

Hays County Roadmap

Community stakeholders can consider the following next steps to reduce justice involvement for people with mental illness (MI), substance use disorders (SUD), and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). For more information and resources review the Hays County SIM Report.

Invest in Strategic Priorities Support Local Planning, Partnership and Education Build Upon Existing Efforts

1. **Expand crisis options through the development of a diversion center.**
2. **Develop strategies to address frequent utilizers and pilot a new Assertive Community Treatment program.**
3. **Explore the development of a Behavioral Health Office to coordinate county services.**
4. **Increase information and data sharing across the SIM.**
5. **Enhance 911 and law enforcement response to behavioral health crises.**

1. Coordinate
 - Strengthen behavioral health and justice partnerships through regular convening of a leadership team.
 - Establish subcommittees dedicated to implementing the action plans developed during the SIM Workshop.
2. Partner
 - Identify opportunities to strengthen relationships with new stakeholders (e.g. housing partners, IDD services, jail mental health providers).
 - Learn from other similar sized counties implementing best practice models.
3. Train
 - Train stakeholder groups on identifying, responding and effectively treating people with MI, SUD, and IDD.

- Build on alternatives to inpatient competency restoration explored through HHSC's Jail in-Reach Learning Collaborative.**
- Leverage recommendations from the SIM Mapping Workshop and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute MH Assessment to increase available MH services in the jail.**
- Explore the opportunity to expand Hays treatment courts to serve individuals pretrial.**
- Expand specialized probation caseloads to serve more individuals with BH needs.**

Hays County Gaps, Opportunities and Best Practices

Intercepts 0&1

Community Services, Crisis Services & Law Enforcement

Selected Gaps:

- Mental health (MH) training for 911 dispatch and law enforcement
- Alternatives for diversion from emergency rooms and jail
- Information sharing across stakeholder groups
- Substance use disorder (SUD) treatment options
- Housing options for justice involved individuals

Opportunities:

- Develop a uniform data collection and reporting strategy across stakeholders
- Explore developing a MH crisis diversion center
- Conduct housing assessment to identify community needs
- Provide MH training to 911 dispatchers and law enforcement
- Expand contract capacity for SUD treatment

Intercepts 2&3

Initial Detention, Jails, & Courts

Selected Gaps:

- Wait times for MH assessments and psychiatric referrals
- Wait times for inpatient competency restoration services
- Use of alternatives to inpatient competency restoration
- Pretrial diversion programs
- Ability to flag MH related incidents in jail

Opportunities:

- Increase MH service capacity in jail
- Educate courts on alternatives to competency restoration and waitlist management best practices
- Establish specialized pretrial MH caseloads
- Increase data collection and sharing between MH and criminal justice entities

Intercepts 4&5

Reentry & Community Corrections

Selected Gaps:

- Capacity on specialized probation and parole caseloads
- Case-management and reentry planning in jail prior to a release
- Wait times to access community mental health services upon reentry
- Limited affordable housing for people with criminal records

Opportunities:

- Provide adult probation officers with additional MH training
- Utilize peers to support community reentry programs
- Embed mental health providers in the jail to support care coordination
- Develop a jail-based referral system for improved access to community services

Best Practices at Each Intercept

Intercept 0 & 1

MH training for LE and 911 dispatch

Police coding of MH Calls

Police referrals to treatment

MH and SUD diversion centers

Intercept 2 & 3

Consistent screening for MI, SUD and IDD

Pretrial Supervision and Diversion Programs

Active forensic waitlist monitoring

Jail-based SUD and MH services

Intercept 4 & 5

Robust reentry planning (psych medications, benefits coordination, peer-support)

Specialized MI, IDD and SUD caseloads

Jail in-Reach transition planning