



Annual Report Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Advisory Committee

Name of Advisory Committee:

Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training and Certification Advisory Committee (CHWTCAC)

DSHS program staff contact (name, telephone, e-mail):

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Reporting Period:

January-December 2008

Is this advisory committee subject to Texas Government Code, Chapter 2110?

Yes

No

Partially

This advisory committee is specifically created by state or federal law.

This advisory committee is created under the general authority granted to the agency.

Part 1 – Review

- 1. Provide a description of the advisory committee, including the committee's purpose, statutory authority, number and type of members, and names of current members. Indicate the number of meetings held over the past year.**

Committee Overview

The committee is established under the Health and Safety Code, §11.016, which allows the Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish advisory committees. Government Code, Chapter 2110, governs the committee concerning state agency advisory committees.

Health and Safety Code, Chapter 48, requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish a program designed to train and educate persons who act as promotores or community health workers. This chapter also requires minimum standards for the certification of promotores or community health workers.

The committee is supported by staff in the Primary Care Office, Office of Title V and Family Health of the Division for Family and Community Health Services.



The CHWTCAC is charged with:

- Advising the Executive Commissioner of HHSC concerning rules to implement standards adopted under the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 48, relating to the training and regulation of persons working as promotores or community health workers;
- Recommending to the department qualifying sponsoring institutions or training programs and instructors; and
- Carrying out any other tasks given to the committee by the Executive Commissioner of HHSC.

The committee consists of nine members who serve staggered six-year terms:

- four certified promotores or community health workers;
- two public members;
- one member from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or a higher education faculty member who has teaching experience in community health, public health or adult education and has trained promotores or community health workers; and
- two professionals who work with promotores or community health workers in a community setting.

Liz Kelly, Ph.D., RN, is the current presiding officer. She has served on the committee since April 6, 2001, and completed her first term on December 31, 2007. Dr. Kelly has been reappointed to serve on the committee for another six-year term.

Larry Morning Star, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., currently serves as the assistant presiding officer. Dr. Morning Star filled an uncompleted term beginning on May 16, 2006, and which expires December 31, 2009.

In 2008, the CHWTCAC had two vacancies. The position for Consumer has recently been filled and the nomination process for the Public position is underway.

2008 Membership

Name	Category Type	Location	Occupation	Term
<i>Graciela Camarena</i>	Certified Community Health Worker	Mercedes, Hidalgo County	Program Specialist, Migrant Health Promotion	1/1/08-12/31/13 (2 nd Appointment)
<i>Guadalupe Ramos</i>	Certified Community Health Worker	Fabens, El Paso County	Community Health Worker, Texas Tech Family and Community Medicine	3/31/06-12/31/11 (1 st Appointment)
<i>Sonia M. Hernandez</i>	Certified Community Health Worker	Pearsall, Frio County	Student	1/1/08-12/31/13 (1 st Appointment)
<i>Kathra Ann Arline</i>	Certified Community Health Worker	Crosby, Harris County	Volunteer/President, Barrett Station Health Advisors	3/31/06-12/31/11 (1 st Appointment)
<i>Martha Quiroz-Romero, M.D.</i>	Public Member	Arlington, Tarrant County	President, Community Health Education, Inc.	12/8/03-6/15/08 (1 st Appointment)
<i>Humberto (Bert) Ramos, MPH</i>	Public Member	Corpus Christi, Nueces County	Director, Westside Family Health Center, Christus Spohn Hospital	3/31/06-12/31/09 (1 st Appointment)
<i>Larry Morning Star, Dr.P.H., MPH</i>	Higher Education Faculty	San Antonio, Bexar County	Research Assistant and Assistant Professor, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio	5/16/06-12/31/09 (1 st Appointment)
<i>Elizabeth A. Kelly, PhD</i>	Professional Working with CHWS	Houston, Harris County	Consultant, Houston Community College	1/1/08-12/31/13 (2 nd Appointment)
<i>Oscar Munoz, MPA</i>	Professional Working with CHWS	College Station, Brazos County	Director, Colonias Program, Texas A&M University	1/1/07-12/31/11 (2 nd Appointment)

2008 Advisory Committee Meetings

Meetings are held every two months or six times a year, generally on the second or third Friday of the month. In 2008, committee members held two additional meetings by conference call to conduct committee business. With the exception of July 25, 2008, which was cancelled due to Hurricane Dolly, all face-to-face meetings were held in Austin.

