Friends,

Wow! What an exciting time to be alive in American history. Yes, I am talking about having survived "Super Tuesday" in Texas. Next to Rudyard Kipling's famous poem about what it takes to "be a man," I am reminded of this quote by one of the founders of the national organization, Communities Joined in Action, Mary Lou Anderson:

Leaders

Leaders are called to stand in that lonely place between the no longer and the not yet and intentionally make decisions that will bind, forge, move and create history.

We are not called to be popular,
We are not called to be safe,
We are not called to follow,
We are the ones called to take risks.
We are the ones called to change attitudes, to risk displeasures.
We are the ones called to gamble our lives for a better world.

Mary Lou Andersen
April 1970
Founding President, CJA

- **Outgoing THI Chair Passes the Gavel to Dr. Ben Raimer** - Click [here](#) to read the entire article! In the coming months we will feature articles on our new board members, George Miller and Ralph Fuccillo.

- **2015 Awards of Excellence winners** - To see the list of winners, click [here](#). To see the power points with pictures, click [here](#).
• National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC) - They will be convening their Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) on April 1 at the Bullock Texas History Museum in Austin. Click here to learn more.

• THI's Dennis Andrulis Speaks to NPR on Texas' Health Care Access Challenges - Dennis Andrulis, PhD, MPH, THI's Senior Research Scientist was featured on NPR's All Things Considered, In Texas, Uneven Expansion of Obamacare Sows Frustration, on February 29, 2016. Dr. Andrulis shed light on the realities and frustrations of accessing care in Texas. "The law is raising hopes for those who in this state have been chronically uninsured for such a long time," Dr. Andrulis says. "But then for those who are able to get insurance, they will find difficulty in accessing care." The situation is particularly frustrating for people on Medicaid, Dr. Andrulis shares. First, Texas chose not to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Second, the rates the state reimburses doctors for care are very low. As a result, doctors in Texas have little incentive to take on new Medicaid patients. Dr. Andrulis and THI's Health Equity team have been monitoring the implementation and implications of the Affordable Care Act from a health equity perspective since its enactment. For more information and to access their reports, click here.

• Consumer Involvement at the Forefront of MSGRC Needs Assessment Activities - Click here to read this full article by Marilyn Brown, THI's MSGRC Projects Manager.

• ACN Affinity Program - To learn more about this program click here.

• 2016 National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) - Ankit Sanghavi, THI's Public Health Research Analyst, will be presenting "Achieving Quality Improvement Through School-Based Mobile Program Evaluation" at this year's Roundtable Luncheon being held on Monday, April 18, 2016, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information about the conference click here.

• 2016 Texas Primary Care and Health Home Summit - This year's Summit will be June 9-10 at the JW Marriott in Houston, right across the street from the Galleria. We are planning a great agenda that will include presentations on the current state of the health home, ACOs and other models of primary care nationally and in Texas. We are expanding the opportunities for attendees to share their successes and challenges in practice transformation with peers. We heard your feedback loud and clear: more emphasis on the "how" of practice transformation. The Planning Committee is already hard at work on the agenda. Stay tuned for updates and save the date today! For additional information, please click here. Presented by the Texas Medical Home Initiative and Texas Health Institute.

• 2016 Save the Date - 10th Southern Obesity Summit - Don't miss this opportunity to learn, network and change the culture of health in your community! Join us in Houston, Texas November 13-15, 2016 for the largest regional obesity prevention conference in the nation! JW Marriott at the Galleria Houston, TX. The call for
breakout proposals will open on April 18th. Visit our website: http://www.southernobesitysummit.org/
"Like" us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SouthernObesitySummit
"Follow" us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/SouthernObesity

- **Upcoming THI Talks** - Stay tuned for a series of interactive presentations by THI Staff in the upcoming months:
  92nd Annual Education Conference of the Texas Public Health Association in Galveston, TX:
  * **Matthew Turner**, PhD, MPH, Exploring Access to Care in Diverse Populations, Poster Session, April 11, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM.
  * **Nadia Siddiqui**, MPH, Finding Common Ground: Advancing Health Equity and Building Community Resilience to Climate Change, Oral Session, April 13, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM.

Camille D. Miller
President/CEO
Texas Health Institute

Our mission is to provide leadership to improve the health of Texans and their communities through education, research, and health policy development.

**Editorial Board:**
Camille D. Miller, Sherry Wilkie-Conway, Stephanie Ondrias, Carol S. Gamble

**Editors:**
Sherry Wilkie-Conway, Stephanie Ondrias

Texas Health Institute (THI) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focused on the development of health policy solutions to improve the lives of Texans and their communities. From acting as an honest broker and hosting unbiased health policy forums that facilitate dialogue among policymakers and other healthcare stakeholders, to creating a vision of an improved future healthcare system. The THI newsletter is a monthly publication of Texas Health Institute written to update THI Board of Trustees and Friends of Texas Health Institute.

For e-mail address changes, add or delete requests, or to submit an article for publishing, please e-mail sondrias@texashealthinstitute.org