



Senate Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention & Community Safety

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Response



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Behavioral Health: Prevention and Early Intervention

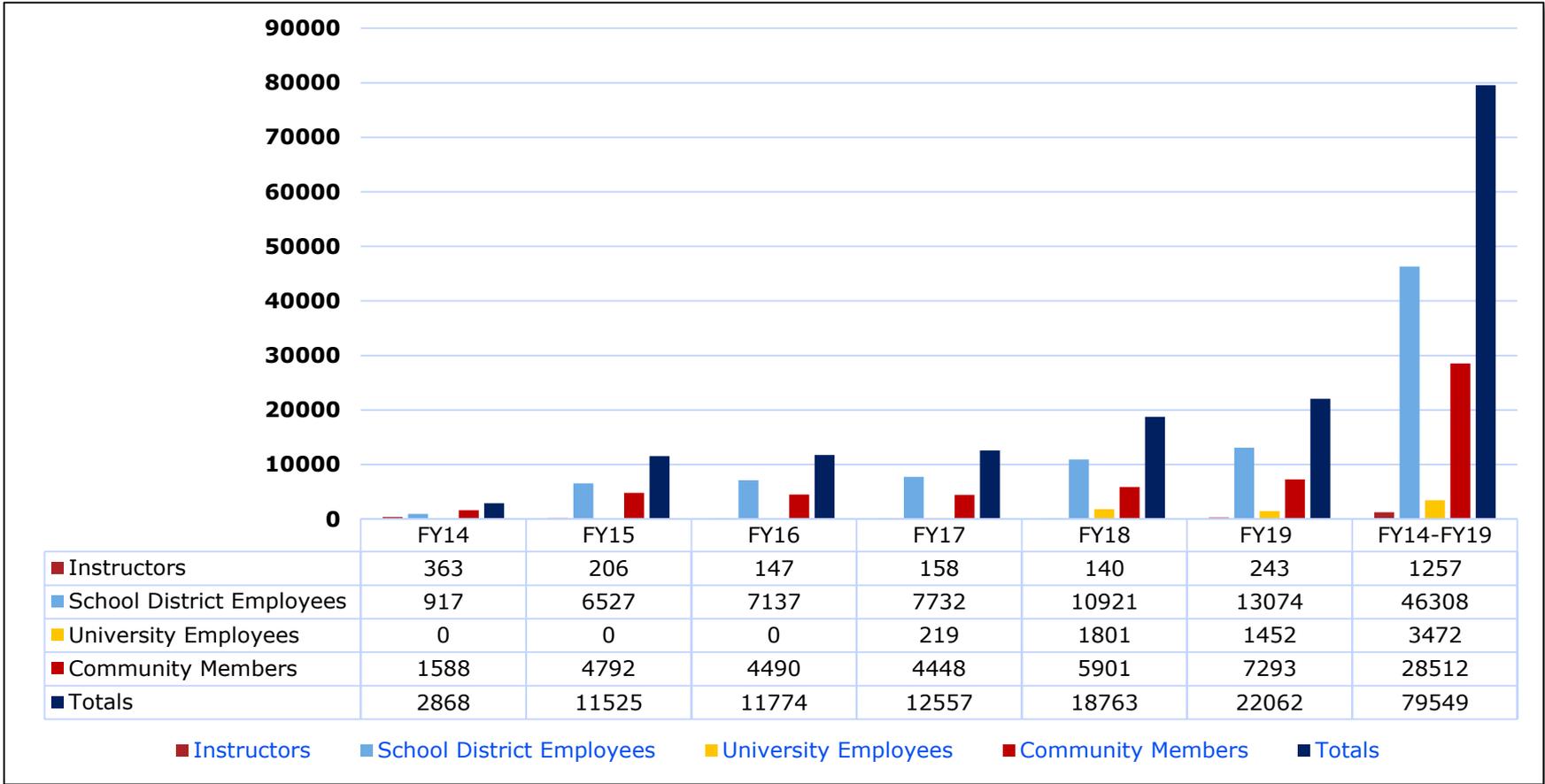
Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) provide training in the community

- Mental Health First Aid
- Law enforcement training

Crisis Services

- Crisis services - available 24/7 and include prompt face-to-face crisis assessment, crisis intervention, and crisis follow-up and relapse prevention
- Crisis Hotline – available statewide 24/7
- Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams – team of two or more staff providing psychiatric emergency care in the community during a crisis
- LMHAs may have other crisis services available, including Mental Health Deputies, Crisis Facilities (respite, residential, extended observation, crisis stabilization), and inpatient psychiatric beds

Mental Health First Aid Numbers Trained



Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan



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Behavioral Health Matching Grant Programs

