



**Interagency Coordinating Group**

Legislative Report

**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, 2017

## Table of Contents

	<u>Pages</u>
I. Executive Summary	1-3
II. ICG Duties and Responsibilities	3
III. ICG Goals, Activities, and Progress (January – December 2017)	4-30
IV. Next Steps for 2018	30
V. Appendices	31-64
A. House Bill 492 (81R)	31-43
B. House Bill 1965 (82R)	44-48
C. Senate Bill 993 (83R)	49-52
D. Senate Bill 200 (84R) Excerpt	53-55
E. ICG Liaisons	56
F. Minutes of October 4, 2017 ICG Meeting	57-62
G. RFP Template for Client Services Procurements	63

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Background**

In 2009 through House Bill (H.B.) 492, 81<sup>st</sup> 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 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 83<sup>rd</sup> 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. Each member was appointed to serve a three-year term.

Following the 83<sup>rd</sup> 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 84<sup>th</sup> 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, and that the governor, instead of the executive commissioner of HHSC, shall appoint the members of the Council. The Council is awaiting a slate of new appointees as of the submission of this report.

### **2017 ICG Meetings**

In 2017 the ICG met in June and October. At the June meeting ICG liaisons reported out on any legislation that was passed in the recent session that may affect faith and community-based organizations or that might require outreach to such organizations during implementation. OneStar Foundation Chief Operating Officer, Chris Bugbee, provided a review of equal treatment standards including updates that were made within federal agencies since 2009. Also on the agenda of the June ICG meeting was an overview of three current partnerships between state agencies and OneStar Foundation's AmeriCorps programs. Details of agency activities and partnerships can be found in Section III, Goal 2 of this report.

Hurricane Harvey was the central focus of the October ICG meeting. Wayne Rickard, FEMA Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) for Texas was invited to speak on the federal response. State agencies reported on their agency's official and unofficial response to the disaster. Unofficial response included how the agency was supporting its employees who were impacted by the storm. Official activities

were those in alignment with the agency's mission. The minutes of this meeting are included in Appendix E.

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 2017. 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. (a) ICG GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRESS** *(January – December 2017)*

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

**Activity and Progress:**

In 2012, the ICG finalized an [RFP Template](#) for Client Services Procurements. The template provides a standardized format for requested information. Several ICG member agencies use this template which is available on the Comptroller's website. Agencies will review and update this template in 2018 in an effort to continue improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith and community-based organizations.

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

**Activity and Progress:**

The following pages provide a snapshot of agency best practices for 2017. Submissions were cleared through each agency's internal review process and compiled by OneStar Foundation, chair of the ICG.

#### **TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION (TVC)**

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, Parks and Wildlife 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 use 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 <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/grants-funding/grants-awarded/>

The Veteran Entrepreneur Program's (VEP) mission is to foster and promote Veteran Entrepreneurship throughout the State of Texas. They provide community outreach through a series of informational seminars, e-newsletters, and participation in resource partner events. VEP also provides a Business Education and Skills Training

(BEST) resource library to direct veteran entrepreneurs to the many informational and partner resources available for starting and running a business as well as personalized business assistance to help guide veteran entrepreneurs through all phases of their business from start-up to growth and finally exit. Additionally VEP issues eligible veterans with a “Letter of Verification” for new veteran owned businesses in accordance with Senate Bill 1049.

<https://www.tvc.texas.gov/entrepreneurs/>

The Women Veterans Program (WVP) 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, and Catholic Charities Lotus Project provide workforce development resources, professional development, and homelessness assistance to Women Veterans. <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/women-veterans/>

TVC’s Veterans Mental Health Program (VMHP) 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, VMHP contracts with the interfaith counseling organization, Samaritan Center in Austin, for clinical mental health services designed for veterans. Additionally, VMHP trains, certifies and provides technical assistance to local Mental Health Authorities for administration of their local Military Veteran Peer Network programs and coordinates Justice Involved Veteran services across Texas.

<https://www.tvc.texas.gov/mental-health/>

## **COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CPA)**

### **Statewide Procurement Division (SPD)**

The Statewide Procurement Division (SPD) collaborates with its customer entities (state agencies, universities, local governments and other cooperative purchasing members) to meet the procurement needs of the state by establishing best value driven, competitively bid and awarded statewide contracts. These entities are essential in serving residents of Texas who require assistance and it is the goal of CPA to help meet their obligations in the most efficient manner possible.

SPD supports nonprofit assistance organizations by providing access to our statewide term, managed and TXMAS contracts through the Texas SmartBuy Membership Program. As of September 2017, there were over 120 assistance organizations in this program. The program coordinator works to open lines of communication to the nonprofit community to ensure they are aware of this opportunity and assists them with taking advantage of the program’s benefits.

New for 2017, SPD began an outreach program to provide a statewide purchasing tour highlighting the Texas SmartBuy Membership Program and training on the TxSmartBuy.com online purchasing portal. Assistance organizations can find the free training session information on the Comptroller.Texas.Gov website under the purchasing tab, continuing education link and under the membership program events link. SPD sends notifications of training location updates via email to any interested party from the email database. Interested assistance organizations can sign up to receive comptroller updates by selecting the subscribe button at the bottom of the Comptroller.Texas.Gov website or selecting <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXCOMPT/subscriber/new>

In efforts to improve our services, SPD will be launching a brand new Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) application for bid solicitation and award notices for our customers in November 2017. The new application will provide a more user friendly, modernized platform with more security, simple step by step procedures, longer records retention, improved search functionality for both the user and the user organization and will be housed in a centralized location within the TxSmartBuy.com purchasing portal. SPD is also launching brand new purchasing and contract management classes in November for those interested in obtaining state certifications, as well as releasing a completely updated procurement manual early 2018. Each month, program resources receive updates on the comptroller website to keep customers informed. Assistance organizations are encouraged to check back frequently.

CPA is continuously seeking new opportunities to build networks within the nonprofit community. One of CPA's missions is to give back to the community. Examples of community outreach include silent auctions, fundraisers, volunteer work, item collections and cash donations for organizations such as BACE for scholarships, CPA Vets, Austin Food Bank, Coats for Kids, Safehouse, Cystic Fibrosis, Ft. Hood Fisher House, Hospice Austin, Christopher House, Settlement Home and ASPCA.

The agency also works closely with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and plays a crucial lead role and presence at the State Operations Center during declared disasters to assist with purchasing products and services required for successful emergency response. During Hurricane Harvey, CPA was on the front lines from the beginning, mobilizing an extraordinary array of resources. SPD staff acquired procurements for mobile fueling stations, fleets of evacuation buses, bottled water and ice, showering stations, portable toilets, heavy equipment for recovery efforts and other items for emergency shelters and rescue efforts. These purchases are part of ongoing coordinated efforts among state agencies, commercial vendors and nonprofit assistance organizations. CPA continues to support state recovery efforts, just as it did during hurricanes in 2005, 2007 and 2008; the Bastrop fires in 2011; the West fertilizer plant explosion in 2013; and many other disasters.



CPA continues to serve in an advisory capacity to assist the Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Purchasing from People with Disabilities (TPPD) to promote the use of products made by people with disabilities in the State of Texas. The Statewide Procurement Division of CPA provides guidance and significant administrative support for achieving the program's goals. Purchasing staff works with the private non-profit company (TIBH Inc.) and their group of Community Rehabilitation Programs to administer the contracts for products and services associated with the State Use Program.

## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS)**

### **Maternal and Child Health**

**Children with Special Health Care Needs System Development Group (CSHCN SDG)** works with 19 community-based organizations to provide case management, family support, and community resources for children and youth with special health care needs and their families throughout Texas. Information is shared through bi-weekly newsletters about upcoming initiatives, training opportunities, and events of specific interest to professionals to share with the families of children with special health care needs that they serve. The CSHCN SDG also holds quarterly conference calls to provide education on innovative best practices such as Person-Centered Thinking and to provide updates on contracting requirements.

A network of **Healthy Texas Babies (HTB) Community Coalitions** strengthen local systems for addressing infant mortality and maternal, perinatal, and infant health. HTB Coalitions bring together health professionals, local health departments, hospitals, community-based organizations, and stakeholders to create a collaborative network of partners to lend resources and expertise towards a collective impact to address perinatal health issues relevant to their community. HTB Coalitions convene periodically, and coordinate health assessments, training, and outreach activities.

Adolescent Health staff work with nine community-based organizations and three clinic-based organizations on the **Texas Healthy Adolescent Initiative** to improve the overall health and well-being of Texas adolescents (10-24 years of age), increase their protective factors, prepare them with a strong foundation for adult life, and support positive life choices. Adolescent Health staff holds quarterly conference calls to provide DSHS oversight and networking opportunities between contractors. The Maternal and Child Health Program has engaged community-based organizations in community partner listening sessions to promote maternal and child health and **breastfeeding initiatives** and to seek stakeholder input about community opportunities and gaps for improving breastfeeding support in local communities across Texas. The program hosts a website, [SupportFromDayOne.org](http://SupportFromDayOne.org) to support community partners in planning community-based breastfeeding support initiatives.

