



Interagency Coordinating Group

Legislative Report to the 84th Texas Legislature

Prepared by

The Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG)

Chair, Elizabeth Darling

OneStar Foundation

Submitted to

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Speaker of the House

House Committee on Public Health

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

December 1, 2015

Table of Contents

| | <u>Pages</u> |
|---|--------------|
| I. Executive Summary | 1-3 |
| II. ICG Duties and Responsibilities | 3-4 |
| III. Texas Nonprofit Council | 4-5 |
| IV. ICG Goals, Activities, and Progress (January – December 2015) | 5-27 |
| V. Next Steps for 2016 | 27-28 |
| VI. Appendix | 29-53 |
| A. House Bill 492 (81R) | 29-40 |
| B. House Bill 1965 (82R) | 41-45 |
| C. Senate Bill 993 (83R) | 46-48 |
| D. Senate Bill 200 (84R) Excerpt | 49-51 |
| E. ICG Liaisons | 52 |
| F. Texas Nonprofit Council Members | 53 |

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2009 through House Bill (H.B.) 492, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, Texas became the first state in the country to pass legislation specifically to improve the relationship between state government and faith and community-based organizations (FCBOs) seeking to partner with the state to help meet health and human service needs. Subsequent legislation passed in the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, expanded this initiative through House Bill (H.B.) 1965, by adding additional state agencies in its charge. Both Acts directed the chief administrative officer of the named state agencies to appoint, in consultation with the Governor, a faith and community liaison in each agency. These liaisons serve on the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) chaired by the CEO of the State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar Foundation), also a named member of the ICG.

The first bill, H.B. 492, directed agency liaisons to work within their respective agencies to: 1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith and community-based organizations; 2) provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government; 3) facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents; and 4) work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency.

Subsequently, H.B. 1965 directed agency liaisons to: 1) develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organization; 2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith and community-based organizations; 3) identify and address duplication of

services provided by the state and faith and community-based organizations; and 4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith and community-based organizations could fill.

In 2013 during the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, Senate Bill (S.B.) 993 created the Texas Nonprofit Council. The purpose of the Council is to coordinate with the ICG in furthering the activities under H.B. 1965 as outlined above. The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) in consultation with the presiding officer of the ICG (OneStar Foundation) appointed twelve members to the new council, through a competitive process, to represent the categories outlined in the bill. The chair of the ICG and the chair of the Council developed initial strategies to engage Council members in the work of the ICG.

Following the 83rd Legislative Session, the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, which is charged with periodic assessment of all state agencies, initiated a review of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Through an exhaustive process including public comment and testimony, the Sunset Commission determined which HHSC programs and services should be eliminated, transferred to other agencies, or restructured to improve efficiency and reduce waste or duplication. The recommendations were presented to the 84th legislature in 2015 for consideration and debate in the form of S.B. 200.

Among the extensive recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission was the abolition of dozens of task forces, councils, and advisory committees. Included in this sweeping recommendation was the elimination of the Interagency Coordinating Group and the Texas Nonprofit Council, neither of which are advisory bodies to HHSC. By the end of the legislative session, the continuation of both the ICG and the Texas Nonprofit Council was addressed through an amendment that moved some responsibilities from the Health and Human Services Commission to the Governor's Office.

S.B. 200 removed the requirements for HHSC to provide administrative support to the Interagency Coordinating Group, and directed that the state agencies that make up the ICG provide administrative support as coordinated by the ICG's presiding officer. The bill also specifies that the state agencies on the Interagency Coordinating Group must provide administrative support for the Texas Nonprofit Council, as coordinated by the presiding

officer of the ICG Group, and that the governor, instead of the executive commissioner of HHSC, shall appoint the members of the Council, which represent each group or entity's appropriate sector.

The ICG met in February, August and November. In February, a representative from the new administration spoke briefly to attendees about Governor Abbott's priorities. In August and November, member agencies presented pertinent information on legislation that had passed in the 84th session.

As presiding officer of the Interagency Coordinating Group, I respectfully submit this year's report on the goals, activities, and progress of the ICG from January through December 2015. Previous reports submitted outline specific actions taken since the passage of the initial legislation in 2009. These reports can be found on the OneStar Foundation website.

II. ICG DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ICG Duties and Responsibilities (*APPENDIX A*)

- Sec. 535.053. (c)(1) -- Meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer.
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(2) -- Work across state agencies and with State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations.
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(3) -- Operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.

ICG Additional Duties and Responsibilities (*APPENDIX B*)

- Sec. 535.055. (c) -- In addition to the Interagency Coordinating Group's other duties, the Interagency Coordinating Group, in coordination with the Texas Nonprofit Council (per S.B. 993 83R) shall:

1. Develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations;
2. Develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith and community-based organizations;
3. Identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith and community-based organizations; and
4. Identify and address gaps in state services that faith and community-based organizations could fill.

ICG Reporting Duties

- Sec. 535.054. (a) -- No later than December 1 of each year, the Interagency Coordinating Group shall submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the Interagency Coordinating Group.
- Sec. 535.054. (b) -- The report made under Subsection (a) must be made available to the public through posting on the Office of the Governor's website.

III. TEXAS NONPROFIT COUNCIL

The Texas Nonprofit Council (APPENDIX C) was established by S.B. 993 during the 83rd Legislative Session in 2013 to help direct the work of the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG). The Council, in coordination with the ICG will: 1) make recommendations for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations; 2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith and community-based organizations; 3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith and community-based organizations; and 4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith and community-based organizations could fill.

The Council focused its activities in 2015 on addressing the Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendation for elimination. As a nongovernmental, independent entity, the Council effectively campaigned through written and verbal testimony as well as educational exchanges with pertinent leaders involved with S.B. 200. Concurrently, the

Council identified proposed legislation, the implementation of which could benefit from intentional engagement by faith and community-based networks. The Council also held a nonprofit advocacy day at the capitol in April to highlight the economic impact and value of the nonprofit sector in Texas and the importance of nonprofit partnerships in facilitating state agency mandates to serve the citizens of Texas.

IV.(a) ICG GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRESS *(January – December 2015)*

Goal 1 -- Continue implementation of the plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations.

Activity and Progress:

In January 2015, just as the 84th legislative session began, former Attorney General Greg Abbott, was sworn into office as the 48th Governor of the State of Texas. One of the first priorities of the Governor was to address contracting and procurement issues within the state's largest agency, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Based upon the March 2015 report of the Health and Human Services Strike Force as well as recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission, the HHSC was directed to make improvements in its procurement and contracting processes. HHSC and the five agencies under its purview comprise a considerable presence on the Interagency Coordinating Group. Although some minor improvements to the contracting process had been initiated by ICG agencies in previous years, it was prudent for the ICG to pause any additional work in this area as HHSC restructured and implemented new protocols for procurement and contracting.

Goal 2 -- Develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith and community-based organizations.

Activity and Progress:

An on-going activity of the ICG and the Texas Nonprofit Council is to highlight effective partnerships between ICG agencies and faith and community-based organizations

as together they seek to effectively serve residents of the state who need assistance. By featuring what is working well, other agencies may choose to develop innovative practices they previously had not considered in their efforts to collaborate with FCBOs. Previous ICG annual reports detail numerous best practices and innovative strategies. The following were submitted by ICG liaisons for 2015:

COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) has continued to make the RFP [template](#) for client services described in last year's ICG report (see excerpt below) available on the CPA website.

