

Behavioral Health Department

Mission

Act as Commissioner's Court advocate, expert, and clearinghouse on community mental health issues and programs.

Lead in planning, coordinating, advocating, and organizing community behavioral health stakeholders in activities to continuously improve the availability of services in Bexar County.

Vision

Transform Bexar County to a National Model of a mentally healthy community.

Purpose

Identify Gaps
Increase Capacity
Identify and recommend best use of
County dollars

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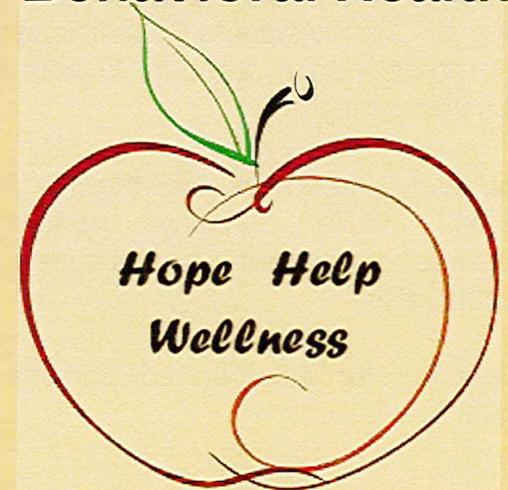
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Bexar County Department Of Behavioral Health



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The Department devotes exclusive attention to:

Providing a systematic process to continuously assess the needs for mental health services in the community and prioritize the best investment of County funds to meet those needs.

Creating a seamless system of care and safety net services for the mentally ill by improving services at multiple points of entry to care, and coordinating programs, providers and services.

Acting as Commissioners Court liaison to the local mental health authority to help guide and select policy.

Negotiating contracts for mental health services while tracking performance measures, program compliance, and effectiveness.

Advocating for incarcerated persons with mental illness.



Activities

- Coordinate the Bexar County Mental Health Consortium to expand strategies supporting the improved system of care
- Address community mental health needs
- Raise awareness in the community
- Coordinate with public policy leaders
- Inform mental health legislation
- Education and Facilitate training
- Ensure a coordinated mental health system of care in the community
- Strengthen the partnership with the Center for Health Care Services (CHCS) to ensure that gaps, needs, and services identified by the community are formalized and Incorporated in CHCS's service delivery plan
- Integrate Mental Health and Physical Health, as well as Mental Health and Judicial Services
- The Mental Health Court provides protection of the community by providing a continuum of care that holds individuals accountable and establishes long term recovery.

"Every noble work is at first impossible."

Thomas Carlyle

The Department is dedicated to:

Early Identification

- Coordinate mental health identification and treatment referral at the Central Magistration Facility

Access to Treatment

- Advocate for incarcerated persons with mental illness and to provide access to mental health treatment, community resources, and support to reduce their involvement in the criminal justice system.
- Identify and expand Community wide resources

Strengthen Continuity of Care

- Strengthen cross agency referrals
- The Mental Health Court helps a person improve mental health stability through continuity of care, self-sufficiency, and strive to reach their full potential and to live a law abiding life.

Reduce Stigma

- Stigma and discrimination against people with mental illnesses leads others to avoid living, socializing or working with, renting to, or employing people with mental illnesses.