



Sam Harless

State Representative District 126

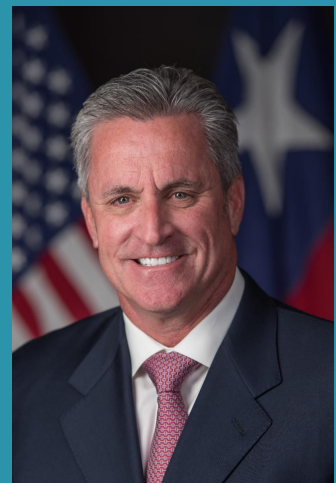
July 2022 Newsletter



Texas House of Representatives



Texas
House District
126
News
and Information



Interim and Select Committees Hold Hearings

Homeland Security & Public Safety - The Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee will meet in a joint hearing with the Select Committee On Youth Health and Safety on August 8th at the Capitol in Austin. The hearing will be covering charges 4 and 5 regarding social media and mental health, with invited testimony only in a panel format. The agenda for the hearing includes issues from charges #4 and #5. For the full hearing notice go [here](#).

Charge #5

Study the needs of the state related to mental health professionals, educators, school administrators, and related professionals overseeing youth mental health programs and the delivery of those mental health services.

Panel #1: Overview of Education-Based Mental Health Services

Mary Libby, *Director of Counseling, Northside ISD*

Lisa Descant, LPC-S, LMFT-S, *Chief Executive Officer, Communities In Schools of Houston*

Becca Harkleroad, RN, NCSN, *Texas Association of School Nurses Organization*

Dr. Alvia Baldwin, LPC-S, NCC, *Director of Guidance and Counseling, Alief ISD*

Panel #2: Overview of Clinical & Community Mental Health Services

Andy Keller, Ph.D., *President and CEO of Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute*

Dr. Steve F. Bain, LPC-S, NCC, *Professor and Dean, College of Education & Human Performance Texas A&M University-Kingsville*

Mandy Westerman, LCSW, *Universal Health Services, Regional Vice President, Behavioral Health*

Lee Johnson, *Deputy Director, Texas Council of Community Centers*

David Godinez, *Co-Chief for School Based Integrated Health at Project Vida Health Center in El Paso*

Panel #3: State Agency Review of Mental Health Trends & Programs

Julie Wayman, *Manager of the Special Populations Division, Texas Education Agency*

Sonja Gaines, *Deputy Executive Commissioner, Intellectual and Developmental Disability and Behavioral Health Services*

Panel #4: Innovation in Mental Health Program Delivery

Dr. Karin Price, *Chief of Psychology, Texas Children's Hospital*

Madhukar Trivedi, M.D., *Director, UT Southwestern Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care; Professor, Department of Psychiatry*

Tobi Fuller, Ph.D., MSN, RN, *Risk and Resilience Network Manager, UT Southwestern Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care*

Charge #4

Examine the role of online communications in mass violence scenarios and identify technological resources and solutions for detecting, mitigating, and reporting threats.

Panel #5- Law Enforcement Threat Assessment Monitoring

Texas Department of Public Safety

Discussion of online monitoring techniques and fusion center capabilities

Panel #6- Technology Industry

Servando Esparza, *Executive Director, Texas & Southeast TechNet*

Representing Meta (Facebook & Instagram) Snap, Pinterest, Twitch, Nextdoor, Slack, YouTube & Yubo

Carl Szabo, *Vice President and General Council, NetChoice*

Select Committee On Public Health Reform August 4th & 5th (Capitol Rm E2.101)

Chairman Harless and committee staff have continued to meet with stakeholders and industry experts both inside and outside of Texas. We are taking input and suggestions from many possible sources as we approach our first hearing, which is planned the 4th and 5th of August at the Capitol in Austin. To see the full hearing notice, [go here](#).

The first hearing will focus on the aspects of the interim charges relating to the "access and affordability" components. We have collected a number of renowned public policy experts and stakeholder groups for testimony for our first hearing. Our focus is to get a good cross section of the medical and health care industry landscape in Texas and search for solutions to issues affecting so many Texans across the state.

The Chairman has spoken with all of the committee members and is fortunate to have so many members on the committee with broad experience in health care and an impressive list of public policy experts lined up to speak to the committee.

Some of the Invited Testimony for this hearing is listed below. (Not necessarily in this order)

Robert Popovian

Dr. Robert Popovian is currently the Founder of Conquest Advisors- a strategic consulting firm. Previously, he served as Vice President of US Government Relations at Pfizer. Dr. Popovian has an extensive background in biopharmaceuticals and health policies with multiple publications including in Journal of Vaccines, USA Today, and more. Dr. Popovian was also recently appointed as the Chief Science Policy Officer for Global Health Living Foundation, with other roles on the boards of USC School of Pharmacy and ConsenSys Health.

Marty Makary

Dr. Marty Makary is currently a professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine with research focusing on public health policy, health care costs, and diseases- publishing over 250 peer-reviewed scientific articles. He is the chief of Islet Transplant Surgery at Johns Hopkins and has previously served as a leader in the World Health Organization Patient Safety Program and has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Makary has also written New York Times bestselling books, Unaccountable and The Price We Pay, with the latter winning him the 2020 Business Book of the Year Award.

Madelaine Feldman

Dr. Madelaine Feldman is a rheumatologist who practices in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is President of the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, Chair of the Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines, and formerly a member of the American College of Rheumatology insurance subcommittee. Dr. Feldman also serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine. Experienced in drug supply and pricing issues, Dr. Feldman has spoken to legislators on all levels, at one point speaking before the Health subcommittee of Energy and Commerce in DC.

