

# Texas Legislature's Investments in Mental and Behavioral Health

John Snook, JD | Nelson Jarrin, JD | December 4, 2023

# Meadows Institute – Vision, Mission, Goals

## Vision

We envision Texas to be the national leader in treating all people with mental health needs.

## Mission

Independent and nonpartisan, the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute works at the intersection of policy and programs to create equitable systemic changes so all people in Texas, the nation, and the world can obtain the health care they need.

## Long-Term Goals

- Be a driving force on policy and implementation best practices designed to get people the mental health care they need, with **Texas serving as a model for the country**.
- Nationally, the Meadows Institute is a trusted partner and preferred collaborator as a national mental health organization leading this change.

# Foci & Priorities

## THREE AREAS OF FOCUS



Children and Families



Health Systems



Justice and Health

## CROSS CUTTING PRIORITIES

INNOVATION

TRAUMA &  
GRIEF

HEALTH  
EQUITY

WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT

## VEHICLES FOR OUR WORK

- **Regional Centers:** Hackett Center (Houston), Paso del Norte (El Paso region), South Texas Center (San Antonio)
- **Centers of Expertise:** Center for Child & Family Wellness, Center for Health Systems Integration, Trauma & Grief Center
- **National Coalitions:** Policy Council, Path Forward, CEO Alliance

# Our Unique Value: Intersection of Policy & Programs

**STATE AND NATIONAL POLICY**

Shape mental health policy

Extract lessons learned and proof points

Enact mental health policy

The work of the Meadows Institute

**SOLUTIONS**

Develop, implement, scale, and finance evidence-based solutions in local, state, and national systems

**OUR VALUES**

Collaboration and partnership

Data-driven and evidence-based

Innovation

Nonpartisanship

Stewardship

# A Sustained Commitment at the Texas Capitol

Session	Medicaid Behavioral Health Budget	Total Behavioral Health Budget	Cumulative Increase	% Increase from 84th
84th (2015)	\$3.00B	\$6.59B	-	-
85th (2017)	\$3.52B	\$7.60B	\$1.01B	15%
86th (2019)	\$3.31B	\$8.23B	\$1.64B	24%
87th (2021)	\$3.68B	\$8.86B	\$2.27B	34%
88th (2023)	\$3.48B	\$11.68B	\$5.09B	77%

- Behavioral health funding in the 2024-25 budget totals **\$9.37 billion**, an **increase of \$1.25 billion (15.3%)** from the 2022-23 budget.
- The supplemental budget, SB 30, includes another **\$2.31 billion** for **inpatient facilities and expanded mental health capacity**.

# New Inpatient Projects

**SB 30 (Huffman) provides \$2.26 billion for 17 unique construction projects, including:**

- Locally-driven facilities in **Montgomery County, Victoria County, and the Rio Grande Valley;**
- New forensic facilities in **Lubbock, El Paso, and San Antonio;**
- Right-sized projects in **rural areas of the state (Uvalde, Amarillo);** and
- **\$100 million** for county-based collaboratives to construct **jail-diversion facilities, step-down facilities, supportive housing, and crisis units.**

**To date, total investment in modernizing Texas' state hospital system and expanding inpatient capacity exceeds \$3.6 billion.**

# Additional Community Capacity

**HB 1 (Bonnen) also provided funding to increase bed rates and expand bed capacity in community settings. This includes:**

- **\$333.9 million** to increase bed rates and expand **civil and forensic bed capacity in community settings** (purchased psychiatric beds, competency restoration beds, and contracted state hospital beds);
- **\$17 million** for **state hospital step-down programs**;
- **\$28 million** to fund five additional **crisis stabilization facilities**; and
- **\$11.5 million** to fund four additional **crisis respite units for children**.