Attendance

Member	2008							
	Jan 18	Mar 28	May 16	Jul 25	Sep 5 conf. call	Sep 26	Oct 30 conf. call	Nov 14
Oscar Munoz, MPH, Asst. Presiding Officer – until September 26, 2008				C				Via phone
Graciela Camarena				C				
Bert Ramos, MPH				C				
Sonia M. Hernandez	V			C				
Guadalupe Ramos				C				
Elizabeth Kelly, Ph.D., RN, Presiding Officer				C				
Kathra Arline				C				
Martha Quiroz-Romero, MD				V	V	V	V	V
Larry Morningstar, Dr.P.H., MPH, Asst. Presiding Officer – elected September 26, 2008				C				

Key

	= Attended
	= Absent
V	= Vacant
C	= Canceled

2. Provide an overview of the activities of the advisory committee over the past year, including any major accomplishments and/or successes, as well as, future activities and plans.

Committee Activities in 2008

- Reviewed applications for sponsoring institution/training program certification, and recommended three organizations for DSHS certification, including
 - 1) Migrant Health Promotion;
 - 2) Texas A&M University, Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health, Office of Special Programs, USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness; and
 - 3) Coastal Area Health Education Center.

- Developed a standardized reporting form for certified training institutions to report number of participants in training and information about the participants.
- Participated in providing an overview of the Texas Community Health Worker (CHW) Program to members of the Health Ministry from the Republic of Ghana.
- Interviewed candidates and made a recommendation for the vacant Public position of the CHWTCAC.

Planned Committee Activities for 2009

- Advise regarding rules to implement standards adopted under the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 48, relating to the training and regulation of persons working as promotores or community health workers.
- Develop recommendations to the department concerning qualifying CHW instructors and sponsoring institutions or training programs.
- Carry out tasks given to the committee by the Executive Commissioner of HHSC.
- Promote employment opportunities for community health workers.
- Update the CHW evaluation tool of the 160-hour training program.
- Explore and develop additional opportunities for CHW instructor recertification.
- Participate in streamlining the certification and recertification processes.
- Commemorate the 10th anniversary of HB 1864, relating to the formation of the Promotor(a) Program Development Committee.
- Assist with the development of the CHWTCAC Annual Report.

3. Describe challenges encountered by this advisory committee over the past year and how these were addressed or resolved.

Adequate level of staff support for the committee from DSHS and the Texas Primary Care Office was resolved with the hiring of an Administrative Assistant IV in August 2008.

Clarification of goals, roles and responsibilities was addressed through discussion with committee members and legal counsel for program.

4. Explain why this committee is useful to the agency.

With guidance from the CHWTCAC, training institutions were able to continue providing training to community health workers and instructors. The data below reflects the numbers of certified and recertified CHWs, instructors and training programs.

- ◆ **Newly certified promotores or community health workers in 2008: 156**
 - 79 first time applications from graduates of certified training sites (51% of 156)
 - 32 first time applications based on experience (20% of 156)
 - 45 reapplications after certification expired (29% of 156)
- ◆ **CHW certification renewals in 2008: 103**
- ◆ **Newly certified instructors in 2008: 3**
- ◆ **Instructor certification renewals in 2008: 19**
- ◆ **Newly certified training programs in 2008: 3**
 - Migrant Health Promotion, Weslaco
 - Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health, Office of Special Programs, USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness, College Station
 - Coastal Area Health Education Center, LaMarque
- ◆ **Training program certification renewals in 2008: 6**
 - Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., Laredo
 - Northwest Vista College, San Antonio
 - Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, Lubbock
 - El Paso Community College, El Paso
 - Lance Armstrong Foundation, Austin
 - Department of State Health Services, Division for Mental Health and Substance Abuse

In 2007 and 2008, 51% of CHWs receiving certification attended a 160-hour training program from a DSHS-certified training institution. Newly certified promotores or CHWs who did not attend training were certified based on experience.

