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# **Office of Forensic Coordination: Initiatives to Address Justice Involvement for People with Mental and Substance Use Disorders**

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# Agenda



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- System Challenges
- State and Local Solutions
- Office of Forensic Coordination
- State and Local Planning
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Future Directions

# System Challenges

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- Approximately 40 percent of people booked in Texas county jails have accessed services through a local mental health authority (LMHA) or local behavioral health authority (LBHA) in the past three years.
- Referrals for inpatient competency restoration services at a state hospital increased 38 percent over past 20 years.
- Geography presents service delivery challenges: 268,597 square miles, 70 percent rural, 254 counties and county governments.
- Forensic waiting list exceeds capacity of state hospitals.



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# State and Local Solutions

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- Statewide strategic planning
- Behavioral health and justice planning support to counties
- Statewide initiatives
- Technical assistance to counties and professionals



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# Office of Forensic Coordination

**Mission:** Improve forensic service coordination and prevent and reduce justice-involvement for people with mental illness (MI) and substance use disorders (SUD) through statewide and cross-agency initiatives that improve coordination and collaboration among state and local leaders.

**State and Local Planning**

**Policy and Staffing to the Joint Committee on Access and Forensic Services**

**Training and Technical Assistance**

**Research and Data Analysis**

**Engagement, Education, and Coordination**



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# State and Local Planning



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## Objective:

Advance strategic planning at state and local level to improve forensic service coordination and reduce and prevent justice-involvement for individuals with MI and SUD

## Key Initiatives:

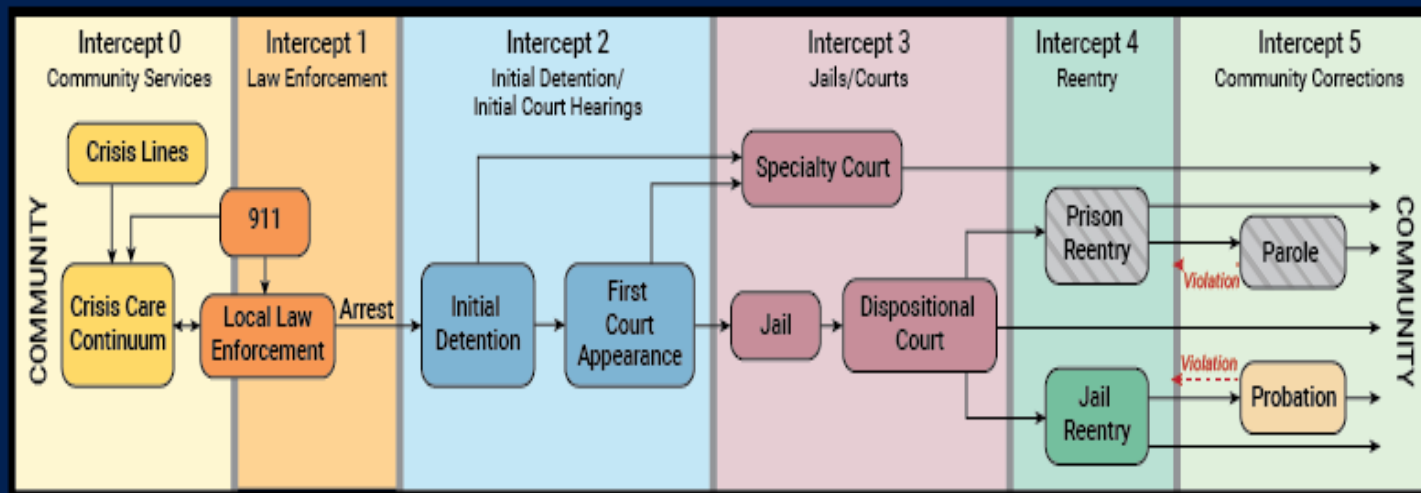
Statewide Behavioral Health (BH) Strategic Plan

Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshops

Eliminate the Wait Statewide Initiative



# Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Initiative

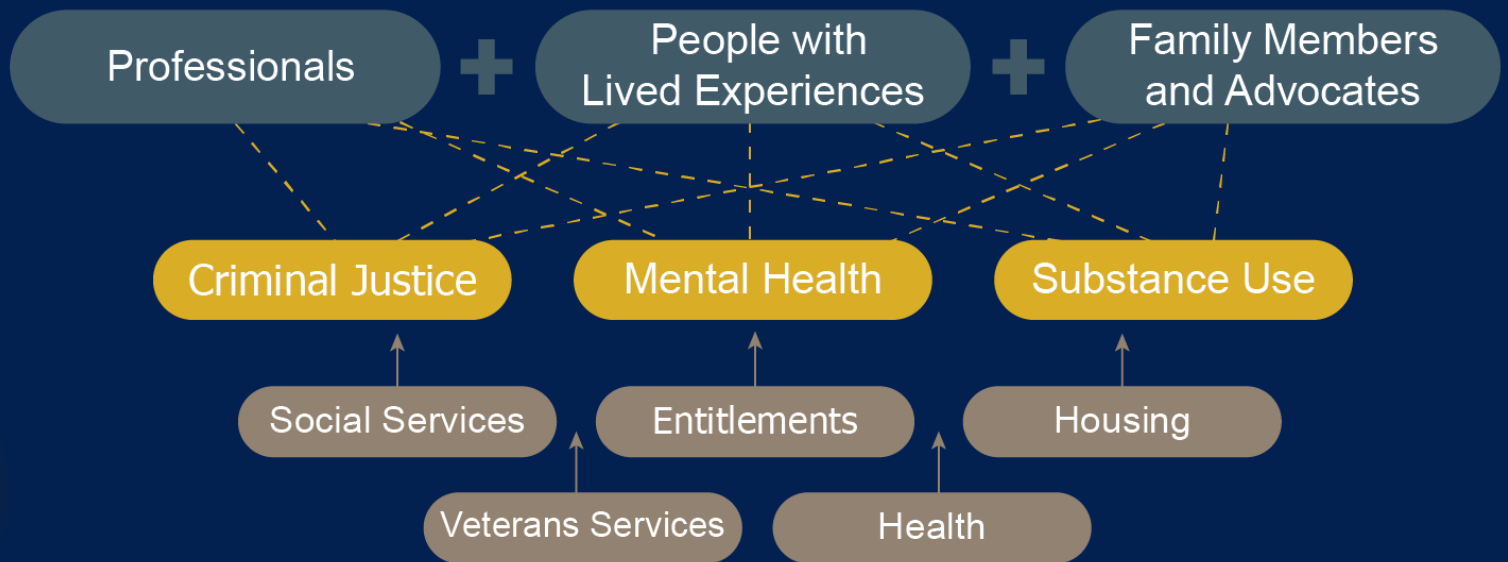


Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)



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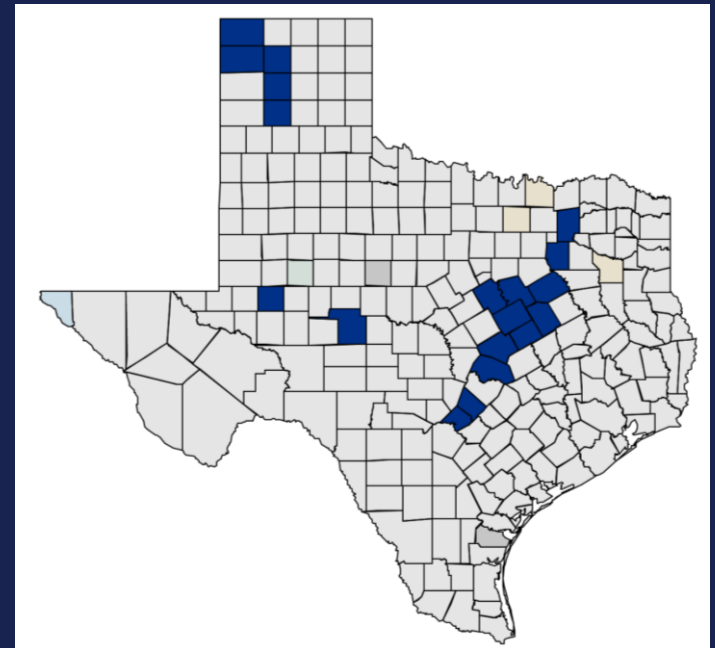
# SIM Mapping Workshops



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# HHSC SIM Mapped Communities To Date

1. Bell
2. Williamson
3. Navarro
4. Hunt
5. McLennan Regional (Bosque, Limestone, Falls, Hill)
6. Midland
7. Tom Green
8. Hays
9. Comal
10. Potter and Randall
11. Kaufman
12. Dallam, Hartley and Moore



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# Top Priorities Across Communities

- Expand crisis options through the development of diversion centers
- Establish or strengthen local behavioral health leadership teams
- Increase data collection and information sharing across the SIM
- Enhance training on MI, SUD, and IDD for justice system stakeholders
- Expand housing options for people who are justice involved
- Enhance jail-based services, re-entry planning, and continuity of care



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# 2022 SIM Mappings - Early Outcomes

