



# House Committee on County Affairs: Disaster Preparedness & Behavioral Health

---

**Sonja Gaines**

Deputy Executive Commissioner  
Intellectual and Developmental  
Disability and Behavioral Health  
Services



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**August 23, 2018**



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

# Hurricane Harvey Statistics

Statistic	Total
Physical Impact to Texas	41,500 square miles
Storm Debris Removed	12 million cubic yards
FEMA Assistance Registrations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submitted</li><li>• Approved</li></ul>	895,327 372,577
FEMA Public Assistance Grant Requests Received	1,261
Funds Distributed to Survivors	\$13.6 Billion
Funds Distributed for Housing and Other Disaster-Related Expenses	\$1.61 Billion



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Hurricane Harvey Response Activities at HHSC

---

## HHSC Behavioral Health Services

- Implemented a plan to provide daily medications to substance use disorder clients on Medication Assisted Treatment.
- Deployed 13 staff to accompany federal HHS staff on site visits in affected areas to assess and evaluate local recovery needs.
- Coordinated resource requests through the State Operations Center and State Medical Operations Center.
- Implemented Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, which is a collaboration that will strengthen relationships between LMHAs, schools, and communities and build upon infrastructure of trauma-informed approaches to disaster response and recovery.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Hurricane Harvey Recovery Support Function Activities

**Federal HHS Recovery Support Function activities are funded by FEMA and support recovery efforts and focus on community behavioral health needs.**

Project	Implemented
Peer to Peer Mentoring Education Sector Project	March 2018
Psychological First Aid Train the Trainer Projects	June 2018
First Responder Peer Support Project	June 2018
First Responder Crisis Intervention Training Project	July 2018

# Prevalence and Significance of Co-Occurring Disorders in the Criminal Justice System



According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in 2015:

- U.S. adult population on some form of criminal justice supervision is about 2.9 percent;
- Jail inmates with a mental health disorder is estimated at 17-34 percent; and
- Justice-involved individuals with a severe mental illness and a co-occurring substance use disorder is estimated at 60-87 percent.





TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Identifying Inmates with Behavioral Needs

**HHSC and the Texas Department of Public Safety Data Exchange Match Request Queries identify the following behavioral health services provided prior to incarceration:**

- Hospitalization in a state hospital,
- Admission to an HHSC-funded contracted psychiatric bed, or
- Assessment, authorization, or receipt of mental health community services by a local authority.

**Prevalence Data Fiscal Year 2018 (through June 2018)**

Match Type	Adult	Adolescent
<b>Total Match Requests</b>	<b>872,350</b>	<b>14,345</b>
<b>Exact Matches</b>	40,949 (21.3%)	555 (3.99%)
<b>Probable Matches</b>	207,974 (23.8%)	6,109 (42.59%)



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Identifying Inmates with Behavioral Needs

---

**Suicide Screenings and Medical, Mental, or Developmental Impairment Screenings are administered by county jailers upon incarceration to:**

- Triage those who may be at significant risk for suicide;
- Identify inmates who may be in distress related to symptoms of mental illness or complications from recent substance use; and
- Assist with the continuity of care of special needs offenders.

**Magistrate-Ordered Mental Illness and Intellectual Disability Collection of Information Form must document:**

- Information gathering procedures from previous or current mental illness or intellectual disability assessments and observations; and
- Any appropriate or recommended treatment services may be inclusive of previous competency examinations or competency restoration treatment.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# HHSC Services Available to Inmates

---

## Crisis Services and Continuity of Care

- Crisis Screening
- Crisis Assessment
- A recommendation about the level of care required to resolve the crisis situation
- Pre-release planning and continuity of care for inmates returning to the community who are eligible for local authority services

# Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Legislation

85R Bill	Program Name	Directive	Gaps Addressed
S.B. 292	<b>Mental Health Grant Program for Justice-Involved Individuals</b>	Establishes a statewide forensic grant program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Appropriate Behavioral Health Services</li> <li>• Services for Special Populations</li> </ul>
S.B. 1326	<b>Jail-Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) Program</b>	Allows counties to establish JBCR programs; enables HHSC to inspect county-level JBCR programs; continues the JBCR pilot program established by HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination Across State Agencies</li> <li>• Continuity of Care for Individuals Exiting County and Local Jails</li> </ul>
S.B. 1849	<b>Healthy Community Collaboratives Rural Expansion under the Sandra Bland Act</b>	Renewed directive on awarding grants in existing Healthy Community Collaboratives program to extend to rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Appropriate Behavioral Health Services</li> <li>• Access to Timely Treatment Services</li> <li>• Access to Housing</li> </ul>
H.B. 13	<b>Community Mental Health Grant Program</b>	Establishes matching grant program to support community programs providing mental health care services and treatment to individuals with mental illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Appropriate Behavioral Health Services</li> <li>• Access to Timely Treatment Services</li> </ul>





TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Mental Health in Schools: Mental Health First Aid

---

**Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an eight hour, evidence-based course, which:**

- Teaches signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use problems;
- Increases awareness of mental health and building an understanding of its impact;
- Provides an overview of common treatments; and
- Provides an action plan to follow.

**Since the initiative began in 2014, more than 48,000 individuals have received MHFA training, including:**

- 915 instructors;
- 26,661 public school employees;
- 1,036 university employees; and
- 20,179 community members.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Mental Health in Schools: Texas System of Care

---

**Texas System of Care is a way of providing mental health services and supports to children and their families based on a collaborative network of youth-serving providers.**

- In 2017, HHSC was awarded a four-year, \$11 million SAMHSA grant to expand and sustain the system of care approach.
- Any representative or agency that is part of the local system of care may refer a child to the local mental health authority (LMHA) for a mental health screening.
- Following the mental health screening, any child who meets criteria for intensive mental health services is eligible for enrollment in Wraparound Services.
- Local Governance board representatives include the local school districts, community resource coordination groups, Child Protective Services offices, juvenile probation departments, other child-serving agencies, youth, and family members.



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

# Mental Health in Schools: HHSC and TEA Partnerships

---

- The Unified Services for All Children (USAC) is a cross-agency committee that addresses the behavioral health needs of public school students.
- Project AWARE is a SAMHSA grant opportunity that promotes youth mental health awareness and access to services for students.
- Collaborative efforts relating to disaster relief to develop a Hurricane Harvey Recovery website that provides a list of mental health resources for schools.
- MHFA training for school employees and educators.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Mental Health in Schools: School Safety Collaboration

---

## **Governor's School and Firearm Safety Action Plan Recommendations to HHSC:**

- Work with TEA to enhance school safety and ensure additional behavioral health services are available to students on campus.
- Increase MHFA training.
- Collaborate with DPS to ensure staff are trained and have the ability to make appropriate referrals.
- Expand the Texas Critical Incident Stress Management Network.