

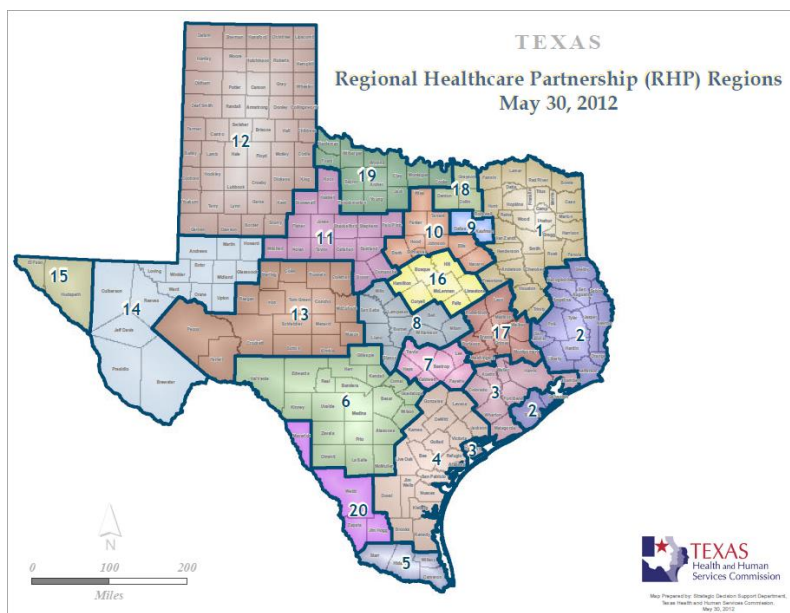
## RHP 4 Community Needs Assessment

### Region Overview

Regional Healthcare Partnership (RHP) 4 is comprised of 18 counties in South Texas including Aransas, Bee, Brooks, DeWitt, Duval, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria. Most Region 4 counties are located within the Coastal Bend Council of Government (Coastal Bend-COG) geographic area. The Coastal Bend COG includes all the counties of Region 4 except Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria. The region is a mix of suburban, urban, and rural areas and while it is geographically large (almost twice the size of Region 3 - Harris County) it has a relatively small population of 747,000 (about one-sixth the population size of Region 3). Corpus Christi is the largest city in the region with a population of approximately 308,000<sup>1</sup>.

### Region Demographics & Insurance Coverage

The population of Region 4 reflects a diverse race and ethnic distribution. As Table 1 illustrates, the 2010 US Census data show that 56 percent of the population is Hispanic/Latino, followed by 37 percent identified as Anglo/White, and 5 percent who are Black/African American. The remaining 2 percent include individuals who identified themselves as Asian, American Indian, Alaskan, and other race/ethnic populations.



County population ranges from as low as 385 individuals (Kenedy County) to as high as 322,876 individuals (Nueces County). Approximately two-thirds of Region 4's population resides in three counties (Nueces, Victoria, and San Patricio.)

**Table 1. Region 4: Estimated 2010 Population by Race/Ethnicity and County**

| County  | Population | White  | %  | Hispanic | %  | Black | %    | Other | %    |
|---------|------------|--------|----|----------|----|-------|------|-------|------|
| Aransas | 25,507     | 18,670 | 73 | 5,463    | 21 | 376   | 2    | 998   | 4    |
| Bee     | 33,196     | 10,760 | 32 | 19,171   | 58 | 3,006 | 9    | 259   | 1    |
| Brooks  | 7,721      | 581    | 7  | 7,118    | 92 | 4     | 0.05 | 18    | 0.23 |
| DeWitt  | 20,173     | 11,351 | 56 | 6,378    | 32 | 2,316 | 11   | 128   | 1    |
| Duval   | 12,309     | 1,308  | 10 | 10,901   | 89 | 50    | 0.4  | 50    | 0.4  |

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, State and County Quick Facts, 2011.

