



Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team
Thursday, November 14, 2024
9:30am -11:00am
In-Person & Virtual Meetings via Microsoft Teams

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
 - Review/Approval of October 10, 2024, 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
 - 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



DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
Minutes of the Behavioral Health Leadership Team Meeting
Thursday, October 10, 2024
<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 9:30 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 Commissioners present were Commissioner John Wiley Price and Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel. 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, September 12, 2024, 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.

- Tate Ringer, Chief Strategy Officer, Metrocare
- Kasey Smith, Interim Director, NAMI
- Alicia Watkins, Clinical Director, Dallas Behavioral Health
- Antoine Smith, Uplift Radio
- Dr. Sejal Mehta, Aadhar Behavioral Health Services

Presentation: Dallas County Veterans Office, James Henderson, Director

Mr. Henderson stated that the Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulation defines a veteran as a “person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable”. Mr. Henderson stated that Dallas County has the fourth largest Veteran population with about 109,200 Veterans and the state of Texas having about 1,547,021. The Dallas County Veteran Services Officers assists Veterans and their eligible dependants to access the benefits to which they are entitled such as disability compensation, pension, aid and attendance and survivors’ benefits. Veterans will also receive assistance with health care needs, benefits, education and burial services. Dallas County

Veterans Officers serve as a liaison to the Veteran's community and are all honorable discharged Veterans with an awareness of military and Veteran culture and majority are war-era Veterans. The Dallas County Veterans Services Offices are in 3 locations around Dallas County. Those seeking assistance may call 972-692-4939 or email Veteran.Services1@dallascounty.org to schedule an appointment.

Presentation: Aadhar Behavioral Health Services, Dr. Sejal Mehta, M.D

Dr. Mehta founded Psychiatric Medical Associates (PMA) in 2008 and currently serves as medical director for the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) and four other psychiatric facilities. Aadhar Behavioral Health Services is a nonprofit under PMA and was established in 2024 to provide complete mental health services for children, teen and adult patients and provides diagnoses, prevention, treatment, medication management, resources and therapy via tele-health and in person. PMA oversees, clinical research, medical and psychiatric trials, and integrative care and nutrition services. PMA also provides a fellowship program for psychiatric nurse practitioners and will soon provide Ketamine Infusion Therapy.

North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) Update

Carol Lucky, provided the update. Ms. Lucky reported NTBHA served 32,359 individuals for the month of September. Ms. Lucky reported that there were 5,328 hotline and Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOT) calls and of those, 2,158 were urgent or emergent. Ms. Lucky reported that NTBHA has approved their annual budget of 160 million dollars and renewals of all provider contracts have been approved. Ms. Lucky also reported that NTBHA has received two construction grants, one for Metrocare and one for the NTBHA hospital step downs.

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institution (MMHPI)

Ron Stretcher, referred to the Deflection Center report in the BHLT packet. Mr. Stretcher announced that there will be a Housing Forward Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACT) and Intensive Case Management (ICM) training next week and will discuss how behavioral health connects with housing.

Dallas County Behavioral Health Housing Workgroup (BHHWG)

Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel, reported the BHHWG met in September and currently discussing eviction diversion and addressing issues ahead of the psychological impact of dependence on housing dollars. Dr. Daniel reported that the eviction filing trends have slightly decreased but there has been a 1-2% increase in uncollected rent. Dr. Daniel reported that Family Gateway has recently been impacted by the storm with damage to their facility and are currently housing some of their individuals in hotels.

Dallas County Mental Health Advisory Committee Update

Yordanos Melake, Program Manager, Criminal Justice Department did not provide an update during the meeting. For the month of September, there were 2,943 magistrate orders for 16.22 screenings with 2,416 completed, 199 defendants refused screenings and 740 defendants unable to be located. The Mental Health Advisory Committee will continue to meet every other month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, with the last meeting scheduled on October 8 and the next meeting on December 10.

Legislative Update

Janie Metzinger, provided the report and referred to the reports in the packet. Ms. Metzinger reported that the Health and Human Services has submitted their Legislative Appropriations request however this is not the final budget. In the HHSC Baseline and Exceptional Item (EI) requests, Ms. Metzinger highlighted that all community based mental health services are now combined into one line item with subsections for a total of \$1,489,762,662. Ms. Metzinger also reported that there will be one more meeting of the Senate Finance Committee this month.

Funding Opportunities Updates

- **SAMHSA Residential Treatment Grant Update**

Marcus Turner, Criminal Justice Department provided the update. Mr. Turner reported that the SAMHSA admissions are open effective October 1 and to please send referrals.

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

Paul Blocker, Interim Chief, Public Defender's Office. Mr. Blocker reported that the Interlocal agreement with the City of Dallas has been sent and will provide further updates at the next meeting.

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

Julie Turnbull, District Attorney's Office, referred to the BHLT packet for September's report.

Upcoming Events and Notifications

None provided during this meeting

Adjournment

Commissioner Price thanked everyone for their service. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

DALLAS COUNTY DEFLECTION CENTER

2024-2025	24-Sep	24-Oct	24-Nov	24-Dec	TOTAL
TOTAL TRIAGED	32	38	0	0	70
<i>Referral Source</i>					
Dallas PD					0
SC Div	2				2
SW Div	4	1			5
SE Div					0
NC Div	1				1
NE Div	1	1			2
NW Div		1			1
CEN Div					0
Right Care		1			1
Dallas Marshal - CDC					0
College Campus PD					0
Great SW Coalition	1				1
SE Coalition	1				1
NTBHA MCOT/CTI	10	14			24
Garland PD		2			2
Irving PD		3			3
DART PD	11	14			25
Parkland-Baylor PD	1	1			2
TRIAGE OUTCOME	32	38	0	0	
Psych Crisis Residential					0
Detox-Withdrawal Mgmt					0
Living Room-NTBHA*	2	5			7
CMHP Services					0
ACT Team					0
OTHER SUD Services	2	2			4
Shelter					0
Austin Street	2	1			3
Bridge	3	2			5
Salvation Army					0
Union Gospel Mission		1			1
Other		4			4
Home-Family-Friends	12	11			23
Boarding Home/PSH	2	2			4
Higher Level of Care					0
Behavioral Health	2				2
Physical Health	2	2			4
Veterans Administration					0
APOW/W or Arrest					0
LEA Maintained Custody					0
Still in Service	4	3			7
Refused Services	1	5			6
TOTAL TRIAGED					70
Same Day Discharges	5 RS	3 Shelter	5 F & F	1 Liv Room	
Average Stay = 6.3 Days					

Dallas County Administration, 500 Elm Street, 7th Floor, Dallas Texas 75202

October 23, 2024 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: Erin Moore, Dallas County; Laura Edmonds, DCCJ; Latoya Jenkins, Dallas County; Tzegabrhan Kidane, Dallas County; Janie Metzinger, NTBHA; Kendall Brown, Family Gateway; Doug Denton, Homeward Bound; Jim Mattingly, Lumacorp; Ikenna Mogbo, Metrocare; Traswell Livingston, AIDS Services of Dallas; Larry Gordon, Downtown Dallas Inc.; Cathy Jackson, Dallas County HHS; Tasha Derby, Dallas County HHS

Dr. Daniel had a conflict so, Tzegabrhan Kidane opened the meeting and welcomed first time attendees to introduce themselves.

CALL TO ORDER: Due to Commissioner Daniel's absence the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

GOVERNANCE

Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness: Dallas County

Erin Moore stated that the meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum but did report that Commissioner Daniel has termed off of the committee and will move into an ex-officio role. The newly appointed Co-Chair by Judge Jenkins is Commissioner Andy Sommerman.

Dallas County Homeless Advisory Committee: , Dallas County

Tzegabrhan Kidane reported that a meeting was held on October 21st and the eviction diversion data was made available in the meeting packet. Jim Mattingly did notice that there were fewer evictions filed in September and that is a good thing.

Federal and State Legislative Update: Janie Metzinger, NTBHA

Janie Metzinger reported that the week after the election they will start pre-filing bills, and more info will come at the next meeting. In the interest of this committee, in the budget, the HHSC asked for an exception item for home and community based services at \$66.9 million for this current biennium and for the upcoming biennium they are proposing \$94.6 million. Those are for chronically ill people who have spent a great length of time in the state hospital. They have a hard time finding sufficient providers because they have strict services they have to provide. This was one of the interim charges for the Health and Human Services Committee of the House to review. Their interim report should come out before the session begins. Janie stated that she will be looking at the bills filed, interim charges, and recommendations related to behavioral health. This will give more insight into what's filed and who it's filed by that will help to get it pushed through. Doug Denton and Janie talked about possibly doing a legislative tour this year.

