
Texas Diabetes Council (TDC)
FINAL: Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 19, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Physical Location: Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Robert D. Moreton Building
Room M100, First Floor
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756
Teams Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 1: Call to order, roll call, and welcoming remarks

Dr. Stephan Ponder, Vice-Chair, called the Texas Diabetes Council (TDC) meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Jessica Arevalo, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) read the logistical announcements and stated the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ms. Arevalo conducted the member roll call and announced the presence or absence of quorum.

Table 1: The Texas Diabetes Council member attendance at the October 19, 2023 meeting.

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
Mr. Chris Carmona	Y	Ms. Maryanne Strobel	N
Mr. Dirrell Jones	Y	Mr. John Trischitti, III	Y
Dr. Gary Francis	Y	Dr. Christine Wicke	Y
Ms. Sharon Lemons	Y	Dr. Kelly Fegan – Bohm Non-Voting Member	N
Ms. Aida (Letty) Moreno Brown	Y	Dr. Mitchel Abramsky (Dr. Larry Lewellyn attending)	N
Dr. Stephen Ponder (Vice Chair)	Y	Ms. Lisa Golden Non-Voting Member	Y
Dr. Ninfa Pena-Purcell	Y	Mr. Blaise Duran Non-Voting Member	N
Mr. Jason Ryan	Y	Ms. Umme Salama Oan Ali Non-Voting Member	Y

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of November 16, 2022, draft meeting minutes

Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair, referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. Hearing none, Dr. Ponder called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023, meeting.

Motion: Dr. Gary Francis moved to approve the minutes as presented from the August 28, 2023, meeting. Mr. Carmona seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 8 yeas (Carmona, Francis, Lemons, Ponder, Pena-Purcell, Ryan, Trischitti, Wicke), 0 nays, and 3 abstentions from (Jones, Moreno-Brown, Strobel).

Agenda Item 3: Presentation: Clinical Pharmacy Practitioners in Diabetes

Management- Dr. Christine Wicke, Pharm.D

Highlights from Dr. Wicke's presentation:

- A Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner (CPP) is an advanced practice pharmacist provider with expertise in comprehensive medication management.
- CPPs have proven to improve access to care, quality, and cost of care to patients through chronic disease management (including diabetes).
- CPPs work under a Scope of Practice.
- The return on investment is \$5 for every dollar spent on a clinical pharmacy practitioner.
- The pharmacist's role on the care team includes the following: management of medication-related adverse events; ongoing and acute medication monitoring; identification of medication related side effects; treat and manage acute and chronic conditions; treat and manage Veteran's based on public health priorities; provide preventative and supportive care.
- Generally during a visit with a patient, the CPP reconciles medications, develops patient-centered therapeutic plans, and monitors tolerability, adherence, and response to treatment.
- In Texas, CPPs are working in Community Care, Baylor Scott and White, and the VA.

Agenda Item 4: Consideration of TDC Bylaws

Rachel Wiseman provided an overview of the bylaws.

- The bylaws have been finalized and are ready to be voted on.
- Council members reviewed the draft bylaws a few meetings back and the edits were incorporated.
- A few additions were made to the draft bylaws and came from statute.
- Additions included: council member restrictions, resignations, vacancies, and removal of council members.
- Assignments to workgroups isn't applied to the two standing workgroups but is applied for completing specific tasks such as the State Plan.

The vetting process for potential members is extensive. A background check and an application that must be updated annually are part of the vetting process. The Office of the Governor vets all potential council members and DSHS does not play a role in the process.

Motion: Mr. Jason Ryan moved to approve the bylaws. Dr. Gary Francis seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with 10 yeas

(Carmona, Jones, Francis, Lemons, Moreno-Brown, Ponder, Pena-Purcell, Ryan, Trischitti, Wicke), 0 nays, and 1 abstention from (Strobel).

Agenda Item 5: Updates from Workgroups

Highlights of the updates on each of the two subcommittees include:

a. Health Professionals Outcomes Workgroup (HPOW)

Dr. Stephen Ponder provided a verbal update.

