

**FINAL Meeting Minutes Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (TCCVDS) – V.3**

**Friday, February 17, 2023, 1:30 p.m.**

**Microsoft Teams Hybrid Meeting – Texas Department of State Health Services, Robert Bernstein Bldg., Room K-100, First Floor, 1100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78756**

<b>TCCVDS MEMBERS</b>	<b>In Attendance</b>
J. Neal Rutledge, MD (Vice Chair)	P
Elie Balesh, MD	P
Lourdes Cuellar	P
Stanley Duchman, MD	A
Janet Hewlett, RD, LD	A
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
<b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS</b>	
HHSC - Chelsea Couch	P
DSHS – Kelly Fegan-Bohm, MD	P
TWC - Karen Brajcki	A

"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 1:33 p.m.

Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, Chair, introduced Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, HHSC, ACCO Facilitator. Ms. Thompson called roll and requested members provide a brief introduction. Ms. Thompson advised Ms. Hildebrand that a quorum was present.

**Agenda Item 2: Consideration of November 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 18, 2022 draft meeting minutes. Dr. Neal Rutledge noted he was incorrectly listed as absent. Dr. Rutledge was present at the November 18, 2022 TCCVDS meeting. Ms. Hildebrand requested a motion to approve the November 18, 2022 draft meeting minutes with amended roll call showing Dr. Neal Rutledge as present at the meeting.

**MOTION:**

Dr. Rutledge moved to approve the amended November 18, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. E'Loria Simon-Campbell. Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, ACCO Facilitator conducted a roll call vote. The motion passed with a vote of Seven (7) Approve, Zero (0) Disapprove, and Four (4) Absent.

## **Agenda Item 3: Agency Representative Reports**

### **3a. Department of State Health Services (DSHS)**

Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, Chair introduced Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm, DSHS and Ms. Nalley Trejo, DSHS to provide Department of State Health Services updates.

#### **DSHS Updates**

Highlights from Dr. Fegan-Bohm's updates:

- A new DSHS commissioner has been announced. The interim commissioner and former state epidemiologist, Dr. Jennifer Shuford has been hired as the new commissioner. Dr. Shuford has been with DSHS since 2017. Prior to her work at DSHS, she practiced medicine in Austin as an infectious disease clinician and has an MPH from Harvard School of Public Health.
- The 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session began January 10. The session will run until May 29.

Highlights from Ms. Trejo's updates:

Natalie Gonsalves accepted a new position with HHSC in January. We're in the process of reviewing applications and hope to fill the position soon.

Chronic Disease Unit Council Liaison (Program Specialist V) position posted. The Chronic Disease Unit was approved to hire a full-time position that will serve as the liaison for the Texas Diabetes Council, the Texas Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke and the Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. This position will replace the Council's DSHS point of contact (Melissa Lamberton), but it will not have a direct impact on Council related activities. The hiring of this position will increase capacity within the unit to allow programs, like the heart disease and Stroke Program, to fully focus on programmatic activities. The Heart Disease and Stroke Program staff will continue to attend Council meetings as usual and providing subject matter expertise as needed. We hope to have someone hired by the next council meeting.

#### **Program Activities**

The Heart Disease and Stroke Program continues with preliminary planning for two upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs). These are funding opportunities to apply for new five-year cycles of the two grants the program is currently overseeing. The CDC release of both NOFOs has been delayed, and program is awaiting their release, but the new release date is still unknown.

### **3b. Health and Human Services (HHSC)**

Ms. Chelsea Couch, HHSC presented Health and Human Services Commission updates.

Highlights from Ms. Couch's presentation:

In September 2022, the office received funding from the Administration For Community Living to assess and strengthen the state's No Wrong Door (NWD) System.

HHSC will work with the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, Texas Association of Regional Councils, Texas Workforce Commission, and other key stakeholders over a two-year period. There will be six (6) in-person regional listening sessions across the state to help strengthen the NWD System and support Texans accessing services in the community.

Listening sessions are targeting people who need long-term care, like older adults, people with disabilities, people who have served in the military, and their family caregivers.

#### **3b. Health and Human Services (HHSC) cont'd.**

First listening session will be held in Ft. Worth March 15-16.

Second listening session will be held in San Antonio March 30-31.

In recognition of February as Low Vision Awareness month, the Vision Loss in Older Adults campaign is launching which is a result of SB1917 during the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

Strengthen the Care You Give statewide campaign will launch soon.

### **3c. Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**

Ms. Hildebrand, Chair advised Ms. Karen Brajcki was unable to attend but advised there were no TWC updates for today's meeting.

## **Agenda Item 4: Liaison Reports**

### **4a. American Heart Association**

Mr. Alec Puente, Director, Governmental Relations, AH/ASA provided an update on legislation American Heart Association (AHA) and American Stroke Association (ASA)

Top Three (3) priorities:

1. CPR/AED Training: requesting the legislature appropriate \$1.8 million over the next biennium to support hands-on CPR and AED training in schools.
2. Nutrition/SNAP: incentivize healthy food purchases and reduce barriers to enrollment in SNAP.
3. Access to Care: support policies that increase access to comprehensive care, like extending the period of postpartum care under Medicaid.

