

**Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team**  
**Thursday, January 11, 2024**  
**9:30am -11:00am**  
**In-Person & Virtual Meetings via Microsoft Teams**

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
  - Review/Approval of November 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- II. Introductions
- III. North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) Update
- IV. Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) Update
- V. Dallas County Behavioral Health Housing Workgroup Update
- VI. Dallas County Mental Health Advisory Committee Update
- VII. Legislative Update
- VIII. Funding Opportunities
  - The Cottages Update
  - SAMHSA Residential Treatment Grant Update
  - Community Courts Grant Update – Public Defender’s Office (PD)
  - Restorative Justice Division Update – District Attorney’s Office (RJD)
- IX. Upcoming Events and Notifications
- X. Public Comments
- XI. Adjournment

\* Indicates items requiring approval from Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team

The following reports from BHLT Committees are included for your records: *ACOT, BHSC, PD Mental Health Stats, North Texas Behavioral Health Authority, FUSE and RJD Stats*. Unless action is required, there will be no verbal updates from those committees.



**DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**Minutes of the Behavioral Health Leadership Team Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 9th, 2023**  
**<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/criminal-justice/bhlt/>**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Commissioner John Wiley Price called the Behavioral Health Leadership Team (BHLT) meeting to order at 9:32 AM. Commissioner Price welcomed everyone and announced that the meeting was being recorded and those who continued in attendance were consenting to being recorded as a part of the open records.

The Commissioner present was Commissioner John Wiley Price. Commissioner Price entertained a motion for opening the meeting. A motion was made and seconded by another participant. The motion was unanimously passed by the committee members.

**Review/Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the BHLT meeting held on Thursday October 12, 2023, were included in the meeting packet. Commissioner Price offered an opportunity for the minutes to be reviewed and approved. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Introductions**

Commissioner Price welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked first-time attendees to introduce themselves.

- Heather Ormand- CEO, Nexus Recovery

**North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) Update**

**Carol Lucky**, Chief Executive Officer, NTBHA provided the update. Ms. Lucky stated NTBHA has not yet received their new contracts and the 150 beds for moving individuals out of jail are still in progress but nothing in writing has been received. Ms. Lucky stated NTBHA received their full allocation of Private Psychiatric Beds at last year's rate for the new fiscal year. Ms. Lucky reports NTBHA is in contract negotiation for specialty programs and additional funding for children's beds are also in process. Ms. Lucky stated NTBHA has applied for seven grants totaling five million dollars a year and received four; children's crisis respite program, multi-systemic therapy and funding for two additional teams, a state hospital step down program, and YCOT (Youth Crisis Outreach Team). Ms. Lucky reports services are going well and NTBHA has served between thirty-four and thirty-five thousand people for the month of October.

**Meadows Mental Health Policy Institution (MMHPI)**

**Ron Stretcher**, MMHPI, briefly expressed excitement of NTBHA's new funding opportunities

and programs. No further updates were provided at this time.

### **Dallas County Behavioral Health Housing Workgroup (BHHWG)**

No update provided during this meeting.

### **Dallas County Mental Health Advisory Committee Update**

**Yordanos Melake**, Program Manager, Criminal Justice Department provided the update. Ms. Melake reports 2,320 magistrate orders for screening with 1,800 16.22 screenings completed for the month of October, 126 defendants refused screenings, 194 defendants unable to be located. The Mental Health Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

### **Legislative Update**

**Janie Metzinger**, directed the committee to the comptroller report in the BHLT packet.

### **Funding Opportunities Updates**

#### **• Cottages Update**

**Yordanos Melake**, Criminal Justice Department, provided the update. Ms. Melake referred to the Cottages report in the BHLT packet and stated the starting and ending occupancy at the Cottages was 43 residents for the month of October and 7 ready units. Ms. Melake reports 36 individuals are receiving case management services and 9 individuals participating in groups.

#### **• SAMHSA Residential Treatment Grant Update**

**Marcus Turner**, SAMHSA Grant Coordinator, Criminal Justice Department, provided the update. Mr. Turner reports that all SAMHSA related contracts are complete. Mr. Turner encouraged the committee to continue sending SAMHSA referrals to him via email.

#### **• Community Courts Grant Update-Public Defender's Office (PD)**

**Lynn Richardson**, Chief, Public Defenders Office provided the update. Chief Richardson reports the PDs Office met with supervisors, managing attorneys and the City of Dallas regarding the growth of the community courts: Drug Court and Veterans Court. Chief Richardson states the PDs Office mental health team lead by Vickie Rice will provide a presentation in January to Hamilton Park United Methodist Church as part of their initiative to connect with communities of color to educate individuals on programs around mental health and substance abuse. Chief Richardson also announced the Deep Dive Podcast will feature Ms. Carol Lucky, Dr. Walter Taylor, and Judge Kristen Wade as they discuss mental health and Dallas County mental health courts. Vickie Rice thanked APAA CEO, Joe Powell and the APAA Peers for their presentation and training of Peer Support Services in the justice system.

#### **• Restorative Justice Division-District Attorney's Office (RJD)**

**Julie Turnbull**, Chief, Restorative Justice Division, District Attorney's Office, referred to the report in the BHLT packet for Restorative Justice Stats. Ms. Turnbull states the District Attorney's office received a grant extension on one of their grants and are currently working on an MOU with CSCD for two case manager positions. Ms. Turnbull states her teams have also met with researchers that are evaluating the Pretrial Diversion program and the preliminary

results are positive.

### **Upcoming Events and Notifications**

- **Dr. John Burruss, CEO**, Metrocare Services stated that during the last legislative session, they raised the rate of pay for people working in higher levels of care for intellectual disabilities to \$17 dollars an hour and raised the rate of pay for those working in outpatient and residential facilities providing 24-hour care to only \$10.70 an hour. Dr. Burruss stated this pay gap could create an issue with employees leaving outpatient facilities seeking higher pay, affecting the clients in those facilities. Dr. Burrus states there is an effort across the state to communicate this issue to the state government and encouraged the committee to support this as a rider for the next legislative session.
- **Judge La'Donna Harlan**, STAC Court, invited the committee to the STAC Court graduation in the Central Jury Room, this Friday, at 1pm

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Price thanked everyone for their service. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

**Dallas County Administration, 500 Elm Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dallas Texas 75202  
December 6, 2023 Minutes**

**Mission Statement:** The Dallas County Behavioral Health Housing Work Group (DCBHWG), with diverse representation, will formulate recommendations on the creation of housing and housing related support services designed to safely divert members of special populations in crisis away from frequent utilization of expensive and sometimes unnecessary inpatient stays, emergency department visits and incarceration.

Success will be measured in placement of consumers in housing and the decreased utilization of higher levels of care (hospitals and emergency care visits) and reduced incarceration in the Dallas County Jail. The DCBHWG is committed to a data driven decision-making process with a focus on data supported outcomes.

**ATTENDEES:** Dr. Theresa Daniel, Dallas County Commissioner; Erin Moore, Dallas County; Kimberly Rawls, DCCJ; Latoya Jenkins, Dallas County; David Gruber, Housing Forward; Deborah Hill, DCCJ; Daniel Roby, Austin Street Shelter; Quincy Hogan, Metrocare; Tzegabrhan Kidane, Dallas County; Jim Mattingly, LumaCorp, Inc.; Doug Denton, Homeward Bound; Krystle Lotspiech, CitySquare; Eric McCarthy, NTBHA; Kerri Stitt, Youth 180; Kimberly Onofre, Mesquite Sharing Life

*Dr. Daniel opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.*

**CALL TO ORDER:** The minutes were approved with no changes.

#### **GOVERNANCE**

Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness:

Commissioner Daniel reported that the Partnership did not meet this month and a report will be provided at the next meeting.

Dallas County Homeless Advisory Committee:

Homeless Advisory committee did not meet this month and a report will be provided at the next meeting.

Federal and State Legislative Update: Janie Metzinger, NTBHA

Janie Metzinger was unavailable for the meeting and a report will be provided at the next meeting.

#### **RESOURCES**

Shelter Discussions: Daniel Roby, Austin Street Shelter

Daniel Roby reported that they are in the process of initiating the inclement weather plan. They are currently meeting with the city of Dallas about the Incident Command Structure and are collaborating with partners to make sure a solid plan is in place. The plan is activated if the weather gets to 32 degrees and below or 36 degrees with a 50 percent chance of precipitation for several hours within a specific zip code. The NOAAH (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) system is used to determine the weather and degree. Austin Street is prepared to house over 1,000 people in the event the inclement weather plan needs to be activated. In housing placements, they are averaging housing 10 clients a week and about 40 people a month.

NTBHA: Eric McCarty, NTBHA

Eric McCarty reported that they opened their TBRA (Tenant Based Rental Assistance) waitlist on November 22<sup>nd</sup> for 14 days and have received about 60 applications that are in process. They are working with clients in trying to get the maximum amount of rental assistance available which is 36 months. He also reported that he has spoken with Doug Denton of Homeward Bound about the COVID-19 Supplemental Grant that they have available. It is geared towards individuals who have a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis. This substance abuse diagnosis can be given by a professional person or service provider and any person within the household who has this diagnosis, can apply for the grant. There is a significant amount of funding available through this grant for those who qualify, and a sustainability plan is a requirement for those acquiring the grant. Individuals may be assisted up to 12 months with rental, utilities, furniture, and security deposits through this grant.

