



Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) APPROVED Meeting Minutes 1:00 p.m., April 10, 2024

Physical Location: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Robert D. Moreton Building, Room M-100, First Floor 1100 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756

TEAMS Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

Table 1: TFBHO attendance at the April 10, 2024, meeting.

Table with 6 columns: MEMBER NAME, YES, NO, MEMBER NAME, YES, NO. Rows include Dr. Richard Chamberlain, Ms. Esmeralda Guajardo, Bobby Guerra, Dr. Cynthia A. Gutiérrez, Ms. Shannon Harvill, Mr. Steven M. Kotsatos, Mr. Eduardo Olivarez, Dr. Emilie Prot, Dr. Lillian Ringsdorf, Dr. Arturo Rodriguez (Chair), Ms. Nancy P. Treviño, and VACANT (Ex Officio).

Agenda Item 1: Call to order, welcome, Chair remarks, meeting logistics, and Roll Call

Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Chair, convened the TFBHO meeting at 1:00 p.m., and welcomed attendees. Ms. Francesca Kupper, Program Specialist VI, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), provided logistical announcements, conducted the roll call, and noted a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of February 14, 2024, draft meeting minutes

Dr. Rodriguez called for any edits or changes to the draft February 14, 2024, meeting minutes. Receiving no edits or changes, Dr. Rodriguez called for a motion to approve the draft.

MOTION:

Dr. Richard Chamberlain moved to approve the February 14, 2024, draft meeting minutes as written. Dr. Cynthia Gutiérrez seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Update: DSHS Immunizations Unit

Ms. Cheryl Garcia, Nurse; Mr. Greg Leos, Director, Assessment, Compliance, and Epidemiology Branch; and Mr. Austin Knaplund, Vaccine Ordering Lead, Vaccine Operations Unit, all of them from Immunizations Unit, DSHS, provided members with an update on vaccinations. Along with them, Ms. Denise Reeder, Vaccine Operations Group Manager, Immunizations Unit, DSHS, answered some questions from members. Key points included:

- An additional dose of the 2023-2024 formula COVID-19 vaccine was recommended for people 65 years and older. The same for a chikungunya vaccine for people starting at 18 years traveling to areas with a chikungunya outbreak or evidence of chikungunya virus transmission among humans within the last 5 years.

- There is a new pentavalent meningococcal vaccine, which is a combination of quadrivalent MenACWY and MenB.
- The 32 border counties prebooked 19% of the state's flu doses, same as last flu season.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation: Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Ms. Gracia Dala, Nursing Workforce Analyst, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, and Ms. Clarissa Manuel, Healthcare Workforce Analyst, Health Professions Resource Center, both with the DSHS Center for Health Statistics, presented a PowerPoint titled "Health Care Workforce in the Texas Border Region". Highlights included:

- There are fewer providers of primary care and oral health in border counties than in the rest of the state. The ratio of general dentists has decreased throughout the state.
- Unmet demand for primary care physicians is expected to grow both statewide and in the border region. Overall greater unmet demand is in non-metro regions.
- The turnover rates of registered nurses are considerably higher in the border region than in the rest of the state for Government public health and hospitals.

Agenda Item 5: Presentation: The Transformation of Mexico's National Health System

Mr. Ulises Rangel Cruz, Technical Support Coordinator for the Under Secretary of Health Prevention and Promotion, Secretaría de Salud de México (Mexico's Secretary of Health, the counterpart to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/HHS), presented a PowerPoint titled "Health Coordination Centers for Well-being". Highlights included:

- Mexico's National Public Health Service consists of federal personnel deployed across the 32 Mexican states to provide collective health care.
- Each Mexican state serves as the local health authority. 23 Mexican States have federalized their state health care services through IMSS Bienestar.
- Health Coordination Centers for Well-being are being installed across Mexico.

Agenda Item 6: Discussion: 2023-2024 Recommendations Report

Dr. Rodriguez asked Ms. Shannon Harvill and Dr. Chamberlain to provide a high-level summary of the two work sessions convened in the morning prior to the meeting dedicated to the 2023-2024 Recommendations Report. Then Dr. Rodriguez asked Dr. Gutiérrez to lead the discussion about Maternal and Child Health. The results will be included in the 2023-2024 Recommendations Report.

Agenda Item 7: Public comment

No public comment was received.

Agenda Item 8: Closing remarks, thank you, and adjourn

Dr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Please click on the link to the archived HHSC video to view, and listen to, the entirety of the April 10, 2024, Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) meeting; this video will be available for approximately two years from the date the meeting video is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule:

[Task Force of Border Health Officials \(TFBHO\)](#)