

**The Arc of Texas Guiding Principles on
The Consolidation of Health and Human Service Agencies to
Reduce Cost and Improve Service Delivery**

January 28, 2003

(Revised on February 7, 2003)

The Arc of Texas supports Texas' current health and human services system structure. However, if state agencies that deliver health and human services or license health and human service professionals are consolidated, then The Arc of Texas will work to ensure the following principles persevere:

Principle 1

The principles of self-determination shape a health and human service delivery system that is responsive to the actual needs of and enhances services to all Texans with disabilities.

Principle 2

The unique needs of people with mental retardation will continue to be met by professional specialists and experts.

Principle 3

The consolidation will maintain a distinct and identifiable department for persons with mental retardation.

Principle 4

The consolidation will not alter current entitlement guarantees, service definitions, eligibility criteria or funding streams.

Principle 5

The consolidation will maintain a department for persons with mental retardation separate from a department or Agency on Aging.