Housing Navigator: Kimberly Rawls, Dallas County

Kimberly Rawls stated that the report is in the packet and the FUSE report included the September data. They are in the process of working on the October and November numbers as they wait for data being provided by the FUSE navigators. The FUSE partnerships meetings have been postponed until January 24th. Currently with the St. Jude project, they are

working to fill two vacancies. Work is also being done with the Council of State Governments tech teams on the program deliverables. Once the deliverables are reviewed and feedback and changes are provided by the tech team, the deliverables will be sent to the BJA (Bureau of Justice Assistance) for a final approval. Once approved, they can begin the bidding process. This process should be completed within the next month or so. The Connector is running okay on their end.

Homeless Jail Dashboard: Kimberly Rawls, Dallas County

Kimberly Rawls reported the jail data is available in the packet. The total number of jail book-ins did decrease from September to October which caused decreases to other categories. In the offense report, the numbers remained consistent, but the criminal trespass offense increased from September to October.

Housing Authority Report: Thomas Lewis, Dallas County HHS

Thomas Lewis was unavailable for the meeting, but a report was provided in the meeting packet. The Dallas County housing agency is giving preference to those households who are homeless by setting aside 100 Housing Choice Vouchers to those who need it. They must meet the federal definition of homelessness or transitioning from continuity of care permanent housing program.

CARES Act/ARPA Funds: Commissioner Daniel, Dallas County

Commissioner Daniel reported that all ARPA funds have been allocated and funding for long term projects have been distributed.

**PROJECTS AND INDUSTRY UPDATES**

Housing Forward updates: David Gruber, Housing Forward

David Gruber reported that prior to their system transformation of the Public Response System, they were housing about 80 neighbors on average a month. With the new and improved system, they are now housing 207 neighbors a month which is a 160 percent increase. The total for real-time-rehousing as of December 2023, is 2,854. By the end of 2025, they would like to have 6,000 neighbors rehoused. The average day of housing search is 99 days and 99 percent do not return to homelessness after 12 months.

The Point-In-Time Count is occurring and about 1000 volunteers are needed to help with the PIT count. Volunteers are also needed to provide 1000 care packages to give to those neighbors as well.

There has also been a change in leadership from Joli Robinson who will now serve as the CEO of the Center on Halsted in Chicago, IL and the interim Housing Forward CEO is Sara Kahn. She has over 21 years of national and international experience in creating homeless response systems. As Sara was the second in command under Joli's leadership, the organization should not experience major changes and will progress forward and on track.

Pretrial Diversion and Mental Health Screening: Kimberly Rawls, Dallas County

Kimberly Rawls reported that the Criminal Justice department assisted with 45 facilitated jail releases in the month of November. The Criminal Justice department continues to facilitate assessments for first time felony offenders who are eligible for the pre-trial diversion program with 92 assessments being completed in November.

Dallas Connector: Daniel Roby, Austin Street

Daniel Roby reported that the Connector is providing over 700 rides per week and continuing to run strong. They are continuing to operate both vehicles. The funding contract has moved from the City of Dallas to DART, so they are the primary funder of the program this year with other agencies also making investments. During inclement weather the transportation routes are expanded to 3 routes with multiple stops to accommodate clients needing the transportation to those facilities.

Homeward Bound: Doug Denton, Homeward Bound

Doug Denton reported that the crisis residential center stays at capacity level. They are receiving referrals from Parkland and other psychiatric hospitals which is contributing to the increase in people. Over the past month the Deflection Center's respite care program participation has decreased. Mr. Denton believes that some disparity between the number of clients that have come into the program and the jail population book-ins may be contributing factors in the decrease. They had 41 people report to the Deflection Center in October, but the jail had a significant number of book-ins for criminal trespass. They are researching the law enforcement agencies to determine where the apparent disconnect is. They are planning to staff overnight as they expand the operation to 24/7. They are currently shutting the program down at 9:00 pm but have found that there is a significant number of people being booked in after that time. Beta testing for the 24/7 operation began in December and the plan is to go to the 24/7 operation after the first of the year. They are in communication with

the District Attorney's office about some of the challenges they are experiencing, such as a difficulty in finding staff.

Youth Housing: Kerri Stitt, Youth 180

Keri Stitt reported that at the end of September, the only inpatient substance abuse treatment center for adolescences, Phoenix House, closed that program. As of now, there are no adolescent substance abuse inpatient treatment center available for the un-insured or those insured by Medicaid in the North Texas area. Some collaboration is currently occurring between Youth 180 and Nexus to identify a facility that could be utilized for inpatient treatment. There is an extreme shortage of adolescent inpatient treatment beds in North Texas and 0 (zero) female beds are available in North Texas. The closest facility that assists with female adolescence inpatient treatment is in Tyler or close to Houston. There are only 8 available beds for female adolescences who need care within the whole state. Medically assisted treatment is also not an option for adolescents under the age of 18. Youth 180 and Nexus are working to provide a facility that would provide 24 inpatient residential beds, 12 for females and 12 for males. Currently there isn't collaboration with child protective services or other agencies that assist with the residential treatment of adolescents.

Family Housing: Ellen Magnis, Family Gateway

Ellen Magnis was unavailable for the meeting. A report will be given at the next meeting.

Mattingly Report: Jim Mattingly, Lumacorp

Jim Mattingly reported that many apartments continue to be built. The area is expected to have significant completion over the next 18 months and after that, they will be a great slowdown in new apartments. As North Texas continues to grow, there will be a tremendous demand for housing over the next 4 years. Vacancies have increased some, but rental prices have not decreased. Most of the new housing has the best rental rates due to the competition of other housing coming online, but once they are at capacity, the rates will more than likely go back to market rate. The only way there will be a slow down of rates is if we experience a significant recession and at this time, it is not being predicted to occur in the near future. The end of the year numbers will be provided at the next meeting.

***The meeting was adjourned with words of motivation by staying engaged and informed by Dr. Daniel.***

***Next Meeting: January 24, 2024***



## Health and Human Services Commission Report

# Maternal Depression Strategic Plan

### FY 2023 Update

#### **Link to Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Report:**

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/hb253-postpartum-depression-strategic-plan-update-oct-2023.pdf>

#### **Background:**

- In 2013, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature established a task force to study maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in Texas.
- In 2014, the Texas Mortality and Morbidity Task Force published its first study, and found a significant link between maternal mortality and overdose after 60 days postpartum.
- In 2018, the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) published a Joint Report. Among its findings were that:
  - The majority of maternal deaths occurred more than 60 days postpartum.
  - Overdose was the leading cause of maternal death from delivery to 365 days postpartum.
    - Drug overdose accounted for 17% of all maternal deaths and
    - Almost 80% of these deaths occurred more than 60 days postpartum.
- In 2019, the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature directed HHSC to develop and implement a five-year Postpartum Depression Strategic Plan, with annual updates.
- In 2020, the Maternal Depression Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025 was published.
- 2021-2023-Implementation of Maternal Depression Strategic Plan.
- 2021-The 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed HB 133 by Rep. Toni Rose, which extended Texas Medicaid to six months postpartum, however the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rejected aspects of the waiver that Texas submitted to implement the change.
- 2023-The 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed HB 12 by Rep. Toni Rose to extend Texas Medicaid to twelve months postpartum. HHSC has submitted its plan to CMS in October 2023, and expects 12-month postpartum eligibility for Medicaid in Texas to be fully operational by March 2024.

#### **2023 Update**

***Goal 1-Increase awareness among program providers and people served.***

#### **Goal 1-Accomplishments:**

- HHSC increased opportunities for telehealth and telemedicine.
- 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature required Medicaid and CHIP health plans to cover telehealth and telemedicine.
- HHSC made COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities permanent.
- HHSC worked with Local Behavioral Health Authorities and Local Mental Health Authorities (LBHA/LMHAs) to identify best practices for maternal mental health services.
- HHS worked with Healthy Texas Women (HTW) providers to increase awareness of postpartum services including postpartum mental health care.
- HHSC now allows LBHAs/LMHAs to be Healthy Texas Women providers.
- HHSC launched educational program on “[\*The Baby Blues and Postpartum Depression\*](#)” for participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC),
- Improved consistent messaging across all HHSC programs and systems.
- HHSC promoted the Texas Perinatal Psychiatry Access Network (PeriPAN)-a clinician-to-clinician consultation hotline for providers serving pregnant women and new mothers.

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## 2023 Update-Goal 1-continued

### Goal 1-Planned Activities for FY 2024 and FY 2025:

- HHSC plans to launch training on psychopharmacology and evidence-based prescribing practices when treating pregnant or postpartum women for psychologists, counselors, social workers etc .

