



# Health and Human Services

## Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders

September 30, 2025

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*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.*

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[Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders](#) advises DSHS and recommends needed action for the benefit of people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and their caregivers. The Texas Legislature amended the [Health and Safety Code 101](#) to establish the Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (Council) in 1987. In 2006, Legislature amended [Title 25, Health Services, Part 12, Rule §801.1](#) to establish conduction of meetings.

Council members, appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House serve staggered six- year terms, with terms of four members expiring August 31 of each odd-numbered year.

Name	City	Membership Category	Appointment Office	Term Expiration	Public Health Region
Byron Cordes, LCSW, C-ASWCM, CMC	San Antonio	Public	Speaker of the House	2023	8
Laura DeFina, MD	Dallas	Professional	Governor	2025	2/3
<b>Chair</b> Marc Diamond, MD	Dallas	Professional/Physician	Speaker of the House	2025	2/3
Joe A. Evans, Jr.	Beaumont	Public	Governor	2027	6/5S
Vaunette Fay, PhD, RN, FNP, GNP-BC	Houston	Professional	Lt. Governor	2021	6/5S
Ana Guerrero Gore	Lovelady	Public	Lt. Governor	2021	6/5S
Char Hu, PhD	Georgetown	Professional	Lt. Governor	2023	7
<b>Vice-Chair</b> Eddie L. Patton, Jr., MD	Houston	Professional	Governor	2027	6/5S
Mary Ellen Quiceno, MD, FAAN, FANA	Fort Worth	Professional/Home Health	Speaker of the House	2023	2/3
Sudha Seshadri, MD, DM	San Antonio	Professional/Public Hospitals	Speaker of the House	2019	8
Terrence Sommers	Midland	Public	Lt. Governor	2023	1
Angela Turner	Normangee	Public	Governor	2025	7



### Non-Voting State Agency Representatives

Name	Agency
Kelly Fegan-Bohm, MD, MPH, MA	Texas Department of State Health Services Representative
Valerie J. Krueger	Texas Health and Human Services Commission Representative
Karen Keller	Texas Health and Human Services Commission Representative

**1. Call to order, logistics, roll call, and introductions.** The meeting was convened by

**2. Consideration of January 22, 2025, draft meeting minutes.** The minutes were approved as drafted.

**3. Presentation: DSHS Alzheimer's Disease Program and TCADR Recommendations Crosswalk** <mailto:megan.grafrowe@dshs.texas.gov>

- Public Awareness Campaign
- Education for the General Public
- DSHS Alzheimer's Disease Website
- Grants to Increase Local Dementia Support (GILDS)
- Healthcare Provider Education
- Interprofessional Education for Students
- Dementia Project ECHO
- Alzheimer's Disease Partnership
- Texas State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease 2024 – 2028
- Unpaid Caregiver Survey • Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Statewide Needs Assessment Priority Areas
- Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (TCADR)
- Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC)

#### **Public Awareness Campaign & Education for the General Public**

**Public Awareness Campaign** [See the Signs. Start a Conversation. | Texas DSHS](#)

- State Plan Priority Areas:

Education for the General Public

- State Plan Priority Areas:
  - Public education and awareness
  - Risk reduction



- Public education and awareness
- Early detection and diagnosis
- Family dementia caregiving
- TCADRD Recommendation Areas:
  - Continue support for quality care
  - Engage in strategic collaborations
- Coordinated care and support
- TCADRD Recommendation Areas:
  - Continue support for quality care
  - Engage in strategic collaborations

#### **Alzheimer's Disease | Texas DSHS Website**

- State Plan Priority Areas:
  - Public education and awareness
  - Family dementia caregiving
- TCADRD Recommendation Areas:
  - Continue support for quality care
  - Engage in strategic collaborations
- Expand local caregiver services and supports

#### **Grants to Increase Local Dementia Support | Texas DSHS**

- State Plan Priority Areas:
  - Public education and awareness
  - Risk education
  - Coordinated care and support
  - Partnerships and engagement
  - Professional training
- Early detection and diagnosis
- Quality care and support
- Family dementia caregiving
- TCADRD Recommendation Areas:
  - Continue support for quality care
  - Engage in strategic collaborations (GILDS)
- Expand local caregiver services and supports