| County        | Population     | White          | %         | Hispanic       | %         | Black         | %        | Other         | %        |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Goliad        | 7,351          | 4,273          | 58        | 2,744          | 37        | 311           | 4        | 23            | 0.3      |
| Gonzales      | 19,522         | 8,956          | 46        | 8,783          | 45        | 1,665         | 8        | 118           | 0.6      |
| Jackson       | 14,862         | 9,332          | 63        | 4,273          | 29        | 1,128         | 7        | 129           | 1        |
| Jim Wells     | 41,562         | 8,683          | 21        | 32,365         | 78        | 206           | 0.5      | 308           | 0.7      |
| Karnes        | 15,340         | 6,050          | 39        | 7,804          | 51        | 1,395         | 9        | 101           | 0.6      |
| Kenedy        | 385            | 79             | 20        | 303            | 79        | 0             | 0        | 3             | 1        |
| Kleberg       | 30,657         | 7,956          | 26        | 20,801         | 68        | 1,195         | 4        | 705           | 2        |
| Lavaca        | 19,457         | 14,966         | 77        | 2,881          | 15        | 1,518         | 8        | 92            | 0.5      |
| Live Oak      | 12,191         | 6,890          | 56        | 4,983          | 41        | 260           | 2        | 58            | 0.5      |
| Nueces        | 322,876        | 98,788         | 31        | 203,372        | 63        | 12,914        | 4        | 7,802         | 2        |
| Refugio       | 7,411          | 3,212          | 43        | 3,606          | 49        | 523           | 7        | 70            | 1        |
| San Patricio  | 69,169         | 29,626         | 43        | 36,249         | 52        | 2,201         | 3        | 1,093         | 2        |
| Victoria      | 87,757         | 39,964         | 46        | 41,088         | 47        | 5,480         | 6        | 1,225         | 1        |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>747,466</b> | <b>281,445</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>418,283</b> | <b>56</b> | <b>34,548</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>13,180</b> | <b>2</b> |

Source: Texas State Data Center, Texas Population 2010

### Income

As shown in Table 2 below, the average Median Household Income ranges from a low of \$26,027 in Brooks County to a high of \$46,566 in Victoria County. Median income in all of the 18 counties falls below the statewide average of \$49,585. Census data also shows that 20 percent of county residents had incomes below the federal poverty level; among children under 18, the rate was even higher at 31 percent. Poverty rates in Region 4 are higher than statewide averages of 18 percent and 26 percent for total population and children, respectively.

**Table 2. Region 4: Income and Poverty Status by County--2010**

| County    | Median Household Income | Number of People in Poverty | %  | Number of Children Under 18 in Poverty | %  |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----|--|----|
| Aransas   | \$38,516                | 5,058                       | 22 | 1,827                                  | 41 |
| Bee       | \$36,462                | 6,623                       | 27 | 2,344                                  | 35 |
| Brooks    | \$26,027                | 2,353                       | 33 | 984                                    | 49 |
| DeWitt    | \$36,611                | 3,885                       | 21 | 1,414                                  | 32 |
| Duval     | \$30,365                | 2,994                       | 27 | 1,165                                  | 38 |
| Goliad    | \$42,646                | 1,101                       | 15 | 404                                    | 25 |
| Gonzales  | \$31,012                | 4,061                       | 21 | 1,670                                  | 32 |
| Jackson   | \$38,137                | 2,234                       | 16 | 887                                    | 25 |
| Jim Wells | \$36,404                | 8,753                       | 22 | 3,775                                  | 32 |
| Karnes    | \$34,970                | 3,026                       | 26 | 982                                    | 33 |
| Kenedy    | \$33,502                | 52                          | 12 | 18                                     | 18 |
| Kleberg   | \$37,418                | 7,445                       | 25 | 2,613                                  | 33 |
| Lavaca    | \$39,468                | 2,735                       | 14 | 916                                    | 21 |
| Live Oak  | \$36,091                | 1,932                       | 19 | 648                                    | 28 |
| Nueces    | \$41,899                | 66,978                      | 20 | 26,953                                 | 31 |
| Refugio   | \$39,582                | 1,284                       | 18 | 466                                    | 26 |

| County        | Median Household Income | Number of People in Poverty | %           | Number of Children Under 18 in Poverty | %           |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|
| San Patricio  | \$44,307                | 13,444                      | 21          | 5,680                                  | 32          |
| Victoria      | \$46,566                | 15,537                      | 18          | 6,336                                  | 28          |
| Statewide     | \$49,646                | 4,411,217                   | 17.9        | 1,746,564                              | 25.7        |
| United States |                         |                             | <b>15.3</b> |  | <b>21.6</b> |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates- 2010 County Level Estimations; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009-2010.

### Education

Education rates in Region 4 also vary by county, but, consistent with lower incomes, most counties experience lower high school and college graduation rates than the statewide average. Among 18-24 year olds, high school graduation rates range from 47% in Karnes to 90.5% in Kleberg County. Among adults age 25 and over, high school graduation rates vary from a low of 53.7% in Brooks County to a high of 85.1% in Aransas County. College graduation rates for 18-24 year olds range from a low of 0% to a high of 12.1%; only one county exceeded the statewide average of 7.1%. Among those age 25 and over, high school graduation rates vary from 53.7% to 85.1%; college rates range from 9.2% to 23.9%, all below the statewide average of 26.4%.