### Goal 1-Measures:

- Number of clients screened in HHSC programs increased from 5,196 in FY 2019 to 8,192 in FY 2022.
  - Number of claims related to postpartum mental health increased from 7,003 in FY-19 to 12,022 in FY-22.
  - HHSC providers billing for postpartum depression screenings up from 1,107 in FY-19 to 1,149 FY-22.
  - Completions of “*Baby Blues*” self-paced online WIC class was 11,627 in FY-21 but 5,421 in FY-22
- Note:* 389,417 babies were born in the 254 counties of Texas in 2022. This report does not state how many pregnant and postpartum women were served by HHSC programs in the period of 2019-2022, so it is difficult to interpret these numbers without that context.

### ***Goal 2-Establish a referral network***

#### Goal 2-Accomplishments:

- HHSC identified primary care and maternal mental health providers in existing networks.
- Refers mothers on Medicaid and CHIP who screen positive for mental health conditions to: LBHA/LMHAs, FQHCs, Rural Health Clinics, etc.
- Produced LBHA/LMHA-101 training video posted on <https://mentalhealthtx.org/>
  - <https://mentalhealthtx.org/resources/local-mental-health-authorities/>
- HHSC is developing a toolkit and provider materials related to maternal depression.

#### Goal 2-Measures

Number of women referred to LBHAs/LMHAs following postpartum depression screening increased from 324 in FY-20 to 525 in FY-22.

### ***Goal 3-Increase access to peer-support services.***

#### Goal 3 Accomplishments

- Peer support added to HTW Plus and conducted a utilization review.
- Promoted peer support in existing programs.

#### Goal 3 Measures

- Medicaid peer services: FY-20: 66, FY-21: 161, FY-22: 92

### ***Goal 4: Raise public awareness and access to treatment to reduce stigma of maternal mental health conditions.***

#### Goal 4 Accomplishments

- Added Psychotherapy and peer support to HTW.
- Participated in CMS Improving Postpartum Care Affinity Group with nine other states, focusing on women in Medicaid and HTW with SUD, maternal depression, or hypertension.
- Streamlined Strategic Plan
- Annual Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Symposium highlights discontinuation of substance use, maternal substance use, returning to use, overdose, withdrawal and fetal disorders.
- DSHS’ Texas Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (TexasAIM) works with participating hospitals to best obstetric practices for women with opioid use disorder.

<https://saferbirth.org/psbs/care-for-pregnant-and-postpartum-people-with-substance-use-disorder/>

#### Goal 4 Plans for 2024 and 2025

- Utilization review of HTW-Plus after continuous Medicaid coverage is complete.

#### ***Goal 5: Leverage funding resources.***

##### Goal 5 Accomplishments

- HHSC worked with Child Psychiatry Access Network(CPAN) to support pediatricians and primary care providers through teleconsultation for maternal mental health.
- HHSC used American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to implement Perinatal Psychiatry Access Network (PeriPAN).

##### Goal 5 Plans for 2024 and 2025

- Implement SB 24, which transfers prevention and early intervention programs from DFPS to HHSC.

#### **Past Reports Relevant to this Strategic Plan:**

DSHS Presentation-Maternal Mortality and Morbidity: The Role of Drug Overdoses-April 2018

[https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/legislative/85th/DSHS\\_SC\\_OpioidM3TF-Presentation\\_April17.pdf](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/legislative/85th/DSHS_SC_OpioidM3TF-Presentation_April17.pdf)

Joint Biennial Report of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and Texas Department of State Health Services-September 2018.

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/legislative/2018-Reports/MMMTFJointReport2018.pdf>



Texas Health and Human Service Commission Report  
**Mental Health First Aid for FY 2023**  
 December 2023

Link to Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Report:

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/mental-health-first-aid-program-dec-2023.pdf>

This report is required by Texas Health and Safety Code 1001.205.

Data Category	Texas	NTBHA
<b>MHFA Data</b>	Pages 1-6	
<b>LBHA/LMHA Employees and Contractors Trained</b>		
Number of Active Trainers	527	50
Average Number of Active Trainers	13	43
Number of Trainers Who Left the Program	70	16
<b>MHFA Training-Instructors, ISDs, Higher Ed., Community &amp; Teens</b>	Page 7	Page A-9
Instructors	168	9
Independent School Districts	14,616	1,610
Higher Education Employees	2,008	113
Community Members	15,295	2,122
Teenagers	1,259	83
Total	33,346	3,937
<b>Veterans MHFA</b>	Page 8	Page C-9,10
Members of Armed Services	23	0
Veterans and Family Members	98	0
<b>Adult/Youth MHFA</b>	Page 8	Page C-10
Members of Armed Services, Veterans and Family Members	6,333	1,128
<b>ISD / University Personnel Trained</b>	Pages B-1 to B-79	Pages 54 to B-61
Teachers/Coaches/Professors	8,907	384
Counselors/Social Workers/Psychologists	2,038	729
School Resource Officers	577	220
Administrators	859	101
School Bus Drivers	182	0
Cafeteria Workers/Dietitians	95	0
Nurses	470	47
Office Staff	552	44
Support Staff	1,077	15
Custodians & Groundskeeping Staff	114	0
Other	1,530	183
Total Number of Educational Institutions Trained	792	96

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**Personnel from the following Academies, Colleges, Independent School Districts, Schools, and Universities were trained in Mental Health First Aid by NTBHA**

A+ Academy	Aldine ISD	Allen ISD
Anna ISD	Arlington ISD	Athens ISD
Bland ISD	Blue Ridge ISD	Boles ISD
Caddo Mills ISD	Canton ISD	Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD
Cedar Hill ISD	Cityscape Schools	Collinsville ISD
Comal ISD	Commerce ISD	Coppell ISD
Crandall ISD	Crowley ISD	Brookhaven College
Eastfield College	Mountain View College	Dallas Co. Comm. College Dist.
Dallas ISD	Denison ISD	DeSoto ISD
Duncanville ISD	Ennis ISD	Evolution Academy Charter
Forney ISD	Fort Worth ISD	Frisco ISD
Frisco ISD	Garland ISD	Grand Prairie ISD
Grapevine-Colleyville ISD	Great Hearts Texas	Gunter ISD
Highland Park	Houston Community College	Howe ISD
Inspired Vision Academy	International Academy	International Leadership of Texas
Irving ISD	Kaufman ISD	Kemp ISD
Kilgore Junior College	Kipp	Lewisville ISD
Lone Oak ISD	Lovejoy ISD	Mabank ISD
Mansfield ISD	Maypearl ISD	McKinney ISD
Melissa ISD	Mesquite ISD	Navarro College
N. Texas Collegiate Academy	Pioneer Tech and Arts Academy	Plano ISD
Prosper ISD	Quinlan ISD	Region 10 Educ. Services Center
Richardson ISD	Rockwall ISD	Royse City ISD
Sherman ISD	Southern Methodist University	St. Anthony School
Sul Ross State University	Sunnyvale ISD	Terrell ISD
Texans Can! Academies	Texas State University	Trenton ISD
Trinity Basin Preparatory	Ume Preparatory Academy	University of Dallas
University of North Texas	University of N. Texas-Dallas	University of Texas-Arlington
UT-Permian Basin	UT-Rio Grande Valley	University of the Incarnate Word
Uplift Education	Van Alstyne ISD	Waxahachie Faith Family Academy
Waxahachie ISD	Whitney ISD	Wills Point ISD
Winfree Academy Charter	Wylie ISD	



Report to the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature  
**Waiting Lists for Mental Health Services  
 for Children and Adults**  
 as required by HB 1, Article II, Rider 45  
 November 2023

**Link to HHSC Report:**

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/mhs-waiting-lists-nov-2023.pdf>

**Report from HHSC to Texas Governor and Texas Legislative Budget Board:**

- Required by the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, HB 1-General Appropriations Act, Article II, Rider 45.
- Due at the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor by November 1 and May 1 of each year.
- Waiting list and expenditure data for community mental health services, forensic state hospital beds, and maximum security forensic state hospital beds for each LBHA/LMHA, state facility and contracted entities.
- Report requires data on:
  - Number of people waiting for all services.
  - Number of underserved people waiting for additional services.
  - Number of people removed from the waiting list.
  - Amount expended to remove people from waiting list per quarter.
  - Average number of days on the waiting list.
  - Explanation of reasons for waiting lists
    - Short-term operational factors
    - Long-term capacity factors.
- HHSC allocated Federal COVID-19 funds to LBHA/LMHAs to increase the number of people served.
- The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in mental health workforce shortages statewide.
- Continued or increased demand for services could result in waiting lists despite allocated funding.

**FY 2023-Texas Monthly Average Number of Adults Served in Community Mental Health per Quarter**

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
Texas average monthly number of adults served.	93,891	92,765	95,950	98,779

**FY 2023-NTBHA Average Monthly Number of Adults Served in Community Mental Health per Quarter**

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
NTBHA average monthly number of adults served.	24,740	24,704	25,254	26,005

**FY 2023 Average Monthly Number of Adults on Waiting List for Community Mental Health per Quarter**

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
Adult Waiting List	360	291	279	252

- Of the thirty-nine Texas LBHA/LMHAs, only four LMHAs had waiting lists in Q3 and Q4 of 2023.
- NTBHA was not among the LBHA/LMHAs reporting waiting lists.

