

## Partnership for a Healthy Texas: Conquering Obesity

On September 7, the Texas Health Institute facilitated a post-health policy forum meeting of the newly named *Partnership for a Healthy Texas: Conquering Obesity* (obesity workgroup). Formerly named the Obesity Prevention Workgroup, the group developed from one of the original Texas Strategic Health Partnership workgroups because members were determined to work together to address one of the most serious public health problems facing Texas: Obesity. The workgroup's initial project was the August 4 Obesity Health Policy Forum.

<http://www.texashealthinstitute.org/healthpolicy/index.htm>.

The Obesity Workgroup unanimously voted to continue to use the Institute as a facilitator and convener for the group as they move into the next phase of developing shared policy strategies. Most recently, the Partnership's legislative proposal subcommittee developed a series of legislative ideas in response to a request from **Senator Jane Nelson**, Chairman of the Health & Human Services Committee: These ideas included:

1. Codifying the Texas School Nutrition policy into Texas Law
2. Requiring physical education for every grade K-12
3. Funding to implement coordinated school health programs as mandated in legislation along with a comprehensive statewide obesity prevention and control program
4. Strengthening the implementation and improving accountability for current legislation (SB 19, SB 1357, SB 42)
5. Comprehensive nutrition and physical activity public awareness campaign, including the Texas Fruit and Vegetable Month Proclamation
6. Promoting worksite wellness programs

The *Partnership for a Healthy Texas: Conquering Obesity Workgroup* member organizations include:

American Heart Association  
American Heart Association  
American Cancer Society  
American Diabetes Association  
Children's Hospital Association of Texas  
Children's Medical Center Dallas  
The Cooper Institute  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas  
Scott and White Memorial Hospital, Temple  
Texas Association for Health, Physical Education,  
Recreation and Dance  
Texas Action for Healthy Kids

Texas Association of Health Plans  
Texas Association of School Boards  
Texas Association for School Nutrition  
Texas Bicycle Coalition  
Texans Care for Children  
Texas Dietetic Association  
Texas Medical Association  
Texas Pediatric Society  
Texas School Nurses Association  
Trans Texas Alliance  
University of Texas at Austin

Advisors Include:

Department of State Health Services  
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

Texas Department of Transportation  
Texas Education Agency

If you would like more information please contact **Klaus Madsen** at 512-279-3905 or email:

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## Health Disparities Index / Electronic Community Health Record Project

On September 22, **Delia Presley**, Institute Vice President of Marketing /Development /Communications and Institute Acting Vice President of Programs **Klaus Madsen** participated in the final meeting of the Health Disparities Index / Electronic Community Health Record Project with Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Health Disparities Education, Awareness, Research & Training Consortium (HDEART). At this meeting, State Epidemiologist **Vincent Fonseca**, M.D. presented DSHS's plan for a new health data dissemination system. The new system will be built on the stakeholder input that Texas Health Institute and the HDEART Consortium facilitated in multiple meetings during the spring and summer of 2006.

At the meeting, **Randy Fritz**, DSHS Chief Operating Officer, presented THI with a plaque expressing gratitude and appreciation for the Institute's role in providing leadership and guidance to the project.

If you would like more information please contact **Klaus Madsen** at 512-279-3905 or email:

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## Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging Strategic Planning Retreat Facilitation

On September 11, 2006, **Camille D. Miller**, Institute President/CEO, and **Liza Creel**, Institute Program Manager, facilitated the Strategic Planning Retreat for the board members of the Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (TAHSA) in Galveston. The purpose of the retreat was to bring board members from across Texas together to create a strategic plan for TAHSA. During the retreat, participants examined the external environment of the long-term care field in Texas, developed action steps for TAHSA's strategic plan and identified outcome measures. After the meeting, the Texas Health Institute prepared and submitted a final report of the retreat to TAHSA.

Congratulations to TAHSA board members for a very productive day of hard work!

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## Health Research and Educational Trust

Institute board member and immediate past chair **Ron Anderson**, M.D. with Parkland Health and Hospital System and **Klaus Madsen** continue to serve on the National Steering Committee on Hospitals and the Public's Health, formed by a cooperative agreement between the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), a subsidiary foundation of the American Hospital Association, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The National Steering Committee was convened to illustrate "why" and "how" hospitals and health systems can be better integrated with the public health system. The Steering Committee submitted the final draft of its report, which includes the Committee's recommendations, to the CDC at the end of September. Next, the Steering Committee will roll out a communications plan that will disseminate the report to hospital executives and boards, public health professionals, and national associations.

If you would like more information, please contact **Klaus Madsen** at 512-279-3905 or email:

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## HIT Focused Forum

On October 27, 2006, the Institute will host a Focused Policy Forum on Health Information Technology (HIT) planning efforts in Texas at the Doubletree Club Austin – University Hall, 1617 N. IH – 35, Austin, Texas. The forum will include a review of health information technology in Texas as well as a presentation on the preliminary report of the Texas Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC), *Roadmap for the Mobilization of Electronic Healthcare Information in Texas*. Scheduled speakers for the event are:

**Stephen Palmer**, Policy Analyst, Texas Health Care Policy Council & Governor's Office of Budget, Planning, and Policy  
**Ann Kitchen**, Executive Director, Indigent Care Collaborative  
**Vincent Fonseca**, M.D., State Epidemiologist, Texas Department of State Health Services  
**Brian Reynolds**, Workgroup Leader, Healthlink IBM  
**Sirkka Jarvenpaa**, Professor, McCombs School of Business

If you would like more information, please contact **Liza Creel** at 512-279-3906 or email:

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## Uninsured/Underinsured Health Policy Forum

The Institute will be hosting a statewide health policy forum on uninsured / access to care on Friday, December 1 at the Doubletree Club Austin, University Hall, 1617 N. IH 35 in Austin, Texas. The purpose of the forum will be to provide policy decision-makers with information about innovative strategies for coverage of the uninsured and underinsured in Texas. Steve Murdock, State Demographer, will be one of the speakers at the forum.

