

## Texas Department of State Health Services

### Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (TCADRDR)

#### APPROVED Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 23, 2021 2:00 p.m.

#### Meeting Site: Microsoft Office Teams Live Event

**Table 1:** Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders member attendance at the Tuesday, March 23, 2021 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Mr. Byron Cordes	X		Dr. Char Hu	X	
Dr. Laura DeFina	X		Ms. Valerie Krueger (Ex Officio)	X	
Dr. Marc Diamond	X		Dr. Eddie L. Patton Jr.	X	
Mr. Joe A. Evans Jr.	X		Dr. Mary Quiceno		X
Dr. Vaunette Fay	X		Dr. Sudha Seshardi	X	
Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm (Ex Officio)	X		Mr. Terrence Summers	X	
Ms. Ana Guerrero Gore	X		Ms. Angela Turner	X	
Mr. Michael Gayle (Ex Officio)	X				

**Yes:** Indicates attended the meeting. **No:** Indicates did not attend the meeting.

#### Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Logistics and Roll Call

Dr. Marc Diamond, Chair, called the Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (TCADRDR) meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., welcomed attendees, introduced Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO) staff. Dr. Diamond turned the meeting over to Ms. Francesca Kupper, ACCO facilitator, to read the meeting logistical announcements and to conduct the member roll call. Ms. Kupper stated the presence of quorum.

#### Agenda Item 2: Introductions

Dr. Diamond requested members provide a brief introduction when their names were called.

#### Agenda Item 3: Council action on October 12, 2020, meeting minutes

Dr. Diamond referred members to the draft minutes from the October 12, 2020, meeting, and requested a motion.

#### MOTION:

Dr. Eddie L. Patton, Jr., moved to approve the draft October 12, 2020, minutes as presented in the meeting. Mr. Bryon Cordes seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by roll call vote with no nays nor abstentions.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Department of State Health Services (DSHS) representative report**

Dr. Diamond introduced Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm and Ms. Jessica Hyde, who provided the DSHS report.

#### **Legislative Updates:**

- The 87<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas Legislature opened on January 12, 2021, and the bill filing period ended on March 11, 2021.
- As is the standard practice during legislative session, the DSHS Government Affairs (GA) staff have been working tirelessly since November to review the bills filed by legislators each day to identify legislation that will have an impact on the agency.
- Appropriate subject matter experts from across the agency are then utilized to help in the analysis of these bills so that GA staff can provide meaningful feedback to legislators and prepare for potential legislative committee meetings.
- As of March 22, 2021, DSHS is tracking 619 bills. Of these bills, 133 have been assigned to the Community Health Improvement Division for further analysis.
- At this time, DSHS staff have not identified any legislation that would impact the Alzheimer's Disease Program.
- DSHS staff would like to remind council members that they are free to participate in legislative advocacy during session as long as they represent themselves. Members must not engage in legislative advocacy on behalf of the council or the agency without prior authorization from DSHS.

#### **Program Updates:**

- The Alzheimer's Disease Program is working on a template to solicit and showcase examples of work happening across the state as they relate to the state plan priority areas. The goal is to have a repository of these examples to spark ideas among "like" organizations.
- DSHS staff are working with other state programs to identify areas for potential collaboration. Examples include:
  - Exploring cross-messaging with the DSHS Heart Disease and Stroke Program to encourage healthy habits that can benefit both the heart and the brain, such as a balanced diet, adequate physical activity, and keeping blood pressure and cholesterol in check. We are aiming to add resources for the public on both the Heart Disease and Stroke Program and Alzheimer's Disease Program webpages and release social media

messages in May to correspond with National Stroke Awareness Month and again in September for World Alzheimer's Day.

- Leveraging the expertise of the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and the Heart Disease and Stroke Program at DSHS and the Aging Texas Well Program at HHSC to explore how we can better support the overarching needs of unpaid family caregivers of those living with cancer, Alzheimer's disease or other dementias, or disabilities related to stroke.
- The Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch developed a survey to learn more about the experiences of unpaid caregivers of those living with Alzheimer's disease in Texas. The survey was shared through the Texas Alzheimer's Disease Partnership and social media and was open from January 4, 2021, to March 5, 2021. Staff received 444 responses that DSHS program evaluators are currently analyzing. This rich qualitative data will help staff learn what additional resources our state's unpaid caregivers need.
- The marketing vendor for the Alzheimer's disease awareness campaign – Sherry Matthews Group – entered the campaign materials to the National Association of Government Communicators for consideration for a 2021 Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Award. Winners will be notified in April 2021.
- TV, radio, and digital ads are scheduled to run in installments between now and August 31, 2021. DSHS staff encourage all partners to interact with DSHS social media posts and share these creatives through their respective networks. As a reminder, campaign materials can be found at the Alzheimer's Disease Program webpage at [dshs.texas.gov/Alzheimers](https://dshs.texas.gov/Alzheimers) under "Alzheimer's Campaign Toolkit" in the left menu.