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Waiting Lists-continued

Of the four LMHAs with waiting lists in Q3 and Q4:

Category	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
Number waiting for all services	278	262
Number removed from waiting list	52	30
Average number of days on waiting list	820	522

Number of Underserved Adults Waiting for Additional Community Mental Health Services Q3 and Q4

- In this category, HHSC only reports data from the third and fourth quarters of FY 2023.
- Twelve of thirty-nine LBHA/LMHAs reported underserved adults.
- These numbers do not include individuals who refused services from an LBHA/LMHA.
- NTBHA was not among the twelve reporting underserved adults.

FY 2023-Q 3	FY 2023-Q 4
1,213	1,421

FY 23-Texas Monthly Average Number of Children Served in Community Mental Health per Quarter

- None of the thirty-nine LBHA/LMHAs reported children on waiting lists.
- None of the thirty-nine LBHA/LMHAs reported children removed from waiting lists.

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
Texas average quarterly number of children served	28,837	29,303	30,687	29,118

FY 23-NTBHA Monthly Average Number of Children Served in Community Mental Health per Quarter

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
NTBHA average quarterly number of children served	9,130	9,062	9,566	8,696

Total Number of Underserved Children Waiting for Additional Services by an LMHA-Q3 and Q4

FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
696	591

- Nineteen of thirty-nine LBHA/LMHAs reported underserved children waiting for additional services.
- NTBHA was not among the nineteen.

**Funds Expended to Remove People on Waiting List**

This section of the report does not directly answer the question of how much was expended to remove individuals from waiting lists, however, it states that:

- In HB 1- General Appropriations Act, the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature appropriated \$482,060,773 per fiscal year for Adult Community Mental Health Services (D.2.1).
- In HB 1-General Appropriations Act, the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature appropriated \$122,472,998 per fiscal year for Children’s Community Mental Health Services (D.2.2).
- LBHA/LMHAs are required to prioritize waitlist reduction as soon as service capacity allows.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded Texas \$203.4 million in supplemental funds from the Community Mental Services Block Grant. HHSC allocated \$78.2 million of these funds to the Mental Health Outpatient Capacity Expansion Project.

## Factors Affecting Community Mental Health Waiting Lists

- Workforce Shortages
  - Recruitment and retention of licensed practitioners and qualified mental health professionals (QMHPs).
  - Competition with other employment opportunities.
  - Limited funding for recruitment and retention incentives.
  - Workforce shortages most difficult in rural areas.
    - All four LMHAs reporting waiting lists for services are in professional service shortage areas.
    - All four have exceeded their HHSC contracted monthly service targets.
- HHSC Efforts to Minimize Waiting Lists
  - Monitors monthly waiting list data.
  - Offers technical assistance and support for expanding capacity.
  - Provides notification of opportunities to use additional COVID-19 funds for workforce recruitment and retention.
  - Provides training webinars.
  - Facilitates collaboration with health-related institutions of higher education to establish talent pipelines.
  - Assisted with federal grant applications.

## Forensic State Hospital Waiting Lists

- This report does not specify the number of individuals on the waiting list at the beginning of the reporting period and the number at the end of the reporting period.

<b>Non-Maximum Security State Hospital Waiting Lists</b>	<b>FY 2023-Q 3</b>	<b>FY 2023-Q4</b>
Number of People Added to the Waiting List	637	562
Number of People Removed from the Waiting List	709	621
Number of People on the Waiting List	1,345	1,200
Average Number of Days on the Waiting List	288	233

<b>Maximum Security State Hospital Waiting Lists</b>	<b>FY 2023-Q 3</b>	<b>FY 2023-Q4</b>
Number of People Added to the Waiting List	227	195
Number of People Removed from the Waiting List	184	154
Number of People on the Waiting List	1,053	968
Average Number of Days on the Waiting List	690	659

## Long-Term Factors Affecting Forensic State Hospital Bed Waiting Lists

### Staffing Shortages

- Factors:
  - Employee turnover
  - Nationwide healthcare worker shortages
  - Aging workforce
  - Rural placement of many state hospitals
  - Competition with private sector in higher wages, flexibility, easier work.



- Efforts to Address the Problem:
  - Initial salary increases in March 2022 stabilized vacant positions.
  - Pay raises for most state hospital employees in February 2023.
  - Enhanced marketing efforts.
  - Applicant engagement.
  - Merit bonuses.
  - Employee engagement.

### Life Safety Code/Deferred Maintenance

#### Factors:

- State hospital beds taken offline for mitigation/remediation/maintenance.

#### Efforts to Address the Problem:

- 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature appropriated to Texas Health and Specialty Care System (HSCS), which oversees Texas state hospitals and state-supported living centers (SSLCs) the following:
  - \$50,000,000 for deferred maintenance and
  - \$14,000,000 for emergency repairs
- Cost of anti-ligature remediation for state hospitals exceeds current appropriations.
- Many state hospitals have an aging infrastructure, sometimes reducing the number of patients served.
- Deferred maintenance needs exceed \$1,000,000,000.

### Planning, Coordination & Education Regarding Admissions and Discharges

#### Factors:

- Increased awareness among local stakeholders can increase demand for inpatient competency restoration services.

#### Efforts to Address the Situation:

- Texas State Hospitals Office of Forensic Medicine and the Behavioral Health Office of Forensic Coordination (OFC) Jail In-Reach Learning Collaboratives work with stakeholders to support active forensic waitlist monitoring and services through:
  - Clinical consultation to assist psychiatric stabilization.
  - Trial competency re-evaluations while awaiting transfer to state hospital.
  - Legal education on options for alternative case disposition.
  - Enhanced follow-ups between state hospital competency restoration and trial to prevent decompensation and unnecessary rehospitalization.
  - Local Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping workshops.
  - Eliminate the Wait campaign to reduce reliance on inpatient competency restoration services.
  - Statewide training and technical assistance on competency restoration, diversion and other factors affecting forensics and justice.

### Current Construction

- Austin State Hospital-240 replacement beds. 75% complete, estimated completion June 2024.
- San Antonio State Hospital-40 renovated beds completed in April 2022.
  - 300 replacement beds 74% complete, estimated completion March 2024.
- Texas Behavioral Health Center at UT Southwestern. 296 new psychiatric beds (200 adult beds and 96 pediatric beds). Completion of adult unit expected July 2025. Pediatric unit expected completion January 2026.



### Current Construction-continued

- Amarillo-75 beds new hospital.
- El Paso-50 new beds.
- Lubbock-50 bed maximum security hospital
- North Texas State Hospital-Wichita Falls-200 replacement beds.
- Rio Grande State Center 50 new maximum security beds.
- Terrell State Hospital-250 replacement beds.

### New Competency Restoration Beds

- 150 new competency restoration beds in
  - Beaumont
  - Montgomery County
  - Rio Grande Valley
  - Victoria County



## Department of Criminal Justice FY2024 SAMHSA Grant Project

Department of Criminal Justice FY2024 SAMHSA Grant Project																	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	FY2028 Total	FY2027 Total	FY2026 Total	FY2025 Total	FY2024 Total
<b>Nexus</b> New Admissions	0	2	2														4
<b>Nexus</b> Average Days in Jail from Referral to Admission		7.5	10														8.75
<b>Homeward Bound</b> New Admissions	0	3	2														5
<b>Homeward Bound</b> Average Days in Jail from Referral to Admission		18	36														27
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT DISCHARGES																	
<b>Successful</b>	0	0	1														1
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	0	0	1														1
REFERRING SPECIALTY COURTS FY2024																	
<b>Number of Referrals by Specialty Courts</b>		AIM	1			DWI				STAR							
		ATLAS				IIP				Veterans							
		Competency	5			Legacy Family	2			4-C							
		DDC				MHJD/SET	1										
		DIVERT	2			STAC	6										

\*Homeward Bound Pending Admission: 2

\*Nexus Pending Admission: 0

HARRY INGRAM		FY2024 ATLAS STATISTICS											203rd				
MONTH	BEGINNING # OF PENDING CASES	+NEW CASES RECEIVED THIS MONTH	=TOTAL CASES	TBJ	TBC	PLEAS	REV	GRADUATES	PROBATION MODIFICATIONS	DISMISSALS	OTHERS	TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	ENDING # PENDING CASES **	CURRENT ATLAS PARTICIPANTS	CURRENT PARTICIPANTS IN CUSTODY	FORMER ATLAS PARTICIPANTS	BOND
December	25	9	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	16	1	0	15

HARRY INGRAM		FY2024 MISDEMEANOR DIVERT MENTAL HEALTH COURT STATS											CCCAP1/WADE				
MONTH	BEGINNING # OF PENDING CASES	Rediverts	+NEW CASES RECEIVED THIS MONTH	=TOTAL CASES	TBJ	TBC	PLEAS	DISMISSAL	OTHER	TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	ENDING # PENDING CASES **	CURRENT PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF GRADUATES	BOND***			
December	19	0	0	19	0	0	1	1	1	3	16	11	1	11			

