

VII. GUIDE TO AGENCY PROGRAMS – CONTINUED

A. Provide the following information at the beginning of each program description.

Name of Program or Function	Interagency Task Force for Children with Special Needs
Location/Division	1106 Clayton Lane, Austin, Texas/HPCS
Contact Name	Sherry Broberg, Acting Director
Actual Expenditures, FY 2012	Funding is included in OPCCY Expenditures
Number of Actual FTEs as of June 1, 2013	Staffing is included in OPCCY FTEs
Statutory Citation for Program	Senate Bill 1824, 81 st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009

B. What is the objective of this program or function? Describe the major activities performed under this program.

The Legislature established the Task Force for Children with Special Needs (Task Force) for the purpose of improving the coordination, quality and efficiency of services for children with special needs. The task force is charged with developing a comprehensive five-year strategic plan to address the needs of children with chronic illnesses, intellectual or other developmental disabilities or serious mental illness. Specifically, the Legislature charged the Task Force with the following duties.

- Coordinate with federal agencies to compile a list of opportunities to increase flexible funding for services for children with special needs, including alternative funding sources and service delivery options.
- Conduct a review of state agency policies and procedures related to service delivery for children with special needs.
- Perform a needs assessment, including public hearings to identify service delivery gaps, system entry points, and service obstacles.
- Develop a five-year plan to improve the coordination, quality, and efficiency of services for children with special needs.

Although the Task Force does not receive a direct appropriation and HHSC supports its activities through the Office of Program Coordination for Children and Youth under the Health Policy and Clinical Services division, the Task Force does have a separate Sunset date. As such, HHSC provided additional details related to the Task Force’s creation, organization, and functions.

C. What evidence can you provide that shows the effectiveness and efficiency of this program or function? Provide a summary of key statistics and performance measures that best convey the effectiveness and efficiency of this function or program.

Starting September 2009 through January 2011, the Task Force formed eight subcommittees that were assigned specific topics to deliver recommendations that served the basis for the Task Force Five Year Plan. The subcommittees were chaired by Task Force members and included 122 family and stakeholder members. Public hearings plus testimony from families and stakeholders guided the Task Force to produce a stakeholder survey and develop the final recommendations for a Five-Year Plan to improve the delivery and quality of services for children with special needs.

The Task Force identified in the Five-Year Plan as its highest priority, the ‘Empowered and Informed Families’ recommendation to address stakeholders’ and families’ frustration over not being able to find accurate, up to date, easily accessible and easy to find relevant information and resources. To address this priority, in June 2012, with Task Force guidance, state agencies found funds to complete a statewide formative assessment that involved parents, professionals, state staff and other stakeholders, to evaluate the need, structure and design of a potential web site to address the stakeholder needs.

In response to the assessment report findings, the Task Force began work to find funding for, develop, and implement the website as its top priority. State agency staff coordinated efforts to procure funding and initiate the web site project. This project will provide a well branded, independent website that will be the single portal for families of children, youth and young adults with special needs to access information and resources. It will bring together state, private and community resource and support information. The vision is to provide efficient, relevant and dynamic information that can be used by families, professional, agency staff and 211. Families who have access to clear, accessible information are better able to make informed decisions, secure early appropriate treatment and services and thereby potentially mitigate the intensity of long term state services. If accurate information is available that assists families in making good choices it may result in less pressure on the state system.

The second priority elected by the Task Force to implement from the Five Year Plan, is to address Crisis Prevention and Intervention. This project to develop a plan, began in November 2012 with a subcommittee comprised of cross agency staff from each of the Task Force agencies, Task Force members, parents, a state wide parent organization, Family Based Alternative representatives and a faith-based organization. The subcommittee is charged with creating a set of specific project recommendations for implementation across agencies. An interim report is due by August 31, 2013 with a final report by December 31, 2013.

D. Describe any important history regarding this program not included in the general agency history section, including how the services or functions have changed from the original intent.

The Interagency Task Force for Children with Special Needs began operations in September 2009 and its Five Year Plan was published in October of 2011. The report can be found at: www.hhsc.state.tx.us/about_hhsc/AdvisoryCommittees/TaskForce.shtml

E. Describe who or what this program or function affects. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected. Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.

The Task Force affects children younger than 22 years of age diagnosed with a chronic illness, intellectual or other developmental disability, or serious mental illness and is designed to improve the coordination, quality, and efficiency of services for children with such special needs.

F. Describe how your program or function is administered. Include flowcharts, timelines, or other illustrations as necessary to describe agency policies and procedures. Indicate how field/regional services are used, if applicable.

Organizationally, the Task Force is managed by the Office for Program Coordination for Children and Youth (OPCCY) Director who reports to Deputy Commissioner for Health Policy and Clinical Services. Overseen by the Governor's Office, the Task Force includes representation from the 10 agencies that work on behalf of the special needs population, four legislators, and three parents or consumer advocates and a representative from a local mental health or mental retardation authority, also known as Community Mental Health Centers that provide services to a specific geographic area of the state, called the local service area. A complete list of the Task Force members is provided below in section N.

