



Health and Human Services

Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council

July 28, 2025

This summary contains supplemental information from reliable sources where that information provides clarity to the issues being discussed. Power Point tables used in the presentations may also be used in this summary. Names of individuals may be misspelled but every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy. Tables and Text have been used from executive and legislative agencies and departments' presentations and publications.





[Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council](#) addresses strategic planning, policy, rules and services related to brain injury prevention, rehabilitation and the provision of long-term services and supports for persons who have survived brain injuries to improve their quality of life and ability to function independently in the home and community. Members:

Michael Avari

HHS Region 3

Elijah Basnett

HHS Region 3

Jim Batchelor

HHS Region 4

Lori Brandes

HHS Region 8

Heather J. Cook

HHS Region 7

Angela Cupp

HHS Region 3

Andro Herrera-Mendoza

HHS Region 8

Donna Kunz

HHS Region 6

Austin Morgan

HHS Region 7

Dr. Benjamin Nguyen

HHS Region 3

Dr. Rachita Sharma

HHS Region 3

Ryan Stork

HHS Region 6

Johnny Taylor

HHS Region 6

Dr. John Thottakara

HHS Region 3

John Wood

HHS region 6

1. Welcome and roll call. The meeting was convened by the chair, Andro Herrera-Mendoza. A quorum was present.

2. Consideration of January 27, 2025, draft meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as drafted.

3. Consideration of revisions to TBIAC draft bylaws TABLED

4. Review initial draft of the Executive Commissioner Report. *(A copy of the report was mailed to members but was never shared with the public, begging the question as to how the public is to respond under the public comment portion of the meeting).*



Discussion. *No discussion.... Texas Insight is left wondering why?*

5. Presentation: Advisory Committee Guidelines on Legislative

Advocacy HHSC made a presentation from the Ethics Office which can be accessed by following the link.

6. Committee updates.

Executive Committee—The focus has been on revitalizing the subcommittees.

Education, Awareness, Services, and Supports—They are focusing on the resources guide update. [TBI Resources | Texas SPED Support](#); [Texas Brain Injury Resource Guide](#) [| Navigate Life Texas](#); [Resources and Support - Brain Injury Association of America](#); *There appear to be many resource guides out there. Perhaps effort should be spent coordinating these guides.*

Legislative and Policy—They have been focused on reviewing the by-laws and making revisions.

Database Review—They have been working on making the database more actionable. They have been looking at the Executive Commissioner Report and seeing if the previous recommendations are still operable. Non-traumatic brain injury (stroke) needs reporting improvements. The only data being reported is from hospitals which means a lot of data is not being reported. High School percussions should be reported statewide. The registry is not useful if only hospital data is reported. There is a national working group that could assist if Texas joined. Mandating reporting from all schools is complicated. The data is predominantly from the 6A schools. The concussion database is at UT Southwestern.

7. HHSC Brain Injury Programs announcements and updates

Welcome, new council members. Dr. Jesseme; Ms. Gonzales, RN; Dr. Cindy Ivanhoe. Dr. Sharma has been reappointed.

Introduce new Council Liaison. Tonya Pharms



Review 2026 council meeting dates: January 26, April 27, July 27, October 26.
All in 2026.

Review TBIAC appointment application. Applications have closed

8. Public comment. There was one written public comment. No oral comments were provided. ***Without sharing of the draft reports, it is folly to think anyone would want to provide public comment.***

9. Review of agenda items for next meeting. Next meeting: October 27, 2025

- Legislative and policy committee will continue discussion on by-laws.
- Facilitation of contacts for presentations on data base
- Executive Commissioner Report

10. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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