

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Letters of Commitment/Coordination/Support and/or Memoranda of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into by the following state agencies, consumers and family members, hereinafter referred to as "*The Mental Health Transformation Working Group*" (*MHTWG*), to guide and support the development and implementation of a Statewide Comprehensive Mental Health Plan to respond to the needs and preferences of consumers and families in Texas. The parties to this MOU are:

- Office of the Governor, State of Texas (OOG)
- Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS)
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC)
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS)
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
- Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC)
- Texas Youth Commission (TYC)
- Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (TDARS)
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)
- The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
- Texas Department of Aging and Disabilities (TDADS)
- Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- Department of Veteran Affairs/VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network
- Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)
- Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA)
- Texas Mental Health Consumers (TMHC)
- NAMI Texas, Family member
- Parent Representative
- Representative Suzanna Hupp, Texas House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
- Senator Jane Nelson, Texas Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

This MOU facilitates the development of a comprehensive strategy for transformation of the state's mental health system and is in support of a grant application to be submitted to the federal Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), as authorized under Section 520A of the federal Public Health Service Act, as amended.

The **MHTWG** recognizes that mental health, as a key component of public health, is a challenge that extends beyond the purview of any single state agency. Mental health issues affect

individuals' ability to learn, work, function, and interact productively within their families and in their specific communities. As such, a diverse set of needs exist across the state, and mental health transformation efforts must be broad, comprehensive, and driven by: the systems responsible for the design and administration of health and human services; systems that provide and purchase mental health services for their populations; and consumers who need access to the mental health service system. The state plays a critical role in building a solid foundation for delivering and sustaining effective mental health and related services designed to foster resilience and recovery, and address the unique needs of each community.

The **MHTWG** realizes that numerous agencies purchase behavioral health services and that more resources than necessary are being spent to achieve each agency's respective mandates due to the inadequacy of mental health services and its impact on the public health of all Texans. Through the combined efforts of state agencies that provide, deliver, fund, purchase or administer mental health services and supports for their populations, the result of the transformation should be to develop an extensive, coordinated, and competent system of services and supports that work to foster consumer and family independence and the ability to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities. From a consumer and family perspective, transformation activities should result in a single, effective, transparent and navigable system that will be sustained over time.

Through this memorandum, the **MHTWG** members agree to focus on six areas, as outlined in this MOU: guiding principles; interagency collaboration; data sharing and evaluation; best practices; workforce capacity and competency; and grant expectations.

ARTICLE 2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The work of the **MHTWG** promotes *systemic best practice principles* that support *improved outcomes for all Texans* with or at risk for mental health or related disorders. These principles include: family-centered practice: cultural competence; community-based services: early identification and screening: strengthening parent capacity to protect and provide for their children: access to and availability of appropriate services: competent and trained providers; consumer and family participation in planning: and individualizing services that respond to the unique needs of Texans.

A truly effective, widely accepted *transformed mental health system must be relevant to the entire population*, including all Texans across the life span with or at risk for mental health and co-occurring problems. A transformed system must include promotion and prevention activities as well as treatment and recovery activities.

The parties to this MOU understand that all provisions of this MOU *will not equally apply to all agencies* listed as parties to this MOU. Agencies will use the context of the MHTWG and the RFA to identify specific provisions of the MOU that are applicable.

ARTICLE 3. INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

Agencies shall work together to achieve *cross-system coordination* of mental health services and supports designed to address existing fragmentation; reduce or eliminate duplication of services; maximize resources; increase the availability of high-quality services; increase the flexibility of

resources used at the state and local levels; expand the array of services and supports; and other transformative activities designed to increase the effectiveness of the mental health system.

Agencies agree to *participate in collaborative planning activities* to develop initial and ongoing cross-agency needs and resource assessments, and develop, evaluate and oversee a comprehensive mental health plan.

ARTICLE 4. DATA SHARING AND EVALUATION

Agencies agree that the ability *to share relevant information across agencies* will better meet the needs and preferences of mental health consumers and their families. Alignment of data collection (within legal obligations), analysis, evaluation and reporting is essential to a seamless accountable service system.