- There will be a Grand Rounds presentation in November 2024 on enhancing public awareness on eye health complications related to diabetes.
- A sub-committee will be formed that focuses on expanding the use of automated diabetes technology and identifying best practice models.
- Dr. Ponder is having an ongoing collaboration with a subcommittee focused on training school personnel who are not diabetes professionals.
- Differences between HPOW and AOW were discussed.
- Expanding awareness of HPOW was discussed. Ideas include:
 - Social media
 - Create a short video on HPOW
 - Invite healthcare professionals to attend the HPOW meetings

b. Advocacy and Outreach Workgroup (AOW)

Mr. Jason Ryan provided a verbal update.

- Workgroup focused on two items in the State Plan.
 - Increase access to insulin and diabetes treatments.
 - Encourage Texas Medicaid to add all approved weight loss and obesity medications to the Medicaid Formulary.
 - The workgroup will draft a letter for council's consideration during the January 2024 meeting.
- Reducing health disparities for all Texans with diabetes and/or obesity by reaching out to organizations and coordinating with regards to disparities.
- Brief discussion on AOW's 2024 activities, which includes having stronger working relationship with members of the legislature.
- Requests guidance from DSHS on how council members can interact with legislators as council members.
- A new vice-chair is needed for AOW.

Agenda Item 6a: Activities Outlined in the State Plan

- Almost two decades ago, TDC was instrumental in getting insulin pumps covered.
- Diabetes technologies are part of management for all people with diabetes.
 - Part of the emphasis of the council is to make sure that all Texans have access to the different diabetes technologies.

Agenda Item 6b: Grand Rounds

- Dr. Pamela Thornton who works at NIH will be the January 2024 Grand Rounds speaker and will present on diabetes and health disparities.

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- Dr. Thornton was one of the authors in an article about social determinants of health and diabetes that was published by ADA in 2020.
 - The Grand Rounds presentation will be January 31, 2024, from 11:00am to 12:30pm.

Agenda Item 7: Updates from State Agency Representatives

a. Department of State Health Services- Ms. Rachel Wiseman, Chronic Disease Unit Director, DSHS provided the update.

No DSHS DPCP Staffing Updates

DPCP Program Updates

- The *2023 Assessment of State Agency Programs for the Prevention and Treatment of Diabetes Report* has been submitted to the governor and lieutenant governor's offices as well as the Speaker of the House, committee chairs, and the Legislative Budget Board. It was published on the DSHS website and was made available by email to all council members.
- Similarly, the *Texas Diabetes Council 2023 State Plan to Prevent and Treat Diabetes and Obesity Report* was published on the DSHS website and sent by email to all council members. Both reports can be found at www.dshs.texas.gov/about-dshs/legislative-information/legislative-reports.
- Diabetes News You Can Use is a quarterly newsletter regularly published in November, February, May, and August
 - Audience is a mix of people living with diabetes and professionals working in the field of diabetes.
 - DNYCU features updates on diabetes research, diabetes events in Texas, diabetes webinars and conferences, and well as Texas specific resources and programs.
- DPCP hosts 2 diabetes state engagement calls for contractors each year. Meetings cover various challenges and barriers organizations face when implementing diabetes prevention and management programs and how they address them, as well as presentations from experts on requested topics. The next call is in November and will feature a presentation on the DSMES accreditation process by the National Center for Farmworkers Health.
- The DPCP team is working to update and revise diabetes education materials such as the Could You Have Diabetes brochure, Could You Have Prediabetes brochure, Taking Charge of Your Health, and Food for Life. We anticipate they will be ready in early 2024 and will be distributed through the DSHS website and partners.

CDC-RFA-DP18-1815 Highlights

- CDC-RFA-DP18-1815 grant implementation took place from June 30, 2018 to June 29, 2023.
- During the 5 years of the grant, DSHS contracted with the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), University of Texas Health Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston), The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler (UTHealth East Texas), the University of Texas College of Pharmacy (UTCOP), The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), and the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council (DFWHC). Throughout the 5 years:
 - UTMB trained 53 lifestyle change coaches for National DPP (NDPP) classes in the Houston/Galveston area.
 - UTHealth Houston, through a subcontract with the National Center for Farmworkers Health (NCFH), helped 11 Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support

(DSMES) providers to meet requirements for ADCES accreditation and achieve accreditation.