Peter Cram

Dr. Peter Cram is the current chair of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and an adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Dr. Cram is a Robert Wood Johnson Physician Faculty Scholar and has done research regarding healthcare utilization versus outcomes with over 190 research articles published in total. Previously, he has served on the faculty of the University of Iowa and as Director of General Internal medicine and Geriatrics at Sinai Health System. Dr. Cram has completed a Health and Aging Policy Fellowship in the office of Congressman Lloyd Doggett. Dr. Cram holds both MD and MBA from Wake Forest University and University of Michigan respectively.

Marilyn Bartlett

Marilyn Bartlett is a senior Policy Fellow at the National Academy for State Health Policy working in the Center for Health System Costs. Before joining NASHP, she worked in health care management including Blue Cross Blue Shield as a controller, chief financial officer for a third party administrator, Montana State health plan administrator, and more. In Montana, Bartlett worked to move the Employee Benefit Plan

reserves out of 9 million in debt to over 112 million in positive reserves. As recognition for her career and accomplishments, she was selected as #13 in Fortune Magazine's World's 50 Greatest Leaders of 2019.

Debbie Garza

Debbie Garza is the Chief Executive Officer for the Texas Pharmacy Association. Previously Garza has worked in Walgreens, eventually growing to become the chief lobbyist in Washington D.C. for Walgreens. She has served on the board of directors for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation and the Coalition for Community Pharmacy Action with previous leadership experience as president of the Texas Federation of Drug Stores. With all this experience, Garza has valuable knowledge regarding legislative, regulatory, and political processes- so much so that she was integral towards the navigation of healthcare policy for several companies through actions such as Medicare Part D and the Affordable Care Act.

Antonio Ciaccia

Antonio Ciaccia is the current CEO of 46Brooklyn and is also President of 3 Axis Advisors. In these roles, he works closely with healthcare and healthcare related organizations to solve problems and work towards pharmacy price transparency. Previously, Ciaccia graduated from The Ohio State University with a double major in communications and political science before moving into management with a role in government affairs for the Ohio Pharmacists Association. Here, Ciaccia's data analytics helped officials uncover \$244 million in hidden prescription drug overcharges in the state Medicaid managed care program.

Darin Okuda

Dr. Darin Okuda is currently a professor in the Department of Neurology at UT Southwestern Medical Center and also serves as Director for the Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology Imaging Program, Director of Neoinnervation, and Deputy Director for the Multiple Sclerosis Program. He conducts research into improving diagnostic capabilities for patients with multiple sclerosis and heads the Radiologically Isolated Syndrome Consortium, a multinational group working to advance science in early multiple sclerosis. Dr. Okuda has been published in top journals and he is recognized as a fellow at both the American Academy of Neurology and the American Neurological Association.

Cliff Porter

Dr. Cliff Porter is a board certified Family medicine physician who is currently the managing partner and founder of Texas Direct Medical Care. Previous, Dr. Porter served as an Army physician with the 1st Armored Division deploying to Iraq in 2011. Continuing his service, he served in the Texas Army National Guard as the senior flight physician for aviation with the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade. He lives in Austin, Texas where prior to his current role Dr. Porter was medical director for multiple urgent care clinics. He is a proponent of the Direct Primary Care model, and is a passionate advocate for providing the highest levels of personal medical care.

Alec Mendoza

Alec is a Senior Health Policy Associate for Texans Care For Children. Alec recently joined the organization to work with the Texas Legislature, state agencies, and stakeholders to improve equity and access to health care.

Chase Bearden

Chase Bearden is the Deputy Executive Director for the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. Alongside this role, he also serves as the Director of Policy and Advocacy for the Texas Patients First Foundation- where he helps work towards the expansion of the Texas Compassionate Use Program. Through his career, he has successfully advocated for policy changes including those in employment, transportation, health care, and more regarding the full inclusion of those with disabilities in community life. For this work he has been honored with the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute Luminary Award, leading advocates award by Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy, and the Legislative award from the Texas Rehabilitation Association and Texas Physician Therapy Association.

Jana Eubank

Jana Eubank is the Executive Director of the Texas Association of Community Health Centers. Previously, Eubank has served as Vice President of Public Policy and Research at the National Association of Community Health Centers and as Deputy Director of TACHC. In these roles, she has successfully advocated for policies that provide healthcare to underserved and marginalized communities. With a Masters Degree in Public Affairs from the LBJ School at UT Austin, Eubank has over 30 years of experience in government relations, leadership development, fundraising, and policy matters that have made her well versed in how to implement the strategic priorities of TACHC.

Roger Moczygemba

Dr. Roger Moczygemba is a Family Practice physician that has worked in the field for over 25 years. He started his career with an MD from Texas A&M Health Science Center and then served in the Navy as a physician. As a current Family Medicine physician, Dr. Moczygemba is focused on providing high quality direct patient care that is both easily accessible and affordable enough to not unnecessarily burden families. He resides in San Antonio with his family, including 3 children.

Alina Sholar

Dr. Alina Sholar is a board certified physician and leader of Skin Science Soul Medical Aesthetics and Plastic Surgery practice in Austin Texas. Dr. Sholar grew up in Orange, TX and attended medical school at The University of Texas Medical Branch and quickly discovered her passion for surgery and was awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship Award. She completed her residency in both General and Plastic Surgery and has multiple publications in research areas focusing on reconstructive techniques required after facial trauma and infections.

