

THA Capstone Project Brief: Access to Care

Team Members:

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Purpose:

Develop a recommendation, plan and communication strategy to increase coverage for Texans who are uninsured and face substantial limitations to accessing health care.

Statement of Need:

As the State of Texas leads the nation in the total number *and* percentage of uninsured residents, equaling a total of 4.9 Million or 29% uninsured, the need for providing access to care has never been more important. While Texas hospitals, care providers and legislators continue to push for the expansion of medicaid to support a portion of these uninsured individuals, the current lack of access to care, specifically relative to behavioral health, continues to have detrimental effects on patients and providers alike.

Considerations:

- The Medicaid 1115 Waiver will expire September 30, 2022, significantly impacting Texas Hospital funds received through the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program.
- There is a workforce shortage in the behavioral health field, negatively impacting network adequacy, especially in rural areas.
- While Medicaid expansion would provide approximately 1.4 Million uninsured Texans healthcare coverage, it is unlikely to be approved during the 2021 legislative session.

Stakeholders:

- John Hawkins, *THA Senior VP of Government Relations*
- Carrie Kroll, *THA VP of Advocacy, quality & Public Health*
- John Henderson, *TORCH CEO & President*
- Don McBeath, *TORCH Director of Government Relations*
- Dr. Nancy Dickey, *Texas A&M University*
- Stephen Strakowski, *AVP of Regional Mental Health at Dell Medical School*
- American Telehealth Association
- TexLa Telehealth Resource Center