

Foreword

Given the changed HHS agency structure under H.B. 2292, 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, and the new approach to develop a consolidated plan for all HHS agencies, the following notes are intended to clarify legal status, language use, and format conventions.

Covering Multiple Agencies

House Bill 2292, 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, consolidated the 12 health and human services (HHS) agencies into the following five agencies:

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

In the spirit of H.B. 2292, this Plan consolidates the strategic plans for all Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies into one document. Chapters I-IV address system-wide planning elements, including the Historically Underutilized Business Plan and the Early Childhood Immunization Strategy (required by S.B. 485, 78th Regular Session). Chapters V-IX address the agencies individually, and Chapter X brings together the goals, objectives, and strategies for all agencies. Finally, several of the required Appendices are written from a systems perspective:

- Appendix A—Description of System Planning Process;
- Appendix E—Health and Human Services Enterprise Workforce Plan;
- Appendix F—Survey of Organizational Excellence; and
- Appendix G—Workforce Development System Strategic Planning.

Meeting Multiple Requirements

By the authority granted to the Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner in the Texas Government Code, §531.014, CONSOLIDATION OF REPORTS, this consolidated Plan is submitted in accordance with and to meet the following requirements:

- **Agency strategic plans**—required by Texas Government Code, Chapter 2056, STRATEGIC PLANS OF OPERATION, for all five HHS agencies as of September 1, 2004, the effective date of this Plan;

- **Coordinated Strategic Plan**—required by Texas Government Code, Section 531.022, COORDINATED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; and
- **Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) Plan**—required as part of each strategic plan, by Texas Government Code, Section 2161.123, STRATEGIC PLANNING, presented in Chapter IV.

Organizational Nouns

The following terms are used in this plan with the following meanings:

- **Commission**—the Health and Human Services Commission;
- **Department**—the four service-delivery departments created by H.B. 2292;
- **Agency**—used interchangeably, to mean the Commission or a department, and often used in the plural, including the Commission and the departments; and
- **Legacy agency**—one of the 12 HHS agencies that existed prior to the implementation of H.B. 2292; for example, the Texas Commission for the Blind (TCB).

Fiscal Year Terminology

In this Plan, the term “fiscal year” means state fiscal year, from September 1 of a year through August 31 of the following year. It is spelled out the first time it is used in each chapter, and it is abbreviated “FY” through the rest of the chapter.

The term “federal fiscal year” is used to specify the federal budget period, from October 1 of a year through September 30 of the following year. It is spelled out the first time it is used in each chapter, and it is abbreviated “FFY” through the rest of the chapter.

Time and Verb Tense

While the submission date of this Plan is July 2, 2004, its effective date is September 1, 2004. The effective date of the plan coincides with the first day of operations for two departments: DADS and DSHS. Accordingly, all the agencies created by H.B. 2292 are referred to as being in existence. The legacy agencies are described in the past tense.

Visual Accessibility

For greater visual accessibility, this Strategic Plan has been printed in Arial 12-point font. Readers with visual impairments may find it useful to know the following:

- Bullet format uses “wingdings062,” as illustrated here; and
- Footnotes are used, for references and occasional notes.

The Plan is available online in an accessible format, at the following url:

http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/StrategicPlans/HHS05-09/HHS_StPlan_rv.html

Upon request, the document will be made available in large print and in Braille: please contact the Division for Blind Services at the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services at (512) 377-0665.

