Mental Health and Addiction in the Texas 87th Legislative Session

Andy Keller, PhD | Wednesday, October 14, 2020
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Vision
We envision Texas to be the national leader in treating people with mental health needs.

Mission Statement
To provide independent, non-partisan, data-driven, and trusted policy and program guidance that creates systemic changes so all Texans can obtain effective, efficient behavioral health care when and where they need it.
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• Since our founding in 2013:
  - Texas behavioral health funding is up over $1.8 billion.
  - Legislators have “found” over $3 billion more.

• Two legislative sessions: 42 43 of 48 priorities passed.
We Treat the Brain Differently From the Body

THE CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Goal of Health Care: LIVING YOUR LIFE in the COMMUNITY

7,632 SUBSTANCE RELATED DEATHS in Texas in 2018

3,930 DEATHS BY SUICIDE in Texas in 2018

PHYSICAL

MENTAL

Primary Care

Specialty Care

Inpatient Care

Best Practice Anchor
e.g., UTSW Simmons Cancer Center, MD Anderson

Crisis

Law Enforcement

ER / Hospital

Jail

Fragmented Care

Specialty Care
Insufficient Network Capacity

Primary Care

Best Practice Boutique
e.g. McLean, Johns Hopkins

The best Mental Health Care is like the best Health Care

Meadows MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE
RESULTS FROM THE 86TH LEGISLATURE
Building on Our Accomplishments

• The 86th Texas Legislature appropriated over $8.2 billion (AF) for behavioral health, an estimated $616 million increase. Funding includes:
  • $120 million to support grants to local communities to expand access to mental health services,
  • $445 million for new state hospital construction,
  • $100 million to fund a new School Safety Allotment,
  • $99 million to establish the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium,
  • $59 million to address population growth and equity issues related to community mental health services, and
  • $26 million to fund 50 additional community inpatient beds.
Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium

SB 11 (Taylor) established the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (Consortium) to foster collaboration among the state’s medical schools, with a focus on Texas children.

- **SB 10 (Nelson)**, which created the Consortium, was added as an amendment to **SB 11**.
- **HB 1 (Zerwas)** provides **$49.5 million** in each fiscal year to fund initiatives assigned to the Consortium.
- The Consortium is **governed by representatives** from all state-funded medical schools, three non-profit organizations, a hospital system, Health and Human Services Commission, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
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LOOKING AHEAD: THE 87TH LEGISLATURE
Key word describing the next legislative session: uncertainty

- What are the results of the November 3rd elections?
  - How will the makeup of the Texas House and Texas Senate change?
  - Do the Democrats take control of the Texas House?

- What will COVID look like on January 12, 2021 when the 87th Legislative Session officially begins?
  - The Capitol is currently closed to the public; will there be restricted access to the Texas Capitol in January and beyond?
  - Likely to be fewer committee hearings next year and thus fewer opportunities to pass legislation.
Two certainties: There will be a new Speaker of the Texas House, and there will be a budget deficit.

• In July 2020, Comptroller Hegar revised his revenue estimate and projected a $4.58 billion shortfall for the 2020-21 biennium (previously estimated $2.89 billion surplus).

• In January 2021, Comptroller Hegar will issue a new biennial revenue estimate for FY 2022-23, providing the Texas Legislature with the maximum revenue they can use in drafting the new two-year budget.
The CARES Act and the Coronavirus Relief Fund

- The CARES Act provided $150 billion to the Department of the Treasury to establish the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF).
  - Of the $150 billion, Texas received $11.24 billion from the fund with roughly $6.18 billion reserved for the state and the remainder allocated for local governments.
- Appropriations from the state have been limited and approximately $5.5 billion remains.
Focus Areas of the 87th Legislative Session

- Budget
- COVID
- Police Reform
- Redistricting
Now, more than ever, we must protect and maintain the investments and work of the Texas Legislature and Texas communities in our mental health system.

- Leveraging the accelerated adoption of telemedicine and telehealth in practices, and HHSC authorization for reimbursing certain behavioral health services in Medicaid when delivered by telemedicine, telehealth, or telephone (audio only).
- Implementing solutions to overcome barriers to broadband deployment in underserved areas and position the state to take advantage of federal infrastructure funding.
- Positioning Texas to best leverage the federal response to COVID-19.
Continuing the Work of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC)

- Established in 2019 by the 86th Texas Legislature, TCMHCC supports four initiatives to address the mental health care needs for children and adolescents across Texas:
  - Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN)
  - Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHATT)
  - Research Program
  - Workforce Development Program