Convening of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium
(TCMHCC)
June 17, 2024
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
University of Texas System
Administration
210 West 7th Street,
2nd Floor Board Room
Austin, TX 78701

Minutes

The Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC) will convene a videoconference meeting pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.127 on June 17, 2024, according to the following agenda. The Chairperson will be present and preside over the meeting at the posted location.

Definitions:
ARPA – American Rescue Plan Act
COSH – Centralized Operations
Support Hub CPAN – Child Psychiatry
Access Network
CPWE – Community Psychiatry Workforce
Expansion CTRN – Childhood Trauma
Research Network
HRI – Health Related Institution
PeriPAN – Perinatal Psychiatry Access Network
TCHATT – Texas Child Health Access Through
Telemedicine TCMHCC – Texas Child Mental
Health Care Consortium Trayt – Data
Management System
YDSRN – Youth Depression and Suicide Research Network
NECMHR – New and Emerging Children's Mental Health
Researchers
YAM – Youth Aware of Mental Health

I. **Call to order and roll call.**
- Dr. Lakey, presiding officer of the Consortium, called the meeting to order.
- 25 executive committee members were in attendance. See full attendance list for details

II.   **Approval of Executive Committee Minutes for May 20, 2024.**
    → **Dr. Tamminga made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Thompson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.**

III.   **Presentations on the following items relating to TCHATT. The full Executive Committee may review, and/or provide information and/or make recommendations on the items presented.**
    - **Rachel Jew presented an update on TCHATT**

    a. Presentation of data and update on statewide expansion of TCHATT.
        - As of April 30th, the program now covers over 4 million student lives, representing 73% of the student population.
        - Active in over 68% of all schools, with 96 schools having planned implementation dates across 4 HRI catchment areas.
        - Notable increases in active schools across 10 ESCs (Education Service Centers).
        - Declines mainly due to existing mental health providers in schools.
        - The UT System team is having ongoing discussions with the HRIs regarding the current budget and future biennium budget.
        - Accurate school numbers are crucial for legislative funding requests.
        - HRIs are encouraged to enhance outreach efforts during the summer.
        - Final numbers are needed by September 2024 to finalize budget predictions.
        - Unresponsive schools will be considered "declined" by the fiscal year's end but can still re-engage later.
    b. TCHATT Referral Policy.

        - The referral policy was introduced to the executive committee. The policy focuses on eligibility for TCHATT services, appropriate referral sources, and processing expectations.

        - New standards: Referrals only accepted from schools and districts with active MOUs.

        - Referrals not accepted from providers or community-based organizations; direct referrals from parents redirected to schools.

        - Emphasis on triaging referrals promptly; At least 90% of referrals should be processed within 15 business days; Waitlist support from COSH if targets aren't met.

        - Concerns raised about processing times and definitions; Clarification was provided on denominator criteria for processing metrics.

        - Flexibility discussed regarding handling referrals that lack parental

response or consent.

- Debate over potential misuse of policy by parents falsely claiming homeschooling status to access services.

- Assurance given that HRIs won't automatically accept such referrals without proper verification and criteria.

- Timeline outlined for policy approval (July 2024 meeting) and implementation, pending feedback and approval from the executive committee.

IV. **Executive Committee to review and approve the following items relating to TCHATT.**

Dr. Lakey and Rachel Jew presented the policies

a. TCHATT items that require vote to approve by the Executive Committee:

1. TCHATT Fingerprinting Policy
   - The fingerprinting policy was introduced last month with the aim of streamlining fingerprinting processes.
   - Two main issues addressed: duplicative fingerprinting and variability in background check requirements across institutions.
   - Recommendations included applying for NCPA contractor status through the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to reduce duplicative fingerprinting
   - Amend documents to ensure background check requirements are clear and met uniformly.
   - Policy defines expectations for staff with direct contact with students.
   - HRIs are subject to state requirements for fingerprint-based background checks.
   - Obtained entity and user agreements from DPS for access to their clearing house.
     - Dr. Martin queried how this policy aligns with Texas licensing requirements, highlighting that results might not be shared with school districts.
     - Dr. Williams asked about the locations for fingerprinting services in South Texas and clarified the necessity based on district requirements.
   - Discussions emphasized the partnership between schools and the consortium in meeting these requirements.

   → Dr. Tamminga made a motion to approve the fingerprinting policy. Dr. Amador seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

2. TCHATT School Outreach & Enrollment Policy
   - The school outreach and enrollment policy was introduced at the

last meeting. Several key changes and expectations were outlined.

