

JCAFS 2022 Recommendations to Enhance the Effective and Efficient Allocation of State-Funded Hospital Beds

Recommendations from the JCAFS are as follows:

1. Increase access to treatment in the community. Allow LMHAs/LBHAs more flexibility to provide evidence-based services, including psychotherapy for broader diagnostic groups. Provide more training for clinicians to provide evidence-based psychotherapy for high acuity patients. Reassess state budget funding to address additional direct care positions. Increase the range of supportive and residential housing options. Explore expanded and tailored housing options. Allow access to short-term acute community beds for jail use.
2. Increase access to private psychiatric bed (PPB) funding to address the increased volume of high need individuals who are unable to access state mental health facilities.
3. Utilize best practices for jail-diversion such as pre-arrest diversion (mental health deputies, co-response models) programs, including the use of peers for co-response. Expand availability of Outpatient Competency Restoration (OCR) and Jail-Based Competency Restoration (JBCR). Expand peer support, clubhouses, and respite services for adults and youth, including peer respite services.
4. Increase access to long-term inpatient and long-term supportive housing options in the community for people who have chronic mental illnesses refractory to treatment.
5. Increase access to step-down facilities for individuals who need care for longer than 7 days.
6. Develop proposals for long-term residential facilities. Study outcome of current LMHA programs that are conducting pilot programs for transitional/step-down supportive housing. Scale-up transitional LMHA programs that are working. Work with the Texas Council of Community Centers to develop proposals for the creation of long-term housing options.
7. Provide stakeholders with a cost-benefit analysis of creating long-term permanent supportive housing options. Educate the community regarding the positive impact that long-term supportive housing options would have on the lives of individuals living with chronic mental illness and on the lives of their family members, as well as members of society as a whole.

8. Provide transition planning for individuals who have had long-term hospital stays; LMHA and state hospital staff should work to ensure that these patients receive ongoing assistance with accessing the full array of services that they need.

DRAFT