Looking Ahead: What's Next for Women's Preventive Healthcare in Texas

Janet Realini, MD, MPH
President, Healthy Futures of Texas
Chair, Texas Women’s Healthcare Coalition

JRealini@HF-TX.org
www.TexasWHC.org
65 healthcare, advocacy, faith organizations

Access to preventive healthcare, including contraception, for ALL Texas women

www.TexasWHC.org
Unintended (Unplanned) Pregnancy

“Births resulting from unintended or closely spaced pregnancies are associated with adverse maternal and child health outcomes, such as delayed prenatal care, premature birth, and negative physical and mental health effects for children.”

https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/unintended-pregnancy-united-states

- Late prenatal care
- Closely spaced pregnancies
- Higher risk of low birth weight, prematurity
Benefits of Family Planning (Contraception)

- Healthier babies
- Healthier mothers
- Stronger families
- Fiscal savings
“Because of the potential for Zika virus to affect pregnant women and their fetuses, strategies to prevent unintended pregnancy are a critical part of current efforts to prevent Zika-related health effects.”

Now More than Ever: Maternal Mortality

Selected Recommendations from the TX Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force:

1. Increase access to health services during the year after delivery & during the inter-conception period to improve continuity of care, enable effective care transitions, promote safe birth spacing, reduce maternal morbidity, and reduce the cost of care in the Medicaid program.

2. Increase provider and community awareness of health inequities and implement programs that increase the ability of women to self-advocate.

3. Increase screening for and referral to behavioral health services.

- The Texas maternal mortality rate doubled between 2011 and 2012\(^1\)
- Though only 11.4% of all 2011/2012 births in Texas were to black women, they accounted for 28.8% of all maternal deaths\(^2\)

Women’s Preventive Healthcare Services

- Well-woman exams
- Screenings
- Contraceptive counseling, methods, and supplies
- Additional services

Not Abortion
Client Eligibility:
- Women ages 15-44 (Ages 15-17 with parental consent)
- 200% Federal Poverty Level
- Citizen/Eligible Immigrant
- Not pregnant
- 5,342 providers

Eligibility Determinations:
- Client eligibility is determined by HHSC
- Clients may apply through a paper application or online
- Services delivered on a fee-for-service basis

Covered Services
- Pelvic examinations
- Contraceptive Services
- Pap tests
- Screening for hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol
- Sexually transmitted infection (STI) services
- Sterilizations
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings and Diagnostic Services
- Immunizations
- Cervical Dysplasia treatment
- Other preventative services

Auto-Enrollment after a Medicaid Delivery
Eligibility

- Women and Men
- Age 64 or younger
- 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Texas residents
- Must not be eligible for any similar program, including the HTW Fee-For-Service program
- Eligibility is determined at the point of service by family planning contractors
- Since implementation we have seen a steady increase in providers

Covered Services

- Pelvic exam
- Contraceptive Services
- Pap tests
- Screening for hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol
- Sexually transmitted infection (STI) services
- Sterilizations
- Breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services
- Immunizations
- Prenatal Services
Women’s Healthcare Policy Achievements

- Increased funding for family planning
- Bipartisan support for prevention, including contraception
Additional $46.5 million for women’s health services

3 programs consolidated into 2 under Women’s Health Services at HHSC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HHSC Strategy</th>
<th>Family Planning</th>
<th>Expanded Primary Health Care</th>
<th>Texas Women's Health Program</th>
<th>&quot;Women's Health Services&quot;</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2016-17 ($Millions/Biennium)</td>
<td>$41.6</td>
<td>$100.0</td>
<td>$69.3</td>
<td>$50.0</td>
<td>$260.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15 ($Millions/Biennium)</td>
<td>$43.2</td>
<td>$100.0</td>
<td>$71.3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$214.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women’s Healthcare Policy Achievements

• Establishment of Women’s Health Advisory Committee

• Long Acting/Highly Effective Contraceptives:
  • increase access
  • provider education and training
**Need vs. Supply - 2014**

- **Women in Need***
- **Family Planning**
- **Expanded Primary Health Care**
- **Texas Women's Health Program**


**French, Lesley, "Presentation to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee: Healthy Texas Women and Family Planning Programs," September 13, 2016.*
Barriers to Reproductive Health Care in Texas

Roughly 1.8 million Texas women are in need of publicly funded preventive health services.*


1. Ensure funding for women’s preventive healthcare, including contraception, can fully meet the growing need among low-income uninsured women

- Provide funding to reach the 1.8 million women in need of publicly funded preventive services
- Ensure funding for women’s health programs meets the need for services within each program
Policy Priorities for the 85th Legislature

2. Identify areas with a shortage of qualified family planning providers and develop strategies to increase provider participation in the state’s women’s health programs

• Identify areas of greatest need
• Increase provider outreach and enrollment
• Increase provider capacity in rural/underserved areas
• Increase payment rates for providers
Policy Priorities for the 85th Legislature

3.
Ensure women have access to the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives of their choice, including the most effective forms of contraception – implants and intrauterine devices (IUDs)

- Increase access to the most effective forms of contraception
- Regularly adjust payments and ensure adequate reimbursement
- Ensure adequate quality family planning provider training
4. Increase continuity of care for women by eliminating barriers to preventive healthcare access

- Ensure eligible clients can enroll in Healthy Texas Women
- Ensure women receive effective referral services
- Enable 12-month supply of birth control
- Automatically enroll 19-year-olds in CHIP into Healthy Texas Women
Policy Priorities for the 85th Legislature

5.

Maximize the ability of the women’s healthcare safety net to reach more women and save Texas taxpayer dollars

• Save Texas taxpayer money by investing in prevention
• Develop a workable solution for the coverage gap
Looking Ahead: The 85th Legislature

- The Health and Human Services Commission’s Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) Released in September
  - Requests $4.9 million more for 2018/2019 biennium than 2016/2017
  - $191.3 million for Healthy Texas Women;
    $74.4 million for Family Planning Program
  - Exceptional Item Request for additional $20 million for Family Planning Program
Thank You!

Janet Realini, MD, MPH
Chair, Texas Women’s Healthcare Coalition
President, Healthy Futures of Texas
Jrealini@HF-TX.org

Alice Bufkin, MPAff
Director of Policy and Advocacy, Texas Women’s Healthcare Coalition
Abufkin@TexasWHC.org

www.texaswhc.org