

Texas HIV Medication Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams Virtual Hybrid Meeting

Member Name	Attended
Adjei, Margaret	Yes
Alozie, Ogechika Karl, M.D.	No
Heresi, Gloria, M.D.	Yes
Hillard, Lionel	Yes
Lazarte, Susana, M.D.	Yes
Miertschin, Nancy, M.P.H.	No
Rodriguez-Escobar, Yolanda, Ph.D.	Yes
Rosas, Frank (Vice-Chair)	Yes
Vanek, Natalie, M.D. (Chair)	Yes
Martinez, Dora, M.D.	Yes
Turner, Helen	Yes
Vargas, Steven	Yes

Agenda Item 1: Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Natalie Vanek, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed new and current members, staff, presenters, and public in attendance.

Agenda Item 2: Logistical Announcement and Roll Call

Ms. Sallie Allen, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, HHSC, provided logistics announcement, called roll, asked members to introduce themselves, and determined a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of the July 30, 2021, and November 5, 2021, draft meeting minutes

Ms. Allen requested a motion to approve the July 30, 2021, and November 5, 2021, meeting minutes. Mr. Hillard advised that he was present for the November meeting, and Dr. Susanna Lazarte and Ms. Helen Turner noted an edit to the November minutes, Agenda item 4, to include details of the subcommittee report.

MOTION:

Mr. Lionel Hillard motioned to approve the July 30, 2021, and November 5, 2021, meeting minutes as presented with edits. Dr. Yolanda Rodriguez-Escobar seconded the motion. Ms. Allen conducted a roll call vote, and the motion passed.

Agenda Item 4: Public Comment

The following individuals provided public comment:

- Josh Mica
- Januari Fox
- Nazley Mohammadi

Agenda Item 5: Department of State Health Services Updates (DSHS) – Imelda Garcia, MPH, Associate Commissioner of Laboratory and Infectious Disease Services

Dr. Vanek advised that Ms. Imelda Garcia, Associate Commissioner of Laboratory and Infectious Disease Services, was not able to join the meeting, and Mr. David Auzenne, Interim Director, TB/HIV/STD Section, DSHS, provided the following update and referenced the LIDS/TB/HIV/STD Management Organization Chart handout.

Highlights included:

a. LIDS/TB/HIV-STD Staffing Update

- Mr. Auzenne introduced Dexter Govan, new Director of the DSHS Pharmacy Branch.
- Interviews for the HIV/STD Unit Director have been completed, and the position is being reevaluated and will be reposted. There is a 35% vacancy rate in the Section, with 74% of vacant positions posted, and 68% of posted positions are in the interview and selection process. Leadership is evaluating the TB/HIV/STD Section organizational structure to ensure adequate staffing. DSHS will share new structure with the Committee and stakeholders when it is final.

b. Cabenuva Pilot

- At the last MAC meeting, Imelda Garcia announced that there is a hold on policy changes that would increase cost, through February 2022. This includes the Cabenuva Pilot, the 90-day supply suspension, formulary changes, spenddown/standard deduction, and HRSA new policy change. The goal is to be thoughtful and take time to assess the program as it is. Preliminary projections show that the overall medication cost in 2022 is less than what was spent last year. Dollars we anticipate needing for this year look to be less than what we budgeted.
- We will meet with DSHS leadership on how to move forward with the Cabenuva Pilot. With HRSA's new policy change we are currently assessing the service delivery and financial impact prior to deciding on a formal DSHS policy. There are meetings scheduled over next two weeks to go over projected costs. We will be briefing our leadership after we assess the impact of all these changes individually and cohesively before we make any changes.
- Preliminary discussions on EI for next session have started. Mr. Auzenne will ask at minimum for funding for the HRSA change. There is a two-year time frame for that. HRSA approved the spend-down to standard deduction change methodology. The next step is to present the methodology to our leadership to

decide which route to take.

- The Committee discussed the potential policy changes and the fiscal impact and timelines. Mr. Rosas recommended that a communication be sent to the community and medical providers explaining the timeline of potential changes.

Agenda Item 6: TB/HIV/STD Section Updates – David Auzenne, MPH, Interim Director, DSHS TB/HIV/STD Section

Dr. Vanek introduced Mr. David Auzenne, Interim Director, TB/HIV/STD Section, DSHS, and referenced the PowerPoint handout, Texas HIV Medication Program Budget Update and provided following highlights.

a. Texas HIV Budget Report

- Salaries and other non-medication costs are not listed in order to provide better transparency of the medication dollars. In 2021, we received funds which we do not usually, including 34.4 million in Coronavirus relief funds, and 4.8 million from the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.
- There are two major differences between 2021 and 2022: the first is that we asked for and received 14.8 million in coronavirus relief funding in 2022, and the second difference is in the HIV Care Medication Formula Grants line item. Annually we receive about 76 million combined across two of the four components, Ryan White base funding and Ryan White supplemental funding. The increase to 93.8 million budgeted for the formula grants in FY22 is due to a combination of carry-forward funds from the previous year, and additional one-time allocation of 4.8 million in the third emergency relief funding component, and an additional one-time 1.9 million in the fourth Part B supplemental funding component.
- Obligated funds are noted as those that are on a purchase order, and their timing is dependent on accounting principles. In regard to expenses, we typically expend Federal funds first.
- The committee discussed the Program Budget Update and requested that the information be sent to them at least three days prior to the meeting. Mr. Auzenne agreed.

