

**Public Health Region 8 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory
Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2023
1:00 PM**

Microsoft TEAMS

Table 1: PHR 8 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee member attendance at the 10/18/2023 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Jason Bowling	X				
Gerard Gawrys	X				
Martha Kennedy	X				
Emmanuel Opada	X				
Rebecca Sanchez	X				

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Call to Order

Ms. Vanessa Pierce called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

Agenda Item 2: Meeting minutes approval

The minutes of the previous meeting of June 20, 2023 were brought to a vote for approval. A quorum of members was in attendance for the vote.

- Dr. Jason Bowling motioned to vote to approve the minutes.
- Ms. Martha Kennedy seconded the motion.
- Ms. Pierce called on each member to cast a vote.
- The minutes were approved unanimously with five yes votes.

Agenda Item 3: All chairs meeting feedback

Dr. Bowling summarized a meeting held recently between the chairpersons of the antimicrobial stewardship (AS) regional advisory committees. The chairpersons shared common ideas and proposed stewardship activities for their regions. The highlights included:

- A common interest in standardizing education to patients and families on when antibiotics are or are not appropriate.
- Interest in obtaining regional antibiograms and providing education how to use the antibiograms to guide treatment.

- Suggestions to work with commercial labs to obtain antibiograms relevant for skilled nursing and long-term care facilities.

The advisory committee made the following comments:

- Dr. Gawrys agreed a regional antibiogram would be useful.
- Ms. Kennedy offered to obtain a list of the companies skilled nursing facilities are using for antibiogram information.
- Dr. Opada asked if regional antibiograms already exist or need to be developed.
- Dr. Bowling stated all the advisory committees are attempting to develop antibiograms relevant to their respective regions.
- Ms. Kennedy suggested it would be helpful to compare the antibiograms used by long-term care facilities and hospitals.
- Dr. Bowling and Kristi Traugott mentioned hospitals will begin reporting antibiotic use and resistance data to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). This information will be helpful to review when available but will not be specific to a region in Texas.
- The committee members agreed to identify resources to obtain regional antibiogram information.

Agenda Item 4: Patient transfer and communication

At the previous meeting in June, it was suggested to share ideas for a standardized communication process when transferring patients. The committee members agreed communication during transfer should include the presence of a multidrug-resistant organisms and colonization.

Agenda Item 5: Healthcare worker education in high turnover careers

At the previous meeting in June, it was suggested to share ideas for healthcare worker education. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Ms. Kennedy reported her facilities require directors and administrators to complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) infection prevention courses.
- Ms. Kennedy shared there is annual training for frontline staff but it is not always consistently provided particularly during urgent staff shortages.
- Dr. Bowling stated so much training is provided during new hire onboarding it is difficult for staff to retain the information. Ongoing refresher education is needed.
- Dr. Opada suggested an ongoing schedule of refresher education to maintain knowledge and using different methods of training and materials to meet individual learning needs.

- The CDC has readily available resources for AS training.
- Dr. Sanchez suggested not all healthcare facilities may have the resources to provide initial and ongoing education.
- Dr. Sanchez recommended the education provided to healthcare workers be consistent across facilities.
- Dr. Bowling suggested providing a list of the minimum topics and best practices to skilled and long-term care facilities to include in AS education.

Agenda Item 6: Patient education

At the previous meeting in June, it was suggested to share ideas for patient education. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Ms. Kennedy suggested it might be more appropriate to direct education to families due to possible patient cognitive issues and to begin the education before the family starts requesting antibiotics for their loved one.
- Dr. Bowling stated it is challenging to find the appropriate method for providing concise information to patients and families and to choose the appropriate timing so that it is not overwhelming.
- Dr. Opada suggested to consider patient and family cultural background, educational level, and cognitive ability when developing educational materials.
- Dr. Bowling reported that multiple organizations, such as the CDC and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology in America (SHEA), have educational materials and suggested the committee review these materials to determine which would be helpful to recommend to healthcare facilities.

Agenda Item 7: Public Comment and Open Forum

Ms. Pierce allowed time for public comments to be shared. No members of the public offered comments.

There were no additional comments during the open forum.

Agenda Item 8: Next Meeting and Agenda Items

Vanessa Pierce stated that the next meeting will be held in 2024. The following agenda items will be included for the next meeting:

- Review antibiogram information (Ms. Kennedy offered to provide).
- Review and endorse readily available AS educational resources.

Agenda Item 9: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Resource links shared during the meeting:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/week/toolkit.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/pdfs/AU-nursing-home-trifold-brochure-P.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/print-materials.html>

[NOTE: The DRAFT watermark should be left on the document until the committee has voted to approve the minutes as the official record of the meeting.]