

FOREWORD

The *Texas State Health Plan* is prepared every six years and updated biennially. The plan serves as a guide to help Texas decision makers formulate appropriate health policies and programs.

The Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council, a 17-member council with 13 members appointed by the governor and four *ex officio* members representing specified state agencies, develops the plan. The Texas Health Planning and Development Act, Chapter 104 of the Health and Safety Code, is the enabling legislation for the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. Under the authority of Chapter 104, the governor, with the consent of the senate, appoints the 13 council members to staggered six-year terms. The heads of the four state agencies serve on the council or designate an individual to serve on their behalf.

The broad purpose of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council is to ensure that health care services and facilities are available to all Texans through health planning activities. Based on these planning activities, the council makes recommendations to the governor and the legislature through the *Texas State Health Plan*. The council provides overall guidance in the development of the *Texas State Health Plan*, submission of the plan to the governor, and promotion of the plan's implementation. The plan is due to the governor for adoption by November 1 of each even-numbered year. Staff in the Center for Health Statistics, with assistance from other program areas at the Texas Department of State Health Services, supports the council's activities.

House Bill 1716 from the 75th Legislature amended Chapter 104 of the Health and Safety Code and focused the council's planning activities on the health professions workforce. The council produced the *1999–2004 Texas State Health Plan: Ensuring a Quality Health Care Workforce for Texas*, which was the fundamental plan for the previous six-year planning cycle. The *2001–2002 Texas State Health Plan Update* was the first update to that document, while the *2003–2004 Texas State Health Plan Update* was the final update.

The *2005–2010 Texas State Health Plan*, which was presented to Governor Rick Perry in October of 2004, serves as the initial document and fundamental plan for the current six-year planning cycle and once again focuses on the Texas health workforce. For the purposes of this report, the *2005–2010 Texas State Health Plan* is referenced as the *State Health Plan*.

The *2007-2008 Texas State Health Plan Update (2007-2008 Update)* is the first biennial update to the *State Health Plan*. Senate Bill 45, 79th Regular Legislative Session, amended Chapter 104 of the Health and Safety Code and further focused the council's planning activities on the use of information technology in the service delivery system. S.B. 45 also directed the Statewide Health Coordinating Council to form an advisory committee to develop a long-range plan

for health care information technology. On November 17, 2005, the Statewide Health Coordinating Council appointed an eleven member advisory committee, the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC). Under the guidance and coordination of staff within the Texas Health Care Policy Council, the HITAC will develop the draft of the long-range plan for presentation to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council on July 20, 2006. The document will be created as a separate document, but will be presented to the governor simultaneously with the *2007-2008 Update*.

The *State Health Plan* outlines Texas' interests in issues concerning the workforce in the health professions. The state is a major provider of medical and health education through its system of publicly funded health science centers, universities, and community and technical colleges. Texas is a major purchaser of health care services through the state's Medicaid program and other public health care programs, as well as a provider of such services through its system of publicly funded medical schools and hospitals. Finally, Texas has the responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of its residents. In the *State Health Plan*, the council develops and presents policy-level recommendations to ensure Texas has a workforce with the skills, competencies, and abilities to meet the needs of its growing and diverse population.

The *2007-2008 Update* will be presented to the governor on October 26, 2006. Copies of the plan will be distributed to state legislators, universities, licensing boards, professional associations, and other interested parties and will be posted on the Web site at <http://www.texasshcc.org> or <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/shcc/default.shtm>. The *State Health Plan* and the *2007-2008 Update* will serve as two of the state's fundamental documents for information on the health professions and workforce planning. The plan and updates include input from major stakeholders throughout the state, including professional associations, state agencies, employers of health professionals, educators of health professionals, and numerous other public and private entities.

The recommendations included in the 2005-2010 Texas State Health Plan are included in Appendix A.

Copies of the 2005-2010 Texas State Health Plan and the 2007-2008 Texas State Health Plan Update can be downloaded from the Web site at <http://www.TexasSHCC.org> or at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/shcc/default.shtm>. Printed copies of the documents are also available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, at a cost of \$20 per copy. To order a document copy, call (512) 458-7261.