



Nacogdoches County

JOE ENGLISH

County Judge

Commissioners
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Court Assistant

Commissioners
Jim Elder, Pct. 3
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PRESS RELEASE

September 26, 2011

RE: Reducing Adult Potentially Preventable Hospitalizations

During a regular scheduled commissioners court meeting on September 27, 2011, Nacogdoches County Commissioners Court will be voting to partner with local health care providers which will include Healthy Nacogdoches Coalition (Advisory Coalition), Memorial Hospital, Medical Center Hospital, Texas AHEC East Piney Woods Region, and East Texas Community Health Services, Inc to seek a grant for \$150,000 from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

In June 2011, The Texas Legislature appropriated \$2,000,000 for the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to implement an initiative to reduce potentially preventable hospitalizations for the period 9/1/11—8/31/13. On 8/29/11, DSHS announced the availability of \$1,600,000 for 92 eligible counties to reduce hospital admissions and/or hospital charges for adult potentially preventable hospitalization conditions for county residents. Ninety-two counties that had a hospitalization rate at more than 50% higher than the state rate for at least one adult potentially preventable hospitalizations condition from 2005-2009, and had a population of less than 100,000 for 18-64 years old are eligible. Nacogdoches County was one of the 92 counties identified.

The goal of the program will be for the county health care partners to address three areas identified by the Texas Department of Health as areas of high admissions to local health care facilities. The areas include Dehydration, Urinary Tract Infections, and Hypertension. From 2005-2009 local hospitals reported 601 cases of Dehydration at a cost of \$9,116,872. Reported Urinary Tract Infections from the same period was 723, at a cost of \$12,399,138. Last, admissions of Hypertension cases reported was 256 at a cost of \$4,186,207. The funded timeframe will be 01/01/2012-08/31/2013.

By promoting a skilled, diverse, public health care network of partners the Commissioners Court believes the grant will help tackle the identified health care issues and will benefit all the residents of Nacogdoches County.

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