

Chapter I

Statewide Vision, Mission, and Philosophy

Introduction

The cycle of strategic planning and budgeting began in Texas in 1992 with the issuance of a statewide vision. Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies have developed strategic plans every two years since 1992 and the Coordinated Strategic Plan every two years since 1996.

House Bill 2292, 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, dramatically changed the HHS landscape in Texas. This plan reflects those changes and as such is a departure from the previous planning process. It is the result of strategically thinking about the future of health and human services in Texas as a system, rather than as 12 separate, yet coordinated entities. It provides a common direction for the system and an understanding of the five individual agencies that comprise the system:

- The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC);
- The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS);
- The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS);
- The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS); and
- The Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

This plan is grounded in the Statewide Vision, Mission, and Philosophy developed by the Governor and the Legislative Budget Board and presented below.

Statewide Vision—Planning for Progress

Working together, I know we can accomplish our mission and address the priorities of the people of Texas. My administration is dedicated to creating greater opportunity and prosperity for our citizens, and to accomplish that mission, I am focused on the following critical priorities:

- *Assuring open access to an educational system that not only guarantees the basic core knowledge necessary for citizenship, but also emphasizes excellence and accountability in all academic and intellectual undertakings;*

- *Creating and retaining job opportunities and building a stronger economy that will lead to more prosperity for our people, and a stable source of funding for core priorities;*
- *Protecting and preserving the health, safety and well-being of our citizens by ensuring healthcare is accessible and affordable, and our neighborhoods and communities are safe from those who intend us harm; and*
- *Providing the disciplined, principled government that invests public funds wisely and efficiently.*

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas

The Mission of Texas State Government

Texas state government must be limited, efficient, and completely accountable. It will foster opportunity and economic prosperity, focus on critical priorities, and support the creation of strong family environments for our children. The stewards of the public trust will be men and women who administer state government in a fair, just, and responsible manner. To honor the public trust, state officials must seek new and innovative ways to meet state government priorities in a fiscally responsible manner.

The Philosophy of Texas State Government

The task before all state public servants is to govern in a manner worthy of this great state. We are a great enterprise, and as an enterprise we will promote the following core principles:

- First and foremost, Texas matters most. This is the overarching, guiding principle by which we will make decisions. Our state, and its future, is more important than party, politics, or individual recognition.
- Government should be limited in size and mission, but it must be highly effective in performing the tasks it undertakes.
- Decisions affecting individual Texans, in most instances, are best made by those individuals, their families, and the local governments closest to their communities.
- Competition is the greatest incentive for achievement and excellence. It inspires ingenuity and requires individuals to set their sights high. And just as competition inspires excellence, a sense of personal responsibility drives individual citizens to do more for their future, and the future of those they love.
- Public administration must be open and honest, pursuing the high road rather than the expedient course. We must be accountable to taxpayers for our actions.

- State government has a responsibility to safeguard taxpayer dollars by eliminating waste and abuse, and providing efficient and honest government.
- Finally, state government should be humble; recognizing that all its power and authority is granted to it by the people of Texas, and those who make decisions wielding the power of the state should exercise their authority cautiously and fairly.

Statewide Goals and Benchmarks for Health and Human Services

The HHS system addresses all of the statewide benchmarks identified for HHS agencies. The HHS system also contributes significantly to the Regulatory priority goal, and to a lesser extent, to the success of the General Government and Education—Public Schools priority goals.

Health and Human Services Priority Goal: Benchmarks by Agency

To provide public assistance through an efficient and effective system that promotes the health, responsibility, and self-sufficiency of individuals and families.

HHSC

The HHSC strategies listed in Chapter X address the following statewide benchmarks:

- Percent of Texans receiving TANF cash assistance;
- Number of Texans receiving TANF cash assistance;
- Percent of Texas population enrolled in Medicaid;
- Number of persons enrolled in Medicaid;
- Average amount recovered and saved per completed Medicaid provider investigation;
- Percent of eligible children enrolled in CHIP;
- Number of children enrolled in CHIP;
- Percent of Texas population receiving food stamps; and
- Number of persons receiving food stamps.

DADS

The DADS strategies listed in Chapter X address the following statewide benchmarks:

- Incidence of confirmed cases of abuse, neglect, or death of children, the elderly, or spouses (per 1,000); and
- Percent of long-term care clients served in the community.

DARS

The DARS strategies listed in Chapter X address the following statewide benchmark:

- Percent of people completing vocational rehabilitation services and remaining employed.

DFPS

The DFPS strategies listed in Chapter X address the following statewide benchmarks:

- Incidence of confirmed cases of abuse, neglect, or death of children, the elderly, or spouses (per 1,000);
- Percent of children in foster care that are adopted or reunited with their families; and
- Percent of adoptions completed within 18 months.

DSHS

The DSHS strategies listed in Chapter X address the following statewide benchmarks:

- Infant mortality rate;
- Low birth weight rate;
- Teen pregnancy rate;
- Percent of births that are out-of-wedlock;
- Incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases (number of investigations by DSHS);
- Rate of substance abuse and alcoholism among Texans; and
- Number of surveillance activities and field investigations conducted for communicable disease, injury, or harmful exposure.

Regulatory Priority Goal: Benchmarks by Agency

To ensure Texans are effectively and efficiently served by high-quality professionals and businesses through clear standards, compliance and market-based solutions.

DADS

The DADS strategies listed in Chapter X address the following statewide benchmarks:

- Percent of state professional licensee population without documented violations;
- Percent of documented complaints to licensing agencies resolved within six months;
- Percent of individuals given a test for licensure who received a passing score; and
- Percent of new and renewed licenses issued via Internet.

DFPS

The DFPS strategies listed in Chapter X address the following statewide benchmarks:

- Percent of state professional licensee population without documented violations;
- Percent of documented complaints to licensing agencies resolved within six months;
- Percent of individuals given a test for licensure who received a passing score; and
- Percent of new and renewed licenses issued via Internet.

DSHS

The DSHS strategies listed in Chapter X address the following statewide benchmarks:

- Percent of state professional licensee population without documented violations;
- Percent of documented complaints to licensing agencies resolved within six months;
- Percent of individuals given a test for licensure who received a passing score; and
- Percent of new and renewed licenses issued via Internet.

