

All Texas Access Report

**As Required by
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**Texas Health and Human Services
December 2023**



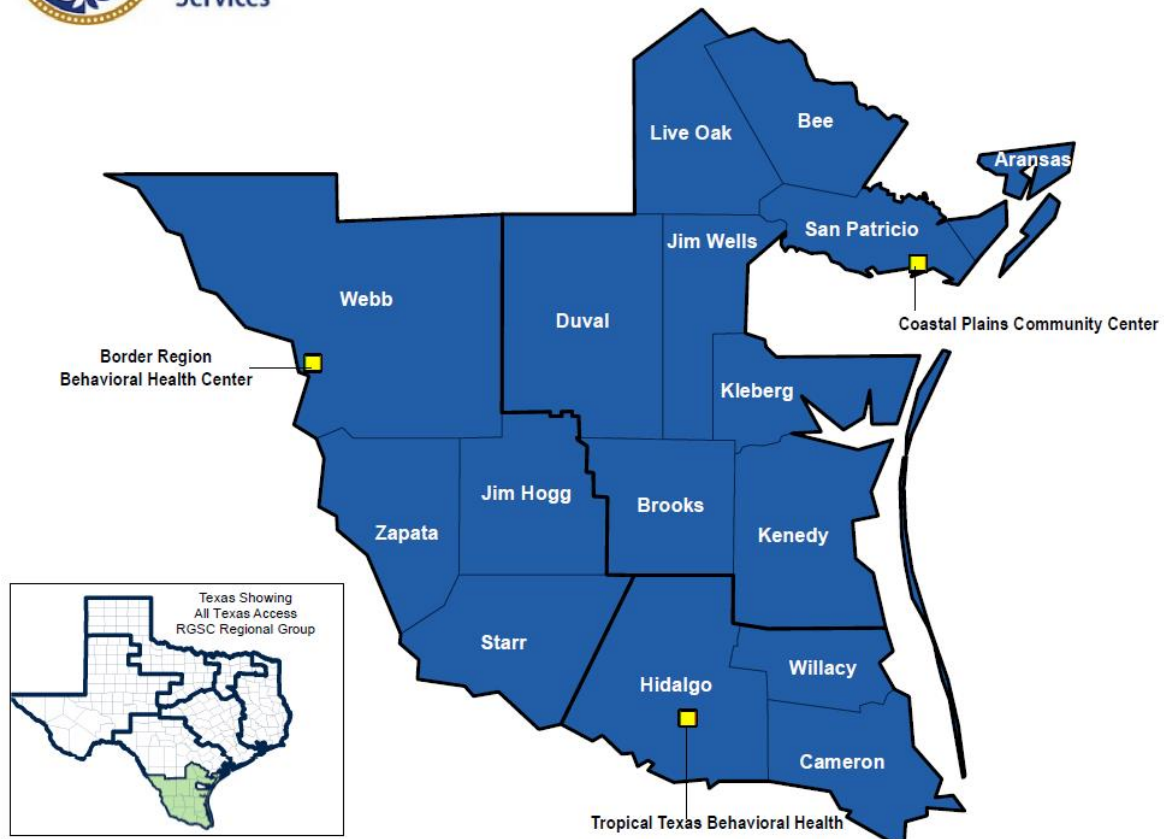
TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

All Texas Access RGSC Regional Group

Figure 34. Map of All Texas Access Rio Grand State Center (RGSC) Regional Group^{xxix}



All Texas Access RGSC Regional Group



Participating LMHAs

- Border Region Behavioral Health Center
- Coastal Plains Community Center
- Tropical Texas Behavioral Health

All Texas Access RGSC Regional Group Plan

Jail Diversion and Community Integration

Border Region Behavioral Health Center: Rural Crisis Response and Diversion – Co-Responder

Border Region Behavioral Health Center is providing 24/7 access to crisis services through a co-responder model in both Webb and Starr counties. People receive crisis intervention services from the co-responder team composed of a law enforcement officer and a mental health crisis worker. The co-responder team provides an assessment in the community and crisis services to the person on-site, diverting people into mental health services more quickly. From February 2022 through February 2023, Border Region Behavioral Health Center reported 3,069 diversions through their co-responder program.