A staff member from OPCCY supports the Task Force. The OPCCY Director is appointed by legislation as the Task Force interagency coordinator. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis, more often as necessary, to seek public input. Status updates are provided biennially to the Governor's office and the Legislature. Timelines were established and developed for the initial work to produce the Five Year Plan. Subsequent project work is being guided by the timelines.

The Task Force's top priority, the website, is in the development stage with an early 2015 completion anticipated. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is funding the project with federal Balancing Incentive Payment monies.

The second priority is implementation of a Crisis Prevention and Intervention plan and this work is being done concurrently with the web project development. A subcommittee has been working to research and produce recommendations to the Task Force by December 2013.

G. Identify all funding sources and amounts for the program or function, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. For state funding sources, please specify (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, fees/dues).

Expenditures related to the Task Force are absorbed by the Office of Program Coordination for Children and Youth budget.

H. Identify any programs, internal or external to your agency, that provide identical or similar services or functions to the target population. Describe the similarities and differences.

The Task Force is the only interagency organization that brings together all child serving agencies, legislators, stakeholders and families to focus on this population and their needs. The Task Force is charged with not only identifying improvements to the system on a cross agency level, but also implementing them.

I. Discuss how the program or function is coordinating its activities to avoid duplication or conflict with the other programs listed in Question H and with the agency's customers. If applicable, briefly discuss any memorandums of understanding (MOUs), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts.

The Task Force interacts with many other councils and organizations to enhance and leverage its work. The HHSC family member representative is also a member of the Children's Policy Council. The two groups, the Council and the Task Force, coordinate and support each other's work through standing agenda reports, coordination of legislative recommendations and technical assistance. A similar coordination exists with the Council on Children and Families. The Task Force web and crisis intervention plan projects involve staff from all agencies, external stakeholders, consumers and other agencies. Projects are designed in some cases to leverage and coordinate work, for example, a Texas Education Agency grant to develop information for families of young children requires coordination with the Task Force website project team.

J. If the program or function works with local, regional, or federal units of government, include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.

The OPCCY staff are coordinating with the HHSC Information Technology (IT) division the website project. Since the building of the website is considered a major IT project, the HHSC IT Quality Assurance Team is following procedures required by the Department of Information Resources to ensure adherence to quality and project management compliance standards. The website is federally funds under the Affordable Care Act, therefore, OPCCY staff are also coordinating with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid regional office.

- K. If contracted expenditures are made through this program please provide:**
- a short summary of the general purpose of those contracts overall;
 - the amount of those expenditures in fiscal year 2012;
 - the number of contracts accounting for those expenditures;
 - top five contracts by dollar amount, including contractor and purpose;
 - the methods used to ensure accountability for funding and performance; and
 - a short description of any current contracting problems.

Suma-Orchard Vendor: June - October 2012 – The Task Force directed the state agency to contract services for a Formative Assessment to evaluate the scope of need and relevance for a website for children with special needs, identify the structure necessary to meet the needs of the population and to identify the types of tools and relevant information. Participants included parents, professionals, state agency leadership and external stakeholders.

Expenditures for FY 2012: **\$100,000**

Ensuring Accountability for Funding and Performance:

The deliverable report contained detailed information of the focus group findings that resulted in 17 recommendations, a national listing of resource websites, an inventory and recommendation of/for tools, website technical specifications and cost projections. The contractor provided HHSC with all documentation for the focus groups preparation and delivery, frequent and extensive communication, and a final comprehensive report.

Current Contracting Problems: None

- L. Provide information on any grants awarded by the program.**

N/A

- M. What statutory changes could be made to assist this program in performing its functions? Explain.**

The Task Force is an unfunded mandate. OPCCY has been successful in securing funding for the website and project management for the Crisis Prevention subcommittee. Going forward, a

reliable funding source is necessary to continue the level of success the Task Force has achieved. Additionally, the membership of the Task Force should be re-evaluated in light of the scope of the work for the special needs population. It is recommended that leadership representation from DSHS children's Mental Health and the Texas Work Force Commission be included.

N. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the program or function.

Below is a listing of the Task Force for Children with Special Needs membership.

