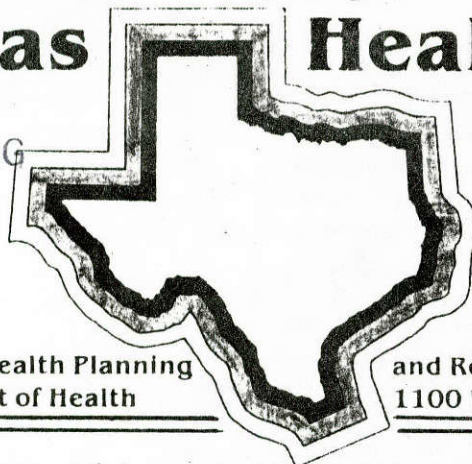


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Texas Health Planning NEWS

NON-CIRCULATING



October, 1983

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

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

REDESIGNED PLAN TO STRESS HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES

State health planning activities have undergone a major shift in direction for the first time since the program's inception in 1975. Many of the changes are in response to recommendations from the Governor's Office and the review by the Legislative Budget Board. In addition, the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) also conducted an internal evaluation and review with the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) acting as an oversight and advisory committee.

The changes to be incorporated in the current planning cycle will make the State Health Plan a more sharply targeted document and one which will stress policy analysis to assist in the identification of a limited number of top priority issues to be addressed. The selected issues will then be developed in enough detail to promote the review and adoption of specific intervention recommendations by the Governor's Office, the Legislature, state agencies, local governments and private provider groups.

During the policy analysis and issue determination process, both state and local level inputs will be sought. The SHPDA already has a well-established information-sharing network with state agencies, associations and governmental leadership. With the establishment of the SHPDA as the sole agency responsible for conducting health planning activities, a vigorous effort is underway to develop an effective network of local groups to replace the phased-out Health Systems Agencies (HSA).

The new focal points for health concerns will be the area health planning committees, but will also include a wide variety of health-related organizations, including the 24 Councils of Governments, Public Health Regional Offices, local health departments, county medical societies, community health centers and hospital association regional organizations, to mention a few.

After initial contacts with interested parties, Bureau of State Health Planning staff will work closely with state and local interest groups to develop supporting data and background information to substantiate major concerns. Next, the SHPDA staff, working with the area health planning committees, will evaluate available information and make an initial recommendation of priorities to be addressed in the State Health Plan to the SHCC.

The SHCC will finalize and adopt a set of SHP '85 priorities and refer other issues back to state agencies or specific interest groups for further development. The selected issues will be studied in depth with major alternative solutions reviewed against constraints such as political feasibility, program funding and cost effectiveness. The "best" alternative solution will then form the basis for the specific recommendation to be set out in the State Health Plan.

It is envisioned that through this process, the plan will become a more useful document to assist decision-makers in Texas who must address critical health care issues.

TEXAS SHCC CONTINUES ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

Several readers of the Texas Health Planning News have asked about the status of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC). At present, the SHCC continues its responsibility for advising the State Health Planning and Development Agency in the performance of its duties as set forth in the FY '84 SHPDA State Administrative Program, and is carrying out its mandate of preparing the Preliminary State Health Plan. Under Section 1536, P.L. 93-641, as amended, some restructuring of the SHCC is necessary and methodology for this measure is being coordinated by the SHPDA and the Office of the Governor.

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POPULATION DATA AVAILABLE

Just a reminder: the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development has population data available through its Population Data System which provides population estimates and projections from 1970 through the year 2000. This data is available in summary form for all counties in the state, including the state population total for each year.

The data can also be requested for each year in detail. Figures are available for three ethnic groups (Anglo, Black, and Hispanic), combined with males/females and sixteen groups (0-4 through 75+). A number of commonly used age breakdowns is also provided: single-years of age under 21, females age 15-44, and others. Data for any year may be obtained for a single county, a group of counties, Councils of Governments, health service areas, statewide, or any combination thereof.

WHERE WE GO

Ever wonder just where newsletters go? Well, each one has a different readership, but in most cases they go to anyone and everyone who asks to be put on the mailing list.

Texas Health Planning News is not really too unorthodox in this area, but it does restrict its targeted audience to about ten categories, maintaining enough issues to accommodate copies on request.

Aside from the required 65 copies which go to the State Library, the largest number of copies is earmarked for the estimated 36 implementor groups representing the state's 12 health service areas. Next in order of size are on the 24 Councils of Governments; 18 major state agencies designated by the Governor as key participants in the health planning process; professional health manpower boards and associations; facilities' associations; and area health planning committees. Other copies go to the Office of the Governor, Regional Office of DHS, other state health planning agencies and bureaus within the Texas Department of Health.

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:

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Texas Department of Health
1100 W. 49th Street
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