



Overview of Services Committee Recommendations
to Improve the Judicial Response to Mental Illness and
Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

Hon. Stacey Mathews

277th District Court

Williamson County, Texas

FIRST, SOME NUMBERS

8: Individuals with untreated mental health and substance abuse disorders are 8x more likely to be incarcerated.

30: In 2015, 30% of inmates in Texas county jails were diagnosed with one or more serious mental illnesses.

73: In 2018, 73% of Texas counties were designated “Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE JUDICIARY?

We are most able to contribute to this conversation when we have meaningful alternatives to incarceration at our disposal.

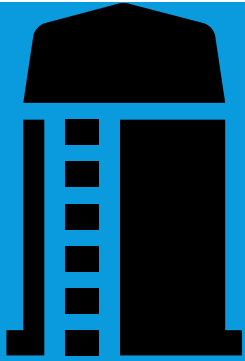
The current equation:

Pre-existing resource and service gaps

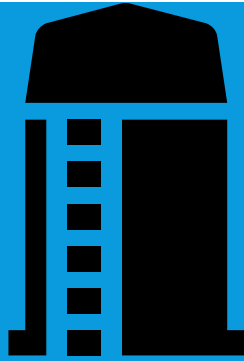
+ Large population of justice-involved persons w/mental illness

Lack of resources for the Judiciary to address the mental health needs of justice-involved individuals.

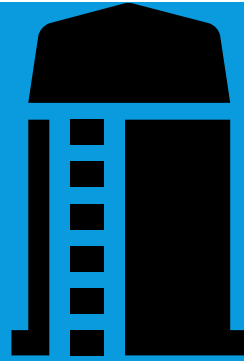
THE FIRST CHALLENGE TO ADDRESS



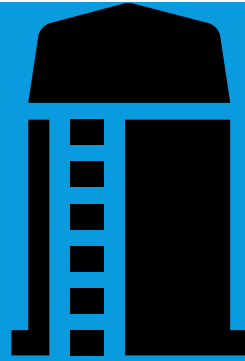
HHSCI/
DSHS



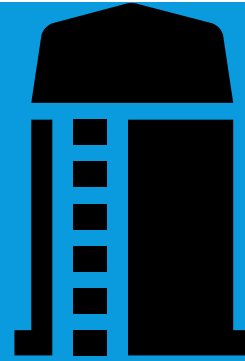
LMHA



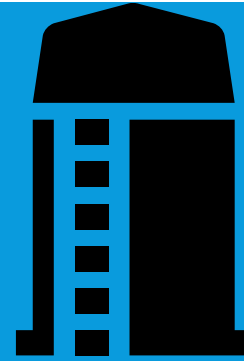
Judiciary



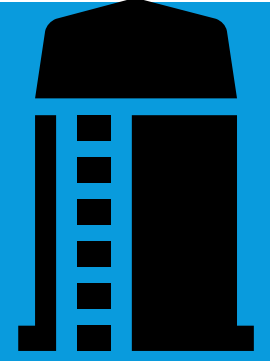
Law
Enforcement



Hospitals



The Lege



Private
Providers



CRISIS RELATED SERVICES

- Crisis intervention through LMHAs and LBHAs
 - Rapid Stabilization Beds
 - Crisis Stabilization Units
 - Crisis Residential Units
 - Crisis Respite Units
 - Extended Observation Units

Crisis Redesign began in 80th Lege
Expanded by 84th Lege

- Continuity of Care Resources
- Substance Abuse Treatment in Crisis Residential Units
- Crisis Intervention Response Teams
- Mental Health Dockets

Non-traditional
Psychiatric Service
Programs
Funded by 84th Lege

Recommendation:
Increased
awareness &
continued
support.

