

Behavioral Health Advisory Committee Recommendations

“The following recommendations were prepared by members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. The opinions and suggestions expressed in these recommendations are the members’ own and do not reflect the views of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission Executive Council or the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.”

The Behavioral Health Advisory Committee recommends the following:

- HHSC provide special focus on notifying people with lived experience of mental health issues as they roll out their efforts to reach Medicaid recipients. Include language on the Medicaid website that will minimize adverse reactions/fear response. Make sure all communication is trauma informed in a way to avoid eliciting a traumatic stress response.
- HHSC work collaboratively with organizations that have initiatives to reach people on Medicaid, especially those who work with people with lived experience of mental health issues and support them by providing up-to-date and accurate information as the initiative moves forward. Example organizations include, but not limited to:
 - ▶ Every Texan
 - ▶ Texas Council of Community Centers
 - ▶ Hogg Foundation
 - ▶ Prosumers International
 - ▶ Texans Care for Children
 - ▶ Sick of It Texas
 - ▶ Clubhouses
 - ▶ Recovery Community Organizations
 - ▶ Consumer Operated Services Programs
- HHSC encourages LMHAs and LBHAs to have a point person responsible for educating staff about this to get the word out to everyone that is served. Have point person be included in information disseminated to collaborating organizations.

- HHSC put specific language on Medicaid website about mental health (ex: "If you are on Medicaid because of mental health know that this includes you.")
- Have all the material that is produced by HHSC about the unwinding of Medicaid include a QR code that directs people to up to date information.
- Having information disseminated in different formats to accommodate various learning styles.

By having a focus on the challenges faced by people with lived experience of mental health issues and acknowledging that they face special challenges when applying for benefits, this population can receive the information they need to maintain their benefits and their recovery.

This will also provide an opportunity for a wider reach with accurate and timely information to the people affected by the "Unwinding of Medicaid".