

1

INCREASE UT SYSTEM COLLABORATIONS TO ADDRESS POPULATION HEALTH

UT CoPHII's Recommendations:

- Support and expand UT Systemwide collaborations.
- Identify and promote institutional regional population health infrastructure.
- Identify UT System institutions' best practices for information dissemination and program implementation.
- Identify additional ways to partner with Texas agencies and other university systems to address key health issues.
- Develop and implement a systemwide set of competencies in population health for inclusion in undergraduate, graduate and professional schools.
- Work together to identify and secure funding for population health improvement.

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Systemwide Collaboration

UT System plays a key leadership role in addressing the health needs of Texas. Over the last several years, the Population Health Initiative in the Office of Health Affairs has developed multiple statewide collaborations, many times in partnership with key health-related state agencies. These projects include:

- The Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB), which is funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- The Texas Health Improvement Network, or THIN, the creation of which was directed by Texas House Bill 3781 of the 84th Legislature
- The UT Eliminate Tobacco Use initiative
- The Mental Health Workgroup, which includes the chairs of the psychiatry departments at UT Health institutions and non-UT institutions, as well as local and state mental health department representatives.

These collaboratives have proven fruitful, resulting in changes in state

health policy, new funding allocations, and quality improvement in key areas. This collaborative-building strategy needs to be expanded to drive further improvements in population health.

Indeed, no educational or medical institution in Texas alone can fully address the health challenges Texas faces. Too often UT institutions, and even faculty within an individual institution, work in isolation. A key message from the UT CoPHII members was that collaboration within and among institutions needs to be enhanced. UT CoPHII members noted that even within their institutions, there were faculty working on similar projects without knowledge of one another.

To avoid duplication and lack of coordination, partnerships among UT System institutions that are focused on population health need to be expanded and strengthened. Furthermore, there is a deep desire to identify clear projects that, through partnerships, will foster success in obtaining additional extramural funds. This is already starting to take place, as several of the UT CoPHII members have recently partnered on applications to Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and other funding agencies. Partnerships are especially

Participants in the inaugural Healthier Texas Summit, which was a collaboration between UT System and nonprofit IT'S TIME TEXAS dedicated to reducing the burden of preventable chronic disease.





Dr. Patrick Hodges, a neonatologist at Dell Children's Medical Center, is part of a collaboration between UT Austin Dell Medical School and Seton Healthcare that is working to predict — and prevent — health complications that commonly arise in premature infants.

advantageous to the smaller and newer health institutions, which may have difficulty securing these grants on their own, but could bring a rural or border expertise to these grant applications and thus strengthen them.

To address duplication of efforts and lack of internal coordination, several UT institutions are in the process of developing administrative centers for their population health initiatives. For example, a key component of the UT Health Science Center at Tyler strategic plan is building the School of Community and Rural Health, which will lead and coordinate population health efforts for the institution. The UT Austin and UTRGV

medical schools have established Departments of Population Health. MD Anderson recently established their Department of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences. Population health activity is ongoing at UT Health San Antonio through the Center for Research to Advance Community Health (ReACH), the Institute for Health Promotion Research, the Institute of Integration of Medicine and Science (IIMS), the UT School of Public Health in San Antonio, and the School of Nursing. UTMB Galveston engages in population health activities through multiple units, including its Institute for Translational Sciences (CTSA home), the East Texas Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), and the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, which houses graduate and professional degree programs in Public Health and Population Health Sciences. Along those lines, UTHealth in Houston and other institutions believe their population health efforts would be

enhanced significantly by establishing similar structures.

Developing cross-site data sharing is key to addressing the health needs of Texans. Through ongoing collaborations, new platforms can be developed, and existing platforms expanded, for dissemination of data and information. This would serve to position UT System as a state-wide leader and national model in using surveillance, epidemiological practices, and technologies to monitor population health and identify specific regional needs.

Finally, the system has not yet harnessed the capacity for evaluating these efforts across institutions to inform the dissemination and implementation of best practices. Ongoing efforts and practices will lead to further collaborations across institutions and communities that promote community-engaged population health approaches.

