

committed to
HEALTH
2010





Houston Department of Health and Human Services 2010 Information Guide

Houston Department
of Health and Human Services
8000 North Stadium Drive
Houston TX, 77054

Stephen L. Williams, M. Ed., MPA
Director

www.houstonhealth.org

Edited by:
Kathy Barton, Public Information Officer

Compiled by:
Faith Williams, Assistant Director

Designed by:
Benjamin Hernandez, Senior Staff Analyst

Table of Contents



Department Information

- 4/ MISSION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
- 5/ 2010 IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**
- 6/ DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION**
- 7/ HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY**

- 8/ PROTECT THE COMMUNITY FROM COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**
- 10/ OPTIMIZE THE HEALTH OF MOTHERS, INFANTS, & CHILDREN**
- 12/ PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**
- 14/ WELL-BEING THROUGH HUMAN SERVICES**
- 16/ PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY WITH INFORMATION**
- 17/ PREPARE FOR A HEALTH DISASTER**
- 18/ REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CHRONIC DISEASE**



Health Priority Areas



Supporting Information

- 19/ OUR COMMITMENT TO PREVENTION**
- 20/ HEALTH & MULTI-SERVICE CENTERS**
- 21/ OUR WIC CENTERS**
- 22/ OUR FUNDING EXPLAINED**
- 23/ OUR DIVERSITY EXPLAINED**
- 24/ EXECUTIVE STAFF BIOGRAPHIES**

mission and description of the **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

mission

**TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY
TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH AND
SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF HOUSTONIANS**

overview

The Houston Department of Health and Human Services has engaged in a mission to promote and protect the health and social well-being of Houstonians. The fulfillment of this mission has led the department to remarkable achievements over the last few years.

We continue to provide traditional services and at the same time seek to use innovative methods to meet the community's present and future needs. An example of our grass roots effort to document the community's needs is the Assessment, Intervention and Mobilization (AIM) project. Through AIM, we go door-to-door in the Mayor's Hope neighborhoods performing assessments, linking residents to services and providing immediate follow-up.

We've partnered with nonprofit, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and hospital district primary care clinics to enhance access to services for residents and improve the city's health profile. Other efforts include our innovative HIV testing program for the community called "Hip-Hop for HIV".

To at-risk youth in Houston high schools we offer "wraparound services." Together, these services build a better, healthier cadre of youth and ensure a better future for at-risk children, schools and the community at large.

It is our desire that this document will help communicate our department's recent achievements, plans for the future and its progressive agenda going forward.

2010 IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

1st Quarter 2010

H1N1 Influenza:

» H1N1 vaccine arrived in late October for high risk members of the community. We anticipate that immunization programs will continue into February due to the late and limited supply of vaccine. Thus far the H1N1 virus has defied conventional wisdom of influenza: youth and young adults were disproportionately affected with a spring outbreak and continued summer time transmission. National and international health authorities monitor the pandemic for signs of genetic shift which could signal an increase in disease severity or lethality.

Environmental Health:

» The incumbent Assistant Director will be leaving this position December 31, 2009.

» The current fees do not cover the cost of administration; most have not been raised in years. We are studying the feasibility of asking City Council to consider adjusting inspection fees for Consumer Health, swimming pool permits, ambulance permits and concrete crusher permits.

Focused Care:

» Two grants from Harris County Housing and Neighborhood Centers for case management services for people displaced by Katrina/Rita and Ike will expire 2/28/10. There are 963 people receiving services from the program. The 32 employees have been notified of the end of the program. Where possible, the employees will be reassigned within the department. There is some discussion that the Ike portion may be continued.

Information Technology:

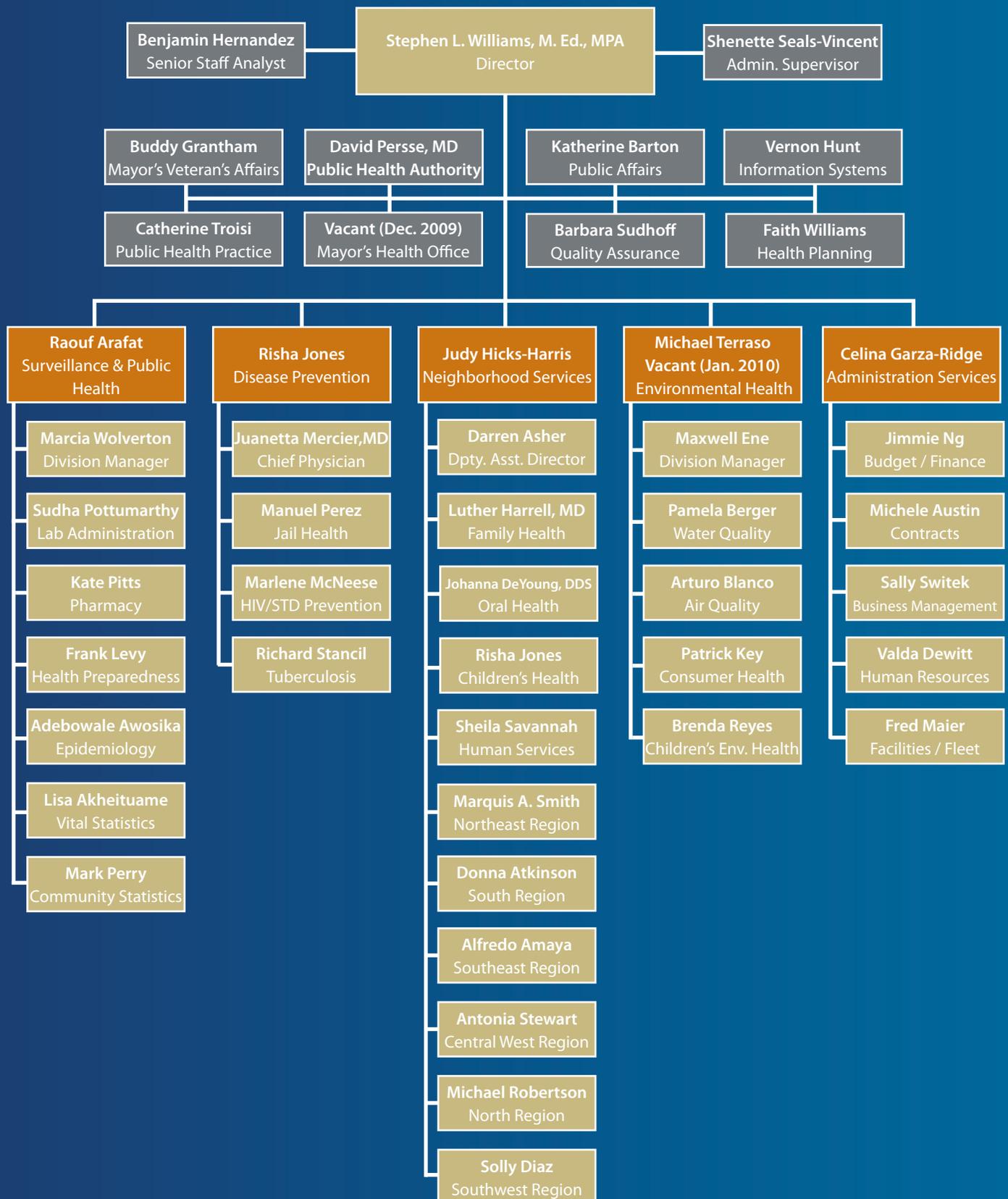
» The Health Department utilizes Y2K era IT platforms. We hope to expedite an Enterprise Resource Planning project for our IT needs currently scheduled for FY2011. We are seeking a federal stimulus grant of approximately \$10 million to fund a new electronic medical records system and a system to manage environmental licensing and inspections. More information on the grant should be available in March of 2010.