**Table 3. Region 4: Education by Age and County**

| County           | Age 18 – 24 Years     |                      |                  | Age 25 & Over         |                      |                  |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
|                  | Less Than High School | High School Graduate | College Graduate | Less Than High School | High School Graduate | College Graduate |
| Aransas          | 25.7%                 | 74.3%                | 4.5%             | 14.9%                 | 85.1%                | 23.9%            |
| Bee              | 37.9%                 | 62.1%                | 2.5%             | 30.5%                 | 69.5%                | 9.2%             |
| Brooks           | 43.6%                 | 56.5%                | 0%               | 46.4%                 | 53.7%                | 12.5%            |
| DeWitt           | 31.8%                 | 68.2%                | 0.3%             | 24.5%                 | 75.5%                | 12.1%            |
| Duval            | 23.0%                 | 77.0%                | 0%               | 35.1%                 | 64.9%                | 8.5%             |
| Goliad           | 51.1%                 | 48.9%                | 0%               | 16.2%                 | 83.3%                | 18.0%            |
| Gonzales         | 36.6%                 | 63.4%                | 0.9%             | 32.4%                 | 67.6%                | 13.9%            |
| Jackson          | 19.5%                 | 80.6%                | 4.3%             | 22.8%                 | 77.2%                | 16.9%            |
| Jim Wells        | 34.4%                 | 65.6%                | 1.3%             | 29.4%                 | 70.6%                | 10.6%            |
| Karnes           | 53.0%                 | 47.0%                | 0.4%             | 34.4%                 | 65.6%                | 8.4%             |
| Kenedy           | 0%                    | 100%                 | 0%               | 40.2%                 | 59.8%                | 17.9%            |
| Kleberg          | 9.4%                  | 90.5%                | 12.1%            | 23.9%                 | 76.1%                | 20.4%            |
| Lavaca           | 24.0%                 | 75.9%                | 4.3%             | 23.7%                 | 76.3%                | 14.0%            |
| Live Oak         | 23.8%                 | 76.2%                | 3.0%             | 22.9%                 | 77.1%                | 14.0%            |
| Nueces           | 19.1%                 | 80.9%                | 5.2%             | 21.7%                 | 78.2%                | 19.9%            |
| Refugio          | 21.2%                 | 78.9%                | 0%               | 27.3%                 | 72.7%                | 11.2%            |
| San Patricio     | 17.5%                 | 82.4%                | 2.3%             | 23.7%                 | 76.3%                | 15.1%            |
| Victoria         | 23.4%                 | 76.6%                | 5.5%             | 19.2%                 | 80.8%                | 16.4%            |
| <b>Statewide</b> | <b>19.3%</b>          | <b>80.7%</b>         | <b>7.1%</b>      | <b>18.9%</b>          | <b>81.1%</b>         | <b>26.4%</b>     |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5 year Estimates, 2006-1010

## Employment

Employment rate is relatively stable in Region 4. The unemployment rate in the most populous counties (Nueces, Victoria, and San Patricio) ranges from 7.0 to 7.9 percent, which is below the state average of 8.5 percent.

**Table 4: Workforce Status of People Aged 16 and Over (2009-2011)**

| County       | Total Population | Percentage In Labor Force | Percentage Employed | Percentage Unemployed |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Aransas      | 19,029           | 52.0%                     | 48.4%               | 6.8%                  |
| Bee          | 26,026           | 37.5%                     | 34.0%               | 9.0%                  |
| Brooks       | 5,597            | 49.3%                     | 45.3%               | 8.1%                  |
| DeWitt       | 16,242           | 54.9%                     | 51.5%               | 6.0%                  |
| Duval        | 9,193            | 55.7%                     | 51.3%               | 7.8%                  |
| Goliad       | 5,689            | 59.8%                     | 58.7%               | 1.8%                  |
| Gonzales     | 14,900           | 60.5%                     | 55.1%               | 8.8%                  |
| Jackson      | 10,812           | 64.6%                     | 61.2%               | 5.3%                  |
| Jim Wells    | 30,010           | 58.5%                     | 54.5%               | 6.6%                  |
| Karnes       | 13,612           | 35.5%                     | 34.3%               | 3.2%                  |
| Kenedy       | 200              | 57.5%                     | 57.5%               | 0.0%                  |
| Kleberg      | 24,681           | 59.3%                     | 52.4%               | 9.3%                  |
| Lavaca       | 15,273           | 62.2%                     | 58.3%               | 6.3%                  |
| Live Oak     | 9,341            | 45.0%                     | 43.5%               | 3.3%                  |
| Nueces       | 256,930          | 63.7%                     | 57.6%               | 7.9%                  |
| Refugio      | 5,896            | 49.5%                     | 45.9%               | 7.2%                  |
| San Patricio | 49,600           | 62.5%                     | 55.5%               | 7.5%                  |
| Victoria     | 65,189           | 66.7%                     | 61.9%               | 7.0%                  |
| Statewide    | 19,117,836       | 65.4%                     | 59.3%               | 8.5%                  |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2009-2011 American Community Survey

## Health Insurance Status

For more than 15 years, the state of Texas has experienced the highest uninsured rate in the country (approximately 25 percent). This fact is reflected in the high number of uninsured people living throughout Region 4. Of the eight counties for which data is available, the most recent census data available estimates that 117,028 people (21.8%) were uninsured in 2010.<sup>2</sup> By county, uninsured rates varied from a low of 17.6% in Bee County to 23.8% in San Patricio.