- **Community Mental Health Grant Program** (H.B. 13, 85R, 2017) Supports community mental health programs providing services and treatment for individuals experiencing mental illness and unmet behavioral health needs
- **Mental Health Grant Program for Justice-Involved Individuals** (S.B. 292, 85R, 2017) Diversion programs: reduces recidivism rates, arrests, and incarceration among people with mental illness
- **Texas Veteran and Family Grant** (S.B. 55, 84R, 2015) Addresses needs of veterans and their families
- **Healthy Community Collaborative Grants** (S.B. 58, 83R, 2013 and S.B. 1849, 85R, 2017) Promotes coordination and collaboration among LMHAs/Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs), municipalities, local law enforcement agencies, and other community stakeholders



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HHSC's Role in Disaster Response

- Within the state's Incident Command structure, HHSC is responsible for all hazards, disaster behavioral health planning, response, and recovery efforts
 - This is in support of local, regional, and state level offices of emergency management
- As the State Mental Health Authority, HHSC is the qualifying entity for federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) emergency response grants and Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) crisis counselling grants



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Behavioral Health Disaster Team

- Currently, HHSC has six General Revenue-funded and five grant-funded state Disaster Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) staff available to address the mental health impacts of emergencies on survivors and first responders
- **Types of responses:** Mass shootings, chemical spills, terrorist attacks, and natural disasters
 - DBHS staff have responded to at least nine disasters since 2017
- **Training:** Lead by national expert team members trained in Psychological First Aid, Trauma-Informed Care, Incident Command Structure, and Health and Recovery
- **Role:** Interventions that are incident specific:
 - Coordinate with local, state, and federal partners
 - Track activities and fiscal impact
 - Conduct victim needs assessments



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Available Resources

Total of 39 LMHAs

- Key in recovery efforts and provide immediate, on-the-ground behavioral health support
- 24/7 call centers for victims and members of the community
- Counseling, debriefing, referral, consultation, and relief support

Critical Incident Stress Management Teams (CISM)

- Statewide teams that provide on-the-ground support to first responders
- Provides debriefing and counseling support to return first responders faster and healthier



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DBHS Response Efforts

El Paso and Midland-Odessa

- Staff deployed to areas within 24-48 hours
- Coordinated with state and local leadership, emergency response units, and law enforcement on response efforts
- Provided Technical Assistance to local school districts and coordinated with the Texas Education Agency
- Provided Psychological First Aid to emergency responders
- Coordinated with LMHAs
- Coordinated with deployable CISM Teams
- Coordinated with federal partners including SAMHSA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Facilitated behavioral health stakeholder meetings regarding Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants and response coordination

Crisis Resource Information

Crisis Resources:

El Paso Shooting Aftermath

The tragic incident of mass violence in El Paso has affected that community and the entire country. It is common for all involved to experience emotional distress, including increased anxiety or depression-like symptoms.



Where Can I Get Help?

Crisis Hotline at Emergence Health Network in El Paso

Call 915-779-1800 or toll-free at 877-562-6467 to speak to live support 24/7.

Emergence Health Network

is offering community sessions. Topics and support conducted by licensed clinicians include anxiety, grief and loss, depression, trauma, vicarious trauma and PTSD.

El Paso Strong Counseling Co-op

provides in-person counseling and support. Visit EmergenceHealthNetwork.org to find a clinic time that works for you.

- Daily sessions are being offered at the following locations:
 - **East Valley Clinic**
2400 Trawood Drive, Suite 301, El Paso, TX 79936
 - **CHAMPS**
8500 Boeing Drive, El Paso, TX 79925
 - **El Paso Psychiatric Center**
4615 Alameda Ave., El Paso, TX 79905
 - **University Medical Center – West**
6600 N. Desert Blvd., El Paso, TX 79912
 - **Atlantis Health Services**
6028 Surety Drive, El Paso, TX 79905
- Saturday sessions are offered 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at all locations except the Trawood office.

Online Mental Health, Disaster and Violence Resources

MentalHealthTX.org

offers general information about mental health signs, symptoms and interventions, Texas mental health resources and emergency contact information.

Coping with Grief After Community

Violence introduces some of the signs of grief and anger after a community violence incident, provides useful information about to how to cope with grief, and offers tips for helping children deal with grief.

Incidents of Mass Violence

provides a list of signs of emotional distress signs related to incidents of mass violence, details of lockdown notices and other warnings, and additional coping resources.

The Impact of Disaster and Mass Violence Events on Mental Health

provides common reactions disaster survivors may experience.





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Behavioral Health Challenges

- Individuals with serious and persistent mental illness who are connected with services are less likely to be incarcerated and/or admitted into inpatient services
- Individuals who go untreated are more likely to have adverse outcomes that impact other systems
- Early identification and prevention is key: We know that less than 2 percent of the population served in our outpatient services require inpatient treatment



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Opportunities for Additional Study

- Explore the state's behavioral health infrastructure and response to disasters
 - Planning for and responding to criminal incidents is different than for natural disasters
 - Response activities to criminal events can last longer than natural disasters, causing a greater need for relief supports
- Enhance local behavioral health infrastructure and their ability to respond to disasters, including additional capacity and training challenges, as well as performing their day-to-day job activities
 - Locally trained and responsive mental health resources with the ability to partner to provide immediate relief to a community are critical