2008 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER GRADUATES FROM DSHS-CERTIFIED TRAINING SITES

(160-Hour Curriculum)

County	City	Name of Sponsoring Institution/Training Program	Total Graduates
El Paso	El Paso	El Paso Community College	12
Bexar	San Antonio	Northwest Vista College	42
Harris	Houston	Gateway to Care	38
Galveston	LaMarque	Coastal Area Health Education Center	2
Total Graduates			94

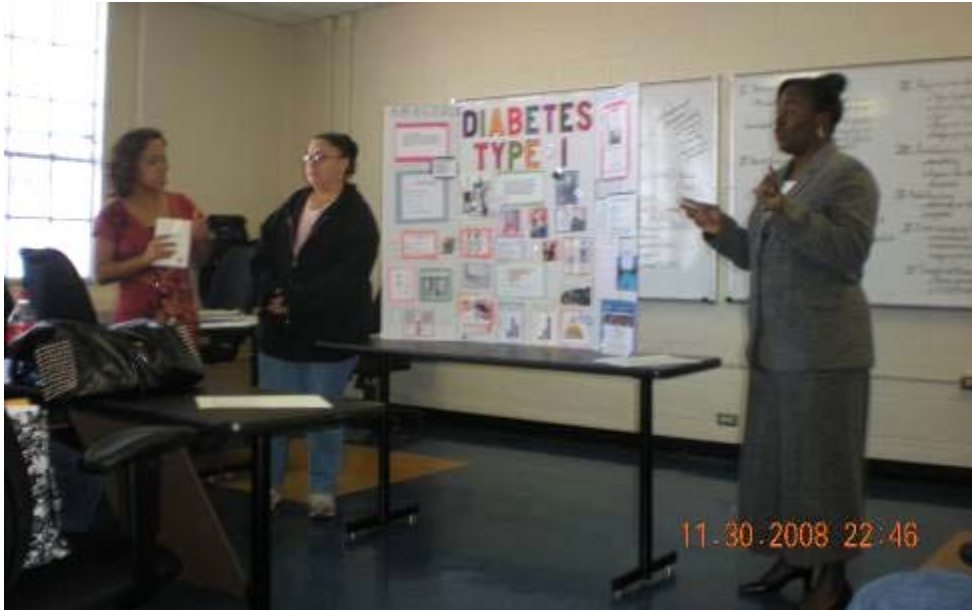
Note: Not all graduates from certified training programs apply for certification; therefore, the number of graduates will not reflect the number that applied for certification based on training.

El Paso Community College



The community health worker students above have just provided a presentation on nutrition and exercise as part of their training using multi-media. They are part of a class that graduated in December 2008 from El Paso Community College.

Northwest Vista College



The three individuals shown above are part of the March 2009 CHW graduating class at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio. The presentation was in partial fulfillment of their class work to present a health education class to members of the community. This series of presentations occurred at the end of their Introduction to Community Health in October 2008.

Renewal Information

Training institutions not only provided 160-hour curriculums to potential community health workers for state certification, but also provided continuing education for renewal of certification. Certified community health workers and instructors are responsible for renewing their certificates every two years. They must complete 20 hours of continuing education acceptable to DSHS during each two-year renewal period with at least 10 of those hours coming from participation in a DSHS-certified training program.

Continuing education classes provided by DSHS-certified training institutions can last from 1-10 hours in duration. A CHW may attend several classes to meet the required number of CEUs. In 2007, 34% of certified CHWs renewed their certification. In 2008, recertification was at 32%.

Gateway Community Health Center, Laredo



Certified CHWs traveled from Lubbock to Laredo to attend training at Gateway Community Health Center. Their presentation demonstrates Interpersonal Skills, which is one of the core competencies that CHWs are required to be skilled in for certification and recertification.



The following table exemplifies the significance of the work that some of the training institutions undertook in 2008 to ensure that recertification requirements were met.