Chris Whaley

Chris Whaley is a health economist at RAND corporation and teaches as a professor at RAND Pardee Graduate School. He received his Ph.D. in health economics from the University of California, Berkley and now focuses on health care price transparency and market structure. This research has been published in multiple academic journals, on major news networks such as CNN or NY Times, and has presented findings to policymakers such as the California State Assembly & the Congressional Budget Office.

Maureen Hensley-Quinn

Maureen Hensley-Quinn serves as the Senior Program Director at the National Academy for State Health Policy. Here she leads the Emerging Policy Issues team on focuses on state health program finances, health coverage for children, and implementation of health care reforms. Previously, Quinn worked as the Medical Specialist at the Community Transportation Association of America and also as a Legal Analyst at the Massachusetts State Attorney General's Office.

Melody Shrader

Melody is a health care policy expert with 25 years of experience and is currently the vice president of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association. She served as the CEO of the Kentucky Association of Health Plans as well.

A live video broadcast of this hearing will be available here:

<https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>

Texas residents who wish to electronically submit comments related to agenda items on this notice without testifying in person can do so until the hearing is adjourned by visiting:

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c307>

See full committee charge here: [**Select Committee on Public Health Reform Charges**](#)

Operation Lone Star

Governor Abbott launched Operation Lone Star in March 2021 to respond to a rise in illegal immigration. In May, Governor Abbott issued a disaster declaration that now covers 48 counties, mostly counties along or near the border. The declaration directed the Department of Public Safety to “use available resources to enforce all applicable federal and state laws to prevent the criminal activity along the border, including criminal trespassing, smuggling, and human trafficking, and to assist Texas counties in their efforts to address those criminal activities.” The following month, the Governor opened Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) facilities for detaining arrested persons under Operation Lone Star. The challenges of securing our southern border and controlling the flow of illegal drugs and weapons and border crossings are immense.

The DPS [Border Wall and Operation Lone Star Summary Page is here](#)

Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts

Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts

BUILD WITH HOUSTON BRICK CLUB!

Free Event
Saturday August 13th
11 am to 4 pm
Pearl Fincher Museum

Brick Building with
Houston Brick Club

Lecture with Tim Hutchings,
creator of *Desert Mountain
Landscape* at 1 pm

For more information: www.pearlmfa.org
6815 Cypresswood Dr. Spring, TX 77379

In Partnership with:



Rebecca Cole Gallery
June 4 – September 3, 2022

After being inspired by the artistry of bricks, it's time to build your own masterpiece! Guests of all ages are invited to build their own brick creations through a special hands-on area of the exhibition sponsored by AAUW North Harris County Branch. The sheer number of bricks available to play with will be an exciting experience as visitors explore building on tables, walls, and floors. From engineering and science to storytelling and collaborative play, children and families will have the opportunity to play on their own or with one another as they unleash their creativity and problem-solving skills. The Maker Space is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free!

ESD 9 Monthly News



Monthly run totals for ESD 9:

EMS = 2569 with 219 of those being Motor Vehicle Accidents

Fire = 743

Total = 3312

Tips for Driving in School Zones

- *Be aware that traffic patterns around school zones may have changed since the last school year.
- *Stay alert and put your cell phone away. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.
- *Always obey school zone speed limit signs. Remember, traffic fines increase in school zones.
- *Drop off and pick up your children in your school's designated areas, not the middle of the street.
- *Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.
- *Watch for children who might dart across the street or between vehicles.
- *As always, stay away from alcohol and other drugs that may impair driving. They affect your ability to remain alert, decision-making, reflexes, and reaction time.

Tips for Children Walking or Biking to School

- *Always use sidewalks. If there's not a sidewalk, walk on the left side of the street facing traffic.
- *Cross the street at intersections or marked crosswalks. Look left, right and left again before proceeding.
- *Always obey crossing guards.
- *Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street. Never assume a driver sees you.
- *Look for traffic when stepping off a bus or from behind parked cars.
- *Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- *Don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road.
- *Follow all traffic rules, signs and signals.

Download the Red Cross Pet App [here](#).

Here are a few websites with more hurricane preparedness information.

www.noaa.com and www.weather.gov

Eddie Cruz
Public Information Officer
Cy-Fair Fire Department
281-656-3420 Office
346-306-6165 Cell
eddie.cruz@cyfairfd.org

ESD 9 - Cy-Fair Fire Dept

ESD 11 Monthly News



ESD 11 Update - By Jerry Thomas

"I see your ambulances everywhere!"

As the Community Engagement Manager, I have the privilege of interacting with individuals, groups, and different organizations on a very routine basis. I can attest I hear this repeatedly from people I encounter.

ESD 11 remains very busy with high call volumes. The call volume has increased, partly due to the excessive heat. We encourage people to be aware of the dangers associated with the heat wave we have been experiencing. Please see the following link for information regarding the risks of extreme heat: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/faq.html>

Meet Drake Stevens, pictured below. Drake is an exceptional young man. Drake recently attended a band trip outing to Hurricane Harbor Splashtown and had the unfortunate experience of a sudden cardiac arrest requiring CPR and additional life-saving measures. Fortunately for everyone involved, with the quick actions of the Splashtown First Aid and Aquatics team and ESD 11 Medics, Drake was able to be resuscitated and be with us for a monumental celebration of his recovery. Per the band field trip monitor, EVERYTHING fell into perfect alignment for Drake that day! From the quick recognition of the lifeguards that something was wrong, the on-site Splashtown medics being trained and prepared, a fast response time from EMS, and ultimately the extraordinary care received at Texas Children's Hospital, The Woodlands. We are glad to report he is on the road to recovery and doing well!