Agenda Item 7: THMP Update – Rachel Sanor, THMP Manager

Ms. Rachel Sanor, THMP Manager, was not available to present at this meeting. Dr. Vanek introduced Ms. Ann Robbins, Senior Public Health Advisor, DSHS, and she provided the committee with updates and referenced the handouts.

Highlights included:

7b. 60-day and 90-day supply analysis

Ms. Robbins referenced a PowerPoint handout, *60-day and 90-day Supply Analysis*.

Highlights included:

- There is no inherent cost different between 60 and 90-day medication fills.
- An overfill occurs when a client has more than 30 days of medications left when they fall off the Texas HIV Medication Program. The most common reason to drop is failure to recertify. Ms. Robbins is preparing a follow-up study to determine if those clients were able to get back on the program.

- The Committee discussed how overfills of medication may benefit clients.
- The Committee weighed the impact of no inherent difference in cost against people staying in care and believe that the need for 60 and 90 days fills outweighs the slight difference in cost.
- Dr. Vanek reminded the Committee that the Program must remain within the budget and serve as many people within Texas as possible.

Agenda Item 8: Recommended changes for Bylaws – Sallie Allen, Advisory Committee Coordination Office

Due to time and availability of HHSC legal counsel for questions, the discussion of recommended changes to the Committee bylaws was moved up. Dr. Vanek advised that the draft THMP Bylaws was provided to members for review. Since new members have recently joined, it was requested that this agenda item be tabled for the next meeting.

Ms. Allen called for a motion to table this topic to the April meeting.

MOTION:

Mr. Lionel Hillard motioned to table the review of the THMP Bylaws. Mr. Steven Vargas seconded the motion. Ms. Allen conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed.

Members requested that the document be provided in a WORD format for ease of providing their feedback to Committee liaison, who will in turn compile the edits and send to DSHS legal counsel and ACCO for review and comment. The final draft document will be presented at the next meeting.

7a, 7c, 7d – THMP updates (Projections and Demographic Information, Take Charge Texas, and MAC appointment process)

Ms. Sanor was not available to present at this meeting. Mr. Auzenne referenced a PowerPoint handout, *THMP Update*.

Highlights included:

7a. Demographics and Actuarial Projection Information

Mr. Auzenne presented from the handout *THMP Update*. Items covered included:

- THMP medications ordered in the fourth quarter of 2021.
- THMP participants by ethnicity, race, and gender.
- THMP participants by assistance category (ADAP, SPAP and TIAP).
- Client and cost projections by assistance category. There is a projected dip in ADAP clients in the first four months of FY2022, the cause of which is being investigated. Because the estimated reduction in participants is directly related to ADAP costs, these costs are projected to be just below the \$100 million mark for FY22, with costs increasing through FY2026.
- SPAP is also seeing a dip in client participation, which is also associated with reduced costs.
- As with the other two programs, there is a dip in TIAP clients, which is also being investigated.

7c. Take Charge Texas (TCT)

- Take Charge Texas was launched just over a month ago. Mr. Auzenne has heard members’ feedback regarding TCT. The Division is actively putting resources toward the bugs in TCT. The next phase of TCT will be launched on February 12,

2022.

- There are 20 training modules currently available. There are client training videos that are currently being worked on, as well as a TCT user guide in process.
- For TCT technical assistance, email the TCT Help Desk at tcthelpdesk@dshs.texas.gov.
- Mr. Auzenne presented TCT user stats.
- Mr. Vargas asked if it is possible to reach out to clients who have applied via the portal to determine the difficulties they may have had. Mr. Auzenne agreed. Ms. Turner also offered her assistance with TCT issues. She anticipated that the program will be very successful, but there are a lot of bugs and she doesn't see a lot of progress. Mr. Rosas asked about the TCT Helpdesk and response times. Mr. Auzenne assured the Committee that Help Desk response times are as quick as possible. Dr. Martinez pointed out that internet can be difficult to access in some areas.

7d. MAC Appointments

- Members of the Committee whose terms are expiring at the end of 2022 will be notified before the next meeting, and informed if they are eligible for another term.

Agenda Item 9: Review and Adoption of the Procedure and Process for Election of Presiding Officers – Sallie Allen, Advisory Committee Coordination Office

Ms. Allen read aloud the procedure and process for election of presiding officers and called for motion to adopt.

MOTION:

Mr. Lionel Hillard motioned to adopt the officer election procedure and process as presented. Mr. Steven Vargas second the motion. Ms. Allen conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed.

Dr. Vanek advised that the scheduled break would not be taken and if members need to step out to please turn off their camera and mute their microphone.

Agenda Item 10: Sub-Committee Reports

a. Governance and Data subcommittee – Ms. Nancy Miertschin, Committee Chair was not in attendance at the meeting.

