



The Litaker Group • Case Study

Creating a Strategic Vision for Health and Medical Preparedness in Texas

Background: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) provides leadership and direction for health and medical (H&M) preparedness in Texas. This includes administering funds from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Hospital Preparedness Program. Such funding has been an essential component in improving H&M disaster preparedness among local-level public health districts, state-level health service regions, and among the approximately 600 hospitals in Texas.

In 2006 DSHS convened a steering group to promote a health systems approach to prepare, respond, and recover from a disaster impacting the health and medical needs of Texans. This group sought the development of a strategic vision to guide agency health and medical preparedness activities. Such a vision would be inclusive of stakeholder input, involve executive level officials at the local, state, and federal level, understand and quantify current preparedness activities, and identify future preparedness needs using an all-hazards approach.

Client Needs: As the responsible entity for health and medical preparedness in Texas, DSHS wanted to create a strategic vision for preparedness that encompassed the following four activities: (1) determine the current state of public health preparedness in Texas; (2) solicit input from stakeholders to develop a strategic vision for future health and medical preparedness; (3) develop a gap analysis to identify deficiencies between current and proposed levels of health and medical preparedness; and (4) develop a process to sustain progress for meeting goals and objectives identified in the strategic vision.

Services Rendered: DSHS issued a competitive request for proposal in which The Litaker Group (LG) was the successful applicant. As part of this project the LG was responsible for: (1) creating a comprehensive process to identify, obtain, review, and synthesize current and future health and medical capabilities; (2) developing a comprehensive work group session format to obtain input from over 300 individuals statewide; (3) organizing and hosting 20 work group sessions statewide; (4) creating an online portal to disseminate information on an ongoing basis; and (5) creating a series of reports on the findings.


Results: The LG identified eight strategic focus areas to enhance health and medical preparedness in Texas. These eight areas form the basis of the “2010 Strategic Vision for Health and Medical Preparedness in Texas” and include a need to focus on human resources, material resources, persons with special needs, physical infrastructure, public information, systems interoperability, funding, and leadership and direction.

For more information on this project, please go to: litakergroup.com/Texas_Strategic_Vision.cfm.

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