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**Bexar County Selected as Peer Learning Site Network
for Coordinating Between Behavioral Health and Justice Systems**

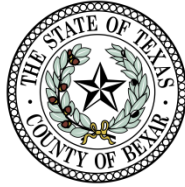
Bexar County is joining a select group of counties as the inaugural group of the [National Association of Counties' Familiar Faces Initiative Peer-Learning Sites](#). The intent of this initiative is to share best practices that have resulted from investments in cross-sector data sharing and programming designed to improve life outcomes for high-needs residents with complex behavioral health conditions.

The [Familiar Faces Initiative \(FFI\): Improving Outcomes through Coordinated Health and Justice Systems](#) was launched in May 2022 by the [National Association of Counties](#) to support and empower communities to share data between health and justice systems. Counties then use shared data to identify and coordinate care options for individuals with health and behavioral health conditions who frequently cycle through jails, homeless shelters, emergency departments and other crisis services.

Bexar County is a nationally recognized leader in efforts to improve life outcomes for residents who have become familiar faces to county and service providers and has joined FFI as a peer-learning site. Bexar County will present its integration of mental and behavioral health service providers and resources as a model for other counties to consider when developing their own approaches.

Bexar County's Office of Criminal Justice Executive Director Mike Lozito stated, "Bexar County continues to improve our comprehensive and integrated approach to behavioral health services for our residents. Successful cooperation between the different resource partners is absolutely critical to achieving the desired outcomes."

As a Familiar Faces Initiative peer learning site, Bexar County will engage with the FFI Network through one-on-one calls, presentations, events and a community message board to share innovative approaches, best practices and lessons learned in creating a cross-sector data sharing system and integrating care options throughout the county.



Bexar County will also hold a peer learning exchange, hosting county elected officials to explore the systems at play in the county's behavioral health and justice continuum and the level of interaction required to achieve a supportive care model for familiar faces.

Bexar County's Director of Preventative Health and Environmental Service Andrea Guerrero-Guajardo, Ph.D., MPH said, "Mental health is public health, and Bexar County has taken important steps to address the decriminalization of those with mental illness and to avoid inappropriate incarceration. Throughout the development of this program and moving forward, Bexar County is committed to improving this integrated approach and to promote a continuum of care that is essential to creating meaningful impact for these persons."

The Bexar County Behavioral Health Department has information and links to resources available on their website at <https://www.bexar.org/192/Department-of-Behavioral-Health> .

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