HARRY INGRAM		FY2024 S.E.T. STATISTICS											291st				
MONTH	BEGINNING # OF PENDING CASES	+NEW CASES RECEIVED THIS MONTH	=TOTAL CASES	TBJ	TBC	PLEAS	REV	GRADUATES	PROBATION MODIFICATIONS	DISMISSALS	OTHERS	TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	ENDING # PENDING CASES **	CURRENT PARTICIPANTS	CURRENT PARTICIPANTS IN CUSTODY	FORMER PARTICIPANTS	BOND
December	25	19	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	26	4	0	22

December		FY2024 MHPD STATS													
	BEGINNING # OF PENDING CASES	+NEW CASES RECEIVED THIS MONTH	=TOTAL CASES	TRIALS	PLEAS	COND. DISM.	REVK	REVC	DISMISSALS	INCOMP ETENT	REFER RALS	OTHER COUNS EL APPT.	TOTAL CLOSED		
R. Lenox	301	15	316	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	9	12		
L. Strather	381	18	399	0	3	9	0	2	4	0	3	3	24		

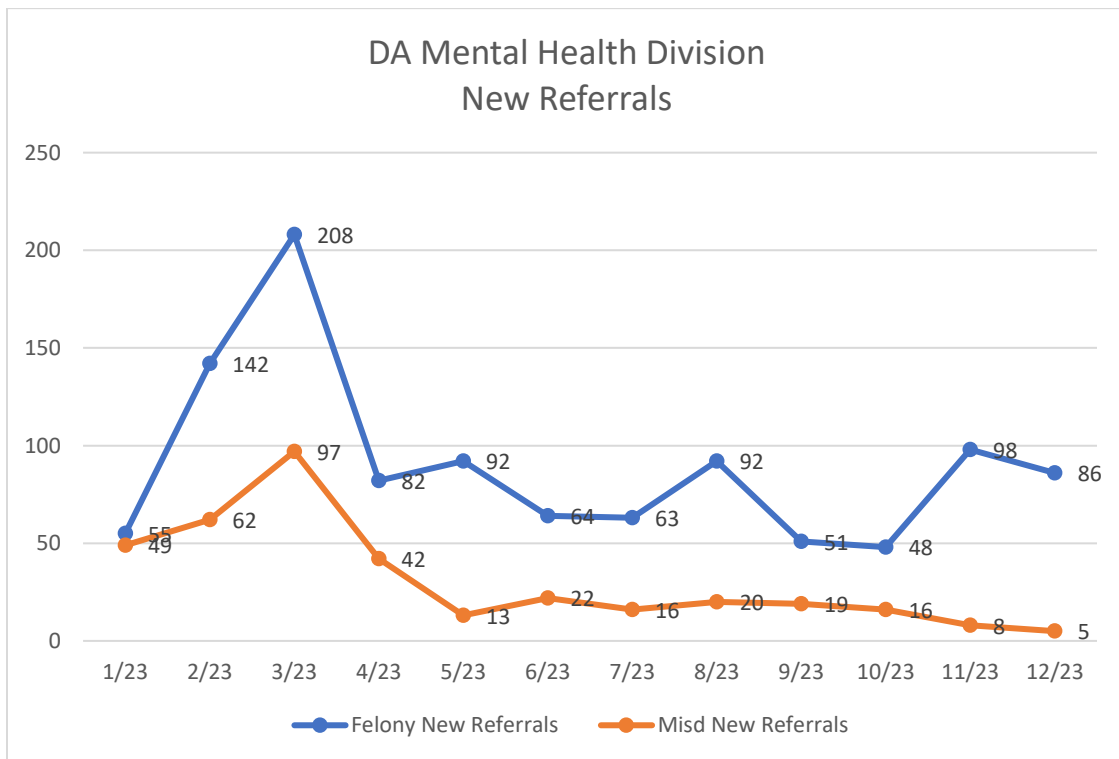
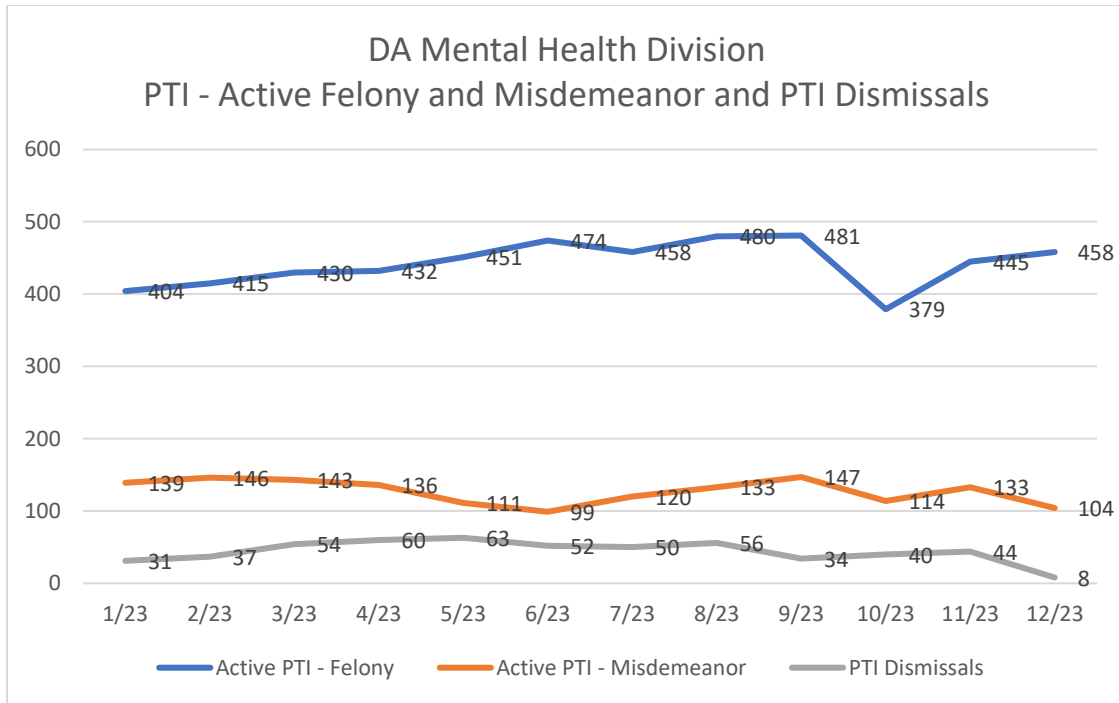
December		FY2024 FELONY COMPETENCY STATISTICS														
MONTH	BEGINNING # OF CASES	NEW CASES THIS MONTH	TBJ	TBC	Alt. Trial Dispos.	PLEAS	REVO-CATION S	DISMISSALS	PROBATION	COMP. HRG.	EXTENSIONS	CIVIL COMMIT.	MHMR REFERRAL	CONSULTS	OTHER	ENDING # OF PEOPLE IN OCR
M. Harden	214	11	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	13
R. Scott	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

RANDALL SCOTT		FY2024 MISDEMEANOR COMPETENCY STATISTICS														
MONTH	BEGINNING # OF CASES	NEW CASES THIS MONTH	TBJ	TBC	Alt. Trial Dispos.	PLEAS	REVO-CATION S	DISMISSALS	PROBATION	COMP. HRG.	EXTENSIONS	CIVIL COMMIT.	MHMR REFERRAL	CONSULTS	OTHER	ENDING # OF PEOPLE IN OCR
December	72	22	94	0	0	0	0	24	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	12

