



April 2026

Housing Learning Community Spotlight



Court Coordination Supports Housing Stability

The third session of the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health Housing Learning Community focused on how court decisions at Intercept 3 of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) affect housing stability for people with behavioral health needs.

Housing stability often intersects with these decisions, and court liaisons help connect courts with local housing resources when developing case strategies and release plans.

The session, held on Feb. 25, included a community highlight presentation focused on the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health Court Liaison Pilot Program by Daniela Jimenez Chisolm, senior staff attorney with the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, and Elizabeth Groves, community diversion coordinator for Grayson County.

Launched in 2021, the four-year pilot program placed court liaisons in Denton, Grayson and Smith counties.

“The goal of the Court Liaison Program is to improve coordination of courts and the behavioral health system so courts can identify mental health needs early and connect people to appropriate services,” said Chisolm. “When courts have stronger connections to community resources, it improves outcomes for individuals and strengthens public safety.”

Court liaisons support judges and attorneys by reviewing cases that involve behavioral health needs, coordinating diversion opportunities, and connecting people to treatment and community services. They also help support continuity of care during detention and after release.

Applications for five additional counties to participate in the [Court Liaison Pilot Program](#) will open in April 2026.

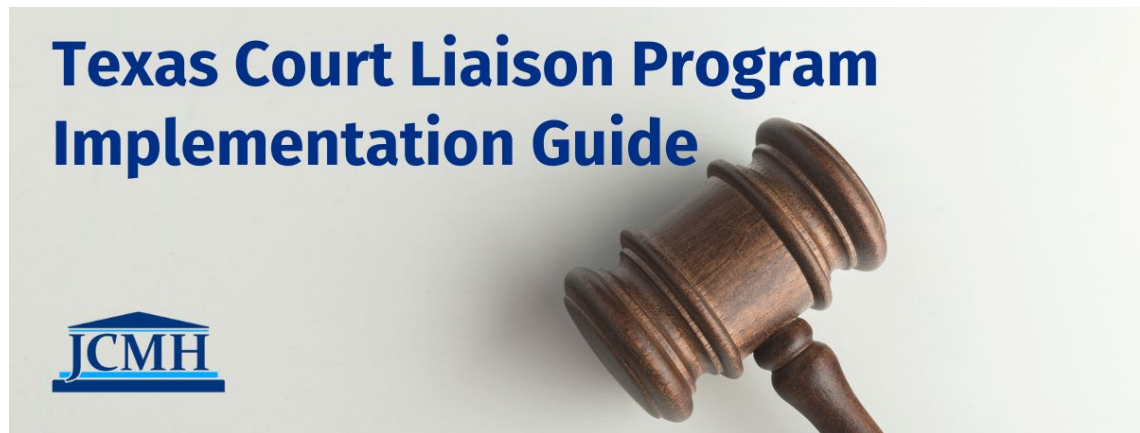
Background Information

The SIM is a national framework that helps communities understand how people with mental illness and substance use disorders interact with the justice system and where diversion to treatment and community supports is possible.

SIM Intercept 3 includes jails, courts and ongoing case processing such as continued detention, specialty court participation, and sentencing decisions. At this stage, judges, attorneys, behavioral health providers, and community partners influence whether people return to the community with pathways to stability or encounter barriers that increase the risk of continued justice system involvement.

The Housing Learning Community brings together multidisciplinary teams from across Texas to examine how the SIM functions through a housing lens and share community strategies to improve outcomes for people navigating both the justice and housing systems.