The ESD has also become a certified Car Seat check center and will begin offering these to the public monthly at our main campus in September.

Our response time performance remains exceptional and may be found with other critical information on our website at <https://esd11.com/transparency/>. The data is updated monthly after each regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jerry Thomas @ jerry.thomas@esd11.com or 281 (524) – 7667.



[ESD 11 Website](#)

ESD 16 Fire Service Monthly News



HARRIS ★ COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT

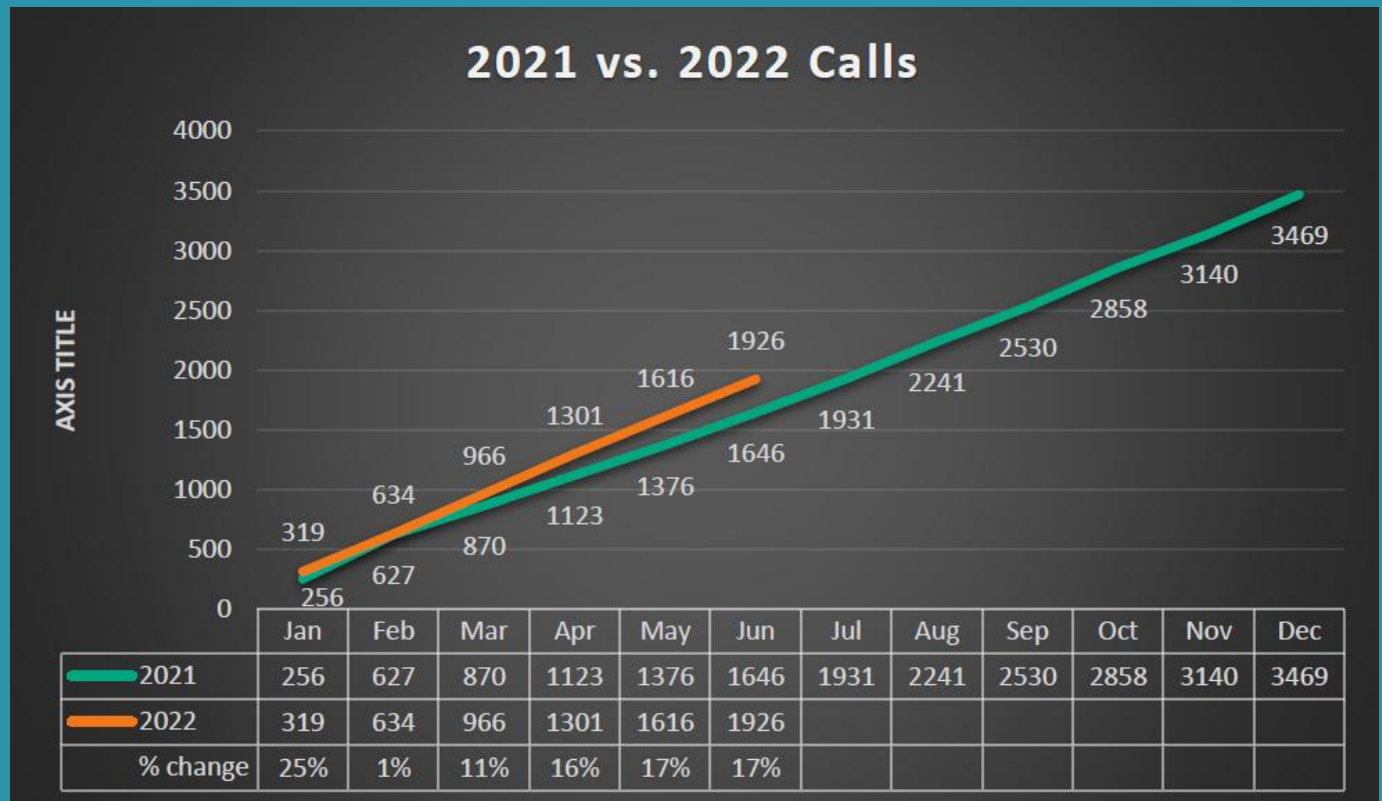


ESD 16 manages the Klein Fire Department and acts as the administration for physical facilities, equipment, and resources necessary to fight fires and respond to the fire service needs in our community.



HCESD 16 News

Klein Fire Department carries a 17% increase this year in call volume compared to 2021. In June, 14% of our responses were fire related, the biggest percentage this year. This number is expected to grow through July. EMS-related calls remain our highest call type.



With the continuation of high temperatures and lack of significant rainfall through the last month, our territory has seen a heavy volume of grass, brush and vegetation-based fires. During the weekend of Independence Day through the following week, we responded to 23 of these type incidents which involved around 18 acres total. Our crews worked tirelessly in record triple-digit heat often moving from one fire to the next. We continue to urge everyone to follow warnings issued through the Harris County Commissioner’s Court approved burn ban. We remain in **very high outdoor fire danger**, according to the KBDI scale. Following the Drought Contingency Plans for our area, some local water districts have since advanced from Stage 1 (voluntary) to Stage 2 – Mandatory Water Restrictions.

