

# HIV Continuity of Care Program

Minority AIDS Initiative

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments  
(TCOOMMI)

# Staff

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# Program Overview

- The purpose of the program is to ensure appropriate discharge planning and post-release continuity of care for all offenders diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.
- The first contract with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) began in April 2011.
- Through the MAI grant, TDCJ assists in expediting the Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP) process through submitting the application prior to release. TDCJ also assists with linking offenders to care through the scheduling of post-release medical and AIDS Service Organization (ASO) appointments. Primary services include:
  - Assistance completing the THMP Application
  - Scheduled appointments with clinic and/or ASO
  - Post-release follow up for 90 days

# Referral Process

- Referrals are received approximately 90 days prior to estimated release.
  - Referrals are generated through a weekly automated IT report in addition to other sources, such as unit staff and the TCOOMMI Continuity of Care program.
- Each referral is entered into the program database and assigned to a pre-release Human Service Specialist for case management.
- A Medical Certification Form is obtained for each offender to confirm the most current lab results.

# Pre-Release Case Management

- Offenders meet with the pre-release Human Service Specialist approximately 1 month prior to release. During that interview they:
  - Complete the THMP Application if the offender is on medication
  - Determine an appropriate clinic and ASO based on release location and/or preference
  - Obtain signed release of information forms for clinic and ASO
  - Provide Health Education/Risk Reduction (HE/RR) to encourage medication adherence and stress the importance of attending medical and ASO appointments

# Pre-Release Case Management

- After meeting with the offender, the Human Service Specialist:
  - Faxes completed THMP Application and Medical Certification Form to DSHS
  - Schedules clinic and ASO appointments upon confirmation of scheduled release date and prepares appointment sheets
  - Faxes the THMP Application, Medical Certification Form, and signed release of information statement to the clinic and ASO

# Pre-Release Case Management

- Approximately 1 week prior to release the Human Service Specialist meets with the offender to):
  - Confirm there are no changes to be made to the THMP Application
  - Provide the date and time of scheduled clinic and ASO appointments
  - Reinforce instructions to call the THMP as soon as possible to complete the process
  - Encourage attending appointments and provide a reminder that they are only given a 30 day supply of medication
  - Provide the offender with a copy of all paperwork, including THMP Application, Medical Certification form, and appointment sheets.

Note: Offenders releasing from the Huntsville Unit are met on the day of release.

# Post-Release Case Management

- Upon release, the case is transferred to the Post-Release Human Service Specialist for case management:
  - The offender is contacted within 2 to 3 days of release to confirm that they have called the THMP and are aware of their scheduled appointments.
  - The Human Service Specialist continues to contact the offender every month for 90 days to provide assistance with the THMP or appointments as necessary.
  - If contact is not able to be made, every available avenue is pursued, to include contacting parole officers, family members, and sending letters.
  - The Human Service Specialist also contacts the clinics and ASOs to verify the appointments were attended.