Other Issues:

Tobacco control funding, local control (i.e., preserve local community's ability to make public health policies like smoke-free ordinances).

AmeriCorps and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have joined forces to launch a domestic services opportunity, HeartCorps.

HeartCorps

Three-year, \$8.6M grant from AmeriCorps through the joint Public Health AmeriCorps initiative with the CDC.

100 HeartCorps members in 26 states for three years.

Improve blood pressure control within Rural Health Clinics, FQHCs, health departments, community orgs, etc.

Address nutrition security

Reduce tobacco use among youth

Specific to Texas: Lubbock, Tom Green, Gonzales, and Nacogdoches Counties.

Collaboration for Equitable Health

\$25 million, 4-year initiative in collaboration with Bank of America, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Cancer Society.

Launched in 11 cities, including San Antonio, TX.

Focus on three key areas:

1. education and capacity building for health system, partners and patients
2. Increasing access to health screenings and preventive care
3. Advocating for policies that ensure fair opportunities and resources with state and local leaders.

#### **4b. Brain Injury Programs update**

Mr. Blake Agee, Manager, Office of Acquired Brain Injury, HHSC presented his report to the committee.

- Hosting Brain Injury Awareness events in March.
  - Webinar on every Wednesday from 12:00p-1:00p.
  - Conference on March 23-24
  - Events will virtual, free, and open to the public.
  - Presenters will be people with lived experience, professionals, family members, and will cover a wide range of topics.
- The governor has proclaimed March as Brain Injury Awareness Month.
- HHSC Comprehensive Rehabilitative Services Department Updates
  - Continue to hire the clinical services and supports manager.
  - Contracting with Dynasplint vendor for the comprehensive rehab program.

#### **4c. Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC)**

Dr. Rutledge, TCCVDS committee member and Dr. David Wampler, UT-Health-San Antonio presented to the committee.

CARES Texas (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) is an effort that is looking at data collection process for cardiac arrest.

Primarily focused on EMS to gather pre-hospital data on cardiac arrest and get the follow-up information from the hospitals.

Initiative has been funded by The University of Health Science Center in Houston in the Department of Emergency Medicine but looking for a more sustainable funding mechanism.

Represents about 40% of the state of Texas and around I-35 and I-10 corridors.

More information: <https://tx-cares.com>.

Wants to establish guidelines for designation of ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) facilities like the stroke and trauma rating systems.

Looking at trying to build that for Texas cardiac receiving centers.

A major stroke study had to be terminated early because it was no longer okay to proceed with the control group.

This study was looking at thrombectomies for large vessel occlusions vs the more traditional therapies which are drug related therapies.

This had to be stopped early because the thrombectomy group was doing so much better and it was unethical to proceed to complete this large study.

Texas has been using and developed a transport plan for years separating large vessel occlusions to try and get them to hospitals with the capabilities to doing thrombectomies. In Texas, stroke comprehensive centers also did advanced stroke centers vs primary stroke centers and advanced stroke centers are capable to doing thrombectomies, not necessarily doing all the things comprehensive centers do like treating aneurysms and AVMS, which have a longer time that they can be treated in.

The criteria for being designated as an advanced stroke center by the state has just moved forward and believes it will be approved during the next GETAC meeting.

## **Agenda Item 5: Legislative Activities**

Ms. Wiseman, Director, Chronic Disease Unit, DSHS presented agency updates to the committee. Ms. Wiseman addressed the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Legislative Activities Overview and Guidance to remind council members of lobbying allowed during the legislative session.

Texans are allowed as individuals to lobby legislators, to contact their representative, etc., but as a Council member any communication regarding legislation where you identify yourself as a Council member can only occur if a Council vote is taken place beforehand.

You can't represent the Council unless the Council has voted. Apart from that, you can provide written recommendations which the Council has already done for this session.

Dr. Rutledge- As the Legislature moves forward and there are things that come up that directly affect heart disease and stroke, potential bills, and such, can you forward those to the Council so we may be aware of them in real time?

Ms. Wiseman-It would be inappropriate for DSHS to only forward certain bills as that would be seen as lobbying, but we don't have the capacity to do real time forwarding of bills related to CVD and stroke, but we could send periodic digests over the last two weeks or month.

Ms. Cuellar-Is there a letter TCCVDS sent to the Legislature addressing the long-term cardiovascular affects post COVID?

Ms. Lamberton-That item was not covered in the legislative recommendations that were sent.

Ms. Cuellar- Nationally, including before Congress there are some folks from San Antonio testifying and will keep that in mind because of at risk populations with diabetes in the San Antonio area, end stage renal disease, as well as cardiovascular issues.

Dr. Rutledge agreed that was a very good point and should be included in the future, but it's a little late to make a recommendation from our Council at this point, but we will have plenty of time as we move forward.

