

**Texas Commission on Fire Protection
House Bill 1593 Advisory Committee Meeting
May 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Committee Member Attendance:

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

*Excused absences

Staff Attendance:

Mike Wisko	Grace Wilson	Yazzy Chavez	David Greenfield
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1. House Bill 1593 Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. on May 18, 2026. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established. The absences of Manny Casarez, Amy Ramon, John Hosea, and George Samples were excused.

2. Approve minutes from March 18, 2026 House Bill 1593 Advisory Committee Meeting – The Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 18, 2026 meeting. A motion was made by Eric Secrest and seconded by Dr. Susan Gulliver to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

3. Report and discussion of progress of State Peer Support Network formed by HB1593 under Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) – Kelly Burnham, Division Chief at TDEM, presented an update on the meetings of the statewide peer support network under House Bill 35, including the selection of Peer Connect as the technology application platform and consulting with TEEEX for clinical consult resources. They will update the Committee. No action was taken.

4. Report on Present State of Peer Support and Suicide Prevention in Texas Sub-Committee – Lowell Ercanbrack reported that there was little response to their surveys, but the Sub-Committee has conducted one-on-one outreach with over 130 departments. Findings indicate limited awareness and education regarding peer support and suicide prevention programs among smaller and volunteer fire departments, and the need for an online app and training regarding their options. There will be a report compiled regarding the current status for the next meeting. No action was taken.

5. Report, discussion, and possible action on Clinical and Licensing Sub-Committee – Dr. Susan Gulliver reported a first draft is prepared and will be circulated to the subcommittee prior to the next meeting. Discussion covered confidentiality, vetting culturally competent clinicians, working with TDEM on an app, cross-state clinician licensure limitations, and the pending PSYPACT bill to facilitate the practice of telepsychology and temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries. No action was taken.

6. Report, discussion, and possible action on Legislative and Program Needs Sub-Committee – Eric Secrest distributed the subcommittee's recommendations from the last meeting. Discussion highlighted the recommendation for four hours of suicide prevention training for all TCFP-certified fire departments like TCOLE's class titled "Finding Wellness and Building a Healthier Life" mandated every four years. No action was taken.

7. Discussion and possible action on any additional items to be included in the Committee Report – Chief Mike Wisko suggested a recommendation for more new TCFP staff positions to coordinate and manage any cancer and behavioral health and wellness peer support outreach, education and training that may be required based on the report recommendations. Additional staff would require a Legislative Appropriation Request for the next session. No action was taken, but an updated draft of the report will be issued at the next Committee meeting for the Commissioners to review in August.

8. Future Meeting Dates – The Committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for July 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

9. Future Meeting Agenda Items – Future agenda items will include reports from each of the Sub-Committees and review of the draft report to the Legislature. No action was taken.

10. Adjourn – A motion was made by Lowell Ercanbrack and seconded by Karen Padgett to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

X

Presiding Officer

Date