

**Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response**  
**Tuesday, February 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Moreton Building - Room M-100**  
**1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78756**

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order**

The Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response (IDTF) meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Commissioner John Hellerstedt, M.D. Dr. Hellerstedt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. John Chacón, Advisory Committee Coordination, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), conducted roll call and announced that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, and noted that a quorum was not present for the meeting. A quorum of the Task Force was noted at 10:30 am. Table 1 notes Task Force member attendance.

**Table 1. IDTF member attendance at the Tuesday, February 27, 2018 meeting**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Yes<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>No<sup>‡</sup></b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Bass, James*		X	McCraw, Steven		X
Emmett, The Honorable Ed		X	Morath, Commissioner Mike*		X
Frei, Dr. Christopher	P		Murray, Dr. Kristy	P	
Glowicz, Janet	P		Nichols, Major General John	X	
Hellerstedt, Dr. John	X		Overman, Dr. Dottie	X	
Hotez, Dr. Peter	P		Pablos, The Honorable Rolando*		X
Hyde, Richard		X	Paredes, Commissioner Raymund		X
Irvine, Tim	X		Parker, Dr. Gerald	P	
Kidd, W. Nim	X		Slayton, David		X
Ksiazek, Dr. T.G.	X		Smith, Executive Commissioner Charles		X
Lakey, Dr. David	X		Stillsmoking, Dr. Kristina	P	
Le, Dr. Jade (P.M. Only)	P		Sutton, Dr. Vickie	P	
Le Duc, Dr. Jim	P		Tierney, Dr. Bill	X	
Lillibridge, Dr. Scott		X	Wainwright, The Honorable Dale		X
Marquardt, Tony	X		Yosowitz, Dr. Edward	X	
Marshall, Dr. Muriel	P		Zeller, The Honorable Ben		X

<sup>†</sup> Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

<sup>‡</sup> No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

\* Other designated member was in attendance on behalf of Task Force Member

P Indicates phone conference call

### **Agenda Item 3: Hurricane Harvey Update - Part I**

Dr. John Hellerstedt, Chief Nim Kidd, and other Task Force Members provided an update on Hurricane Harvey and referenced a PowerPoint/Handout entitled "Public Health and Healthcare Response to Hurricane Harvey." Highlights of the update and Task Force member discussion included:

- Dr. Tierney noted that medical response in Austin was delayed during Harvey. Dr. Hellerstedt responded that he would like to further discuss the topic to ensure better preparation in the future.
- Dr. Peter Hotez asked about the primary goal of vector spraying during the Harvey response. Dr. Hellerstedt emphasized the goals of aerial spraying as an appropriate public health response. Discussion took place concerning counties that refused aerial spraying.
- Chief Nim Kidd relayed the successes of the Emergency Medical Task Force and emphasized the importance of preparedness. Joe Palfini, Chief of Staff of the South Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC), also discussed successes during Harvey response, including ability to mobilize infectious disease response in Texas.

### **Agenda Item 2: Approval of minutes from November 16, 2016 Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response meeting**

Dr. John Hellerstedt noted that a quorum was present at 10:30 am and called for a motion to review and approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting.

**Motion:** Dr. Edward Yosowitz moved to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2016 meeting with edits previously noted by Task Force members that were reflected in the meeting minutes document presented. Dr. Bill Tierney seconded the motion. The Task Force members unanimously approved the minutes by voice vote, with no nays and no abstentions.

### **Agenda Item 3: Hurricane Harvey Update - Part 2**

Dr. John Hellerstedt, Chief Nim Kidd, and other Task Force Members continued to discuss the update on Hurricane Harvey and referenced a PowerPoint/Handout entitled "Public Health and Healthcare Response to Hurricane Harvey." Highlights of the update and task force member discussion included:

- Dr. David Lakey encouraged more discussion about policy and resource issues during Harvey. Task Force members expressed concern about losing federal funding and the difficulties of sustaining a program when disasters are not imminent.

- Task Force members discussed minimum versus ideal standards for medical documentation during disaster response and the need for a more innovative method of sharing medical information across the continuum of care.
- Dr. David Lakey suggested that STRAC look into utilizing telemedicine as a resource during emergency response to amplify medical support.
- Dr. Dorothy Overman commented about the success of utilizing point-to-point shelters during evacuation efforts in Comal County, crediting prior planning and communication between the county and the receiving facilities.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Antibiotic Resistance and Antibiotic Stewardship**

Dr. Jennifer Shuford and Dr. Grace Kubin presented on Antibiotic Resistance and Antibiotic Stewardship and referenced a PowerPoint/Handout entitled "Antibiotic Resistance in Texas." Highlights of the presentation and Task Force member discussion included:

- Dr. Hellerstedt commented that improvements in rapid diagnostic testing would be a key aspect of helping clinicians to use appropriate antibiotic treatment in patients.
- Task Force members discussed antibiotic resistance in Texas and how it compares to other states.
- Dr. Tierney relayed the success in Indiana of using the Health Information Exchange to share information between healthcare facilities about multidrug resistance among patients during the hospital admission process. He emphasized that Texas would benefit from such a system. Task Force members agreed that improved communication between facilities is vital in the efforts against antibiotic resistance.
- Task Force members discussed the importance of preparing for the next legislative session to address these items.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Public Comment Part I**

Rosalie Hopkins provided public comment about her grandson's death due to West Nile virus, saying that lack of timely testing and diagnosis was an issue during his illness. She urged the Committee to focus on increased and timely testing for West Nile virus, as well as development of a West Nile virus vaccine for humans.

Dr. Hellerstedt thanked her for her comments and expressed condolences on her loss.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Recess for Lunch**

The Task Force recessed for lunch from 12:20 pm - 1:11 pm.

**Agenda Item 6: State of the State on Infectious Disease, 2017**

Dr. John Hellerstedt provided a State of the State on Infectious Disease, 2017 and referenced a PowerPoint/Handout entitled "State of the State: Infectious Disease in Texas." Highlights of the State of the State presentation and Task Force member discussion included:

- Dr. Hellerstedt discussed significant disease clusters and outbreak investigations from 2017, including data about brucellosis, cyclosporiasis, hepatitis C, HIV, mumps, influenza, tuberculosis, murine typhus, and Zika virus.

**Agenda Item 7: Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics**

Dr. John Hellerstedt led discussion of future meeting dates and topics. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Dr. David Lakey suggested topics such as High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) event preparation, public health policy, regionalizing maternal care related to infectious disease, and collaboration with academic systems like Texas Tech University and University of Texas to assist with surge capacities.
- Chief Nim Kidd suggested discussing a Bioethics Committee.
- Dr. Hellerstedt suggested Crisis Medical Resource Allocation guidelines.
- Dr. Dorothy Overman suggested adding West Nile Virus vaccine development, vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, and addressing vaccine refusal to the agenda.
- Tim Irvine suggested adding information sharing for management of antibiotic resistant organisms to the agenda.
- Janet Glowicz suggested discussing injection safety monitoring in healthcare facilities.
- Dr. Kristy Murray suggested discussing West Nile virus diagnosis and testing challenges among pediatric patients.

**Agenda Item 8: Public Comment Part II**

No public comment was offered during this time.

Mr. John Chacón provided a point of clarification regarding Task Force members asking clarifying questions directed only to the person providing public comment and not to agency staff or other Task Force members.

**Agenda Item 9: Adjourn**

Dr. John Hellerstedt adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.