<sup>2</sup> Due to the small population, data is not available for 11 of the 18 counties.

In a 2010 Community Needs Assessment study, focus group participants reported lack of insurance is due primarily to high premium costs, a lack of employment-based coverage, and ineligibility for governmental plans.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 5: Health Insurance Status**

| County        | Civilian Non-institutionalized Population | Total Insured  | %     | Insured with Private Coverage | Insured with Public Coverage | Medicaid Enrollment | Percent Medicaid Enrolled | Total Uninsured | Percent Uninsured |
|---------------|---|----------------|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Aransas       | 22,294                                    | 18,504         | 80.7% | 58.4%                         | 39.4%                        | 2,888               | 11.3%                     | 4,420           | 19.3%             |
| Bee           | 23,917                                    | 19,712         | 82.4% | 59.7%                         | 35.0%                        | 4,284               | 12.9%                     | 4,205           | 17.6%             |
| Brooks        | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | N/A                 | N/A                       | N/A             | N/A               |
| DeWitt        | 18,327                                    | 14,134         | 77.1% | 56.0%                         | 36.8%                        | 3,028               | 15.0%                     | 4,193           | 22.9%             |
| Duval         | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 2,369               | 19.2%                     | N/A             | N/A               |
| Goliad        | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 808                 | 11.0%                     | N/A             | N/A               |
| Gonzales      | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 3,271               | 16.8%                     | N/A             | N/A               |
| Jackson       | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 1,837               | 12.4%                     | N/A             | N/A               |
| Jim Wells     | 40,252                                    | 31,360         | 77.9% | 48.8%                         | 37.4%                        | 8,211               | 19.8%                     | 8,892           | 22.1%             |
| Karnes        | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 1,861               | 12.1%                     | N/A             | N/A               |
| Kenedy        | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 54                  | 14.0%                     | N/A             | N/A               |
| Kleberg       | 31,270                                    | 24,578         | 78.6% | 56.8%                         | 31.6%                        | 5,051               | 16.5%                     | 6,692           | 21.4%             |
| Lavaca        | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 1,853               | 9.5%                      | N/A             | N/A               |
| Live Oak      | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 1,079               | 8.9%                      | N/A             | N/A               |
| Nueces        | 335,609                                   | 262,201        | 78.1% | 53.9%                         | 33.6%                        | 53,566              | 16.6%                     | 73,408          | 21.9%             |
| Refugio       | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 1,016               | 13.7%                     | N/A             | N/A               |
| San Patricio  | 63,975                                    | 48,757         | 76.2% | 52.7%                         | 33.1%                        | 10,290              | 14.9%                     | 15,218          | 23.8%             |
| Victoria      | N/A                                       | N/A            | N/A   | N/A                           | N/A                          | 12,508              | 14.3%                     | N/A             | N/A               |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>536,264</b>                            | <b>419,246</b> |       |                               |                              | <b>116,091</b>      | <b>15.50%</b>             | <b>117,028</b>  | <b>21.8%</b>      |

Sources: Texas State Data Center, Texas Population 2010; Texas Health and Human Services Commission

### Description of Regional Health System and Challenges

Region 4 has three main area hospital systems: Spohn Health System, Corpus Christi Medical Center, and Driscoll Health System. There are also hospital district facilities in DeWitt, Gonzales, Jackson, Karnes, Lavaca, and Refugio counties. Aransas, Brooks, Duval, Goliad, Kenedy, and Live Oak counties do not have an acute care hospital. Several hundred physicians

<sup>3</sup> Texas A&M University, "The Coastal Bend's Community Health Needs Assessment," Social Sciences Research Center, July1, 2010.

are affiliated with the Spohn, Corpus Christi and Driscoll systems. The region has five Local Mental Health Authority providers, all of whom are participants in the Region 4 plan.

Health care infrastructure is largely concentrated in the most populous counties of Nueces and Victoria, and fewer professional and facility services are available in the rural counties. Table 6 below shows that 11 out of the 21 hospitals in the region are located in Nueces and Victoria. The region has only one psychiatric hospital located in Nueces. The region has 2,555 acute care beds of which more than half (1,427) are located in Nueces. The region has 488 primary care physicians of which 289 practice in Nueces. In some rural counties, with large percentages of uninsured, there are few primary care physicians (PCPs). Eight counties in the region have four or fewer PCPs. Two counties have none. Based on the ratio of acute care beds to population, Region 4 has roughly one acute care bed for every 290 persons, and one PCP for every 1,495 persons.