The Maternal and Child Health Program is engaging the nine Texas Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to implement a **Preconception Peer Education (PPE)** program and engage college administrators, counselors, community members, and college students in positive health and peer education training. The PPE program is an initiative of the national Office of Minority Health to reduce infant mortality in the African American community. Young men and women are trained to educate peers and members of their community on the importance of preconception health, seeking regular preventive care, having a reproductive life plan, and the impact of social determinants of health on their well-being.

### **Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries**

The **Health Assessment and Toxicology** program collaborates with community-based organizations in areas impacted by hazardous waste sites to learn about community health concerns and distribute educational materials. This allows DSHS to provide important information to a greater number of community members, increase awareness about how to prevent hazardous exposures, and better address community concerns.

The **Blood Lead Surveillance (BLS) Group** partners with local Head Start programs to improve blood lead testing, communication, and general lead education. The BLS Group also partners with DSHS health service regions, local health departments, and health care providers to conduct trainings and educational sessions for health professionals and the public regarding lead testing and prevention.

### **Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance**

As a result of a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance (BDES) Branch provided one-time funding and training to "**Parent to Parent**," a family support organization, for referral and case management for Zika and microcephaly. The branch also works with the March of Dimes, which routinely requests information about birth defects and newborn screening as part of their work.

### **Immunization**

The Immunization Unit partners with Texas **immunization coalitions** to improve immunization rates throughout Texas by promoting the importance of childhood and adolescent immunizations at the community level. The Immunization Unit provides training, media, and resources to help establish new coalitions, or to help organizations promote vaccinations to stakeholders. The Immunization Unit works with immunization coalitions to promote local immunization activities through the DSHS Immunization Unit's website throughout the year and especially during the

national immunization observances such as the National Infant Immunization Week, National Immunization Awareness Month, and National Influenza Vaccination Week.

Immunization coalitions have also partnered with DSHS health service regions, local health departments, and health care providers enrolled in the Texas Vaccines for Children and Adult Safety Net Programs to conduct vaccination clinics and administer vaccinations to community health fair participants.

### **Tuberculosis/Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Sexually Transmitted Disease**

The DSHS TB/HIV/STD Section contracts for service and prevention activities with **community-based organizations**. Contractors are selected through a competitive process. For HIV medical care and services, DSHS contracts with administrative agencies who operate the competitive processes to select providers at the local level, many of whom are community-based organizations. DSHS directly contracts with HIV prevention providers who offer a wide range of testing and prevention interventions, and many of these also are community-based organizations. Additionally, the section convenes a statewide planning body (comprised of Texans involved in HIV prevention and care) twice a year to influence improvements in current prevention and care practices at both the state and local levels.

### **Border Public Health**

The Office of Border Public Health (OBPH) partners with faith and community-based organizations in communities with poor health outcomes to improve the population's health and well-being. In working with these organizations, OBPH holds regular planning meetings, shares logic models, and holds events and activities such as health fairs, community health worker trainings, health professional training, health promotion, and health education. OBPH has partnered with community health worker associations, area health education centers, regional hospitals, community health clinics, border collaboratives, and Binational Health Councils with sister cities along the Texas-Mexico border to develop work plans and sustainability goals.

### **Continuing Education Services**

DSHS, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, and Texas A&M Agrilife jointly provided the **Be the One, Be the Difference Conference** on April 6, 2017. Held in Uvalde, the target audience was DSHS and Department and Family and Protective Services staff, law enforcement, judiciary, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers. The conference provided information regarding family violence and child abuse and neglect prevalent in the community; services provided by CASA volunteers; services offered by child advocacy centers; trial issues in criminal child abuse cases; common non-accidental injuries in children; issues relevant to recognizing, reporting, and enhancing follow-up for children who are the victims of child abuse and neglect; methods to enhance communication in multidisciplinary

team meetings; and advantages of a coordinated investigation between law enforcement, child protective services, and prosecution. The conference offered 487.5 total clock hours of training to 75 attendees.

Hosted by DSHS, the **East Texas Community Health Conference** was held in Tyler on April 28, 2017. The goal of the conference was to recognize current community health issues and develop viable strategies for improving the health of the community.

### **Library and Information Services**

The Center for Health Statistics (CHS) partners with the **Health Ministries Association of Texas** (HMA) to help ensure that the DSHS Library & Information Services section has a current calendar of events, resources, and articles of interest to faith community nurses and health ministers. It is available at <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/library/nursing.shtm>. CHS staff attend HMA meetings when they are held in Austin and DSHS volunteers operate the Texas Health Ministry Network from the Houston regional office.

## **TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT (TJJD)**

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) continues to engage a large number of community and faith-based organizations in the rehabilitation of youthful offenders. During fiscal year 2017, there were 1,022 community volunteers actively involved in TJJD programs, representing many different faith-based and community organizations, and they contributed 76,818 hours of service at facilities across the state. Additionally, hundreds more visitors participated in volunteer-led projects and religious services. The value of these volunteer services surpassed \$1.8 million.

Faith-based volunteers constitute the majority of the agency's volunteers (approximately 90%). Many are involved in correctional ministry organizations, such as Epiphany Ministries. Faith-based volunteers lead worship services, teach small religious education groups, conduct faith-based skills and support groups, provide individualized pastoral counseling and provide faith-based mentoring services.

TJJD continues to partner with eleven Community Resource Councils, 501c3 charitable organizations affiliated with state-operated correctional facilities and parole offices that provide supplemental resources and donations to enhance the rehabilitation efforts of the agency. Those councils generated \$260,656 in donations during fiscal year 2017 that directly impacted the youth in TJJD. The councils also supplied financial support totaling \$17,642 to the families of TJJD youth.

The agency continues to collaborate with a large group of other community-based organizations and state government agencies to host the annual “Strengthening Youth & Families Conference”. These organizations include the Health and Human Services Commission and Texas System of Care, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the State Volunteer Resource Council for Texas Youth, Texas Education Agency, Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas at Austin, ViaHope, Boys to Men Texas, and Prairie View A&M University's Juvenile Crime Prevention Center.

This interagency-sponsored conference offers workshops related to the promotion of positive youth development and the prevention, intervention, and treatment of high-risk behaviors in youth. Event participants include probation and parole officers, child protective workers, correctional officers and caseworkers, juvenile justice professionals, teachers and school safety officers, mental health providers, substance abuse treatment providers, community volunteers working with youth and families, family members of system-involved youth, and many other community stakeholders.

TJJJ has also established formal partnerships, via memorandums of understanding and contracts for re-entry, counseling, and residential services, with the following community and faith-based non-profit organizations:

- Lena Pope Counseling Services
- Liberty
- Youth Advocate Program
- Southwest Key
- K16 Ready Society, Inc. (DBA-Texas Initiative Program)
- Life Support Counseling & Research, Inc. (DBA-Therapeutic Family Life)
- AMIKIDS
- Byrd's Foster Group Home
- Gulf Coast Trade Center
- The Giocosa Foundation
- Pegasus Schools, Inc

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

## **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES (DIR)**

The Texas Department of Information Resources continues to support the information technology needs of faith and community based organizations (FCBOs).

DIR has worked with the Texas legislature to continue to evolve the definition of qualified entities who are authorized by statute to purchase hardware, software, telecommunications, and technology services (commodity items) through DIR's cooperative contracts. The 80th Legislature authorized assistance organizations as defined by Section 2175.001, Government Code to use cooperative contracts developed by DIR. The 83rd Legislature authorized quasi-government entities to purchase commodity items through DIR in 2013. Cooperative contracts enable participating entities to optimize the purchase of IT commodities and services by leveraging the state's buying power to obtain the best value.

Through its Cooperative Contracts program, DIR serves state agencies, institutions of higher education, K-12 independent school districts, quasi-government organizations, counties, municipalities, and assistance organizations registered with the Texas Facilities Commission or the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. DIR has made a concerted effort to further increase and expand outreach efforts to organizations who participate in the Cooperative Contracts program and purchase information technology. In fiscal year 2017, over 60 assistance organizations purchased technology commodity items from DIR, including:

- Baptist Child and Family Services
- Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
- Southwest Key Programs
- Lutheran Social Services
- Head Start of Greater Dallas
- Southwestern Assemblies of God University
- Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

Some organizations showed a large percent increase in purchases from FY16 and FY17. For example, between FY 16 and FY17, Baptist Child and Family Services purchases increased 598% to over \$1 million and Southwest Key Programs increased 309% to over \$750,000 using DIR cooperative contracts.

