

# Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Report: Bell County

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Texas Health and Human Services  
May 2022

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**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

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# Background

## Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance Center (TA Center) on behalf of Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The workshop was convened by committee of behavioral health and justice leaders, including:

- Judge David Blackburn, Bell County
- Judge Rebecca DePew, Bell County
- Ross Gaetano, Director of Behavioral Health Services, AdventHealth Central Texas
- Thomas Mckinley, Vice President, Baylor Scott & White Health
- Johnnie Wardell, Executive Director, Central Counties Community Services

We commend the committee members for the critical role they each played in making Bell County SIM Workshop a reality. They convened stakeholders, helped to identify priorities for the workshop, and reviewed this report and provided feedback prior to its publication.

The facilitators for this workshop were Jennie M. Simpson, PhD, Associate Commissioner, State Forensic Director, HHSC and Catherine Bialick, MPAff, Senior Advisor, Office of the State Forensic Director, HHSC. The report was authored by Catherine Bialick; Jennie M. Simpson; Elizabeth Wyatt, M.Ed, LPC; and Robert Epstein, LMSW, MPAff.

We'd also like to acknowledge the System Integration Team at HHSC who oversees implementation of All Texas Access, a legislatively mandated initiative resulting from Senate Bill 454, 87th Legislature, Regular Session 2021, whose focus is increasing access to mental health services in rural Texas communities. SIM Mapping Workshops were offered to all rural-serving LMHAs participating in the All Texas Access Initiative, including Central Counties Services.

# About the Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance Center

The TA Center provides specialized technical assistance for behavioral health and justice partners to improve forensic services and reduce and prevent justice involvement for people with mental illnesses (MI), substance use disorders (SUD), and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Established in 2022, the TA Center is supported by HHSC and provides free training, guidance, and strategic planning support both in person and virtually on a variety of behavioral health and justice topics to support local agencies and communities in working collectively across systems to improve outcomes for people with MI, SUD and/or IDD.

The TA Center, on behalf of HHSC, has adopted the SIM as a strategic planning tool for the state and communities across Texas. The TA Center hosts SIM Mapping Workshops to bring together community leaders, government agencies, and systems to identify strategies for diverting people with MI, SUD and/or IDD, when appropriate, away from the justice system into treatment. The goal of the Texas SIM Mapping Initiative is to ensure that all counties have access to the SIM and SIM Mapping Workshops.

## Recommended Citation

Texas Health and Human Services Commission. (2022). *Sequential intercept model mapping report for Bell County*. Austin, TX: Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

# Introduction

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM), developed by Mark R. Munetz, M.D. and Patricia A. Griffin, Ph.D.,<sup>a</sup> has been used as a focal point for states and communities to assess available opportunities, determine gaps in services, and plan for community change. These activities are best accomplished by a team of stakeholders that cross over multiple systems, including mental health, substance use, law enforcement, jails, pretrial services, courts, community corrections, housing, health, and social services. They should also include the participation of people with lived experience, family members, and community leaders.

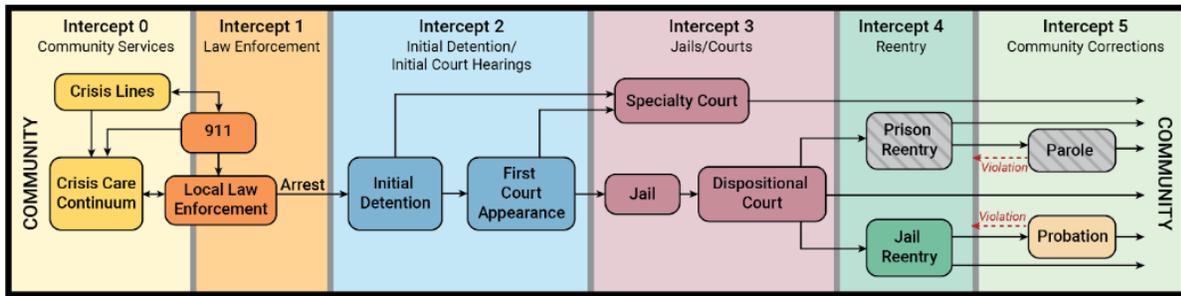
The SIM is a strategic planning tool that maps how people with behavioral health needs encounter and move through the criminal justice system within a community. Through a SIM Mapping workshop, facilitators and participants identify opportunities to link people with MI, SUD, and/or IDD to services and prevent further penetration into the criminal justice system.

The SIM Mapping Workshop has three primary objectives:

1. Development of a comprehensive picture of how people with MI and co-occurring substance use disorders move through the criminal justice system along six distinct intercept points: (0) Community Services, (1) Law Enforcement, (2) Initial Detention and Initial Court Hearings, (3) Jails and Courts, (4) Reentry, and (5) Community Corrections/Community Support.
2. Identification of gaps and opportunities at each intercept for people in the target population.
3. Development of strategic priorities for activities designed to improve system and service level responses for people in the target population.

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<sup>a</sup> Munetz, M., & Griffin, P. (2006). A systemic approach to the de-criminalization of people with serious mental illness: The Sequential Intercept Model. *Psychiatric Services*, 57, 544-549.



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## Texas SIM Mapping Initiative

The Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance Center, on behalf of HHSC, has adopted the SIM as a strategic planning tool for the state and communities across Texas. The TA Center hosts SIM mapping workshops to bring together community leaders, government agencies, and systems to identify strategies for diverting people with MI, SUD, and/or IDD away from the justice system into treatment. The goal of the Texas SIM Mapping Initiative is to ensure that all counties have knowledge of and access to the SIM as a strategic planning tool.

The Office of the State Forensic Director has partnered with All Texas Access to offer a SIM for LMHAs participating in the All Texas Access project. All Texas Access is a legislatively mandated initiative that focuses on increasing access to mental health services in rural Texas communities. Specifically, the All Texas Access initiative focuses on how rural LMHAs and HHSC can decrease:

- The cost to local governments of providing services to people experiencing a mental health crisis;
- The transportation of people served by an LMHA to mental health facilities;
- The incarceration of people with MI in county jails; and
- The number of hospital emergency department visits by people with MI.

The fiscal year 2022 theme for All Texas Access was Jail Diversion and Community Integration. To find more information about All Texas Access, visit <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/about/process-improvement/improving-services-texas/all-texas-access>.

The Bell County SIM Mapping Workshop was organized by a steering committee which consisted of representatives from the judicial system, local mental health

authority, and area medical hospitals. The local steering committee engaged HHSC to facilitate a county SIM Mapping Workshop to assist with fostering local behavioral health and justice collaborations and finding solutions for improving diversion efforts for people with mental illness. The planning committee invited stakeholders representing police departments, the Bell County Sheriff's Department, county commissioners, the judiciary and court officials, local mental health authority staff, private psychiatric hospitals, medical hospitals, and other service providers.

The Bell County SIM Mapping Workshop was divided into three sessions over a two-day period: 1) Introductions and Overview of the SIM; 2) Developing the Local Map; and 3) Action Planning. A summary of opening remarks can be found below.

Judge Blackburn opened the SIM Mapping Workshop by explaining to area stakeholders that Bell County had initially earmarked \$3 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to develop a diversion center. The current earmark for the diversion center is \$4.6 million for the design and construction of the facility. Judge Blackburn's vision for the SIM Mapping Workshop was for participants to develop an actionable plan for diverting people needing mental health services from both the Bell County Jail and local emergency departments (ED) into an appropriate level of care. He explained that Bell County law enforcement has a limited number of options for people whom they have picked up that need mental health services – either transport to jail or a local ED. He stated that Bell County Jail is the largest mental health provider in the county and cited national estimates that 16 percent of the jail population has a Serious Mental Illness.

Judge Blackburn emphasized the Bell County Jail's limited resources, sharing that 1,254 people were housed in the Bell County Jail system as March 2, 2022, including people housed at facilities across the state due to current jail capacity. He also noted that Bell County is in the process of expanding the county jail to add an additional 500 beds.

