

# Texas County Mental Health Law Plan:

## What's Working in Texas?

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# The Problems That Need to Be Solved:

Complicated laws that  
require coordination

A Lack of Coordination  
and Knowledge that  
leads to the system  
itself serving as a  
barrier to appropriate  
treatment and diversion.

Greater numbers of  
people deteriorating in  
jail when diversion was  
possible.

Frustration and blame  
between stakeholders.

Public Health	0 Community Services	1 Law Enforcement	2 Initial Detention / Court Hearings	3 Courts	4 Re-entry	5 Community Corrections
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**Cross-system Collaboration**

- Quarterly Systems Meetings
- Weekly or Bi-weekly case management meetings

**Community Paramedicine**  
EMS, EMT

**Advanced Directives**

**Peer Supports and Specialists**

**Local Collaboratives**

- Suicide Prevention
- Behavioral Health
- Veterans

**Crisis Intervention**

- Crisis Lines 988
- Crisis Intervention Teams
- Mobile Crisis Response Teams
- Utilization of [CCP 16.23](#)
- MH Co-responder Programs

**LMHA / LIDDA / LBHA / HHSC**  
Health & Safety Code [533.0354](#)

**Voluntary Mental Health Treatment**  
Health and Safety Code [ch. 572](#)

**AOT – Assisted Outpatient Treatment**  
H&S code [574.037](#)

**Emergency Detentions**

**Emergency Det. with a Warrant**  
Health & Safety Code [573.012](#)

**Psychoactive Meds (civil COMs)**  
Health & Safety § [574.106](#) (MH)  
[592.156](#) (IDD)

**911 Dispatch with MH connections**

**Positive Interaction Programs**  
Police

**Investigation**  
Police / DA

**Pre-arrest Diversion Programs or Policies**  
Police CCP art. [14.035](#) (IDD)

**APOWW**  
Health & Safety Code [573.001](#)

**Arrest**  
Police / Jail  
Utilization of [CCP 16.23](#)

**Pre-booking Diversion Programs or Policies**  
Jail

**Booking at Jail**  
Screening Forms [37 Tex. Admin Code § 273.5](#); TLETS CCQ

**Magistration**  
[CCP 15.17](#) Hearing  
Jail / Magistrate

**Early Identification Process**, CCP art. [16.22](#), Jail, Magistrate, LMHA

**Mental Health Bonds**  
[CCP 17.032](#) Hearing  
Magistrate/Judge

**Jail**

- Access to 24/7 telepsychiatry
- Mandatory Rx med Review
- Providing Rx meds.

Gov't Code § [511.009\(a\)\(19\) & \(d\)](#)

**LMHA / LBHA / LIDDA**

- CCQ – if alert does it notify LMHA?
- Visit by Jail Liaison to LMHA
- Connected to Psych services?
- Contracted Jail Based treatment services?

Health & Safety Code [533.0354](#)

**Risk Assessments utilized**  
Pre-trial / Probation

**Transfer D** (in appropriate cases) to *alternative court* for **court-ordered outpatient** MH services with or without dismissal - Ch. 574 of Tex. Health and Safety Code [CCP 16.22](#) (c)(5)

**Defense Attorney Appointed** [CCP 15.17](#)

**Pre-trial Services / Bond Monitoring**

**Pre-Prosecution Diversion / Pre-Trial Intervention**  
Prosecutor's office

**16.22 assessment considered**  
for bail, bond conditions, appointment of counsel, treatment, punishment, probation conditions

**Consideration of Outpatient / Inpatient treatment or services**

**Competency** [CCP 46B](#)

- Evaluation & hearing
- Consider OCR or JBCR [CCP 46B.071](#)
- State Hospital Inpatient Competency Restoration Services

**Specialty Courts / Specialty Dockets** [Tex. Gov't Code 125.005](#)

**Court Ordered Medication** (for Competency) [CCP 46B.086](#)  
If under 46B, re-evaluate for competency after stabilization on medications

**Insanity** [CCP 46C](#)

**LMHA / TCOOMMI Services**

**Prison Re-entry Services** ← **VIOLATION**

**Jail Re-entry Services** ← **VIOLATION**

**TCOOMMI**

**Peer Supports and Specialists**

**Pre-release Benefits Enrollment**  
[Human Res. Code § 33.0181](#)

**RX Continuity**

**Transition and Re-entry Plans**

**Parole**

- Connection with Services

**Probation**

- Connection with Services
- Specifically tailored probation conditions
- Conditions entered in *TCIC per CCP art. 17.50*

Why are you a public  
servant?

