



## **HHS Circular C-009**

### **Health and Human Services Enterprise Information Technology Governance Policy**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish centralized information systems planning authority including the authority of Health and Human Services (HHS) Information Technology (IT) to develop enterprise-wide policies and procedures for the management of information technology functions.

#### **Background**

HHS IT is responsible for providing vision, leadership, and strategic direction in the delivery of information technology services for the health and human services system of agencies. The consolidation of the HHS system was proposed to drive efficiencies in administrative services, such as IT.

At the enterprise level, governance involves the assignment of decision rights and related accountability in regulating the proceedings of the enterprise. IT governance defines the assignment of decision rights and related accountability in the use of information technology. Goals and objectives for IT governance include:

- providing appropriate executive oversight of IT governance portfolios;
- improving accountability for results;
- reducing risks, inefficiencies, and complexity;
- improving resource utilization through focused IT spending;
- improving system integration and interoperability;
- providing for more effective strategic planning; and
- clarifying roles, responsibilities and processes related to all facets of IT proceedings.

#### **Policy**

The HHS IT division is responsible for planning and managing information resources across the HHS System. To accomplish this, the Deputy Executive Commissioner for IT and Chief Information Officer has the authority to develop enterprise-wide policies and procedures for the



consolidated delivery of IT services to the health and human services agencies. These IT policies may be in addition to policies issued using the HHS Executive Clerk formats for circulars, bulletins, and memoranda.

The Deputy Executive Commissioner for IT and Chief Information Officer will also coordinate a governance structure with representation from all member agencies at appropriate organizational levels to participate in IT decision making. This structure will also provide a forum for notification of IT policies to facilitate awareness and compliance, which will assist with implementing and sustaining the desired streamlined, standardized, and simplified service delivery model for IT services.

### **Inquiries**

Inquiries regarding this circular should be directed to Deputy Executive Commissioner for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, HHSC, at (512) 424-6990 or [CIO@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:CIO@hhsc.state.tx.us).