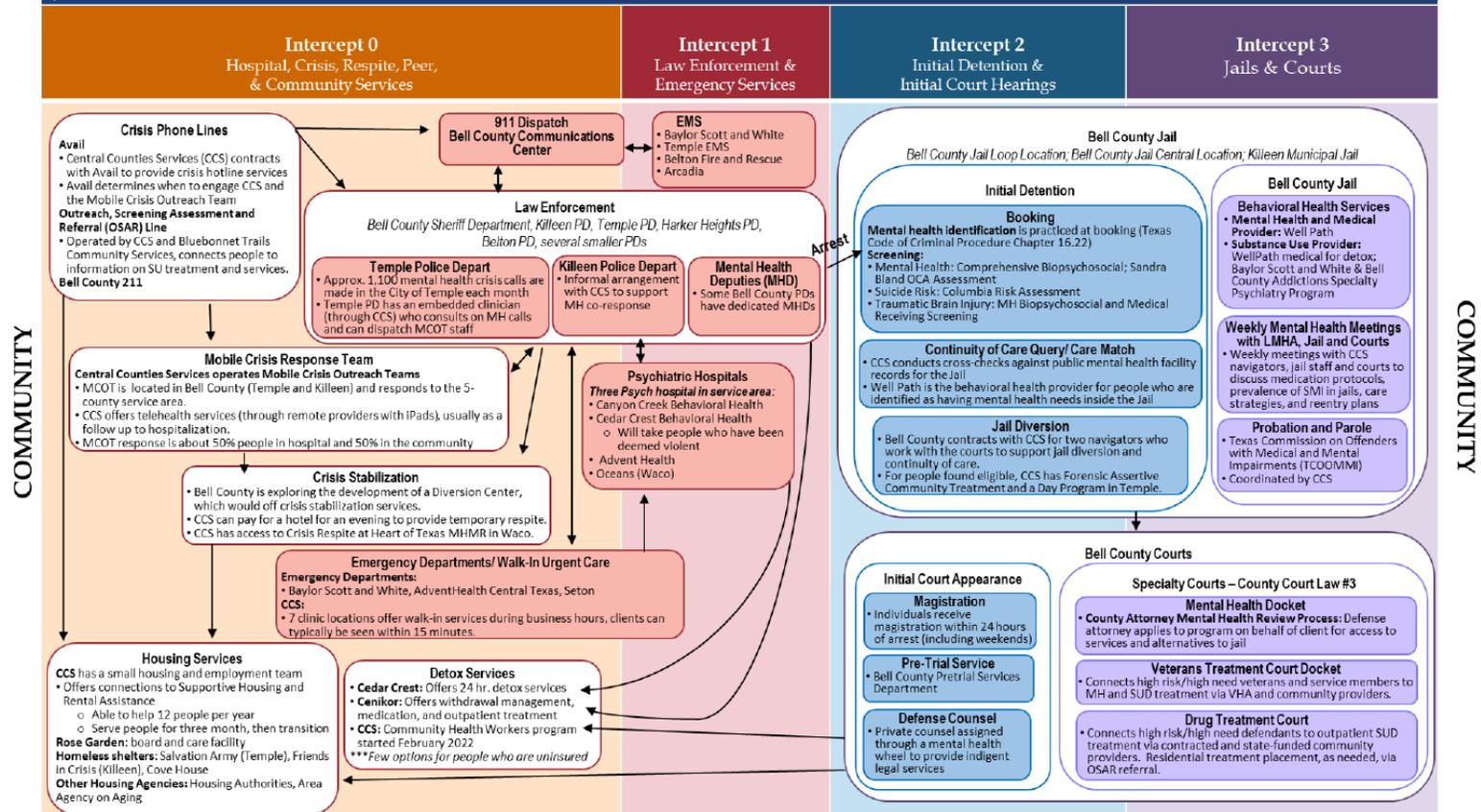
Judge Blackburn concluded his remarks by highlighting the need for stakeholders to come together to map the local system and develop a plan for the diversion center, including the discussion of issues related to funding/sustainability, local partners, and services. Judge Blackburn stated that he believed the only way that the Diversion Center would become a reality was if this collaboration occurred.

*This report reflects information provided during the SIM Mapping Workshop by participating Bell County stakeholders and may not be a comprehensive list of*

*services available in the county. All gaps and opportunities identified reflect the opinions of participating stakeholders, not HHSC.*

# Sequential Intercept Model Map for Bell County

## Sequential Intercept Model Map for Bell County, May 2022

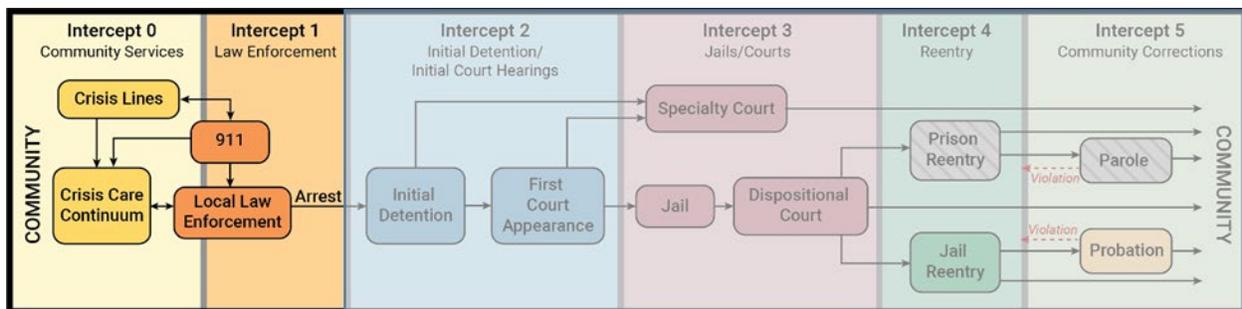


See [Appendix B](#) for detailed description.

# Opportunities and Gaps at Each Intercept

The centerpiece of the workshop was the development of a SIM Map. As part of the mapping activity, the facilitators worked with the workshop participants to identify the following opportunities and gaps at each intercept. This process is important since the criminal justice system and behavioral health services are ever changing, and the opportunities and gaps provide contextual information for understanding the local map. Moreover, this catalog can be used by planners to establish greater opportunities for improving public safety and public health outcomes for people with MI, SUD and IDD by addressing the gaps and building on existing opportunities. The gaps and opportunities outlined below come directly from the issues and ideas discussed by SIM participants at the SIM Mapping Workshop.

## Intercept 0 and Intercept 1



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## Bell County Intercepts 0 and 1 Gaps and Opportunities

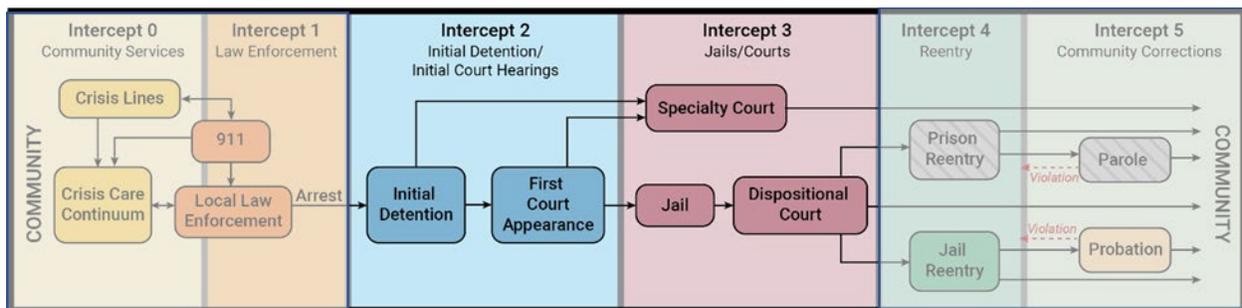
Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Counties Services (CCS) utilizes Avail for crisis hotline services. There are occasionally barriers to communication between the two entities.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Avail answers the crisis line but only transfers calls to CCS Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) when it is determined MCOT needs to provide services. There is a lack of clarity around protocols for determining when MCOT should be dispatched and lack of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing communication between CCS and Avail could be improved by:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adding additional trends and data sharing requirements to CCS's contract with Avail; and</li> <li>○ Establishing call transfer protocols from Avail to MCOT.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identifying people who frequently call for crisis services to engage people in community-based services.</li> </ul>

