

Statewide Trends for CHCs

Each year, County Historical Commission (CHC) Outreach staff evaluate annual reports and share project descriptions from CHCs across the state. We also use reports to identify **statewide trends in organizational improvement**. Below are the primary areas of improvement documented by CHCs for the 2018 year of service.

Event Diversification

CHCs are diversifying the type and scope of events to expand the impact of their efforts. CHCs have been developing new partnerships, event activities, and promotional efforts in order to draw more attention to, and increase public participation in, CHC-related events. CHCs are strategic—knowing that CHC resources are limited, appointees are forming partnerships that diversify expertise, volunteers, in-kind donations, and supplemental funding for CHC programming.

Organizational Structure

For years, many CHCs have functioned as a private nonprofit rather than a public subdivision of the county. Now, CHCs are making sure their organizational structure adheres to county policies and state statutes, including the Texas Open Meetings Act. CHCs are taking time to answer the following questions. Who has the ultimate authority to govern and direct decision-making? Where is money kept and who approves expenditures? Who manages people and ensures timely implementation of projects. CHCs are meeting with county officials and nonprofit partners to sort out these issues.

Organizational Identity

CHCs are trying to clarify existing relationships with partner nonprofits to ensure that lines are drawn appropriately to separate the CHC—an arm of county government—from private nonprofits. Although missions may overlap, a CHC (a political subdivision) has legal responsibilities specific to its role in county government, and a private nonprofit has legal responsibilities related to maintaining its corporate status. These differences must be understood in order to manage these relationships in a legally and ethically appropriate way. CHCs are working with county officials to clarify partner relationships and document roles in writing.

SAN IGNACIO DE LOYOLA
Centennial Celebration
LITTLE MEXICO, FORT STOCKTON, TX

May 11, 2019
MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

10:30 AM - PROCESSION LEAD BY GUADALUPANAS
11:00 AM - MASS BY FATHER LORENZO HATCH
12:00 PM - DEDICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE
1:00PM - 3:00PM - HISTORICAL RECORDINGS/TOUR
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM SIESTA TIME!

6:00 PM - FIESTA CELEBRATION
CENTENNIAL CAKE
PINATAS
LOTERIA GAMES
CHANCLA THROWING CONTEST

MUSIC - VENDORS - FREE ACTIVITES
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: ANDRES MADRID 432-360-8044



Stewardship of Public Records

CHCs are often the default caregivers for county records and local newspaper archives. Many CHCs have stepped up to consider proper storage and handling for these documents. CHCs have secured funding from county government, grants, and in-kind donations; this funding has been used to digitize collections, locate/create climate-controlled storage space, and hire specialists to assess and prioritize archive needs.



CHC Challenges

CHC Outreach staff identified three needs that were prevalent within CHC annual reporting results. Each need dealt with some aspect of organizational planning—requests for planning documents, recommendations to manage leadership transitions, and advice for respectful management of an aging volunteer corps.

CHC Outreach staff will address each of these issues during the 2020 Real Places Conference. Staff will facilitate CHC round table discussions and share practical tips to help CHCs meet these challenges. Conversations, recommendations, and educational material covered during this conference session will be packaged and shared with all CHCs after the conference. Information will be available on the Texas Historical Commission website and during regional workshops tentatively planned for Summer 2020.

*On front, **Pecos CHC** takes advantage of the Mother's Day holiday to provide family-friendly activities related to local history; event poster featured. Above, **Kendall CHC** appointees work with county staff to sort and stabilize records; appointees also provide tours of the records room in the historic courthouse. At right, CHC appointees join preservationists from across the state at the **Real Places Conference** in Austin.*