- UTHealth East Texas established electronic referral systems for people with prediabetes to the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) at 23 clinics across East Texas over the course of the grant.
- UTEP established six new DSMES sites using a curriculum targeting Latino and Hispanic men.
- DFWHC identified and referred over 5,000 patients living with prediabetes to NDPP from 4 clinics in the DFW area. EMR systems were used as the primary method of referral. DFWHC-ERF worked with clinical IT departments to create new referral pathways and patient identification systems to facilitate patient referral to NDPP.
- UTEP helped 10 pharmacies meet ADCES accreditation requirements and achieve accreditation for DSMES classes provided.
- Finally, over 650 individuals were confirmed to be enrolled into DPP lifestyle change classes as a result of the 1815 CDC funding over the course of the 5-year grant cycle. This was a result of UTMB, UTHealth Houston, UTHealth East Texas, and DFWHC's work. Enrolled patients were referred through various EMR systems.

CDC-RFA-DP-23-0020 Grant

- In preparation for the upcoming CDC-RFA-DP-23-0020 5-year grant, program staff attended an in-person grant orientation hosted by CDC. Other DPCP team members attended virtually.
 - CDC and its partners provided great insight on possible directions for grant work for each of the grant strategies. Staff met and interacted with recipients from other states and learned about their perspective and approach on grant strategies and relevant activities.
- DSHS will be coordinating collaboration among all Texas CDC grant recipients for the different components of the grant.
- For this grant, DSHS is contracting with UTHealth Houston, University of Texas Health Center at East Texas, Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council-Education and Research Foundation (DFWHC), and UTMB to:
 - Increase access to DSMES.
 - Improve quality of care for priority populations.
 - Increase enrollment and retention in the NDPP. This includes the adoption of an online National DPP platform.
 - Improve the sustainability and engagement of community health workers in evidence-based diabetes interventions.
 - Support the development of multi-directional e-referral systems between health care systems and community-based organizations to address non-medical drivers of health and connect patients to DPP and DSMES.
 - Pilot a family-centered childhood obesity program as a diabetes prevention strategy.

GR Funded Partner FY23 Highlights:

- During Fiscal Year 2023, DSHS contracted with San Antonio Metro Health District, UTMB, City of Houston Health Department, City of Laredo Health Department, Northeast Texas Health, and City of El Paso Health Department to provide DSMES classes, DPP classes, create diabetes related tools/trainings, and referrals to diabetes related services.
- Some highlights from the past year:

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- San Antonio Metro completed 11 DSMES and 10 DPP class series. The average participant count was 5 for each, DSMES and DPP.
 - UTMB completed 5 DSMES and 5 DPP class series. The average participant count was 3 for DSMES and 6 for DPP.
 - City of Houston completed 4 DSMES and 4 DPP class series. The average participant count was 9 for DSMES and 10 for DPP.
 - City of Laredo completed 8 DMSES and 4 DPP class series. The average participant count was 18 for DSMES and 4 for DPP.
 - NET Health completed 3 DSMES and 1 DPP class series. The average participant count was 4 for DSMES and 5 for DPP.
 - City of El Paso focused on creating diabetes related tools and trainings for educators, including guidelines on using glucometers in coordination with patient assessment and referral. City of El Paso Health Department referred 169 individuals to existing diabetes related services in El Paso.

GR Funded Partners FY24

- For Fiscal Year 2024, in addition to the contractors from FY23, DSHS started a new contract with Texas A&M Coastal Bend.
 - They will be providing DSMES and DPP classes to South Texas and border regions.

Comments discussed after DSHS updates.