**Table 6. Region 4: Hospitals & Primary Care Physicians**

| County        | Population     | Acute Care Hospitals | Acute Care Beds | Psychiatric Hospitals | Primary Care Physicians |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Aransas       | 25,507         | 0                    | 0               | 0                     | 10                      |
| Bee           | 33,196         | 1                    | 63              | 0                     | 18                      |
| Brooks        | 7,721          | 0                    | 0               | 0                     | 3                       |
| DeWitt        | 20,173         | 1                    | 49              | 0                     | 12                      |
| Duval         | 12,309         | 0                    | 0               | 0                     | 0                       |
| Goliad        | 7,351          | 0                    | 0               | 0                     | 1                       |
| Gonzales      | 19,522         | 1                    | 34              | 0                     | 11                      |
| Jackson       | 14,862         | 1                    | 25              | 0                     | 3                       |
| Jim Wells     | 41,562         | 1                    | 142             | 0                     | 16                      |
| Karnes        | 15,340         | 1                    | 21              | 0                     | 4                       |
| Kenedy        | 385            | 0                    | 0               | 0                     | 0                       |
| Kleberg       | 30,657         | 1                    | 77              | 0                     | 12                      |
| Lavaca        | 19,457         | 2                    | 50              | 0                     | 13                      |
| Live Oak      | 12,191         | 0                    | 0               | 0                     | 1                       |
| Nueces        | 322,876        | 7                    | 1,427           | 1                     | 289                     |
| Refugio       | 7,411          | 1                    | 20              | 0                     | 4                       |
| San Patricio  | 69,169         | 1                    | 75              | 0                     | 20                      |
| Victoria      | 87,757         | 4                    | 572             | 0                     | 83                      |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>747,466</b> | <b>22</b>            | <b>2,555</b>    | <b>1</b>              | <b>500</b>              |

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services; Texas Board of Medical Examiners

As apparent in Table 7, physician specialists are also concentrated in the counties with the largest population. Two counties, Duval and Kenedy, have no physician specialists. Though not uncommon for rural communities, lack of access to specialty care providers is a critical issue for patients who must often travel a significant distance to obtain care. The issue is particularly challenging for individuals with no reliable source of transportation.

**Table 7. Region 4: Selected Physician Specialists by County**

| County        | Population     | Cardiology | Family Practice | Internal Medicine | OB/GYN    | Pediatrics |
|---------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| Aransas       | 25,507         | 0          | 5               | 0                 | 0         | 1          |
| Bee           | 33,196         | 0          | 7               | 2                 | 2         | 2          |
| Brooks        | 7,721          | 0          | 2               | 0                 | 0         | 0          |
| DeWitt        | 20,173         | 0          | 3               | 1                 | 0         | 0          |
| Duval         | 12,309         | 0          | 0               | 0                 | 0         | 0          |
| Goliad        | 7,351          | 0          | 1               | 0                 | 0         | 0          |
| Gonzales      | 19,522         | 0          | 3               | 1                 | 1         | 1          |
| Jackson       | 14,862         | 0          | 1               | 0                 | 0         | 1          |
| Jim Wells     | 41,562         | 2          | 5               | 4                 | 1         | 4          |
| Karnes        | 15,340         | 0          | 4               | 0                 | 0         | 0          |
| Kenedy        | 385            | 0          | 0               | 0                 | 0         | 0          |
| Kleberg       | 30,657         | 0          | 6               | 3                 | 1         | 4          |
| Lavaca        | 19,457         | 0          | 9               | 13                | 0         | 1          |
| Live Oak      | 12,191         | 0          | 0               | 0                 | 0         | 0          |
| Nueces        | 322,876        | 27         | 83              | 73                | 43        | 75         |
| Refugio       | 7,411          | 0          | 1               | 2                 | 0         | 0          |
| San Patricio  | 69,169         | 0          | 5               | 4                 | 0         | 1          |
| Victoria      | 87,757         | 6          | 22              | 31                | 8         | 13         |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>747,466</b> | <b>35</b>  | <b>157</b>      | <b>134</b>        | <b>56</b> | <b>103</b> |

Source: Texas Board of Medical Examiners

In 2010, about one-fifth of the inpatient days in Region 4 hospitals were related to the treatment of Medicaid patients. There were more than one million outpatient visits to regional hospitals with almost half occurring in Nueces County. Hospitals also provided care for nearly 379,000 ER visits, some of which contributed to the more than \$500 million in uncompensated care as shown in the following Table.

