



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

The Office of Mental Health Coordination





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Purpose of this Document

According to the Legislative Budget Board, “Across state government, agencies receive more than \$3.2 billion in state funding for behavioral health services.” Behavioral health includes services for mental illness and substance abuse. Many agencies and organizations are incorporating mental wellness as they carry out their mission and objectives. While there are other initiatives that include a mental health component, this document targets state health and human service initiatives with behavioral health as a primary focus, and provides an overview of current initiatives, councils, and programs that focus on meeting the behavioral health needs of Texans.

A total of 54 initiatives are described in this document. Total initiatives by agency include the following:

Totals per Agency

		HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCl or TCOOMMI
TOTAL	Totals of all Mental Health initiatives per each agency are listed.	39	47	17	28	18	16	13	9	7	8	10

Source: Legislative Budget Board, 84R Cross-Article Behavioral Health-Related Summary



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document could not be possible without the work of the 83rd Legislative Session and HHSC Executive Commissioner, Dr. Kyle Janek. As visionaries, the Texas state legislators serve as key contributors and supporters of the successful work of HHSC Office of Mental Health Coordination.

The HHSC Office of Mental Health Coordination, in collaboration with partners from other HHS agencies, has developed a comprehensive inventory of 54 key mental health initiatives currently in process across nine partnering state agencies. The collaboration efforts and cooperation from all initiative leads, partnering agencies and executive staff has been greatly appreciated. Phase 1 of the document has been released and the electronic version can be found at the link below. We will continue to update this document biannually and stay in communication with initiative lead contacts. As the Office of Mental Health Coordination continues to work towards improving cross agency coordination and collaboration, we look forward to working with all state agencies.

This Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives document represents the combined work of the Cross-Agency Mental Health Liaisons Work Group in addition to input from other state agencies that may receive mental health funding. The work group is composed of representatives from state agencies with an interest in behavioral health. Members of the work group are listed below in addition to other state agency liaisons that assisted with this document.

HHSC-Sonja Gaines, Associate Commissioner for Mental Health Coordination, Emilie Becker, Amanda Dillon-Medicaid, Amy Felker, Debra Gonzales, Sherri Hammack, Michelle Harper-OSS, Joe Romero, Clare Seagraves, **DSHS**-Trina Ita, Mary Sowder, **DFPS**-Catherine Bingle, Jennifer Sims, **DADS**-Mark Blockus, Donna Jessee, Jill Santos, **DARS**-Carline Geiger, TDHCA-Andre Adams, Spencer Duran, Terri Richards, Naomi Trejo, **TEA**-Cindy Swain, **TDCJ/TCCOOMMI**-April Zamora

The Strategic Planning Team with Strategic Decision Support was indispensable in providing direction and support for this document. Their leadership, guidance and skills are sincerely appreciated. **HHSC**-Mathilde Hyams-Flores, Laura Lucinda, Laura Jordan

Many partners have generously contributed their time and expertise to assist with the development of the Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiative document. The Office of Mental Health Coordination gratefully acknowledges everyone's efforts to make this initiative possible.



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Legend of Acronyms

DADS	Department of Aging and Disability Services
DARS	Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
DFPS	Department of Family and Protective Services
DSHS	Department of State Health Services
GAA	General Appropriations Act
H.B.	House Bill
HHS System	Health and Human Services System (five agencies)
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
S.B.	Senate Bill
TCOOMMI	Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments
TDCJ	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
TDHCA	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
TEA	Texas Education Agency
TJJJ	Texas Juvenile Justice Department
TVC	Texas Veterans Commission
TWC	Texas Workforce Commission
U.S.	United States



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Integration with Physical Health Services

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
Medicaid Behavioral Health Integration S.B. 58 (83-R), Section 1	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate Medicaid behavioral health services to persons eligible for such services through existing Medicaid managed care entities effective September 2014, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health targeted case management, Mental health rehabilitation services, and Physical health services. Establish the Behavioral Health Integration Advisory Committee to take comments from stakeholders and other members of the public. Excludes the NorthSTAR seven-county service delivery area from this initiative. 	✓	✓		✓								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health targeted case management and mental health rehabilitation services were integrated into Medicaid managed care effective September 2014. The committee has released its initial report and is considering recommendations from the public for its next report. HHSC and DFPS are working collaboratively with child placing agencies interested in providing mental health targeted case management and mental health rehabilitation services in the STAR Health Medicaid program for children in foster care. The Behavioral Health Integration Advisory Committee has been recommended for elimination by the Sunset Commission. 	HHSC Allen Pittman (512) 730-7438
Behavioral Health and Aging Initiative	DADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on older Texans' behavioral health. Collaborate with partners to expand programs through grant opportunities. Reach out to educate stakeholders. Locate new programs and/or funding to promote behavioral health and aging. Members include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff from DADS and DSHS; Faculty members from the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work and the Baylor College of Medicine; and Representatives from the Area Agencies on Aging, the Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston, and others knowledgeable about the prevention and treatment of mental health and substance abuse disorders among older adults. 		✓		✓					✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DADS has collaborated with DSHS to provide Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) to case managers and staff providing assessment and services to caregiver consumers through the Area Agencies on Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers across the state during 2014. The workgroup is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a curriculum for physicians; Developing an executive group that works with external stakeholders; Looking for grants; and Working with the disaster preparedness team to improve education about helping aging individuals in a disaster. 	DADS Toni Packard (512) 438-4290	



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Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCJ or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
Medicaid Telemedicine and Telehealth Advisory Committee Tex. Gov't Code Section 531.02172	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the implementation of telehealth/telemedicine services in Medicaid in Texas. Facilitate the provision of behavioral health services by Medicaid providers. Members include representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Texas Medical Board, The Texas Osteopathic Medicine Board, The Texas Nurse Association, The Camino Real Community Services Center (LMHA), Other private providers of telemonitoring services, and The DSHS Children's Mental Health team. 	✓	✓										<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sunset Commission has recommended elimination of this committee. 	HHSC Sarah Mills (512) 462-6271