Several professional firework displays were cancelled for the July 4th celebrations due to the fire danger and many residents also chose not to participate with their private usage and this very likely prevented more fires from occurring than actually did. We still had several responses related to fireworks within the 10-day window around July 4th. Six of these were estimated due to improper disposal of spent fireworks resulting in trash and dumpster fires

In June, Ryan Holak was named General Manager within our Administration. Ryan will report to the Fire Chief and be responsible for direction and management of the District's business activities and the development and implementation of effective administrative district strategies and programs. Ryan is no stranger to the department as he once volunteered with us for just over a decade starting in 2003 as an Explorer and working his way through the ranks as Captain and then Asst. Safety Officer, so he has some familiarity with our department and many of its' people still.

The Klein Fire Department is rated ISO Class 2 and provides Fire Suppression, Rescue, and Medical Emergency Assistance to a resident population of 173,549 residents covering the Spring/Klein area and encompassing approximately 49 square miles.

If you have questions about the transition or wish to learn more about Klein Fire Department, please contact the ESD at info@HCESD16.org or visit www.HCESD16.org / www.KleinFire.org



[ESD 16 Website](#)

Schools In Our District



[Klein ISD Website](#)



[Tomball ISD Website](#)



[CyFair ISD Website](#)

[Our Schools and COVID](#)

Our School Districts are closely monitoring COVID cases in the staff and student population. You can see the COVID Campus Dashboards for each of our area districts here:

[Klein ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

[Cy-Fair ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

[Tomball ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

[Spring ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

COVID statistics in Texas Public Schools may be found here:

[TEA School Campus COVID Link](#)

Scroll down on that site and you can get Excel reports that are searchable by school district or campus.

[Cy-Fair ISD News](#)



June 13, 2022—The Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Board of Trustees adopted the 2022-2023 budget in the amount of \$1,167,002,635 during its regularly scheduled meeting on June 13. The proposed budget was presented during the June 9 board work session.

The general fund budget includes local revenues of \$601,850,339, state revenues of \$430,947,000 and federal revenues and other sources of \$25,200,000. CFISD's total revenues amount to \$1,057,997,339. CFISD plans to provide raises for all staff for the 11th consecutive year. The district's 2022-2023 budget proposal calls for:

- a salary increase of 2% on the greater of midpoint or base for all staff;
- two \$1,000 recruitment and retention stipends for full-time hourly and paraprofessional staff, one to be paid in the fall semester and the other to be paid in the spring semester;
- two \$500 recruitment and retention stipends for full-time professional staff, one to be paid in the fall semester and the other to be paid in the spring semester;
- an increase in the teacher starting salary from \$58,500 to \$60,500; and
- an increase of \$18 per day in substitute pay.

In addition to payroll and other administrative costs, the 2022-2023 budget proposal provides for additional teachers and paraprofessional for growth, additional police officers, elementary and middle school behavior interventionist / testing coordinator positions, operating costs to open new facilities, increase in fuel and utility costs, an increase in custodian starting pay and other miscellaneous increases. View the complete 2022-2023 budget presentation on the [CFISD website](#).

Klein ISD News



Klein ISD PD Has A New Chief

The Klein ISD Board of Trustees has approved Superintendent Dr. Jenny McGown's recommendation to appoint Assistant Police Chief Marlon Runnels as the new Klein ISD Chief of Police.

The official naming, effective July 1, 2022, comes after longtime Chief David Kimberly announced his retirement earlier this month after 27 years of dedicated service.

"Chief Marlon Runnels is always committed to the safety and well-being of our Klein ISD students, staff, and community," Superintendent Dr. Jenny McGown said. "His genuine care for our Klein Family coupled with his law enforcement expertise and leadership experience truly makes him the best fit for this extremely important position. Without a doubt, with Marlon Runnels as our new Police Chief, Klein ISD is in good hands, our tradition of excellence in school policing will continue,

and I look forward to seeing all of the amazing things the first and finest school district police department in the state of Texas will achieve with Chief Runnels at the helm.”

Chief Runnels is a resourceful, seasoned police administrator who holds nearly 16 years of experience — with almost 10 years in Klein ISD — providing protection, safety, and security to students throughout the greater Houston area. His former roles include Klein ISD Assistant Chief and Police Sergeant, Montgomery ISD Chief of Police, Galveston County Sheriff’s Deputy, and Conroe Police Department Probationary Patrol Officer. Chief Runnels has also bravely served our country as a Corporal for the United States Marine Corps Reserve and experienced combat in Iraq. Runnels is proud to have served under the guidance of his mentor and former supervisor, newly-retired Klein ISD Police Chief David Kimberly and credits his extensive experience in school policing to the former chief.

Tomball ISD News



Back to School Resources - Registration / Annual Enrollment

Who: Students returning to Tomball ISD who were actively enrolled on the last day of the 2021-22 school year at any Tomball ISD campus.

You are a current student even if you have moved within the Tomball ISD boundaries and are attending a new campus in 2022-23, or you are attending a new school due to promotion (i.e. moving from 4th-grade elementary to 5th-grade intermediate, or moving from 8th-grade junior high to 9th-grade high school).

NOTE: A parent or guardian (NOT Student) HAC Account is required to access Annual Enrollment.

