

Chapter 10 – Health and Human Services

Taylor Comprehensive Plan - 2004

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a Health and Human Service plan that identifies adequate health and human services as essential components of Taylor's future development. A healthy population translates into increased productivity, reduced business and government health costs and improved quality of life. This chapter addresses access to basic health and human services that must be part of the economic foundation in Taylor, particularly those that prevent serious and complicated medical events and those that maximize the individual's ability to function independently.

Key Issues:

In the development of the Comprehensive plan, work by the Steering Committee, Town Meeting participants and City of Taylor staff identified the following key health and human service issues:

Transportation

The only public transportation in Taylor is the Capitol Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS), which is already operating at capacity and cannot be expected to serve Taylor as well as a whole county as physically large and populous as Williamson County. The 2000 census indicates that in Taylor about 10.6 % of the households have no vehicles, and on average 33.5% have only one car. With 49.5% of the population in Taylor 55 years of age and older, and a large percentage of residents with low incomes, lack of transportation is a barrier to maintaining quality of life.

Mental Health

Another major gap is the lack of mental health services in Williamson County. There is no inpatient mental health facility in the county, and the one mental health- mental retardation clinic in the county, located in Round Rock, is operating at capacity and is too distant to be accessible to residents of Taylor.

Health

It is difficult to find providers who will accept new Medicaid or Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) patients. Taylor residents have high rates of overweight, sedentary lifestyle, and poor diet, all of which point to increased (and preventable) morbidity and mortality in the future. A focus on preventative health programs will be cost efficient for the community in the long run.

Workforce

Lastly, despite the job training programs of the Workforce Commission and Temple College in Taylor, there is widespread concern on the part of area employers about the need for more workforce training, in such areas as basic literacy, computer literacy, health care and managerial skills training.

Issues Addressed at the local organizational level

Areas of need addressed at the local level are education, addressed by the Taylor Independent School District; housing, addressed by the Taylor Housing Authority and the City of Taylor; basic needs, addressed by local social services organizations; and public safety, addressed by the City of Taylor and Williamson County's Sheriff Department and Taylor fire fighting organizations.

Basic Needs

To provide in Taylor basic needs continue to pose problems that stretch the resources of existing social service agencies. These organizations depend largely on local donations and volunteer labor to provide assistance in the form of rent, utility and medical care vouchers; food assistance; clothing and furniture; transportation; and social casework services. In Taylor, there are several organizations that provide basic needs assistance, but the demand for service exceeds their combined ability to provide services.

Existing Facilities

Taylor's health facilities include the Health Center at Johns Community Hospital, an acute care not-for-profit hospital with 24-hour emergency room service, and the Scott and White Taylor Clinic. Both of these facilities provide family practice and specialist physicians. The Health Center at Johns Community Hospital also has a physical therapy facility associated with it. The Williamson County & Cities Health Department has a public clinic, an ophthalmologist clinic, and a range of private medical practices. Residents travel outside of Taylor for health care services such as specialty care, delivery of babies, and to see physicians on their insurance plan. Adult mental health services are available to residents through a satellite office of Bluebonnet Trails MHMR located in Taylor; mental health services for children are only available in Round Rock. The Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Department of Human Services have full functioning centers in Taylor.

Existing Conditions

Poverty/Income

The number of families living below poverty in Williamson rose from 3.2% in 1999 to 4.6% in 2002, according to the 2002 American Community Survey. Of those 4.6% families, 3.5% (2,560) of them have children under 18 years old. For Taylor, the 2000 Census reported 14.1% of persons in Taylor had income below the poverty level.

Taylor ISD was reported to have 55% of their students classified as economically disadvantaged in the 2002-03 school year. This means they are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program, or are from a family with an annual income at or below the official poverty line and/or qualify for other public assistance programs.

