

## **CHIP Coalition Meeting 10/21/11**

Presentation on Partnership for a Healthy Texas: Conquering Obesity  
Michelle Smith and Lauren Dimitry

See attached powerpoint and link to the video.

Key Legislation (Also see powerpoint.)

- SB 226- Getting de-identified data on FitnessGram for TEA to compare it with academic data.
- SB 185- Get national standards for physical education. (Failed)
- HB 3770- Prohibit schools from withholding recess/PE as a consequence. (Failed)
- HB 400- Reduces the implementation of Fitnessgram to only PE classes. If a child isn't enrolled in a PE class, there will be no Fitnessgram.

What is a FitnessGram? A physical fitness test that measures aerobic capacity, strength and flexibility. It is done annually and was designed by the Cooper Institute

8 components within a school to work together (food services, PE, classroom teachers, etc.) to create a healthy learning environment.

Looking Forward:

- Legislators are feeling like they've done a lot on obesity already. Built Environment, Staff Wellness will be looked at again. For next session we may not be able to do a lot in schools, will be trying to hold onto what we have in coordinated school health.
- Many freshman legislators didn't know what coordinated school health was, or why fitness gram was important.
- The Partnership is all-volunteer, and relies on organizational support to move forward.
- DSHS Community Transformation Grant: This grant from the CDC is \$10 million for 5 years and includes prevention, tobacco cessation and emotional/social wellness. The requirement is that it be based in communities under 500,000 and be based in evidenced-based practices.

## Beth Olson Drew- Texas Hunger Initiative

- THI is based the Baylor School of Social Work an is partnering with Share Our Strength.
- Hunger and obesity are both related to food insecurity and food access.
- Texas is #5 right now in terms of food insecurity. #2 in general household food insecurity.
- The first year will focus on expanding summer meals and breakfast, preferably in classrooms to guarantee every child has access to breakfast.
- Approaching school districts (nutrition director) Dairy Max pays all the up front costs. USDA lalso provides funding and THI works on implementation.
- School districts that have implemented the program have done it easily, and nurses have become the biggest allies.
- Share Our Strength is now working on research to support what they have been hearing anecdotally.
  - Study may look at difference between grab and go breakfast and breakfast served in the classroom.
  - The research may also look at classroom behavior. Not sure of the emphasis between behavior, academic performance, etc.
  - There is some compelling research about the relationship between recess and behavior.
- To date, there have been no complaints from teachers and the school days have not been lengthened.
- Right now schools can choose from any menu- there are still some unhealthy choices, and THI does not place restrictions on what they can serve.
- Summer Program
  - Very few sponsors can handle all the government paperwork for the program. You also have sites- schools, parks, community centers, churches, etc.
- Transportation Costs: Hard to recruit kids because they are spread everywhere.
- Task forces

- Working on policy with CPPP, Christian Life Commission and others on policy.
- Working with organizations that do backpack programs, but does not do them themselves. (Organizations pack a backpack for students to take home every weekend with food to eat for the weekend. The food banks are also very active in those programs.)

## **Federal Updates**

- Many ACA comments due on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Rules were released in August that have to do with how the IRS will qualify whether people are eligible for premium tax credits in the exchange.
- There are new regulations on what states who have stated they do not want to run an exchange can do in partnership with the federally run exchange.
- Next week Anne will circulate comments, and is willing to have a meeting or conference call about these topics in order for organizations to decide if they want to sign on.
- There are important rules in the regulations about navigators and who is allowed to be one- i.e. will agents and brokers be the only navigators? There are rules for standards of performance on how Medicaid will interact with the exchange.
- One of the big issues is whether or not dependent coverage costs are accounted for in premium credit decision making. If your employer covers 100% of your cost, but the rest of your family's coverage would cost more than 9.5% of the families income, you are still not eligible for subsidies because the worker's coverage is affordable.
- Possibility of creating a Basic Health Program to cover the 133-200% of poverty population (CHIP Population) for adults. We will be discussing this in future months.