Larry Gordon raised concerns about the challenges of addressing behavioral health crises in downtown, where individuals often present in crisis but do not pose a direct threat, complicating intervention efforts by the Dallas Police Department (DPD) and other agencies. Despite utilizing various resources, including Medic One, DPD's Right Care, the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority's (NTBHA) Mobile Crisis Unit, and DART Care, response times and limitations on what organizations can do without imminent danger to self or others have hindered effective intervention. Gordon pointed out that individuals not committing crimes can escalate without appropriate assistance, noting the regular engagement with the homeless population in the area. Ikenna Mogbo and Janie Metzinger explained that organizations cannot force help on those not willing to accept it. They emphasized that the Mobile Crisis Unit is designed to triage and suggest options but is limited in the proactive support it can offer. Traswell Livingston questioned how to better de-escalate situations preemptively. Mogbo mentioned Metrocare's PATH team, which provides outreach to those in need across Dallas County,

while also highlighting the coordinated efforts of regional outreach teams. The discussion included the existing relationship between DPD, DART, and local business owners who meet to discuss these issues and the potential inclusion of mental health providers in future conversations. Mogbo clarified that the PATH team aims for long-term interventions to engage individuals in mental health services with the ultimate goal of securing housing. Larry Gordon outlined the role of the Right Care team, tasked with assessing individuals in crisis and providing protection for the clinicians involved. With about 10-15 individuals frequently experiencing these challenges in the area, the possibility of increased collaboration with mental health professionals and police was suggested to enhance support and potentially involve private funding for additional resources, addressing the needs of both the affected individuals and the business community.

RESOURCES

Family Housing: Kendall Brown, Family Gateway

Kendall Brown reported that Family Gateway North sustained storm damage at the end of May that left the roof in need of repair. The roof has been repaired and they have moved into the childcare center's infant and toddler rooms to begin mold remediation. Once that is completed, they will move into the afterschool space for school aged children. They are hoping to have it done by early November.

Shelter Discussions: Larry Gordon, Downtown Dallas, Inc

Larry Gordon reported that they have had meetings with the City of Dallas regarding inclement weather emergency shelters ready. He stated they spoke with Austin Street and the Bridge regarding the transporting of the unsheltered population to the area shelters, churches and shelter overflows in the event of inclement weather.

NTBHA: Eric McCarty, NTBHA

Tzeggabran Kidane reported that Eric McCarty could not attend the meeting, but he did report that there are no funds to process applications and there have been no notices of funding available.

Housing Navigator: Laura Edmonds, Dallas County

Laura Edmonds reported for Kimberly Rawls today and stated that the report is in the packet. She stated that Kim is working on the completing the FUSE data for September and will look to report that data at the next meeting. Laura stated that all of the St. Jude beds are full. She also reported that they were finally able to get the BJA deliverables approved and will receive grant funding for individuals needing boarding homes. They are now working with Dallas County purchasing dept on the RFP process and once it comes through court and the RFP is posted, the committee will be updated on those details.

Homeless Jail Dashboard: Laura Edmonds, Dallas County

Laura Edmonds stated that the report is available in the meeting packet but corrected on page 3 under the Total Suspected MB Bookins heading, that "Increase 428" should be "Decrease 428." There was an overall decrease in bookins from August to September.

Housing Authority Report: Tasha Derby, Dallas County HHS

Tasha Derby reported of the permanent supportive housing vouchers available, 57 are leased and 4 people are searching. They are waiting to receive more applicants to occupy the 100 voucher maximum. The MOU for the new foster care youth program is near finalization and once completed, they will begin working on that program.

PROJECTS AND INDUSTRY UPDATES

Housing Forward Updates:

Jim Mattingly reported that Housing Forward had an upcoming board meeting so no news now. Ikenna Mogbo reported that the national renewal for top tier program funding has been completed and now a local competition will occur to determine which organization's second tier programming will be allowed to be submitted nationally for possible funding.

The City Square large supportive housing grant has been awarded: two-thirds to Metrocare and one-third to AIDS Services of Dallas and the organizations are in negotiation with Housing Forward to transition parts of that grant from Housing Forward to the organizations. There is some discussion about some of the logistics and responsibilities of the grant that need to be sorted out before disbursement. This grant funding affects approximately 250 families in the permanent supportive housing program, so they are diligently trying to work through these issues.

Traswell Livingston mentioned a construction project of which Ikenna Mogbo stated that the federal government has reintroduced construction capital programs as an option for awarding a local COC up to \$7 million for this programming. Since each community can only submit one project, the COC is hosting a local competition to determine which project will be submitted nationally. The Independent Review Committee is now in the process of reviewing those proposals. There are multiple proposals that they are going through including projects from Metrocare and AIDS Services of Dallas.

Erin Moore highlighted the Domestic Violence Rapid Rehousing navigator ranking, and Kendall Brown elaborated that HUD is currently working on a national ranking of domestic violence bonus funds, with plans to make awards in the spring. Housing Forward will conduct a local ranking, select the program, and then submit it to HUD for national ranking and potential funding. Larry Gordon stated that Housing Forward has moved to downtown parks. They have moved from Initiative by City Hall to three downtown parks including Hardwood, Main Street Garden, and Pacific. They along with DDI started to count the number of unsheltered people living in the parks overnight with an average of 120 people nightly between the three parks. As a result, Housing Forward is now moving their street to home initiative to the parks downtown.

Pretrial Diversion and Mental Health Screening: Laura Edmonds, Dallas County

Laura Edmonds reported that everything continues to run well. She stated that their department helped to facilitate 48 jail releases in September and 52 releases in October and continue to work with NTBHA in that partnership. They also continue working with ADAPT on their mental health screenings and evaluations and completed a little over 2400 evaluations.

Homeward Bound: Doug Denton, Homeward Bound

Doug Denton reported that crisis residential is continuing to run close to capacity. The Deflection Center saw a drop in residents from 52 in August to 32 clients referred in. When they looked into why they had such a decrease, they remembered the State Fair started and many people started to work out there when it opened. Things started to pick back up once the Fair closed. They currently have 32 clients with 11 being referred by DART, 10 came from NTBHA, and Desoto and Mesquite each referring a client. They had one person to refuse service. He also reported that DPD is now doing some work with criminal trespass affidavits which a business can adopt. The way the affidavit works is that a businessperson can say they gave a person a criminal trespass warning and once the police arrive, it can be accepted as an intervention, they can arrest the person on the spot and take them immediately to jail. The book-in process for criminal trespass is easier and happens quicker when the affidavit is present. He did, however, say that he expects the numbers to be much better once the state fair is over.

Federal Youth Housing: Kendall Brown, Family Gateway

Kendall Brown reported that they have actually diverted more families from January through September than all of 2023. In 2023, they diverted just over 1,200 and as of the end of September, they have diverted more than 1,400. This amount includes efforts made by both their Assessment and Diversion team that is housed on Mockingbird and I-35 and their Mobile Support Unit that was launched in April. The mobile unit is a 15-passenger van that goes into the downtown and South Dallas area providing diversion services at partner organizations or local schools in the area. Family Gateway is a part of the new Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Initiative which will provide rapid rehousing for 18-24 year old head of household parents who are either pregnant or parenting with children. There were four projects split across six organizations at \$9.34 million with one project being for diversion, one for permanent supportive housing, one project for rapid rehousing, and one project for a combination of transitional and rapid rehousing. The funds have been awarded and they are working to get the program up and running by the end of the year. The organizations receiving the funds were Family Gateway, Under One Roof, TRAC, City House and others.

Mattingly Report: Jim Mattingly, Lumacorp

Jim Mattingly stated that the report is in the meeting packet. Effective rents were down 0.4% for the third quarter, bringing the average rent to \$1,511.00 per month. Over the past 12 months, rents have been down 2.2%. Some markets have had increases where others have had decreases. New apartment delivery remains strong and steady. 9,537 units were delivered with 10,977 units absorbed. Average occupancy increased 0.4% from the previous quarter. Fourth quarter 2024 unit deliveries are projected at 15,000 units with the projections being slightly optimistic. The trend for new unit deliveries is down for next year with each quarter showing a decline. There are fewer deliveries online for next year, but 111,695 units are in construction and/or lease up with an additional 118,966 units in pre-construction. Jim Mattingly also stated that he read that the state of Texas is delivering nearly twice as many housing units as the state of California even though California has a 30% larger population than the state of Texas. He attributes this growth in Texas to many factors including the time it takes to obtain permits in Southern California. Many developers feel Texas has an easier path to delivering new housing than California and it's more expensive to build there. Rent controls in California also have an impact on their development. They actually have two ballot items regarding housing, including an attempt to implement a rent increase cap on all markets on existing and new apartments. They also want to change the criteria for passing government sponsored bond issuances for the development of new homes and apartments by lowering the percentage needed to do so to 55% . This would make it easier to use government funding to provide financing for new construction. He stated their market is more complicated than what we have in Texas and results in fewer homes being built in California.

The meeting was adjourned by Tzeggabrrhan Kidane stating that she will get with Commissioner Daniel regarding the next meeting and she also mentioned the annual Community Resource Fair.

Next Meeting: To Be Determined



88TH Texas Legislature—Interim Hearings
Texas Senate Committee on State Affairs
Interim Hearing on Homelessness
October 16, 2024

Texas Senate Committee on State Affairs

Leadership: Senator Bryan Hughes, Chair. Senator Angela Paxton, Vice-Chair

Members: Senators Paul Bettencourt, Brian Birdwell, Morgan LaMantia, José Menéndez, Mayes Middleton, Tan Parker, Charles Perry, Charles Schwertner, Judith Zaffirini.