Why:

- Ensures your child's campus has up-to-date emergency contact information (email and phone numbers)

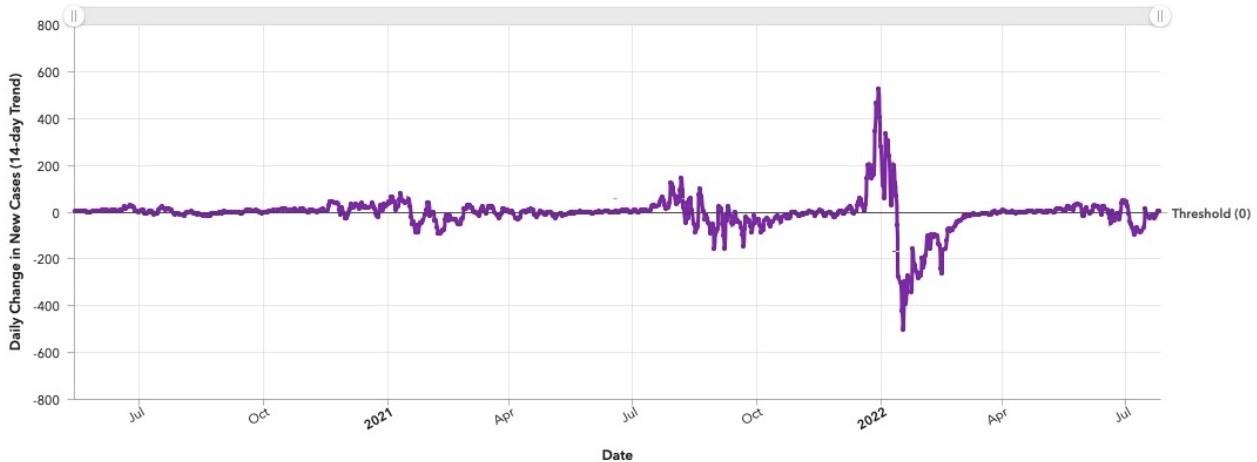
- Ensures your child's vital medical changes in medical history and/or changes in medicine are up-to-date and accurate
- Provides campus personnel with all updates for your child to ensure the needs of your child are met
- Eliminates any delays for your child trying to access and log in to educational software when you update Technology Use authorizations
- Updates release information for the use of images of your child on social media and yearbook

[Tomball Annual Enrollment Page](#)

TomballISD.net

COVID STATS & INFO

New Cases Trend



Indicator: 14-day flat or decreasing trend in new COVID-19 cases Harris County, including City of Houston
Threshold: 0 (same threshold Red > Orange > Yellow)

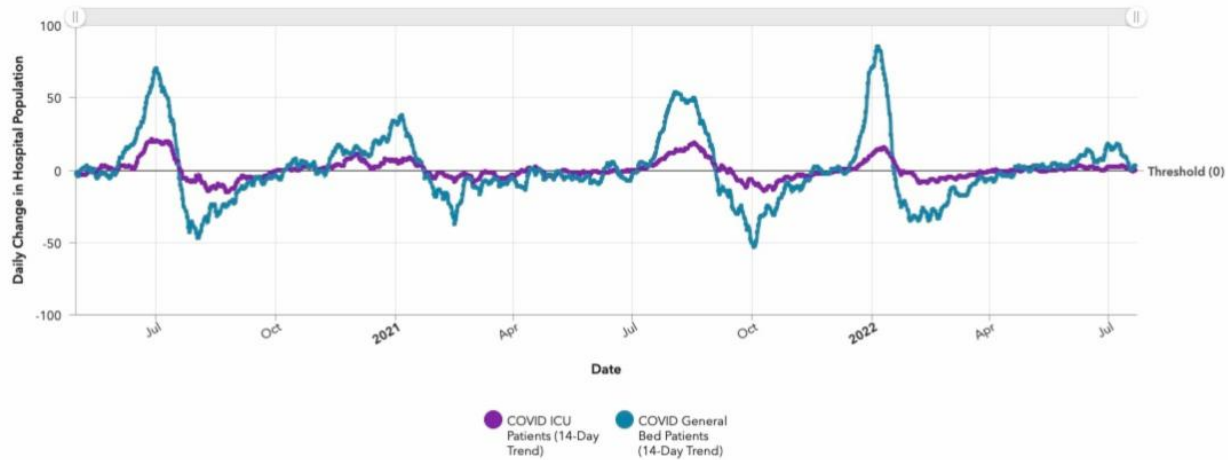
Date Updated: 2022-07-27

Data Source*: Harris County Public Health (HCPH), Houston Health Department (HHD)

**Due to backlogged cases that have increased over time due to delays in test reporting, missing information, and lags in processing, we have updated metrics involving case counts to only include cases that have specimen collection dates within 14 days of the date of reporting.*

The chart above provides a reflection of the trend for new COVID-19 cases reported for all of Harris County. The one below is a trend chart for hospitalization in Harris County.

Hospital Population Trend



Indicator: 14-day flat or decreasing trend in COVID-19 hospital population in Harris County.
Threshold: 0 (same threshold Red > Orange > Yellow)

Data Updated: 2022-07-27

Data Source: SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC)*

*Data is for Harris County including City of Houston.

Monkeypox, or MPV has been added to Covid as a current concern for risk for infection in Harris County. Judge Hidalgo's Office released this information at the end of July:

"While 71 cases have been reported in Harris County, including the City of Houston, as of July 27 and the risk of infection is currently low in Harris County, we are creating a strategic response plan to get ahead of MPV. As Judge Hidalgo stated in a recent press conference with Mayor Turner and local public health officials, we're sending this update today to try to chart a different path – *not* to raise alarm, but to proactively minimize MPV transmission through preparedness and awareness.

