



A Stronger Partnership for Healthier Communities

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The Houston Health Department (HHD) and Harris County Public Health (HCPH) partner to improve community health through joint initiatives in leadership, community engagement, services, and area-wide agency collaborations

HHD-HCPH Collaboration

Update to Houston City Council and Harris County Commissioners Court



Today's Presentation

1. Progress on selected 2023 ILA goals
 - a) Coordinating mechanisms & data sharing
 - b) Emergency preparedness & response
 - c) Communications
 - d) Clinical and preventative care
2. Additional coordination examples
3. Emerging aspirations
4. How elected officials can help

HHD-HCPH Collaboration accelerating

MOU established 2023; significant progress in past year



Initial ILA Goals	Status
- Align community-wide planning through a joint Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) - Establish a community-wide coordinating council that includes HCPH, HHD, and other partners	- HCPH CHIP Steering Committee established January 2025 - Members include HCPH, HHD, Harris Health, and organizations such as Houston Food Bank, Episcopal Health Foundation, Montrose Center, African American Health Coalition, and more <u>Next Steps:</u> Develop an Access to Care Assessment analyzing care availability and identifying opportunities to optimize health services across HHD, HCPH, and FQHCs - Reestablish quad agency meetings across HHD, HCPH, Harris Health, Harris Center
Create a data-sharing mechanism through an interlocal agreement	- Interlocal agreement on notifiable conditions and wastewater surveillance data established March 2025 <u>Next Steps:</u> Remain engaged on community-wide health conditions dashboard(s) (Houston State of Health and Healthy Communities Framework)

Preparedness & response coordination key

Strong ties developed during COVID and disasters; FIFa new focus area



Initial ILA Goals

- Collaborate on **public health emergency response coordination**

Status

- Ongoing planning coordination through Strategic National Stockpile Medical Countermeasures workgroup, Mass Care Coalition, Disaster Access and Functional Needs workgroup, and more
- Joint participation in training such as the Houston BioWatch exercise and upcoming Administrative Preparedness workshop
- Alignment on Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) grant deliverables to maximize funding and minimize duplication
- **Next Steps:** Joint planning for Family Assistance Center operations and other FIFa preparedness

Aligned communications amplify messaging

New efforts to engage community-based nonprofits



Initial ILA Goals

- Centralize or standardize **public-facing communications**

Measles vaccine locations in Houston and Harris County

Harris County Public Health and the Houston Health Department offer the MMR vaccine to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella.

At Harris County Public Health, appointments are currently required, although same-day appointments may be available. Please call **832-927-7350** to schedule an appointment.



Locations:

Humble Clinic
1730 Humble Place Drive
Humble, TX 77338

Southeast Clinic
3737 Red Bluff Road
Pasadena, TX 77503

Antoine Clinic
5815 Antoine Dr
Houston, TX 77091

Harris County Public Health Cypress Station (Mobile Unit Thursdays)
221 FM 1960
Houston, TX 77090

Harris County Public Health Northeast Pod
10918 1/2 Bentley Dr.
Houston, TX 77093

Harris County Public Health Southeast Pod
7340 Spencer Hwy.
Pasadena, TX 77505

Houston Health Department Health Centers

Phone: 832-395-9100 Appointments: 832-393-5427 (Walk-in services are also available)

Northside Health Center
8504 Schuller Rd
Houston, TX 77093

Sharpstown Health Services
6201 Bonhomme Rd.
Houston, TX 77036

Sunnyside Multiservice Center
4410 Reed Rd.
Houston, TX 77051



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Status

- Regional PIO Forum** (HHD, HCPH, Fort Bend) meets at least monthly with escalation during public health emergencies
- Local Health Authorities (LHAs) meet every month to discuss current data, public health issues affecting the region, and specific messages that need to be amplified
- Joint communications deployed during 2025 **West Texas measles outbreak** (common list of immunization locations) for additional awareness
- Joint disaster communications: Hurricane Beryl 2024

Strong ties across clinical teams

Complementary approaches and clear referral pathways in place



Initial ILA Goals

- Collaboration for **clinical and preventative health care**

Collaboration Examples (subset only)

- Clear, complementary roles established for HIV: HHD administers CDC HIV prevention grants, while HCPH administers Ryan White Part A HIV treatment and care funds; co-authored Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Master Plan for Houston / Harris County
 - Cross-jurisdictional TB case management with HHD, HCPH, and DSHS
 - Shared outreach, referral pathways, and case coordination for prenatal and postnatal care through Healthy Start
 - HCPH Chronic Disease Prevention services offered at MSCs and parks
 - Collaboration to increase vaccine uptake across city and county
- **Next Steps:** Begin mobile dental services at Hiram Clarke (November 2025) and Third Ward MSC (March 2026); optimize mobile health locations

Collaboration extends beyond ILA

Ongoing communication & coordination strengthens overall approach



Selected coordination examples – not exhaustive!

- Environmental Public Health collaboration during legislative session on food permitting advocacy; aligned approach to developing new collaborative agreements with DSHS for ongoing inspections
 - “Single provider” services, such as HHD providing all rabies testing or HCPH Mosquito & Vector Control serving entire county (upcoming ILA with HPARD on mosquito, tick, and avian surveillance in city parks), and “no wrong door” approaches like County Pets wellness services
 - Emerging collaboration on violence prevention and reentry services, including HCPH violence interruption teams in Sunnyside and at Ben Taub, partnership with HHD violence prevention staff and CBOs funded through COH at HCPH Violence Prevention Conference, initial efforts to access HPD data
 - “Surge support” for large disease outbreak or foodborne illness investigations
 - Aligned pet registration requirements and costs across HCPH County Pets and BARC
 - Joint advocacy efforts on regional and Texas related public health legislation through work in TACCHO
- ... and more

Emerging aspirations; new opportunities

Deeper collaboration required amidst funding constraints



Revenue diversification

- Philanthropic funding
- Management district & TIRZ agreements
- Shared savings models (“Prevention as a Service”)
- Reimbursement for non-medical drivers of health (NMDoH) support

Technology transformation

- Harris Health “Back to Foundation” EPIC journey including public health modules
- Increased use of technology to improve patient experience

Expanded legislative engagement

- Preserving funding remains paramount
- Bipartisan support needed for public health fundamentals like immunization

How elected officials can help

Support for public health is critical in challenging times



Secure funding

- Local budgets
- State and federal advocacy
- Connection to philanthropic sources and private partners

Amplify messaging

- Ensure communications teams are connected
- Promote healthy behaviors and health department resources
- Reinforce HHD and HCPH as trusted sources of health information

Connect community members

- Continue incorporating public health in community events
- Understand available services and invite us to train staff on referral pathways



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