

Sequential Intercept
Model Mapping
Report for
Denton County, TX

Prepared by:

The Texas Judicial Commission on
Mental Health

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Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Report for Denton County, TX

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The Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH) was created by a joint order of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to develop, implement, and coordinate policy initiatives designed to improve the courts' interaction with—and the administration of justice for—children, adults, and families with mental health needs.

JCMH Mission

Engage and empower court systems through collaboration, education, and leadership thereby improving the lives of individuals with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).



The Dallas County District Attorney's Office Mental Health Division refers cases to diversion programs that concentrate on mental health services, focuses on procedures to restore competency, determines appropriate case resolutions such as dismissal, deferred adjudication, or conviction. The division collaborates and utilizes risk assessments, psychological evaluations, competency reports, hospital records, caseworkers, service provider assessments, and more.

DCDAO MH Division Mission

Stop the cycle of those with mental health and addiction issues being caught in the criminal justice system while continuing to safeguard the community.



A Note on Language: Across our communities, significant stigma still exists around experience with mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and justice system involvement. In this document, we seek to use respectful language that recognizes the value as well as the challenges

that people with these experiences bring to our communities. A number of excellent resources provide detailed guidance about language that feels more courteous and modern to many people. In general, it is a good idea to use “person first” language that references the person before a relevant condition (i.e., “a person with schizophrenia” rather than “a schizophrenic”) because we are all more than one diagnosis or experience. It is also important to use the words that people use to describe themselves, such as pronouns or other descriptors, to create a respectful and inclusive environment. For more information on mental health language, see <https://hogg.utexas.edu/news-resources/language-matters-in-mental-health>. For information on substance use, see <https://nida.nih.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/health-professions-education/words-matter-terms-to-use-avoid-when-talking-about-addiction>. For information on justice system involvement, see <https://fortunesociety.org/wordsmatter/>.



Acknowledgments

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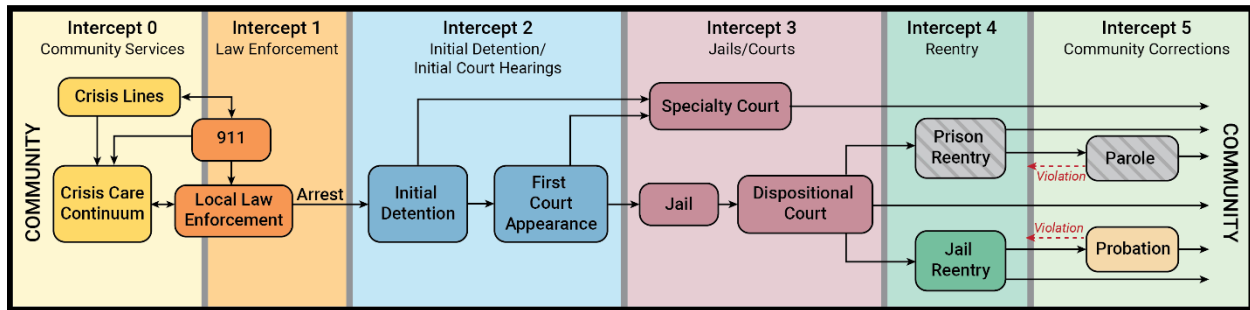
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BACKGROUND

The [Sequential Intercept Model](#) was developed by Mark R. Munetz, M.D. and Patricia A. Griffin, Ph.D., in conjunction with SAMSHA’s GAINS Center. Since its creation, it has been used by communities to assess available resources, determine gaps in services, and plan for change.

A Sequential Intercept Model mapping is a workshop that develops a map illustrating how people with behavioral health needs move through the criminal justice system. The workshop allows participants to identify opportunities for collaboration to prevent further penetration into the justice system.

The Sequential Intercept Mapping workshop has five primary goals:

- Develop a comprehensive picture of how people with mental illness and co-occurring disorders flow through the criminal justice system along six distinct intercept points: (0) Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams/Co-Response, (1) Law Enforcement and Emergency Services, (2) Initial Detention and Initial Court Hearings, (3) Jails and Courts, (4) Reentry, and (5) Community Corrections/Community Support.
- Identify challenges, resources, and opportunities for each intercept for individuals in the target population.
- Create priorities for activities designed to improve system and service level responses for individuals in the target population.
- Generate an action plan to implement the priorities.
- Nurture cross-system communication and collaboration.

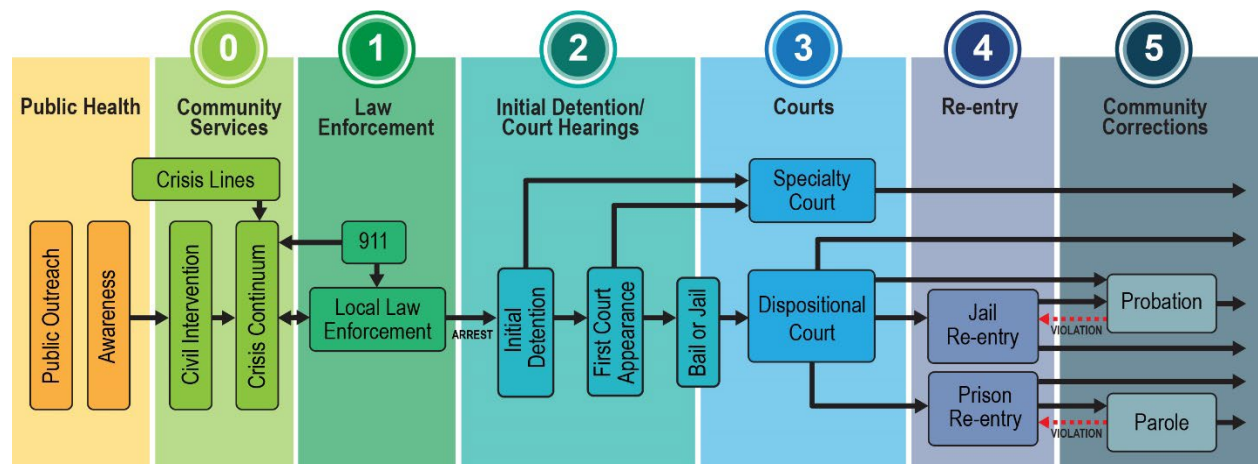


RESOURCES AND CHALLENGES AT EACH INTERCEPT

The primary objective of a mapping workshop is to identify resources and gaps at each intercept. This process is essential to success since the criminal justice system and behavioral health services are constantly changing, and identifying the gaps and resources allows for a contextual understanding of the local Sequential Intercept Model map. The map can also be used by planners to establish substantial opportunities for improving public safety and public health outcomes for people with mental health and substance use disorders by addressing the gaps and building on existing resources.

Prior to the workshop, Denton leaders identified some community goals:

- Establish clear guidelines for competency restoration processes.
- Identify gaps in policies and make a more cohesive policy between departments.
- Identify areas of educational need for law enforcement, courts, attorneys, and other stakeholders.



INTERCEPT 0 AND INTERCEPT 1

Intercept 0 encompasses the early intervention points for people with mental illness, substance use disorder, and/or intellectual and developmental disability prior to possible arrest by law enforcement. This intercept captures systems and services designed to connect people with treatment before a crisis begins or at the earliest possible stage of system intervention.

Intercept 1 encompasses initial contact with law enforcement and other emergency service responses. This intercept captures systems and services designed to divert people away from the justice system and toward treatment when safe and feasible.

BEST PRACTICE: USE ALTERNATIVES TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Crisis services include the array of resources available to individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis. These services can include stabilization units, mental health hotlines, mobile crisis units, and residential units. A strong presence of supportive resources at this stage can reduce the number of law enforcement contacts with individuals who have mental health issues. It is important that stakeholders and the public know of these services and that they are affordable and accessible.

Denton County:

The [Appendix](#) contains lists of many resources available in the community that can be utilized to divert individuals from the criminal justice system.

BEST PRACTICE: USE CIVIL INTERVENTIONS WHEN APPROPRIATE

Civil interventions refer to legal processes by which people other than the person with mental illness can initiate treatment and includes initiation of civil commitment proceedings and court-ordered treatment, including assisted outpatient treatment (AOT). Civil commitment processes and AOT do not require the involvement of the police or the criminal justice system. Recently states have begun to provide for civil interventions for behavioral health conditions other than mental illness, including substance use disorders.

Court ordered treatment can be provided in the community or in an inpatient setting as determined by a clinical evaluation. Inpatient and outpatient treatment can be delivered sequentially or, alternatively, beginning with outpatient options and utilizing inpatient settings as needed.

Most civil commitments in Texas start with an Emergency Detention, or an “Apprehend and Detain.” Emergency Detention requires a mental health crisis: that the individual displays a mental illness; that the individual displays a substantial risk of serious harm to themselves or others; that the risk of harm is imminent unless the individual is immediately restrained; and a statement of supporting facts describing specific recent behavior for the belief, including overt acts, attempts, or threats that were observed.

Denton County:

In Denton County, when a family needs an Emergency Detention, the probate court typically refers the family to law enforcement for an Apprehension by Peace Officer Without a Warrant (APOWW, also known locally as an Apprehend and Detain or A&D) under [Texas Health & Safety Code § 573.001](#) instead of issuing a warrant under [Texas Health & Safety Code § 573.011](#).

There are opportunities for Denton County to better utilize the civil system and the probate courts by:

- Allowing, and creating countywide procedures to support, families and other adults to apply for an Emergency Detention under [Texas Health & Safety Code § 573.011](#).
- Updating legal documents, warrants, and forms throughout the system.
 - Legal documents, warrants, and forms can be reviewed for changes following each legislative session.
 - Adopting standard forms countywide can increase efficiency for law enforcement agencies, hospitals, and courts.

- Local agreements can delineate the point at which law enforcement involvement with a patient ends and the hospital's involvement or the facility's involvement begins. Parties could mutually agree under which circumstances a peace officer can drop off a patient and quickly leave.
- Developing and implementing procedures for outpatient civil commitments.
 - Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Court Programs are programs in civil courts, typically probate courts, that use court-ordered community-based treatment to improve treatment outcomes and reduce involvement in the judicial system.
 - [Implementing an AOT Court](#) explains how to set up an AOT court in Texas.
 - The [Texas AOT Practitioner's Guide](#) explains how to operate an AOT Court in accordance with Texas laws and procedures.
 - [Psychiatric Advanced Directives](#), also known as [Declarations for Mental Health Treatment](#), allow a person to control their mental health treatment in the event that they become unable to make treatment decisions at a later date. It may be possible for a person to carry these documents or pre-submit them to hospitals, jails, and other facilities. Denton County would have to identify a secure storage system for these documents, possibly TLETS, CCQ, or the county clerk's office.
 - Supported decision making allows individuals to make their own decisions and manage their affairs while receiving the assistance needed to do so. Resources about supported decision making include a [handout](#), a [toolkit](#), an [explainer video](#), and sample [agreement forms](#).
 - Guardianships can be used to support individuals who, due to age, disease, or injury, need help managing some or all their daily affairs. It should be noted that guardianship removes some of the individual's rights and privileges. More information on guardianships is offered by the [Texas Guide to Adult Guardianship](#), and the [Texas Guardianship Association](#).

BEST PRACTICE: ENCOURAGE PRE-ARREST DIVERSION

Pre-Arrest Diversion is designed to reduce the number of persons who are arrested and placed into the criminal justice system and local jail because of a mental health problem. Instead of punishment, diversion directs people toward treatment and mental health support and takes the responsibility for rehabilitation off the local criminal justice system. The laws in Texas supporting pre-arrest diversion are designed to connect those in crisis with adequate treatment and services and reduce the pressure on the criminal justice system while maximizing community safety. Some examples of pre-arrest diversion laws and techniques are listed below.

Under [Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 16.23\(a\)](#), every law enforcement agency must make a good-faith effort to divert a person who is suffering a mental health crisis or suffering from the effects of substance abuse to a proper treatment center in the agency's jurisdiction.

This provision applies if:

- a treatment center is available;
- diversion is reasonable;
- the offense is a non-violent misdemeanor; and
- the mental health or substance abuse issue is suspected to be the reason for the offense.

First responder training includes dispatcher training, specialized police response, mental health first aid, and training for EMTs and other first responders. An example is Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). CIT focuses on identifying signs of mental health disorders, de-escalating a situation that involves those signs, and connecting people to treatment. The importance of crisis training has increased in recent years to avoid escalation into the use of force. All law enforcement officers should receive crisis and de-escalation training as well as regular updates on related best practices.

Denton County:

In Denton County, workforce shortages and COVID restrictions have increased the need for collaborative inter-agency agreements and active support for law enforcement education and crisis intervention training. There is a lack of consistent training for crisis intervention response teams (CIRT).

- The Denton Police Department CIRT can share their training and methodology with other CIRTs.
- Denton County Sheriff's Office offered assistance with mentoring and training; DCSO has 4 CIT instructors and volunteered to train at other departments.
- Denton MHMR has offered training opportunities, but some agencies report that they don't have time for an MHMR class.
- [CIT refresher courses](#) are an opportunity for peace officers who have already completed the academy.
- Promoting and reinforcing successes can contribute to a culture of active support for CITs and CIRTs.
- Law enforcement agencies and jail staff would benefit from an increase in mental health awareness training, the availability of mental health services, and the availability of substance use disorder services.

- Denton MHMR can lead training on awareness and availability of services and had received grants to provide this type of training.
- Small bites of mental health training can be provided at roll call or shift change by officers who have been trained or by Denton MHMR educators.
- Law enforcement agencies can add more mental health training to the police academy curriculum.
- Awareness of special issues faced by veterans and people with intellectual or developmental disabilities can be increased at every stage.

Many law enforcement agencies reported they were unaware of opportunities for diversion and civil alternatives to arrest; a previous meeting of all police chiefs was sparsely attended.

- Model how the system works correctly as opposed to only discussing the problems that agencies face.
- Create and provide more education about the duty to divert in Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 16.23.

It was reported that, on occasion, law enforcement arrests a person without having the intention to file a criminal case on that person. These occasions present the opportunity for increased training and collaboration on available diversions and civil law solutions while still maintaining community safety and assisting the individual in accessing appropriate treatment and services.

The number of agencies in the county with a CIT or a CIRT is increasing, but many smaller agencies don't have the ability or funding to create them. It was reported that if a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) is employed at the at one of the 911 dispatch centers, then the dispatch center will also have to employ a CIT investigator who is on call 24 hours a day.

- The [North Central Texas Council of Governments](#) offers grants for criminal justice projects.
- The City of Denton Police Department can assist other agencies with grant applications.

Denton County does not have a central, publicly funded hospital, placing added stress on the Denton Police Department and the Sheriff's Department. Other agencies drop off patients at facilities without following the correct procedures for an Apprehend and Detain (A&D), and when problems arise with those patients, they become the problems of the local departments, Denton Police Department and the Sheriff's Department.

Individuals who are arrested in smaller jurisdictions that are not served by a CIRT do not receive any mental health interventions until they are transported to the Denton County Jail.

- Partner with Denton MHMR or Denton Public Health to supply small city jails with some level of mental health intervention.

When an individual is housed in a city jail instead of the Denton County Jail, the District Attorney's Office does not always receive notice of the individual's mental health needs. The District Attorney's Office receives notice of an individual's mental health needs if the individual is housed in the Denton County Jail.

- Law enforcement can write incident reports for all mental health calls even if they do not result in an arrest.

BEST PRACTICE: PRE-BOOKING DROP OFF CENTERS

Pre-booking drop off centers include crisis stabilization centers that assist with "deescalating the severity of a person's level of distress and/or need for urgent care associated with a substance use or mental health disorder," according to [SAMHSA](#). These centers can provide short-term observation and crisis stabilization services in a home-like, non-hospital environment.

Denton County:

Denton County does not have a jail diversion center, crisis receiving center, or a sobering center. A facility of this kind was widely touted as a needed improvement.

