

Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee

November 6, 2019

Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee

Health and Human Services Commission

Brown Heatly Building

Public Hearing Room

4900 N. Lamar Blvd.,

Austin, TX 78751

Table 1: Aging Texas Well AC member attendance at the Wednesday, November 6, 2019 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Adams, Cindy	X		Saunders, Dr. Michele	X	
Bordie, Patricia	X		Wilson, Michael	P	
Bower, Bruce	P		Zernial, Carol	P	
Crocker, Andrew	P				
Flores, Richard	X		Sheridan, Dirk (ex-officio)		X
Fredriksen, Amanda		X	Spong, Tim (ex-officio)	P	
Gray, Anna	P		Taylor, Lynda (ex-officio)	X	
Mermelstein, Tammy	X				

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

P: Indicates phone conference call

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and opening remarks

The **Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee** meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Dr. Michéle Saunders, Chair. Dr. Saunders, Chair, announced that agenda item #2 regarding the Aging with Dementia presentation would be tabled for a later date due to scheduling conflict with presenter.

Mr. John Chacón, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, 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 present for the meeting. Table 1 notes committee members' attendance at the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Special Topic: Aging with Dementia

Dr. Michéle Saunders, Chair, announced during her opening remarks that this agenda item would be tabled for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Review and Approve August 7, 2019 meeting minutes

Dr. Michéle Saunders, Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting.

Motion:

Mr. Bruce Bower moved to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2019 meeting with amendments noted by Ms. Olivia Burns, HHSC committee liaison. Ms. Cindy Adams seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the minutes by voice vote and roll call for members on the phone, with ten yeas, no nays, and no abstentions.

Agenda Item 4: Division Reports

- Office of Aging and Disability Resource Centers: Wes Yeager, Director, provided the following updates:

- HHSC expanded ADRCs from 22 to 28 to maximize resources. ADRCs now work in the same physical location as AAAs and align with Texas public service areas, allowing local offices to work together more closely. OADRC launched a help desk for stakeholder questions and technical support.
- OADRC and local staff participated in HHSC statewide disability services listening forums to hear feedback on improving services for people with disabilities.
- Office of Area Agencies on Aging: Kay Hart, Director, provided the following update:
 - OAAA received Innovation in Nutrition grant funds for their Texas Congregate Meal Initiative to improve congregate meal programs and increase participation. State and national trends show declining participation in congregate meal programs. The funds will be used to identify if and how participation is declining and collect Texas-specific data on transportation, demographics, chronic disease prevalence, and other items. A learning collaborative will also be created to use the study's findings to improve local programs and programs may apply for microgrants to improve participation. Webinar to introduce the project on November 19th to be announced within the upcoming weeks.
- Medicaid and CHIP Services: Lauren Chenoweth, Senior Policy Advisor for Long-term Services and Supports, provided the following updates:
 - MCS-LTSS is finalizing the statewide transition plan for home and community-based services setting regulations to ensure people are incorporated into the community. Once finalized, the plan will be posted on the HHSC website.
 - MCS-LTSS is clarifying the Community First Choice program process and providing more trainings.
 - Money Follows the Program was extended by the federal government. Texas received 254.5 million and allocation strategies are being discussed. Texas is operating on the existing grant and will request new funds once current funds have been expended.
 - MCS Consumer Directed Services has been conducting training and informational sessions on CDS options and processes for providers and the public.
 - Rider 157 directed MCS to conduct a study on the deficit of community attendants and improve retention. An informational event on the project will be held on November 21, 2019 and in February 2020.
- Medicaid and CHIP Services: Holly Freed, Senior Policy Advisor for Special Projects, provided updates and highlights of update and committee member discussion included:
 - Rider 42 directed MCS to conduct a study of current waiver interests list to identify strategies to reduce or eliminate the lists. The study will involve analyzing data from the last 10 years and identifying data elements not currently available (e.g. met and unmet needs of people on the interest list). MCS will also examine how other states have reduced or eliminated their waiver interest lists, economic and geographical barriers to services, and time spent on the waiting list to inform the study.
- Aging Services Coordination: Claire Irwin, Age Well Live Well Coordinator, provided updates the following updates:
 - The Innovators in Aging Award nominations closed on October 31, 2019. The award received over 28 applications. Members of the committee will serve as judges.
 - The Civil Money Penalty project is entering its final year with 10 nursing facilities participating. The project aims to enhance resident quality of life, strengthen volunteer management systems, and improve volunteer program sustainability. Two trainings will be offered: one of which is a mobile training to onboard new volunteers, the other is a web-based training for volunteer managers.
 - The Opioid Misuse and Prevention in Older Adults project had 26 out of 28 Area Agencies on Aging accept funding to enhance their medication review programs, evidence-based pain

management groups, and capacity building. First quarterly report is due in December. Regional symposiums are being planned across Texas.

- The Texas Talks campaign launches in early November. The campaign was developed for worksites to support employees talking with their family members about issues surrounding aging. Topics from last year and this year will be available on the website.
- ASC hired a contractor to help with the SNAP-Ed grant project.

Agenda Item 5: Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee Operations

- ATWAC Vice-Chair Election – Mr. Chacón reviewed the Officer Election Procedure and asked committee members to entertain a motion to adopt the Officer Election Procedure.

