

Interagency Coordinating Group

Legislative Report to the 83rd Texas Legislature

Prepared by

The Interagency Coordinating Group

Submitted to

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Speaker of the House

House Committee on Public Health

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the passage of House Bill (H.B.) 492, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009 and House Bill (H.B.) 1965, 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011 Texas became the first state in the country to pass legislation specifically to expand and improve the relationship between state government and faith- and community-based organizations (FCBOs) seeking to partner with the state to help meet health and human service needs. These two Bills directed the chief administrative officer of the named entities to appoint, in consultation with the Governor, a faith and community liaison in each agency. These liaisons serve on the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) chaired by the CEO of the State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar Foundation), also a named member of the ICG. OneStar Foundation also serves as the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for the State of Texas.

As directed in the Act, the goals of the ICG are to: 1) develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations; 2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations; 3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and 4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill. To achieve these goals ICG members organized into four subgroups: Improving Contracting Relationships (formerly Removing Barriers); Cross-Agency Programs; Sharing Information and Resources; and Enhanced Training. Subgroup chairs met frequently to develop a coordinated approach to achieving the goals as set forth above.

House Bill (H.B.) 1965 also created the “Task Force on Improving Relations with Nonprofits” to assist the ICG in carrying out its duties. The Executive Commissioner for the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), in consultation with the chair of the ICG, appointed eight Task Force members representing different sectors as delineated in the Act. Task Force members have been invaluable in advising the work of the four ICG subgroups to ensure that the point of view of faith-and community-based organizations was always considered. ICG member agencies frequently sought the

advice of Task Force members on issues such as effective messaging, outreach, and use of language that can be more easily understood by nonprofits.

The ICG is pleased to report significant progress on each of the four goals outlined in H.B. 1965. To improve contracting relationships between state agencies and FCBOs the ICG produced a standardized RFP template (APPENDIX E) for adoption by member agencies. To further cooperation and collaboration between state agencies and FCBOs, a web portal for the Texas Faith-Based and Community Initiative was designed on the OneStar Foundation website. The website includes an inventory of contracting frequently asked questions and a training module on Equal Treatment, both of which were developed in cooperation with ICG agencies and the Task Force. OneStar also launched the Texas Connector, an online, nonprofit mapping tool that shows the gap between areas served by nonprofits and government providers, and the underserved communities of Texas by displaying statewide nonprofit information and demographic and socioeconomic data derived from a variety of sources. This powerful tool can identify and address duplication of services and gaps in state services that FCBOs could fill.

Additional activities this year included a number of programmatic partnerships facilitated by the Cross-Agency Program Subgroup, with Task Force members assisting through their various networks. Initial indications are that FCBOs can be helpful in outreach to specific populations that may be in need of information or services offered by the state. Activities in 2013 will expand upon such partnerships between state agency programs and FCBOs.

As presiding officer of the ICG, I respectfully submit this year's report chronicling the goals, activities and progress of the ICG in calendar year 2012.

II. HOUSE BILL 1965 (82R) OVERVIEW

House Bill (H.B.) 1965, 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, directs specific state agencies to designate an employee, in consultation with the governor's office, to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations (FCBOs). These state agency liaisons, along with a liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar Foundation), who serves as chair, and a representative from higher education, serve together on the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG). The ICG's charge is to develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations; develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations; identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

To accomplish these goals, agencies were directed to identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships; provide information and training regarding equal opportunity standards for faith- and community-based organizations; identify and develop effective practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations; and work within their agency to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith- and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with agencies.

The following agencies serve on the ICG:

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission
The Department of Aging and Disability Services
The Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services
The Department of Family and Protective Services
The Department of State Health Services
The Office of Rural Community Affairs

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
The Texas Department of Criminal Justice
The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
The Texas Education Agency
The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
The Texas Veterans Commission
The Texas Workforce Commission
The Texas Youth Commission
The Office of the Governor
The Department of Public Safety
The Texas Department of Insurance
The Public Utility Commission of Texas
The Office of the Attorney General
The Department of Agriculture
The Office of the Comptroller
The Department of Information Resources
The Office of State-Federal Relations
The Office of the Secretary of State
The State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar Foundation)
One employee from an institution of higher education

Note: Pursuant to Senate Bill 653 passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature and signed by the Governor, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) was created on December 1, 2011 and the existing Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) and Texas Youth Commission (TYC) were abolished. On December 1, 2011, operations of both TJPC and TYC were transferred to the new TJJD and all references to TJPC and TYC were changed to the new name.

H.B.1965 also directed the formation of the “Task Force on Improving Relations with Nonprofits” to assist the ICG in carrying out its duties. The Executive Commissioner for the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), in consultation with the CEO of OneStar Foundation as chair of the ICG, appointed eight Task Force members representing: two statewide nonprofit organizations; local government; faith-based groups; community-based groups; consultants to nonprofits; experts in grant writing; a statewide association of nonprofits.

The following were appointed to serve on the Task Force:

- Bee Moorhead, Texas Impact (co-chair)
Faith-based Organization
- Barry Silverberg, Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations (co-chair)
Statewide Association of Nonprofit Organizations
- Juanita Budd, Austin Free.Net
Community-based Organization
- Donna Chatham, Association of Rural Communities in Texas
Local Government
- Beth Olson Drew, Texas Hunger Initiative
Statewide Nonprofit Organization
- Courtney Groves
Consultant to Nonprofits
- Jody Hopkins, Lone Star Association of Charitable Clinics
Statewide Nonprofit Organization
- Lucila Garcia Lagace, Del Sol Foundation for Nonprofit Management
Expert Grant Writer

III. ICG DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ICG Duties and Responsibilities

- Sec. 535.053. (c)(1) – Meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(2) – Work across state agencies and with the State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations.
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(3) – Operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.

