

TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

- (1) From your agency's point of view, what regulations can be reduced to improve communication and cooperation between federal, state, and local governments within the Texas-Mexico border region? N\A
- (2) What are the main trade issues between the United States and Mexico that you have identified as having an impact (both positive and negative) on your agency or your area of work? N\A
- (3) Having studied the flow of commerce at ports of entry between this state and Mexico, including the movement of commercial vehicles across the border, what actions would you establish to aid that commerce and improve the movement of those vehicles? N\A
- (4) How do you work with federal officials to resolve transportation issues involving infrastructure, including roads and bridges, to allow for the efficient movement of goods and people across the border between Texas and Mexico? N\A
- (5) How does your agency work with federal officials to create a unified federal agency process to streamline border crossing needs? N\A
- (6) Has your agency identified problems involved with border truck inspections and related trade and transportation infrastructure? What are those? What solutions/recommendations does your agency propose? N\A
- (7) How do you work to increase funding for the North American Development Bank to assist in the financing of water and wastewater facilities? N\A
- (8) Has your agency explored the sale of excess electric power from Texas to Mexico? What are your findings? N\A
- (9) Has your agency identified any areas of environmental protection that need to be addressed cooperatively between Texas and the Mexican states? If so, which are those areas and what type of protective measures need to be taken? N\A
- (10) Has your agency identified common challenges to health care on which all border states can collaborate? If so, what are those challenges and how can all border states collaborate to overcome them? **Need for improved coordination and planning among stakeholders can lead to more efficient and effective communication and service delivery. HHSC has addressed this issue by creating the Office of Border Affairs whose role is to plan and coordinate with local, state, federal and Mexican health and social service programs and agencies.**
- (11) Has your agency developed any recommendations to address border challenges in general? If so, what are them? **Continue supporting the Office of Border Affairs and develop improved planning and coordination strategies among all HHS state agencies. In addition,**

continue supporting the use of promotoras to link agency services to communities as well as utilizing outreach efforts to improve access of services.

(12) What programs and services does your agency offer to border communities?

All services provided through HHSC, DFPS, DSHS, DADS and DARS.

(13) What are some regulatory and/or legislative recommendations to eliminate duplication and combine programs and services? N/A

(14) Please share any considerations from your agency regarding the effect of policies instituted by the federal government impacting the border region. N/A

(15) Please give a brief summary of all your agency's activities related to the Border and/or Mexico.

The HHSC Office of Border Affairs coordinates with all the HHS agencies and partners, including TWC, TEA, and Texas A&M to improve access of health & human services, employment and education to colonias and border communities. Services provided include assistance with Medicaid\CHIP\TANF applications, needs assessments, health screenings and immunizations, information and referral, job skills training, coordination of health and dental fairs, and GED\ESL classes. Staff also coordinates with local community based organizations, churches, schools, and promotora groups to maximize limited resources and enhance outreach efforts to qualified individuals and families in border communities.