



Community Healthcare Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Advisory Council Meeting

DETAILS

2:00 p.m. February 8, 2022
Microsoft Office Teams Meeting (Virtual)

OBJECTIVE

To kick-off the CHART Advisory Council, review the status of the CHART Model in Texas and identify opportunities to maximize the value of the Council.

SUMMARY

Table 1: CHART Advisory Council Attendance

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Borrego, Fabian*	X		Miller, Elizabeth*	X	
Cruz, Eva		X	Quan, Carolyn*	X	
Diel, Michael	X		Stevens, J. Michelle*	X	
Ferrino, April	X		Whitesides, Jessica	X	
Guillory, Shenita	X		Young, Gary	X	
Henderson, John	X				
Henderson, J. M.		X	Additional Attendees		
Isaac, Daverick*	X		Ramos, Jessica (HHSC)	X	
Ita, Trina		X	Wood, Trey (HHSC)	X	
Long, Lydia*	X		Adkins, Alicia (HHSC)	X	
McCain, Rebecca*	X		Shaw, Robert (HHSC)	X	

*Participants from potential participant hospitals are not formal members of the CHART Advisory Council until their respective hospitals sign participation agreements but are however encouraged to attend and contribute to meetings.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

Ms. April Ferrino, Fiscal Program Coordination and Special Projects Director, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Table 1 above shows member attendance at the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Opening Remarks and Staff Introductions

Mr. Trey Wood, Chief Financial Officer, HHSC, provided opening remarks and gave staff introductions for the two new HHSC staff to support CHART: Alicia Adkins, CHART Program Supervisor and Robert Shaw, CHART Grant Specialist.

Agenda Item 3: Attendee Introductions and Icebreaker

All meeting attendees stated their name, organization, and 'rose' (favorite) and 'thorn' (least favorite) aspect of rural Texas.

Agenda Item 4: Advisory Council Overview

Ms. Alicia Adkins, CHART Program Supervisor, HHSC, provided an overview of the CHART Advisory Council. Highlights included:

- Advisory Council Overview document, including contact information for all Advisory Council members.
- Advisory Council requirements, purpose and proposed committee system.

Meeting attendees participated in a pop quiz question: By land area, what is the largest rural county in Texas?

Agenda Item 5: The group took a 5-minute break

Meeting attendees participated in a final pop quiz question: What best describes the role of the Advisory Council?

Agenda Item 6: Chart Model in Texas Overview and Resources

Ms. April Ferrino, Fiscal Program Coordination and Special Projects Director, provided a high-level overview of the CHART Model in Texas. Highlights included:

- The CHART Community Transformation Track is a 7-year funding opportunity to test whether aligned financial incentives, increased operational flexibility and increased technical support can help rural health care providers to transform health care delivery.
- Rural hospital benefits of participation include regular Medicare payments calculated by CMS, cooperative agreement funding to support telehealth and operational flexibilities.
- In return for these benefits, rural hospitals would participate in Alternative Payment Models (APMs), take part in a telemedicine project that addresses a community health challenge and associated health equity and social determinant of health challenges, and report data for six quality measures.

The group discussed what the Medicare Capitated Payment Amount (CPA) is based on along with the baseline time-period for the Medicare CPA.

Ms. Alicia Adkins, CHART Program Supervisor, HHSC, provided an overview of the pre-implementation timeline for the CHART Model in Texas. Highlights included:

- Timeline handout included in the meeting materials.
- HHSC is currently finalizing the Needs Assessment and Asset Mapping activity to be submitted to CMS by February 16th.
- Process for the draft and final Transformation Plan.
- Plans for hospital recruitment.

The group discussed hospital recruitment efforts, including that information in the Hospital Interest Form will be used by CMS to calculate an estimated CPA to provide hospitals in May or June, which may help them decide whether to CHART is a good financial fit before signed participation agreements are due on November 1.

Mr. Robert Shaw, CHART Grant Specialist, HHSC, provided an overview of the HHSC CHART Model website. Highlights included:

- Interest Form link.
- Roadmap to Participation.
- How to sign up for CHART email updates.

Agenda Item 7: Group Activity: Maximizing the Value of the Council

Meeting attendees participated in a group activity discussion on maximizing the Value of the Council. Highlights included:

How can we make the meetings as effective as possible?

- Send out meeting materials in advance, considering the length of time members will need to review specific documents.
- Meet in-person; Participate in Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH) Spring Conference (April 19-21, 2022)?

How can the Advisory Council support hospital recruitment?

- Face-to-face time is very important.
- Participate in TORCH Spring Conference.
- Provide detail and project information to hospitals with ample time for consideration (as early as possible).
- Stay focused on the Model goals.

Agenda Item 8: Open Discussion (Q&A)

Ms. April Ferrino, Fiscal Program Coordination and Special Projects Director, facilitated an open discussion for meeting attendees. Highlights included:

- More detail needed on Medicare CPA calculations.
- The status of developing an Medicaid APM.
- The current definition and boundaries of the Community.
- More clarification needed on the 'Perspective Community Benchmark'.
- Concerns on how to capture the higher level of care for patients in CHART, rural hospitals are keeping and treating sicker patients in comparison to 2018 and 2019 (and expanding telemedicine may exacerbate this trend).
- Concerns on using 2018 and 201 data as the baseline for Medicare CPA, as it may result in lower payment amounts and may not be able to sustain hospitals should the pandemic and surge continue.

Agenda Item 9: Review Action Items for Follow-up

Ms. April Ferrino, Fiscal Program Coordination and Special Projects Director, noted the following action items:

- Participants to provide any additional responses to the three questions from the group activity to HHSC by Monday, February 14th.
- HHSC will develop a Frequently Asked Question document and post to website to address questions.

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn and Thank You

Ms. April Ferrino, Fiscal Program Coordination and Special Projects Director, adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.