In 2018, DIR will expand customer outreach to FCBOs through monthly and quarterly emails to assistance organizations providing awareness of recently completed procurements, contracting updates and purchasing opportunities.

## **OFFICE OF THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS)**

The Office of the Secretary of State continues to provide information on nonprofit corporations for business filings and tax issues on the SOS website. The website also includes information for Nonprofit Corporation Application for Registration – Application by a foreign nonprofit corporation to transact business in Texas.

The Office of the Texas Secretary of State continues to provide forms for Certificate of Formation for a Nonprofit Corporation. This form is to be used to incorporate a nonprofit corporation.

The Office of the Texas Secretary of State also provides a listing of Texas Nonprofit Resources.

## **TEXAS GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

### **Responding to Hurricane Harvey**

Amid its many responsibilities in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, the Governor's Office collaborated with many nonprofit groups in responding to the mammoth storm. Governor Abbott joined with the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation to establish the Rebuild Texas Fund to raise money for long-term recovery from Hurricane Harvey.

The Texas Music Office (TMO), which is part of the Office of the Governor, coordinated with many music industry contacts across Texas to help raise funds for the Harvey recovery effort. TMO recognized early on in the wake of the disaster that it could play a vital role in an organizational capacity. The idea was to encourage the various fundraising efforts, prevent unnecessary overlap that might cannibalize funds, and then begin pairing these events with the Rebuild Texas Fund. The two biggest such fundraising events were the Sept. 12 San Antonio concert and livestream of the nationally televised "Hand in Hand" benefit featuring George Strait and friends, and the Sept. 22 "Harvey Can't Mess With Texas" benefit concert in Austin. TMO also worked closely with music organizations like Sound Exchange, the Recording Academy's MusiCares, ASCAP, the Houston Arts Alliance and the Texas Commission on the Arts to help publicize the organization's various relief resources so that Texas artists and music businesses affected by the storm could receive information on how to receive immediate relief — including relief checks, instrument replacement programs and much more.

In addition, the Governor's Office worked with the OneStar Foundation and a variety of nonprofit organizations in responding to various response and recovery issues that arose in the days, weeks and months after the hurricane – helping to coordinate communication among groups, connect needs to resources and address other challenges.

See the section on the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities below for information on how the committee assisted in Harvey response efforts.

### **Criminal Justice Division**

Resources within the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) are dedicated toward 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 faith-based organizations (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 grant funding for crime victim services projects that offer help through services that include crisis intervention, the provision of emergency shelter, counseling, criminal justice system advocacy, transportation to court proceedings, safety planning, medical accompaniment and peer support-group counseling.

In Fiscal Year 2017, 218 nonprofit agencies received \$121 million in funding from CJD – \$4.4 million of which went to faith-based organizations. In Fiscal Year 2018, 255 nonprofit agencies from across the state will receive CJD funding totaling more than \$123 million. Of that, \$2.5 million will be granted to faith-based programs.

### **Child Sex Trafficking Team**

The Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) within the Criminal Justice Division leads collaborations of public and private partners to develop comprehensive strategies to combat child sex trafficking and provide its victims the services they need to heal and thrive. CSTT's approach is based on best and promising practices from around the country and is child-centered, trauma-informed, collaborative and continuously improving.

CSTT could not achieve any of these strategies without nonprofit and faith-based communities. The team is partnering with and providing additional resources to Children's Advocacy Centers, Court Appointed Special Advocates, child-placing agencies, churches, nonprofit shelters and other youth-serving programs throughout the state. In the past fiscal year, CSTT has worked with stakeholders in the Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth regions to build coordinated care teams and protocols for child sex trafficking victims. The team has also funded a new director of human trafficking and child exploitation at the Department of Family and Protective Services, three specialized foster care programs within nonprofit agencies, four advocacy programs within nonprofit agencies, and five drop-in centers in nonprofit agencies. It has partnered with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to train law enforcement and child welfare in identifying and intervening in child sexual exploitation, and funded anti-trafficking programs at Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Texas.



## **Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities**

The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities' (GCPD) mission is to actively pursue Governor Abbott's vision of a state where people with disabilities can enjoy full and equal access to lives of independence, productivity and self-determination. GCPD is guided by a 12-member advisory committee appointed by the governor, seven of whom must be people with disabilities.

GCPD's expertise aided in the response and recovery efforts for individuals with disabilities following Hurricane Harvey's impact on Texas. Staff members participated in daily conference calls with the Texas Disability Partnership, the Houston Mayor's Office on Disabilities and more than 60 state and national disability organizations aiding in the response and recovery of people with disabilities. The GCPD served as a liaison between these groups and the State Operations Center and other state agencies to address and resolve unmet needs and emergency management questions. The GCPD also organized and established a Golden Triangle Disability Partnership, identifying key community stakeholders from Beaumont, Orange and Port Arthur including a community leader and primary point of contact. The GCPD hosted regular conference calls, providing meeting minutes, partnership contact lists and resource directories. This effort was supported by FEMA and the American Red Cross. The GCPD responded to dozens of calls per week from Harvey survivors with disabilities with varying complex needs. One personal example was from a woman living near Jasper who lost a wheelchair and walker when her home flooded. GCPD staff members provided resources to replace her lost durable medical equipment, connect her with a local center for independent living and a Disaster Survivors with Disabilities hotline.

The GCPD consistently works with a network of community-based disability organizations throughout the state to provide information and training on the resources, opportunities, rights and responsibilities of Texans with disabilities. Examples of local partners include Business Leadership Networks in Houston, Austin and Dallas, Asperger's 101, Knowbility, Inc. (promoting web accessibility), VSA Texas (the state organization on arts and disability), Texas Association for the Deaf, the Deaf Blind Multi-handicapped Association of Texas, and many more organizations representing Texans with disabilities. GCPD networks with several professional advocacy groups, including Disability Rights Texas and the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, to gain input on the need for potential legislation to advance the interests of Texans with disabilities.

Across the state, many nonprofit and faith-based community organizations serve on local mayors' committees for people with disabilities. In October 2017, the City of Abilene recognized the GCPD for assisting them in establishing a new mayor's commission on disabilities to represent the interests of their citizens with disabilities. This network of more than 40 local committees partners with the GCPD

to plan and host its annual statewide Lex Frieden Employment Awards (LFEA) in October and its Barbara Jordan Media Awards in April.

The GCPD raises public awareness about the talents and abilities of Texans with disabilities through the printing and statewide distribution of more than 2,500 National Disability Employment Awareness Month posters annually designed by a different Texas artist with a disability. The 2017 poster featured the Twitter hashtag #HireAbility to direct Texas employers to the Texas Disability Employment Awareness Month campaign page, which was jointly hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions and the GCPD.

GCPD's 2016 efforts included increased focus on addressing the needs of Texans who are deaf through a greater partnership with the Texas Association for the Deaf. As a result, in August 2017, GCPD staff members were recognized by the Texas Association for the Deaf and National Association for the Deaf with a Golden Hand award. This award is given to an individual or organization that has been actively involved in inspiring activities that improve the social, economic and educational well-being of the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in Texas.

### **Homeland Security Grants Division**

The Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) of the Governor's Office serves as the pass-through agency for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), a federal program that seeks to integrate the preparedness activities of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack with broader state and local preparedness efforts. The NSGP also serves to promote emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private entities.

Each year, HSGD solicits applications and awards grants to nonprofit organizations around Texas in collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Eligible projects must support target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack based on the nonprofit organization's ideology, beliefs or mission. Eligible nonprofits must also be located within one of the urban areas anticipated to receive funding under the federal Urban Area Security Initiative grant program, which is also administered by HSGD. In 2017, these urban areas included Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington, Houston and San Antonio.

Additionally, HSGD provides technical assistance to eligible nonprofits by conducting application-development webinars, providing grant management assistance and offering guidance on the preparation of environmental and historic preservation screening documentation. This assistance is critical in helping the nonprofit organizations meet all requirements for federal grant funding through FEMA.