2nd Quarter 2010

Laboratory:

» Our laboratory is the regional reference laboratory serving 17 counties and is critical in the detection of disease outbreaks, bioterrorism and communicable disease surveillance. The existing laboratory is 35 years old and has significant structural, electrical and HVAC deficiencies cited in previous CLIA certification inspections. The current administration has agreed to purchase a \$6 million laboratory facility located at 2250 Holcombe. Gilbane Construction estimates that facility retrofitting and move in will cost \$10 million. Estimates for new laboratory construction were over \$30 million.

department ORGANIZATION



health department **DIRECTORY**

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Director
Administrative Supervisor, Scheduler
Senior Staff Analyst
Mayor's Office of Veteran's Affairs
Office of Public Health Practice
Public Health Authority
Mayor's Office Health and Environmental Policy
Public Affairs/Council Liaison
Quality Assurance and Auditing

Williams, Stephen (713)798-0848
Seals-Vincent, Shenette..... (713)798-0841
Hernandez, Benjamin..... (713)791-6872
Grantham, Buddy..... (832)393-0992
Troisi, Catherine..... (713)794-9927
Persse, David (713)495-4231
Vacant (Dec. 2009) (832)393-1081
Barton, Kathy (713)794-9998
Sudhoff, Barbara..... (713)794-9074

Information Systems Division

Assistant Director

Hunt, Vernon (713)794-9955

Health Planning and Promotion

Assistant Director
Health Education and Promotion
Employee Wellness Promotions

Williams, Faith (713)794-9286
Cano, Patsy (713)794-9907
Hare, Nicole..... (713)794-9388

Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness

Assistant Director
Division Manager
Laboratory, 1115 S. Braeswood
Pharmacy, 1115 S. Braeswood
Public Health Preparedness
Epidemiology
Vital Statistics
Community Statistics

Arafat, Raouf..... (713)794-9185
Wolverton, Marcia (713)794-7757
Puttumarthy, Sudha (713)558-3400
Pitts, Kate (713)558-3550
Levy, Frank..... (713)794-9915
Olumo-Awosika, Adebowale (713)794-9187
Akheituame, Lisa..... (713)794-9073
Perry, Mark (713)794-9449

Disease Prevention and Control Division

Assistant Director
Chief Physician
Jail Health
HIV/STD Prevention
Tuberculosis Control
Immunizations

Jones, Risha (713)794-9269
Mercier, Juanetta..... (713)558-9649
Perez, Manuel..... (713)791-6982
McNeese-Ward, Marlene..... (713)794-9307
Stancil, Richard (713)794-3183
Robinson, Decrecia (713)794-9474

Administration Services Division

Assistant Director
Budget / Finance
Contracts
Business Management
Human Resources
Facilities / Fleet Management

Garza-Ridge, Celina (713)794-9968
Ng, Jimmie (713)794-2990
Austin, Michele (713)794-9980
Switek, Sally (713)794-9137
DeWitt, Valda..... (713)794-9140
Maier, Fred (713)794-9292

Environmental Health Services Division

Assistant Director
Division Manager
Water Quality
Air Quality Control
Consumer Health Services
Community and Children's Environmental Health

Terraso, Michael (Vacant Jan. 2010). (832)393-5601
Ene, Maxwell..... (832)393-5602
Berger, Pamela (832)393-5709
Blanco, Arturo (832)393-5619
Key, Patrick (713)794-9206
Reyes, Brenda (713)794-9452

Neighborhood Services Division

Assistant Director
Deputy Assistant Director
Family Health Services
Oral Health Services
Children's Health Services
Human Services

Harris, Judy..... (713)794-9009
Asher, Darren..... (713)794-9355
Harrell, Luther (713)794-9004
DeYoung, Johanna (713)794-9363
Jones, Risha..... (713)794-9269
Savannah, Sheila (713)794-9293

protect the community from **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Since the first public health department was established, control of disease spread from person to person has been of primary importance. Every day Houstonians face health risks from long-standing diseases such as tuberculosis, influenza and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), but they also face risks from emerging diseases like HIV/AIDS, E.coli, West Nile virus and H1N1 influenza.

Through our daily work we provide systems and resources that help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Immunizations eliminate preventable diseases and their devastating consequences. Our community continues to struggle to provide adequate immunizations for small children.

Like many large urban centers, Houston's incidence rates of some communicable diseases are higher than those of the country overall. One of our main public health goals is to reduce these rates.

over 8,000 samples for a 17-county region and our epidemiology team conducted 24-hour epidemiological surveillance.



WHAT WE DO

So how do we impact public health and protect the community from communicable diseases?

- » We have state of the art surveillance systems. For example, our Real-time Outbreak Detection System (RODS) integrates hospital emergency room data, over the counter pharmaceutical sales data and EMS data to give us a real time picture of disease changes in our community.
- » In the Spring of 2009 we led the novel H1N1 (Swine Flu) pandemic response for the city and surrounding counties. Our lab tested

- » We developed a protocol and sampling methodology for HIV case surveillance that was adopted nationwide by the HIV Medical Morbidity Monitoring project.
- » Our Tuberculosis (TB) Control Bureau implemented the Enhanced Self Administered Treatment (ESAT) program where contacts of TB infected cases are monitored weekly. This has increased the rate of completion of preventative treatments from 46.7% in 2003 to 76% in 2008. The completion rate for all TB cases that started therapy was 90% in 2008.

OUR FUTURE FOCUS

- » In collaboration with Harmony House we provide a facility capable of specialized housing for contagious tuberculosis patients. The facility, called Langston House, allows patients to receive meals, substance abuse counseling, referrals and transportation to medical appointments.
- » Our Bureau of HIV/STD Prevention developed a "Strike Team" to counter a syphilis outbreak. After the outbreak the team remained in place and now consistently meets 80% of program goals. This approach won a "Model Practice" award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in 2009.
- » In 2008 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) awarded our Bureau of HIV/STD Prevention a grant to begin the planning phase of routine opt-out HIV testing in emergency room settings. In this program all patients (ages 13 – 64) entering the emergency room are tested for HIV unless they opt out. As a result there have been over 40,000 people tested with almost 600 HIV positive individuals located.

Our past successes enable and motivate us to continue to provide key services to the community in traditional and non-traditional ways. As we look to the future, we will achieve the following:

- » Continue to decrease TB case rates in US-born African Americans in our community.
- » Continue partnerships with our homeless TB treatment facility that houses contagious TB patients to reduce the transmission of tuberculosis in homeless shelters and/or congregate settings.
- » Increase the percent of adults and adolescents immunized that are at high risk of contracting vaccine preventable diseases.
- » Implementation of Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT testing) to identify people recently infected with the HIV virus (when they are most infectious) and link them to care and treatment.
- » Expand the Hip Hop for HIV testing into the Latino community.

inside story

Hip Hop for HIV began in 2007 in partnership with radio station 97.9 The Box, AIDS Foundation Houston and other community organizations. This program promotes HIV testing by offering free tickets to a Hip Hop concert by well known urban artists for those who get screened for HIV and attend one hour of education. The first year nearly 7,500 youth were tested. In year two, 3,000 people were tested. For year three, almost 15,000 people were tested and the concert was held at the George R. Brown Convention Center.



optimize the health of **MOTHERS, INFANTS, & CHILDREN**



Every child deserves to be healthy, safe and develop to his or her full potential. Although most children and families do well despite the challenges confronting them, a significant number remain at risk. Children of color, children of recent immigrants and children in impoverished households and communities are at greater risk of poor health and bear an unequal burden of poor health outcomes.

Helping our children grow into healthy, resilient adults is a priority for the Health Department. We promote comprehensive and collaborative approaches, programs and practices that nurture and protect children. We promote detection and intervention at the earliest possible indication of risk. We support the prevention of abuse and neglect.

