

John Zendt, Chair
United Board of Health

Milton Howard, DDS, Chair
4C's Governing Board



Harlan "Mark" Guidry, MD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

www.gchd.org

INTRODUCTION

February 28, 2009

The Galveston County Health District's United Board of Health and 4 C's Governing Board proudly present the **2008 Annual Report on the Strategic Health Plan**, adopted by Both boards of Health in January 2004. Since 2004, the Galveston County Health District has documented remarkable progress. As outlined in the **Executive Summary** which follows, our future focus will be on Hurricane Ike recovery as well as resource, facility, and technology improvements necessary to sustain excellent public services and accountability. The Strategic Health Plan (2004 – 2010) and annual progress reports can be found at <http://www.gchd.org/admin/strattoc.htm>.

The **United Board of Health** is a thirteen (13) member appointed body <http://www.gchd.org/boards/UBHMembrs.htm> responsible to the public for the health assurance policies and funding priorities of the Galveston County Health District. An interlocal agreement between the county and thirteen member city governments outlines membership representation on the United Board of Health. The United Board of Health oversees most functional areas of the Health District with the exception of the 4C's Clinics (Galveston County Coordinated Community Clinics). The United Board of Health's public policies/fees are located at <http://www.gchd.org/boards/boardpolicy.htm>. See Report on United Board of Health in Appendix A on page 67.

As the policy-making board of the 4C's Clinics, the **4C's Governing Board** meets federal requirements of a federally-qualified community health clinic. There are nine (9) members of which a majority (5) are consumers (i.e., patients) of the 4C's clinics (<http://www.gchd.org/boards/GBmbrNames.htm>). The Governing Board's membership aide in developing community-based operational and financial policies for the 4C's Clinics. Governing Board clinic policies/fees are found at <http://www.gchd.org/boards/GBboardpolicy.htm>. See Report on Governing Board in Appendix B on page 69.

At the strategic initiative of the **Health District's History Council**, www.gchd.org/councils/councilindex.htm, we are pleased to announce that the Council and staff are preparing an enlightening presentation about the earliest history of public health and healthcare issues that lead to the cooperative inter-local formation of the Galveston County Health District in 1971. Early public health challenges in the City of Galveston and the Mainland laid the foundation for our unique governmental structure (less than a handful in Texas) that was formed by and serves residents in 14 local governments cooperatively. Delayed due to Hurricane Ike, the history presentation will be available in 2009 when the Health District begins to engage the community in a strategic health planning process for the next decade 2010-2020.

Finally, we acknowledge and commend the excellent staffs of Health District who work credibly, openly, and effectively with a multitude of community stakeholders, advisory councils, taskforce committees, and residents of the county and cities. In 2008, Health District staff did an excellent job of demonstrating its readiness and responsiveness to community health threats during and after Hurricane Ike. See complete report on Hurricane Ike on page 39.

Thank you to all of our community members who play an instrumental role in public health improvements within Galveston County. We look forward to your help in 2009 as we plan for developing a new strategic health plan for the 2010 decade, outlining long-term goals in our journey to a healthier community.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Signature on file

John A. Zendt, Chair
Galveston County United Board of Health

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