“ICG GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRESS (*January – December 2013*)

Goal - Develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations

Activity and Progress:

The committee on Improving Contracting Relations was composed of subject matter experts from several different ICG agencies. The work plan (APPENDIX D) for this group was based upon the issues as noted in the November 2010 report from the Task Force on Strengthening Nonprofit Capacity (H.B. 492). In 2013 under the leadership of this committee the ICG and its member agencies accomplished the following:

(1) A Request for Proposal (RFP) template was approved by member agencies

(*APPENDIX E*)

(2) The template was posted on the Comptroller's website

CPA supports non-profit assistance organizations by providing them access to statewide term contracts through the State of Texas Cooperative (CO-OP) Purchasing Program. The CO-OP Program Coordinator works closely with the non-profit community to ensure they are aware of this opportunity and assists them with taking advantage of all of the program's benefits. A link to the [CO-OP Program](#) website was recently added to the

OneStar Foundation’s website and we are continuously seeking new opportunities to build networks within the non-profit community.

CPA serves in an advisory capacity to assist the Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Council on Purchasing from Persons with Disabilities (TCPPD) to promote the use of products made by people with disabilities in Texas. The Texas Procurement and Support Services Division of CPA provides guidance and support for achieving the program’s goals.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES (DADS)

DADS continues to grow the “[Age Well Live Well](#)” initiative, which develops collaborations to promote community engagement, health and wellness, and resource awareness for older Texans and people with disabilities. Through this initiative, local organizations work together to connect community members to resources, health and wellness programs, and volunteer opportunities. Local communities that are implementing the program include but are not limited to: Denton, Abilene, Houston, Garland, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Bend County, Tyler, East Austin, and Sherman. Key organizations involved with many of the collaboratives include: DADS state and local offices; Aging and Disability Resource Centers; area agencies on aging; AgriLIFE extension agents; civic and social organizations; hospital groups; parks and recreation departments; and aging and disability service providers.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS)

DSHS Partnerships with Nonprofits/Faith Based Organizations:

- **Heart Health Education**

Partner(s): Methodist Healthcare Ministries

Activities: DSHS Office of Border Health has an ongoing partnership with Methodist Healthcare Ministries to provide heart health education to border communities.

- **Domestic Violence Awareness**

Partner(s): Baptist Child and Family Services

Activities: DSHS Office of Border Health has a new partnership with Baptist Child and Family Services to develop projects that raise awareness on domestic violence.

- **Texas Medical Child Abuse Resources and Education System (MEDCARES)**

Partner(s): Christus Health Southeast Texas, Christus Santa Rosa Health Care Corporation, Cook Children’s Medical Center, Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas, Driscoll Children’s Hospital, El Paso Children’s Hospital Corporation, Texas Children’s Hospital, Trinity Mother Frances Health System Foundation

Activities: The MEDCARES grant program is intended to increase and improve activities and programs in and through hospitals and academic health care centers, which focus on the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of child abuse and neglect based on the needs of the local population while developing “basic” programs in other facilities. Funds are allocated through a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

- **Prematurity Awareness Month**

Partner(s): March of Dimes

Activities: DSHS and March of Dimes have an ongoing informal collaborative partnership for the promotion of Prematurity Awareness Month between WIC local agencies and regional March of Dimes staff.

- **Heart Attack and Stroke Data Collection Initiative**

Partner(s): Texas Hospital Association and American Heart Association

Activities: This partnership was initiated as a result of S.B. 1 (83R, DSHS Rider 97). This ongoing initiative allows the DSHS Heart Attack and Stroke Program to

generate gap analysis reports on the heart and stroke systems of care across the state, with the ultimate goal of improving these system for Texans.

- **Clubhouses**

Partner(s): New and existing mental health recover-focused Clubhouses

Activities: H.B. 1 (84R) appropriated \$1.3 million to develop mental health recovery-focused Clubhouses. The program model is peer-recovery focused with a goal of improving members' functionality in the community. The funds are intended to support new and/or existing Clubhouses. DSHS solicited proposals through a Request for Proposal process; contracts for the allocation of these funds are expected by spring 2016.

- **Breastfeeding Community Partner Meetings**

Partner(s): Star Achiever Texas Breastfeeding Learning Collaborative (TBLC)

Activities: The TBLC began conducting Community Partner Meetings throughout the state in an effort to bridge community organizations and health care providers. Meetings provided networking among the organizations and health care providers, greater understanding of community resources, exploration of barriers and community gaps in care and the opportunity to align messaging and services.

- **Community Health Worker Training**

Partner(s): El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission, Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute at Juanita J. Craft Recreation Center, American Diabetes Association – Dallas, PromSalud, Cardea Services, Presa Community Center, Gateway Community Health Center, South Texas Promotora Association, Community Health Center of Lubbock, West Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC), South Coastal AHEC, Texas AHEC East, Familias Triunfadoras, Inc., Gateway to Care, Dia de la Mujer Latina, Migrant Clinicians Network, National Center for Farmworkers Health, Promoviendo Vidas Saludables, Inc., Proyecto Juan Diego, and Harris Health System

Activities: Partner to provide DSHS-certified training for community health workers or instructors.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Community Resource Coordination Groups ([CRCGs](#)) are county-based groups made up of public and private agencies that partner with children, families or adults with complex multi-agency needs in order to develop customized, integrated, individual service plans. Local CRCG members include representatives from schools, public and private sector health and human services agencies, faith and community-based organizations, local criminal justice organizations, and other organizations. As part of the individual service planning process, CRCG members help individuals and families identify and coordinate needed resources and services in their communities.

S.B. 1468, 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, formalized the CRCG program that requires a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between multiple state agencies. The state agencies included in the MOU are listed below. Each of these agencies (or their local representative) participates in local CRCG work, as well as related coordinating efforts at the statewide level.

- Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC);
- Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS);
- Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS);
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS);
- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS);
- Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMI);
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA);
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ);
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD);
- Texas Education Agency (TEA); and
- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

CRCG Program Overview

- **State CRCG Office**

The HHSC Office of Social Services provides additional support for the CRCG program. The State CRCG Office at HHSC provides local CRCGs with training and technical assistance; program model oversight; and policy and programmatic guidance. The State CRCG Office manages the state program budget; completes data collection; reporting; and conducts related research. The State CRCG Office also leads the State CRCG Workgroup, which consists of participating agencies and serves to respond to regional and state level concerns in each agency; serves as a liaison with state program partners; and represents the CRCG program in relevant workgroups and committees.

- **Local CRCGs**

CRCGs are locally arranged and managed. At the local level, CRCG partners include representatives from the legislatively mandated state agencies, faith and community-based organizations, and family and youth representatives. According to a recent (November, 2015) survey of local CRCGs the majority of the partners represented on local CRCGs are community-based/non-profit organizations (23.7%) followed by state agency personnel (15.4%), local mental health authority (LMHA) personnel (11.6%), juvenile justice personnel (10.8%), and school personnel (10.8%).

Local CRCGs meet on a regular basis to plan specific services for children, youth, and adults whose needs have not been met through existing resources and channels. Local CRCG members work together to identify service gaps, duplication of efforts and unmet needs. CRCGs help to utilize existing resources efficiently and are often successful in finding new resources to address service gaps and barriers.

There are currently 234 counties covered by a CRCG. Based on information submitted to HHSC by local CRCGs, in calendar year 2013 approximately 930 individuals were assisted by a local CRCG.

