



State Health Services Council Work Session

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Robert E. Moreton Building, Public Hearing Room
1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, Texas

September 9, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Minutes

Council members attending:

Jacinto Juarez, Ph.D., Laredo – Chair
Rev. William Lovell, Dallas – Vice-Chair
Dr. Kirk Calhoun, Tyler – teleconference
Dr. Lewis Foxhall, Houston
Carmen Pagan, McAllen
Dr. Jeffrey Ross, Houston – arrived 3:00 p.m.
Nancy Townes, Granbury

Council members not attending:

Dr. David Woolweaver, Harlingen
Jay Zeidman, Houston

Visitors:

Emil Briles – HillCo Partners
Elizabeth Sjoberg – Texas Hospital Association
Shannon Lucas – March of Dimes

Call to Order – Council Chair, Dr. Jacinto Juarez called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Rules Scheduled for Action by Council on September 10, 2015

- a. Amendments to rules, repeal of a rule, and a new rule concerning the Kidney Health Care Program. Evelyn Delgado introduced the rule and Carol Labaj provided the rule overview.

The council members had the following questions and comments:

- Dr. Foxhall – Question about the removal of income amount in the proposed document on page 6 and the plan to put the amount in policy instead of rule. Is this income amount established by statute?
Evelyn Delgado – This program has been in place since 1977 and the income amount has not been changed since then. We do not anticipate making any changes; however, we want to have

flexibility without having to revise rules if we need to change the income to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) percentage rather than a set amount. Although it is set at \$60,000 income now, the majority of our clients are \$20,000 or under. With budget constraints, we may need to look at the FPL amount in the future.

- Dr. Foxhall – Who would review and approve a rate increase going forward? Expressed concern about who decides and approves the change if it were to be removed from rule.
Evelyn Delgado – If we were to propose to change the income level and the amount was removed from rule, it would go to the executive commissioner for approval.

There was no public comment provided.

- b. New rules concerning the neonatal level of care designation for hospitals. Kathy Perkins introduced the rule and Jane G. Guerrero provided the rule overview.

The council members had no questions or comments.
There was no public comment provided.

- c. Amendments to rules concerning radioactive materials and general requirements and license regulations for radiation control. Kathy Perkins introduced the rule and Chuck Flynn provided the rule overview.

The council members had the following questions and comments:

- Dr. Foxhall – On the summary document, under key health measures, there were several incidents reported. Can you talk about the incidents?
Kathy Perkins – I do not have information about specific incidents at this time, but we consider each of these roughly sixty incidents significant and most resulted in corrective actions. We require the licensees to address the corrective action that they are going to take. Typically, there are fines involved.
- Dr. Foxhall – Are the numbers of incidents getting better or worse over time?
Chuck Flynn – They are getting better over time, but there are still serious incidents. There is much training to be done and protocols in place to be sure licensees are held accountable.
Kathy Perkins – We may be seeing more incidents, but not as a percentage. One man lost his hand when it was exposed to radiation. This source did not pull back, resulting in the incident.
- Dr. Foxhall – Do the rules give you the tools needed for enforcement?
Chuck Flynn – Yes, many of the regulations are already in place through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and they are making a difference.
- Rev. Lovell – Who are the 1800 licensees?
Chuck Flynn – Industrial, medical, research, and universities. This includes technicians and researchers. We distinguish between licensees and technicians who are working with x-rays.

There was no public comment provided.

- 2. Update on ImmTrac2 – Tamara Lewis and Meredith Sugarman provided an update on ImmTrac2. The presentation can be found at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/agenda.shtm>

The council members had the following questions and comments.

- Nancy Townsend – What are we doing to vaccinate the children who come across the border as they go into our schools?
Response: We have provided vaccines to unaccompanied children through Texas Vaccines for Children. The Refugee Program also provides vaccines. There has been vaccine ordered through our vaccine program. Staff will get back with council members with more information.
- Commissioner Cole – There are requirements for students to receive vaccines before entering school.
- Carmen Pagan – This is an excellent program. Because it is required by law, does that mean that all providers that do immunizations are required to use this?
Response: As of 1995, all providers are required to enter into ImmTrac; however, not all do. We have had contact from parents who want to be included, but their physicians are not entering into ImmTrac. We are developing outreach materials to reach out to providers to make them aware that this is a state law and they need to comply. ImmTrac2 will have incentives for recording immunizations since it will be linked to ordering vaccines.
- Dr. Ross – What is the security and confidentiality of the system?
Response: State law has protocols for who is able to log into ImmTrac and who is approved to view data. It is a lengthy process to register to use ImmTrac. Staff will follow-up to provide additional information to the council members.
- Dr. Ross – In Harris County, they have to go through a specific course to get information. Do you have a system like this in place?
Response: We will have provider supervisor training. They will have to agree to participate in training yearly. We follow CDC guidelines.
- Dr. Foxhall – What percentage of providers of different types are reporting?
Response: We do not currently have information on percentages because we do not know how many physicians provide vaccines. We can only provide a list of providers who use ImmTrac.
- Dr. Foxhall – Can we determine what percentage of children are vaccinated?
Response: Just under 93%.
- Dr. Foxhall – Is there an opportunity to generate reports of information by school?
Response: The Texas Vaccines for Children Program does assessment reporting to determine the immunization rate.
- Dr. Foxhall – It is good to use whatever data we have to identify areas that need additional attention. Any opportunities we have to promote immunization is worth trying.
- Carmen Pagan – How many providers are providing immunizations and how many are ordering the immunizations?
Response: Now that information is in separate systems. When put into one system, we will be able to provide much more usable data.

3. General Public Comment – Dr. Juarez asked for general public comment. There was no general public comment.

Adjourn – Dr. Juarez called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Rev. Lovell, seconded by Carmen Pagan. Meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m. Meeting will reconvene on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Jacinto Juárez

November 19, 2015

Jacinto Juarez, Ph.D.

Date