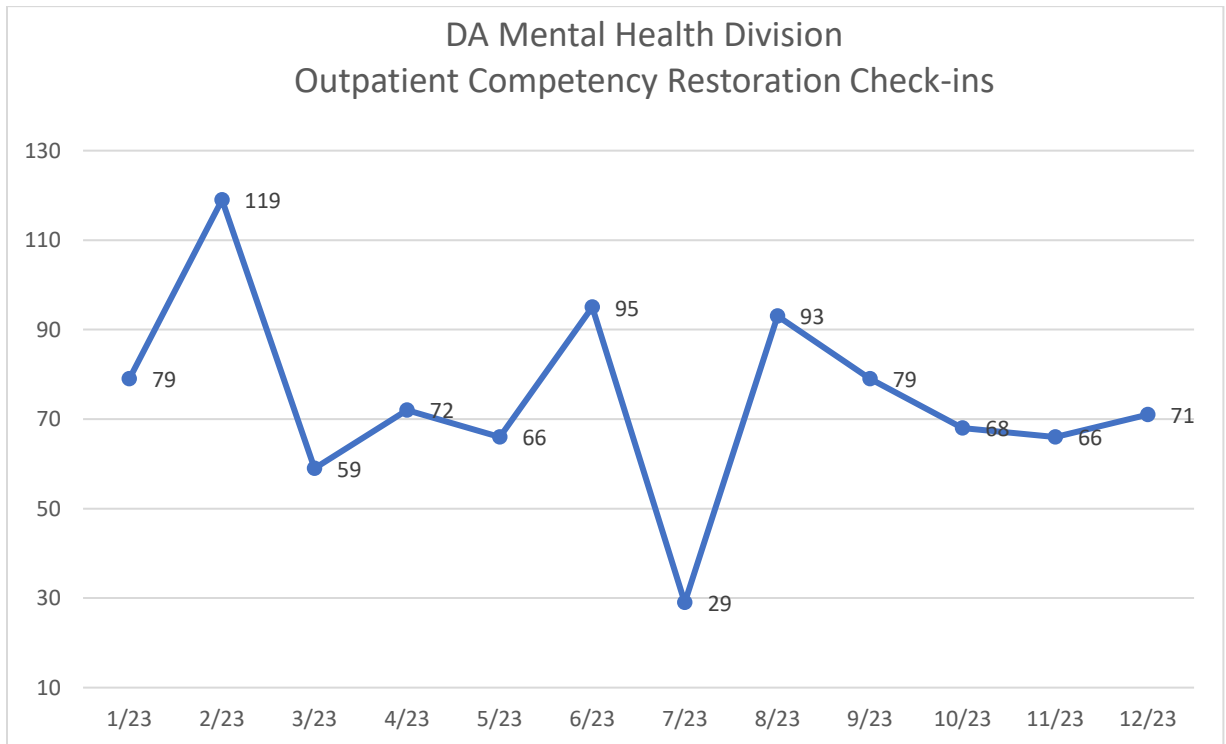
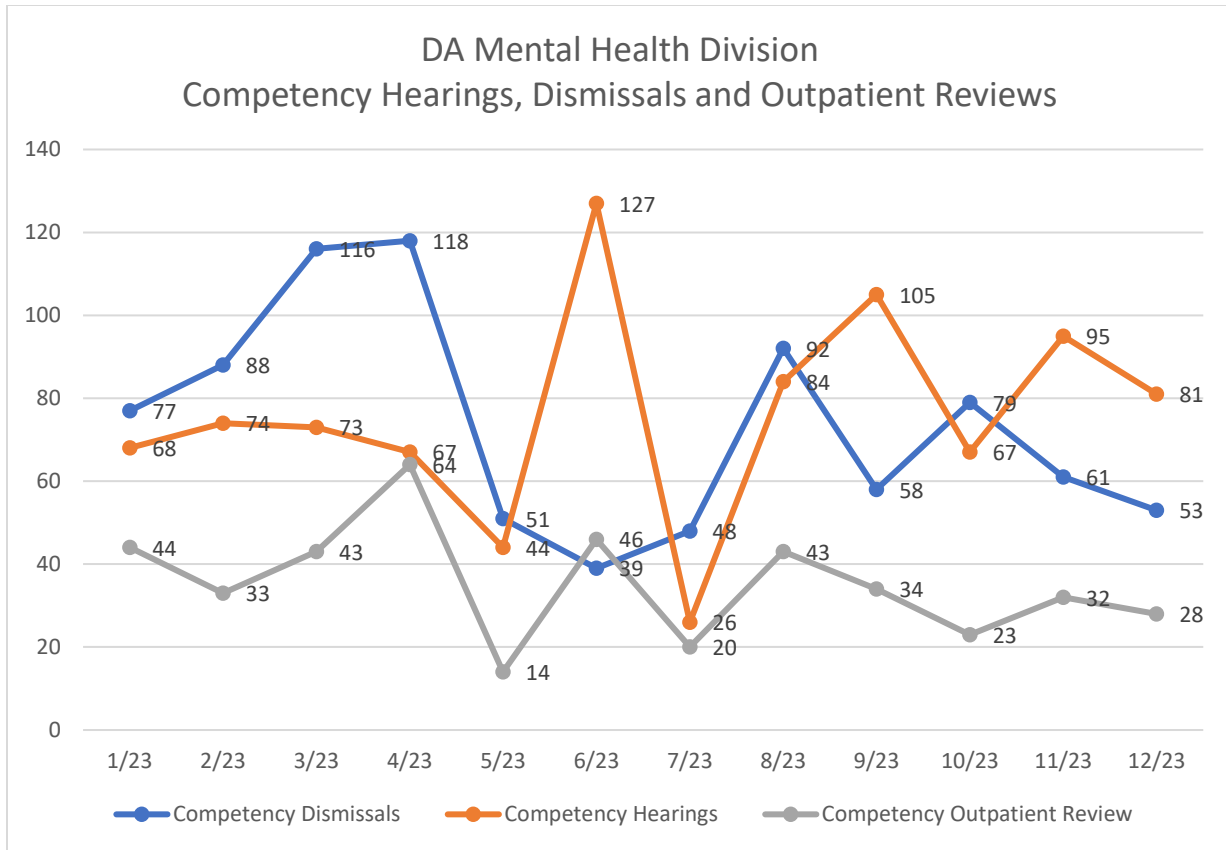
December		MI Court																							
MONTH	TOTAL NEW CASES RECEIVED	NEW CLIENTS AT TERRELL	NEW CLIENTS AT MEDICAL CENTER MCKINNEY	NEW CLIENTS AT GLEN OAKS	NEW CLIENTS AT TEXOMA	NEW CLIENTS AT PERMIETER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE	NEW CLIENTS AT PARKLAND	NEW CLIENTS AT CLEMENTS (formerly ZALE LIPSHY)	NEW CLIENTS AT DALLAS PRESBYTERIAN	NEW CLIENTS AT DALLAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	NEW CLIENTS AT HICKORY TRAILS	NEW CLIENTS AT VA	NEW CLIENTS AT GREEN OAKS	NEW CLIENTS AT GARLAND BEHAVIORAL	NEW CLIENTS AT METHODIST RICHARDSON	NEW CLIENTS AT WELLBRIDGE	NEW CLIENTS AT THIR ARLINGTON	MRM/MILLWOOD/HAVEN	PROBABLE CAUSE HEARINGS HELD	NO CONTEST COMMIT	CONTESTED COMMIT	FORCED MEDS HEARING IN COURT	MODIFICATION HEARINGS	OUTPATIENT COMMIT	INPATIENT COMMIT
L. Roberts	77	3	1	31	0	4	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0
C. Cox	84	0	0	0	0	0	74	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	13	7	0	1	13
K. Nelson	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	0	0	0
R. Black	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	28	23	0	0	6	0	5	5	0	0	5

DAN ECKSTEIN		MHPR BOND STATS										
MONTH	INITIAL ELIGIBILITY DAILY LIST (MH FLAGS)	MHPR BOND APPOINTMENTS FROM DAILY LIST (MH FLAGS MINUS THOSE SCREENED-OUT)	MHPR BOND HEARING-BOND GRANTED (# of clients)	MHPR BOND HEARING-BOND DENIED (# of clients)	TOTAL HEARING S (# of clients)	Total # of Cases	Total # of Felony Cases	# of Felonies Approved	# of Felonies Denied	Total # of Misd. Cases	# of Misd's Approved	# of Misd's Denied
December	2010	244	39	18	57	82	62	44	18	20	14	6

