



Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) APPROVED Meeting Minutes 1:00 p.m., October 3, 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 October 3, 2024, meeting.

Table with 6 columns: MEMBER NAME, YES, NO, MEMBER NAME, YES, NO. Rows list attendees like Dr. Richard Chamberlain, Ms. Esmeralda Guajardo, etc.

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, Project Manager, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, 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 August 14, 2024, draft meeting minutes

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

MOTION:

Mr. Steven Kotsatos moved to approve the August 14, 2024, draft meeting minutes as written. Dr. Richard Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Update from DSHS Immunizations Unit

Ms. Cheryl Garcia, Nurse; Ms. Nikki Jackson, Vaccine Data and Finance Group Manager; Ms. Nurriya Mohammad, Immunizations Epidemiologist; Mr. Emilio Gonzales, State Flu Coordinator; and Mr. Greg Leos, Director, Assessment, Compliance and Epidemiology Branch, both from Immunizations Unit, DSHS, provided members with an update on vaccinations. Key points included:

- Influenza vaccines were updated from quadrivalent to trivalent. Pediatric flu providers prebooked doses are being fulfilled weekly. Updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines are available for ordering.

- For RSV Infant Immunization, 10% of the total doses ordered of Nirsevimab have been sent to the 32 border counties.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation: Naval Health Research Center

Dr. Francisco Mimica Porras, Biosurveillance Department Head, Naval Health Research Center (NHRC), Operational Infectious Diseases Directorate, presented a Power Point titled, "Naval Health Research Center". Highlights included:

- One NHRC's objectives in the U.S. – Mexico border is to serve as an early warning system for respiratory and enteric disease outbreaks.
- Local health entities in the border region can become partners for sample collection.
- Biosurveillance network would incorporate vector-borne diseases and wastewater.

Agenda Item 5: Presentation: Drinking Water Public Health Assessments

Capt. Christen Glime, Supervisory Public Health Consultant, Office of Public Health, National Park Service, presented a Power Point titled, "NPS-OBH Drinking Water PH Assessments". Highlights included:

- 20 consultants cover around 430 national parks and provide recommendations based on public health concerns.
- Every deficiency they find on water and wastewater systems is prioritized and detailed in a report.
- They developed a flipbook for guidance for water/wastewater facilities and testing.

Agenda Item 6. Discussion and vote: 2023-2024 Recommendations Report final version

Dr. Rodriguez provided a brief about the subcommittee meeting to review the 2023-2024 Recommendations Report draft after last TFBHO meeting. Mr. Dave Gruber, Deputy Commissioner for Regional and Local Health Operations, provided an explanation about the final draft.

Members made some comments about language for what is recommended for DSHS and suggested adding in the Introduction a line about the general purpose of the recommendations. Dr. Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the final draft. Mr. Eduardo Olivarez moved to approve the TFBHO 2023-2024 Recommendations Report with edits noted for the introduction and provide the Chair with the authority to make non-substantive edits to the final report prior to submission by the November 1, 2024, publication date. Mr. Kotsatos seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion: Bylaws revision

Mr. Guillermo Zenizo Lindsey, Binational Communications Coordinator, DSHS, presented a Power Point titled, "TFBHO Bylaws 2024 Update" to explain the process of the Bylaws update.

Members provided questions about the membership integration as it was established at the Texas Health Code. Members will submit other question to be answered by Legal at the upcoming meeting.

Agenda Item 8: Public comment

No public comment was received.

Agenda Item 9: Closing remarks, thank you, and adjourn

Dr. Rodriguez provided recognition of outgoing TFBHO Eduardo Olivarez as he is retiring and thanked for his work at the TFBHO. Dr. Rodriguez also provided recognition to Ms. Karin Hopkins as it is her last month as DSHS Office of Border Public Health Director.

Dr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Please click on the link to the archived HHSC video to view, and listen to, the entirety of the October 3, 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 \(TFBHO\)](#)