

**Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC)
Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, February 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

Teleconference from Department of State Health Services, 1100 West 49th Street,
Robert D. Moreton Building, Room M-100, Austin, Texas 78756.

Webcasted at <https://texashhsmeetings.org/HHSWebcast>

Members Attending

Carol Boswell, Ed.D., RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN
Jimmy Blanton, M.P.Aff.
Kimberly N. Haynes, D.M.D.
Ken Holland
Elizabeth Mayer, M.P.Aff.
Lillian Nguyen, M.A.
Stephen Pont, MD, MPH
Elizabeth Protas (Chair), P.T., Ph.D.
Melinda Rodriguez, D.P.T, PT
Cheletta Watkins, M.D.
Bailey Wynne R.Ph., M.H.A.
Yasser Zeid, M.D.
Emily Hunt, D.N.P, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC

Members Absent

Chelsea Elliott
Courtney Harvey, Ph.D., M.A. (Excused)
Emily Hunt, D.N.P, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC (Excused)
Quincy C. Moore, Ph.D. (Excused)
Tamara Rhodes, MSN, RN
Cheryl T. Sparks, Ed.D. (Excused)

Staff Present

Lisette Curry, Ph.D., Program Lead, Health Professions Resource Center
Kristina Juarez, MPH, Research Specialist, Health Professions Resource Center
Gracia Dala, MPH, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies
Kayla Davis, MS, Research Specialist, Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies
Pamela Lauer, MPH, Manager, Healthcare Workforce Branch
Alison Hern, Government Affairs Specialist

<p>1. Chairman’s Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Dr. Protas called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Dr. Curry announced that members should avoid using jargon and to not discuss confidential information. She asked everyone to state their name before speaking, silent cell phones, and any comments from the public will be addressed at the end of the meeting.</p>
<p>2. Establish a Quorum – Roll Call and Possible Action to Approve Excused Absences</p>	<p>A quorum was established. Dr. Courtney Harvey, Dr. Emily Hunt, and Dr. Quincy Moore requested an excused absence. A motion to approve all requested excused absences was made by Melinda Rodriguez and seconded by Carol Boswell. The motion carried.</p>
<p>3. SHCC Discussion and Possible Action to Approve October 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>A review of the October 5, 2023 minutes elicited no revisions. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bailey Wynne and seconded by Elizabeth Mayer. The motion carried.</p>
<p>4. Presentation by Clair Benitez, Director of the Office of Disability Services Coordination, from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Community Services Division</p>	<p>Clair Benitez, director of the Office of Disability Services Coordination presented on the Office of Disability Services Coordination and their programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their current projects and initiatives include being a representative on the HHSC Ex-Officio for Governor’s Committee for People with Disabilities, IDD Monthly Coordination Meeting, Promoting Independence Plan, Person Centered Practices, My Life Plan, Direct Care Careers, Direct Service Workforce Taskforce, Transportation Study, and No Wrong Door Grant. • Some of the strategic goals that were set for FY 2024 included promoting continuity of care and lifespan, promoting health equity for people with disabilities, reinforcing the home and community-based workforce infrastructure through research, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement. • Personal care attendants can be any person assisting people with disabilities and older adults to perform essential daily tasks where they live/in their community or providing services to those with disabilities such as driving them to doctor’s appointments. There is a projected growth of 22% from 2022 to 2032 for home health and personal care aides. • Some of the challenges with the workforce include: staff shortages, turnover rates, wages, and recruitment and retention.

- During the 86th Regular Session, Rider 157, the Community Attendant Development Strategic Plan was the catalyst for other projects.
- The Direct Care Workforce Taskforce meets periodically to learn and understand best practices/national strategies, training, roles of attendants.
- Direct Care Careers is a free optional, online portal designed to connect personal care attendants or future employees with employers (home and community-based services). This was created through stakeholder feedback.

Questions:

- Dr. Protas thanked Clair Benitez for her presentation and asked if she could address the need for direct care attendants for aging populations.
- Clair Benitez agreed that aging populations will need attendants and they have Care Giving campaigns for unpaid workforce attendants such as family members and friends that are taking care of their loved ones.
- Cheletta Watkins asked Clair to speak on the shortages in this workforce and the plan to address wages.
- Clair Benitez stated that HHSC was charged to explore non-wage based strategies and supports. However, they are trying to understand and work on the relationship between attendants and patients. Over the last 3 to 4 sessions, they have seen some momentum dealing with wage, so they are hoping for a bigger momentum with all of the work currently being done.
- Carol Boswell asked if there is rural representation on the taskforces and what is being done for rural communities.
- Clair responded that they recognize all areas need attendants and that rural and metropolitan areas have different needs. They work with ADvancing States who has a taskforce that talks about strategies for rural areas. Local workforce board members are on the taskforce.
- Jimmy Blanton thanked Clair for the presentation and asked what kind of data is available on the number of direct care attendants and how that can be reflected in some of the work the SHCC does. This was asked as a question to all.
- Clair responded a vast amount of data was presented on the Rider 157 report to help capture what the workforce looked like. It is specific to the HHSC definition of a DCC. They are collecting more data, but it is more on which employers are hiring, how many listings are there, etc and

