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Family Services of Greater Houston  
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Gateway to Care  
Good Neighbor Healthcare Center  
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Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston  
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Target Hunger  
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The Arrow Project  
The Network of Behavioral Health Providers  
United Way of Greater Houston  
Wesley Community Center  
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## Health Care: Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine

### Position Statement approved by One Voice: April 13, 2007

**Issue/Concern:** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 6.2 million new cases of human papilloma virus (HPV) infections are reported every year. At least 20 million people in this country are already infected.

Cervical cancer is caused by human papilloma virus. Cervical cancer is the 11th most common cancer among women in the US; an estimated 9,710 new cases will occur in 2006 and about 3,700 women will die. These women are disproportionately low-income women and women of color who lack access to basic health services<sup>1</sup>.

In June 2006, the Food and Drug Administration approved Gardasil, the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer and other health conditions. Among other things, Gardasil prevents infection with four HPV Types 16 and 18, which together cause 70 percent of the cases of cervical cancer.

### Specific Policy Recommendation(s):

- ★ Continue to educate the Texas Legislature on the cost effectiveness of the HPV vaccine and implementation of mandate policies, as well as the flaws in policies that would effectively ban such mandate policies.
- ★ Require the Texas Department of State Health Services to develop innovative educational materials that are appropriately targeted and encourage parents to vaccinate their children against HPV, and that promote the availability of the HPV vaccine, as well as available funding sources to cover the cost of the HPV vaccine.

**How does this issue/recommendation relate to prevention and early intervention or maximizing federal funds for health and human services?** Investing in the vaccine would reduce the cost of treating cervical cancer and other health conditions. Cost benefit analyses have shown that the vaccine, when combined with regular screenings, is a cost effective strategy.<sup>2 3</sup>

### Supporting Facts/Research/Resources\*:

- ★ The Center for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended in June 2006 that the vaccine be routinely given to 11-12 year old girls, and has added it to the CDC's list of recommended childhood vaccinations for girls 11-12 years of age.
- ★ The Center for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) also recommended catch-up vaccination for females aged 13-26 years who have not been previously vaccinated or who have not completed the full series.
- ★ Gardasil protects against HPV 16 and HPV 18, which are responsible for 70% of cervical cancer cases.
- ★ The Federal Drug Administration reports that four Gardasil studies were conducted involving 21,000 women between the ages of 16 and 26. The vaccine was nearly 100 percent effective in preventing precancerous cervical lesions.
- ★ There is no thimerosal or mercury contained in the vaccine. The manufacturer, Merk & Co., Inc., has agreed to conduct several studies following licensure, including additional studies to further evaluate general safety and long-term effectiveness.

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**Position Statement approved by One Voice: April 13, 2007 (cont.)**

**Legislative Outcome:** HB 1098 passed into law, prohibiting requirement of immunization as a condition for admission to any elementary or secondary school. All contrary executive orders of the Governor were preempted. Education materials about HPV vaccine must be made available to parents or legal guardians at the appropriate time in the immunization schedule by the appropriate school. These requirements will expire January 11, 2011.

HB 1379 passed into law requiring the Department of State Health Services to produce and distribute informational materials in English and Spanish regarding human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccinations, collaborate with the Texas Cancer Council to develop educational programs for parents regarding HPV and promoting awareness of a minor's need for preventive services for cervical cancer and its precursors, develop and maintain an informational website related to cervical cancer prevention (including HPV vaccination), and include additional information regarding HPV in course materials developed by DSHS related to sexually transmitted diseases in the model public health education program for school-aged children.

<sup>1</sup> The Guttmacher Institute

<sup>2</sup> SL Kulasingam, ER Myers, *Potential Health and Economic Impact of Adding a Human Papillomavirus Vaccine to Screening Programs*, *JAMA*. 2003;290:781-789

<sup>3</sup> SJ Goldie, M Kohli, D Grima, MC Weinstein, TC Wright, FX Bosch, E Franco *Projected Clinical Benefits and Cost-effectiveness of a Human Papillomavirus 16/18 Vaccine* *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 2004 96(8):604-615

\* Sources: Texas CHIP Coalition and Kaiser Family Foundation – [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)

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