



## TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

THOMAS M. SUEHS  
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

June 24, 2011

Greetings:

The Office of Acquired Brain Injury is seeking applications/nominations for membership on the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council (TBIAC). The TBIAC was established by the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2003. It is recognized for its professional leadership and advocacy for the prevention, awareness and education of traumatic brain injury (TBI). According to 2010 statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are approximately 1.7 million brain injuries in the U.S. annually that contribute to 30.5% of all injury deaths.

Brain injury is a major health issue. Each year there are approximately 144,000 TBIs reported in Texas. This figure represents only those individuals who were discharged from hospitals following a TBI. It *does not* include visits to physicians' offices, emergency rooms or neighborhood clinics or other health care facilities. Nor does it include brain injuries as a result of stroke, heart attack, near-drowning, choking, infections and fever, exposure to toxic fumes or materials or other causes.

The duties of the TBIAC include making recommendations to state leaders regarding policies and programs for individuals with TBI and their families; promoting education about TBI; advocating for persons with a TBI and their families; and supporting activities that reduce preventable brain injuries. Additional information about the TBIAC and the Office of Acquired Brain Injury may be found at [http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc\\_projects/abj/index.shtml](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc_projects/abj/index.shtml). The council meets quarterly in Austin, customarily in January, April, July and October. A list of the current council membership appears on the website listed above. All positions are voluntary. A job description for council members appears as Page 3 of this letter.

Public-consumer and professional members of TBIAC are appointed for staggered six-year terms. Appointments made to positions that have become vacant are appointed to complete the term of the departing member after which they will be eligible for a complete six year term if desired.

The TBIAC is seeking applications/nominations for four council positions to be appointed by the Executive Commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. They are:

- one public/consumer/family member whose term shall expire February 1, 2015.
- one professional member representing an acute hospital trauma unit whose term shall expire on February 1, 2015;
- one professional member representing a physical/occupational or cognitive therapy provider whose term shall expire on February 1, 2013; and,

- one professional member representing community-based services whose term shall expire on February 1, 2013.

Members receive no salary or other compensation. The public/consumer members may be reimbursed at state rates for allowable travel expenses such as transportation, lodging, meals, parking, taxis and other incidental expenses related to travel to and from TBIAC meetings or while conducting other TBIAC business. Professional members receive no reimbursement.

Anyone wishing to be considered as a nominee should complete the official Application for Advisory Committee Appointment form found on the web page. The submission of two signed and dated letters of recommendation are required. Resumes may be submitted with the application.

Applications may be submitted by email at [Bettie.Beckworth@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:Bettie.Beckworth@hhsc.state.tx.us) or by fax to (512) 487.3455. If submitting through regular mail, completed application packets may be mailed to:

Bettie Peebles Beckworth, M.Ed.  
Director, Office of Acquired Brain Injury  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
4900 North Lamar Blvd., MC 1542  
Austin, TX 78751

In selecting members to serve on any advisory committee, the Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission considers the individual's qualifications for the position, background and interest in serving on the council. The TBIAC is committed to assuring that its membership reflects the cultural, ethnic and geographic diversity of Texas. We welcome your application. The next TBIAC meeting is on August 12, 2011, and is open to the public.

Sincerely,

Bettie Peebles Beckworth  
Director, Office of Acquired Brain Injury

## **Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council Job Description**

Regular attendance at council and committee meetings and other related meetings;  
Commitment to active participation in council and committee work;

Works in area of residence/employment to educate and enhance awareness of brain injury and its prevention;  
Volunteers for and accepts assignments and completes them in the specified time;  
Stays informed about committee matters, prepares well for meetings and reviews and comments on minutes, documents and reports;  
Works collaboratively with fellow council members, the Office of Acquired Brain Injury and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission contributing to the mission and goals of the TBIAC, and actively participates in the council's statewide planning, prevention and advocacy efforts.