

Tom Green 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 Tom Green County SIM Report.

Invest in Strategic Priorities

1. **Build out the community housing continuum in Tom Green County.**
2. **Establish a Behavioral Health Leadership Team (BHLT).**
3. **Expand crisis options through the development of a crisis diversion facility.**
4. **Establish a continuum of care for youth at risk of justice involvement.**
5. **Develop reentry planning services for justice involved individuals.**

Support Local Planning, Partnership and Education

1. Coordinate

- Strengthen behavioral health and justice partnerships through regular convening of a leadership team.
- Establish a taskforce to support data-driven action plan implementation.

2. Partner

- Identify opportunities to strengthen relationships with new stakeholders (e.g. housing partners, children's behavioral health providers, IDD services).
- 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 Upon Existing Efforts

- Increase use of alternatives to Inpatient Competency Restoration (i.e. OCR).**
- Increase the capacity of MHMRCV's Crisis Respite Unit (consider opportunities to serve children).**
- Continue funding the Tom Green County juvenile drug court program.**
- Expand the use of MCOT through MHMRCV to respond to MH crisis in the community.**
- Expand the capacity of TCOOMMI specialized caseloads.**

Tom Green County Gaps, Opportunities and Best Practices

Intercepts 0&1

Community Services, Crisis Services & Law Enforcement

- Selected Gaps:**
- Screening and coding for mental health (MH) crisis at 911 dispatch
 - Affordable housing options for justice involved individuals
 - Alternatives for diversion from emergency rooms and jail
 - Capacity of community-based MH crisis response services

- Opportunities:**
- Collect data on MH calls for service and identify opportunities to flag frequent callers
 - Advance existing diversion center planning efforts
 - Increase number of affordable housing options through landlord outreach
 - Establish a co-responder or ride-along programs

Intercepts 2&3

Initial Detention, Jails, & Courts

- Selected Gaps:**
- Effective screening, assessment and referral to treatment at booking by jail staff
 - Substance use disorder (SUD) services in jail
 - Long wait times for inpatient competency restoration services
 - Outpatient Competency Restoration is not utilized by courts.
 - Pretrial diversion programs

- Opportunities:**
- Use a validated risk assessment to determine treatment needs, bond and pretrial supervision
 - Identify opportunities to offer SUD treatment in jail
 - Educate court on available behavioral health services and alternatives to inpatient competency restoration

Intercepts 4&5

Reentry & Community Corrections

- Selected Gaps:**
- Medicaid benefits terminated rather than suspended in jail
 - Space on specialized probation and parole caseloads
 - Case-management and reentry planning in jail prior to an individual's release
 - Long waitlist for justice involved youth to receive community MH services

- Opportunities:**
- Pilot program to suspend rather than terminate Medicaid benefits
 - Utilize peers to support community reentry programs
 - Embed mental health providers in the jail to support care coordination

Best Practices at Each Intercept

Intercept 0 & 1

- Peer-operated Crisis Respite
- Police Coding of MH Calls
- Early Identification and Intervention of High-Utilizers
- MH Diversion Centers

Intercept 2 & 3

- Consistent Screening for MI, SUD and IDD
- Pretrial Supervision and Diversion Programs
- Active Forensic Waitlist Monitoring

Intercept 4 & 5

- Robust reentry planning (psych medications, benefits coordination, peer-support)
- Specialized MI, IDD and SUD Caseloads
- Jail in-Reach Transition Planning