



Joint Presentation to the House Committees on Education and Public Health

Sonja Gaines

Deputy Executive Commissioner
Intellectual and Developmental
Disability and Behavioral Health
Services



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Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan



Identified Gaps for Children and Youth

- Access to Appropriate Behavioral Health Services
- Behavioral Health Needs of Public Schools Students
- Access to Timely Treatment Services
- Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices
- Use of Peer Services
- BHS for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- Prevention and Early Intervention Services
- Shared & Usable Data





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Children's Mental Health Services and Initiatives at HHSC

- Trauma-Informed Care and Practices
- Transition Age Youth Level of Care
- Coordinated Specialty Care
- Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Activities
- Mental Health First Aid
- Texas System of Care Initiative



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Governor's School and Firearm Safety Action Plan

The following recommendations from the Governor's Plan impact HHSC and enhance collaboration:

- Work with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to enhance school safety and ensure additional behavioral health services are available to students on campus.
- Increase Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training.
- Collaborate with the Texas Department of Public Safety to ensure staff are trained and have the ability to make appropriate referrals.
- Expand the Texas Critical Incident Stress Management Network.



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Unified Services for All Children (USAC) Interagency Committee

The USAC interagency committee led by TEA and the annual school mental health summits have strengthened collaboration over the past several years. Recommendations for further enhancement of the collaboration include:

- Strategic planning between HHSC and TEA to integrate school mental health best practices and educational priorities in school environments statewide.
- Conducting needs assessments in school districts to identify mental health needs experienced by the school community and resources requested by that community.
- Developing in-school or after school programs conducted by LMHAs and LBHAs to focus on child wellness and resilience.
- Integrating Community Resource Coordination Groups in the collaboration to address the mental health needs of students.



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HHSC Recommendations for Agency Collaboration

HHSC Partnerships with Schools

- Partner with TEA, local mental health and behavioral health authorities (LMHAs and LBHAs), and education service centers to create a trauma-informed culture across systems, agencies, and communities.
- Leverage all available systems of care to participate in collaboration to eliminate barriers and provide needed supports to enhance and improve students' quality of life.
- Partner with Texas schools and colleges to develop crisis teams consisting of staff, students, and mental health professionals trained in MHFA and crisis response.
- Expand prevention services to include substance abuse prevention and violence prevention programs in schools and homes.
- Incorporate the Strategic Prevention Framework and environmental strategies utilized in other best practices.