

**Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC)  
Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, June 4, 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/572016709>**

**Call-in Number: +1 (669) 224-3412**

**Access Code: 572-016-709**

**Members Attending**

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

Jimmy Blanton, M.P.Aff.

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

Salil Deshpande, M.D.

Chelsea Elliott

Trina Ita, M.A.

Lara Lamprecht, DrPH

Elva LeBlanc, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Protas, P.T., Ph.D.

Melinda Rodriguez, PT, DPT

Stacey Silverman, Ph.D.

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

Nancy Yuill, PhD, RN

Shaukat Zakaria

Yasser Zeid, M.D.

**Members Absent**

Ayeez Lalji (Chair), D.D.S.

Courtney Sherman, DNP, RN, WHNP-BC

**Staff Present**

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

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

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

Melissa Knott, DSHS

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

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

Matt Turner, PhD, MPH, Program Director, Health Professions Resource Center

Julia Von Alexander, Public Health Policy Analyst, Center for Health Policy and  
Performance

Lisa Wyman, Director, Center for Health Statistics

<p><b>1. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>Dr. Protas called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. It was announced that the meeting was being tape recorded and that members should state their name for the record when making comments. Dr. Protas welcomed the council members present, who introduced themselves.</p>
<p><b>2. Establish a Quorum – Roll Call and Possible Action to Approve Excused Absences</b></p>	<p>A quorum was established.</p> <p>Dr. Protas requested excused absences for Dr. Lalji and Dr. Sherman.</p> <p>A motion to approve excused absences was made by Ms. Wynne and seconded by Mr. Zakaria. The motion carried.</p>
<p><b>3. SHCC Discussion and Possible Action to Approve February 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<p>A review of the February 27, 2020 minutes elicited no revisions.</p> <p>A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Boswell and seconded by Ms. Wynne. The motion carried.</p>
<p><b>4. SHCC Discussion of 2020-2021 Update to the State Health Plan</b></p>	<p>a. Health outcomes and healthy behaviors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The council discussed reducing the number of individuals that opt-out of requirements.</li> <li>○ Dr. Deshpande brought up, and the council discussed, the effect of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on immunizations. Families are reducing their in-person visits, and this is leading to delays and missing immunizations.</li> <li>○ Similarly, the council discussed the lack of access to care due to the pandemic, such as missing well-checks.</li> <li>○ Ms. Wynne discussed pharmacists administering vaccines and the administration of vaccines at Women, Infants and Children sites as solutions to increase access for low-income people.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maternal and child health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The council reiterated the desire to recommend the expansion of Medicaid coverage for postpartum women.</li> <li>○ The council discussed the importance of Medicaid coverage, as it is likely that more women will give birth on Medicaid in the upcoming months due to COVID-19.</li> <li>○ The council discussed the failure of this type of legislation to pass in the 2019 legislative</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>session and challenges in the next session due to economic issues. They also discussed including financial data to strengthen the case for 12-months postpartum Medicaid expansion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vaping<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The council discussed expanding strategies to discourage the sale of vape products to those that are underage.</li></ul></li><li>• Nutrition and physical activity<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The council discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the food chain and how children and families are experiencing increased food insecurity, especially with the loss of school lunches.</li><li>○ The council also discussed the impact of COVID-19 on physical activity, including the effect of park and activity space closures.</li><li>○ The council discussed making a statement that research should be done on the effect of COVID-19 on physical activity.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>b. Health care workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mental health workforce<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The council discussed increasing the number of school counselors and school psychologists.</li><li>○ Mr. Zakaria discussed that school districts are not required to provide mental health services and that providing these services is a challenge across the state.</li><li>○ The council discussed getting local mental health authorities into schools.</li><li>○ The council discussed that prevention programs are often in schools but providing direct services is more difficult.</li><li>○ Dr. Silverman brought up the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium.</li><li>○ The council discussed the importance of the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.</li><li>○ Policy solutions discussed include: loan forgiveness expansion to mental health professions, reciprocity of licenses between states, residency stipend increases for those in medically underserved areas, free tuition, mental</li></ul></li></ul>
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	<p>health pharmacists, and rate increases for substance abuse providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural health             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The council discussed telehealth and rural hospital financial model changes as potential solutions to access to care problems.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Clinical training sites             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The council discussed solutions, including: incentivizing supervisors by lowering license fees, stipends for post-graduate training, and allowing for remote supervision.</li> <li>○ The council also discussed the impact of COVID-19.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>5. SHCC Agency Representatives' Reports</b></p>	<p>a. Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): Mr. Blanton and Ms. Ita provided an update on HHSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Blanton discussed the impact of COVID-19 on Medicaid services, primarily on flexibility and the allowance of telemedicine. Mr. Blanton also discussed Medicaid quality and managed care organizations, as well as social determinants of health and COVID-19.</li> <li>• Ms. Ita discussed the agency's response to COVID-19, including: emergency rulemaking, increase in engagement in services from providers, access to services because of telemedicine, expansion of access to virtual mental health care, immediate services grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, adjusting services, provider SharePoint site, statewide mental health COVID-19 support line that is being operated by the Harris Center, and virtual support groups for providers.</li> <li>• Dr. Zeid asked about the duration of Medicaid changes. Ms. Ita said that the authorization is on a monthly basis.</li> </ul> <p>b. DSHS: Dr. Lamprecht provided an update on DSHS. Dr. Lamprecht discussed the COVID-19 response, ongoing DSHS services, and COVID-19 case and fatality numbers.</p> <p>c. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: No update was provided.</p>
<p><b>6. Report on SHCC Representation on the HHSC E-Health Advisory Committee</b></p>	<p>Dr. Deshpande provided an update on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telehealth changes due to COVID-19; and</li> <li>• Medicaid changes due to COVID-19.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>7. Health Professions Resource Center and SHCC Coordinator's Report</b></p>	<p>Dr. Turner provided an update on the Health Professions Resource Center and the SHCC. Dr. Turner discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update to the State Health Plan;</li> <li>• Physician projections legislative report, which is published;</li> <li>• Updating fact sheets; and</li> <li>• Visualizations of health professions supply for Texas Health Data.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Report</b></p>	<p>Ms. Lauer provided an update on the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies and discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education reports;</li> <li>• Delayed projects; and</li> <li>• Advisory committee July meeting, which is when the new nursing projections will be published.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Revisit Comments from February 27, 2020 Meeting</b></p>	<p>a. Certified nurse aide and certified medication aide education requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments were received.</li> </ul> <p>b. Sterile processing technician certification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Wynne discussed that many positions require certification and that certification costs are similar to pharmacy technician programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Administrative Items and Next Steps</b></p>	<p>a. Remaining 2020 SHCC meeting date: October 15, 2020.</p>
<p><b>11. Public Comment and Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Ms. Karen Cherry thanked the council for discussing the certification of sterile processing technicians.</p> <p>Ms. Elliott discussed distance learning and vision impairment in children, specifically nearsightedness. The SHCC discussed the issue and will incorporate into the Update to the State Health Plan.</p> <p>A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Zakaria and seconded by Mr. Blanton. The motion carried.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.</p>