- **CRCG Findings**

Where active, CRCGs consistently report that the local interagency collaboration process has improved service delivery for high needs individuals resulting in:

- More effective service provision;
- Increased professional and community networks and public-private partnerships; and
- Increased capacity of CRCG partners to serve those in need.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- **Governor Abbott’s Religious Liberty Directive**

Under Gov. Greg Abbott, the Office of the Governor (OOG) has worked diligently to protect religious liberty in Texas. Faith-based organizations are vital to the well-being of Texans, and many of them work with the State of Texas to provide crucial services to the people of this state. It is paramount to ensure the religious liberties of these faith-based organizations (FBOs) are protected, so they continue to feel comfortable collaborating with state government without fear of coercion or intimidation.

Immediately after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its same-sex marriage ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, Gov. Abbott issued a directive to all state agency heads on the issue of religious liberty. In that directive, he noted, “The government must never pressure a person to abandon or violate his or her sincerely held religious beliefs regarding a topic such as marriage.” He went on, “As government officials, we have a constitutional duty to preserve, protect, and defend the religious liberty of every Texan. With these obligations in mind, I expect all agencies under my direction to prioritize compliance with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, Article I of the Texas Constitution, and the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act. All state agency heads should ensure that no one acting on behalf of their agency takes any adverse action against any person, as defined

in Chapter 311 of the Texas Government Code, on account of the person’s act or refusal to act that is substantially motivated by sincere religious belief. This order applies to any agency decision, including but not limited to granting or denying benefits, managing agency employees, entering or enforcing agency contracts, licensing and permitting decisions, or enforcing state laws and regulations.”

Since Gov. Abbott issued that directive, the OOG has been in contact with state agency staff as well as nonprofits that contract, receive grants from, or otherwise have legal arrangements with state agencies. The OOG is working to ensure maximum awareness of and compliance with the directive to ensure that no organization or individual is coerced, intimidated or infringed upon by Texas state government because of their position on marriage – or any other issue that is animated by their deeply held religious beliefs.

Areas in which FBOs or individuals work with the state include the foster care/child welfare system, the Alternatives to Abortion program, the abstinence program, the marriage education program, marriage and family counselors licensing, and chaplaincy programs.

- **Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities**

The Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) consistently works with a network of community-based disability organizations and local committees throughout the state. The networking serves as a primary goal in providing community groups with information and training on the resources, opportunities, rights and responsibilities of Texans with disabilities. Examples of community-based organizations with which the GCPD regularly communicates include various Mayor’s Committees on People with Disabilities, as well as local chapters of The Arc of Texas, Goodwill Industries, Easter Seals, Paralyzed Veterans, the Down Syndrome Partnership, Special Olympics Texas, the Autism Society, the United Way, VSA Texas (the state organization on arts and disability), the American Federation for the Blind, the Hearing Loss Association of America, the National Association of Mental Illness, and other disability organizations such as various parent organizations focused on special education issues and community-

based recreational organizations for people with disabilities. GCPD also networks with several professional advocacy groups, such as Disability Rights Texas and the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, to help stay in tune with various perspectives on the need for potential legislation to protect the rights and needs of people with disabilities. Additionally, the GCPD coordinates with all of these (and other) groups to assist with surveys that help give insight into the needs and concerns of those in the disability community.

In September 2015, GCPD partnered with the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) on outreach and planning for their annual conference, held this year in Austin. USBLN is a national nonprofit organization that creates a network of employers (from large international corporations to small individual-owned businesses) who benefit from sharing ideas on attaining full inclusion in the workplace, understanding the ADA requirements, and promoting a positive attitude toward hiring and retaining people with disabilities and dispelling common myths. GCPD worked with USBLN on putting together a “hackathon,” teaching students to think creatively about innovative accommodations in the school and workplace for people with disabilities. GCPD also facilitated a meeting of various Central Texas people interested in forming local USBLN chapters to visit with the executive director and other staff members from USBLN. Two local chapter formations (Austin and San Antonio) are currently in progress; one is active in Houston.

GCPD maintains a Quarterly Calendar of Events on its website to raise awareness of events, activities, and trainings of specific interest to people with disabilities and professionals in the field of disabilities. The calendar includes national, statewide, online and local listings.

The GCPD’s interactions with faith and community-based organizations include the dissemination of disability-related information through its GovDelivery notification system. Also, GCPD networks with such organizations as the Texas Faith Inclusion Network on Disabilities (TxFIND) and the Collaborative on Faith and Disabilities, as well as local places of worship across the state, to share information on events, legislation, resources, etc.

Other significant networking projects include the monthly Tech Lunch, hosted at various restaurants in Austin as an opportunity for professionals in the field of accessible

technology to share innovative ideas and projects, and frequent collaborative projects with organizations such as Knowbility (focused on accessible technology); the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) on an annual music performance featuring adults with developmental disabilities; the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and Workforce Solutions on outreach and nominations for GCPD's annual Lex Frieden Employment Awards; various art organizations for submissions to the annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Texas Poster Art competition; statewide Texas Education Agency's Education Service Centers for outreach on such projects as "The Scoop" (GCPD's video and lesson plans to teach students about disability issues and how to respectfully and accurately write about them), the NDEAM Art competition, and the annual Paralyzed Veterans of America Poster and Essay contest.

GCPD also reaches out across the state through its committee members to serve as speakers at events, resource specialists and various other professional outreach projects. At each quarterly meeting, committee members report on their activities as representatives of GCPD.

- **Criminal Justice Division**

Resources within the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) are dedicated towards programs that protect people from crime, reduce the number of crimes committed, respond to the needs of crime victims, and promote accountability, efficiency and effectiveness within the criminal justice system. Nonprofit and FBOs are eligible grant recipients within several of the fund sources that the Criminal Justice Division administers, but to date FBOs have only applied for and received Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds. VOCA grants help crime victims through crisis intervention and assist with the provision of emergency shelter, counseling and criminal justice advocacy. The FBOs that received these grants provided these and other services, such as transportation to court proceedings, safety planning, medical accompaniment and peer support groups.

In Fiscal Year 2015, 180 nonprofit agencies received \$38.8 million in funding from CJD – \$788,000 of which went to faith-based organizations. In Fiscal Year 2016, more

than 200 nonprofit agencies from across the state will receive CJD funding totaling nearly \$100 million. Of that, about \$2 million will be granted to faith-based programs.

The 84th Legislature passed, and Gov. Abbott signed, two bills that call for additional collaboration between CJD and the nonprofit sector. H.B. 10 and H.B. 1446 both increase the OOG’s role in combatting child sex trafficking. H.B. 10 establishes a “Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit” in the OOG and contains provisions that require the unit to “place victims of child sex trafficking in suitable short-term and long-term housing”; “collect and analyze research and information in all areas related to child sex trafficking, and distribute the research, information, and analyses to the agencies and to relevant nonprofit organizations”; and “refer victims of child sex trafficking to available rehabilitation programs and other resources.” H.B. 1446, which creates a “Governor’s Program for Victim of Child Sex Trafficking,” includes a provision that “the director of the program shall coordinate with state and local law enforcement agencies, state agencies, and service providers to identify victims of child sex trafficking who are eligible to receive services under the program.” Both of these child sex trafficking programs are housed within CJD, and the division is actively working to implement and staff them appropriately. Upon completion of this process, CJD will fully comply with the respective provisions that apply to nonprofit organizations

- **Texas Nonprofit Council**

The 84th Legislature also enacted SB 200, which required many changes within the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). One of those changes involved the structure of the Texas Nonprofit Council (TNC) – shifting the authority for appointing TNC members from HHSC to the governor, in consultation with the head of the Interagency Coordinating Group. The law requires the governor to appoint two representatives from the following groups and entities to the TNC:

- statewide nonprofit organizations;
- local governments;
- faith-based groups, at least one of which must be a statewide interfaith group;

- community-based groups;
- consultants to nonprofit corporations; and
- statewide associations of nonprofit organizations.