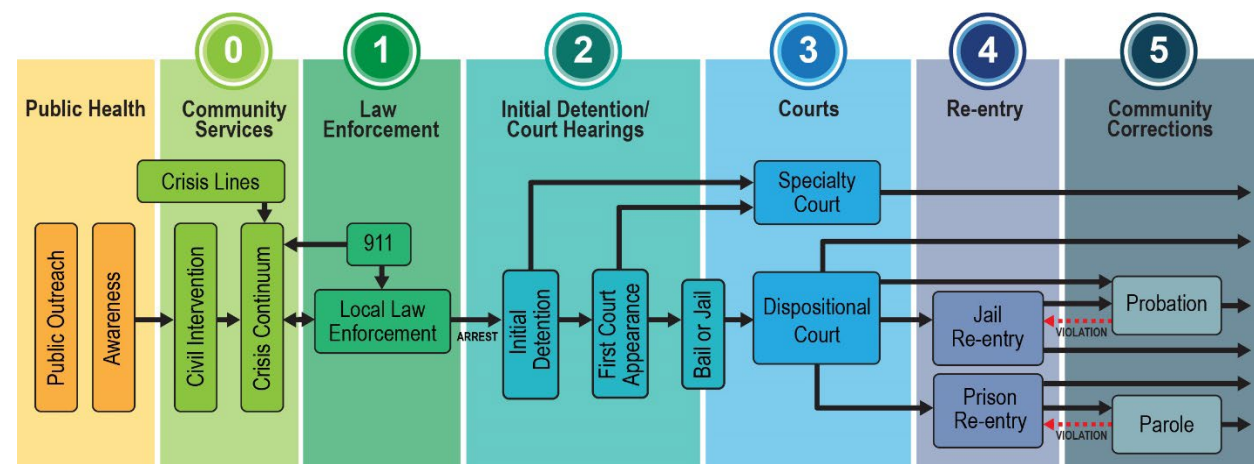
- A Crisis Stabilization Center with expedited review by an assistant district attorney can make the decision of whether to file a criminal case or to pursue a civil diversion.
- Jail book-in time can be decreased with a drop-off center.
- Nearby, Dallas County recently opened their own deflection center and diversion program, [Dallas Deflects](#), to connect individuals with mental health services.

BEST PRACTICE: USE TELEHEALTH

Telehealth can expand the reach of services and improve efficiency of healthcare and related support services by shortening delays in services and eliminating or reducing travel time and associated costs. Telehealth-based services can be particularly beneficial for clients/patients that live in geographically remote or underserved areas, including urban areas.

Denton County:

A brief review online indicates that some behavioral and mental health providers in Denton County may provide telehealth services. However, this was not discussed in detail during the workshop.



INTERCEPT 2 AND INTERCEPT 3

Intercept 2 describes the part of the process when people who are detained and have an initial hearing with a magistrate. This intercept is the first opportunity for judicial interaction in the criminal justice system, including intake screening, early assessment, appointment of counsel and pretrial release of those individuals with mental illness, substance use disorder, or intellectual and developmental disability.

Intercept 3 encompasses people who are held in pretrial detention at the local jail or released to the community while awaiting disposition of their criminal cases. This intercept includes constitutional protections, services that prevent the worsening of a person’s mental or substance use symptoms, and interventions that connect individuals with community treatment options.

BEST PRACTICE: IDENTIFY EARLY AND DIVERT WHEN APPROPRIATE

Every person that is arrested and brought to jail should be screened for mental health and substance use disorders.

CONTINUITY OF CARE CHECK

With limited exceptions, the Texas Administrative Code requires every jail to conduct a Continuity of Care Query (CCQ) check on each inmate upon intake into the jail. The CCQ is originated through the Department of Public Safety’s Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS), which initiates a data exchange with the HHSC’s Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services system to determine if the inmate has previously received state mental healthcare.

Denton County:

Denton County jail staff utilizes the CCQ check and provides this information to the magistrate office. The Magistrate Court Mental Health Coordinator and Community Diversion Coordinator review this information as part of the mental health indication review process before passing to the magistrate judge for an order to conduct a 16.22 assessment. Jail Intake sends screenings to mhmagistratecourt@dentoncounty.gov.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION: CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ART. 16.22

[CCP 16.22](#) details a procedure for identifying a person’s possible mental illness or intellectual disability at the earliest stages of—and throughout—a criminal proceeding. Under article 16.22, a magistrate must, under certain circumstances, order an expert to interview the defendant and otherwise collect information regarding whether the defendant has a mental illness or intellectual disability in order to alert the necessary stakeholders if the resulting report indicates possible mental illness or intellectual disability.

Denton County:

The current Denton County procedures are that the Mental Health Court Coordinator for the Magistrate Court (currently Tiffany Cummings) reviews the jail intake screenings daily for indicators of mental health or IDD needs, including suicide watch or suicide precautions. Jail staff also provide the 16.22 request—which includes an intake form, the jail screening, a Magistrate notification form, and other information—to the Mental Health Court Coordinator for Magistrate Court, which is then forwarded to the Magistrate Judge. The Magistrate Judge decides whether to order a 16.22 interview and report, completes the corresponding order, and returns the order to the Mental Health Court Coordinator for Magistrate Court.

The Mental Health Court Coordinator for Magistrate Court creates a case file separate from the county or district clerk’s file. This case file includes the 16.22 request, book-in sheet, warrant or order of commitment, probable cause affidavit, and other documents. The Mental Health Court Coordinator for Magistrate Court emails the order to Denton MHMR and copies the following entities on the same email: District Attorney’s Office or County Attorney’s Office; trial court judge; defense counsel; the chief of the Denton County Sheriff’s Office; the supervisor of the inmate’s jail housing unit; jail medical; pretrial services; the Community Diversion Coordinator (currently Erica Baldwin).

Denton MHMR completes the [Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 16.22](#) (16.22) interviews and reports, [Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 46B](#) assessments (46B), and Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) services assessments.

Denton County Public Health provides risk assessments, ongoing care, psychotherapeutic intervention for approximately 300 to 350 inmates; coordinates with the Community Diversion Coordinator for 16.22 and 46B updates; and determines whether inmates need a psychiatric evaluation.

Denton County and District court judges can be alerted to when a defendant with mental illness is on their docket by utilizing a green flag alert in Odyssey on the party record, which indicates that a 16.22 assessment was ordered.

- If the case is a felony, the district clerk places a green flag in Odyssey on the party record, but the county clerk does not place similar flags in misdemeanor cases.
 - Clerk may be concerned about confidentiality or applicable laws. Training on relevant statutes and procedures for clerks may resolve confidentiality concerns about the green flags.

JAIL DIVERSION FOR DEFENDANTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS

As discussed above in intercepts 0 and 1, [diversions for defendants with mental health disorders](#) can provide a benefit to the defendant, the judicial system, the community as a whole. Jail diversion occurs after an arrest has been made, but before an official charge from the State—this type of diversion can also be called a pre-charge diversion or a prosecutor-led diversion.

Denton County:

Once Denton MHMR receives the 16.22 order, the interview and report are completed. Denton MHMR provides the 16.22 report to the Community Diversion Coordinator, who then emails the 16.22 report to the same individuals who received the original 16.22 order (District Attorney's Office or County Attorney's Office; trial court judge; defense counsel; the chief of the Denton County Sheriff's Office; the supervisor of the inmate's jail housing unit; jail medical; and pretrial services). The Jail In-reach Coordinator contacts the Community Diversion Coordinator to discuss treatment options following the individual's assessment.

Jail Diversion Process:

- Criteria: class B misdemeanor or below on sight arrest
- The person is medically screened. If the person is in acute psychiatric crisis, the jail can inform the arresting officer that they are sending the person to the hospital first. The officer then must determine whether to release the person or transport them to the hospital before going to jail. It may not be possible to divert a person at this point if probable cause has been found.

Based on Denton MHMR's written recommendation, the following options are available:

- Outpatient mental health treatment: it is possible for Erica Baldwin to work with Denton MHMR to set up services prior to the individual's release from jail.
- Voluntary inpatient mental health treatment: Individuals who consent to receive treatment can do so via jail health services. The Community Diversion Coordinator works to facilitate community placements for individuals who have a bond set.
- Involuntary recommendation: If the Community Diversion Coordinator receives a recommendation, they attempt to coordinate prosecutor's office, the trial judge, or the magistrate judge to secure the release of the individual from jail to be committed for inpatient services.
- Inmates are released prior to the collection of 16.22 information.
- The 16.22 interview request is unhelpful when it lacks important information:
 - Jail staff can document the inmate's behaviors and their own observations on 16.22 notices.
 - The amount and types of supporting documents can be increased, such as including records from encounters with jail medical staff or including all jail records from book-ins during the previous 2 years.
 - The Continuity of Care Query advises whether an inmate has sought services at Denton County MHMR in the previous three years. This information is often limited in nature and not as helpful as magistrates, judges, and lawyers would like it to be.
- The notice of a 16.22 report is emailed to trial court judges, so they must look up a specific tab in each case to see if there is a flag that a 16.22 report was completed. A 16.22 flag that is evident across all tabs in Odyssey would be a needed improvement.

MENTAL HEALTH BONDS: CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ART. 17.032

Pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure art. 17.032, unless good cause is shown, the magistrate must release the person on personal bond if all of the following criteria are met:

- the person is not charged with and has not been previously convicted of certain violent offenses: murder, capital murder; aggravated robbery; kidnapping, aggravated kidnapping; a family violence assault, as defined by [section 71.004 of the Texas Family Code](#); aggravated assault.

Denton County:

Typical conditions of mental health bonds include requirements to: check in with Denton MHMR services; abide by Denton MHMR's recommendations; possess no firearms; possess no marijuana, controlled substances, or cannabidiol (CBD); and attend all appointments for assessments and services. The bond conditions are uploaded to Odyssey. The Community Diversion Coordinator reviews the bond conditions and release plan with the individual prior to their release. A coordinated release among the Community Diversion Coordinator, Denton

MHMR, Denton County jail, and transportation is performed when possible. It was reported that a “warm handoff” to the service provider is in development by these entities.

- The bond condition process can be improved:
 - Conditions of 17.032 bonds need to be entered into TCIC by the Denton County Sheriff’s Office, per [Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 17.50](#).
 - Stakeholders shared the idea of connecting the 17.032 bond conditions with a [Texas Health & Safety Code § 574.035](#) extended inpatient civil commitment order if there is a failure to comply with bond conditions, while also ensuring that the bond condition oath isn’t waived under [Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 17.04](#).
 - Law enforcement agencies, the Denton County Sheriff’s Office, and the Denton County District Attorney could formulate an agreement that the filing agency has a certain number of days to supply the evidence necessary for the prosecutor to file a case, and that the person will be released from jail if the evidence is not received in that time.

BEST PRACTICE: ENSURE JAIL ACCESS TO TELEPSYCHIATRY/ MEDICATIONS

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards is required to adopt reasonable rules and procedures that require county jails to provide access to telemental health at any time of day and provide prescription medications according to [Texas Government Code Section 511.009](#), or to use all reasonable efforts to arrange for the individual to have access to a mental health professional within a reasonable time.

Denton County:

Although the Denton County Jail has a telehealth option for inmates, it is not widely used. Denton MHMR currently uses telehealth for Certificates of Medical examination (CMEs) and psychiatric evaluations on a case-by-case basis. It is unknown if city jails have telehealth capabilities.

- Although telehealth does not work for everyone, telehealth in the jail would result in fewer medical interruptions than currently occur.
- Installing a tablet equipped with telehealth software in a location that does not require staff supervision of the inmate who is using it could decrease staffing shortages.
- Telehealth would allow the doctor to observe the individual who cannot or will not communicate with Denton MHMR.
- Collateral witnesses (jail staff, family members) can use the tablet to document their statements and observations of the inmate under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure articles 16.22 and 17.032.

BEST PRACTICE: CREATE CROSS-SYSTEM REVIEW TEAMS

Cross-system collaboration reaches across fragmented services and systems to build constructive working relationships to accomplish goals. Teams composed of individuals across systems can work together to overcome challenges, such as funding silos, limited resources, and differences in system “cultures” or values.

HIRE OR APPOINT A COURT LIAISON

Court liaisons provide a vital link to mental and behavioral health service providers during the life of court cases. Liaisons are typically clinically trained and connected either with a behavioral health provider or with the court. They are adept at providing program and treatment coordination and communicating with service providers and agencies outside of the court.

Denton County:

In 2021, Denton County hired Erica Baldwin to serve as a Community Diversion Coordinator. Her duties and responsibilities include:

- Engage stakeholders in education on the many diversion opportunities across the SIM.
- Assist the court and attorneys in evaluating cases and defendants to determine if a pathway other than jail would better serve the defendant and the community.
- Develop and foster collaborative relationships between the LMHA, local hospitals, the jail, and the courts.
- Coordinate the creation of treatment plans to ensure appropriate community support for individuals being released into the community.

CREATE DATA & INFORMATION SHARING POLICIES

Data-driven indicators measure the effectiveness of behavioral health interventions and allow adjustments to be made to increase the effectiveness of those interventions. Data can also measure the cost effectiveness of behavioral health programs and allow policy makers to allocate resources more effectively. Coordinating data offers an opportunity to identify high cross-system utilizers. Data should be collected about individuals' progress and needs, responses to those needs, and efforts to improve mental health responses.

Denton County:

Denton County collects data and shares information in the following ways:

- Document Sharing
 - Both the prosecution and the defense can email PCRequest@dentoncounty.gov, and the court coordinator will provide them with documents pulled from jail files.

- Multidisciplinary Meetings
 - Bi-weekly individual mental health case reviews include Denton MHMR, the District Attorney’s Office, and the assigned defense counsel.
 - Monthly case reviews of individuals released on 17.032 bonds.
 - 46B Forensic Meetings review the competency restoration list, receive updates on medication compliance, and make recommendations on readiness for re-evaluation; include Denton MHMR, jail medical, and the Community Diversion Coordinator.
 - In addition to these individual case reviews, there is an opportunity for the implementation of countywide systems-based meetings discuss streamlining county procedures.
- Utilization of [Health and Safety Code Sec. 614.017](#), which allows disclosure of information relating to a special needs offender for the purposes of continuity of care and services of that individual.
- Due to varying interpretations of the law, clerk policies and practices result in more information sharing from the District Clerk than from the County Clerk.
 - Education about the clerk’s duties and responsibilities regarding mental health records would be helpful.
- It was reported that there is an unreliable or incomplete flow of information from law enforcement to the jail to the client to the magistrate or judge. It was also reported that the Denton County Sheriff’s Office will not accept take probable cause affidavits from local police departments. A data sharing agreement could ameliorate this issue.
- Local defense counsel reported challenges in accessing important information on unfiled cases. A delay in relaying information from law enforcement to the County Attorney or to the District Attorney results in a delay in case filing. Defendants—with or without attorneys—do not receive notice that their case has been declined or not filed, either by the prosecuting attorney or the law enforcement agency.
 - Defense counsel and prosecutors can email a request to PCRequest@dentoncounty.gov and the court coordinator can pull and furnish documents from jail files.
 - Denton County Sheriff’s Office and the Denton County District Attorney can develop a “file or release” policy or practice.
- It was reported that stakeholders are unaware of, not using, or perhaps not abiding by, [Texas Health & Safety Code § 614.017](#). Information sharing is required by law for continuity of care and continuity of services purposes for these specific cases.
 - Countywide education is needed about the mandate and the ability to share information.

- Jail medical has established a process for attorneys and judges to request jail medical records by subpoena or by open records request and will follow up with magistrate court staff so the process can be made clear to all requesting parties.
- The case filing software is not countywide. There is no way to track unfiled cases and no system for flagging mental health cases. Defense attorneys reported being unable to get Discovery prior to indictment and resorting to Open Records Requests to get probable cause affidavits.
 - Odyssey may have data sharing capability.
 - [TechShare](#) has a law enforcement portal, an overlay for magistrates, multiple methods to flag and track cases, and a defense portal for Discovery.
- Data collection and tracking can be stronger. Recommendations discussed included:
 - Collect data on the number of mental health calls, mental health warrants, etc. to target CIT interactions.
 - Assign an incident number to every MH call.
- Gathering data will bolster the argument for a crisis stability or sobering center.

BEST PRACTICE: QUICKLY APPOINT AN ATTORNEY

It is best practice to appoint counsel as soon as practicable upon arrest of an individual. Appointing counsel at an earlier point in the case, such as before indictment, will reduce the length of time people are housed in jail waiting for evaluations and waiting for transportation to facilities for evaluation or restoration, as defense counsel can meet the client and begin assessing the client's needs.

