

**Texas Diabetes Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 23, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**Moreton Building, Public Hearing Room M-100**  
**1100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78756**

Table 1: Texas Diabetes Council member attendance Thursday, January 23, 2020.

NAME	IN ATTENDANCE
Dr. Mitchel Abramsky (Non-Voting)	Yes
Ms. Joan Colgin	Yes
Ms. Felicia Fruia-Edge	Yes
Ms. Lisa Golden (Non-Voting)	Yes
Mr. John Griffin	Yes
Dr. Manda Hall (Non-Voting)	No
Ms. Diane Kongevick (Non-Voting)	No
Dr. Kathy LaCivita	Yes
Ms. Aida (Letty) Moreno-Brown	Yes
Ms. Averil Mullins (Non-Voting)	Yes
Dr. Feyi Obamehinti	Yes
Dr. Stephen Ponder	Yes
Ms. Ardis Reed	Yes
Mr. Jason Ryan	No
Mr. William (David) Sanders	Yes
Dr. Christine Wicke	Yes

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome**

Dr. Kathy LaCivita, Chair of the Texas Diabetes Council (TDC), convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**Agenda Item 2: Introduction of New Texas Diabetes Council Members**

Dr. LaCivita greeted everyone and introduced two new members, Dr. Stephen Ponder, Pediatric Endocrinologist, Baylor Scott & White and Dr. Christine Wicke, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in ambulatory care, Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System.

Dr. LaCivita turned the floor over to Ms. Stephanie Gutierrez, HHSC, Policy & Rules, Advisory Committee Coordination Office.

### **Agenda Item 3: Roll Call**

Ms. Gutierrez reviewed logistics, called roll, requested members introduce themselves, and determined quorum. Ms. Gutierrez requested a motion to excuse the absences of members.

**MOTION:** Dr. Kathy LaCivita made a motion to approve the absence for Mr. Jason Ryan, Dr. Manda Hall, and Ms. Diane Kongevick for the January 23, 2020 meeting. Dr. Stephen Ponder seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried with no objections nor abstentions.

### **Agenda Item 4: October 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Gutierrez asked if there were any necessary edits. Hearing none, Ms. Gutierrez requested a motion.

**MOTION:** Dr. Kathy LaCivita made a motion to approve the October 10, 2019 meeting minutes with the amendment on Agenda Item #13 changing the month from October to January. Ms. Joan Colgin seconded. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried with no objections nor abstentions.

### **Agenda Item 5: Presiding Officer Address**

Dr. LaCivita stated screening for gestational diabetes in women and post-partum follow-up are major problems. There are various approaches that can be taken to screen gestational diabetes in women. The one-step method is quicker, captures more women, and is more cost effective. The two-step method captures less women. Having an accurate gestational diabetes screen benefits the health of the offspring. Treatment after gestational diabetes diagnosis makes a difference. A grant was approved for maternal health for Texas women to fund post-partum, diabetes screening, hypertension, depression, family planning, and breast and cervical screening.

### **Agenda Item 6: The Diabetes Garage**

Dr. LaCivita introduced and turned the floor over to Dr. Jeannie Concha, University of Texas El Paso. Dr. Concha referenced the PowerPoint and handout, *The Diabetes Garage*.

Members discussed:

- The Diabetes Garage is a program to start early.
- Retention was higher in men who had healthcare coverage.
- The Diabetes Garage has a patient advisory board that serves as champions and role models.

- The Diabetes Garage markets through a list of endocrinologist and renal dialysis.
- The first ten or fifteen minutes of the two-hour program is about car maintenance.
- Training at academic medical centers will take place in San Antonio and Harlingen through partnership with the Area Health Education Center (AHEC).
- The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) funded the pilot process for the Diabetes Garage.

**ACTION ITEM:** Dr. Concha will notify members of dates for both trainings in San Antonio and Harlingen.

**Agenda Item 7: Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Transparency**

Dr. LaCivita stated this agenda item is tabled indefinitely.

**Agenda Item 8: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Update**

Dr. LaCivita introduced and turned the floor over to Dr. Feyi Obamehinti. Dr. Obamehinti referenced the PowerPoint and handout, *Health Education TEKS Updates/Preview: From TEA/SBOE*.

**Agenda Item 9: Texas Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) Survey Update**

Dr. Lacivita introduced and turned the floor over to Ms. Ardis Reed.

Ms. Reed stated she attended the October 2019 Managed Care Medical Directors meeting and shared the results of the 2019 survey as well as explained the importance of conducting another survey. Ms. Reed requested support from the Medical Directors to conduct another survey. Ms. Reed stated another survey is ready to be sent.

Members discussed:

- The survey was thoroughly discussed at the Health Professionals and Outcomes workgroup. The workgroup is ready to help as necessary.
- There are 22 Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) but 18 are health MCOs.
- The purpose of the survey is to discover what an MCO constitutes as a diabetes education program.

## **Agenda Item 10: State Agency Representatives**

### **a. Department of State Health Services**

Ms. Kelsii Dilley, DSHS, Diabetes and School Health, provided an update.

Ms. Dilley stated:

- The diabetes state plan and assessment were posted to the DSHS website and routed to the legislature
- The diabetes program thanked the council for assisting in writing the state plan
- The diabetes program will start working on the 2020 legislative report due November 2020
- The program hosted a state engagement call on Tuesday, December 3, 2019. The next call is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2020.
- The state engagement call is a platform for organizations to connect and learn from their peers

### **b. Health and Human Services Commission**

Dr. Mitchell Abramsky, HHSC Medicaid and CHIP Services, Associate Medical Director, stated the responses to the continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) draft policy and the responses to the rate hearing have been compiled and are routed to Medicaid leadership before being disseminated. There was an error in the rate hearing announcement where the implementation date was stated as January 1, 2020 but has been corrected to March 1, 2020. However, the anticipated date is April 1, 2020 due to the responses needing to go through the rates hearing process again. The proposed rates at the November 16, 2019 public hearing were not approved due to the rates being too low.