The OOG is currently working to implement the changes required in SB 200.

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Texas Juvenile Justice Department continues to engage a large number of community and faith-based organizations in the rehabilitation of youthful offenders. During fiscal year 2015, TJJD enrolled 1,299 community volunteers representing many different CFBO's, and they contributed 76,618 hours of service at facilities across the state. Additionally, hundreds more visitors participated in volunteer-led projects and religious services.

TJJD has also established formal partnerships, via memorandums of understanding and contracts for services, with the following CFBO's:

- Abigail Arms Cook Count Crisis Center (Hotline crisis center for Gainesville, TX)
- Action Focus Solutions Inc. Subsidiary of Rio Grande Valley Council (Specialized Treatment AOD)
- Advocacy Center for Crime Victims (Hotline Crisis Center for Mart and Ron Jackson facilities)
- Bastrop County Women's Shelter (Crisis hotline for Giddings, TX)
- Better Pathways PA (Specialized Treatment)
- Family Crisis Center (Hotline crisis center for Tamayo & Evins facilities)
- Family Outreach of Denton (Hotline crisis center for McFadden facility)
- National Center for Juvenile Justice (Research)
- New Lite Counseling Center (Specialized Treatment)
- People Need People (Specialized Treatment Services)
- Pinnacle Social Services, L.L.C (Specialized Treatment)

- Rape Crisis Center (Hotline crisis center for Ayres House)
- Recovery Resource Council (Willoughby facility)
- Samaritan Counseling Center of TX (Specialized Treatment AOD)
- Stars Rape Crisis Center (Hotline crisis center for Schaeffer House)
- Women's Shelter of South Texas (Hotline crisis York & Evins facilities)

TJJD's website provides information regarding the Texas Faith-Based & Community Initiative. The webpage features live links to OneStar Foundation's website and the Comptroller's RFP webpage. The agency has also added an addendum to TJJD's agency RFP template that asks applicants to self-identify as community and/or faith-based organizations so the agency may track the interest of such organizations.

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) has robust and vital relationships with non-profit and faith-based organizations across Texas to assist in its mission to significantly improve the quality of life for all Texas Veterans, their Families and Survivors.

The Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) partners with the Texas Lottery Commission, DPS, DMV and TDHCA for funding of grants to non-profits and local government agencies that provide direct services to Texas Veterans and their families. These service organizations utilize FVA grants to provide financial assistance, counseling, transportation, housing assistance and many other vital services. A list of current FVA grantees, the services they provide and their contact information can be found at <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Grants-Awarded.aspx>.

The Veteran Entrepreneur Program (VEP) partners with the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) (<http://www.uta.edu/vets/index.php>) to deliver Veteran entrepreneur services to veteran business owners in North Texas. UTA provides office and classroom space to VEP in exchange for VEP's assistance in identifying veteran entrepreneurs with an interest in manufacturing who can then take advantage of UTA's free Veteran Entrepreneur Manufacturing Boot Camp. <http://tvc.texas.gov/Entrepreneur-Program.aspx>.

The Women Veterans Program relies heavily upon collaboration with non-profit entities and community organizations for outreach opportunities in order to introduce women veterans to TVC services. Furthermore, non-profits and faith-based entities like Dress for Success, Worklife Institute, Catholic Charities Lotus Project, and Santa Maria Hostel provide workforce development resources, professional development, and homelessness assistance to Women Veterans. <http://tvc.texas.gov/Women-Veterans.aspx>.

TVC's Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) has a dedicated liaison that works with community-based organizations and faith-based communities in understanding military culture, military trauma and how to access available Veteran services. Also, MVPN contracts with the interfaith counseling organization, Samaritan Center in Austin, for clinical services designed for veterans. Additionally, MVPN trains, certifies and provides technical assistance to 37 Local Mental Health Authorities for administration of their local MVPN programs. <http://tvc.texas.gov/Military-Veteran-Peer-Network.aspx>.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

TWC has expanded its role with employment for individuals with disabilities in two areas, due to legislation passed during the last legislative session.

- **Transfer of State Use Program to TWC**

Senate Bill (S.B.) 212, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2015), abolished the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities (TCPPD) and transferred all TCPPD rules, contracts, and operations to TWC, effective September 1, 2015. This change in Texas State Use Program meant that TWC would become involved with over 100 nonprofits.

TCPPD was the policy-making body for the Texas State Use Program, which allows state and local government entities to purchase goods or services from nonprofits that provide productive employment to individuals with disabilities. Some other states and the federal government have similar programs. TIBH Industries administered the program by contracting with nonprofit local Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs), such as Goodwill and Lighthouse for the Blind local organizations.

In late July 2015, TWC posted an announcement on its website regarding applications for an advisory committee mandated by the legislature. TWC sent e-mail messages about the opportunity to numerous CRPs and organizations that advocate for those with disabilities. Additionally, TWC sent e-mails to the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services to be forwarded to members in the community of individuals with disabilities. Applications were accepted for one month, after which TWC received 35 applications for the available positions. Subsequently, TWC reopened applications for positions on the advisory committee for employees of CRPs with disabilities.

In addition to establishing program performance goals, the advisory committee, which will meet twice annually, will establish criteria for certifying CRPs for program participation. TWC is in the process of appointing the committee, composed of the following:

- Four individuals from CRPs;
- Four individuals from organizations that advocate for individuals with disabilities;
- Four individuals with disabilities, including two who are employed by a participating CRP; and
- A designated representative from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

- **Transfer of Vocational Rehabilitation Programs to TWC**

The last legislative session also transferred several of the state's vocational rehabilitation programs to TWC, with an effective date of September 1, 2016. A legislative oversight committee was established to facilitate the transfer. A combined agency transition plan is due to the committee no later than March 2016. The vocational rehabilitation programs work with numerous nonprofit entities that provide services to individuals with disabilities.

- **Transfer of Adult Education Literacy Program**

In 2013, the Texas Legislature transferred the Adult Education Literacy (AEL) program to the Texas Workforce Commission. TWC hired staff and began work to meet the legislature's strategic vision of the program, with additional focus on employment and postsecondary outcomes and additional funding for initiatives that aid the system in meeting these objectives. In The Texas Interagency Literacy Report (2012) the Texas Workforce Investment Council (TWIC) estimated that Texas nonprofits and volunteer groups served about 80,000 students in 2011 in addition to the Texas Education Agency (TEA)-funded adult education classes which served approximately 100,000 in the same year. Nonprofits have historically and continue to play an important role in providing adult literacy education in Texas, and TWC has invested in the professional development of these entities to align and support the vision of the AEL program under TWC.

- **Nonprofit/TWC Existing Contracts -- Fiscal Year 2016**

In addition to the changes made during the last legislative session, TWC has the following existing contracts with nonprofits for Fiscal Year 2016.

