



# DALLAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

*Thursday, January 15, 2026*

## AGENDA

- Call to Order .....Commissioner John Wiley Price  
Committee Chair*
- Opening Remarks.....Dr. Philip Huang, MD, MPH  
DCHHS Director*
- Home Loan Counseling Center.....Porfirio Coronado  
Home Loan Counseling Center Supervisor*
- CEAP.....Deepa Pudupakkam  
Program Manager*

### Committee Reports:

- Clinical .....Chairperson*
- Public Health Preparedness .....Chairperson*
- Environmental .....Bill Alsup, Chairperson*
- Legislative .....Mark Casanova and Carl Weisbrod, Co-Chair*

*Closing Remarks ..... Philip Huang, MD, MPH*

### Schedule for 2026

April 16, 2026

July 16, 2026

October 15, 2026

**Dallas County Health and Human Services  
Public Health Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 23, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Commissioner John Wiley Price. The minutes from the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were emailed for review and approval.

**Dr. Philip Huang, Director,** Thank you, Commissioner Price, and welcome to everyone joining us today. As many know, the ongoing federal shutdown continues to create uncertainty. While our operations remain active, we are monitoring potential impacts closely. Dr. Huang mentioned that the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer was briefly furloughed but has now been reinstated due to the essential nature of his work. He mentioned, we will hear updates from Healthy Start and Environmental Health. Healthy Start faces uncertain federal funding, and continued advocacy with congressional leaders will be important. We also recently presented National Weatherization Day to emphasize the significance of that program and the need to avoid federal disruptions. In short, he mentioned there are still many unknowns, and appreciate everyone's attention and participation.

**Dr. Sandra Lozano, Public Health Medical Director/ Assistant Health Authority,** began by reporting that the grant team met a couple of weeks ago in Washington, D.C. During the meeting, only limited information was provided regarding the status of their program. The team is currently awaiting updates and remains uncertain about potential outcomes. Despite this uncertainty, Dr. Lozano confirmed that the team continues its fieldwork. Commissioner Price inquired about the appropriation and associated risks. Dr. Lozano acknowledged the anxiety surrounding the situation, noting that the team provides comprehensive support for pregnant mothers and their families, including fathers. Their services include group-based education, prenatal classes, nutritional programs, and other initiatives aimed at supporting maternal and family health.

She then provided an overview of the HRSA-funded program, launched in September 2024, aimed at improving health outcomes for mothers, fathers, and infants in Dallas County. The program consists of two main components:

1. **Group-Based Education Classes** – Currently offered via Zoom, with plans to expand to in-person sessions to reduce barriers and provide more hands-on learning.
2. **Care Coordination/Home Visits** – Community Health Workers provide home-based support, including postpartum care, resource assessment, parental education, and broader family support.

Commissioner Price asked how the program compares to Parkland's Healthy Start program. Dr. Lozano noted that while both programs are very similar a key distinction is the inclusion of a clinical component. The program employs a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) who conducts home visits to monitor postpartum mothers for warning signs such as cardiovascular issues, and postpartum depression—major factors contributing to maternal mortality. Dr. Lozano emphasized the importance of these clinical assessments, as many mothers may be unaware of symptoms that require immediate medical attention.

Dr. Lozano confirmed that the program serves reproductive-age women, pregnant women, fathers, partners, and infants up to 18 months, offering evidence-based group and in-home education. The goal is to strengthen Dallas County partnerships and aim to improve maternal health, prevent infant death, preterm birth, low birth weight, and reduce health disparities.

In year two, they have updated the Maternal Child Health Division website, connected with community organizations, and partnered with Hope Cottage on referrals. The team consist of community health workers, an LVN, a program manager, a health educator, and soon hiring a behavioral health specialist.

Dr. Lozano mentioned that recruitment in target ZIP codes is challenging, and growing demand requires more staff. They engage communities through events, classes, and partnerships, offering 20+ online and in-person classes. The goal is to reach 700 participants annually—50% from the Black community—450 via home visits and 250 through group education. She also highlighted that the most popular class is the car seat distribution, promoting child injury prevention. Through Healthy Start and Texas Safe Riders, the program has provided 200+ car seats across Dallas County.

Dr. Lozano highlighted that losing this national program would be a major setback, especially for areas with high infant mortality as they are actively reaching families through community events, car seat classes, and targeted outreach in our ZIP codes.