Denton County:

In Denton County, it was reported that an attorney is appointed to every individual for whom a 16.22 interview and report is ordered.

Additionally, some attorneys reported that they are not appointed to cases until after indictment. Appointing counsel prior to indictment can increase early identification of clients' mental health needs.

Opportunities for Denton County to better utilize early appointment of counsel include:

- Centralizing and streamlining the appointment of defense counsel across all county and district courts. Currently, if an attorney is not appointed at the time that a 16.22 interview and report is ordered, the Community Diversion Coordinator will communicate with the Indigent Defense Coordinator.

- Creating and implementing a process for appointed defense counsel to access certain evidence in the case file, such as the offense report and arrest warrant affidavit, prior to indictment, so they can begin working on the case.
- Creating and implementing a process for defense counsel to request competency evaluations prior to indictment.
- Discussing possibilities of diversion in lieu of competency restoration in certain cases. There is an opportunity for defense counsel to work with the Denton County District Attorney, Denton MHMR, the Mental Health Court Coordinator for Magistrate Court, and the Community Diversion Coordinator to formulate a plan for treatment or diversion instead of seeking competency restoration.

BEST PRACTICE: TRANSFER TO CIVIL COURT VIA CCP 16.22(C)(5)

Pursuant to [Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 16.22\(c\)\(5\)](#), after the defendant is determined to be incompetent, the court may release the defendant on bail while charges remain pending and enter an order transferring the defendant to the appropriate (civil) court for court-ordered outpatient mental health services under chapter 574 of the Health and Safety Code. Case transfer under this statute is only for cases where the offense charged does not involve an act, attempt, or threat of serious bodily injury to another person.

Denton County:

Denton County has a court with probate jurisdiction that oversees guardianships and civil commitments. This court would be the appropriate court to which a case can be transferred.

The Denton County Sheriff's Office Mental Health Division performs Emergency Detentions, transports patients between the jail and the hospital, and:

- 16.22 Transfers
 - The [Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 16.22\(c\)\(5\)](#) dismiss and transfer of criminal cases to probate court is underutilized and would benefit from increased awareness of and support for the option.
- Emergency Detentions from the Jail
 - It may be possible to initiate an Emergency Detention while a person is in crisis in the jail, transport them to a facility for treatment, and return them to the jail once they are stabilized.
- In some circumstances, it may be more efficient for law enforcement to transport a person to a facility for treatment or stabilization in lieu of immediate arrest and to request an arrest warrant for the criminal offense at a later date.

BEST PRACTICE: RIGHT SIZE COMPETENCY RESTORATION SERVICES

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. Under the current law, if the mere suggestion of incompetency is raised in a case, the court must conduct an informal inquiry to assess whether there is “some evidence from any source” that would support a finding of incompetency. If so, then the court is required to stay (or stop) all proceedings and order competency exam.

The language used in the [Code of Criminal Procedure Article 46B.004](#) is specifically intended to expand the scope of situations in which the trial court must conduct an informal inquiry. This expansion, while vital to protect an individual’s constitutional rights, has resulted in a growing crisis to effectively serve the more than 2,000 people waiting in county jails in Texas for inpatient competency restoration services. JCMH and HHSC partnered to create a statewide initiative to [Eliminate the Wait](#) to right-size competency restoration services through education, training, and technical assistance.

COMPETENCY RESTORATION

A criminal prosecution may not proceed unless the defendant has sufficient present ability to consult with their lawyer with a reasonable understanding of the proceedings against them. If an individual is found competent the case will proceed to determine adjudication. If found incompetent, judges can order services, including mental health treatment and medications that attempt to restore the defendant to legal competence.

Denton County:

Denton County, like most counties in Texas, is experiencing wait times of over two years for inpatient competency restoration. Denton County’s Community Diversion Coordinator, with the help of a forensic team that includes members from the local mental health authority, actively monitors the local waitlist and works to find ways to divert individuals from the waitlist. [Eliminate the Wait](#) is an actionable plan to reduce and eliminate the waitlist for inpatient competency restoration services. One method of diverting individuals from the waitlist is to have an individual re-evaluated after the person is stabilized or if there is reason to believe the person is stabilized.

- Denton County Jail administrators and staff, Denton MHMR, the Community Diversion Coordinator, the courts, and state hospitals can work together to actively monitor people who are on the waitlist for inpatient competency restoration services and remove from the waitlist those individuals who have been restored locally or whose cases have been dismissed.

SEEK ALTERNATIVES TO USING THE STATE HOSPITALS

Every effort should be made to streamline determinations and related proceedings. There is also a growing consensus that because of the likelihood of an increased length of incarceration and confinement, the competency process should be reserved for defendants who are charged with serious crimes, and others should be diverted to treatment.

Outpatient Competency Restoration and Jail Based Competency Restoration programs are alternative competency restoration options provided by community-based services and in-jail services, respectively. These local programs are effective alternatives to using state hospital beds.

Denton County:

Denton County does not have a JCBR or OCR program.

- There is an opportunity to start an OCR program. It was reported that OCR is rarely recommended by the providers who perform competency evaluations, that housing is a challenge for the population who would benefit from OCR, and that OCR would require a collaborative budget request.
- There is an opportunity to start a JBCR program; both Dallas County and Lubbock County have programs that could serve as models.

Denton County's Community Diversion Coordinator works to locate alternatives to using the state hospital beds as a means to divert people from the waitlist. Alternatives to using the State Hospitals for competency restoration could be better utilized.

- Court processes can be analyzed for improvements to efficiency, from designating a single point of contact between the courts and the state hospital, streamlining communication between the courts and the state hospital, and coordinating patient transportation between the jail and the state hospital.

It was widely agreed that there are long waiting times for competency restoration services, and that people charged with misdemeanors "time out" in jail before they can access a state hospital bed for competency restoration services.

- There is an opportunity to divert people from the judicial system before competency to stand trial is raised as an issue.
- Denton County Public Health can perform competency evaluations on people who are in jail. There is an opportunity to centralize and streamline the process for requesting a competency evaluation across all county and district courts.

COURT-ORDERED MEDICATION

Involuntary medication frequently restores competency for individuals and allows for a more rapid return to the community than involuntary hospitalizations. (Read more at: <https://mentalillnesspolicy.org/medical/involuntary-medication.html>). Rather than cumbersome guardian proceedings, the Mental Health Code permits treating physicians to seek court orders to allow the administration of psychoactive medications to persons who lack capacity to consent to such medication.

Denton County:

In Denton County, there appear to be many individuals with mental illness that are arrested for class B trespassing charges. The court-ordered medication process cannot be used for Class B offenses, and as such these cases may be good candidates for transfer to civil court under article 16.22(c)(5).

It was reported that the Denton County Jail is unwilling or unable to comply with administering court-ordered medications and medications prescribed by the state hospitals due to staffing shortages. The judges who were present advised that it is their understanding that even if they ordered medications, those orders would not be followed.

- There is an opportunity to increase education on the efficacy of psychotropic medication and re-evaluations after medication stabilization.
- HHSC will perform re-evaluations for competency on individuals who are taking medication and are believed to have been restored to competency.
- There is an opportunity to contract for services to administer medications in the jail.
- There is an opportunity to ensure a continuity of care for people returning from the state hospital to the local jail, including continuation of prescribed medications.

It was reported that initial competency evaluations are not performed by a medical or an osteopathic doctor, so the evaluator cannot prescribe medication for those individuals.

- There is an opportunity to contract with a medical or an osteopathic doctor who can prescribe medication, which the jail must provide under a recently enacted law.

BEST PRACTICE: ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING

Post-trial diversion and alternative sentencing options provide opportunities to direct individuals to rehabilitation-focused interventions that balance the interests of justice with treatment. Most importantly, they avoid incarceration for individuals who meet certain sentencing conditions. Often involving suspended sentences and/or probation, alternative sentencing can be as creative

and flexible as a judge and community resources will allow. Examples of alternative sentencing include community service, assisted outpatient treatment, and other required participation in appropriate treatment, including problem solving courts. Pursuant to [Code of Criminal Procedure art. 46B.004\(e\)](#), the prosecutor may dismiss all charges pending against a defendant after the issue of the defendant's incompetency to stand trial is raised.

Denton County:

Alternative sentencing was not discussed in great detail during the workshop, outside of what is documented in other portions of this report.

BEST PRACTICE: SEEK TO ESTABLISH MENTAL HEALTH, VETERANS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND OTHER SPECIALTY COURTS

The goal of specialty court programs is to divert the defendant from the criminal justice system and to assure the defendant receives access to the treatment and social programs necessary for the person's success in the community.

A "mental health court program" under [Texas Government Code § 125.001](#) has the following essential characteristics:

- integrates and provides access to MI and ID treatment services in processing cases in the court system;
- uses a non-adversarial approach involving prosecutors and defense attorneys to (1) promote public safety and (2) protect the due process rights of program participants;
- promotes early identification and prompt placement of eligible participants in the program;
- requires ongoing judicial interaction with program participants;
- diverts people with mental illness or intellectual disability to needed services in lieu of prosecution;
- monitors and evaluates program goals and effectiveness;
- facilitates continuing interdisciplinary education on effective program planning, implementation, and operations; and
- develops partnerships with public agencies and community organizations, including LMHAs/LBHAs.

Denton County:

Denton County has the following specialty courts:

- First Offender Drug Program
- Denton County Drug Court

- DWI Treatment Court Program
- [Veterans Treatment Court Program](#)
- [Mental Health Treatment Court](#)
 - This program is overseen by Judge Coby Waddill, [Denton County Criminal Court 5](#), and Judge Lee Ann Breeding, [462nd District Court](#). The program serves approximately 25 people charged with misdemeanor offenses and an unknown number of people charged with felony offenses.
 - The program applications are screened by the District Attorney's Office. This [Application Booklet](#) explains the program and screening process.

Judge Chance Oliver, [Denton County Criminal Court 4](#), recently implemented a mental health docket that monitors the treatment compliance of individuals identified by 16.22 reports. The docket allows for continued monitoring and a higher level of accountability to ensure that each individual is completing the requirements in the community. The program team includes the Judge, the court administrator, Community Diversion Coordinator, defense attorney, assistant district attorney, and MHMR Jail In-reach Coordinator.

See the [General Resources](#) in the appendix at the end of this report for more resource recommendations on Mental Health Court programs and other specialty court programs.

In Denton County, the Mental Health Court program is underutilized. It was reported that the Mental Health Treatment Court has a low number of eligible candidates. There is also a requirement that participants reside in Denton County so that they can be supervised by the single probation officer assigned to the program. Typically defense counsel refers a person to the mental health treatment court, but not all defense attorneys are aware of or familiar with the mental health treatment courts. Referrals also come from law enforcement agencies, 16.22 notifications and community members.

- Education and awareness events provided by people on the court treatment team (including the prosecutor) to the local defense bar may help increase participation in this program. Several presentations on the Mental Health Court Program were recently made to the community and to the local defense bar.

There is a sentiment that the Mental Health Treatment Court is too onerous for people who are charged with misdemeanor offenses and are also eligible for the Pretrial Diversion Program. The program is 12 to 15 months in length.

- A comparison of the two programs, along with benefits of each one and the ideal candidate for each program, may be useful to help guide defendants to the program right for them.

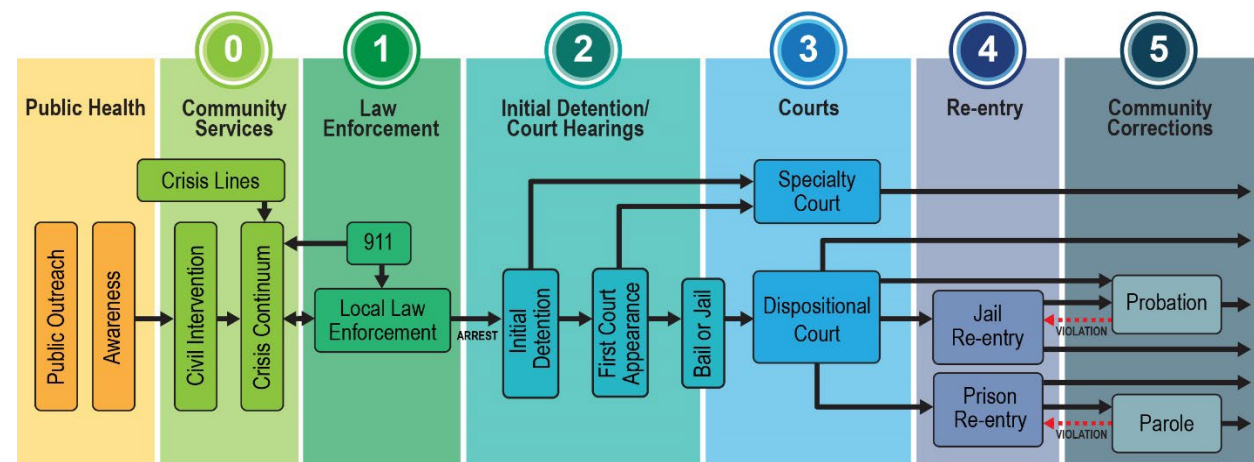
- During the evaluation process, the evaluator may recommend a different specialty court that would better suit the individual's needs and abilities. This information is supplied to defense counsel so they can confer with their client.

There were concerns about the program's ability to serve people who are at a high risk to reoffend and also have high needs, as well as the program's ability to serve people who are at a low risk to reoffend and also have low needs.

- An evaluation of the program by a third-party or additional technical assistance may help with targeting the appropriate candidates and provide helpful assessment tools and analysis.

Individuals in the mental health treatment courts have a wide range of functional abilities.

- This is common among specialty court programs and a survey of the available community resources may assist with connecting participants with appropriate community-based programs.



INTERCEPT 4 AND INTERCEPT 5

Intercept 4 encompasses people who are planning for and transitioning from jail or prison into the community. Services in this intercept include strong protective factors for justice-involved people with mental illness, substance use disorder, or intellectual and developmental disabilities re-entering a community. These services should include detailed, workable plans with seamless access to medications, treatment, housing, and healthcare coverage.

Intercept 5 encompasses people under correctional supervision who are usually on probation or parole as part of their sentence, as part of the step-down process from prison, or as required by other state statutes. This intercept combines justice system monitoring with person-focused service coordination to establish a safe and healthy post-criminal justice lifestyle.

While the goals of this workshop did not focus on intercept 4 or intercept 5, the group briefly discussed the resources and gaps in community related to reentry and community corrections. These are captured under each best practice topic below.

BEST PRACTICE: CREATE A SPECIALIZED MENTAL HEALTH CASELOAD

Parole and probation departments should have specialized caseloads or units that are dedicated to individuals with mental and behavioral health needs. Officers assigned to these specialized caseloads should be trained to work with these types of clients and educated about available community resources. These cases should have individualized treatment plans that consider medication, behavioral health needs, and substance use treatment.

Denton County:

The [Denton County Community Supervision and Corrections Department](#), or CSCD, offers a specialized mental health probation caseload, which is staffed by probation officers and probation supervisors with mental health training.

BEST PRACTICE: ENSURE CROSS-AGENCY COLLABORATION

Forming a collaborative of community resources that serve justice-involved individuals is helpful to address the needs of justice-involved individuals reentering the community. This cross-agency collaboration can increase stability in the community and reduce relapse or recidivism by ensuring individuals continue in treatment and services, as needed.

Denton County:

Denton County has several community resources that serve justice-involved individuals. See the list of community resources in [appendices](#) 9-16. The following resources may be most relevant to forming a collaborative effort across this intercept:

- [FreeWorld](#) connects formerly incarcerated people with high-wage jobs so they can thrive on their own terms.
- [North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking](#) empowers survivors of human trafficking through comprehensive legal, medical, and social services.
- [The Salvation Army of North Texas](#) can provide bus passes.
- [Serve Denton](#), a “one-stop shop for humanity,” partners with area nonprofit agencies to make social services more accessible.
- [Unbound North Texas](#) identifies and responds to victims of human trafficking.
- [United Way of Denton County](#) identifies the community’s most critical needs and implements collaborative, innovative solutions to improve lives.