- **American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc. -- Veterans Outreach Initiative (WIOA)**

American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc., has been operating its Texas Veterans Workforce Outreach Initiative Program since 2009. The Texas Veterans Outreach Program (TVOP) provides outreach to hard-to-serve veterans not currently being served through Workforce Solutions Offices by addressing employment barriers and reintegrating veterans into meaningful employment. The Grantee's goals are to stabilize the financial/living situations of hard-to-serve veterans by breaking down job barriers, placing the veterans in jobs, and increasing job retention outcomes. TVOP focuses on reaching out to veterans with special challenges to employment, including veterans recently discharged from military service (within 48 months of application) who find difficulty in reintegrating into society and the job market; disabled veterans with either physical or mental disorders that may need special advocacy in selling their ability to employers; homeless veterans who need support services to stabilize their lives before entering the job search; and veterans with barriers to employment, such as a history of substance abuse and

ex-offender status. Operating in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, and El Paso, TVOP provides assessment services to potential participants and basic skills upgrade training, supportive services, and job placement services to enrolled participants. The Grantee will enroll 426 veterans in the program; provide basic skills upgrade training to 256 veterans, and place 320 veterans in jobs.

- **American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc. -- The Employer and Community-Based Organization Partnerships Initiative (General Revenue)**

American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program (NVOP) will develop a holistic program to assist 1,444 homeless and unemployed individuals in achieving employment and greater stability. With over 41 years of experience as an employment assistance provider, NVOP proposes program outlets in five Texas cities that will offer life skills training; employment readiness training, including résumé workshops; and education upgrade training. NVOP will also coordinate wraparound support services.

- **Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County -- The Employer and Community-Based Organization Partnerships Initiative (General Revenue)**

The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County (Grantee) is a community-based organization with 33 years of experience as the coordinating entity for the homeless service provider community in Harris County, Fort Bend County, and the 50-plus municipalities contained within these boundaries. The Grantee shall enroll 1,042 homeless men and women into the program and assist participants with employment services. The Grantee shall ensure that 521 or more participants obtain regular employment. Of these participants, 50 percent will remain employed for a minimum of 30 days and receive wages at or above 125 percent of federal poverty income guidelines.

- **Haven for Hope -- The Employer and Community-Based Organization Partnerships Initiative (General Revenue)**

Haven for Hope of Bexar County (Grantee) will provide services to homeless and unemployed Texas individuals to move individuals off public benefits and assist them with

obtaining regular employment. The Grantee provides comprehensive services to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness in San Antonio/Bexar County. Haven for Hope works together with 86 partner agencies; 35 of those agencies provide services directly on the one-stop campus to address some of the common causes of homelessness. Support services include, but are not limited to, food, primary health care, dental, vision, mental health care, substance abuse rehabilitation, case management, housing assistance, child care, and many other critical services. In conjunction with the aforementioned services, the Educational/Vocational Department at Haven for Hope equips residents with skills that will enable them to become gainfully employed full time and secure a sustainable wage.

- **SEARCH Homeless Services -- The Employer and Community-Based Organization Partnerships Initiative (General Revenue)**

SEARCH Homeless Services, a community-based organization with 25 years of experience working with the homeless population, proposes to enroll at least 910 homeless men and women in its Employment Services and help 350 (50 percent) or more individuals obtain regular employment. Of those employed, 50 percent, or 175, will be with the same employer for a minimum of 30 days and receive wages at or above 125 percent of federal poverty income guidelines. SEARCH will partner with Service Employment Redevelopment (SER) Jobs for Progress, which has 48 years of experience working with individuals from high-poverty, at-risk communities to prepare them for skilled labor, living-wage jobs in various industries and working with employers to meet their staffing needs. SEARCH will leverage current federal U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) resources to build, along with SER, the commitment of 100 employers to hire better prepared and trained individuals and veterans who have been homeless to succeed in the workplace and achieve financial independence.

- **Experience Works -- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)**

Experience Works, Incorporated, will provide the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) to foster individual economic self-sufficiency for unemployed and low-income Texans who are 55 years of age or older. Eligible participants

are assigned to part-time temporary community service assignments at host agencies. Participant wages are subsidized with grant funds while assigned to host agencies, and opportunities are provided for training, work experience, and new or enhanced job skills for future unsubsidized employment.

- **Experience Works -- Healthcare Employment and Training Initiative (SCSEP)**

The Healthcare Employment and Training Initiative pilot project will provide health care training and certification to interested participants to meet the health care industry's hiring needs and will enable participants to obtain higher-paying health care jobs. This award was based on a SCSEP Limited Competition issued by DOL and is available only to selected current SCSEP state grantees.

- **Foundation for the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology in Texas DBA FIRST in Texas -- Texas High School Competitive Robotics Education Team Development and Support Program (TANF)**

FIRST in Texas (Grantee) will serve 3,760 Texas high school students by developing 80 new high school competitive robotics education teams of students in grades 9–12 and supporting 188 existing robotics education teams. The Grantee will assist teams to secure local commitments of cash or in-kind contributions for the program to provide support that is not covered by the grant; to plan for and secure local financial support to sustain the teams once the grant period has ended; to identify and outreach knowledgeable mentors, volunteers, and sponsors; and to provide a mentorship model to assist students in teams with activities and competitions. The Grantee will hold at least one statewide or regional/district robotics competition in Texas. In addition to high school students in grades 9–12, the eligible population to be served under this grant award also includes students from economically disadvantaged families, students enrolled in schools on military bases, students with disabilities, and students who are homeschooled in equivalent grade levels.

- **Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (Texas AEYC) -- Professional Development Scholarship Program for Early Childhood Professionals (Child Care and Development Block Grant)**

The Texas AEYC will administer the Professional Development Scholarship Program for Early Childhood Professionals through partnerships with eligible providers and Texas community colleges by offering the Child Development Associate (CDA) or Certified Child Care Professional (CCP) Assessment Scholarship Program and the Associate Degree Scholarship Program.

- **Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (Texas AEYC) -- Early Childhood Assessment Pilot Project (Child Care and Development Block Grant)**

The Texas AEYC proposes a partnership with Teaching Strategies, LLC, to train early childhood caregivers to reliably use the online assessment system to document and measure children’s development and learning, report assessment findings, inform planning and develop individualized instructional strategies that best meet the developmental needs of each child, and communicate assessment. Texas AEYC will provide an evaluation of the pilot project outcomes.

- **Women’s Institute for Technology Employment Training (WINTEC) -- Manufacturing Job Readiness Skills Project (General Revenue)**

WINTEC (Grantee) will develop one training manual and one study guide for the Manufacturing Job Readiness Skills (MJRS) project. The training modules will be developed over a two-year period (2015–2017). The focus of the curriculum is to train and prepare economically disadvantaged individuals and single mothers for entry-level jobs and careers in manufacturing and technology-based industries. The MJRS training manual and study guide will explore the career potential in the manufacturing world and encourage learners to think of their first job as a doorway to a professional career.

GOAL 2 -- Cooperating and Collaborating Additional Activities

ICG member agencies continue to update their partnership and funding opportunities on the OneStar website home page onestarfoundation.org under “Texas Faith-Based and Community Initiative.” Visitors to the site can find:

- Background and history of the Interagency Coordinating Council
- General information for FCBOs on partnering with state agencies
- Frequently Asked Questions on contracting with the state
- Equal Treatment Training for state employees and faith-based organizations
- State and federal resources for procurement, contracts and grants
- State and national resources on grant writing, setting up a nonprofit, nonprofit careers and more.

GOALS 3 and 4 -- Identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith and community-based organizations; and identify and address gaps in state services that faith and community-based organizations could fill.

