

## 85<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE PRIORITY

# Expanding Access to Care Across the Continuum

The Texas Coalition for Healthy Minds includes organizations with a primary or otherwise important focus on mental health and/or substance use disorders.

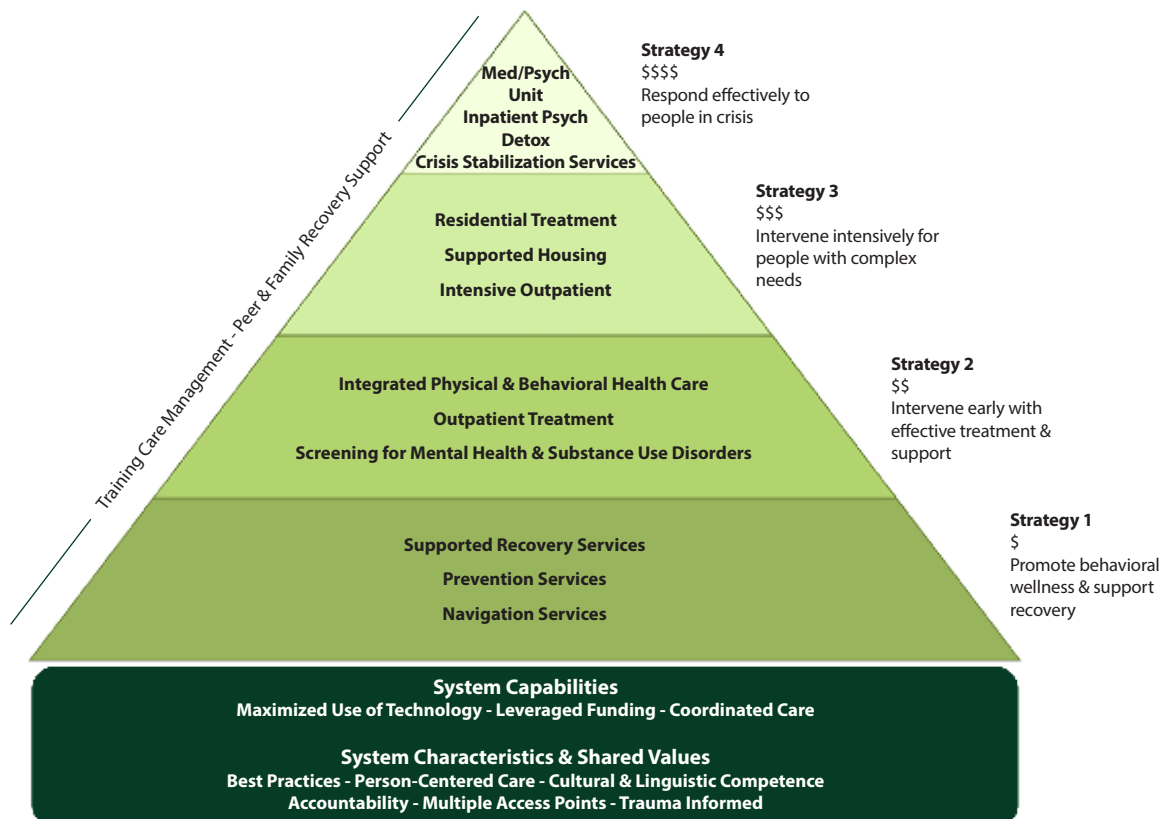
The Coalition endorses the **Person-Centered Recovery Model** of treatment and support in training licensed and certified providers.

Recovery-oriented and person-centered care incorporates a philosophy of care that makes individuals responsible for their own recovery with the needed support of healthcare providers, peers, family, and friends.

### By expanding the continuum of care, Texas will:

- Achieve better outcomes for citizens and communities
- Efficiently leverage limited resources and previous investments
- Further a recovery-oriented system of care

A continuum of care – that promotes prevention and recovery strategies - is critical to ensuring that persons with behavioral health concerns have ready access to the type and amount of services they need, delivered at the right place and time. At every place on the continuum, services should be evidence-based, person-centered, reflective of culturally and trauma informed practices, and delivered by a well-trained workforce.



## Texas Coalition for Healthy Minds Member Organizations

American Foundation for  
Suicide Prevention  
Association of Substance Abuse Programs  
Austin Clubhouse  
Behavioral Health Advocates of Texas  
Center for Public Policy Priorities  
Clarity Child Guidance Center  
Communities for Recovery  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Easter Seals Central Texas  
Federation of Texas Psychiatry  
Mental Health America of Texas  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South  
Texas, Inc.  
National Alliance on Mental Illness Austin  
National Alliance on Mental Illness Dallas  
National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas  
National Association of Social Workers,  
Texas Chapter  
Texans Care for Children  
Texas Association of Marriage  
and Family Therapy  
Texas Catalyst for Empowerment  
Texas Council of Community Centers  
Texas Counseling Association  
Texas Family Voice Network  
Texas Hospital Association  
Texas Impact  
Texas Medical Association  
Texas Nurses Association  
Texas Pediatric Society  
Texas Psychological Association  
Texas Suicide Prevention Council  
Upbring

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## Recommendations

1. Strengthen an array of prevention and early intervention services known to positively affect the behavioral health outcomes of children and youth, including:
  - Screenings and treatment for maternal depression
  - Mental Health First Aid, suicide prevention and other effective training programs
  - Home visitation programs
  - Routine developmental screenings
  - Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)
  - Safe and supportive school climates and school-based mental health services
  - Community and school-based substance use disorder primary prevention programs.
2. Programs to address dropout rates, delinquency, substance use disorder, and suicide.
3. Promote coordination and integration by offering specific guidance to mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers for electronically sharing health information through health information exchanges (HIEs).
4. Improve access to services by removing reimbursement restrictions that prevent providers from delivering certain services for an individual on the same day.
5. Innovative and collaborative programs must be reimbursable and in alignment with value-based payment models.
6. Reduce the number of persons with behavioral health concerns in the juvenile and criminal justice systems and decrease the demand for State Hospital inpatient care by continuing investments in community-based services, including:
  - Outpatient treatment capacity for adults and children
  - Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver Program
  - Private psychiatric inpatient hospital capacity
  - Community Resource Coordination Groups (CRCGs)
  - Crisis alternatives to inpatient care
  - Jail diversion initiatives
  - Substance abuse treatment
  - Expanding the availability of permanent supportive housing.