Link to Video of Hearing: <https://senate.texas.gov/videoplayer.php?vid=20785&lang=en>

Invited Testimony is from 0.00.00 to 3:45:15

Interim Charge: Study programs that address the homelessness crisis in Texas. Specifically, review programs like Haven for Hope and determine whether such programs could be a model throughout our state. Propose legislation to address the root causes of homelessness by expanding successful programs for cities of all sizes.

Invited Testimony

San Antonio

Melody Woolsey, Human Services Director, City of San Antonio

Haven for Hope was established in 2010

- \$23 million in capital support.
- \$121 million in operational support.
- Served 80-85% of San Antonio's homeless population in the last year.
- Nationwide, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) says
 - 61% of people who are homeless in US are sheltered.
 - 73% of people who are homeless in San Antonio are sheltered.
 - 27% of people who are homeless in San Antonio are unsheltered, approximately 900 per night.
 - Family homelessness is increasing.
- Point-in-Time (PIT) count shows:
 - 25% decrease in homelessness in San Antonio over the last 13 years.
 - Flat levels of homelessness in San Antonio since 2019.
 - Per-capita rate of homelessness declined by 20% in the rest of Bexar in the same time period.

Encampment Abatement

- Lengthy outreach to people at encampments are made before abatement. It often takes 15-17 encounters before the person accepts services
- At least 48 hours notice is given with referrals to services.
- 2,400 tons of trash has been removed from city property in encampment abatement.

Recommendations

- Increased funding for homeless services.
- Increased funding for mental health and crisis response.
- Increased funding for permanent housing solutions.
- Improve data sharing and cooperation between homeless serving agencies.
- Streamline identity recovery.

This document is intended for informational purposes only and is not intended to indicate a position for or against any legislation. If you have questions, please contact Janie Metzinger at (214) 404-3976 or jmetzinger@ntbha.org

Kim Jeffries, Chief Executive Officer, Haven for Hope

Haven for Hope

- 22 acres north of downtown San Antonio, near jail, county hospital and public transportation
- 400,000 square feet
 - 3 residential dorms can sleep 1,450 people per night.
 - With flexible and overflow space, 1,655 people can be accommodated.
- 9,457 unique individuals served last year including
 - 1,085 children.
 - 491 veterans.
 - 789 young adults. Young adult population has tripled since Haven for Hope added a separate space for young adults.
- Average length of stay is 4 months.
- 16,500 people have been served by Haven for Hope since its opening.
- 1182 people served this year.
- Everyone sleeps inside. There are no courtyard sleeping spaces.
- Co-location of services includes substance use disorder (SUD), detox, medical, dental, vision, kennel, spiritual, sober living, behavioral health, case management, clothing, food, hair care, employment, education, food, and clothing services.
- Haven for Hope is a Homeless management Information Systems (HMIS) lead agency.
- Haven for Hope has been a \$5.6 billion benefit to San Antonio and has yielded a \$29 return on investment (ROI) for every \$1 spent on Haven for Hope.
- 92% of people housed by Haven for Hope were still housed one year later.
- Anyone receiving services at Haven for Hope has an 80% better chance of achieving housing stability.
- Haven for Hope collaborates with:
 - The Center for Health Care Services Bexar County' Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA).
 - Specialized Multidisciplinary Alternate Response Team (SMART) and the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) to partner law enforcement, paramedics, and mental health professionals to respond to 911 calls involving a person in a mental health crisis.
- The medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, child care and other services are also made available to the local community in the Haven for Hope neighborhood.
 - 60% of health care services and 50% of the child care services co-located at the Haven for Hope are accessed by members of the neighboring community.
- Services for families:
 - 17 busses transport 325 children to public schools daily.
 - YMCA provides childcare.
 - Ballet, theatre, music, art, basketball and family movie nights are provided after school.

Recommendations

- Other cities wishing to implement the Haven for Hope model should evaluate the number of beds and the wraparound services required to address local homelessness.
- Communication is key to address community concerns.

Austin

Gary Pollack, Manager-Policy and Planning, Homeless Strategy Office.

Austin uses a de-centralized model different from the centralized Haven for Hope model.

- Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) partners the LMHA, Austin Police Department, Emergency Medical Services and the Downtown Community Court.
- 3000 people sheltered in 2023.
- 26 encampments closed.
 - 900 people sheltered.
 - 300 people housed.
- 1000 new permanent supported housing units expected in 2026.

Recommendations

- Increase funding for homeless housing and services programs.
- Increase emergency detention and mental health commitment opportunities.
- Increase mental health services capacity.
- Expand permanent supportive housing by increasing the set-asides in state housing programs.
- Promote mental health data sharing between homeless response system, law enforcement and health care system.
- Simplify process to access identification.

Chris Baker, Founder and CEO-The Other Ones Foundation

Esperanza Community—Housing First and Work First

- Homeless services and shelter at an abandoned Texas Department of Transportation (TexDOT) site.
 - Phase 1: 100 cabins now.
 - Phase 2: 100 more cabins
 - Phase 3: 100 more cabins-50 Addiction recovery, 50 medical respite.
- Medical, laundry, and shower facilities.
- Self-sufficiency vocational training: electrical, HVAC, automotive, welding, plumbing.
- Work First opportunities framed around the talents of the people served.

Recommendations:

- More housing subsidies and permanent supported housing.
- Expiration of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has made funding hard to come by.
- More public-private partnerships. Texas/counties/cities own pockets of un- or underutilized land.
- Look upstream for homelessness prevention.
- Building a ‘synthetic support system’ is harder than reconnecting people to their organic supports.
- Judicial, foster care and health care systems often exit people to homelessness.
 - Where are we missing opportunities to help people with better discharge planning?
- Rental assistance programs often can’t help until the person is in rental arrears, has eviction notice.
 - Faith-based groups are often more willing to provide earlier prevention assistance.
 - “Their level of commitment and reliability is unrivaled”.
 - Loaves and Fishes offers deeply affordable housing (\$400/month) for people on disability.
- SUD recovery beds are more important than psychiatric beds. “It’s hard to get people to take advantage of mental health beds”.

Houston

Mike Nichols-Director of Housing and Community Development-City of Houston

Since 2011, Houston has housed over 32,000 people.

- In COVID-19 period, over 12,000 people housed.
- From 2012 to 2024, federal housing funds increased from \$19,000 to \$59,000.
- Since 2020, approximately 3,000 housed
 - 17% decrease in homelessness
 - 33% decrease in sheltered homelessness.
- Permanent supportive housing costs \$23,000 per year.
- Navigation Center (80 beds) costs \$37,000 per year per person
- Health care cost of homelessness of unknown.
- 85 % of rapid rehousing is scattered site. 69% of permanent supported housing is scattered site.
 - Less NIMBY-ism, challenge is to get services delivered.
- Root cause is economic. More than 50% of people in Harris County don't have \$450 for emergencies.

Wayne Young-Harris Center for Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disorders.

Harris Center employs approximately 2,600 people and serves approximately 96,000 annually

- 12,000 people diverted from jail over a six-year period.
 - 85% had Class B trespassing violations.
 - 70-80% were also unhoused.
- 108 beds on one campus using federal, state, county and city dollars.
 - Integrated medical care on campus.
- Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Diversion Center-36 beds.
- Hospital to Homes-Healthy Community Collaboratives.
 - 42 beds for people who are homeless, and have mental health or substance use disorders.
- State Hospital Step-Down Program.
 - Admission requirement is at least one year in state hospital.
 - Most have 6.5 years in state hospital.
 - Average length of stay is six months.
 - Outcomes \$5.54 in criminal justice cost savings for every \$1 spent.
- 26 apartments are currently under construction under Healthy Community Collaboratives (April 2025)
- 180 units of transitional housing.
- 20 beds for jail re-entry.
- 24 units of transitional supportive housing apartments.
- Community-based options needed so people can graduate off campus to independent living.
- Most people who are on the street were offered help, but declined.

Recommendations:

- Community-based mental health care
- Statutory changes to make involuntary care more available for people with highly complex needs who don't have the insight to recognize their illness.
- 60% of people coming out of criminal justice system have a mental health or substance use disorder
 - 3 to 5% of general population has a serious mental illness.
- Work with prison system to stop the revolving door to homelessness, recidivism.
 - Stop midnight discharges from jail.
- Promote collaboration.

Dallas

Hon. Jesse Moreno-Dallas City Councilman

Dallas has spent \$72 million for rapid rehousing, permanent supported housing and diversion.

- Street to Home Initiative-focused on chronically homeless to house 107 people in 100 days.
- City Action Strike Team (CAST) quick response to address quality of life and public safety concerns.
- Six shelter facilities are currently located in a two-mile radius that presents challenges.
- Street ministries sometimes don't know all of the services already available.
- City Council has not yet been briefed on plans by Refuge for Renewal (see below).