Activity and Progress:

ICG agencies identify duplication of services or gaps in services generally when they have strong community partner networks at the local level. One example mentioned above is HHSC’s Community Resource Coordination Groups (CRCG) which meet on a regular basis to plan specific services for children, youth, and adults whose needs have not been met through existing resources and channels. Local CRCG members work together to identify service gaps, duplication of efforts and unmet needs. CRCGs help to utilize existing resources efficiently and are often successful in finding new resources to address service gaps and barriers.

Another tool for identifying duplication of services and gaps in services is OneStar Foundation’s Texas Connector texasconnects.org an interactive geo-mapping tool developed by OneStar and the North Central Texas Council on Governments. Texas Connector has been recognized nationally as the nation’s most robust statewide nonprofit database designed for nonprofits, government agencies, local governments, elected

officials, grant-makers and researchers to analyze community needs and nonprofit services. Many ICG agencies are currently using Texas Connector in their daily work.

Connector displays nonprofit information from a variety of state and national databases and overlays it with demographic and socioeconomic data derived from numerous governmental and other sources. Users can:

- Identify community needs, resources and nonprofit services to address gaps in service;
- Analyze the nonprofit infrastructure in general or in relation to particular needs or social indicators;
- Identify nonprofits by service category to promote collaboration or show duplication;
- Create customized demographic, statistical and provider reports for user identified regions of interest;
- Save and share custom searches, maps, identified service providers and demographic reports by zip code, county, school or legislative district, customized shape and a myriad of other options.

V. NEXT STEPS FOR 2016

ICG members will:

- 1) Keep agency information up-to-date on the OneStar website and continue to add new resources;
- 2) Promote the use of the [Texas Connector](#) as a resource for state agencies to identify duplication of services and gaps in services;
- 3) Further develop best practices for cooperation and collaboration between state agencies and FCBO networks;
- 4) Continue to work with agency leadership to reduce barriers for FCBOs and streamline procurement and contracting in alignment with all new directives.

Note: The Office of the Governor is addressing the changes to the structure of the Texas Nonprofit Council as directed in S. B. 200 (84R) which shifts the authority for appointing TNC members from HHSC to the governor, in consultation with the head of the Interagency Coordinating Group.

For questions related to this report or to obtain more information on the work of the Interagency Coordinating Group, please contact Elizabeth Darling, President/CEO of OneStar Foundation, at 512-287-2062 or liz@onestarfoundation.org.

VI. APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

H.B. No. 492

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and human services and social services initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) Subtitle I, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 535 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 535. PROVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES AND OTHER
SOCIAL SERVICES THROUGH FAITH AND COMMUNITY-BASED
ORGANIZATIONS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 535.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Community-based initiative" includes a social, health, human services, or volunteer income tax assistance initiative operated by a community-based organization.

(2) "Community-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association that is located in close proximity to the population the organization serves.

(3) "Faith-based initiative" means a social, health, or human services initiative operated by a faith-based organization.

(4) "Faith-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association that:

(A) is operated through a religious or denominational organization, including an organization that is operated for religious, educational, or charitable purposes and that is operated, supervised, or controlled, wholly or partly, by or in connection with a religious organization; or

(B) clearly demonstrates through the organization's mission statement, policies, or practices that the organization is guided or motivated by religion.

(5) "State Commission on National and Community Service" means the entity used as authorized by 42 U.S.C. Section 12638(a) to carry out the duties of a state commission under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501 et seq.).

Sec. 535.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to strengthen the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations and to forge stronger partnerships between those organizations and state government for the legitimate public purpose of providing charitable and social services to persons in this state.

Sec. 535.003. CONSTRUCTION. This chapter may not be construed to:

(1) exempt a faith or community-based organization from any applicable state or federal law; or

(2) be an endorsement or sponsorship by this state of the religious character, expression, beliefs, doctrines, or practices of a faith-based organization.

Sec. 535.004. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAW. A power authorized or duty imposed under this chapter must be performed in a manner that is consistent with 42 U.S.C. Section 604a.

[Sections 535.005-535.050 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER B. GOVERNMENTAL LIAISONS FOR FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Sec. 535.051. DESIGNATION OF FAITH AND COMMUNITY-BASED LIAISONS. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the commission and from each health and human services agency to serve as a liaison for faith and community-based organizations.

(b) The chief administrative officer of each of the following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations:

- (1) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;
- (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;

- (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- (9) the Texas Youth Commission; and
- (10) other state agencies as determined by the governor.

Sec. 535.052. GENERAL DUTIES OF LIAISONS. (a) A faith and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith and community-based organizations;

(2) provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government;

(3) facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents;

(4) work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith- and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency;

(5) coordinate all efforts with the governor's office of faith-based and community initiatives and provide information, support, and assistance to that office as requested to the extent permitted by law and as feasible; and

(6) attend conferences sponsored by federal agencies and offices and other relevant entities to become and remain informed of issues and developments regarding faith and community-based initiatives.

(b) A faith and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 may coordinate and interact with statewide organizations that represent faith or community-based organizations as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 535.053. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP. (a) The interagency coordinating group for faith and community-based initiatives is composed of each faith and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 and a liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service.

(b) The commission employee designated as a liaison under Section 535.051 is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

(c) The interagency coordinating group shall:

(1) meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer;

(2) work across state agencies and with the State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations; and

(3) operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.

Sec. 535.054. REPORTS. (a) A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) provide periodic reports to the executive commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who designated the liaison; and

(2) report annually to the governor's office of faith and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections 535.052 and 535.053.

(b) Each report made under Subsection (a)(2) must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor's Internet website, and the reports may be aggregated into a single report for that purpose.

Sections 535.055-535.100 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER C. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT

Sec. 535.101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "account" means the renewing our communities account.

Sec. 535.102. PURPOSES OF SUBCHAPTER. Recognizing that faith and community-based organizations provide a range of vital charitable services to persons in this state, the purposes of this subchapter are to:

(1) increase the impact and effectiveness of those organizations;

(2) forge stronger partnerships between those organizations and state government so that communities are empowered to serve persons in need and community capacity for providing services is strengthened; and

(3) create a funding mechanism that builds on the established efforts of those organizations and operates to create new partnerships in local communities for the benefit of this state.

Sec. 535.103. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT. (a) The renewing our communities account is an account in the general revenue fund that may be appropriated only to the commission for the purposes and activities authorized by this subchapter and for reasonable administrative expenses under this subchapter.

b) The account consists of:

(1) all money appropriated for the purposes of this subchapter;

(2) any gifts, grants, or donations received for the purposes of this subchapter; and

(3) interest earned on money in the account.

(c) The account is exempt from the application of Section 403.095.

(d) The purposes of the account are to:

(1) increase the capacity of faith and community-based organizations to provide charitable services and to manage human resources and funds;

(2) assist local governmental entities in establishing local offices to promote faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(3) foster better partnerships between state government and faith- and community-based organizations.

Sec. 535.104. POWERS AND DUTIES REGARDING ACCOUNT. (a) The commission shall:

(1) contract with the State Commission on National and Community Service to administer funds appropriated from the account in a manner that:

(A) consolidates the capacity of and strengthens national service and community and faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(B) leverages public and private funds to benefit this state;

(2) develop a competitive process to be used in awarding grants from account funds that is consistent with state law and includes objective selection criteria;

(3) oversee the delivery of training and other assistance activities under this subchapter;

(4) develop criteria limiting awards of grants under Section 535.105(1)(A) to small and medium-sized faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state;

(5) establish general state priorities for the account;

(6) establish and monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom grants are awarded under this subchapter; and

(7) establish policies and procedures to ensure that any money appropriated from the account to the commission that is allocated to build the capacity of a faith-based organization or for a faith-based initiative, including money allocated for the establishment of the advisory subgroup under Section 535.108, is not used to advance a sectarian purpose or to engage in any form of proselytization.

