



# **TEXAS PRIMARY CARE CONSORTIUM**

A collaboration between Texas Medical Home Initiative and Texas Health Institute

## **Primary Care in Texas: A call to action for a consensus-based approach to primary care and health system transformation in Texas**

**Forward Texas: TAMEST Digital Series  
COVID-19: Improving Health Care Access  
November 10, 2020  
Sue S. Bornstein, MD, FACP**

## Texas Primary Care Consortium

- Our History – **A statewide collaboration jointly led by Texas Medical Home Initiative and Texas Health Institute**
- Our Mission – **To advance accessible, continuous, and coordinated person-centered care for all Texans.**
- Overview of current efforts – **Annual summit & growing role as a consortium**

# Outline & Format

- Dual approach - An **unbiased, data-driven, evidence informed issue brief** and a letter to the Governor and elected officials **with a call to action**
- Two components:
  - Highlight Key Issues
  - Provide Short and Long-term recommendations

The image shows the cover of a report. At the top, there is a logo for the Texas Primary Care Consortium, which consists of three interlocking diamond shapes in blue and green. To the right of the logo, the text 'TEXAS PRIMARY CARE CONSORTIUM' is written in blue. Below the logo, there is a photograph of a person wearing blue gloves and a white lab coat, holding a white swab stick with 'COVID-19' written on it. The title of the report, 'A CALL-TO-ACTION FOR A CONSENSUS-BASED APPROACH ON PRIMARY CARE & HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION IN TEXAS', is written in white text on a blue background. Below the title, the names and titles of the co-authors are listed: Ankit Sanghavi BDS, MPH (Executive Director, Texas Health Institute; Co-lead, Texas Primary Care Consortium; asanghavi@texashealthinstitute.org) and Sue Bornstein MD, FACP (Executive Director, Texas Medical Home Initiative; Co-lead, Texas Primary Care Consortium; suebornstein@gmail.com).

## BACKGROUND

Texas's re-opening plans are based upon an underlying key assumption of increased testing, tracing, and treatment. But, WHAT IF the network of primary care practices and clinics needed to support these activities - itself weakened by the pandemic's economic fallout -- breaks down? Prior to the pandemic, Texas had too few primary care practitioners to meet the state's need complicated with a 67% increase in projected primary care clinician shortages between now and 2030 [1]. The pandemic has made it worse [2].

All sectors of the state's health system (including public health, primary and specialty care systems, community-clinics and hospitals) are essential to an effective statewide COVID-19 response. But the slow disintegration of primary care will not only significantly put Texans' health at high-risk but also impact the state's reopening efforts by curtailing job creation and economic viability of many communities, particularly

## Key Findings

- Health needs and disparities including increasing chronic disease burden
- Role of SDoH and need for prevention first approach
- Growing Uninsured and Under-insured Texans
- Economic uncertainty and impact

## Recommendations

- Short-term recommendation: Continued financial and policy support including collaboration between Texas Medicaid, Teacher Retirement System, and Employee Retirement System
- Long-term recommendations: Consensus based workgroup with focus on ***payment reform, prioritizing primary care investments, and review telehealth to ensure payment parity and policy action for addressing the growing number of uninsured Texans***

## Impact & Next Steps

- Over 40 local, state, and national organizations signed
- Held follow-up discussions with Gov.'s office and legislative staff
- Submitted comments to the House Select Committee on Statewide Healthcare Costs
- Holding virtual 8<sup>th</sup> annual Summit currently
- A blue print report on Primary Care to be released November 19, 2020

## For more information:

**Link to open letter to Governor Abbott:-**

[https://www.txprimarycareconsortium.org/uploads/1/4/5/7/14570646/tpcc\\_brief\\_letter.pdf](https://www.txprimarycareconsortium.org/uploads/1/4/5/7/14570646/tpcc_brief_letter.pdf)

**Link to Issue Brief:**

[https://www.txprimarycareconsortium.org/uploads/1/4/5/7/14570646/tpcc\\_brief.pdf](https://www.txprimarycareconsortium.org/uploads/1/4/5/7/14570646/tpcc_brief.pdf)

**Primary Care Consortium website:**

<https://www.txprimarycareconsortium.org>

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