In December 2011, Texas received federal approval of an 1115 waiver that would ultimately provide funding for healthcare related projects that would improve quality, access and affordability for its citizens.

As a result, the state was divided into 20 regional partnerships (RHPs).

RHP 16 consists of these counties:
- Coryell
- Hamilton
- Bosque
- Falls
- Limestone
- Hill
- McLennan

This is a five year waiver program that will end in 2016. A significant number of dollars was distributed among the regions for transformation and quality improvement projects, including regional projects focusing on childhood obesity and health literacy.

It is our goal this year to start the planning process for the regional health literacy project. This project will implement a health literacy program utilizing trained community health workers in coordination with local healthcare providers to increase health literacy in the Medicaid, Uninsured, and Indigent Populations. Coryell Memorial Healthcare System (CMHS), in partnership with Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service (TAMU), will work together to administer a regional health promotion program utilizing community health workers designed to empower individuals and families and improve health literacy across the region.

The project will include individual contact, group training, development of language appropriate printed materials and age appropriate activities. The project will be designed to address people’s ability to navigate the healthcare system, understand health insurance coverage, participate in self-care and decision making, understand chronic disease management, other health related topics and risks associated with lifestyle choices.

The regional health literacy project will directly impact communities within the region. Key stakeholders, health professionals, and interested citizens are asked to serve as partners in this program which will directly impact health behaviors, access to healthcare, and healthcare costs within their areas.
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is delegated the responsibility of implementing and managing the program for RHP 16.

The regional project for RHP 16 is to engage community health workers in an evidence-based program to increase health literacy.

Target population are those who are considered low-income uninsured, Medicaid and Indigent in all 7 counties of RHP 16.

Project is not limited to this population but in reporting metrics and milestones back to the state for payment, we must demonstrate quality improvement in this population.

Determination must be made on how to reach this population and engage them in various programs to reduce and prevent health risks to improve quality of life scores and lower the rate of long term health complications.

Each year, specific metrics and milestones must be met in order to receive funding for the project.

It is unknown at this time if the project will continue beyond 2016 based on available funding and whether or not the program is successful in meeting its goals.

As a partner in this endeavor, school districts are asked to:

- Support the program which will provide health benefits to communities.
- Assist in identifying program participants which will include Medicaid eligible, Medicaid recipients, and uninsured citizens.
- Facilitate participation in programs through referrals, and marketing of programs.
- Identify staff that will assist in implementation of programs and be trained as Master Wellness Volunteers.
- Provide reports as requested to utilize with 1115 Waiver requirements.
- Embrace and encourage a “culture of health” within communities.