



TEXAS ASSOCIATION  
OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

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Lee A. Lane

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

November 23, 2010

Eduardo Olivarez, Chief Administrative Officer  
Hidalgo County Health Department  
1304 S. 25th Ave.  
Edinburg, TX 78542

Dear Eduardo Olivarez:

The Texas Association of Local Health Officials, (TALHO), provides many invaluable services to local health departments. These services are made possible by various grants and the generous support of our members.

Benefits to local health departments include but are not limited to:

- A. Advocacy for public health in Texas through its department of Public Health. TALHO is implementing a Public Health Breakfast to provide Legislators with information on the importance of Public Health initiatives throughout the state.
- B. A one-stop solution to Public Health governmental relations needs wherever they may occur; to push through the governmental wall of indifference and make the unified voice of Public Health heard, and its opinions known. To alter the motion of the governmental machinery so that it turns for Public Health rather than against it.
- C. Support for the collective agenda of the local public health practitioners.
- D. TALHO acts as a key legislative advocate and interface for LPHAs at the state and national levels.
- E. Provides collective bargaining, workshop organization, and research to locate resource development opportunities.
- F. Premier contact point for national and statewide public health entities that wish to have an audience with LPHAs.
- G. Provides general and individualized information regarding events or programs offered by public health entities.
- H. Provides a centralized research information and data clearinghouse
- I. Senior level IT administrators and engineers are available to TALHO members for consultative services from software selection to large wide-area network projects.
- J. TALHO provides and manages connectivity solutions for its members.
- K. Availability of \$600 per month T1 data connection for members.
  1. Can be used for primary internet access.
  2. Provides failover communications route for disaster recovery.
- L. On-demand multimedia library where videoconferences and satellite broadcast events are archived and available for later viewing.

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- M. TALHO IT services can assist LHD to capture and provide access to up-to-date health intelligence about their local population. The information can help them make the right decisions at the right time. It can also help them do this in the most cost-effective way. This approach supports the government's key public health commitment to help LPH departments identify and address health inequalities.
- N. We provide you with the tools to gather data that can help you identify priorities, measure change and monitor outcomes.
- O. Understanding the health profile of each local area is the key to making informed decisions for your local population. Our health intelligence data gathering capability can be used by our members to support public services in identifying and understanding local challenges, agreeing priorities and identifying solutions.
- P. We can assist LHD access multiple data sources and so our members can interpret and analyze complex and sophisticated datasets.
- Q. Videoconferencing is available to all local health departments, providing an effective method of live communication across long distances.

Members have the opportunity to become more involved by having a way to participate in meetings that health departments otherwise could not afford. Distance education courses with available continuing education credits are also broadcast via this medium. TALHO also has the capability to host webinars. This service allows local health departments to participate via the web in educational events, informational meetings and workshops. In addition, this service also allows local health departments to design and host their own web events.

Many more services are available through your membership in TALHO. We are continually working with local health departments to add additional services by request. For more information about the services available from TALHO, contact the TALHO staff at 512-814-2546 or [info@talho.org](mailto:info@talho.org).

We look forward to your continued support of our organization and working with you in 2011! In the meantime, if there are questions you may have or if the TALHO office can provide assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your feedback is extremely valuable to us and we look forward to your continued participation.

Sincerely,



Lee A. Lane  
Executive Director