- The CDC grants are very prescriptive for state health departments. DSHS can share the strategies they are working on and what their partners are doing during future TDC meetings.
- The grants are written months in advance through a collaborative effort between program staff.
- DSHS Diabetes Prevention and Control Program was fully funded in the amount of \$1.2 million from the CDC which is due to the great grant application staff wrote.
- Partners were identified during the grant writing process. Primary partners have already been selected, but DSHS is always open to working with collaborators.

b. Health and Human Services- Dr. Larry Lewellyn, Associate Medical Director, HHSC, provided the update.

- HHSC has been selected by the Center for Healthcare Strategies as one of the states to participate in the Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Accelerator grant that will start in September and last 12 to 18 months.
 - The grant will provide \$75,000 and the goals of the HHSC policy department include researching the most effective ways to increase CGM access among their clients.
 - Grant money will be used to study current implementation, disparities, barriers, policy needs, and education of providers and patients regarding continuous glucose monitoring.
 - Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and South Dakota were the other states selected to participate.
- The HHSC policy department has opened the continuous glucose monitoring and diabetes equipment and supplies policy to review and update. Developing the draft is in progress to better align with the ADA updates published in January 2023.

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- The policy was opened for revisions to remove barriers to obtaining continuous glucose monitors such as requirements for a minimum number of insulin injections or finger sticks per day.
 - There isn't a timeline on when the policy will be revised.
 - HHSC is working on providing a solution to the new Omnipod devices through the pharmacy, rather than through durable medical equipment vendors.
 - This solution is based on something manufacturers requested/demanded.
 - This change may have to be approved through CMS.
 - HHSC will publish a provider notice as soon as Omnipod policy updates are available.
 - Policies for diabetes self-management education and support (DSMES) and medical nutrition therapy (MNT) are under development.
 - HB 2658 was passed during the 87th regular session and required a study to examine cost effectiveness and improved health outcomes for DSMES and MNT.
 - This bill requires approval from the Legislative Budget Board before implementation of a proposed benefit.
 - The study is underway, and the provision of these services appears to be fiscally sound and helpful.

c. Teacher Retirement System of Texas- Ms. Umme Salama Oan Ali, TRS

- No TRS updates.

d. Employees Retirement System of Texas- Mr. Blaise Duran, ERS

- No ERS updates.

e. Texas Workforce Commission- Ms. Lisa Golden, TWC, provided the update.

- The Texas Confidence Builder training trains diabetes educators on providing diabetes services to people with disabilities and was held this week.
- White Cane Day was on Saturday and was celebrated in Austin on October 18, 2023.
 - White Cane Day is celebrated on different days around the state.
- An update was made to the website which has made it difficult for people to reach the Vocational Rehabilitation program.
 - If someone needs assistance, they should email Ms. Lisa Golden (Lisa.Golden@twc.texas.gov) or call TWC at 1-800-628-5115.

Agenda Item 8: Announcements

- No announcements.

Agenda Item 9: Review of action items and agenda items for next meeting

- Future agenda topics were discussed and proposed.
- January 2024 agenda:
 - Ginger Papesh will present on enhancing access to medical/pharmacologic weight loss therapies-help with obesity and diabetes during the January 25, 2024, TDC

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- meeting. Ms. Papesh is the Regional Account Manager - Southwestern Texas for Novo Nordisk.
 - Information on the abilities and limitations council members have regarding interaction with legislators.
 - Review the AOW draft letter to Texas Medicaid.
 - Potential April 2024 agenda items:
 - Presentation: Promoting automated insulin delivery systems.
 - Endorse Clinical Pharmacy Practitioners.
 - Some council members indicated they would prefer to not have speakers from corporations give presentations during TDC meetings.

Agenda Item 10: Upcoming Meeting Dates

All meetings will start at 1:00pm and the workgroup meetings will be the mornings the day of the council meetings.

- January 25, 2024
- April 18, 2024
- July 18, 2024

Agenda Item 11: Public Comment

There was no oral or written public comment.

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment

Dr. Stephen Ponder, Vice-Chair, provided closing remarks, and adjourned the meeting 3:06 p.m.

Below is the link to the archived video recording of the Texas Diabetes Council meeting to view and listen for approximately, two years from date meeting is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule.

<https://texashhsc.v3.swagit.com/videos/277037>