

Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries, Inc. (ACAM)
Association for Family and Community Integrity, Inc.
Behavioral Health Alliance of Texas
Bering Omega Community Services
Care for Elders
Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
CHILDREN AT RISK
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris Co., Inc.
Coalition of Behavioral Health Services
Collaborative for Children
Communities In Schools
Community Family Centers
Community Health Choice, Inc.
Covenant House of Texas
DePelchin Children's Center
Depression & BiPolar Support Alliance Greater Houston (DBSA)
Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc.
Family Services of Greater Houston
Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, Inc.
Good Neighbor Healthcare Center
Greater Houston Healthconnect
Harris County Healthcare Alliance
Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston
Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children
Houston Area Community Services
Houston Area Women's Center
Houston Food Bank
Houston Methodist Hospital
IntraCare Behavioral Health
Jewish Family Service
League of Women Voters Houston
Legacy Community Health, Services Inc.
Lesbian Health Initiative
March of Dimes
Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
Mental Health America of Greater Houston
NAMI Greater Houston
National Association of Social Workers-Houston
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
New Hope Housing, Inc.
Northwest Assistance Ministries
Phoenix Houses of Texas, Inc.
Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.
SEARCH Homeless Services
Spaulding for Children
Spring Branch Community Health Center
Springfield College School of Human Services
St. Joseph House
Texas Children's Hospital
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hunger Initiative
The Arc of Greater Houston
The Council on Alcohol & Drugs Houston
The Immunization Partnership
The Living Bank
The Network of Behavioral Health Providers
The Rose
The Walk for Mental Health Awareness-Houston
The Women's Home
United Way of Greater Houston
Vita-Living, Inc.
Wesley Community Center
Worklife Institute
YMCA of Greater Houston

One Voice Texas

A Collaborative for Health & Human Services



Healthcare Women's Healthcare

Position Statement Approved by One Voice Texas: December 10, 2014

Issue/Concern:

As a result of legislative decisions made in the 82nd Texas Legislature (2011), many clinics closed, birth control and wellness exams declined, and there has been a decrease in enrollment in the Texas Women's Health Program, the state-run program established to fund and deliver services previously provided with federal/state funds. The healthcare safety net for uninsured Texas women has effectively been dismantled.

Currently, the patched together public programs in Texas that provide primary care, preventive care, and family planning services to low-income and uninsured Texas women are not sufficient or efficient. According to recent research, only 1/3 of the women in Texas are getting the healthcare services they need. Fewer Texas women are getting screened for breast cancer, and in 2012, it was anticipated that 16,000 women were going to be diagnosed with the disease, while close to 3,000 were going to die from the disease. Also, even though we have the potential to eradicate cervical cancer, in Texas, over 1,200 women were expected to be diagnosed with the disease and 400 women were to have died from this preventable disease in 2012. Texas women need access to primary care in order to screen for, prevent, and treat cancers at the earliest stages.

Specific Policy Recommendations:

- Support policies that establish available, affordable, accessible, resources that enable women to assume personal responsibility for their healthcare.
- Support strategic planning for consolidation of women's health programs as recommended by HHSC Sunset staff that includes expertise from inside the agencies but also independent organizational expertise that can guide the process and serve to ensure Texas invests its money wisely.

What Can Be Accomplished?

When women have access to affordable healthcare and are able to take responsibility for their healthcare, everyone benefits. Women can maintain wellness with earlier detection of disease, and more opportunities for treatment options. They have better health outcomes that translate to fewer local and state dollars spent inefficiently on healthcare services and procedures, and can better support their families both fiscally and emotionally.

How Will This Impact State Funding?

When women have access to care and are healthier, local and state budgets benefit. Preventive and family planning services could reduce the \$1.3 billion annual amount that taxpayers spend on unplanned pregnancies and births in Texas. High cost disease treatments could be greatly reduced if diseases are prevented or detected sooner.

Supporting Facts/Research Resources:

- ✓ Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition. (2013). Texas Women's Healthcare in Crisis. Accessed on December 4, 2014 at <http://www.texaswhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Texas-Womens-Healthcare-in-Crisis.pdf>
- ✓ Pogue, S. (2013). Sizing up the 2014-15 Texas Budget: Family Planning. Retrieved from the internet on November 30, 2014 at http://forabettertexas.org/images/HC_2013_08_PP_Budget_FamilyPlanning.pdf
- ✓ White, K. Grossman, D., Hopkins, K., Potter, J.E. (2012). Cutting family planning in Texas. N Engl J 367;13. Pp.1179-1181.

Contact:

Laurie Glaze, LMSW
Executive Director
One Voice Texas
(713) 333-2232 / lglaze@onevoicetexas.org