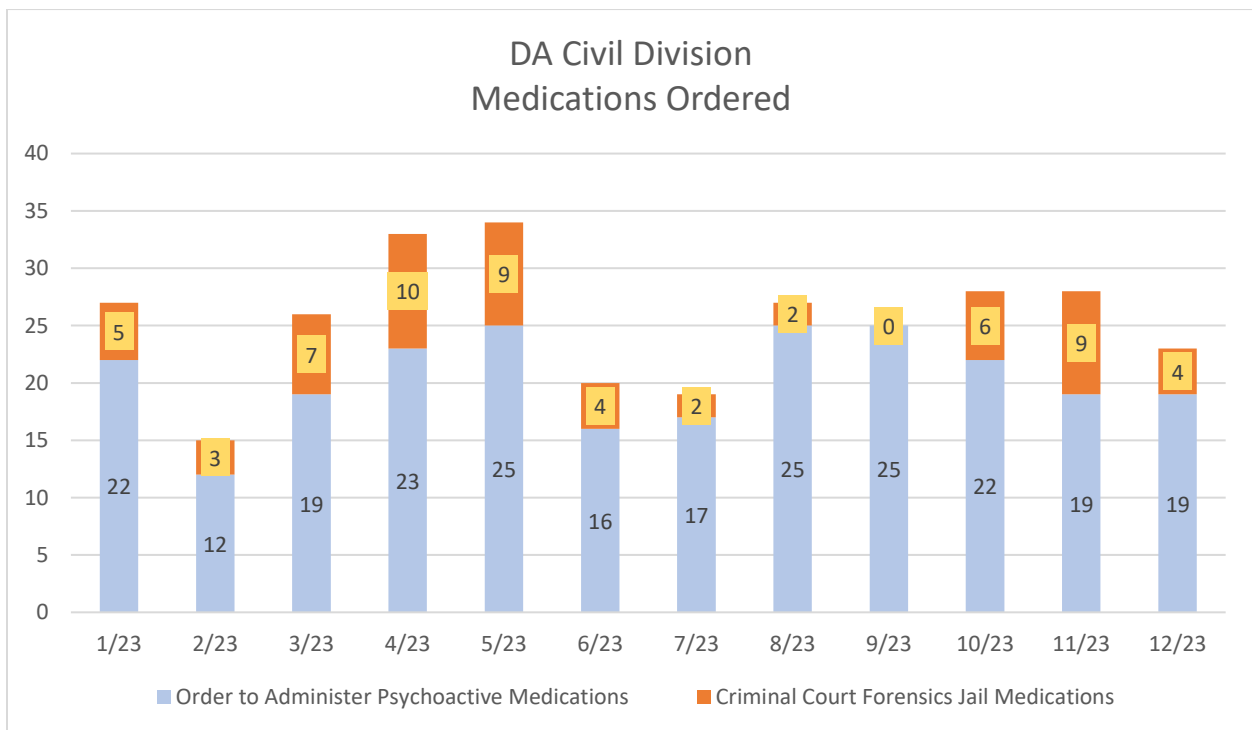
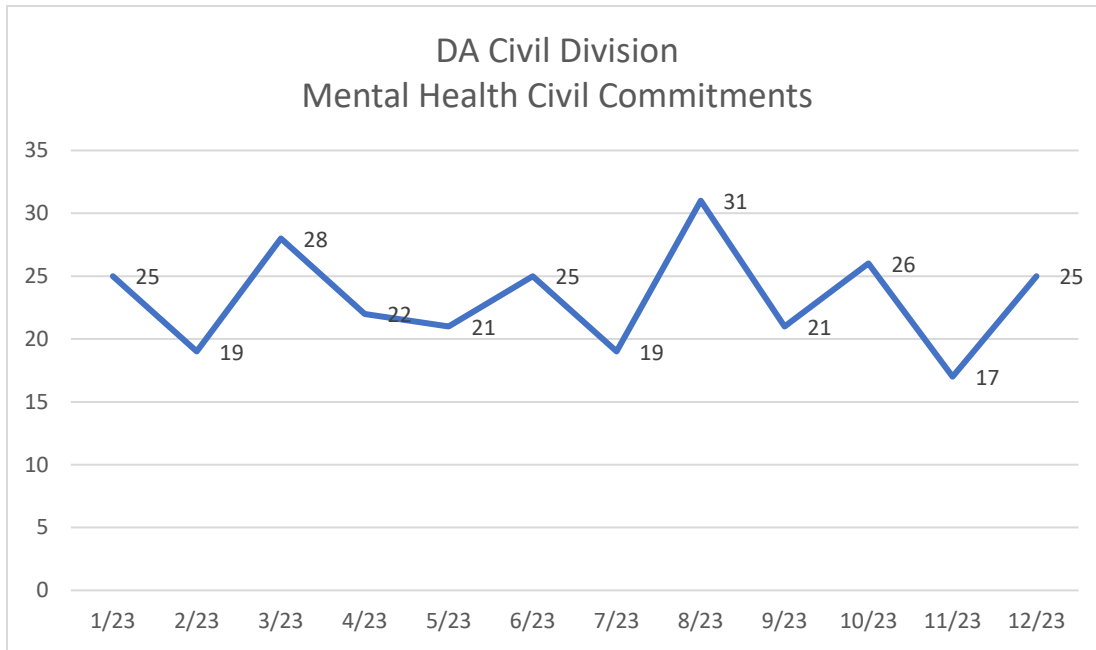
Restorative Justice Division



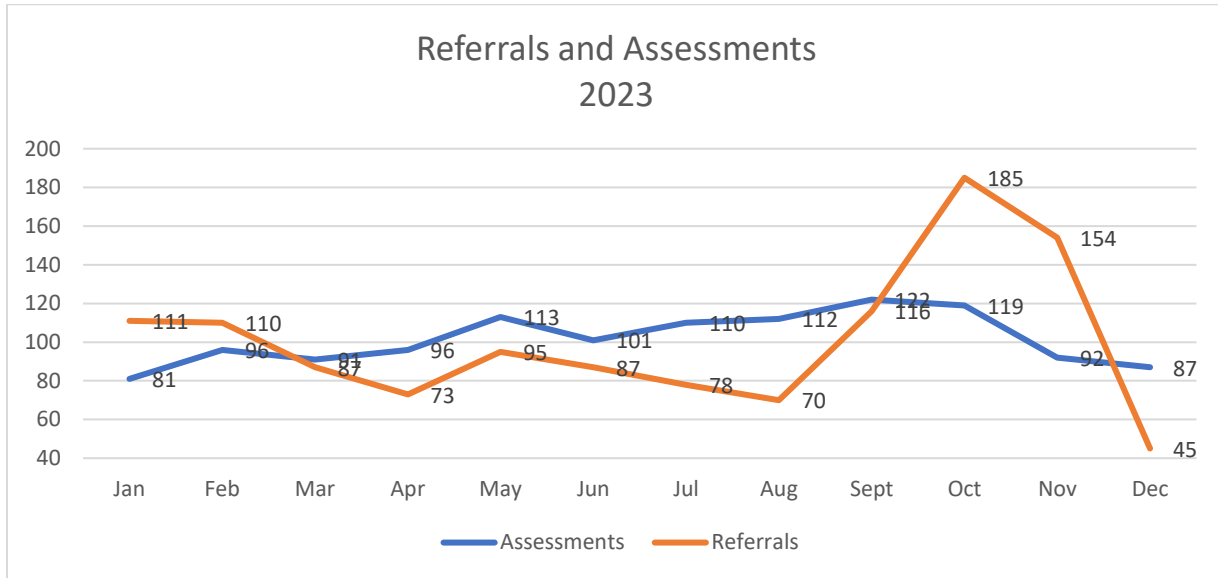
Restorative Justice Division



Restorative Justice Division



# Restorative Justice Pre-Trial Diversion



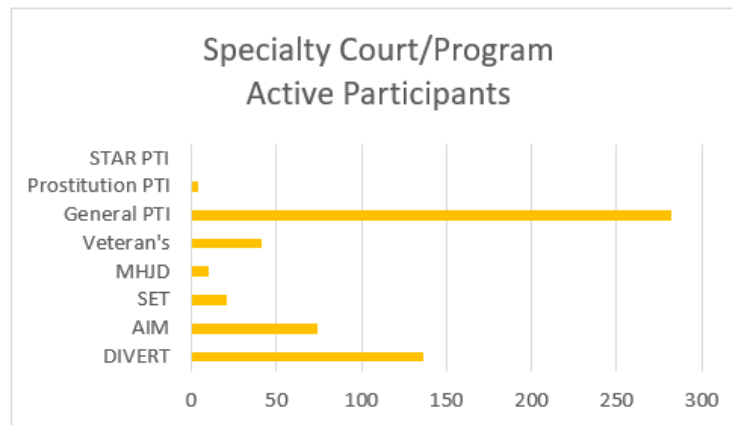
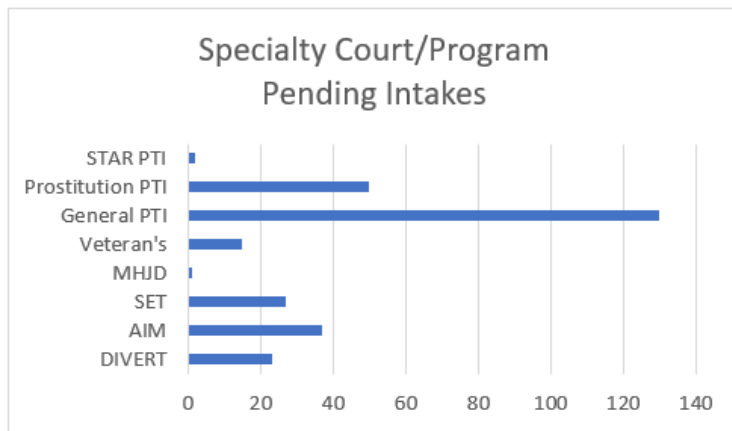


# Specialty Court & Programs

## Monthly Statistics - November 2023



Specialty Court/Program	Pending Intake	Graduate	Failed	Active
DIVERT	23	0	1	136
AIM	37	0	1	74
SET	27	5	0	21
MHJD	1	1	1	10
Veteran's	15	1	0	41
General PTI	130	41	16	282
Prostitution PTI	50	0	1	4
STAR PTI	2	0	0	0

