

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 October 25, 2023, Council Meeting

Pursuant to the notice of a public meeting, filed with and posted by the Office of the Secretary of State on October 12, 2023, Comptroller Glenn Hegar called the meeting of the Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council (“Council”) to order at 10:05 a.m., on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

Members Present:

Comptroller Glenn Hegar
Emmanuel Elueze, M.D.
Robert Guevara, M.D.
Lori K. Holleran Steiker, Ph.D., A.C.S.W.
John G. Mills, D.O.
J. Douglas Thornton, Pharm.D., Ph.D., B.C.P.S.
Denise Wilkes, M.D., Ph.D.
Katherine L. Yoder, M.B.A.
Carrie de Moor, M.D.
Ronald P. “Ronnie” Enriquez, Jr.;
James Muns, M.D.
Pedro J. Fernandez, M.D.

Members Absent: John “Scott” Milton, M.D.; Sanjay P. Patel, M.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 introduced Maureen Milligan and John Henderson of Teaching Hospitals of Texas (THOT) and Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH), who provided information on hospital districts and factors to consider for the hospital district distribution formula. The Council asked questions and discussed the information presented.

The Comptroller presented the minutes of the September 25, 2023, Council meeting for approval. Ms. Yoder moved to adopt the minutes and Dr. Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Comptroller introduced Dr. Mike Wilkerson of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, who discussed the census survey of opioid and substance use disorder services across Texas. Associate Deputy Comptroller, Korry Castillo, served as chair of the meeting at 11:27 a.m. The Comptroller returned to chair the meeting at 11:32 a.m. The Council asked questions and discussed the information presented.

The Council discussed factors and issues regarding the hospital district distribution formula and advised staff on how to proceed on drafting a proposed rule.

The Comptroller introduced Amanda Lopez, Director of the Opioid Abatement Fund Council Program, who presented administrative support and implementation efforts for Council.

The Comptroller called on Ms. Lopez, who presented the FY 2023 revenue and expenditures from settlement agreements and court orders.

The Comptroller announced that the next Council meetings is tentatively scheduled for November 28, 2023.

The Comptroller opened discussion for each working group to provide updates on their work. Angelica (AJ) Inglis, communications and community engagement specialist, shared updates on the Short-term Strategies and Research Working Group. Ms. Lopez provided updates from the Notice of Funding Available Working Group. The Council discussed the updates provided from the working groups.

At 12:40 pm, the Council moved into executive session to receive legal advice from its attorneys concerning updates from the Code of Ethics Working Group under Government Code, Section 551.071, regarding legal matters. The Council reconvened in open session at 1:04 p.m.

Dr. Thornton moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Holleran Steiker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Lopez
Director, Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council