

Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries, Inc. (ACAM)
 Association for Family and Community Integrity, Inc.
 Behavioral Health Alliance of Texas
 Bering Omega Community Services
 Care for Elders
 Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.
 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
 CHILDREN AT RISK
 Children's Defense Fund
 Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris Co., Inc.
 Coalition of Behavioral Health Services
 Collaborative for Children
 Communities In Schools
 Community Family Centers
 Community Health Choice, Inc.
 Covenant House of Texas
 DePelchin Children's Center
 Depression & BiPolar Support Alliance Greater Houston (DBSA)
 Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc.
 Family Services of Greater Houston
 Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, Inc.
 Good Neighbor Healthcare Center
 Greater Houston Healthconnect
 Harris County Healthcare Alliance
 Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston
 Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children
 Houston Area Community Services
 Houston Area Women's Center
 Houston Food Bank
 Houston Methodist Hospital
 IntraCare Behavioral Health
 Jewish Family Service
 League of Women Voters Houston
 Legacy Community Health, Services Inc.
 Lesbian Health Initiative
 March of Dimes
 Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)
 Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
 Mental Health America of Greater Houston
 NAMI Greater Houston
 National Association of Social Workers-Houston
 Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
 New Hope Housing, Inc.
 Northwest Assistance Ministries
 Phoenix Houses of Texas, Inc.
 Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast
 Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
 Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.
 SEARCH Homeless Services
 Spaulding for Children
 Spring Branch Community Health Center
 Springfield College School of Human Services
 St. Joseph House
 Texas Children's Hospital
 Texas Health Institute
 Texas Hunger Initiative
 The Arc of Greater Houston
 The Council on Alcohol & Drugs Houston
 The Immunization Partnership
 The Living Bank
 The Network of Behavioral Health Providers
 The Rose
 The Walk for Mental Health Awareness-Houston
 The Women's Home
 United Way of Greater Houston
 Vita-Living, Inc.
 Wesley Community Center
 Worklife Institute
 YMCA of Greater Houston

One Voice Texas

A Collaborative for Health & Human Services



Behavioral Health

Permanent Supportive Housing for Individuals with Behavioral Health Needs

Position Statement Approved by One Voice Texas: December 10, 2014

Issue/Concern:

Many individuals living with mental health and/or substance use disorders have difficulty meeting their basic needs, including finding, accessing, and keeping safe and affordable housing. For many, the key to maintaining stable housing is receiving appropriate supportive services, such as case management, medical care, and peer recovery support services. Permanent supportive housing provides housing as well as appropriate, wrap-around/support services to individuals living with behavioral health disorders, allowing them the opportunity to achieve stability and recovery while become contributing members of their communities.

As Texas continues to work to improve its public behavioral healthcare system to improve outcomes and lower its reliance on its crisis driven system, it is vitally important that state leaders take into account the importance of permanent supportive housing as an effective intervention for improving the health outcomes of this population while keeping them in their communities and out of more expensive, publicly-funded crisis care such as state hospitals, emergency rooms, and jails/prisons.

Specific Policy Recommendations:

- Continuation of the Texas Medicaid 1115 Transformation and Quality Improvement Waiver;
- Continuation of state funding for grants administered by the Texas Department of State Health Services for the establishment and expansion of community collaboratives to provide services to persons experiencing homelessness and mental illness;
- Continuation of state funding for the Harris County Mental Health Jail Diversion Pilot Program and other local jail diversion programs that target justice-involved individuals living with behavioral health disorders;
- Support for initiatives that increase access to home and community-based services for persons with behavioral health disorders who are most at risk of institutionalization or re-institutionalization;
- Support for initiatives designed to help individuals foster recovery and function as independently as possible in their communities, including peer recovery support services and models; and
- Support for statewide initiatives that fund, create, and expand the availability of permanent supportive housing, which includes critical supportive services, for individuals living with behavioral health disorders.

What Can Be Accomplished?

Individuals living with behavioral health disorders cannot be expected to comply with and be successful in their treatment if their basic need for safe, accessible, and affordable housing goes unmet. Not following treatment recommendations, as well as not having a stable home, many times results in increased rates of recidivism, hospitalization, incarceration, and homelessness. Permanent supportive housing can help ensure better outcomes for individuals living with behavioral health disorders while decreasing their reliance on more expensive and publicly funded services such as EMS/police, emergency rooms, jails, and prisons.

Investments in community-based treatment services that help keep individuals with behavioral health disorders stably housed will decrease this population's reliance on publicly funded safety net systems.

Supporting Facts/Research Resources:

- ✓ Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. *Housing for People with Serious Mental Illness*. Available at: <http://www.hogg.utexas.edu/uploads/documents/Housing%20Brief.pdf>

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