

# Regional Governance of Syndromic Surveillance for the Texas Gulf Coast

Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness  
Program of Public Health Informatics

August 3, 2016



**HOUSTON HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**

# Timeline of Program Development



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- 2002 Program initiation - HMMRS and bed reporting
- 2003-04 Acquisition of RODS
- 2008 RODS Upgrade and Expansion
- 2009 HITECH Act
- 2011 MU Stage 1  
Expansion proposal
- 2012 TALHO dissolution and absorption by HHD
- 2013 969 Committee
- 2014 SSGC
- 2015 TCPH
- 2016 ESSENCE / SSCSeT

## Challenges to program sustainability at HHD

- Aging/legacy systems
- Timeliness of resources/discretionary funds
- Scarcity of vendors
- Data sharing concerns
- Centralization vs. federation



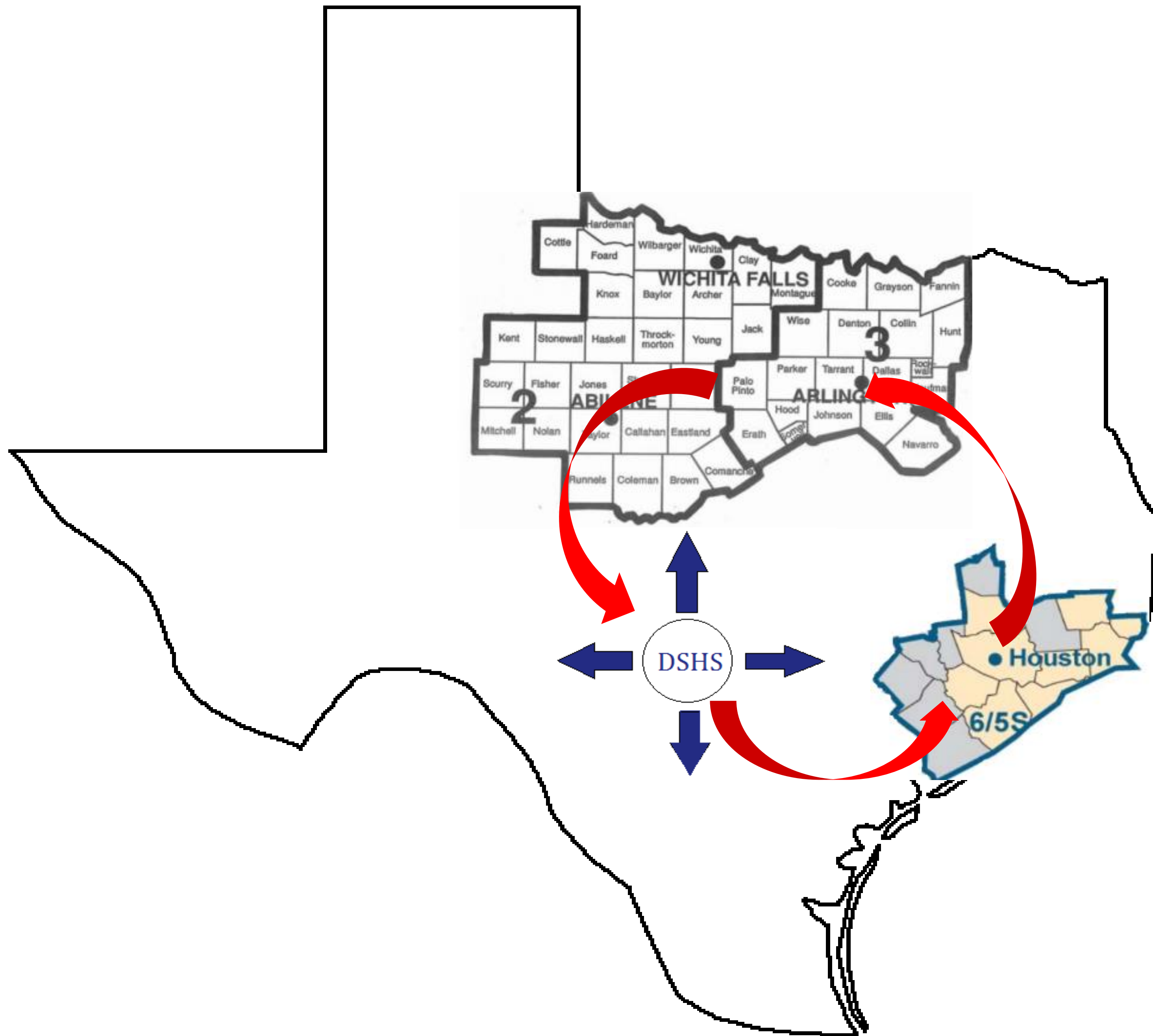


**Local and Regional Public Health Coverage**

● Regional Headquarters  
 [Black Outline] Health Service Region  
 [Blue Shading] Local Health Department(s)  
 [Gray Shading] Regional Headquarters Provides Services

