

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 February 7, 2024, Council Meeting

Pursuant to the notice of a public meeting, filed with and posted by the Office of the Secretary of State on January 22, 2024, Comptroller Glenn Hegar called the meeting of the Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council (“Council”) to order at 10:02 a.m., on Tuesday, February 7, 2024.

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.
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.
John “Scott” Milton, M.D.

Members Absent: Dr. Denise Wilkes, M.D., Ph.D.; Dr. 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 presented the minutes of the November 28, 2023, Council meeting for approval. Dr. Mills moved to adopt the minutes and Dr. Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council discussed the adoption of new 34 Texas Administrative Code Section 16.222, concerning hospital district allocations, and the repeal of current 34 Texas Administrative Code Section 16.222, concerning references. Amanda Lopez provided a summary of the proposed rule and the public comments received. The Council discussed and asked questions about the proposed rule. Mr. Enriquez moved to adopt new 34 Texas Administrative Code Section 16.222 and to repeal current 34 Texas Administrative Code Section 16.222, in substantively the same form as presented to the council meeting and to authorize staff to take all actions necessary and implied to file it with the Texas Register. Dr. Mills seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed with Ms. Yoder abstaining from voting.

The Comptroller opened discussion for possible action on the creation of an additional working group to recommend the percentage of money that may be used for development of education and outreach programs to provide materials on the consequences of opioid drug use and prevention and intervention, including online resources and toolkits, under Government Code, Section 403.509. The council decided to have the Short-term Strategies & Research working group discuss the issue and present ideas at the next Council meeting. The working group will consist of Ms. Yoder, Dr. Holleran Steiker, Dr. Mills, Dr. Thornton, and Dr. Fernandez.

Ms. Lopez provided updates from the Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) and Short-term Strategies & Research Working Groups. The Short-term Strategies & Research Working Group and NOFA Working Group are composed of the same group of members, so they are jointly meeting to discuss the NOFA for the Naloxone Distribution grant opportunity. The NOFA Working Group received a draft NOFA and application to review and provide comments on.

At 10:32 a.m., 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 11:12 a.m.

The Comptroller called on Ms. Lopez, who presented administrative support and implementation efforts for Council.

The Comptroller called on Ms. Lopez, who presented the FY 2024 revenue and expenditures from settlement agreements and court orders.

The Comptroller announced that the next Council meetings is scheduled for March 20, 2024.

Dr. Fernandez moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Elueze seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Lopez
Director, Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council