

**Department of State Health Services
Agenda Item for State Health Services Council
July 7, 2006**

Agenda Item Title: DSHS Guiding Principles

Agenda Number: 1

Recommended Council Action:

For Discussion Only

For Discussion and Action by the Council

Background: N/A

Summary: Dr. Sanchez will provide overview of DSHS Guiding Principles as follow:

Sound Mind, Sound Body, Sound Environment

Combining public health, clinical services, mental health, and substance abuse services into a single entity reinforces the notion that wellness means both sound mind and sound body. Together with the knowledge that social and physical environments are important factors in health, this integration provides the opportunity – and the challenge – of developing systems for treating the whole person in healthy communities.

Prevention first; quality treatment when necessary

DSHS is committed to helping people stay healthy. Preventing serious health problems – through tobacco cessation, effective regulation of food manufacturers, substance abuse prevention and early identification of mental illness, for example – is a prudent investment for individuals and for the state. But when treatment is necessary, DSHS emphasizes quality and appropriateness of services to meet the need.

Partnerships

DSHS will encourage partnerships to leverage resources and maximize outcomes. DSHS works with federal partners to bring more funding to Texas, as well as leveraging the resources already coming to the state to maximize shared goals and outcomes. Whether working with local communities to strengthen our response capability for public health disasters, or improving local health care by developing Federally-Qualified Health Centers or engaging businesses in innovative approaches to prevent obesity, partnerships can magnify what the agency could accomplish alone.

Local Focus

DSHS recognizes that “all health is local,” and that lasting health improvement comes from the interests and energies of people in communities. With its leadership responsibility as a state agency, DSHS will focus on support for local solutions within a consistent statewide health system.

Summary of Stakeholder Input to Date (including advisory committees): N/A

Proposed Motion: No Action Required

Agenda Item Approved by:

Presented by: Eduardo J. Sanchez, MD, MPH

Program/Division: Commissioner’s Office

Title: DSHS Commissioner

Contact Name/Phone: Rosamaria Murillo

Date

Submitted:
July 5, 2006



DSHS Guiding Principles

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DSHS Strategic Priorities

Among the **Challenges and Opportunities** in each of its functions and program service areas, DSHS named five as critical and overarching for the department in the coming years:

- Using innovative business practices and technologies,
- Health promotion and chronic disease prevention,
- Preparedness and protection,
- Behavioral health system transformation,
- Development of local and regional public health systems.

To make the most of these opportunities to realize the vision of a healthier Texas for the people we serve, DSHS adopts five **Strategic Priorities**:

- Recognizing that employees are a cornerstone of its effectiveness, DSHS will establish a work environment in which employees are valued, productive, and supported in their work.
- DSHS will become a recognized leader in innovative and streamlined business practices. The department will use processes and tools that demonstrate a return on investment fiscally, and that contribute towards achieving the health mission.
- DSHS will identify and adopt evidence based practices for its services and functions, in order to responsibly guide resources toward the best impact on health outcomes.
- DSHS will ensure that it is ready in the events of emergencies and disasters. With responsibilities for health preparedness and response in the state system, the department will work with local, federal, and other state partners for coordinated plans and effective action.
- DSHS will catalyze and facilitate partnerships. Since the mission of DSHS depends on shared understanding and mutual action with many partners that make up the health system, the department will cultivate relationships for state level coordination and local level focus.