In calendar year 2017, HSGD assisted 18 nonprofits with managing more than \$1.57 million in active grants funded from three different federal fund years — 2015, 2016 and 2017. Details are available in the table below:

2015 NGSP Grant Awards			
Grant Number	County	Grantee	Current Budget Amount
2989301	Harris	Chabad of Uptown*	\$75,000.00
2992001	Harris	Congregation Beth Rambam	\$74,994.87
2992101	Harris	Congregation Emanu El	\$75,000.00
2992301	Harris	Jewish Federation of Greater Houston	\$75,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$299,994.87</b>
<b>Active in 2017*</b>			<b>\$224,994.87</b>
2016 NGSP Grant Awards			
Grant Number	County	Grantee	Current Budget Amount
3153901	Montgomery	Chabad of The Woodlands Inc.	\$75,000.00
3155501	Harris	Congregation Beth Israel	\$75,000.00
3158901	Collin	Texas Torah Institute	\$75,000.00
3162501	Galveston	Congregation B'nai Israel	\$75,000.00
3163001	Harris	Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston	\$75,000.00
3163901	Dallas	Akiba Academy of Dallas	\$75,000.00
3167301	Dallas	Congregation Toras Chaim of Dallas	\$75,000.00
3168101	Harris	Sephardic Gan Torat Emet	\$75,000.00
3168201	Dallas	Congregation Ohev Shalom	\$75,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$675,000.00</b>
2017 NGSP Grant Awards			
Grant Number	County	Grantee	Current Budget Amount
3429201	Harris	Congregation Brith Shalom	\$74,910.00
3429701	Dallas	Yavneh Academy of Dallas	\$75,000.00
3433101	Harris	Congregation Beth Israel	\$75,000.00
3433701	Tarrant	Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County	\$75,000.00
3434201	Harris	Jewish Federation of Greater Houston	\$75,000.00
3434801	Dallas	Cathedral of Hope Inc.	\$75,000.00
3435501	Harris	Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston**	\$75,000.00
3436901	Harris	TORCH - Torah Outreach Resource Center of Houston	\$75,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$599,910.00</b>
<b>TOTAL NGSP funding active during 2017*</b>			<b>\$1,574,904.87</b>

\*Grant 2989301 was in a liquidation period from 1/1/2017 to 3/31/2017

\*\*Grant 3435501 was awarded in 2017; however, the project period begins on 2/1/2018

## **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES (DFPS)**

### **Adult Protective Services**

Adult Protective Services (APS), a division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, commemorated World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on June 15, 2017 by collaborating with community-based stakeholders. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day serves as a call-to-action for communities to raise awareness about the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of our elders, often by family members in their own homes. APS staff in the greater Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth and San Antonio areas reached out to local faith and community-based organizations and asked them to join an ecumenical collaboration to help commemorate WEAAD. APS asked faith-based community leaders for their guidance and expertise in exploring the feasibility of organizing a special service dedicated to honoring elderly citizens. Our faith leaders felt that one person can make one difference by taking one action in a senior's life by spending time with him/her.

APS District South, Region 11 held the 11th Annual Training Symposium for Service Providers of the Aged & Disabled on Thursday, May 18, 2017. This symposium was held at the First United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi. Dr. Richard Garnett, a Silver Haired Legislator from Dallas/Fort Worth, will work with APS and the Elder Abuse Task Force to prepare for the 86th Legislative Session.

### **Child Protective Services**

Throughout the state, churches are the heartbeat of the community. Faith leaders are instrumental in serving their communities, and that includes children and families who come into contact with Child Protective Services (CPS). CPS is growing the number of churches the agency is engaging with to better serve foster youth and currently partners with more than 800 churches. CPS Faith Specialists all over Texas are regularly meeting with faith leaders from their areas to bring more churches and organizations into the fold.

CPS partnered with North Texas Assemblies of God, child placing agencies and community based organizations to host INVOLVED: Every Church Every Child Faith Summit on June 7, 2017 in Waxahachie. Close to 1,000 individuals attended this event, and CPS faith specialists followed up with participants and community partners to assist them with getting involved in the child welfare system.

A key area where the faith community can assist is the Care Portal. The Care Portal is a website designed to connect children and families with the faith community through their caseworker. A caseworker makes a request to the website about the needs of the family. That request is then relayed to participating Care Portal churches in the area. As of November 1, 2017, 3,217 children been served through the CarePortal with an overall economic impact of \$1,008,726.

## **TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION (TWC)**

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) offers a wide variety of programs that help Texans acquire the skills and experience needed to become employed. Many of the programs are operated by nonprofit entities. The following are among those offered in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY'17).

### **Programs to Assist Foster Youth**

Many of the nonprofits that TWC contracted with in FY'17 provide services for foster youth. One example is Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, which received one of four contracts offered under TWC's Foster Youth Dropout Recovery and High School Completion pilot program. The other three contracts were awarded to school districts.

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas provides dropout prevention and recovery services to youth who are or were in foster care. The services help students complete their postsecondary education and find work or internships. The goal is to enhance and supplement the efforts made by the Child Protective Services division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and to ensure that students who are or were in foster care know that they are included in the state's new higher education plan, 60x30TX, and the state's aspirations.

TWC also funds workforce advocacy efforts at statewide nonprofit transition centers for foster youth, such as efforts made by the following:

- Buckner Family and Child Services, FYI Center, Lubbock
- Bruce Ford FYI Center, Buckner Family and Child Services, Amarillo
- City Square Transition Resource Action Center, Fort Worth
- City Square Transition Resource Action Center, Dallas
- BCFS Health and Human Services–Tyler, Transition Center
- Developing Opportunities Realizing Success (DORS), Youth Transition Center, Longview
- BCFS Health and Human Services–Abilene, Transition Center
- El Paso Human Services, Inc.
- Concho Valley Home for Girls, Inc., San Angelo
- Youth and Family Alliance, Inc. (LifeWorks), Austin
- Buckner Children and Family Services, Inc.
- BCFS Health and Human Services Transition Centers–Kerrville, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, McAllen
- Central Texas Youth Services Bureau
- Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults

### **Senior Community Service Employment Program**

The Experience Works program promotes economic self-sufficiency for unemployed and low-income Texans who are 55 years of age or older. Eligible participants are assigned to perform community service work at host agencies on a part-time, temporary basis. The participants' wages are subsidized with grant funds. They receive training, gain work experience, and develop or enhance their job skills, all in preparation for obtaining unsubsidized employment.

### **The American GI Forum's National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc.—Veterans Outreach Initiative**

The Texas Veterans Outreach Program targets hard-to-serve veterans in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, and El Paso who are not being served by Workforce Solutions Offices. The goal is to stabilize a veteran's financial and living situation by overcoming barriers to employment and helping them become and stay employed.

Hard-to-serve veterans include veterans who are:

- recently discharged and find it difficult to reintegrate into society and the job market;
- disabled by physical or mental disorders and need special advocacy to promote themselves to employers;
- homeless and need support to stabilize their lives before looking for work; and
- struggling with substance abuse or have an ex-offender status.

Potential participants are assessed. Veterans who are accepted receive basic skills training, job placement services, and other support services. In FY'17, 637 veterans were enrolled in the program, 383 veterans received basic skills upgrade training, and 479 veterans were placed in jobs.

### **Haven for Hope—Partnerships with Employer and Community-Based Organizations**

Through its initiative to work with employers and community-based organizations, Haven for Hope of Bexar County helped 1,400 homeless and unemployed Texans find steady employment and no longer need public assistance.

The initiative provides comprehensive services to individuals who are homeless in San Antonio and Bexar County. Haven for Hope works with 93 partner agencies, 33 of which provide services directly to recipients at Haven for Hope's one-stop campus to address common causes of homelessness. Support services include providing food, primary health care, dental care, vision care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, case management, housing assistance, and child care. Haven for Hope's Educational/Vocational department also helps participants develop the skills needed to find full-time, gainful employment and earn a sustainable wage.

### **Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth, Inc.—Partnerships with Employers and Community-Based Organizations**

The Goodwill Works program offered by Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth serves 2,750 individuals who are homeless and unemployed in Tarrant, Johnson, Parker, and Denton Counties. The program helps individuals find gainful employment and stay employed, so that they no longer need public assistance. Goodwill Works provides services at three permanent job resource centers and one mobile recruitment and job placement unit. The training provided helps participants develop occupational, computer, and life skills to ultimately become employment-ready.

### **Women’s Institute for Technology Employment Training—Manufacturing Job Readiness Skills Project**

The Women’s Institute for Technology Employment Training is developing a training manual and a study guide for the Manufacturing Job Readiness Skills project. The goal is to prepare economically disadvantaged individuals and single mothers for entry-level jobs and careers in manufacturing and technology-based industries. The manual and guide explore the career potential of manufacturing and encourage participants to think of their first job as a doorway to a professional career.

### **Urban STEM Corporation—Camp Code**

Camp Code, offered by Urban STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is a day camp that familiarizes girls in grades 6–8 with coding and its application in the job market. The goal is to help girls recognize and develop their potential for coding and ultimately enter the fast-growing field of computing. By participating in computer science–based activities, girls develop confidence in their ability to excel in coding and its applications.

### **Goodwill Industries of Central Texas—Accelerate Texas III**

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas is working to expand the use of the Integrated Education and Training (IET) model in Texas. IET allows trainees to advance their educations and careers simultaneously by taking adult education and literacy (AEL) classes while also training to work in a specific occupation.

