

**PHR 9/10 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 28th, 2023
10 AM – 11 AM**

Microsoft TEAMS

Table 1: PHR 9/10 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee member attendance at 09/28/2023 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Babiarz, Taylor	x				
Heyman Compton, Bobbi	x				
Fleming, Rhonda	x				
Mattimoe, Gordon	x				
Rivera, Miguel	x				

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Call to Order

Vanessa Pierce called meeting to order at 10:04 am. Noted that cameras and microphones should be on when an attendee is speaking and off when not speaking.

Agenda Item 2: Meeting minutes approval

Vanessa Pierce explained that the previous meeting minutes need to be reviewed and approved by the committee members. Dr. Rhonda Fleming motioned for a vote to approve the minutes. Dr. Gordon Mattimoe seconded the motion. Vanessa Pierce stated the vote could be conducted orally and called each members’ names to vote. The minutes passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: All chairs meeting feedback

Vanessa Pierce stated that an all-chairs meeting was held on September 14th, 2023. She gave time to PHR 9/10 chair, Miguel Rivera, to explain his thoughts on this meeting. Miguel Rivera shared the ASRAC chairs agreed that very little antimicrobial stewardship was taking place in long-term care facilities across Texas, mostly likely due to lack of resources, education, etc. Education on how to use an antibiogram is needed.

Agenda Item 4: Regional antibiograms for all facilities

This agenda item was suggested in the first PHR 9/10 ASRAC meeting. Bobbi Heyman Compton explained that long-term care facilities are heavily regulated by Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, etc. Her facility has AS-knowledgeable staff but resources are limited. Available trainings on antimicrobial use and stewardship are overwhelming. There is not enough time to complete said trainings. Only one person in her facility (herself) has been able to complete the training. Physicians are contracted on a rotating basis for this facility, so training varies by person and AS enforcement is difficult.

Dr. Rhoda Fleming explained that many facilities are lacking protocols for antibiotic prescribing and treatment continuity. Antibigram education across all healthcare positions is needed, even if a person is not the prescriber.

Bobbi Heyman Compton stated that her facility sends isolates to two hospital laboratories. One of these labs reports back antibiograms for all their specimens, not necessarily helping one specific facility.

Miguel Rivera stated that his facility offers antibiogram education for all staff, especially nurses and nursing students. He explains that this training has been helpful at the teaching hospital.

Dr. Taylor Babiarz suggested that pharmacists be involved in antibiogram education, as they should have helpful training and experience.

Vanessa Palacios, PHR 9/10 representative, stated that the regional health department epidemiologists held a meet and greet to increase connections that may have been lost due to COVID. She offered herself and her team as resources for the ASRAC committee members.

Dr. Jennifer Lee-Pearce introduced herself as the Director of the Healthcare Safety Unit. She stated that legislation is being introduced that may require more infection preventionists and infection prevention practices in facilities across Texas. With Texas facilities already lacking resources, this legislation would need to be prepared for.

Agenda Item 5: Long-term care facilities not reporting accurately

Vanessa Pierce introduced this agenda item as one that was suggested in the previous meeting.

Miguel Rivera explained that his local health department annually brings his facility posters and other materials to hang around the building and increase awareness of infection prevention.

Bobbi Heyman Compton explained that there is not enough staff in long-term care facilities to ensure complete and accurate reporting on time. There is a time lag when staffing is short.

Vanessa Palacios stated that her epidemiology team was small; four people. PHR 9/10 has a significant level of turnover in the epidemiology field which creates issues in following-up on investigations, complete and accurate reporting, etc. Dr. Lee-Pearce corroborated this statement, sharing that the Healthcare Safety Unit also has trouble maintaining an epidemiologist in this

region. High-level qualifications are required by DSHS that limit the pool of applicants. Tactics to keep an epidemiologist have included lowering the credential requirements, offering remote work, offering trainings and promotions, etc.

Agenda Item 6: Defining healthcare associated infections in the region

This item was not discussed.

Agenda Item 7: Defining required reportable diseases

This item was not discussed.

Agenda Item 8: Outpatient antimicrobials stewardship

This item was not discussed.

Agenda Item 9: Public comment and open forum

Vanessa Pierce opened the floor to any public comments and open forum comments.

Sherri Mead shared that the annual Long-Term Care Conference will be in August 2024. The Quality Monitoring Program and conference planners are always looking for speakers and would consider AS and/or antibiograms for a topic. She will share registration information with Vanessa Pierce to distribute to ASRAC members. Vanessa Pierce suggested offering a virtual component, if possible, to allow easier access for PHR 9/10 residents.

Agenda Item 10: Set next meeting date

Vanessa Pierce explained the next PHR 9/10 meeting will be in 2024.

Agenda Item 11: Adjournment

Vanessa Pierce adjourned the meeting at 10:52 AM. Everyone exchanged thanks.