



T E X A S  
Women's Healthcare  
COALITION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition Hosted Women's Healthcare Event**

**San Antonio (May 17, 2016)** – The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC), sponsored by Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc., hosted a discussion of issues impacting women's preventive healthcare in the state at the Methodist Healthcare Ministries Corporate Headquarters in San Antonio. The event included information about the new women's health programs launching on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and featured Dr. Janet Realini, Chair of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition, and Lesley French, Associate Commissioner for Women's Health Services for the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

"Big changes are underway for women's healthcare in Texas," expressed Dr. Janet Realini, President of Healthy Futures of Texas and Chair of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition. "Our state is launching two new women's health programs, which makes this a particularly important time to engage stakeholders and educate the public about critical issues impacting women's health in the state."

Attendees at the event included Texas House Representatives Ina Minjarez and Rick Galindo, as well as representatives from the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, Christus Santa Rosa, March of Dimes, and the UT Health Science Center.

"Our support of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition and our involvement with today's event help us bring the issue to the forefront as we prepare our advocacy efforts for the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative session," explained Christine Yanas, Director of Governmental Affairs with Methodist Healthcare Ministries.

Access to preventive and preconception health care — including health screenings and contraception — means healthy, planned pregnancies and early detection of cancers and other treatable conditions. With nearly 1.8 million Texas women in need of publicly subsidized family planning services, the support of stakeholders across the state is needed to ensure women receive access to these life-saving services.

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**About the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition**

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC) is a coalition of 62 healthcare, faith, and community-based member organizations dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Texas women, babies, and families by ensuring access to preventive healthcare for all Texas women. Access to preventive and

preconception care—including health screenings and contraception—means healthy, planned pregnancies and early detection of cancers and other treatable conditions.

**About Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.**

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc. is a private, faith-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating access to health care for the uninsured through direct services, community partnerships and strategic grant-making in 74 counties across South Texas. The mission of the organization is "Serving Humanity to Honor God" by improving the physical, mental and spiritual health of those least served in the Rio Texas Conference area of The United Methodist Church. The mission also includes Methodist Healthcare Ministries' one-half ownership of the Methodist Healthcare System, the largest health care system in South Texas, which creates a unique avenue to ensure that it continues to be a benefit to the community by providing quality care to all and charitable care when needed. For more information, visit [www.mhm.org](http://www.mhm.org).

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