



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2015; 8:30 a.m.**  
**JJ Pickle Commons Learning Center**  
**10100 Burnet Road**  
**Austin, Texas 78758**

The Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders met on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the JJ Pickle Commons Learning Center, 10100 Burnet Road, Austin, Texas 78758.

<p><b><u>Council Members Present</u></b>          The Honorable Clint Hackney, Vice-Chair          Grayson R. Hankins          Ronald DeVere, MD          Lisa B. Glenn, MD          Deborah S. Hanna, Chair          Rita Hortenstine          Patty Moore, PhD          Robert Vogel, MD          Valerie J. Krueger          Toni Packard</p> <p><b><u>Council Members Absent</u></b>          Laura DeFina, MD          Carlos Escobar, MD          Kate Allen Stukenberg          Ray Lewis, DO          Susan Rountree, MD          Melissa L. Edwards          Nancy Walker</p>	<p><b><u>Guests Present</u></b>          George Perry, PhD - UTSA          Katie Wiechnicki, DSHS - HPCDP          Thomas Fairchild, UNTHSC          Howard Gruetzner, N. Cent. TX Alz. Assoc.          Monica Rodriguear, Baylor – ADMDC          Mimi Dang, MD – Baylor College of Med.          Mark Kunik – Houston VAMC/BCM          Janice Knebl – UNTHSC          Robert Barber, PhD – UNTHSC          Rachelle S. Doody – Baylor College of Med.          Brandon Patterson – Silverado          Cerretha Rose – Realty Austin          Matthew Lambert – TTUHSC          P. Hemachandra Reddy - TTUHSC          Holly Palmer – ACC Occ. Therapy Asst. PR          Natalya Price – ACC Occ. Therapy Asst. PR          Elena Simens - ACC SOTA</p> <p><b><u>Staff Members Present</u></b>          Lynda Taylor, DSHS - HPCDP</p>
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## **1. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call/Excuse Absent Members**

Ms. Debbie Hanna called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Ms. Lynda Taylor certified roll, and a quorum was present. Members, guests and new members were welcomed and introduced. Two new agency representatives were introduced: Valerie J. Krueger of Adult Mental Health Services, Department of State Health Services and Toni Packard of the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

## **2. Approval of Council Minutes from the February 19, 2014, Meeting**

Ms. Hanna asked Council members to review the minutes from the February 19, 2014, meeting. Dr. Robert Vogel moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Grayson Hankins seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the February 19, 2014, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

## **3. DSHS Update**

Patty Moore provided updates from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

- The DSHS Commissioner, Dr. David Lakey, has left the position. Kirk Cole is the Interim Commissioner.
- The Sunset Advisory Commission has released its recommendations regarding the health and human services (HHS) agencies. Their recommendation to date has been a consolidation of the agencies. There are still many unknowns at this point in time.
- The 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature is in session. There are two bills (one in the House, one in the Senate) to “clean up” language in existing statute.
- Budget:
  - The Alzheimer’s Disease Program funding is intact.
  - The Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section put forward four exceptional items: 1) Asthma Prevention and Control, 2) Potentially Preventable Hospitalization, 3) Diabetes Prevention and Control, and 4) Tobacco Prevention and Control.

## **4. DSHS Alzheimer’s Disease Program update**

Lynda Taylor stated that over the past year, the focus has been on activities that enhance the existing objectives of the State Plan instead of a major update to the entire Plan. Ms. Hanna and Ms. Taylor agreed that it is in the best interest of the State Plan moving forward to form committees and spend the next several months amending and refining our work plan.

## 5. TARCC update

Dr. Barber provided a brief update.

- Dr. Grammas was contracted as the director of TARCC. After several months in the position, she decided to return to Texas Tech. Her contract was terminated based on her request. The TARCC advisory board appreciates her efforts and wishes her well.
- Dr. Waring is part of the summer external advisory review. The last amount assigned for the TARCC budget was \$9.23 million. Dr. Waring suggested that there should be regular meetings of the advisory committee through in-person meetings and conference calls. He also suggested that they involve more organizations.
- Texas A&M Health Science Center Program and Research Initiative
  - Texas A&M manages the \$1.5 million awarded to Alzheimer's research.
  - Grant applications are due March 2.
  - Awards will be announced the end of April.
  - There are over 60 applicants.
  - The review is conducted out of state.
  - Letters of intent were received from all six TARCC institutions.
  - There are letters of intent for collaborative projects.

Debbie Hanna stated that the role of the steering committee needs clarification.

Clint Hackney requested Dr. Doody's perspective on TARCC. Dr. Doody stated that TARCC has grown into something to be proud of over the years. There is improved AD work in the institutions and improved collaboration. TARCC is known outside of Texas.

Dr. Fairchild agreed that TARCC is going well but that there is a need to stress the care aspect of TARCC. It is important to involve families in pushing forward and working with researchers. TARCC can extend its reach with researchers across the state.

## 6. Time and Date for Next Council Meeting

The next planned meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled for August 2015.

## 7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.