

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

February 2, 2026

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The University of Texas System Administration

210 West 7th Street, RM 2.206

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 February 2, 2026, 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
TCHAT – 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.**
- **31 executive committee members were in attendance. See attendance report for details**

II. Approval of Executive Committee Minutes for December 1, 2025.

- **Dr. Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Nemeroff seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.**

III. Recognition of contributions and public service by Sonja Gaines, former member of Executive Committee as a representative of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. The full Executive Committee may provide comments on her accomplishments in support of child mental health and the mission of TCMHCC.

Dr. Lakey presented the item and discussed Sonja Gaines contributions to the consortium and child mental health. Providing comments were Dannette Castle, Executive Director of Texas Council of Community Centers and Trina Ita, Deputy Executive Commissioner of Behavioral Health Services/Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

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

A. Legislative Bills Updates

This item was presented by Rachel Jew, TCMHCC. She provided updates on HB 18, Rural Hospital/CPAN statewide expansion, TCHATT expansion to rural hospitals, third-party billing.

B. FY26-27 Budget Updates

This item was presented by Alex Vlahodimitropoulos, TCMHCC. She provided updates on the status and process for rebudgeting FY 27 and announced her office hours for any future questions.

V. **Presentation on Communications Updates. The full Executive Committee may review, receive, provide information, make recommendations, and/or take appropriate action on items presented.**

A. Communication Updates

This item was presented by Lainie McCorkle, TCMHCC. She provided reminders on the 10-day communication policy and the need to keep the communication staff in the loop regarding media inquiries.

VI. **Presentation on all TCMHCC Programs, including the status of the programs, and informational items relating to Trayt. The full Executive Committee may review, receive, provide information, make recommendations, and/or take appropriate action on the items discussed.**

A. Workforce

i. CPWE Program Update

This item was presented by Dr. Plizka. His presentation covered Community Psychiatry Workforce Expansion and child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship program.

His presentation discussed 9 metrics for CPWE program with an action item to remove one item (details provided below). Funding for CPWE program, residents/faculty rotating through the program, average FTE at CPWE sites, unique client and client encounters at LMHAs in FY 25 (nearly 7,000 patients served and 20,018 of total encounters).

The second topic covered CAP fellows and CPWE residents. He discussed the goals of the program, placement summary of CAP fellows for FY 25 (total 91), 79% of trainees remain in Texas with nearly 2/3rds in the public or non-profit sector.

Action item: Delete Metric "Time from intake to first prescriber encounter."

Rationale: Metric has not proven practical to measure and clinical sites vary greatly in their access to psychiatry at baseline, all have different procedures for referring for medication treatment, there is no uniform method to track time in the manner required by the metric.

Motion by Dr. Plizka to remove metric "Time from intake to first prescriber encounter." Dr. Taiwo Babatope seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

ii. CAP & OWE Program Update

This item was presented by Dr. Brenner. His presentation focused on the CAP fellowship program, growth of the program and pipeline into child psychiatry.

He discussed a shared didactics event which will happen each quarter beginning in 2026, dates have set and they are recruiting speakers. The topics will be child psychiatry and the law, eating disorders, addictions, technology & child psychiatry/mental health.

On the topic of the pipeline into child psychiatry, he presented the following ideas: a Texas recruitment reception at ACAP and the development of a virtual 75-minute recruitment video that is expected to launch in the fall. The video will cover paths to child psychiatry and why Texas is the best place for this career.

B. PeriPAN Program Update

This item was presented by Dr. Wakefield. The presentation covered the following topics: total consultations by month/year (increase in consultations over past years,) percent of unique physician users by type (to date, physicians account for 68% of PeriPan users, of this group nearly half are OB/GYN), provider consultations by type/psychiatry vs non-psychiatry (more than a third of calls are transferred to psychiatrist), direct patient consultations/month (slight dip, likely seasonal)

An update on projects in progress included Pathways, Lifeline for Moms, Iowa Perinatal Psychiatry Access Program, Welnity improvements, HB 18 implementation and Trayt updates. She also discussed the webinar topics from January – November.

C. COSH and CPAN Program Updates

This item was presented by Dr. Williams. The presentation covered the following topics: consultation volume & enrollment (providers continuing to grow, call back times under 30 minutes/99%), consultations by month & year (seasonal dip typical); provider consultations by type (child psychiatrist involved 40% of calls); direct patient consultation (steady increase month-to-month); and trayt updates (trayt changes complete and beginning work on PCP portal).

An update on projects in progress included CPAN/PeriPAN dashboard improvements, direct consult dashboard improvements, CPAN/PeriPAN automating displays of HRI contribution to consults, experience surveys, welnity improvements, CPAN CME materials and Spring CPAN CME.

