

RESOLUTION

Enhance state and local emergency planning protocols between county and local emergency responders and 2-1-1 (AICs).

A RESOLUTION TO: Enhance state and local emergency planning protocols between county and Local emergency responders and the 25 designated Area Information Centers.

WHEREAS, the 77th Legislature authorized the implementation of 2-1-1 in the state of Texas and appropriated funding to develop this statewide infrastructure for 2-1-1 Access; and, The Texas Information and Referral Network, a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, was assigned the responsibility to develop, coordinate, Implement a consistent statewide information and referral network, incorporating the national 2-1-1 abbreviated dialing code for consumer access; and,

WHEREAS, The 25 regional Area Information Centers were designated to gather, maintain, and update comprehensive information about all health and human services in their specified service area; and, the 25 regional AIC'S played a critical role in the 2005 hurricanes handling more than 180,000 calls upon an announcement by the Texas Governor on national television for all evacuees to call 2-1-1; and the hurricane experience demonstrated the capacity of 2-1-1 to coordinate information sharing between the state and local communities regarding resource mobilization and system-wide update during a local or national disaster; and

WHEREAS, The statewide 2-1-1 system permits consumers to access appropriate services prior to the need becoming a crisis and is best able to divert state resources for service needs with local resources; increases communication between state and local communities thereby encouraging improved planning and coordination; enhances staff productivity by reducing the necessity for clients to call numerous agencies which are not appropriate to meet their needs; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED: That the 11th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 80th Texas Legislature pass legislation to require local emergency planning entities to incorporate 2-1-1 roles and communication protocols into disaster plans; provide Emergency planning resources to TIRN to support each 2-1-1 system to participate as active members of all city and county emergency planning efforts within their specified service area in order to clarify the role of 2-1-1 centers, to promote the special needs registry and to coordinate planning and training with other local agencies serving persons with special needs.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 11th day of September, 2006, by the Human Services Committee.

Adalaide C. Balaban, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of September, 2006, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Charlotte Parks, Speaker

ATTEST:

Carlos Higgins, Secretary