Convening of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC)

July 31, 2025

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The University of Texas System Administration

210 West 7th Street, 16th Floor Conference 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 at 10:00 a.m. on July 31, 2025, 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
CAP– Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Fellowship
COSH– Centralized Operations Support Hub
CPAN– Child Psychiatry Access Network
CPWE– Community Psychiatry Workforce Expansion
CTRN– Childhood Trauma Research Network
HRI– Health Related Institution
LMHA – Local Mental Health Authority
NECMHR– New and Emerging Children's Mental Health Researchers
PeriPAN– Perinatal Psychiatry Access Network
TCHATT– Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine
TCMHCC – Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium
Trayt– Data Management System
YAM– Youth Aware of Mental Health
YDSRN– Youth Depression and Suicide Research Network

I.   **Call to order and roll call.**

- **Dr. David Lakey, presiding officer of the TCMHCC, called the meeting to order.**

- **26 executive committee members were in attendance. See attendance report for details.**

II. **Approval of Executive Committee Minutes for May 19, 2025.**

- **Dr. Tarek Rajji made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. David Farmer seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.**

III. **Presentation on TCMHCC Support to Hill County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Center. The full Executive Committee may review, and/or provide information and/or make recommendations on the items presented.**

- Nagla Elerian gave an update on TCMHCC's volunteer flood relief efforts in the Hill County in coordination with Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and Hill County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Center (HCMHDDC). HRI staff are providing trauma and emotional support to Hill Country Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Center staff and families.
- Nagla thanked Dr. Kelly Sopchak for her leadership and coordination of the TCMHCC's support efforts.
- Nagla read an expression of appreciation from Hill Country Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Center for the TCMHCC's support.
- Dr. David Lakey thanked everyone who has played a role in these flood relief efforts.
- Trina Ita thanked the TCMHCC for their support and coordination for this effort to allow HHSC and HCMHDDC to be effective during this emergency response.

IV. **Presiding Officer for TCMHCC – review of nominations and vote**

- Every two years there is an election for the Presiding Officer. Dr. David Lakey was the only nominee.
- Nagla Elerian requested a vote to reappoint Dr. Lakey as Presiding Officer.
  - **Dr. Charles Nemeroff made a motion to approve the Presiding Officer nomination. Dr. Steven Pliszka seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.**

V. **Presentations on the TCMHCC Budget and Legislative Updates. The full Executive Committee may review, and/or provide information and/or make recommendations on the items presented.**

- **Legislative Updates**
  - Dr. David Lakey overviewed the various riders and bills that impact the Consortium's programming.
    - Riders:
      - Addition to the TCHATT rider: TCMHCC shall explore opportunities for third-party reimbursement for

any other necessary services delivered beyond four TCHATT sessions.

- HB 6
  - Will require the Consortium to publicly post referral lists and the vetting process used for those referrals and for a list of data points to be included in the biennial report to the Legislature.
- HB 18
  - This bill focuses on improving the stability of rural hospitals in Texas. The bill appropriates $10,000,000 for CPAN, PeriPAN, and TCHATT-like services to rural hospitals, starting with a pilot next biennium.
  - Figuring out who the key stakeholders are and will meet to identify pilot locations and expansion plans.
  - Dr. Andy Keller noted that the federal H.R.1 focuses on rural community health and recommended TCMHCC considers how federal plans fit into TCMHCC work.

- **FY26-27 Budget**
  - Dr. David Lakey gave an update on the Consortium's budget ask during the 89th Texas Legislative Session.
    - Base bill included about $280,000,000. ARPA funds were approved to carry forward. Granted unexpended balance (UB) authority for about $87,000,000 in general revenue funds.
      - Dr. Lakey urged HRIs not to spend remaining FY24-25 general revenue outside of essential services to maximize availability of funds for FY26-27.
    - UB authority was not specific, so UT System submitted a letter to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) to be transparent with the Legislature about how we're using the funds. In addition to core programs, the letter includes ARPA-funded projects, research, YAM, and Collaborative Care Model.
      - The LBB's response is pending and due next week. Fiscal years 2026-2027 HRI budgets are pending finalization, contingent on LBB approval.
  - Alex Vlahodimitropoulos stated HRI budget check-in meetings are set and we will communicate the outcome of the LBB's review.

