



## Newborn Screening Expansion: Request for Proposals – Process and Timelines

### **Background**

The 79<sup>th</sup> Legislature provided additional funds for the expansion of the Newborn Screening (NBS) program. It also adopted House Bill (HB) 790, which sets out the legislative expectations for that expansion. HB 790 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to conduct a cost-effectiveness study to determine whether the NBS program should be conducted by the state or should be outsourced. After examining the timelines in the legislation, DSHS determined that the most expeditious way of proceeding would be to conduct the cost-effectiveness study by issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP). The DSHS Commissioner will make the final decision regarding the entity that will implement the expanded NBS program.

### **NBS-RFP Development Team**

Lead by the DSHS Chief of Operations, an NBS-RFP team was established to facilitate stakeholder input, make recommendations to the DSHS Commissioner regarding the scope of the RFP, and develop the final RFP. The Team includes: Randy Fritz, Rick Danko, Machel Pharr, Angie Eastwick, Linda Wiegman, Michael Greenberg, Nick Dauster, Rosamaria Murillo, Heather Gatlin.

### **Objectives of RFP Development Process**

- The process is open, transparent, and known to all participants in advance. Interested legislative observers see first-hand that the process is open and fair.
- Stakeholders and bidders have an opportunity to shape the RFP content and program design.
- DSHS subject matter expertise is leveraged in a way that does not taint the actual procurement and evaluation. Members in the NBS-RFP team and Evaluation Team are not from the NBS program.
- Stakeholder input is received at several key points and reflected in the overall outcome.
- The cost-effectiveness decision will be made concurrent with a procurement selection.

### **Activities and Timeline**

Briefed State Health Service Council Chair	August 2, 2005
Established NBS-RFP Development Team	August 5, 2005
Posted Request for Letter of Intent (LOI)	September 1, 2005
Texas Partnership Summit, NBS session held	September 21, 2005
Deadline for submitting LOI	September 23, 2005
Issued first draft RFP for stakeholder input	September 30, 2005
Facilitated stakeholder meetings	October 4, 10, and 18, 2005
Issued second draft of RFP for public comment	November 2, 2005
Established NBS-RFP Evaluation Team	November 7, 2005
Deadline for comments on second draft of RFP	November 9, 2005
Issue final RFP	December 1, 2005
Deadline for written questions regarding final RFP	December 8, 2005
Respond to written questions	December 22, 2005
Deadline for submitting proposals	January 17, 2006
Deadline for submitting results to Legislature	March 1, 2006

*Contacts: Randy Fritz, Chief Operating Officer and Rick Danko, Director, Center for Policy and Innovation at (512) 458-7375 or [randy.fritz@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:randy.fritz@dshs.state.tx.us); and [rick.danko@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:rick.danko@dshs.state.tx.us)*