The health and well-being of children is a reflection of the current health status of a large segment of the population and is a predictor of the health of the next generation.

WHAT WE DO

We make a difference in Houston's children by providing the following services:

» We provide free immunizations to private and public providers through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Children can receive vaccinations at low or no cost (doctors can charge an administration fee) if they are uninsured, underinsured, or have Medicaid. VFC has approximately 350 doctors at any given time and in 2008 administered 969,057 doses of vaccine.

» We created Project Milestone. The program sought to increase the immunization levels of the 20,000 plus infants enrolled in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. Since the inception of the program, immunization rates for participating sites increased from 18.6% to 84%. Currently, there are over 56,227 children enrolled in the program. Project Milestone was awarded a model practice award by the National Association of City and County Health Officials.

» We created Project Saving Smiles (PS Smiles), a preventive dental sealant program. Through public and private resources, PS Smiles has served a total of 3,198 children. The dollar value of these services is \$357,773.



PS SMILES
served over 3,000 smiles

» In collaboration with the One Sight Foundation we provided free eye exams and corrective eyewear to children from our community. Since the inception of the partnership, over 5,600 Houston area children ages 5-18 have received vision testing, treatment and eyewear.

OUR FUTURE FOCUS

Many factors contribute to the health and well-being of children. Among these factors are access and quality of prenatal care, income and stability of families, family functioning and access to health care. As we move toward the future, we look to achieve the following:

- » Improve immunization coverage levels for children served by our department through the use of Project Milestone.
- » Assist families with children in navigating the health and human services systems.
- » Increase WIC program participation through outreach and expansion of services in high demand areas.
- » Enhance pregnancy testing services to facilitate early access to prenatal care.
- » Expand the Centering Pregnancy Program to Northside Health Center.
- » Actively seek partnerships with community based organizations that have the capability of making a positive impact on the health of women and children in Houston.
- » Increase the number of mothers enrolled in the prenatal home visiting programs.
- » Expand system of care services to additional schools through Hogg funding.
- » Conduct PS Smiles programs utilizing dental clinics and multi-service centers.
- » Fully develop and implement the Kid's Village concept which is our public health approach to improve physical, mental and social functioning for children and families. It builds on existing services to create integrated service delivery. A successful program will result in improvement in key health indicators such as immunization rates, low birth weight, school attendance and family functioning for participants.

» We initiated a collaborative with Harris County Child Protective Services (CPS) to decrease the number of children in CPS custody. The collaborative initiated the Systems of Care project. Families referred from CPS to the Systems of Care program have had no new cases opened with CPS.

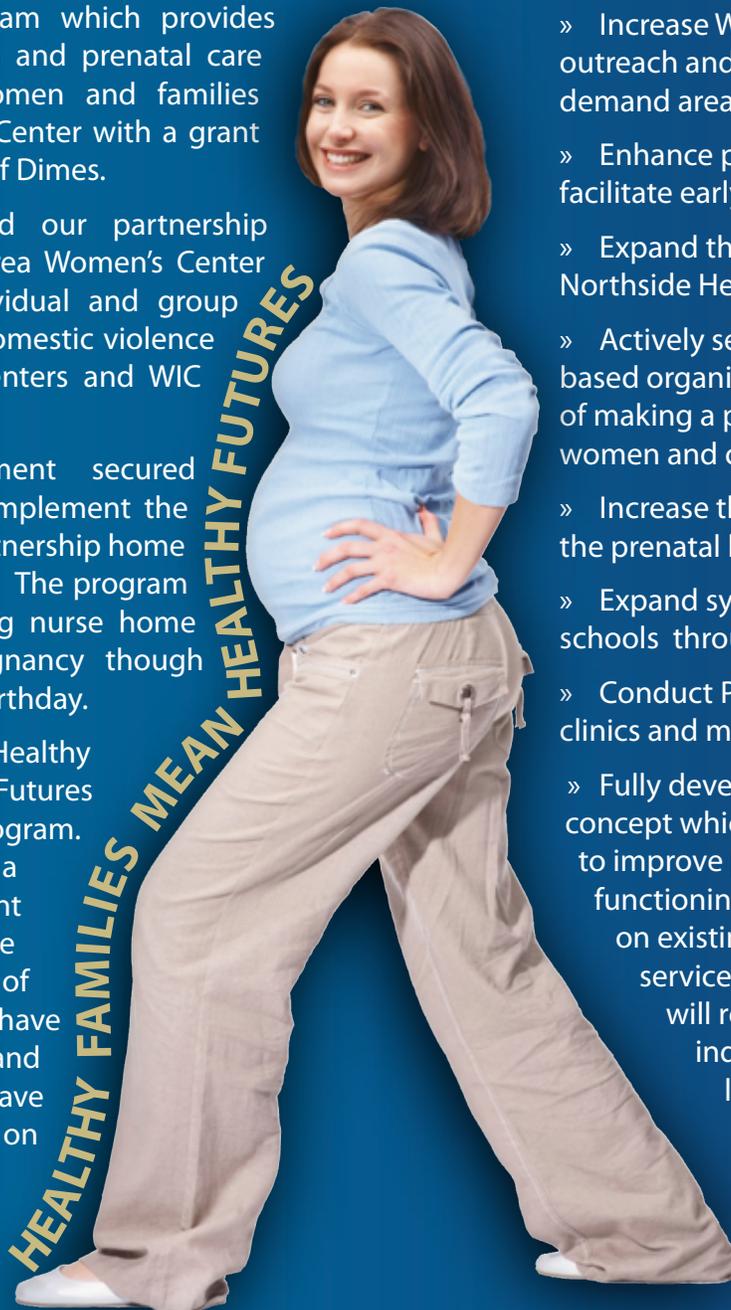
» We provide prenatal care as a safety net provider. We partner with, and provide space for, the Harris County Hospital District, El Centro de Corazon, Central Care Community and the Good Neighbor Health Centers to facilitate continuity of services to prenatal clients.

» We implemented the Centering Pregnancy program, a prenatal education program which provides group education and prenatal care to pregnant women and families at Lyons Health Center with a grant from the March of Dimes.

» We continued our partnership with Houston Area Women's Center to provide individual and group counseling on domestic violence in our health centers and WIC sites.

» Our department secured grant funds to implement the Nurse Family Partnership home visiting program. The program provides ongoing nurse home visits from pregnancy through the child's 2nd birthday.

» We created a Healthy Families Healthy Futures home visiting program. The program has a current enrollment of 37 families. One hundred percent of enrolled families have a medical home and 100% of babies have been immunized on time.



promote

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health is the most conspicuous component of the Health Department. Our four bureaus, Air Quality, Community and Children's Environmental Health, Consumer Health Services and Water Resources Protection touch the lives of everyone in the city and millions of people beyond our city limits.

These bureaus are responsible for implementing the requirements and policies of city ordinance and state regulations to protect the environment, personal health and enjoyment of property.

Our environmental programs inform and educate the community, industry and their employees. We permit and license businesses, respond to citizen complaints and monitor permit compliance, environmental quality and public health.

WHAT WE DO

As we seek to prevent environmental factors that adversely affect the health of present and future generations we have achieved the following:

- » We received a grant for a mobile air laboratory that monitors, identifies and characterizes hazardous air pollutants. The data from the lab allow us to work with the responsible companies to reduce hazardous emissions. The lab also helped provide concrete scientific evidence of benzene emissions in the ship channel. This has resulted in further work between EPA and a regulated source to reduce benzene and other emissions impacting the city.
- » Using our infrared camera technology we confirm air violations which have resulted in settlement agreements to reduce the pollutants in the air we breathe.



