



Housing Learning Community Spotlight

Reentry, Housing and Hope

The fourth session of the Housing Learning Community was held on March 25 to examine Intercept 4 (reentry) of the Sequential Intercept Model and the role housing plays in successful community reintegration. Speakers from the Texas Targeted Opioid Response and 2-1-1 Texas Panhandle United Way highlighted evidence-based strategies that strengthen housing stability, improve behavioral health outcomes and support community safety.

Participants emphasized that reentry is a critical intervention point and that housing instability, transportation barriers, and untreated behavioral health needs often drive technical supervision violations.



Communities that align supervision requirements with realistic housing options and integrate behavioral health supports early can reduce system involvement and improve long-term outcomes.

Christina Edgar, Texas Targeted Opioid Response integrated lead, emphasized the importance of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) during reentry.

People leaving incarceration face a significantly elevated overdose risk during the first two weeks after release. Texas programs that expand MOUD access within

Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities demonstrate improved stabilization, reduced crisis episodes and stronger housing outcomes.

Janell Evans of 2-1-1 Texas Panhandle United Way shared her experience navigating reentry after incarceration, highlighting barriers such as application fees, background checks and housing restrictions. Her community used Sequential Intercept Model mapping to establish coordinated workgroups and form a reentry coalition focused on housing, behavioral health, justice coordination, data and community resources.

Housing stability remains a foundational public safety strategy. Communities that prioritize housing as essential infrastructure may be better positioned to support safer and healthier outcomes for people and families across Texas.

Learn More

- [Texas Targeted Opioid Response](#)
- [Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health Reentry Resource Guide](#)

Need To Know



Mental Health Awareness Month

Since 1949, the U.S. has observed May as Mental Health Awareness Month in an effort to increase mental health understanding, reduce stigma and promote access to care. This observance focuses on elevating recovery, strengthening community connections and encouraging early intervention.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides resources and tools that support people, families and communities. These materials promote open dialogue, encourage seeking help, and reinforce the importance of mental health.

To learn more, visit samhsa.gov/about/digital-toolkits/mental-health-awareness-month.

Additional Resources

- [Resources for Families Coping with Mental and Substance Use Disorders](#)
- [Find Support for Issues with Mental Health, Drugs or Alcohol](#)

Reentry Spotlight



Established in 2016, the Bexar County Reentry Center offers support and services to people with behavioral health needs who are reentering the community after incarceration.

County leaders designed the center as a centralized access point to reduce repeated jail cycling and emergency system use. Its proximity to probation, pretrial services, unhoused services and community providers allows seamless coordination across systems.

The center conducts personalized assessments and prioritizes stabilization needs, including identification recovery, access to transportation, benefits assistance and food security. Through partnerships with more than 30 community organizations, clients have access to housing support, employment services, peer support and evidence-based recovery programs immediately upon release.

After release, some people experience challenges accessing employment opportunities. The job training program prepares participants for the workforce and connects them with second-chance employers through job fairs and community partnerships.

Learn more by visiting the [Bexar County Reentry Center](#).

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.