**Table 8. Region 4: Hospital Utilization--2010**

| County    | Staffed Beds | Inpatient Days | Medicaid Inpatient Days | Average Length of Stay | ER Visits | Outpatient Visits | Uncompensated Care |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Aransas   | 0            | --             | --                      | --                     | --        | --                | --                 |
| Bee       | 63           | 7,652          | 1,626                   | 3.8                    | 18,844    | 34,596            | \$23,532,704       |
| Brooks    | 0            | --             | --                      | --                     | --        | --                | --                 |
| DeWitt    | 49           | 7,189          | 1,276                   | 3.6                    | 7,996     | 139,966           | \$4,829,184        |
| Duval     | 0            | --             | --                      | --                     | --        | --                | --                 |
| Goliad    | 0            | --             | --                      | --                     | --        | --                | --                 |
| Gonzales  | 32           | 3,707          | 674                     | 3.1                    | 8,165     | 62,174            | \$4,721,492        |
| Jackson   | 25           | 4,438          | 1,632                   | 12.2                   | 3,848     | 12,735            | \$2,021,688        |
| Jim Wells | 126          | 17,411         | 4,461                   | 4.2                    | 28,382    | 55,767            | \$40,441,237       |
| Karnes    | 21           | 1,945          | 52                      | 5.3                    | 6,342     | 14,914            | \$3,335,798        |
| Kenedy    | 0            | --             | --                      | --                     | --        | --                | --                 |
| Kleberg   | 77           | 17,264         | 3,792                   | 4.1                    | 18,244    | 32,245            | \$28,345,913       |
| Lavaca    | 50           | 7,583          | 345                     | 5.0                    | 8,256     | 43,018            | \$4,066,605        |
| Live Oak  | 0            | --             | --                      | --                     | --        | --                | --                 |

| County        | Staffed Beds | Inpatient Days | Medicaid Inpatient Days | Average Length of Stay | ER Visits      | Outpatient Visits | Uncompensated Care   |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Nueces        | 1,459        | 329,581        | 77,391                  | 5.6                    | 195,394        | 540,693           | \$307,282,274        |
| Refugio       | 20           | 404            | 15                      | 3.0                    | 4,025          | 28,447            | \$2,045,357          |
| San Patricio  | 75           | 5,769          | 602                     | 4.3                    | 11,553         | 22,941            | \$4,396,352          |
| Victoria      | 572          | 108,969        | 12,436                  | 5.3                    | 67,825         | 193,286           | \$78,098,420         |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>2,569</b> | <b>511,912</b> | <b>104,302</b>          | <b>--</b>              | <b>378,874</b> | <b>1,180,782</b>  | <b>\$503,117,024</b> |

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, American Hospital Association, Texas Hospital Association, 2009 & 2010 Annual Survey of Hospitals and Hospital Database

To better understand the health status and health care needs of the region’s residents, the Coastal Bend’s Community Health Needs Assessment was conducted in 2004, with a follow-up study in 2010 to update the study data.<sup>4</sup> Table 9 provides a summary of the most common reported principal and secondary diagnoses based on an analysis of two years of hospital data (September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2009).

**Table 9. Region 4: Most Common Primary and Secondary Diagnosis in Order of Frequency, All Age Groups -- 2009<sup>5</sup>**

| Primary Diagnosis              | Number of Patients | Secondary Diagnosis               | Number of Patients |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Pneumonia                      | 4,612              | Urinary Tract Infection           | 5,194,             |
| Heart Failure                  | 3,221              | Essential Hypertension            | 4,595              |
| Previous Cesarean Delivery     | 2,910              | Acute Renal Failure               | 4,036              |
| Coronary Atherosclerosis       | 2,059              | Pneumonia                         | 3,971              |
| Normal Delivery                | 2,053              | End Stage Renal Disease           | 3,822              |
| Urinary Tract Infection        | 1,947              | Diabetes without complications    | 2,091              |
| Obstructive Chronic Bronchitis | 1,828              | Hyposmolality and/or Hypernatemia | 1,752              |
| Dehydration                    | 1,675              | Interstitial Emphysema            | 1,714              |
| Cellulitis and Abscess         | 1,513              | Dehydration                       | 1,615              |
| Acute Renal Failure            | 1,419              | Coronary Atherosclerosis          | 1,228              |

Many of these identified diagnoses are often associated with “preventable hospitalizations,” which the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) defines as hospitalizations which might have been prevented had the person had access to and cooperated with appropriate outpatient health care services and providers. Data from DSHS illustrates the frequency of these hospitalizations in Region 4 as compared with statewide incidence.

<sup>4</sup> Texas A&M University, 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Reported Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs) for Coastal Bend Hospitals, January 1 to August 31, 2009. This does not include data from the eight hospitals located in Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties.



