

Adoptation
Alliance of Community Assistance
Ministries of Greater Houston (ACAM)
Alliance Adolescent & Children's
Services
Arrow Child and Family Ministries
Bering Omega Community Services
Care for Elders
Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of
Galveston-Houston
ChildBuilders
CHILDREN AT RISK
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition for Behavioral Health Services
Coalition for the Homeless of
Houston/Harris Co., Inc.
Collaborative for Children
Communities In Schools
Community Family Centers
Covenant House of Texas
DePelchin Children's Center
Family Services of Greater Houston
Fort Bend Regional Council on
Substance Abuse, Inc.
Gateway to Care
Good Neighbor Healthcare Center
Gulf Coast CHIP Coalition
Harris County Child Abuse Task Force
Harris County Healthcare Alliance
Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston
Houston Area Association for the
Education of Young Children
Houston Area Women's Center
Houston Food Bank
Houston Area Immunization Registry
IntraCare Hospitals
Jewish Family Service
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
Justice for Children
League of Women Voters Houston
Legacy Community Health
Services, Inc.
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
Mental Health America
of Greater Houston
NAMI Metropolitan Houston
NAMI West Houston, Inc.
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
Neuhaus Education Center
Northwest Assistance Ministries
Planned Parenthood of Houston
and Southeast Texas, Inc.
Prepared 4 Life
San Jose Clinic
SEARCH
South County Community Clinic,
DBA The Community Clinic
Spaulding for Children
St. Luke's Episcopal Health System
Systems of Hope
Texans Together Education Fund
Texas Children's Hospital
The Arc of Greater Houston
The Methodist Hospital System
The Network of Behavioral
Health Providers
United Way of Greater Houston
Wesley Community Center
YMCA of Greater Houston
YWCA of Greater Houston

Healthcare: Healthcare Reform

Position Statement approved by One Voice: November 14, 2008

Issue/Concern: Currently, Texas has the highest rate of uninsured residents under the age of 65 at 25% with Harris County exceeding that rate at 30%. While a more complete solution may be found at the federal level, there are many actions that the 81st Texas Legislature can take to alleviate the healthcare crisis facing ever-growing numbers of Texans.

Specific Policy Recommendation(s): One Voice supports the following Public Policy Priorities of the Harris County Healthcare Alliance:

- ★ Expand Texas Department of Insurance responsibility and authority;
- ★ Enable governmental entities to consider health insurance coverage offered by prospective contractors (pay or play);
- ★ Expand funding and other incentive programs for critical healthcare workforce shortage areas;
- ★ Create innovative healthcare coverage programs for employees of small businesses (multi-share);
- ★ Support the creation of a subsidized CHIP buy-in program for parents and children over 200% of the federal poverty level;
- ★ Continue funding for the Texas Incubator Program focused on expansion of existing Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC).

How does this issue/recommendation relate to prevention and early intervention or maximizing federal funds for health and human services?

- ★ Without sufficient resources to train and attract primary care physicians, nurses and behavioral health professionals the State will be unable to meet the growing demand for healthcare services;
- ★ Federally Qualified Health Centers are a cost-effective way to provide quality preventive health services to medically underserved populations;
- ★ Insuring Texas families will help prevent costly medical and social problems.

Supporting Facts/Research/Resources:

- ★ The Texas Department of Insurance currently lacks the explicit statutory responsibility and authority to identify and implement strategies that increase the availability and affordability of health insurance.
- ★ By requiring governmental entities to award competitive bids to contractors with the lowest bid, the State may actually be encouraging contractors to drop or not offer health insurance to win such bids.
- ★ Texas ranks 49th in employer-sponsored health insurance and particularly lags in the number of small businesses offering health insurance.
- ★ Texas has invested significant state funding to win federal funding to develop Federally Qualified Health Centers. Continued funding is needed to protect and build on this investment.

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