

**Community Health Council
Policy and Advocacy Committee Meeting
03/11/16 Meeting Notes**

1. Updates:
 - **We sent emails on UT Diversity bills/budget and on HB1650/SB1716 (gas tax). We developed talking points for each of these outlining the connection to community health and our reasons for our advocacy.**
 - **We will send updated versions of these letters to Senate Education Committee and House Education & Administration Planning Committee (Completed on 3/15)**

2. We discussed the following bills that we have been watching and that are related to the CHC vision and health priorities:
 - **HB 1650/SB 1716 – Prohibits the use of State gasoline tax funds for non-vehicular facilities**
 - **Discussion:** An amendment has been added, which we will review, but it does not appear that the amendment alters our concerns about the bill.
 - We will send our letter advocating against this bill to the Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee
 - **HB 1840/SB 1556 – Counseling services**
 - **Discussion:** This bill works against the CHC health priority of increasing access to mental health resources. Joe Miles will take the lead in completing an internal advocacy request form and drafting a letter about this bill.
 - **Other bills discussed. No current actions will be taken by our committee. (However, others like Karen Pershing are working on these bills):**
 - **HB 1731/SB 1466 – Operation of pain management clinics**
 - **HB 1978/SB 1973 – Age requirements for tobacco and vaping purchase**
 - **HB 1982/SB 2057 – Pain clinics**
 - **HB 2126/SB 2060 – Requirements for the dispensing of opioids and benzodiazepines**

3. Ellen Zaviska updated us on sidewalk regulations. She will take the lead in completing an internal advocacy request form about these regulations.

4. Next scheduled meeting is on the calendar for April 8th at 8:30 AM. (We will not meet on 3/25/16 because it is a holiday).