



Presentation to the House Committee on County Affairs

Lauren Lacefield Lewis, Assistant Commissioner
for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

September 15, 2015

Population and Need: Incarceration and Mental Health

- As of August 1, 2015, approximately 66,625 individuals were in Texas county jails.
- An estimated 30% of inmates have one or more serious mental illnesses.
- This equates to nearly 20,000 people in Texas county jails with serious mental illnesses.

Population and Need: Individuals Arrested with Mental Illness

- In FY 2015, over 70,000 people with a previous mental health encounter were arrested.
- Approximately 66% of individuals arrested who have had a previous mental health encounter were receiving DSHS-funded ongoing services.
- Of those receiving ongoing services, approximately 72% are only receiving medication management and/or skills training.

Population and Need: Cost Comparison

Cost per Client in the Criminal Justice System vs. Community Mental Health Services

Population or Program	Cost per Day per Client	Estimated Cost per Month per Client	Estimated Cost per Year per Client
Prison (system-wide)	\$54.89	\$1,674	\$20,035
Jails (county)	\$60.01	\$1,830	\$21,904
LBB Costs for LMHAs	\$13.52	\$412	\$4,946

The Current Mental Health System

- During incarceration, services provided are the responsibility of the jail, which generally utilizes contracted providers or services provided by the jail's medical staff. Sometimes Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) are the contracted psychiatric providers.
 - During a mental health crisis, some jails request that LMHAs conduct a mental health crisis screening.
 - Although these screenings are not specifically required by DSHS rule or contract, some LMHAs have established an agreement with jails to perform crisis assessments.
 - Contracts do require that LMHAs have a jail diversion plan.
 - At discharge, jails are asked to notify the LMHA 24 hours before release, so the LMHA can schedule a face-to-face contact within seven days.

Data Exchange and Coordination

- The Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) is a data exchange system that supports continuity of care for individuals with a mental illness who become involved in the criminal justice system.
- When a person is booked into a county jail, they are entered into TLETS. Persons with a history of interaction with an LMHA or state hospitals are identified.
 - This provides information to mental health providers in the jail.
 - Jails can reach out to LMHAs to divert to community care, when possible, or assess the need for inpatient care.

Jail Diversion 10% Withhold Measure

- Through Rider 78, the 83rd Legislature directed DSHS to withhold 10% of the GR quarterly allocation from each LMHA for use as a performance-based incentive payment
 - Similar language included in HB 1(84R), Rider 58
 - Jail diversion is one of 14 of the 10% withhold measures
 - All LMHAs have hit their jail diversion target (Q1 FY 14 – Q2 FY 15)

Moving the System Forward: Major Initiatives Related to Jail Diversion

- Crisis and Inpatient Beds
- Outpatient Competency Restoration Programs
- Harris County Jail Diversion Program
- Home and Community-Based Services (1915i)
- Mental Health Peer Supported Re-Entry
- Increased Access to Mental Health Services
- Jail Based Competency Restoration

Moving the System Forward: Telemedicine

West Texas Centers – provides mental health services across a 23 county area.

- West Texas Centers have utilized telemedicine/telehealth services for psychiatric evaluations, crisis assessments, mental health assessments, and medication management services to individuals booked in county jails
- Eliminated waiting lists for those individuals in county jails in need of psychiatric assessment
- Increased access to psychiatric care
- Expanded the provision of mental health services in county jails