If you would like more information, please contact **Delia Presley** at 512-279-3903 or email:

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## Long Term Care Regional Forum

The Texas Health Institute will facilitate a Regional Long Term Care Forum in Edinburg at the University of Texas-Pan American University on October 18, 2006. The Forum, which is part of the Institute's Long Term Care Project, will provide information on trends and needs in care for the aging and disabled.

In August the Institute facilitated regional forums focusing on Long Term Care in Dallas and Lubbock. To learn more about the outcome of these forums there is a summary report available at:

[http://www.texashealthinstitute.org/news/LTC\\_forum\\_summary091506.pdf](http://www.texashealthinstitute.org/news/LTC_forum_summary091506.pdf)

If you would like more information, please contact **Delia Presley** at 512-279-3903 or email:

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## Long Term Care Statewide Forum

On November 10, 2006, leaders from around the state will learn about the steps being taken to create an evidence-based plan to protect the future of long term care in Texas through a statewide health policy forum hosted by the Institute. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. at the Doubletree Club Austin – University Hall, 1617 N. IH – 35, Austin, Texas. Topics to be discussed:

- An overview of key issues in long term care and the opportunity for participant to ask questions
- Demographic overview
- Long Term Care providers' perspective

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## Mental Health Substance Abuse Statewide Health Policy Forum

On December 8, 2006, the Institute will host a statewide policy forum on the state of mental health and substance abuse in Texas. Please look for more information on this forum in our October newsletter.

## Transformation Grant Focused Forum Summary Available

On behalf of the Texas Strategic Health Partnership, the Institute presented a focused policy forum, "Making the Case for Mental Health Transformation in Texas", on July 14, 2006. Speakers for the forum included **Valarie Garza**, a member of the Governor's Transformation Workgroup, who presented a consumer perspective, and **Vijay Ganju**, Ph.D., Texas Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant Project Director, who provided an update on the project and grant. Feedback on the forum is now posted on the Institute website:

<http://www.texashealthinstitute.org/news/comments.pdf>

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## Commissioner of Health Transitions to New Role

On October 7, 2006, **Eduardo J. Sanchez**, M.D., commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, will become director of the Institute for Health Policy in The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston. **Dr. Sanchez** also received a joint appoint appointment to be a professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Sanchez served as commissioner and chief health officer for the State of Texas for almost five years. His resignation from that post is effective Oct. 6. Congratulations to **Dr. Sanchez** on his new role with UT School of Public Health and LBJ School of Public Affairs!

The Institute will be hosting a Legacy Wine and Cheese Party honoring Dr. Sanchez. Look for more information in our October newsletter.

## Women in Government Conference

On September 8, **Camille D. Miller** presented *Making the Case for Mental Health Transformation in Texas* at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Regional Conference of Women in Government in San Antonio. Camille discussed the State Innovations Grant on Mental Health Transformation and its relation to **President George W. Bush's** Freedom Commission goals (mental health, consumer and family driven, disparities, early intervention, evidence-based practice, and technology). The Institute's role in the grant is focusing on community collaborative intervention and technology.

## Chinese Delegation

On September 21, 2006, **Camille D. Miller** and **Skipper Dippel** met with a delegation of Chinese diplomats visiting the United States to learn more about the U. S. health care system. Through a five year agreement between the Central Party School in China and the Texas Lyceum, the Chinese delegation will be exchanging scholars, students, journals and a variety of other activities with their U. S. counterparts. All leadership in China go through the Central Party School.

The Institute was honored that Skipper Dippel chose our Shared Vision for Health Care in Texas Project to hold as a model for these future leaders.

## Southern Regional Health Consortium

At the August 21 – 22, 2006 meeting of the Southern Regional Health Consortium (SRHC) in Atlanta, Georgia, **Camille D. Miller** updated the board on obesity reduction activities the Institute is heading up for SRHC. As part of the project, a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis on addressing obesity through a project which mobilized action within each state was presented. The SRHC expressed consensus on the importance of reducing obesity throughout the region in improving health status. SRHC is made up of eight states which include: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia. Look for more information on this project in future issues of the Institute newsletter.

## About the Texas Health Institute and Board Update

Senior Editor: [Camille Miller](#)

Editor: [Delia Presley](#)

Texas Health Institute, formerly the Texas Institute for Health Policy Research, is a catalyst for the improvement in the health of all Texans and their communities through education in health policy options and grassroots community-based solutions.

The *Board Update* is a monthly publication of the Texas Health Institute written to update Institute board of trustee members and *Friends of the Institute*.

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