There is a need for improved cross-agency collaboration and communication.

- Prosecutors and defense counsel can seek the advice of the mental health probation officers in the determination of appropriate and feasible conditions of probation, including involvement of the family, prior to the plea agreement.
- Better communication with CSCD regarding intake at Denton MHMR and with probation conditions.

Agencies can design memoranda of agreement (MOUs) between agencies to improve continuity of care and expand or enforce the jail contract.

- It is possible that benefits such as private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and VA benefits are underused in the origination of and continuity of care for people who are on probation or in court-ordered outpatient services.

BEST PRACTICE: INTEGRATE PEER SUPPORT

Community-based peer support services that assist with transition or reentry into community-based mental health services can help individuals achieve long-term recovery. Peer support specialists can provide insight into potential triggers and relapses, and provide:

- Emotional support
- Shared knowledge
- Practical assistance
- Connection to people with resources
- Opportunities and communities of support

Denton County:

Denton County MHMR provides peer support specialists.

Denton County’s list of community resources (outlined in [appendices 9-16](#)) is scarce on specific peer support resources. Other organizations outside the area may serve to support this gap:

- [ViaHope](#) is a Texas nonprofit organization that provides training, technical assistance and consultations to individuals in recovery. The organization also trains and certifies reentry peer support specialists. Other organizations offer resources for peer support specialists:
 - [SAMSHA](#)
 - [Recovery Within Reach](#)
 - Philadelphia’s DBHIDS [Peer Support Toolkit](#)
- [Clubhouse International](#) is a global nonprofit organization that helps communities create Clubhouses. Clubhouses provide people living with mental illness opportunities for friendship, employment, housing, education, and access to medical and psychiatric services. This program provides social and economic inclusion. The two nearest clubhouses to Denton County are:
 - [Prelude Clubhouse](#) in Plano
 - [Plan @ 1121 Rock](#) in Richardson

BEST PRACTICE: PROVIDE REENTRY PLANNING

Transition plans offer guidance for community reentry. A comprehensive plan identifies expectations, resources, and services to guide individuals towards independence. Individuals should play an active role in creating their transition plan.

Denton County:

Some jail release planning is occurring in Denton County. Jail release or “coordinated release” planning is used after a Personal Bond is set, or after a case is dismissed to connect an individual with community-based resources.

- The Community Diversion Coordinator can assist with coordinating release, communicating with Denton MHMR, the jail, jail medical, and family members, and arranging warm handoffs to service providers. Coordinated release works best when the prosecutor informs Erica that a release or dismissal is forthcoming, so that she can adequately prepare the release plan.
- Jail Medical provides a re-entry guide and offers the assistance of a counselor to find resources; however, this is a voluntary service and is driven by the released person.
- Denton County MHMR can conduct interviews or assessments prior to release, including supplying a medication list, encouraging family support, and assisting with transportation. Individuals must ask for medication before they are released from the jail and must request refills if needed prior to engagement with a new provider.
- Denton County CSCD has open communication with Denton MHMR.
- Denton Public Health is often unaware of releases.

As noted above, coordinated releases would be smoother with increased communication.

- An email distribution list could be created to notify all interested parties of a person’s planned release date so that planning can occur in advance.

Aftercare planning is needed for people whose supervision is ending and for people who are returning from voluntary commitments.

- Denton County CSCD can notify Denton MHMR of a probationer’s expiration date and prepare an appropriate transition plan.
- A need service is ensuring that people who are returning from voluntary commitments are released on 17.032 bonds with appropriate conditions, updated insurance information, medication supply, etc., so that their aftercare plan is ready prior to discharge.

Housing resources are documented below, in [Appendix 11](#).

- The Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team can meet with representatives from [Our Daily Bread](#), the homeless Shelter near the Denton County Jail, to reserve a dedicated number of places for people newly released from jail.

PRIORITIES FOR CHANGE

The priorities for change were determined through a voting process. Following completion of the Sequential Intercept Mapping exercise, the workshop participants began to define specific areas of activity that could be mobilized to address the challenges and opportunities identified in the group discussion about the cross-systems map. Workshop participants were asked to identify a set of possible priorities followed by a vote where each participant one top priority vote and a two general votes. The voting took place on March 3, 2022.

Rank	Priority	Secondary Votes (orange dot)	Top Votes (green dot)
1	Drop off (Triage/Diversion) Center	7	17
2	JBCR/OCR	7	6
3	Education	14	4
4	Combined Data Priorities <i>16.22 notice & green flags in Odyssey</i> <i>Data Sharing</i> <i>Data Collection / Tech Share</i> <i>Data Storage</i>	Total: 29 <i>3</i> <i>13</i> <i>3</i> <i>11</i>	Total: 4 <i>2</i> <i>1</i> <i>0</i> <i>1</i>
5	AOT Court	4	0

ACTION PLANS

On the second day of the workshop, participants split into four groups to complete an action planning activity regarding the top four priorities selected on the day before. The purpose of the action planning activity was to create a site-specific action plan with clearly defined, attainable, prioritized short-term and long-term steps addressing the gaps generated during the first day of the workshop. The plans can be further refined and implemented by a designated task force following the workshop.

PRIORITY #1: DROP OFF (TRIAGE/DIVERSION) CENTER

Objective	Action Step	Who	When
1. Establish committee to steer this initiative	1. Identify who needs to be on committee 2. Establish meeting schedule & timeline	Judge Breading	June 1, 2022
2. Identify the type of center that would be most effective in Denton County (sobering, crisis receiving, etc.)	1. Identify reputable centers & conduct site visits 2. Gather data, costs, and staffing on pros/cons of each 3. Report back findings	Elisa Howell Brittany Waymack	<i>Determined by Committee</i>
3. Find stakeholders willing to support the center	1. Contact various county stakeholders 2. Report data/findings from site visits & support need for center 3. Obtain commitment to support from stakeholders	<i>Judge Breading will delegate accordingly</i>	<i>Determined by Committee</i>
4. Find different funding sources such as grants & research requirements	1. Research grants & application requirements 2. Consider long-term sustainability	Tiffany Cummings Rina Maloney	<i>Determined by Committee</i>
5. Identify location of center	1. Scout different sites in Denton County 2. Report findings	<i>Deferred until facility type is determined</i>	<i>Determined by Committee</i>

PRIORITY #2: JBCR/OCR

Objective	Action Step	Who	When
1. Find a facility outside of the jail (JCBR and/or outside medical location)	1. Who? – Are there outside agencies? 2. Narrow the population who would qualify – non-violent at time of arrest - How many? 3. How? - Staffing – contact Lubbock - Telemedicine – contact Fort Stockton	Erica Baldwin	90 days (June 3, 2022)
2. Establish dedicated defense attorney group for 46B	1. Determine if this is necessary 2. Contact defense bar 3. Is there attorney interested	Matt Wiebe	90 days (June 3, 2022)
3. Consolidate 46B to 1 court for better management coordination	1. What court? 2. Determine process on how & when	Judge Oliver or Erica Baldwin	90 days (June 3, 2022)
4. Collect data for budget 2024	1. Determine cost effectiveness 2. Timelines for competency to be restored	Erica Baldwin, Mary Grafa, Rachel Stephens	180 days (Sept. 5, 2022)
5. Continue to meet for accountability & coordination	1. Establish re-occurring meetings	Erica Baldwin	90 days (June 3, 2022)
6. Create a written procedure upon return from competency services	1. Coordinated care plan w/release 2. Court timeline when return 3. Travel between facilities	Matt Wiebe or Denton MHMR or Erica Baldwin	

PRIORITY #3: EDUCATION & TRAINING

Objective	Action Step	Who	When
1. Make police officers aware of alternate options to taking individuals to jail	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roll call info sessions 2. Guest speaking at police trainings/police academy 3. Info cards (back of Miranda warnings) (knowing who to call) 	<p>Judge Oliver</p> <p>Combo of professionals (Lt. Stevens)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 2022 2. (Requires knowledge of when those are) 3. Immediately
2. Educate hospital staff to avoid immediately calling officers/issuing trespass warnings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a standard practice? 2. Training Denton PD 3. Need to create standardized policy with forms (Judge Ramsay created) 	Judge Ramsay & Becky Hafiz	
3. More education for ADAs on resources, contacts, processes, etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Info sheet with contacts & resources 2. Trainings/workshops from professionals in the field 3. Open House of state hospitals 4. Future: 24/7 ADAs at jail to accept/reject cases 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Matt Wiebe 2. Judges, sheriff's office, MH deputies, (Erica Baldwin) 	<p>Immediately</p> <p>(schedule open house in April & October)</p>
4. Touch base with defense bar on creative solutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put on information and brainstorm creative solutions/buy-ins (include some of the defense bar members) 	Erica Baldwin, Tiffany Cummings	<p>Next defense bar meeting (Apr. 13, 2022 Wed. 12pm)</p>
<p>Once all of these groups have been trained/talked to, touch base again to see if we've all managed to make process more streamlined.</p>			

PRIORITY #4: DATA

Objective	Action Step	Who	When
1. Create data sharing system countywide, for all magistrates/cities and to allow access between IDC, Defense Attys, Probation, Prosecutors, Sheriff Office, etc.	1. Contact data sharing companies to provide a presentation to committee	1. Mary Inman	1. April 15, 2022
	2. Review presentations & set date to present to stakeholders	2. Judge Ramsay	2. May 15, 2022
	3. Presentation to all necessary agencies & defense	3. Committee	3. June 15, 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been developed in response to the SIM discussion and the group's identified priorities and action plans. Action plans as developed at the workshop are included in the Action Plan section and should be considered as a recommendation to continue to move forward whether they are included in the recommendations below. We encourage stakeholders to review and prioritize recommendations and SIM Action Plans according to aligned interests and current county priorities.

The following recommendations are intended to be suggestions, rather than prescriptive, of how to approach identified issues. Most recommendations include references to websites, articles, and documents. Inclusion in this report is not endorsement from JCMH but is intended to help direct readers to self-explore and determine actions regarding gaps in their system.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Establish or modify an ongoing countywide criminal justice and behavioral health cross-systems stakeholder planning group.

There is a need for ongoing dialogue, joint planning, and increasing awareness regarding system resources. Denton County should consider establishing a behavioral health task force that includes stakeholders from various groups, including law enforcement, sheriffs and jail staff, prosecutors, defense attorneys, the judiciary, local mental health authority, and other prominent agencies. The development of a new task force is an opportunity to include people with lived experiences and family members or advocates across the various systems.

Consider vision and mission statements that align with the community needs for awareness of mental health challenges across the SIM, collaborative cross-systems projects, and to continue the work identified in this Action Plan Report. An example of the Bexar County Task Force on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health's main focus is:

"To identify and develop strategies, map system gaps, merge processes where possible, leverage resources, and track data such that these efforts meet critical justice and treatment needs of our citizens."

Many counties have task forces with varying priorities, including:

- Williamson County – [Healthy Williamson County](#)
- Grayson County – [Texoma Behavioral Health Leadership Team](#)
- Hidalgo County – [Hidalgo County Mental Health Coalition](#)
- Cameron County – [Cameron County Mental Health Task Force](#)

Once established, the task force should consider taking the lead on the following projects:

- **Countywide Mental Health Awareness and Education.** The task force can plan annual community behavioral health conferences and other trainings that promote behavioral health awareness, access to resources, and local initiatives that improve the administration of justice for persons with mental illness, IDD, or substance use disorders.
- **Jail Diversion Process Education.** A subcommittee of the task force (to include the mental health court coordinator, defense attorneys, the community diversion coordinator, and sheriff’s deputies) can work together to clarify the jail diversion process, create illustrative handouts, and educate prosecutors and defense attorneys on the process. The training can be adapted for other stakeholders and the general public.
- **Drop Off Center.** The workshop group identified a need to establish a drop off (triage or diversion) center as a community priority. The task force can create a subcommittee to focus on this project.
- **JBCR/OCR.** The workgroup also identified a need to establish a jail-based competency restoration or outpatient competency restoration program. The task force can create a subcommittee to focus on this project.
- **Utilize National Resources.** NCSC’s National Judicial [Task Force to Examine State Courts’ Response to Mental Illness](#) develops tools, resources, best practices, and policy recommendations for the state courts. The task force has several resources that can be implemented locally, including the recently released set of [Juvenile Justice Mental Health Diversion Guidelines and Principals](#) created to assist courts and service providers in addressing the growing mental health crisis.
- **Grant Writing.** The task force can invest into training selected individuals to learn effective grant writing skills. See [grant writing](#) resources in the appendices for information on grant writing educational opportunities.
- **Review Cross-Systems Processes.** Challenges often arise in cross-systems processes. The task force can review these processes and make recommendations for improvements to streamline and maximize efficiency within these procedures.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Establish a robust criminal defense community with specialized knowledge of mental health laws and applicable defense practices.

There are several ways to increase Denton County's local defense bar's knowledge of mental health laws. One quick-fix recommendation is a focused education and training campaign. A long-term recommendation is to establish a Mental Health Public Defender's Office (PDO) or Managed Assigned Counsel (MAC) System. These recommendations include utilizing help from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) and other agencies.

TIDC safeguards liberty by ensuring that Texas and its 254 counties provide the right to counsel guaranteed by the United States and Texas Constitutions. TIDC's work takes three main forms: funding, oversight, and improvement. At each intercept of the criminal justice system, defense counsel can support efforts to identify people with mental illness and divert them appropriately. Mental health defender teams include attorneys, social workers, investigators, and support staff who specialize in representing defendants with mental illness or intellectual disabilities. This specialty team approach results in better, more efficient representation, better case outcomes, and improved efficiency of courts and case processing. A more robust and team-based representation can reduce jail populations by ensuring that defendants are promptly appointed counsel, with specialized knowledge in mental health laws, and can improve medication compliance and reduce decompensation. Defense counsel can play a key role in developing treatment plans and advocating for earlier release from jail. Defense counsel can also help reduce unnecessary competency evaluations and help reduce recidivism.

Education and Training Campaign. Denton County should identify a group of local defense attorneys who can be champions for initiating an education and training campaign among the local defense bar association. These champions can utilize the assistance of [TIDC](#), [JCMH](#), [TCDLA](#), or other entities to develop curriculum for local defense attorneys and to identify the best methods for implementing education and training among the local defense bar. Training should cover several topics regarding mental health laws, including early identification ([16.22](#)), transfer and dismissal ([16.22\(c\)\(5\)](#)), mental health bond conditions ([17.032](#)), competency restoration ([46B](#)), information sharing (HIPAA & [HSC Chapter 611](#)), and resources available from the local mental health authority ([Denton MHMR](#)).

In addition to training on mental health laws, the local defense bar can learn how to fully and skillfully incorporate the principles of [Holistic Defense](#) and how to effectively use social workers

in criminal defense. The [Bronx Defenders](#) is a public defender nonprofit that pioneered a groundbreaking, nationally recognized model of defense that achieves better outcomes for defendants. The Bronx Defenders' [Center for Holistic Defense](#) provides technical assistance and training to public defender organizations and individual practitioners and currently provides assistance in 38 states, including Texas.

The local defense bar can play an integral role in enhancing Denton County's justice system by addressing the circumstances driving people into the criminal justice system and the consequences of that involvement. A [Harvard Law Review article](#) evaluated the holistic defense model and determined the impact of the program included a reduction in the likelihood of custodial sentences by 16% and expected sentence length by 24%.

There are four pillars at the core of holistic defense:

- Seamless access to services that meet legal and social support needs.
- Dynamic, interdisciplinary communication.
- Advocates with an interdisciplinary skillset.
- A robust understanding of, and connection to, the community served.

Several counties across Texas have begun to incorporate these principles into their local defense organizations, including:

- [Harris County](#)
- [Bexar County](#)
- [Travis County](#)

Many counties offer incentives for defense attorneys to seek training and specialization in mental health laws by offering additional compensation for court appointment cases to attorneys with specialized training or creating a special "wheel" full of attorneys specialized in mental health laws who can be appointed to cases with a defendant identified as having a mental illness. [Williamson County](#) is an example of a county with an indigent defense plan that incorporates special qualifications for a mental health wheel.