**Table 10. Region 4: Percent (%) of Adult Preventable Hospitalizations as a Percent of Total County Population, 2006 – 2010**

| County       | Asthma      | Bacterial Pneumonia | CHF         | COPD        | Dehydration | Diabetes (Long-term Complications) | UTI         |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Aransas      | --          | 1.58                | 1.57        | 1.08        | --          |                                    | 0.70        |
| Bee          | --          | 1.56                | 1.93        | 1.01        | --          | 0.65                               | 0.64        |
| Brooks       | --          | 2.94                | 3.76        | --          | --          | --                                 | 1.80        |
| DeWitt       | --          | 1.35                | 1.81        | --          | --          | --                                 | 0.75        |
| Duval        | --          | 2.83                | 2.74        | 1.29        | --          | --                                 | 1.28        |
| Goliad       | --          | --                  | 2.07        | --          | --          | --                                 | --          |
| Gonzales     | --          | --                  | 0.78        | --          | --          | --                                 | --          |
| Jackson      | --          | 1.28                | 1.68        | --          | --          | --                                 | --          |
| Jim Wells    | 0.58        | 2.29                | 2.32        | 0.94        | --          | 0.61                               | 1.06        |
| Karnes       | --          | --                  | 1.04        | --          | --          | --                                 | --          |
| Kenedy       | --          | --                  | --          | --          | --          | --                                 | --          |
| Kleberg      | --          | 2.89                | 3.10        | 0.70        | 0.91        | 0.58                               | 1.39        |
| Lavaca       | --          | 1.72                | 2.19        | 0.97        | 0.83        | --                                 | 1.41        |
| Live Oak     | --          | 1.27                | 1.47        | --          | --          | --                                 | --          |
| Nueces       | 0.36        | 1.39                | 1.72        | 0.71        | 0.28        | 0.58                               | 0.82        |
| Refugio      | --          | --                  | --          | --          | --          | --                                 | --          |
| San Patricio | 0.26        | 1.46                | 1.76        | 0.92        | 0.25        | 0.50                               | 0.77        |
| Victoria     | 0.62        | 1.75                | 1.89        | 0.79        | 0.82        | 0.24                               | 1.30        |
| <b>TEXAS</b> | <b>0.31</b> | <b>1.00</b>         | <b>1.18</b> | <b>0.58</b> | <b>0.27</b> | <b>0.18</b>                        | <b>0.64</b> |

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services. The number of hospitalizations was too small to analyze for Kenedy and Refugio counties, which have small populations. Data does not exist for all conditions in all counties.

These and other data in the Community Needs Assessment clearly illustrate the wide range of health care concerns and needs that prevail throughout our community. The selection of DSRIP projects reflects these needs and the priorities established by our stakeholders, and represent a range of diverse projects that are designed to improve the health status of our community members and ensure patients receive the most appropriate care for their condition in the most cost-effective setting and manner possible.

### ***HPSA Designation***

According to the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), all counties in the region are either partially or fully medically underserved and have a shortage of primary care and mental health providers. A Medically Underserved Area (MUA) is defined by HRSA as having: too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty and/or high elderly population. Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated by HRSA as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be geographic (a county or service area), demographic (low income population) or institutional (comprehensive health center, federally qualified health center or other public facility).

The table below lists the federal designations by county. Unless otherwise noted, the entire county is designated as MUA or HPSA.

**Table 11. Region 4: Medically Underserved Areas and Health Professional Shortage Areas**

| County       | Medically Underserved Area | Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Primary Care | HPSA Mental Health |
|--------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Aransas      | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Bee          | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Brooks       | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| DeWitt       | ✓                          |   | ✓                  |
| Duval        | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Goliad       | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Jackson      | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Jim Wells    | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Karnes       | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Kenedy       | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Kleberg      | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Lavaca       | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Live Oak     | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Nueces       | Partial                    | Partial   | Partial            |
| Refugio      | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |
| San Patricio | Partial                    | ✓   | ✓                  |
| Victoria     | ✓                          | ✓   | ✓                  |

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration

## Regional Initiatives funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Tracking Accountability in Government Grants System (TAGGS), there are five HHS-funded initiatives operating in the region in 2012 which are directly related to enhancing the region's health care delivery network.

- Rural Health Network Development program in Goliad County. Recipient is the South Texas Health System.
- Health Center Cluster program in Gonzales County. Recipient is the Community Health Centers of South Texas.
- Health Center Cluster program in Jackson County. Recipient is the Community Action Corporation of South Texas.
- HIV Prevention Projects in Nueces County. Recipient is the Nueces County Community Action Agency.
- Basic Centers program in Victoria County. Recipient is the Gulf Bend Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center.

## Projected Major Changes

Regional leaders do not anticipate major changes in the demographic or health care infrastructure characteristics of the region. Should the state implement an expansion of the Medicaid program, as permitted under federal law, there would be an increased need for professional and facility acute care and behavioral health services.