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, RLHS, Nov2014 t/h

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## Solutions for a viable syndromic network

- **Mentoring with TCPH**
- **Communities of Practice Model**
- **Engaging Jurisdictional Partners**
- **Coalition Building**
- **Democratic Governance**



## Syndromic Surveillance Consortium of Southeast Texas

- **Determining Purpose**
- **Governance Structure**
- **Membership**
- **Leadership**
- **Activities**

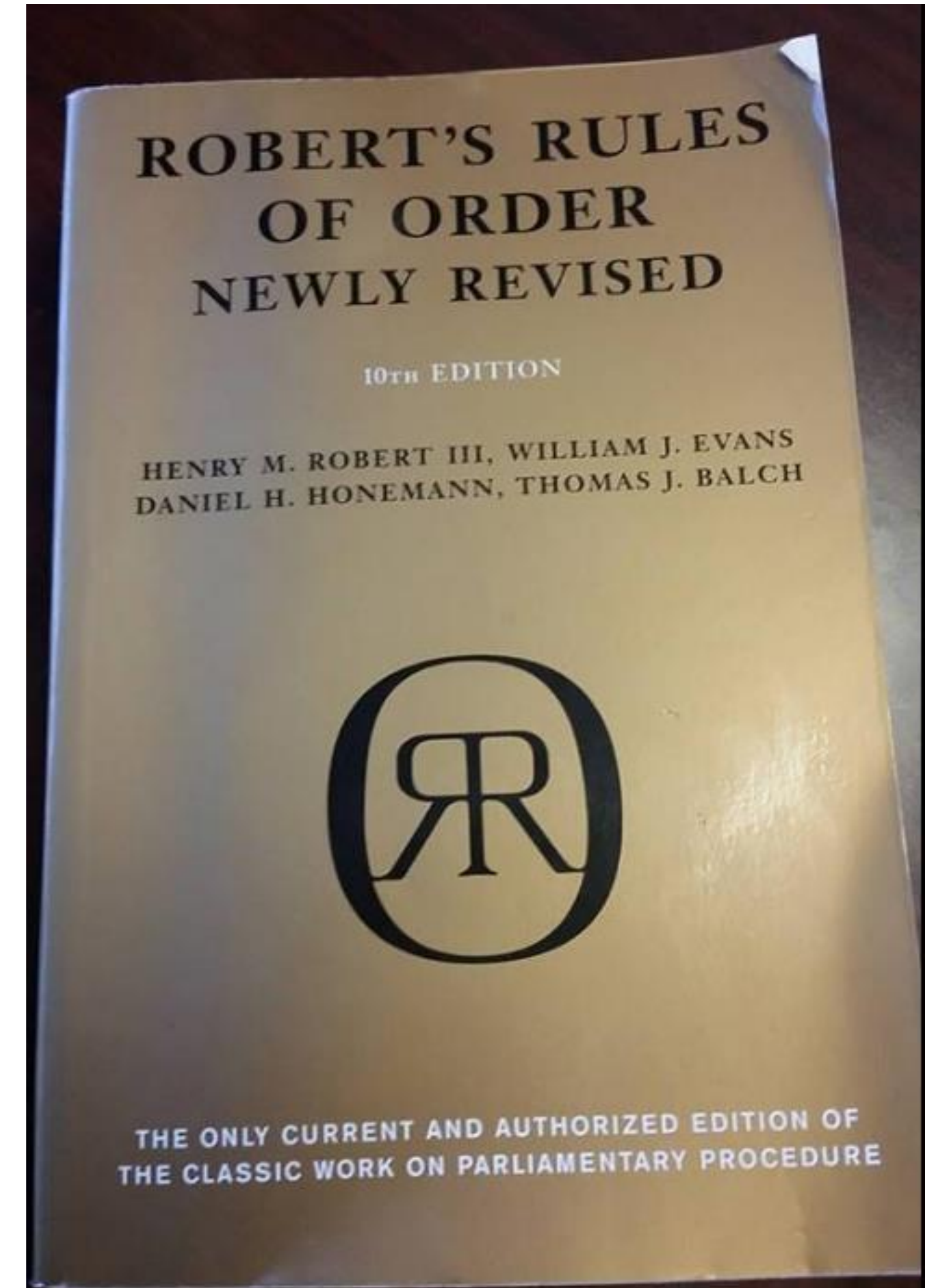




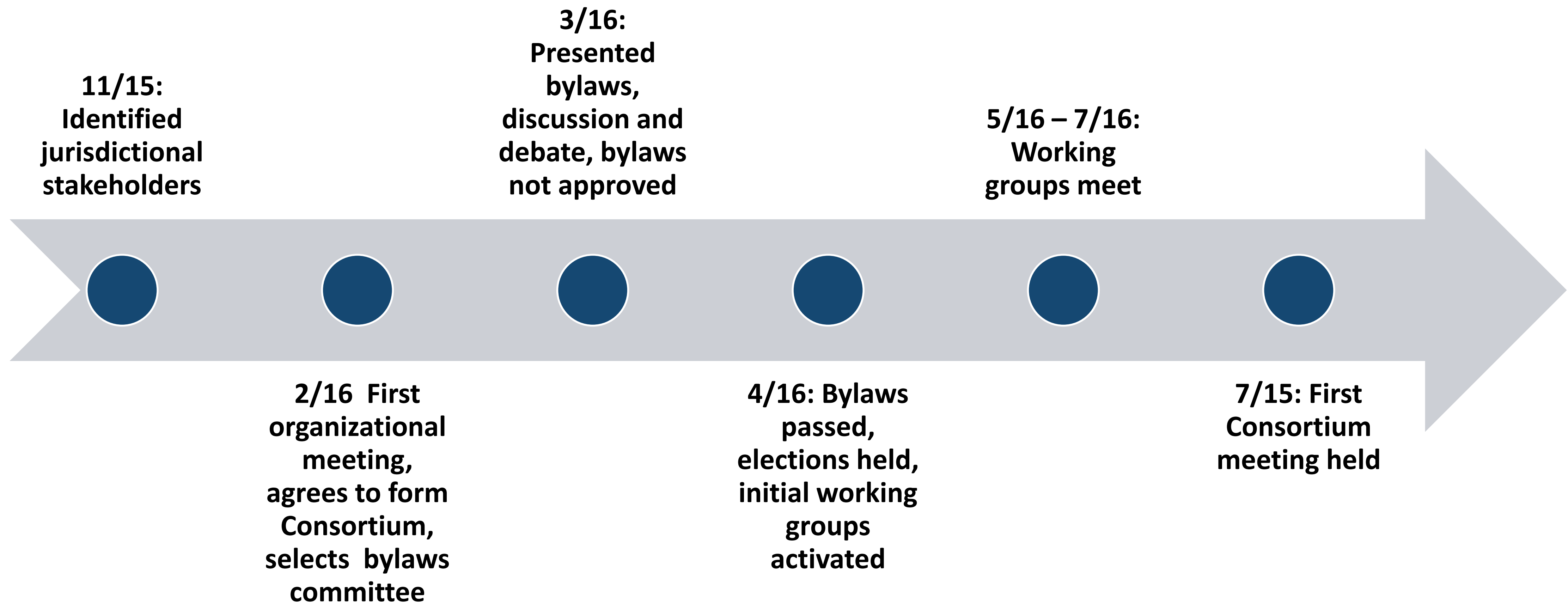
# Regional Governance



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## Syndromic Surveillance Consortium of Southeast Texas (SSCSeT) Charter and Bylaws

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### ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1.1 Name. The name of the organization shall be “Syndromic Surveillance Consortium of Southeast Texas” and shall be referred to within this document as “the Consortium”.