ICG Additional Duties and Responsibilities

- Sec. 535.055. (c) – In addition to the interagency coordinating group’s other duties, the interagency coordinating group, in coordination with the task force, shall:
 1. Develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations;
 2. Develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;
 3. Identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and
 4. Identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

ICG Reporting Duties

- Sec. 535.054. (a) – Not later than December 1 of each year, the interagency coordinating group shall submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the interagency coordinating group.
- Sec. 535.054. (b) – The report made under Subsection (a) must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor’s Internet website.

IV. ICG GOALS, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS (January – December 2012)

Goals of the ICG

The goals of the ICG per H.B. 1965:

1. Develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations.
2. Develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations.
3. Identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations.
4. Identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

The ICG was also directed to:

5. Meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer.
6. Work across state agencies and with the State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar Foundation) to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations.
7. Operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.

Activities and Progress of the ICG

To achieve the goals as stated in H.B. 1965, ICG members met quarterly at the call of the chair. Task Force members were invited to attend and actively participate in discussions and offer solutions and recommendations. These quarterly meetings of the full ICG facilitated effective partnerships across agencies as information, challenges and actions were shared and discussed. This structure also allowed state agencies to identify unnecessary interagency barriers to partnering across agencies as well as barriers between agencies and nonprofits.

At the direction of the chair, ICG members were organized into subgroups to provide focused attention on action plans to accomplish the goals of the legislation. These are:

- Improving Contracting Relationships (formerly Removing Barriers)
- Cross-Agency Programs
- Sharing Information and Resources
- Enhanced Training

Subgroups met as needed to perform their due diligence. Task Force members were incorporated into each subgroup according to their interests and sphere of influence. The first two subgroup meetings were in person and subsequent meetings were held at the call of each subgroup chair by phone. Additionally, subgroup chairs met several times throughout the year to ensure a coordinated approach to achieving the goals as set forth above. Each subgroup reported to the full ICG on their progress and made recommendations for action by all state agencies represented on the ICG. In effect, each subgroup became subject matter experts in their assigned area. The work of all four subgroups addressed barriers to partnering either across agencies or between agencies and faith-and community-based organizations.

Detailed Progress and Activities by ICG Subgroup

Improving Contracting Relationships Subgroup

Background

This subgroup was formerly called the “Removing Barriers” subgroup; however, in December 2011, the subgroup chose a more specific name to reflect the subgroup’s work to remove barriers for faith and community groups wishing to work with state agencies. The membership was expanded to include ICG Task Force members as well as ICG liaisons, and those state agency staff identified as procurement/contract subject matter experts (SMEs). In the report on ICG activities submitted one year ago on December 1, 2011, it was expected that the new agencies named to the ICG in H.B.1965 would undergo internal barrier assessments as had been conducted two years previously by the

original ICG member agencies under H.B. 492. It was determined by the chair that this was not necessary, as the results from the first round of barrier assessments identified some commonly held real and perceived barriers that were and will continue to be addressed by all ICG member agencies. The subgroup lead is Liz Garbutt, Associate Commissioner, Community Access and Services, HHSC.

New Activities

Since December 2011, the Improving Contracting Relationships subgroup has met several times to develop and begin implementation of the Improving Contracting Relationships Plan. The purpose of the plan is to identify strategies that could improve relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations. To guide the development of the plan, the group analyzed information and recommendations from the November 2010 Task Force on Strengthening Nonprofit Capacity Report and the fiscal year 2010 state agency ICG barrier assessments, activities accomplished under H.B. 492 (SR81).

The group's analysis revealed a clear need for state agencies to provide more easily accessible information and resources about contracting and procurement with the state. Furthermore, the information available to faith-and community-based organizations should use language that is more easily understood by non-governmental entities.

Progress

- 1) The plan for Improving Contracting Relationships was developed and approved by the ICG on May 23, 2012 (APPENDIX C). The plan outlines various improvement components, and indicates that the subgroup will set priorities and timelines, each fiscal year.
- 2) The group presented the plan to the full ICG in May, and began implementation thereafter, by creating a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to contracting with the state. SME's provided clear responses to the questions. ICG and Task Force members reviewed and commented to ensure agreement on language, content and clarity.

- 3) The FAQs were placed on OneStar Foundation's Faith-Based and Community Initiative website for organizations to access.
- 4) The subgroup has also created a standard template for Request for Proposals (RFP) (APPENDIX E) for client service procurements. ICG agencies are seeking approval within their agencies on the use of the standardized format so faith and community organizations can see at a glance where specific information is located within RFPs across agencies.

Next Steps

Based on the established and approved ICG Plan for Improving Contract Relationships, the subgroup will meet to establish priorities for FY 2013, and move forward with continued implementation and collaboration. Discussion has focused on developing a tutorial on the contracting lifecycle so faith-and community-based organizations can better understand the contracting process from solicitation through reporting, monitoring and closeout.

Enhanced Training Subgroup

Background

The Enhanced Training subgroup's charge is to provide relevant and up-to-date training curriculum for state agencies on topics identified in the November 2010 Task Force on Strengthening Nonprofit Capacity Report and the fiscal year 2010 state agency ICG barrier assessments, which were accomplished under H.B. 492 (SR81). This subgroup lead is Richard Hooks (on behalf of ICG liaison Nim Kidd) of the Texas Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management. Members of the Task Force on Improving Relations with Nonprofits attend subgroup meetings and participate in discussions to provide input on subgroup activities. The former Removing Barriers subgroup discussions led to the discovery of existing training and activities underway in various state agencies. As a result, the Enhanced Training subgroup decided to focus on Equal Treatment training and federal-based standards.