	<p>it is very new so it may not be helpful just yet. They have also done surveys on the workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Watkins asked what some of the strategies that are being discussed/implemented for individuals that can/want to be a DCC. How do you provide specific education/information for DCCs so that they feel supported and retain them in the workforce? • Clair spoke about the differences in pay for roles that essentially have the same job and the need for standardization of the job. A lot of the work being done right now is building a narrative and path for training requirements. They would like to build in a learning management system (LMS) within direct care careers to give them free training. Additionally, they would like to give them a credentialing path. • Bailey Wynne thanked Clair for the presentation and stated that the pathway of attendant to CNA is a great incentive for this workforce. • Clair spoke about the Texas Works Program and apprenticeship program for those wanting to become a CNA and do some attendant work. She also talked about training and education support programs for people with disabilities to become attendants.
<p>5. SHCC Agency Representatives' Reports</p>	<p>Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): Lillian Nguyen with HHSC gave an update on the Office of Mental Health Coordination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are working on developing a Children's Mental Health Strategic Plan. This plan is due to the Texas Legislature December 1, 2024. • They are preparing for Mental Health Awareness month in May. April 27th is also Children's Mental Health Acceptance Day. They will be partnering with Boys and Girls Club of Austin and ACE to put together this event. • They have been hosting a mental health creative contest with an awards ceremony. There is a link to the gallery and was shared to the SHCC via Teams chat. <p>a. Department of State Health Services (DSHS): Dr. Stephen Pont with DSHS gave an update on the agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the initiatives they are working on are maternal mortality and morbidity prevention, congenital syphilis, partnerships between public health entities and academic institutions, childhood immunizations, agency readiness for disaster response, and promoting public health data to action.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Babies being born with syphilis has been increasing and they are looking at ways these numbers are being reported and initiatives to combat this.• The DSHS Respiratory Virus Dashboard was launched in January.• Currently working on the DSHS Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) to inform elected officials on the budget.• They are also working on 2025-2029 Agency Strategic Plan• Dr. Protas expressed interest in the impact the new bill on expansion of Medicaid for new mothers will have on mortality and morbidity. She asked how long it will be until they have that data.• Stephen Pont mentioned that it may take at least a year to have this data. <p>b. Jimmy Blanton with HHSC's Medicaid and CHIP Program gave an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HB 12 will be formally implemented March 1, 2024.• HB 1575 has directed them to collect data to screen pregnant women for non-medical health-related factors. community health workers and doulas. It also created a formal recognition for CHWs and doulas to provide services for pregnant women and doulas. They expect to begin training for CHWs and doulas in the summer for credentialing.• Dr. Zeid asked if place of service would make a difference and would it require hospitals to credential doulas to bill for their services.• Jimmy Blanton responded he would look into it and get back to Dr. Zeid.• They have implemented the federal law that provides continuous eligibility for children under age 19 for Medicaid.• They have an Alternative Payment Models Framework initiative and are encouraging MCOs to implement this framework.• HHSC has completed their State Medicaid Managed Care Advisory Committee Annual Report for 2023, the Annual Report on Quality Measures and Value Based Payments for 2023, and the Medicaid CHIP Data Analytics Report.• Dr. Protas asked how the 1.57 million people that have lost Medicaid coverage has affected HHSC.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jimmy Blanton responded that it is important for them that families who have lost coverage do get coverage. There has been a lot of careful thought from the agency, and they have been making progress as planned as far as the mechanics and communications. <p>c. Elizabeth Mayer provided an update on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Graduate Medical Expansion Program announced awards in January and 153 programs were funded. 3,092 positions were funded. • Awards for the Emergency and Trauma care Education Partnership Program (ETEP)- Nursing will be announced in March. • 82 institutions were selected to receive an award for the Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Program. \$22.6 million were distributed in awards. • The Family Practice award funded 991 residents for a total amount of \$8,129. • Applications for the Autism Grant are pending review. 25 applications were received, but funding is only available for 12 to 14 awards. • The GME Planning and Partnership Grant Program RFA will be released in early 2025. • The ETEP GME deadline will be March 15, 2024. • The Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Program deadline is March 8. • The Minority Health (Tobacco Funded) RFA is being developed and they plan to post in late spring or early summer. • The Nursing, Allied Health, and other Related (tobacco funded) RFA is being developed and they plan to post in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 • Working on rule revisions for grant programs. They have completed negotiated rule making for the Professional Shortage Nursing Reduction Program and Rural Residency Physician Grant Program. Stakeholder groups provided input, there will be a 30-day public review period before going to the board for approval and revisions. • Dr. Protas asked about the GME expansion success and if it is keeping up with the new programs opening. • Elizabeth Mayer responded it is keeping up but it has been a challenge keeping up with the 1.1:1 ratio.
<p>6. Update on SHCC</p>	<p>Ken Holland gave an update.</p>

