

**Public Health Region 2/3 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional
Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2023
11:00 AM**

Microsoft TEAMS

Table 1: PHR 2/3 Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee member attendance at 10/9/2023 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Christina Yen	X				
Marlise Curlee	X				
Amanda Ortez	X				
Andrew Thompson	X				
Edwin Choque	X				

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Call to Order

Vanessa Pierce called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. A quorum of members was present.

Agenda Item 2: Meeting minutes approval

The minutes of the previous meeting of June 13, 2023 were brought to a vote for approval. All five members were in attendance to vote.

- Ms. Ortez motioned to vote to approve the minutes.
- Dr. Curlee seconded the motion.
- Ms. Pierce called on each member to cast a vote.
- The minutes were approved unanimously with five yes votes.

Agenda Item 3: All chairs meeting feedback

Dr. Thompson summarized a meeting held recently between the chairpersons of the antimicrobial stewardship regional advisory committees. The chairpersons shared ideas, challenges, and proposed stewardship activities in each respective region. The highlights included:

- Common interest in antibiograms relevant to respective regions and healthcare settings.
- Desired oversight of antimicrobial utilization and type of organisms being treated particularly in outpatient settings.

- General consensus that antimicrobial resistance is a growing concern and education is important to prevent transmission and resistance.
- Agreement to meet again to share data and ideas.

There were no questions from this advisory committee.

Agenda Item 4: Infection prevention and education

Infection prevention and education was a topic suggested at the last meeting for further discussion, specifically what information is needed to educate healthcare workers versus patients and families to increase awareness about antimicrobial stewardship (AS). The committee members shared the following communication strategies used at their healthcare facilities:

- Dr. Thompson reported onboarding education and quarterly newsletters are provided for healthcare staff and verbal communication is provided to patients and families, but suggested written materials would be beneficial to supplement verbal communication.
- Mr. Choque stated ongoing education is provided to reinforce proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and correct type and length of isolation for different pathogens.

Agenda Item 5: Goals of the committee

The members suggested the following goals:

- Dr. Thompson suggested issuing a survey to healthcare facilities in the region to assess current practices and gaps in AS and antibiotic usage to help plan meaningful strategies.
- Ms. Work suggested increasing education and awareness about antibiograms.
- Ms. Work and Dr. Thompson suggested improving access and distribution of antibiograms specific to the region, including education on how to access them.
- Ms. Pierce proposed using libraries, churches, and health clinics as a means of distributing information to communities.
- Dr. Curlee recommended YMCAs and agriculture extension offices in rural communities for distributing education and information.

Agenda Item 6: Public Comment and Open Forum

During the open forum, the following ideas and future agenda items were suggested:

- Dr. Thompson requested a list of long-term care facilities in the region to include in an AS assessment survey. Ms. Pierce will provide a list to the committee members.
- Ms. Pierce proposed developing an AS assessment survey.

- Mr. Choque requested an update on multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) data in the region.
- Ms. Ortez requested a requirement for healthcare facilities to flag infection and appropriate infection precautions in patient records during facility to facility transfer to prevent ongoing transmission.
- Ms. Work suggested the Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) regulatory division would be responsible for making this a requirement, but the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) does have an optional infection prevention transfer form. DSHS encourages healthcare facilities to use this form.

Agenda Item 7: Next Meeting and Agenda Items

Vanessa Pierce stated that the next meeting will be held in 2024. The following agenda items will be included for the next meeting:

- Creation of an AS assessment survey.
- Distribute a list of long-term care facilities to committee members.
- Provide an update on MDROs, specifically *Candida auris*.

Agenda Item 8: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

[NOTE: The DRAFT watermark should be left on the document until the committee has voted to approve the minutes as the official record of the meeting.]