

Sunset Review Governance Committee Final Report

The Governance Committee has had thirteen meetings over the past four months to study the Health District and its departments and structure, in order to make informed recommendations regarding the governance of the Health District. The Committee received and heard oral presentations from each of the six Sunset Review Committees, as well as Judge Yarbrough, John Zendt, and Dr. Ralph Morris. The cities of Galveston, Clear Lake Shores, Texas City, Dickinson, La Marque and League City were represented on a regular basis. The general sentiment of the committee is that the Health District provides a valuable service to Galveston County, and that these services should continue to be provided with some changes to the current reporting structure. There is consensus that the lack of adequate funding is a major concern for all Health District programs, and additional funding needs to be addressed. The Committee is also in agreement that the 4C's Clinics should remain intact with the current Board structure.

The Committee had multiple discussions regarding indigent healthcare in Galveston County and the potential for this issue to overwhelm other key public health services. Public health services, such as food inspection, air pollution, water pollution and animal control, are priorities at the city level. A structure needs to be in place that will assure these services receive the attention necessary to assure their ongoing smooth functioning. In addition, the Committee recommends that a separate governance structure be put in place to address indigent healthcare issues.

The following motions were made and voted upon by the Sunset Review Governance Committee. The actual vote has been reflected to provide clarification as to the opinion of the individual members of the committee.

As indigent healthcare continues to place demands on the County, we feel the need for a more coordinated effort to address the provision of healthcare in the most cost-effective manner possible. The provision of healthcare is perceived as a County concern. At the same time, services such as food inspection, air pollution, water pollution and animal control are priorities at the city level and should not be overshadowed by the provision of health care.

For	8
Opposed	1

The Committee recommends that the Commissioners Court revisit EMS service viability in Galveston and the possibility of potential expansion on the Mainland.

For	8
Opposed	0
Abstain	3

The 4C's Clinic should continue to answer to the 4C's Governing Board, and the remaining health care services should answer to a Board.

For Unanimous

Approximately 30% of the population of Galveston County is uninsured or underinsured, and funding to provide services needs to be increased.

For Unanimous

The governance structure recommended by the Indigent Healthcare Task Force should be accepted with the approval process for Board members currently in place remaining.

For 3
Opposed 4
Abstained 3

An experienced grant/contract writer should be added to the staff of the County for Public Health and Indigent Healthcare.

For 7
Abstained 3

A section within the District should be created to exclusively manage indigent health care with a very specific mission to mitigate indigent health care deficiencies in the County.

For 8
Opposed 0
Abstained 2

Administrative overhead services of the Health District (payroll, human resources, information technology, purchasing, financial and accounting) should be "folded into" and combined with existing County departments to achieve a better, more efficient, and more cost effective delivery of these overhead services.

For 7
Opposed 2
Abstained 1

Cities that want public health services such as water pollution, animal control, drinking water monitoring and air pollution should contract directly with the County in a manner similar to the way cities contract with the County for such services as road construction.

For	7
Opposed	2
Abstained	1

A structure should be put in place that will report directly to the Commissioners Court for the cities for public health services.

For	6
Opposed	3
Abstain	2

Services that are clearly not medically related should be in a separate department reporting directly to Commissioners Court, as long as this reporting structure does not jeopardize outside funding.

For	6
Opposed	3
Abstained	1

It is the opinion of the Governance Committee that the Board of Health membership should include the expertise needed to effectively govern the services provided as well as provide geographic representation across the County.

The Board of Health should include a representative from UTMB and from Mainland Medical Center.

For	10
Opposed	0

The Chairman of the 4C's Clinic Board or his/her designee should be on the Board of Health.

For	9
Opposed	1

There should be one nurse and one dentist on the Board of Health.

For	10
Opposed	0

A representative from the senior citizens community should be on the Board of Health.

For	10
Opposed	0

One physician from the Galveston County Medical society should be on the Board of Health.

For	7
Opposed	0
Abstained	3

Two physicians in private practice should be on the Board of Health.

For	7
Opposed	1
Abstained	2

One physician from UTMB should be on the Board of Health.

For	10
Opposed	0

The Commissioners Court should appoint someone to the Board of Health from the Galveston County Mayor and Councilman's Association who does not have to be a current elected official.

For	8
Opposed	0
Abstained	3

The current process for nominating and confirming Board of Health members should stay in place.

For	7
Opposed	0
Abstained	2

The Governance Committee discussed a variety of organizational structures with no final structure agreed upon by the Governance Committee. Organizational structures that were discussed are attached and made a part of this report as a working paper.

The Governance Committee as a whole or a subcommittee of the Governance Committee is willing to assist the Commissioners Court in monitoring the progress and implementation of the recommendations of the Committee that are accepted by the Commissioners Court.