



March 2026

Housing Learning Community Spotlight

Strengthening Early Court Coordination in Grayson County



Communities across Texas are building and strengthening work at the intersection of behavioral health and the justice system.

This month, we spotlight Grayson County. Through their efforts in accelerating early court review and coordination, they've seen a reduction in unnecessary jail stays and an improvement in stabilization for people with serious mental illness charged with low-level offenses.

In February, the second session of the Housing Learning Community series was led by Grayson County District Court Judge James Henderson and Community Diversion Coordinator Elizabeth Groves.

During this session, participants learned about Intercept 2 of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM), which occurs when a person is detained by law enforcement and appears before a judge or magistrate for an initial hearing.

The Grayson County District Court described how they prioritize rapid court access and timely decision-making. County leadership emphasized that even brief delays can destabilize housing, interrupt access to medication and increase risks to personal safety.

As an original Court Liaison Program site through the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, Grayson County has turned policy intent into consistent courtroom practice. The county implemented a coordinated process centered on early identification, rapid court access and real-time information sharing across systems that enables the court to respond quickly when behavioral health needs arise.

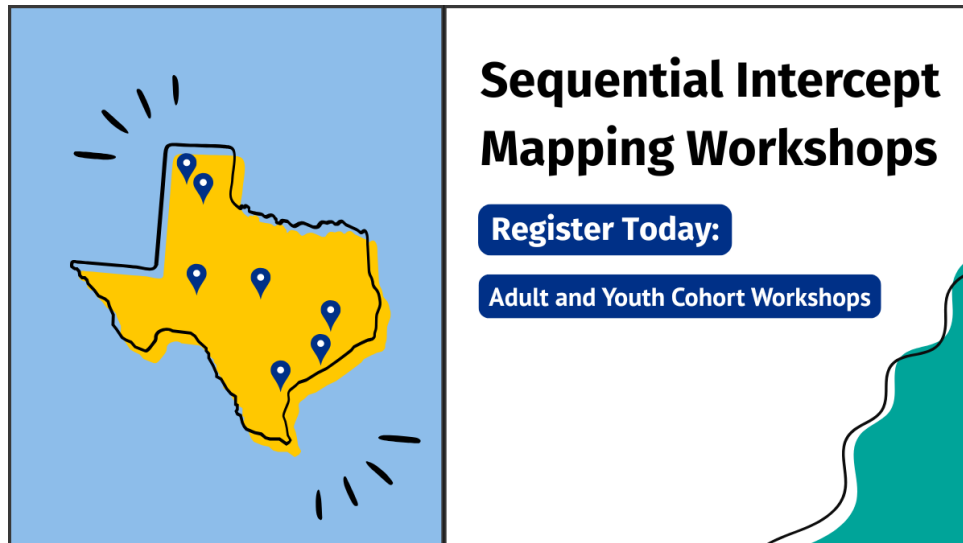
Early identification begins at booking. Groves reviews each intake for behavioral health indicators using Sandra Bland Act screening tools, Continuity of Care Query matches and information from the magistrate's packet.

Court-developed processes allow staff to flag cases, complete assessments as needed and bring people before the court — often within four to 10 days of arrest.

By prioritizing early action, informed judicial decision-making and housing stability, Grayson County demonstrates how targeted strategies in the justice system can prevent deeper system involvement and support more sustainable outcomes.

The Housing Learning Community brings together multidisciplinary teams from across the state to find ways to work together to improve housing access for people who are involved in the justice system and living with mental illness, substance use disorders, or intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Need To Know



Now Accepting Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop Applications for 2026

The Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance (TA) Center hosts Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping workshops in partnership with the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health. These daylong 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 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 mappings in 2026. Visit the [TA Sequential Intercept Mapping Center](#) webpage for information, application details and submission process.

Technical Assistance




How Can We Help?
Request Technical Assistance





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

The 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.

You don't need a fully developed project 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 efficiently and effectively.

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

Want to keep up with the latest behavioral health and justice activities? Visit the [TA Center events page](#) for upcoming conferences, webinars and training sessions happening in communities across Texas.

Newsletter Survey

The TA Center is conducting a survey to learn how you use and value this monthly newsletter.

We want to know which content supports your work, what you find most useful, and how we can make future issues more relevant and engaging to meet your needs.

Please take a few minutes to complete the [complete the survey](#) and help shape the future of our newsletter.

