



## Need to Know

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### Recovery Rally Events Promote Hope and Resources for Successful Reintegration

Last fall, community leaders, certified peer specialists and people in recovery gathered at Recovery Rally events to share inspiring stories and connect participants with resources to help them reintegrate into their communities.

Held at Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) facilities throughout the state, the events offered peer support for people in the criminal justice system with mental health conditions or substance use disorders.

Recovery Rally events encourage collaboration among justice systems, families and communities, and show that recovery is possible.

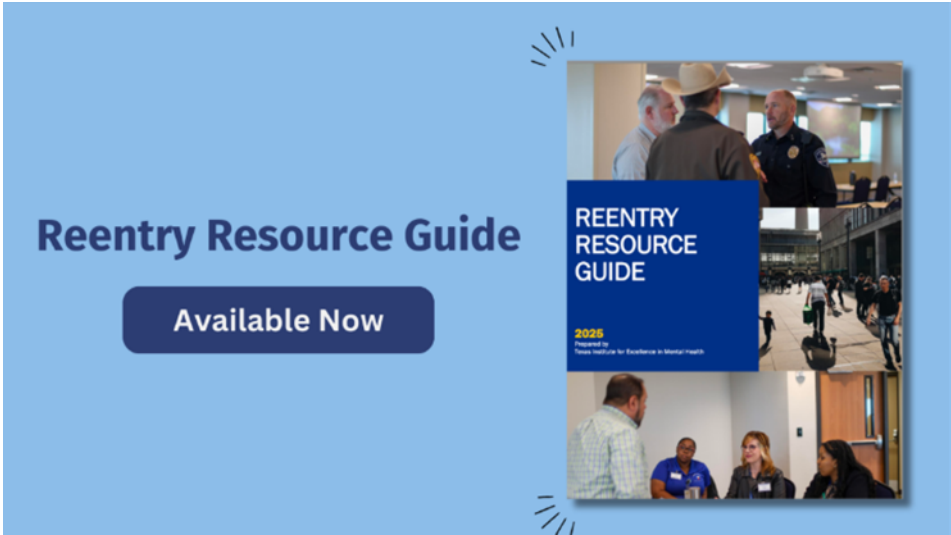
The Substance Use and Mental Health Services (SAMSHA) report peer support improves well-being, fosters connection and lowers recidivism rates. Certified peer specialists with personal experience in recovery help people build trust, reduce stigma and stay motivated by providing practical tools, coping strategies and connections to community resources.

“Peer support is a game changer for people leaving the justice system,” said Laura Adams, Ph.D., behavioral health expert. “When people see others who have walked the same path and achieved recovery, it instills hope and motivation. Events like the Recovery Rally remind us that recovery is not only possible, it’s happening every day.”

Learn more about peer support programs and recovery resources offered by the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#), or explore Texas-specific initiatives at [Recovery Texas](#).

# Reentry Learning Collaborative

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## Helping Communities Strengthen Reentry Support

The Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, in partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission Behavioral Health Services division, held the Reentry Learning Collaborative from September 2024 to May 2025.

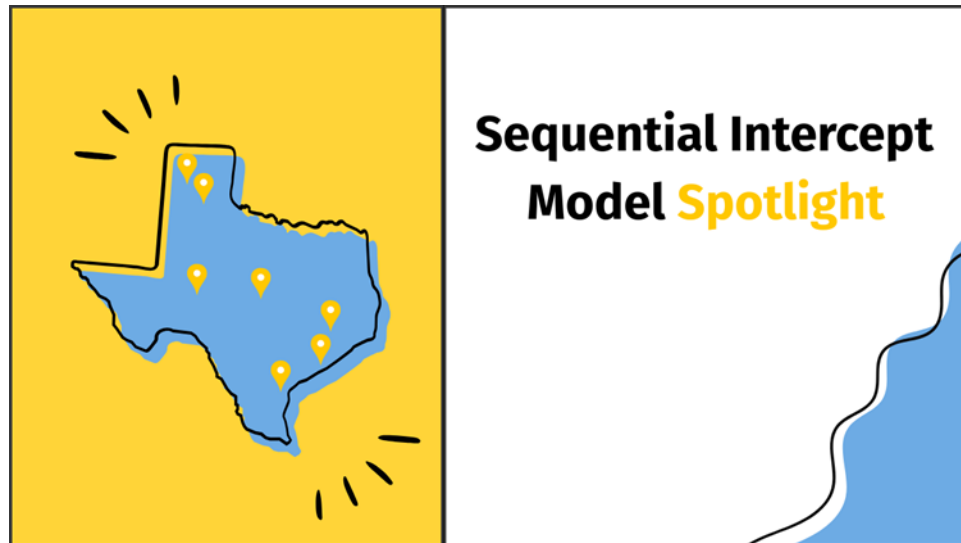
The collaborative guided teams, including county sheriff’s offices, community centers, local mental health authorities, and others, in creating services that ensure continuity of care and recovery support.

Following the eight-month program, the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health created a resource guide with practical tools and examples to design and improve reentry programs. Criminal justice, behavioral health and community stakeholders can use the guide to adopt evidence-based practices that strengthen reentry planning and services for people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders, with a focus on those with serious mental illness.

[View the Reentry Resource Guide \(PDF\).](#)

# Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Spotlight

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The Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance Center (TA Center) hosts sequential intercept model (SIM) mapping workshops in partnership with the Judicial Commission on Mental Health. These day-long workshops bring together community leaders and agency representatives to find ways to connect people with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities to treatment instead of 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.

## Explore Completed SIM Maps

Visit the [TA Center website](#) to view SIM reports, maps and funding proposals from workshops across Texas. These resources offer insights to help your community plan for future participation.

Request a SIM mapping workshop and stay informed about upcoming events on the [TA Center website](#).

# Announcements

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## Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month

January marks Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month. Established in 2025 by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, this national observance encourages communities to support people seeking help for substance use disorder, along with their families and the professionals who provide care.

Substance use disorder occurs when repeated substance use disrupts daily life and causes significant distress. People who are involved in the justice system often face additional barriers, such as stigma and limited access to care.

Explore these resources to learn how you can support recovery in your community:

- [Practitioner Training Materials and Resources](#)
- [Substance Use Disorder Services](#)
- [Guidelines for Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jail](#)

# Events

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## Stay Connected to Behavioral Health and Justice Events

Want to keep up with the latest behavioral health and justice activities? Visit our events page for upcoming conferences, webinars and training sessions happening in communities across Texas.

[Click here to find information on upcoming events.](#)

# Technical Assistance

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## **Need help? The Forensic and Jail Diversion Service team is standing by.**

The TA Center provides timely guidance and connections to stakeholders across Texas on a variety of behavioral health and justice topics. Contact the TA Center to receive tailored support and troubleshooting for issues big and small.

[Request Support Today](#)