- o Focus on addressing unresponsive schools and clarifying expectations for outreach and enrollment procedures.
- o New expectation to move unresponsive schools to a declined status.
- o Requirement for reasons for inactive status and justification for schools unable to provide on-site services during the school day.
- o Updated expectations for background checks.
- o Shift of responsibility for maintaining access for school liaisons from HRI to district leads.

→ **Dr. Chapa made a motion to approve the school outreach and enrollment policy. Dr. Tamminga seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.**

V. **Update on the status of the New and Emerging Children's Mental Health Researchers Initiative.**
- **Nagla Elerian provided a verbal update**
    - o 47 applications have progressed to the next stage of review.
    - o External reviewers are currently evaluating these applications, with many reviews expected to be completed by the end of the week.
    - o Group reviews are scheduled for the following weeks to discuss each application comprehensively.
    - o Two external reviewers are assessing each application for scientific merit.
    - o In-state reviewers, including nonprofit organization representatives, are evaluating applications based on Texas priorities.
    - o Group reviews will focus on discussing the applications' strengths in various criteria such as scientific merit, priority areas, feasibility, and geographic representation.
    - o The plan is to present the finalists at the July 2024 executive committee meeting and seek full approval for the list of funded grants at the meeting.
    - o Funding decisions will depend on available resources, including up to $2.5 million from current research initiatives.
    - o Efforts are being made to ensure that as many applications as possible that meet the criteria can be funded.
    - o Close collaboration with HHSC (Health and Human Services Commission) has ensured alignment of grant priorities with Texas' major healthcare challenges.
    - o Review process includes perspectives from state agencies and local mental health authorities to ensure alignment with state needs.

VI. **Presentation from the Baylor College of Medicine in their role as the COSH relating to implementation of the COSH. This includes presentation of the status of CPAN and TCHATT operations, and informational items relating to Trayt. The full Executive Committee may review, receive, and/or provide information and/or make recommendations from the items discussed and take appropriate action.**

- **Dr. Williams provided an update on COSH**
  - CPAN
    - Despite typical summer slumps in consultation volume due to vacations, the overall consultation volume has remained stable between April and May 2024, showing growth compared to previous years.
    - The program continues to grow steadily in terms of consultations and involvement of child psychiatrists.
    - Data shows an increase in the number of consultations involving child psychiatrists, reflecting the program's effectiveness in providing specialized care.
    - There's a focus on improving engagement with primary care physicians (PCPs) and ensuring they receive necessary support in connecting with child psychiatrists.
    - Trayt has developed engagement insights tools to track PCP usage patterns and engage more effectively with them.
  - TCHATT
    - Referral numbers typically slow during summer, reflecting seasonal trends.
    - Enrollment and engagement numbers show consistent effort to reach families and provide necessary clinical care, although no-show rates remain a challenge.
    - Ongoing efforts include refining procedures, policies, and training to optimize service delivery.
    - Collaborative efforts with school districts and educational service centers (ESCs) aim to strengthen partnerships and improve outreach effectiveness.
    - Preparation for the upcoming summit highlights ongoing efforts and collaboration across the state.
    - Trayt is updating the referral dashboard to manage volumes efficiently and improve data accessibility.
    - Internal evaluation team processes are being streamlined to enhance survey distribution post-care, aiming for better family feedback integration.
- **Dr. Wakefield presented an update on PeriPAN.**
  - Enrollment includes Obstetricians, Pediatricians, Family Medicine doctors, and Nurse Midwives.
  - Call volumes are increasing, both for initial and multiple calls, indicating

growing engagement.

- o Significant calls are from Obstetricians (66%), followed by Pediatricians and Psychiatrists.
- o About 36% of consultations include a reproductive psychiatrist, aiming to increase this percentage further.
- o 88% of requests for reproductive psychiatrist involvement in referrals are honored, showing high collaboration levels.
- o Monthly Grand Rounds sessions are held to facilitate collaborative efforts across healthcare regions.
- o Collaboration with ACOG (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) includes toolkits and webinars to support perinatal mental health.
- o Pathways to Perinatal Mental Health Equity (Pathways Project): Focuses on managing practice change through proactive engagement with clinics across Texas based on maternal vulnerability data.
- o Texas Pediatric Society (TPS) Collaboration: Launch of an Echo series focused on postpartum depression screening and care, enhancing pediatricians' ability to support maternal mental health.

