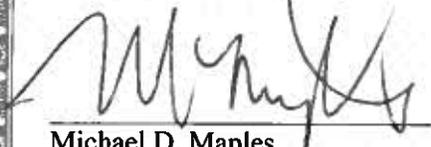
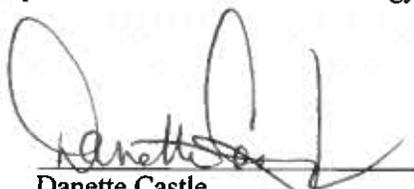


Principles for Improving Mental Health Care in Texas Through Technology

1. Health information exchange across a “network of networks” that includes locally-controlled and state-managed information systems facilitates coordination of care, improves administrative processes, and simplifies program oversight activities.
2. CMBHS is intended to serve as a component within the state vision for health information exchange. CMBHS is intended to provide a single system for DSHS behavioral health contractors to provide and receive data about clients who receive, or have received, DSHS-sponsored behavioral health services. CMBHS is a key resource to support continuity of care across organizations including, but not limited to, DSHS-contracted providers, state hospitals, private health entities, and other state and local agencies.
3. Partners in the CMBHS-supported behavioral health information exchange network, including DSHS and the Local Mental Health Authorities, will utilize national data standards where practical and collaborate on establishing and adopting best practices to facilitate health information exchange.
4. DSHS will consider service providers’ and LMHA’s resources, including staffing, technology, and funding, when developing and implementing technology services. There is a shared and joint responsibility to pursue resources from multiple sources and efficiently manage them to advance the use of health information exchange.
5. LMHAs are not required to utilize CMBHS as their Electronic Medical Record (EMR) for managing mental health clients. LMHAs will interface with CMBHS for reporting, data access, and certain care coordination purposes.
6. Automated information exchange across Mental Health and Substance Abuse (MHSA) contracted care providers will minimize duplicative administrative activities. The development and rollout of technology improvements is dependent on program goals and requirements, available funding, data standards, and providers’ technological resources.
7. Any new functionality added to CMBHS should follow a collaboratively-developed change management process. The description of functionality will include a justification for the functional change, information about the effect on client care, and applicable fiscal analysis. The timeframe for functionality change should provide adequate time for relevant technology and business process changes.



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