Gaps	Opportunities
<p>information sharing between Avail and CCS around calls received, which could inform planning, referrals, and other services.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neither Bell County’s 9-1-1 nor the non-emergency line have the ability to directly transfer people to the CCS crisis line.</li> <li>• 9-1-1 call takers receive the state required training on mental health and substance use but could benefit from additional training.</li> <li>• The public often utilizes 9-1-1 because they are unaware of community mental health crisis services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a direct transfer system could allow calls to seamlessly move from contacting 9-1-1 to their local crisis line.</li> <li>• Additional mental health training for call takers could help call takers identify, understand, and support people with mental health needs.</li> <li>• Updating mental health scripts for call takers could improve support provided to people with mental health needs and their families.</li> <li>• Establishing a mental health response as the primary reason for calling may allow calls to be more quickly routed from dispatch to the correct mental health resource.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency rooms are frequently crowded. People with mental health needs tend to have longer stays.</li> <li>• Hospitals are currently short staffed.</li> <li>• There is not a local resource for people whose needs are primarily related to substance use.</li> <li>• People with complex behavioral health needs frequently access emergency departments (EDs) to meet basic needs such as food, basic medical care, and a safe resting place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing substance use supports for people can help prevent mental health crises. Specifically, law enforcement identified that substance use crises often precede suicidal ideation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law enforcement and first responders transport people experiencing a mental health crisis to EDs or jail as there are no mental health crisis facilities in the region.</li> <li>• There is a lack of communication and clarity around process and protocol between MCOT and law enforcement. Specifically, law enforcement reported a lack of clarity around how MCOT makes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing additional education regarding crisis lines may empower law enforcement to use crisis lines more advantageously.</li> <li>• Clarifying ED admission criteria could allow law enforcement to make a more informed choice about which type of facility to transport an individual to who is in crisis.</li> </ul>

Gaps	Opportunities
<p>decisions on whether to respond to a call for help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law enforcement describes contacting Avail and being unable to request MCOT assistance. Law enforcement provided an example of needing MCOT information when completing an application for emergency detention and were unable to access MCOT through Avail.</li> <li>• Law enforcement lacks knowledge of the crisis line’s internal protocols for crisis assessments.</li> <li>• ED admission criteria vary, creating confusion for law enforcement on who is eligible for drop off and what requirements might be in place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding the co-responder model being piloted by Temple Police Department (PD) could allow more law enforcement to receive timely and direct support from MCOT.</li> <li>• Strengthening the relationship between homeless service providers and law enforcement could increase referrals to appropriate housing services.</li> <li>• Creating a diversion center could expand diversion options for law enforcement when responding to people who are experiencing a mental health crisis.</li> <li>• Allowing the sharing of assessments between crisis services and law enforcement could aid law enforcement response to people experiencing a mental health crisis. Law enforcement also requested access to clinical guidance when writing an application of emergency detention or when diverting a person to another system.</li> <li>• Creating step down facilities could help people transition out of crisis more quickly and prevent repeat use of crisis services.</li> <li>• Tracking trends for the most repeated services and supports could help inform ongoing policy and planning efforts.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People often have needs that are too complex for shelters.</li> <li>• The community lacks housing with other support, such as supportive employment opportunities which emphasize helping people with mental illness obtain competitive work in the community and providing the supports necessary to ensure success in the workplace.</li> <li>• Communal housing options can exacerbate mental health difficulties for some people.</li> <li>• Housing challenges are not often communicated across local stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating permanent supportive housing, supportive employment, and other wraparound services could provide resources for people with complex needs who are currently accessing jails and EDs to meet their basic needs.</li> <li>• Continuing to develop a homeless services continuum of care can help improve coordination between stakeholders and improve access to funding for housing.</li> <li>• Involving faith-based organizations to assist with housing and wraparound services could help connect more people to care.</li> </ul>

Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peers are not utilized on intercepts 0 and 1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adding peers on crisis teams could provide support and assist with diverting people in crisis from EDs and jail.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a lack of uniform coding of behavioral health calls to 9-1-1 and non-emergency services limiting the amount of data analysis that can occur.</li> <li>Information is often not shared between the crisis line, 9-1-1 and nonemergency dispatch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a uniform coding criterion for behavioral health calls to 9-1-1 and dispatch could allow the county to further analyze and share mental health data with their partners.</li> <li>Sharing information between 9-1-1 and crisis lines may help the community identify frequent users of crisis services who require more supports.</li> <li>Data sharing could allow for the identification of people who come into frequent contact with crisis services, which could inform new engagement and service strategies.</li> <li>Developing and sharing performance measures could improve county-wide policy and planning efforts.</li> </ul>

## Intercept 2 and Intercept 3



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## Bell County Intercepts 2 and 3 Gaps and Opportunities

Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All people booked into Bell County Jail are screened for mental illness. However, data is not always readily available and communicated to jail medical personnel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diverting people to the diversion center could save law enforcement time and reduce the need for jail resources for people experiencing a mental health crisis.</li> </ul>

Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lack of communication between prosecutor, police, and jail.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing intensive wraparound services for people with a history of repeat jail bookings and behavioral health needs could help reduce future recidivism.</li> <li>• Improving communication between the county prosecutor and law enforcement could help avoid booking people with charges that the prosecutor will ultimately decline to prosecute.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The jail lacks timely access to forensic psychiatrists.</li> <li>• The jail has limited staff with mental health knowledge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional jail medical personnel could help increase the ability of the jail to provide support people with complex behavioral health needs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lack of discharge planning for people with MI or SUD who are being released into the community.</li> <li>• The intake process for mental health services overburdens the limited number of jail staff, limiting their ability to provide care to people who are incarcerated.</li> <li>• The jail lacks resources to safely handle mental health crises.</li> <li>• Due to jails having specific formularies, medications may change when an individual transfers from one facility to another, causing disruptions in some people’s care.</li> <li>• High medication costs impact the jail budget.</li> <li>• The length of time people are incarcerated may be short, limiting the ability for mental health staff to deeply engage individuals before they are released.</li> <li>• Despite the prevalence of SUD inside the jail, there is a lack medication assisted treatment options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnering with Baylor Scott &amp; White for addiction specialists housed in the jail could help address the needs of people with MI and SUDs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The court believes some people are a good fit for Bell County’s Outpatient Competency Restoration program, yet they do not meet eligibility criteria for the program because of a lack of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding court-ordered outpatient services through civil/probate court could support people who have not historically accessed voluntary services and cycle between jails and EDs.</li> </ul>

Gaps	Opportunities
<p>housing options for those engaged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community does not have a protocol for implementing court-ordered medications to help stabilize people while in the jail.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A lack of housing options for people working with pre-trial services creates barriers to community stability and increases recidivism. Specifically, it was noted that people working with the courts may not be eligible for housing through the local housing authority due to the pending charge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening the relationship between the Courts and CCS, particularly through pre-trial services, could help establish continuity of care for people earlier on in the legal process.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are often delays in communication between courts, jails, and mental health providers regarding a person’s progress through the legal system and their medical/behavioral health needs.</li> <li>There can be a long wait to access courts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanding access to housing for people who are justice-involved could help create more opportunities for courts to help people recover in the community.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bell County Jail and Bell County Courts often do not collect data in a uniform manner, preventing analysis of cross systems trends.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a uniform system for collecting and sharing data between the jail and courts could improve cross system coordination and trend analysis.</li> </ul>

## Other Considerations

Bell County has several exemplary programs that address criminal justice and behavioral health collaboration. Still, the mapping exercise identified areas where programs may need expansion or where new opportunities and programming must be developed. The considerations listed below are primarily derived from opportunities raised during the SIM Mapping Workshop, document review, national initiatives, and the collective experience of the Office of the State Forensic Director staff in consulting with other states and localities. Each recommendation contains context from the SIM Mapping Workshop, followed by beneficial resources and any available evidence-based practices and existing models.

The following publications informed the considerations in this report:

- Bell County Report, Council of State Governments Justice Center
- All Texas Access Report, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- A Guide to Understanding the Mental Health System and Services in Texas, Hogg Foundation
- Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan Update, Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council
- Texas Strategic Plan for Diversion, Community Integration and Forensic Services, Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council
- The Joint Committee on Access and Forensic Services (JCAFS): 2020 Annual Report, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas SIM Summit Final Report, Policy Research Associates

There are also two overarching issues that should be considered across all ideas outlined below.

The first is equity and access. While the focus of the SIM Mapping Workshop is on people with behavioral health needs, disparities in healthcare access and criminal justice involvement can also be addressed to ensure comprehensive system change.

The second is trauma. It is estimated that 90 percent of people who are justice-involved have experienced traumatic events at some point in their life<sup>bc</sup>. It is critical that both the healthcare and criminal justice systems be trauma-informed and that there be trauma screening and trauma-specific treatment available for this population. A trauma-informed approach incorporates three key elements:

- realizing the prevalence of trauma;
- recognizing how trauma affects all individuals involved with the program, organization, or system, including its own workforce; and
- responding by putting this knowledge into practice Trauma-Informed Care in Behavioral Health Services.<sup>d</sup>

## Other Considerations for Bell County

In addition to **expanding crisis service options** by developing the **proposed Bell County Diversion Center**, workshop facilitators suggest that Bell County consider the following ideas:

1. Ensure justice and behavioral health stakeholders are engaged in local housing plans to identify opportunities to expand housing options for people who are justice involved with behavioral health needs.
2. Develop data sharing protocols to identify and engage people who frequently encounter law enforcement, emergency departments, crisis services, and the jail.
3. Eliminate the wait for inpatient competency restoration services through active waitlist management and increased utilization of Outpatient Competency Restoration services.
4. Facilitate ongoing county behavioral health planning and coordination.
5. Increase data collection and information sharing across justice and behavioral health stakeholders.
6. Further explore substance use service and program needs.

