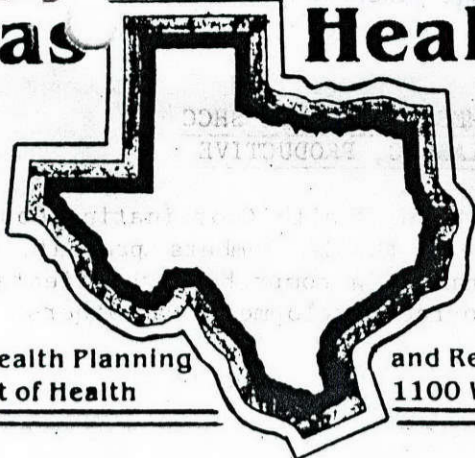


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# Texas Health Planning NEWS



MARCH 1985  
Vol. 3 No. 2

Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development  
Texas Department of Health 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756

STATE HEALTH PLAN OFFICIAL  
WITH GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

The 1985 Texas State Health Plan (SHP), adopted by the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) in September 1984, is now the official health plan for the state. The official status became effective on January 31, 1985 when Governor Mark White gave final approval to the document.

In a letter to Doctor Marion R. Zetzman, SHCC Chair, the Governor said, "This plan represents a cooperative effort to identify statewide health concerns and develop realistic solutions which all related health-decision makers should use in implementing essential health programs in Texas.

"As the newly appointed Chairman of the reconstituted SHCC, you are responsible for reviewing the policy recommendations in this plan and for seeing that the identified issues are effectively addressed by the appropriate parties."

The letter continued, "I am encouraged to see that the new state health plan has been significantly revamped and shortened. I hope that subsequent revisions can be made even briefer as you proceed in a continuing review of the problems and issues. As it stands, the issues which are currently identified and the recommended policy options for resolving these important matters, reflect the vast challenges we face in seeking to ensure equal access to quality health care at a reasonable cost. Towards that end, I am requesting that the SHCC consider a number of actions which should be undertaken immediately."

The Governor's specifics are as follows:

"First, I would like you to review all of the recommendations developed by the various task forces, and committees which have been working on health-related topics for the last few years. These include, but are not limited to, the Indigent Health Care Task Force, the Senate Interim Committee on Nutrition, the Legislative Task Force on Cancer in Texas, and the Interim Committee on Adolescent Pregnancy in Texas. All recommendations should be compared with those in the existing health plan.

"Second, based on the review of these reports the SHCC should rank the health plan issues and recommendations in priority order so that our scarce resources can be concentrated on the areas of most critical need. Once policy priorities have been established, the recommended solutions can be shaped into a coordinated plan for implementation.

"Third, it is important that you work closely with the Health and Human Services Coordinating Council and other health planning interests to continuously improve the plan as it impacts our existing health system. The unmet needs for health services, the costs of care, and the necessity of stringent state and federal government budgets require a most efficient, coordinated and well-developed health delivery system. It requires the cooperation of numerous public and private entities who are willing to work together to meet the health care challenge. I look forward to working with you in this endeavor."

REGIONAL HEALTH PLANNING  
COMMITTEES ARE GEARING UP

The state's 24 Regional Health Planning Advisory Committees (RHPAC) are off and running.

To date, representatives of the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) have briefed the majority of the committees. A few committees have not held a meeting and these are planned soon.

The RHPACs were established at the request of the governor to provide local area assistance to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) and to the SHPDA. The area-specific advice previously provided by the HSAs has been essential not only for identifying local concerns, but also to provide assistance in fostering access to quality health care. Such local involvement is necessary for successful health planning and will be continued in the form of the RHPACs.

FIRST MEETING OF NEW SHCC  
ENTHUSIASTIC, PRODUCTIVE

The newly constituted Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) held its first meeting February 1, 1985 with 18 of the 28 members present, despite the severely cold weather. The meeting was the climax of a comprehensive orientation by staff of the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development and others. During the meeting, council members:

- > Elected officers (listed below).
- > Reviewed the Annual Implementation Plan.
- > Reviewed and accepted for public hearing the Proposed Magnetic Resonance Imaging Guidance as a revision to the 1985 Texas State Health Plan.
- > Deferred action on reviewing the Proposed Texas Community-Level Transportation Act.
- > Selected Friday, March 22 as the next meeting date.

Officers elected were Doctor Max Brown, first vice-chair; Judge Lester Cranek, second vice-chair; Doctor Edward A. R. Lord, secretary; and the Reverend Robert Brooks, parliamentarian.

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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Texas Health Planning News is published aperiodically by the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development, Texas Department of Health, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756-3199 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-000207-09. 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.

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 78756-3199

APR 10 1985  
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