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- County funding secured. Federal American Rescue Plan funds allocated to support SIM priorities:

- ▶ Diversion centers
- ▶ Mental Health Officers



- Opportunities identified to leverage existing resources to expand local crisis continuums:

- ▶ Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams
- ▶ Low barrier-drop off options



- New community partnerships developed and additional education and training provided to support SIM priorities



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# SIM 2023 Outlook

- Continue to support counties mapped in 2022
  - ▶ SIM Community of Practice launched on March 31, 2023
  - ▶ Provide on-demand technical assistance
- Evaluate impact of SIM Mapping
  - ▶ Continue 6-month and 12-month follow up assessments
  - ▶ Partner with University of Texas, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health to conduct an evaluation of the SIM Initiative
- Support strategic planning in counties across Texas
  - ▶ Launch HHSC's Youth SIM Mapping Initiative
  - ▶ Continue to conduct Adult SIM Workshops



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# Eliminate the Wait



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A statewide campaign  
to *Eliminate the Wait* for  
Inpatient Competency  
Restoration Services.

## Partners:



Texas Council  
of Community Centers



Investigates WATCH LIVE NEWS COVID-19 WEATHER & TRAFFIC INVESTIGATIONS SPORTS STUDIO 51

### INVESTIGATIONS

**Jail waitlist for mental health help hits new record. This plan proposes a statewide fix.**



THEIR “ELIMINATE THE WAIT”  
INITIATIVE FOCUSES ON  
TREATMENT DIVERSION TRAINING  
TO RELIEVE A BACKLOGGED  
STATE HOSPITAL SYSTEM.





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# Eliminate the Wait Toolkit

**“What’s My Role” checklists  
for:**

- LMHAs
- LBHAs
- Treatment providers
- Police
- Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
- Courts
- Prosecutors
- Defense Attorneys

## ELIMINATE the WAIT

The Texas Toolkit  
for Rightsizing  
Competency Restoration Services

October 2021



# Central Texas Regional Forum



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**ELIMINATE  
THE WAIT**  
**CENTRAL  
TEXAS  
REGIONAL  
FORUM**

**When**

Dec. 1, 2022  
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Where**

Austin

22005790 - HHSOC HHS - Sept. 2022



# Training and Technical Assistance



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## Objective:

Lead initiatives that advance innovative state-local collaborations and provide training, education, and support to behavioral health and justice system stakeholders

## Key Initiatives:

Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance (TA) Center

# Texas Behavioral Health and Justice TA Center

**Purpose:** Establish a centralized source of support and information for people who interact with justice-involved people with MH,-SUD and IDD.

**Target Audience:** LMHAs, local and county law enforcement, jail administrators, courts, and other community leaders.

**Launched:** April 2023

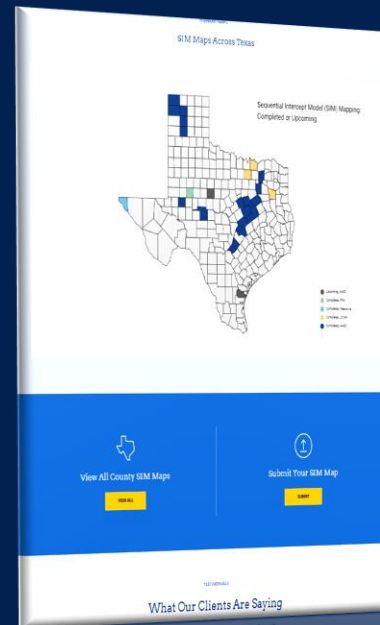


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# Website Overview



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txbhjustice.org

HOW CAN WE HELP?

### Request Technical Assistance

NAME *	ORGANIZATION *
TITLE/ROLE	EMAIL *
PHONE *	PRIMARY COUNTY *

**SERVICE AREA**  
What area of Behavioral Health or Justice system are you seeking technical assistance for?

- ☐ Crisis Services
- ☐ Substance Use Services
- ☐ Veterans Services
- ☐ Peer-Support Services
- ☐ Housing Services
- ☐ Law Enforcement and First Response
- ☐ Court/Court Administration
- ☐ Competency Restoration Services
- ☐ Jail/Jail-based Services
- ☐ Data Collection/Information Sharing

**REQUEST TYPE**  
Please check all that apply

- ☐ Request a Resource
- ☐ Peer-to-Peer Connection
- ☐ Expert Consultation
- ☐ Tailored Training
- ☐ Learn more about a training, webinar or learning collaborative
- ☐ Other

# Future Directions

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- Engage additional stakeholders at state and local level
- Diffuse technical assistance
- Build new initiatives



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# Thank you

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