April 2016

Friends,

A few years ago, Texas Health Institute (THI) was honored to participate with Texas local health officials on an educational program called "Public Health - Your Invisible Guardian." Dedicated public servants in local health departments across Texas work every day to ensure that our drinking water and the food we eat is safe, that our sanitation services are adequate, that proper and timely immunizations are available, that pests, mosquitoes, rodents, etc. are controlled to protect our health --- and the list goes on! Do you know who these people are in your community? Have you thanked them lately? Ever? Probably not, because as the slogan goes - they are our INVISIBLE GUARDIANS! We don't even know who they are.

So this is a big THANK YOU to all of you who are working in public health! Thank you for keeping us safe!

I would love to hear stories that any of you have about a public health official's impact on your life or community! Or as a public health official - WHAT is one of your proudest accomplishments? I would love to share a story or two in our next newsletter!

- **New Rankings Shed Light on Where Texas Counties Could Improve Health** - To listen to John Oeffinger, THI Program Manager, discuss the importance of County Health Rankings on KUT News 90.5, click [here](#). To read the entire article click [here](#).

- **THI's Roundtable proposal accepted for National Network of Public Health Institute's (NNPHI) 2016 Annual Conference in May.** Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

- **The 2016 Texas Primary Care and Health Home Summit (TPCHHS)** features sessions on the fundamentals of the health home; using telehealth in your practice; integrating behavioral health services into primary care; getting ready for Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA); building effective healthcare teams using the TeamSTEPPS program; how small independent practices can become part of an Accountable Care Organization (ACO); lessons learned from transforming practices into medical homes and a number of sessions on best practices in pediatric health homes. Please join us June 9-10 in Houston at the JW Marriott Hotel. We look forward to #MakingPrimaryCareGreat. Click [here](#) to view the entire flyer with more details.
• Texas Health Institute's graduate social work intern, Anna Stelter, has been awarded the 2016 Social Work Student of the Year by the Capital Area Branch of the National Association of Social Workers Texas Chapter (NASW/Texas). Click here to read the full article.

• **THI Presents at UTMB's Health Policy Dialogue.** Nadia Siddiqui, Director of Health Equity Programs, presented on March, 30, 2016 at UTMB's Health Policy Dialogue and lunch in Galveston on Advancing Health Equity in the Post Affordable Care Act Era. Geared towards UTMB's students, residents, faculty, and staff, Ms. Siddiqui's presentation delved into the health equity opportunities, challenges, and implications of the ACA nationally and in Texas. For a copy of the presentation slides, click here.

• **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

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

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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.