Presentation to House Defense and Veterans’ Affairs Committee

Dr. Courtney Harvey
Associate Commissioner
Office of Mental Health Coordination

Michelle Erwin
Deputy Associate Commissioner, Policy
Medicaid and CHIP Division

July 20, 2022
Office of Mental Health Coordination

Mission
Collaborate with stakeholders to improve policies, programs, and systems to achieve positive behavioral health outcomes for all people in Texas.

Vision
Cultivate multi-system collaborations to improve the behavioral health system in Texas.

Framework
Aligned with the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan.
Office of Mental Health Coordination

Areas of Operation

- Stakeholder Engagement & Strategic Planning
- Policy, Systems Coordination, and Programming
- Veterans Mental Health Coordination and Programs
- Statewide Opioid Response Coordination
Veterans Mental Health Coordination and Programs

• Mental Health Program for Veterans
• Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program
• Long-Term Action Plan to Prevent Veterans Suicides
Program Summary

Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 1001.222, and Texas Government Code, Sections 434.352 and 434.401 direct the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Veterans Commission to jointly administer this program and provide:

- Peer-to-peer counseling
- Access to licensed mental health professionals
- Training to peers and providers, including suicide prevention training
- Training to community and faith-based organizations
- Jail diversion service coordination
- Mental Health First Aid specifically designed for veterans
Mental Health Program for Veterans

In Fiscal Year 2021:

• 78,675 peer services delivered
• 1,732 peer service coordinators and volunteer peers trained
• 12,127 interactions with justice-involved veterans
• 833 clinical mental health sessions with a veteran counselor
• 247 service members, veterans, and family members trained in the veterans’ module of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA).
Texas Government Code, Section 531.0992, requires HHSC to administer a mental health grant program that:

- Provides mental health care services and treatment to veterans and their families
- Coordinates mental health care services for veterans and their families with other transition support services

2020-2021 biennium: 31,141 people served
Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant

Services include:

• Interventions such as cognitive behavioral therapy
• Individual, group, family, and couples peer support services
• Suicide prevention services
• Treatment of substance use disorders
• Individual and family counseling
• Navigation services such as case management and referral services
House Bill 1802 (87R)

Directs HHSC to collaborate with Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) to conduct a study on the efficacy of alternative therapies to treat veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

- Study includes:
  - Clinical trial on efficacy of psilocybin for treatment-resistant PTSD in veterans
  - Literature review on accessibility, safety and efficacy of MDMA, psilocybin, and ketamine to treat PTSD
- HHSC and BCM are finalizing the contract to fund the study
- Report on study results due to Legislature by December 1, 2024
Federal law generally prohibits use of federal financial participation (FFP) for payment of services delivered to individuals ages 21-64 who are patients in an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD).

Rider 34: “HHSC shall prepare and submit an application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval of a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver in order to receive FFP for services furnished to Medicaid-eligible individuals during short-term stays for acute care in psychiatric hospitals or residential treatment settings that qualify as institutions of mental disease. HHSC shall only prepare and submit the application if HHSC determines it would result in a net savings to the state.”