



June Minutes - Revised State Health Services Council Meeting

Department of State Health Services
Robert E. Moreton Building, M-739
1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, Texas
Thursday, June 30, 2005
10:00 a.m.

Chair's Welcome and Introduction of Guests: Dr. Arredondo called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

Members Present:

Rudy Arredondo, Ed.D., Council Chair - Lubbock
Lewis Foxhall, M.D. - Houston
James Springfield - Harlingen

Glenda Kane - Corpus Christi
Jeffrey Ross, M.D. - Houston

Members Absent: Beverly Barron, - Odessa; Jaime Davidson, M.D. - Dallas.

Registered Guests: Starr West, Texas Hospital Association; Aaryce Hayes, Advocacy, Inc.; Joe Lovelace, NAMI-Texas; Laura Wolford, Legislative Budget Board; Ardas Khab, HHSC; Monica Thyssen, Advocacy, Inc.; Elizabeth Sjober, Texas Hospital Association; Kimberly Johnson, Hogg Foundation; Dan Krwsy, HHSC; Tom Valentine, HHSC;

Agenda Item #1 - Approval of Minutes: The Council voted to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2005 meeting.

Agenda Item #2 - Public Comments:

- Ms. Aaryce Hayes encouraged the Council to ensure that crisis services meet the needs of individuals with mental illness throughout the state.

Agenda Item #3 - Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Exercise Update – Randy Fritz:

- The SNS exercise will be August 8-9, 2005 in Health Service Regions 2/3 (Arlington), 4/5 (Tyler), and upper part of 7 (Temple). The purpose of this exercise is to test and evaluate all aspects of state, regional and local Strategic National Stockpile plans in order to: involve public health, emergency management and other partners in an integrated and coordinated state, regional and local SNS response; identify gaps and issues to improve SNS planning; demonstrate state's preparedness to achieve GREEN rating; and thoroughly test and measure dispensing throughput. Additional information regarding this presentation can be found at:
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/agendas/063005/3Brief.pdf>

Agenda Item #4 - Proposed Fee Increases Updates:

a. Proposed Fee Increases and Vital Statistics Program Update – Randy Fritz:

- DSHS Vital Statistics Unit is working with the Department of Information Resources (DIR) and Texas Online to make digitized vital records available as part of a major customer service improvement project to automate and streamline customer service. This project will take approximately 5 years to complete. Vital records would be imaged by outside contractors.

- Funeral homes will soon be able to register deaths online to ensure that death records become available as soon as possible to the consumer.
- The DIR Board has approved an opportunity proposal to establish a \$10 fee increase to birth, death, and marriage certificates as a method to finance this project.
- Staff are working on a rule to bring to the Council and HHSC to approve a \$10 fee increase and a \$1 increase in overall vital record fees to assist in financing the improvement and maintenance of vital records.

b. Proposed Fee Increases and Regulatory Program Update – Richard Bays:

- Legislature approved licensing appropriations at 95% with the remaining 5% coming from increase in regulatory licensing fees.
- The regulatory division is developing proposed rule modification to allow the fee increases to be effective by December 1, 2005.

Agenda Item #5 – Rule Actions for Public Comment:

- Repeals and New Rules Relating to First Responder Organizations, EMS Certification, EMS Recertification, and Paramedic Licensure. The Council voted to recommend to HHSC approval for publication of rules contained in this agenda item.
- Amendments to Rules Relating to Radiation Safety Requirements for Well Logging Service Operations and Tracer Studies. On a motion by Dr. Ross, seconded by Mr. Springfield, the Council voted to table or postpone this agenda item until the next meeting. On a motion by Mr. Springfield, seconded by Ms. Kane, the Council voted to reconsider its earlier motion. The Council then voted to recommend to HHSC approval for publication of rules contained in this agenda item.
- Amendments to Rules Relating to Standards for Protection Against Radiation from Radioactive Materials. The Council voted to recommend to HHSC approval for publication of rules contained in this agenda item.

