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Working collaboratively to optimize the Texas HIV Medication Program

Virtual Partnership Meeting • June 30, 2021

RECORDING IN PROGRESS

Welcome and Opening Remarks



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Felipe Rocha, MSSW
TB/HIV/STD Section Director
Texas Department of State Health Services

Acknowledgments

- Dr. Natalie Vanek
- Dena Hughes
- Steven Vargas & Frank Rosas
- Texas HIV Syndicate
- Positive Women's Network
- Texas Stroke Force HIV Coalition
- DSHS Division of Community Health Improvement



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March Town Hall

- 370 stakeholders were invited
- 275 partners and stakeholders attended
- Participants included:
 - People living with HIV
 - HIV advocates
 - Ryan White providers
 - Community pharmacies
 - AIDS Drug Assistance Program enrollment workers and regional liaisons
 - Medical providers
 - Administrative Agencies
 - Pharmaceutical representatives



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Moving Forward Together Plan

- Will be posted in the coming weeks
- Living document
- Cost containment measures
- Steps taken to address funding deficit
- Goals, strategies, and action items

**Moving Forward Together:
Addressing the Texas HIV
Medication Program Budget Deficit**



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Agenda



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12:10pm Imelda Garcia, MPH

DSHS Updates | Exceptional Item | Waitlist Update | Spenddown/Standard Deduction | Pharmacy IT System and Pharmacy Move | IT Project (HRAR)

12:40pm Rachel Sanor, MBA, LMSW

THMP Updates | Formulary Changes | MAC Open Positions | Backlog | Recertification | TAC open for comment

1:00pm Steven Vargas

May Listening Session Recap

Agenda Continued



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1:30pm Moving Forward Together Discussion

Dr. Natalie Vanek, Dena Hughes, Steven Vargas & Frank Rosas

3:00pm Felipe Rocha

Next Steps | Closure of Meeting

AIDS Director Position Opening

- AIDS Director Position
- Prevention and Care programs reporting to Felipe Rocha
- DSHS has screened over 170 applications
- Initial candidate pool not selected
- Updated criteria for stronger matching candidate pool



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The Texas Senate recognized DSHS's **Imelda Garcia** for her outstanding work and commended her on her invaluable leadership in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in Texas.



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COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



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DSHS Updates



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Imelda Garcia, MPH

Associate Commissioner of Laboratory and Infectious Disease
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Exceptional Item & Spenddown Updates

- Exceptional Item Award
 - THMP medications & Contract Awards
- Rider 26
 - Insurance Purchasing
 - 60 day notification for TAC changes
 - No anticipated waitlist for this biennium
- Spenddown and Standard deduction



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Pharmacy Updates

- ITEAMS
 - Remediation strategies
- ITEAMS replacement 2022
- Pharmacy move
- To better support the pharmacy's needs:
 - ITEAMS replacement
 - Increased vaccine distribution
 - Pharmacy physically near LIDS division offices

