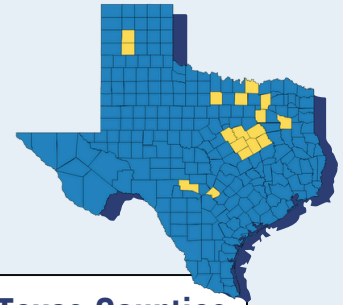# Sequential Intercept Mapping Leadership Community of Practice: *Lessons Learned*

Overview

The **Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance Center** (TXBHJ TA Center) established a Sequential Intercept Mapping Community of Practice (SIM CoP) for communities that completed SIM mapping. The SIM CoP brought together 11 community teams of behavioral health and justice professionals from 17 counties to take a closer look at their SIM priorities. The SIM CoP sessions were held from March 2023 to January 2024 and were facilitated by Dr. Lynda Frost and Doug Smith, experienced Texas subject matter experts.

Participating Texas Counties

- Bosque
- Comal
- Denton
- Falls
- Freestone
- Grayson
- Hill
- Hunt
- Jack
- Kaufman
- Kerr
- Limestone
- McLennan
- Navarro
- Potter
- Randall
- Smith

Design

Ten monthly sessions were designed based on feedback from a **steering committee** composed of community representatives and CoP **participant surveys**. The finalized goals of the sessions were to have counties:
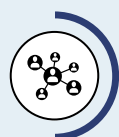
- Refine and execute an action plans.
- Explore evidence-based best practices.
- Access technical assistance and peer guidance.
- Collaborate with communities across Texas.

Lessons Learned

01   **Resource and knowledge sharing is critical**

- Participating in the SIM CoP refined focus areas for identified SIM priorities.
- Communities shared similar challenges while approaching priorities.
- Communities learned the benefits of collaboration between counties.

02   **Stakeholder engagement leads to better outcomes**

- High involvement with hospitals and law enforcement leads to success.
- Turnover and leadership changes are challenges.
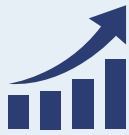- Finding new partners and expanding collaboration remains a barrier in achieving priorities.

03   **Community readiness and success varies**

- For some communities, success can be as simple as identifying key players and setting meetings. For others, it may involve delving deep into priority implementation and identifying funding opportunities.

Examples of Community Progress

- One community jail hired a social worker, which allowed the local mental health authority (LMHA) to better support individuals with mental illness inside the county jail.
- Another community took a data-driven approach to streamline procedures for crisis calls and emergency detention orders, resulting in a seven-hour decrease in processing times.

Recommendations for SIM Communities

Assess:

- Coordination with LMHAs (e.g., explore memorandums of understanding, clarify roles and responsibilities, etc.).
- Interest in community grant-making consultation and promoting participation.

Engage:

- The Behavioral Health Leadership Team as part of the SIM workshop planning process for quicker and more significant results.
- Communities that recently completed a SIM with follow-up on progress and accountability.
- Communities to meet regularly to build on momentum.

Share:

- Data collection methods and SIM work processes between communities to be efficient.
- **Innovative Programs** so models of success from diverse communities become easily accessible.