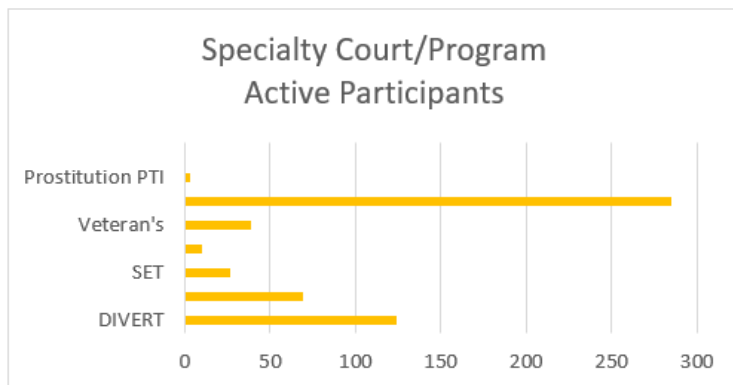
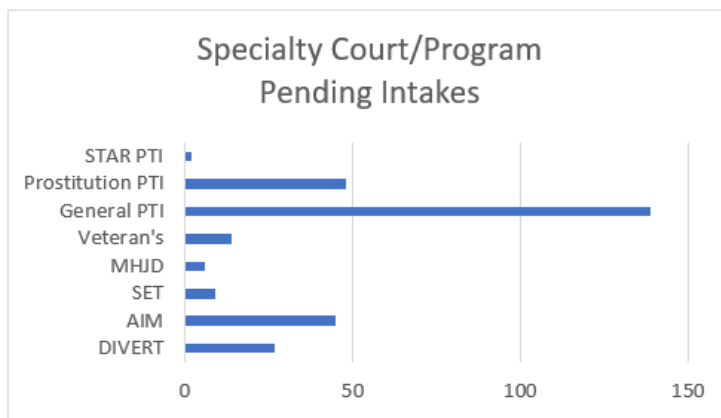


# Specialty Court & Programs

## Monthly Statistics - December 2023



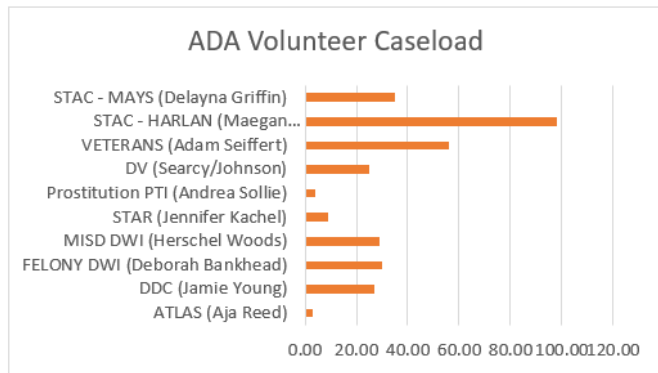
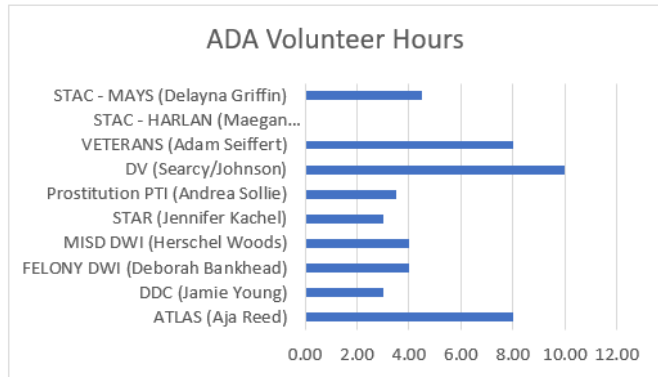
Specialty Court/Program	Pending Intake	Graduate	Failed	Active
DIVERT	27	18	0	124
AIM	45	4	3	69
SET	9	0	0	27
MHJD	6	0	0	10
Veteran's	14	3	0	39
General PTI	139	28	11	285
Prostitution PTI	48	2	0	3
STAR PTI	2	0	0	0



Restorative Justice Division

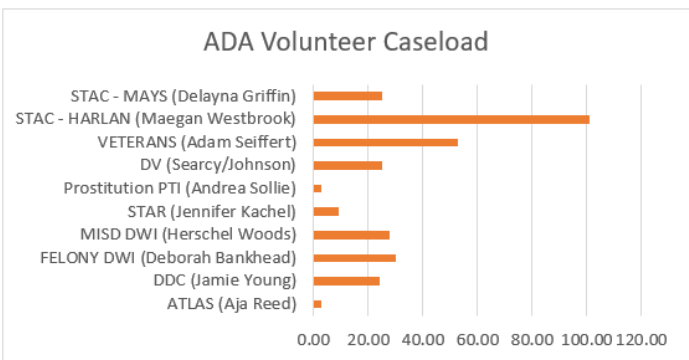
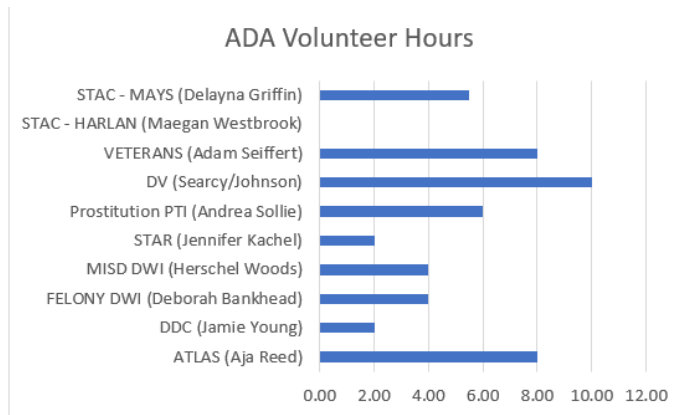
RJD SPECIALTY COURT/PROGRAMS  
ADA VOLUNTEER HOURS- November  
2023

Specialty Court/Program	Hours	Caseload
ATLAS (Aja Reed)	8.00	3.00
DDC (Jamie Young)	3.00	27.00
FELONY DWI (Deborah Bankhead)	4.00	30.00
MISD DWI (Herschel Woods)	4.00	29.00
STAR (Jennifer Kachel)	3.00	9.00
Prostitution PTI (Andrea Sollie)	3.50	4.00
DV (Searcy/Johnson)	10.00	25.00
VETERANS (Adam Seiffert)	8.00	56.00
STAC - HARLAN (Maegan Westbrook)	0.00	98.00
STAC - MAYS (Delayna Griffin)	4.50	35.00



RJD SPECIALTY COURT/PROGRAMS  
ADA VOLUNTEER HOURS- December  
2023

Specialty Court/Program	Hours	Caseload
ATLAS (Aja Reed)	8.00	3.00
DDC (Jamie Young)	2.00	24.00
FELONY DWI (Deborah Bankhead)	4.00	30.00
MISD DWI (Herschel Woods)	4.00	28.00
STAR (Jennifer Kachel)	2.00	9.00
Prostitution PTI (Andrea Sollie)	6.00	3.00
DV (Searcy/Johnson)	10.00	25.00
VETERANS (Adam Seiffert)	8.00	53.00
STAC - HARLAN (Maegan Westbrook)	0.00	101.00
STAC - MAYS (Delayna Griffin)	5.50	25.00



## FUSE DATA FY 2023-2024 12 MONTH

Category Item	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Total Clients Triaged for FUSE</b>	466	373	327	249	224							
<b>Referral Source</b>												
Jail FUSE Navigator Triage	405	316	237	202	188							
NTBHA Living Room Referral	0	0	5	7	0							
Defense Attorney Referral	4	8	7	4	9							
Shelter/Street FUSE Navigator Referral	2	5	4	3	16							
Other Referral Source	45	31	65	25	8							
Pretrial Referral	10	13	9	8	3							
<b>Client Triage/Referral Outcomes</b>												
Released to Another Program or Agency	18	34	16	15	14							
Referral Banned from Shelter	0	0	0	0	0							
Client Refused to be interviewed or Participate or Interview attempt	6	5	1	3	8							
Client didn't qualify for FUSE	181	157	111	80	66							
Immigration Hold	3	0	0	1	8							
Client report not being Unsheltered	1	2	1	0	2							
Released (i.e. Posted Bond)	133	72	100	85	57							
Referred by Shelters/Street Outreach	1	6	1	3	7							
FUSE bond denied	0	1	0	0	0							
<b>Pending Client Referrals</b>												
Waiting on info, Waiting on Bond to Post, and pending attorney response	101	85	75	76	52							
In Quarantine/Medical/Interview Pending	11	4	12	0	0							
<b>Shelter Assignment</b>												
<b>Total Released from Jail to FUSE</b>	11	6	10	16	10							
Austin Street Center	1	1	1	4	1							
The Bridge	7	2	4	6	8							
Salvation Army	3	2	5	5	1							
Qualified Referred by Shelters/Street Outreach	0	0	1	2	4							
Other	0	1	0	1	0							
No Response	0	0	0	0	0							
<b>Shelter Connection Rate</b>												
Austin Street Center	1	0	0	4	1							
The Bridge	4	2	2	4	2							
Salvation Army	3	1	4	5	0							
Other	0	0	1	1	0							
No Response	0	0	0	0	0							
Client Abscond/Did Not Connect	3	3	4	2	7							
<b>Housed</b>	0	1	3	1	0							
<b>Housing Priority List or Info sent to Housing Forward</b>	0	3	1	4	1							