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<sup>b</sup> Gillece, J.B. (2009). *Understanding the effects of trauma on lives of offenders*. Corrections Today

<sup>c</sup> Steadman, H.J. (2009). *Lifetime experience of trauma among participants in the cross-site evaluation of the TCE for Jail Diversion Programs initiative*. Unpublished raw data.

<sup>d</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *TIP 57: Trauma-Informed Care in Behavioral Health services*. (2014). Retrieved May 31, 2022, from <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/TIP-57-Trauma-Informed-Care-in-Behavioral-Health-Services/SMA14-4816>.

7. Expand utilization of peer service providers across the intercepts.

## **1. Ensure justice and behavioral health stakeholders are engaged in local housing plans and identify opportunities to expand housing options for people who are justice involved with complex needs.**

A lack of continuum of housing options for people who have behavioral health needs and/or are justice-involved was identified as a major gap during the SIM Mapping Workshop, particularly during the Intercept 0, 1 and 2 discussions. SIM Mapping Workshop participants reported the following housing related challenges:

- Law enforcement's experience when addressing repeat calls for service for people who are experiencing homelessness;
- Inadequate support provided by existing boarding home options;
- A lack of housing for people working with pre-trial services. Specifically, for people who are working with the courts that may not be eligible for housing through the local housing authority due to the pending charges;
- A lack of alignment and coordination between planning efforts in the county and engagement of behavioral health and justice stakeholders in local housing plans; and
- A lack of step-down options for people returning to the community from state hospitals and the jail.

Participants also identified the following **opportunities**:

- Creating permanent supportive housing, supportive employment, and other wraparound services to provide resources for people with complex needs;
- Continuing to develop a homeless services continuum of care to better coordinate and access funding for housing;
- Adding faith-based organizations to assist with housing and wraparound services; and

- Improving access to housing as part of court-ordered outpatient services or outpatient competency restoration services.

Based on these discussions, **considerations** to address housing options include:

- Collaborating with the Local Homeless Coalition: Justice and behavioral health stakeholders should actively engage in local housing planning efforts. Specifically, stakeholders could work with the Central Texas Homeless Coalition to strategize about serving those with justice involvement and consider this population through efforts with the Texas Homeless Network.
- Incentivizing Second Chance Housing:
  - ▶ Examining the existing housing options and working with local stakeholders to understand tenant selection criteria that might limit or exclude people with prior justice involvement.
  - ▶ Examining the potential burden tenant selection criteria from local landlords or property owners might have for people who are justice involved who have a MI, SUD, and/or IDD.
  - ▶ Conducting landlord outreach and engagement to increase the likelihood that landlords will accept people with prior justice involvement and who have complex behavioral health needs.
- Conducting a housing needs assessment to help stakeholders explore and make a case for expanding housing options, specifically supportive housing. Assessment could include:
  - ▶ The total number of deeply affordable housing units needed in Bell County (for residents at or below 50percent of the Area Median Family Income);
  - ▶ Information on the intersection of housing instability and the justice involved population with behavioral health needs;
  - ▶ Available funds for developers to meet local supportive housing production goals; and
  - ▶ Available funds for service providers to provide operating costs for supportive housing.

## Model Programs to Explore:

- There are currently three Texas communities (Taylor County/Abilene, Lubbock County, and Tarrant County) involved in the Built for Zero initiative, which is a national change effort working to help communities end Veteran and chronic homelessness.<sup>e</sup> Coordinated by Community Solutions, the national effort supports participants in developing real-time data on homelessness, optimizing local housing resources, tracking progress against monthly goals, and accelerating the spread of proven strategies. These three counties may serve as learning sites for other communities to address homelessness. Community Solutions reports that Abilene has achieved the milestone of ending both Veteran and chronic homelessness. Adapting this model to address housing for the justice-involved population in Bell County, could present an opportunity to tackle this issue.
- Cities in Texas have developed landlord outreach and incentive programs to expand housing options for people who are justice-involved. The Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO), the homeless continuum of care for the Austin/Travis County area, built a robust landlord outreach and engagement program that includes quickly filling vacancies and risk mitigation funds. Bell County could explore and adapt what ECHO has done to strengthen partnerships with landlords/property owners to increase access to housing for people with justice involvement.

For more, see the Housing section of [Appendix C](#).

## **2. Develop data sharing protocols to identify and engage people who frequently encounter law enforcement, emergency departments, crisis services, and correctional facilities.**

Bell County stakeholders identified challenges serving a small subset of people who come into frequent contact with law enforcement, shelters, emergency rooms and other crisis services. Despite multiple contacts and interventions provided disparately through local service providers, the fragmented care and coordination

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<sup>e</sup> *Built for Zero*. Community Solutions. (2022, February 7). Retrieved April 6, 2022, from <https://community.solutions/built-for-zero/>

across systems has led to excessive spending of public resources and poor outcomes for this population.

Workshop participants identified the following **opportunities** to break the cycle of incarceration and crisis service utilization through local efforts:

- Share information between 911, local law enforcement offices, crisis lines, and CCS in a HIPAA-compliant manner to identify people who frequently access these services and develop targeted engagement strategies to connect them to care, and when necessary, to divert them from jail or emergency department to services that are appropriate for their behavioral health needs.

Based on these insights, **considerations** include:

- Convening a select group of justice and behavioral health stakeholders to pilot an initiative focused on breaking the cycling of incarceration and crisis service utilization for people who come into frequent contact with crisis services and law enforcement in Bell County. Following steps outlined in the Data-Driven Justice Playbook<sup>f</sup>, stakeholders could:
  - ▶ Form a group of stakeholders whose coordination and support will be necessary for piloting a frequent utilizer program;
  - ▶ Conduct a study of the current utilization patterns of the people they hope to serve across justice, behavioral health and healthcare systems to analyze data, develop case studies, and discuss outcome measures;
  - ▶ Establish a data governance framework outlining data sharing goals, clarifying data use agreements; and
  - ▶ Identify opportunities to leverage data to develop new service engagement strategies, opportunities for diversion, and policies that might help break the cycle of incarceration and crisis service utilization.

## Model Programs to Explore:

- The Data-Driven Justice (DDJ) initiative brings communities together to disrupt the cycle of incarceration and crisis. Communities participating in the initiative develop strategies promoting better outcomes for people cycling

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<sup>f</sup> National Association of Counties. (2021). (rep.). *Data Driven Justice: A Playbook for Developing a System of Diversion for Frequent Utilizers*. Retrieved April 6, 2022, from <https://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/documents/DDJ-Playbook.pdf>

across systems by aligning justice and health and human services systems around data. DDJ communities have committed to creating or expanding real-time or near real-time local data exchanges that combine justice, health, and/or other system data to identify frequent utilizers of multiple systems. In addition, DDJ communities are identifying the ways and options for diverting people who come into frequent contact with crisis services and law enforcement from the justice system to community-based services and treatment providers. The [Data-Driven Justice Playbook](#) is designed to help guide the development of a multi-system strategy to successfully divert frequent utilizers, when appropriate, away from the criminal justice and emergency health systems and toward community-based treatment and services.

- [Frequent Users Systems Engagement \(FUSE\)](#) is an initiative through the Corporation for Supportive Housing and another model for identifying frequent users of jails, shelters, hospitals and/or other crisis public services by linking data networks to identify those in need and quickly linking them to supportive housing. CSH FUSE has been formally evaluated and shows reductions in the use of expensive crisis services and improvements in housing retention. More than 30 communities implementing FUSE are seeing positive results.<sup>9</sup>
- The [Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network \(THDSN\)](#) is the largest statewide homelessness data integration effort in the United States. THDSN is designed to connect the databases from each of Texas' eleven Continuums of Care to share data across geographic boundaries. The network will give service providers, faith communities, local governments, and anyone working to prevent and end homelessness the ability to access housing and resources across the geographical borders of homeless response systems. Currently, nine of Texas' 11 homeless response systems contribute data to the THDSN, covering 229 out of the 254 Texas counties. In 2022, Texas Homeless Network staff and the THDSN board plan to utilize the THDSN to partner with healthcare providers and target frequent users of emergency rooms who experience homelessness for service and housing assistance. Many of the people stakeholders described as cycling through systems experienced unstable housing or homelessness. This could be a valuable resource to explore for Bell County through the Central Texas Homeless Coalition.

