

**Texas Commission on Fire Protection
House Bill 1593 Advisory Committee Meeting
January 7, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Committee Member Attendance:

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| Bill Crews | Karen Padgett | Manuel Casarez | Amy Ramon |
| Tammy Boudreaux* | Eric Secrest | Susan Gulliver | George Samples |
| John Hosea | Alisa McDonald | Lowell Ercanbrack | |

*Excused absence

Staff Attendance:

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| Mike Wisko | Frank King | Yazzy Chavez | Holden Wenger |
| Grace Wilson | David Greenfield | Cliff Grant | |

1. Call to order and excuse absences - Roll call was conducted. Tammy Boudreaux was noted as excused. A quorum was established.

2. Approve Minutes from December 15, 2025 Meeting – The Committee reviewed the minutes from the December 15, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Lowell Ercanbrack and seconded by Dr. Susan Gulliver to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried. New members, Karen Padgett and George Samples introduced themselves.

3. Summary of Discussion from the December 15 Meeting, Related Topics for the Report and Possible Continued Review of House Bill 1593 – The Committee discussed the need to focus on proactive suicide prevention, resiliency, and peer support efforts within fire departments, distinct from reactive response initiatives addressed under housed Bill 35. No action was taken.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Developing the Format of the Report to the Legislature - The Committee discussed the format of the required report to the Legislature and agreed the report should be organized into three sections:
 - a. Current overview of the status of suicide prevention and peer support programs in Texas fire departments.
 - b. Licensing and confidentiality concerns related to behavioral health services; and
 - c. Recommendations for legislation and implementation of suicide prevention and peer support group programs.

A motion was made by Amy Ramon and seconded by Lowell Ercanbrack to approve the report format as discussed. Motion carried.

5. Discussion of Possible Recommendations in the Report to the Legislature Related to Suicide Prevention and Peer Support Programs – The Committee discussed potential recommendations to be included in the report, including the training and use of chaplains for suicide prevention. A motion was made by Dr. Susan Gulliver and seconded by John Hosea to approve the recommendation topics. Motion carried.
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6. Discussion and Possible Action on Sub-Committees to Develop the Various Sections of the Report – The Committee established three subcommittees to develop sections of the report:

- Subcommittee 1: Current Status of Peer Support and Suicide Prevention:
Amy Ramon, Lowell Ercanbrack, Dr. Susan Gulliver
- Subcommittee 2: Recommendations for Licensing Requirements and Confidentiality Concerns of Mental Health Clinicians:
Chair - Dr. Susan Gulliver, Tammy Boudreaux, John Hosea, and Alisa McDonald.
- Subcommittee 3: Legislative Recommendations:
Chair - Eric Seacrest, Karen Padgett, Manuel Casarez, George Samples, and Bill Crews.

A motion was made by George Samples and seconded by Eric Seacrest to approve subcommittee assignments. Motion carried.

7. Future Meeting Dates – A motion was made by Lowell Ercanbrack and seconded by George Samples to schedule the next meeting for March 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., to be held virtually, if possible. Motion carried.
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8. Future Meeting Agenda Items – Future agenda items will include reports from the subcommittees and continued development of the legislative report. No action was taken.

9. Adjourn- A motion was made by Eric Secret and seconded by John Hosea to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

X

Presiding Officer

Date