



Task Force of Border Health Officials (TFBHO) APPROVED Meeting Minutes 1:00 p.m., December 11, 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 December 11, 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.

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

Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Chair, convened the TFBHO meeting at 1:01 p.m., and welcomed attendees. Ms. Francesca Kupper, Program Specialist, 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 October 3, 2024, draft meeting minutes

Dr. Rodriguez called for any edits or changes to the draft October 3, 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 October 3, 2024, draft meeting minutes as written. Dr. Emily Prot seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Update from DSHS Immunizations Unit

Ms. Nurriya Mohammad, Immunizations Epidemiologist; Ms. Cheryl Garcia, Nurse; and Mr. Austin Knaplund, Vaccine Ordering Lead, all from Immunizations Unit, DSHS, provided members with an update on vaccinations. Ms. Mohammad also reviewed the PowerPoint presentation (PPT) titled, "Influenza Immunization Data Update". Key points included:

- The number of patients in border counties who received a seasonal vaccine this flu season is lower than the previous season, but there are flu vaccination campaigns ongoing to reach more people.
A recent CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) updated a recommendation for Hepatitis B vaccination in adults.

- Of the total doses requested, 17% for RSV, 20% for Flu and COVID for adults, and 22% for COVID for pediatric patients, went to the border counties.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation: Parkinson’s Foundation programs and initiatives for the Hispanic/Latino community

Ms. Jennifer Fearday, Community Engagement Manager, Parkinson’s Foundation, reviewed the PPT titled, “Parkinson’s Foundation”. Highlights included:

- The number of individuals with Parkinson’s disease is continuously growing.
- The Hispanic have higher rates of diagnosis of young-onset Parkinson’s disease.
- This national nonprofit organization provides multiple resources in Spanish.

Agenda Item 5: Presentation: Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias

Ms. Megan Rowe, Chronic Disease Prevention Manager, DSHS, reviewed the PPT titled, “Alzheimer’s Disease Program”. Highlights included:

- Alzheimer’s disease is not a normal part of aging and is a progressive brain disorder.
- Alzheimer’s is a major public health and research challenge because of its detrimental effects on the health and well-being of the nation’s population.
- The burden of Alzheimer’s disease goes beyond the patients as many are supported by family caregivers.

Agenda Item 6. Presentation: Birth defects

Ms. Dayana Betancourt, Program Supervisor, Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, DSHS, reviewed the PPT titled, “Neural Tube Defects Along the Border”. Highlights included:

- Neural tube defects (NTD) vary in terms of severity and impact on the child.
- The border region has a higher prevalence of NTD cases vs. non border populations.
- Folic acid has been established as a preventive measure against NTD for many years.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion and vote: bylaws update

Mr. Guillermo Zenizo Lindsey, Binational Communications Coordinator, Office of Border Public Health, DSHS, presented the PPT titled, “TFBHO Bylaws 2024 Update,” to review the major changes implemented in the final draft previously shared with members. Dr. Rodriguez called for a motion to approve the final draft.

MOTION:

Mr. Kotsatos moved to approve the updated bylaws and provide the Chair with the authority to make non-substantive edits to the final version prior to publication. Dr. Veerinder Taneja seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 8: Public comment

No public comment was received.

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

Dr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Please click on the link to the archived HHSC video to view, and listen to, the entirety of the December 11, 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 \(TFBHO\)](#)