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<sup>9</sup> Corporation for Supportive Housing. *FUSE*. Retrieved May 31, 2022, from FUSE -CSH.

For more, see the information Sharing, Data Analysis, Data Matching section of [Appendix C](#).

### **3. Eliminate the wait for inpatient competency restoration services through active waitlist management and increased utilization of Outpatient Competency Restoration.**

The competency to stand trial process is designed to protect the rights of people who do not understand the charges against them and are unable to assist in their own defense. Texas faces a growing challenge in the number of people who are waiting in county jails for inpatient competency restoration services after being declared incompetent to stand trial (IST). Not only has this increased costs and overburdened state agencies and county jails but it also is taking a significant toll on the health and well-being of people waiting in Texas jails for inpatient competency restoration services. Bell County stakeholders shared several challenges with the forensic waitlist, including people decompensating in jail.

Specifically, SIM participants identified the following **challenges**:

- Extended lengths of stay in jails for people waiting for inpatient competency restoration services;
- The courts believe that some people are a good fit for the outpatient competency restoration program, yet they do not meet Bell County and CCS's eligibility requirements (e.g., access to stable housing); and
- A lack of protocol and process for the utilization of court-ordered medications.

Bell County stakeholders also identified **opportunities**:

- Expanding court-ordered outpatient services to support people who haven't historically accessed voluntary services but encounter jails or EDs; and
- Exploring court-ordered medications as a resource for restoring competency in jail and/or maintaining stability upon return to the hospital.

Based on these insights, **considerations** include:

- Convening local stakeholders to discuss county-wide strategies to eliminate the wait for inpatient competency restoration services. HHSC and the Judicial Commission on Mental Health released a toolkit in Fall of 2021 with strategies for judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, sheriffs, jail staff, police and behavioral health providers to pursue to better serve people at the intersection of mental health and justice and eliminate the wait for inpatient competency restoration services.<sup>h</sup>
- Establishing a local forensic team with regular forensic team meetings to implement new strategies for waitlist monitoring and management. Forensic team members could include representatives from jail administration, jail medical, CCS, and the courts to discuss who is on the waitlist, their medical needs, case disposition, restoration alternatives, and reentry planning.
- Applying to the next cohort of HHSC's Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative. The Jail In-Reach Learning collaborative supports LMHAs and jails in their service area in creating a process for actively monitoring people on the forensic waitlist. The goal is that with effective monitoring, collaboration, and use of court ordered medications, counties can move people off the waitlist in the event of immediate restoration. The Learning Collaborative consists of training sessions on national and state best practices for competency restoration process, monthly technical assistance calls, and a member-only request process for clinical consultations, legal education, and forensic service consultations.

## **Model Programs to Explore:**

- The Council of State Governments Justice Center recently published a report in partnership with the American Psychiatric Association Foundation and the Judges and Psychiatrists Leadership Initiative on strategies to improve competency to stand trial across the county. Seeking solutions to challenges associated with a growing waitlist of people waiting in county jails for inpatient competency restoration services, the organizational co-authors of this report outline the 10 most effective strategies states can pursue to improve the competency to stand trial process. Its recommendations

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<sup>h</sup> Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health & Texas Health and Human Services Commission. (2021). *Eliminate the Wait: The Texas Toolkit for Rightsizing Competency Restoration Services*. Retrieved May 31, 2022, from <http://www.texasjcmh.gov/media/erwfq1mp/eliminate-the-waittoolkit-1-19-22-final.pdf>.

represent a consensus view of what competency to stand trial should ideally look like.

For more, see the Competence Evaluation and Restoration section of [Appendix C](#).

## 4. Increase data collection and information sharing across the SIM and Bell County stakeholders.

Baseline data across the intercepts was collected when planning for the Bell County SIM Mapping Workshop. Available data and gaps shed light onto conversations around gaps in services and opportunities to expand diversion and access to treatment for people with MI, SUD, and IDD who are justice involved or at-risk of justice involvement.

Specifically, SIM participants identified the following **gaps** in data collection and information sharing:

- A lack of uniform coding of behavioral health calls to 9-1-1 and non-emergency services limiting the amount of data analysis that can occur;
- Inconsistent sharing of information between the LMHA crisis line, 9-1-1, and non-emergency dispatch;
- A lack of readily available data and inconsistent communication across justice and behavioral health stakeholders at all intercepts to help identify someone with a history of using mental health services to connect them to care; and
- A lack of uniform data collection and consistent information sharing across jails and courts to support county level analyses and identification of cross system trends.

Bell County stakeholders also identified **opportunities**:

- Enhancing communication between CCS and Avail by reexamining contractual data sharing requirements;
- Creating a uniform coding criterion for behavioral health calls to 9-1-1 and dispatch to allow law enforcement and the county to further analyze and share mental health data with their partners;
- Sharing information between 9-1-1 and crisis lines to help the community identify frequent users of crisis services who require more supports;
- Developing and sharing performance measures; and

- Creating uniform data between the jail and courts to improve cross system coordination and analysis.

Based on these insights, we suggest that Bell County consider implementing the recommendations outlined in the 2021 Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center (CSG) Bell County Report. <sup>i</sup> CSG recommendations included:

- Implementing consistent coding among police departments in Bell County to get an accurate count of the actual number of behavioral health calls being made.
- Collecting and tracking data on the four key outcomes of Police-Mental Health Collaboration effectiveness <sup>j</sup>:
  - ▶ reduced law enforcement contacts,
  - ▶ connections to services,
  - ▶ minimized arrests, and
  - ▶ reduced use of force, for the general population, for people identified as having SMI, and for people experiencing homelessness to provide a point of comparison.
- Collecting and tracking the four key measures of the Stepping Up initiative<sup>k</sup>:
  - ▶ number of bookings,
  - ▶ average length of stay,
  - ▶ connections to treatment and services, and
  - ▶ recidivism for the general population and for people identified as having SMI to provide a point of comparison. This can be used to determine whether disparities between these populations exist in each of these areas.
- Building upon a universal screening for SMI and screen every person at booking for homelessness. The Bell County Jail is already listed as an access point for Coordinated Entry; collecting this data is a logical extension of that

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<sup>i</sup> Council for State Governments Justice Center (2021). *County Assessment Bell County, Texas*.

<sup>j</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance. *Police Mental Health Collaboration (PMHC) Toolkit*. Retrieved May 31, 2022, from <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/pmhc>.

<sup>k</sup> *Stepping Up Together*. The Stepping Up Initiative. Retrieved April 6, 2022, from <https://stepuptogether.org/>

work. Measures adopted to track SMI could also include subpopulations such as for people experiencing homelessness.

- Collecting and tracking data on people who are considered “high utilizers.” CSG included a recommended definition as any person with 4 or more bookings in one calendar year, tracking both the SMI and general populations.
- Analyzing data to identify if disparities are present and developing strategies to improve equitable access to diversion opportunities and services.

## **Model Programs to Explore:**

- Texas counties have joined national initiatives like the Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jail. In early 2019, Lubbock County became one of 15 counties nationwide nominated as a Stepping Up Innovator County. Lubbock County has implemented strategies to accurately identify people in jails who have serious mental illness, collect, and share data on people to better connect them to treatment and services, and use this information to inform local policies and practices.
- PRA has developed a manual, *Data Collection Across the Sequential Intercept Model: Essential Measures*, to compile data elements organized around each of the six SIM intercepts.<sup>1</sup> Each section lists data points and measures that are essential to addressing how people with MI and SUD flow through that intercept. The sections also cover common challenges with data collection and ways to overcome them, along with practical examples of how information is being used in the field. Efforts to share data often fail when stakeholders lack clarity on the most essential information to collect, integrate, and examine. This could provide a great starting place for Bell County, while considering which data points and measures to gather and analyze to inform policy, ongoing programming, and funding decisions.

For more, see the Information Sharing, Data Analysis, Data Matching section [Appendix C](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (n.d.). (rep.). *Data Collection Across the Sequential Intercept Model: Essential Measures*. Retrieved April 6, 2022, from <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/pep19-sim-data.pdf>.

## 5. Further explore substance use service and program needs in Bell County.

During the Bell County SIM Mapping Workshop, participants identified gaps in access to sobering, detoxification, and substance use residential treatment services, as well as jail-based treatment such as Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). Specifically, SIM participants identified the following **gaps** in substance use services:

- 9-1-1 call takers receive the state required training on mental health and substance use but could benefit from additional training.
- There is a lack of detox options in the community, and no local resource for people needing primarily substance use services.
- A lack of MAT options in the jail.