Need to Know

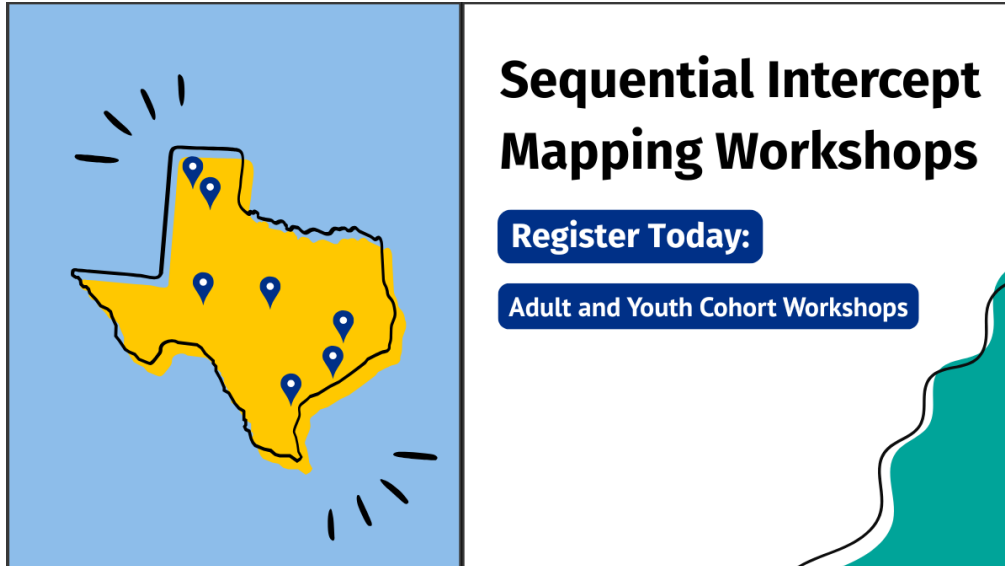


Pilot Program Informs Guidance for Texas Jurisdictions

The Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health Court Liaison Pilot Program supports coordination between courts and the behavioral health system by connecting people charged with nonviolent misdemeanors to treatment and diversion opportunities.

Applications for five additional counties will open in April 2026.

The National Center for State Courts published [an implementation guide](#) based on the work of the three pilot counties. The guide supports Texas jurisdictions that want to replicate the Court Liaison Program in their communities.



Now Accepting Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop Applications for 2026

The Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance Center hosts Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping workshops in partnership with the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health.

These day-long workshops bring together community leaders and agency representatives to find ways to connect people in their communities with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities to treatment that can help prevent incarceration.

Facilitators guide participants to:

- Map local resources and gaps across the SIM.
- Identify services that support diversion from criminal and juvenile justice systems.
- Share evidence-based and emerging best practices for each intercept.
- Strengthen relationships across systems and agencies.
- Create a customized local map and action plan to address gaps.

Submit Your Application

The Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health is sponsoring a limited number of adult and youth SIM mappings in 2026. Visit the [Texas Behavioral Health and](#)

[Justice Technical Assistance Center Sequential Intercept Mapping](#) webpage for information, application details and the submission process.

Technical Assistance



How Can We Help?
Request Technical Assistance



Need Help? The Forensic and Jail Diversion Services team is standing by.

The Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance (TA) Center offers free, customized technical assistance to professionals working across behavioral health and justice systems throughout Texas. Whether you're developing a new concept, addressing a community-specific challenge or strengthening cross-system collaboration, the TA Center can support your work by connecting you with subject matter experts, peer networks and other resources.

Technical assistance can include:

- Expert consultation tailored to your community's needs.
- Peer-to-peer connections with professionals across Texas.
- Customized training and capacity-building support.
- Research and evidence-informed guidance.

- Strategic planning assistance, including support related to diversion, crisis response, competency restoration, reentry and information-sharing initiatives.

A fully developed project is not necessary to submit a request. The TA Center welcomes early-stage ideas and provides support for planning, problem-solving and identifying next steps to help communities move their work forward.

If you have a question, need guidance or want to learn how other Texas communities are addressing similar challenges, the TA Center is ready to support you.

[Request support today.](#)

Events



Stay Connected to Behavioral Health and Justice Events

Keep up with the latest behavioral health and justice activities. Visit the [Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance Center](#) events page for upcoming conferences, webinars and training sessions taking place across Texas.