### **c. Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**

Ms. Lisa Golden, stated people in the community are still not aware of the services provided for people who have disabilities and want to go to work as evident by the low number of referrals being submitted. TWC has started to offer diabetes self-management education. Ms. Golden brought flyers for dissemination.

### **d. Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS)**

Ms. Averi Mullins, Health Benefits Program Analyst Specialist. Ms. Mullins stated there are 433,000 active participants in the disease management programs for both the TRS Active Care health plan for the public-school systems and the TRS Care health plan for the retiree population. 772 participants, age 18 and older, are actively engaged

with a nurse case manager for diabetes management. TRS is working on more engagement strategies at the Chief Financial Operating (CFO) and superintendent level to appeal to active districts. 69,300 participants make up the retiree population and 524 participants are actively engaged in disease management or with a nurse case manager. Ms. Mullins stated adherence to diabetes medication management is improving within the retiree and active populations. Under both health plans, participants can get a 90-day supply of test strips at no cost. Ms. Mullins stated she will look into gestational diabetes data and start discussions with TRS regarding TEKS.

**e. Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS)**

Ms. Diana Kongevick, Director of Group Benefits, was absent but gave her report to Dr. LaCivita. Dr. LaCivita stated ERS is seeking to decrease the prevalence of major chronic conditions, improve participants' quality of life and reduce long term healthcare cost to the plan. AMP stands for: Assess Management Prevent. Assess is to complete an online health assessment to identify participant health needs. Manage is to enroll in available weight management programs. Prevent is to complete an annual preventive screening. In 2019 accomplishments were to establish baseline data for AMP measurement and work with leadership to increase communication efforts regarding wellness programming coverages as well as to launch a webpage to share information and tools for participants and wellness coordinators to use in improving health and promoting wellness. A regional wellness initiative was launched for participants in areas of short term wellness metric improvements.

**Agenda Item 11: Workgroups**

**a. Advocacy and Outreach**

Dr. LaCivita introduced and turned the floor over to Mr. John Griffin, TDC member.

Mr. Griffin informed Council, the workgroup:

- Discussed ideas and ways to achieve objectives regarding healthcare costs to assist the legislature
- Discussed the report card for Texas health regarding healthcare delivery
  - Texas has decreased the number of smokers statewide
  - Texas has fewer deaths attributed to drugs
  - Texas ranked last place among the 50 states for citizens being covered under a health plan
  - Texas ranks 11 out of 50 states for deaths by cancer

- Texas ranks 40 out of 50 states for diabetes diagnoses
- Texas ranks 40 out of 50 states for obesity
- Texas ranks bottom five and bottom 10 in the availability of clinical primary care
- Discussed how to get more Texans in the circle of care
- Discussed legislative activities
  - Lower cost of insulin
  - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced they are ending their ban on people who use insulin from being commercial airline pilots
- Members discussed:
- Responsibility of assisting the legislature through the Council

**b. Health Professionals and Outcomes**

Dr. LaCivita introduced and turned the floor over to Ms. Colgin, TDC member and co-facilitator of the Health Professionals and Outcomes workgroup.

Ms. Colgin informed Council, the workgroup:

- Discussed improving healthcare through technology.
- Discussed how school systems are integrating care to keep children safe as well as targeting newly diagnosed type 1.
- Requested the My Care Foundation to present their Blue Loop Technology at the April 23, 2020 Council meeting.
- Discussed TEKS.
- Discussed the MCO survey and approved it to go to the MCO Medical Directors.
- Had a presentation on CGM pricing and requested an investigation on the new Medicaid guidelines for diabetes self-management education and support.
- Had an update on the Women’s Infant and Children (WIC) maternal health coordination. It was requested that the Council provide resources to be disseminated to WIC counselors statewide.
- Would like to provide education to the Texas WIC counselors specifically regarding diagnosis and treatment for gestational diabetes and to emphasize the importance of post-partum glucose screening.
- Will work with a researcher at the University of Texas at Austin on supporting persons with diabetes that have specific visual disabilities to get the resources and support they need to succeed.

## **Agenda Item 12: Announcements**

Dr. LaCivita made an announcement of the:

- Demonstration Waiver for Women's health services
- The cost of insulin and the problem with high costs causing people to ration their insulin
  - Endocrine societies, state, and federal entities are tracking this
  - Legislation is out to reduce insulin price to the 2006 level and remove the prior authorization and step therapy, HR4906
- Safe Step Acts HR2279, looking at health plan rules that have made it harder for people to get the medicines they need
- Chronic Co-Pay Elimination Act HR4457, remove copays for certain preventative screenings for people with chronic conditions to decrease health care spending by decreasing complications

## **Agenda Item 13: Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

## **Agenda Item 14: Future Meetings**

Dr. LaCivita stated the next scheduled meeting is April 23, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in M-100.

Topics of discussion for the April meeting:

- Blue Loop Foundation presentation
- Survey results from the MCOs
- WIC presentation

## **Agenda Item 15: Adjournment**

Dr. LaCivita adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Webcast: <https://texashsc.swagit.com/play/01232020-1111>