

2008 Innovations Awards Program APPLICATION

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ID # (assigned by CSG): 08-S-41TX

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: Texas

Assign Program Category: Health Services

1. Program Name: Texas Health Care Policy Council
2. Administering Agency: Office of the Governor, State of Texas
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9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.

The Texas Health Care Policy Council was established to research, analyze and provide recommendations on ways to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of the health care system in Texas. The Council, which is composed of senior executives from the state's health and human services agencies and six systems of higher education, is also designed to ensure greater coordination and collaboration on health information technology, workforce, purchasing, and other health care system issues.

10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 1, 2008 to be considered.

The Texas Health Care Policy Council was established through legislation (House Bill 916) on June 18, 2005. The Council became operational in December 2006 and held its first public meeting on March 30, 2006.

11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?

The state of Texas has the highest rate of uninsured residents in the United States and a variety of other challenges, including increased costs, population growth and health workforce supply concerns, that have placed the issue of health care high on the state policy agenda. Although Texas has enacted major Medicaid reform legislation, there is a growing recognition in the state at all levels of policymaking and leadership that the status quo with respect to health care access, cost, coverage, and quality is unacceptable. The Texas Health Care Policy Council was established to foster innovation, coordination, and collaboration among the

state's health and human services agencies and systems of higher education to address these growing challenges, with a particular emphasis on:

- Researching and identifying approaches and solutions to address gaps, flaws, inefficiencies, or problems in the health care system and conduct research and analysis on ways to improve health care in Texas;
- Ensuring the most effective collaboration among state agencies in the purchase of health care products and services;
- Facilitating and promoting the use of technology in the health care system as a way to decrease administrative costs and to increase and improve the quality of health care;
- Monitoring and identifying ways to ensure the health care workforce is large enough to serve the health care needs of the state; and
- Establishing and maintaining a clearinghouse of information to assist communities in assessing the needs of local health care systems.

12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order.

The Texas Health Care Policy Council held its first public meeting on March 30, 2006, and four subsequent public meetings in 2006 on May 24, July 21, October 3, and November 7. During this short period of time, the Council developed a work plan, assessed health care products and services purchased by state agencies and institutions of higher education, and reviewed the levels and types of health information technology (IT) being used and planned by state agencies and the private sector. In addition, the Council received presentations from state agency officials and other health care experts on strategies to increase consumer access to health care price and quality information, and on innovative purchasing options for pharmaceuticals, durable medical equipment (DME), and medical supplies. Council staff actively worked to promote coordination of Texas health IT projects with federal health IT initiatives, and participated in the Gulf Coast Health IT Task Force through the Southern Governors' Association (SGA).

The Texas Health Workforce Planning Partnership, a standing subcommittee of the Council, held its first public meeting on April 20, 2006, and held three subsequent public meetings in 2006 on June 20, August 24, and October 3. The subcommittee, which developed a health workforce strategic plan to focus and synchronize all health workforce planning activities across the state over the next five years, received expert testimony from state agency officials and key health workforce stakeholders during these four meetings.

The Council did not meet while the Texas Legislature was in session in 2007 but held a meeting on November 6, 2007, to review and approve the Council's work plan for the 2007-2008 interim session.

Below is a time line of the activities of the Council and Partnership Workforce Subcommittee:

June 2005	Legislation establishing the Texas Health Care Policy Council (House Bill 916) signed into law by Governor Perry
December 2005	Council staff hired by Office of the Governor
January 2006 – February 2006	State Agencies and Systems of Higher Education make Designations to the Council.

