

2007 - 2008 TEXAS STATE HEALTH PLAN UPDATE

Technology as a Tool to Ensuring a
Quality Health Care Workforce for Texas



Statewide Health Coordinating Council



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

September 19, 2006

Ben G. Raimer, M.D.
Chair
Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3199

Dear Dr. Raimer:

I am pleased to receive the 2007-2008 Texas State Health Plan Update (2007-2008 Update) entitled, "Technology as a Tool to Ensuring a Quality Health Care Workforce for Texas." I appreciate your leadership on health workforce issues and the work of the members of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) in preparing a report that provides a thorough overview and analysis of the status of the Texas health workforce.

As you know, the Texas Health Workforce Planning Partnership, a standing subcommittee of the Texas Health Care Policy Council, is developing a health workforce strategic plan that includes priority actions to focus and synchronize health workforce planning and development activities in Texas over the next five years. I believe this strategic plan, in combination with the information included in the 2007-2008 update, will serve as useful guides for the Texas Legislature and other state policy makers. These documents will also help strengthen coordination and collaboration among the health workforce partners across the state – governmental agencies (federal, state, and local), colleges, universities, health science centers, local and regional workforce entities, and health professional associations.

I applaud your work in preparing the 2007-2008 update and the SHCC's dedication to maintaining and improving our health care workforce in Texas.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The *1999-2004 Texas State Health Plan*, the state's initial fundamental health workforce-planning document, developed by the Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) in 1998, envisioned a Texas in which all citizens were able to achieve their maximum health potential. However, six years later, due to a myriad of factors and circumstances, Texas continued to be challenged to meet its current health care workforce needs and the anticipated needs for future generations.

As the SHCC considered the approach it would take in developing the *2005-2010 Texas State Health Plan*, the members felt that it was necessary to consider a different approach. Rather than continue to look only at the health workforce that would be required to fulfill the requirements of the current traditional medical model, the SHCC chose to consider innovative delivery models and the mix of health professionals that would be required to ensure a quality health workforce under a non-traditional delivery model. The SHCC followed the same approach in the development of the *2007-2008 Texas State Health Plan Update*.

The SHCC conducted an extensive assessment of health workforce issues. Additionally, in May 2006, the SHCC hosted the Texas Statewide Health Workforce and Health Information Technology Summit. The summit provided a forum for stakeholders to come together to discuss the most critical workforce and health information technology issues and to entertain possible solutions. Both the result of the literature review and the summit support the need for fundamental system change within the health care delivery system and the policy environment that shapes it. Consequently, the *2007-2008 Texas State Health Plan Update* continues to focus on innovative approaches to the recruitment and retention, the education and training, and the regulation of the Texas health care workforce.

We are committed to the belief that a healthy Texas can be a productive Texas and envision a Texas in which each person enjoys optimal health status, is informed, and is productive. We continue to believe that the recommendations included in the *2005-2010 Texas State Health Plan* place Texas on the right track in preparing our state for its future.

Ben G. Raimer MD

Ben G. Raimer, M.D., Chairman
Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council

STATEWIDE HEALTH COORDINATING COUNCIL
A VISION

We envision a Texas in which all are able to achieve their maximum health potential - A Texas in which:

- ★ Prevention and education are the primary approaches for achieving optimal health.
- ★ All have equal access to quality health care.
- ★ Local communities are empowered to plan and direct interventions that have the greatest impact on the health of all.
- ★ We, and future generations, are healthy, productive and able to make informed decisions.

A Healthy Texas is a Productive Texas

2007-2008
TEXAS STATE HEALTH PLAN UPDATE
TEXAS STATEWIDE HEALTH COORDINATING COUNCIL
November 2006

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