



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Advisory Committee Ethics Overview

HHS Ethics Office
David Reisman
HHS Chief Ethics Officer

Welcome



David A. Reisman
HHS Chief Ethics Officer



Topics



Representation

Disclosure

Honoraria

Prohibition on Lobbying

Bribery

Confidential Information

Misuse of Government Property

Conflicts of Interest

Open Meetings Act/PI

Public Servants

Official Representation



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Advisory committee members may not claim or appear to represent HHSC or the committee in any legislative or advocacy activity without approval from the committee's presiding officer and the HHS Ethics Office in coordination with the HHSC Government and Stakeholder Relations Office.



Representation



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Committee members are not prohibited from discussing a report that has been formally adopted by the specific committee they represent, or from representing themselves or other non-state agency entity in the legislative or advocacy process.



Disclosure



Advisory committee members shall disclose all direct **personal or financial interests** in a motion under consideration, and recuse themselves from any deliberations or decisions on that matter.



Disclosure



Personal or Private Interest:

Does not include the member's engagement in a profession, trade, or occupation when the member's interest is the same as all others similarly engaged in a profession, trade, or occupation, or if the member merely provides a personal experience, with no personal or private interest, in giving feedback on the subject matter.

Honoraria Prohibition



Advisory committee members may not accept payment for services that are requested because of the members' title or position on the committee.



Penal Code § 36.07

Conflicts of Interest



Advisory committee members should not be in a position to derive personal benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity.



Bribery



Advisory committee members should not knowingly solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit for having exercised the member's official powers or duties in favor of another person.



Penal Code § 36.02

Open Meeting Act & Public Information Act



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Advisory committee members shall complete the **Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act trainings** within 90 days of appointment and submit the Certificate of Completion to the Work Group liaison.



Confidential Information



Advisory committee members **may not disclose confidential information** and all agency-generated information, including information in draft form, acquired through his or her committee membership, until such time as the information or document is released and made public, the HHS Executive Commissioner has approved the release in writing, or the HHS Ethics Policy permits release.



Confidential Information



Confidential Information:

Includes all information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), information that has commercial value or use, such as trade secrets, and information communicated in confidence by the HHS System.

Health Data
Privacy



Misuse of Government Property



Advisory committee members shall not use state government time, property, facilities or equipment for purposes other than official business.



**THERE IS
NO EXCUSE
FOR
COMPUTER
MISUSE**

Prohibition on Lobbying



Advisory committees, or its members, may not expend state appropriations to advocate for or against any bill or measure.



Public Servants



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As public servants, advisory committee members are subject to ethics laws contained in the chapters 36 & 39 of the state penal code and elsewhere in state statutes.



Contact



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Thank you

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