

Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative (TPI) Meeting

February 9, 2024



Summary

[Agenda and Posting](#)

The inaugural meeting of the Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative (TPI) Board convened with Dr. McKinney's opening remarks, expressing gratitude for the participation and highlighting the significant challenge ahead. The formation of this board stems from House Bill 4990, passed in the last legislative session, with a mandate to develop a business plan aimed at reducing costs while ensuring the provision of quality care and enhancing drug access for over 30 million people covered by state pharmaceutical programs.

Key Discussions:

- **Challenge of Rising Healthcare Costs:** The board discussed the escalating healthcare costs, particularly pharmaceutical expenses, burdening the state of Texas. The committee is tasked with identifying strategies to economize without compromising the quality of care or access to medications. Snell highlighted the role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and discussed exploring direct-to-consumer drug offerings by companies like Amazon and initiatives by Mark Cuban.
- **Update on Related Procurements:**
 - **Executive Search Firm Procurement:** The board is in the process of selecting an executive search firm to recruit an executive director for TPI, with discussions on ensuring compliance with open meetings regulations during the job description development phase.
 - **Business Plan Consultant Procurement:** An update was provided on the procurement of consulting services to assist in drafting the TPI business plan

within a tight timeline. Three firms have shown interest, with evaluations ongoing.

Procurement and Approval Processes:

- **Approval Process for Search Firm and Consultant:** The board deliberated on the approval process for selecting the search firm and consulting services, with Dr. McKinney suggesting a briefing or designating a member for this task. Tony Shells inquired about HHS's past experiences with potential firms.
- **Optional Contracts:** Chief Michelle Oletta explained the rationale behind optional contracts for the executive search firm and consulting services, emphasizing flexibility and efficiency in procurement processes.
- **Consulting Firm Procurement Timeline:** Camelia outlined the procurement timeline for consulting services, noting the requirement for governor's office approval and a competitive procurement period of at least 30 days, aiming for closure by the end of February.

Board Involvement and Timeline Concerns:

- **Board Approval and Involvement:** Whitney Smith Nelson sought clarification on the board's role in finalizing the business plan and selecting consultants, emphasizing the importance of board involvement in these critical decisions.
- **Timeline and State Procurement Processes:** The board expressed concerns about the procurement timelines and the bureaucratic procedures inherent in state processes, underscoring the urgency of moving forward efficiently to meet the October 1st, 2021 deadline for the business plan.