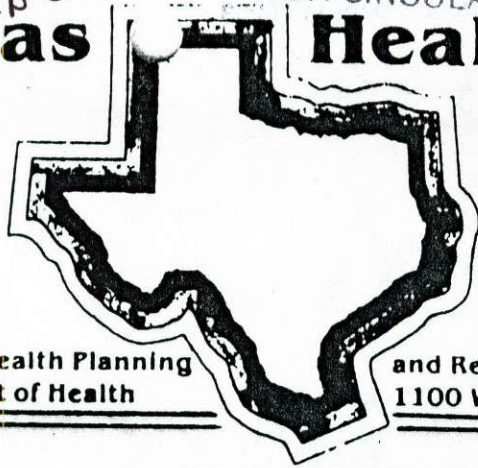


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RHPACs THROUGHOUT STATE BEGIN
IMPLEMENTATION OF '85 SHP/AIP

Regional Health Planning Advisory Committees (RHPACs) in Texas began this month to address the first of four missions requested by Governor Mark White: the implementation of the 1985 State Health Plan (SHP). With each of the state's 24 RHPACs now seated, consumer and provider members of each are independently selecting what each considers the top priorities of SHP '85 and its counterpart, the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP).

After the selections are completed, each committee will evaluate the opinions of its members, reach a consensus and select the agencies to be involved. Following each RHPAC's careful selection and with appropriate strategies developed to insure the effective cooperation of regional, state and national provider organizations and funding sources, implementation of the 1985 SHP will begin.

Selection of priorities are being drawn from regionally perceived needs from among 14 concerns identified in the SHP and its AIP. The concerns include:

- Health Protection
- Health Promotion
- Teenage Family Planning
- Ambulatory Care and Emergency Medical Services
- Short Term Institutional Care (Indigent Care)
- Long Term Institutional Care and Alternatives
- Habilitation and Rehabilitation
- Health Care Costs
- Data Needs
- Health Professions
- Drug Abuse
- Alcohol Abuse
- Mental Health and Mental Retardation
- Specialized Medical Services of the National Health Planning Guidelines (NHPG)

Although all concerns are statewide in importance, selection of priority concerns by each RHPAC varies due to local and regional conditions. With potential implementation varying from region to region, as well as potential funding, selection of priorities is being made with careful consideration to the conservation of scarce resources.

SHCC COMMITTEE CHAIRS
DISCUSS FUTURE PLANS

The chairs of five of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council's (SHCC) six committees convened in Austin on April 10, 1985 to discuss objectives and directions for their committees during the remainder of 1985 and throughout 1986.

The chairs and their respective committees attending included James Easter of Houston, State Plan Development Committee; Adrian Arriaga of McAllen, Regional Health Planning Coordinating Committee; Betsy Attel of El Paso, Data Management and Health Information Systems Committee; James Grey of Austin, Health Cost Containment Committee; and Father Robert J. Brooks of Houston, Health Legislation and Program Funding Review Committee. Lynda Hill of Ft. Worth, chair of the Special Bylaws Committee, did not attend.

Marion R. Zetzman, Dr.P.H., of Dallas, SHCC Chair, presided over the meeting, along with Mike Ezzell, Chief of the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development; and Billy Sladek, Bureau staff.

TEXAS HMO ENROLLMENT
NOW NEARING 527,000

The State Board of Insurance has released its quarterly Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) status report showing an estimated 526,963 persons enrolled as of April 1, 1985. The report, which lists both individual practice associations and group practice models, specifies the name and address of the HMO, name and address of the contact person for each and informational comments related to each.

There are currently 13 state certified HMOs, three pending applications, nine developing organizations, four no longer operational, and two certificates of authority revoked, according to the report.

Joan Gibbs Kennedy, manager of insurance-related activities for the board, said the report is available through;

Health Maintenance Organizations
State Board of Insurance
1110 San Jacinto Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78786

RESPONSE NEEDED

The State Appropriations Act requires all state newsletters and other periodicals to present a notice in three consecutive issues indicating that anyone desiring to continue to receive the publication so indicate in writing. The agency will furnish future publications of the News only to those persons requesting it. This does not apply to Texas Department of Health employees who receive their issues through bulk shipments and mailings. To continue on the mailing list, please fill out the address blank below, properly sign and date it, and return it to:

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Mike Ezzell, Chief (512) 458-7261 Don R. Kretsinger, Staff (512) 458-7261

Bureau of State Health Planning
and Resource Development
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78765-3199