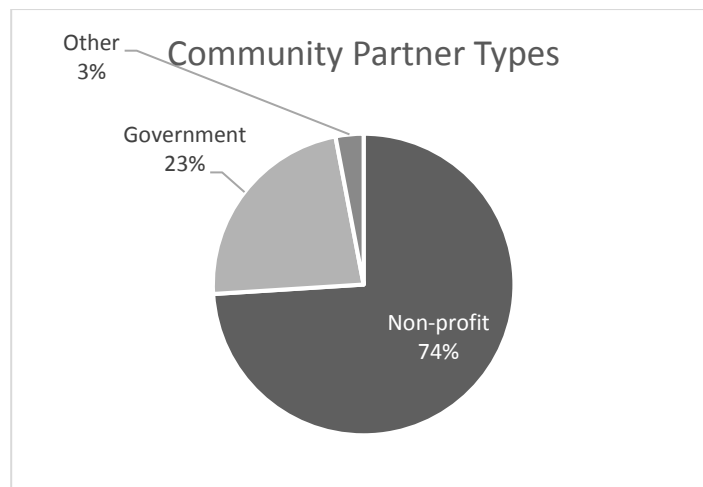
Funding provided by Goodwill allows grantees to enhance or expand their IET models or develop and implement new models. The funding supports the core components of IET, which include workforce training, workforce preparation activities, AEL activities, and related coordination, staffing, curriculum development, educational and career counseling services, and other allowable service delivery.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (HHSC)

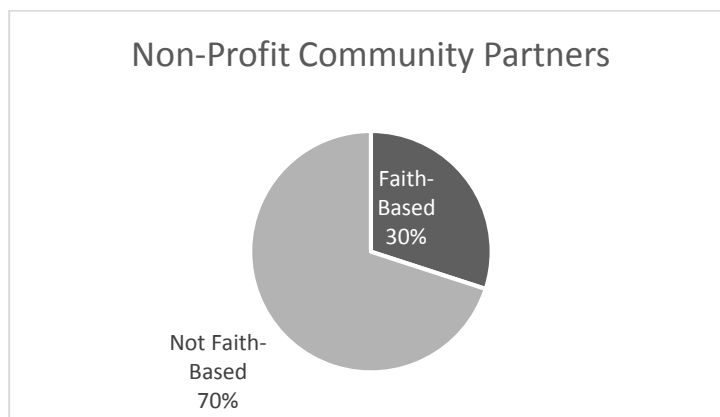
### The Community Partner Program

The Community Partner Program (CPP) is a collaboration between the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and Community Partners (CP), a statewide network of faith- and community-based agencies, government, and other social service organizations. CPs are contracted organizations trained and certified by HHSC to provide assistance applying for and managing benefits with the use of the HHSC online benefits portal, YourTexasBenefits.com. The CPP provides CPs with numerous benefits including ongoing support and personal assistance, certification trainings, and HHS benefits education and technical assistance.

The CPP began in 2012 with 36 pilot sites. The program has grown to include 528 CP organizations with a total of 1,385 sites. The breakdown of the different types of CPs as of November 2017 is provided in the graph below.



The largest percentage of CPs are non-profit made up of faith- and community- based organizations:





Over fiscal year 2017, HHSC focused on strengthening the support and retention of existing CPs while still accepting qualifying new organizations interested in participating in the program. CPs sign a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HHSC that defines the requirements for participation in the CPP. In the 2017 CPP annual survey, CPs reported that over 50 percent of organizations have participated as a CP for three years or more, indicating overall retention strategies are successful.

Through the CPP community organizations are supported by HHSC to serve clients in their own communities and promote self-sufficiency and self-service. By facilitating the application process and supporting clients' case management abilities, the CPP streamlines the eligibility process and strengthens HHSC's relationships with communities across Texas. Some program improvement activities conducted by the CPP for the statewide network of organizations over the course of 2017 are provided below.

### **Improved Community Partner Regional Support Structure**

The CPP supports CPs with staff located in every region across the state. The CPP regional support structure was redesigned and implemented in 2017 to better serve the statewide network. Three regional support teams provide training and technical assistance and ongoing support for existing CPs and conduct stakeholder engagement and recruitment activities in communities. These teams are available by email, phone, and in person to answer any CP questions and to assist in operationalizing the program. Implementation of the redesigned support structure included onboarding a new regional team with 23 staff and training all regional support teams to provide CP support. All programmatic materials and communications were either created or updated to reflect the structure change. The regional support model fundamentally changed CPP's program operations, organizational structure, policies and procedures, training, messaging and communications, and data collection and management.

### **CPP Website and Database Redesign**

In 2017 the CPP designed and implemented a new website to create a more user-friendly and accessible external website with updated content and branding and an integrated data collection and integrity system. The website allows one system to track all programmatic efforts including program interest and recruitment, screening, contract execution and management, regional activities, issue tracking and resolution, and Community Partner training. The website was designed in collaboration with current Community Partners and the resulting website features new pages devoted specifically to providing information and resources to existing Community Partners, potential Community Partners, and to individuals who are potentially eligible for HHS benefits.

## **Community Partner Training**

Community Partners receive certification to provide application assistance through YourTexasBenefits.com. As part of the certification process, they are required to complete and maintain required training. The CPP streamlined and updated web-based and technical assistance trainings to incorporate programmatic and technical updates. CPs now have better and more streamlined training to assist them in their work. CPs expressed an interest in receiving in-person ongoing training in their regions. As a result, the CPP implemented regional forums across the state. These forums provide an opportunity to hear about programmatic updates, best practices, and receive a step-by-step training on using YourTexasBenefits.com. The forums also provide participants the opportunity to network with and learn from other CPs in their areas. Over 500 participants attended the 10 forums and respondents to the satisfaction survey indicated the forums were highly successful. All respondents said they were more likely to utilize YourTexasBenefits.com as a result of attending the forum and 99 percent of respondents indicated the information provided on HHSC, the CPP, and YourTexasBenefits.com was useful to their work.

## **CPP Strategic Communications**

In October 2017, the CPP conducted a statewide survey assessing various aspects of the CPP, including level of satisfaction with support provided. The CPP also implemented strategic communications through newsletters and webinars. The structure of a quarterly newsletter highlighting best practices in application assistance, news on policy and procedure changes, and critical programmatic updates was formalized. Monthly webinar attendance increased by more than 350% and a satisfaction survey conducted after each of the webinars indicated 94 percent of respondents found the webinars useful to their work. A Statewide Community Partner Group (SCPG) was created to gain feedback from established Community Partners regarding the CPP and other HHSC programs. The group receives projects and is asked to comment with ideas on potential improvements based on their experiences as Community Partners. There are 25 Community Partner members who represent the diverse geographic and organizational make-up (governmental, faith-based, non-profit, etc.) of the CPP network.

## **CPP Contracts**

The CPP sought SCPG feedback on the existing MOU which it utilized to improve the document template. Primary changes include simplified language and an extended effective period from two years to four years. This means the MOU is now more accessible to Community Partners and lessens the burden of completing renewal activities as frequently.

## **ONESTAR FOUNDATION**

### **AmeriCorps and VISTA Resources**

[OneStar Foundation](#) (OSF) administers the AmeriCorps\*Texas program for the State of Texas. This \$14 million [portfolio](#) of 25 grantees collectively support almost 3000 AmeriCorps members providing direct service in Texas communities. AmeriCorps members serve with nonprofits, public agencies and faith-based and community organizations to help them tackle social challenges. Organizations are selected to receive a three-year AmeriCorps grant through OneStar's rigorous annual grant competition. Organizations choose from several focus areas including Disaster Services, Education, Economic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. Organizations are required to match the grant funds through both cash and in-kind services. For their term of service AmeriCorps members receive an education award that can be used to repay student loans or to attend a variety of continuing education programs.

OneStar is also an AmeriCorps VISTA intermediary. VISTA is an acronym for Volunteers in Service to America. VISTAs do not provide direct services to individuals; rather, they work to increase the capacity of organizations through activities such as community outreach, establishment of volunteer recruitment and management systems, fundraising, and partnership development. An example of the capacity building work of VISTA is the Texas Workforce Commission's contract with OneStar Foundation for the placement of VISTAs in several nonprofit organizations delivering Adult Literacy services on behalf of the state. These VISTAs will be identifying additional community partners that can provide complementary services to clients; strengthening the business practices of nonprofit service providers; or recruiting volunteers to assist the organization in its mission. OneStar is on track to place approximately 40 VISTA members in service before the end of 2017, including twelve VISTAs which will be placed with Long Term Recovery Groups in response to Hurricane Harvey.

### **Texas Nonprofit Summit Series**

OneStar Foundation has a forty-year legacy of providing resources and leadership training to nonprofits through conferences and convenings. In 2016, OneStar launched the [Texas Nonprofit Summit Series](#) taking training and resources to underserved regions of the state. The inaugural series included Lubbock, Harlingen and El Paso. The 2017 series began in Wichita Falls with the North Texas Nonprofit and Business Summit in early October. The Nonprofit Center of Texoma partnered with OneStar Foundation, local nonprofits, the Chamber, United Way and Midwestern College to demonstrate the importance of engaging the whole community in strengthening civil society. In alignment with her [Texanthropy](#) Initiative, Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott attended a VIP reception with local leaders the evening before and provided opening remarks on the day of the conference.

