



March 31, 2022

To Texans interested in issues surrounding brain injury:

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is accepting applications for membership on the Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council. The council advises the HHS executive commissioner and HHSC on strategic planning, policy, rules and services related to brain injury. This includes rehabilitation and long-term services and supports for people who have survived brain injuries. The council files an annual written report with the HHS executive commissioner as well as a biennial written report with the governor, the Texas Legislature and the HHSC executive commissioner.

The council must seek input from brain injury survivors, family members and caregivers, and professionals on these issues. It will make formal recommendations to HHSC on how to implement sustainable service and support strategies that meet the complex needs of people who have survived a brain injury and those experiencing co-occurring conditions.

The HHSC executive commissioner will appoint members to the council to serve a term expiring Dec. 31, 2024 or Dec. 31, 2025. Currently, HHSC is seeking representatives to be selected from the following categories:

- Person representing diverse ethnic and cultural groups and geographic regions of Texas who has survived a brain injury;
- Person representing diverse ethnic and cultural groups and geographic regions of Texas who has survived a traumatic brain injury;
- Family member actively involved in the care of a loved one who has sustained a brain injury
- Post-acute rehabilitation facilities;
- Long-term care facilities that serve people who have survived a brain injury; and
- Healthcare practitioner or service provider who has specialized training or has interest in the prevention of brain injuries or the care, treatment and rehabilitation of people who have survived a brain injury.

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A council member must regularly take part in council meetings. They may also have to take part in subcommittee meetings or other related activities. Council meetings are held about once every three months in Austin or at the call of the presiding officer. *To the extent permitted by the current state budget, a council member who is serving in the role of a brain injury survivor or a family member actively involved in the care of a loved one who has sustained a brain injury may be repaid for their travel expenses to and from meetings if money is available and in accordance with the HHSC Travel Policy. Council members serving in a professional role aren't paid to attend or travel to and from council meetings.*

If you would like to apply to serve on the council, please complete and return the attached application by **April 30**. HHSC prefers that you submit your application electronically, but you may submit the application by email, mail or fax at these addresses:

Email:

HHS\_Appointments@hhs.texas.gov

Attn: TBIAC

Mail:

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

P.O. Box 13247, Mail Code 0223

Austin, TX 78711

Attn: Susanna Sparkman

Fax:

512-206-3984

Attn: TBIAC

HHSC will notify applicants if they have been selected to serve as a member of the Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council.

In selecting members to serve on the council, HHSC considers the applicants' qualifications, background and interest in serving on the council. HHSC tries to choose council members who represent the diversity of all Texans. For that reason, HHSC considers applicants' ethnicity, gender and geographic location.

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For more information about the council, visit <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/about/leadership/advisory-committees/texas-brain-injury-advisory-council> or email Blake Agee at [OABI@hpsc.state.tx.us](mailto:OABI@hpsc.state.tx.us).

For more information about applying to be on the council, or for Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, email Susanna Sparkman at [HHS\\_Appointments@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:HHS_Appointments@hhs.texas.gov) or call 512-438-2897.