In addition, Border Region Behavioral Health Center held a crisis training for the Laredo Police Department that included a licensed therapist and live testimonies from an individual and a family who had both a positive and a negative encounter with a police officer. The crisis training included a peer specialist who spoke about living with a mental illness and suicidal ideation and provided some education regarding the work of a peer support specialist. Following the training and its success, the LMHA received crisis training requests from other law enforcement entities as well as other counties.

Coastal Plains Community Center: Mobile Crisis Outreach Team Expansion

Coastal Plains Community Center has fully implemented their expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT), but has experienced periodic staffing shortages. The MCOT teams have improved access to care for those in crisis as well as reduced intake wait times in some of the LMHA's clinics by over 50 percent. MCOT is also providing follow-up for people discharged from psychiatric facilities, which has improved overall wellness. From February 2022 through February 2023, the Coastal Plains Community Center MCOT team served 263 people.

Coastal Plains Community Center is using a drop-in center to provide crisis screenings and intakes for people in the Jim Wells County jail. Access to care has improved through this process, and on average 19 crisis assessments and 11

screenings occur quarterly in the jail. Recently hired jail diversion staff will be housed at the drop-in center three days per week to assist with crisis screenings, assessments, and hospital discharge follow-ups. From February 2022 through February 2023, Coastal Plains Community Center diverted 49 people from being incarcerated.

Tropical Texas Behavioral Health Center: Co-Responder and Law Enforcement Training

Tropical Texas Behavioral Health (TTBH) integrates its crisis services with other local crisis response systems, including police departments and hospital emergency rooms. TTBH's Mental Health Officer Team officers are co-located in the LMHA's clinics and are dispatched with MCOT to respond to psychiatric emergencies in the community.

TTBH has been awarded three grants through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). A fourth application is in process. The first grant funded a co-responder program with the Pharr Police Department. Fully implemented as of October 1, 2021, this program provided approximately 600 services from February 2022 through February 2023. Services included screening, assessment, brief intensive intervention, and crisis follow-up. In collaboration with the Harlingen and Brownsville Police Departments, TTBH was awarded two BJA grants for co-responder initiatives. These two projects began October 1, 2022, and are in the planning phase.

TTBH is partnering with the Mission Police Department on a Justice and Collaboration grant through the BJA. Together, TTBH and Mission Police Department respond to mental health crisis incidents and provide follow-up for people who need continued engagement.

Timely Access

TTBH acquired property for a 15-bed substance use treatment facility. The licensed facility received its first admission in July 2023. In addition, Tropical Texas has started Multisystemic Therapy services for youth at high risk for involvement with the criminal justice system.

Coastal Plains Community Center is focused on getting a clinic in Aransas Pass licensed to provide substance use services in fiscal year 2024.

Strategic Collaborations with Community Partners

All three LMHAs are working with local law enforcement to identify and address challenges in their communities. Border Region Behavioral Health Center is networking with other T-CCBHC organizations to collaborate and educate on each agency's services. The Mental Health Transportation team continues to identify barriers and work together to find solutions and alternatives to better serve the community. Coastal Plains Community Center holds quarterly meetings to facilitate community building and discussion around solutions to local challenges.

To support access to mental health and wellness, TTBH has established partnerships and collaborations with local foundations, courts and judges, law enforcement, military organizations, public and private hospitals, schools, and advocacy organizations. In addition, TTBH has increased trainings.

Operate Casa Amistad

Border Region Behavioral Health Center has been able to provide services through Casa Amistad, a 16-bed crisis stabilization unit in Laredo (Webb County) that transitioned from HHSC to Border Region in fiscal year 2021 and served 707 people from February 2022 through February 2023. Casa Amistad functions as a much-needed step-up for people who need short-term psychiatric stabilization or a step-down for those transitioning from a psychiatric hospital. A contract executed in September 1, 2022, expands eligibility to those people going through a mental health crisis.