New Activities

Leadership of the Enhanced Training subgroup was transferred from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). DPS TDEM leveraged its experience and relationships with several faith-and community-based organizations (FCBOs) on statewide emergency response to incidents such as natural disasters, mass sheltering, and special events and consulted with its internal training unit, which has expertise in curriculum development and instructional design.

Progress

- 1) Over the past year, the Enhanced Training subgroup met regularly to discuss a cross-agency training program. Through workshops facilitated by the DPS TDEM training unit, the subgroup developed a curriculum template and project management plan. The subgroup determined the training is intended to provide information about eligibility of FCBOs to apply for contracts and memorandum of understanding, their protections, and the application process. The group identified the audience as staff from state agencies and FCBOs including, but not limited to, contracting officers, grant reviewers, program administrators, and potential applicants.
- 2) The subgroup developed a module on Equal Treatment, potentially the first module of a future training series. The Task Force provided invaluable insight into the intent, direction, and development of the training module.
- 3) The module was posted on OneStar Foundation's newly launched website for the Texas Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The module provides guidance for state agencies about protections for the state and also for FCBOs about protections for their organization and the clients they serve.

Next Steps

The subgroup will continue to develop training modules and media in collaboration with the Improving Contracting Relationships subgroup to include content on responding to an RFP, the contracting life cycle, and compliance with reporting requirements. The subgroup will also research future offerings of skills and abilities classroom training to augment knowledge-based online training. The Enhanced Training subgroup will

continue to solicit participation and feedback from the Task Force on ways to use training to improve contracting relationships between state agencies and FCBOs and promote best practices for collaboration.

The Sharing Information and Resources Subgroup

Background

The Sharing Information and Resources subgroup was tasked with identifying effective ways for state agencies to cooperate and collaborate to facilitate the sharing of resources and information with FCBOs. The November 2010 Task Force on Strengthening Nonprofit Capacity Report and the fiscal year 2010 state agency ICG barrier assessments performed under H.B. 492 (SR81) identified the need for state agencies to share information with faith- and community-based organizations (FCBOs) in a more coordinated, easily accessible, user friendly manner. H.B. 1965 also directed the ICG to identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill. The lead for this subgroup is David Hagerla, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

New Activities

In addressing the need for state agencies to share information with FCBOs in a more coordinated, easily accessible, user friendly manner, it was determined by the subgroup with the advice of the Task Force, that the most effective means for state agencies to share information and resources with FCBOs would be through a centralized website where state agencies could post current opportunities, provide links back to state agency-specific information, provide on-line trainings and other functions as determined practical and useful to FCBOs.

Related to the need to identify and address duplication of services and gaps in service, the ICG turned to OneStar Foundation which was well into the development of the Texas Connector, an online, nonprofit mapping tool that bridges the information gap between

the areas served by nonprofits and the underserved communities of Texas by displaying statewide nonprofit information pulled from 2-1-1 Texas and GuideStar USA, Inc. and demographic and socioeconomic data derived from a variety of sources.

Progress

- 1) Within the context of removing unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and FBCOs, the subgroup received input and guidance from the Task Force on Improving Relations with Nonprofits to ensure that the final product would fulfill the expectations of the nonprofit sector as much as is practicable.
- 2) The subgroup investigated a number of options including a shared public-private website, Texas.gov. The subgroup also heard from a private company which presented information in March 2012, describing the company's services and how governments use transaction fees to cover the cost.
- 3) Another option was using a centrally-hosted website. Meetings were held to explore several questions facing the group, for example who could host the site, who would maintain it, how much would it cost, what information ought to be available on the site, what format would be best to facilitate ease of use for both state agencies and for FCBOs, and other questions pertinent to site development.
- 4) It was determined by ICG members and Task Force representatives, that OneStar Foundation was the most appropriate entity to host the portal for Texas' Faith- and Community-Based Organizations. OneStar is seen as a neutral convener and has a charge to work statewide with faith- and community-based organizations to build their capacity to serve Texans in need. OneStar was in the process of developing a new web presence and determined that it could host the page with minimum expense.
- 5) OneStar launched their new web presence in August 2012 (<http://onestarfoundation.org/>). The home page features the "Texas Faith-Based and Community Initiative." The site now includes:
 - General information for FCBOs on partnering with state agencies
 - FAQs on contracting from the Improving Contracting Relationships subgroup

- The Equal Treatment training module produced by the Enhance Training subgroup
- Information about the legislation creating the ICG
- Links to the Task Force site <http://1965taskforce.wordpress.com/>
- Current opportunities by agency

6) In October 2012 OneStar launched the Texas Connector

(<http://www.texasconnects.org/>) . OneStar has partnered with the Texas Health and Human Service Commission’s 211 Texas and with GuideStar USA to provide baseline nonprofit data for the Texas Connector. Census data is also included in the tool which has the functionality to show gaps in service and duplication in services. The tool is not an information and referral service that would connect clients with social services. The Connector is designed to help nonprofits, government agencies, local governments, elected officials, grant-makers and researchers to analyze community needs and nonprofit services to address gaps in service; identify nonprofits by service category to promote collaboration or show duplication; and create customized demographic, statistical and provider reports for user identified regions of interest.