EARLY INTERVENTION

- Enhancing consistency in the 16.22 evaluation process statewide

Recommendation:

- Coordinate enhanced data collection through TCJS



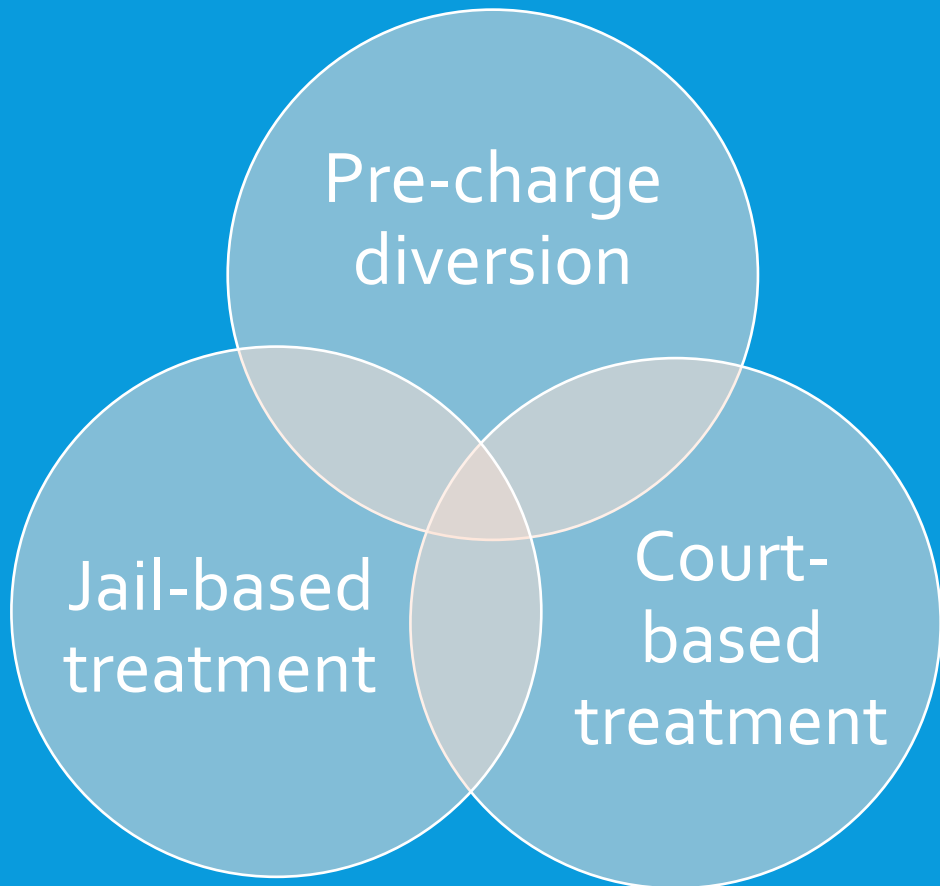
MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR YOUTH

- Home based/community-based treatment approach
- Designed to “alter the youth’s ecology” to promote prosocial behavior
- Proven to be successful – 75% reduction in violent crime
- Significant commitment of time with significant payoff for success

Recommendation:

- Support of MST, which would give judges a proven tool to increase positive outcomes in cases that come before their courts

DIVERSION OPTIONS & MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR JUDGES



Recommendations

- Increased education for judiciary and law enforcement as to available resources and procedures for using those resources.
- Increase availability of Crisis Respite Beds that will accept patients with criminal history or admit involuntarily.

OUTPATIENT COMPETENCY RESTORATION & JAIL-BASED COMPETENCY RESTORATION

- In FY2019, 310 defendants were served in Texas through OCR programs
- In FY 2019, 346 defendants were served in Texas through JBCR programs

Recommendation

- Identify additional resources that can reduce the wait-time to be admitted to OCR or JBCR programs.

CONTINUITY OF PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATION

- Different hospitals use different medications.
- Specific medications given in jail may differ from what is provided by the LMHA on release.

Recommendation

- Develop standard formulary list for psychoactive medication that are used by state facilities, LMHAs, and jail/prison system.
- Leverage statewide purchasing power for this formulary



PEER SUPPORT

- Strengths-based services designed to promote resiliency through shared, lived experience in recovery.
- Cost-efficient
- Effective

Recommendation:

- Provide guidance and training for the judiciary on benefits of using peer support
- Promote partnerships between LMHAs and Courts to encourage and support the use of peer support.
- Review visitation restrictions for individuals with a criminal history.



RE-ENTRY SERVICES WITH LIFE SKILLS

- Social reintegration lowers recidivism.
- Enhanced focus on continuity of care pre-release improves post-release outcomes.