- Committee did not meet, thus no updates to report.

b. Eligibility subcommittee – Mr. Frank Rosas, Chair, provided the following update.

The sub-committee discussed issues related to:

- The Eligibility Subcommittee only met in December, and it was mentioned that all the backlog paper applications were supposed to be caught up before the Take Charge Texas portal went live.
- The Subcommittee usually meets on monthly basis but due to staff shortage and the UT administrative support contract not being renewed, Mr. Rosas was not sure when the Subcommittee was scheduled to meet again.

c. Formulary subcommittee - Dr. Natalie Vanek, Chair, provided the following update.

- The Formulary Subcommittee met twice. At the first meeting, held on November 9, 2021, the subcommittee discussed options for 60 and 90 day med refills. They asked the program to provide analysis, which they did today.
- The subcommittee went over the list of suspended medications and made recommendations. The recommendation was as follows: return to the formulary the medications Amlodipine, Atorvastatin, Hydrochlorothiazide, Lisinopril, Metformin HCL, Metoprolol Tartrate, Trazadone, Duloxetine, Gabapentin, and Sertraline. Remove from formulary the medications Egrifta, Mytesi, Amphotericin B, and Roferon-A. Retain on suspension the medications Zypitamag, Baraclude, and Vemlidy.
- The subcommittee discussed the Truvada generic and cost.
- The subcommittee discussed the Cabenuva pilot update. The program did not give an update on this. It is not available to ADAP clients through PAPs if patient is active on ADAP. Distribution and administration were discussed.
- The subcommittee discussed the frequency of all subcommittee meetings. The program does not have staff to support monthly. The meeting needs to last longer, with the ability to call special meetings if needed.
- On January 11, 2022, the Formulary Subcommittee again discussed the suspended medications and made motions on some meds, presented in the handout.
- The subcommittee recommended that the Medication Advisory Committee add back 10 medications and resume 90 day fills.
- The subcommittee discussed the pediatric Biktarvy formulation. Made decision to add this to the formulary so we bring it today to the full mac to add to formulary. We will work as a SC to develop an implementation process and will report the next MAC. Next meeting dates announced.

Agenda Item 11: MAC to recommend removal and re-activation of suspended medications (vote required)

Dr. Vanek presented the recommended medications to be removed, re-activated, remain suspended to the members and referenced a handout. Members reviewed and discussed in detail the medications.

MOTION:

Mr. Lionel Hillard motioned to remove three medications (Egrifta, Amphotericin B, and Roferon-A), re-active ten medications (Amlodipine, Atorvastatin, Hydrochlorothiazide, Lisinopril, Metformin HCL, Metoprolol Tartrate, Trazadone, Duloxetine, Gabapentin, and Sertraline), and move one medication (Mytesi) to the suspended (no action) list. Dr. Susana Lazarte seconded the motion. Ms. Allen conducted a roll call vote, and the motion passed.

Agenda Item 12: Consideration of pediatric Biktarvy (vote required) – Sallie Allen, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (HHSC)

Dr. Vanek discussed with members the consideration of adding the pediatric medication, Biktarvy to the THMP formulary.

Ms. Allen called for motion to request the pediatric medication, Biktarvy, be added to the THMP formulary.

MOTION:

Dr. Yolanda Rodriguez-Escobar motioned to request the pediatric medication, Biktarvy, be added to the THMP formulary. Mr. Lionel Hillard seconded the motion. Ms. Allen conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed.

Agenda 13: Consideration of extended fills (vote required) – Sallie Allen, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (HHSC)

Dr. Vanek discussed with members the consideration of extended fills for 60 and 90-day supply.

Ms. Allen called for a motion to recommend consideration of the 60 and 90-day supply extended fills to DSHS.

MOTION:

Dr. Susana Lazarte motioned to recommend consideration of the 60 and 90-day supply extended fills to DSHS. Mr. Lionel Hillard seconded the motion. Ms. Allen conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed.

Agenda 14: Review and approval of 2022 MAC meeting dates (vote required) Sallie Allen, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (HHSC)

Meeting dates for calendar year 2022 were presented to members. Ms. Allen requested a motion to approve the dates provided.

MOTION:

Ms. Helen Turner motioned to accept the 2022 meeting dates. Mr. Lionel Hillard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed.

Agenda Item 15: Action Items and agenda topics for next meeting

Dr. Vanek, Chair, asked Mary Richards for action items and agenda topics for the next meeting. Items to consider:

- Financial report
- Bylaws discussion
- Election of officers (vote required)
- Update from pharmacy (warehouse) re timing of shipments
- New/renewals timing update
- TCT rollout update
- Update on spend down and transition to standard deduction
- Update on TAC changes
- Update on the Committee's recommendations (prior and this meeting)
- Specific update on Cabenuva pilot

Agenda Item 16: Adjournment

Dr. Vanek, Chair, thanked the members and the public and adjourned the meeting at 5:00pm.

To view and listen to the archived video of the January 28, 2022, Texas HIV Medication Advisory Committee meeting in its' entirety, click on the link below.

<https://texashsc.new.swagit.com/videos/153694>