Next Steps

All ICG agencies will provide links on the OneStar Foundation website to opportunities for FCBOs to work with their agency including volunteer opportunities, MOU’s, contracting etc. as well as other links to relevant information on their respective agency websites. For a list of agencies that have provided links:

<http://onestarfoundation.org/texas-faith-based-community-initiative/how-does-onestar-partner-with-faith-based-community-organizations/>

All ICG agencies will provide a link on their agency website that says: “Texas Faith-Based and Community Initiative”. This link should direct FCBO constituents to this page on OneStar’s website: <http://onestarfoundation.org/texas-faith-based-community-initiative/what-is-the-texas-faith-based-community-initiative/> . The link may be placed on the agency home page or another page, but should be placed in a location that receives the most traffic from FCBOs. For examples of links that are currently in place, visit the

DARS and DFPS websites at <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/> and <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>. DARS has placed the link in a section entitled “Stakeholders” and DFPS has placed the link in its “Business and Service Providers” section. Texas Department of Criminal Justice has placed a link on their home page under “quick links”. <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/>. Health and Human Services Commission has placed links for vendors and providers here: <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Programs/index.shtml> and for Faith and Community Based projects here: http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc_projects/Faith-Based/index.shtml

Agencies are responsible for notifying OneStar of information changes.

Cross-Agency Programs Subgroup

Background

H.B. 1965, directed members of the ICG to operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations, to serve residents of this state who need assistance, and to develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with FBCOs. It was determined that there are opportunities, with the assistance of the Task Force on Improving Relations with Nonprofits, to assist state agencies in the implementation of certain legislative mandates related to external constituencies. The lead for this subgroup is Liz Darling, CEO/President of OneStar Foundation and Chair of the ICG.

New Activities

In March 2012 the Cross-Agency Program Committee, with assistance from members of the Task Force on Improving Relations with Nonprofits, initially identified four program areas upon which to focus efforts toward showcasing best practices between state government and Faith- and Community-based Organizations (FCBOs). Programmatic areas included the Health and Human Service Commission’s Community Partner Program; Texas Department of Agriculture’s (TDA) summer meals program; Department

of Family and Protective Services' (DFPS) Adoption Month; and DFPS' Transitional Living services program.

As the year progressed additional programs were added: Public Utility Commission's (PUC) Power to Choose; OneStar and the Military Child Education Coalition's (MCEC) *Living in the New Normal*; and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) partnership with OneStar Foundation and AmeriCorps.

Progress

1) Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)

HHSC launched a pilot of its Community Partner Program (HB 2610) 2012 with the intent of building a statewide network of faith- and community-based organizations who are assisting members of their community with accessing social services and would like to utilize HHSC's self-service website, www.yourtexasbenefits.com. HHSC partners can help their clients use the website to access case information 24/7; submit online applications for benefit programs; submit case change requests; and renew applications. By partnering with HHSC, faith- and community-based organizations and their staff/volunteers will receive ongoing training and information, and data related to the online activity provided by their organization.

Task Force members helped to set up meetings with potential providers who expressed interest in working with the state on expansion of the Community Partner Program. Program information is available at the following website: http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc_projects/cpp/index.shtml.

2) Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

SB 89 requires certain school districts to offer summer feeding programs for 30 days during the summer. If school districts are unable to provide this service and are unable to identify an alternative provider they may request a waiver from TDA.

OneStar and TDA are partnering with an Informatics class at the UT School of Social Work to use the Texas Connector (<http://www.texasconnects.org/>) to identify potential summer lunch sites in school districts requesting a waiver of their summer lunch requirement. These potential sites then can be approached by TDA and/or Task Force members to learn more about how to become a feeding site. Members of OneStar and TDA met October 2, 2012 to develop a project scope for the students. The students were introduced to the Texas Connector on October 11th and are working on their analysis through the end of the semester.

3) Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

November is National Adoption Month. Local authorities and community leaders across Texas celebrate adoptions in their regions in a variety of ways. Texas Impact, a nonprofit faith-based organization, will increase awareness of the need for adoptive homes by notifying their member congregations of the activities in their regions through a variety of publications and bulletin inserts where practicable. Texas Impact will also issue a challenge to congregations to increase exponentially the number of adoptions being celebrated in 2013 through their engagement in the lives of the children who are available for placement. Included will be a menu of engagement options for congregations and individuals to support families in the process from A to Z.

4) Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

Supportive services for youth transitioning out of foster care are under resourced making successful transition challenging. There are 16 regional Transition Centers statewide to assist transitioning youth. These Centers are not funded by the state but are dependent upon the creativity and benevolence of communities. Services vary by Center. A call was hosted by OneStar and DFPS with the 16 Transitional Living Centers. The most pressing needs articulated were: 1) housing; 2) transportation; and 3) job training for specific job placement in the community. More follow up with Task Force and ICG members is required to identify resources.

5) Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

The mission of the PUC is to protect customers, foster competition, and promote high quality infrastructure. The governing legislation for the PUC is the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) (Utilities Code, Title 2). Changes to PURA have resulted in significant restructuring of the electric and telecommunications markets in Texas, particularly during the last decade. Since these changes can make it confusing for customers to navigate the deregulated market, the PUC is dedicated to offering educational materials to the public. PUC has fact sheets on a variety of topics available on the agency's main website (www.puc.texas.gov) as well as educational handouts about their "Power to Choose" website (<http://www.powertochoose.org/>). The PUC was mandated to increase outreach to low income and elderly Texans to increase awareness that they may be able to save money by switching to a different electricity plan or provider.

Additionally, PUC staff teach train-the-trainer workshops for faith-and community-based organizations who serve clients of all socio-economic backgrounds living in deregulated parts of the state. PUC made a presentation to Task Force members which included a PowerPoint readily available to groups who would like to help educate consumers in their regions of the state. The Task Force provided significant input about language and messaging so potential educators as well as clients could better understand the complex issue related to electric choice. Due to the complexity of this issue, it has been challenging to enlist the aid of nonprofit networks in expanding the reach of the PUC.

