

TEXAS HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Manfred Sternberg (Chair), Kathleen Mechler (Vice Chair), Alesha Adamson (Secretary), Fred Buckwold, Raymond Davis, David Fleeger, Edward Marx, and Luanne Southern

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matthew Hamlin (Treasurer), Donna Montemayor, Dee Porter, Darren Rodgers, and Stephen Yurco

STAFF

Tony Gilman, Executive Officer, Texas Health Care Policy Council, Office of the Governor
Taylor Cook, Policy Analyst, Texas Health Care Policy Council, Office of the Governor
Jennifer Beale, Texas Health Care Policy Council, Office of the Governor

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Manfred Sternberg called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 January 10, 2010 Meeting

Chair Sternberg asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 28, 2010 meeting. Dr. David Fleeger made a motion to pass the meeting minutes. Ms. Alesha Adamson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Update on Texas Application for the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program (Briefing Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was a briefing on the Texas application for the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement Program. He then asked Mr. Stephen Palmer to brief the Board on this item.

Mr. Palmer advised members that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) received an award on March 15 of \$28.8 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate HIE in Texas. He also advised members that Texas must submit the HIE strategic and operational plans for the State of Texas by September 27, 2010.

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.

Briefing on Health Information Technology Extension Program (Briefing Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was a briefing on the Health Information Technology Extension Program. He then asked Vice Chair Kathy Mechler to brief the Board on this item. Vice Chair Mechler discussed the Regional Extension Center (REC) program funding and noted that the Texas RECs were still awaiting a decision on funding. Members discussed this item.

Consideration of Consultant Firm, Planning Approach, and Budget for Consultant Services (Action Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was the consideration of a consultant firm, planning approach, and budget for consultant services. Chair Sternberg then announced that Computer Task Group (CTG) had been selected as the final candidate to provide consulting services to the Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) as defined in the THSA Request for Qualifications.

The Board then received a presentation from CTG representatives Mr. Michael Colson and Mr. James Honn. Mr. Colson and Mr. Honn briefed members on two pricing and deliverable options. The first option proposed a total budget of \$1 million for the planning phase of the project, with \$800,000 supporting the consultant contract and \$200,000 to support the operations of the THSA and HHSC's Office of eHealth Coordination. Under this option, CTG would facilitate the collaborative workgroup process and develop the strategic and operational plans by the end of August.

The second option proposed a total budget of \$1 million for the planning phase of the project, with \$900,000 supporting the consultant contract and \$100,000 supporting the operations of the THSA and HHSC's Office of eHealth Coordination. Under this option, CTG would facilitate the collaborative workgroup process and develop the strategic and operational plans by the end of August. In addition, CTG would provide some expanded services.

Members discussed several details related to the plans, including concerns about funding for THSA operations, specific components of the two plans, and the development of an environmental scan. Dr. Fred Buckwold motioned to accept CTG's offer to execute the second option with the expanded services for \$800,000. The motion was second by Dr. Fleeger. Members continued to discuss the options, then approved the motion by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of Budget for Planning Phase (Action Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was acceptance of a budget and asked Mr. Gilman to present information to members. Mr. Gilman presented the budget for the planning process including funds for the THSA and consultant services. Members discussed the budget.

Dr. Buckwold moved that the members accept budget option one, which allocates \$200,000 to the THSA and HHSC, and \$800,000 for consultant services during the planning period, and to further allow the Chair and Executive Committee to make adjustments to the budget as necessary. Dr. Fleeger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of a Contract between the Corporation and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission relating to the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program (Action Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was consideration of a contract between the THSA and HHSC related to the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program, and asked Mr. Gilman to brief members on this item. Mr. Gilman discussed the draft contract and stated that the THSA needs to enter into a contract with HHSC to receive funding under the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program. Members reviewed the draft contract that outlines HHSC's expectations for the strategic planning process and the requirements associated with the receipt of funding.

Dr. Fleeger moved to approve the contract and Ms. Adamson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Update on Collaborative Workgroup Process (Briefing Item)

Chair Sternberg noted that the next item for review on the agenda was an update on the Collaborative Workgroup Process, and asked Ms. Taylor Cook to brief the Board on this item. Ms. Cook informed members that while the workgroups had not met since the January Board meeting, they had been developing core principles to guide the development of policy options for the planning process. She also noted that these core principles would be available to inform the planning process by April 5, 2010. Members discussed this item.

Work Plan Progress Report (Briefing Item)

Chair Sternberg asked Mr. Gilman to provide members with a progress report on the work plan. Mr. Gilman reviewed an updated work plan to inform the Board of staff activities and allow the THSA to move forward. Members reviewed and discussed the item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board received public comment from Archie Alexander, an independent health care law consultant, and Hank Fanburg, representing Christus Health and Treasurer of the Texas HIE Collaborative.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair Sternberg asked Mr. Gilman to brief members on information items. Based on the timeline for the planning process, Mr. Gilman suggested the Board reschedule the August meeting of the Board from August 19 to August 26. He also asked members to review the future meeting dates and to let him know if members had any conflicts.

Mr. Gilman then briefed members on correspondence received and sent by the THSA since the January Board meeting. Since that time, the THSA received no correspondence, and supplied one Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant applicant with a letter of support. The Board had no questions on this item.

ADJOURN

Chair Sternberg asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ms. Adamson and seconded by Vice Chair Mechler. The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.


Alesha R. Adamson, Secretary