



# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

Dear potential Coalition member,

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition.

TWHC is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of women, babies, and families by ensuring access to preventive care – including contraception – for all Texas women.

Our membership is made up of passionate healthcare, provider, advocacy, and faith-based organizations from across the state, all uniquely experienced, and dedicated to improving the healthcare safety net for Texas women. Access to preventive and preconception care—including contraception and health screenings—means healthy, planned pregnancies and early detection of cancers and other treatable conditions.

### ***About our work***

*In 2011, the women's healthcare safety net was severely damaged by funding cuts. In response, TWHC successfully advocated to restore and increase funding during the 2013, 2015, and 2017 legislative sessions. While we were successful in the mission of helping more women gain access to care, there's still room for improvement. **Nearly 1.8 million Texas women are in need of publicly supported preventive healthcare and providers capacity to meet the need for services remains uncertain***

### ***Membership Benefits***

As a Coalition member you'll receive our monthly e-newsletter, updates on developments in women's preventive healthcare, information on TWHC advocacy opportunities, alerts about upcoming events and voting privileges. Full Coalition meetings are held quarterly in Austin during the legislative interim and representatives from the Health and Human Services Commission, and other organizations, often provide presentations for attendees. Travel funding is available to Coalition members to help defray travel costs, and meetings may also be attended via our conference line.

*Attached to this letter are background materials and a membership form. If your organization agrees with our Coalition Principles, please consider applying to join us in our efforts to promote access to preventive healthcare for all Texas women.*

*If you have any questions, please contact [Info@TexasWHC.org](mailto:Info@TexasWHC.org) for additional information.*

Sincerely,

Evelyn Delgado

Chair, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

TEXAS WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE COALITION

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# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

## Coalition Objectives

### **Nearly 1.8 million Texas women are in need of preventative healthcare and access to contraception.**

*Access to preventive healthcare leads to fewer unplanned pregnancies, lowers the risk of child abuse and neglect, increases rates of early prenatal care, and reduces Medicaid costs. By becoming a member of the Texas Women's healthcare Coalition, you can help improve healthcare for women across the state.*

#### **Our objectives include:**

- Increasing funding for women's preventive healthcare, including contraception, to fully meet the growing need among low-income uninsured women;
- Ensuring Texas has a strong provider network with the capacity to serve all women in need of preventive healthcare services;
- Supporting innovative new healthcare policies that benefit the health of Texas' women and families.

#### **How does TWHC achieve its goals?**

- Collaborating with Coalition members and community stakeholders to identify challenges and policy solutions for increasing access to preventive health care for Texas women;
- Consulting with and advising state agency leaders to improve the ability of the state's women's health programs to serve women in need;
- Advocating at the state Capitol, working with legislators, and mobilizing statewide support to increase access to women's preventive healthcare in Texas.



# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

## Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition Members as of March 2019

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition members are organizations that endorse TWHC principles. By endorsing the principles, organizational members agree to be publicly associated with the Coalition.

### Steering Committee Members

Texas Medical Association  
District XI (Texas) American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Texas Academy of Family Physicians  
Texas Association of Community Health Centers  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries  
Teaching Hospitals of Texas  
Women's Health and Family Planning Association of Texas  
Texans Care for Children  
Center for Public Policy Priorities  
*Chair - Healthy Futures of Texas*

### Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition General Members

Access Esperanza Clinics Inc.	North Texas Nurse Practitioners
Amistad Community Health Center	Panhandle Nurse Practitioner Association
Austin Advanced Practice Nurses	Pasadena Health Center
Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility	People's Community Clinic
AWHONN Texas	Port Arthur Housing Authority
Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.	Pregnancy and Postpartum Health Alliance of Texas
Brazos Valley Nurse Practitioner Association	SALVERE (Striving to Achieve Literacy via Education, Research, and Engagement)
Cardea	San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
Center for Community Health, UNTHSC	San Antonio Nurses in Advanced Practice
Centering Health Institute	Schneider Communications
Central Texas Nurse Practitioners	South Plains Nurse Practitioner Association
Children's Hospital Association of Texas	South Texas Family Planning & Health Corp.
Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice	Southeast Texas Nurse Practitioner Associates
Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses	Special Health Resources
Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation	St. David's Foundation
Community Healthcare Center	Susan Wolfe and Associates, LLC
Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives	Texas Association of Community Health Plans
Department of Ob/Gyn of UNTHSC and the ForHER Institute	Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
El Buen Samaritano	Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
El Centro de Corazón	Texas Council on Family Violence
El Paso Area Advanced Practice Nurse Association	Texas Health Institute
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley	Texas Hospital Association
Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners	Texas Medical Association Alliance
Haven Health	Texas Nurse Practitioners
Hill Country Advanced Practice Nurses & Physicians Assistants Association	Texas Nurses Association
Houston Area Chapter of NAPNAP	Texas Oral Health Coalition
Houston Area Nurse Practitioners	Texas Pediatric Society
League of Women Voters of Texas	Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Legacy Community Health Services	Texas Women's Foundation
Lone Star Family Health Center	The Contraceptive Initiative
March of Dimes – Texas	The SAFE Alliance
Mental Health America of Greater Houston	The Women's Fund for Health Education and Resiliency
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health	United Methodist Women
National Council of Jewish Women—Texas State Policy Advocacy Network	University Health System
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health	Valley AIDS Council
North Harris Montgomery Advanced Practice Nurse Society	Women's & Men's Health Services of the Coastal Bend, Inc.
North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy	Young Invincibles



# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

## Coalition Principles

Approved October 5, 2016

*The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC) is committed to the following Principles in our work to improve access to preventive healthcare for Texas women:*

1. Improving access to women's preventive healthcare will improve maternal and child health; empower women to take personal responsibility for their health and their future; and reduce costs to the state.
2. Funding for Texas women's health programs should maximize services and achieve universal access to family planning services in the state.
3. Texas should adopt program rules and policies that ensure ample program funding and broad availability of actively participating providers.
4. Preventive healthcare services should include health history; contraceptive care; appropriate screenings (e.g., for breast and cervical cancer, sexually transmitted infections, depression, intimate partner violence, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, tobacco use, and alcohol misuse); access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC); and preconception care (including counseling on establishing a reproductive life plan and on folic acid intake to prevent neural tube defects). Preventive healthcare services should follow best practices for family planning as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
5. Education, counseling, and provision of the full range of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptive methods are essential components of women's preventive healthcare, allowing women to avoid unplanned pregnancy and to optimize their health prior to pregnancy. Planned pregnancies improve the health of children; adequate birth spacing lowers the risk of premature birth and low birth weight.
6. Texas should eliminate barriers that make access to preventive healthcare services – including contraception – more difficult for women and adolescents. These barriers include exemptions that would exclude or limit benefits for prescription contraceptive drugs and devices.



# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

## Coalition Bylaws

Approved September 2016

### Members

Members of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition are groups or organizations that endorse TWHC Principles. By endorsing the Principles, members agree to be publicly associated with the Coalition.

### Members can:

- Attend open Coalition meetings;
- Participate in decision-making and voting;
- Subscribe to the general Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition listserv;
- Engage in member-only discussion forums.

Additionally, Coalition members may be asked to participate in the following activities, according to their organizational capacity:

- Attend Coalition meetings and events.
- Participate in Coalition media events and public statements.
- Speak on behalf of the Coalition to the media and at other public events.
- Provide legislative testimony.
- Engage, educate, and involve their own constituents and members in the work of the Coalition; for example, through email alerts or other communication.
- Disseminate TWHC messages and materials.
- Host a presentation about TWHC or women's healthcare issues.
- Participate in legislative lobby visits.
- Conduct strategic outreach and membership recruitment on behalf of the Coalition.
- Support the Coalition with funding and in-kind resources.

Prospective members will receive an enrollment packet including Coalition principles, bylaws, and the membership application.

While only organizations may become members, individuals can participate as supporters of TWHC.



# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

## Coalition Bylaws

Approved September 2016

### Supporters

Any individual, group, or organization can be a supporter of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC), regardless of affiliation or IRS tax status. Supporters are not required to endorse TWHC Principles but can indicate their support of TWHC. Supporters do not have voting privileges within the Coalition and may not speak on behalf of the Coalition.

#### Supporters can:

- Subscribe to the TWHC listserv;
- Participate in open Coalition meetings; and
- Donate to TWHC.

### Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is composed of Coalition members and is tasked with ensuring that TWHC moves forward with its objectives and agenda. In addition to the responsibilities of all members, the Steering Committee:

- Provides thought leadership for Coalition initiatives and will propose specific legislative ideas based on the Coalition's adopted principles and legislative agenda;
- Makes high-level, strategic Coalition decisions, with input from the general membership;
- Works with staff to make day-to-day decisions necessary for carrying the Coalition forward;
- Acts as the face and first point of contact to the Coalition for media and public inquiries;
- Commits to providing support to the Coalition, such as: staff or individual time, meeting space, printing, e-communications, teleconference hosting, and other supports;
- Votes on prospective Steering Committee and general Coalition members;
- Meets in person monthly or as scheduled; and
- At least biennially reviews Coalition bylaws.