6) OneStar and Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)

OneStar Foundation is partnering with the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) to host a Texas Public Engagement called *Living in the New Normal (LINN)*. Similar events are taking place across the country with the support of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Nearly 174,000 Texas children have a parent who is currently serving in the United States Military, many of whom have served in Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001. Many of these children have been deeply affected by separation from a family member, death, injury, or illness of a loved one in service to our country, and this can be a tremendous obstacle to their emotional wellbeing.

With the help of OneStar Foundation, 300+ leaders in state government, youth-serving organizations, public health and medicine, education, business and the faith community have been invited to a one day facilitated public engagement to discuss the needs of Texas' military-connected children. The event will take place in Austin, December 11-12, 2012. We will identify big – and small – changes we can make in communities throughout Texas that can make a significant difference in the lives of military-connected children. This initiative will also provide professionals from all sectors, families and other caring adults with research-based information to help them support children during times of uncertainty, trauma and grief.

7) Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

As the State Commission on National and Community Service, OneStar Foundation's Disability Inclusion Team developed a pilot project between DARS and two AmeriCorps*Texas programs, 4-H CAPITAL and Front Steps. DARS will identify clients as potential AmeriCorps members for the 2012-2013 program year. This collaboration between DARS, OneStar and two AmeriCorps programs fulfills several goals; 1) DARS clients will have the opportunity to gain experience toward employment; 2) 4-H CAPITAL and Front Steps will recruit new AmeriCorps members to their programs; and 3) OneStar National Service Commission has facilitated outreach into the disability community creating opportunities for persons with disabilities to serve their community.

V. NEXT STEPS FOR 2013

In 2013, the presiding officer of the ICG will continue meetings with ICG member agencies, the four committee chairs, individual agency liaisons and Task Force members to:

- 1) Keep agency information up-to-date on the OneStar website and continue to add new resources;
- 2) Develop additional training curriculum as identified through the Improving Contracting Relationships subgroup;
- 3) Encourage agencies to use the standardized RFP template;
- 4) Promote the use of the Texas Connector <http://www.texasconnects.org/> as a resource for state agencies to identify duplication of services and gaps in services;
- 5) Further develop best practices for cooperation and collaboration between state agencies and FCBO networks;
- 6) Continue working with the Task Force on Improving Relations with Nonprofits so as to optimize the benefit derived from their connections within the Texas nonprofit community;
- 7) Encourage the Task Force to continue serving as a resource to the ICG as well as specific agencies such as PUC; and
- 8) Facilitate the implementation of generally accepted recommendations emanating from the ICG process and the Task Force.

For questions related to this report or to obtain more information on the work of the Interagency Coordinating Group, please contact Elizabeth Darling, President/CEO of OneStar Foundation, at 512-287-2035 or liz@onestarfoundation.org .

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and human services initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 535.051, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b) The chief administrative officer of each of the following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations:

- (1) the Texas Department [Office] of Rural [~~Community~~] Affairs;
- (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- (9) the Texas Youth Commission;
- (10) the office of the governor;
- (11) the Department of Public Safety;
- (12) the Texas Department of Insurance;
- (13) the Public Utility Commission of Texas;
- (14) the office of the attorney general;
- (15) the Department of Agriculture;
- (16) the office of the comptroller;
- (17) the Department of Information Resources;
- (18) the Office of State-Federal Relations;
- (19) the office of the secretary of state; and
- (20) [~~(14)~~] other state agencies as determined by the governor.

(c) The commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall designate one employee from an institution of higher education, as that term is defined under Section 61.003, Education Code, to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations.

SECTION 2. Sections 535.053(a) and (b), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based initiatives is composed of each faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 and a liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service. The commission shall provide administrative support to the interagency coordinating group.

(b) The liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service [commission employee designated as a liaison under Section 535.051] is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group. If the State Commission on National and Community Service is abolished, the liaison from the governor's office is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

SECTION 3. Section 535.054, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 535.054. REPORT [REPORTS]. (a) Not later than December 1 of each year, the interagency coordinating group shall submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the interagency coordinating group. [A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) provide periodic reports to the executive commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who designated the liaison; and

(2) report annually to the governor's office of faith and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections 535.052 and 535.053.]

(b) The [Each] report made under Subsection (a) [(a)(2)] must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor's Internet website[, and the reports may be aggregated into a single report for that purpose].

SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 535, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 535.055 to read as follows:

Sec. 535.055. TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NONPROFITS. (a) The interagency coordinating group task force is established to help direct the interagency coordinating group in carrying out the group's duties under this section. The commission shall provide administrative support to the task force.

(b) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall appoint as members of the task force one representative from each of the following groups and entities:

- (1) a statewide nonprofit organization;
- (2) local governments;
- (3) faith-based groups;
- (4) community-based groups;
- (5) consultants to nonprofit corporations;
- (6) experts in grant writing; and
- (7) a statewide association of nonprofit organizations.

(c) In addition to the interagency coordinating group's other duties, the interagency coordinating group, in coordination with the task force, shall:

- (1) develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations;
- (2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;
- (3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and
- (4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

(d) The task force shall prepare a report describing actions taken or not taken by the interagency coordinating group under this section and include in the report any recommendations relating to legislation necessary to address an issue identified by the group under this section. The task force shall present the report to the House Subgroup on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on Public Health or its

successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2012.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2013.

