

Texas Hospitals Support Behavioral Health Policies That Ensure a Healthy Texas

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One in five Texans experience a mental health condition each year. Half a million Texas children have a serious emotional disturbance. More than two-thirds of people with a behavioral health condition get no treatment for that condition.

The consequences of untreated mental health conditions are significant—ranging from public health crises like the epidemic of drug overdoses to individual impacts like poor physical health and lost jobs.

Texas hospitals are committed to meeting the behavioral health needs of all Texans to ensure a healthy population. That means treating the whole person—mind and body. To ensure Texans’ physical and behavioral health, Texas hospitals support:



1. Health care coverage for low-income individuals with behavioral health conditions.

2. Funding and capacity for behavioral health care that is commensurate with the need for community-based and emergency inpatient services and covers the actual costs of providing care.



- Funding to increase the number of inpatient psychiatric community beds and reimbursement for those beds.
- Funding to increase the number of civil beds at state hospitals.
- Rate increases to expand substance use disorder treatment.
- Funding to support the second phase of a three-part plan to expand, renovate and transform the state hospital system.



3. Increasing access to community-based behavioral health services to help individuals manage behavioral health conditions in lower acuity care settings and reduce reliance on inpatient hospital beds.

- Increasing access to behavioral health assessment, diagnosis and early intervention services.



4. Increasing access to effective prevention, treatment interventions and recovery supports for all Texans in need of substance use services, regardless of geography, specific substances used or income.



5. Growing a robust and diverse behavioral health workforce to meet the state's growing behavioral health needs.



6. Increasing access to specialized care for individuals with intellectual or development disabilities or other neurocognitive disorders.



7. Approaches to improve health information technology in the behavioral health system, including electronic information systems that store, retrieve, share and enable the use of health data to support and streamline health care processes.



8. Ensuring all health plans that offer mental health or substance use benefits provide them at the same level as medical and surgical benefits for physical health conditions.



9. Incentivizing local collaboratives among providers of behavioral health care, local mental/behavioral health authorities, law enforcement and other stakeholders to address specific regional behavioral health concerns and build on the successes of existing behavioral health projects funded by the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment pool under Texas' Medicaid 1115 Waiver.

Additional information is available from www.tha.org/behavioralhealth.