Discussion for the 2024 Recommendations Report

Human Resource Infrastructure

Binational Initiatives
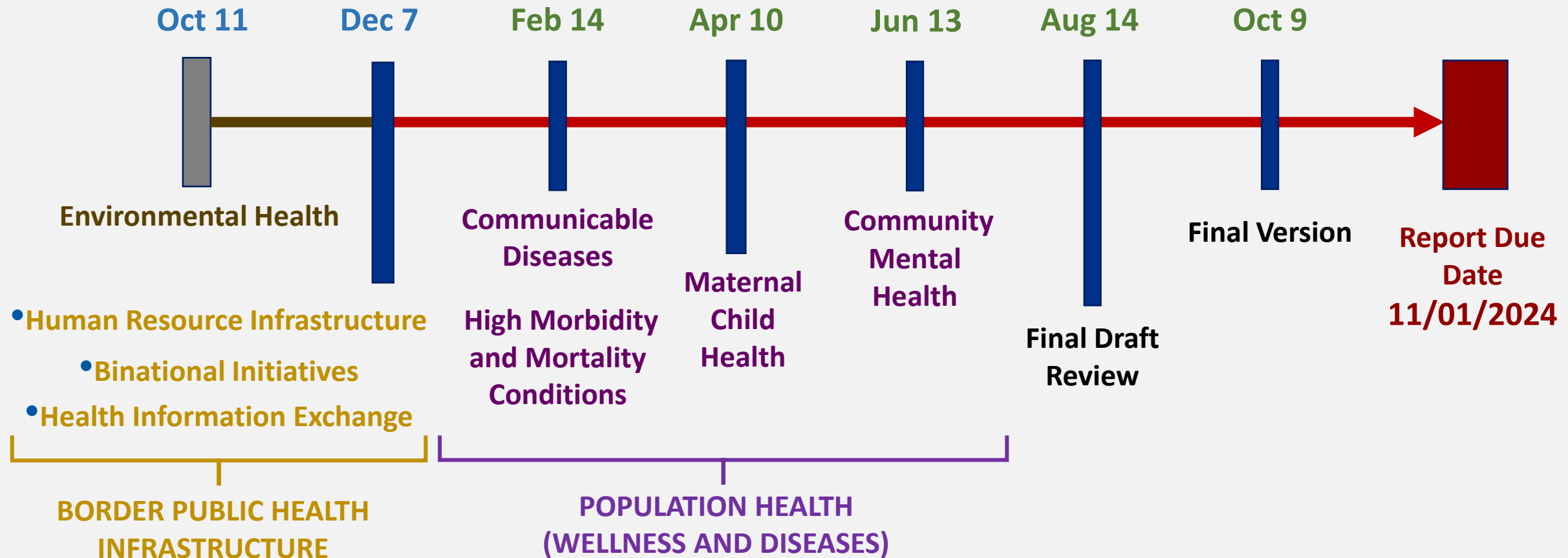
Health Information Exchange

Task Force of Border Health Officials Meeting

December 7, 2023

2023-2024 Report Timeline Overview

Scheduled Meetings 2023-2024

TOPICS TO DISCUSS DURING EACH MEETING

Oct 11	Dec 7	Feb 14	Apr 10	Jun 13	Aug 14	Oct 9	

Environmental Health

Communicable Diseases

High Morbidity and Mortality Conditions

Maternal Child Health

Community Mental Health

Final Draft Review

Final Version

Report Due Date 11/01/2024

- **Human Resource Infrastructure**
  - **Binational Initiatives**
- **Health Information Exchange**

BORDER PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

POPULATION HEALTH (WELLNESS AND DISEASES)

Recommendations Discussion Guidelines

- Members may take turns leading the discussion for each topic
- The recommendations must be differentiated between **long-term** and **short-term** per legislative mandate:
    - HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE CHAPTER 120. TASK FORCE OF BORDER HEALTH OFFICIALS (texas.gov)
- The discussion will be based on the proposed recommendations submitted by Members before each meeting
    - New recommendations may be generated during the meeting because of the discussion
- All Members should participate in the discussions
- OBPH support staff will modify the proposed recommendations according to the discussion during the meeting
- The Chair may select Members to meet as a subcommittee to conduct additional work on proposed recommendations that are not resolved during the meeting
- The recommendations may be discussed and modified by Members until the August 14 final draft review deadline

Human Resource Infrastructure Short-term Recommendations

1. **Promote and get more medical volunteers for Operation Border Health Preparedness.**

2. **Establish that Medical Residents have some time allocated through a health department.**

3. **Increase access to healthcare services for underserved communities along the border.**
   - This may involve mobile clinics, telemedicine, or partnerships with nonprofit organizations to provide medical care to vulnerable populations.
   - Increase funding for primary and behavioral public health services staff.

TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

Human Resource Infrastructure Long-term Recommendations

1. **Establish a border health-specific curriculum for CMEs for providers.**
2. **Eliminating Medical Underserved Designations.**
   - Advocate for legislation and funding to cultivate local healthcare talent.
   - Support the expansion of residency programs
   - Develop community health and look-a-like centers.
   - Integrate telemedicine as a permanent healthcare component.
   - Invest in healthcare infrastructure to enhance healthcare access and eliminate medically underserved designations.
   - Ensure sustainable, locally grown healthcare solutions along the Texas-Mexico border.

TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Binational Initiatives

Discussion:

- Long-term Recommendations
- Short-term Recommendations

Health Information Exchange Short-term Recommendations

1. **Continue to access health data through an HIE to save lives and improve healthcare quality**

    - The border region has initiated many HIEs for several years, which facilitate the flow of health data to healthcare providers in the most efficient way possible.

    - Institutional clinical health outcomes improve while improving community health in real time.

    - Alerts and trends can be shared with community leaders to manage public health in the decision-making process that supports a robust surveillance system.

Health Information Exchange Long-term Recommendations

1. **Expanding the number of partnerships to include public health departments access**
   - This variable is not available to everyone and affects the public health surveillance system to potential aid in preventing local outbreaks.
   - The data analysis should be built to support public health initiatives such as learning health systems and direct community clinical care strategies aimed at improving population health.
   - That would aid in strategy and policy development on the border.

Health Information Exchange Long-term Recommendations

2. **Initiate cross-border collaboration between US and Mexican states**

   - That can help identifying sooner cases like Fungal meningitis outbreak and reducing the number of people impacted.

3. **Fund to cover the cost of implementation for maintenance and operations**

   - Is taking a decade to bring an implementation system that can be described as functional to all stakeholders.

Thank you!

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Office of
Border
Public Health