# Uvalde Specific Response

**In June 2022, Governor Abbott signed a budget execution order with an initial \$105.6 million commitment to Uvalde. The 88th Legislature built on this response, based on recommendations from the Uvalde Region Mental Health Needs Assessment (December 2022):**

- **\$33.6 million to construct the Uvalde Behavioral Health Campus;**
- **\$5 million in FY 2025 for initial operations of the new campus;**
- **\$13.7 million for purchased psychiatric bed capacity; and**
- **\$10 million for Uvalde-focused mental health services.**

**HB 1 (Bonnen) also appropriated \$1 million to Hill Country MHDD for operational costs for a mental health facility in Comal County.**



# The Progression of Mental Health Conditions

**HALF**  
OF ALL  
**MENTAL**  
**HEALTH**  
**CONDITIONS**  
MANIFEST BY  
**AGE 14**

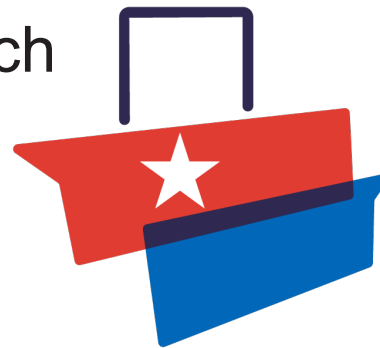
BY YOUNG  
ADULTHOOD

**75%** OF  
**LIFETIME**  
**CASES**  
HAVE PRESENTED

# Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium

In 2019, the Texas Legislature passed 86(R) SB 11 to create the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium. The Consortium's biennial budget has increased from an initial \$99 million to \$337.1 million for FY 2024-25.

- 1) **Child Psychiatry Access Network**
- 2) **Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHATT)**
- 3) **Community Psychiatry Workforce Expansion**
- 4) **Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP) Fellowships**
- 5) **Mental Health Research**