SECTION 5. Not later than October 1, 2011, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint members to the interagency coordinating group task force in accordance with Section 535.055, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1965 was passed by the House on April 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1965 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and human services and social services initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) Subtitle I, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 535 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 535. PROVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES AND OTHER
SOCIAL SERVICES THROUGH FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED
ORGANIZATIONS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 535.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Community-based initiative" includes a social, health, human services, or volunteer income tax assistance initiative operated by a community-based organization.

(2) "Community-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association that is located in close proximity to the population the organization serves.

(3) "Faith-based initiative" means a social, health, or human services initiative operated by a faith-based organization.

(4) "Faith-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association that:

(A) is operated through a religious or denominational organization, including an organization that is operated for religious, educational, or charitable purposes and that is operated, supervised, or controlled, wholly or partly, by or in connection with a religious organization; or

(B) clearly demonstrates through the organization's mission statement, policies, or practices that the organization is guided or motivated by religion.

(5) "State Commission on National and Community Service" means the entity used as authorized by 42 U.S.C. Section 12638(a) to carry out the duties of a state commission under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501 et seq.).

Sec. 535.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to strengthen the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations and to forge stronger partnerships between those organizations and state government for the legitimate public purpose of providing charitable and social services to persons in this state.

Sec. 535.003. CONSTRUCTION. This chapter may not be construed to:

(1) exempt a faith- or community-based organization from any applicable state or federal law; or

(2) be an endorsement or sponsorship by this state of the religious character, expression, beliefs, doctrines, or practices of a faith-based organization.

Sec. 535.004. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAW. A power authorized or duty imposed under this chapter must be performed in a manner that is consistent with 42 U.S.C. Section 604a.

[Sections 535.005-535.050 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER B. GOVERNMENTAL LIAISONS FOR FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Sec. 535.051. DESIGNATION OF FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED LIAISONS. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the commission and from each health and human services agency to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations.

(b) The chief administrative officer of each of the following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations:

- (1) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;
- (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
- (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- (9) the Texas Youth Commission; and
- (10) other state agencies as determined by the governor.

Sec. 535.052. GENERAL DUTIES OF LIAISONS. (a) A faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith- and community-based organizations;

(2) provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith- and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government;

(3) facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents;

(4) work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith- and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency;

(5) coordinate all efforts with the governor's office of faith-based and community initiatives and provide information, support, and assistance to that office as requested to the extent permitted by law and as feasible; and

(6) attend conferences sponsored by federal agencies and offices and other relevant entities to become and remain informed of issues and developments regarding faith- and community-based initiatives.

(b) A faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 may coordinate and interact with statewide organizations that represent faith- or community-based organizations as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 535.053. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP. (a) The interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based initiatives is composed of each faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 and a liaison from the State Commission on National and Community Service.

(b) The commission employee designated as a liaison under Section 535.051 is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

(c) The interagency coordinating group shall:

(1) meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer;

(2) work across state agencies and with the State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations; and

(3) operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.

Sec. 535.054. REPORTS. (a) A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

(1) provide periodic reports to the executive commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who designated the liaison; and

(2) report annually to the governor's office of faith- and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections 535.052 and 535.053.

(b) Each report made under Subsection (a)(2) must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor's Internet website, and the reports may be aggregated into a single report for that purpose.

Sections 535.055-535.100 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER C. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT

Sec. 535.101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "account" means the renewing our communities account.

Sec. 535.102. PURPOSES OF SUBCHAPTER. Recognizing that faith- and community-based organizations provide a range of vital charitable services to persons in this state, the purposes of this subchapter are to:

(1) increase the impact and effectiveness of those organizations;

(2) forge stronger partnerships between those organizations and state government so that communities are empowered to serve persons in need and community capacity for providing services is strengthened; and

(3) create a funding mechanism that builds on the established efforts of those organizations and operates to create new partnerships in local communities for the benefit of this state.

Sec. 535.103. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT. (a) The renewing our communities account is an account in the general revenue fund that may be

appropriated only to the commission for the purposes and activities authorized by this subchapter and for reasonable administrative expenses under this subchapter.

b) The account consists of:

(1) all money appropriated for the purposes of this subchapter;

(2) any gifts, grants, or donations received for the purposes of this subchapter; and

(3) interest earned on money in the account.

(c) The account is exempt from the application of Section 403.095.

(d) The purposes of the account are to:

(1) increase the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations to provide charitable services and to manage human resources and funds;

(2) assist local governmental entities in establishing local offices to promote faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(3) foster better partnerships between state government and faith- and community-based organizations.

Sec. 535.104. POWERS AND DUTIES REGARDING ACCOUNT. (a) The commission shall:

(1) contract with the State Commission on National and Community Service to administer funds appropriated from the account in a manner that:

(A) consolidates the capacity of and strengthens national service and community and faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(B) leverages public and private funds to benefit this state;

(2) develop a competitive process to be used in awarding grants from account funds that is consistent with state law and includes objective selection criteria;

(3) oversee the delivery of training and other assistance activities under this subchapter;

(4) develop criteria limiting awards of grants under Section 535.105(1)(A) to small and medium-sized faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state;

(5) establish general state priorities for the account;

(6) establish and monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom grants are awarded under this subchapter; and

(7) establish policies and procedures to ensure that any money appropriated from the account to the commission that is allocated to build the capacity of a faith-based organization or for a faith-based initiative, including money allocated for the establishment of the advisory subgroup under Section 535.108, is not used to advance a sectarian purpose or to engage in any form of proselytization.

(b) Instead of contracting with the State Commission on National and Community Service under Subsection (a)(1), the commission may award account funds appropriated to the commission to the State Commission on National and Community Service in the form of a grant.

