



# **Presentation to the House Corrections Committee: Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Diversion**

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# Presentation Outline

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- **Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Prevalence Data**
- **Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council**
- **Mental Health and Trauma Among Women in the Criminal Justice System**
- **Other Initiatives to address Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Diversion**
- **Recommendations**



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# Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Prevalence Data

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

- Approximately 2.9 percent of the United States adult population is on some form of criminal justice supervision
- An estimated 17-34 percent of jail inmates have a mental health disorder
- An estimated 60-87 percent of justice-involved individuals who have a severe mental illness have a co-occurring substance use disorder



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# Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Prevalence Data

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## Prevalence Rates of Mental Illness in Texas County Jails

The HHSC and Texas Department of Public Safety Data Exchange shows from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017:

- 1,073,557 data match requests were originated
- 398,022 (37.1 percent) of those match requests resulted in a probable or exact match for prior:
  - Hospitalization in a state hospital;
  - Admission to an HHSC-funded contracted psychiatric bed; or
  - Assessment, authorization, or receipt of a mental health community service by a local mental health or behavioral health authority.



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# Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan Overview





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# Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

## 23 Coordinating Council agencies coordinate around 29 substance use disorder programs

- Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Office of the Governor (OOG)
- Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)
- Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
- Texas Civil Commitment Office (TCCO)
- University of Texas, Health Science Center at Houston
- University of Texas, Health Science Center at Tyler
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
- Texas Military Department (TMD)
- Health Professions Council (six member agencies) (HPC)
- Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- Texas Tech University System
- Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS)
- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)
- Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC)
- Court of Criminal Appeals (CCA)
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)



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# Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

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## HHSC collected information from council members on existing criminal justice and behavioral health programs

- An initial review of this inventory identified 26 criminal justice and behavioral health programs representing 7 of the 23 coordinating council agencies:
  - Office of the Governor
  - Texas Veterans Commission
  - HHSC
  - Court of Criminal Appeals
  - Texas Indigent Defense Commission
  - Texas Commission on Jail Standards
  - Texas Department of Criminal Justice



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# Mental Health and Trauma Among Women in the Criminal Justice System

**A 2012 national study reported on the prevalence of serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder in nearly 500 female jail inmates in the U.S.**

- 82 percent had a lifetime substance use disorder
- 53 percent had a post-traumatic stress disorder in their lifetime
- 43 percent had a serious mental illness such as depression (28 percent), bipolar disorder (15 percent), or schizophrenia (4 percent)

**Women in the criminal justice system may have a history of trauma, including:**

- Sexual assault
- Partner violence
- Attacked/robbed
- Witness to violence
- Childhood sexual abuse
- Childhood physical abuse
- Caregiver addiction
- Caregiver in jail



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# Mental Health and Trauma Among Women in the Criminal Justice System

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## Using Trauma-Informed Care to address trauma experienced by women in the criminal justice system

- Trauma-Informed Care is a system or program that is knowledgeable and sensitive to the impact of trauma in a person or family's lives and/or the vulnerabilities of survivors of traumatic events
- Services are delivered in a way that prioritizes safety and avoidance of re-traumatization of all (clients and staff)
- Fosters client voice, participation, and collaboration
- Addresses the impact of trauma exposure on one's illness and their recovery



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# Mental Health (MH) Peer Support Reentry Program

