

**Women’s Health Advisory Committee  
Meeting Report  
October 28, 2015  
9:12 a.m. – 11:31 a.m.**

**Brown Heatly  
Public Hearing Room 1410, 1420, 1430  
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78705**

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Dr. Jennifer Almonte-Gonzales	X		Martha Zuniga	X	
Mrs. Carol Everett	X				
Dr. Moss Hampton	X				
Dr. Janet Realini (Vice Chair)	X				
Dr. Peggy Smith		X			
Dr. John Thoppil	X				
Mr. Eric Todd	X				
Mrs. Paula Turicchi (Chairwoman)	X				

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order**

Paula Turicchi, Women’s Health Advisory Committee Chair, called the meeting the order and welcomed the Committee members and the public. She recognized that a quorum was present and provided information about the public accessing the agenda and public comments after the meeting online. The Women’s Health Advisory Committee convened at 9:12 a.m. at the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) headquarters, Brown-Heatly Public Hearing Room, 4900 North Lamar, and Austin Texas.

Kristen Gonzales called the roll.

Committee members present:

- Paula Turicchi
- Dr. Janet Realini
- Dr. Jennifer Almonte-Gonzalez
- Carol Everett
- Martha Zuniga
- Eric Todd
- Dr. John Thoppil

- Moss Hampton

Members not present:

- Dr. Peggy Smith

There were eight members physically present. Also present was HHSC Executive Commissioner, Chris Traylor, Associate Commissioner, Lesley French, and other HHSC executive staff.

## **Agenda Item 2: Presentation and discussion of women's health program client service benefits package**

Commissioner French and Travis Duke, Director of the Office of Women's Health, presented the client services benefits package to the Committee.

Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- HHSC and DSHS were directed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature to combine EPHC with TWHP and expand Family Planning benefits. The Legislature provided general guidance on the scope of the new programs. The Committee will recommend proposed benefits for the HHS Executive Commissioners approval.
- The Women's Health Services team drew from various sources to design the benefits package including:
  - The CDC's study- *Providing Quality Family Planning Services*
  - Current services provided through the Texas Women's Health Program, Expanded Primary Care Program, Family Planning, Breast and Cervical Cancer Services Program, and Title V Prenatal Services
  - A review of:
    - National guidelines for contraceptive, family planning, and breast cancer and cervical cancer recommended services
    - Recommendation of the US Preventative Services Task Force
- The CDC/OPA Framework is:
  - Core Family Planning Services including:
    - Contraceptive services (pregnancy prevention and birth spacing) IUDs, implants, oral contraceptive pills, 3-month injections (medroxyprogesterone), sterilizations, etc.
    - Pregnancy testing and counseling
    - Health screenings: Pap tests and screening for hypertension, diabetes, and elevated cholesterol
    - Preconception health (e.g., screening for obesity, smoking, and mental health)
    - Sexually transmitted infection (STI) services: chlamydia & gonorrhea screening & treatment, HIV screening

- Related Preventative Health Services
  - Beneficial to reproductive health
  - Closely linked to family planning services
  - Appropriate in context of family planning visit but do not contribute directly to achieving/preventing pregnancy
  - Examples include: Breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening and treatment
  - Problem-focused gynecological services, cancer screening of other reproductive organs such as vagina or uterine lining, repair of abnormalities of reproductive system
- Other Preventative Services:
  - Includes preventive health services for women not included in related preventive health services that positively affect maternal health and future pregnancies.
  - Important in primary care context
- The Healthy Texas Women proposed client services benefits package is:
  - Core Family Planning Services
  - Related Preventative Health Services
  - Immunization and Other Preventative Health Services:
    - Includes preventive health services for women not included in related preventive health services that positively affect maternal health and future pregnancies.
    - Includes preventive health services for women not included in related preventive health services that positively affect maternal health and future pregnancies.
    - Important in primary care context
- The Family Planning proposed client services benefits package is:
  - Core Family Planning Services
  - Related Preventative Health Services
  - Immunizations and Prenatal Services
    - Includes preventive health services for women not included in related preventive health services that positively affect maternal health and future pregnancies.
    - Includes preventive health services for women not included in related preventive health services that positively affect maternal health and future pregnancies.
- Healthy Texas Women Claims will be
  - Fee for service at Medicaid rates will apply
  - Claims must pass program approved edits and audits
  - CMS-1500 Claim Form
  - Affiliate Certification
  - Cost reimbursement for certain benefits

- Family Planning Claims
  - Fee for service at Medicaid rates
  - Claims must pass program approved edits and audits
  - 2017 Family Planning Claim Form
  - Cost reimbursement for certain benefits

The Committee then asked Lesley French, Associate Commissioner of Women's Health Services, and Travis Duke, Director of the Office of Women's Health, questions related to the types of services offered in the benefits package.

**Action Items:**

- The Women's Health Services Division will answer questions for the Committee and present the answers at the next meeting.
- The Committee will consider the proposed benefits package and vote on it at the next Committee meeting.

**Agenda Item 3: General Public Comment Period**

Members of the public were allowed to share their opinion with the Committee. The following people offered their comments to the Committee:

1. Dr. Maqsood Ahmed representing a TIIHP gave comments relating to the pros and cons of the proposed package.
2. Alice Bufkin representing the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition gave comments related to the Coalitions concerns of and recommendations for the proposed benefits package. The Coalition also provided written testimony.
3. Ana DeFrates representing the National Latina Institute for Reproductive health gave comments related to the Institutes concerns and recommendations for the proposed benefits package.

We did not have any written testimony, other than what is noted below, submitted to the Committee.

**Agenda Item 4: Adjourn**

Chairwoman Turicchi adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.