



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

EDUARDO J. SANCHEZ, M.D., M.P.H.
COMMISSIONER

1100 W. 49th Street • Austin, Texas 78756
1-888-963-7111 • <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us>

December 30, 2005

Invitee
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Invitee:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is redesigning its mental health crisis services system, including its death review processes, to provide a clearly defined, evidence-based model for effective crisis resolution services and a designated funding approach for the provision of these services. To assist in this effort, we are convening a workgroup of select individuals with relevant knowledge and experience representing community medicine, mental health services, advocacy and consumer organizations, and the court system. This committee will be chaired by Steven Shon, M.D., Medical Director for Behavioral Health, and Joe Vesowate, Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Having representation of knowledgeable experts is necessary to have all perspectives available as we act to understand the system and ways to improve it. We would appreciate your accepting our invitation to be part of this process, which we expect to continue through FY2006. We plan to meet at least once a month for six to eight months with more than one meeting being required some months. Any travel expenses incurred on behalf of this workgroup will be reimbursed by DSHS. A preliminary list of invited participants is attached. The first meeting will be held:

Wednesday, January 18, 2006
909 W. 45th Street, Bldg. 2, Public Hearing Room 164
Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Please let us know if you will be able to participate in this initiative by faxing your resume or brief biographical narrative no later than Wednesday, January 11, to Gloria Ratley at 512-821-4561. If you need additional information, please contact Linda Logan, linda.logan@dshs.state.tx.us, 512-206-4670, or Gloria Ratley, gloria.ratley@dshs.state.tx.us, 512-206-5816.

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We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EJ Sanchez M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Steven Shon, M.D., Medical Director for Behavioral Health
Joe Vesowate, Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services