## Key Health Challenges

Region 4 confronts a number of health care challenges in meeting the health care needs of its population:

- **Inadequate number of primary and specialty care providers.** As outlined above, many regional residents live in counties with limited access to basic health care services. Expanded access to these services is a priority for the region and it must be undertaken against the backdrop of constrained resources.
- **High prevalence of chronic disease, including cancer, hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.** Regional hospital admissions and related data indicate that there is a prevalence of chronic conditions that lead to preventable hospitalizations, and which require a coordinated care management team approach to maximize patient outcomes.
- **Inadequate access to behavioral health care services.** In 2009, Coastal Bend hospitals reported that schizoaffective disorder and manic depressive disorder were the third and fourth most common principal admission diagnosis for patients aged 18 to 49 years. About 23% of those responding to a telephone survey of Coastal Bend residents stated they had depression, and 12.5 % reported that one of their children needed mental health services. Of that group, 33% said they did not receive the mental health services they needed.
- **Urban/rural differences in perception of health care access.** Residents in rural areas are more likely to experience barriers to health care access than those who live in urban areas. Some of the specific challenges faced by our population include transportation to and from health care facilities, excessive time waiting for services, lack of both primary and specialty care providers.
- **Limited access to public transportation and emergency medical services.** Many patients live in areas that provide little or no options for public transportation to obtain medical care, and have very limited options for emergency transportation. Services vary greatly throughout the region, and are especially limited for those living in rural communities that have limited resources and large territories to cover. The absence of these services results in patients delaying necessary care until it becomes a critical health care condition, and relying on emergency transportation for services could have been provided in a primary care setting, or avoided entirely.
- **High number of uninsured patients.** With more than 20% of the population lacking health insurance, the region struggles to keep up with the demand for services. Patients

do not receive basic health care services, delay treatment, and often seek primary care services in emergency settings, resulting in millions of dollars in unnecessary spending with no follow-up care or chronic disease management.

### Approach and Sources Used to Complete Needs Assessment

The RHP 4 providers, stakeholders and other partners comprise a wide assortment of public and private institutions coming together to address the region's heavy burden of chronic disease, demonstrated need for improved access to primary care services, specialty care services, and behavioral health care services and treatment. The goal of this RHP 4 needs assessment was to guide the health delivery reform strategic planning process by providing information to guide decisions in selecting DSRIP projects for the region. In this process we engaged the community and key partners to identify health concerns, priorities, strengths, and opportunities for DSRIP projects.

Key sources of information that supported this Needs Assessment came from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, which is a major source of information for local community health assessment and public health planning. The Center is a repository of federal health surveys that have demographic, health and workforce statistics available at the state, MSA or county level, as well as state-based surveys and vital statistics at the state and county level. The Coastal Bend's 2010 Community Health Needs Assessment, prepared by Texas A&M University, located in RHP 4, also provided findings from a health needs assessment conducted in the Coastal Bend counties referenced throughout this document.

## Summary of Community Needs

| Identification Number | Brief Description of Community Needs Addressed through RHP Plan   | Data Source for Identified Need      |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| CN.1                  | Inadequate access to primary care   | 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9;10; 11; 13 |
| CN.2                  | Inadequate access to specialty services.  | 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9;10; 11     |
| CN.3                  | Inadequate provision and coordination of health care services for persons with chronic conditions.  | 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9;10; 11     |
| CN.4                  | Inadequate access to behavioral health services.  | 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9;10; 11     |
| CN.5                  | Inadequate Access to Dental Care  | 1; 4;10                              |
| CN.6                  | High rates of inappropriate emergency department utilization and dissatisfaction of emergency department services   | 2; 5; 8                              |
| CN.7                  | High rates of preventable hospital admissions   | 1; 5; 13; 18                         |
| CN.8                  | High rates of poor dental health and associated medical issues  | 15, 16                               |
| CN.9                  | Shortage of specialty care physicians   | 1; 2; 4;8; 9                         |
| CN.10                 | Shortage of primary care physicians   | 1; 2; 4; 8;10                        |
| CN.11                 | High rates of poor birth outcomes and low birth-weight babies   | 1; 2; 4; 12; 13; 14                  |
| CN.12                 | Lack of patient navigation, patient and family education, health promotion, and information programs to prevent illness and increase utilization of health services | 1; 2; 8; 13                          |
| CN.13                 | Insufficient access to services for pregnant women, particularly low income women   | 2; 4; 6; 14                          |
| CN.14                 | High rates of diabetes, including gestational diabetes  | 1; 2; 4; 17                          |
| CN.15                 | Inadequate health care access in rural areas  | 1; 2; 8; 10                          |
| CN.16                 | Lack of integration of physical and behavioral health services  | 1; 13                                |
| CN.17                 | High incidence, mortality, and cost associated with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease   | 1; 2; 4                              |
| CN.18                 | High incidence and mortality of sepsis and severe sepsis  | 1; 2                                 |
| CN.19                 | Negative mental health outcomes, such as suicide or mental health admissions in jail/prisons  | 1;2; 4; 19                           |

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