AGENCY MEMBERS	
<p>Kay Ghahremani, State Medicaid Director HHSC – Medicaid/CHIP Division 4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Mail Code H600 Austin, TX 78751 (512) 491-1339 kay.ghahremani@hhsc.state.tx.us</p>	<p>Evelyn Delgado, Assistant Commissioner DSHS – Family and Community Health Services Division 1100 W 49th Street, M362 – Mail Code 1920 Austin, TX 78756 (512) 458-7321 Evelyn.Delgado@dshs.state.tx.us</p>
<p>Kim Wedel, Assistant Commissioner DARS – Early Childhood Intervention Services 4900 North Lamar Blvd., MC3029 Austin, TX 78751 (512) 424-6751 kim.wedel@dars.state.tx.us</p>	<p>Jennifer Sims, Deputy Director DFPS 701 W. 51st Street, MC: E-654 Austin, TX 78751 (512) 438-4814 jennifer.sims@dfps.state.tx.us</p>
<p>Tracy Levins, Director of Collaborative Initiatives Texas Juvenile Justice Department 11209 Metric Boulevard Austin, TX 78758 (512) 490-7130 Tracy.levins@tjjd.texas.gov</p>	<p>Barbara J. Madrigal, Assistant Commissioner DARS – Division for Blind Services 4800 North Lamar, MC 1418 Austin, TX 78756 (512) 377-0602 Barbara.Madrigal@dars.state.tx.us</p>
<p>Chris Adams, Director DADS – Center for Policy & Innovation 701 W. 51st Street, MC W619 Austin, TX 78751 (512) 438-3518 Chris.adams@dads.state.tx.us</p>	<p>B.J. Wagner, Assistant Commissioner Texas Department of Criminal Justice Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments 8610 Shoal Creek Blvd. Austin, TX 78757 (512) 465-5165 benniejo.wagner@tdcj.state.tx.us</p>

<p>Cindy Swain, Ph.D., Manager of Special Education Support Services Division of Federal and State Education Policy Texas Education Agency 1701 N. Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-9414 cindy.swain@tea.state.tx.us</p>	<p>Linda Brooke, Director External Affairs, Policy & Education Services Texas Juvenile Justice Department 11209 Metric Boulevard Austin, TX 78758 (512) 490-7130 linda.brooke@tjjd.texas.gov</p>
PUBLIC and LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS	
<p>The Honorable Jane Nelson, <i>State Senator</i> State Capitol, Room 1E.5 Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-0112 – Austin Office (817) 424-3446 – District Office</p> <p>Staff Contact Stephanie Blackburn Senate Committee on Health and Human Services 201 E. 14th Street, Room 420 Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-0360 stephanie.blackburn@senate.state.tx.us</p>	<p>The Honorable Eddie Lucio, Jr., <i>State Senator</i> State Capitol, Room 3E.18 Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-0127 – Austin Office (956) 548-0227 – District Office</p> <p>Staff Contact Sara Gonzalez Texas State Senate P.O. Box 12068 Austin, TX 78711 (512) 463-0127 Sara.gonzalez@senate.state.tx.us</p>
<p>The Honorable Eddie Lucio, III, <i>State Representative</i> State Capitol Extension, Room E1.318 Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-0606 – Austin Office (956) 361-2795 – District Office</p> <p>Staff Contact: Houston Tower State Capitol Extension, Room E2.802 Austin, TX 78768 (512) 463-060</p>	<p>The Honorable John Davis, <i>State Representative</i> State Capitol, Room 4S.4 Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-0734 – Austin Office (281) 333-1350 – Houston Office</p> <p>Staff Contact: Rachel Deason State Capitol, Room 4S.4 Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-0734</p>
<p>Terry Crocker, Chief Executive Officer Tropical Texas Behavioral Health 1901 S. 24th Edinburg, TX 78549 (956) 289-7260 tcrocker@TTBH.org</p> <p>MHA representative appointed by Governor</p>	<p>Tammy Toll, Public Member 3913 Martingale Dr Plano, TX 75023 (214) 289-1942 tammytoll@tx.rr.com</p> <p>Public member appointed by TYC</p>

<p>Donna McCamant, Public Member 3803 Rockledge Drive Austin, TX 78731 (512) 794-8024 dmccamant@austin.rr.com</p> <p>Public member appointed by TEA</p>	<p>John Cissik, Public Member 3600 Cherry Blossom Lane McKinney, TX 75070 940/898-2901 jcissik@yahoo.com</p> <p>Public member appointed by HHSC</p>
PROJECT COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP	
<p>Vacant, Policy Analyst Office of the Governor P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711 (512) 463-1778</p> <p>Governor’s designee</p>	<p>Sherry Broberg Office of Program Coordination for Children & Youth <i>Interim Director</i> and Task Force for Children with Special Needs <i>Director</i> HHSC 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 225E Austin, TX 78723 (512) 420-2852 Terry.Beattie@hhsc.state.tx.us</p>
HHSC PROJECT STAFF	
<p>Ina Savage Texas Health and Human Services Commission P.O. Box 13247, MC 1214 Austin, TX 78711 (512) 420-2857 Ina.Savage@hhsc.state.tx.us</p>	

- O. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, or other entity. For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:**
- why the regulation is needed;
 - the scope of, and procedures for, inspections or audits of regulated entities;
 - follow-up activities conducted when non-compliance is identified;
 - sanctions available to the agency to ensure compliance; and
 - procedures for handling consumer/public complaints against regulated entities.

N/A

- P. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide the following complaint information. The chart headings may be changed if needed to better reflect your agency’s practices.**

N/A