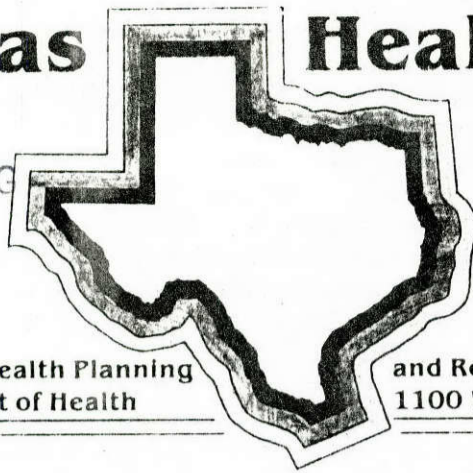


Texas Health Planning NEWS

NON-CIRCULATING



August, 1983

Bureau of State Health Planning
Texas Department of Health

and Resource Development
1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756

NEWSLETTER WILL FEATURE HEALTH PLANNING IN TEXAS

The Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development is pleased to present this initial issue of Texas Health Planning News, a newsletter designed to promote the implementation of the Texas State Health Plan. The News, to be published aperiodically as the need arises, will describe major health status and system problems and trends for both the general public and major participants in the health care field.

The newsletter will also describe those health planning data available through the Bureau and the process by which data users may obtain various data elements. It will be used to convey the status and activities of the Texas Health Data Cooperative and any changes to the Texas Department of Health Data Collection Rules.

Activities of the Area Health Planning Committees will be publicized through the News as part of a process to obtain community involvement into local health planning issues. Special efforts will be made to address area level analysis, with local health planning personalities being asked to contribute articles to the News.

The News will be sent to interested media outlets, both print and electronic, to publicize and promote the goals of state health planning. All articles will be made available to other publications desiring to reprint them for their readers.

Realizing that newsletters have become somewhat commonplace over the last several years, the News will employ a unique design which lends itself more appropriately to the fast-paced environment of its audience. Using the aperiodic approach to frequency of publication, the newsletter will not be committed to a predetermined and absolute date of publication; rather, it will be published as the bonafide need arises, thus assuring credibility of content and, hopefully, consistency of readership.

The format of the News will not be restricted to standardized content topics; it will remain flexible enough to accommodate placement of timely articles, yet styled in such a manner as to offer easy readability.

It is the interest of News editors to offer a meaningful publication to those groups and individuals interested in effective and efficient state health planning. All ideas, suggestions and recommendations will be welcomed.

TEXAS HEALTH INFORMATION SURVEY REVEALS ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS, DATA

A new publication, the Texas Health Information Survey, has been published by the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development and is being disseminated to entities and individuals interested in Texas health planning.

The survey is an inventory of useful sources of health-related information in two volumes. Volume I: Inventory of Health-Related Programs, details activities of health services provider organizations, to be used as a reference tool for planning and program staff responsible for coordinating health resources development. Volume II: Inventory of Health-Related Data, describes available data, and is to be used to identify data elements available to support the planning and development process. It will be helpful to those individuals responsible for data activities in the various organizations. Both volumes have statewide application.

The Health Information Survey involves all agencies and organizations having an interest in health planning and, hopefully, will foster an awareness that the cooperation by all those responsible for assemblage and analysis of data is essential to providing a high-quality information base for health planning in Texas.

All activities involved in the publication of the Survey were conducted by the Texas Department of Health in its role as the designated State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) for Texas, under the authority of P.L. 93-641, as amended, and Article 4418h, VTCS.

The Texas Health Information Survey was initiated as an effort to coordinate the data identification process. The survey was designed in part after a proposal made in 1979 by the Central Texas Health Systems Agency (CTHSA) to establish a "Texas Computerized Health Data Element Identification System." CTHSA proposed a survey of agencies which were engaged in health-related activities or which were sources of data relevant to health planning. The information collected was to be reduced to a data element unit-record system which would allow computer searches based on identified data elements.

In the early 1970's, the Governor's Office of Information Services had attempted a similar effort to develop a data dictionary for use in standardizing data exchange and developing a common data file structure among State agencies. The CTHSA objective was

to identify sources of data at the level of individual data items categorized within a subject outline corresponding to health planning data analysis requirements. Each of these data element records would detail characteristics such as geographic aggregations, universe, update periodicity, form in which it was available, and source.

The Texas SHPDA had published two documents that addressed health data source identification. The first document, "A Survey of Available Program Data, Texas Department of Health" (1978) provided a narrative account of programs within the Texas Department of Health, with a brief reference to types of data available. The second document, "Texas Compendium of Health Related Data" (1979) presented the same information, but surveyed other State agencies and volunteer organizations in addition to Health Department programs. Both documents proved useful sources of program information, but provided no detailed information on data. The SHPDA developed a survey design and computer system to provide both data and program information based on a program and data file or data report identification survey. This survey design was presented to the Texas Health Data Cooperative, a cooperative entity which serves as an advisory group to the Texas Board of Health on data collection matters, which recommended the implementation of the survey.

An initial survey was made in March, 1981, of 148 agencies and organizations considered Texas sources of data on health-related information. First contact was by letter, and followup telephone calls were made to all but 32 of these agencies. Sixty-seven returned material to be included in the documents being assembled. Twenty-nine felt their activities were not relevant to the survey, and 52 failed to submit any response even though many of those felt the survey was a useful effort.

Agencies contacted included 26 State agencies (20 responded), 13 professional licensing boards (13 responded), 6 special State level or governor's offices (1 responded), 24 Councils of Government (6 responded), 23 professional associations (7 responded), 21 private health associations (9 responded), 22 other private organizations, including 19 insurance companies (3 responded), and 13 university or college affiliates (8 responded). Material submitted was edited and coded, and a computer text processing package used to print out information verification forms. These verification forms were returned to the agencies other than academic institutions in December, 1982, for corrections and updating for inclusion in the published volumes. Expansion of survey coverage is planned for future updates.

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. To continue on the mailing list, please fill out the address blank below, properly sign and date it, and return it to:

Texas Health Planning News
Texas Department of Health
1100 W. 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Texas Health Planning News is published aperiodically by the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development, Texas Department of Health, 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756 to promote the recommendations of the State Health Plan, and summarize health planning data available through the Bureau. Material contained herein is published by the Texas Department of Health under the authority of Article 4418h (H.B. 2164) VTCS, and is financed by public funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature and from the Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, Grant No. 06-P-000207-08. This agency conforms to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on account of race, color, or national origin, and other provisions relating to equal employment opportunities, and nondiscrimination on the basis of sex and handicaps.

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