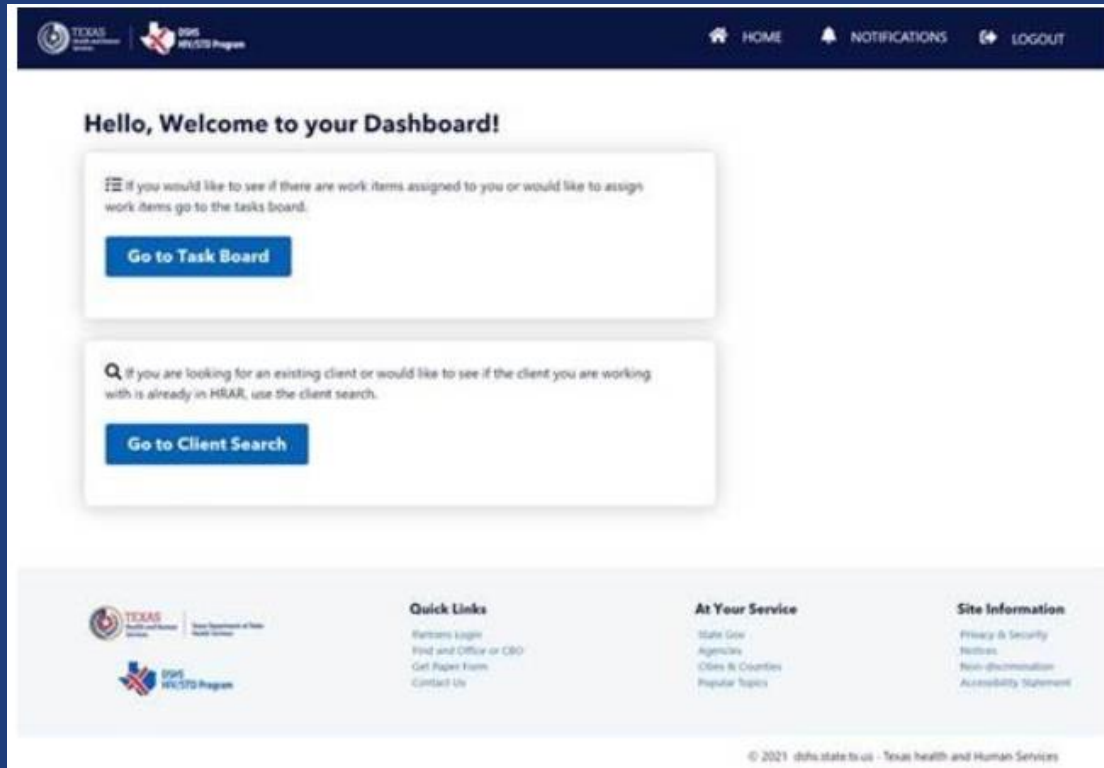


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IT System Updates



HELLO, WELCOME TO YOUR DASHBOARD!

If you would like to see if there are work items assigned to you or would like to assign work items go to the tasks board.

[Go to Task Board](#)

If you are looking for an existing client or would like to see if the client you are working with is already in HRAR, use the client search.

[Go to Client Search](#)

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- HIV2000 Recon ARIES Replacement (HRAR)
- Take Charge Texas (TCT)



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Questions?



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Texas HIV Medication Program Updates

Rachel Sanor, MBA, LMSW

Texas HIV Medication Program, Manager

Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP) Recap

- Covid-19 impact
- 28% increase in ADAP between March – Dec 2020
- Expanded 30 day supplies to 60 day supplies
- Encouraged providers to prescribe 90 day supply
- Increase of participants using single tablet regimens
 - 68% to 80%



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THMP Town Hall Recap

- DSHS generated less rebates
- Less rebates, less money to purchase HIV meds
- During annual inventory \$35M lower in inventory
- Combination of events lead to budget deficit
- Once identified DSHS & THMP began proposing solutions



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Medication Formulary Changes

- To assist with cost containment additional medications have been removed
- Recommendation made by MAC Formulary Sub-Committee
 - Hep C
 - Anti-depressants
 - High blood pressure
 - Opportunistic infection
- Delay of Cabenuva pilot
- Darprim is back in stock



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Medication Advisory Committee Positions

- 4 open positions
 - 2 consumer
 - 2 physician
- 21 applications received
- Action memo was submitted
 - Approved by the Division
 - Currently awaiting approval by Executive Commissioner
 - THMP will notify the MAC and community once action memo as been approved



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Backlog & Recertification

- THMP staff are processing new applications eight weeks out.
- Recertification applications and self-attestations are processed four to six weeks out, but staff are working hard to process these applications by the last day of the month they are due.
- All current ADAP participants need to complete the full recertification.
- Align with HRSA expectations coming out of COVID-19 response.



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TAC is open for comment through July 7th

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/policies-rules/health-human-services-rulemaking/comment-proposed-draft-rules>

Draft Rules

Informal Comments

Informal opportunities to comment occur before a rule is published in the *Texas Register*. HHS staff may solicit informal public and stakeholder input by:

- inviting stakeholders to submit comments on potential rule changes during rule development.
- sharing a draft rule with stakeholders for review.
- using existing HHS advisory committees to comment on rules.

The following are draft rules on which HHS is **accepting informal public or stakeholder input**. All rules are posted in MS Word format unless otherwise noted.

Title	Project No.	Contact	Comment Start Date	Comment End Date
Title 25, Chapter 98, Subchapters A and C, Division 1, concerning the Texas HIV State Pharmacy Assistance Program and Texas HIV Medication Program	#21R050	DSHS HIV/STD Program	6/23/21	7/7/21



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Listening Session Recap

- First THMP Listening Session
 - Held May 26th from 5-6:30pm
- Key stakeholders and collation members selected by external partners
- Questions about outcome of the Exceptional Item
- Continued discussion on how DSHS/THMP can improve communication
- Ideas for how ADAP participants, the community, and key stakeholder can be more involved



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Framework for Discussion (moderator)



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Moving Forward Together

Discussion

Discussion- question 1



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What does being “at the table” look like?

Discussion – question 2



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What are reasonable expectations
for decision making inclusion?

Discussion- question 3



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Of the different programs and resources we have with THMP what are some of the ways we can promote those resources?

Next Steps

- Transcribe and summarize input from breakout sessions
- Gather feedback from draft Moving Forward Together (MFT) plan comments
- Finalize MFT plan and post to MFT website and send to stakeholders



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Thank you

Together, we're better