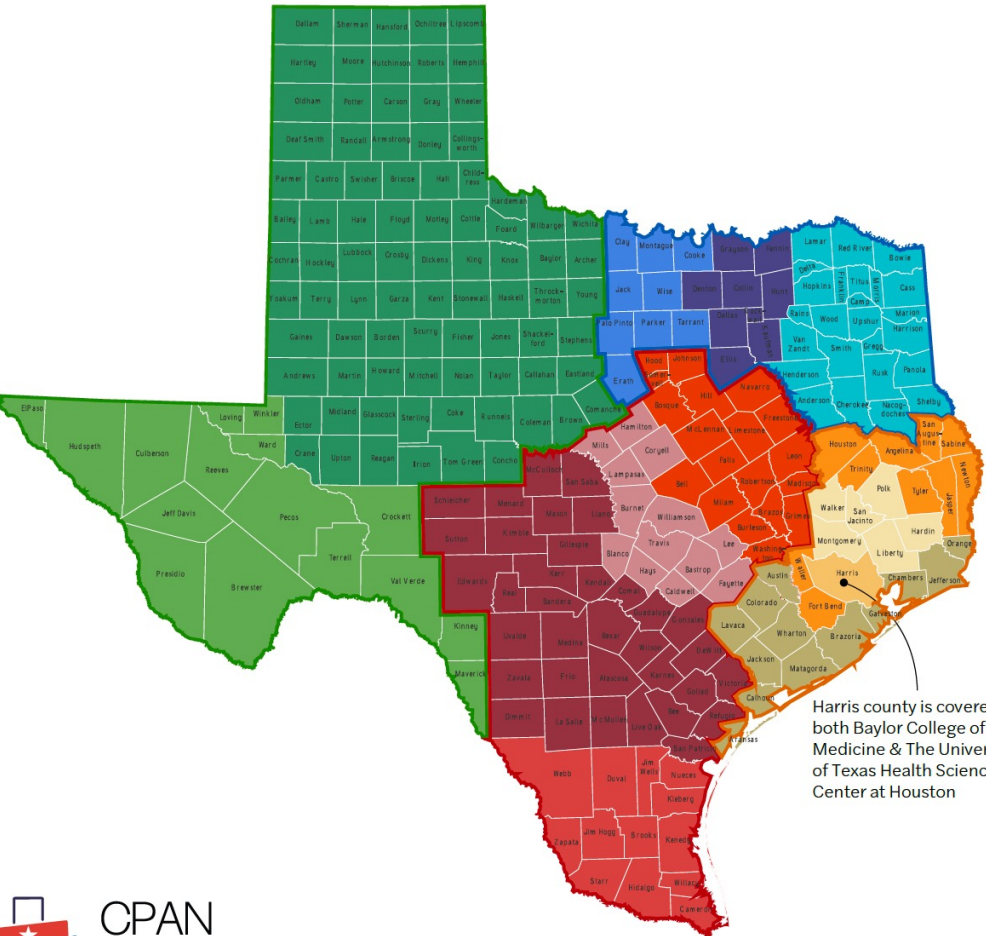


# tcmhcc

# Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN)

**Dial (888)901-2726 to reach CPAN**

Then dial the numbers below for region and institution



Harris county is covered by both Baylor College of Medicine & The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

### Dial 1 North and Northeast Region

- 1 University of North Texas Health Science Center
- 2 The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
- 3 The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler

### Dial 2 South and Southeast Regions

- 1 Baylor College of Medicine
- 2 The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- 3 The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

### Dial 3 Valley and Central Regions

- 1 Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin
- 2 The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
- 3 The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
- 4 Texas A&M University System Health Science Center