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Recovery-Oriented Care

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Texas Recovery Initiative	DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information and make recommendations for the design of protocols that implement holistic, recovery-oriented models of care for local behavioral health communities. Collaborators include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community church leaders, Funded providers, Mental health agencies, Criminal justice, Faith-based organizations, and Recovery community organizations. 		✓			✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff members from DSHS are working with 28 communities across the state to continue developing these community systems. DSHS is working on a proposal to provide funding to each local Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care for administrative support. DSHS is developing a plan to create a website for each Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care to link to one another. The Mental Health/Substance Use Integration workgroup is working on achieving fully integrated participation from the Texas Recovery Initiative workgroup members and the Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care organizations. 	DSHS Philander Moore (512) 206-5828



Promoting Home and Community Living

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCJ or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Medicaid 1915(c) Waiver (83-R)	DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide intensive home- and community-based Medicaid services to children age 3 through 18 who have serious emotional disturbance so they may stay with their families. Help prevent acute psychiatric hospitalization, residential treatment, and relinquishment of parental custody due to the child’s behavioral health needs. Coordinate services through the wraparound model. Include such services as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialized therapies (art, music, animal-assisted, etc.), Community living supports (skills training), Respite, Family supports, Paraprofessional services, and Other goods and services available through flexible funding. 	✓	✓										<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of November 2014, the program was serving 458 children in 10 counties across the state (Bexar, Brazoria, Cameron, Ft. Bend, Galveston, Harris, Hidalgo, Tarrant, Travis, and Willacy). Statewide expansion of the waiver is contingent on approval by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which has agreed with HHSC and DSHS to expand via staggered rollout. Expansion to Burnet, McLennan, and Williamson counties and the seven-county NorthSTAR service delivery area is projected to be approved in the spring of 2015. While awaiting approval of expansion areas, DSHS will implement YES as general revenue funded program in those areas. 	DSHS Carmen Bliss (512) 206-4510



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Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCJ or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Texas System of Care Initiative S.B. 1234 (76-R), as amended by S.B. 421 (83-R)	HHSC	Requires statewide implementation for local mental health systems of care for children in or at risk of being placed in residential care or hospitalization for mental health care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand from pilot or demonstration to statewide implementation of developing local systems of care. Implement and evaluate comprehensive plan for statewide delivery of mental health services and supports to children and families using a system of care framework and system of care practices. Include objectives to strengthen policies and practices that support local systems of care by increasing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access, Community implementation capacity, Use of cross-system data, and Funding. An oversight consortium is required to report to the legislature and the Council on Children and Families biennially. 	✓	✓		✓		✓					✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This initiative is currently funded under a four-year federal grant to HHSC. HHSC works in partnership with DSHS the Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas at Austin and other partners interested in children's mental health to implement the comprehensive strategic plan for statewide system of care implementation. The consortium meets quarterly and has just completed its first required report to the Legislature and the Council on Children and Families. The Sunset Advisory Commission has recommended restructuring this and three other children's advisory committees into a single advisory committee for children's issues, to be appointed by the HHSC executive commissioner. 	HHSC Sherri Hammack (512) 954-8563



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Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCJ or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Balancing Incentive Long-term Services and Support Screening Tool	DADS	<p>Federal law established the Balancing Incentive Program which increases the Federal Matching Assistance Percentage to participating states through September 2015 in exchange for states making certain structural reforms to increase access to Medicaid community-based long-term services and supports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a "no wrong door" eligibility and enrollment system. Develop core standardized assessment instruments. Leverage existing systems to enhance the lives of those served by these programs. 	✓	✓			✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHSC, DADS and DSHS workgroups collaborate to develop a screening tool based on the HHSC self-service portal (www.YourTexasBenefits.com) and on the current intake and assessment processes. Basic mental health and substance abuse information will be integrated into the screening tool within the statewide long-term services and supports system that filters into DSHS' Internet-based Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services System. The long-term services and support system will create a centralized repository for shared client information, to allow for coordination with financial eligibility and to simplify determinations. The local mental health authorities and/or Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral providers will receive the referral through the portal and respond appropriately. DADS, DSHS, and HHSC will collaborate regarding project-related changes, including integration, design, development, and testing. 	DADS Elisa Garza Assistant Commissioner (512) 438-4245



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Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCJ or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid 1915(i) Waiver GAA (83-R) DSHS Rider 81	DSHS HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide intensive services in the home or the community to adults with serious mental illness with long tenures in psychiatric facilities (3 years continuous or cumulative of the last 5 years), to support long-term recovery and success in the individual's community of choice. 		✓										<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHSC submitted the Medicaid state plan amendment and is working with DSHS to obtain federal approval from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services. Supportive residential options are a critical component of the program to support clients with complex needs. Shortages of appropriate housing options may impact the growth of this program. DSHS is recruiting providers. The Provider Manual and Billing Guidelines are available on the website: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhsa/hcbs-amh/ DSHS anticipates enrollment of individuals into the program to begin in early 2015. 	DSHS Carmen Bliss (512) 206-4510



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Support for Children and Youth