Recommendations:

- Increase affordable housing opportunities.
- Data sharing and information coordination

Tyler Arbogast-Executive Director Refuge for Renewal

Refuge for Renewal plans a wide berth of services in a single location. <https://refugeforrenewal.org/>

- Current approach is too fragmented. One organization in each city should lead the charge. Likes the Haven for Hope approach.
- Needs to build more capacity to make it easier to get off the streets.
- Should not be downtown.
- Priority should be prevention, diversion, and re-housing.
- PIT count showed 1,500 beds needed, including beds for youth (16-26) and hospice beds (50 and over).

Recommendations:

Expand mental health services, prevention, diversion, rehousing.

Focus should be on prevention of homelessness.

Veterans

Melissa Escamilla, Ph.D. Program Director, Endeavors

Endeavors

- Serves unhoused veterans in 131 counties and 12 offices around the state.
- Works with non-traditional partners such as clergy, community members, food pantries.
- Can conduct intakes remotely.
- Partners with Stephen A Cohen Clinics for behavioral health services.

Texas Veterans

- Veterans over 65 have seen the largest percentage increase of homelessness.
- 50% of homeless veterans are over age 55.
- Challenges include pet care, lost documents, transportation, housing affordability and availability.

Manufactured Housing Employer

Amy King, CEO, Pallet PBC, Everett Texas

Pallet is a Public Benefit Corporation working to end unsheltered homelessness and give people a fair chance at employment. <https://palletshelter.com/>

- 70% of Pallet's workforce has experienced homelessness, addiction recovery, and/or incarceration
- Pallet offers living wages, benefits, 401K plan and supportive services from Day 1.
- After 9-12 months on the job, Pallet employees transition to apprenticeships in the construction and manufacturing industries.
- Pallet has built over 4,500 units in 125 communities in 86 us cities in 25 US states.
- Most are located on unutilized municipal, state or federal land, therefore no land cost.
- All units have locking doors, HVAC, security, hygiene, laundry and services.
- Currently working on projects in Amarillo and Temple, and to provide shelters after Hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- Units are made with materials with a 20-year life, does not require a foundation, is reusable, easily cleanable, and are mold, rot and mildew resistant
- \$18,000 to 20,000 each.
- Some communities 'charge rent' but put the money in escrow so that people can have a way to transition to market housing.
- Services must include trauma care. Often substance use did not precede homelessness, it started after homelessness occurred.



88TH Texas Legislature—Interim Hearings
Texas Senate Committee on State Affairs
Interim Hearing on THC Beverages
October 17, 2024

Texas Senate Committee on State Affairs

Leadership: Senator Bryan Hughes, Chair. Senator Angela Paxton, Vice-Chair

Members: Senators Paul Bettencourt, Brian Birdwell, Morgan LaMantia, José Menéndez, Mayes Middleton, Tan Parker, Charles Perry, Charles Schwertner, Judith Zaffirini.

Link to Video of Hearing: <https://senate.texas.gov/videoplayer.php?vid=20787&lang=en>

Invited Testimony: 0.00.00 to 0.44:25

Interim Charge: Evaluate Texas laws and regulations concerning THC beverage manufacturing and delivery. Report on the current regulations and safeguards Texas may or may not have in place for drinks with any amount of THC. Recommend legislation to protect Texas consumers.

Invited Testimony

Timothy Stevenson, Ph.D. Deputy Commissioner for Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Current Law

- Hemp products in Texas can have up to 0.3 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) Delta 9.
- Delta 8 THC is currently on the list of Schedule I drugs in Texas, but due to ongoing litigation, DSHS is, at present, enjoined from enforcing the law against violators.
- Currently there are three tiers of licenses: Manufacturers, Distributors, Retailers.
 - Overlapping ownership is prohibited.
- If consumable hemp products are sold at a bar, the bar is required to have a retail hemp license.
- Seltzers, carbonated water or juices with THC can be sold at bars, but if they mix it with alcohol, they must have a manufacturing license.
- There is no universally accepted dose or serving size

Thomas Graham, Executive Director, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Current Law

- US Tax and Trade Bureau prohibits products that combine alcohol and THC.
- A bartender can mix two legal products, however, if people are intoxicated on the premises, there could be arrests for public intoxication, serving intoxicating beverages to an intoxicated person, etc.
- Off-premises retailers such as gas stations fall under the jurisdiction of DSHS.

This document is intended for informational purposes only and is not intended to indicate a position for or against any legislation. If you have questions, please contact Janie Metzinger at (214) 404-3976 or jmetzinger@ntbha.org

Lindy McGee, MD-Texas Medical Association, Texas Pediatric Society

Increased Incidents of Accidental Ingestion

- Dr. McGee gave an example of a mom and school-aged son who were staying with a relative after being displaced by Hurricane Beryl. The boy found a chocolate bar in the refrigerator and gave half to his mother and ate half himself. Both ended up in the emergency room, very intoxicated.
- Very young children usually must be admitted to the hospital intensive care unit if THC is ingested.

Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD) in Teens

- Dr. McGee has a 17-year old patient with CUD who has attempted unsuccessfully to quit multiple times.
- Giving products to developing brains drastically increases risks of addiction and psychosis.
- Addictive substances introduced to children changes the 'wiring' of the brain.
- Most adult addicts report starting as teenagers
- The younger the person starts, the more likely an addiction will develop.
- The younger a person is, the faster intoxication develops

THC-containing Beverages

- Dr. McGee showed the Committee a bottle of a THC beverage that she had bought online for \$35, which appeared to be intended as a mixer for alcoholic drinks.
- The bottle listed a serving size as 4 milligrams, and contained a total of 101 milligrams, or 25.25 servings.
- The bottle was not prominently labeled regarding the fact that it contained THC.
- Effects of alcohol and THC are added together increase the intoxicating effect.

Recommendations:

- Labeling for THC should be a prominent universal symbol, and public should be educated.
- Establish an 'age gate' for purchasing.
- Require child resistant packaging.
- Packaging should not be designed to appeal to children.
- Flavors should not be marketed to appeal to children.
- Require one dose per package.
- Testing should be required so that consumers know what is in the consumable products.



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
Nexus New Admissions	2																2
Nexus Average Days in Jail from Referral to Admission	17																#####
Homeward Bound New Admissions	1																1
Homeward Bound Average Days in Jail from Referral to Admission	20																#####
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT DISCHARGES																	
Successful	0																0
Unsuccessful	0																0
REFERRING SPECIALTY COURTS FY2024																	
Number of Referrals by Specialty Courts		AIM	7				DWI					STAR					
		ATLAS					IIP					Veterans					
		Competency	4				Legacy Family	1				4-C					
		DDC					MHJD/SET										
		DIVERT					STAC	3									

*Homeward Bound Pending Admission: 4

*Nexus Pending Admission: 2

KRIST CALDWELL FY2025 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** *
October	21	0	10	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	24	3	16

HARRY INGRAM FY2025 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 PARTICIPANTS	CURRENT PARTICIPANTS IN CUSTODY	FORMER ATLAS PARTICIPANTS	BOND
October	58	10	68	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	66	32	0	0	32

HARRY INGRAM FY2025 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
October	53	1	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	50	24	1	0	26

October FY2025 MHPD STATS														
	BEGINNING # OF PENDING CASES	+NEW CASES RECEIVED THIS MONTH	=TOTAL CASES	TRIALS	PLEAS	COND DISM.	REVK	REVC	DISMISSALS	INCOMP ETENT	REFERRALS	OTHER COUNSEL APPT.	TOTAL CLOSED	
Lenox	133	22	155	0	1	0	1	0	8	0	0	6	16	
Strather	295	29	324	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	9	13	
Caldwell	48	26	74	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	6	9	

