



THE SENATE OF TEXAS  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Vice-Chair  
SENATOR CÉSAR BLANCO  
SENATOR BOB HALL  
SENATOR KELLY HANCOCK  
SENATOR BRYAN HUGHES  
SENATOR MORGAN LaMANTIA  
SENATOR BORRIS MILES  
SENATOR KEVIN SPARKS

**Public Hearing**  
CAPITOL EXTENSION ROOM E1.012  
September 18, 2024  
9:00 AM

**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Committee Business
- IV. Interim Charges

- A. Children's Mental Health:** *Review care and services currently available to the growing population of Texas children with high acuity mental and behavioral health needs. Make recommendations to improve access to care and services for these children that will support family preservation and prevent them from entering the child welfare system.*

Invited Testimony

**Panel I: Continuum of Mental Health Care For Texas Children**

- **Dr. Andrew Keller, PhD**, *President & CEO, Linda Perryman Evans Presidential Chair, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute*
- **Dr. David Lakey, MD**, *Vice Chancellor, The University of Texas (U. T.) System, and Professor of Medicine at The University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center*
- **Carolyn D. Gorman**, *Paulson Policy Analyst, Manhattan Institute*

**Panel II: Mental Health Needs of High Acuity, System-Involved Children**

- **Stephanie Muth**, *Commissioner, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services*
- **Trina Ita**, *Deputy Executive Commissioner, Behavioral Health Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission*
- **Dr. Ryan Van Ramshorst, MD**, *Chief Medical Director, Texas Health and Human Services Commission*
- **Shandra Carter**, *Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Justice Department*

- B. Access to Health Care:** *Evaluate current access to primary and mental health care. Examine whether regulatory and licensing flexibilities could improve access to care, particularly in medically underserved areas of Texas. Make recommendations, if any, to improve access to care while maintaining patient safety.*

Invited Testimony

**Panel I: State of Primary and Mental Health Care Access**

- **Dr. Holly Jeffreys, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC**, *Founder of Panhandle Family Care*
- **Dr. Ray Callas, MD**, *President, Texas Medical Association*
- **Jay Bueche, RPH**, *Managing Director, Pharmacy Supply Chain & Managed Care, H-E-B*

- **Dr. Hani Talebi, PhD, LSSP, Psychologist, Incoming President of the Texas Psychological Association**
- **Dr. Thomas Kim, MD, MPH, Chief Behavioral Health Officer of Prism Health North Texas**

**Panel II: Protecting Consumers in Health Care Services**

- **Kathy Shipp, MSN, APRN, FNP, President, Texas Board of Nursing**
- **Julie Spier, RPh, President, Texas State Board of Pharmacy**
- **John K. Bielamowicz, Presiding Member, Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists**
- **Dr. Sherif Zaafran, MD, President, Texas Medical Board**

**Panel III: Economics of Regulatory Flexibility and the Impact on Health Care Access**

- **Dr. Varun Shetty, MD, Chief State Epidemiologist, Texas Department of State Health Services**
- **Dr. John C. Goodman, PhD, President & CEO of the Goodman Institute for Public Policy Research**
- **Dr. Alicia Plemmons, PhD, Economist & Assistant Professor, West Virginia University**
- **Dr. Rebekah Bernard, MD, Family Physician and Author Family Physician and Author of "Patient's at Risk: The Rise of the Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant"**

**C. Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services passed by the 88th Legislature, as well as relevant agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction. Specifically, make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, or complete implementation of the following:

- a. Initiatives to reduce Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse, as well as other cost containment strategies; and Medicaid managed care oversight and accountability.

Invited Testimony

**Panel I: Overview of Medicaid Waste, Fraud and Abuse and How Texas Addresses**

- **Emily Zalkovsky, Chief Medicaid and CHIP Services Officer, Texas Health and Human Services Commission**
- **Raymond Winter, Inspector General, Texas Health and Human Services Commission**
- **Susan Biles, Principal Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, Texas Health and Human Services Commission**
- **Amy Hilton, Chief of the Healthcare Program Enforcement Division, Office of Attorney General of Texas**
- **William Marlowe, Chief of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Office of the Attorney General of Texas**
- **Jamie Dudensing, Chief Executive Officer, Texas Association of Health Plans**

**V. Public Testimony**

**VI. Other Business**

**VII. Recess**

Public testimony will be limited to 2 minutes. If submitting written testimony, please provide 20 copies to the Committee Clerk with your name on each.