand the Employment Support for Brain Injury (ESBI) is the rehab portion not hospitalization. ESBI is not looking for hospitalization.

Ms. Brajcki also noted her department is currently working on Marketing strategies. However, word of mouth by council members, practitioners, et. al. would help in making people aware this service exists through the Vocational Rehab program.

Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand offered to assist with the effort. Dr. Sharon Meeks also offered to help spread the word in West Texas to increase the number of 'swing beds' since there are so few rehab facilities in West Texas. Ms. Hildebrand asked Dr. Meeks to explain the term 'swing beds'. Dr. Meeks offered the following definition:

*A **swing bed** applies to critical access hospitals in rural areas. A hospital can 'swing' a bed from acute to rehab services. It helps to pay the bills and helps keep patients in their community. Many hospitals in Kermit and Fort Stockton all have 'swing beds'. Acute care beds that can also function as rehab beds.*

Agenda Item 4: Liaison Reports

4a. Brain Injury Programs Report – Mr. Blake Agee, Manager, Office of Acquired Brain Injury

Highlights on Office of Acquired Brain Injury and Comprehensive Rehab Services (CRS):

- Comprehensive Rehab Services (CRS) has added new social workers to take on additional cases.
- Social Workers continue to work on reducing the amount of time people spend on Interest List and Wait List before receiving services.
- Two (2) Human Services Specialist positions to assist social workers have not yet been filled.
- CRS continues to provide as many services as possible to people with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries.
- Office of Acquired Brain Injury continues to provide logistical guidance to Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council (TBIAC). The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2022.
- TBIAC will discuss their Executive Commissioner report as well as their biannual legislative report at the October 17th meeting.

Dr. Meeks requested Mr. Agee to repeat the meeting date and time. Dr. Meeks also requested a meeting invite be sent to council members for the October 17, 2022 Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council meeting.

- Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) recently connected with the Safe Kids Organization (Austin) working together to review and promote information relating to children to prevent brain injury.
- Veterans Recovery Pilot Program report nearly completed. Mandated by legislation that created Veterans Recovery Pilot Program.
- Working with the Texas Council on Coordinating Veteran Services to provide recommendations for better access to help Veterans seeking services.
- Attending STAR+PLUS and IDD SRAC meetings in anticipation of 2023 enactment.
- Education and Outreach efforts continuing to provide information and training on Traumatic Brain Injury to anyone requesting additional information or resources.
- Collaborating with TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors with transition of services from CRS to BR.

Ms. Hildebrand asked Mr. Agee to repeat the information regarding the webinar. However, the information requested was for the TBIAC meeting on October 17, 2022.

4b. Governors EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC); Cardiac Care Report – Ms. Hildebrand noted Dr. Rutledge had an emergency earlier and may not be available to provide the update for the Governors EMS and Trauma Advisory Council.

Agenda Item 5: Recap of the Texas Stroke Conference: Stroke Recovery in 2022

Ms. Hildebrand introduced Dr. E'Loria Simon-Campbell to provide a recap of the 2022 Texas Stroke Conference.

Dr. Simon-Campbell highlighted the following concerns from Stroke Victims and Caretakers:

- Frustration, Anger, and Powerlessness
- Assistance from advocate/support when denied services
- Better collaboration between providers
- More support for caregivers

- More home services/therapies
- Lack of support for agnostic pts
- Cessation of treatment before patient improves
- Perceived the focus is on making money vs needs of patient
- Some stroke victim families very emotional to the point of tears
- Recommendations
- Two conferences
- Health care providers
- Stroke victims and caretakers

Inclusion of:

- Insurance providers
- State services

Dr. Meeks commented she agreed this type of conference is generally focused on providers. However, she also agreed the victim and caregiver portion, is important. The experiences of the patients and caregivers has the power to change the perspective of providers and others in the healthcare community. Dr. Meeks also agreed mechanisms to improve networking are essential and vital.

Dr. E'Loria Simon-Campbell described the response or in many cases lack of responses from providers to questions presented by patients and caregivers at the conference. Many felt 'unheard' by the number of questions left unanswered relating to their rehab and/or care experience.

Dr. Simon-Campbell and Dr. Meeks recognize the problem of addressing patient and caregiver questions and concerns. However, both were uncertain of a workable solution.

Ms. Janet Hewlett wanted to know how many people attended the conference. Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand stated there were thirty-four (34) in-person attendees and ninety-six (96) virtual attendees. This was the first time it was offered virtually. Ms. Hildebrand noted overall attendance to this year's event compared to pre-COVID years was down significantly.