D. COSH and TCHAT Program Update

The item was presented by Dr. Williams. The presentation covered the following topics: TCHAT referrals from schools (so far, similar to last year); TCHAT enrollment; (generally 50-60% of students referred to TCHAT are enrolled in the program); number of treatment sessions and clients served/month (4,000 - 5,000 students/month getting services, with multiple appointments); and percent of sessions by participating providers (38% seen by LPC)

An update on projects in progress included (completing Tray training materials, creating presentation library, HB 18 implementation, developing outline for EHR implementation, third party billing data needs, planning TCHAT summit)

E. TCHAT Governor's Report Update

This item was presented by Rachel Jew. The presentation covered the following topics: 80% of all campuses active in TCHAT, 4.56 million students now have access to TCHAT, 400 schools onboarding status and 370 with a planned implementation date; most will be implemented/active in January and the remaining by the end of the semester, program continuing an upward trend, the top reason for declining services is the district has a disruption with existing mental health providers.

Comment from Dr. Lakey: If there are conversations with larger ISDs that are not yet part of TCHAT, please let consortium know to ensure there are sufficient resources.

Comment from Dr. Martinez: Is there any data on the quality of the mental health services provided by the HRI between those school districts participating and those not.

Response from Nagla Elerian: External Evaluation will be looking into this issue in 2027.

VII. **Presentations on the University of North Texas Health Science Center's Workforce Initiatives and Experience with the LMHA Pilot. The full Executive Committee may review, and/or provide information, make recommendations, and/or take appropriate action on the items presented.**

This item was presented by Dr. David Farmer, Dr. Molly Lopez, Teneisha Kennard, and Laura Swartzenter. The issues discussed included: a collaborative project between UNT, John Peter Smith Hospital, Tarrant County MHMR and a variety of local child mental health service providers in North Texas. The purpose of the project was to better leverage what everyone was doing by eliminating

duplication, encourage resource sharing and identifying service gaps. An item presented was the PMHCA grant structure between perinatal, childcare, schools, collaborative care focusing on North Texas.

A joint project between Tarrant County MHMR and UNTSHC/JPS is the TCHAT-LMHA pilot project to streamline referral process and address ongoing issues. The referral process was presented as a workflow diagram. This process began recently, tested well and so far, one successful referral has gone through this process. Slides were shown depicting the referral/receiving test.

VIII. Presentation on updates to Evaluation Activities. The full Executive Committee may review, provide information, make recommendations, and/or take appropriate action on the items presented.

A. Data Dissemination and Publication Committee Update

This item was presented by Dr. Plizka. The committee approved 2 presentations: management-based care and use of tele-psychiatry, proofed manuscripts. Reminder that any presentations using data must be reviewed by the committee at least 30 days in advance, this includes the any meeting abstracts. Any data issue must be reviewed by the committee, qualitative statements do not need to be reviewed by this committee.

B. Internal Evaluation – Performance Measures Dashboard Update

This item was presented by Dr. Molly Lopez. The presentation included the following: presentation dashboards (updated monthly, can be inserted in slide decks), currently working on new dashboard of CPWE and CAP fellowship program; performance dashboard for CPAN, PeriPAN, and TCHAT illustrating the key performance indicators.

Some of the next steps in data visualization and performance measures include: CPWE/CAP fellowship and workforce presentation dashboards, performance activities and performance dashboards; and TCHAT/CPAN/PeriPAN examination of performance and observation measures.

B. External Evaluation – CPWE Survey Findings

This item was presented by Dr. Lara Savas and Dr. Melissa Peskin. The presentation included the following items: the data source for the survey (12 virtual interviews across all 12 HRIs), 6 key themes of findings (Broad support for CPWE's mission & impact, partnerships are central to program success, exposure to diverse population builds competence, systemic barriers limit program potential, mixed influence on Trainee trajectories, high satisfaction coupled with shared desire for structural improvements).

The next steps discussed include survey former CPWE residents to assess long-term career trajectories and survey leadership at CPWE training sites.

Comments provided by Lee Johnson regarding membership discussions on this topic.

Comments provided by Dr. Plizka regarding a setting up meeting with CEOs of child programs to get their input on this topic.

IX. **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.**

X. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Meeting Accessibility: Meetings of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium Executive Committee are open to the public except for any posted executive session held in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Persons interested in attending Board meetings and desiring communication, or other special accommodations should contact the University of Texas Board of Regents Office at least two working days prior to the meeting. The Board Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays, and contact information follows: phone (512) 499-4402; fax (512) 499-4425; email bor@utsystem.edu; 210 West Seventh Street, Austin, Texas 78701, or RELAY Texas (TTY: 7-1-1).

Attendance List

Executive Committee Member	Institution / Organization	Attended?
Alcides Amador, MD	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Y
Andy Keller, PhD	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute	N
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
Cole Johnson, JD	Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Y
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	Y
Hicham Ibrahim, MD	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	N
Jair Soares, MD, PhD	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Y
John Pogue, MD	The University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center	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	Y
Luanne Southern, MSW	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	Y
Melissa Defilippis, MD	The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	Y
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	N
Rene Olvera, MD, MPH	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Y
Sanjay Mathew, MD	Texas A&M University Health Science Center	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	Y
Steven Pliszka, MD	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Y
Sue Schell, MA	Children's Health	N
Taiwo Babatope, MD, MPH, MBA	The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Y
Tarek Rajji, MD	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Y
Trina Ita, MA	Texas Health and Human Services Commission	Y
Wayne Goodman, MD	Baylor College of Medicine	Y
Young Shin Kim, MD, MS, MPH, PhD	The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School	Y