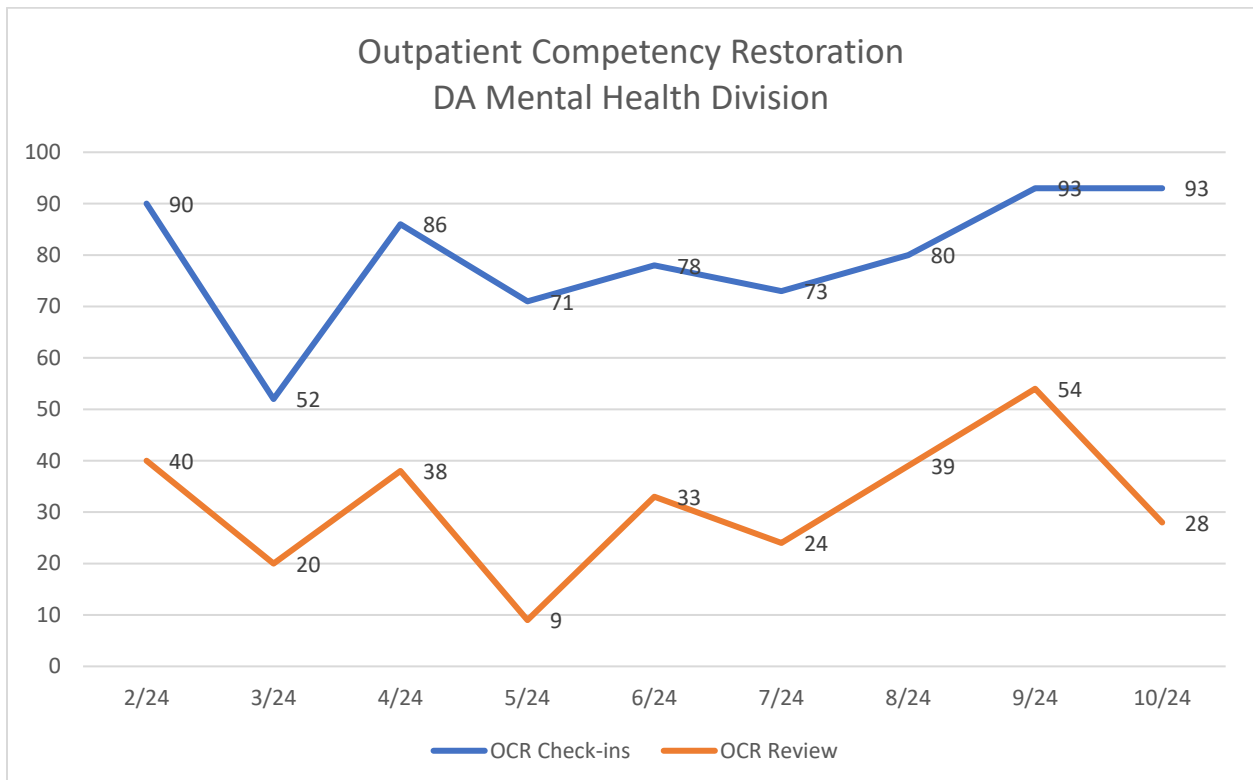
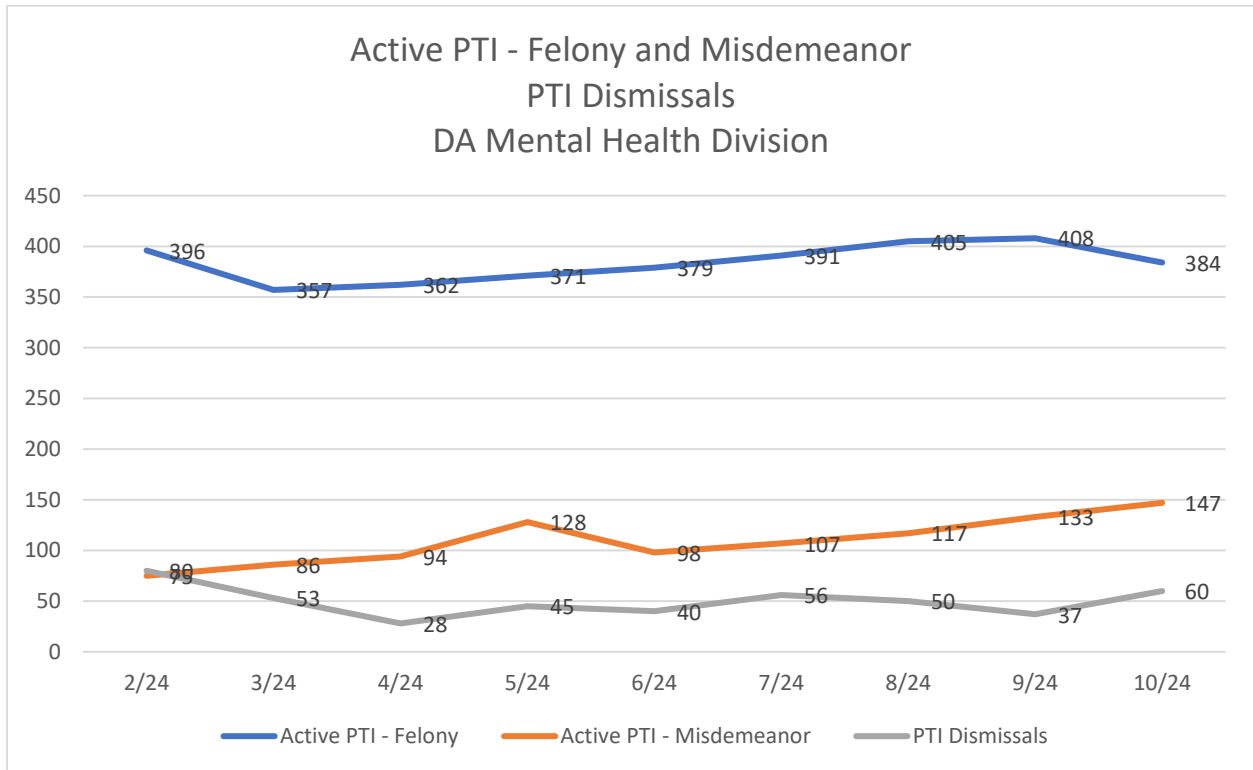
October FY2025 FELONY COMPETENCY STATISTICS																
MONTH	BEGINNING # OF CASES	NEW CASES THIS MONTH	TBJ	TBC	Alt. Trial Dispos.	PLEAS	REVO-CATION S	DISMISSALS	PROBATION	COMP. HRG.	EXTENSIONS	CIVIL COMMIT.	MHMR REFERRAL	CONSULTS	OTHER	ENDING # OF PEOPLE IN OCR
Harden	175	11	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	17	0	0	0	0	3	17
Scott	30	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	34	4
Foster	37	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	6

RANDALL SCOTT FY2025 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
October	116	48	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	6	0	8	0	0	0	15

