

**Texas Diabetes Council (TDC)**  
**APPROVED: Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 28, 2023**  
**2:30 p.m.**

**Physical Location: Department of State Health Services (DSHS)**  
**Robert Bernstein Building**  
**Room K100, First Floor**  
**1100 West 49th Street**  
**Austin, TX 78756**  
**TEAMS Virtual Meeting**

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome, logistical announcements, and roll call**

The meeting was called to order by the vice-chair, Dr. Stephen Ponder, at 2:31 p.m.

Mr. John Chacón, facilitator with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), announced that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, and conducted the member roll call. Mr. Chacón announced the presence of quorum.

Table 1: TDC member attendance at the Thursday, August 28, 2023, meeting.

| MEMBER NAME                                 | YES | NO | MEMBER NAME   | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|---|-----|----|
| 1. Mr. Dirrell Jones                        | X   |    | 9. VACANT   |     |    |
| 2. Dr. Gary Francis                         | X   |    | 10. VACANT  |     |    |
| 3. Ms. Aida (Letty) Moreno-Brown            |     |    | 11. VACANT  |     |    |
| 4. Dr. Stephen Ponder,<br><b>Vice Chair</b> | X   |    | Ms. Lisa Golden –<br><i>Non-Voting Member</i>       |     | X  |
| <b>5.</b> Dr. Ninfa Peña-Purcell            | X   |    | Dr. Kelly Fegan – Bohm<br><i>Non- Voting Member</i> | X   |    |
| 6. Mr. Jason Ryan                           | X   |    | Dr. Mitchel Abramsky<br><i>Non- Voting Member</i>   | X   |    |
| 7. Ms. Maryanne Strobel                     | X   |    | Mr. Blaise Duran<br><i>Non- Voting Member</i>       | X   |    |
| 8. Dr. Christine Wicke                      | X   |    | Ms. Umme Salama Oan Ali                             | X   |    |

## **Agenda Item 2: Consideration of April 27, 2023, Draft Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair requested approval of the TDC April 27, 2023, Draft Meeting Minutes and called for edits or changes to the draft minutes. There were none. Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair, requested a motion to approve the April 27, 2023, TDC Draft Meeting Minutes, as presented.

### **Motion:**

Mr. Jason Ryan made the motion to approve the April 27, 2023, Draft Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Maryanne Strobel. Following a roll call vote by Mr. Chacón, the motion passed unanimously with a vote of seven (7) approves (Jones, Francis, Ponder, Pena-Purcell, Ryan, Strobel, and Wicke), zero (0) disapprovals, zero (0) abstentions.

## **Agenda Item 3: Report out from Workgroups**

Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair, led workgroup discussion.

- Health Professional and Outcomes Workgroup (HPOW) did not meet today.
- Mr. Ryan shared what the Advocacy and Outreach Workgroup (AOW) discussed during the meeting.
- Discussions revolved around recommendations two, three, and four under Priority Area 5 of the State Plan.
- AOW members decided to form a smaller workgroup that will focus on five of the items in the State Plan and will meet between regularly scheduled meetings. A quorum will not be present during the smaller workgroup meetings.

## **Agenda Item 4: Discussion and approval of draft State Plan**

Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair, Texas Diabetes Council and Ms. Julie Ketelsen, TDC Liaison led the discussion.

- Prior to submitting to the legislature, council members suggested that some of the verbiage should be changed for consistency and citations should be doublechecked for accuracy.
- Documents submitted to the legislature should be a maximum of twenty pages and that does not include appendixes.
- A style guide for future reports would be helpful.

Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair, requested a motion to approve the **draft State Plan**, with edits presented.

### **Motion:**

Dr. Gary Francis made the motion to approve the draft State Plan with edits as presented during meeting and confirmation of citations. Ms. Maryanne Strobel seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote conducted by Mr. Chacón, the motion passed unanimously with a vote of seven (7) approves (Jones, Francis, Ponder, Pena-Purcell, Ryan, Strobel, and Wicke), zero (0) disapprovals, zero (0) abstentions.

## **Agenda Item 5: Discussion of the following State Plan related items**

Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair, Texas Diabetes Council and Ms. Julie Ketelsen, TDC Liaison led the discussion.

- a. Creation of ad hoc work groups to address State Plan activities
  - Ad hoc work groups would be 100% virtual and limited to four members to avoid quorum.
  - Broader priorities in the State Plan should be put into actionable steps.
  - Focus should be made on lower hanging fruit since there are only two years to complete activities.
  - At a future HPOW meeting, attendees will follow a similar process as AOW for identifying a few recommendations to work on.
- b. DSHS Grand Rounds on State Plan topics
  - On January 31, 2024, DSHS Grand Rounds will focus on diabetes and health disparities.
  - Speaker suggestions are due by October 1, 2023.
  - Approximately three hundred people attend on average.
  - Typical attendees include physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, epidemiologists, public health workers, DSHS leaders, sanitarians, veterinarians, and the public.
  - Continuing Education Credits are available, but only for the live event.
  - Grand Rounds are archived and open to people nationwide and globally if they want to attend.
  - AOW did not discuss Grand Rounds speakers.
- c. Suggestions for presentations and topics for future TDC meetings to address State Plan priorities
  - Requested time to think about presentations for future meetings.
  - One suggestion was for a speaker to share success stories that capture the work that is being done across the state regarding diabetes and pre-diabetes.
  - A list of potential topics was shared during the meeting.

Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair, requested a motion to approve for a member of the council to provide public comment at the October 12 and 13, 2023 meetings of the Drug Utilization Review Board.

### **Motion:**

Mr. Jason Ryan made the motion to approve for a TDC member of the council to provide public comment at the October 12 and 13, 2023 meetings of the Drug Utilization Review Board regarding increase access to Insulin drug classes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Maryanne Strobel. Following a roll call vote conducted by Mr. Chacón, the motion passed unanimously with a vote of seven (7) approves (Jones, Francis, Ponder, Pena-Purcell, Ryan, Strobel, and Wicke), zero (0) disapprovals, zero (0) abstentions.

## **Agenda Item 6: Updates from state agency representatives**

Dr. Stephen Ponder announced that there will be no update from the Texas Workforce Commission.

- a. Department of State Health Services - Dr. Kelly Fegan-Bohm, Community Health Improvement Medical Director, DSHS, provided the update.

## **No DSHS Diabetes Prevention and Control Program Staffing Updates**

### **2320 Grant**

- On July 13, 2023, DSHS received the notification of award for the 5-year funding opportunity through the Center for Disease Control (CDC), called A Strategic Approach to Advancing Health Equity for Priority Populations with or at Risk for Diabetes, CDC-RFA-DP-23-0020. Grant activities are kicking off and include:
  - Strengthening self-care practices in diabetes self-management education and support (DSMES)
  - Improving quality of care for priority populations
  - Increasing enrollment and retention in the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP)
  - Implementing a child obesity intervention
  - Supporting the development of multi-directional e-referral systems
  - Improving the sustainability of community health workers (CHWs) in evidence-based diabetes interventions

### **Legislatively Mandated Report**

- DSHS reported on its diabetes-related activities for the Assessment of Texas State Agency Programs for the Prevention and Treatment of Diabetes 2023. The assessment report is currently under review. The report will be published by November 2023. The assessment is mandated by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 103.

### **DSHS News You Can Use (DNYCU) Newsletter – August**

- The most recent edition of Diabetes News You Can Use newsletter was published on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.
- Anyone not subscribed yet, interested in receiving the newsletter, please send us an email to [diabetes@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:diabetes@dshs.texas.gov).
- The legislative session ended on May 29, 2023.
- Fewer than 1, 300 bills were sent to the Governor.
  - From that group of bills, they were either vetoed or became law.
- Two special sessions have been called to date.
- House Bill (HB) 2891 (Talarico)
  - This bill passed favorably out of the Texas House on April 26, 2023, and was sent to the Senate on April 27, 2023, but was not scheduled for a Senate hearing.
  - HB 2891 would have required the executive commissioner of the Health & Human Services Commission, in consultation with the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency, to adopt rules regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of (GLUECA-GONE) glucagon medication at a school campus.

- This bill would have allowed a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or private school to adopt and implement a policy on (GLUE-CA-GONE) glucagon medication.
  - The bill also would have required a physician or other person who prescribes (GLUE-CAGONE) glucagon medication to provide a standing order for this medication to a school that adopts a related policy.
  - .
- b. Health and Human Services Commission - Dr. Michel Abramsky, Associate Medical Director, HHSC, provided the update.
- The manufacturer will allow the supply of Arrows Classic supply of Omnipod for existing users through the end of December of 2023.
  - Until there is approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Durable medical equipment devices will not be dispensed through pharmacies.
  - Some of the Managed Care Organizations are making things available through different mechanisms.
  - Texas Medicaid applied for and was awarded a technical assistance grant from Center for Health Care Strategies.
    - The goal of the grant is to improve access to continuous glucose monitoring.
- c. Teacher’s Retirement System of Texas (TRS) - Ms. Umme Salama Oan Ali, TRS, provided the update.
- TRS terminated its relationship with CVS, current pharmacy benefit manager.
  - When the new pharmacy benefit manager is implemented, TRS will explore new diabetic treatment programs.
  - The new Pharmacy Benefit Management Express Scripts will be effective on September 1 for active educators that participate in TRS Active Care and will be available for TRS retirees on January 1, 2024.
- d. Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) - Mr. Blaise Duran, Director, Actuarial and Reporting Services, provided the update.
- No ERS updates.

**Agenda Item 7: Date and topics for next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2023.

- No additional comments.

**Agenda Item 8: Upcoming meeting dates** - Dr. Stephen Ponder, MD Vice-Chair and Ms. Julie Ketelsen, TDC Liaison, provided upcoming meeting dates for 2023 and 2024 meetings and referenced a handout titled “Upcoming Meeting Dates”.

Future Meeting Dates:

- October 19, 2023
- January 25, 2024
- April 18, 2024

- July 18, 2024

**Agenda Item 9: Public Comment**

There was no oral comment.

Written Comment submitted by Sanofi.

**Agenda Item 10: Adjournment**

Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair, provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Below is the link to the archived video of the August 28, 2023, Texas Diabetes Council meeting that can be viewed approximately two years from date of meeting. (To view and listen to the entirety of the meeting and public comment provided click on the link below).

[Texas Diabetes Council](#)