VII. **Presentation from Texas A & M University School of ~~Public Health~~ (Medicine) on the legislatively funded study regarding child and adolescent inpatient psychiatric bed capacity and needs.**

- **Dr. Liberzon presented an update**
  - o The initiative was prompted by concerns from various organizations about the adequacy of psychiatric beds for children in the state. The goals include assessing current inpatient bed availability, identifying gaps in services, and proposing solutions.
  - o Gathering accurate data on existing psychiatric beds and admissions proved challenging due to fragmented information and varying definitions across institutions.
  - o The project involves collaboration with the Texas Health and Human Services office, the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordination Council, and other stakeholders. Regular meetings are held to discuss progress and align efforts.
  - o The study aims to address issues such as readmissions to psychiatric hospitals, geographic disparities in access to beds, and the role of emergency departments in admissions.
  - o Multiple sources are being utilized for data including interviews with hospital representatives, analysis of existing databases, and consultations with ER personnel.
  - o The team plans to refine data collection, analyze findings, and propose recommendations. Challenges include data privacy concerns and the complexity of harmonizing data across different sources.

VIII. Presentation from the Baylor College of Medicine on the SAFETY-A Program, a brief intervention being used with CPAN primary care providers for suicide prevention.

- **Dr. Caitlin Pinciotti presented an update**
  - o The Safety A program is being rolled out in phases, with the pilot phase showing positive outcomes in terms of training uptake and perceived acceptability among PCPs.
  - o Phase two focuses on expanding training to more PCPs across Texas, with efforts to train trainers and establish local champions to facilitate training.
  - o While there is high acceptance of the training among PCPs, attendance at all training sessions has been a challenge, prompting discussions on modifying the training format to enhance feasibility.
  - o Virtual training options are being considered to accommodate varying schedules and preferences among PCPs.
  - o There is a discussion about the need to measure the program's impact beyond PCP training, specifically on whether it effectively reduces suicidal behaviors among youth.
  - o Suggestions include incorporating outcome measures that assess the program's effectiveness in reducing suicidal behaviors among the target population.
  - o Future efforts may include developing studies or evaluations that assess the program's impact on reducing suicidality among youth.
  - o The focus remains on ensuring that while PCPs are trained and using the Safety-A intervention, the goal is to measure its impact on patient outcomes.

IX. Presentation from HRIs on workforce initiatives that are funded by ARPA.

HRI	Project Name	Presenter	Format
TAMUHSC	**Social Work Training** • postgraduate clinical social work fellowship • Offers intensive clinical training over two years for licensed master social workers, preparing them for independent practice. • The program includes didactic sessions, case	Dr. Bogdan	**Presentation**

	presentations, and clinical supervision. • Recruitment of 22 fellows since 2019, with a competitive acceptance rate. • Positive impact on rural healthcare by retaining professionals and recruiting experienced supervisors. • Contribution to various consortium projects and significant provision of psychotherapy services in underserved areas. • Successful accreditation process with CSWE, aiming to be Texas' first accredited postgraduate training program. • Over 450 child clients were served, along with numerous adult clients. • 100% pass rate on clinical licensing exams for graduates. • Support for 25 graduate students in mental health disciplines, aiding workforce development		
UT Health Houston	**Psychology Training** • Currently offers 16 positions for graduate students in clinical, school, and counseling psychology. • Accredited and highly competitive with 80-95 applications annually. • Expanded to include tracks in trauma, addiction, child and adolescent, and developmental assessment. • Goals include increasing	Dr. Babatope	**Presentation**

	internship positions from 3 to 8, enhancing Spanish-speaking services, and improving trainee retention in Texas.		
UT Health Houston	**Social Work Training** • Started in July 2022, pending accreditation, to support LMSWs across the lifespan. • Requires trainees to complete 1,000 program hours, including 100 hours of didactics and 900 hours of clinical practice. • Has trained 4 LMSWs annually, offering training in TF-CBT, DBT, CBT, play therapy, and EMDR. • Aims to expand to 5 trainees and later to 10 by fiscal year 2025-2026, with a focus on integrating an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). • Staffing includes a Project Director, LCSW supervisors, and licensed Master social workers.	Dr. Babatope	**Presentation**
UT Health San Antonio	**Professional Counselor Training** • WE CARE Clinic, (Wellness for Children and Adolescent Restorative Empowerment) • No-cost hybrid mental health therapy clinic providing services for children aged 3 to 20 and their families. It serves as both a training ground for LPC associates and a referral resource for UT Health San Antonio Consortium programs.	Kristina Fields	**Presentation**

