

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE, SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRACTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS RELATE TO THE SFPB

The overall goal of Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (ATCHHSD) is to promote a healthy community, which reflects social equity through prevention, protection, provision and promotion.

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (ATCHHSD) is organized into five separate and distinct divisions.

The three divisions that would be of interest to the SFPB are the following:

- Human Services
- Public Health and Community Service
- Medical Director

Public Health and Community Services

The Public Health and Community Service Division, under the direction of Shannon Jones, manages all of the regulatory and permitting services for the Department. Other programs include public health planning, WIC, community health initiatives, and the HIV Planning Council

Medical Director

The Medical Director, Dr. Huang, manages a separate division communicable diseases, epidemiology and disease surveillance, health promotion and disease prevention (to include obesity programs) and the office of vital records. The obesity grant is managed in this Division.

Human Services

The Human Services Division's Vision
The best quality of life is available to ALL.

MISSION

Build strong communities by enriching the quality of life for individuals and families.

Social Services contracts

This division contracts with social service agencies for a plethora of services. Many of the social services contracts include the provision of food to clients. All of the shelters provide food. Many organizations have food banks that are available to their agency clients and some are open to the community. Caritas also provides a noon meal to the community. Salvation Army provides an evening meal to the community.

Current contracts that assist in the provision of food access are:

- Capital Area Food Bank of Texas
- Caritas of Austin
- Meals on Wheels and More, Inc.
- Sustainable Food Center

Meals on Wheels and More provides home delivered meals (and second meals were needed) to homebound elderly and disabled people.

The Sustainable Food Center helps low-income individuals and families grow nutritious produce for their own consumption and encourages them to spread the harvest among their neighbors or through area food banks.

HIV Services Contracts

The Human Services Division has a Ryan White Part A grant contract with AIDS Services of Austin for the provision of food bank services. Twice annually, the Dietician randomly selects ten completed client menu forms from a six month period to conduct a menu analysis. She runs nutrient analysis using standardized software —The Food Processor, Version 9.8 and provides an overview of the findings, making recommendations for adjustments to menu choices in each of the food groups. ASA uses the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies' (ANSA) *Nutrition Guidelines for Agencies Providing Food to People Living with HIV Disease* as a reference for general nutrition needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Clients receive handouts on nutritional value of food, safe food handling, and food storage techniques periodically with food allotments.

Healthy Neighborhood Centers

The Human Service's Division also manages six neighborhood centers. These center's services include: basic needs (food, clothing, notary services, bus passes, school supplies, car seat education/distribution, tax preparation, fans and other seasonal activities); preventive health (blood pressure/sugar/cholesterol screenings, pregnancy testing, health promotion presentations, immunizations, coordination and participation in health fairs, linkages to medical home providers); case management (support counseling, crisis intervention, self sufficiency and quality of life case management, advocacy) and employment support (assessment and goal setting, job readiness training, job referrals). Other support services available at some of the centers include WIC and Immunizations Program.