

DRAFT

NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT 89th Texas Legislative Session Agenda

January 29, 2025

1) Invest in local Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs:

- a) Nueces County Hospital District:
 - i) Acquire optional legislative authority to use NCHD funds for graduate medical education to benefit indigent care.
 - ii) Term “graduate medical education” means Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited residencies and fellowships.
 - iii) Funded GME specialties to be determined by Board of Managers.
 - iv) **Amend Health and Safety Code, §281.094**, Texas to authorize use of NCHD funds for GME to benefit indigent care (see attached Bill).
- b) Texas Legislature:
 - i) Increase GME support specific to Coastal Bend:
 - (a) Appropriate additional funds for benefit of graduate medical education programs in Nueces County.
 - (b) Appropriate additional funds to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for benefit of graduate medical education programs.
- c) Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:
 - i) Achieve State’s goal of 1.1-to-1 ratio of Texas residency positions to medical school graduates:
 - (a) Establish funding for existing training slots.
 - (b) Increase funding for new training slots.
 - (c) Incentivize opening of new training slots.
 - (d) Expand number of funded training slots.
- d) Health and Human Services Commission:
 - i) Expand Medicaid GME supplemental payments:
 - (a) For non-government-owned teaching hospitals.
 - (b) Per slot increase.
 - (c) Recover costs of existing slots.

2) Reduce deficit of essential medical specialties and subspecialties in Nueces County.

- a) Nueces County Hospital District:
 - i) Acquire optional legislative authority to use NCHD funds to create and maintain the presence of “essential medical specialties and subspecialties” in Nueces County. “Essential medical specialties and subspecialties” to be locally defined.
 - ii) Create local incentives or benefits for physicians and mid-level providers to practice in each essential specialty and subspecialty for a specified number of years, for example:
 - (a) Reimburse school loan obligations.
 - (b) Reimburse malpractice premiums.
 - (c) Guarantee or subsidize incomes.

DRAFT

- (d) Subsidize housing.
- iii) Seek state funds to address the deficit of essential medical specialties and subspecialties in the Coastal Bend through line-item appropriations or budget riders.

3) Establish regional state-supported psychiatric facilities in Nueces County to offer inpatient and outpatient care.

- a) Nueces County Hospital District:
 - i) Seek budget rider directive for the state to provide inpatient and/or outpatient psychiatric state hospital facilities in the Coastal Bend.
 - ii) Seek legislative funding for state psychiatric state hospital facilities for inpatient and/or outpatient psychiatric care in the Coastal Bend through line-item appropriations or budget riders.
 - iii) Seek a budget rider directing the state to conduct a feasibility study and cost analysis of providing a psychiatric state hospital facility providing inpatient and/or outpatient psychiatric in the Coastal Bend.
 - iv) Offer land as an inducement to build the hospital upon.

4) Increase availability of commissioned law enforcement officers with mental health officer certification in Nueces County to provide crisis intervention services.

- a) Hospital District-Commissioned Peace Officers:
 - i) Obtain legislative authority to: (1) employ and commission peace officers; and (2) allow Hospital District-employed and commissioned peace officers who hold mental health officer certification from Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to perform mental health officer duties under independent contractual arrangements with the local mental health authority, and law enforcement agencies and school districts in Nueces County.
 - ii) **Amend Texas Health and Safety Code to add §281.0571** allowing Nueces County Hospital District to employ and commission peace officers and permit for Hospital District-employed and commissioned peace officers, who hold mental health officer certification, to independently perform mental health officer duties in Nueces County (see attached Bill).

###

01/23/2025