Bell County SIM participants also identified **opportunities**:

- Increasing substance use supports for people to help prevent mental health crises. Law enforcement identified that substance use crises often precede suicidal ideation.
- Partnering with Baylor Scott & White for addiction specialists housed in the jail could help address the needs of people with mental health and substance use issues.

Based on these insights, **considerations** include:

- Reviewing current Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) processes in the community and jail to develop a continuum of options. The National Sheriffs' Association and National Commission on Correctional Health Care published jail-Based Medication Assisted Treatment: Promising Practices, Guidelines, and Resources for the Field.
- Ensuring support, especially peer support, to help persons maintain MAT and their recovery.

### Model Programs to Explore:

- The Denver County Jail launched a broad MAT continuum a few years ago with a small team of nurses and case managers. Case study results are available from Pew.

- The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections expanded from a naltrexone only program to offer buprenorphine systemwide and has evaluation data available. The Vermont Department of Corrections also offers all three types of FDA-approved medications.
- The National Council for Mental Wellbeing offers a Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioid Use Disorder in Jails and Prisons: A Planning and Implementation Toolkit.

For more, see the Medication Assisted Treatment, Opioids, Substance Use section of [Appendix C](#).

## **6. Facilitate ongoing county behavioral health planning and coordination.**

Bell County SIM participants described an appreciation for the Bell County SIM Mapping Workshop in anonymous reviews and articulated a desire for leadership to formalize ongoing county and regional behavioral planning and coordination.

Based on these requests, we suggest that Bell County consider establishing an ongoing and formal process to convene justice and behavioral health stakeholders to inform ongoing planning efforts and to improve communication and knowledge sharing across systems.

### **Model Programs to Explore:**

- Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (CJCCs) bring together stakeholders to explore and respond to issues in the criminal justice system. Many CJCCs use data and structured planning to address issues in the justice system, including issues related to mental health and substance use. These councils are intended to be permanent, rather than to address a problem or set of problems within a set time frame. Successful CJCCs need buy-ins from the key members of the justice and behavioral health systems and those in positions of authority.
  - The Harris County CJCC was created by Order of Harris County Commissioners Court dated July 14, 2009. The Council works collectively to manage systemic challenges facing Harris County's criminal justice system and strengthen the overall well-being of their communities by developing and recommending policies and practices that improve public safety; promote fairness, equity, and accountability; and reduce

unnecessary incarceration and criminal justice involvement in Harris County. The Council collects and evaluates local criminal justice data to identify systemic issues and facilitates collaboration between agencies, experts, and community service providers to improve Harris County's criminal justice system in accordance with best practices.

- ▶ The National Council for State Legislatures has resources for CJCCs. Something that might be of interest to the SIM participants is a series of interviews with CJCCs, which provides insight into their planning and utilization.
  - ◇ South Carolina: Interview with Mitch Lucas, Assistant Sheriff, Charleston County.
  - ◇ Oregon: Interview with Abbey Stamp, Executive Director, Multnomah County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council.
  - ◇ Wisconsin: Interview with Tiana Glenna, Criminal Justice Manager, Office of the County Administrator, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
  - ◇ Kansas: Interview with Alexander Holsinger, Criminal Justice Coordinator, Criminal Justice Advisory Council, Johnson County, Kansas.

For more, see the Collaboration, Crisis Response, and Law Enforcement section of [Appendix C](#).

## 7. Expand utilization of people with lived experience (peers) across the SIM intercepts

Peer support is when someone with lived experience gives encouragement and assistance to help someone with MI or SUD achieve long-term recovery.<sup>m</sup> Peers offer emotional support, share knowledge, teach skills, provide practical assistance, and connect people with resources, opportunities, and communities of support. Developing diversion programs inclusive of peers can strengthen local efforts to connect people to care and reduce future justice system involvement.

SIM participants noted a **gap** in peer involvement across programs and services at Intercepts 0 and 1. While no specific opportunities to engage peers in services were

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<sup>m</sup> *Peer Support Services*. Texas Health and Human Services Administration. Retrieved April 6, 2022, from <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/providers/behavioral-health-services-providers/peer-supportservices>

identified, other state planning efforts have identified the expansion of peer services as a priority.

Based on these insights, we suggest that Bell County stakeholders consider opportunities to incorporate peers into services at each intercept. For Peer Support as a Medicaid Benefit, HHSC has designated two entities to certify peers, peer supervisors, and peer/peer supervisor training entities. New applicants to be peer specialists, peer specialist supervisors, or training entities should reach out to the Texas Certification Board (TCB--formerly the Texas Certification Board of Addiction Professionals) at [www.tcbap.org](http://www.tcbap.org).

## **Model Programs to Explore**

There is growing evidence that engaging peers leads to better behavioral health and criminal justice outcomes. Peers are commonly found working in the community or with service providers, and stakeholders should consider how peers can be best effective within the criminal justice system.

- PRA's two-page resource, [Peer Support Roles Across the SIM](#), was designed to identify a host of roles that peers can play, both as staff and volunteers, across the Sequential Intercept Model. In addition to the broad outline, local examples are provided to highlight peers who are working with law enforcement, courts and attorneys, jails and prisons, reentry services, and community corrections across the United States.

Also see [Appendix C](#) for more information on Peer Support and Peer Specialists.

## Quick Fixes

While most priorities identified during a Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop require significant planning and resources to implement, quick fixes are priorities that can be implemented with only minimal investment of time, and if any, financial investment. Yet quick fixes can have a significant impact on the trajectories of people with MI, SUD and/or IDD in the justice system.

- Formalize the SIM Mapping Workshop/Diversion Center Steering Committee. Both planning committee members and SIM participants expressed interest in meeting regularly to support justice/behavioral health system planning for Bell County.
- Renegotiate the contract between CCS and Avail, the crisis line provider. CCS is in the process of revising its contract with Avail. Revising this contract and communicating crisis line protocols to law enforcement has the potential to increase the number of people served by MCOT instead of law enforcement.
- Increase utilization of CCS' Outpatient Competency Restoration program to reduce the number of people in the Bell County Jail awaiting inpatient competency restoration services.

## Parking Lot

Some gaps identified during the SIM Mapping Workshop by SIM participants were too large or in-depth to address during the workshop. These items were documented in the “parking lot” and can be considered by Bell County stakeholders as part of ongoing planning efforts.

- The newly passed Damon Allen Act (S.B. 6, 87th Leg., 2d C.S. (2021)) has implications in Bell County. The judicial system predicts the revised timelines and needs for alternative approaches to bail may change how people with mental illnesses access courts and receive bail.
- Staffing shortages at all levels of services create difficulties in maintaining and implementing programs.
- Medical clearance requirements vary across Bell County EDs, creating confusion for law enforcement, and requiring both financial and time resources in the healthcare system which may not be needed.
- Revising state-level mental health statutes, including emergency detention, could improve how law enforcement works with people with mental health needs, however this is a long-term process.
- Addressing the needs of people with IDD and traumatic brain injury requires trainings and supports that are distinct from the mental health system.
- Hiring of a grant writer for Bell County.
- Development of a single database for county services and the jail.

# Appendix A. Bell County SIM Workshop Agenda

## Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop Bell County

March 3, 2022- March 4, 2022  
**Central Texas Council of Governments**  
2180 North Main Street Belton, TX

### AGENDA – Day 1

<b>TIME</b>	<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	<b>TOPICS / EXERCISES</b>
<b>8:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>	Coffee provided
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Opening Remarks, <i>Judge David Blackburn, Bell County Judge</i> Welcome and Introductions, <i>Jennie M. Simpson, PhD, State Forensic Director, Texas Health and Human Services</i>
<b>9:15</b>	<b>Workshop Overview and Keys to Success</b>	Overview of the Workshop Workshop Tasks Texas Data Trends Results from the Community Self-Assessment Keys to Success
<b>9:45</b>	<b>Presentation of Intercepts 0, 1</b>	Overview of Intercepts 0 and 1 Bell County Data Review
<b>10:15</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Map Intercepts 0, 1</b>	Map Intercepts 0 and 1 Examine Gaps and Opportunities Update the Local Map
<b>11:45</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	Lunch to be provided
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Presentation of Intercepts 2, 3</b>	Overview of Intercepts 2 and 3 Bell County Data Review