[Mental Health PDO or MAC System](#). TIDC [funds public defense](#) in three forms: Improvement Grants, Formula Grants, and Innocence Projects. Improvement Grants help counties develop new programs or processes to improve indigent defense. These grants are competitive, dependent on available funding, and usually require county matching funds. Funding priorities include new public defender offices, new managed assigned counsel systems, mental health or other specialty defender offices, and indigent defense coordinators.

- A [Managed Assigned Counsel \(MAC\)](#) is a governmental entity, nonprofit corporation, or bar association operating under a written agreement with a county for the purpose of appointing counsel to indigent defendants. As of 2017, three counties use this model: Colling, Lubbock, and Travis.
- A [Public Defender Office \(PDO\)](#) is a government entity or nonprofit corporation that operates underwritten agreement with a county rather than an individual judge or court or uses public funds and provides legal representation and services to indigent defendants accused of a crime.

Currently, Denton County utilizes the Assigned Counsel model in which private attorneys, acting as independent contractors and compensated with public funds, are individually appointed from a public appointment list of qualified attorneys using a system of rotation to provide legal representation and services to a particular indigent defendant accused of a crime. In this model, Denton county district, county, and magistrate judges appoint counsel. This is the prevalent model in over 200 counties across the state of Texas. Denton County would benefit from implementing a mental health MAC or PDO model.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Evaluate and enhance the local mental health court to expand access to and utilization of the program.

Denton County has a [mental health court program](#) that serves both misdemeanor and felony defendants. The program’s goal is to divert offenders experiencing mental illness out of the traditional criminal justice process and into the appropriate rehabilitative alternatives. However, both programs appear difficult to navigate for defendants and defense counsel and can only serve 30 participants at any given time. Recommendations to address this issue include education and the use of technical assistance opportunities.

Education. A quick-fix recommendation is to provide the local defense bar with regular educational presentations about the program, including the eligibility criteria and intake process, and the program conditions. Such presentations should be prepared and presented by the assigned assistant district attorney, program coordinator, and/or overseeing judge(s) in collaboration with local defense attorneys.

Technical Assistance. A long-term recommendation is to seek technical assistance to evaluate and enhance the program to expand access to and utilization of the program. Technical assistance can review the program to ensure that court criteria align with national best practices and assist with helping the program to align with state statutory requirements.

Technical assistance support options include:

- The [Specialty Court Resource Center](#) allows specialty courts to access training and technical assistance from local specialty court experts. Technical Assistance is comprehensive and specific to each individual program's needs and will help specialty courts develop, implement, and sustain evidence-based practices.
- JCMH's [technical assistance](#) can help with connecting to other resources for improving and expanding mental health court programs. JCMH recently launched the [10-Step Guide](#) to help create a Texas Mental Health Court program and includes links to several resources.
- National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) has a [communication team](#) that provides assistance with program media strategy, including event planning, working with the media, crisis communications, and assisting your graduates with sharing their story.
- [NPC Research](#) provides program evaluation and analysis, a process that involves the systemic collection of information to answer a broad range of questions about human service, criminal justice, environmental, and other policies.
- The [National Center for State Courts](#) provides technical assistance to address challenges unique to your court while also bringing best practices and examples to bear from across the country.

RECOMMENDATION #4

At all stages of the Sequential Intercept Model, gather data to document the processing of people with mental health and substance use disorders through the criminal justice system locally.

Throughout the workshop it became apparent that there is data being collected but not necessarily utilized. This is common across Texas and across the nation. Measures for Justice, a nationally recognized, nonprofit organization designed to gather criminal justice system data from every county across the U.S., released a report in 2021 articulating [The Power and Problem of Criminal Justice Data](#) after reviewing data collection processes in twenty states. The lack of data or the ability to analyze the data limits the ability to make informed decisions about policy

or to garner public trust in the system. Denton County can capitalize on its data collection and improve the data collection process across the SIM by taking several steps. [SAMHSA](#) has an article on [Data Collection Across the Sequential Intercept Model: Essential Measures](#) that contains insightful techniques that can be reviewed and implemented on a local level.

Each of the eight dispatch centers should be trained to ask if the nature of the emergency call is police, fire, or mental health, regardless of the availability of a CIRT or CIT to respond. Law enforcement agencies can assign an incident number to every mental health call so that the calls can be tracked and analyzed for trends and patterns. This data can be used to secure grant funding for training and resources, as well as additional resources from the county.

There are several organizations that offer resources to assist with improving data collection, analysis, and creation of performance measures.

Stepping Up Initiative. The [Stepping Up Initiative](#) is strongly focused on the use of data to assist in lowering the numbers of people with mental illness in the jail. Take advantage of the resources on the Stepping Up website to benefit the county. Consider developing goals, such as: 1) Reducing the number of people with severe mental illness admitted to the county jail, 2) Reducing the length of stay for people with severe mental illness while in jail, 3) Increasing connections to community-based treatment and support upon release, and 4) Reducing their criminal recidivism. It will help clarify and direct what data should be collected and how to use that data to further the county's cross-systems efforts.

Bureau of Justice Assistance. Bureau of Justice Assistance published [A Guide to Collecting Mental Health Court Outcome Data](#) in 2005 to help guide mental health court teams on collecting and using data. Outcome data can help courts demonstrate the purpose of the specialty court program and attract funding sources to expand and enhance the program. The [Center for Court Innovation](#) has a short document on [collecting data for drug courts](#).

Justice Counts. [Justice Counts](#) is a national program that reviews data from all fifty states then develops and builds consensus around a set of key criminal justice metrics that drive budget and policy decisions. The program also [creates a range of tools](#) and resources to help local communities to adopt new data metrics. The program provides technical assistance and funding to selected states.

Measures for Justice. [Measures for Justice](#) is a nonprofit organization that's mission is to make accurate criminal justice data available to spur reform. The organization offers [tools and services to communities](#), including general consulting.

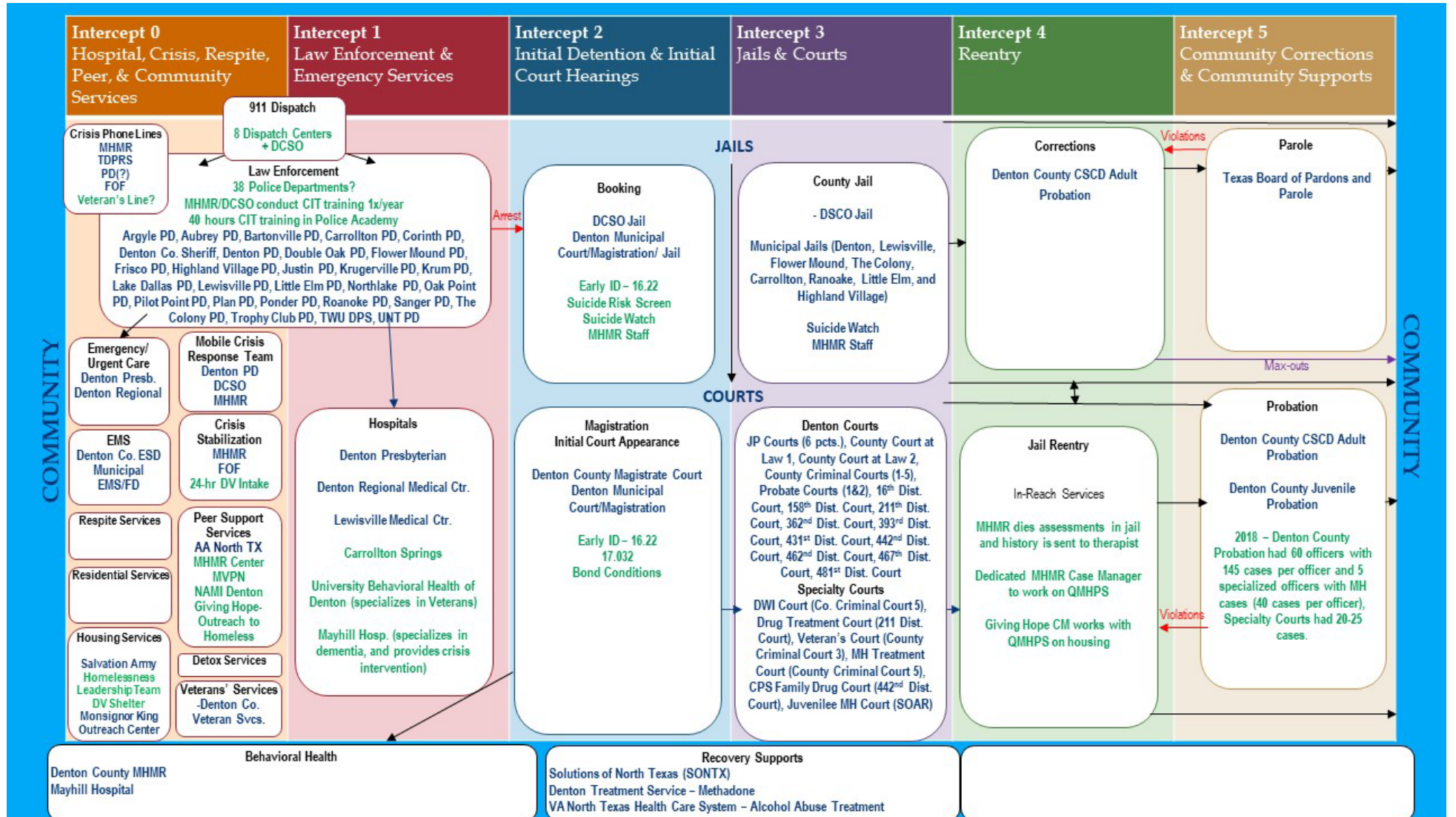
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APPENDIX 1: COMMON ACRONYMS

COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS FOR DENTON COUNTY		
A&D – Apprehend & Detain	AOT – Assisted Outpatient Treatment	BJA – Bureau of Justice Assistance
CCP – Code of Criminal Procedure	CCQ – Continuity of Care Query	CIT – Crisis Intervention Team
CIRT – Crisis Intervention Response Team	CSCD – Community Supervision and Corrections Department (“probation”)	D/M – Dismiss or Dismissal
DCCO – Denton County Clerk’s Office	DCDAO – Denton County District Attorney’s Office	DCDC – Denton County District Clerk
DCSO – Denton County Sheriff’s Office	DPD – Denton Police Department	DPH – Denton Public Health
ED – Emergency Detention	HB – House Bill	HHSC – Health and Human services Commission
ID – Intellectual Disability	JBCR – Jail Based Competency Restoration	JCMH – Judicial Commission on Mental Health
LE – Law Enforcement	LIDDA – Local IDD Authority	LMHA – Local Mental Health Authority
MH – Mental Health	MI – Mental Illness	MHC – Mental Health Court
MHMR – Denton County MHMR	MOU – Memorandum of Understanding	MSU – Maximum Security Unit
OCA – Office of Court Administration	OCR – Outpatient Competency Restoration	PC – Probable Cause
PD – Police Department	PDO – Public Defender’s Office	PTI – Pretrial Intervention
SAMHSA – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	SB – Senate Bill	SH – State Hospital
SIM – Sequential Intercept Model	TASC – Texas Association of Specialty Courts	TCIC – Texas Crime Information Center
TCOOMMI – Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments	TIDC – Texas Indigent Defense Commission	TLETS – Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System

APPENDIX 2: DENTON COUNTY SIM MAP



APPENDIX 3: WORKSHOP INVITATION

You are Cordially Invited

Sequential Intercept Mapping

By: Denton County Courts

Please join us. Your expertise is vital to creating a local Sequential Intercept Map!

Mental health and criminal justice systems often collide, creating significant barriers to treatment and support services. *Sequential Intercept Mapping* helps communities develop and implement plans for community change through cross-system collaboration, organizational change, and enhancing practice, utilizing innovative and dynamic tools to map systems, identify gaps in service, and clarify community resources and opportunities.

Goals

- Further the delivery of appropriate services to people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders involved in the criminal justice system
- Assist Denton County in identifying gaps in service
- Optimize use of local resources and opportunities

Topics and Activities

This program is customized to the very specific needs and desired outcomes of Denton County.

- Sequential Intercept Mapping to Identify Cross-Systems Gaps in Service and Collaboration
- Identifying and Setting Community Priorities
- Making Recommendations for a Local Action Plan

Community Self-Assessment Tool

- Provides an overview of the perceptions on the state of your community's criminal justice/behavioral health initiatives and resources.
- All invitees are asked to complete the survey by February 9th, 2022.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DentonGenComp>

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in Sequential Intercept Mapping for Denton County!

Date March 3rd and 4th _

Time: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm & 8:30 am -12:30 pm

Location: Denton County Jury Selection Room

Sponsored By: Judge Oliver and Judge Ramsey

To Accept this Invitation

- Complete the information below and fax to: 940-349-5340, OR complete the attachment and email to:
erica.baldwin@dentoncounty.gov

<i>Sequential Intercept Mapping</i>	
Name:	Title or Position:
Agency:	Agency Address:
Phone:	Email:

For More Information Contact: Erica Baldwin- 940-349-2384.

Erica Baldwin
Community Diversion Coordinator
Denton County Criminal Court #4
Phone: +1 940-349-2384
Fax: 940.349.5340
erica.baldwin@dentoncounty.gov

APPENDIX 4: WORKSHOP AGENDA



Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop

Denton County

March 3-4, 2022

Denton County Courthouse: 2nd Floor Jury Empaneling Room

1450 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas

AGENDA – Day 1

8:30 am	Registration	Coffee & Donuts provided by Judge Ramsay
9:00 am	Opening Remarks <i>Judge Robin Ramsay</i>	<i>Welcome & Community Goals</i>
9:10 am	Introductions & Overview Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Participant Introductions Overview of the Workshop Workshop Tasks Texas Data Trends Denton County Data Trends
10:00 am	Keys to Success Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Risk Assessments Trauma-Informed Racial Disparities Collaboration Data Collection Sharing Information
10:30 am	Break	
10:45 am	SIM Mapping Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Intercepts 0-1 The Sequential Intercept Model Examining the Gaps & Opportunities Creating a Local Map
12:00 pm	Lunch <i>Brittany & Arianna</i>	Lunch sponsored by Judge Oliver <i>New and existing programs to support re-entry</i>
12:30 pm	SIM Mapping Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Intercepts 2-3 Examining the Gaps & Opportunities Creating a Local Map
2:00 pm	SIM Mapping Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Intercepts 4-5 Examining the Gaps & Opportunities Creating a Local Map
2:30 pm	Break	
2:45 pm	Establishing Priorities Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Identify potential, promising areas for modification within the existing system Top 5 List Collaborating for Progress
4:20 pm	Wrap Up Kristi Taylor <i>Pamela Gutierrez</i>	Review the day Homework <i>Upcoming Training</i>



Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop

Denton County

March 3-4, 2022

Denton County Courthouse: 2nd Floor Jury Empaneling Room

1450 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas

AGENDA – Day 2

8:30 am	Registration & Networking	Coffee & Donuts provided by Judge Ramsay
9:00 am	Opening Remarks <i>Matt Wiebe</i>	Welcome Back! <i>Efforts to overcome Gaps with MH & Diversion</i>
9:10 am	Preview & Review Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Preview of Day #2 Review Day #1 Accomplishments Local County Priorities Keys to Success in Community
9:45 am	Action Planning Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Group Work
10:30 am	Break	
10:45 am	Finalizing the Action Plan Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Present Group Work
12:15 pm	Next Steps & Summary Kristi Taylor & Lee Pierson	Finalize date of task force meeting Report Deadline Technical Assistance Certificates Evaluation Form Reminder
12:20 pm	Closing Remarks <i>Judge Chance Oliver & Judge Robin Ramsay</i>	<i>Thank you, point of contacts, recap plans moving forward</i>