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Texas Children Recovering from Trauma Initiative	DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create collaborative partnerships at the state and local level in the Waco area to address the needs of children ages 3 to 17 who have experienced or witnessed traumatic events or who come from military families. Disseminate information about trauma-informed care. Serve children and families each year with trauma-focused, evidence-based practices through the Heart of Texas local mental health authority, which implements the pilot of this initiative. Promote and facilitate referrals and access to services. 	✓	✓		✓								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The year-long learning collaborative will begin in June, with leadership from the following partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texas Institute of Excellence on Mental Health of the University of Texas at Austin, and The National Council on Behavioral Health. The Heart of Texas Region Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center is building its learning community to promote trauma-informed care and treatment. Invitations will be sent to fifteen pilot sites in addition to Heart of Texas for development of year-long learning community collaborative. These learning communities will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DSHS Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Two tribal nations, Ten local mental health authorities, and Two substance abuse prevention/treatment providers. The transformation will be encouraged throughout all service provision areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s mental health, Adult mental health, Early childhood intervention, and Services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The first Trauma-Informed Care Summit is planned to be held at the end of Summer 2016. 	DSHS Marisol Acosta (512) 206-4830



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Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Unified for School Aged Children—A Mental Health Collaborative	TEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and expand opportunities for education and training on behavioral health for providers at state, local, and individual levels. Inventory services across systems to facilitate common language and knowledge. Identify barriers to collaboration and explore opportunities to enhance collaboration across systems that impact school-aged children. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group has established goals and objectives. The group is identifying resources for school-aged children and their families. The group develops strategies to strengthen efforts to deliver mental health first aid training to educators. 	<p>TEA Cindy Swain (512) 463-9414</p> <p>HHSC Sonja Gaines Associate Commissioner (512) 487-3417</p>
Shared Outcomes for Common Goals Initiative	HHSC	<p>This initiative is led by United Ways of Texas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a set of shared children’s mental health outcomes that can be used statewide to guide policy, procedures, and funding strategies across child-serving systems. Partners include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texans Care for Children, The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, and Texas State of Mind (the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute). 	✓	✓		✓		✓						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Texans Care for Children manages stakeholder involvement. Texas State of Mind coordinates study and conducted a literature review on children’s mental health outcome measures. In June 2014 a brainstorming session was held with stakeholders about indicators of child well-being and positive outcomes. 	<p>HHSC Sherri Hammack (512) 954-8563</p>
Increased Residential Treatment for Children and Adolescents GAA (83-R), DSHS Exceptional Item	DSHS DFPS	<p>DSHS was allocated \$2.1 million to fund ten beds in private residential treatment centers for children and youth ages 5 to 17 referred to DFPS who are at risk for parental relinquishment of rights due solely to a lack of mental health resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use residential placement only when community intervention cannot meet the mental health needs of a child to the point where the child’s symptoms make it unsafe for the family to care for the child in the home. 		✓		✓								<p>At the end of November 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seventeen children had been served; Seven of these children had been discharged after achieving improvements in behavior; Outpatient mental health services were being coordinated for discharged children; The wait list had 20 children in outpatient care and psychiatric hospitals; and DSHS has requested an exceptional item for an additional 20 beds. 	<p>DSHS Lillian Stengart (512) 206-4794</p> <p>DFPS Jolynne Batchelor (512) 438-3312</p>



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Preventing Relinquishment of Custody to Obtain Mental Health Services S.B. 44 (83-R), Section 3	DFPS DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the possibility of joint managing conservatorship with a person who seeks to relinquish custody of a child to DFPS to obtain mental health services. Submit a joint report to the Legislature and the Council on Children and Families from DFPS and DSHS that recommends alternatives to relinquishment of custody of children with serious emotional disturbance to obtain mental health services 	✓	✓		✓								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The needs assessment on alternatives to relinquishment of custody was completed in October 2014. The final report with recommendations was submitted in December 2014. 	DFPS Jolynne Batchelor (512) 438-3312 DSHS Angela Hobbs-Lopez (512) 206-5815
Child/ Adolescent Bexar Cares Pilot Program H.B. 1232 (81-R), H.B. 35 (82-R), S.B. 294 (83-R)	DSHS	This pilot project began as a result of legislation in 2009 to serve youth at risk of being removed from their families due to behavioral health problems. The project has been extended to September 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote early identification of behavioral health problems in high-risk youth. Improve coordination of mental health and DFPS services to high-risk youth and their families to prevent escalation and increased risk of out-of-home placement. 												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Center for Health Care Services of Bexar County provides behavior management treatment and family peer mentoring to high-risk youth and their families. The center will send a broadcast message explaining the program and how to access services to DSHS Health Service Region 8 staff. Current DFPS implementation includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the current Memorandum of Understanding with relevant state and local agencies about service coordination and early identification of youth. Issuance of a public announcement to share information with staff; and Continued participation in the project workgroup to provide training, monitoring, and reporting. 	DSHS Mike Hastie (512) 206-5959



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Protective Services for Children and Families

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TCO/MMI	TDCJ or TCO/MMI	Current Status	Contact
Informed Consent for Psychotropic Medication for Children in Foster Care	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve informed consent practices for children in DFPS conservatorship who are prescribed psychotropic medications. Require medical consenters, including DFPS staff consenters, to be present with children at appointments where psychotropic medications are prescribed. Require DFPS to notify parents of such prescriptions. 	✓			✓									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All requirements have been implemented. DFPS revised policy, procedures and forms, training, contracts, and human resources. Data are being collected on measures related to H.B. 915 outcomes. Superior is reporting on the measures outlined in the fourth bullet (below) at quarterly psychotropic medication review meetings with members of the Psychotropic Medication Monitoring Group. For fiscal year 2014, there have been increases over fiscal year 2013 in numbers of children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who get non-pharmacological interventions before or at the same time as psychotropic medications, and Who see a provider every 90 days for review of medications. 	DFPS Kathy Keenan (512) 438-5509
Psychotropic Medication Monitoring Program for Foster Care	DFPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the overall psychotropic medication monitoring program on an ongoing basis. Task force members include the DFPS Medical Director, who chairs the group, and representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFPS, HHSC, DSHS, The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, and STAR Health. 	✓	✓		✓										DFPS James A. Rogers, MD (512) 438-4870



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Psychiatric Hospital Placements and Capacity for Children in Protective Services	DFPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to build capacity for services for children exiting psychiatric hospitalizations. Explore and identify services that could: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce or eliminate the need for the child to enter a psychiatric placement, and Ensure success of psychiatric placements. Address the immediate capacity concerns of finding appropriate placements for children when their psychiatric hospitalization is scheduled to end. 	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency staff and providers meet weekly to develop service plans for individual children. Agencies and providers meet regularly to look at systemic issues to improve service coordination and to build capacity for effective use of resources. 	DFPS Katie Olse Associate Commissioner (512) 438-5947
Study to Gather Information about Substance Use among Parents H.B. 1396 (83-R)	DFPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether data are available to identify use of alcohol or controlled substances by children and/or parents involved in an investigation by DFPS. If neither DFPS nor DFPS collects this data, determine which agency can most cost-effectively collect the data. Collect the following data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of children involved in DFPS investigation who tested positive for the presence of drugs at birth, and The number of parents who tested positive. 		✓		✓								Study findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFPS tracks limited data related to alcohol and controlled substances. DSHS data are not accessible. DFPS is the most appropriate agency to compile the required data items. 	DFPS Jolynne Batchelor (512) 438-3312
Trauma-Informed Care for Children in Foster Care	DFPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate trauma screening and assessment into processes for children in foster care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and put into place a menu of trauma assessments behavioral health providers can use for children in foster care. Update DFPS staff training curriculum. Provide kinship family and caregiver supports. Develop secondary traumatic stress policy and resources for DFPS staff. 		✓		✓								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening and assessment tools were reviewed, and the DSHS Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment was recommended. Curriculum for DFPS staff has been completed, and training has begun and is ongoing. A tip sheet was provided to DFPS staff about how to access resources for trauma-informed care. A kinship care newsletter was recently released that was dedicated to trauma-informed care. A kinship care toolkit is being developed. 	DFPS Cristina Guerrero (512) 438-2405



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJJ	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Mental Health Task Force	DFPS	<p>This task force, led by CASA, is funded through a two-year grant from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene mental health stakeholders to identify mental health problems facing children and youth in state custody; • Develop and advocate for recommendations to the Legislature and health and human services agencies, as appropriate; and • Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diagnosis and treatment care provided, ○ Empowerment and normalization, ○ Provider/caregiver adequacy, and ○ Barriers to service. • Members include representatives from HHSC and DFPS, and other stakeholders involved with child welfare. 	✓			✓								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary recommendations have been formed by all four subgroups, and CASA is developing a draft report. 	DFPS Jennifer Sims Deputy Commissioner (512) 438-4813



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Substance Abuse

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Collaboration	DFPS DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate DFPS and DSHS joint initiatives to expand substance abuse service capacity to help reduce or eliminate wait lists for DFPS clients. 		✓		✓								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding obtained by DSHS has been distributed to drug courts in three regions of the state. Over 3,500 caseworkers and supervisors have been trained on the array of substance use disorder services available through DSHS and how to appropriately make a referral to any of those services. Referrals to assessment and either treatment or prevention and early intervention have increased from 1,361 in fiscal year 2013 to almost 3,000 in fiscal year 2014. Early fiscal year 2015 data indicate that DSHS is serving more clients than the fiscal year 2014 average. 	DFPS Jolynne Batchelor (512) 438-3312
Peer Recovery Coaches and Specialists	DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a process to allow substance abuse peer recovery specialists/coaches to bill Medicaid for recovery support services. 	✓	✓										<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSHS is researching current methods for billing recovery support services already being paid by Medicaid. HHSC is scheduling a meeting in early 2015 to discuss the recommendation. 	DSHS Philander Moore (512) 206-5828



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
Council for Advising and Planning for the Prevention and Treatment of Mental and Substance Abuse Disorders 42 U.S. Code Section 300x-3	DSHS	To comply with federal block grant funding provisions, a state must establish and maintain a state mental health planning council with these duties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Mental Health Block Grant Plan and making recommendations; Serve as advocates for adults with a serious mental illness, children with a serious emotional disturbance, and other individuals with mental illnesses or emotional problems; and Monitor, review, and evaluate at least once each year the allocation and adequacy of mental health services within the state. Address these same charges for substance abuse (started in 2012). Work via committees designated for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy; Rules; Programs, policy, data; and Block grants. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The full council meets quarterly, and committees meet as decided by each committee chair. Executive Committee meets approximately three weeks before each meeting to set agenda. Full information on the council can be found at: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhsa/cap/. 	DSHS Mary Sowder (512) 206-5247
Drug Demand Reduction Advisory Committee S.B. 558 (77-R)	DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop comprehensive statewide strategy and legislative recommendations that will reduce drug demand in Texas. Members include 16 state agencies and five at-large members from different geographical areas within the state. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the substance abuse team attend this workgroup quarterly to provide input on issues related to substance abuse and the impact on the State. Staff provides recommendations when necessary on various topics being presented, with the current issue and challenge being prescription drug abuse and monitoring. 	DSHS Philander Moore (512) 206-5828



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Housing Stability

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Healthy Community Collaboratives S.B. 58 (83-R), Section 2; GAA (83-R), DSHS Rider 90	DSHS	DSHS Rider 90 provided funding for this initiative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a community collaborative grant program to encourage communities to leverage public and private resources to coordinate to comprehensively address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness and mental health issues. Provide up to five grants through a request for proposal process, in counties with a population of over one million (Dallas, Tarrant, Travis, Bexar, and Harris), with each awardee providing private matching funds at least equal to the DSHS grant. 		✓	✓		✓				✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five awardees were announced in May 2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health and Mental Retardation Tarrant County, Austin Travis County Integral Care, Coalition for the Homeless Houston/Harris County, City of Dallas (The Bridge), and Haven for Hope (San Antonio). All sites have begun providing services. Funds are also used to cover administrative costs and a third party evaluation. The University of Texas School of Social Work has been contracted as the third party evaluator. Initial site visits have been completed, and all entities are working to ensure accurate and consistent data collection. Services to DFPS clients are being discussed and may be added to some contracts. 	DSHS Nicole Bower (512) 206-5267
Project Access Pilot Program	TDHCA	TDHCA partners with DSHS on this statewide program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund ten Housing Choice vouchers to individuals in state-funded psychiatric hospital beds or state-contracted beds in the community. Provide service coordination and support services through DSHS for ongoing community integration. 		✓						✓	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pilot program has distributed the ten vouchers designated for the program. All ten are either currently in use or in process of approval. Since the pilot began, 18 individuals have used the vouchers. 	TDHCA Andre Adams (512) 475-3884 DSHS Carissa Dougherty (512) 206-5347



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Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
<p>Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program</p> <p>Section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990</p>	TDHCA	<p>In 2012, the Section 811 project-based housing initiative was awarded to TDHCA through funding from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to serve individuals who have a serious mental illness and are Medicaid- eligible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide housing vouchers and ongoing supportive services. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rollout of the program is planned for fiscal year 2015 to serve seven catchment areas through eleven local mental health authorities. 	<p>TDHCA Spencer Duran (512) 475-1784</p> <p>DSHS Anna Sonenthal (512) 206-5073</p>
<p>Housing and Health Service Coordination Council</p> <p>Tex. Gov't. Code, Section 2306.1091</p>	TDHCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Legislature directs the Council to increase state efforts to expand Service-Enriched Housing through increased coordination of housing and health services. Improve interagency understanding of housing and services and increase the number of staff in state housing and state health services agencies that are conversant in both housing and health care policies. Prepare a Biennial Plan that is submitted to the Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Governor in August of each even-numbered year. Members include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight persons appointed by the Governor, and Representatives from eight state agencies including the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation. 	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council meets quarterly. TDHCA staff, on behalf of the Council, is developing a Request for Proposal to provide training and technical assistance to community teams whose goal is to increase Service-Enriched Housing in their local community. DSHS updates the council on rental and utility assistance, supportive housing enhancements, and assistance for local mental health authorities. TDHCA funds the housing and services partnership academies to create local partnerships to increase the supply of affordable, accessible, integrated housing for people with disabilities with a priority on those with serious mental illness who receive Supplemental Security Income. 	<p>TDHCA Terri Richard (512) 475-2953</p> <p>HHSC Rhyne Simon (512) 424-6530</p>	



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless	TDHCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in coordinating and providing statewide services and develop guidelines to monitor statewide services for all homeless individuals in this state. Maintain a central resource and information center for homeless services. Council members include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor appointees; Staff from eleven state agencies; and Advisory members from Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation, Texas Network of Youth Services, Texas Council on Family Violence, Austin Travis County Integral Care, Community Healthcore, Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County, Texas Homeless Network, Texas Education Homeless Office, and Education Service Center Region 10. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSHS provides updates on housing programs that serve persons who are homeless and have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. DSHS is exploring the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals as a grant opportunity through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in fiscal year 2015. Multiple committees meet monthly. DFPS is chair of the Homelessness Prevention Committee. HHSC, DARS, DFPS, and DADS provide updates on their respective housing programs. 	TDHCA Naomi Trejo (512) 475-3975 DSHS Anna Sonenthal (512) 206-5073



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Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care Program	DSHS	<p>The goal of the this program, led by the Texas Homeless Network, is to eliminate homelessness through encouraging planning and making funding available to the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care Region, which consists of areas not covered by other large service providers. DSHS contracts with the Texas Homeless Network to target mental health authorities as part of this initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as the collaborative applicant for the Balance of State Continuum of Care that covers 213 counties. • Build coalitions in communities with fewer resources. • Guide coalitions through Continuum of Care planning to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify available resources within the community; ○ Define needs, through a Point-in-Time survey, to quantify the number of homeless in communities; and ○ Access community needs through analysis to measure gaps in services. • Initiate project development. 		✓						✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assists providers of homeless services, including mental health authorities, to become part of the Continuum of Care and to access U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding through webinars and on-site training; ○ Offers technical assistance and training for PATH providers who assist persons who are or at imminent risk to become homeless, and have serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorder; and ○ Works closely with the Texas Council on Family Violence to engage domestic violence shelters in coordinated access projects with mental health authorities. • DSHS ensures the use of best practices, and the involvement of local mental health authorities in the planning and implementation of the most efficient homeless service system possible. 	DSHS Anna Sonenthal (512) 206-5073



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Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Support for Veterans

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
HHSC Veterans' Initiative	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead a multi-agency effort to strengthen services for veterans, including behavioral health services. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Texas Veterans App for mobile phones was developed to give Texas veterans quick access to crisis hotlines and other resources, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Veterans Crisis Line, o Hotline for Women Veterans, o Connect with Texas Veterans, o Texas Veterans Hotline, and o Texas Veterans Portal. Research is in progress at Carrick Brain Centers & the Center for Brain Health, The University of Texas at Dallas, to develop innovative ways to treat post-traumatic stress disorder. A "Strike Force" is under development for military and veteran families who are involved with DFPS, to ensure cultural competency and beneficial outcomes for these families. 	HHSC Suzanna Hupp Associate Commissioner (512) 424-6872



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Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
Mental Health Program for Veterans Tex. Health & Safety Code Sections 1001.201 et seq.*	DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a mental health intervention program for veterans, including management of the Military Veteran Peer Network and www.TexVet.org web-based information and referral services. Provide veterans' mental health grants through interagency contract with the Texas Veterans Commission's Fund for Veterans Assistance. Report annually to the Governor and the Legislature. 		✓							✓		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer-to-peer counseling, Access to mental health services, Training for peers, Technical assistance for volunteer coordinators, and Jail diversion services. DSHS contracts with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34 local mental health authorities for supervision of the peer-to-peer services, and Texas A&M University Health Science Center for the Military Veteran Peer Network and www.TexVet.org services. The Military Veteran Peer Network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides comprehensive consulting, training, justice-involved veterans services, and Became a division of the Texas Veterans Commission in fiscal year 2015. 	DSHS Ted Hughes (512) 206-5072

* The 83rd Legislature passed two bills that created these sections: one for this Mental Health Program for Veterans, and one for Mental Health First Aid Training, discussed below.



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Other Support for Adults

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Employment First Policy S.B. 1226 (83-R)	DARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support integrated and competitive employment for people with disabilities, regardless of disability or level of disability, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designing an education and outreach process to individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers, and state agencies that provide employment and other services to individuals with disabilities; ○ Providing input to appropriate policy, procedure, and rule changes; and ○ Submitting recommendations to the Legislature in September of even-numbered years. • Members of the Employment First Task Force include representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All the HHS System agencies, ○ Other state agencies, ○ Consumers, and ○ Advocates. 												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The task force meets quarterly, and agency representatives provide feedback and/or updates on actions to implement the task force’s recommendations. • Various sub-groups meet as appropriate. 	DARS Carline Geiger (512) 424-4821



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMII	Current Status	Contact
Supporting Adults with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness	HHSC	<p>The Institute of Health Care Quality and Efficiency was established by the Legislature to improve health care quality, accountability, education, and cost containment across the state. Its board members include voting members, from such entities as health care systems and insurers, and non-voting members from HHS System and other state agencies. As part of its work, the Institute has adopted the following charges relating to people with serious and persistent mental illness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a comprehensive database of services provided by HHS System agencies. • Develop analytics to describe utilization patterns, outcomes, and other metrics related to the quality and efficiency of care. • Develop recommendations to improve care. • Partners in this initiative include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Texas State of Mind (the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute), ○ The University of Texas School of Public Health, and ○ The HHSC Medicaid/CHIP Division. • More information is available at http://ihcqe.org/. 	✓	✓									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2014 Institute recommended the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pursue additional authority to increase flexibility in the services available; ○ Adopt key metrics covering physical, behavioral, and social outcomes for individuals. ○ Develop a web-based dashboard of metrics to enhance transparency and public accountability; and ○ Establish a pilot program to support continuity of care and reenrollment into Medicaid for individuals who are transitioning from local correctional health care systems. • The focus on strategic use of HHS System data has led to related recommendations by staff of the Sunset Commission. • The Institute has been recommended for elimination by the Sunset Commission. 	HHSC Jimmy Blanton (512) 380-4372	



Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Coordination with the Justice System

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCJ or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Texas Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Policy Academy	HHSC	<p>Under the Texas System of Care Initiative, HHSC provides oversight and guidance to its contractor, the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas at Austin to develop a mental health/juvenile justice policy academy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the mental health needs of youth to divert them from or serve them in the juvenile justice system. Partner with The Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, which has worked closely with DSHS and TJJD to implement the policy academy. 	✓	✓				✓						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National consultants with expertise in mental health and juvenile justice gathered with three communities, which were identified through a request-for-interest process, at a kick-off conference. Since then, three communities have targeted areas to address and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have identified community assets and gaps, Have developed a community-specific plan for enhancing services and systems, and Are implementing these strategies with supportive technical assistance. A toolkit of promising practices will be developed for a broader distribution to interested communities. 	HHSC Sherri Hammack (512) 954-8563
Jail Diversion GAA (83-R), DSHS Rider 43	DSHS	<p>The Texas Department of Public Safety's Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System allows county jail staff who is booking people into county jails to search DSHS's Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services system, to identify individuals who are being served by local mental health authority or providers of the seven-county NorthSTAR network. Where there is a match, county jail staff then contacts the providers to conduct a screening and to link individuals to mental health services provided in the community.</p>		✓									✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DSHS activities to support jail diversion are on-going. For the latest report regarding the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System data, go to https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/Legislative/Reports-2014.aspx and see the report on Rider 43 "Mentally Ill Offender Screening and Information Exchange." 	DSHS Courtney Heard (512) 206-5081



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Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TCOOMMI	TDCJ or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Texas Department of Criminal Justice Reentry Task Force Tex. Gov't Code Section 501.098	TCOOMMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify gaps in services for offenders following their release or discharge to communities in the areas of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment, Housing, Substance abuse treatment, Medical care, and Any other areas in which the offenders need special services. Coordinate with providers of existing local reentry and reintegration programs to make recommendations regarding the provision of comprehensive services to offenders following their release or discharge. Members include representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The justice system; The HHS System; Other state agencies, including the Veterans Commission; Local governments; Local law enforcement; Service providers, and Stakeholder organizations, including advocates for offenders. 	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	<p>The task force has supported the TDCJ's Reentry and Integration Division in several achievements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopting a validated risk assessment instrument, Adding 75 reentry transition coordinator positions, Expanding the Reentry Program into the community, Implementing Texas ID card ordering, Automating and enhancing processing of identification documents such as birth certificates and social security cards, and Enhancing veterans' reentry services. 	TCOOMMI April Zamora (512) 671-2134 HHSC Gina Perez (512) 206-5061	



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Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TCOOMMI	TDCJ or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Advisory Committee to the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) Tex. Health & Safety Code Chapter 614	TCOOMMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and the director of TCOOMMI on matters related to offenders with medical or mental impairments. Members include representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The justice system; The HHS System; Other state agencies; Local governments; Local law enforcement, Service providers, and Stakeholder organizations. 	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓			TCOOMMI April Zamora (512) 671-2134 HHSC Sonja Gaines Associate Commissioner (512) 487-3417



Public Awareness and Education

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Speak Your Mind Texas GAA (83-R)	DSHS	<p>The 83rd Legislature funded a behavioral health public awareness campaign. The resulting campaign targets support systems of teens and young adults and has three overarching goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build broad awareness about the problem of mental illness and substance use disorders among teen and young adults in communities across Texas. Demystify mental illness by making it familiar and educating people that it is treatable. Equip teen support systems to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand mental illnesses common among youth, Recognize warning signs of mental illness and substance use disorders, and Take action by referring teens and young adults to qualified sources for treatment. 	✓	✓					✓					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By March 2015, DSHS will have held 32 statewide Community Conversations that include panel discussions with representatives of teen and young adult support systems, and mental health professionals. The campaign websites, www.speakyourmindtexas.org and www.hablameteescucho.org, include resources to help people recognize mental illness and substance abuse, provide support, and foster recovery for teens and young adults with such issues. DSHS partners with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHSC's 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network, and TEA and the Education Service Centers. External stakeholder involvement includes opportunities for input, material review, and event involvement. 	DSHS Melissa Loe (512) 776-6085
Mental Health First Aid Training Tex. Health & Safety Code 1001.202	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide grants through DSHS to local mental health authorities to train their staff and contractors as instructors of Mental Health First Aid USATM. Implement pilot program to offer Mental Health First Aid USA TM training to HHS System employees. 	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014, HHSC has trained over 200 HHS System staff including 100 DARS staff. DFPS may train Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services caseworkers in Mental Health First Aid USATM. The Office of Mental Health Coordination will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring options for a web-based Mental Health First Aid USATM training, Reviewing training feedback, and Expanding training statewide within the HHS System. 	HHSC Sonja Gaines Associate Commissioner (512) 487-3417



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Stakeholder Contributions

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Council on Children and Families Tex. Gov't Code Sections 531.801 et seq.	HHSC	The structure of this council is similar to “children’s cabinets” of other states. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve coordination of services for all children by addressing cross-system issues regardless of special needs and/or disabilities. Give input to the Legislature on children’s services. Members include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency CEOs, while Deputy level staff are regular designees in attendance; TWC; and Family and youth representatives from the public. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council is preparing for a stakeholder council meeting to gather recommendations from other councils and initiatives. The Sunset Advisory Commission has recommended restructuring this and three other children’s advisory committees into a single advisory committee for children’s issues, to be appointed by the HHSC executive commissioner. 	HHSC Vickie Magee (512) 420-2826	
Task Force for Children with Special Needs S.B. 1824 (81-R)	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop five-year plan to improve coordination, quality, and efficiency in services for children with chronic illnesses, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and/or mental illness. Submit progress report to Legislature every two years. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A website is in development to provide one-stop for families. The task force recommended developing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A statewide network of resources using “evidence-based” Positive Behavior Support model; and Local community coordination strategies for crisis prevention and intervention. The Sunset Advisory Commission has recommended restructuring this and three other children’s advisory committees into a single advisory committee for children’s issues, to be appointed by the HHSC executive commissioner. 	HHSC Sherry Broberg (512) 420-2856	



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Cross-Agency Behavioral Health Initiatives

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCU or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Children’s Policy Council Tex. Hum. Res. Code Sections 22.035 et seq.	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend to the Legislature and state agencies improvements in service provision for long-term care, health services, and mental health services to children with disabilities. Members include at least 51 percent family representatives. Agency representatives are not members but serve as resources to the council. 	✓		✓									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report to the Legislature was published September 2014. The Sunset Advisory Commission has recommended restructuring this and three other children’s advisory committees into a single advisory committee for children’s issues, to be appointed by the HHSC executive commissioner. 	HHSC Sherry Broberg (512) 420-2856
Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders Tex. Hum. Res. Code Chapter 114	DARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide recommendations to HHSC, other state agencies, the Governor, and the Legislature on funding needs and required legislation to address contemporary issues affecting persons with autism spectrum disorders and their families. Submit a state plan and biennial reports to policy-makers. 	✓		✓		✓		✓					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DARS provides administrative support to the council. The DARS Autism Program Specialist serves as a subject matter expert. The Sunset Advisory Commission has recommended restructuring this and three other children’s advisory committees into a single advisory committee for children’s issues, to be appointed by the HHSC executive commissioner. 	DARS Joanie Cooksey (512) 424-6816
Partnership for Texas Youth—Thriving by 25	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore strategies to strengthen opportunities for young people to assume leadership roles. Collaborators include representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSHS, TEA, TJJD, University of Texas, Texas A&M University, and Other entities. 	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners are discussing a possible collaborative application to respond to a National Institute of Justice request for proposals. 	HHSC Sherri Hammack (512) 954-8563
Texas Family Voice Network	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the collective family voice to influence mental health policy and practices for children and youth through a coalition of family representatives from around the state who have accessed mental health services and supports. 	✓			✓		✓						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a new network that has developed a vision, a mission, and a logic model, and it has prioritized strategies. 	HHSC Sherri Hammack (512) 954-8563



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Texas Suicide Prevention Council	DSHS	<p>DSHS partners with Mental Health America of Texas to support this council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote best practices and policies for suicide prevention and response. Members include representatives from state agencies and local coalitions. 	✓	✓				✓						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council recently completed a comprehensive strategic plan. 	<p>DSHS Jenna Heise (512) 922-6790</p>
<p>Local Authority Network Advisory Committee</p> <p>Tex. Health & Safety Code Section 533.0351</p>	DSHS	<p>This committee advises HHSC and DSHS on technical and administrative issues that directly affect the responsibilities of local mental health authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use stakeholder input in rules and issues relating to local mental health authorities. Members include representation from eight stakeholder groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumers, Family members, Advocates, Local mental health authorities, Local governments, Private mental health providers, Community mental health providers, and Others with expertise in the field of mental health. 	✓	✓									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In fiscal year 2014, the committee has been focusing on revisions to administrative rules for provider network development and outcome measures for local mental health authorities. The Sunset Commission has recommended elimination of this committee. Vacancies are not being filled, but the group will continue to meet until the Legislature takes action. 	<p>DSHS Tamara Allen (512) 206-5007</p>	



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State Community Resource Coordination Group Tex. Gov't Code. Sec. 531.055	HHSC	This group serves children and youth with behavioral, emotional, and/or developmental needs that cannot be met by a single agency and require interagency coordination for successful intervention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote coordination of individual service planning for children, youth, and adults requiring multiple services. Support information sharing and coordination among local Community Resource Coordination Groups. Promote best practices. Provide technical assistance. Collect and submit mandated data to the Legislature. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	The group is currently working on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewing an interagency memorandum of understanding; Improving the website and the data system; Strengthening technical assistance; Conducting best-practices research; and Developing a state-level structure to address a holistic plan for children, youth, and adults needing an intensive level of interagency coordination. 	HHSC Fedora Galasso (512) 206-4658



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Other Statewide Initiatives

Initiative	Lead	Charge	HHSC	DSHS	DARS	DFPS	DADS	TJJD	TEA	TDHCA	TVC	TWC	TDCJ or TCOOMMI	Current Status	Contact
Allies Cultivating Change through Empowerment and Positive Transformation (ACCEPT)	HHSC	Through the Texas System of Care initiative, HHSC provides oversight and has contracted with the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas at Austin for support to activities of this coalition of young people. Seek opportunities to increase authentic youth voice to encourage youth to share their thoughts and concerns within systems and organizations that serve children and youth.	✓											This coalition has drafted a guide to assist youth-serving agencies and organizations to measure their level of readiness to incorporate youth voice with their system operations. The guide will be field-tested, modified as needed, and then implemented with interested agencies, organizations, councils, and other entities.	HHSC Sherri Hammack (512) 954-8563
Outpatient Competency Restoration S.B. 867 (80-R); GAA (83-R), DSHS Rider 66	DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate \$4 million in each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015 to support existing pilot programs for outpatient services to restore competency to individuals found incompetent to stand trial and determined not to be a danger to the community, for the purpose of restoring their competency to stand trial. 		✓										<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program began in 2008. There are currently twelve program sites. As of August 2013, a total of 1,061 individuals had been served. The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health conducted a study on the four original pilot programs and has prepared an evaluation report to be submitted to DSHS executive management spring 2015. The finalized report will be submitted to the legislature. Collaborators include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, and Mental Health America Texas. 	DSHS Courtney Heard (512) 206-5081



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Court-Ordered Outpatient Mental Health Services S.B. 646 (83-R)	DSHS	This bill amended statutory provisions requiring courts to identify a person responsible for providing outpatient mental health services that are ordered by the court. The amendments added legal protections for persons in these procedures, outlined services to be provided, and required DSHS to submit a report to the legislature. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and submit a report by December 2016 with information about persons receiving non-criminal, court-ordered outpatient mental health services, and the effectiveness of those services. 		✓										<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSHS and the Office of Court Administration are working together to compile the report. DSHS's Adult Mental Health Programs is working with local mental health authorities or providers to develop an effective and efficient electronic system to collect relevant data. In fiscal year 2014, the performance contracts requested contractors to begin tracking this data locally. 	DSHS Courtney Heard (512) 206-5081
Jail-Based Competency Restoration Pilot Program	DSHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a two-year pilot program for the provision of jail-based competency restoration services, in one or two counties, for people determined incompetent to stand trial. 		✓										<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A workgroup provided input on the draft rules and rights of participants in this pilot. The workgroup included advocates, providers, law enforcement, and representatives from the different parts of the justice system, including public defenders. Rules for the pilot were distributed for informal comment in October 2014. The rules will be presented to the DSHS Advisory Council in February 2015. Notification of the intended awardee was posted in October 2014. Execution of the contract is anticipated to take place in February 2015. 	DSHS Courtney Heard (512) 206-5081



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Texas Veterans Initiative	HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHSC collaborates with Texas State of Mind (The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute) to implement this initiative. • Provide an opportunity for the State of Texas, private donors, and local communities to collaborate and create enduring partnerships that share responsibility and accountability for addressing mental health needs of Texas veterans and their families. • Work toward the following goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serving Texas veterans, ○ Eliminating barriers to care, ○ Filling gaps and encouraging innovation, ○ Assisting Texas communities, ○ Facilitating local leadership, ○ Aligning policy and funding purposes, and ○ Increasing performance. <p>Award up to \$1 million in state support in a one-for-one match with local and private funds to expand and evaluate community-based mental health programs serving veterans and their families.</p>	✓										<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty-five proposals were received by the deadline in January 2015. • Grantees will be notified of awards by March 2015, and implementation of projects will begin by April 2015. • If the Texas Veterans Initiative generates widespread interest from the communities of Texas during the pilot phase, the legislature will consider expansion of the program during the 2015 legislative session. The institute will provide initial project evaluations to HHSC, the Legislature, and the Governor in January 2016. 	HHSC Sonja Gaines Associate Commissioner (512) 487-3417	



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