(b) Instead of contracting with the State Commission on National and Community Service under Subsection (a)(1), the commission may award account funds appropriated to the commission to the State Commission on National and Community Service in the form of a grant.

(c) Any funds awarded to the State Commission on National and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under this section must be administered in the manner required by this subchapter, including Subsection (a)(1).

(d) The commission or the State Commission on National and Community Service, in accordance with the terms of the contract or grant, as applicable, may:

(1) directly, or through agreements with one or more entities that serve faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state:

(A) assist faith- and community-based organizations with:

(i) writing or managing grants through workshops or other forms of guidance;

(ii) obtaining legal assistance related to forming a corporation or obtaining an exemption from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code; and

(iii) obtaining information about or referrals to entities that provide expertise in accounting, legal, or tax issues, program development matters, or other organizational topics;

(B) provide information or assistance to faith- and community-based organizations related to building the organizations' capacity for providing services;

(C) facilitate the formation of networks, the coordination of services, and the sharing of resources among faith- and community-based organizations;

(D) in cooperation with existing efforts, if possible, conduct needs assessments to identify gaps in services in a community that present a need for developing or expanding services;

(E) work with faith- and community-based organizations to identify the organizations' needs for improvements in their internal capacity for providing services;

(F) provide faith- and community-based organizations with information on and assistance in identifying or using practices with demonstrated effectiveness for delivering charitable services to persons, families, and communities and in replicating charitable services programs that have demonstrated effectiveness; and

(G) encourage research into the impact of organizational capacity on program delivery for faith and community-based organizations;

(2) assist a local governmental entity in creating a better partnership between government and faith and community-based organizations to provide charitable services to persons in this state; and

(3) use funds appropriated from the account to provide matching money for federal or private grant programs that further the purposes of the account as described by Section 535.103(d).

(e) The commission shall monitor the use of the funds administered by the State Commission on National and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under this section to ensure that the funds are used in a manner consistent with the requirements of this subchapter.

Records relating to the award of a contract or grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service, or to grants awarded by that entity, and records relating to other uses of the funds are public information subject to Chapter 552.

(f) If the commission contracts with or awards a grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service under this section, this subchapter may not be construed to:

(1) release that entity from any regulations or reporting or other requirements applicable to a contractor or grantee of the commission;

(2) impose regulations or reporting or other requirements on that entity that do not apply to other contractors or grantees of the commission solely because of the entity's status;

(3) alter the nonprofit status of that entity or the requirements for maintaining that status; or

(4) convert that entity into a governmental entity because of the receipt of account funds through the contract or grant.

Sec. 535.105. ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNT FUNDS. If under Section 535.104 the commission contracts with or awards a grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service, that entity:

(1) may award grants from funds appropriated from the account to:

(A) faith and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state for capacity-building purposes; and

(B) local governmental entities to provide seed money for local offices for faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(2) shall monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom that entity awards grants using the measures established by the commission under Section 535.104(a)(6).

Sec. 535.106. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a) The commission shall provide a link on the commission's Internet website to the Internet website of the State Commission on National and Community Service if the commission contracts with or awards a grant to that entity under Section 535.104. The entity's Internet website must provide:

(1) a list of the names of each person to whom the entity awarded a grant from money appropriated from the account and the amount and purpose of the grant; and

(2) information regarding the methods by which the public may request information about those grants.

(b) If awarded a contract or grant under Section 535.104, the State Commission on National and Community Service must provide to the commission periodic reports on a schedule determined by the executive commissioner. The schedule of periodic reports must include an annual report that includes:

(1) a specific accounting with respect to the use by that entity of money appropriated from the account, including the names of persons to whom grants have been awarded and the purposes of those grants; and

(2) a summary of the efforts of the faith- and community-based liaisons designated under Section 535.051 to comply with the duties imposed by and the purposes of Sections 535.052 and 535.053.

(c) The commission shall post the annual report made under Subsection (b) on the commission's Internet website and shall provide copies of the report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the members of the legislature.

Sec. 535.107. TASK FORCE ON STRENGTHENING NONPROFIT CAPACITY. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the governor, shall establish a task force to make recommendations for strengthening the capacity of faith and community-based organizations for managing human resources and funds and providing services. The members of the task force must include:

(1) representatives from state agencies, nonprofit organizations, the academic community, and the foundation community; and

(2) other individuals who have expertise that would be valuable to the task force.

(b) Using money appropriated from the account, the task force shall hold at least three public hearings in various geographic areas of this state, at least one of which must be outside of Central Texas. The task force shall hear testimony at the hearings regarding strengthening the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations to manage human resources and funds and provide services.

(c) The task force is not required to hold a public hearing if the remaining money appropriated from the account to the commission for the state fiscal biennium is insufficient for the performance of the duties or activities under this subchapter.

(d) The task force shall present a report and legislative recommendations to the House Subgroup on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2010, regarding its recommendations.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2011.

Sec. 535.108. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT ADVISORY SUBGROUP. (a) The executive commissioner shall appoint leaders of faith- and community-based organizations in this state to serve on the renewing our communities account advisory subgroup. The advisory subgroup members must be representative of the religious, cultural, and geographic diversity of this state and the diversity of organization types and sizes in this state.

(b) The advisory subgroup shall make recommendations to the executive commissioner regarding the powers and duties with respect to the account as described by Section 535.104.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the advisory subgroup shall meet at least twice each calendar year. The advisory subgroup is not required to meet if the remaining amount appropriated from the account to the commission for the state fiscal

biennium is insufficient for the performance of any duties or activities under this subchapter.

(d) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the advisory subgroup.

(e) The advisory subgroup is subject to Chapter 551.

(b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the chief executive officers of the Office of Rural Community Affairs, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Texas Veterans Commission, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Youth Commission, and any other state agency as determined by the governor shall designate the liaisons for faith- and community-based initiatives as required under Section 535.051, Government Code, as added by this section, not later than December 1, 2009.

(c) The interagency coordinating group established under Section 535.053, Government Code, as added by this section, shall hold its first meeting not later than February 1, 2010.

SECTION 2. This Act does not make an appropriation. A provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program, creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the provision.

SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the House on April 24, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 119, Nays 15, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 492 on May 18, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 14, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____
Date

Governor

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and human services initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 535.051, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b) The chief administrative officer of each of the following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations:

- (1) the Texas Department [Office] of Rural [Community] Affairs;
- (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- (9) the Texas Youth Commission;
- (10) the office of the governor;
- (11) the Department of Public Safety;
- (12) the Texas Department of Insurance;
- (13) the Public Utility Commission of Texas;
- (14) the office of the attorney general;
- (15) the Department of Agriculture;
- (16) the office of the comptroller;
- (17) the Department of Information Resources;

(18) the Office of State-Federal Relations;

(19) the office of the secretary of state; and

(20) [(40)] other state agencies as determined by the governor.

(c) The commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall designate one employee from an institution of higher education, as that term is defined under Section 61.003, Education Code, to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations.

SECTION 2. Sections 535.053(a) and (b), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based initiatives is composed of each faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 and a liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service. The commission shall provide administrative support to the interagency coordinating group.