APPENDIX 5: WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT LIST

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
Anderson, Richard	Judge	The Colony Municipal Court
Anderson, Russell	Supervisor	Denton Co. CSCD
Appiah, Doreen	Assistant District Attorney	Denton County District Attorney's Office
Askew, Stephanie	Magistrate	Denton Co. Magistrate Court
Baldwin, Erica	Community Diversion Coordination	Denton Co. Criminal Court No. 4
Beck, Jamie	First Assistant	District Attorney's Office
Breading, Lee Ann	Judge	462nd Dist. Court
Brown, Hayley	Attorney	Law Office of Tim Powers
Bolak, Arden	Court Reporter	Denton Co. Criminal Court No. 4
Bruns, Jordan	Assistant District Attorney	Denton County District Attorney's Office
Carver, Barry	Asst. Chief Deputy	Denton County Sheriff's Office
Cummings, Tiffany	Mental Health Coordinator	Denton County Magistrate Court
Everett, Christopher	Judge	Probate Court
Fitzgerald, Marge	Mental Health Assessment Specialist	Denton County Sheriff's Office
Fox, Holly	Magistrate	Denton Co. Magistrate Court
Grafa, Mary	Administrative Specialist	Denton County Sheriff's Office
Gutierrez, Pamela	Executive Director	Denton MHMR
Hafiz, Becky	Assistant District Attorney	Denton County District Attorney's Office
Howell, Elisa	Mental Health Coordinator	Denton Police Department
Inman, Mary	Indigent Defense Coordinator	Denton Co. Magistrate
Jahn, Dave	Judge (Former)	Denton Co. Criminal Court No. 9
Jones, Christopher	Attorney	James Horton Law Office
James, Kevin	Corporal	Denton County Sheriff's Office
Kish, Amanda	Court Administrator	Denton County Criminal Court No. 4
Kruger, Jacklyn	Systems Manager	Denton County Clerk's Office
Lafferty, Kimberly	Visiting Magistrate	Denton Co. Magistrate Court
Luke, Juli	Denton County Clerk	Denton County Clerk's Office
Lynch, Adam	Court Clerk	Denton Co. Magistrate Court
Mani, Savannah	Assistant Dist. Attorney	Denton County District Attorney's Office
Newsom, Anthony		Denton County Jail
Oliver, Chance	Judge	Denton Co. Criminal Court No. 4
Piel, Susan	Judge	Denton Co. Criminal Court No. 2
Ragland, Lauri	Judge	Denton Co. Criminal Court No. 1
Ramsay, Robin	Magistrate	Denton Co. Magistrate Court
Roland, Sarah	Criminal Defense Lawyer	Sarah Roland Defense Lawyer firm

Stephens, Rachel	Health Service Shift Leader	Denton Co. Public Health
Stevenson, Curtis	Lieutenant	Denton County Sheriff's Office
Trantham, David	Denton Co. District Clerk	Denton Co. District Clerk's Office
Trantham, William	Attorney	Trantham Law Firm
Waymack, Brittany	Supervisor	Denton Co. MHMR
Wetzel, Jacob	Court Administrator	The Colony Municipal Court
Wiebe, Matthew	Assistant District Attorney	Denton County District Attorney's Office
Wilson, Cathy	Mental Health Probation	Adult Probation Department
Wohr, Megan	Assistant District Attorney	Denton County District Attorney's Office

APPENDIX 6: COUNTY SURVEY RESPONSES | COMMUNITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

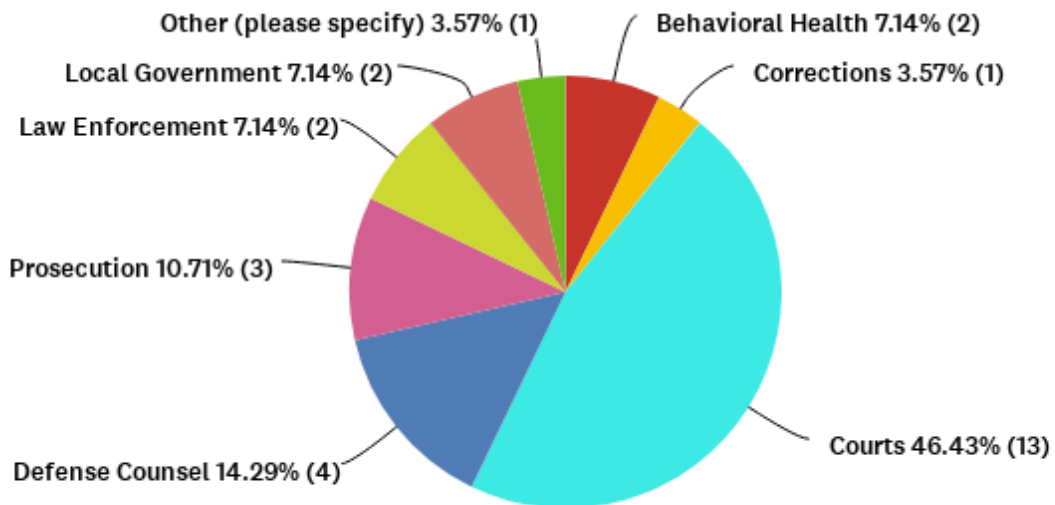
The purpose of this community self-assessment was to ascertain the community's level of collaboration and activities relating to justice involved adults with mental disorders or substance use disorders. This community self-assessment was conducted as part of the planning to a Sequential Intercept Mapping Workshop in Denton.

By completing this community self-assessment, community members provided workshop participants with their perceptions on the state of the community's criminal justice/behavioral health initiatives and resources.

This community self-assessment is intended to guide identification of opportunities for improving responses to justice-involved adults along the intercept points of the Sequential Intercept Model. The questions are designed to assess the community's perceptions of the system in order to facilitate a cross systems discussion among community stakeholders.

Participation was voluntary. Responses will only be reported in an aggregate format so as not to identify any individual.

1. SURVEY PARTICIPANTS' ROLES



2. COLLABORATION

To appropriately and effectively respond to adults with mental and substance use disorders, agencies should collaborate across the Sequential Intercept Model. Please indicate your level of agreement with the statements below as they relate to your community.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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2.01 There is cross-system recognition that many adults involved with the criminal justice system are experiencing mental disorders and substance use disorders.	
2.02 There is cross-systems recognition that responsibility for responding to these adults with mental and substance use disorders lies with all systems.	
2.03 The criminal justice and behavioral health systems are engaged in collaborative and comprehensive efforts to foster a shared understanding of gaps at each point in the justice system.	
2.04 Family members people with mental disorders or substance use disorders are engaged as stakeholders on criminal justice and behavioral health collaborations, such as committees, task forces, and advisory boards.	
2.05 People with lived experience of mental disorders, substance use disorders, and the justice system are engaged as stakeholders on criminal justice and behavioral health collaborations, such as committees, task forces, and advisory boards.	
2.06 Stakeholders have established a shared mission and common goals to facilitate criminal justice and behavioral health collaboration.	
2.07 Stakeholders engage in frequent communication on criminal justice and behavioral health issues, including opportunities, challenges, and oversight of existing initiatives.	
2.08 Stakeholders focus on overcoming barriers to implementing effective programs and policies for justice-involved adults with mental disorders or substance use disorders.	
2.09 Based on research evidence and guidance on best practice, stakeholders are willing to change beliefs,	

behaviors, practices, and policies relating to justice-involved adults with mental disorders and substance use disorders.	
2.10 Criminal justice and behavioral health agencies share resources and staff to support initiatives focused on adults with mental disorders or substance use disorders in the justice system.	
2.11 Criminal justice and behavioral health agencies share data on a routine basis for the purposes of program planning, program evaluation, and performance measurement.	
2.12 Criminal justice and behavioral health agencies engage in cross-system education and training to improve collaboration and understanding of different agency priorities, philosophies, and mandates.	

3. IDENTIFICATION

The behavioral health needs of adults in the justice system should be identified on a systematic basis at each point within the criminal justice system. Please indicate your level of agreement with the statements below as they relate to your community.

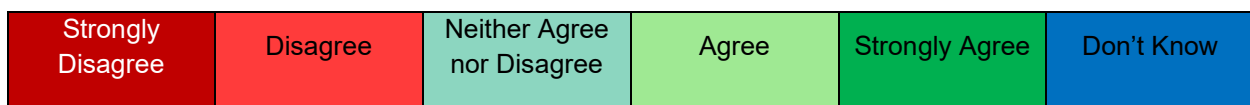
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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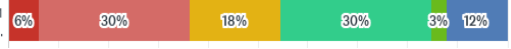
3.01 Beginning at the earliest points of contact with the criminal justice system, adults are universally screened for mental disorders by standardized instruments with demonstrated reliability and validity.	
3.02 Beginning at the earliest points of contact with the criminal justice system, adults are universally screened for substance use disorders by standardized instruments with demonstrated reliability and validity.	
3.03 Beginning at the earliest points of contact with the criminal justice system, adults are universally screened for violence and trauma-related symptoms by standardized instruments with demonstrated reliability and validity.	
3.04 Beginning at the earliest points of contact with the criminal justice system, adults are universally screened for suicide risk by standardized instruments with demonstrated reliability and validity.	




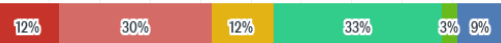





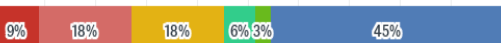

3.05 There are procedures in place to access crisis behavioral health services for adults at any point of contact with the criminal justice system.	
3.06 Mental health assessments are conducted on a routine basis whenever a screening instrument indicates any such need for adults in contact with the criminal justice system.	
3.07 Substance use assessments are conducted on a routine basis whenever a screening instrument indicates any such need for adults in contact with the criminal justice system.	
3.08 Risk assessments are performed in conjunction with screening and assessments to inform treatment and programming recommendations that balance public safety and behavioral health treatment needs.	
3.09 Information obtained through screening and assessments is never used in a manner which jeopardizes an adult's legal interests.	
3.10 Screens and assessments are administered on a routine basis as adults move from one point in the criminal justice system to another.	
3.11 Data-matching between criminal justice agencies and behavioral health providers occurs on a routine basis to identify active and former consumers who have entered the criminal justice system.	

4. STRATEGIES

A variety of interventions are necessary for a community to effectively respond to adults with mental disorders and substance use disorders involved with the criminal justice system. Please indicate your level of agreement with the statements below regarding a variety of approaches as they relate to your community.



4.01 Justice-involved people with mental and substance use disorders have access to comprehensive community-based services.	
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<p>4.02 There are adequate crisis services in place to meet the needs of people experiencing mental health crises.</p>	
<p>4.03 Emergency communications call-takers and dispatchers are able to effectively identify and communicate details about crisis calls to law enforcement and other first responders.</p>	
<p>4.04 Law enforcement and other first responders are trained to effectively respond to adults experiencing mental health crises.</p>	
<p>4.05 Pre-trial strategies are in place to reduce detention of low-risk defendants and to reduce failure to appear rates for people with mental and substance use disorders.</p>	
<p>4.06 Pre-adjudication diversion strategies are as equally available as post-adjudication diversion strategies for individuals with mental disorders and substance use disorders.</p>	
<p>4.07 Treatment courts are aligned with best practice standards and oriented to serve high-risk/high-need individuals.</p>	
<p>4.08 Jail-based programming and health care meets the complex needs of individuals with mental disorders and substance use disorders, including behavioral health care and chronic health conditions (e.g., diabetes, HIV/AIDS).</p>	
<p>4.09 Jail transition planning is provided to inmates with mental disorders to improve post-release recidivism and health care outcomes.</p>	
<p>4.10 Psychotropic medication or prescriptions are provided to inmates with mental disorders to bridge the gaps from the day of jail release to their first appointment with a community-based prescriber.</p>	
<p>4.11 Medication assisted treatment is provided to inmates with substance use disorders to reduce relapse episodes and risk for opioid overdoses following release from incarceration.</p>	
<p>4.12 Community supervision agencies (probation and parole) field specialized caseloads for individuals with</p>	



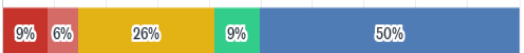

mental disorders to improve public safety outcomes, including reduced rates of technical violations.	
4.13 Strategies to intervene with justice-involved adults with mental disorders and substance use disorders are evaluated on a regular basis to determine whether they are achieving the intended outcomes.	
4.14 Evaluation results are reviewed by representatives from the behavioral health and criminal justice systems.	

5. SERVICES

Adults with mental disorders or substance use disorders in the criminal justice system should have access to effective treatment to meet their needs and with the goals of achieving greater community public health and public safety. Please indicate your level of agreement with the statements below as they related to your community.

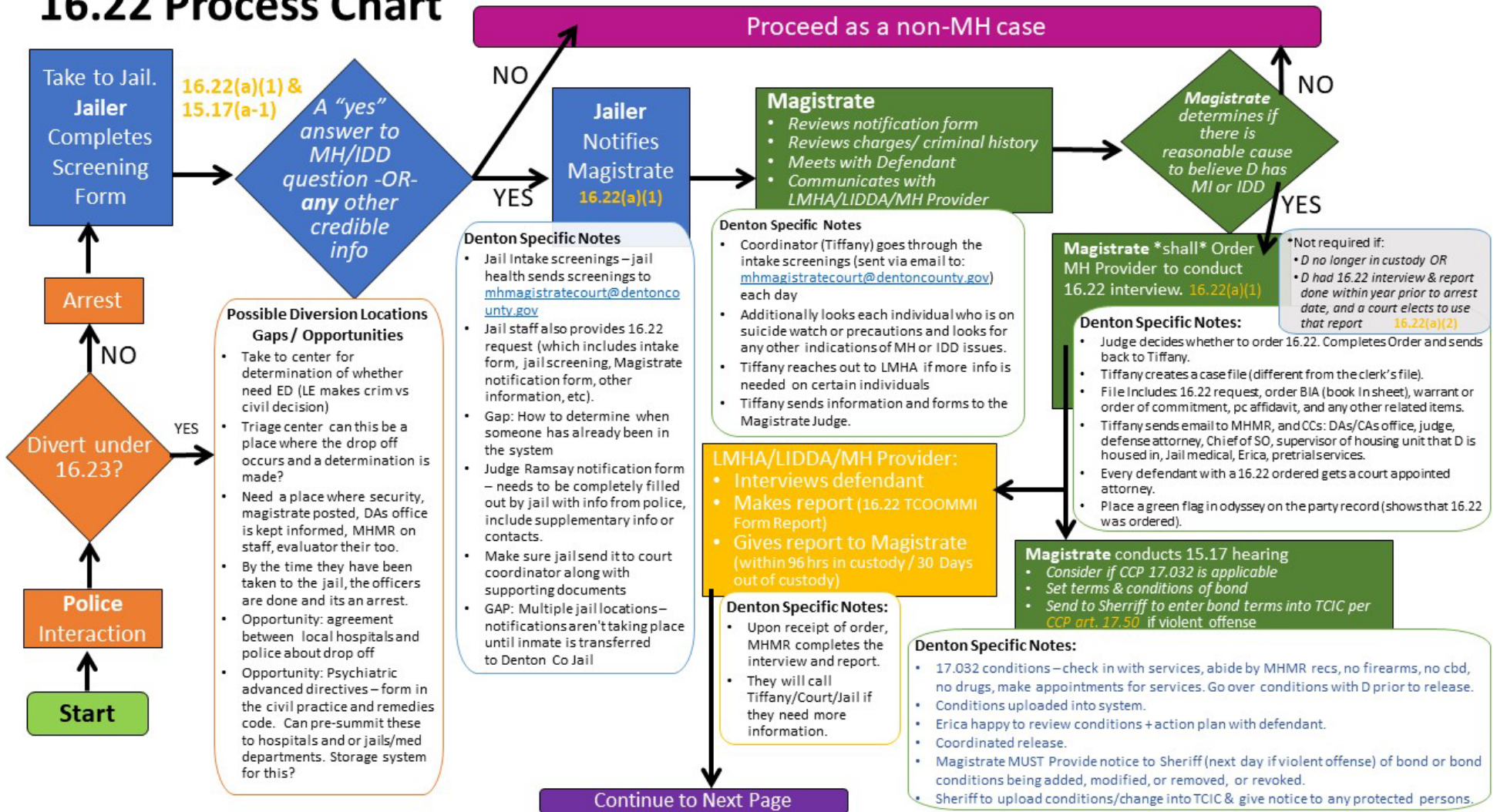
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
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5.01 Adults with mental disorder and substance use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system have access to a continuum of comprehensive and effective community-based behavioral health care services.	
5.02 Regardless of setting, all behavioral health services provided to justice involved adults are evidence-based practices. Evidence-based practices are defined manual-based interventions with demonstrated positive outcomes based on repeated rigorous evaluation studies.	
5.03 Behavioral health service providers understand how to put the risk-need-responsivity framework into practice with justice-involved adults with mental disorders or substance use disorders.	
5.04 Justice-involved adults are fully engaged with behavioral health providers on the development of their treatment plans.	
5.05 Access to housing, peer, employment, transportation, family, and other recovery supports for justice-involved adults with mental and substance use	