Mayor Turner and Judge Hidalgo have asked the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to procure and allocate more MPV vaccines and resources to our region. The goal is to vaccinate at-risk communities before transmission grows exponentially, rather than catch up after that happens, as other jurisdictions have had to do. However, that is difficult with the current very limited supply of vaccines to our region. We are working closely with the City of Houston and local health officials to monitor the situation and implement a coordinated response to mitigate further spread."

We have asked the community to take the following steps:

- Limit intimate and sexual contact with anonymous partners
- If you have new/unknown lesions, assume it is Monkeypox and get tested
- Get the vaccine, if you qualify

What you can do:

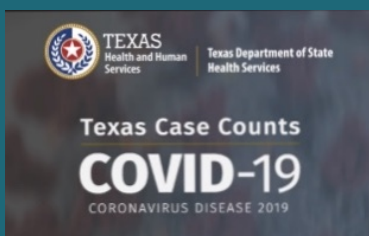
- Spread the word about community resources, including the 1-pager from with Harris County Public Health information on vaccination information.
- Share the MPV hotline numbers for residents who qualify for the limited supply of vaccines let constituents know that providers throughout the County have the ability to test.
 - Residents who do not have health insurance or cannot cover the cost of the test may contact Harris County Public Health or Houston Health Department to get tested.
 - Harris County residents outside of Houston can call Harris County Public Health at 832-927-0707 or visit [ReadyHarris.org](https://www.readyharris.org).
 - City of Houston residents can call the Houston Health Department at 832-393-4220.
 - Current vaccine eligibility can be reviewed at [ReadyHarris.org](https://www.readyharris.org). We plan to expand eligibility as more vaccines are available and Harris County Commissioners Court will be discussing this at

the next meeting.

For more information about Monkeypox, or the MPV Harris County Public Health has a webpage [here](#).

These charts and more information can be found on the Harris County COVID Dashboard at www.readyharris.org

For June, Harris County's threat level remains in YELLOW - Unvaccinated individuals should continue to mask and physically distance. Level 3 signifies a moderate, but controlled level of COVID-19 in Harris County, meaning a further demonstrated reduction in transmission and the local healthcare system is well within capacity.



Texas COVID Cases Statewide

To see charts reflecting details on Covid and vaccination activity follow this link to the [Texas Covid Dashboard](#)

COVID VIRUS & VACCINES IN TEXAS

Choosing vaccinations are and should always be a personal and individual choice, though data seems to indicate a significantly reduced mortality rate for those who are vaccinated. While numbers continue to improve across the state, we encourage you to take the steps necessary to make your family and home safe. Please make an informed choice for you and your family in conjunction with your family medical professionals and do your best to avoid being a contributor to the ongoing challenges we face fighting the spread of COVID. With new variants, there are lots of things to consider when it comes to your health.

To find a vaccine distribution site near you, the state has created this map:

[COVID Vaccine Provider Map](#)

If you are in the eligible tier, to find doses available in your area, check this link:

[Vaccine Dose Availability Map:](#)

If you need to find a testing site near you, follow this link:

[COVID Testing Locations](#)

COVID-19 Resources

Texas Workforce Commission

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) continues to explore options to keep the 2021 tax rates as low as possible for Texas employers as Texas and the entire nation continue to deal with the economic disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more about 2021 tax rates in the press release.](#)

TWC Website to Apply for Benefits: [TWC Unemployment Benefits](#)

Texas Workforce TeleCenter - 800-939-6631

TWC has a new Chat service on their website in the bottom right of the screen, called "Chat With Us". This new function will be able to answer most general questions from individual. <https://www.twc.texas.gov>

Harris County Resources

ReadyHarris Website: <https://www.readyharris.org/#resources>

Harris County Fire Marshal hotline to report businesses who are in violation of the County and State COVID-19 health and safety policies - 832-839-6941

Precinct 4 Commissioner Community Assistance - Pct 4 Community Assistance

People can sign up to receive emergency alerts from Harris County at: **Ready Harris Alert Signup.**

Also, 2-1-1 is a resource hotline set up by Harris County. If someone is in need of resources fast they can call that number and they will be connected to resources in their community. They can also text CV19 to 888-777. This hotline is available 24/7.

City of Houston

Houston Public Health Dept - <https://houstonemergency.org/covid19/>

Ready Harris Accessible Alerts

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security& Emergency Management has launched the new Ready Harris Accessible Alerts (RHAA). This new system is providing access to alerts, warnings, and preparedness information to persons who are Deaf, Blind, Hard-of-Hearing, Deaf-Blind, or have low-vision through a new one-stop-website. To sign up, we encourage members of the community to visit <https://hct.ahasalerts.com>.

Community members can also text AHAS to (281) 609-9093 to sign up.

The system will send our Ready Harris Alerts with sign language interpreting along with voice and closed captioning in English and Spanish before, during and after an emergency. The RHAA is compatible with video capable devices such as computers, tablets, cell phones and wireless Braille readers. With this new resource, HCOHSEM will also be able to reach individuals with low literacy in English and Spanish. This is HCOHSEM's latest effort to reach the whole community.

Federal Resources / Websites

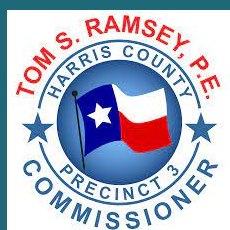
CDC- Center for Disease Control: [CDC Coronavirus](#)

Small Business Administration: [SBA](#)

SBA Paycheck Protection Program - [Paycheck Protection Loans](#)

An SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed (during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.)