Peer Services

Border Region Behavioral Health Center has established Veteran Peer Specialist and Veteran Peer Coordinator positions to assist any veteran that is going through a crisis. Additionally, a peer provider has been hired for Coordinated Specialty Care in the First Episode Psychosis Program.

Coastal Plains Community Center chose to hold off on establishing peer clubhouses as they are in the process of hiring peers to support people receiving services.

TTBH continues to seek opportunities to expand peer services in veteran, mental health, and substance use programs, as well as mental health services for people involved in the criminal justice system. They offer family partner services for youth and families. These positions continue to be staffed and hold a low turnover rate.

TTBH has also increased enrollment at drop-in centers by providing transportation, which had been identified as a barrier in the past.

Establish Telepsychiatry Services for Jails

People incarcerated in this region often experience significant barriers to maintaining mental health treatment at a time when their mental health symptoms may be exacerbated. At the time of incarceration, Medicaid and prescription benefits are lost, which may impact or change the medications people receive as the local jail formulary may not include medications which have previously been proven effective for the person.

Border Region Behavioral Health is providing telepsychiatry for the jail population in Webb County. From February 2022 through February 2023, 187 people were served. Coastal Plains Community Center is using secure meeting software and laptops at county jails to provide telepsychiatry.

TTBH is currently using telepsychiatry in the Hidalgo County Jail. The LMHA clinician is meeting with people who are incarcerated and have been referred by the jail diversion team for medication evaluations. Approximately 65 unduplicated individuals were provided with a psychiatric diagnosis and medication review by the Tropical Texas provider from February 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023.

Texas Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics & Integrated Health Care

The All Texas Access RGSC Regional Group continues to integrate behavioral and physical health care. During the pandemic, this integration helped people get access to needed care at the right time and place.

For Border Region Behavioral Health, T-CCBHC certification has offered integration of behavioral and primary care services and improved clients' quality of life through chronic disease management, wellness visits, health screenings, nutritional services, and education. The LMHA works with contract providers to provide physical health services to clients in all counties they serve. In-house primary care services are provided in Webb County by two Family Nurse Practitioners and an overseeing physician who provides clinical consultation, audit, and visits with patients as needed. These patients are screened and referred by the treatment team alignment with their diagnosis and condition. Based on information received from clinics, there are additional screenings and health services offered such as

nutrition; screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT); or tobacco screening.

T-CCBHC has increased collaboration and eased scheduling. For example appointments for both medical and behavioral health services can be scheduled on the same day. This change in scheduling and service delivery has increased consistency with treatment and improved care coordination. The initiative has also decreased use of emergency room referrals, assisted in reducing the financial burden of medical treatment, and eased the process of finding a provider. By establishing outpatient primary care services, clients have gained access to low or no-cost medical visits with a nurse practitioner, laboratory testing, medication education, and a better quality of life.

Coastal Plains Community Center has developed relationships with community partners who provide referrals to our program. Virtual healthcare allowed improved access to integrated care as well since our area has limited transportation agencies. The LMHA is contracting with FQHCs to provide primary care in their clinics. Substance use training was provided to the Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (LCDC) on staff to increase the variety of services they can provide. Coastal Plains Community Center purchased an acre of land adjacent to their Alice Clinic and plans to build an addiction center in 2024 to better support the high need for substance use services in this area.

TTBH continues to increase access to integrated care by maintaining its T-CCBHC certification. This comprehensive process entails developing Care Coordination agreements with school districts, substance use facilities, and additional community partners. The T-CCBHC certification standards ensure that needs are identified, appropriate referrals are made, and that the Center closes the loop on referrals. TTBH has implemented a new electronic health record system, allowing for staff to document and work off the same chart. The newly implemented electronic health record system facilitates communication between the different departments to ensure client needs are being met.

TTBH recognizes the prevalence of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in the community, and by following up on screenings, services, and activities across programs they can track progress and scores related personal health and medical risk. TTBH has observed an increase in the number of people receiving services through primary care and an increase in referrals to SUD services.

Estimates: Number of Inpatient and Outpatient Beds

Each rural-serving LMHA or LBHA in the regional group submitted information about the outpatient and inpatient beds currently available to them and projected changes over the next two years. LMHAs and LBHAs also reported how many beds they need to adequately serve their community. Refer to the [All Texas Access Implementation](#) section of the report for additional explanation of the chart below.

