

**FINAL MINUTES
TOXIC SUBSTANCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TSCC)**

**December 15, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Room T-607
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756**

1. Call to order and welcome visitors – Heidi Bojes

Attendees present: Heidi Bojes (DSHS), Richard Beauchamp (DSHS), Josh Duty (DSHS), Deba Dutta (DSHS), Emily Hall (DSHS), Sandra Hernandez (DSHS), Jocelyn Hover-Jeansonne (DSHS), Amanda Kindt (RRC), Laura Morse (DSHS), David Villarreal (TDA), Tina Walker (DSHS), Tina Williams (DSHS) and Thandi Ziqubu-Page (DSHS).

Attendees present by conference call: Joseph Haney (TCEQ), Brady Mills (DPS), Tracie Phillips (TCEQ) and Mike Tennant (DSHS)

Visitors: Cress Obamwonyi (DSHS) and Beth Patterson (DSHS),

Approval of minutes: Minutes dated September 15, 2015 were approved with the following corrections: David Villarreal, TDA, and Mike Tennant, DSHS requested to be removed from “Attendees present.”

2. Presenter: Matt Forrester, Texas Department of State Health Services

Topic: *“Did Severe Rains and Flooding in May 2015 Affect Texas Poison Center Call Patterns?”*

3. Subcommittee reports:

a. Harmful Algal Bloom Workgroup – (Mike Tennant)

- Work group did not meet in 2015.
- Texas coastline has been greatly impacted by red tide this year.
- Many shellfish harvesting areas have been closed; certain areas are anticipated to be opened later in December.

b. Fish Sampling Subcommittee – (Mike Tennant)

- Subcommittee did not meet in 2015.
- A few fish advisories are expected to be issued in the near future.
- Subcommittee will reconvene after January 1, 2016

c. Environmental Health and Toxicology Workgroup – (No report)

- Work-group did not meet before the TSCC meeting.

4. Agency updates on department policy and/or legislative issues:

Department of State Health Services (DSHS): (update provided by Laura Morse)

- *Staff changes*

- John Villanacci, Director of the Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section (EEDRS) retired on November 30, 2015.
- Heidi Bojes, Director of the Environmental & Injury Epidemiology and Toxicology (EIET) Unit, was appointed as acting EEDRS Section Director on December 1, 2015.
- Dan Dao replaced Chris Drucker as the manager of the Injury and Epidemiology Surveillance Branch in November 2015. Mr. Dao has a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacology from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from Boston University. He has worked as an injury epidemiologist since 2008. Most recently Mr. Dao served as the primary epidemiologist for the injury prevention and disability program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- Dr. John Hellerstedt will join DSHS as its new commissioner on January 1, 2016. He currently is the chief medical officer for the Seton Family of Hospitals and returns to the Health and Human Services system, having previously served as medical director for the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Division. After leaving HHSC, Dr. Hellerstedt served as vice president of medical affairs for Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. He has also been in private practice as a pediatrician at the Austin Regional Clinic.
- *Health Assessment and Consultation Program*
 - The Health Assessment and Consultation Program recently submitted a grant application to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to continue public health work associated with hazardous chemical waste sites in Texas.
 - In September 2015, DSHS conducted a door-to-door outreach campaign to address general environmental and public health concerns regarding the CES Environmental Services, Inc. site located in Houston. This campaign was in follow up to outreach done in the previous year during November with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Staff distributed flyers to homes near the site summarizing site history and work activities. A fact sheet, addressing community concerns associated with on-site chemicals, was later mailed to residents.
 - DSHS staff received a request from the Galveston County Health District to review environmental sampling results collected following a catalyst release on January 13 – 14, 2015, at the Marathon Refinery in Texas City. A report has been drafted, is undergoing internal review, and is expected to be finalized in January.
 - DSHS will be hiring a new Community Liaison for the Health Assessment and Consultation Program. The position title is a Public Health and Prevention Specialist III. It was just posted today, December 15.
- *Chemical Threat Laboratory*
 - The Chemical Threat Laboratory has been focused on the analysis of nerve agent metabolites in calendar year 2015.
 - The laboratory participated in two different Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) exercises, which emphasized crisis management for exposed populations.
 - ◇ In an exercise in June, the DSHS lab collaborated with additional laboratories and partner agencies throughout the country to safely transport specimens and test and report for nerve agents in a timely manner.
 - ◇ During the second exercise, the DSHS Chemical Threat Laboratory was able to complete unannounced specimen testing and reporting in under 12 hours.
 - Based upon the exercises for the year, the DSHS Chemical Threat Laboratory is preparing for a worst-case scenario. The lab has been busy conducting First Responder Training and disseminating information.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): (update provided by Tracie Phillips)