The Steering Committee will have a maximum of 10 members. Only TWHC members are eligible to serve on the Steering Committee.

A TWHC member may self-nominate or be nominated by a member of TWHC to become a Steering Committee member. To qualify as a Steering Committee member, the member must have attended at least 50 percent of Coalition meetings in the preceding 12 months. The Steering Committee will decide by a 4/5 vote whether to accept the nomination.



# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

## Coalition Bylaws

Approved September 2016

### Steering Committee Cont.

Decisions of the Steering Committee are ideally made by consensus. If a vote is needed, the Steering Committee will decide by a 4/5 vote. Each organization member of the Steering Committee has one vote, although member organizations are welcome to send more than one individual to participate in Steering Committee meetings.

In the case that a member organization objects to a new organization's inclusion in the Coalition, the Steering Committee will review the objection and use a simple majority to vote the organization in question in or out.

### Steering Committee Chair

The Steering Committee chair is nominated and elected by the Steering Committee and must commit to serving in the role for at least one legislative session. The Steering Committee chair must have been an active Steering Committee member by attending at least 50 percent of Steering Committee or general Coalition meetings in the year prior to nomination.

### Responsibilities of the Chair include:

- Calling meetings of the general membership and Steering Committee;
- Presiding over general membership and steering committee meetings; and
- Working with the Steering Committee, Coalition membership, and Coalition staff to ensure the successful implementation of decisions.

### Staff

Currently, the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition receives staff support from Healthy Futures of Texas. The staff member(s) is/are responsible for convening the Coalition and the Steering Committee, providing logistical and administrative support for the Coalition at large, helping coordinate Coalition policy and advocacy efforts, and communicating with national partner organizations that work on access issues concerning preventive healthcare, preconception care, and contraception.

### Coalition Decision-Making Process

Recognizing the importance of developing an inclusive and representative collective body, the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition will make its best effort to solicit input from supporters and members to make strategic decisions about legislative and organizing initiatives.



# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

## Coalition Bylaws

Approved September 2016

### Coalition Decision-Making Process

To the extent that it is possible, large-scale decisions will be discussed by participants at open quarterly Coalition meetings. Members and supporters will be given an opportunity to discuss and provide input into such decisions. All Coalition members (i.e. those organizations who have endorsed Coalition principles) will be allowed one vote to affect the outcome of the decision. The passage of a proposal will be determined by a two-thirds majority of those who choose to vote (e.g. if 18 out of 20 members vote, at least 12 must vote the same way).

Because we strive to be a statewide Coalition, we will work to accommodate those who cannot be physically present by providing call-in capabilities and the ability to submit votes by email. Specific instructions on how to vote via these avenues will be provided with each decision item.

Inevitably, there will be decisions and items that will only be addressed by the Coalition Steering Committee, such as those that are time sensitive or which concern the everyday workings of the Coalition. However, the goal will always be to solicit and include the will of the full Coalition in all decision-making processes, where appropriate.

### Signing-On to Public Coalition Documents

The Coalition often provides comments on rules and policies impacting women's preventive healthcare. TWHC staff will strive to provide comments for members to review at least 24 hours in advance of their submission, and to provide as much additional time for review as circumstances allow. If Coalition staff does not receive any objection to the document, staff will assume members agree to have their organization included in the list of supporters.

### Amending Coalition Bylaws

A general Coalition or Steering Committee member may propose to amend Coalition bylaws by submitting a request to the Steering Committee with at least a 30-day notice before voting.

Amending the bylaws will be determined by a 4/5 vote of the Steering Committee.



# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

## Membership Application

Our organization endorses the Principles of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition and wishes to be listed as a Member of the Coalition.

*PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY IF YOU ARE AUTHORIZED BY YOUR ORGANIZATION TO ENDORSE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TEXAS WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE COALITION:*

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your organization (check one):      Statewide: \_\_\_\_\_      Local/Regional: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person authorized to sign for your organization (Please Print):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Representative to the Coalition, if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print, scan, and email this form to: [Info@TexasWHC.org](mailto:Info@TexasWHC.org) or Fax to: (210) 223-4591

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition is a project of Healthy Futures of Texas



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