- » We initiated a city ordinance to regulate concrete crushing operations reducing the levels of particulate matter in certain neighborhoods.
- » We integrated our inspections to provide enforcement services for the smoking ordinance which prohibits smoking in enclosed public spaces.
- » We enforce the Federal Virginia Graeme Baker Act ensuring public swimming pools have proper drain covers to minimize the chance that swimmers are trapped by the pool drains.
- » We have secured a state Clean Rivers Program contract to improve the quality of our surface water. Over the past two years we have partnered with the State to conduct some 2,400 routine samples.
- » The Clean Rivers Program has sponsored an annual Trash Bash event, directed at cleaning up a section of the bayou system. Each year 200 people have participated and trash collected has been 1 1/3 tons. The program is also active in the Houston Water Festival and Boy Scout Fair. Other outreach has included participating as Career Day guest speakers and Science Nights in Houston schools.

Healthy Homes Initiative



» In 2005 we launched our Healthy Homes Initiative to protect children and their families from housing-related health, safety and environmental hazards. The initiative takes a comprehensive approach to these activities by focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion.

» In May 2009, Housing and Urban Development recognized our Children's Environmental Health Bureau and presented it an award for the dedication and commitment to improving the housing conditions of Houston's children and families.

» Our department, in partnership with the University of Texas School Of Public Health and the National Healthy Homes Training Center, established the Texas Healthy Homes Training Center.

» Our Children's Environmental Health Bureau mentors other states and cities (Galveston, San Antonio, Las Cruces, Nebraska and Louisiana) about lead based paint hazard control and healthy homes methodology to do the transition from lead to healthy homes. Houston is recognized nationwide as a model program.

» We provided increased monitoring and enforcement of the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Ordinance to reduce the accumulation of grease inside the city's sewage network. Accumulated grease restricts the flow of sewage,

causing pipes to overflow into our streets, yards and storm ditches, which can pollute the waters of our bayous and Galveston Bay.

» We tripled the number of training and teaching facilities for the Food Manager's Certification program. This program trains food service personnel in safe food handling practices including knowledge of the City of Houston Food Ordinance.

» We developed and implemented a radio frequency identification system to ensure mobile food units are in compliance with the city's food sanitation requirements.

OUR FUTURE FOCUS

As we look toward the future, our plans are to achieve the following:

» Revise the City's ambulance, pool and food inspection ordinances.

» Implement One Stop Permitting to integrate permit applications and payment of fees into a convenient web-based application.

» Migrate to a new software system that will increase efficiency and achieve greater integration of our systems.

» Implement electronic inspection reports for all of the environmental bureaus.

» Reorganize dispatch, customer hotline, complaint response and scheduling to increase efficiency, reduce cost, and increase availability of inspectors.

» Continue our industrial process and emission evaluations that impact the quality of life of our residents.

» Our Clean Rivers Program will implement a new initiative that will focus on tracing and identifying sources of illegal discharges into waterways.

**WE
CONTRIBUTE
TO CLEAN
WATER IN THE
COMMUNITY**

well-being through **HUMAN SERVICES**

The Health Department improves the well-being of the community through human services. In response to local needs, we provide a range of services that focus on the person and the community. This approach builds local solutions to neighborhood concerns and involves communities in decisions that affect their lives.

Our partners in the community are already positioned to be powerful forces for social change. We build on the strength of partner agencies and boost their capacity. This allows them to influence their communities with the unique functions that they perform.

We believe that operating within a strong and influential community is a prerequisite to any attempt to generate lasting and sustainable social change. As a result we have pioneered collaborative and enterprising approaches to improve the impact and influence of the communities the department serves.

WHAT WE DO

Our human services efforts are important to the community and have achieved the following:

- » Over two summers our department employed over 100 youth from the Mayor's Youth Summer Conservation Corps. As part of an energy efficiency initiative they distributed approximately 330,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs to nearly 80,000 households.
- » We hosted and facilitated the 3rd Annual Financial Employment Forum for People with Disabilities, as part of the Real Economic Impact (REIT) Tour 2007, 2008, 2009 and coordinated free income tax preparation sites.
- » We developed the "Knowledge is Power and Strength" (KIPS) curriculum to address job readiness and employment counseling.

**we promote active
senior lifestyles**



- » We created the Aging Agenda for Houston/Harris County and distributed over 1,500 reports to highlight the needs of seniors in our community.
- » In FY09, the Area Agency on Aging served 4,000 seniors at congregate meal sites and 7,000 home-bound seniors through the home delivered meals program.
- » We received \$220,000 to fund the creation of the Gulf Coast Aging and Disability Resource Centers that will be implemented in Harris and the surrounding 12 counties.
- » We allocated two additional staff positions for senior case management which led to a \$200,000 allocation from the United Way to Care for Elders for senior services.
- » We partnered with several agencies, organizations and businesses for the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities 2nd Annual Housing and Employment Resources Expo 2009
- » Our partnerships with Gulf Coast Community Services and Harris County Social Services were strengthened to create a coordinated system of care at Kashmere High School and its feeder schools.

- » We collaborated with Target Hunger to conduct 14 food fairs and served over 17,000 people at selected multi-service centers.
- » We initiated a reentry program for individuals recently released from incarceration. The program provides them with tools to improve their housing, employment and family skills.
- » We formed Care Houston in collaboration with the Houston Fire Department (HFD). The program identifies frequent 911 callers that are truly non-emergency callers. Nurse case managers conduct home visits, education and referrals to social agencies. The pilot redirected approximately 2,700 911 calls and allowed HFD to redirect \$4,576,400 in resources to other areas.

The Assessment, Intervention and Mobilization (AIM) is a tool that the Health Department uses to “touch” every household in a community. AIM engages stakeholders and seeks to link people with basic services. In cases of immediate need (such as food) we fulfill their need that day. AIM has five components: community engagement, community touch, service response, household surveying and follow-up.

inside story



OUR FUTURE FOCUS

Working with our partners in the community is central to our human services efforts. Going forward we will expand our efforts through the following:

- » Create the Aging and Disability Resource Center to provide assistance to professionals who direct assistance to aged or disabled clients.
- » Implement a website and telephone helpline with direct-connect capabilities to reach isolated populations in the disabled community.
- » Form an adolescent advisory/leadership group to address adolescent issues and develop peer-to-peer service strategies.
- » Expand our reentry program to additional sites and implement a pre-release enrollment system at local criminal justice facilities.
- » Integrate additional mental health supports and substance abuse interventions in multi-service centers and targeted programs through specialized provider partners.
- » Collaborate with workforce development organizations to provide employment readiness and opportunities for our clients.

Community	Households Touched	Service Referrals	Date
Tri-Community	605	183	Fall 2006
Magnolia	5,860	393	Spring 2006
Sunnyside	6,936	829	Fall 2007
Independence Heights	4,683	360	Fall 2007
Near Northside	8,838	563	Fall 2008
Alief Mini-Aim	438	236	Spring 2009
Fifth Ward	6,897	838	Fall 2009

provide the community with **INFORMATION**

Public health is science and data driven. We are responsible for tracking and publishing statistics on health conditions and analyzing data to determine what policies and interventions would be best to prevent disease, promote health and protect the public. Our job is to inform decision makers, the media and other partners as well as the public in a timely manner.

To meet such demands in a rapidly changing environment, we have developed a public health information-gathering, analysis and distribution system. Our goal is to have systems that are time sensitive and highly accessible, easy to use and support public health decision making. We seek to eliminate the inefficiencies of multiple data collection systems and advance a long-term strategic plan for information infrastructure development.

WHAT WE DO

Good information is key to good decisions.

- » We engaged our external partners to implement a web-based surveillance system to collect data during AIM projects.
- » We created the Community Health Statistics office, a public health research group that provides community-focused health data for the department.
- » Our department published Epidemiology in Review 2000-2004, an epidemiological report of infectious disease and injury surveillance trends in Houston.
- » We published "The State of Health" which provides key information about the health status of our county for policy makers, healthcare organizations and community based organizations to assist in their decision making.