Agencies agree that information technology development will enable cross agency data matching and sharing to the degree necessary to improve outcomes, increase coordination of care across agencies, minimize duplication, increase accountability and increase the effectiveness of the mental health system.

Agencies agree to *provide, consistent with applicable law, data* necessary to evaluate system performance, client outcomes, grant goals, and develop common data tools if necessary to meet the requirements for evaluation.

Agencies agree to adopt *outcome measures* for individuals accessing mental health services based on the National Outcome Measures (NOMS), domains as described in the MOU Appendix 1.

ARTICLE 5. BEST PRACTICES

Agencies agree to adopt a *shared set of performance measures* for treatment of individuals with mental, emotional or behavioral health disorders.

ARTICLE 6. WORKFORCE CAPACITY AND COMPETENCY

Agencies agree to adopt *shared standards of practice* for mental health providers, which include evidence-based practices, training and metrics for competency.

Agencies shall agree to *uniform standards of individualized, research-based treatment and intervention* strategies and services, and criteria for evaluation of mental health services they provide, fund or purchase.

Agencies shall agree to identify ways to *increase the number of culturally and linguistically competent*, trained and licensed or certified professional and paraprofessional practitioners.

ARTICLE 7. STAFF COMMITMENTS/GRANT EXPECTATIONS

Agencies agree to *facilitate meaningful consumer and family participation*.

Agencies agree to show a *commitment to cultural competence and to eliminating disparities*.

Agencies agree to *dedicate high-level executives to participate on the MHTWG*.

Agencies agree to *dedicate high level staff to on-going regular participation in the MHTWG* to carry out transformation activities related to the above, including: providing data related to the grant and MHTWG identified outcomes and identifying gaps in services and capacity at the state and local levels.

ARTICLE 8. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

This MOU shall be effective upon adoption by each signatory agency, organization and individual.

This MOU shall be reviewed at least every two years and revised as needed to further implementation of the Comprehensive State Mental Health Plan.

This MOU can be expanded, modified, or amended, as needed, at any time by the consent of all of the agencies, and with approval by SAMHSA, the funding entity.

Albert Hawkins 5/20/05
Date
Albert Hawkins
Executive Commissioner
Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Diane Rath 5/19/05
Date
Diane Rath
Commissioner
Texas Workforce Commission

Dr. Eduardo Sanchez MD 5/6/05
Date
Dr. Eduardo Sanchez
Commissioner
Texas Department of State Health Services

Shirely Neeley 5/19/05
Date
Shirely Neeley
Commissioner
Texas Education Agency

Jim Hine 5-6-05
Date
Jim Hine
Commissioner
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

Family Member 5/6/05
Date
Family Member
NAMI Texas

Terry Murphy 5/17/05
Date
Terry Murphy
Commissioner
Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Stephany Bryan 5/10/05
Date
Stephany Bryan
Parent Representative
Valarie Garza

Carey D. Cockerell 5/6/05
Date
Carey Cockerell
Commissioner
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Mike Halligan 5.6.05
Date
Mike Halligan
Executive Director
Texas Mental Health Consumers

Vicki Spriggs 5/6/05
Date
Vicki Spriggs
Executive Director
Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

Dwight Harris 5.18.05
Date
Dwight Harris
Executive Director
Texas Youth Commission

Brad Livingston 5/11/05
Date
Brad Livingston
Executive Director
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Thomas J. Stranova 05/13/05
Date
Thomas J. Stranova
VISA 17 Director
Veterans Health Administration

Edwina Carrington 5/18/05
Date
Edwina Carrington
Executive Director
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Rick Perry 05/24/05
Date
Rick Perry
Governor, State of Texas

Charles Stone 5/16/05
Date
Charles Stone
Executive Director
Office of Rural Community Affairs

Suzanna Hupp 5/12/05
Date
Suzanna Hupp
House Representative

James E. Nier 5/16/05
Date
James E. Nier
Executive Director
Texas Veterans Commission

Jane Nelson 5/18/05
Date
Jane Nelson
Senator