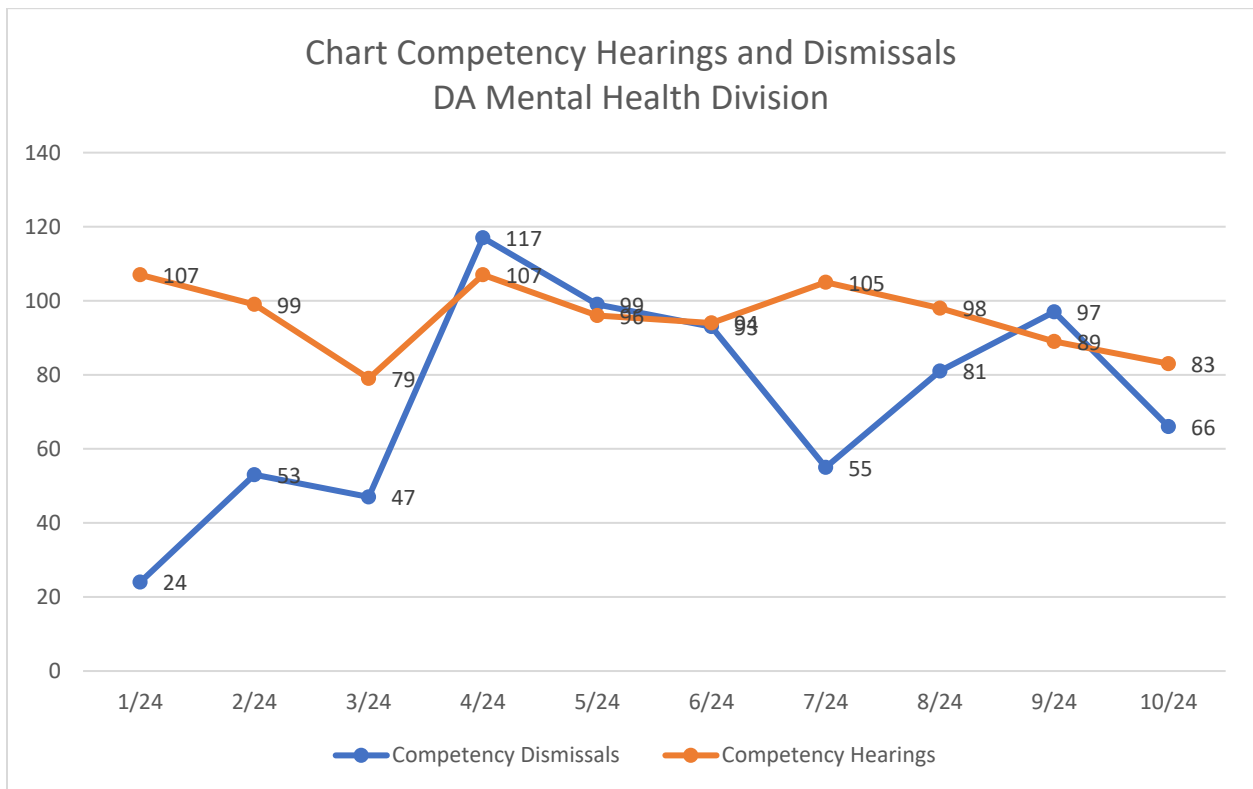
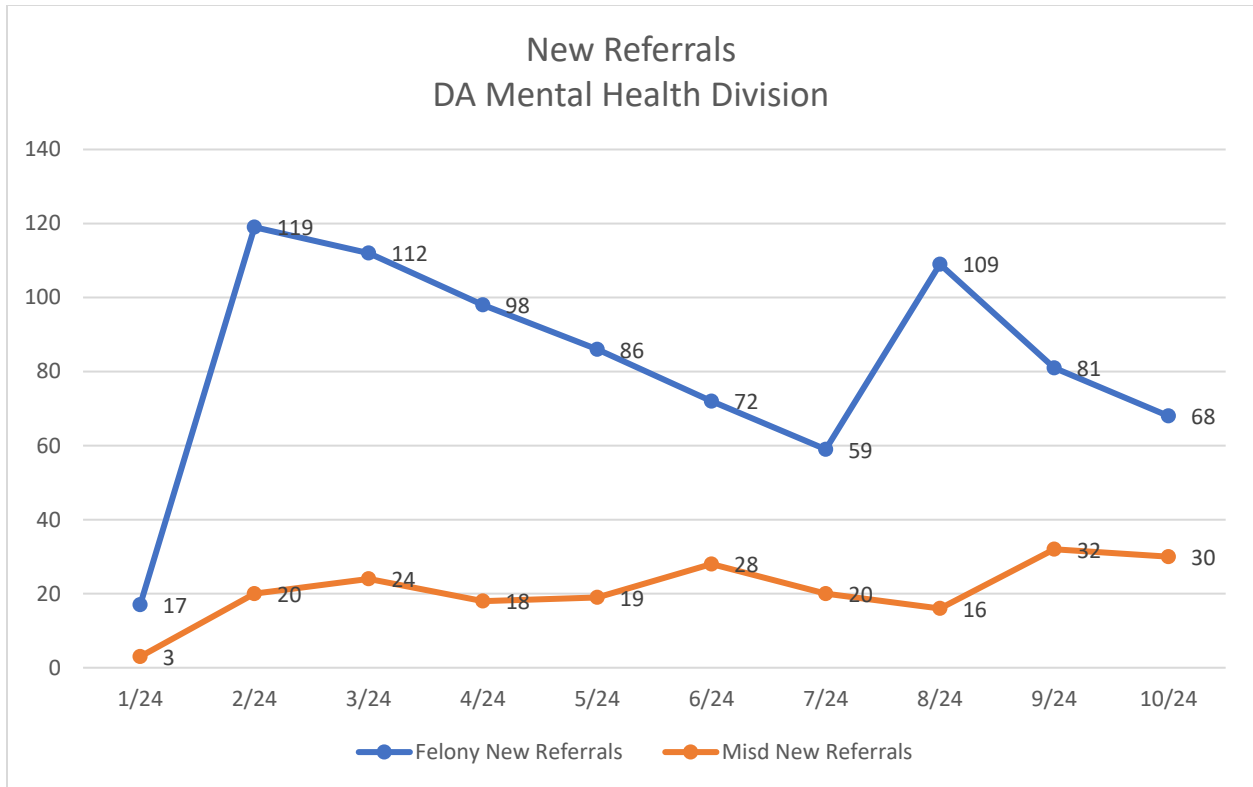
MI Court																									
MONTH	TOTAL NEW CASES RECEIVED	NEW CLIENTS AT TERRELL	NEW CLIENTS AT MEDICAL CENTER MCKINNEY	NEW CLIENTS AT GLEN OAKS	NEW CLIENTS AT TEXOMA	NEW CLIENTS AT PERMIETER BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE	NEW CLIENTS AT PARKLAND	NEW CLIENTS AT CLEMENTS (formerly ZALE LIPSHY)	NEW CLIENTS 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 THRAPLINGTON	MRM/MILLWOOD/HAVEN	PROBABLE CAUSE HEARINGS HELD	NO CONTEST COMMIT	CONTESTED COMMIT	FORCED MEDS HEARING IN COURT	MODIFICATION HEARINGS	OUT-PATIENT COMMIT	IN-PATIENT COMMIT
L. Roberts	168	8	18	33	0	57	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	38	0	0	0
C. Cox	131	0	0	0	0	0	123	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	11	1	0	0
K. Nelson	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	11	0	0	0
R. Black	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	42	0	0	0	3	0	5	5	0	0	0

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
October	2739	364	55	45	100	147	96	47	49	51	28	23

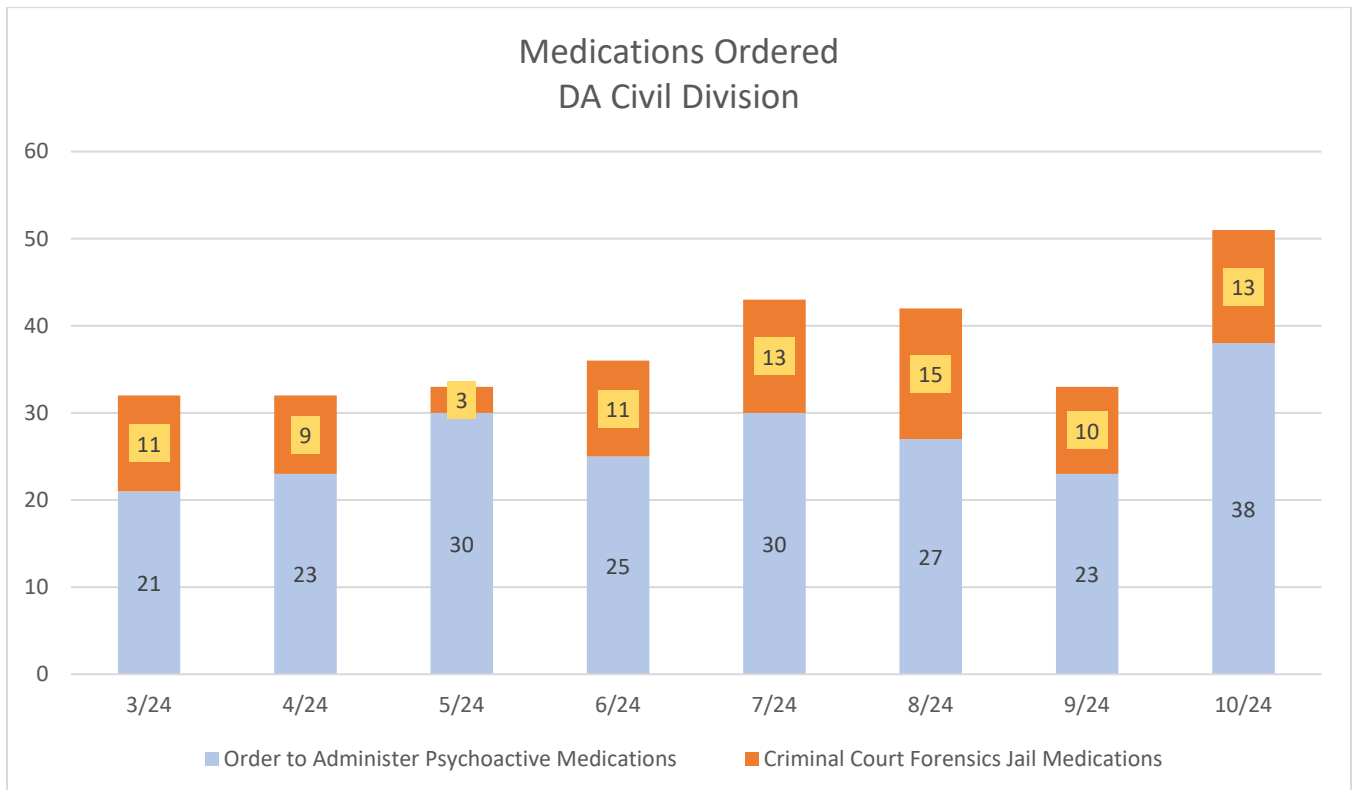
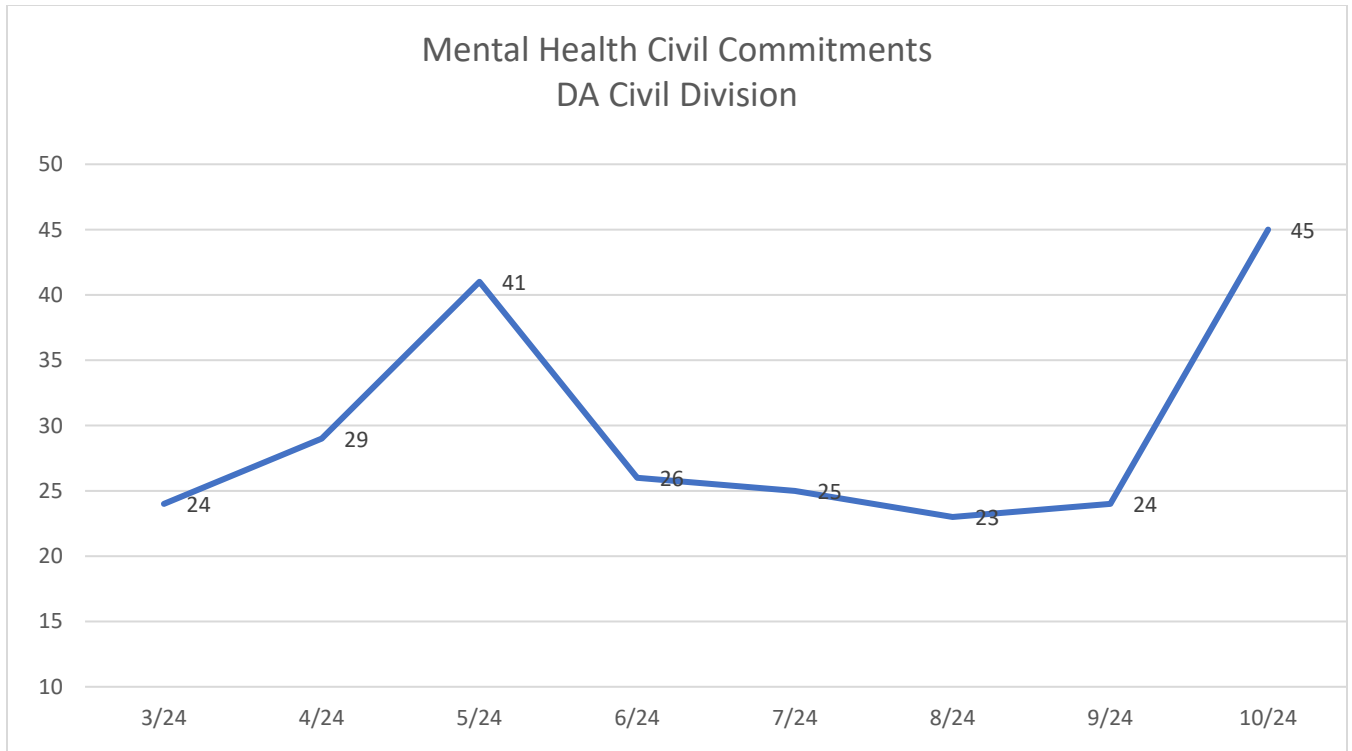
Mental Health