OUR FUTURE FOCUS

As we move forward we will focus on these goals:

- » Build an integrated data system for public health surveillance.
- » Ensure our systems can share electronic data with outside organizations and agencies. We will also create new data systems for better decision making and maintain a data warehouse to make information easy to use.
- » We will complete and publish Community Health Profiles for all 88 Houston super neighborhoods in 2010.
- » Establish a Center of Excellence for Practice-Based Research within our department to promote improved practice and demonstrate the outcomes of practice. It will provide more relevant, useful and strategic community health information to our health policy makers. It will also serve as a focal point to engage our stakeholders. The center is planned to be fully functional by the end of 2012 and achieve recognition as a Center of Excellence by 2015.

prepare for a HEALTH DISASTER

The Health Department is part of a regional, state and national effort to protect people from health disasters and to ensure that we are prepared to respond to a variety of disasters.

Collaboration with other entities ensures that emergency plans meet community needs by mitigating or reducing the risk of harm from an emergency, preparing for an effective response when an emergency occurs, and promoting a recovery that is as quick and complete as possible.

The Health Department coordinates citywide plans to respond to public health events, especially hurricanes, pandemic influenza, infectious agents such as anthrax, tularemia, smallpox and toxic chemical exposure. We provide training to the staff on appropriate response roles and to the best of our ability ensure that various population groups' needs are taken into account during an emergency.

WHAT WE DO

Preparing the fourth largest city in the United States to respond to a public health disaster is a big responsibility. To achieve this we have done the following:

- » We built a biosafety level-3 laboratory for early bioterrorism detection through sophisticated molecular testing. This laboratory serves a 17-county area in Southeast Texas and was constructed with federal and state grants.
- » We trained 100 staff and volunteers to conduct a rapid public health assessment of Houston residents after Hurricane Ike to assess needs in the wake of the storm.



» We developed the Pharmaceutical Preparedness Collaborative in which the Texas Southern University and University of Houston pharmacy schools worked with the department to train pharmacy students in emergency preparedness awareness and response. Both universities have adopted this coursework as part of their regular pharmacy curriculum.

» We created a Response Specialist Team (RST) to increase public health capacity. The team consists of 30 team members that are cross-trained in HIV/STD prevention, TB control, epidemiology and psychological first aid. The RST is available to quickly respond to emergency needs in the department or community.

OUR FUTURE FOCUS

We will continue to plan, conduct exercises with our emergency response partners and respond to public health disasters by focusing on the following:

- » Updating written plans to prepare the city to respond effectively to public health hazards ranging from natural disasters to epidemics and acts of terror.
- » Improve current surveillance and notification systems for emergency public health events and disasters.
- » Increase the department's preparedness and response activities to disasters through mandatory new employee training and regular exercises of emergency scenarios.
- » Increase coordination and communication with allied organizations and emergency preparedness partners in response to public health threats.

reduce the incidence of **CHRONIC DISEASE**

With over 239,000 reported cases of diabetes and with heart disease being the leading cause of death in Harris County it is evident that the work of health promotion is important. We focus on preventing or delaying the onset of chronic disease like diabetes and heart disease, while raising awareness about other health issues.

The department seeks to lead efforts to prevent chronic diseases while easing the burden of complications among persons living with chronic diseases.

WHAT WE DO

As we engage in health promotion activities we help Houstonians improve their eating and exercise habits and as a result live a longer and healthier life. These are some of the things that we have done:

- » We built community gardens at the Southwest and West End Multi-Service Centers to provide fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the year for those communities.
- » We developed numerous community level assessments and prevention projects, such as the Women of Worth March of Dimes Initiative.
- » In conjunction with the Mayor's Wellness Council we provide the New Year New You Challenge, a five week wellness program to motivate individuals to engage in wellness activities during the new year.
- » In conjunction with M.D. Anderson and The Rose we have created Project VALET to offer free mammograms to low income women without health insurance, age 40 and older or at high risk of breast cancer. Prior to this project few women who were referred for mammograms actually went for the evaluation.
- » Our Prenatal Barriers to Care survey assessed the barriers women face in seeking prenatal

care. The women surveyed helped us to identify key barriers in obtaining prenatal care. We have shared the results with our partners to raise awareness of these barriers and seek additional funding to address these barriers.

OUR FUTURE FOCUS

Our commitment to health promotion will lead us to achieve the following:

- » Develop and implement a chronic disease prevention program to lower the rates of diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer.
- » Enhance our capacity to implement and evaluate evidence-based health interventions.
- » Improve community nutrition and reduce food insufficiency by developing additional community gardens.
- » Facilitate the development of community obesity prevention programs which will lead to lower rates of overweight children and adults.



our commitment to **PREVENTION**

Public health refers to the activities of society which seek to create the highest level of health for the greatest number of people. Governmental agencies have a key role in the practice of public health. We improve health by preventing the transmission of communicable disease, by reducing exposure to hazardous environments and by educating people on healthy living. While a personal physician treats one patient at a time, public health employs population-based interventions to prevent communicable and chronic disease for whole communities at a time.

In the 20th century, American life expectancy more than doubled. Ninety percent of the improvement was accomplished through innovations of public health using only one percent of the national health dollar; ten percent of the improvement

“IN THE 20TH CENTURY, AMERICAN LIFE EXPECTANCY MORE THAN DOUBLED”

2X

is attributed to improvements in medical care at 99 percent of the national health dollar. We could never train enough physicians to improve a community's health one patient at a time!

The basic tools of our trade are epidemiology and biostatistics as well as the public health laboratory. We use these tools to monitor air pollution patterns throughout the city, to investigate outbreaks of infectious disease such as H1N1, to ensure that our children are immunized, and to follow trends in illness and deaths in our community. Health promotion techniques are used to help people choose healthier lifestyles by promoting exercise, wise nutritional choices and smoking cessation. We educate residents on how to manage chronic diseases and how to protect themselves against others such as HIV.

Our 1,300 City of Houston public health professionals confront pathogens and environmental factors as well as a wide spectrum of other demographic and societal factors that affect the people's health: race, income, genetics, social infrastructure and even a population's belief in its own collective future. Our staff must be conversant in basic biomedical and environmental sciences as well as other fields such as economics, ethics, politics, education, psychology, sociology and information technology.

Public health is often confused with health care for the poor. In Houston, health care for the poor is provided by the Harris County Hospital District and a variety of Federally Qualified Health Centers and community

based organizations. We provide a limited range of personal health services as 1) a safety net provider for prenatal care and family planning

