

Pharmaceutical Disposal Advisory Group Meeting #1

Date: January 26, 2010

Time: 9:00am – 12:30pm

Location: TCEQ Austin, Bldg E, RM 201S

Minutes

Sign-in took place from approximately 8:30am to 9:00.

TCEQ Study Team Staff in Attendance: Elston Johnson, Jessica Huybregts, Eric Beller, Angela Curry, Shannon Herriott, Jeff Horvath, Tom Harrigan, Daniel Ingersoll, Clyde Bohmfalk.

Total Attendees: Total of 79 people attended in person (including TCEQ staff) and 24 people attended via LiveMeeting. Total of 103 involved today.

See attached list of attendees (in person) and LiveMeeting participants.

Today's Powerpoint presentations will be available on the Pharmaceutical Disposal Advisory Group webpage:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/pdw/pdagroup

Time (am) Event

9:03 Meeting called to order by Elston Johnson (hereby EJ).

9:04 Opening remarks and welcome by EJ. EJ informed members on the phone that they can email Grant Evans with technical issues (gevans@tceq.state.tx.us). EJ presented ground rules – no smoking, no eating, call-in protocol.

9:06 EJ displayed slide depicting Purpose of Today's meeting. EJ displayed the agenda for today's meeting.

9:07 Presentation of Slideshow #1 (Pharmaceuticals 101) by Jessica Huybregts (hereby JH).

9:30 Because we are ahead of schedule, EJ decided to take a few questions.

{Stakeholder in audience} had a question about what P- and U- listed hazardous wastes are.

Eric Beller fielded the question and explained how the lists are categorized. Lists are available in Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) rule language. Lists relate to the hazardous characteristic that a substance has (eg. toxic, ignitable etc.)

9:32 Introduction of stakeholders. EJ allowed members in the audience to introduce themselves. After onsite introduction, LiveMeeting participants introduced themselves over conference call. See attached list of attendees.

9:46 Presentation of Slideshow #2 (Scope and Goals of SB 1757). We are ahead of schedule, so EJ has skipped the scheduled break in order to fit in the second slideshow.

9:59 Introduction of Study Team. EJ introduces all the members in our team.

10:00 EJ solicits questions from the audience on the slideshow:

{LiveMeeting attendee}: asked if the presentation material be available.
JH replied that, yes, we will post the powerpoint presentations on the webpage as PDFs.

{Stakeholder in audience}: asked how we know what apportionment there is among disposers of unused pharmaceuticals.
EJ: the purpose of the questionnaire and the study are to find out apportionment, among many things.

Gena McKinley: asked how the study group will work logistically.
EJ noted it will involve a questionnaire and Jessica will go through the logistics of the Advisory Group in the following presentation.

Matt Wall: asked what distinguishes the disposal of pharmaceuticals from microbial contamination.
EJ noted that we are considering this issue because that is what has been designated by the legislature.

Matt Wall: Is our water considered "contaminated"?
EJ noted that, while there is currently no evidence of adverse effects on human health of drinking water with low concentrations of pharmaceuticals present, there is certainly some concern because we may not completely understand the effects of long term exposure to low concentrations and what the effects of drinking water with low concentrations of multiple pharmaceuticals present are.

{Stakeholder in audience}: asked if this is going to be a study, or is it just a study of the scope of the problem. Will there be any data collection?

EJ: Data collection will be limited to what we obtain in the questionnaire. We can use the information that is out there in the scientific community to help us understand the occurrence and risk information.

Ed Gruber asked if there are there going to be any law enforcement people represented in the group.

EJ: Yes, we do have a representative from the Drug Enforcement Administration. We may need to consider others.

End of Questions.

10:09 Presentation of Slideshow #3 (Intent and Goals of Advisory Group) by Jessica Huybregts

JH asks for questions:

Steve Hupp, Harris County stated that the Senate Bill 1757 doesn't talk specifically about unused pharmaceuticals and asked why we are focusing on unused pharmaceuticals?

JH: the SB actually does say "unused pharmaceuticals." JH read the bill and read it aloud. There are many references to unused pharmaceuticals in the approved/signed Senate Bill. When you download it be sure to download the finalized Bill because there were a number of versions of it.

