

Texas Pregnancy Care Network



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
P.O. BOX 2675  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

Estelle B. Richman  
Secretary

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November 9, 2005

To: Texas Health and Human Services

Dear Commissioners:

As Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare, it is my pleasure to recommend to you Real Alternatives of Harrisburg as a consultant for the Texas Alternative to Abortion Services Program. My staff and I have had an excellent working relationship with Real Alternatives since my appointment as secretary by Governor Ed Rendell in January 2003. Shortly after accepting my post, I was fully briefed on all aspects of our effective \$5.4 million a year Pennsylvania Alternative to Abortion Service Program by Real Alternatives. I was impressed by the overall design and implementation of this statewide pregnancy and parenting support services program, as well as its low administrative cost ratio. This last fiscal year ending in June 2005 resulted in a ratio of 8.1%.

Real Alternatives has developed a system of thorough and extensive administrative and service provider monitoring practices to ensure program compliance and has yearly exceeded performance requirements. Auditing, including site visits, ending in 2004 by the Commonwealth's Office of the Budget for contract years 2000-2003 resulted in findings that showed complete compliance with all contract requirements. Auditors had no recommendations.

If there are any questions by my office regarding practices, they are answered promptly and thoroughly. Any questions or problems with service providers or program implementation are reported to my office immediately by Real Alternatives with recommendations for appropriate solutions. They never bring problems to the Department; they bring solutions to problems.

Real Alternatives success is due in no small measure to its enthusiasm and dedication to the mission of the PA Alternative to Abortion Services Program which is to provide assistance statewide to those women in need of pregnancy support services in Pennsylvania. I am confident Real Alternatives will bring that same enthusiasm and dedication to mission to Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Estelle B. Richman'.

Estelle B. Richman