March 2006	<p>The Council held an organizational meeting on March 30, 2006. During this meeting, the Council selected a chair and vice chair, adopted bylaws, approved the budget for the Council, and formally selected Tony Gilman to serve as the Executive Officer of the Council. Governor Perry's Deputy Chief of Staff, provided a presentation on Governor Perry's charge to the Council. Council staff provided briefings on the Council's enabling statute, a proposed work plan, and on staff activities relating to health information technology and purchasing of health care products and services.</p>
April 2006	<p>The Workforce Partnership Subcommittee held its first meeting on April 20, 2006. During its first meeting the subcommittee selected a chair and vice chair and received presentations from the following organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State Health Coordinating Council (SHCC); ● Texas Nurses Association (TNA); ● Texas Medical Association (TMA); ● Texas Hospital Association (THA); ● East Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC); and ● School of Allied Health Sciences, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.
May 2006	<p>On May 24, 2006, the Council received a staff briefing on the work plan for 2006, including strategies and deliverables relating to the Council's objectives on health workforce, purchase of health care products and services, health information technology, and consumer empowerment. The Council also received a briefing on a draft Long-Term Care Partnership program policy paper, and reports on the April 20 meeting of the Workforce Partnership Subcommittee and staff activities on health information technology initiatives. The Council also received presentations from the following programs on pharmaceutical purchasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff from the CHIP/Medicaid Initiatives, Health and Human Services Commission provided the Council with information on an analysis the Commission prepared for the Texas Legislature on multi-state drug purchasing pools; ● The Vice President for Community Outreach for the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB) and Executive Director of Correctional Care at UTMB, provided the Council with information on cost containment initiatives being pursued through its Correctional Managed Care program; and ● Interagency Council on Pharmaceuticals Bulk Purchasing (ICPBP) on the purpose and status of the ICPBP, their actions and achievements since 2001, and barriers the ICPBP faced in working to achieve its goals.
June 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Workforce Partnership Subcommittee held its second meeting on June 20, 2006. During the June 20 meeting, the subcommittee discussed the preparation of a strategic plan that will serve as a framework for future health workforce planning and development in Texas. Members of the subcommittee also received presentations from the: ● University of Texas System on the <i>Code Red</i> report and its workforce findings;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio and the Regional Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio on workforce supply and demand trends; ● Office of Rural and Community Health, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, on rural health workforce; ● East Texas Area Health Education Center, on public health diversity conferences that will take place in 2007; and ● Health Provider Resources Branch, Center for Health Statistics, Texas Department of State Health Services, on the Minimum Data Set developed by the SHCC.
July 2006	<p>The Council held its third meeting on July 21, 2006. During this meeting, the Council received reports on the June 20 meeting of the Workforce Partnership Subcommittee and staff activities on health information technology initiatives. Council members also received a briefing from the Special Assistant to the Associate Commissioner for Medicaid and CHIP, Health and Human Services Commission on competitive acquisition of durable medical equipment (DME) and medical supplies. Staff provided a briefing on the Council’s consumer empowerment charge. The following organizations made presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) on consumer driven health care – access to price and quality information; ● Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) on hospital performance reporting; ● Texas Hospital Association (THA) on access to hospital pricing and quality information; and ● Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) on the Long-Term Care Quality Reporting System.
August 2006	<p>The Workforce Partnership Subcommittee held its third meeting on August 24, 2006. Members of the subcommittee received a presentation from the Program Director for the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (CNWS), on the mission and current projects being pursued by the CNWS. The subcommittee also received a briefing on a draft health workforce strategic plan.</p>
October 2006	<p>The Workforce Partnership Subcommittee held its fourth and final meeting on October 3, 2006. During this meeting, the subcommittee reviewed stakeholder comments on the health workforce strategic plan. Members also reviewed and voted to approve the strategic plan entitled <i>Commitment to Health Workforce Planning: A Strategy for Addressing Texas’ Health Workforce Needs</i>.</p> <p>The Council also held a meeting on October 3, 2006. The Council voted to approve a long-term care policy paper entitled: <u>An Introduction to Long-Term Care (LTC) Insurance Partnership Programs as part of an Integrated LTC Policy for Texas</u>. Members also reviewed and discussed the following draft policy papers:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Containing Costs for Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies in the Texas Medicaid Program;</i> ● <i>Empowering Texas Health Consumers;</i> ● <i>Improving State Pharmaceutical Purchasing in Texas;</i> ● <i>The State of Health Information Technology in Texas;</i> and ● <i>The Value of Healthcare Information Exchange and Interoperability and Advanced Computerized Provider Order Entry in the State of Texas.</i>
November 2007	<p>The Council held its final meeting for 2006 on November 7, 2006. During this meeting, the Council reviewed and voted to approve the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health Workforce Strategic Plan - <u>Commitment to Health Workforce Planning: A Strategy for Addressing Texas' Health Workforce Needs</u> ● Health System Reform Policy Paper - <u>Empowering Texas Health Care Consumers</u> ● Health Care Purchasing Policy Papers - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Containing Costs for Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies in the Texas Medicaid Program</u> ● <u>Improving State Pharmaceutical Purchasing in Texas</u> ● Health Information Technology Policy Papers - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>The State of Health Information Technology in Texas</u> ● <u>The Value of Health Information Technology in Texas</u> <p>The Council also approved its final report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker, reviewed Governor Perry's health care system integrity executive order, and discussed the Council's work plan for 2007-2008.</p>
November 2007	<p>The Council met on November 6, 2007 to review and discuss the Council and Partnership Subcommittee's work plan for 2007-2008. Below are the six products (or deliverables) noted in the work plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy paper on pharmaceutical purchasing optimization options; ● Policy paper summarizing state agency activities in support of value-driven health care (<i>e.g.</i>, HIT standards, quality standards; price standards; and promotion of quality and efficiency of care); ● Publish clinical information sharing standards pursuant to House Bill 921 (80th Texas Legislature) by September 1, 2008; ● Establish information clearinghouse website; ● Prepare physician workforce study pursuant to Senate Bill 10 (80th Texas Legislature); and ● Report on health workforce strategic plan implementation progress <p>The Council and Partnership Workforce Subcommittee will hold six additional meetings in 2008.</p>

13. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method?

Texas, like many other states, is working to ensure the state can adequately manage health care system planning, workforce planning and development, health information exchange, patient safety and quality, among other issues. The Texas Department of Insurance, the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Employee Retirement System, Teacher Retirement System of Texas, health and human services agencies, Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the state's six systems of higher education all interact with the health care system. Prior to the formation of the Council, there was no mechanism to ensure that these agencies and institutions of higher education were coordinating information, resources, or policies to ensure the effective development of the health care system in Texas.

14. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.)

The Texas Health Care Policy Council had no start-up costs. The Council's administrative costs were absorbed by existing staff and budgets of several state agencies, including: the Office of the Governor, the Health and Human Services Commission, Department of State Health Services, Department of Aging and Disability Services, Department of Insurance, Texas Workforce Commission, and Higher Education Coordinating Board.

15. What are the program's annual operational costs?

The Texas Health Care Policy Council annual budget of \$312,000 funds the operations of the Council, including four (4) FTE positions: the executive officer, two policy analysts, and one administrative position.

16. How is the program funded?

The Council's operations are funded by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), Department of Insurance (TDI), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and Higher Education Coordinating Board (The CB). HHSC, DSHS, and DADS each contribute \$83,200 annually. TWC, the CB, and TDI each contribute \$20,800 annually.

17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number.

Yes, the Texas Health Care Policy Council was created through legislation (HB 916) in 2005. The statutory site for the Council is Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 113.

18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?

The administration of the Texas Health Care Policy Council does not require any new equipment, technology or software. The Council does require the commitment of senior state agency and higher education officials, as well as talented, dedicated, and focused staff.

19. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Yes, the Texas Health Care Policy Council originated in Texas. The creator of this program was Nora Belcher, Deputy Director, Budget, Planning and Policy, Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 12428, Austin, Texas, 78711. She can be reached at (512) 463-1778 or nora.belcher@governor.state.tx.us.

20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?

Although other states have created health care advisory groups, we're not aware of any other programs that are organized within a Governor's office that have as broad a mission as the Texas Health Care Policy Council on health care system transformation.

21. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?

Yes, the Texas Health Care Policy Council has been formed and is fully operational.

22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.

With the leadership of Governor Perry and the members of the Texas Health Care Policy Council, the Council has created a forum for collaboration and coordination among state agencies and institutions of higher education in Texas on health care system reform. The composition of the Council, however, does not represent all sectors of the health care system in Texas since representatives of the public and private health care industry are not represented on the Council. The Council has attempted to address this issue by holding public meetings and actively seeking presentations and input from the health care stakeholder community.

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?

The Texas Health Care Policy Council has grown since its inception in 2005 and is viewed as a health care policy think tank on health care system reform. The policy papers produced by the Council and staff serve as a resource to state legislators and other policy makers within the state, as well as other state and federal officials engaged in health care system reform.

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?

The support of the Governor and state legislative leadership is necessary to ensure a strong level of participation by health care stakeholders and to maintain an evidenced-based approach to health care system research and reform.