

**Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC)
Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, October 15, 2020, 10:00 a.m.**

Teleconference from Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

There was not a physical location for this meeting.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/764937637>

Call-in Number: +1 (872) 240-3412

Access Code: 764-937-637

Members Attending

David Allen, D.N.P., RN, CCNS-BC, CCRN

Jimmy Blanton, M.P.Aff.

Carol Boswell, Ed.D., RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN

Kimberly N. Haynes, D.M.D.

Trina Ita, M.A.

Doris J. Jackson, DHA

Elizabeth Protas (Chair), P.T., Ph.D.

Melinda Rodriguez, PT, DPT

Courtney Sherman, DNP, RN, WHNP-BC

Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D.

Bharath Thankavel, M.D.

D. Bailey Wynne, R.Ph., M.H.A.

Yasser Zeid, M.D.

Shaukat Zakaria

Members Absent

Chelsea Elliott

Stacey Silverman, Ph.D.

DSHS Representative not Nominated at this time

Staff Present

Nicole Avellanet, MPH, Research Specialist, Health Professions Resource Center

Ann Barnett, MS, MS, Manager, Health Provider Resources Branch

Ashlee Bledsoe, Ph.D., MA, Program Director, Health Professions Resource Center

Kayla Davis, MPH, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Zachary Flores, GA Aide, Governmental Affairs

John Hellerstedt, MD, Commissioner, DSHS

Jordan Hill, Legislative Liaison, Governmental Affairs

Pamela Lauer, MPH, Program Director, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Anne Nordhaus, MA, Research Specialist, Health Professions Resource Center

Raiza Ruiz, Program Specialist, Chronic Disease Epidemiology

Matt Turner, Ph.D., MPH, Manager, Agency Analytics Unit

Lisa Wyman, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health Statistics

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<p>1. Chairman’s Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Dr. Protas called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Dr. Bledsoe was welcomed. It was announced that members should state their name for the record when making comments. Instead of taking all responses, Dr. Protas announced that she would only ask for nay responses in order to streamline the process via web conference. Dr. Bledsoe took roll. Dr. Protas welcomed the council members present.</p>
<p>2. Establish a Quorum – Roll Call and Possible Action to Approve Excused Absences</p>	<p>A quorum was established. Ms. Elliott requested an excused absence. A motion to approve excused absences was made by Dr. Rodriguez and seconded by Dr. Boswell. The motion carried.</p>
<p>Review of October 15, 2020 Agenda</p>	<p>The agenda was reordered to have item 6 occur after item 2 and item 7 occur after item 4.</p>
<p>3. SHCC Discussion and Possible Action to Approve June 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>A review of the June 4, 2020 minutes elicited no revisions. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Boswell and seconded by Ms. Wynne. The motion carried.</p>
<p>4. SHCC Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2021-2022 Update to the State Health Plan (SHP)</p>	<p>Dr. Protas initiated a discussion regarding feedback from the Governor’s office concerning the 2021-2022 Update to the SHP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regarding exceptions on conscience and religious exemptions, it was requested that the language be changed to “monitor the impact of vaccine exemptions.” ○ Mr. Blanton discussed that about one percent opt out and that positive messaging could be added to the policy recommendation. ○ Ms. Wynne discussed that there is research that the current recommendation works well. Ms. Wynne also discussed that lots of exemptions are not based in religion and fall under “nonmedical exemptions.” ○ Dr. Thankavel discussed that, even though the percentage opting out may be small, there has been a rise of actual infections of vaccine preventable diseases. • Maternal Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was requested that the language be changed regarding the Medicaid policy recommendation,

