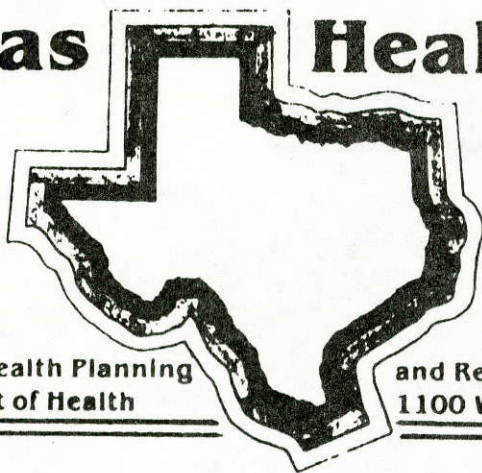


Texas Health Planning NEWS



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**Bureau of State Health Planning
Texas Department of Health**

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

GOVERNOR APPROVES STATE HEALTH PLAN

The 1987-88 Texas State Health Plan is now official and ready for implementation. With his signature on August 8, 1986, Governor Mark White approved the plan as a "...cooperative effort between the state, regional and local levels of health planning...(to)...assist in developing realistic solutions to the issues we face in planning for the health needs of our citizens."

The new plan identifies major statewide health concerns, recommends strategies to resolve these concerns and analyzes the need for various types of health facilities and services. The goal of the plan is to assure equitable access to needed health care services--at affordable prices--for all residents of the state. The plan is developed under the guidance of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC), a 21-member group of health-care providers and consumers appointed by the governor to develop health policies for the state. The council has identified 14 major health issues and strategies to address these concerns at the state level. The state's 24 regional councils participated in the plan development process and identified health issues of particular concern to their respective regions.

Implementation of the plan is guided by the SHCC and the Texas Department of Health, with the ultimate responsibility residing with managers of the various health-related public agencies and individual providers of health care services in the private sector.

In his approval letter to Dr. Marion R. Zetzman, SHCC chair, Governor White said, "I encourage you to continue to work closely with the Texas Health and Human Services Coordinating Council and other health planning entities to adjust the health plan to changing needs. Our current state fiscal situation mandates that we seek new ways to coordinate and integrate services so that resources are maximized. I look forward to working with you in meeting the challenges that we face."

Copies of the plan are available from the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development at a cost of \$10.00 each.

1985 PHYSICIAN REPORTS AVAILABLE

Five statistical reports have been prepared from the June 1985 Texas Board of Medical Examiners Licensure data. These reports contain physician counts and population-to-physician ratios by county, metropolitan area, public health region and statewide totals. Copies are available from the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development at a cost of \$2.50 for the five reports.

TASK FORCE COMPLETES STUDY

The Task Force on Regionalization of Specialized Medical Services has issued its final report and was dissolved by its creating authority, the Statewide Health Coordinating Council, at that group's September meeting. The Task Force examined the feasibility of regionalization of certain specialized medical services. The 24-member body devoted seven meetings over 18 months to examining perinatal, pediatric, open heart surgery/diagnostic cardiac catheterization, radiation therapy, end-stage renal disease, and organ transplantation services and trauma centers. The task force membership was comprised of fifteen voting members representing the SHCC and twelve major state agencies/associations and nine ad hoc advisor members appointed by professional associations represented in the seven specialized areas.

The intent of the task force was to improve the accessibility, availability, continuity, and delivery of these services for all citizens of the state; to inquire into funding methods, especially for indigent or medically indigent patients; and to recommend means to improve the delivery of specialized medical services. Consideration was given to referral patterns, medical practices, traditional physician and other provider/patient relationships, and organizational interrelationships already existing in the current delivery system. The review led to general conclusions and recommendations for each of the seven specialized services reviewed and a summary of common issues, conclusions and recommendations for further study.

The Task Force report and an executive summary are being printed and may be ordered from the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development, Texas Department of Health, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756-3199.

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HEALTH PLANNING AREAS
DESCRIBED IN MODELS

The staff of the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) has developed three models for health planning activities that can be done by regional councils when funds are unavailable. The models, which describe health issues development, regional health care review, and implementation, were prepared in a simple mode, and use the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse through education at all school levels, an issue identified in the 1987-88 State Health Plan, as a common example.

The health issues development model describes two approaches, formal and informal, with the thrust being on the latter. The regional health care review model, which may be viewed by some as a "needs assessment" process, but which is much broader in scope, describes an approach to reviewing the health care of a given region, using existing data and relevant new data to be collected. Lastly, the implementation model describes an approach to solicit donated material and resources, and the methods to address a particular health care problem.

The models were presented by SHPDA staff at the annual meeting of the Texas Association of Regional Councils in Galveston. An overview of the project was also presented to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) during its September meeting in Austin.

Copies of the models have been distributed to the regional councils and the Regional Health Planning Advisory Committees (RHPACs).

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, sign and date it, and return it to:

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