<p>representation of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission E-Health Advisory Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The e-HAC workshop was held October 17, 2023 and the eHAC is discussing offering a similar training again. • The eHACs subcommittees (Telemedicine, Telehealth, and Telemonitoring) have reviewed 2023 goals and discussed 2024 goals. • The Biennial Report is due on December 1, 2024 to the executive commissioner and legislature. Topics include: Disaster Response in Health Information Technology, Health Information Exchange Connectivity, interoperability and data activities with DSHS.
<p>7. Health Professions Resource Center and SHCC coordinator's report.</p>	<p>Lissette Curry provided an update for HPRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2022-2036 Physician Supply and Demand Projections report was submitted to DSHS and is waiting to be cleared for publication. • A supply and demand projections and factsheets dashboard is being worked on. • Summary reports on the supply and demand projections of oral health and mental and behavioral health providers are almost complete. • HPRC has provided support to the TPCO in drafting their Long Term Strategic Plan. • They have completed the processing data on the supply and distribution of 51 health professions. • HPRC will be presenting at the National Forum Conference.
<p>8. Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Report</p>	<p>Pam Lauer provided an update on the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) and discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TCNWSAC met February 28 and approved nursing education reports, supply and demand projections summary report and biennial report to the SHCC. They made a slight revision to the NAC bylaws to broaden the bylaw regarding LVN representation on the committee. • They have completed the 2023 NEPIS and Supply and Demand projections for 2022-20236. • They are currently working on analyzing data on the 2023 Texas School Nurse Survey, 2024 Employer Nurse Staffing Surveys, 2024 Workplace Violence Against Nurses Survey of Individual Nurses, and FY 2024-2025 Workplace Violence (WPV) Grant Program. • They plan to finalize education reports and publish them on their website and start planning for the FY 2025 projects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Protas expressed interest in seeing the results of the Workplace Violence Against Nurses Survey of Individual Nurses. • Pam responded they expect results to be ready by the TCNWSAC October meeting. • Carol Boswell stated that the WPV Grant Program has been helpful in moving their WPV program at Midland Memorial. • Dr. Protas asked if there has been a trend in nursing programs closing across the state. • Pam stated that overall, there has been an increase in the number of programs for RNs and decrease in VN programs.
<p>9. Report on the State Health Plan update: review of draft, timeline</p>	<p>Dr. Curry presented an update on the SHP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittees met in November and January to help focus the topics and provide feedback on content. • Subcommittees will come up with recommendations in their meetings between March and June. • Dr. Curry reviewed the outline: Texas Health Care Workforce, Incidence and Prevalence of Substance Use Disorders (SUD) and drug-Related Deaths in Texas, and Non-Medical Health Risk Factors and Access to Care. • The Texas Health Care Workforce section focuses on 5 groups: allied health, primary care, nursing, oral health, mental and behavioral health. It also includes a sub-section on clinical training, creative staffing models, and leveraging technology (HER and AI tools). • The SUD and Drug related deaths section covers: incidence of drug-related deaths in Texas, substance use, current programs and policies, and gaps in services. • The Non-Medical Health Risk Factors and Access to Care includes access to housing, healthy foods, and quality education • Dr. Curry asked if there was any feedback on the content or shortening the SHP. • Elizabeth Mayer asked if HPRC does any one-pagers, dashboards, or other tools that can highlight the information that is in the SHP. • Lissette mentioned that we do have reports and dashboards and we are referencing them in the SHP. • Pam Lauer that there isn't anything that ties the SHP to a specific format, and we could discuss other ways to repackage this report.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bailey Wynne mentioned that there is nothing on the substance abuse in elderly populations and she had previously asked if this could be added.
10. Administrative Items and Next Steps	SHCC tentative meeting dates: June 6, 2024, and September 26, 2024.
11. Public Comment and Adjourn	<p>Dr. Curry brought up Dr. Serena Bumpus' comment on the SHP. She mentioned one area we need to acknowledge is the use of virtual nursing models to supplement nursing care in hospitals, remote patient monitoring such as virtual sitters, and the use of hospital at home programs under the creative staffing models and leveraging technology section. She also mentioned providing emphasis around interoperability and making sure technology is integrated and talks to each other to enhance clinician workflow.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.</p>

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