



Hogg Foundation
for Mental Health

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

POLICY PRIORITIES

2023-2024

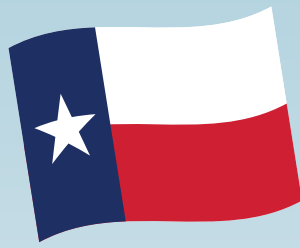


Community Mental Health & Well-Being

Equity

Access

We envision a future in which the people of Texas thrive in communities that support mental health and well-being. We believe it's possible to transform how communities promote mental health in everyday life. We support research and learning, practice and implementation, and policy initiatives to achieve this vision.



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Community Mental Health and Well-Being

All Texans should thrive in communities that support mental health, achieve health equity, and promote well-being.

Safe and Supportive Schools

Fund **designated dollars to districts** through a **School Mental Health Allotment** for supporting mental health and improving school climate.

Allow schools to **bill Medicaid for delivering behavioral health services** through the **School Health and Related Services (SHARS)** program.

Suicide Prevention

Allow the **DFPS to collect and report data** on the **number of suicide attempts and deaths by suicide** by youth in care.

Provide **school personnel** more opportunities for **suicide prevention training(s)**.

Allocate **funding** to improve **9-8-8 call response and follow-up care** after a crisis.

Substance Use

Support **harm reduction** and **overdose prevention** strategies that save lives and create opportunities for connection to services, such as an **improved “Good Samaritan” law**, **increasing access to Narcan**, and **decriminalizing fentanyl strips**.

Housing

Improve access to **quality recovery housing** through **voluntary certification**.

Ensure availability of **supportive housing** for individuals with mental health conditions **transitioning from institutions into their community**.

Support innovative efforts to create more **safe and sustainable housing** for every Texan to **promote community wellness**.

Peer Support

Prioritize the use of **lived experience** through elevating the use of **peer support specialists, recovery coaches, and certified family partners**.

Ensure **youth ages 18-21** are able to receive **peer support and recovery coach services** by certified peer specialists and certified recovery support specialists.

Establish a definition for **Community Recovery Organization** to establish and support peer-led organizations.

Allow **certified family partners** to be reimbursed through **Medicaid**.

Equity

Individuals’ mental health and well-being should be supported and protected, regardless of where they live, how much schooling they have, how much they earn, what they look like, what language they speak, who they love, or how/if they worship.

Racial Justice

Address **ongoing racial disparities** within our state systems that continue to **impact mental health and well-being** of historically excluded groups.

Address punitive **school code of conducts** that result in **classroom removals**, perpetuate a **“school-to-prison pipeline,”** and **disproportionately impact students of color**.

LGBTQIA+ Rights

Ensure LGBTQIA+ Texans receive **equal access** to mental health services, supports, and community resources in order to **promote mental health and well-being**.

Rural Communities

Ensure all **rural communities** have access to **necessary public resources including broadband**.

Mental Health & Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

Increase the **workforce capacity** of professionals who can provide **adequate mental health and substance use services** to individuals with IDD

Ensure adequate **funding to trauma-informed and comprehensive systems of care** for individuals with IDD

Increase funding to address **long-standing Medicaid community-based waiver waitlists**.

Comprehensive Community Support for System-Involved Youth

Bolster a **full continuum of mental health supports** aimed to **divert youth** from the **juvenile justice system**.

Support youth and family mental health and substance use needs to **prevent unnecessary involvement in the child welfare system**, while addressing the trauma youth and families have undergone within the system.

Support the ongoing efforts of the **Residential Treatment Centers (RTC) Diversion Program** while addressing youth needs once they return home.

Access

Every Texan should have equitable access to mental health and substance use supports and services, from prevention to intervention to recovery, that are appropriate, affordable, and available when needed.

Workforce

Increase the number of mental health and substance use providers **across the workforce spectrum** with an emphasis on **diverse professionals** to meet the needs of **historically underserved groups**.

Increase funding for the **Loan Repayment Program for Mental Health Professionals**, allow professionals working in the **public mental health system** access to the program regardless of facility location.

Implement the **Behavioral Health Workgroup’s** recommendations to **recruit, retain, and incentivize** mental health and substance use professionals.

Support efforts to **remove barriers** to people entering the mental health and substance use field, including **paid internships, paid clinical supervision, and paid licensing fees**.

Maternal & Postpartum Care

Support the mental health and well-being of new moms by **extending Medicaid coverage to 12 months post birth or end of pregnancy**.

Medicaid Reimbursement Rates

Increase rates of **Medicaid-reimbursements** for mental health and substance use service to **incentivize providers** to participate in the program.

Allow for payment parity of mental health professionals providing counseling in Medicaid, allow master’s level professionals to bill for the counseling benefit.

Mental Health and Substance Use Parity

Ensure **children have equal protections** for health coverage of their mental health by including a **definition of “serious emotional disturbance” in the Texas Insurance Code**.

Continue our state’s work on **achieving mental health and substance use parity** through the Mental Health Condition and Substance Use Disorder Parity Work Group’s 2021 report recommendations.





What We Do

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health provides education and technical assistance to legislators, their staff, state agencies, and more. This assistance includes mental health and substance use focused:

- Policy and bill analysis
- Evidence-based research and information on related topics
- Subject matter expertise

Online Resources

- A Guide to Mental Health Systems and Services: *details on mental health and substance use funding mechanisms, state agency operations, and more!*
- Policy Briefs
- One Pagers

For more information about us or to discuss how we can support you or your work, please contact our Policy Team:



Alison Mohr Boleware, LMSW

Director of Policy
Alison.boleware@austin.utexas.edu
Cell: 432-425-2061
Office: 512-471-2988



Shannon Hoffman, MSW, MPAff, LCDC

Policy Program Officer
Shannon.hoffman@austin.utexas.edu
Cell: 940-393-2453
Office: 512-471-7627



Angela Ott, LMSW

Policy Fellow
Angela.ott@austin.utexas.edu
Cell: 713-829-2633
Office: 512-471-9150



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