



Interagency Council for Genetic Services

Texas Department of State Health Services * Genetic Services Contractors
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services * Texas Department of Insurance
University of Texas Health Science Centers * Consumer and Public Representatives

Meeting Minutes August 25, 2006

Members Present:

Margaret Drummond-Borg, MD, DSHS, Chair
Bob Cleveland, Consumer Representative
Pat Brewer, TDI
Mary Kukolich, MD, Provider Representative
Lillian Lockhart, MD, UTHSC Representative
Janet Sheppard, Consumer Representative

Members Absent:

Alicia Essary, DADS

Guest:

Morgan Walthall, March of Dimes

Staff:

Elaine Braslow
Judy Chrisman

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Margaret Drummond-Borg

Dr. Drummond-Borg welcomed members and opened the meeting. Judy Chrisman was introduced as the new NBS expansion education coordinator.

The June 2, 2006 meeting minutes were corrected to read “Alicia Essary, DADS” under members absent, not “TDI.” With that correction, the minutes were approved.

Dr. Kukolich asked whether her membership term might be up. Ms. Braslow will check into it. *Postscript:* Per Human Resources Code, Chapter 134, membership includes “...a representative of the public and private entities that contract with the Texas Department of Health (now Department of State Health Services) to provide genetic services, elected from their membership...to serve two-year terms and may be re-elected for subsequent terms.” Ms. Braslow will request nominations from our contractors.

NEWBORN SCREENING EXPANSION EDUCATION – Judy Chrisman

Ms. Chrisman reported that she is in the process of developing an education and training plan for the NBS expansion, with assistance from DSHS communications staff. The plan is intended to identify professional and lay audiences for training, education, and partnership opportunities. She has begun training both health professional groups and DSHS regional staff throughout the state. DSHS has contracted with a professional marketing and advertising vendor to finalize/package educational materials for distribution, and to develop a web-based CME course for physicians and other health professionals. Ms. Chrisman is utilizing existing conduits to help

spread the word about the expanded screens and case management efforts, e.g., educating parents through WIC and THSteps. Members were invited to send suggestions regarding education and training methods and opportunities to Ms. Chrisman via email: judy.chrisman@dshs.state.tx.us.

AGENCY REPORTS

❖ DSHS – Margaret Drummond-Borg

Dr. Drummond-Borg reported that the final NBS rules are going through internal approval channels to the Health and Human Service Commission (HHSC) for adoption. There are very few changes from the proposed rules. Stakeholder comments were answered. The final rules and preamble will be published in the Texas Register. Biotinidase will be part of the screening panel.

Six MS/MS machines have been delivered to the lab thus far; there will be a total of 10. The machines have to be verified and synchronized. The lab is hiring new people, including an educator position. One person went to Colorado and now will go to Florida for training on MS/MS, and then come back and train other staff. The lab will probably go to a six-day work week. Case management is considering this as well. DSHS will hire another 16 case management staff in the regions.

The CHIP Perinatal Program is scheduled to roll out in January 2007. Essentially, this program covers the unborn baby; the mom gets the care.

Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, DSHS Commissioner, is leaving DSHS effective October 6 to head the Institute for Health Policy at the University of Texas' School of Public Health in Houston. His position has been posted. *Postscript:* Dr. Charles Bell, HHSC's deputy executive commissioner for Health Services, has been appointed by Executive Commissioner Albert Hawkins to serve as DSHS interim commissioner while a replacement is sought for Dr. Sanchez.

❖ DADS – Alicia Essary

No report.

❖ TDI – Pat Brewer

Dr. Drummond-Borg asked Ms. Brewer how TDI might help get NBS expansion information out to insurers. The price for screening will increase. Ms. Brewer said she will look into it and report back. She mentioned that insurance companies may be making arrangements with labs, and there are self-insured plans, e.g., the state is self-insured.

❖ UTHSC – Lillian Lockhart

Dr. Lockhart reported that she has a new partner at UTMB, Neena Champaigne, who was trained by Dr. Hope Northrup at UT School of Medicine in Houston. Dr. Lockhart also

announced that UTMB has a new genetics counselor from Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. UTMB is in the process of laying off 1300 employees.

Discussion followed regarding other provider activities. Dr. Golder Wilson is now also seeing patients in Amarillo. Drs. Luis and Kari Casas are now practicing in Tyler. Dr. Luis Casas is an endocrinologist and Dr. Kari Casas is a metabolic specialist. Health Service Region 4/5 was previously unserved in genetic services.

PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND GENETIC SERVICES– Margaret Drummond-Borg

Dr. Drummond-Borg spoke with the Board of Nursing Examiners regarding whether nurse practitioners could provide genetic services and whether they could be reimbursed for those services. The representative said that advanced practice nurses (APNs) who are licensed in pediatrics, family practice, adult health, geriatric health, or neonatology, and have completed a master's level program in one of these areas may do assessments, physical exams, and order tests and medications, provided they are detailed in a contract between the physician and the APN. If genetics was part of the master's course work, they could do genetic assessments, etc. Dr. Drummond-Borg will look at Medicaid to see if APNs are covered.

Dr. Kukolich suggested that using APNs in telemedicine situations would be good. She said that Cook Children's got a grant to set up equipment in the Midland office. They already have telemedicine at the Abilene office and are trying for San Angelo.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION PLAN – Elaine Braslow

Ms. Braslow reported that the RAP is in the process of being written. We followed the same timeline as last time, but realized that the report is actually due in June. She will complete the report and send a draft to members for their review before finalizing it. The next report will be completed by the June due date.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, December 1, 2006, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm at DSHS in the Moreton Building, Room M-101.**