

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 January 8, 2025, Council Meeting

Pursuant to the notice of a public meeting, filed with and posted by the Office of the Secretary of State on December 23, 2024, Comptroller Glenn Hegar called the meeting of the Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council (“Council”) to order at 10:05 a.m., on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent: Denise Wilkes, M.D., Ph.D.

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 7, 2024, Council meeting for approval. Dr. Mills moved to adopt the minutes and Ms. Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Comptroller opened discussion and possible action on applications for the K-12 Opioid Prevention Education Grant. Dr. Mills recused himself from discussion and voting due to potential conflict of interest with a grant applicant, their known subcontractors or subgrantees. Dr. de Moor moved to 1) award the Opioid Abatement Fund Council’s K-12 Opioid Prevention Education Grant of up to \$25 million to Texas A&M University Health Science Center, 2) deny the remaining applicants from further consideration, and 3) authorize staff to take all actions necessary and implied to implement this decision. Dr. Patel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Mills abstaining.

The Comptroller called on Ms. Katy Fallon-Brown, who presented the revenue and expenditures from settlement agreements and court orders.

The Comptroller opened discussion and possible action regarding future grant cycles and 2025 Grant Issuance Plan. Dr. Thornton moved to approve the 2025 Grant Issuance Plan as written. Dr. Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Comptroller called on Ms. Fallon-Brown to provide updates on the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), Short-Term Strategies and Research, and Cycles & Strategies Working Groups. Ms. Fallon-Brown provided an update that in September, the Short-Term Strategies & Research and NOFA Working Groups jointly met to discuss possible strategies for future grants and agreed to a regional approach. In November, the NOFA Working Group met to review the Peer-to-Peer Workforce Enhancement grant. The group's recommendations were incorporated into the final document and the NOFA was released on December 11. The Cycles & Strategies Working Group met in December to review the 2025 Grant Issuance Plan.

The Comptroller opened discussion and possible action regarding abolishment, creation and/or realignment of the Working Groups and Working Group assignments. The Hospital District Formula and Short-term Strategies & Research Working Groups were disbanded. The Code of Ethics Working Group will remain in a holding pattern until there is statutory authority to adopt an OAFD policy. The Peer Review, NOFA, and Cycles & Strategies Working Groups will remain active. Dr. Thornton moved to create the Evaluation Working Group with its purpose being to assess the effectiveness of the strategies created and funded by the Council. The members will include Dr. Thornton, Dr. Mills, Dr. de Moor, Dr. Fernandez, and Dr. Elueze. Ms. Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Comptroller called on Ms. Fallon-Brown, who presented administrative support and implementation efforts for Council.

The Comptroller announced that the next Council meeting will be in March or April.

Dr. Elueze moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Enriquez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katy Fallon-Brown
Director, Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council