



**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Promote. Prevent. Protect.

HOME ABOUT US MEMBERSHIP SERVICES PROGRAMS MEDIA COMMUNITY CONTACT

**NEWS.**

**01.11.12**  
H-E-B is looking for 25 people to participate in a 16-week program where experts will teach you about cooking, nutrition and exercise while wellness coaches will help you lose weight, become more active and live healthier. The grand prize is \$10,000! [Apply today.](#)

**01.03.12**  
TALHO Member-At-Large and Director of the [Houston Department of Health and Human Services](#), Stephen Williams, MEd, MPA, was

**WELCOME.**

We are a non-profit organization that promotes health, prevents disease and protects the environment.

We represent the collective interests of a membership body comprised of local health departments and districts throughout the state of Texas. We are committed to the principles of public health practice in local communities and strive through advocacy, leadership, innovation and technology to assist members in reaching their goals.

As advocates for the health and wellbeing of Texans, we function as an information resource by monitoring and researching public health news, trends, and legislative actions to keep members updated on the current events that effect their everyday operations.

In a technical capacity, we operate the Texas Health Alert Network (HAN), critical infrastructure for the transmittal of public health

**UPCOMING EVENTS.**

**02.08.12**  
TALHO Board Meeting  
1:00PM - 4:00PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**02.09.12**  
TALHO Membership Meeting  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**04.18.12**  
TALHO Board Meeting  
1:00PM - 4:00PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**04.19.12**  
TALHO Membership Meeting  
8:30AM - 4:30PM

**06.13.12**  
TALHO Board Meeting  
1:00PM - 4:00PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**06.14.12**  
TALHO Membership Meeting  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**08.08.12**  
TALHO Board Meeting  
1:00PM - 4:00PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**08.09.12**  
TALHO Membership Meeting  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**10.10.12**  
TALHO Board Meeting  
1:00PM - 4:00PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**10.11.12**  
TALHO Membership Meeting  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**12.12.12**  
TALHO Board Meeting  
1:00PM - 4:00PM  
TALHO Conference Room

**12.13.12**  
TALHO Membership Meeting  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
TALHO Conference Room





RECEIVED  
Hidalgo County Health  
& Human Services Department

NOV 21 2011

E: info@talho.org  
P: (512) 814-2546  
F: (512) 814-2551

2600 McHale Court, Ste. 100  
Austin, TX 78758

November 18, 2011

1304 S. 25th Avenue  
Edinburg, Texas 78542

Dr. Eduardo Olivarez M.D.  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Hidalgo County Health Department  
1304 South 25th Avenue  
Edinburg, Texas 78542

Dear Dr. Olivarez:

The Texas Association of Local Health Officials, (TALHO), provides many valuable services to local health departments. These services are made possible by various projects and the generous support of our members. TALHO's members span all budget sizes, geographic regions and public health activities in the state. As the State of Texas' State Association of County & Cities Health Officials (SACCHO), TALHO advocates for its members in the Texas Legislature and the US Congress to ensure that the best interests of Local Health Departments and Districts and the communities they represent are heard and understood. Benefits to local health departments and Districts include but are not limited to:

- A. Advocacy for public health issues, a united voice representing the collective interest of individuals who represent public health activities for over 85% of the Texas population is difficult for anyone to ignore. As evidenced by the one year successful passage of SB 969. TALHO through the leadership of its Board of Directors combined with excellent follow through by its Executive Director and cooperation of its membership have every reason to call 2011 a successful legislative year.
- B. TALHO provides a one-stop, solution to Public Health governmental relations needs wherever they may occur. As resources become scarce, the ability to push through the governmental wall and make the unified voice of Public Health heard becomes a greater challenge.
- C. With over 10 years of experience TALHO has found the key to effective advocacy is knowing about the process, the issue, goals, facts, strategy, allies, opposition and the people, who will make a difference in the success or failure of the campaign. The battle goes to the prepared, and the familiar adage of "knowledge is power" provides a significant advantage in this process.
- D. TALHO advocates best practices for members, promotes networking among members and across governmental and business sectors to increase awareness about the role of Local Health Departments and Districts in the overall health of the communities they serve.
- E. Assists in operational efficiencies from technology based consulting services (software selection to large wide area network projects).
- F. TALHO provides and manages connectivity solutions for its members
- G. Availability of \$600 per month T1 data connection for members, which can be used for primary internet access or other connection services.

The TALHO Board of Directors

**President**

Sal Garcia  
Midland Health Department

**President-Elect**

Eduardo Olivarez  
Hidalgo County Health Department

**Vice-President**

Lou Franklin  
Wichita Falls-Wichita County  
Public Health District

**Past President**

Bing Burton  
Denton County Health Department

**Secretary / Treasurer**

Matt Richardson  
Amarillo Department of Public Health

**Executive Director**

Lee A. Lane

**Members-At-Large**

Stephen L. Williams  
Houston Health and Human Services  
Department

\* Vacant

Organization to be Determined

Michael Hill

City of El Paso Department of  
Public Health

- H. Provides failover communications route for disaster recovery
- I. On-demand multimedia library where videoconferences and satellite broadcast events are archived and available for later viewing
- J. Public health surveillance includes the process of detecting diseases through a standardized information collection system that can insure data quality and get the information to the individuals who can act on it. TALHO surveillance system is structured to deal with routine health threats and epidemic diseases. This approach supports the government's key public health commitment to help LPH departments identify and address health inequalities.
- K. Using TALHO's surveillance system assists its members in addressing some of the CDC's 15 public health preparedness capabilities used as the basis for state and local public health preparedness. CDC recognizes a jurisdiction's right to choose the order of the capabilities it decides to pursue based upon their jurisdictional risk assessment, however due to the strong dependencies between certain capabilities CDC advises that jurisdictions ensure they first are able to demonstrate capabilities within the below listed domains:
  - Biosurveillance
  - Community resilience
  - Countermeasures and mitigation
  - Incident managementTALHO has developed a Volunteer Management System to address the "Incident management" domain.
- L. Videoconferencing is available to local health departments, providing an effective method of live communication across long distances

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).

Through the difficult 2011 year TALHO has moved forward knowing that the bigger the challenge the greater the opportunity. We thank all our members who have confronted the challenges of the past year and opened up the opportunities we can look forward in 2012! 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. TALHO staff accepts the challenges so that our members may feel the exhilaration of success. Your feedback is extremely valuable to us and we look forward to your continued participation.

Sincerely,



Lee A. Lane  
Executive Director