Agenda Item #6 – Commissioner’s Report: Dr. Sanchez reviewed the following items as part of his report. Complete report can be found at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/commissioner/reports/CRJun05.pdf>

- Texas Partnership in Action Summit:** The Summit is scheduled for this fall. The purpose of this summit is to bring together partners to discuss and act on opportunities for partnership in action and to achieve consensus on actions and steps needed to implement new legislation.
- Funding requested for system-wide transformation of mental health services:** In collaboration with the governor’s office and other state agencies, DSHS submitted a grant application to the Center for Mental Health Services. Funding from this grant will allow DSHS to collaborate with other state agencies to develop a comprehensive statewide mental health plan to build a new infrastructure across all agencies that provide, fund, administer, or purchase mental health services.
- CSHCN clients to receive limited-services benefits:** As of May 31, the waiting list for services from the Children with Special Health Care Needs program has 875 clients on it. Any new clients coming on the waiting list will immediately gain access to the limited-services benefits. These limited services are offered through August 31 as long as funds remain available.
- Texas Cancer Registry gets support from Legislature and universities:** The Texas Legislature appropriated an additional \$1.8 million in funding that, along with a lawsuit settlement, provides the necessary resources requested by DSHS to allow the Cancer Registry to achieve the “gold standard level.” Five academic centers have joined with the Texas Cancer Registry to implement projects for improving the completeness, timeliness, and quality of cancer-incidence data.
- Partners responding to Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant cuts:** Regional and Local Services Section staff are working with the Texas Association of Local Health Officials, regions, and local health

departments on a contingency plan in response to the proposed reductions in the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. The available budget is about 30 percent less than the previous year's.

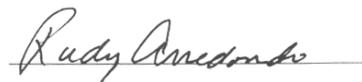
Dr. Ross provided information regarding his participation at the Obesity Task Force Strategic Planning Meeting and requested that Ms. Kim Bandelier provide an overview of the program at the August 2005 State Health Services Council meeting. Dr. Ross also reported on the Houston Mayor's Wellness Walk held at the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

- f. Plans under way for Health and Human Services integrated-benefits card:** The DSHS Nutrition Services Section and HHSC co-hosted a "joint application development" session to define preliminary specifications of an interpretive smart-card design that can accommodate WIC and other state benefit programs.
- g. Transportation inspection conducted on receipt of nuclear waste from Ohio:** On June 8, waste from the cleanup of a U.S. Department of Energy site in Fernald, Ohio, was received by a facility near Andrews. This shipment was the first of thousands expected over the next six months from the Ohio site. Inspections will be performed to confirm that the waste is transported and handled in compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation rules and the Texas Regulations for Control of Radiation.

Agenda Item#7 – Staff Briefings:

- a. Legislative Update:** Kirk Cole provided an overview of the legislative initiatives and the 79th Legislative Special Session. Information regarding legislative initiatives can be found at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/agendas/063005/7a.pdf>
- b. Appropriations Update:** Mabelle Pharr provided an overview of the FY 06-07 approved appropriations. Overview can be found at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/agendas/063005/7b.pdf>
- c. HHSC Update:** Tom Valentine reviewed HHSC Final Rules Process. Information regarding process can be found at: <http://www.hhs.state.tx.us/news/circulars/C-006.pdf>.
- d. CDC Senior Management Official's Report:** Mark Fussell this agenda item was deferred. Information regarding report can be found at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/agendas/063005/7dReport.pdf> and <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/council/agendas/063005/7dBrief.pdf>
- e. Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Outreach and Education Update:** Luis Morales provided the Council with outreach and education efforts that will be rolled out throughout the state to educate consumers about the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage program.
- f. Newborn Screening:** Agenda item deferred.

Adjournment: Dr. Arredondo adjourned the Council meeting at 2:57 p.m.


Dr. Rudy Arredondo, Chair

September 15, 2005
Date Approved by Council