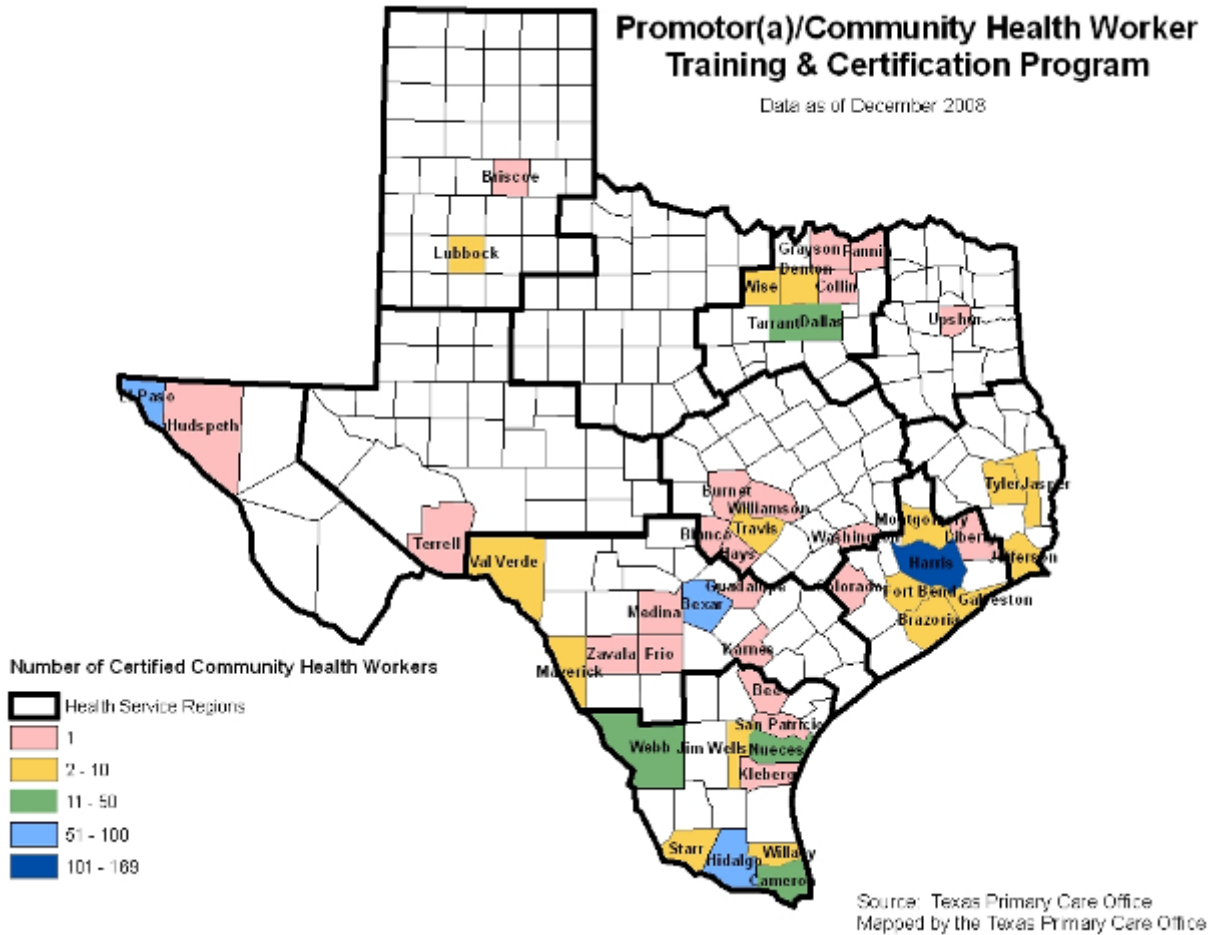
2008 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CONTINUING EDUCATION at DSHS-CERTIFIED TRAINING SITES

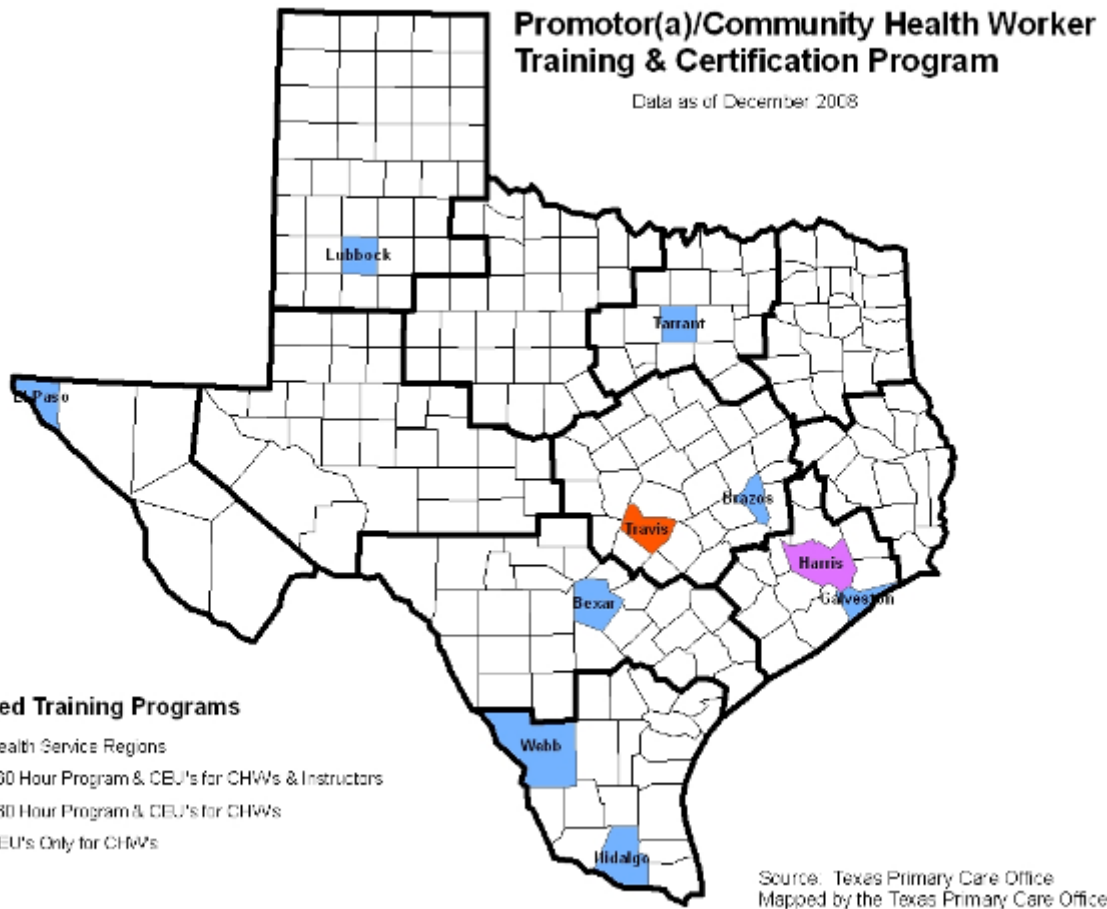
(Minimum of 10 Hours from a DSHS-certified Site Required for Recertification)