(c) Any funds awarded to the State Commission on National and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under this section must be administered in the manner required by this subchapter, including Subsection (a)(1).

(d) The commission or the State Commission on National and Community Service, in accordance with the terms of the contract or grant, as applicable, may:

(1) directly, or through agreements with one or more entities that serve faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state:

(A) assist faith- and community-based organizations with:

(i) writing or managing grants through workshops or other forms of guidance;

(ii) obtaining legal assistance related to forming a corporation or obtaining an exemption from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code; and

(iii) obtaining information about or referrals to entities that provide expertise in accounting, legal, or tax issues, program development matters, or other organizational topics;

(B) provide information or assistance to faith- and community-based organizations related to building the organizations' capacity for providing services;

(C) facilitate the formation of networks, the coordination of services, and the sharing of resources among faith- and community-based organizations;

(D) in cooperation with existing efforts, if possible, conduct needs assessments to identify gaps in services in a community that present a need for developing or expanding services;

(E) work with faith- and community-based organizations to identify the organizations' needs for improvements in their internal capacity for providing services;

(F) provide faith- and community-based organizations with information on and assistance in identifying or using practices with demonstrated effectiveness for delivering charitable services to persons, families, and communities and in replicating charitable services programs that have demonstrated effectiveness; and

(G) encourage research into the impact of organizational capacity on program delivery for faith- and community-based organizations;

(2) assist a local governmental entity in creating a better partnership between government and faith- and community-based organizations to provide charitable services to persons in this state; and

(3) use funds appropriated from the account to provide matching money for federal or private grant programs that further the purposes of the account as described by Section 535.103(d).

(e) The commission shall monitor the use of the funds administered by the State Commission on National and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under this section to ensure that the funds are used in a manner consistent with the requirements of this subchapter.

Records relating to the award of a contract or grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service, or to grants awarded by that entity, and records relating to other uses of the funds are public information subject to Chapter 552.

(f) If the commission contracts with or awards a grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service under this section, this subchapter may not be construed to:

(1) release that entity from any regulations or reporting or other requirements applicable to a contractor or grantee of the commission;

(2) impose regulations or reporting or other requirements on that entity that do not apply to other contractors or grantees of the commission solely because of the entity's status;

(3) alter the nonprofit status of that entity or the requirements for maintaining that status; or

(4) convert that entity into a governmental entity because of the receipt of account funds through the contract or grant.

Sec. 535.105. ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNT FUNDS. If under Section 535.104 the commission contracts with or awards a grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service, that entity:

(1) may award grants from funds appropriated from the account to:

(A) faith- and community-based organizations that provide charitable services to persons in this state for capacity-building purposes; and

(B) local governmental entities to provide seed money for local offices for faith- and community-based initiatives; and

(2) shall monitor performance and outcome measures for persons to whom that entity awards grants using the measures established by the commission under Section 535.104(a)(6).

Sec. 535.106. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a) The commission shall provide a link on the commission's Internet website to the Internet website of the State Commission on National and Community Service if the commission contracts with or awards a grant to that entity under Section 535.104. The entity's Internet website must provide:

(1) a list of the names of each person to whom the entity awarded a grant from money appropriated from the account and the amount and purpose of the grant; and

(2) information regarding the methods by which the public may request information about those grants.

(b) If awarded a contract or grant under Section 535.104, the State Commission on National and Community Service must provide to the commission periodic reports on a schedule determined by the executive commissioner. The schedule of periodic reports must include an annual report that includes:

(1) a specific accounting with respect to the use by that entity of money appropriated from the account, including the names of persons to whom grants have been awarded and the purposes of those grants; and

(2) a summary of the efforts of the faith- and community-based liaisons designated under Section 535.051 to comply with the duties imposed by and the purposes of Sections 535.052 and 535.053.

(c) The commission shall post the annual report made under Subsection (b) on the commission's Internet website and shall provide copies of the report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the members of the legislature.

Sec. 535.107. TASK FORCE ON STRENGTHENING NONPROFIT CAPACITY. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the governor, shall establish a task force to make recommendations for strengthening the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations for managing human resources and funds and providing services. The members of the task force must include:

(1) representatives from state agencies, nonprofit organizations, the academic community, and the foundation community; and

(2) other individuals who have expertise that would be valuable to the task force.

(b) Using money appropriated from the account, the task force shall hold at least three public hearings in various geographic areas of this state, at least one of which must be outside of Central Texas. The task force shall hear testimony at the hearings regarding strengthening the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations to manage human resources and funds and provide services.

(c) The task force is not required to hold a public hearing if the remaining money appropriated from the account to the commission for the state fiscal biennium is insufficient for the performance of the duties or activities under this subchapter.

(d) The task force shall present a report and legislative recommendations to the House Subgroup on Human Services or its successor, the House Subgroup on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Subgroup or its successor not later than September 1, 2010, regarding its recommendations.

(e) This section expires September 1, 2011.

Sec. 535.108. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT ADVISORY SUBGROUP. (a) The executive commissioner shall appoint leaders of faith- and community-based organizations in this state to serve on the renewing our communities account advisory subgroup. The advisory subgroup members must be representative of the religious, cultural, and geographic diversity of this state and the diversity of organization types and sizes in this state.

(b) The advisory subgroup shall make recommendations to the executive commissioner regarding the powers and duties with respect to the account as described by Section 535.104.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the advisory subgroup shall meet at least twice each calendar year. The advisory subgroup is not required to meet if the remaining amount appropriated from the account to the commission for the state fiscal biennium is insufficient for the performance of any duties or activities under this subchapter.

(d) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the advisory subgroup.