	<p>specifically, that the 12-month Medicaid expansion language be removed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was discussed that senate bill 750, which passed in the previous legislative session, expanded reproductive health services and should be monitored and researched before any other major policy change. ○ Dr. Zeid was strongly opposed to the removal of the Medicaid expansion recommendation. Dr. Zeid discussed that the Healthy Texas Women program does not address many chronic health issues (such as hypertension) that account for much of maternal mortality. ○ Dr. Protas discussed budget shortfall. Dr. Protas also discussed that the SHCC can work in a subcommittee to soften the language and set up a meeting to approve at a later date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rural Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The feedback was to remove explicit language about Medicaid expansion. ○ The council discussed that, due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the insurance situation is rapidly changing and the SHCC could consider language related to monitoring. ○ Ms. Wynne discussed that the SHCC can only make recommendations that the Governor supports. <p>SHCC members interested in working to address this feedback should contact Dr. Bledsoe.</p>
<p>5. Round-Table Discussion on Areas of Interest for Next SHP</p>	<p>Due to the extended discussion regarding the current SHP Update, Dr. Protas moved this item to the next SHCC meeting.</p>
<p>6. Dr. John Hellerstedt's Address to SHCC</p>	<p>Dr. Hellerstedt addressed the SHCC regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Hellerstedt discussed health disparities and mental health provider shortages that have been extremely prevalent during the pandemic. Dr. Hellerstedt also discussed broadband access and other initiatives.</p> <p>Dr. Hellerstedt discussed that public health will be a priority for the upcoming legislative session but that funding availability is uncertain.</p>

	<p>Dr. Hellerstedt highlighted the current work at DSHS, including the AIM Initiative and Healthy Texas Babies Initiative. Dr. Hellerstedt emphasized that people are the most important resource, even as the number of workers stays the same but need and population size increase.</p> <p>Dr. Hellerstedt emphasized the importance of collaborating on the local level and of partnering with other organizations. Dr. Hellerstedt highlighted immunization coalitions and working with local communities for physical activity and nutrition initiatives. Dr. Hellerstedt also highlighted immunization education and partnerships at DSHS.</p> <p>Dr. Hellerstedt emphasized prevention regarding COVID-19. Dr. Hellerstedt discussed the potential of COVID-19 to be dangerous, the recent uptick in cases, and the importance of masks. Dr. Hellerstedt emphasized the general acceptance of masks and asked that the SHCC echo these prevention messages.</p> <p>Dr. Sparks shared her COVID-19 story. Dr. Rodriguez also shared her experience with COVID-19. Dr. Rodriguez asked about a potential vaccine and the SHCC's involvement. Dr. Hellerstedt announced that the COVID-19 vaccine panel would be announced soon.</p>
<p>7. Presentation on and SHCC Discussion of Trauma Care by Dr. Eduardo Perez</p>	<p>Dr. Perez, from Texas State University, discussed his research in decision modeling, uncertainty, and trauma care in Texas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This research is directly related to the previous SHP Update, which included a section on trauma care and access.
<p>8. SHCC Agency Representatives' Reports</p>	<p>a. Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): Ms. Ita and Mr. Blanton provided an update on HHSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ita discussed continuity of care, getting providers to use the most recent DSHS information, provider communication with local health departments, and resources being supplied to providers. Ms. Ita also discussed emergency rules, telehealth expansion, and the COVID-19 mental health support line that is being operated by the Harris Center. • Mr. Blanton discussed Medicaid and alternative payment models, including value-based payment. Mr. Blanton also discussed upcoming legislative reports and delivery system reform incentive payments. <p>b. DSHS: No update was provided.</p>

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	c. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: No update was provided.
9. Report on SHCC Representation on the HHSC E-Health Advisory Committee	No update was provided.
10. Health Professions Resource Center and SHCC Coordinator's Report	Dr. Bledsoe provided an update on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHP Update; • Processing of licensure files and new fact sheets; and • Texas Primary Care Office's needs assessment and Conrad 30 program.
11. Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Report	Ms. Lauer provided an update on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming studies: staffing, advanced practice registered nurses, workplace violence, and school nurses; • Updated nursing data dashboards; • Supply and demand data approved at the previous advisory committee meeting; • Policy meeting held on October 14, 2020 regarding nursing supply projections; and • Nursing education survey data collections.
12. Administrative Items and Next Steps	a. 2021 tentative SHCC meeting dates: February 25, June 17, and October 14. b. Dr. Salil Deshpande resignation and SHCC appointment of replacement SHCC member. c. Farewell to Matt Turner.
13. Public Comment and Adjourn	Ms. Sonja Burns addressed the SHCC regarding residential care and traumatic brain injuries (TBIs). Ms. Burns discussed her brother at the Austin State Hospital, the importance of the continuum of care, and a 2016 recommendation for more beds at state hospitals. Ms. Burns also discussed that, when there is a lack of long-term care facilities, oftentimes people end up in jail, which can also result in TBIs. Ms. Burns also discussed the lack of studies related to TBIs and those that need long-term care. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Haynes and seconded by Dr. Jackson. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.