

Service Components

- **Jail-Based Team**
 - Eligibility and Screening Assessment and Engagement
 - Substance Use Disorder and Cognitive Behavioral Intervention Therapies
- **Community/Clinic-Based Team**
 - Eligibility and Screening Assessment and Engagement
 - Intensive Case Management
 - Substance Use Disorder and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
 - Peer Support
 - Psychiatric Support
- **Critical Time Intervention (CTI) Team**
 - Intensive Case Management
 - Substance Use Disorder and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
 - Peer Support
 - Psychiatric Support
- **Permanent Supportive Housing Housing First**
 - Integrated Primary and Behavioral healthcare
 - Clinical case management
 - Substance Use Disorder and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
 - “Peer Support” through community health workers



For more information
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Harris County Mental Health Jail Diversion Program



Recognition

Respect

Recovery

Harris County Mental Health Jail Diversion Program

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1185 and provided Harris County with funding for the Mental Health Jail Diversion Program.

The program addresses a large complex problem that exists in every metropolitan area in America, the rise in the number of people with mental illness in jail. This has become a major issue for Texas counties and cities from both a clinical and an economic standpoint. The majority of these individuals have not received the clinical and social services that are needed—services which would have very likely resulted in reducing involvement in the criminal justice system.

Criminal justice system (CJS) involvement includes arrest, booking, processing, court proceeding and incarceration. Collectively, this is the most expensive and least effective way to address the problems.

Additionally, the CJS costs are often increased by repeated arrests. Proper mental health services are much less costly and more successful. Currently, Texas does not have a service model to effectively treat people with mental illness who frequently cycle through jail.

Primary Goals

- Reduce the frequency of arrests and incarcerations
- Reduce the number of days spent in jail
- Increase access to housing, behavioral health and social services
- Reduce criminogenic risk
- Improve quality of life

Services and Supports

The Harris County Mental Health Jail Diversion program is a continuum of services and supports, creating a caring community of professionals, paraprofessionals and volunteers who will provide:

- Behavioral health
- Primary healthcare
- Housing
- Rehabilitation
- Case management services
- Peer support

Case managers connect participants to:

- Transportation
- Employment and Training
- Education
- Other needed services

Eligibility Criteria

- Mental illness (major depression/schizophrenia/ bipolar disorder/ Posttraumatic Stress Disorder [PTSD]), with or without substance use disorder
- Current treatment in Harris County Sheriff's Office (HC SO) Mental Health Unit
- History of recurring psychotropic medication in the HC SO
- Priority consideration given to ages 18-35
- Must have three or more bookings within the past two years

Exclusions

- Inability/unwillingness to consent to participation
- Cognitive impairment, i.e. incapacity
- History of specific offenses:
 - Homicide
 - Current sex offense
 - Registered sex offender
 - Current felony DWI
 - Arson
 - Manufacturing/ Delivery of Methamphetamine