The programs focus on low-birth-weight prevention with nutritional classes, safe sleep education, and evidence-based prenatal and parental education through Partners for Healthy Baby. They partner with Parkland and other Dallas County organizations and are expanding connections with hospitals, providers, and nonprofits to ensure families receive timely support and referrals.

**Latasha Gadberry, Assistant Director, Environmental Health** explained that the division works to protect Dallas County residents from food, water, and hazardous waste risks by being active in the community and ensuring compliance. Environmental Health focuses on the relationship between people and their environment to promote health, well-being, and safe communities

Latasha outlined the division's responsibilities in serving the community and ensuring compliance, including animal control services, childcare inspections, food establishment inspections, and mobile food unit inspections. The division's objective is to conduct year-round surveillance for disease control and prevention, while promoting education and outreach by working closely with community partners and businesses to ensure compliance with health regulations and maintain a clean and safe environment for all. She noted that the Environmental Health Division oversees approximately 600 retail food establishments in Dallas County and conducts unannounced inspections of each restaurant twice a year.

Latasha provided a brief update on the new HSGov Tech electronic software now in use. She explained that this modernization offers several key benefits, including streamlined workflows and enhanced regulatory compliance, with violations clearly linked to the applicable regulatory standards. She also noted that the software allows staff to track and address violations more effectively and review them during monthly staff meetings. Each month, the team identifies the top three violations and engages in discussion to determine mitigation strategies and identify opportunities to provide education and support.

She then shared that in September 2023, the Texas Legislature approved House Bill 2878, which eliminated the requirement for mobile food unit operators to obtain permits from each individual city within Dallas County. Mobile food unit inspections are conducted by registered sanitarians at 2121 Panoramic Circle. Examples of mobile food units include food trucks, push carts, and roadside vendors. Since assuming this responsibility, the Environmental Health Division has achieved the following: assigned four dedicated staff members exclusively to mobile food inspections, issued permits for 1,213 mobile food units, and completed more than 1,600 inspections to ensure compliance with health and safety standards.

Latasha shared that recent state legislation has significantly impacted the division. Senate Bill 1008 standardized retail and mobile food permit fees statewide beginning in September 2025, limiting local control and reducing revenue from over \$1 million to under \$500,000 by 2025. House Bill 2844 will return mobile food unit oversight to the state in July 2026, reducing local inspection authority and shifting investigations to the state. Additionally, Senate Bill 541 expanded cottage food rules, allowing more foods to be sold from home without a permit. Despite increased inspection demand and reduced fees, the state provided no additional funding, and the division plans to pursue agreements to continue inspections and ensure compliance.

Recent legislative changes to mobile food unit fees and regulations constitute an unfunded mandate for counties. It was noted that while Dallas County adapted to the new requirements, the state is now reclaiming authority, prompting pushback from local communities. Dr. Huang explained that the state cannot implement these changes without county and municipal collaboration and is working toward economically viable rules. Commissioner Price emphasized the need to document the financial impact on Dallas County for the legislative delegation. Additionally, draft rules may require cities to allow compliant, permitted food trucks to operate within their jurisdictions, limiting local discretion.

Overall, the division plans to expand Environmental Health services by adding pool inspections through certified inspectors and launching a lead hazard reduction program to address unmet needs in Dallas County. Recent accomplishments include restoring a sanitarian position after more than 20 years, placing them in the top three for the HSGov electronic database project, and increasing community outreach and education efforts. Opportunities for improvement include strengthening enforcement and compliance support to enhance inspector safety and address repeat noncompliance, potentially through coordination with existing law enforcement resources. Overall, the division highlighted its diverse staff and ongoing commitment to promoting healthy people, healthy communities, and health equity.

### ***Committee Reports***

***Clinical*** – No updates

***Preparedness*** – No updates

***Environmental*** – No updates

***Legislative*** – Dr. Casanova briefly noted that the impact of rising health care premiums is being monitored at both the state and national levels.

Public Health Advisory Committee  
January 16, 2026

Commissioner Price and Dr. Huang encouraged members to express interest in serving as chairpersons or participants on the Clinical and Public Health Preparedness committees, noting their importance in monitoring national and local public health issues. Dr. Huang stated that some individuals have already expressed interest and that additional candidates are welcome.

The meeting concluded with thanks to presenters and participants, emphasizing the importance of vigilance in public health, followed by a motion to adjourn.

*The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM*