



School Safety and Mental Health

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Governor's School and Firearm Safety Action Plan

Some recommendations from The Governor's Plan related to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) include:

- Increase Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training
- Expand the Texas Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Network
 - Improve statewide capacity to deliver behavioral health services to populations impacted by incidents of mass violence
- Enhance school safety and ensure additional behavioral health services are available to students on campus



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Inter-agency School Safety and Mental Health Opportunities

Enhanced collaboration between agencies on school safety and mental health initiatives will allow HHSC to:

- Work with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to enhance school safety and ensure additional behavioral health services are available to students on campus
- Ensure the Texas Department of Public (DPS) staff are trained to and have the ability to make appropriate referrals
- Collaborate with DPS on the new iWatch Texas mobile app
 - Easier way for the public to report suspicious activity including school safety-related threats



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Short-term School Safety and Mental Health Opportunities

Opportunities available using existing resources include:

- MHFA training outreach to school districts and associations and parent organizations
- Quarterly meetings between HHSC and TEA to:
 - Track MHFA utilization
 - Monitor trends of MHFA uptake
 - Target areas needing technical assistance in delivering MHFA
- Re-establishing the monthly Disaster Behavioral Health Consortium and inviting TEA to participate
- Monthly calls with existing CISM teams
- H.B. 13 (85R): Expand TWITR to additional nine counties



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Long-term School Safety and Mental Health Opportunities

HHSC received an additional \$12.9 million in federal Mental Health Block Grant funds and has identified several school safety-related projects for fiscal year 2019:

- **Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC)** – Develop a modified CSC model to address rural area service gaps for individuals experiencing a first episode of psychosis with complex needs
- **Suicide Prevention Services** – Expand the availability of suicide prevention services in public schools
- **Online Mental Health Training** – Develop a web-based training on evidence-based practices and increase access for educators
- **MHFA Outreach Workers** – Establish a dedicated MHFA outreach worker at each LMHA to increase the number of educators and community members trained
- **MentalHealthTX.org** – Enhance the existing website to serve as a one-stop shop for information and resources on behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disabilities for families, caregivers, and other state agencies



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Additional School Safety and Mental Health Funding

Office of the Governor Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant

- The Office of the Governor awarded \$1.2 million to HHSC for an 18-month grant period to assist the Santa Fe community with the coordinated delivery of crisis intervention services
- Goals:
 - Mitigate service duplication
 - Provide technical assistance
 - Offer strategic planning and training
- Key Deliverables:
 - Establish a Resiliency Center for the Santa Fe community to access recovery resources such as legal assistance, behavioral health counseling, and victim services
 - Provide professional development using best practice models to enhance staff and partner collaborations
 - Provide technical assistance

Fiscal Year 2020-21 Requested Exceptional Items Related to Mental Health

Exceptional Item	Summary	Addressed Need	Biennial General Revenue	Biennial All Funds
Enhance Mental Health Capacity	Expand community-based outpatient treatment services to address growing demand	Demand for outpatient treatment services continues to surpass the supply of available services driven in part by the state's rapid population growth of 1.6 percent per year	\$54.9M	\$59.1M
Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (SBHCC): Ensure Services for Individuals Experiencing Early Psychosis	Expand CSC statewide and to other SBHCC agencies	Early intervention is vital to prevent the progression of psychosis that often leads to long-term and costly treatment	\$15.9M	\$16.0M
SBHCC: Ensure Access to Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Beds for Children	Increase the number of RTC beds for children and youth with severe emotional disturbance at risk of parental relinquishment to DFPS	Demand for RTC services exceeds the slots available, resulting in a current waiting list of 35 youth	\$2.1M	\$2.1M
Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment	Increase SUD treatment rates to maintain current service delivery levels and stabilize SUD provider base throughout Texas	In the last few years, 15 SUD providers have exited the program due to increased costs to provide treatment, low service reimbursement rates, and workforce shortages	\$45.1M	\$45.3M

