

TEXAS HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matthew Hamlin (Treasurer), Stephen Yurco, and Darren Rodgers

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

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Manfred Sternberg called the meeting to order at 10:00. Chair Sternberg welcomed the board members and guests and asked Mr. Tony Gilman to take roll. Chair Sternberg also welcomed Mr. Stephen Palmer, the Director of the Office of e-Health Coordination at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. He noted that although Mr. Palmer is not a member of the board or an ex-officio member by statute, the board certainly appreciated him attending and welcomed his input into the board's discussions.

REPORTS, UPDATES AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Approval of Minutes from the March 6, 2009 Meeting

Chair Sternberg asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 6, 2009 meeting. Staff noted one typo in the draft minutes. Dr. David Fleeger made a motion to pass the meeting minutes as corrected. Dr. Fred Buckwold seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Briefing 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. Palmer to brief the board on this item.

Mr. Palmer reviewed the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) released by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) in August 2009. He stated that HHSC applied for planning funds through the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program and noted that as part of the application, HHSC will contract with THSA to develop the state's HIE strategic and operational plans. Members reviewed and discussed the FOA and state application.

Briefing on Health Information Technology Extension Program (Briefing Item)

Chair Sternberg noted that the next item for review on the agenda was a briefing on the Health Information Technology Regional Extension Program (REC). He then asked Ms. Kathy Mechler to brief the board on this item.

Ms. Mechler informed members that the ONC announced the Health Information Technology Extension Program in August 2009 for the establishment of Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers (RECs) that will offer technical assistance, guidance and information on best practices to support and accelerate health care providers' efforts to become meaningful users of Electronic Health Records. She discussed the collaboration that occurred between Texas Tech Health Science Center, Texas A&M Health Science Center – Rural and Community Health Institute, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council, in submitting proposals that provide statewide REC coverage. She also noted that the applications were submitted in partnership with the Texas Medical Association, Texas Health Institute, and Texas Medical Foundation.

Members reviewed and discussed the information presented.

Consideration of Framework for the HIE Strategies and Operational Plans, Collaborative Planning Process, and Work Plan (Action Item)

Chair Sternberg advised members that the next item on the agenda was consideration of a framework for the HIE strategic and operational plans, collaborative planning process, and work plan. He reminded members and the audience that while the role of the Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) is clearer than it has been in the past, defining the planning process is still a work in progress. He then asked Ms. Cook to brief members on the framework for the HIE strategic and operational plans.

Ms. Cook briefed the board on the framework, which was designed to organize the issues that need to be addressed in the planning process so that work group and staff responsibilities can be clearly delineated.

Chair Sternberg thanked Ms. Cook and asked Mr. Gilman to brief the board on the collaborative planning process and the work plan.

Mr. Gilman briefed the board on the collaborative planning process, which outlines a nomination process for the work groups, defines the proposed work groups, and states that the purpose of the work groups is to develop consensus on options for consideration by the THSA. Mr. Gilman then briefed the board on the Work Plan and Process document, which outlines previous work by the THSA and staff, and proposes a work plan for the THSA and workgroups throughout the planning process.

Following the briefings, board members discussed the items. Then, Chair Sternberg asked for public comment. Gijs Van Oort from the Texas HIE Coalition complimented the proposed planning process, but asked that the board remain cognizant of regional initiatives as the process moved forward. Hank Fanburg from Christus Health thanked everyone for their work and Camille Miller of the Texas Health Institute said that they would provide maps of the proposed RECs to the board before the end of the meeting.

Members discussed the collaborative planning process and work plan, and provided further direction to staff. Dr. Buckwold moved to approve the Framework for the HIE Strategies and Operational Plans, Collaborative Planning Process, and the Work Plan. Dr. Fleeger seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of Budget (Action Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was consideration of THSA's proposed operational budget from January to September 2010. He asked Mr. Gilman to brief the board on this item. Mr. Gilman presented the proposed budget, which will start when the Texas HIE Cooperative Agreement Program is approved by the ONC through the end of the federal fiscal year in September 2010. He reviewed the operations budget in detail and noted that the total budget is \$4,052,125.

The board discussed the proposed budget. Dr. Fleeger moved to approve the proposed budget, and Mr. Edward Marx seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of Policy Regarding the Delegation of Authority to the Chief Executive Officer (Action Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was consideration of a proposed policy regarding the delegation of authority to the chief executive officer (CEO). He asked Mr. Gilman to brief the board on this item.

Mr. Gilman reminded the Board that THSA bylaws state that the Board of Directors may authorize an agent to enter into contracts and write checks on behalf of the THSA. The proposed delegation of authority would allow the CEO to use this authority to conduct the day-to-day business of the THSA.

After the board discussed this item, Dr. Fleeger moved to approve the policy. Mr. Marx seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of Chief Executive Officer Position Specifications (Action Item)

Chair Sternberg advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was consideration of a proposed position description of the CEO position. He asked Mr. Palmer to brief the board on this item.

Mr. Palmer reviewed the CEO position description and laid out a timeline and process for CEO selection. After the board discussed this item, Dr. Fleeger moved to approve the policy. Ms. Alesha Adamson seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair Sternberg asked Mr. Gilman to provide members with information on the board's meeting schedule for 2010. Members approved board meetings on January 28, April 22, June 24, and August 19.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board received public comment from Gijs Van Oort of the Texas HIE Coalition, Hank Fanburg of Christus Health System, and Camille Miller of the Texas Health Institute.

Following public comment, Dr. Fleeger raised a question about the THSA's vision and mission statements, which had been presented at the March 6, 2009 meeting. Staff was advised to revisit the item at the next board meeting.

ADJOURN

Chair Sternberg asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ms. Adamson and seconded by Dr. Buckwold. The meeting adjourned at 11:30.



Alesha R. Adamson, Secretary