VI. **Presentation on Communications Updates. The full Executive Committee may review, receive, and/or provide information and/or make recommendations from the items presented.**

- Lainie McCorkle gave communications reminders:

- Preapproved presentations and Canva templates for fliers and social media are available for CPAN, PeriPAN, and TCHATT on SharePoint. If changes are made or new content is created for any TCMHCC program, review is required per the TCMHCC Communications Policy.
- The communications team would like to promote HRIs' events on the TCMHCC events webpage, so please share upcoming events with the communications team.
- CPAN, PeriPAN, and TCHATT newsletters are expanding staff spotlights to include HRI outreach highlight of promotional events and activities.
- Dr. Steven Pliszka explained that the communications team is responsible for presentation review but if presentations have data, they must also go to the Data Dissemination and Publication Committee (DDPC) for review. This requirement includes abstracts to conferences; prior review is needed before submitting.

VII. **Presentations on Proposed Policies. The full Executive Committee may review, receive, and/or provide information and/or make recommendations from the items discussed and take appropriate action on items indicating a vote.**

- **TCMHCC All Programs Governance Policy – presentation, discussion, and vote**
  - Ashley Steenberger gave an overview of the proposed policy, suggested changes, and when it will go into effect.
  - Dr. David Lakey requested a vote to approve the policy.
    - **Dr. Charles Nemeroff made the motion to approve. Dr. Steven Pliszka seconded. The TCMHCC All Programs Governance Policy was unanimously approved.**
- **CPAN/PeriPAN Psychiatry Coverage Policy – presentation, discussion, and vote**
  - Ashley Steenberger gave an overview of the proposed policy, suggested changes, and when it will go into effect.
  - Dr. David Lakey requested a vote to approve the policy.
    - **Dr. Karen Wagner made the motion to approve. Dr. Hicham Ibrahim seconded. The CPAN/PeriPAN Psychiatry Coverage Policy was unanimously approved.**
- **Data Dissemination Policy – presentation and discussion only**
  - Rachel Jew introduced a new policy with guidelines on dissemination of data and data reports. Rachel described the policy design and implementation timeline. UT System is soliciting feedback from the Executive Committee prior to expected vote in September 2025.
- **CPWE Policy – presentation and discussion only**

- Rachel Jew introduced a new policy regarding implementation of the CPWE program. Rachel described the policy design and implementation timeline. UT System is soliciting feedback from the executive Committee prior to expected vote in September 2025.

VIII. Presentation on all TCMHCC Programs, to include the status of the programs, 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.

- **Workforce**
    - **CPWE Program Update**
        - Dr. Steven Pliska gave an update on CPWE:
            - Dr. Pliszka met with all CPWE programs to better understand progress. HRIs are seeing patients in a wide variety of settings.
            - The CPWE Workgroup worked with HHSC to improve data collection process within LMHAs.
            - Dr. Pliszka described the background for the CPWE policy.
    - **CAP Program Update**
        - Dr. Adam Brenner gave an update on CAP:
            - Dr. Brenner met with all CAP Program Directors individually and then as a group to better understand current work and the support needed. Discussed limits of further growth for the CAP pipeline, collaboration opportunities, improvement and innovation opportunities, and success highlights. The CAP leadership group agreed to create a workgroup that will explore creating shared didactics.
        - Open discussion
            - Executive Committee members discussed creating a child psychiatry research track; working towards a general psychiatry residency with child focus and specialty training on adult population; and collaboration to train fellows on disaster mental health with statewide core competencies and curriculum.
    - **PeriPAN Program Update**
        - Dr. Sarah Wakefield gave an update on PeriPAN:
            - Significant decrease in direct patient consultations in the past two months but continued growth in overall enrollment and total consultations compared to past years. Will monitor trends to understand implications.