Recommendation:

- Continue funding and supporting programs that help re-integration into society.
- Increase access to such programs

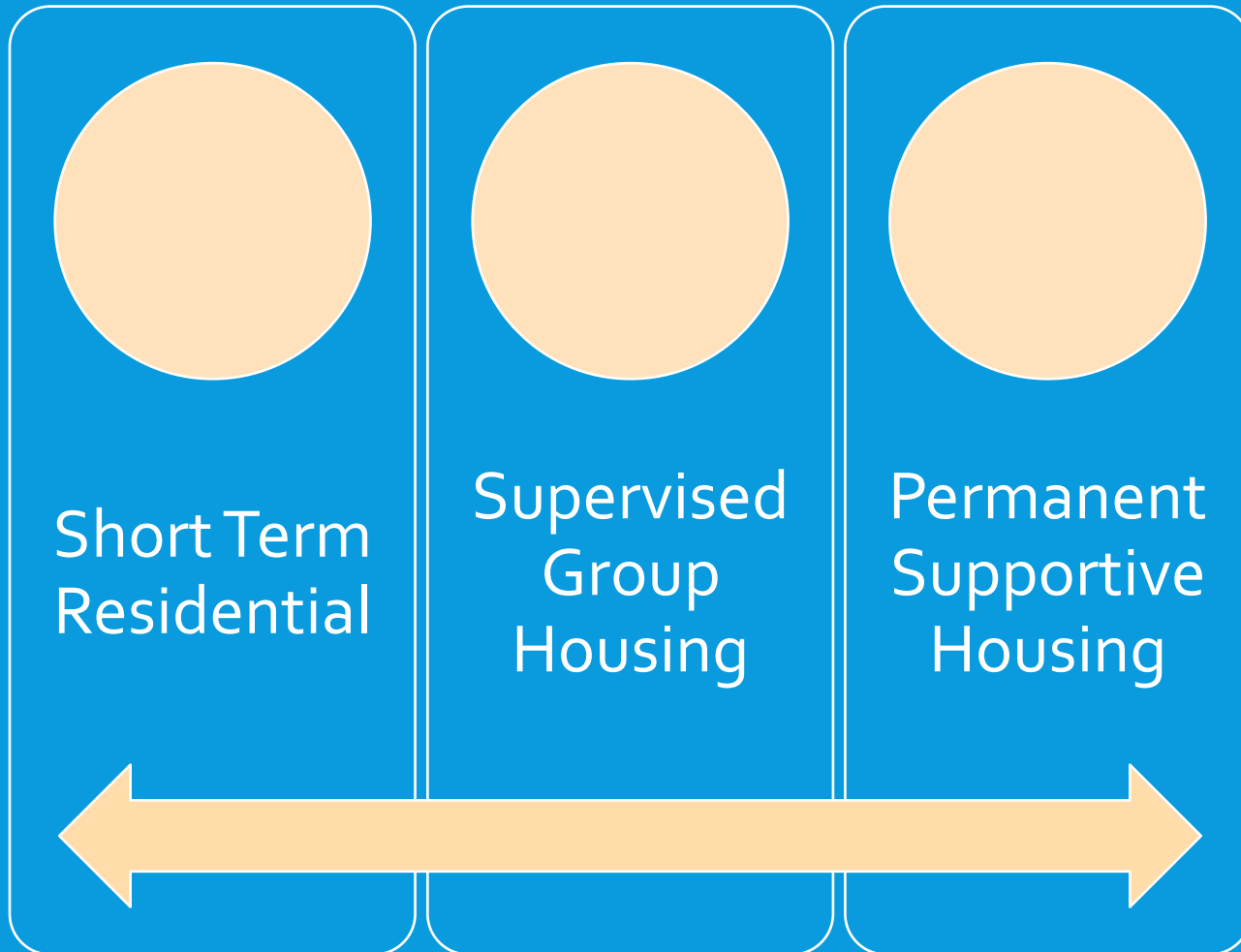


MENTAL HEALTH FOCUSED SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD



- Recommendation:
 - Increase training for the judiciary and other stakeholders on available resources to support individuals with IDD.
 - Define standards of care and tailor existing services to meet the needs of individuals with IDD.

HOUSING



- Recommendation:
- Increase availability of supportive housing.



SUMMARY

These are gaps in currently available services, but these gaps are opportunities:

- To positively affect individuals
- To positively impact the communities in which we live
- To improve the administration of justice

...by strengthening the justice system's ability to address mental health challenges.