Mental Illness and Homelessness

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Homelessness

- 25,152 individuals were identified as homeless in the 2018 Texas point-in-time count.
  - 16.4 percent account for those self-reporting severe mental illness.
  - 11.4 percent account for those self-reporting issues with substance abuse.

Mental Illness and Housing Instability for Medicaid Clients

- 3.6 percent of Medicaid STAR+PLUS clients with a behavioral health diagnosis in calendar year 2016 identified as housing unstable.
Supportive Housing Options: Healthy Community Collaboratives Program

Background

• SB 58 (83R) and DSHS Rider 90 (83R) established the Healthy Community Collaboratives (HCC) program by allocating up to $25 million to fund grants. HCC grants:
  • Serve persons experiencing homelessness and mental illness in urban areas; and
  • Were awarded to the five most populous urban cities in counties over one million in population.

• DSHS Rider 64 (84R) allocated an additional $25 million to fund grants.

Expansion to Rural Areas

• SB 1849 (85R) and HHSC Rider 73 (85R) expanded HCC to providers in rural areas serving two or more counties, each with less than 100,000 in population.

Fiscal Year 2017 HCC Data

• Coordinated assessments across provider sites: 21,632
• Individuals enrolled in HCC programs: 19,704
• Individuals placed in permanent or affordable housing: 461
Supportive Housing Options: Projects to Assist in Transition for Homelessness

Background

- Projects to Assist in Transition for Homelessness (PATH) is a federal grant that funds outreach services to engage homeless individuals not receiving mainstream mental health services and enroll them into services at their local mental health authority (LMHA).
  - Providers include two non-profits and 14 LMHAs.
  - Texas received $4.5 million in federal funds for fiscal year 2017.

Fiscal Year 2017 PATH Data

- 15,115 individuals who are homeless were contacted.
- 6,894 individuals who are homeless enrolled in PATH services. Of these enrollees:
  - 55.3 percent were chronically homeless;
  - 52.8 percent had a co-occurring disorder of mental illness and substance use; and
  - 15.2 percent were placed in permanent housing.
Supportive Housing Options:
Supportive Housing Rental Program

Background
• Supportive Housing Rental (SHR) funds are used for short-term (up to six months) or long-term (up to one year) rental assistance based on the individual’s identified need, such as:
  ➢ Rent and utility assistance;
  ➢ Deposits;
  ➢ Move-in costs; and
  ➢ Other one-time/time-limited expenses to keep people housed or moved quickly into housing.

• $11.6 million was appropriated for the 2018-19 biennium.

Eligibility Criteria
• 18 years of age and older
• Diagnosed with a mental illness and homeless or considered at imminent risk of becoming homeless
• LMHA/LBHA assessment with need for a full level of care (i.e., levels 1-4)
Supportive Housing Options: Section 811 Project Rental Assistance

HHSC collaborates with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs on Section 811 Project Rental Assistance.

- This program provides housing units with rental assistance for low-income individuals with disabilities, including:
  - People living in institutions;
  - People with serious mental illness; and
  - Youth exiting foster care.

- Referral made by qualified referral agents who work directly with people with disabilities in need of permanent supportive housing.

- Have received approximately 1,200 referrals and housed 75 individual families.
Since 2017, HHSC has received federally funded technical assistance to support the exploration of sustainable financing of health and housing programs to improve the health of Medicaid beneficiaries and lower costs.

• HHSC partners with Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation and managed care organizations.

• Goals include:
  - Improving data collection and analysis;
  - Evaluating tenancy support services under existing Medicaid benefits;
  - Exploring additional finance models for tenancy support services; and
  - Increasing housing opportunities.
Exploring New Initiatives

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Medicaid Data Matching Project

Regional Housing Summits

- Connects stakeholders involved in housing and support services, and supports local coordination efforts.

Risk Mitigation Fund

- Mitigates barriers to accessing housing for participants in the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance program.