

Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council
**This public meeting of the Council was hosted on WebEx and in room 1011 of
the LBJ State Office Building.**

Minutes from the October 6, 2022, Council Meeting

Pursuant to the notice of a public meeting, filed with and posted by the Office of the Secretary of State on September 28, 2022, Comptroller Glenn Hegar called the meeting of the Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council (“Council”) to order at 10:12 a.m., on Thursday, October 6, 2022.

Members Present:

Comptroller Glenn Hegar
Carrie de Moor, MD
Emmanuel Elueze, MD
Ronald P. “Ronnie” Enriquez, Jr.
Pedro J. Fernandez, M.D.
Robert Guevara, M.D.
Lori K. Holleran Steiker, Ph.D., A.C.S.W.
John G. Mills, D.O.
John “Scott” Milton, M.D.
James Muns, M.D.
Sanjay P. Patel, M.D.
J. Douglas Thornton, Pharm.D., Ph.D., B.C.P.S.
Denise Wilkes, M.D., Ph.D.
Katherine L. Yoder, M.B.A.

Members Absent: none

The Comptroller noted that a quorum was present for the Council to conduct the business posted in the notice of the meeting.

There being a quorum present, the following business was discussed:

The Comptroller presented the minutes of the August 9, 2022, Council meeting for approval. Dr. Mills moved to adopt the minutes and Dr. Holleran Steiker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Comptroller introduced Col. Steve McCraw of the Texas Department of Public Safety, who provided an overview of their actions and efforts to address the opioid and fentanyl crisis. Following the presentation, Col. McCraw answered questions from the Council including existing internal infrastructure and laws to combat drug trafficking within the state.

The Comptroller introduced Jason Clark of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, who provided an overview of their actions and efforts in addressing the opioid and fentanyl crisis. Council members asked questions regarding the needs of the agency to provide successful reentry into the community.

The Comptroller introduced Sonja Gaines of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) who provided an overview of their actions and efforts in addressing the opioid and fentanyl crisis. Ms. Gaines introduced her colleagues who continued the presentation of HHSC's efforts with regard to the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and Texas Targeted Opioid Response, including Dr. Courtney Harvey, Philander Moore, Kasey Strey and Trina Ita. Following the presentation, the Council asked questions relating to strategic planning, limitations, program details and available data.

The Comptroller announced the Council would recess for lunch. The Comptroller called the meeting back to order at 1:00pm. The Council reconvened at 1:00pm.

The Comptroller introduced Alejandro Delgado of the Texas Education Agency, who provided an overview of their actions and efforts in addressing the opioid and fentanyl crisis. Following the presentation, the Council asked about dissemination of information strategies, disparate resources between the districts and available data.

The Comptroller introduced Sasha Rasco of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), who provided an overview of their actions and efforts in addressing the opioid and fentanyl crisis. Following the presentation, the Council asked about limitations of DFPS, including shyness of program participants in pursuing services, testing and coordination of care.

The Comptroller introduced Michael Treyger of the Texas Workforce Commission, who provided an overview of their actions and efforts in addressing the opioid and fentanyl crisis. Following the presentation, the Council asked about available data and research limitations.

Amanda Lopez, Director of the Council, presented the fiscal year 2021 expenditure report and fiscal year 2022 revenue statement.

Ms. Lopez provided an update of implementation and administrative efforts for the Council. Staff and the Comptroller answered questions regarding distribution structure development and request for proposal procedures.

The Comptroller announced that the next Council meeting is scheduled for the first part of 2023 and would be announced at a later date.

Dr. Mills moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Thornton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Lopez
Director, Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council