#### **Courses and Resources for Health Care Providers | Texas DSHS**

- State Plan Priority Areas:
  - Coordinated care and support
  - Professional training
- Early detection and diagnosis
- Quality care and support
- TCADRD Recommendation Areas:
  - Support ongoing coordinated Alzheimer's research
  - Continue support for quality care
  - Engage in strategic collaborations



## **Interprofessional Education & Dementia Project ECHO**

### **Interprofessional Education**

- State Plan Priority Areas:
- Risk reduction
- Professional training
- Early detection and diagnosis
- Quality care and support
- TCADRDR Recommendation Areas:
- Continue support for quality care
- Engage in strategic collaborations

### **Dementia Project ECHO**

- State Plan Priority Areas:
- Professional training
- Quality care and support
- TCADRDR Recommendation Areas:
- Support ongoing coordinated Alzheimer's research
- Continue support for quality care

## **Alzheimer's Disease Partnership and Texas State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease**

### **[Alzheimer's Disease Partnership | Texas DSHS](#)**

- State Plan Priority Areas:
- Coordinated care and support
- Partnerships and engagement
- Surveillance and evaluation
- TCADRDR Recommendation Areas:
- Engage in strategic collaborations

### **Texas State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease 2024 – 2028 [2024-2028-Texas-State-Plan-for-Alzheimers-Disease-Report.pdf](#)**

- TCADRDR Recommendation Areas: Engage in strategic collaborations

## **Related Disorders & Unpaid Caregiver Survey**

### **[2024 Caregiver Survey Report.pdf](#)**

- State Plan Priority Areas: Surveillance and evaluation
- TCADRDR Recommendation Areas:
  - Continue support for quality care
  - Engage in strategic collaborations
  - Expand local caregiver services and supports

## **Alzheimer's Disease Data Initiatives**



**Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#)**

- State Plan Priority Areas: Surveillance and evaluation
- TCADRD Recommendation Areas: Support ongoing coordinated Alzheimer's research

**Statewide Needs Assessment**

- State Plan Priority Areas: Surveillance and evaluation
- TCADRD Recommendation Areas:
  - Engage in strategic collaborations
  - Expand local caregiver services and supports

**TCADRD & TARCC**

**TCADRD**

- State Plan Priority Areas: Partnerships and engagement
- TCADRD Recommendation Areas: Engage in strategic collaborations

**TARCC**

- State Plan Priority Areas: Research advances
- TCADRD Recommendation Areas: Support ongoing coordinated Alzheimer's research

**Discussion.**

Where does the budget come from? DSHS was not able to answer but would look up the information. Its roughly \$2.7 million per year plus some grant funding,

Clarification was requested about the source of program funding, specifically whether it is a line item or discretionary for DHSS/DSHS; this will be confirmed in follow-up.

Rider 31 continues to provide \$2.75 million annually, with additional federal grant funding mentioned.

**4. Consideration of Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 112, Chapter 801, Rule Amendment Project.**



DSHS staff completed the four-year rule review worksheet for Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 112, Chapter 801.

The members voted to review the rules and delegate the rule review to the DSHS staff. The worksheet was approved by the Council. DSHS proposes adoption of the rules with amendments and the Council will have to vote to move the amendment process move forward.

**MOTION:** Approve the rule amendment process prevailed.

**5. Discussion of TCARD 2026 Biennial Report.** The council is required to produce a biennial report every two years highlighting activities and top priorities for Alzheimer's and related dementias.

Staff requested a subcommittee to address the report development. The plan is for the subcommittee to meet to review the input into the report.

Input for the 2026 report will be consolidated by a four-person sub-committee (Dr. Patton, Dr. Quiceno, Dr. DeFina, Dr. Seshadri), following the same process as the previous report.

Drafts will be circulated in November; the sub-committee will meet in January (no quorum) to discuss contributions.

## **6. DSHS representative report.**

- DSHS continues working on the CDC BOLD Grant, with the Year 3 grant cycle beginning; Year 2 deliverables are complete.

The Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act directs CDC to strengthen the U.S. public health infrastructure. Through BOLD, CDC is creating a strong public health infrastructure to support and promote dementia risk reduction, early detection and diagnosis, prevention of avoidable hospitalizations, and dementia caregiving.

#### BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406) is designed to promote implementation of [CDC's Healthy Brain Initiative State and Local Road Map for Public Health, 2023—2027](#) and the [Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map for American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples](#). It directs CDC to:

- Establish Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Public Health Centers of Excellence.
- Provide funds to support public health departments.
- Increase data analysis and timely reporting.
- The activities outlined in BOLD are designed to create a strengthened national public health infrastructure with a focus on:
  - Reducing risk.
  - Increasing early detection and diagnosis.
  - Preventing avoidable hospitalizations.
  - Supporting dementia caregiving.

[BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act | Alzheimer's Disease Program | CDC](#)

- \$5.5 million allocated for state plan activities and initiatives for the 2026-2027 biennium.
- The Alzheimer's Disease Partnership now includes 384 members, four active work groups, and a newsletter growing to nearly 2,000 recipients.
- Next partnership meeting scheduled for December 3, 2025, with info available on the DSHS Alzheimer's website.

#### **7. Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) representative report.** TABLED

#### **8. Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC)**

**representative report.** TARC supports Texas-based Alzheimer's research and aids investigators with pilot data for external grants. TARC now supports two NIH-funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers in Texas (South and North Texas).

- Major increase in grant applications (over 200 vs. previous 60-70); more than 100 reviewers participated.
- Funding decisions are pending, with emphasis on supporting trainees and junior investigators.





- Review process challenges were discussed, including reviewer compensation, scoring consistency, and the possibility of adding discussion sections; diversity of applications among institutions also reviewed.
- TARC was invited to join the NIA-funded STARRS project; Dr. Matthew Smith from Texas A&M will lead the state's initiative.
- Upcoming TARC symposium scheduled for January 22, 2026, in Austin, with keynote from Dr. Walter Koroshetz.

#### [Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium – TARCC](#)

The **Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium** (TARCC) is a collaboration between eleven of the state's leading medical research institutions, working to improve early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of Alzheimer's disease

TARCC 2026 Scientific Symposium. Join us on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at the AT&T Executive Hotel and Conference Center for the TARCC 2026 Scientific Symposium. [Details to follow...](#)

- [Abstract submissions are now being accepted here.](#)  
Submission Deadline: **11/3/25** by midnight, CST.
- [Registration is now open.](#)  
*There is no charge to attend this FREE event!*

TARCC investigators have been involved in a number of new, important research studies. Recently published research is wide ranging, spanning the gamut from clinical trials to new cognitive diagnostics; blood-based biomarkers in Mexican-Americans; identification of additional risk genes; and validation of biomarker algorithms in AD patients and AD animal models.

View all [TARCC researcher publications here.](#)

View all [TARCC Investigator Grant Awards here.](#)

#### [Dementia Prevention Research Institute of Texas \(DPRIT\) - Texas Medical Center](#)

The Dementia Prevention Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT) aims to create and expedite neurological research in Texas, improving the health of Texans and driving brain-related breakthroughs in dementia and other related diseases.

Dementia is an umbrella term for disorders that impact memory, thinking, and behavior, with Alzheimer's disease being the most well-known. These conditions are a

leading cause of disability, the second leading cause of death worldwide, and a major factor in rising healthcare costs.

**DPRIT Goals**

- **Create and expedite dementia research:** Support and accelerate dementia research by funding early-stage, innovative biomedical and neurology-related science at eligible institutions.
- **Drive commercialization of dementia research:** Fund neuro technologies and programs with the greatest potential for commercial and societal impact.
- **Enhance research superiority of Texas:** Foster innovation and position Texas as a leader in a growing industry – bringing talent, jobs, and infrastructure to our state.

This spring the bill to create DPRIT, [Senate Bill 5](#), by Sen. Joan Huffman, and the companion [House Bill 5](#), authored by Rep. Tom Craddick and 119 co-sponsors, passed both the Senate and the House. Senate and House [Joint Resolution 3](#) also passed by the Legislature would fund it with \$3 billion in surplus revenue.

On Saturday, May 25, 2025, Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed DPRIT into law.

DPRIT's implementation and funding are contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment in the November 2025 elections.

**9. Public comment.** There was no public comment offered.

**10. Announcements.** Next meeting is Spring 2026. A date is still to be decided.

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

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