



Presentation to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs

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Health and Human
Services

Office of Veteran Services Coordination (OVSC)



Mission:

Enable HHSC to improve health outcomes for service members* through information, services, coordination, and expert consultation.



*Section 161.552 of Texas Health and Safety Code



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OVSC Internal Coordination

Work across Health and Human Services to:

- Enhance focus on service members in all areas of agency strategic planning;
- Aid with alignment of policy and practice; and
- Increase awareness of and access to services for service members.



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OVSC External Coordination

OVSC works with state and federal partners to identify unmet needs and methods to shore up these gaps.

Partners include:

- State Agencies;
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs;
- U.S. Department of Defense;
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and
- Administration for Community Living.

Veterans Mental Health Services Department



- The Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program
- The Mental Health Program for Veterans (MHPV)



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Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program

Program Summary

Texas Government Code 531.0992, requires HHSC to administer a mental health matching grant program which supports community programs that:

- Provide mental health care services and treatment to veterans and their families; and
- Coordinate mental health care services for veterans and their families with other transition support services.



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Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program

Services include:

- Evidence-based therapies and treatment;
- Individual, group, family, or couples peer support services;
- Individual and family counseling;
- Treatment of substance use disorders;
- Suicide prevention initiatives; and
- Navigation services, such as case management and referrals.



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Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program

Program Performance

- Since inception:
 - Awarded over \$86 million in state funds to support a total of 75 projects across the state; and
 - Over 70,000 veterans and family members served.



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Mental Health Program for Veterans

Program Summary

Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 1001.222, and Texas Government Code, Sections 434.352 and 434.401 direct 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; and
- Mental Health First Aid specifically designed for veterans.



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Mental Health Program for Veterans

Program design:

The MHPV has two primary components:

- Peer Service Coordinators (PSCs) who have lived experience as members of the SMVF community and are knowledgeable about mental health services and supports; and
- Rural Veterans Counselors (RVCs) who are Licensed Mental Health Professionals who provide mental health services in selected rural areas.



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Mental Health Program for Veterans

Program Performance

Over the last 7 years:

- PSCs have served approximately 40,000 service members and veterans and 8,000 veteran family members, per fiscal year.
- RVCs have delivered 886 clinical services to service members and veterans and 354 family members, per fiscal year.