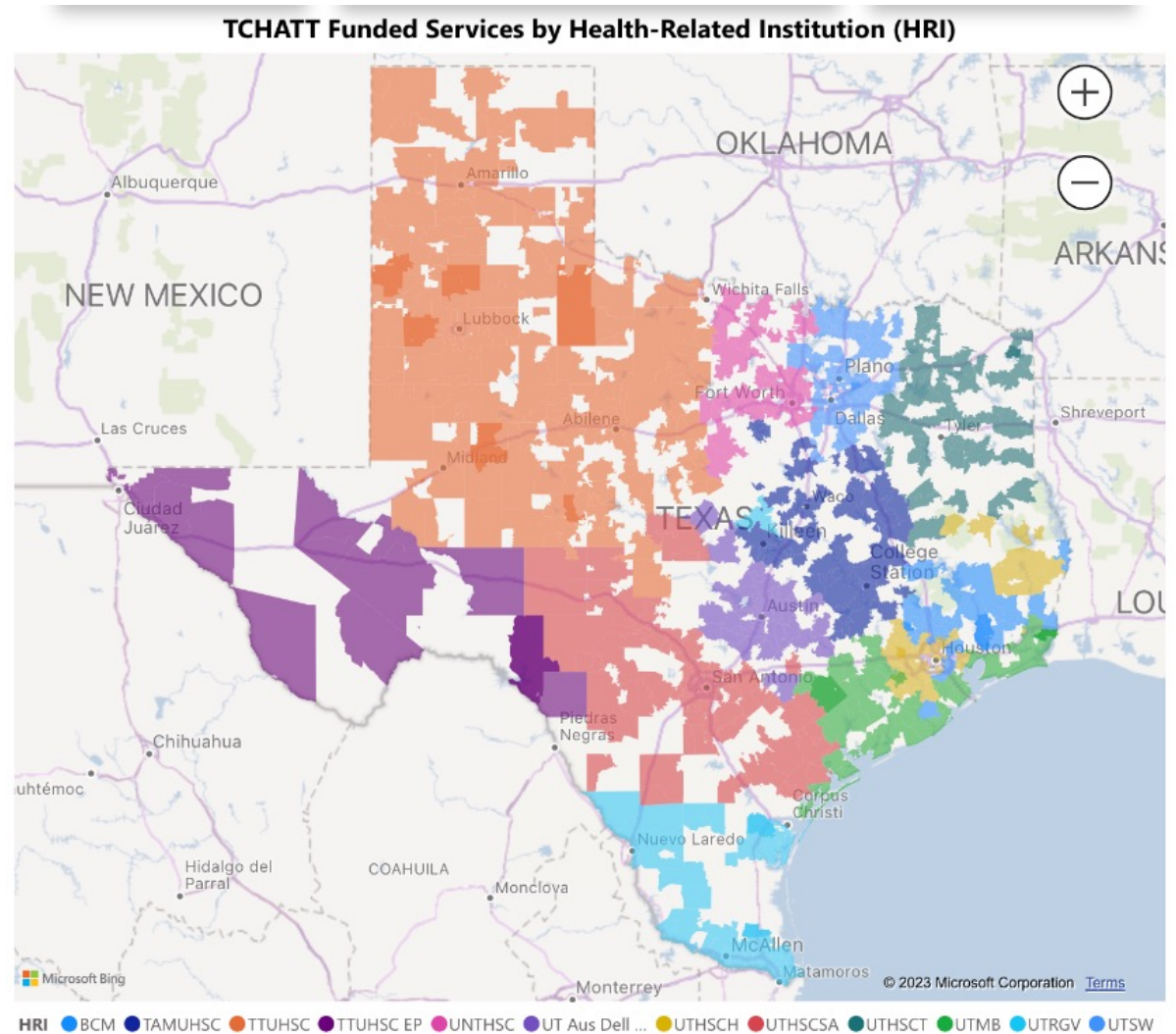
### Dial 4 West Region

- 1 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- 2 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso



# TCHATT Coverage: November 2023

- Currently available on more than 5,800 school campuses, covering nearly 3.7 million Texas students.
- On track to cover more than 5 million Texas students by the end of the 2024-25 school year.



<https://tcmhcc.utsystem.edu/tchatt/>

# Rider 52 Needs and Capacity Assessment

**HHSC issued a Needs and Capacity Assessment (NCA) in July for these intensive services and supports with award notices on November 9:**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NCA Funding</b>
<b>Multisystemic Therapy (MST)</b>	Treat youth who have committed violent offenses, have serious mental health or substance use concerns and/or are at risk of out-of-home placement.	<b>15 new teams</b>  9 current → 24 total	\$21 million
<b>Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC)</b>	Provide the gold standard of care for people experiencing a first episode of psychosis.	<b>6 new teams</b>  42 current teams funded with federal block grant funds.	\$4.2 million
<b>Youth Crisis Outreach Teams (YCOT)</b>	Support youth in crisis and their families, which will reduce pressure on the foster care system and hospital emergency rooms.	<b>7 new teams</b>	\$14 million

# Mental Health Grant Programs

- **\$90 million** for the **Mental Health Grant Program for Justice-Involved Individuals** to reduce recidivism, arrest, and incarceration among people with mental illness (\$30 million increase).
- **\$55 million** for the **Community Mental Health Grant Program** to support community programs providing services and treatment to people experiencing mental illness (\$15 million increase).
- **\$30 million** for a new, **Mental Health Early Intervention and Treatment Grant Program** to improve access to care for children and families, such as programs that reduce juvenile justice involvement, relinquishment, and preventable ER visits.

# Mental Health Workforce

**Texas has always faced a mental health professional workforce shortage. Due to COVID-19, inflation, and opportunities in other industries, the entire nation is facing a historic workforce crisis.**

- The Legislature adopted nearly **\$135 million for salary increases at state hospitals** to bring state hospital beds back online.
- **Local mental health authorities** received **\$23.9 million** of their request to **stabilize their workforce**. This funding is critical to the success of the additional programs funded this session.
- The Legislature adopted **\$28 million for the Loan Repayment Program for Mental Health Professionals** (see also HB 1211 (Guillen), HB 2100 (Price), and SB 532 (West)).



# Questions?



# Thank You!

For more information, visit [mmhpi.org](http://mmhpi.org).



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**MENTAL HEALTH**  
POLICY INSTITUTE

**PASO *del* NORTE CENTER**  
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

TRAUMA & GRIEF CENTER AT  
THE HACKETT CENTER

CENTER FOR CHILD AND FAMILY WELLNESS

CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND HEALTH