- *Potential Ambient Air Issues*
 - Jacinto Port monitor in Houston region, seeing above normal benzene concentrations, agency is working toward identifying sources to prevent any problems.
- *Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Meeting*
 - Ozone
 - ◇ Poster – Dose response curves derived from clinical ozone exposures can inform public policy
 - ◇ Presentation – Biological outcomes and significance of controlled human inhalation studies
 - Oil & Gas
 - ◇ Presentation – Considerations in evaluation of potential exposures to emissions from unconventional oil and gas exploration
- *Publications*
 - J.T. Haney. Consideration of non-linear, non-threshold and threshold approaches for assessing the carcinogenicity of oral exposure to hexavalent chromium. *Regul. Toxicol. Pharmacol.* 73: 834-852, 2015.
 - J.T. Haney, T. Phillips, Sielken, et al. Development of an inhalation unit risk factor for isoprene. *Regul. Toxicol. Pharmacol.* 73: 712-725, 2015.
- *Development Support Documents*
 - Proposed – Comments Due December 23, 2015
 - ◇ Ethylene glycol
 - ◇ Ethylene Dichloride
 - Finalized – To be posted soon
 - ◇ Diethylamine (DEA)
 - Finalized – Posted
 - ◇ Vinyl Acetate
 - ◇ Carbon Disulfide
 - ◇ Monoethanolamine
 - ◇ Trimethylbenzene
 - ◇ Propionaldehyde
 - ◇ Crotonaldehyde (Updated)
 - ◇ Acrolein (24hr value & new odor value) (Updated)
- *Requesting Toxicity Information for:*
 - Acrylic acid (79-10-7)
 - Asphalt (8052-42-4)
 - Bromomethane (74-83-9)
 - Cadmium (7440-43-9)
 - Cumene (98-82-8)
 - Methyl isobutyl ketone (108-10-1)
- *Guidelines to Develop Toxicity Factors*
 - The revised version was posted at the end of September
- *Published Lists*
 - Effects Screening Levels (ESL) and Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCV) Lists updated at the end of September

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA): (update provided by David Villarreal)

- Mosquito-control pesticides are taking on more importance with new emerging diseases.
- Endangered species and the toxicological properties of pesticides and other chemicals is a reoccurring question, especially for the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators.

- TDA is concerned with new pests, pathogens, invasive plants and unregistered pesticides coming in via the expanded Panama Canal, new Texas ports, and the new Mexican Superhighway 40, especially with the new trade agreements.
- More focus needs to be placed on foodborne pathogens because of the high number of incidents with cilantro and other produce and products.

Railroad Commission of Texas: (update provided by Amanda Kindt)

- Commissioner David Porter announced he will not be seeking re-election.
- The oil and gas industry has slowed down. As a result, RRC budgets have decreased across all programs.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): (update provided by Brady Mills)

- *Based on new legislation:*
 - DPS is developing new reporting standards for synthetic drug compounds.
 - Additionally, the agency has been working on blood tube storage for blood alcohol and toxicology testing in driving under the influence cases.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): (none present)

5. **Public comment:** (none present)

6. **Approval upcoming meetings:**

- **March 15, 2016 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am**
 - Due to the scheduling of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Meeting the TSCC meeting will be rescheduled to **March 22, 2016**
- **June 21, 2016 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am**
 - Meeting approved.
- **September 20, 2016 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am**
 - Meeting approved.
- **December 20, 2016 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am**
 - Meeting approved.

7. **Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

TSCC Mission:

Our mission is to protect and promote the health of the people of Texas through the prevention and control of adverse health effects related to toxic substances and harmful physical agents. This is accomplished through interagency coordination of regulation development, health risk assessments, cooperative studies, information dissemination, and public education efforts.