- Pathways Access Program overview provided. Hoping that PeriPAN can provide this expertise to any clinic who would like support.
- Information about the 2025 PeriPAN Webinar and Maternal Health ECHO series was shared.
    - Residents, trainees, and fellows attending the webinar series are invited to PeriPAN Resident Office Hours.

- **CPAN Program**
    - **General Program Update**
        - Dr. Laurel Williams gave an update on CPAN:
            - Project progress updates provided.
            - Decreased consultations in the past two months, as expected due to seasonal trends, but continued growth in overall enrollment and total consultations compared to past years.
    - **SAFETY-A Plan**
        - Dr. Caitlin Pinciotti gave an update on SAFETY-A:
            - Phase I (Pilot) outcomes were reviewed. The outcomes were published and highlighted by the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology on their social media platforms in June 2025.
            - Phase II (Expansion) changes and progress data were presented.
            - Phase III (Dissemination) goals shared.
        - Open Discussion
            - Executive Committee members discussed effective, continuous statewide dissemination and involvement of residency programs.

- **TCHATT Program Update**
    - Dr. Laurel Williams gave an update on TCHATT:
        - Project progress updates provided.
        - Decreased referrals, enrollment, and number of treatment sessions and clients served in the past two months, as expected due to seasonal trends, but continued growth compared to past years.
    - Rachel Jew overviewed the TCHATT Expansion Governor's Report. As of June 2025, TCHATT is active in almost 77% of all schools statewide representing 80% of the total student population. Six Education Service Centers increased the active campus count and the number of active campuses increased by 37. Growth of student population covered by TCHATT over time continues upward trajectory. Main reason for declining continues to be existing mental health services.

IX. **Presentation and vote on the following Evaluation Activities. The full Executive Committee may review, and/or provide information and/or make recommendations and will vote on the items presented.**

- **Data Committee Governance and Members**
  - Dr. Steven Pliszka presented on the DDPC Charter and the data, presentation, and publication request process.
    - Dr. Peter Thompson requested an amendment that the DDPC regularly report to the Executive Committee.
    - Dr. David Lakey requested a vote to approve the policy as amended.
      - **Dr. Tarek Rajji made the motion to approve. Dr. Charles Nemeroff seconded. The DDPC governance policy was unanimously approved as amended.**
  - Dr. Pliszka reviewed the slated DDPC membership.
    - HRI membership
      - Dr. Lakey requested a vote to approve the slated DDPC chair and members and authority to the DDPC to fill current and vacant positions.
        - **Dr. Charles Nemeroff made the motion to approve. Dr. Tarek Rajji seconded. The slated DDPC membership from HRIs and DDPC authority to fill vacant positions was unanimously approved.**
    - Non-Profit membership
      - Dr. Lakey requested a vote to approve the slated DDPC non-profit member for a 2-year term.
        - **Dr. David Farmer made the motion to approve. Dr. Hicham Ibrahim seconded. The slated DDPC non-profit member was unanimously approved.**
  - The DDPC will have monthly standing meetings to move this work forward and get timely approvals to submitters.
- **CPAN and TCHATT Logic Models**
  - Dr. Melissa Peskin presented on the CPAN and TCHATT logic models:
    - No changes were requested to CPAN logic model. TCHATT logic model updated based on feedback. All updates documented in change summary table that can be provided upon request.
      - Dr. David Lakey requested a vote to approve the CPAN logic model.
        - **Dr. Steven Pliszka made the motion to approve. Dr. Charles Nemeroff**

> > > **seconded. The CPAN logic model was unanimously approved.**
> > - Dr. Lakey requested a vote to approve the TCHATT logic model.
> > > - **Dr. Charles Nemeroff made the motion to approve. Dr. David Farmer seconded. The TCHATT logic model was unanimously approved.**

