



TEXAS RADIATION ADVISORY BOARD (TRAB)
MEETING MINUTES

Austin-Health and Human Services Commission, MHMR Center
Conference Room 164, 909 W. 45th Street, Austin, Texas 78751
Friday, September 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM

1. Call to order

John Hageman, M.S. C.H.P., Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

Members present at the meeting: Bill Campbell, Secretary; Robert Emery, DrPH; Stephen Harris; Mark Harvey, Ph.D.; John Johnson, D.V.M.; Ken Krieger, C.H.P.; Neal Leavell, D.D.S.; Darlene Metter, M.D.; Karen Newton; Tim Powell; Judy Raab; Kevin Raabe; Darshan Sachde; Missy Shorey; Mark Silberman, M.D.; and Simon Trubek, M.D.

Members not present: Mitch Lucas, P.E.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff present: Lisa Bruedigan; Jerry Cogburn; Ruben Cortez; Chuck Flynn; Robert Free; Joann Harthcock; Alyson Henry; Stacey McLarty; Kathy Perkins; Shannon Quinn; Eric Skotak; Charlotte Sullivan; Jo Turkette; Karl Von Ahn; Helen Watkins and Peggy Westlund

2. Introduction of guests

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): Charles Maguire and Dana Fine

Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas: Eddie Selig

Waste Control Specialist: Betsy Madru

Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission (TLLRWDC): Andrew Tachovsky

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC): Grant Chambless

Texas Division of Emergency Management: Joshua Bryant and Chuck Phinney

U.S. Army Corps. Of Engineers: Hans Honerlah

Jacobi Consulting: Rick Jacobi

3. Health and Human Services System (HHSS) Transformation Plan

Ms. Perkins, Assistant Commissioner, reviewed the transformation plan of Health and Human Services System.

4. Updates on the changes to the DSHS Radiation Control Program organization as a result of the GAO Report

Ms. Sullivan provided an update to the changes in the Radiation Licensing Department

- A. New Licensing Manager: Karl VonAhn
- B. Trained staff are performing pre-licensing inspections under Eric Skotak's supervision
- C. Do not hand carry and deliver licenses during an inspection
- D. Do not conduct inspections of empty buildings that do not contain radioactive material
- E. Researching how to improve security of license documents
- F. Amending policies and procedures to eliminate inconsistencies
- G. Radiation Branch Manager position was eliminated and Chuck Flynn is the new TRAB liaison
- H. Policy, Standards and Quality Assurance (PSQA) to perform periodic audits of the Licensing Department
- I. Reviewed licenses issued within this time frame and re-inspected these facilities.

5. Approval of minutes

A. Review and, as needed, discuss and take possible action concerning amendment and/or approval of the minutes of the February 5, 2016 meeting

Mr. Krieger made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

B. Review and, as needed, discuss and take possible action concerning amendment and/or approval of the minutes of the April 12, 2016 teleconference meeting

Dr. Metter made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Raabe seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

6. Election of a new Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Mr. Raabe made a motion to elect Mr. Hageman for Chair; Mitch Lucas for Vice-Chair; and Dr. Johnson for Secretary. Dr. Metter seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

7. Resolutions for former TRAB members: Bradley Bunn, Amy Clark, Ian Hamilton, Nora Janjan, Melanie Marshall, Rosana Moreira, Jay Murphy, and Mark Pittman

Mr. Campbell made a motion to send the resolutions. Dr. Emery seconded the motion and resolutions were approved by acclamation.

8. Committee Reports and Recommendations

A. Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium and Waste Committee

Mr. Raabe discussed the committee meeting.

B. Medical Committee

Dr. Metter discussed the committee meeting.

C. Topic Research Committee

Dr. Emery discussed the committee meeting.

9. Program Reports

A. Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)

Mr. Chambless discussed the report.

B. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Mr. Maguire discussed the report.

C. Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Mr. Flynn discussed the report.

D. Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission (TLLRWDC)

Andrew Tachovsky discussed the upcoming annual commission meeting on September 29, 2016 in Vermont. Nine import applications, 2 export applications and no amendments will be considered at the meeting.

E. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission – DeAnn Walker, State Liaison Officer

Ms. Walker was not present at the meeting.

10. Routine and Continuing Business:

A. Review of the requirements for the TRAB regarding the open meeting act and the maximum number of Committee members

Ms. McLarty stated we are not able to have a committee quorum equal to the board quorum of 10 members. The Medical Committee quorum will be changed to less than 10 members.

B. Status of updating the Laser Safety regulations to the latest ANSI Standards

Mr. Flynn discussed updating the laser rules in 3-4 years. Dr. Emery commented that lasers should be adequately controlled and result in the most tangible injuries. Mr. Flynn will discuss with senior management the need to improve the time frame of updating the laser rules.

11. New Business

A. Approval of the FY 2015 TRAB Annual Report to the Commissioner

Dr. Johnson made a motion to approve the annual report. Mr. Krieger seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

B. TRAB Consideration of the Advisory Statement for a Better Understanding of Radiation

Mr. Powell made a motion to postpone until the next board meeting. Mr. Krieger seconded the motion and the advisory statement was unanimously approved to be postponed to the next meeting.

C. Report on the decommission and decontamination of the Sturgis in Galveston

Mr. Honerlah, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented a PowerPoint slideshow to provide the status of decommissioning, decontamination, and disposal of the Sturgis barge. The waste will be disposed at Waste Control Specialists.

D. Report on Isotope Crossroads: Dallas Exercise on a radioactive transportation accident and release

Mr. Free and Mr. Harris provided details of the exercise to coordinate response agencies in the event of a radioactive accident and release.

E. Update on the Governor's Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) activities

Mr. Hageman was appointed to represent the Nuclear and Radiological Sector of the PSAC. The PSAC function is to advise the Governor or his designee, the Texas Department of Public Safety regarding infrastructure management for emergencies.

F. Update on the Preventive Radiological/Nuclear Detection (PRND) program

Mr. Hageman provided an update to the PRND program and will send program information to the new board members.

G. Discussion of response from Dr. Hellerstedt to TRAB April 12, 2016 letter, regarding Fluoroscopy rule.

Dr. Hellerstedt, Commissioner, responded in writing with his recommendation to change the wording of the fluoroscopy rule from “shall” to “should.”

13. Public Comments

None

14. Identification of Agenda Items and/or topics for next or future TRAB or TRAB Committee Meetings

The next Board meeting will be December 9, 2016.

Update of Health and Human Services System (HHSS) Transformation Plan

Status of updating the Laser Safety regulations to the latest ANSI Standards

Update on the Governor’s Private Sector Advisory Council activities

Possible presentation by Dr. Mark Harvey on Texas Southern University

15. Adjourn

Mr. Hageman adjourned the meeting at 12:52 pm.