## **Agenda Item 5: Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) representative report**

Dr. Diamond introduced Mr. Michael Gayle, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Long-Term Care Regulatory Program Operations, who provided the HHSC report.

- During the past year, due to the pandemic, HHSC moved forward with the challenge of supporting providers and individuals in long-term care facilities with increased infection control visits, informational webinars, and increased technical assistance of phone and email responses.
- Increasing delivery of webinars specific to providing enhanced support for individuals with Alzheimer's.
- Increasing in-person training opportunities for providers working with Alzheimer's individuals in long-term facilities.

## **Agenda Item 6: Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC) representative report.**

Dr. Diamond introduced Dr. C. Munro Cullum, PhD., Scientific Director, who provided the TARCC report. Highlights of the report included:

- **TARCC Investigator Grants Program:**

- In 2018, with a mature database and upon recommendations from the External Advisory Committee (EAC), TARCC moved from a cohort surveillance model to a grants-based program in order to support the best science in the state and enhance TARCC data utilization and productivity.
- For the 2020 grant awards, a request for proposals (RFP) was issued with applications due March 20, 2020.
- A total of 69 applications was received, representing all TARCC participating institutions.
- Two external (out of state) expert reviewers provided reviews using National Institutes of Health (NIH)-style criteria.
- Scientific reviews & applications were reviewed by the External Advisory Committee.
- 16 grants were approved for funding in 2020 for a total of \$8,448,829.
- Active Grant Projects are Listed on the TARCC Website.

- **Productivity:**

- Since inception, TARCC has helped garner \$100,613,930 in federal, foundation, and private grants, almost doubling the state's investment of \$52,471,321 over this same period.

- **TARCC 2020 Virtual Conference:**

- Focused on TARCC investigators, collaborators, and trainees
- Reviewed latest findings on aging and dementia from TARCC sites
- Scientific discussions on major scientific themes: Development of new models and analysis methods, Genetics, Human neuropathy, Molecular and cellular biology, Biomarkers (neuroimaging and non-neuroimaging), New treatment development, Clinical manifestations, Dementia care, Psychosocial factors, and Public health

- The TARCC 2022 Symposium is scheduled for January 27, 2022, in Austin, Texas with options for virtual and in-person attendance.

- Dr. Diamond asked if there has been any communication regarding funding for TARCC in the next biennium. Dr. Bruce Jones stated that the TARCC budgets were listed at a five percent cut for the House and Senate budgets.

**Agenda Item 7: Council discussion and possible action on Council activities, Council's 2022 Biannual report, and Council work groups.**

Dr. Diamond referred members to the handout, "Texas Council for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Workgroup Meeting – January 14, 2021," and opened the discussion of Council activities, the 2022 biannual report and the establishment of workgroups.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- Ideas to increase information and resources available to communities in Texas, possibly through the TARCC website.
- TARCC is updating the caregiving portion of the website and will include listings under each of the TARCC institutions; links to the DSHS website; the newly-launched Alzheimers.gov website; websites for local chapters of the Alzheimer's Association; and Alzheimer's Texas Facebook support groups.
- TARCC can link to Texas Health and Human Services websites and other community resources, and may request the TCADRDR's assistance on vetting new resources.
- Ms. Hyde provided a high-level review of the process and timeline for the development of the biannual report to be submitted to the Texas Legislature on September 1, 2022.
- Dr. Diamond appointed a TCADRDR workgroup to consolidate recommendations provided by TCADRDR through emails collected by DSHS. TCADRDR will discuss the recommendations at the fall TCADRDR meeting. The final report will be voted on during the spring 2022 TCADRDR meeting. Dr. Diamond will lead the workgroup, with Dr. Patton, Dr. Sudha Seshardi and Dr. Vaunette Fay serving as workgroup members.
- Dr. Diamond appointed a standing TCADRDR workgroup (not just a one-time appointment) to discuss possible activities of TCADRDR based on the January 14, 2021, activities workgroup handout. DSHS can convene workgroup meetings between TCADRDR meetings. Dr. Patton will lead the workgroup with TCADRDR members Mr. Cordes, Dr. Seshadri and Mr. Gayle as workgroup members.

**Agenda Item 8: Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**Agenda Item 9: Announcements**

- Ms. Lynda Taylor, TCADRD program liaison, will email all members communication regarding an October date for the next TCADRD meeting.

**Agenda Item 10: Adjournment**

Dr. Diamond provided closing remarks, thanked members and staff, and adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

***Please click on the link to the archived HHSC webcast of the March 23, 2021, TCADRD meeting that will be available for viewing for approximately two years from date of meeting.***

**[Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders](#)**