<p>disorders are significant priorities for behavioral health providers.</p>						
<p>5.06 Justice-involved adults with mental disorders or substance use disorders receive assistance in obtaining legal forms of identification and benefits assistance (e.g., Medicaid/Medicare and Social Security disability benefits).</p>	 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>6%</td> <td>24%</td> <td>21%</td> <td>12%</td> <td>38%</td> </tr> </table>	6%	24%	21%	12%	38%
6%	24%	21%	12%	38%		
<p>5.07 The services and programs provided to justice-involved adults by the behavioral health and criminal justice systems are culturally sensitive and designed to meet the needs of people of color.</p>	 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>6%</td> <td>9%</td> <td>24%</td> <td>18%</td> <td>42%</td> </tr> </table>	6%	9%	24%	18%	42%
6%	9%	24%	18%	42%		
<p>5.08 There are gender-specific services and programs for women with mental disorders and substance use disorders involved with the criminal justice system.</p>	 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>9%</td> <td>6%</td> <td>26%</td> <td>9%</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> </table>	9%	6%	26%	9%	50%
9%	6%	26%	9%	50%		
<p>5.09 Behavioral health providers, criminal justice agencies, and community providers share information on individuals with mental disorders or substance use disorders, to the extent permitted by law, to assist effective delivery of services and programs.</p>	 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>9%</td> <td>21%</td> <td>21%</td> <td>29%</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> </table>	9%	21%	21%	29%	21%
9%	21%	21%	29%	21%		

APPENDIX 7: CHARTS

16.22 Process Chart



Continued from Previous Page

Magistrate Receives Report from MH Provider

County Specific Notes:

- MHRM sends the report to Tiffany.
- Based on their recommendation, different things happen:
 - Outpatient – no followthrough here or Erica will work with MHRM to set up services, hopefully prior to release
 - Voluntary Inpatient – county contracts with several MH facilities/hospitals and send them over to hospital, and hospital will return them back to jail when doing well. However, this is rarely happening, if they are agreeing to receive services, then they can get services with jail health.
 - Involuntary recs – erica gets rec reach out to Das office and trial judge (if indicted) or mag. to see if there is an agreement to release for services.

Consider adding County Specific Notes on how 16.22 gets to the county and district Clerks offices...

Magistrate gives report to stakeholders 16.22(b-1)

Magistrate's Office (Tiffany?) sends report to stakeholders (DAs/CAs office, trial court judge, defense attorney, Chief of SO/supervisor of housing unit that D is housed in/Jail medical, Erica, pretrial services.)

County / District Clerk

Clerk required to document the number of 16.22 reports completed on Judicial Monthly Court Activity Report to OCA. 16.22(e) & Tex. Admin Code Ch. 171

Consider adding County Specific Notes regarding: County Clerk District Clerk Reporting Filing in case file – sealed?

Trial Court

Diversion Options:

- Misd. (CC5) & Felony (462nd Dist.) MHC programs
- Veteran's Court
- DWI Court
- Drug Court
- 1st Offender Drug Program

Prosecutor

Diversion options:

- Intake review for MH / IDD issues & eligibility for specialty courts
- Pre-adjudication agreements with defendant, possibly include dismissal with treatment plan.

Defense Attorney

Diversion options:

- Working with LMHA for:

Treatment plans
Outpatient treat.
AOT programs
16.22(c)(5) transfer
Civil commitment
Discharge plans
Med. /treat. In jail

Sheriff (jail med records)

Diversion options:

- In custody MH treatment options
- LMHA Jail Liaison
- Access to 24/7 telemental health?
- Provide inmates prescription MH medications?

Personal bond office / Pretrial

Diversion options:

- Treatment as part of bond conditions?
- Treatment as a suggestion from pretrial officer
- Warm handoffs to LMHA?

APPENDIX 8: GENERAL RESOURCES

FUNDING RESOURCES	
Council of State Governments Justice Center https://csgjusticecenter.org/projects/justice-and-mental-health-collaboration-program-jmhcp/funding-resources/	DOJ Office of Justice Programs https://www.ojp.gov/funding/explore/current-funding-opportunities
Humanities Texas https://www.humanitiestexas.org/grants/apply	The Meadows Foundation https://www.mfi.org/
Office of the Texas Governor https://gov.texas.gov/organization/financial-services/grants	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration https://www.samhsa.gov/grants
Texas Health & Human Services Commission https://www.hhs.texas.gov/business/grants	Texas Indigent Defense Commission http://www.tidc.texas.gov/funding/
U.S. Department of the Treasury: Assistance for State, Local, and Tribal Governments https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments	U.S. Grants https://www.usgrants.org/texas/personal-grants

GRANT WRITING RESOURCES	
Grants.gov https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html	HHSC Funding Information Center https://www.dshs.texas.gov/fic/gwriting.shtm
Nonprofit Guides http://www.npguides.org/index.html	Nonprofit Ready https://www.nonprofitready.org/grant-writing-classes
Texas Specialty Court Resource Center http://www.txspecialtycourts.org/training-grant.html	University of Texas Grants Resource Center https://diversity.utexas.edu/tgrc/

MENTAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAM RESOURCES	
Council of State Governments Justice Center – <i>Developing a Mental Health Court: An Interdisciplinary Curriculum</i> https://www.arcourts.gov/sites/default/files/Mental%20Health%20Courts%20-%20Planning%20Guide.pdf	Council of State Governments Justice Center – <i>A Guide to Collecting Mental Health Court Outcome Data</i> https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/MHC-Outcome-Data.pdf

Council of State Governments Justice Center – <i>A Guide to Mental Health Court Design and Implementation</i> https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Guide-MHC-Design.pdf	Council of State Governments Justice Center – <i>Mental Health Courts: A Guide to Research-Informed Policy and Practice</i> https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/Publications/CSG_MHC_Research.pdf
Council of State Governments Justice Center – Mental Health Court Learning Modules https://csgjusticecenter.org/projects/mental-health-courts/learning/learning-modules/	Judicial Commission on Mental Health: <i>10-Step Guide</i> http://texasjcmh.gov/media/czaoapye/mhc-the-10-step-guide.pdf
Judicial Commission on Mental Health http://texasjcmh.gov/technical-assistance/mental-health-courts/	Texas Specialty Court Resource Center http://www.txspecialtycourts.org/

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Activities of the Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families Technical Assistance Center https://www.samhsa.gov/smvf-ta-center/activities	Correctional Management Institute of Texas http://www.cmitonline.org/technical-assistance.html
Doors to Wellbeing: National Consumer Technical Assistance Center https://www.doorstowellbeing.org/	HHSC’s Technical Assistance Center Email: forensicedirector@hhs.texas.gov
Judicial Commission on Mental Health http://texasjcmh.gov/technical-assistance/	Justice Center: The Council of State Governments https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/justice-mh-partnerships-support-center/
National Center for State Courts https://www.ncsc.org/services-and-experts/areas-of-expertise/access-to-justice/tech-assistance	National Family Support Technical Assistance Center https://www.nfstac.org/request-ta
National Mental Health Consumers’ Self-Help Clearinghouse https://www.mhselfhelp.org/technical-assistance	National Training & Technical Assistance Center for Child, Youth, & Family Mental Health https://nttacmentalhealth.org/trainings-ta/
NPC Research https://npcresearch.com/services-expertise/technical-assistance-and-consultation/	Opioid Response Network https://opioidresponsenetwork.org/
Peer Experience: National Technical Assistance Center https://www.peersupportfl.org/pentac/	Peer Recovery Center for Excellence https://peerrecoverynow.org/training/learn-about-ta.aspx
Technical Assistance Collaborative https://www.tacinc.org/what-we-do/customized-ta-training/	Texas Specialty Court Resource Center http://www.txspecialtycourts.org/tta_bureau.html

APPENDIX 9: COUNTY RESOURCES | CRISIS LINES AND CRISIS STABILIZATION

CRISIS LINES:

Denton County is served by an array of local and national crisis lines, including targeted lines. Among those lines are:

- The local mental health authority, or LMHA, [Denton MHMR Center](#), staffs a crisis hotline that provides information, support, intake appointments, intervention, and referrals to callers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 1-800-762-0157.
- 911 call centers are operated by eight local dispatch centers.
- [Denton County Friends of the Family](#) staffs call and text crisis lines 24 hours a day, seven days a week, that connects victims of domestic violence to resources and services, including a dispatch line to a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and the Survivor’s Advocacy Team, at 940-382-7273 (call and text) or 1-800-572-4031 (call).
- The [Texas Youth Helpline](#) provides free, confidential services to youth and families in crisis. The call, text, and chat hotlines are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1-800-989-6884 (call and text); or [chat](#) online.
- The national [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) staffs call and chat crisis lines 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1-800-273-8255 (call); or [chat](#) online. Although this hotline will always remain available, as of July 2022 callers may contact the hotline by calling, texting, or chatting 988. Denton County’s 988 readiness was not assessed during this workshop. SAMHSA offers a [988 toolkit](#) to assist in the transition.
- The national [Veterans Crisis Line](#) operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1-800-273-8255; text: 838255; or [chat](#) online.
- The [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) staffs call, text and chat hotlines 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1-800-799-7233 (call); 88788 (text); or [chat](#) online.
- [The Trevor Project](#) staffs call, text, and chat crisis lines 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-488-7386 (call); 678-678 (text); or [chat](#) online.
- The [Trans Lifeline](#) offers peer support for transgender and questioning persons who may or may not be experiencing a crisis: 1-877-565-8860.

CRISIS STABILIZATION:

Crisis stabilization programs provide intense supervision and support to patients who are experiencing a mental health crisis and whose symptoms interfere with their ability to remain safely in the community. Crisis stabilization services in Denton County include:

- [Denton County MHMR](#) offers outpatient crisis services, including psychiatric services, medication, chemical dependency counseling, case management and referrals.
- [Mayhill Hospital](#) is a private provider of inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance use services for adults and senior adults, including crisis stabilization.
- [University Behavioral Health of Denton](#) is a private provider of inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance use services for adolescents and adults, including crisis stabilization.

Without a public hospital system in the county, Denton County has contracted with two out-of-county providers for crisis stabilization services:

- [Millwood Hospital](#) in Arlington, Texas, is a private provider of inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance use services for children, adolescents, adults, and senior adults, including crisis stabilization.
- [Wise Health Services](#) in Decatur, Texas, is a non-profit provider of [inpatient](#) and [outpatient](#) mental health and substance use services for adults, including crisis stabilization.

APPENDIX 10: COUNTY RESOURCES | CRISIS TEAMS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

CRISIS TEAMS

Crisis teams can take many forms, depending on community needs and resources. Common types of crisis teams include the law enforcement Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and the co-responder Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT). CITs consist of specially trained law enforcement officers while CIRTs pair a master’s level clinician with a law enforcement officer. Denton County’s law enforcement agencies offer both kinds of teams.

The Denton County Sheriff’s Office has had a CIT since 1989. Today, the team partners with Denton County MHMR and includes seven investigators, one sergeant, and one lieutenant who are all trained as Certified Mental Health Peace Officers. The team is available six days a week, from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. The Denton County Sheriff’s Office is willing to assist other law enforcement agencies with training, resources, advice, and forms.

The City of Frisco Police Department implemented its [CIT](#) in 2010. No FPD officers attended the workshop, so little information about the CIT was gathered.

The City of Denton Police Department has four CIRTs, each pairing a law enforcement officer with a clinician. The teams respond to crisis calls, conduct emergency detentions, carry caseloads, perform follow-ups, and contact individuals, post-crisis to ensure they are connected to services or resources. Separate from its CIRTs, the Denton Police Department mandates that an incident report be generated on every mental health call, regardless of whether an arrest or a filed charge results from the call. This practice provides DPD with data and accountability.

The City of Lewisville Police Department finished training its first [CIRT](#) in March 2022. The team consists of two law enforcement officers, three paramedics, and a Denton County MHMR clinician.

Denton County has over 35 discrete law enforcement agencies, many in small jurisdictions that do not yet have the resources to staff a CIT or a CIRT. [Denton County’s law enforcement](#) agencies are compiled of various police departments, six (6) Constable Precincts, the county sheriff’s office, local Fire and EMS departments, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Notably, while the City of Argyle Police Department does not have a CIT or a CIRT, all of its law enforcement officers are trained and certified Mental Health Officers.

Denton County’s [law enforcement agencies](#) include:

Argyle PD	Aubrey PD	Bartonville PD	Carrollton PD	Corinth PD
-----------	-----------	----------------	---------------	------------

Denton Co SO	Denton PD	Double Oak PD	Flower Mound PD	Frisco PD
Highland Village PD	Justin PD	Krugerville PD	Krum PD	Lake Dallas PD
Lewisville PD	Little Elm PD	Northlake PD	Oak Point PD	Pilot Point PD
Plano PD	Ponder PD	Roanoke PD	Sanger PD	The Colony PD
Trophy Club PD	TWU DPS	UNT PD		

DISPATCH/911

Eight dispatch centers and the Denton County Sheriff’s Office respond to emergency calls.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND URGENT CARE

Several facilities provide emergency or urgent care. Those facilities are:

- [Carrollton Regional Medical Center](#) is a 216-bed acute care hospital.
- [City of Denton Emergency Medical Services](#), part of the [City of Denton Fire Department](#).
- [Denton County Emergency Services District Number 1](#) provides fire protection, fire prevention education, and emergency medical services in the communities of Argyle, Bartonville, Copper Canyon, Corral City, Northlake, and surrounding areas of Denton County.
- [Medical City Denton](#) is a 208-bed acute care hospital and Level II Trauma Center.
- [Medical City Frisco](#) is a world-class 61-bed acute care hospital.
- [Medical City Lewisville](#) offers a full-service acute care facility.
- [Texas Health Presbyterian Denton](#) has an emergency department.

APPENDIX 11: COUNTY RESOURCES | HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

HOSPITALS

Several hospitals serve Denton County:

- [Carrollton Regional Medical Center](#) is a 216-bed acute care hospital serving Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Lewisville, The Colony, and other surrounding communities.
- [Carrollton Springs](#) is a behavioral health hospital that provides inpatient, partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient, Help for Heroes (targeted to veterans and first responders), and faith-based programming for children, adolescents and adults facing mental health and addiction challenges.
- [Haven Behavioral Hospital of Frisco](#) is an acute care behavioral health hospital that provides inpatient, intensive outpatient, and medication management for adolescents and adults with mental health conditions and addiction.
- [Mayhill Hospital](#) is a behavioral health hospital that provides inpatient, psychiatric intensive care, partial hospitalization, and intensive outpatient treatment for adults and senior adults with mental health and substance use needs. Mayhill Hospital is one of the few facilities in the area that can provide care to individuals with co-occurring psychiatric and medical conditions.
- [Medical City Denton](#) is a 208-bed acute care hospital with more than 900 employees and 800 physicians. The hospital is a Level II Trauma Center, a Primary Stroke Center and an accredited Chest Pain Center offering advanced open-heart surgery.
- [Medical City Frisco](#) is a world-class 61-bed acute care hospital that offers a range of services including adult and pediatric surgery, orthopedics, robotic-assisted laparoscopic surgery, imaging and emergency services.
- [Medical City Lewisville](#) offers a full-service acute care facility in addition to a broad spectrum of care to the communities of southern Denton County.
- [Texas Health Presbyterian Denton](#) offers complex medical care for a wide spectrum of medical conditions, is a Primary Stroke Center and Chest Pain center, and a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
- [University Behavioral Health](#) is a private provider of inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance use services for adolescents and adults, including crisis stabilization, a women's program, and a veteran's program.

MEDICAL COVERAGE

- [Indigent Health Care](#) is a program administered by Denton County Public Health for low-income community members. If eligible, the program's coverage includes medical exams, inpatient and outpatient hospital services, and prescriptions.