FEMA Corona Response: [FEMA CoronaVirus](#)



**Precinct 3 Commissioner
Capitol Project Update**
(Thanks To Commissioner's Ramsey's Office
For The Update)

Precinct 3 Service Request Link

[Visit Precinct 3 Website](#)<https://webapps2.harriscountytx.gov/servicerequestform/pct-form?pct3=>

Harris County Precinct 3 Road and Bridge

Harris County Precinct 3 maintains the highest level of standards in maintaining over 6,600 lane miles of roadway and associated bridges throughout the area. Maintenance includes road reconstruction, storm debris removal, sign installation, right of way mowing, and more.

Please see the list below for projects that are currently under construction that are in or affect our area, including projects transferred due to redistricting. For questions or comments, [click here](#). To follow their current capitol projects list, [click here](#).

Area Projects in Construction

Flashing School Zone – Phase II

Project Scope: Construction of new school zone flashers for schools in Cy-Fair ISD

Benefits: Provides increased safety elements within the school zone

Phase: Construction

Estimated Construction Cost: \$1.1 million

Estimated Completion: Fourth Quarter of 2022

George Bush Community Center

Project Scope: Construction of a new 2-story community center next to Cypresswood Drive

Benefits: Provide community with a center that will include multiple classrooms, gathering spaces, as well as a large community hall that will be reservable by the public

Phase: Construction

Estimated Construction Cost: \$4.5 million

Estimated Completion: First Quarter of 2023

Gosling Road Bridge over Spring Creek

Project Scope: 2,100' long concrete twin bridge to tie into the 4-lane concrete boulevard to the north and south

Benefits: Improve safety and traffic flow by providing 2 lanes for southbound traffic and completing the mobility connection between Harris and Montgomery Counties

Phase: Construction

Estimated Construction Cost: \$9,377,674

Estimated Completion: First Quarter of 2023

Telge Road Reconstruction – Phase 1 from Tuckerton Drive to Moray View Drive

Project Scope: Reconstruct existing 4-lane concrete roadway, driveway reconstruction and new roadway signage.

Benefits: Increase roadway safety

Phase: Construction

Estimated Construction Cost: \$2 million

Estimated Completion: Third Quarter of 2022

Telge Road Reconstruction – Phase 2 from Moray View Drive Drive to Wyman Gordon Way

Project Scope: Reconstruct existing 4-lane concrete roadway, driveway reconstruction and new roadway signage

Benefits: Increase roadway safety

Phase: Construction

Estimated Construction Cost: \$2.6 million

Estimated Completion: First Quarter of 2023

Tall Pines Subdivision Recovery and Resiliency Improvement Project

Project Scope: Improve roadside drainage and pavement throughout the subdivision
 Benefits: Provides improved drainage throughout the subdivision to reduce flooding and improve road quality for safety
 Phase: Construction
 Estimated Construction Cost: \$3,583,622
 Estimated Completion: Fourth Quarter of 2022

Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce

Representing the business and community interests in the Cypress Creek/North Harris County area since 1974, the Houston Northwest Chamber is actively engaged as a liaison with state, local, and federal leadership to promote the area on a variety of issues.



Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce



Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce

Transportation and Mobility Committee
 2nd Tuesday of each month
 Meeting Location:
 29201 Quinn Rd.
 Tomball, Texas 77375
 Upstairs Conference Room

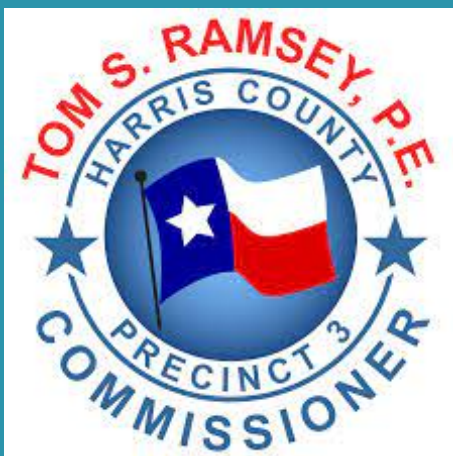
Tomball Government Affairs Committee

Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce Transportation\Government Affairs Committee

The committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month to discuss governmental issues that confront their Cy-Fair area. They meet at the Chamber offices located at 8711 Highway 6 North, Ste. 120 Houston, TX 77095.



Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce



Harris County Pct 3 and Pct 4 Public Safety Forum

Meets at:
Glorious Way Church
11611 Champions Forest Dr
Houston, TX 77066

Local representatives from criminal justice and government agencies make presentations and discuss issues important to the community.

The button below provides a link to sign up for our alerts and lists.

[Public Safety Forum Signup](#)

[Visit our House of Representatives Website](#)

The Texas House of Representatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. This newsletter is available in alternate forms upon request. **Please call 1-800-241-1163.**

Contact Us

Capitol Office Phone - 512-463-0496
District Office Phone - 281-251-0194
District Office Address - 6630 Cypresswood Dr #150
Spring, Tx 77379

Ron Hickman, Chief of Staff
[Email Ron](#)

James Cook, Legislative Director
[Email James](#)

Kelly Peterson, District Director
[Email Kelly](#)



[Email Sam](#)



State Rep Sam Harless | P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768

[Unsubscribe ron.hickman@house.texas.gov](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by ron.hickman@house.texas.gov in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!

The House of Representatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require reasonable accommodations during the application process, please call (512) 463-0865.