		• The clinic is overseen by two LPC supervisors who manage eight LPC associates. Additionally, there are two office receptionists to support in-person therapy options. • All clinicians receive training in various therapies including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), trauma-focused CBT, crisis response planning, and additional modalities such as EMDR and RPT (presumably Resource Parenting Therapy). • In its first year (2022), the clinic served 251 unique patients. Demand for in-person services has steadily increased post-pandemic. • A high percentage of patients attend regular appointments, with significant numbers exceeding 10 visits. • The clinic is expanding its team and anticipates doubling its patient intake for the current fiscal year. • The clinic plans to enhance its support for the community by training clinicians in specialized areas like Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) through certification programs. This aims to address gaps in referral resources, especially for underserved		

	populations. • The clinic provides structured education and supervision, maintaining a caseload of 50 to 60 patients per clinician. Several associates are on track to complete their clinical hours for full licensure by fall.		
UTSW	**Women's Mental Health** • A new one-year fellowship program focused on women's mental health, specifically perinatal and natal psychiatry. • Directed by Dr. Meitra Doty, aiming to start in July 2025 pending approval from the Texas Medical Board. • Rotations will include reproductive psychiatry, correctional health, trauma, eating disorders, and addiction.	Dr. Norcross	**Presentation**
UTSW	**APP Training** • Recently started with two advanced practice providers (APPs). • Includes rotations in foster care, autism, addiction, eating disorders, and suicide prevention. • Plans to expand with a didactic curriculum and project presentations by fellows.	Dr. Norcross	**Presentation**
UTSW	**Masters/Doctoral Program** • Expected to start in fall 2024 with two fellows. • Rotations will cover areas	Dr. Norcross	**Presentation**

	like foster care, suicide prevention, transitional age youth, pediatric neurology, and emergency department mental health cases. • Aim to increase to eight fellows with accreditation plans through the Council of Social Work Education.		
UTSW	**Psychology Training** • Expanded clinical psychology class by two students starting in 2023. • Collaborations with Children's Health, Parkland Health, and Community-oriented primary care clinics. • Future plans include post-doctoral training options to meet growing needs in Texas.	Dr. Norcross	**Presentation**
TTUHSC	**APP Training** • Implemented a supervisory model for LPCAs and increased Social Work student practicums. • Collaboration with Texas Tech to enhance clinical hours and training opportunities.	Dr. Wakefield	**Verbal**
TTUHSC	**Psychology Training** • Expanded graduate-level psychology training spots significantly. • Achieved preliminary accreditation for a psychology internship program and established a postdoctoral program.	Dr. Wakefield	**Verbal**
TTUHSC	**Master's Clinician Training** • Training programs for	Dr. Wakefield	**Verbal**

	marriage and family therapists, social workers, and LPCAs in outpatient settings.		
Dell	**Eating Disorders Specialty** • Expanded workforce with two additional postdoctoral fellows. • Aimed to increase access to care for underrecognized and underserved populations, particularly youth. • Fellows provided diagnostic assessments, evidence-based interventions, and multidisciplinary team collaboration at Dell Children's Medical Center. • Opportunities for teaching, receiving high-quality supervision, and contributing to scholarly presentations and manuscripts. • Successfully completed the fellowship year, with plans to join the faculty. • Developed an Eating Disorders Training Program with didactic series for residents and fellows, covering basics, evidence-based treatments, and weight bias/stigma. • Implemented a novel approach of temperament-based therapy with support. • Created an Eating Disorders Focus practicum site for school psychology externs at UT.	Dr. Patel	**Presentation**

	• Addressed the shortage of autism specialists with a postdoctoral fellow in Developmental Pediatrics. • Implemented screening processes through projects like Project Access to expedite identification and referral for comprehensive evaluations. • Provided evidence-based interventions including parent training and CBT techniques for children with autism. • Postdoctoral fellow integrated into the faculty, contributing to sustained clinical care and training. • Planned expansion from two to three fellowships to further enhance service delivery and training.		
BCM	**Resident Rotation in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry** • Ongoing project supervised by Dr. Lindsay Pershern at the Harris Center. PGY3 residents work at an outpatient clinic, with no anticipated changes for the next biennium.	Sarah McLaughlin	**Presentation**
BCM	**Psychology Training** • Led by Dr. Eric Storch, on track since last fiscal year, training up to four psychology fellows concurrently with over 1,000 appointments provided so far in FY24.	Sarah McLaughlin	**Verbal**
BCM	**Masters/Doctoral Program** • Currently in development phase	Sarah McLaughlin	**Verbal**

