



# Texas Youth Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Report: Executive Summary

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## Tom Green County Roadmap

In 2023, Deputy Chief of Mental Health for Tom Green County Juvenile Justice Center Chelsea Jones requested a Texas Youth Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping workshop from Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The goal of the workshop was to help foster collaboration among behavioral health and juvenile justice stakeholders and improve early intervention and diversion for youth with mental illness (MI), substance use disorders (SUD), and/or intellectual and development disabilities (IDD). The workshop took place on July 11-12, 2024 in San Angelo, Texas. This roadmap summarizes the key gaps, opportunities and priorities identified by workshop participants. For a full event summary, review the Texas Youth SIM Mapping Report for Tom Green County.

## Invest in Strategic Priorities

**Priority One:** Expand family support and engagement services and explore strategies to address truancy.

**Priority Two:** Plan for a youth assessment center or a youth crisis respite center.

**Priority Three:** Establish a behavioral health leadership team or other coordinating body: Concho Valley Family Prevention and Intervention Task Force (FPI Task Force).

**Priority Four:** Expand early intervention and prevention options.

## **Support Local Planning, Partnership, and Education**

### **Coordinate**

- Strengthen behavioral health and juvenile justice partnerships through regular convening of SIM workgroups and coordination with the FPI Task Force.

### **Partner**

- Identify opportunities to strengthen relationships between youth-serving stakeholders, including My Health My Resources (MHMR) Concho Valley, local school districts, law enforcement, and the juvenile justice center.

### **Learn**

- Connect with other similar-sized counties implementing best practice models.

### **Train**

- Train stakeholder groups on identifying, responding, and effectively serving people with MI, SUD, and/or IDD.

## **Build Upon Existing Efforts**

- Leverage current community-based behavioral health service providers, like West Texas Counseling & Guidance (WTCG), who are willing to support SIM priorities across intercepts.
- Enhance existing community-based partnerships to develop a robust behavioral health crisis response protocol across school districts.
- Explore the scope of specialized youth public defenders to add to family education and engagement efforts for at-risk youth and their families.

## **Tom Green County Gaps, Opportunities, and Best Practices**

As part of the mapping activity, facilitators helped workshop participants identify key services, stakeholders, gaps, and opportunities at each intercept. The tables below capture a few key gaps and opportunities identified by workshop participants. For a full list, review the Texas Youth SIM Mapping Report for Tom Green County.

## Intercepts 0 and 1: Communities, Schools, and Initial Contact with Law Enforcement

Selected Gaps	Opportunities	Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistent behavioral health crisis protocol across school districts and campuses.</li> <li>• Limited mental health training for law enforcement assigned to schools.</li> <li>• Limited diversion options for youth, such as youth crisis respite or youth assessment centers.</li> <li>• Difficulty engaging families across intercepts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a youth crisis workgroup as part of the newly established FPI Task Force.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for specialty school resource officer training through organizations like <a href="#">Texas Association of School Resource Officers</a> that offer training from national entities.</li> <li>• Plan for a youth crisis respite, assessment, or diversion center.</li> <li>• Explore how schools access and utilize Region 15 Education Service Center (ESC) parent engagement specialists.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early identification and prevention</li> <li>• School-based behavioral health supports</li> <li>• Law enforcement and mental health provider collaboration</li> <li>• Police-led diversion programs</li> </ul>

## Intercepts 2 and 3: Referral to Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Processing

Selected Gaps	Opportunities	Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited services and juvenile probation placement options for justice-involved youth with co-occurring MI, SUD, and/or IDD.</li> <li>• Misunderstandings of the role of Child Protective Services (CPS) and their ability to take custody of youth left in detention.</li> <li>• Lack of understanding or utilization of <a href="#">Texas Family Code, Chapter 55</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form a juvenile justice workgroup as part of the FPI Task Force to explore how to expand services for justice-involved youth and their families.</li> <li>• Create collaborative partnerships between juvenile justice center staff and CPS staff to share information and foster understanding about the juvenile justice system and child welfare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validated risk and needs assessment tools</li> <li>• Specialized court interventions</li> <li>• Juvenile justice stakeholder collaboration</li> <li>• Detention-based behavioral health services</li> </ul>

Selected Gaps	Opportunities	Best Practices
<a href="#">Proceedings Concerning Children with Mental Illness or Intellectual Disability</a> .	<p>system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult HHSC for technical assistance regarding navigating Texas Family Code, Chapter 55 and review <a href="#">Judicial Commission on Mental Health's Bench Book</a>, which provides further information.</li> </ul>	

## Intercept 4: Reentry

Selected Gaps	Opportunities	Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While reentry is supported by general community resources, organizations providing those resources may lack expertise in working with justice-involved or high acuity youth.</li> <li>Lack of inpatient and outpatient SUD services for youth.</li> <li>Lack of communication between out-of-home placement facilities and schools inhibits reentry or transition planning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with certified family partners to connect juvenile justice-impacted youth and families to mental health services.</li> <li>Partner with WTGC and MHMR Concho Valley to increase access to both inpatient and outpatient SUD services.</li> <li>Partner with the Region 15 ESC to coordinate with juvenile justice center staff and school district staff to create a list of essential documents to update a student's educational record for youth returning to school from placement. Share list with placing agencies and placements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-release intakes with local mental health authorities or community mental health providers</li> <li>School reenrollment and transition process</li> <li>Supportive parental skill development</li> <li>Wraparound behavioral health resources</li> </ul>

See the [Texas Youth Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Best Practices](#) document for checklists on best practices to consider by intercept.