Ms. Hildebrand echoed the same concerns laid out in Dr. Simon-Campbell's presentation. She was also disturbed by the amount of 'self-promotion'. Ms. Hildebrand also noted the work of Ms. Tonya {sic} Carter who put together the conference without the assistance from anyone. Ms. Hildebrand noted there were several speakers present in Houston who were there to simply promote their businesses. Ms. Hildebrand was not amused by their arrogance.

Ms. Hildebrand observed in addition to Dr. Simon-Campbell and herself, only one other council member; Dr. Rutledge attended the conference in Houston. She went on to note the lack of participation by council members at the Dallas and San Antonio conferences in the past. Ms. Hildebrand reminded council members their participation is vital for change. The council should be more than an entry on their resume.

Dr. Meeks advised Ms. Hildebrand she was reaching out to contacts in Lubbock to see if the next conference could be held in Lubbock. Dr. Meeks advised she would keep Ms. Hildebrand informed.

Dr. Fegan-Bohm addressed the questions the questions at the conference providers were unable to answer. She suggested breakout sessions on insurance and other resources to help people find answers to care. Dr. Fegan-Bohm noted Doctors would also benefit from such sessions.

Ms. Lourdes Cuellar suggested adding a team with representation from key areas of stroke care to help organize and plan the next conference. She also suggested the same makeup for break sessions.

Dr. Meeks agreed with Ms. Cuellar that large hospitals she mentioned had great stroke programs. However, nine million people in Texas do not live along the I-35 corridor. Dr. Meeks noted forty (40) of the fifty (50) states do not have a population of nine million people which is the number of Texans that do not live near the Interstate 35 corridor. Dr. Meeks noted the state of Texas has got to do a better job of getting services to people who do not live in or near Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas.

Agenda Item 6: Discussion of Potential Legislative Recommendations in Conjunction with American Heart / American Stroke Association – Mr. Alex Puente, Director, Governmental Relations, AHA

Mr. Alex Puente delivered a presentation on opportunities for the TCCVDS to collaborate with the AHA on legislative goals for the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Puente highlighted the following opportunities:

Support programs and resources that:

1. Improve the quality of care and ensure individuals who should in treatment have access.
2. Increase the importance of treating hypertension, especially among specialized populations.
3. Remove economic barriers to prescription coverage for effective anti-hypertensive medications.
4. Provide community-based support for individuals with hypertension through workforce (CHWs, FQHC staff, etc.) trained in dietary and physical activity counseling.
5. Promote strategies for sodium reduction.
6. Support expansion of coverage of services related to SMBP for diagnosis and management.

Ms. Lourdes Cuellar suggested reaching out to Hispanic and African American churches for hypertension education. Hypertension is possible regardless of age or race.

Dr. Meeks suggested reaching out to faith-based nurses to help educate patients on hypertension.

Dr. Meeks mentioned involving counties by way of countywide initiatives designed to help patients with drug costs, dietetic needs, and other services.

Ms. Lourdes Cuellar also mentioned partnering with CHWs and Promotor(a) which are often a very strong arm in promoting hypertension education. Institute for Spirituality and Health was mentioned by Dr. Simon-Campbell as a possible partner for hypertension education.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion and action concerning any of the above items, and topics for November 18, 2022 meeting.

The following action items were noted by Ms. Melissa Lamberton, Program Liaison for TCCVDS:

- Communication from Karen Brajcki encouraging participation in ESBI program for council members to share with acute care and rehabilitation hospitals.

- Share link to join Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council (TBIAC) meeting on October 17, 2022.
- Mediate future communication between Alex Puente relating to future legislative opportunities.
- Share data related to grant availability and where Texas stands vs. other states.
- Guidelines for lobbying during legislative session, as committee and/or individual.

Item 8: Public comment

No one pre-registered for public comment. No registered onsite for public comment.

Agenda Item 9: Adjourn

Ms. Hildebrand announced the next meeting will take place on Friday, November 18, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Sharon Meeks asked if the council was putting together a letter or other document to send to the legislature. Ms. Hildebrand stated she and Dr. Rutledge discussed and are working on to present at the November meeting. Dr. Meeks offered her assistance if needed. Ms. Hildebrand encouraged council members to provide any thoughts or suggestions to her or Melissa before the next meeting.

Dr. Meeks inquired as to whether there is a day set aside where advisory council members may go and speak with legislators. Ms. Hildebrand responded by indicating American Stroke and American Heart Associations does most of the lobbying on the council's behalf. She also gently reminded council members the council must abide by rules and regulations set forth in the Texas Administrative Code.

Dr. Meeks asked if she could lobby the legislature as a private citizen and not as a member of TCCVDS. Ms. Hildebrand confirmed doing so would be fine. She could not in any way represent herself as a member of the TCCVDS member.

Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

To access archived recording of the August 12, 2022 meeting go to:
[Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke](#)