	• Expected to see significant progress and outcomes in the upcoming fiscal year. • Successfully hired a full-time faculty member to lead the program development and have also brought on board a part-time research coordinator to assist in these efforts.		
BCM	**Social Work Training** • Similar to the psychology project, also on track with some staffing adjustments and an increase in trainees and client visits. • Provided 200 pediatric appointments in FY24	Sarah McLaughlin	**Verbal**
BCM	**Addictions Specialty** • Led by Dr. Daryl Shorter, this project aims to train various specialists but faced viability issues due to funding delays. Future plans include integration with the TCHATT 2.0 program for substance use services.	Sarah McLaughlin	**Verbal**
BCM	**Teen Health Clinic** • Provides hybrid and in-person services • New project for the biennium • Provided 300 pediatric appointments	Sarah McLaughlin	**Verbal**
TTUHSC EP	**Psychology Training** • Led by Dr. Sarah Martin, faced similar contracting delays but met goals for FY23, anticipating new program starts in FY25.	Sarah McLaughlin	**Verbal**
UNTHSC	**Master's Clinician Training** • Led by Dr. David Farmer,	Sarah McLaughlin	**Verbal**

	engaged in training social workers and professional counselors, with contracts finalized and positions posted.		

- Dr. Lakey suggested creating a summary document that gives an easier view of the return on investment.

X. **Update on budgetary planning for the current biennium and in preparation for the 89th Texas legislative session.**
   Alex Vlahodimitropoulos and Dr. Lakey provided an update
   - Refining both the current fiscal year budget and preliminary requests for the FY26-27 biennium. Initial drafts have been submitted by HRIs, followed by budget meetings for discussion and collaboration to identify efficiencies.
   - Following initial discussions, resubmissions were requested based on identified efficiencies. Most submissions have been received, with a few outstanding. These submissions will form the basis for future budgets.
   - The goal is to present a comprehensive view of the budget at the September 2024 meeting aiming for refinement based on ongoing input. Research budgets are also planned for discussion in upcoming meetings.
   - Discussions included the continuation of services funded by ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds beyond May 2025, pending legislative authorization. Plans to request funding continuation based on generated interest were mentioned.
   - There's a plan to prioritize funding for initiatives currently supported by ARPA funds as the funding timeline approaches its end, ensuring continuity through the next legislative session.
   - There's a need to secure rider authority for workforce-related initiatives not covered by ARPA, involving collaboration with institutions to define necessary legislative riders.
   - Appreciation was expressed for collaboration and transparency in the budgeting process, with a commitment to ensuring thorough justification of budget requests to the legislature.

XI. **If necessary, closed session for consultation with attorney regarding legal matters, related to posted items, pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code**

XII. **Adjournment**

Attendance List

#	Institution/ Organization	Executive Committee Member	Attended?
1.	Baylor College of Medicine	Wayne Goodman, MD	Y
2.	Baylor College of Medicine	Laurel Williams, DO	Y
3.	Texas A&M University System Health Science Center	Patricia Watson, MD	Y
4.	Texas A&M University System Health Science Center	Olga Rodriguez	Y
5.	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Sarah Wakefield, MD	Y
6.	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Tarrah Mitchell, MD	Y
7.	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	Peter Thompson, MD	Y
8.	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	Sarah Martin, MD	Y
9.	University of North Texas Health Science Center	Nekesha Oliphant	Y
10.	University of North Texas Health Science Center	David Farmer, PhD, LPC, LMFT, FNAP	N
11.	Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin	Charles B Nemeroff, MD, PhD	Y
12.	Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin	Jeffrey Newport, MD, MS, MDiv	Y
13.	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	Karen Wagner, MD, PhD	Y
14.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Jair Soares, MD, PhD	Y
15.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Taiwo Babatope, MD, MPH, MBA, ABPN	Y
16.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Steven Pliszka, MD	Y
17.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Rene Olvera, MD, MPH	Y
18.	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine	Diana Chapa, MD	Y
19.	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine	Alcides Amador, MD	Y
20.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler	Cheryl McCullumsmith, MD, PhD	Y
21.	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler	Brittney Nichols, MBA, LPC-S	Y
22.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Carol Tamminga, MD	Y
23.	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Hicham Ibrahim, MD	N

24.	Health and Human Services Commission - mental health facilities	Scott Schalchlin, JD, M.Ed	**N**
25.	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	Elizabeth Mayer	**N**
26.	Hospital System	Sue Schell, MA	**Y**
27.	Non-profit - Meadows Policy Institute	Andy Keller, PhD	**N**
28.	Non-profit - Hogg Foundation	Octavio Martinez, Jr., MPH, MD	**Y**
29.	Non-profit – Texas Council of Community Centers	Lee Johnson, MPA	**N**
30.	Texas Education Agency	John Scott	**N**
31.	Administrative Contract – University of Texas System	David Lakey, MD	**Y**
32.	Education Service Center	Nathan Maxwell, Ed.D	**Y**
33.	Texas Health and Human Services Commission	Trina Ita, MA	**N**