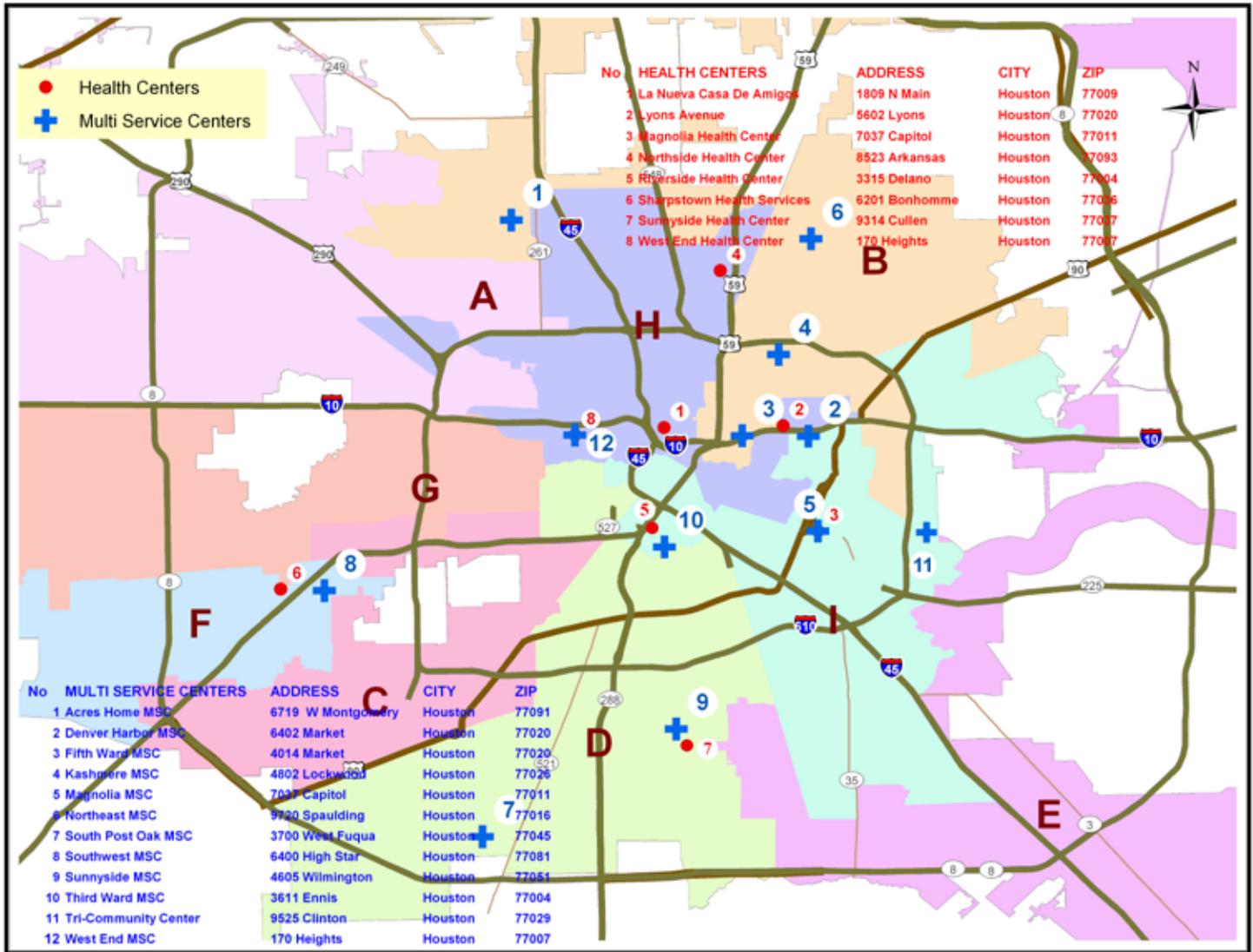
and 2) treatment and prevention network for sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis.

We believe that all Houstonians should enjoy good health regardless of where they live or work, the color of their skin or the income of their household. We achieve this goal by ensuring that our community has the infrastructure to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, enforce environmental regulations, ensure that women and children receive appropriate services and that every one has access to information for making good health decisions for themselves and their families. It is our commitment to serve everyone with excellent public health service.

Public Health

HEALTH & MULTI-SERVICE CENTERS

(by City Council districts)



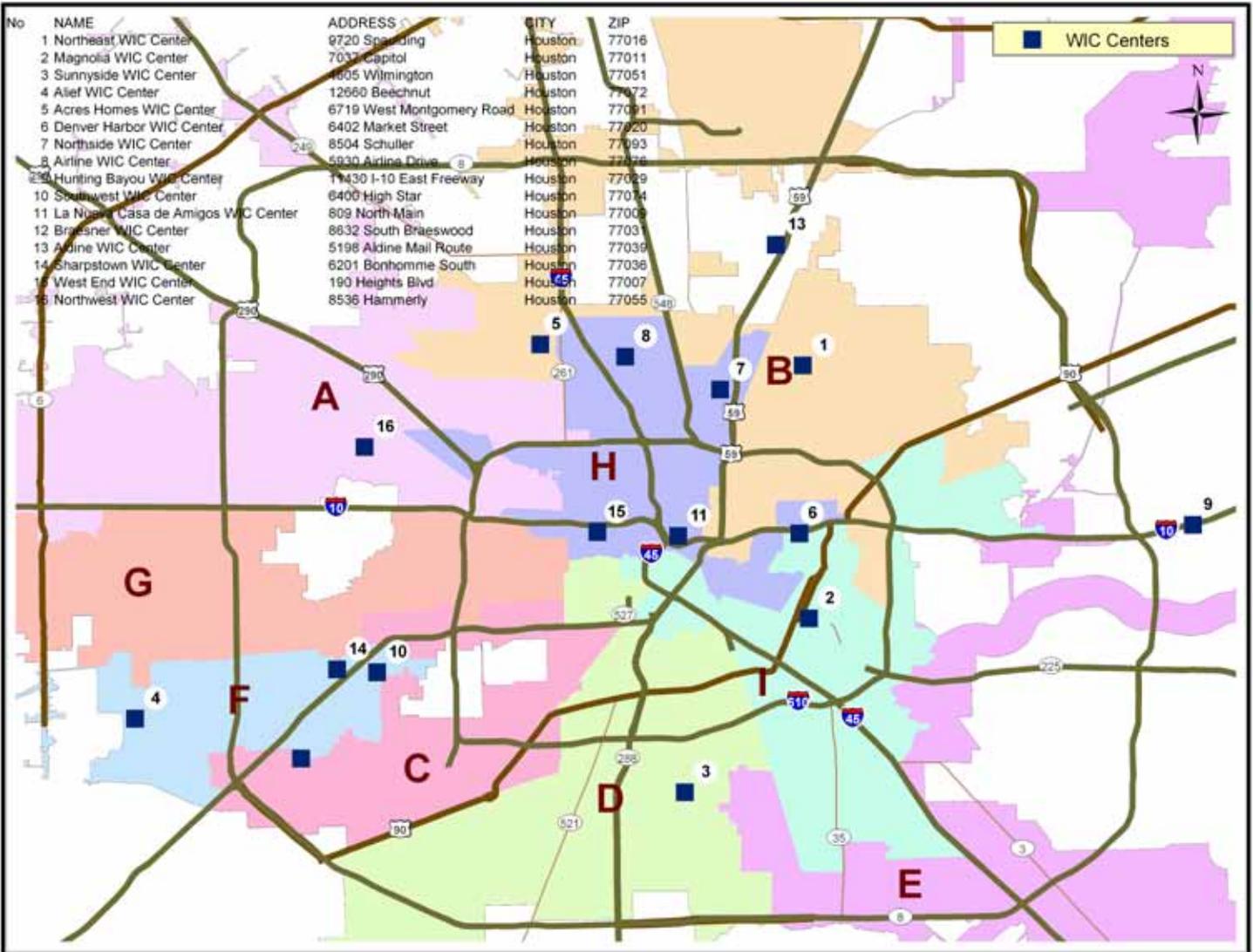
Regional Managers by Health Center

La Nueva Casa De Amigos, 1809 N. Main
 Lyons, 5602 Lyons
 Magnolia, 7037 Capitol
 Northside, 8523 Arkansas
 Riverside, 3315 Delano
 Sharpstown Health Services, 6201 Bonhomme
 Sunnyside, 9314 Cullen
 West End, 170 Heights

Stewart, Antonia(713)547-8000
 Smith, Marquis.....(713)671-3000
 Amaya, Alfredo(713)928-9800
 Robertson, Michael.....(713)696-5900
 Travis, Donna.....(713)831-9663
 Diaz, Solly(713)780-5600
 Travis, Donna.....(713)732-5000
 Stewart, Antonia(713)803-1050

OUR WIC CENTERS

(by City Council districts)



Regional Managers by Multi-Service Center

Acres Home, 6719 W. Montgomery
 Denver Harbor, 6402 Market
 Fifth Ward, 4014 Market
 Hiram Clark, 3810 West Fuqua
 Kashmere, 4802 Lockwood
 Magnolia, 7037 Capitol
 Northeast, 9720 Spaulding
 Southwest, 6400 High Star
 Sunnyside, 4605 Wilmington
 Third Ward, 3611 Ennis
 West End, 170 Heights
 Tri-Community, 9525 Clinton Dr.