Dr. Franks-Meeks supports Dr. Neal Rutledge and Ms. Lourdes Cuellar.

## **Agenda Item 6: Stroke Survivors and Caregivers Conference**

Ms. Hildebrand, Chair and Dr. Franks-Meeks discussed the upcoming conference in Odessa, Texas. The conference is scheduled to take place on May 19, 2023, at the Texas Tech University Health Science Center in Odessa, Texas. The conference will be a hybrid platform; in-person and virtual. CNE and CME credits will be offered for medical professionals.

No additional comments.

Dr. Rutledge- If we want to contribute financially to this conference, what mechanism can we do that through?

Ms. Wiseman- We have started researching this question, we don't have the answer yet, but will share the answer with the Council members when we do have an answer.

Ms. Hildebrand- In the past, Council members paid for bills directly, but it would be nice if Council members who were so inclined could assist.

Dr. Rutledge- There used to be a separate DSHS account where monies could go but isn't sure if the account still exists or not.

## **Agenda Item 7: Update on creation of Bylaws**

Dr. Rutledge and Ms. Wiseman, DSHS presented bylaws created by DSHS and Bylaws workgroup.

Mr. John Chacón, Assistant Director, ACCO, HHSC confirmed with Ms. Wiseman the bylaws presented at today's meeting have not been routed through the appropriate legal channels

for review and approval. Ms. Wiseman advised the bylaws have not been routed through the appropriate internal channels for approval. The workgroup wanted to obtain approval of the document by the full committee before submitting to legal for review and approval.

Ms. Wiseman- Most of the language in the bylaws comes directly from statute.

Dr. Rutledge- TCCVDS did not have separate bylaws because so much of this was legislated. I'd like to thank Ms. Lamberton and Ms. Wiseman for all the hard work you did compiling and researching.

One of the first changes is under #2, we ordained so that the purpose of the Council per the legislation was to report to the Legislature and DSHS.

That is echoed further on in delineating the report we are required to do.

Other changes we made-When the legislation was originally enacted, putting together the members didn't take into consideration regarding stroke is that there were people other than neurologists treating stroke, neurosurgeons, neuro conventional surgeons, all sorts of people, and so we did change the language of the person assisting the Council on stroke be someone who specializes in stroke and not using a specific specialty.

One contention that came up during the review was that there was some racist language we recommended striking from the bylaws. We wanted appointments made to the committee without regard to race, color, disability, sex, age, or national origin. Racist language is not acceptable in my opinion.

Regarding operations, Robert Rules of Order and Simple Majority was applied and there were also some updates on removing Council members and this was basically to assure people come to the meetings and participate. If people aren't participating, they need to be removed from the Council.

Ms. Wiseman- I want to thank the workgroup members- Ms. Couch, Dr. Rutledge, and Dr. Franks-Meeks. Thank you for volunteering and helping to edit the bylaws.

Ms. Wiseman-These bylaws have not been approved by legal or ACCO but were shared to make sure everyone agreed.

ACCO- After the bylaws have been reviewed by legal and ACCO, Council will need to vote on them for final approval.

### **Motion:**

After a brief discussion, Dr. Rutledge made a motion to move the bylaws forward for review and approval as presented today. The motion was seconded by Dr. Franks-Meeks. Ms. Hildebrand, Chair asked Ms. Thompson, ACCO Facilitator to conduct a roll call vote. The motion passed by a vote of Seven (7) For, Zero (0) Against, Zero (0) Abstain, and Four (4) Absent.

### **Agenda Item 8: Presentation of Data referenced in the Public Health Strategies for Addressing Heart Disease and Stroke in Texas, 2019-2023**

Ms. Mirela Ibrahimovic, Epidemiologist II, Chronic Disease Epidemiology, DSHS focused on three (3) goals:

1. Support and Reinforce Healthy Behaviors.
2. Enhance Quality of Care and Community-Clinical Linkages.
3. Improve Systems of Care.

### **Overarching Goals:**

- A. Reducing the age adjusted mortality rate for ischemic heart disease from 96.9 in 2015 to 89.1 per 100,000 individuals by 2023.
- B. Reducing the age adjusted mortality rate for stroke from 42.7 in 2015 to 40.1 per 100,000 individuals by 2023.

The presentation focused mostly on adult, rather than child or youth data.

### **Agenda Item 9: Discussion of any action concerning items above, and topics for June 9, 2023, meeting**

Ms. Lamberton noted the following action items:

Update to the November 2022 minutes to show Dr. Rutledge is present.

Mr. Puente will share additional information on how local HeartCorps locations were chosen.

DSHS will provide a periodic digest of bills pertaining to cardiovascular disease and stroke to Council members.

DSHS will follow-up on potential mechanism for funding the conference prior to the conference.

Council members voted for draft bylaws to move forward for review by ACCO and legal.

### **Agenda Item 10: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Agenda Item 11: Adjournment**

Ms. Suzanne Hildebrand, chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

To access archived recording of the February 17, 2023 meeting go to:

[Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke](#)