According to the 2000 Census, the median household income for Williamson County was \$60,642 while in Taylor it was \$38,549. The estimated median

household income for Williamson County in 2002 was \$64,409; using comparisons from the 2000 data we can estimate that the median household income for Taylor in 2002 was approximately \$40,899.

On average there were 796 Taylor residents receiving Women Infant and Children services per month in 2003. In 2002, there were 612 Food Stamp Cases.

Health Insurance

The number of adults and children that do have health care insurance is difficult to estimate. The Texas Department of Health and Human Resources calculates estimates for Texas counties. The estimated uninsured population as of November 2002 for Williamson County is 9.6% for ages under 19, 17.3% for ages 19-64, and 14.7% for all under age 65. Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollment during the first quarter of 2004 in Williamson County was 3,889.

Seniors and Transportation

The 2000 census indicates that in Taylor about 10.6 % of the households have no vehicles, and on average 33.5% have only one car. With 49.5% of the population in Taylor 55 years of age and older, and a large percentage of residents with low incomes, lack of transportation is a barrier to maintaining quality of life.

Natality

There were 240 live births to Taylor residents in 2002, a decrease of 12% (33 less births) from 2001. The 2002 crude birth rate for Taylor is estimated at 17.0 births per 1,000 residents, similar to the crude rate for Williamson County which was 17.1 births per 1,000 residents. More than half the births in Taylor (131) were to mothers of Hispanic origin. There were 86 births to White mothers, 18 to Black mothers, and 5 other. Approximately 84% of mothers reported starting prenatal care in their first trimester, 13% in their second trimester, and less than 3% in their third. There were 19 low birth weight (under 2,500 grams) infants born to Taylor residents in 2002, which is 7.9 percent of live births. Mothers aged 10-17 accounted for approximately 6.6 percent of the births in 2002, compared to 7.9 percent in 2001. In 2002 Williamson County reported 2.4% of 4,982 total live births to mothers aged 10-17. Age-specific birth rates (accounts for age of the mother per 1,000 of the female resident population of the same age) are not available.

Mortality

30% of the 167 total deaths in Taylor for 2002 were cardiovascular related (ischemic heart disease, acute myocardial infarction, cerebrovascular diseases, and other forms of heart disease). 19% of deaths were cancer related, with cancer of trachea, bronchus and lung the highest at 4.8%. Diabetes related deaths were 2.4%.

Cancer

Cancer incidence rate for all cancers for Williamson County in 2000 was 443.7. With Taylor’s higher proportion of Black and Hispanic residents, they are more likely to carry the burden of higher cancer rates compared to other cities the county that are not as ethnically diverse

**TABLE 10.1
CANCER DEATH RATES FOR ALL CANCERS (PER 10,000)**

Williamson County		Texas	
White:	168.9	White:	201.4
Black:	331.5	Black:	265.6
Hispanic:	191.1	Hispanic:	153.4

Note: Age adjusted to 2000 US standard population

Diabetes

The Texas Diabetes Council reports on the diabetes prevalence for Williamson County by estimating the number of diagnosed diabetics in Texas (2001) using 2001 Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). It is estimated that the Williamson County diabetes prevalence rate is 6.4% and the Texas rate 6.2%. All rates are for individuals 18 years and older.

**TABLE 10.2
WILLIAMSON COUNTY ESTIMATED DIABETES**

	Number	Rate
White	8,326	(6.0%)
Black	857	(9.7%)
Hispanic	2,278	(8.10%)
All	11,643	(6.4%)

Child Obesity

In 2001 the Williamson County and Cities Health District’s Youth Activity Weight and Nutrition survey of fourth, eight and twelve graders initial body mass index measurements found 15% of all students surveyed are at risk for becoming overweight, 21% of TISD students surveyed were all ready overweight.

Family Violence

The Texas Crime Report for 2002 shows the Taylor Police Department reporting 157 family violence incidents in 2002, the second highest number reported by a city police department in Williamson County. . In 2002 there were a total of 1,142 family violence incidents in the county.

