

Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee

August 5, 2020

Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee Health and Human Services Commission

TEAMS Live Events Virtual Platform

Table 1: Aging Texas Well AC member attendance at the Wednesday, August 5, 2020 meeting.

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

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

P: Indicates phone conference call

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and opening remarks

The **Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee** meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Dr. Michéle Saunders, Chair.

Mr. John Chacón, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), announced that the meeting was being conducted via a Teams Live Events virtual platform in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, conducted roll call, and noted that a quorum was present for the meeting. Table 1 notes committee members' attendance at the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Approve February 5, 2020, meeting minutes

Dr. Michéle Saunders, Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020 meeting.

Motion:

Mr. Bruce Bower moved to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting with edits. Mr. Richard Flores seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the minutes by a roll call vote conducted by Mr. John Chacón, with ten approves, no disapproves, and no abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Special Topic: Dementia Aware

Dr. Tam Cummings, Ph.D., Gerontologist, provided a presentation on Dementia Aware and referenced a PowerPoint entitled "Dementia Aware". Highlights of presentation and committee member discussion included:

- Dr. Cummings presented the nine forms of dementia, the impact of each on the brain, and the stages of Alzheimer's. She also discussed caregiving tips and resources for caregivers of loved ones with dementia. There was discussion by committee members and Dr. Cummings about different ways to educate and engage the public engagement around dementia. For more information, please review the recording of the meeting.

DRAFT: 10/21/20

Agenda Item 4: Committee Operations:

- a. Members provide updates from their organizations:
 - a. New members Lucia Leo and Aftab Ghesani were welcomed and given the opportunity to introduce themselves. The rest of the members introduced themselves, the member category they represent, and shared updates from the respective organizations:
 - i. Patricia Bordie – The Capital Area Agency on Aging is continuing to provide services virtually. CAPAAA received funding to expand nutrition services and to provide Ombudsmen services over the phone. Health and wellness classes are being provided virtually as well.
 - ii. Bruce Bower – The Texas Senior Advocacy Coalition is developing priorities for the 87th legislative session and preparing for the 2021 Senior Day at the Texas Capitol. Because the legislature is still deciding on whether they will meet virtually or in-person, TSAC logistics of what Senior Day will look like is still being discussed.
 - iii. Andy Crocker – The AgriLife Extension Service has adapted its programming to be virtual and has been assisting with COVID-19 contact tracing in some areas of the state.
 - iv. Richard Flores –ADRCs are transitioning fully to virtual work and communication. Flores thanked Dr. Cummings for her presentation and stated the information and resources she shared will support ADRCs to educate the communities they serve on Alzheimer’s and dementia.
 - v. Aftab Ghesani – No updates to share.
 - vi. Lucia Leo – Leo thanked Dr. Cummings for her presentation and stated she would share the information with her Veterans Affairs teams .
 - vii. Tammy Mermelstein – The Collaboratory for Aging Resources and Education has developed an initiative to help combat social isolation during COVID-19. The program pairs college students with older adults to complete virtual activities together. Mermelstein explained the opportunity gave students college credit while providing meaningful experiences and interaction for all participants.
 - viii. Dirk Sheridan – Due to COVID-19, Adult Protective Services caseloads decreased from an average of 20-29 to 17 per caseworker. Sheridan explained many clients were afraid to have caseworkers in their homes for fear of contacting the virus.
 - ix. Lynda Taylor – Currently in the process of wrapping up two legislative reports on the Texas State Plan on Alzheimer’s and Dementia with the next meeting for the plan on August 12, 2020. The Texas Alzheimer’s Disease Partnership will meet on November 20, 2020.
 - x. Michael Wilson – Meals on Wheels transitioned from the delivery of daily hot meals to delivering two weeks of shelf-stable food every other week to protect everyone’s health. MOW has transitioned congregate meals to home-delivered or “drive-thru” meals and plans to return to hot meal delivery when it is safe to do so.
 - xi. Carol Zernial – WellMed senior centers are providing “drive-thru” congregate meals and to date have provided 31,000 hot and frozen meals and 2,500 food boxes. Zernial shared a video with Olivia Burns highlighting one of the senior centers. Burns will email the link to the members.
 - xii. Dr. Michele Saunders – The pandemic curve is starting to bend a little in San Antonio. Dr. Saunders is in the final editing phase of an oral health screening tool to help doctors and medical providers identify oral health conditions in older adults.

Agenda Item 5: Public Comment:

No public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 6: Action and agenda items for next meeting and wrap-up

- Dr. Saunders announced that the next ATWAC meeting is on November 4, 2020.

DRAFT: 10/21/20

- Ms. Burns stated she would follow up with members to collect more information on their COVID-19 response activities to highlight for others and to share resources Dr. Cummings mentioned in the presentation.
- With no further business, Dr. Saunders adjourned the meeting at 11:03 am.

This meeting was webcast in compliance with Open Meetings Act. To access the webcast of the August 5, 2020 meeting, please go to

[Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee](#)