- **Quality Improvement Performance Measures (CPAN, PeriPAN, TCHATT)**
  - Dr. Molly Lopez stated no comments or change requests were received for the proposed performance and results measures. No updates have been made to the measures since they were last presented.
    - Dr. David Lakey requested a vote to approve CPAN quality improvement performance measures.
      - **Dr. Karen Wagener made the motion to approve. Dr. Rene Olvera seconded. The CPAN quality improvement performance measures were unanimously approved.**
    - Dr. Lakey requested a vote to approve PeriPAN quality improvement performance measures.
      - **Dr. Charles Nemeroff made the motion to approve. Dr. Steven Pliszka seconded. The PeriPAN quality improvement performance measures were unanimously approved.**
    - Dr. Lakey requested a vote to approve TCHATT quality improvement performance measures.
      - **Dr. Karen Wagner made the motion to approve. Dr. Hicham Ibrahim seconded. The TCHATT quality improvement performance measures were unanimously approved.**

X. **Presentation and vote on the selected recipients of the New and Emerging Child Mental Health Researchers Grant.**

- Nagla Elerian provided an overview of NECMHR grant review and selection processes and suggestions from reviewers for improving future NECMHR grant cycles.
- Nagla and Dr. David Lakey explained that the total grant funding amount is unknown until UT System receives final budget approval from the LBB. Dr. Lakey consulted the research advisory group, and they were comfortable with the rigor of the grant review and selection processes.
  - Dr. Lakey requested a vote to grant Dr. Lakey authority to decide on the awarded NECMHR grants based on the criteria presented once the LBB budget is approved.

- **Dr. Charles Nemeroff made the motion to approve. Dr. Tarek Rajji seconded. Granting Dr. Lakey authority to approve NECMHR applicants based on LBB's approval of the final budget was unanimously approved.**

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

Executive Committee Member	Institution / Organization	Attended?
Alcides Amador, MD	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Y
Andy Harper, MD	Texas A&M University Health Science Center	N
Andy Keller, PhD	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute	Y
Brittney Nichols, MBA, LPC-S	The University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center	Y
Charles Nemeroff, MD, PhD	The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School	Y
Cheryl McCullumsmith, MD, PhD	The University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center	N
David Farmer, PhD, LPC, LMFT	The University of North Texas Health Science Center	Y
David Lakey, MD	The University of Texas System	Y
Diana Chapa, MD	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Y
Elizabeth Mayer, MPAff	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	N
Hicham Ibrahim, MD	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Y
Jair Soares, MD, PhD	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	N
Jeffrey Newport, MD, MS, MDiv	The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School	Y
John Scott	Texas Education Agency	Y
Karen Wagner, MD, PhD	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	Y
Laurel Williams, DO	Baylor College of Medicine	Y
Lee Johnson, MPA	Texas Council of Community Centers	N
Luanne Southern, MSW	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	N
Melissa Defilippis, MD	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	N
Nathan Maxwell, Ed.D.	Region 16 Education Service Center	Y
Nekesha Oliphant, MD	The University of North Texas Health Science Center	Y

Octavio Martinez, Jr., MD, MPH	Hogg Foundation for Mental Health	Y
Olga Rodriguez	Texas A&M University Health Science Center	Y
Peter Thompson, MD	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Y
Rene Olvera, MD, MPH	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Y
Sarah Martin, MD	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso	Y
Sarah Wakefield, MD	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Y
Scott Schalchlin, JD, M.Ed.	Texas Health and Human Services Commission	N
Steven Pliszka, MD	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Y
Sue Schell, MA	Children's Health	Y
Taiwo Babatope, MD, MPH, MBA	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	N
Tarek Rajji, MD	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Y
Tarrah Mitchell, PhD	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Y
Trina Ita, MA	Texas Health and Human Services Commission	Y
Wayne Goodman, MD	Baylor College of Medicine	Y