Although it is the second highest reported by a Police Department, the number of incidents did slightly decline since 2001 when 161 incidents were reported.

Mental Health

In 2002, 215 adults and 88 children living in Taylor received mental health services; 14 adults and 14 children living in Taylor received mental retardation services, and 36 children received Early Childhood Intervention services.

Public Safety

The most common cause of trauma injury in Williamson County is motor vehicle accidents. From 1997 to 1999, Williamson County experienced a 49.1% (57 to 85) increase in motor vehicle accident trauma injuries. In 2000, Taylor firefighters, both staff and volunteer, responded to an estimated total of 1,874 calls/requests for service, which is an increase of approximately 10% from the 1,704 requests made in 1999. The Taylor Fire Department and the Taylor Volunteer Fire Department provide not only fire control services, but also acts as a first responder team and provides public education for area residents. The Volunteer Fire Department has a *fire safety house*, which helps teach children what to do in case of a fire. During the 2000-2001 school years, 1,250 school children participated in a *fire safety house* training exercise.

Substance Abuse

Data from the 1999 BRFSS and the 1999 Taylor School Survey suggest cause for concern about the levels of drinking and drug use among Taylor youth. In particular, rates of tobacco use, binge drinking, driving after drinking, and inhalant use were above statewide levels. The 2001 Taylor School Survey reveals that Taylor ISD students are using ecstasy (8%) at twice the state rate (4%). Overall, the use of illicit drugs and of marijuana in particular, among Taylor ISD students in 2001 was somewhat higher than that reported by their counterparts statewide.

The number of Adults living in zip code 76574 receiving outpatient treatment in Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA)-funded programs:

2001: 13

2002: 7

2003: 14

Additional Alcohol and Drug Abuse data will be available in early 2005 when the Behavioral Risk Surveillance Survey is completed by the Williamson County & Cities Health District.

Quality of Life

Taylor's economic future and quality of life depends on the development of its people. The community recognizes its role in making Taylor the kind of place people of all ages want to live and raise their families and those who are most vulnerable will have access to assistance they need.

Goals, Objectives, and Action

Health and Human Services Goals: A community that connects families and children with comprehensive, community-based health and human services, where optimal health and quality of life is achievable for families and individuals, and that respects and appreciates diversity, including economic, racial, cultural and individual differences.

Objective HH 1: Work with area providers to expand and promote optimum health and human services for Taylor residents.

Action HH 1.1: Create a working group on health and human services-related issues to develop health and human services policies.

Action HH 1.2: Include consumer representation in addition to health and other disciplines on the working group.

Action HH 1.3: Develop policies that assure equal opportunity and fair access to services.

Action HH 1.4: Strive to provide better and more coordinated information to people about the availability of services in Taylor.

Action HH 1.5: Encourage connections between services that coordinate, link, and integrate public, private and community-based services.

Action HH 1.6: Create with The Economic Development Council and local health care providers a recruitment strategy to secure more CHIP, Medicaid and Medical Specialty providers

Objective HH2: Work with area providers so that health and human services are supported and delivered in an effective and efficient manner

Action HH2.1: Establish a strategic planning committee to develop and review recommendations periodically on:

- ◆ an inventory of existing facilities (location, condition, and services provided);
- ◆ projections of future health and human services challenges and the locations in which they occur;
- ◆ manpower and expertise of the labor force needed to meet current and projected health and human services needs;

- ♦ public accessibility to various health and human services facilities, to include effectiveness of the public transit system.

Objective HH 3: Formalize the planning relationship among the Taylor Independent School District, Temple Community College, Williamson County, neighborhoods, and the City of Taylor by encouraging strong and continuing community and school relationships beyond the walls of facilities by utilizing the neighborhood as an educational resource.

Action HH 3.1: Publicly recognize neighborhoods which have shown individual initiative to improve schools within their neighborhoods.