The East Texas Nonprofit Leadership Conference was held in Lufkin in mid-October. The T.L.L. Temple Foundation, United Way of Angelina County and Angelina College, partnered with OneStar to bring local nonprofit leaders and board members together for a two-day intensive development opportunity.

The Southeast Texas Nonprofit Summit will be held in Beaumont in January. Partners include United Way of Mid and South Jefferson County, T.L.L. Temple Foundation, OneStar Foundation, the Chamber, and Lamar University.

A highlight of each summit is a presentation about the “Austin Gives” program, a model which is being expanded to other regions of the state. The concept links business leaders with nonprofits in the community and encourages employee volunteering and philanthropy in recognition that nonprofits can’t do their best work outside of a whole community approach.

### **2017 Governor’s Volunteer Awards**

In conjunction with the Office of the Governor, OneStar Foundation hosted the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor’s [Volunteer Awards](#) honoring the extraordinary service of individuals and organizations in Texas that have made a difference in their communities through service and volunteering. Honorary Chair, First Lady Cecilia Abbott, and Governor Abbott hosted 115 awardees, sponsors and guests at the Texas Governor’s Mansion in October. Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht provided welcoming remarks using examples of selfless service from legal experts across the country in response to Hurricane Harvey. The audience was inspired and proud to learn of the outpouring of expertise ready to assist survivors.

### **Disaster Response and Recovery**

OneStar is charged by Executive Order to strengthen the capacity of nonprofits across Texas. One of the ways OneStar does this is by serving on the boards of the Central Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), the Texas VOAD and the national VOAD providing consistent administration and expertise to facilitate these critical volunteer-led associations. VOAD members include Salvation Army, Texas Baptist Men, Mennonites, Seventh Day Adventists, Red Cross and many other nonprofits, each of which claims expertise in specific response and recovery activities after disaster. This work has never been more important than following Hurricane Harvey. OneStar staffed the Texas Department of Public Safety State Operations Center (SOC) on behalf of Texas VOAD during Hurricane Harvey response operations. In this role OSF works closely with local/state/national VOAD members and partners, state agencies & commissions, the Office of the Governor, and private sector partners to support coordination of mass care, volunteer management and donations management operations. OSF is currently staffing the FEMA/TDEM Joint Field Office (JFO) on behalf of OneStar and Texas VOAD, working closely with the

Office of the Governor, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC), and the General Land Office (GLO).

OSF's Disaster Services Manager works alongside the TDEM Texas Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) to provide strategic direction to numerous Hurricane Harvey Task Forces, including Volunteer Management, Donations Management, Emotional & Spiritual Care, Repair/Rebuild & Unmet Needs, and Long-Term Recovery. These Task Forces are comprised of FEMA Voluntary Liaisons, AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams, VOAD members & partners. 280 AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team members from across the country have been deployed to relief efforts through a FEMA Mission Assignment. As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, these members had conducted 410 damage assessments, mucked & gutted 109 structures, cleared 6486 cubic yards of debris, removed 128 hazardous trees, served 3144 meals at shelters, registered 1084 volunteers, sorted 88602 pounds of donations.

### **AmeriCorps\*Texas**

As part of OneStar's focus on disaster services, all programs in the AmeriCorps\*Texas portfolio must agree to deploy up to 10% of their members if called upon in times of disaster. AmeriCorps\*Texas members were quick to respond to needs arising from Hurricane Harvey and have proven to be a huge asset to response and recovery efforts. American YouthWorks' Texas Conservation Corps Disaster Response Team immediately deployed to Aransas Pass to set up a Volunteer Reception Center. Soon after, a second team was deployed Cabaniss Field FEMA Responder Camp in Corpus Christi to assisted communities in Nueces, San Patricio, Aransas, and Refugio. City Year San Antonio AmeriCorps members deployed in teams of 10 to assist in the State's Multi-Agency Donations Warehouse in San Antonio. Their team-based approach made short work of organizing huge volumes of donations later shipped out to affected communities.

Sixty AmeriCorps members per day from 20 different AmeriCorps\*Texas programs were activated on September 16<sup>th</sup> to take calls through Crisis Cleanup's Virtual Call Center, a nonprofit that connects property cleanup needs of disaster survivors with disaster relief organizations. In the first weekend of activation these members returned a backlog of over 4,000 calls from disaster survivors. Thereafter, members fielded all Texas calls coming through the Call Center processing approximately 400 calls a day from disaster survivors. Additionally, because we have a large number of Spanish-speaking members, this enabled Crisis Cleanup to open up a Spanish Hotline to better serve Spanish speaking populations in the affected communities.

## **Rebuild Texas Fund**

On September 1, 2017 Governor Abbott announced that “...the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation would be collaborating with the OneStar Foundation to form a relief fund for Hurricane Harvey victims called the Rebuild Texas Fund.” The Dell Foundation contributed \$36 million to the fund, including matching funds to attract additional dollars with a goal of raising \$100 million toward long-term recovery efforts.

State and federal assistance are essential, and the Rebuild Texas Fund team is coordinating with the Governor’s office to ensure that the fund is augmenting, and not displacing state or federal funding. The Rebuild Texas Fund is a separate effort from the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas and the Texas General Land Office’s Texas Rebuilds housing initiative, but the efforts do work in parallel to bring the power of public and private contributions to the long-term rebuilding efforts across Texas.

Funding through the Rebuild Texas Fund will be provided to eligible nonprofit, government, corporate, and philanthropic organizations prioritizing our most vulnerable neighbors in need: children, the elderly, disabled individuals, and low-income families and communities. The fund will focus on health and housing, schools and child care, workforce and transportation, and capital for rebuilding small businesses. October 9<sup>th</sup> the Rebuild Texas Team announced the first round of grant funding to 16 vetted organizations for \$2.15M. The second round of grants is slated for December and will likely focus on helping small businesses get back up and running. The bulk of the remaining funds will be expended over the next three years for unmet needs related to long-term recovery.

## **FEMA Philanthropic Advisor**

For the first time in its history, FEMA has a designated a Philanthropic Advisor specifically to work with OneStar Foundation in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. This liaison is helping to maximize the use of private dollars to address those needs not covered by FEMA, Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, insurance or other public funding sources. By accessing federal subject matter experts, the advisor will work with funders to help ensure, as much as possible, that receipt of private funds does not supplant or displace eligible applicants access to federal reimbursement.

## **Statewide Funder Calls**

In an effort to avoid duplication and preserve scarce philanthropic dollars, the Rebuild Texas Team is leading periodic calls for significant funders supporting recovery and rebuilding across all 40 Harvey impacted counties. Foundations are asked to register for the calls after completing a survey indicating the amount they expect to expend, their focus areas, any geographic restrictions, and special eligibility requirements.

**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:**

**Texas Connector Technology Tool**

In alignment with the ICG's charge to identify gaps in service and duplication of Service, OneStar Foundation's Texas Connector is an online, nonprofit mapping tool that empowers communities, governments, funders and nonprofits to more effectively meet Texas' growing needs. Texas Connector combines an interactive GIS map, searchable database including social service providers and nonprofits from Texas 2-1-1 and GuideStar, USA, socioeconomic and demographic data and population summaries and visual layers such as public schools, public transit and more.

Texas Connector also offers a unique platform on which initiative-specific data, such as health or criminal justice data, can be overlaid to create information-rich maps and reports. Users can print, email, or export search results to identify gaps in service, collaborative partners or complementary services. From researching community resources to analyzing local continua of care, Texas Connector's powerful combination of nonprofit and demographic data gives users insight to better understand regional issues and resources and more effectively tackle community challenges.

OneStar Foundation's Texas Connector is in the third year of a contract providing the Texas Department of Criminal Justice with a customized Quick Report Generator in use by over 2,500 agency staff across the Parole and Reentry Divisions. To date, over 52,500 individualized, location-specific community resource reports for re-entering clients and parolees have been generated, with over 32,500 reports generated in 2017 alone. One custom feature of interest is a 500-foot radius tool that enables TDCJ staff to navigate sex offender clients to mapped community resources while avoiding parks, schools and other child safety zones.

Under contract with the Texas Workforce Commission, OneStar Foundation's Texas Connector has built and launched a customized Quick Report Generator that serves 65 staff and grantee partners of TWC's Adult Education and Literacy Division (AEL). AEL staff and partners are able to search for community resources such as housing and homelessness assistance, disability support services, veterans' services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and more. In 2017, OneStar hosted four orientation trainings and numerous one-on-one demonstrations to agency staff and partners to help them best utilize Texas Connector for their geographic region.