As next steps in enhancing collaborations to address population health, the members of UT CoPHII recommend the following:

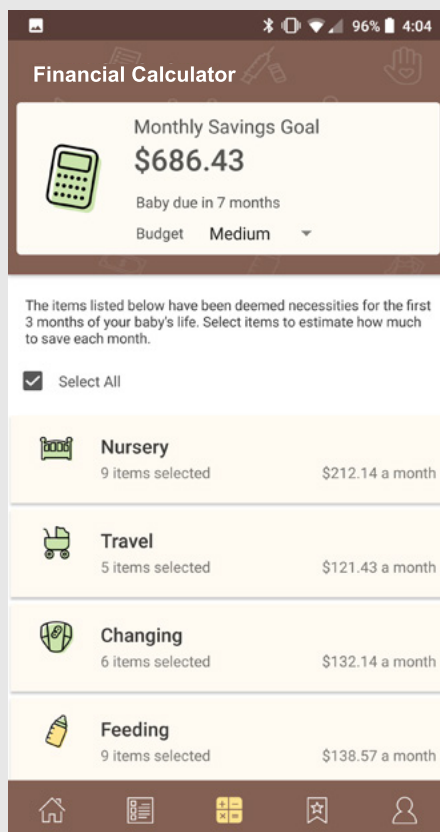
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Methods to achieve these goals:

- Further develop state and UT System institution-wide collaborations and partnerships to address population health priorities.
- Facilitate multi-institutional initiatives to improve the collection, analysis, sharing, and use of population health and statewide data sources.
- Identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration on population health training and best practices.
- Train UT System institutions in the use of tools and strategies to assess and address population health needs in their regions using Systemwide expertise.
- Partner with regional population health partners and facilitate cross-institutional programs.
- Support individual UT institutions as they develop their center, programs, or strategies to coordinate population health initiatives.

Examples

- University of Texas Collaborative on Population Health Innovation and Improvement (UT CoPHII) is a population health learning collaborative of all UT Health Science Centers and the two new UT medical schools that aims to develop actionable strategic plans for each institution and the UT System as a whole.
- Texas Safe Babies, funded by the Department of Family and Protective Services, is a collaboration between UT Health Science Center at Tyler, UT System, UT Austin, Baylor College of Medicine, and hospitals designed to evaluate hospital-based interventions that are thought to prevent abuse, especially abusive head trauma, in the first year of life.



- The Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB), funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services, is a multi-disciplinary network made up of health professionals throughout the state whose mission is to advance health care quality and patient safety for all Texas mothers and babies.
- The Texas Health Improvement Network (THIN), established by the 84th Texas Legislature and attached administratively to the UT System, is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional collaboration designed to address urgent health care challenges in Texas. Based on the triple aim of health care and advised by a 24-member advisory board, including representatives from multiple UT institutions, THIN is developing networks to improve health and to advise the Texas legislature on population health opportunities.
- UT Eliminate Tobacco Use, led by MD Anderson Cancer Center and UT System, is a consortium of representatives from all 14 UT institutions. Its goal is to eliminate tobacco use at all UT institutions and in the communities in which they reside. Areas of focus include tobacco use prevention, tobacco policy and enforcement, improving tobacco cessation programs for employees, and conducting research.
- The Mental Health Workgroup includes the Chairs of the

Psychiatry Departments at UT Health institutions and non-UT institutions, as well as representatives from state and local mental health agencies. It meets regularly to discuss opportunities to improve coordination between the state and academic mental health providers.

- Healthier Texas is a partnership with non-profit group IT'S TIME TEXAS that is dedicated to addressing obesity, nutrition, physical fitness, and tobacco use.
- The UT Southwestern Community Registry is a novel approach toward dissemination that helps with community-academic partnerships across UT System institutions. It is supported by the UT Southwestern Center for Translational Medicine (CTSA). Currently, over 12,000 community members (approximately 46% Hispanic and 40% Black) are enrolled.

A screenshot from the Father's Playbook, a smart phone app for expecting fathers that is being developed, in collaboration with the Center for Health Communication at UT Austin, as part of the Texas Safe Babies project.