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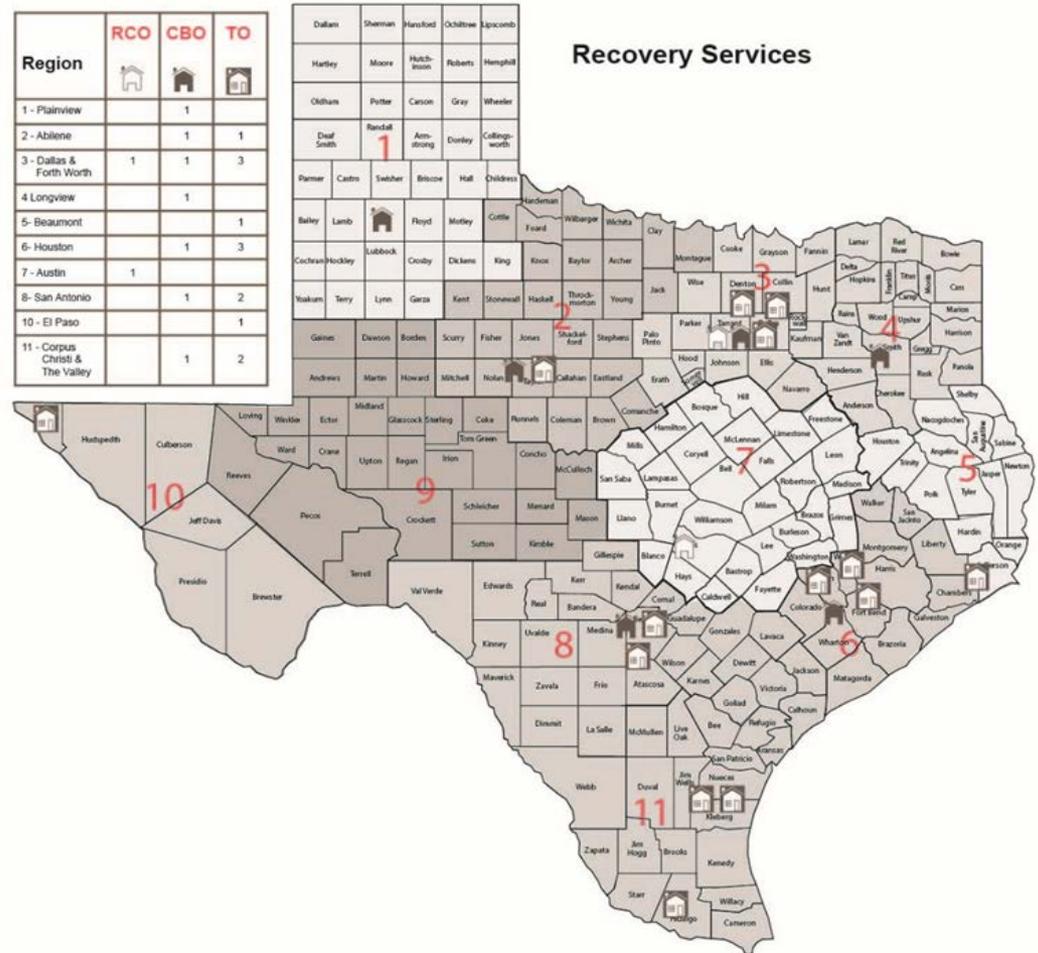
**Provides community-based peer services and access to services from licensed MH professionals which assists with transition or “re-entry” into clinically appropriate community based MH services**

- Program Components:
  - Reach-in: Innovative mental health services delivered through relationship building between certified peer specialists and incarcerated individuals in county jails before being released into the community
  - Re-entry: Post release, the certified peer specialist assists the individual with accessing clinical community services and other resources and the certified peer specialist continues to work with the individual for the duration of the program, or until the individual leaves services
- Program Outcomes:
  - Zero recidivism after entering the program
  - Zero participants with a state hospital admission post entering the program
  - 130 participants served to date



# Recovery Support Services

- **Recovery Support Services** are nonclinical services assisting individuals and families to recover from alcohol, drugs (illicit and legal), or co-occurring substance use.
- **Eligible Population:** Individuals with a history of alcohol or drug use, including co-occurring mental health disorders, who are in or seeking recovery, along with their family members, significant others, and supportive allies.
- **Three types of organizations provide these services:**
  - Community-Based Organizations (CBO)
  - Recovery Community Organizations (RCO)
  - Treatment Organizations (TO)



# Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Related Legislation

Bill	Directive	Gaps Addressed
<p><b>S.B. 292 (85R): Mental Health Grant Program for Justice-Involved Individuals</b></p>	<p>Establishes a statewide forensic grant program</p>	<p>Access to appropriate behavioral health services and services for special populations</p>
<p><b>S.B. 1326 (85R): Jail-Based Competency Restoration Program</b></p>	<p>Allows counties to establish jail-based competency restoration (JBCR) programs; enables HHSC to inspect county-level JBCR programs; continues the JBCR pilot program established by HHSC</p>	<p>Coordination across state agencies and continuity of care for individuals exiting county and local jails</p>
<p><b>S.B. 1849 (85R): Healthy Community Collaboratives Rural Expansion under the Sandra Bland Act</b></p>	<p>Renewed directive on awarding grants in existing Healthy Community Collaboratives program to extend to rural communities</p>	<p>Access to appropriate behavioral health services, access to timely treatment services, and access to housing</p>
<p><b>H.B. 13 (85R): Community Mental Health Grant Program</b></p>	<p>Establishes matching grant program to support community programs providing mental health care services and treatment to individuals with mental illness</p>	<p>Access to appropriate behavioral health services and access to timely treatment services</p>





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# Recommendations

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- Facility-based alternatives to arrest, booking, and admission to state-operated facilities
- Access to fair and affordable housing
- Substance use services
- Expansion of peer-based recovery support services
- Expand emergency services, law enforcement, and post-arrest diversion services