Motion:

Mr. Bruce Bower moved to approve the Officer Election Procedure as presented. Ms. Tammy Mermelstein seconded the motion. The Committee members approved the Officer Election Procedure by voice vote and roll call vote from members on the phone with ten yeas, with zero nays and zero abstentions.

Mr. Chacón conducted the election of the Vice-Chair and announced the nominees (Ms. Patricia Boardie, Ms. Tammy Mermelstein, and Ms. Amanda Fredriksen) that were nominated prior to the meeting and had accepted the nomination. Ms. Bordie withdrew her nomination. Mr. Chacón opened the floor to take additional nominations for Vice-Chair and no additional nominees were nominated.

Motion:

Mr. Bower made a motion to conduct the election of the Vice-Chair by roll call vote. Ms. Bordie seconded the motion. The Committee members approved to conduct the election of Vice-Chair by roll call vote with a voice vote and roll call vote from members on the phone with ten yeas, with zero nays and zero abstentions.

Mr. John Chacón conducted the election of the Vice-Chair by roll call and the following was the results of the election:

NAME	Mermelstein	Fredriksen
Ms. Cindy Adams	X	
Ms. Patricia Bordie		X
Dr. Bruce Bower	X	
Mr. Andrew Crocker	X	
Mr. Richard Flores		X
Ms. Amanda Fredriksen	Absent	Absent
Ms. Anna Gray	X	
Ms. Tammy Mermelstein	X	
Dr. Michele Saunders, Chair	X	
Dr. Michael Wilson	X	
Ms. Carol Zernial	X	
Total	8	2

The Committee members elected Ms. Tammy Mermelstein as the Vice-Chair with eight votes in favor with ten members voting.

- Legislative Appropriations Request Recommendations - Dr. Michéle Saunders, Chair,
 - The committee discussed ideas for recommending legislative appropriations request to HHSC. Dr. Saunders highlighted a recommendation from AARP of Texas to increase funding for the state respite program as a possible LAR to support. Mr. Wilson explained that Meals on Wheels of Texas was working on a recommendation for respite funding for caregivers of people with dementia as another possible LAR recommendation. The group decided to approve the Strategic Planning Subcommittee to look further in to recommendations and either draft a letter of support for specific LARs or develop own recommendations as a committee.

Motion:

Mr. Bower moved to accept the future decisions of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee related to LAR items and authorize Dr. Saunders, Chair, to draft and finalize a letter supporting the subcommittee recommendations. Ms. Mermelstein seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the motion by voice vote and roll call for members on the phone, with ten yeas, no nays, and no abstentions.

- Member updates- Dr. Michéle Saunders, Chair, asked ATWAC members to share any updates they had from their respective organizations.
 - Dr. Saunders: The Gerontological Society of America will be in Austin November 9-13, 2019.
 - Ms. Patty Bordie: The AAAs are developing their area plans and seeking input from providers, residents, and stakeholders through electronic surveys. All AAAs are using the same survey to gather statewide data. The plan is due in March 2020.
 - Mr. Richard Flores: ADRC Coalition is done meeting for the year. Since the expansion of local ADRCs and physical alignment with AAAs, there is a renewed excitement to work together and support each other.
 - Ms. Lynda Taylor: The 2019-2023 Texas State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease was recently released. On Nov 19, 2019, there will be a stakeholder meeting to review state plan.
 - Ms. Cindy Adams: HHSC has announced bid awards for managed care organizations and made changes to service delivery areas. There are new MCOs providing services. The HHSC website has posted the changes in providers for each area.
 - Ms. Tammy Mermelstein: Center for Aging and Resource Education (CARE) for Elders will now be part of University of Houston. The center will have a dual focus: research efforts as well as providing assistance through an information and referral center. A soft launch of the center is planned for the beginning of 2020.
 - Mr. Bruce Bowers: The Texas Senior Advocacy Coalition is preparing for senior day at the Capitol, for February 9, 2021.
 - Mr. Andy Crocker: The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has a new director as of September 1, 2019. Additionally, there will be a new focus on emergency preparedness, and disaster recovery, as well as partnership with Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.
 - Ms. Anna Gray: No updates.
 - Mr. Michael Wilson: Meals on Wheels Central Texas opened a congregate meal site for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older adults that will be held twice a week.
 - Ms. Carol Zernial: Ms. Zernial was appointed to the national RAISE Family Caregiver's Advisory Committee. The committee is gathering recommendations for public policy affecting family caregivers and those receiving care.
 - Mr. Tim Spong: The Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind program has completed its 2019 fiscal year budget. The program is focusing on increased visibility and referrals across Texas.
 - Mr. Dirk Sheridan: The upcoming Adult Protective Services conference will be held November 19-21 at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin.

Agenda Item 6: Public Comment:

No public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 8: Action and agenda items for next meeting and wrap-up

Dr. Saunders announced that the next ATWAC meeting is on February 5, 2020. With no further business, Dr. Saunders adjourned the meeting at 10:42 am.

This meeting was webcast in compliance with Open Meetings Act. To access the webcast of the November 6, 2019 meeting, please go to

[Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee](#)

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