<b>TIME</b>	<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	<b>TOPICS / EXERCISES</b>
<b>1:15</b>	<b>Map Intercepts 2, 3</b>	Map Intercepts 2 and 3 Examine Gaps and Opportunities Update the Local Map
<b>2:30</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>2:45</b>	<b>Presentation of Intercepts 4, 5</b>	Overview of Intercepts 4 and 5 Bell County Data Review
<b>3:00</b>	<b>Summarizing Opportunities, Gaps &amp; Reviewing Keys to Success</b>	Summarize Gaps and Opportunities Review Keys to Success
<b>3:15</b>	<b>Intro to Bell County Diversion Center Planning</b>	Discuss Diversion Centers Best Practices Share Relevant Bell County Data, Gaps, and Opportunities Discuss Bell County Diversion Center Goals, Target Population, and Eligibility Requirements Assign Workgroups for Day 2
<b>4:30</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	

# Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop Bell County

March 3, 2022- March 4, 2022

**Central Texas Council of Governments**

2180 North Main Street Belton, TX

## AGENDA – Day 2

<b>TIME</b>	<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	<b>TOPICS / EXERCISES</b>
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	Opening Remarks, <i>Johnnie Wardell, Executive Director, Central Counties Services</i> Recap Day 1, <i>Jennie M. Simpson, PhD, State Forensic Director, Texas Health and Human Services Commission</i>
<b>8:45</b>	<b>Diversion Center Planning Overview</b>	Diversion Center Planning Overview Workgroups Instructions
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Diversion Center Planning</b>	Break Out into Diversion Center Planning Workgroups
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Complete Diversion Center Planning</b>	Workgroups Complete Diversion Center Planning Worksheets
<b>11:45</b>	<b>Workgroup Report Outs</b>	
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	Data Collection Report Development Technical Assistance
<b>12:25</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Closing Remarks, <i>Judge David Blackburn, Bell County Judge</i>
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	

# Appendix B. Sequential Intercept Model Map for Bell County, May 2022

## Community Public Health and Support Services

### Housing Services:

CCS has a small housing and employment team

- **Offers connections to Supportive Housing and Rental Assistance**
  - ▶ Able to help 12 people per year
  - ▶ Serve people for three months, then transition
- **Rose Garden:** Board and care facility
- **Homeless shelters:** Salvation Army (Temple), Friends in Crisis (Killeen), Cover House
- **Other Housing Agencies:** Housing Authorities, Area Agency on Aging

### Detox Services:

- **Cedar Crest:** Offers 24 hour detox services
- **Kenikor:** Offers withdrawal management, medication, and outpatient treatment
- **CSS:** Community Health Workers program started February 2022

\*\*\*Few options for people who are uninsured

## Intercept 0: Hospital, Crisis Respite, Peer, and Community Services

### Crisis Phone Lines and 911 Dispatch:

- **Avail:**
  - ▶ Central Counties Services (CCS) contracts with Avail to provide crisis hotline services

- Avail determines when to engage CCS and the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team
- **Outreach, Screening Assessment and Referral (OSAR) Line:**
  - Operated by CCS and Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, connects people to information on SU treatment and services.
- **Bell County 211**
- **Bell County Communications Center**

## Mobile Crisis Response Team:

- **Central Counties Services operates Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOT):**
  - MCOT is located in Bell County (Temple and Killeen) and responds to the 5-county service area.
  - CCS offers telehealth services (through remote providers with iPads), usually as a follow up to hospitalization.
  - MCOT response is about 50% people in hospital and 50% in the community

## Crisis Stabilization:

- Bell County is exploring the development of a Diversion Center, which would off crisis stabilization services.
- Central Counties Services (CCS) can pay for a hotel for an evening to provide temporary respite
- Central Counties Services (CCS) has access to Crisis Respite at Heart of Texas My Health My Resources (MHMR) in Waco

## Emergency Departments/Walk-in Urgent Care

- **Emergency Departments:**
  - Baylor Scott and White, AdventHealth Central Texas, Seton
- **Central Counties Services:**
  - 7 clinic locations offer walk-in services during business hours, clients can typically be seen within 15 minutes.

## Law Enforcement:

- Bell County Sheriff Department, Killeen Police Department, Temple Police Department, Harker Heights Police Department, Belton Police Department, several Police Departments
- **Temple Police Department:**
  - ▶ Approximately 1,100 mental health crisis calls are made in the City of Temple each month
  - ▶ Temple Police Department has an embedded clinician (through CSS) who consults on Mental Health calls and can dispatch MCOT staff
- **Killeen Police Department:**
  - ▶ Informal arrangement with Community and Crisis Services to support mental health co-response
- **Mental Health Deputies (MHD):**
  - ▶ Some Bell County Police Departments have dedicated MHDs

## Intercept 1: Law Enforcement and Emergency Services

### 911 Dispatch and Emergency Services:

- **Bell County Communications Center**
- **Baylor Scott and White**
- **Temple EMS**
- **Belton Fire and Rescue**
- **Arcadia**

## Law Enforcement:

- Bell County Sheriff Department, Killeen Police Department, Temple Police Department, Harker Heights Police Department, Belton Police Department, several Police Departments
- **Temple Police Department:**

- ▶ Approximately 1,100 mental health crisis calls are made in the City of Temple each month
- ▶ Temple Police Department has an embedded clinician (through CSS) who consults on Mental Health calls and can dispatch MCOT staff
- **Killeen Police Department:**
  - ▶ Informal arrangement with CCS to support mental health co-response
- **Mental Health Deputies (MHD):**
  - ▶ Some Bell County Police Departments have dedicated MHDs

## Psychiatric Hospitals:

Three Psych hospital in service area:

- **Canyon Creek Behavioral Health**
- **Cedar Crest Behavioral Health**
  - ▶ Will take people who have been deemed violent
- **Advent Health**
- **Oceans (Waco)**

## Intercept 2: Initial Detention and Initial Court Hearings

### Initial Detention:

- **Booking:**
  - ▶ **Mental health identification** is practices at booking (Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 16.22)
  - ▶ **Screening:**
    - ◇ Mental Health: Comprehensive Biopsychosocial; Sandra Bland OCA Assessment
    - ◇ Suicide Risk: Columbia Risk Assessment
    - ◇ Traumatic Brain Injury: Mental Health Biopsychosocial and Mendical Receiving Screening

- **Continuity of Care Query/Care Match**
  - ▶ CCS conducts cross-checks against public mental health facility records for the jail
  - ▶ Well Path is the behavioral health provider for people who are identified as having mental health needs inside the jail
- **Jail Diversion**
  - ▶ Bell County contracts with CCS for two navigators who work with the courts to support jail diversion and continuity of care
  - ▶ For people funded eligible, CCS has Forensic Assertive Community Treatment and a Day Program in Temple

## Initial Court Appearance Locations:

- **Magistraion:** Individuals receive magistration within 24 hours of arrest (including weekends)
- **Pre-Trial Services:** Bell County Pretrial Services Department
- **Defense Counsel:** Private counsel assigned through a mental health wheel to provide indigent legal services

## Intercept 3: Jails and Courts

### Courts:

Specialty Courts – County Court Law #3

#### Mental Health Docket

- County Attorney Mental Health Review Process: Defense attorney applies to program on behalf of client for access to services and alternatives to jail

#### Veterans Treatment Court Docket

- Connects high risk/heigh need veterans and service members to mental health and substance use disorder treatment via Veterans Health Affairs and community providers

Drug Treatment Court

- Connects high risk/high need defendants to outpatient substance use disorder treatment via contracted and state-funded community providers. Residential treatment placement, as needed, via OSAR referral

## **Jail:**

Bell Country Jail Loop Location; Bell County Jail Central Location; Killeen Municipal Jail

### **Bell County Jail**

- Behavioral Health Services
  - ▶ **Mental Health and Medical Provider:** Well Path
  - ▶ **Substance Use Provider:** WellPath medical for detox; Baylor Scott and White & Bell County Addictions Speciality Psychiatry Program

### **Weekly Mental Health Meetings with Local Mental Health Authority, Jails and Courts**

- Weekly meetings with CCS navigators, jail staff and courts to discuss medication protocols, prevalence of Serious Mental Illness in jails, care strategies, and reentry plans

### **Probation and Parole**

- Texas Commission on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI)
- Coordinated by CCS

# Appendix C. Resources

## Competence Evaluation and Restoration

- Fader-Towe, H. and E. Kelly. (2020) Just and Well: Rethinking How States Approach Competency to Stand Trial. New York, NY: The Council of State Governments Justice Center.
- Finkle, M., Kurth, R., Cadle, C., and Mullan, J. (2009) Competency Courts: A Creative Solution for Restoring Competency to the Competency Process. *Behavioral Science and the Law*, 27, 767-786.
- Pinals, D. and L. Callahan. (2020) Evaluation and Restoration of Competence to Stand Trial: Intercepting the Forensic System Using the Sequential Intercept Model. *Psychiatric Services*, 71, 698-705.
- Policy Research Associates. Competence to Stand Trial Microsite.
- Policy Research Associates. ( 2007, re-released 2020). Quick Fixes for Effectively Dealing with Persons Found Incompetent to Stand Trial.