Robertson, Michael.....(713)694-9274
 Amaya, Alfred.....(713)670-2143
 Smith, Marquis.....(713)238-2248
 Diaz, Solly.....(832)393-4250
 Smith, Marquis.....(832)393-5503
 Amaya, Alfredo.....(713)928-9515
 Robertson, Michael.....(713)491-5500
 Diaz, Solly.....(713)778-6500
 Travis, Donna.....(713)732-5030
 Travis, Donna.....(713)527-4005
 Stewart, Antonia.....(713)803-1050
 Smith, Marquis.....(713)671-9317

OUR FUNDING EXPLAINED

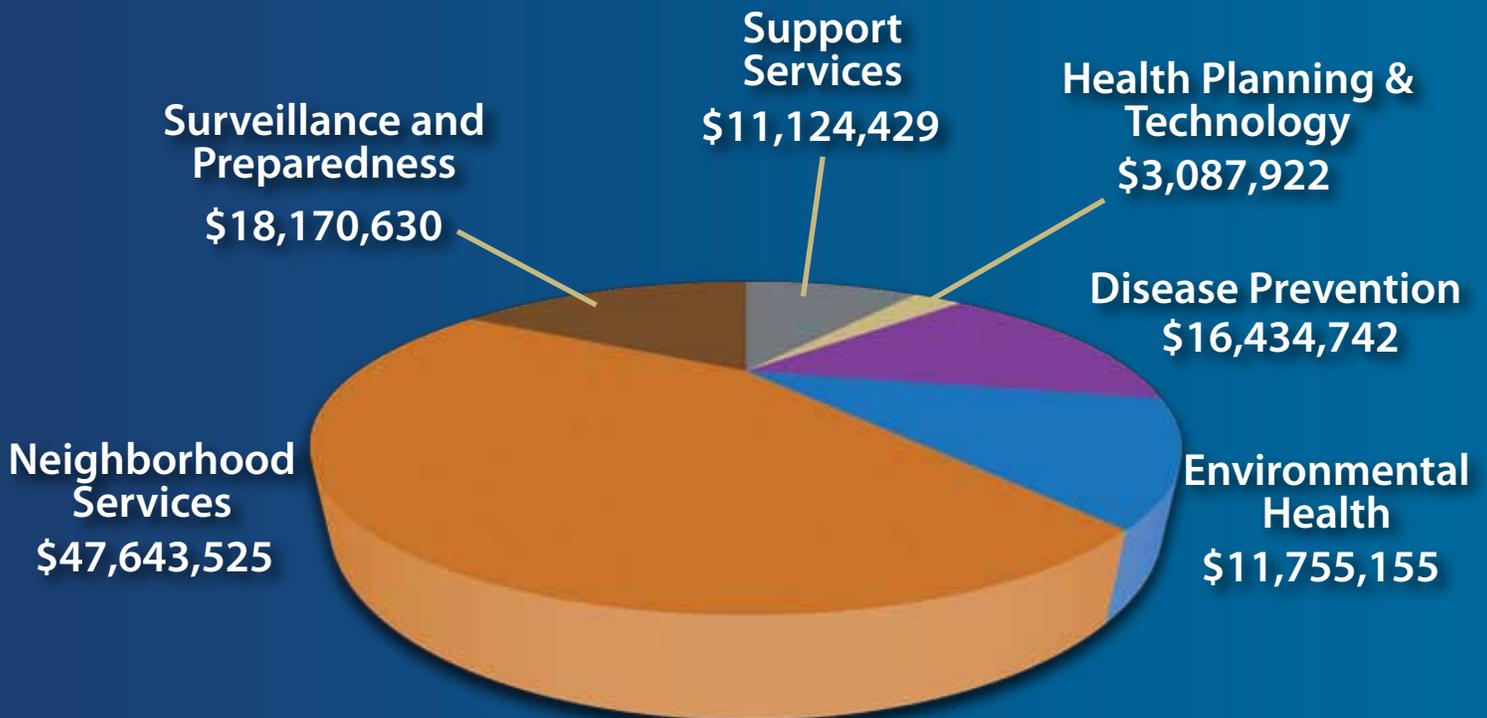
WHERE IT COMES FROM

General Fund
(local funds)

Grants
(state and federal funds)