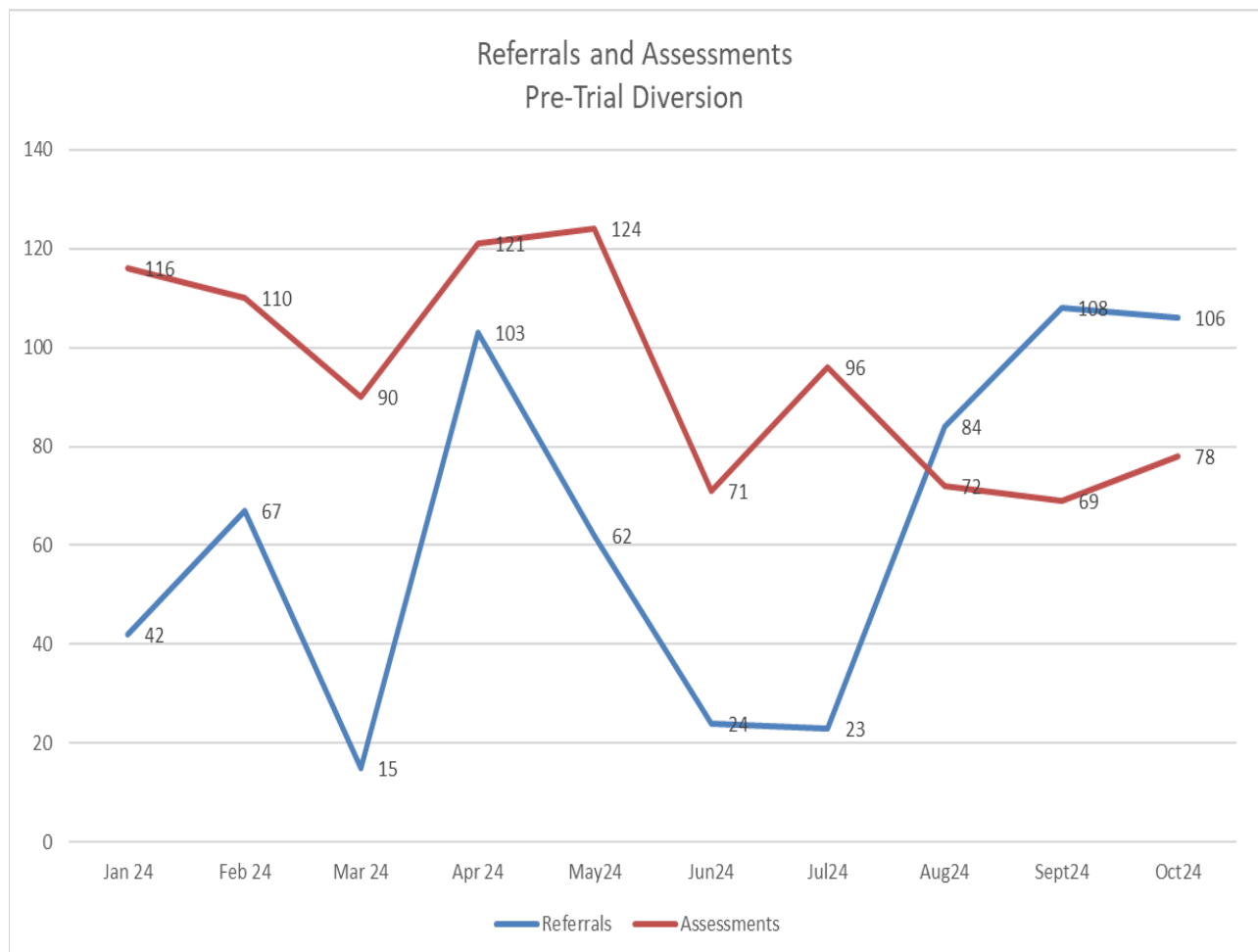
Restorative Justice Division – Mental Health



Restorative Justice Division – Mental Health

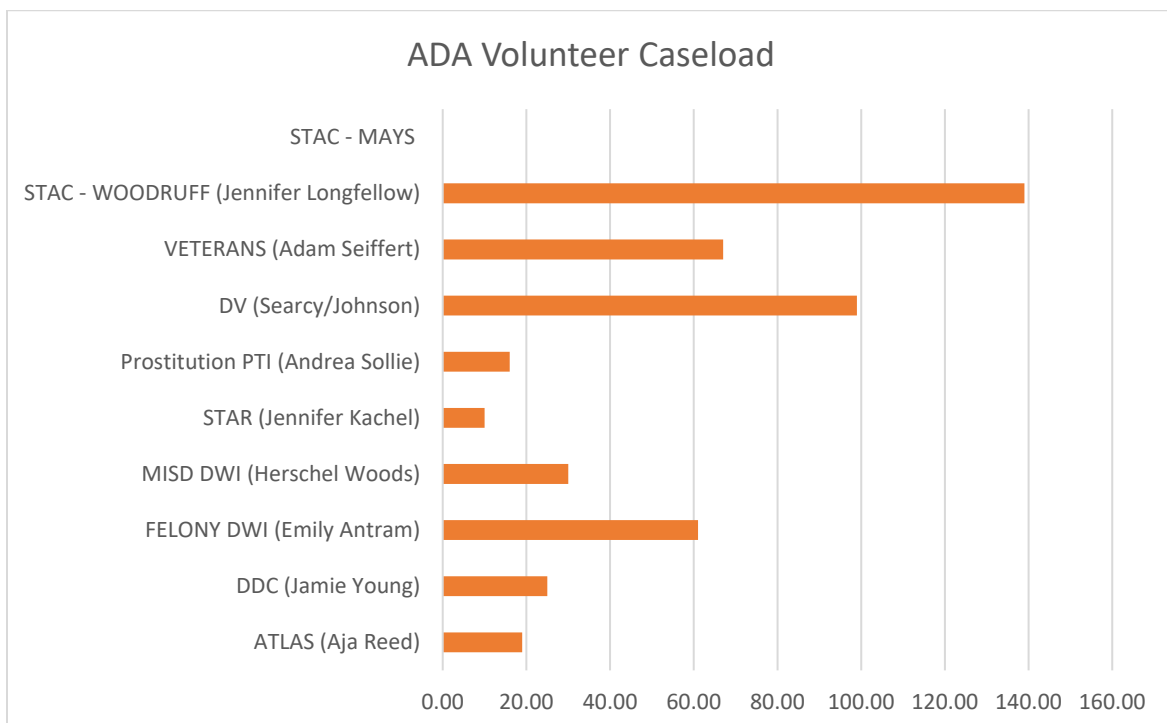
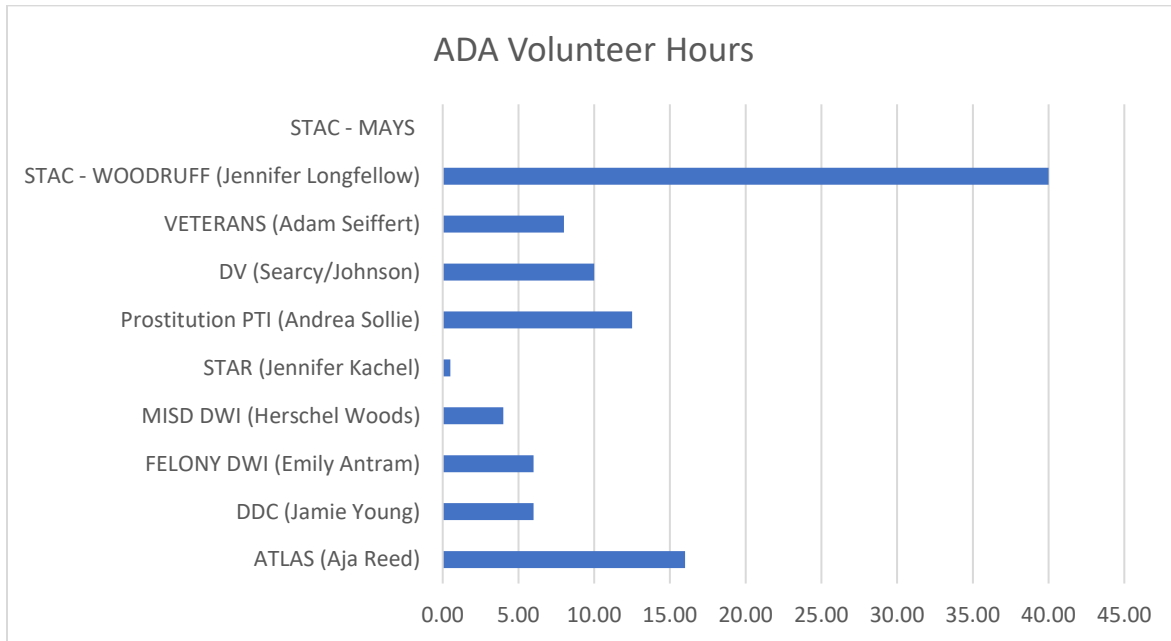