Figure 35. All Texas Access RGSC Regional Group Bed Capacity

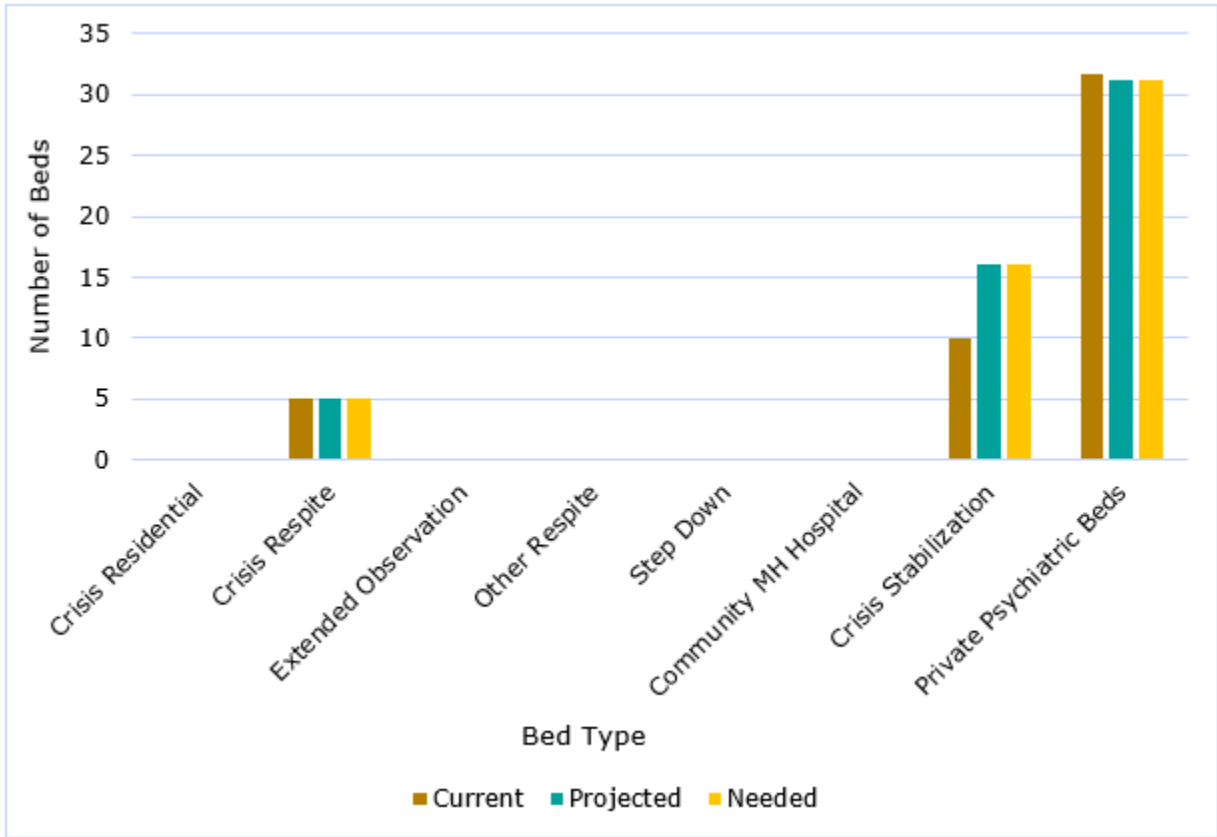


Table 28. All Texas Access RGSC Regional Group Bed Capacity

	Current Number of Beds	Number of Beds Projected in Two Years	Number of Beds Needed in Two Years
Crisis Residential	0	0	0
Crisis Respite	5	5	5
Extended Observation	0	0	0
Other Respite	0	0	0

	Current Number of Beds	Number of Beds Projected in Two Years	Number of Beds Needed in Two Years
Step Down	0	0	0
Community MH Hospital	0	0	0
Crisis Stabilization	10	16	16
Private Psychiatric Beds	31.7	31.2	31.2