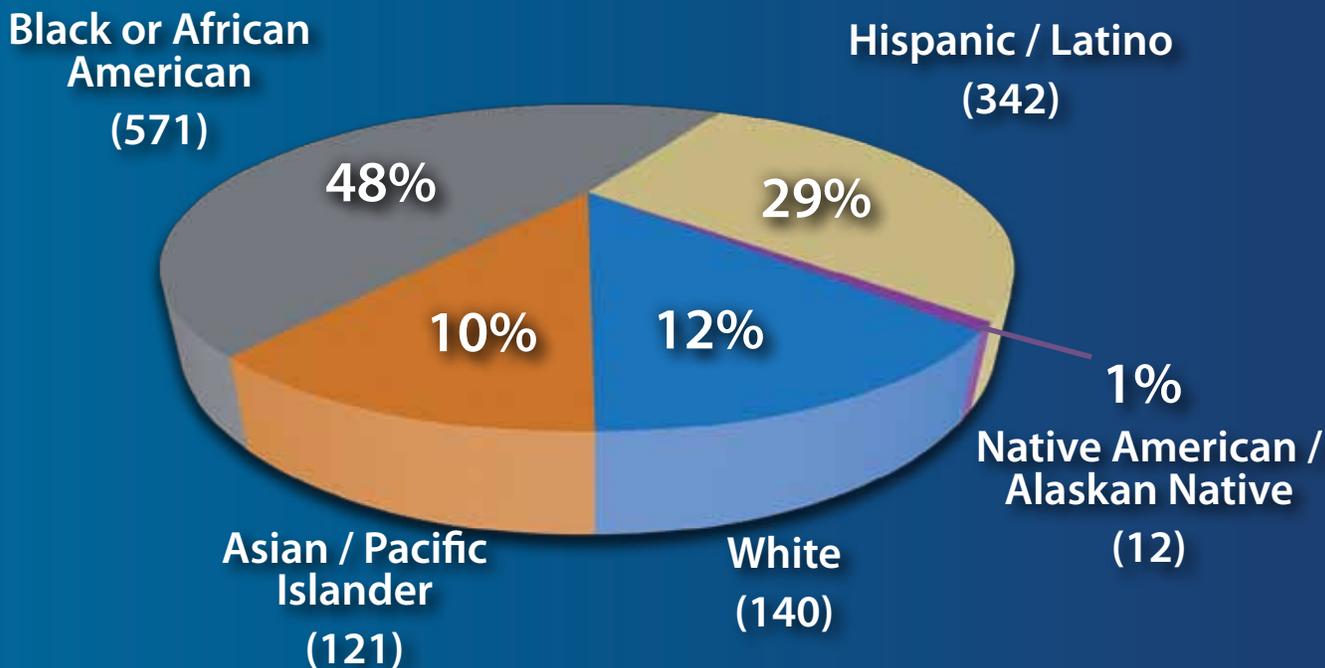
WHERE IT GOES



OUR DIVERSITY EXPLAINED

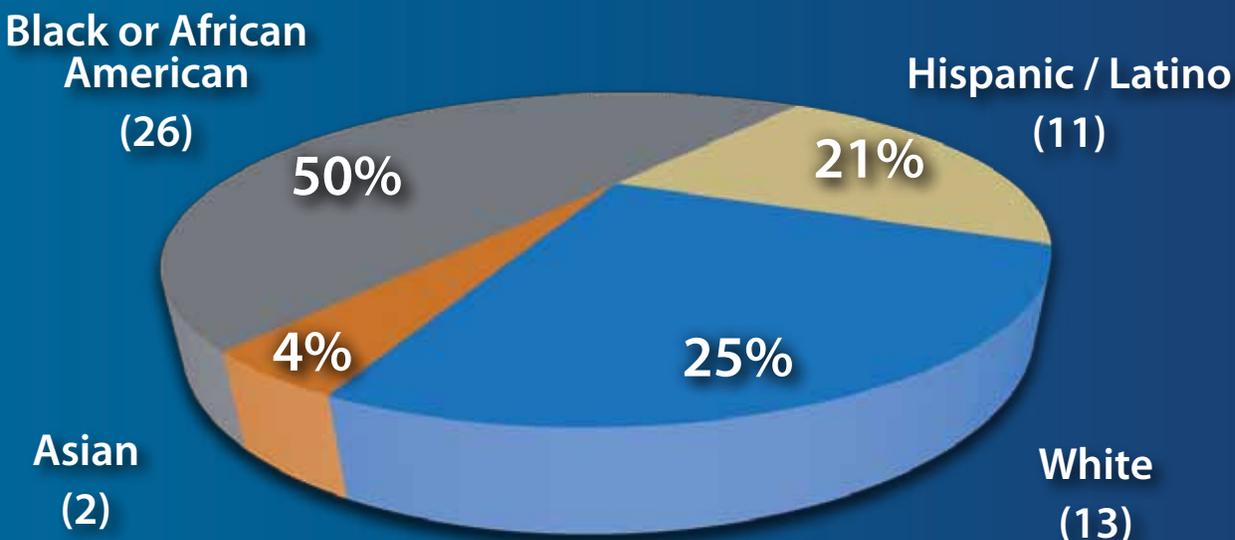
HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

(number of employees)



LEADERSHIP TEAM

(number of employees)



EXECUTIVE STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



Stephen L. Williams, M. Ed., MPA
Health Department Director

Stephen L. Williams is the Director of the Health Department. He came to Houston in 2004 after serving a successful nine year tenure as executive manager of Travis County's Health and Human Services and Veteran Services Department in Austin, TX. Prior to managing the Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran Services Department, Williams served as Administrator of Public Health, then Deputy Director for programs and services for the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department. From 1979-1991, he served in various public health capacities, including administrator of community health services in Maricopa County (Phoenix, AZ) and in leadership roles with the Montgomery, AL, Area Mental Health Authority. He also worked in the Juvenile Justice system in the Alabama Department of Youth Services.

Raouf Arafat
Assistant Director

Dr. Raouf Arafat is the Division Director for the Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness (OSPHP). He started the Epidemiology Study Center in Egypt in 1981 and later created the Public Health & Epidemiology Department for the Royal Commission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He has extensive experience in Epidemiology, Infectious Diseases, Public Health Management and Public Health Preparedness with special interest in program development and implementation. He is a member of several national and international organizations and associations and has numerous publications in scientific journals.

Kathy Barton
Chief of Public Affairs

Kathy Barton has been the Chief of Public Affairs for the Houston Department of Health and Human Services for nearly 17 years. The Office of Public Affairs manages broadcast, print and online media interaction, providing information, promotion and crisis communication in English and Spanish for the department. Kathy also serves as the Health Department liaison to City Council.

Faith Williams
Assistant Director

Dr. Williams leads a dynamic team of Health Educators, Wellness Professionals, Community Health Planners and Nutritionists. She is a seasoned public health practitioner and academician. She has managed staff in public and not-for-profit settings. Under her leadership, the Department has been awarded over 1.2 million dollars in grant funding, and submitted grant applications totaling 40 million dollars aimed at reducing obesity and tobacco use, increasing physical activity and improving nutrition among Houstonians. She has served on the faculty of both the University of Houston and Texas Southern University. Currently, she serves as an Adjunct Faculty member at Walden University.

**Celina Garza
-Ridge**
Assistant Director

Celina Garza-Ridge is a certified public accountant with responsibility for the Administrative Services Division. She has served as Chief Financial Officer for both for-profit and non-profit organizations. Her professional emphasis has been process improvements and financial reporting issues. Prior to joining the City of Houston, she was the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operations Officer for a federally qualified health center. She has served on several non-profit and government boards, including the Harris County Houston Sports Authority, COH Housing Authority and CHRISTUS Health.

Judy Hicks Harris
Assistant Director

Judy Hicks Harris has worked in public health for 24 years. She currently leads the Neighborhood Services Division where she oversees the delivery of health and human services programs to residents through a network of health and multi-service centers and community based programming. She has extensive experience collaborating and networking with representatives of public agencies and institutions, community organizations and non-profit agencies to enhance and improve services available to clients. Prior to joining the City she was an accountant in the oil and gas industry. She has a Masters of Business Administration, from the University of Houston.

Vernon Hunt
Assistant Director

Vernon Hunt currently serves as the Assistant Director / CTO for the Information Systems Division. His responsibilities include all information technology infrastructure, application development, desktop support and communications. Prior to joining the Health Department he was an Assistant Director for the General Services Department, Assistant Purchasing Agent with the Purchasing Department and the Systems Coordination Manager for the Controller's Office. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Master's in Business Administration with post-graduate work towards a PhD.

Risha Jones
Assistant Director

Risha Jones has worked in public health for over 17 years. She serves as the Assistant Director of the Disease and Prevention Control Division. She is responsible for managing and directing activities of the HIV/STD Prevention, Tuberculosis, Jail Health, Immunizations, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) bureaus. She has participated in the development of state and federal grants and program expenditures totaling \$42.6 million. She has served as the Incident Commander for Hurricane Ike response, H1N1 Influenza response and Chief of Operations for the department's Assessment, Intervention and Mobilization (AIM) projects.

Barbara Sudhoff-McGill
Quality Assurance

Barbara Sudhoff-McGill directs Quality Assurance for the Health Department. She successfully coordinates with divisions to ensure the Health Department meets or exceeds State standards and customers' expectations. Prior to joining the Health Department, she worked in the Solid Waste Department and Municipal Court Administration. At Solid Waste she was instrumental in developing a financial billing system to review and audit contract invoices which resulted in a finding of probable fraud. At Municipal Court Administration she worked with HPD, Legal and Finance Department to implement major improvements in the courts.

David Perse, MD
Public Health Authority

Dr. Perse was appointed by City Council as Houston's Public Health Authority in 2004. In his role as Public Health Authority he is responsible for the medical aspects of clinical care quality management, disease control and public health preparedness. He also was the Assistant Medical Director for the Emergency Medical Services system of Houston. Prior to joining the City of Houston he was the Medical Director of the Los Angeles County Paramedic Training Institute, and the Assistant Medical Director of the Los Angeles County EMS Agency. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the South East Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

Catherine Troisi
Public Health Practice

Dr. Troisi is Director of Public Health Practice at Health Department. Her office has responsibility for policy development, research collaborations with academic institutions, promotion of public health education for staff, and preparing for the forthcoming health department accreditation process. Dr. Troisi has a joint appointment at the University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH) where one of her main responsibilities is an undergraduate certificate program for public health workers. Prior to joining the Health Department, Dr. Troisi was on the faculty at the Baylor College of Medicine for 14 years and UTSPH for seven years. Her research focused on viral hepatitis and HIV, including diagnostic and vaccine evaluation studies.

We are committed

to Public Health...