County	City	Name of Sponsoring Institution/Training Program	# of CEU Classes Offered	# of Participants (unduplicated count)
Bexar	San Antonio	Northwest Vista College	6	215
El Paso	El Paso	El Paso Community College	2	22
Harris	Houston	Gateway to Care	14	74
Harris	Houston	Harris County Hospital District	39	178
Harris	Houston	Houston Community College	2	13
Travis	Austin	Lance Armstrong Foundation	1	36
Hidalgo	Weslaco	Texas A&M University, Center for Housing and Urban Development, Colonias Program	5	36
Webb	Laredo	Gateway Community Health Center	3	34
Tarrant	Fort Worth	Texas Public Health Training Center at the Univ. of North Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health	1	8
Lubbock	Lubbock	Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Nursing	5	10

5. Please provide any additional information pertinent to this advisory committee.

The following graphics and charts illustrate statistical, demographic and geographic information of the CHW program.

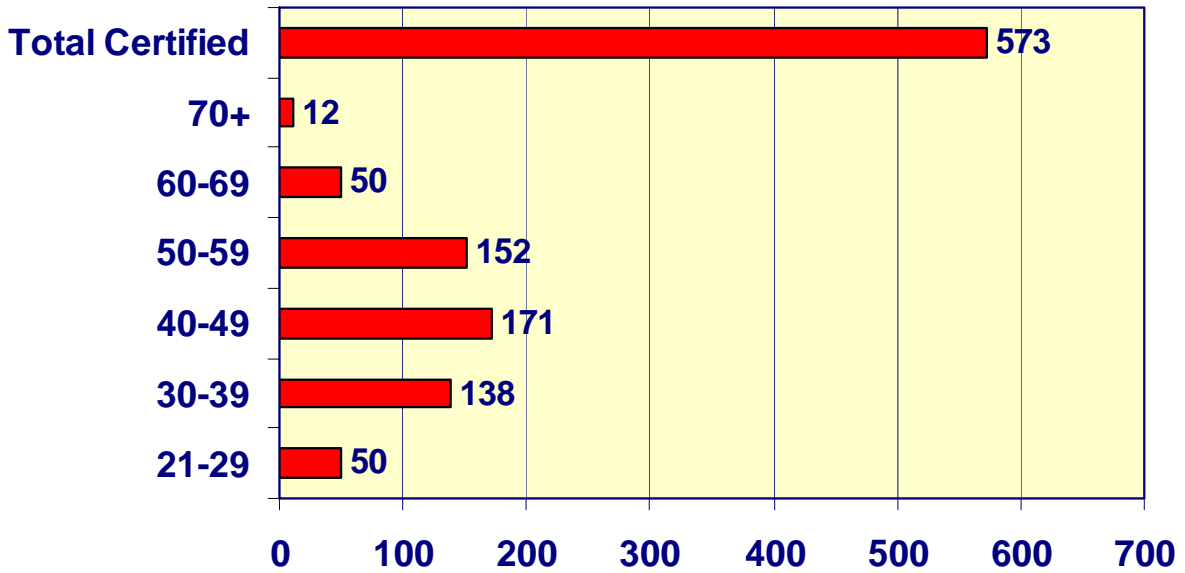




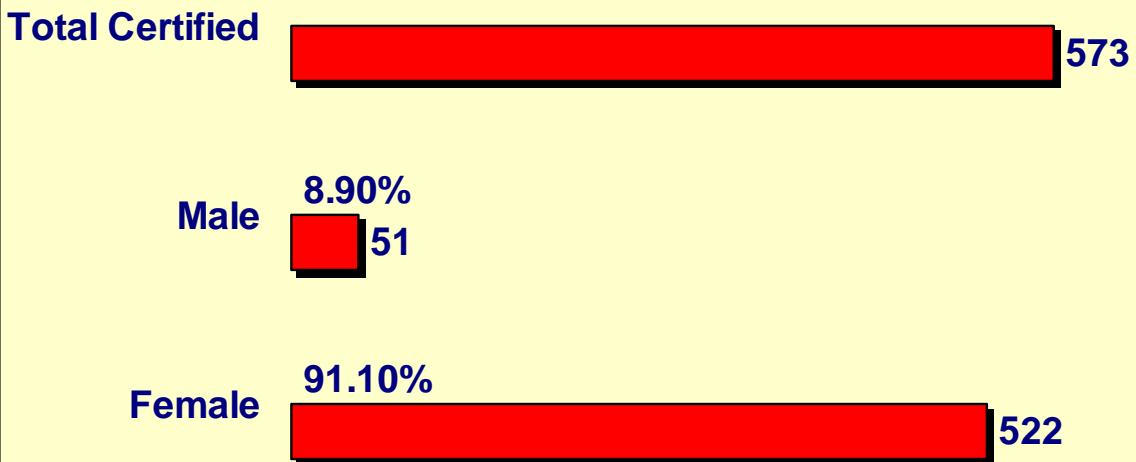


CERTIFIED COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS						
BY COUNTY, as of December 31, 2008						
County	# of CHWs		County	# of CHWs		
Harris	167		Starr	4	Guadalupe	1
Hidalgo	75		Brazoria	3	Hays	1
Bexar	69		Jim Wells	3	Hudspeth	1
El Paso	61		Willacy	3	Karnes	1
Cameron	31		Denton	2	Kleberg	1
Tarrant	29		Tyler	2	Liberty	1
Dallas	27		Val Verde	2	Medina	1
Nueces	14		Wise	2	Out-of-state	1
Webb	11		Bee	1	San Patricio	1
Lubbock	10		Blanco	1	Terrell	1
Fort Bend	7		Briscoe	1	Upshur	1
Jefferson	6		Burnet	1	Washington	1
Jasper	5		Collin	1	Williamson	1
Maverick	5		Colorado	1	Zavala	1
Galveston	4		Fannin	1		
Montgomery	4		Frio	1		