## **V. NEXT STEPS FOR 2018**

ICG members will:

- 1) Keep agency information up-to-date on the OneStar website and continue to add new resources;
- 2) Further develop best practices for cooperation and collaboration between state agencies and FCBO networks;
- 3) Continue to work with agency leadership to reduce barriers for FCBOs and streamline procurement and contracting in alignment with all new directives.

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](mailto: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) [(10)] 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

Department of Agriculture  
Department of Family and Protective Services  
Department of Information Resources  
Department of State Health Services  
Health and Human Services Commission  
Office of Secretary of State  
Office of State-Federal Relations  
Office of the Attorney General  
An Institution of Higher Education  
Office of the Comptroller  
Office of the Governor  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
Texas State Commission on National and Community Service  
(OneStar Foundation)  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
Texas Department of Insurance  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
Texas Veterans Commission  
Texas Workforce Commission

## APPENDIX F



**Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 4, 2017  
Texas Department of State Health Service  
Building 2 – Conference Room 164  
909 W 45th St., Austin, TX 78751-2803  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Catherine Wright-Steele, Department of Agriculture  
Felicia Mason-Edwards, Department of Family and Protective Services  
Carolyn Bivens, Department of State Health Services (*on behalf of Ricky Garcia*)  
Elisa Hendricks, Health and Human Services Commission  
Kay Hart, Health and Human Services Commission  
Jennifer Speller, Office of the Attorney General (*on behalf of Amanda Sanders*)  
Cody Hayes, Office of the Comptroller  
Gabriel Cardenas, Public Utility Commission of Texas  
Ben Taylor, Office of the Governor  
Elizabeth Darling, Texas State Commission on National and Community Service  
Roger Dube, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Anne Marie Callery, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Marvin Dunbar, Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Elizabeth Yevich, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
Kenneth Ming, Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
William Walk, Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
Bradley Barrett, Texas Veteran's Commission  
David Escamilla, Texas Veteran's Commission  
Tammy Holland, Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
Charlie Catoe, Texas Veteran's Commission  
Karen Latta, Texas Workforce Commission

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Sydney S. Hoffman, Philanthropic Advisor to FDRC for Hurricane Harvey

Wayne Rickard, FEMA Federal Disaster Recover Coordinator (FDRC) for Texas  
Jamie Dake, FEMA  
Robert Troy, FEMA  
Dezman Garner, OneStar Foundation  
Damian Morales, OneStar Foundation  
Cindy Milton, OneStar Foundation

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Elizabeth Darling called the meeting to order at 10:05am and welcomed members.

Moderator: Elizabeth Darling

Minutes: Cindy Milton

#### **I. Introductions: Name-Agency-Services Provided-Clients/Constituents**

- a. Liz introduced herself and OneStar staff presented to the group. Member agencies present introduced themselves.

#### **II. Federal Response**

- a. **Wayne Rickard, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator with FEMA** presented to the group a collaborative framework and discussed thoughts on leveraging resources, training applications, coordination and planning, common interests, analyzing needs, and incorporating private sector and philanthropic donations in the most effective way. He explained that Hurricane Harvey is a D1 event (the highest level) and exceeds anything in our history. Hurricane Harvey indicators include: (1) registrations, (2) funds disbursed, (3) eligibility; and (4) median grant awards. There have been about 850,000 registrations (approximately 120,000 of those were identified as ineligible). Actual awarded monies of 862 million have been dispersed. The average median payout is about \$5400. Wayne explained the National Disaster Recovery Framework: (1) the guiding principles, (2) leadership and local primacy, (3) Unity of Effort, Resilience and Sustainability; and (4) Engaged Partnerships and Inclusiveness. An analogy is that the Community is like a patient with preexisting conditions. In this case the patient has experienced either rain, wind, storm surge or potentially all three. How can we get the patient back on their feet and how can we make them stronger? The goal is to build capacity in people to understand their illness (impact of the storm), do more things for themselves and to teach them how to navigate state and philanthropic systems. The end goal is to help these communities become stronger. The Recovery Core Capabilities are: housing (Housing and Urban Development), community planning and capacity building (Federal Emergency Management Agency), infrastructure systems (US Army Corps of Engineers), economic recovery (Commerce – Economic Development Administration), health and social services (Health and Human Services, and natural and cultural resources (Department of the Interior). This historical housing innovation plan in Texas will be locally led, state supported, and federally funded. Additional opportunities for innovation are related to: (1) mitigation (resilience and sustainability, locally driven process, and whole community engagement to buy down risk); and (2) philanthropy (significant element for recovery, agility of funds can address gaps and unmet needs, and OneStar Foundation). OneStar is helping to

ensure that philanthropic dollars are reserved for the needs federal funds can't address.

**III. ICG Agency Updates on Disaster Response**

a. **Damian Morales/OneStar Foundation:** Damian presented an overview of the areas most affected by Hurricane Harvey. Lots of rural communities have been affected as well as the larger Houston area. In some of the affected communities over 50% of the population has registered for federal assistance. Cash is need most so materials can be purchased for recovery. Mucking and gutting of homes right away is critical so they can be rebuilt before mold damages them beyond repair. There are currently 31 Volunteer Reception Centers (VRCs) throughout the state. Over 77,000 volunteers have registered logging over 1 million volunteer hours equaling 45 million dollars in value. There are 120 donation centers open throughout the state. There are currently 15 long-term recovery groups (LTRG) situated throughout the state with more forming weekly to address unmet needs. The National Service Response to Hurricane Harvey includes AmeriCorps (supporting donations warehouse operations in San Antonio, and supporting crisis clean-up) and Senior Corps deployments as well as AmeriCorps members (some corps from out of state) working under FEMA Mission Assignments. OneStar manages the VolunteerTX.org site for volunteer and donations management and long-term recovery.

Total Registrations	Inspections Issued	Inspections Completed	Avg. Housing Award
852,744	512,019	65.54%	\$6,596.33
Avg. ONA Award	Total FVL Amount	Unmet Needs Amount	
\$844.91	\$1,676,173,312.30	\$788,493,029.16	

b. **Kay Hart/HHSC:** Kay spoke about Disaster SNAP Program benefits, which are available to people who are not currently enrolled but have been affected by disaster. D-SNAP is meant to be a short term, temporary program. HHSC has also released additional food stamps to replace loss of food supplies due to loss of electricity. They are currently in the process of rolling out to 39 counties. Twenty-eight counties have been fully served. D-SNAP is currently active in eight counties and they have three more counties to roll out to soon.

c. **Elisa Hendricks/HHSC:** Elisa spoke about the HHSC Community Access Program which leverages community and faith-based organizations and other social services to connect individuals to benefits and services. Through the 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN) and other programs, they provide information about local, state, and national resources. She explained that the 2-1-1 network was initially overburdened fielding calls from individuals in need of assistance as a result of Hurricane Harvey and the aftermath. Several 2-1-1 lines were available to assist with evacuations, community resources, and general disaster-related calls. To better handle the volume and types of incoming calls, an

additional line supported by the HHSC Maximus vendor was set up to help callers inquiring about food assistance. HHSC also partnered with out-of-state call centers in CT, MD, and CA to manage the call load. Twenty-five area information centers (AIC's) make up 2-1-1 TIRN in Texas, with approximately 120 staff across the network. Large and small AIC's experienced some downtime during Harvey, including Houston which has the largest number of agents. The San Antonio and other AIC's also experienced some downtime immediately following Harvey's landfall. To date, over 400,000 calls have been presented to 2-1-1 TIRN.

- d. **William Walk/TJJD:** The Texas Juvenile Justice Department has a parole office in Houston that was closed for a while due to the hurricane and they also suffered some damage to a facility in Giddings. TJJD tapped several half-way houses in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area to support evacuation centers, fill sand bags, and collect donations, supplies and help individuals in need.
- e. **Roger Dube & Anne Marie Callery /TCEQ:** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality deployed their critical infrastructure team to the affected areas, and has a team in place ready to answer questions about the environment. TCEQ staff are reaching out to water and waste water systems to check status and determine what is needed to get them back up and running. Critical infrastructure teams were deployed to the affected areas supplying bottled water and working with communities to assist with debris management and ensure that debris is disposed of properly. At least 5 water systems were destroyed. They've also been reaching out to different types of water systems private or investor owned utilities and petroleum storage facilities such as those at convenience stores. Of the 8,000 petroleum storage facilities about 1,500 were damaged and approximately 2,500 water systems were impacted.
- f. **Gabe Cardenas/PUC:** The Public Utility Commission deals with water, electricity and telephone. PUC does not have any regional offices. In regard to storm recovery after Hurricane Harvey, about 220,000 outages were restored within two weeks in the Corpus Christi region, and more than 1 million outages in Houston were restored. South of Houston about 80,000 outages were restored, and the Beaumont area had 186,000 outages with resulting restorations. Utility companies have also been working with utility resources from other states. Officials have been working on a deferred payment plan for customers' utility payments. PUC and TCEQ identified ways to partner on their respective agency's responses to those affected by Harvey.
- g. **Felicia Mason-Edwards/DFPS:** The Department of Family and Protective Services is working 24/7 making sure that kids and families are safe. Many were forced to move to find safety. Over 100 DFPS staff homes were damaged or destroyed. Employees raised over 27K to help staff meet their own needs. Many faith-based partners have helped tremendously with food and other items that are needed for the children in care as well as affected staff. Staff has even been delivering goods and services and mucking and gutting homes because the need has been so great.