MEDICAL SERVICES

- [First Refuge Ministries](#) provides a [Medical Clinic](#), a [Dental Clinic](#) and [Counseling](#) services to individuals who meet select criteria.

- [Health Services of North Texas \(HSNT\)](#) provides preventative medical services, counseling, medication management, and prescription assistance. HSNT accepts most insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and offers a sliding fee scale based on income for uninsured patients.
- [Our Daily Bread](#) provides wellness and supportive services that include [prescription assistance](#), counseling and wellness screenings, showers and haircuts, and hygiene and first aid supplies.
- [PediPlace](#) is a nonprofit pediatric healthcare practice for children, aged from birth through eighteen (18), who are uninsured or who receive Medicaid and CHIP benefits. PediPlace services include Behavioral Health Screenings to check for signs of mental illness.
- [Primary Care Clinic of North Texas](#) is a nonprofit organization that strives to provide quality medical care at an affordable cost to medically uninsured individuals, between the ages of 13-65. The organization offers a variety of services and may continue some psychiatric medications under certain circumstances.

APPENDIX 12: COUNTY RESOURCES | HOUSING, FOOD, SOCIAL SERVICES AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

HOUSING

Safe, affordable housing provides a key layer of stability for individuals with mental health needs. An assortment of local government and nonprofit organizations work to provide housing options in Denton County, including:

- [Christian Community Action \(CCA\)](#) is a faith-based organization that provides financial assistance for rent and utility bills to prevent homelessness.
- [Cloud 9 Charities](#) is an organization of local leaders and business owners with a passion for giving back to the community by providing temporary housing to families in crisis and need safe shelter.
- [Cumberland Presbyterian Family Residential Program](#) provides stable, affordable, and safe housing and supportive services to single-parent families who are employed.
- [Denton County Affordable Housing Corporation](#) manages 91 units across Denton ranging single-family homes to small apartment buildings and connects individuals to affordable housing that positively impacts neighborhoods.
- [Denton County Friends of the Family](#) is a nonprofit agency that offers [emergency shelter](#) and [transitional housing](#) for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, as well as advocacy, case management, and referrals to counseling or mental health resources.
- [Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team](#) is a public-private partnership between the city of Denton and [United Way of Denton County](#). The Team fosters an effective and coordinated system of homelessness prevention and intervention, resulting in homelessness that is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.
 - The [Denton County Homeless Coalition](#) is a working group of the Team.
 - An [Accessible Housing Navigator](#) facilitates communication between landlords and housing agencies to increase access to safe and affordable housing for Denton County households in crisis.
- [Denton Housing Authority](#) operates over 600 affordable housing units throughout the city of Denton and administers more than 1600 [Housing Choice Vouchers](#) throughout Denton County.
- [Frisco Housing Authority](#) operates 20 affordable housing units in the city of Frisco but does not administer Housing Choice vouchers.
- [Giving Hope](#) is a nonprofit organization that serves individuals and families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in Denton County. Giving Hope performs street outreach, case management, and advocacy through collaboration with community partners for support services; and provides rental and utility assistance for eligible participants, including programs for veterans and people with disabilities.
- [Grace Like Rain](#) is a faith-based nonprofit organization that serves families with children in Denton County who are currently homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless. Services include rental and utility assistance, move-in assistance, skills classes, case management and coaching.

- [Habitat for Humanity of Denton County](#) is a faith-based nonprofit organization that is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally through constructing, rehabilitating, and preserving homes; through advocacy for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.
- [Interfaith Ministries of Denton](#) is a faith-based nonprofit organization that seeks to prevent homelessness by providing temporary assistance to individuals and families.
- [Metrocrest Services](#) provides assistance with rent and utility bills.
- [Our Daily Bread](#) is a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides emergency shelter, referrals to social service agencies, bus passes, mail service, benefits education and enrollment, housing and rental assistance, and job search assistance. Our Daily Bread and Monsignor King Outreach Center joined together in 2020.
- [Pilot Point Goodfellows](#) is a nonprofit organization that assists with utilities, housing, food, medical, clothing, and other household needs.
- [Plano Housing Authority](#) operates 23 affordable housing units and has been authorized to assist 30 [Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing](#) (VASH) participants.
- [Recovery Resource Council](#) is a nonprofit organization that promotes wellness and recovery from alcohol and substance use disorders and trauma. The Council serves Denton County and 19 surrounding counties by providing psychotherapy for children and adults in group and individual settings; prevention education; case management; rapid rehousing; and permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless adults.
- The [Salvation Army of North Texas](#) is a faith-based nonprofit organization that operates a year-round emergency night shelter in Denton, case management, and life skills classes to assist families and individuals experiencing homelessness.
 - The [Home Sweet Home Program](#) supports residential stability by providing highly motivated homeless and at-risk households financial education, case management, financial assistance, and budgeting skills. This program is offered at the [Carr P. Collins Social Service Center](#) in Dallas and the [Mabee Social Service Center](#) in Fort Worth.
- [The Shepherd's Storehouse](#) is located in Pilot Point and helps with food, utilities, medications, glasses, emergency gas and housing.
- [Union Gospel Mission](#) offers residence halls for homeless men, women, and families and provides programs to address substance use disorders, education, employment, transportation, and other services to learn life skills.

FOOD

Eating a healthy diet can positively impact a person's physical and mental health. Available local food services include:

- [Argyle Food Bank](#)
- [Asbury Relief Ministry \(ARM\) Food Pantry](#)
- [Christian Community Action \(CCA\)](#)
- [Denton Community Food Center](#)
- [Denton Hunger Coalition](#) provides mobile food pantries.

- [Feed My Sheep Food Pantry](#)
- [First Refuge Ministries](#)
- [Freedom Food Pantry](#)
- [Heart of the City Lewisville Farmers Market Food Pantry](#)
- [Hope Food & Clothing Ministry](#)
- [The Hope Center](#)
- [Lake Cities Community Food Pantry](#)
- [Little Elm Area Food Bank](#)
- [Metrocrest Services Food Pantry](#)
- [NTX Community Food Pantry](#)
- [Our Daily Bread](#)
- [Pilot Point Goodfellows](#)
- [Salvation Army Denton Corps Food Pantry](#)
- [Span Transportation & Meals on Wheels of Denton County](#)
- [The Shepherd's Storehouse](#)
- [Westside Baptist Church food pantry](#)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Along with meeting immediate physical needs, programs that provide educational, training, and vocational services are useful to diverting individuals from the criminal justice system. Local programs include:

- [Arms of Hope's Together Program](#) helps motivated single mothers and their children transition into successful, independent futures by providing parenting skills, career training and a home in a peaceful and safe environment.
- [Christian Community Action \(CCA\)](#) provides training programs by partnering with other community organization to provide GED, vocational certification, computer skills, and financial literacy classes. CCA also conducts job fairs.
- [Denton Bible Church's Career Transitions](#) services offer job search skills, networking opportunities, and practical information.
- [FreeWorld](#) connects formerly incarcerated people with high-wage jobs so they can thrive on their own terms.
- Metrocrest Services provides [employment coaching](#) and [financial empowerment](#) services.
- [Our Daily Bread](#) provides income and employment support services that include financial literacy classes, job search assistance, and education and enrichment classes.
- [Salvation Army of North Texas](#) has several established Social Services Centers that help develop vital life skills and independence for re-entry into society.
- [Serve Denton](#), a “one-stop shop for humanity,” partners with area nonprofit agencies to make social services more accessible
- [United Way of Denton County](#) identifies the community's most critical needs and implements collaborative, innovative solutions to improve lives.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The ability to access reliable, convenient, safe transportation is intertwined with the ability to care for one's mental health. Available local transportation services include:

- [Denton County Transportation Authority](#) offers a discount on local passes for nonprofit organizations and complimentary transportation for those that meet specific criteria.
- [Span Transportation](#) provides transportation services to older adults, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and the public.

APPENDIX 13: COUNTY RESOURCES | SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SERVICES

SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SERVICES

The relationship between mental health conditions and substance use disorders cannot be understated. Individuals who experience both a substance use disorder and a mental health condition can be considered as having “co-occurring disorders.” No detoxification services were identified in the county. Substance use services are offered by the following entities:

- [Button Memorial United Methodist Church](#) hosts Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.
- [Denton Bible Church’s Grace Recovery](#) is a support group for those with addiction.
- [Denton County MHMR](#) was identified by workshop participants as offering dual Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and mental health services, but no further information could be found. It was reported by participants that capacity for these services is limited due to staffing shortages at MHMR. Denton County MHMR was recently [awarded](#) grant funds from the Denton County Commissioners Court to provide additional services (partnering with [Solutions of North Texas](#) and sobering houses in Denton).
- [Denton Freedom House](#) is a faith-based organization that seeks to remedy alcohol and substance use issues with regimented faith-based residential programs for men and women. Note that Denton Freedom House is not a medical facility and does not have the ability to dispense medications.
- [Free Man House](#) in Dallas is a sober living home committed to helping men and women who have few choices after release from prison, treatment centers or homelessness.
- [Oxford House for Men](#) is a self-managed and self-sufficient recovery home for alcoholics and drug addicts. The program provides accommodation, food, case management, individual counseling, and group support.
- [Recovery Resource Council](#) is a nonprofit organization that promotes wellness and recovery from alcohol and substance use disorders and trauma. The Council serves Denton County and 19 surrounding counties by providing psychotherapy for children and adults in group and individual settings; prevention education; case management; rapid rehousing; and permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless adults.
- [Salvation Army of North Texas](#) provides inpatient rehabilitation treatment programs located in Dallas and Fort Worth.
- [Singing Oaks’s Celebrate Recovery](#) is a 12-step recovery program.
- [Solutions of North Texas](#) is a nonprofit organization that provides a variety of services, including structured residential transitional services (also known as “sober living”), intensive outpatient treatment, intensive inpatient treatment, crisis intervention, case management, monitoring, and referrals.
- [Texas Treatment Services](#) provides Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in an outpatient setting for opioid addiction.
- Wichita Falls Faith Mission offers the [New Beginnings Drug & Alcohol Addiction Recovery Program](#) for men and women.

APPENDIX 14: COUNTY RESOURCES | TRAINING AND EDUCATION

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING & EDUCATION

- Crisis Intervention Team, or [CIT](#), training is typically an 8- or 40-hour course offered during the police academy. The 40-hour course is required for Texas peace officers who are seeking their Intermediate Proficiency Certificate.
 - The Colony's city jail began conducting CIT training and report that jail staff are receptive.
 - Denton County Sheriff's Office deputies, in conjunction with Denton MHMR, conduct CIT training once per year.
 - Workshop participants reported that some law enforcement agencies only train peace officers who handle Emergency Detentions (locally called Apprehend and Detain or A&Ds).
- Denton MHMR hosts [collaborative trainings](#) for law enforcement and the judiciary.
- The Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health hosts an [Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health](#) for all professions involved in the administration of justice.

COMMUNITY TRAINING & EDUCATION

- [Mental Health First Aid](#), an 8-hour course offered by Denton MHMR that equips participants with a 5-step action plan to appropriately respond and refer a person who may be experiencing a mental health crisis.
- [Friends of the Family](#) offers community training and education on sexual and domestic violence.
- United Way offers the ["Wellness Wednesdays"](#) series, a collection of free videos with tips on maintaining mental health.

APPENDIX 15: COUNTY RESOURCES | VETERANS SERVICES

More than 41,000 veterans live in Denton County. The [Denton County Veterans Center](#) consolidated a variety of veteran-targeted services. Among the services housed at the Center are:

- [Denton County Veteran’s Coalition \(DCVC\)](#) provides emergency and temporary assistance to veterans and works with United Way and other community partners to refer veterans to services and resources.
- [Denton County Veteran Stability Program](#) provides temporary financial assistance.
- [Denton County Veterans Service Office](#) assists veterans and their dependents with understanding and applying for VA benefits. The Office also offers the assistance of a [Veteran Community Navigator](#), who can provide referrals for specific needs.
- [North Central Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center](#) mainly acts as a resource connection, but also offers a temporary respite program for caregivers who need a break from their caregiving responsibilities.
- Span Denton County provides free transportation to veterans living anywhere in Denton County to the Veteran’s Affairs hospitals in Dallas and Fort Worth.
- [Stay the Course Program](#) provides guidance, wellness, and healing through therapies for individuals, couples and families at little or no cost.
- A [Texas Veterans Commission](#) counselor is available at the Center to assist veterans in filing VA claims.

Other services and resources available to veterans separate from the Denton County Veterans Center include:

- [Denton Bible Church’s MilitaryLife](#) program offers support, care, and encouragement for the men, women, and families that are serving or have served in the armed forces around the world.
- [Veterans Affairs North Texas Health System](#) has multiple locations across the DFW Metroplex, including Bonham, Dallas, Decatur, Denton, Fort Worth, Garland, Plano, and Sherman, and offers both inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, and telehealth appointments, for psychiatric services, therapy, services for veterans who are homeless or are at risk of being homeless, treatment for addictive disorders, including residential treatment, and transition and care management for returning veterans.

APPENDIX 16: COUNTY RESOURCES | OTHER RESOURCES

OTHER RESOURCES FOR DENTON COUNTY		
Christian Community Action, Lewisville 972-436-3662	Denton Community Health Clinic 940-600-7527	Denton County District Attorney 940-349-2600
Denton County Health Department 940-349-2900	Denton MHMR 940-381-5000 Crisis Line: 1-800-762-0157	Denton Presbyterian Hospital 940-898-700
Giving Hope, Inc. 940-382-0609	Health Services of North Texas 940-600-7527	Kiwanis Children's Clinic 940-387-6323
Mayhill Hospital 940-239-3000	Medicaid/Food Stamps/TANF 940-320-5700	Medical City Denton 940-384-3535 ER: 940-384-3500
Opening Doors International Services 940-382-0096	Planned Parenthood, Denton 940-891-0737	Report Child or Elder Abuse/Neglect 1-800-252-5400
Salvation Army 940-566-6800	Solutions of North Texas 940-898-6202	Texas Advocacy Project Legal Helpline 1-800-374-HOPE (4673)
TWU – Dental Clinic 940-898-2888	United Way of Denton 940-566-5851	University Behavioral Health 940-320-8100
UNT – Child & Family Resource Clinic 940-565-2066	UNT – Counseling & Human Development Center 940-565-2970	UNT – Psychology Clinic 940-565-2631
VINE 1-877-894-8463	Women, Infants & Children (WIC) 940-349-2930	Woman to Woman 940-383-4494

APPENDIX 17: REFERENCES

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2.	NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS, FAIR JUSTICE FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS: IMPROVING THE COURT'S RESPONSE 19 (2018), https://www.neomed.edu/wp-content/uploads/CJCCOE_10-Dave-Byers-COURT-RESOURCES-Mental-Health-Protocols-Oct-2018.pdf . See also, https://www.ncsc.org/behavioralhealth .
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4.	SAMHSA GAINS CENTER, CRISIS SERVICES: EFFECTIVENESS, COST-EFFECTIVENESS, AND FUNDING STRATEGIES (2014), https://www.nasmhpd.org/sites/default/files/SAMSHA%20Publication%20on%20Effectiveness%20%26%20Cost-Effectiveness%20of%2C%20and%20Funding%20Strategies%20for%2C%20Crisis%20Services%206-5-14_8.pdf
5.	SAMHSA GAINS CENTER, DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATION: THE SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL (3rd ed., 2013); Mark R. Munetz & Patricia A. Griffin, <i>Use of the Sequential Intercept Model as an Approach to Decriminalization of People with Serious Mental Illness</i> , 57 PSYCH. SERVICES 544, 544-49 (2006), https://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/pdf/10.1176/ps.2006.57.4.544 . The SIM in this report adopts the traditional model but also expands it to include new intercepts that allow for a better understanding of early intervention to effectively address those with mental health issues before they enter the criminal justice system.
6.	SAMHSA GAINS CENTER, NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS CARE: BEST PRACTICE TOOLKIT (2020), https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/national-guidelines-for-behavioral-health-crisis-care-02242020.pdf
7.	UNITED WAY OF DENTON COUNTY, INC., COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE (2019), https://www.unitedwaydenton.org/sites/unitedwaydenton/files/2019%20Needs%20Assessment%20Updated.pdf .