(e) The advisory subgroup is subject to Chapter 551.

(b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the chief executive officers of the Office of Rural Community Affairs, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Texas Veterans Commission, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Youth Commission, and any other state agency as determined by the governor shall designate the liaisons for faith- and community-based initiatives as required under Section 535.051, Government Code, as added by this section, not later than December 1, 2009.

(c) The interagency coordinating group established under Section 535.053, Government Code, as added by this section, shall hold its first meeting not later than February 1, 2010.

SECTION 2. This Act does not make an appropriation. A provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program, creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the provision.

SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the House on April 24, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 119, Nays 15, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 492 on May 18, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 14, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____
Date

Governor

APPENDIX C

**Interagency Coordinating Group for Faith and Community Based Initiatives
Plan for Improving Contracting Relationships between
State Agencies & Faith and Community-based Organizations**

Background: HB 1965 directs the ICG to develop and implement a plan for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and Faith and Community Based Organizations (FCBOs). With input from data collected in FY 2010 from the state agency ICG liaison internal barrier assessments and subcommittee review and in-depth discussion of the Task Force on Strengthening Non-Profit Capacity November 2010 report, the ICG subcommittee on Improving Contracting Relationships has developed a plan for ICG approval and implementation.

Full ICG approval of the plan was received on **May 23, 2012**.

FY 2012 and 2013 Plan Components and Implementation: It is the recommendation that the contracting relationships may be improved by implementing the following:

	Improvement Component	Timeline	Lead/How	Notes
A.	Provide online information to FBCOs on the state procurement and contracting process, which follows the contracting lifecycle	FY 2013	TBD	
B.	Provide an online Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for common issues/concerns	Aug 31 2012	CPA/ICG Subcommittee participation and collaboration	Process has begun
C.	Provide online external resources for additional grant and contracting education	Aug 31 2012	HHSC/ICG subcommittee review/approval	Draft created. Convert to PDF File that will be updated by the ICG subcommittee twice a year, Feb and Aug
D.	Provide online information for FCBO self -assessment of contracting readiness	FY 2013	TBD	
E.	1. From the assessment of FCBO issues from the November 2010 report, provide awareness and communication to ICG state agencies	Sept 30 2012	TBD	
	2. From the assessment of FCBO issues from the November 2010 report, annually, identify one contracting related process/procedures or forms for	FY 2013	TBD	FY 2011-2012 process selected: RFP structure/outline for

	which agencies can collaborate and agree to revise or amend in an effort to streamline or promote consistency.			client services procurements.
F.	From the assessment of FCBO issues from the November 2010 report, identify the issues that would require legislative action for change/consistency	FY 2013	TBD	

Implementation: The plan will be implemented incrementally beginning in FY 2012, and through ICG collaboration. Since the Plan is extensive, priorities and specific timelines will be set each fiscal year.

Working Documents

- ICG Draft Plan Development and Issue Analysis Document

APPENDIX D

ICG Liaisons by Subgroup

Enhanced Training

Name	Agency
Chair: Nim Kidd/ Richard Hooks/Lauren Allen	Department of Public Safety
Elizabeth Yevich/Naomi Trejo	Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Betsey Bishop/ Kristi Jordan	Department of Aging and Disability Services
Kirk Cole	Department of State Health Services
Judith Wooten	Texas Youth Commission
Nydia D. Thomas	Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
Janie Ramirez	Texas Tech University
John Stutz	Texas Youth Commission
Elizabeth Darling	OneStar Foundation

Sharing Information and Resources

Name	Agency
Chair: David Hagerla/Rebecca Spradley/Cassie Fisher	Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Ivan Smith	Department of Information Resources
David Durden (retired)	Texas Department of Insurance
Jerry Strickland	Office of the Attorney General
John Paul Urban	Public Utility Commission
Brian Christian/John Bentley	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TBD	Texas Veterans Commission
John Stutz	Texas Youth Commission
TBD	Texas Workforce Commission
Elizabeth Darling	OneStar Foundation

Improving Contracting Relationships

Name	Agency
Chair: Liz Garbutt	Health and Human Services Commission
Julie Rabeux	Office of the Comptroller
Marvin Dunbar	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Wynne Breece/ Ann Strauser	Department of Family and Protective Services
Kevin Patteson	Office of State-Federal Relations
Marilyn Eaton	Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
John Stutz	Texas Youth Commission
Elizabeth Darling	OneStar Foundation

Cross Agency Programs

Name	Agency
Chair: Liz Darling	OneStar Foundation
Catherine Wright-Steele	Department of Agriculture
John Stutz	Texas Youth Commission
Jim Beck	Office of the Secretary of State
Katherine Yoder/ Becky Dean	Office of the Governor
Laurie Fluker	Texas State University
Phyllis Coombes	Texas Workforce Commission

APPENDIX E

**Interagency Coordinating Group
Subcommittee: Improving Contracting Relationships
Proposed RFP Template for Client Services Procurements*
March 2012**

***Client Services Procurement is defined as the purchase of goods or services that benefit the clients or recipients of a State agency.**

Section I: General

Scope

Terms and Conditions

Compensation

Schedule of Events

Agency Point of Contact

Definitions

(Additional components may be added as needed)

Section II: Statement of Work

Service Requirements

Subcontractors

Performance Tracking

(Additional components may be added as needed)

Section III: Proposal Information

Revision to Schedule

Pre-Proposal Conference

Proposal Requirements

Inquiries

Proposal Submission

Delivery of Proposals

Proposal Opening

Proposal Evaluation and Award

(Additional components may be added as needed)

Section IV: Historically Underutilized Business Participation

Section V: Contract Information

Section VI: Attachments