



Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) APPROVED Meeting Minutes 1:00 p.m., August 14, 2024

Physical Location: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Robert D. Moreton Building, Room M-100, First Floor 1100 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756

TEAMS Virtual/Hybrid Meeting

Table 1: TFBHO attendance at the August 14, 2024, meeting.

Table with 6 columns: MEMBER NAME, YES, NO, MEMBER NAME, YES, NO. Rows list attendees like Dr. Richard Chamberlain, Ms. Esmeralda Guajardo, etc., with attendance status.

Agenda Item 1: Call to order, welcome, Chair remarks, meeting logistics, and Roll Call

Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Chair, convened the TFBHO meeting at 1:00 p.m., and welcomed attendees. Ms. Francesca Kupper, Project Manager, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), provided logistical announcements, conducted the roll call, and noted a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of June 13, 2024, draft meeting minutes

Dr. Rodriguez called for any edits or changes to the draft June 13, 2024, meeting minutes. Receiving no edits or changes, Dr. Rodriguez called for a motion to approve the draft.

MOTION:

Mr. Steven Kotsatos moved to approve the June 13, 2024, draft meeting minutes as written. Dr. Richard Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Update from DSHS Immunizations Unit

Ms. Melissa DeHaan, Nurse, and Mr. Greg Leos, Director, Assessment, Compliance and Epidemiology Branch, both from Immunizations Unit, DSHS, provided members with an update on vaccinations. Key points included:

- Prebooked flu doses will be distributed to providers based on their pre-booking requests. Providers may request additional doses as needed. Border counties have an increase of 7% in flu vaccination compared to 2022-2023 season.
• Updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines will be available as soon as FDA authorizes the formulations. They won't be available for free on the public health side.

- DSHS is working with schools to ensure they provide parents with child immunization or vaccine exemption information.

**Agenda Item 4: Update: 2024 Operation Border Health Preparedness**

Mr. Abdul Kamara, Preparedness, Response and Epidemiology Manager, Preparedness and Response Program, DSHS Public Health Region 11, DSHS, presented a Power Point titled, "2024 Operation Border Health Preparedness" with photos of the event. Highlights included:

- This year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this annual exercise.
- The combined efforts of partners, volunteers, and collaborators make the event successful in providing aid for residents of South Texas.
- In five locations more than 6,000 patients were served this year.

**Agenda Item 5: Presentation: Naval Health Research Center**

This agenda item was tabled.

**Agenda Item 6. Presentation: Reducing Social Media Harm**

Mr. Brock Murphy, Co-Founder and CEO, Parent ProTech, presented a Power Point titled, "Parent ProTech". Highlights included:

- An average U.S. teen spend 8.5 hours per day on a screen for entertainment. TikTok is now the most used search tool for kids.
- The social media algorithms can detect when someone is feeling sad or depressed and keep pushing that person into that spiral.
- A teenager gets an average of 237 notifications per day.

**Agenda Item 7: Discussion: 2023-2024 Recommendations Report Final Draft Review**

Ms. Karin Hopkins, Office of Border Public Health Director, and Mr. Guillermo Zenizo Lindsey, Binational Communications Coordinator, DSHS, presented a Power Point titled, "TFBHO Recommendations Report". Ms. Hopkins reviewed the timeline for the development of the recommendations report draft; Mr. Zenizo Lindsey informed the members of the remaining meeting dates for 2024 and the proposed dates for 2025.

- The upcoming TFBHO calendar years 2024-2025 meetings are:
  - Thursday, October 3, 2024
  - Wednesday, December 11, 2024
  - Wednesday, February 12, 2025
  - Wednesday, April 9, 2025
  - Wednesday, June 11, 2025
  - Wednesday, August 13, 2025
  - Wednesday, October 8, 2025
  - Wednesday, December 10, 2025
- All meeting dates were coordinated with Texas Association of Association of City & County Health Officials (TAACCHO) sessions in Austin, and they will be held at Robert M. Moreton Building; M-100 (first floor), 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756.

Mr. Dave Gruber, Associate Commissioner for Regional and Local Health Operations, DSHS, led the discussion on the 2023-2024 Recommendations Report draft previously shared with members, with the additional participation of Ms. Imelda Garcia, Senior Advisor to DSHS Commissioner. The results will be included in the 2023-2024 Recommendations Report Final Draft. After the discussion, Dr. Rodriguez called for a subcommittee for following-up and working on the final draft to be submitted to DSHS leadership for review and then to the members prior to the next meeting for its approval.

Mr. Gruber provided recognition of outgoing TFBHO Vice-Chair Dr. Héctor Ocaranza and thanked him for his service to the people of Texas while he was the City of El Paso Public Health Department Interim Director.

**Agenda Item 8: Public comment**

No public comment was received.

**Agenda Item 9: Closing remarks, thank you, and adjourn**

Dr. Ocaranza thanked the recognition and introduced virtually the City of El Paso Public Health Department new Director, Dr. Veerinder "Vinny" Taneja. Dr. Taneja and Dr.

Rodriguez thanked Dr. Ocaranza for his work at the TFBHO.

Dr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

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***Please click on the link to the archived HHSC video to view, and listen to, the entirety of the August 14, 2024, Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) meeting; this video will be available for approximately two years from the date the meeting video is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule:***

**[Task Force of Border Health Officials \(TFBHO\)](#)**