## Collaboration, Crisis Response, and Law Enforcement

- Bureau of Justice Assistance. Police-Mental Health Collaboration Toolkit.
- Center for Health and Justice. (n.d.). Law Enforcement and First Responder Diversion Pathways to Diversion Case Studies Series.
- Council of State Governments Justice Center. (2021). Developing and Implementing Your Co-Responder Program.
- Council of State Governments Justice Center. (2021). How to Successfully Implement a Mobile Crisis Team.
- Council of State Governments Justice Center. (2021). Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Implementation Science Checklists.
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The system has grown in the ensuing years to cover significantly more of the state.

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### **SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery**

Increasing efforts to enroll justice-involved persons with behavioral disorders in the Supplement Security Income (SSI) and the Social Security Disability

Insurance (SSDI) programs can be accomplished through utilization of SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) trained staff. Enrollment in SSI/SSDI not only provides automatic Medicaid or Medicare in many states, but also provides monthly income sufficient to access housing programs.

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## **Women**

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## **Appendix D: SIM Mapping Workshop Participant List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Title</b>
Alex Gearhart	Killeen Police Department	Assistant Chief of Police
Alisha Lee	Bell County	
Allison Sagosz	Bell County Juvenile Services	Juvenile Probation Officer
Andrea Erskine	Central Counties Services	IDD Director
Angie Gentry/Gay Kurtz Attended	BSWH Medical Center	Emergency Dept. Director
Betiale Hawkins II	Harker Heights Police Department	Deputy Chief
Bill Schumann	Bell County	Bell County Commissioner
Bobby Ehrig	Citizens for Progress -City of Temple	Executive Director
Bodie Correll	Seton Medical Harker Heights	Chief of Staff
Brian Hawkins	Cove House	Executive Director
Canan Blakemore	Cedar Crest Hospital and RTC	CEO
Carlos Sanchez	Central Counties Services	Crisis Intervention Specialist, LPC-S
Cary Moore	Central Counties Services	Team Lead-Caseworker 2/Temple Day
Charlotte Lewis	Greater Killeen Community Clinic	Office Manager
Chris Egizio	Seton Medical Center Harker Heights	
Christina Secrist	Advent Health Central Texas	EMS Liaison/ EMT Tech Supervisor
Christine Reeves	Central Texas Regional Advisory Council	Executive Director
Christopher Ellis	Bell County Sheriff's Dept.	BCSD CRD SGT
Christopher Wohleb	Bell County Attorney	Assistant County Attorney

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Title</b>
Damon Russell/Alternate David Chastang	NAMI Temple	Leadership Committee
Dawn Owens	Bell County Juvenile Services	Interim Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
Denise Finger	Rock Springe Behavioral Health	
Dusti Freeby	Endeavors	
Ebony Jackson	Bell County Indigent Health Care Program	Department Director
Eric Fox	Central Counties Services	Law Enforcement Liaison
Erin Basalay	Rock Springs Behavioral Health	
Gilbert Alcozer	Bell County Sheriff's Dept	Jail Sergeant
George Lasoya	Central Texas Council of Governments	AAA
Holly Doggett	Cedar Crest Hospital and RTC	Director of Business Development
Ian Gillies	Baylor Scott & White	Social Worker
James A Bourgeois	BSWH Memorial Medical Center	Chair, Psychiatry
James Arnold	Central Counties Services	Director of Behavioral Health
James Nichols	Bell County	Bell County Attorney
Jennifer McCoy	Bell County	Bell County Pre-Trial Services
John Driver	Bell County	County Commissioner, PCT 4
Johnnie Wardell	Central Counties Services	Executive Director
Judge David Blackburn	Bell County	County Judge
Julie Furtado	Wellpath	Mental Health Coordinator
Katherine Martin, LCSW	Bell County Court Law # 3	Director of Specialty Courts/Social Work
Ken Cates	Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity	CEO
Kevin Roberts	Advent Health	CEO
Kimberly Hubbard	Bell County Pre-Trial Services	Attorney

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Title</b>
Kyle Moore	Killeen PD	Homeless Outreach Team
Larry Berg	Belton Police Department	Deputy Chief
Larry Gibson	Bell County Sheriff Dept.	Deputy Chief
Dr. Lia Amuna	Texas A& M university Central Texas	
Linda Ingraham	Bell County	RETIRED DIRECTOR OF PTS/IDC
Lee Johnson	Texas Council	
Marcia Sinegal	Advent Health Central Texas	Clinical Program Director
Mary Gales	Bell County Indigent Health Services	Assistant Director
McKinley Thomas	Baylor Scott & White Health	VP of Operations
Melissa Tyroch	Tyroch Boyd PLLC	Attorney
Michael Craft	Bell County Sheriff Dept.	Deputy Chief
Nancy Glover	City of Temple	Director of Housing and Human Development
Paola McIntosh	Central Counties Services	Community Services Manager
Paula Pollei/Alternate Julie Newberry	NAMI Temple	Leadership Committee
Paul A. Motz	Law Office of Paul A. Motz	Attorney
Randy Stefek	Harker Heights PD	Commander
Rebecca DePew	Bell County	County Judge
Renee Woodson	Central Counties Services	Jail Diversion Supervisor
Reynold Blue	Bell County Sheriff's Dept.	Intake Supervisor
Robert Greenberg, MD	Baylor Scott & White Health MS-11AG062	VP and CMO of Emergency Services
Ross Gaetano	Advent Health Central Texas	Behavioral Health Services, Director
Russell T Schneider	Bell County	County Commissioner Pct. 1
Shane Sowell	Bell County Sheriff's Dept.	Major
Shawn Reynolds	Temple PD	Chief of Police
Sherri Woytek	Temple Community Clinic	Executive Director
Sylveria Sanchez	Central Counties Services	Manager 5-ACT/MCOT

Name	Agency	Title
TaNeika Driver Moultrie	Greater Killeen Community Clinic	Executive Director
Tanya Reed	MRB Group	Architect
Taylor Ratcliff, MD, FF/EMT-LP	Baylor Scott & White Health	EMS Physician & Medical Director
Teresa Phelps	Bell County Sheriff's Dept.	Sergeant-MH training/personnel, recruitment and backgrounds
Traci Powell	Bell County CSCD	Director Bell County CSCD

## Appendix E: List of Acronyms and Initialisms

Acronym	Full Name
<b>ACT</b>	Assertive Community Treatment
<b>AOT</b>	Assisted Outpatient Treatment
<b>ARPA</b>	American Rescue Plan Act
<b>CCs</b>	Central Counties Services
<b>CIT</b>	Crisis Intervention Team
<b>CJCC</b>	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
<b>CSG</b>	Council of State Governments
<b>DDJ</b>	Data-Driven Justice
<b>ECHO</b>	Ending Community Homelessness Organization
<b>ED</b>	Emergency Department
<b>EMS</b>	Emergency Medical Services
<b>EOD</b>	Emergency Order of Detention
<b>ER</b>	Emergency Room
<b>FD</b>	Fire Department
<b>FDA</b>	Food and Drug Administration
<b>FUSE</b>	Frequent User System Engagement
<b>HHSC</b>	Health and Human Services Commission
<b>IDD</b>	Intellectual and Developmental Disability
<b>IST</b>	Incompetent to Stand Trial
<b>JCAFS</b>	Joint Committee on Access and Forensic Services
<b>LE</b>	Law Enforcement
<b>LMHA</b>	Local Mental Health Authority
<b>LPC</b>	Licensed Professional Counselor
<b>MAT</b>	Medication-Assisted Treatment
<b>MCOT</b>	Mobile Crisis Response Team
<b>MI</b>	Mental Illness
<b>OCR</b>	Outpatient Competency Restoration
<b>OSAR</b>	Outreach Screening Assessment and Referral
<b>PD</b>	Police Department
<b>PRA</b>	Policy Research Associates
<b>QMHP</b>	Qualified Mental Health Professional
<b>SAMHSA</b>	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Acronym	Full Name
<b>SIM</b>	Sequential Intercept Model
<b>SMI</b>	Serious Mental Illness
<b>SUD</b>	Substance Use Disorder
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TCB</b>	Texas Certification Board
<b>TCOOMMI</b>	Texas Commission on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments
<b>THDSN</b>	The Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network