(b) The liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service [commission employee designated as a liaison under Section 535.051] is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group. If the State Commission on National and Community Service is abolished, the liaison from the governor's office is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

SECTION 3. Section 535.054, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 535.054. REPORT [REPORTS]. (a) Not later than December 1 of each year, the interagency coordinating group shall submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the interagency coordinating group. [A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) provide periodic reports to the executive commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who designated the liaison; and

(2) report annually to the governor's office of faith- and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections 535.052 and 535.053.]

(b) ~~The [Each] report made under Subsection (a) [(a)(2)] must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor's Internet website[, and the reports may be aggregated into a single report for that purpose].~~

SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 535, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 535.055 to read as follows:

Sec. 535.055. TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NONPROFITS. (a) The interagency coordinating group task force is established to help direct the interagency coordinating group in carrying out the group's duties under this section. The commission shall provide administrative support to the task force.

(b) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall appoint as members of the task force one representative from each of the following groups and entities:

- (1) a statewide nonprofit organization;
- (2) local governments;
- (3) faith-based groups;
- (4) community-based groups;
- (5) consultants to nonprofit corporations;
- (6) experts in grant writing; and
- (7) a statewide association of nonprofit organizations.

(c) In addition to the interagency coordinating group's other duties, the interagency coordinating group, in coordination with the task force, shall:

- (1) develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations;
- (2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;
- (3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and
- (4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

(d) The task force shall prepare a report describing actions taken or not taken by the interagency coordinating group under this section and include in the report any recommendations relating to legislation necessary to address an issue identified by the group under this section. The task force shall present the report to the House Subgroup on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2012.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2013.

SECTION 5. Not later than October 1, 2011, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint members to the interagency coordinating group task force in accordance with Section 535.055, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1965 was passed by the House on April 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1965 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Nonprofit Council to assist with faith-based and community-based initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 535.055, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 535.055. TEXAS NONPROFIT COUNCIL [~~TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NONPROFITS~~]. (a) The Texas Nonprofit Council [~~interagency coordinating group task force~~] is established to help direct the interagency coordinating group in carrying out the group's duties under this section. The commission shall provide administrative support to the council [~~task force~~].

(b) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall appoint as members of the council two representatives [~~task force one representative~~] from each of the following groups and entities:

- (1) [a] statewide nonprofit organizations [~~organization~~];
- (2) local governments;
- (3) faith-based groups;
- (4) community-based groups;
- (5) consultants to nonprofit corporations; and
- (6) [~~experts in grant writing; and~~
- [~~(7)~~ a] statewide associations [~~association~~] of nonprofit organizations.

(c) The council [~~In addition to the interagency coordinating group's other duties, the interagency coordinating group~~], in coordination with the interagency coordinating group [~~task force~~], shall:

- (1) make recommendations [~~develop and implement a plan~~] for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations;

(2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;

(3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and

(4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

(c-1) The council shall elect a chair or chairs and secretary from among its members and shall assist the executive commissioner in identifying individuals to fill vacant council positions that arise.

(c-2) Council members serve three-year terms. The terms expire on October 1 of every third year. A council member shall serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

(d) The council ~~[task force]~~ shall prepare a biennial report detailing the council's work, including ~~[describing actions taken or not taken by the interagency coordinating group under this section and include]~~ in the report any recommendations relating to legislation necessary to address an issue identified ~~[by the group]~~ under this section. The council ~~[task force]~~ shall present the report to the House Committee on Human Services or its successor, the House Committee on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or its successor not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year ~~[September 1, 2012]~~.

(e) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the Texas Nonprofit Council.

(f) The Texas Nonprofit Council is subject to Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the council is abolished and this section expires September 1, 2019. ~~[This section expires September 1, 2013.]~~

SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2013, and by October 1 every three years thereafter, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint members to the Texas Nonprofit Council in accordance with Section 535.055, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas

Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect August 31, 2013.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 993 passed the Senate on April 18, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 25, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 993 passed the House, with amendment, on May 22, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 2, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor

APPENDIX D

AN ACT

relating to the continuation and functions of the Health and Human Services Commission and the provision of health and human services in this state...

Pertinent excerpt from S.B. 200 (84R):

SECTION 3.19. Sections 535.055(a) and (b), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The Texas Nonprofit Council is established to help direct the interagency coordinating group in carrying out the group's duties under this section. The state agencies of the interagency coordinating group described by Section 535.051(b) ~~[commission]~~ shall provide administrative support to the council as coordinated by the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

(b) The governor ~~[executive commissioner]~~, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall appoint as members of the council two representatives from each of the following groups and entities to represent each group's and entity's appropriate sector:

- (1) statewide nonprofit organizations;
- (2) local governments;
- (3) faith-based groups, at least one of which must be a statewide interfaith group;

- (4) community-based groups;
- (5) consultants to nonprofit corporations; and
- (6) statewide associations of nonprofit organizations.

SECTION 3.20. Section 535.104(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commission shall:

(1) contract with the State Commission on National and Community Service to administer funds appropriated from the account in a manner that:

(A) consolidates the capacity of and strengthens national service and community and faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(B) leverages public and private funds to benefit this state;

(2) develop a competitive process to be used in awarding grants from account funds that is consistent with state law and includes objective selection criteria;

(3) oversee the delivery of training and other assistance activities under this subchapter;

(4) develop criteria limiting awards of grants under Section 535.105(1)(A) to small and medium-sized faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state;

(5) establish general state priorities for the account;

(6) establish and monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom grants are awarded under this subchapter; and

(7) establish policies and procedures to ensure that

any money appropriated from the account to the commission that is allocated to build the capacity of a faith-based organization or for a faith-based initiative[~~, including money allocated for the establishment of the advisory committee under Section 535.108,~~] is not used to advance a sectarian purpose or to engage in any form of proselytization.

APPENDIX E

APPOINTED ICG LIAISONS

Holly Riley - Department of Aging and Disability Services
Catherine Wright Steele - Department of Agriculture
David Hagerla - Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Sasha Rasco - Department of Family and Protective Services
Amy Baillargeon - Department of Information Resources
Ricardo Garcia - Department of State Health Services
Michelle Harper - Health and Human Services Commission
Vincent Houston - Office of Secretary of State
Jerry Strickland - Office of State-Federal Relations
Michelle Smith - Office of the Attorney General
Janie Ramirez - Institution of Higher Education
Charlene Rendon - Office of the Comptroller
Ben Taylor - Office of the Governor
Gabriel Cardenas - Public Utility Commission of Texas
Elizabeth Darling - Texas State Commission on National and Community Service
Chris Gobert - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Marvin Dunbar - Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Elizabeth Yevich - Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Melissa Hamilton - Texas Department of Insurance
Nim Kidd - Texas Department of Public Safety
Tammy T. Holland - Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Charlie Cato - Texas Veterans Commission
Phyllis Coombes - Texas Workforce Commission

APPENDIX F

2015 Members of the Texas Nonprofit Council

Bee Moorhead, Chair – Texas Impact

Vicki Niedermayer, Secretary – Helping Restore Ability

Celia Cole – Texas Food Bank Network

Froswa' Booker-Drew – US Programs, World Vision

Lidya Osadchey – ESCAPE Family Resource Center

Laurie Paarlberg – Bush School, Texas A&M University

Amy Ledbetter Parham – Habitat for Humanity Texas

Gabriela Saenz – CHRISTUS Health

Adrianna Cuellar-Rojas — United Ways of Texas

Marolyn Stubblefield – University of the Incarnate Word