Cheri Huddleston asked once we finish the discussions over the next 5 months, will the stakeholders be able to look at the report and provide feedback?

JH: There will be an intense review period of about six months. Probably the first review will occur in June and that will be among TCEQ Study Team staff. The second review will probably be to members of the Pharmaceutical Disposal Advisory Group, then more internal reviews will need to occur before we provide the report to the legislature by December 1st, 2010.

End of questions.

10:26 Break

10:52 Return from Break

10:53 Presentation of Slideshow #4 (Introduction of Questionnaire) by Jessica Huybregts.

11:05 Question and Discussion Period

Rose Dunaway: Does the TCEQ Study Team plan to use Survey Monkey for the questionnaires?

JH: We will definitely explore that option.

Rose Dunaway: Many of the entities that she represents do not have “facilities” because they have in-home hospice services

JH: We will make sure we have a glossary at the end and will attempt to use the appropriate terms relevant to your profession.

{Stakeholder in audience} Is there any funding out there for potential pharmaceutical waste collection programs?

JH: That is a good question.

{Stakeholder in audience} Will laboratories, universities, and other pharmaceutical research facilities be included in the questionnaire and Advisory Group? They may have their own disposal practices.

JH: Thank you. Very good ideas. We will consider adding them as stakeholder groups in this effort.

{Dannelle Belhateche} Will utilities and municipalities have an opportunity to complete a questionnaire?

JH: We will consider preparing a questionnaire for those groups.

Jeff Gloyd (Waste Management): Do we have any intention to survey law enforcement?

JH: We do have the Department of Public Safety Crime Lab staff involved. Good point, we will consider other law enforcement who may handle and need to dispose of unused pharmaceuticals.

Ken Deihl: Was there any consideration in developing the questionnaires about whether the answers will be incriminating?

JH: It's not the intention to use the questionnaire to incriminate anyone.

Matt Wall: Ten responses will not give a high degree of statistical confidence. Consider adding Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists and a representative from the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. The questions must be phrased precisely for the given industry.

JH: We will look into how many respondents will provide a valid or statistically significant sample size. We do have representatives from those two groups on the Advisory group here today.

Bethany Ansell: It is relevant to consider retailers that have small pharmacies within them. Eg. HEB or Walmart Pharmacy?

Kathy Barber: The Texas Federation of Drug Stores is represented here and deals with those kinds of pharmacies.

{Stakeholder} Will this survey include disposal of syringes?

JH: Sharps are considered to be “Medical Waste” (under TCEQ rules, or as “Special Waste from Health Care Related Facility under DSHS rules) and because they are already regulated in that way will not be considered in this study.

{Question asked via LiveMeeting Q&A Chatroom} The Controlled Substances Act is being revised at the federal level. Are there any considerations being taken by this group to ensure that the results of the group are not irrelevant by the time the revisions are made?

Sharnett Latimore: There are proposed revisions to the CSA, but there will be no impact on the disposal of controlled substances in the time frame that this project will be conducted.

Ed Gruber: Nursing homes all have designated disposal methods, and the questionnaire would have very uniform results.

JH: That’s great that there’s a standard operating procedure for nursing homes, but since we don’t know what those methods are, it is still beneficial to conduct the questionnaire.

Jeanie Jaramillo: As Director of Medication Cleanout in the Texas Panhandle, we may have data to provide. Also, you should consider contacting Matthew Mireles at the Community Foundation for Patient Safety as they may have data they could provide.

JH: Thanks Jeanie. I did try to make contact with Matthew Mireles to be on this Advisory Group but did not receive a response via email. I will try again.

Joe Gildersleeve: What about nursing schools? Will they be involved?

JH: We will consider adding them as a stakeholder group. These are all good questions and this is a work in progress. We appreciate your input, guidance and feedback.

11:26 End of Questions

11:26 EJ gave information on how to give comments. Comments should be directed to Jessica by email jhuybreg@tceq.state.tx.us. JH provided the web address for the Advisory Group:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/pdw/pdagroup

11:28 Closing Remarks.

EJ thanked all for their attendance and looks forward to working with you all. Next meeting February 26th at TCEQ offices but possible in a different room to facilitate better discussion.

Please provide feedback on full or half day meeting to Jessica.

11:29 Adjourn