Pre-Trial Diversion



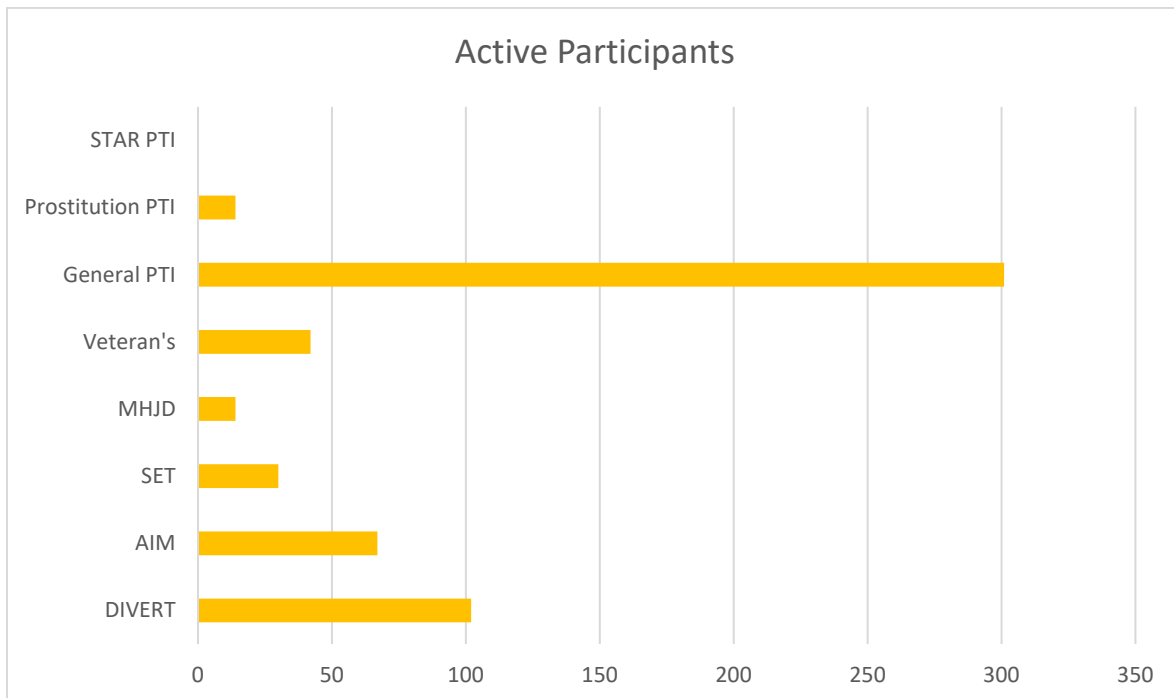
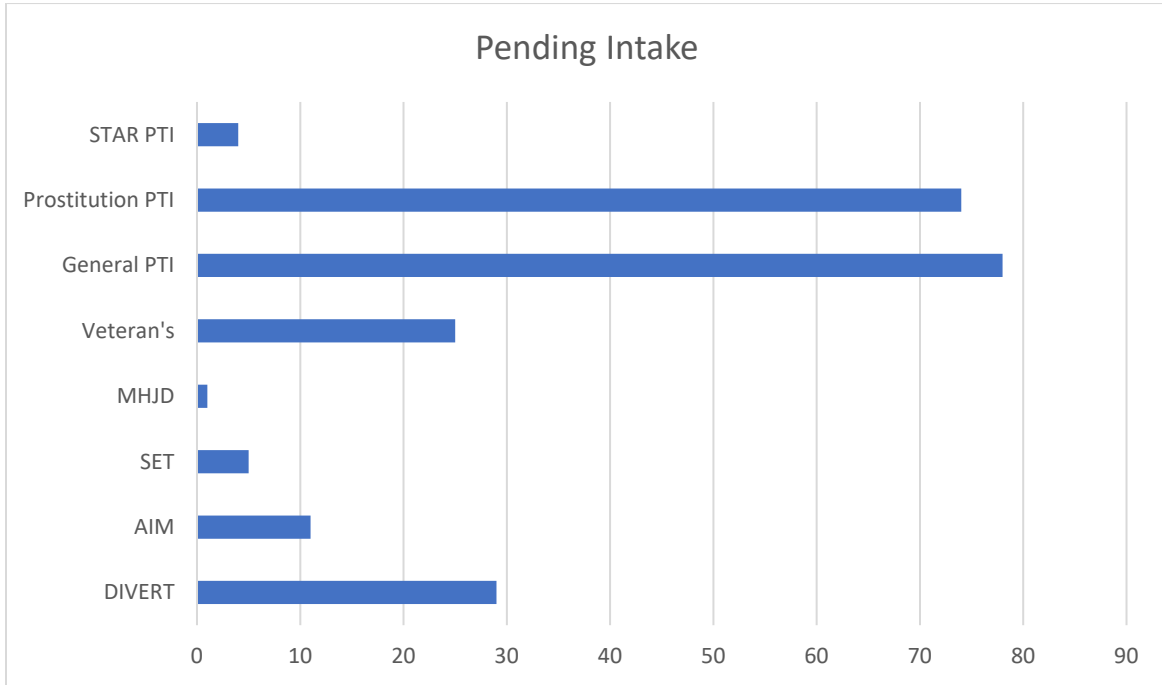
RJD SPECIALTY COURT/PROGRAMS

ADA VOLUNTEER HOURS-OCTOBER 2024



SPECIALTY COURT AND PROGRAMS

MONTHLY STATISTICS-OCTOBER 2024



FUSE DATA FY 2023-2024

12 MONTH

Category Item	May	June	July	Aug	Sept								
Total Clients Screened for FUSE	120	171	107	134	164								
Referral Source													
Jail FUSE Navigator Screening	0	3	0	0	42								
Pretrial Referral	15	13	23	26	12								
Defense Attorney Referral	11	21	14	33	22								
Shelter/Parkland Hospital Street FUSE Navigator Referral	7	5	6	0	0								
NTBHA Living Room Referral	4	4	0	1	0								
Dallas Deflection Center	40	9	0	0	0								
Probation/CSCD	3	1	1	1	0								
Other Referral Source (Adapt, Community Partners, etc.)	40	115	63	73	88								
Interview Outcomes													
Client Refused to be interviewed or Participate	5	1	2	1	7								
Client reported not being Unsheltered	3	3	2	0	1								
Unavailable to Interview	25	0	10	1	2								
Pending Interview	0	0	0	8	16								
Other Outcome Categories (*See Below)	72	145	74	107	125								
Total Released from Jail to FUSE	15	22	19	17	13								
Shelter Connection Rate													
Austin Street Center	3	4	3	8	4								
The Bridge	5	5	2	6	7								
Salvation Army	3	3	3	3	2								
Other Local Shelter, Boarding Homes, & Shelter Ref's	3	0	0	1	1								
No Response	0	0	0	0	0								
Left Before Entering Program/Did Not Connect	4	10	11	11	10								
Housed	0	0	0	0	0								
Housing Priority List, Info sent to Housing Forward, or Reunited w/Family	2	0	2	1	1								

*** Other Categories:** Released to Another Program or Agency, Boarding Home Placement, Referral Banned from Shelter, Client didn't qualify for FUSE, Immigration Hold, Released (i.e. Posted Bond), Referred by Shelters/Street Outreach, FUSE bond denied, Waiting on info, Sex Offender, Not in AIS, Waiting on Bond to Post, and Pending attorney response & etc.