DFPS is in need of car seats and infant beds. They continue to make sure that kids are in a safe place and are bracing for a surge of calls in regards to abuse and neglect which is typical after a disaster. Jamie Dake of FEMA suggested DFPS check into a FEMA program they offer for some assistance.

- h. **Cody Hays/Office of the Comptroller:** The Comptroller's office serves on the State Emergency Management Team, and is a first responder and a purchasing agent for the state. They activated contingency contracts in coordination with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). These contracts were for 650 motor coach buses. They dispatch, coordinate and refuel these vehicles (they also have mobile refueling capability). 18-wheelers assist in hauling commodities across the state including lease of portable lights, portable restrooms, shower trailers, bus pumping services, traffic cones, bug spray, traffic barriers, dumpsters, pillows, blankets, sand bag operations and more. They coordinate with over 40 agencies and are the "purchaser" for the state during catastrophic events. Most items are rented so post-disaster, they retrieve the rented items.
- i. **Carolyn Bivens/DSHS:** The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) coordinates medical and public health response during emergencies, working with local health agencies and city/county governments. Activities included supporting medical personnel and assets for shelters and evacuations; mobilizing medical units (over 1,800 treated); transferring patients to medical facilities; ensuring the safety of medical devices, drugs, and food; providing vaccines to responders; and activating aerial and ground spraying to control mosquito populations (over 7 million acres treated). Additionally, DSHS worked with the Governor's Office to obtain waivers for certain rules and statutes to facilitate recovery efforts. These included waiving fees for birth certificates for individuals from affected areas, waiving fees and rules for volunteers from other states who have come to Texas to aid in mold remediation, and waiving immunization requirements for displaced students. DSHS disseminates public health information and news releases and provides public health surveillance.
- j. **Karen Latta/TWC:** The Texas Workforce Commission reported that unemployment insurance claims rose due to significant job loss because of the disaster. As a result, the Department of Labor granted TWC authority to provide Disaster Unemployment Assistance – similar to regular unemployment benefits but designed for people who may not be eligible. 150,000 claims for disaster-related unemployment assistance have been filed. TWC has also received a National Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant from the Department of Labor to subsidize wages and training for temporary clean-up workers. TWC has distributed \$16.5 million from this grant to seven local workforce development boards in the disaster area. At the direction of the Governor's Office, TWC is working with its Tri-Agency Partners at the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a workforce training plan to address the needs of the construction industry and other industries that will help in the rebuilding effort. TWC is currently putting out information to job seekers and employers about

Harvey-related jobs and information about vocational rehabilitation services for people with disabilities who have been affected by the disaster.

- k. **David Escamilla and Bradley Barrett/TVC:** The Texas Veteran's Commission has been working with the U.S. VA to help veterans with their health care, prescriptions and are connecting veterans with the resources available to them. The Veteran's Commission awards grants and administers and manages those for nonprofits organizations or local governments that help veterans. Grants were awarded in July to help with general assistance, counseling, mental health services and other needs. Some of their programs are income-based and some are not.
- l. **Jamie Duke/FEMA:** As of the time of this meeting, there were 51 FEMA centers open.
- m. **Marvin Dunbar/TDCJ:** The Texas Department of Criminal Justice provides oversight of numerous facilities across the state to include prison facilities, contracted halfway houses and transitional treatment centers. Thousands of clients at five prison facilities, half-way houses and transitional treatment centers located in affected areas had to be evacuated. The clients were relocated to TDCJ facilities outside of the affected areas. Staff at the TDCJ command center worked around the clock to ensure evacuees' needs were continuously met. In addition, the command center ensured facilities accommodating evacuated offenders had adequate resources to support their increased population. The agency provided a 24-hour hotline for offender's family members and loved ones. Many agency employees provided support for numerous staff and their families affected by the hurricane by providing them with various essential items.
- n. **Jennifer Speller/OAG:** The Office of the Attorney General heavily enforced the Price Gouging Law to ensure consumer protection, which is always a pressing issue after a disaster. The OAG created an e-mail specifically for Hurricane Harvey complaints and implemented extended hours for dedicated employees of the Consumer Protection division (CPD) and Constituent Affairs division to take the thousands of call and online complaints concerning price gouging and scams. The OAG received over 5000 complaints of price gouging and used media platforms to inform the public of the law and curb further fraudulent business activities as well. The attorney general's CPD sent 127 notices of violations and filed five law suits ordering defendants to pay civil penalties and restitution. The penalty for price gouging is up to \$20K per violation and an additional \$250K if an elderly person over the age of 65 is affected. A Hurricane Harvey page was created on the attorney general's website to provide information on disaster relief. Representatives of the office also visited disaster areas and attended town hall meetings to educate the public on how the OAG can protect them.
- o. **Elizabeth Yevich/Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs:** HUD money for disaster housing will be going to the General Land Office and the de-obligated funds will be used for TDHCA's Home program for tenant-based rental

assistance. This information can be found on the TDHCA website and offers an extra 60 months of help with housing. The Agency is using discretionary funding for things like food, housing, and clothing. They serve a series of sub-recipients throughout the state, they don't serve individuals.

- p. **Catherine Wright-Steel/Department of Agriculture:** The TDA administers a several food programs that supply food in the wake of a disaster. TDA serves on the SOC at the mass care feeding table to distribute USDA commodities via organizations responding to disaster. TDA administered the Disaster Household Distribution program that provides food boxes to people in the period after disaster until HHSC establishes DSNAP. They are responsible for USDA food commodities throughout the state (schools, shelters, daycare centers), TDA assists schools and organizations operating as shelters to serve meals via the federal nutrition programs. They also request waivers from USDA to reduce the administrative burden for the nutrition programs when there is a disaster. TDA also administers federal funds to rural communities for infrastructure needs and hosts a small grant program to help agriculture producers recover from disaster.
  
- q. **Ben Taylor/Office of the Governor:** The goal of OOG is to find out the full scope of resources that are available to folks and then sequence them in a timeline where they can be most accessible. It is important to have a full sense of need and the resources to meet those needs. Remaining needs might be a consideration for the rainy day fund. The plan is for federal and state agencies to work hand in hand along with the private sector, and nonprofit organizations using federal funds first then looking to state and private funding. The state received the first payment of federal aid coming through to the General Land Office. OOG wants to be sure that they are in touch with people on the ground and that the state is responding to local officials who know what their communities need (i.e. county judges). They are trouble-shooting as issues arise and working with OneStar's disaster manager who is the lead on working with the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs). The Governor wanted to start a philanthropic fund for long-term recovery. The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation seeded the Rebuild Texas Fund with \$36 million and it now tops \$70 million with a goal of \$100 million. The first round of grants will be small grants, getting kids back in school, or health-related. OneStar Foundation is administering the fund. The Commission to Rebuild Texas was also established by the Governor who appointed John Sharp to lead the commission. The commission is dedicated to addressing public infrastructure issues. The Texas A&M Agriculture Extension Program is providing help in this process. The Governor is suspending numerous regulations to speed recovery efforts.

#### IV. Discussion on December 1<sup>st</sup> Reporting Requirement

- V. Adjourn: There being no further business before the board, Elizabeth Darling adjourned the open meeting at 11:55am.



## **APPENDIX G**

Interagency Coordinating Group  
Subcommittee: Improving Contracting Relationships  
Proposed RFP Template for Client Services Procurements\*  
March 2012 \*

Client Services Procurement is defined as the purchase of goods or services that benefit the clients or recipients of a State agency.

### **Section I: General**

Scope

Terms and Conditions

Compensation

Schedule of Events

Agency Point of Contact

Definitions

(Additional components may be added as needed)

### **Section II: Statement of Work**

Service Requirements

Subcontractors

Performance Tracking

(Additional components may be added as needed)

### **Section III: Proposal Information**

Revision to Schedule

Pre-Proposal Conference

Proposal Requirements

Inquiries

Proposal Submission

Delivery of Proposals

Proposal Opening

Proposal Evaluation and Award

(Additional components may be added as needed)

### **Section IV: Historically Underutilized Business Participation**

### **Section V: Contract Information Section**

### **Section VI: Attachments**