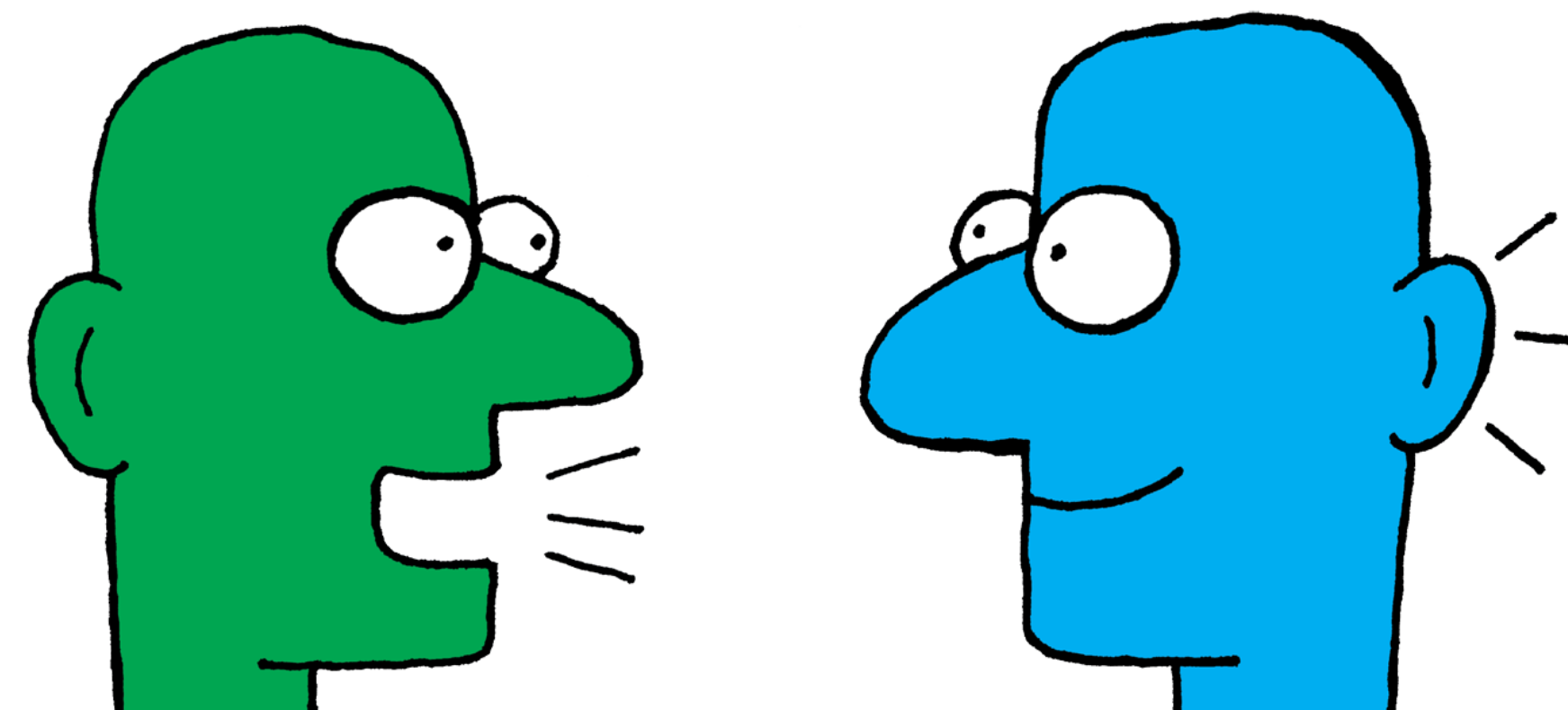
### ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Section 2.1 Purpose. The purpose of the Consortium is to bring together jurisdictional public health agencies, health data providers and other relevant stakeholders primarily in Public Health Region 6/5S to collaborate and coordinate on matters of science, policy, and utilization of technological advances in syndromic surveillance as it pertains to the syndromic surveillance system installed and operated by the Houston Health Department which shall be referred to as “the Network”.



## Scope

- Communication and collaboration
- Jurisdictional etiquette
- Provider outreach
- Building regional expertise





## Scope

- Research and public health practice
- Training
- Best practices
- System usability
- Transparency of technology





- Membership
- Officers
- Meetings
- Committees
- Governance
- Powers
- Amendments To The Bylaws
- Quorum



## Membership

- Each regional LHD including DSHS Regional
- Each type of provider (Hospital, Minor Emergency Centers, Eligible Physicians)
- Regional Extension Center
- Regional Trauma Council
- School for Biomedical Informatics
- Regional HIE