Travis	4		Grayson	1		
					48 counties	573 CHWs

Age Distribution of Promotores or Community Health Workers in Texas (Data as of December 31, 2008)



Gender of Certified Community Health Workers in Texas (Data as of December 31, 2008)



Part 2 – Evaluation

6. Provide information on the costs related to the advisory committee.

Reimbursement is made only to the members appointed to represent consumers. Four of the nine members on the CHWTCAC hold Consumer positions. The remaining five members provide an in-kind contribution to the work of the committee by paying their own travel and related expenses while serving on the committee.

- A. Travel and related reimbursement for committee members for calendar year 2008:
\$4,444.29
- B. Agency staff time to support this committee:
 - 1. Estimated total annual staff hours: 700 hours
 - 2. Estimated total annual salary expenses: \$28,000 (Total program staffing is \$82,700; one-third of staff time or \$28,000 is spent supporting committee activities.)
- C. Other expenses (office supplies, copies): \$287.00

7. Provide a short summary evaluation of the advisory committee. Include any recommendations for changes, consolidation or abolishment.

The CHWTCAC serves as the voice of promotores or community health workers in their communities. They have a key role in assisting DSHS shape and refine the CHW training and certification process in Texas. Each member is committed to the advancement of the role of promotores or community health workers.

In 2007, the Executive Commissioner of Health and Human Services Commission approved the continuation of this committee. The committee remains vital to the growth of the program and the workforce.