

TEXAS HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

Capitol Extension Building, Room E1.010
Austin, Texas 78701

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Manfred Sternberg (Chair), Kathleen Mechler (Vice Chair), Matthew Hamlin (Treasurer), Alesha Adamson (Secretary), Raymond Davis, David Fleeger, Edward Marx, Donna Montemayor, Dee Porter, Darren Rodgers, and Stephen Yurco

MEMBERS ABSENT

Fred Buckwold and Luanne Southern

STAFF

Tony Gilman, CEO

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Manfred Sternberg called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chair Sternberg welcomed the Board members and guests, and asked Mr. Tony Gilman to take roll. Chair Sternberg also welcomed Stephen Palmer with the Office of eHealth Coordination at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and thanked him for participating in the Board's meetings.

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Approval of Minutes from the March 25, 2010 Meeting

Chair Sternberg asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 25, 2010 meeting. Mr. Matthew Hamlin made a motion to pass the meeting minutes. Mr. Edward Marx seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) Collaborative Workgroup Updates (Briefing Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was an update on the collaborative workgroups. He then invited Mr. James Honn with CTG to brief the Board on this item.

Mr. Honn reviewed the kick-off meetings/webinars CTG facilitated during the week of April 19. He noted that each workgroup discussed objectives and approach, the workgroup charge, and core principles. He further noted that the workgroups would meet monthly, with CTG identifying key decision points and discernable policy options on each item that must be addressed in the state's health information exchange (HIE) strategic and operational plans. Mr. Honn also provided the Board with a preview of the THSA's public Web site.

Chair Sternberg thanked Mr. Honn for his presentation. Members discussed the information presented and provide comments on the THSA Web site.

CEO Update on THSA Operations, Project Work Plan, and Other Administrative Items (Briefing Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was an update from Mr. Gilman on the THSA operations, project work plan, and other administrative matters. Mr. Gilman advised the Board that he began working full time for the THSA on April 19 and is leasing office space from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute.

He further advised the Board that a new bank account had been established to receive the federal funds, HHSC had signed the funding contract the Board approved in March, and ONC had released the funding so that it could be drawn down by HHSC.

Mr. Gilman advised members that he and CTG were still working through a couple of questions on the revised consultant contract that CTG submitted to the THSA on April 15. He noted that it was a priority for both sides to get the contract signed as soon as possible.

Mr. Gilman also advised the Board that he had moved ahead with two other agreements for accounting and legal services that he had previously discussed with the Board. He noted he had been working with the law firm Byrne, Cardenas & Aris on THSA matters over the last couple of months and with the Coalter Baker on accounting matters over the last year and a half.

Mr. Gilman reviewed the interim charges to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and House Committee on Public Health, and discussed his upcoming presentation to the participants of the Dallas Health Information Technology (HIT) Summit.

Finally, Mr. Gilman reviewed the THSA's project work plan. He noted that Mr. Marx had requested long-term goals be added to the project plan. For discussion purposes, Mr. Gilman suggested the goal for 2011 could be to support local and regional HIE development consistent with the Stage 1 of the meaningful use criteria. The goal for 2013 could be to support shared services at the state-level consistent with Stage 2 of the meaningful use criteria. The goal for 2015 could be fully operational state and regional networks that support quality, safety and efficiency in the state's health care system.

Chair Sternberg thanked Mr. Gilman for his presentation. Members discussed the long-term goals and directed Mr. Gilman to seek additional input from Board members prior to the June 24 meeting of the THSA.

Update on HIT Extension Program and Other Federal HIT Funding Activities (Briefing Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was an update on the HIT Regional Extension Programs (RECs). He then asked Vice Chair Kathy Mechler to brief the Board on this item. Vice Chair Mechler discussed the REC program funding, discussed the Request for Qualifications the RECs were going to release to gather information about Electronic Health Record (EHR) offerings in the Texas marketplace, and an upcoming orientation meeting sponsored by the Office of the National Coordinator for HIT.

Chair Sternberg thanked Vice Chair Mechler for her presentation and asked members if there was any discussion or comments on this item. Members discussed the information presented and directed Mr. Gilman to invite the four RECs funded in Texas to present during the June 24 meeting of the THSA.

Update on HHSC's HIE Advisory Committee (Briefing Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was a briefing from Mr. Palmer on HHSC's HIE Advisory Committee. Mr. Palmer discussed House Bill 1218, the legislation that created the Medicaid HIE Advisory Committee, and reviewed the advisory committee meetings on February 1 and April 2.

Chair Sternberg thanked Mr. Palmer for his presentation and asked members if there was any discussion or comments on this item, and there was none.

Consideration of Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan (Action Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item is consideration of an Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan for the THSA. He then asked Mr. Gilman to brief members on this item. Mr. Gilman advised the Board that the THSA must make the most efficient and effective use of funds entrusted to it when making expenditures and must be able to demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws and rules. He further advised the Board that the proposed accountable plan provides a prescribed method and uniformity in the approval and review process for business expenses for travel and other expenses that are not subject to employment taxes.

Chair Sternberg thanked Mr. Gilman for his presentation and asked if there was any discussion. Members discussed the Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan and asked several clarifying questions. Members discussed the Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan and asked clarifying questions. Ms. Alesha Adamson questioned whether valet services should be consider a non-reimbursable expenditure, noting that it is sometimes cheaper to use valet service than to use parking garages in some situations. Ms. Adamson then moved to approve the Accountable Expense Reimbursement Plan as presented with valet services deleted from the list of non-reimbursable expenditure items. Mr. Darren Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

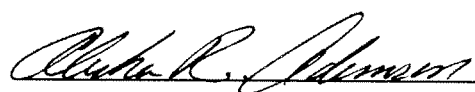
The Board received public comment from Mitchell Gibbs with the Texas Health Institute on the RECs.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair Sternberg asked Mr. Gilman to brief members on information items. Mr. Gilman noted the Board was scheduled to next meet on June 24 and suggested the Board schedule an additional meeting on July 22 so that the Board could review the draft strategic and operational plans prior to release to the public for comment. He also noted the Board was scheduled to meet on August 26. Mr. Hamlin then briefed members on the financial summary report. The Board had no questions on this item.

ADJOURN

Chair Sternberg asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Vice Chair Mechler and seconded by Ms. Adamson. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.


Alesha R. Adamson, Secretary