

**Women's Health Advisory Committee  
Meeting Report  
November 13, 2015  
1:15 p.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 1:15 p.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:

- Ms. Paula Turicchi
- Dr. Janet Realini
- Dr. Jennifer Almonte-Gonzalez
- Ms. Carol Everett
- Dr. Moss Hampton
- Dr. Peggy Smith

Dr. John Thoppil  
Mr. Eric Todd  
Ms. Martha Zuniga

There were seven members (Chairwoman Turicchi, Vice Chair Realini, Ms. Carol Everett, Ms. Peggy Smith, Mr. Eric Todd, Dr. John Thoppil, Ms. Martha Zuniga) physically present. Two members (Dr. Almonte-Gonzalez and Dr. Moss Hampton) were available via conference lines. Also present was HHSC Associate Commissioner, Lesley French, and other HHSC executive staff.

Kristen Gonzales addressed several housekeeping matters; including the announcement that the meeting was being conducted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act and was open to public to attend. Ms. Gonzales also explained that public comment would be taken during both the general comment period and prior to the Committee voting on any action.

### **Agenda Item 2: Adoption of minutes from the October 28, 2015 meeting**

Chair Turichhi called for a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from October 28, 2015. Eric Todd moved to adopt the meeting minutes. Carol Everett seconded the motion. Chair Turicchi called for roll call vote of the meeting minutes. Kristen Gonzales called the roll. The meeting minutes were unanimously adopted.

### **Agenda Item 3: Review of stakeholder comments and discussion of women's health program client service benefits package**

Commissioner French reviewed the stakeholder comments and presented answers to the questions received by outside groups. Commissioner French reviewed the proposed client services benefits packages and gave women's health updates. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- 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.*
    - *Are important in the primary care context.*
- The Family Planning proposed client services benefits package is:
  - Core Family Planning Services, which are the same as those offered under the Healthy Texas Women package.

- Related Preventive Health Services, which are the same as those offered under the Healthy Texas Women package.
- 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, and reproductive health.*
  -

Travis Duke, Director of the Office of Women’s Health, provided a review of stakeholder comments and how the input was taken into consideration in the development of the proposed benefits package. Mr. Duke also discussed how the programs will continue to seek public input as the programs develop in the future.

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 presentation, the answers to stakeholder comments, and other women’s health issues as related to the proposed benefits packages.

**Agenda Item 4: General Public Comment Period**

Members of the public were allowed to share their opinion with the Committee. The following people commented in front of the Committee.

1. Alice Bufkin spoke before the Committee on behalf of the Texas Women’s Healthcare Coalition. She gave recommendations regarding the client services benefits package and provided a copy of her testimony.
2. Helen Kent Davis spoke before the Committee on behalf of the Texas Medical Association, the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She spoke about the client services benefits package and provided a copy of her comments.
3. Rebecca Burpo spoke before the Committee on behalf of the Texas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. She spoke about the covered benefits in the client services package and gave recommendations. She will submit further comments in writing.
4. Lisa LeBlanc spoke before the Committee about menopause, breast cancer, and women’s health issues.

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

**Agenda Item 5: Break**

Chairwoman Turicchi recessed the meeting for 30 minutes

### **Agenda Item 6: Vote on the benefits package**

Chair Turichhi called for a motion to recommend the proposed client services benefits packages to Executive Commissioner Traylor. Dr. Realini moved to recommend the Core Family Planning services for Healthy Texas Women and Family Planning to the Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

Dr. Realini then moved to recommend the proposed Immunizations, Other Preventative Health Services, and Prenatal services to Executive Commissioner Traylor pending the determination of whether there are sufficient funds in the final approved budget and forecast to provide such services. Specifically, Dr. Realini moved that Commissioner French would submit the information to the Legislative Budget Board necessary to make this determination. If the Legislative Budget Board determines that there are sufficient funds to provide these services, the Committee's recommendation to Executive Commissioner Traylor to approve the proposed services will stand. Commissioner French will submit the budget and forecasting information regarding these services to the Committee at the next meeting.

After a discussion of Dr. Realini's motions, Dr. Thoppil and Dr. Smith seconded the motion to recommend the Core Family Planning services for the Healthy Texas Women program and Family Planning to the Executive Commissioner. Kristen Gonzales called the role and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Realini, then moved to recommend the proposed Immunizations, Other Preventative Health Services, and Prenatal services to the Executive Commissioner pending a forecast to be submitted to the Legislative Budget Board and provided there are sufficient funds in the budget. Dr. Hampton and Dr. Thoppil seconded the motion. Kristen Gonzales called the role and the motion was unanimously adopted.

### **Agenda Item 7: Presentation of future timelines**

Associate Commissioner French reviewed ongoing and future discussion and timelines. These include the rule making process, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, billing issues, provider manuals, outreach and communication plans, and ongoing improvements to the program. Associate Commissioner French then answered questions from the Committee on these future timelines and issue areas.

Members of the public, Helen Kent Davis and Amanda Stukenberg, also gave testimony on the upcoming timelines and goals for the Committee.

**Action Item 8: Adjourn**

Chair Turricchi adjourned the meeting.

