

Kaufman 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 Kaufman County SIM Report.

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

1. **Develop a county behavioral health leadership team.**
2. **Expand law enforcement pre-arrest diversion options for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.**
3. **Develop a community housing plan.**
4. **Increase awareness, education and training opportunities for community members and behavioral health and justice stakeholders.**

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.

- Add a law enforcement drop off component to the Kaufman Bridge to increase community diversion options.**
- Increase the use of alternatives to Inpatient Competency Restoration (i.e. JBCR).**
- Explore the opportunity to expand Kaufman treatment courts to serve individuals pretrial.**
- Expand the frequency and scope of community mental health trainings to serve 9-1-1 dispatchers and Fire/EMS. (e.g. CIT, MHFA).**

Kaufman 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
- Timely medical clearance
- Alternatives for diversion from emergency rooms and jail
- Screening and coding for mental health (MH) crisis at 911 dispatch
- Information sharing across crisis services stakeholders
- Housing options for justice involved individuals

Opportunities:

- Provide MH training and to 911 dispatchers and law enforcement
- Expand field-based medical clearance options through community paramedic program
- Conduct housing assessment to identify community needs
- Develop a uniform data collection and reporting strategy across stakeholders

Intercepts 2&3

Initial Detention, Jails, & Courts

Selected Gaps:

- Substance use treatment services and programs in Kaufman County jail
- Alternatives to inpatient competency restoration
- Limited availability and capacity of the Kaufman jail mental health provider
- Pretrial diversion programs

Opportunities:

- Consider telehealth opportunities to expand SUD and MH treatment in jail
- Educate courts on alternatives to competency restoration and waitlist management best practices
- Establish a Jail Based Competency Restoration Program
- Use a validated risk assessment to determine treatment needs, bond and pretrial supervision

Intercepts 4&5

Reentry & Community Corrections

Selected Gaps:

- Case management and reentry planning in jail prior to a release
- Awareness of jail staff of available community-based behavioral health services
- Medicaid benefits terminated rather than suspended in jail
- Limited affordable housing for people with criminal records

Opportunities:

- Develop a jail-based referral system for improved access to community services
- Provide probation officers and jail staff with additional MH training
- Pilot program to suspend rather than terminate Medicaid benefits
- Utilize peers to support community reentry programs

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