



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

KIRK COLE
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
1-888-963-7111
TTY: 1-800-735-2989
www.dshs.state.tx.us

Broadcast Msg# 206

August 12, 2015

TO: Executive Directors, Local Mental Health Authorities
Executive Director, Texas Council of Community Centers
Chief Executive Officer, ValueOptions of Texas, Inc.
Chief Executive Officer, North Texas Behavioral Health Authority

FROM: Trina K. Ita, Director 
Mary Sowder, Director 
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program Services Section

SUBJECT: Implementation of Senate Bill 1507, Section 1001.008: Operating a single, toll-free hotline

Background

During the 84th Legislature, Senate Bill (SB) 1507 passed and became law. SB 1507, Section 1001.008 directs the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to “ensure that each local mental health authority and local behavioral health authority operates a toll-free telephone hotline that enables a person to call a **single hotline number** to obtain information from the authority about mental health services substance abuse services, or both.” The effective date for this Legislation is September 1, 2015.

Impact

Assessing the impact of this Legislation will be an ongoing process. DSHS is committed to collaborating with the LMHAs and LBHAs to provide support and ensure that providers are able to meet the expectations of the bill. DSHS encourages providers to monitor their local call volume and the types of calls received to assess any impact to their center.

Technical Assistance

In order to answer questions and provide guidance regarding the operationalization of this Legislation, DSHS will facilitate a webinar on August 17, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST).

Instructions to access the webinar and view presentation:

1. Go to the following link:
<https://www-na2.globalmeet.com/w/pub/ctl?mode=frm&hcid=1156021&loc=en-US&ts=1439224136466>
2. Sign in as a Guest

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3. Enter your phone number and a pop-up will appear to connect audio, choose the 'Call my Phone' option, or you may use the dial-in information provided below.
**Please note, Flash version 11.0 or higher is required*

Instructions to access the webinar audio via telephone:

1. Dial 1-877-820-7831
2. Enter participant code: 754196

DSHS Contacts

Please direct questions related to this broadcast message to:

Adult Mental Health Program Services: Jan Morong at 512.206.5276 or by email at jan.morong@dshs.state.tx.us.

Substance Abuse Program Services: Kevin Klauber at 512.206.5982 or by email at kevin.klauber@dshs.state.tx.us