Action HH 3.2 Establish incentives which encourage neighborhoods to support their schools.

Action HH 3.3: Enhance the system that encourages the school district and other entities to share fiscal and demographic data for planning purposes.

Action HH 3.4: Make available all available financial, demographic, and physical plant information on individual schools through a computerized central clearinghouse.

Action HH 3.5: Coordinate the City capital improvement and functional plans with school district plans.

Action HH 3.6: Develop a cooperative school sidewalk program to enhance the safety, appearance, and access for neighborhood residents.

Action HH 3.7: Develop recommendations for neighborhood safe routes to school plans when developing walking and biking routes to schools.

Action HH 3.8: Participate with alternative schools, vocational training, and adult literacy and learning centers in planning resources for Taylor.

Action HH 3.9: Support the coordination of school programs and Temple Community College.

Action HH 3.10: Work with Temple Community College to promote life-long learning opportunities for residents of Taylor and encourage the broadest possible use of the library, Taylor CNET, and other existing facilities throughout the city, focusing on developing these resources in neighborhoods.

Action HH 3.11: Work with Taylor ISD and Temple Community College, community organizations, state of Texas and Williamson County to develop strong linkages between education and training programs and employability development resources.

Action HH 3.12: Work with Taylor ISD to create safe learning environments in and after school that promotes academic and personal achievement for all children. Recognize that community-based learning through service projects has value both to the student and the community.

Objective HH 4: Work with local organizations and providers to support services to meet food, clothing, shelter, transportation and other basic material needs.

Action HH4.1: Develop new and utilize existing partnerships between public agencies and private citizens to coordinate service delivery for food, housing, health care and other basic necessities of life to promote long term self-reliance for vulnerable populations.

Action HH4.2: Develop new and utilize existing partnerships between public agencies and private citizens to coordinate efforts that support food pantries and nutrition programs, especially for infants, children and the elderly, and other vulnerable populations.

Action HH4.3: Develop new and utilize existing partnerships to exploit the use of existing facilities and co-location of services, including joint use of schools, the City of Taylor and Williamson County facilities, to make services more available in the neighborhoods.

Action HH4.4: Develop new and utilize existing partnerships to encourage effective, efficient community-based and community-delivered services using a combination of public, private, community and personal resources.

Objective HH5: Work with local organizations and providers to help individuals, families, and neighborhoods address their safety concerns.

Action HH 5.1: Coordinate efforts that enhance strong family relationships and healthy child development and work in partnership with the county and state and community agencies to prevent violence and injury, in areas such as child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and violence associated with substance abuse.

Action HH5.2: Develop new and utilize existing partnerships between public agencies and private citizens to coordinate a policing strategy that works in partnership with the community to reduce crime through prevention, education and enforcement, and encourage neighborhoods to build block-by-block networks to prevent crime and solve common problems.

Action HH5.3: Develop an increased level of emergency preparedness among all segments of Taylor to help coordinate governmental response and recovery efforts that seek to minimize the adversity of a major emergency or disaster.

Objective HH6: Work with local organizations to celebrate diversity through community activities and events that recognize different groups.

Action HH6.1: Improve access to City and community services and remove obstacles that keep people from receiving the services they need.

Action HH6.2: Enhance opportunities for people with low income, disabilities, limited English-speaking ability, and other barriers to service to participate fully in community life and to access assistance.

Action HH6.3: Promote culturally responsive and relevant service delivery. Strive to ensure that City and community services provide appropriate service.

Action HH6.4: Provide opportunities for diverse representation of people and interests on City of Taylor boards, commissions, advisory committees, and neighborhood planning efforts.

Action HH6.5: Support community efforts that work toward achieving a diversity of ages, incomes, household types and sizes, and cultural backgrounds throughout the City of Taylor.

Action HH6.6: Coordinate the planning effort to assess the need for a Community Health and Human Services Center which would include a senior citizen center.