## Input

### Resources:

- Subject Matter Expertise
- Technical Assistance
- Legal Education
- Checklists
- Bench Books
- Guides and Tools

## Activities

Pilot Program to determine if Mental Health Law Plans are beneficial.

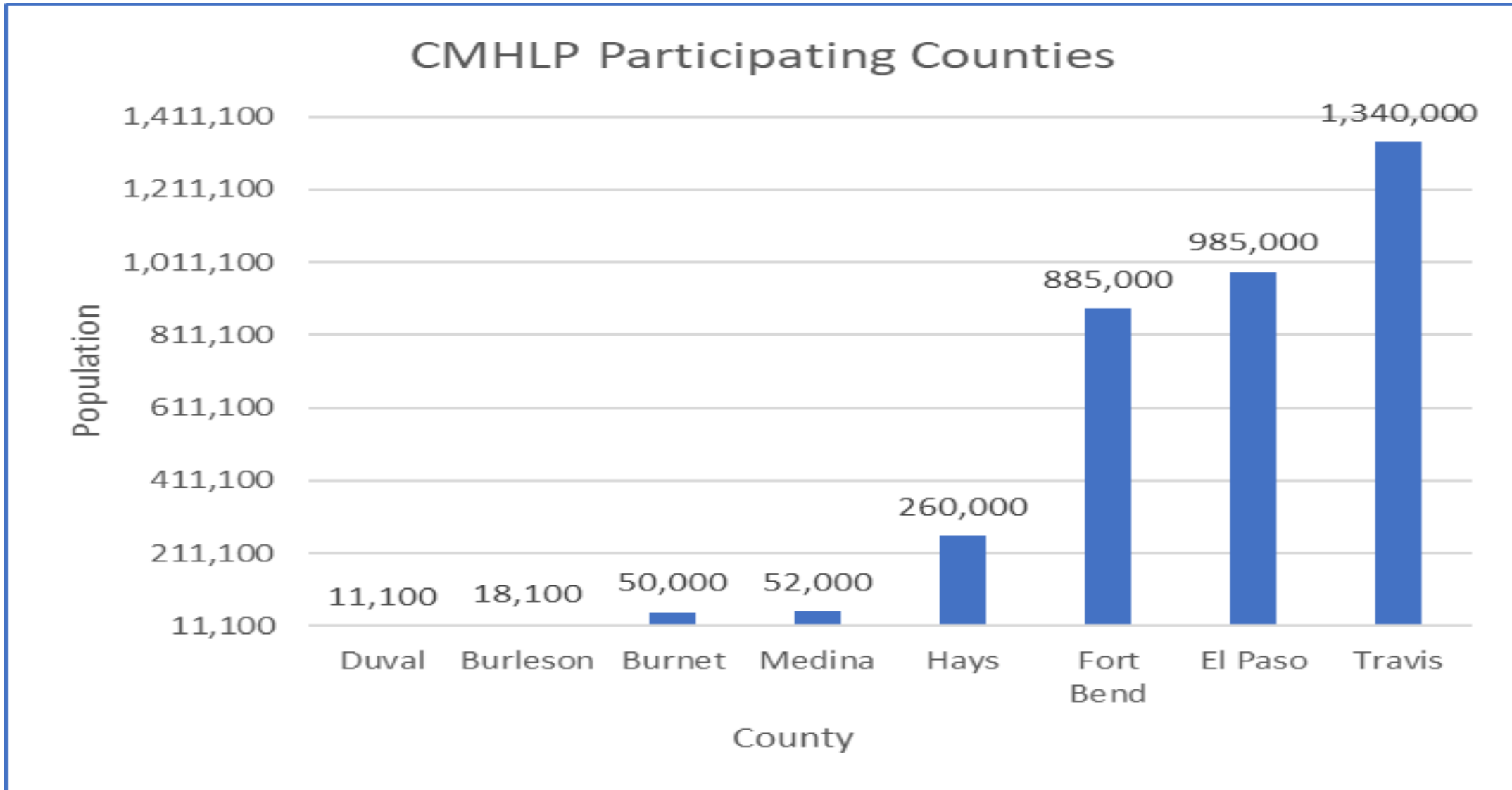
## Outputs

Mental Health Law Plans encourage collaboration, efficiency, cost-savings, and accountability to county mental health law systems.

## Outcomes

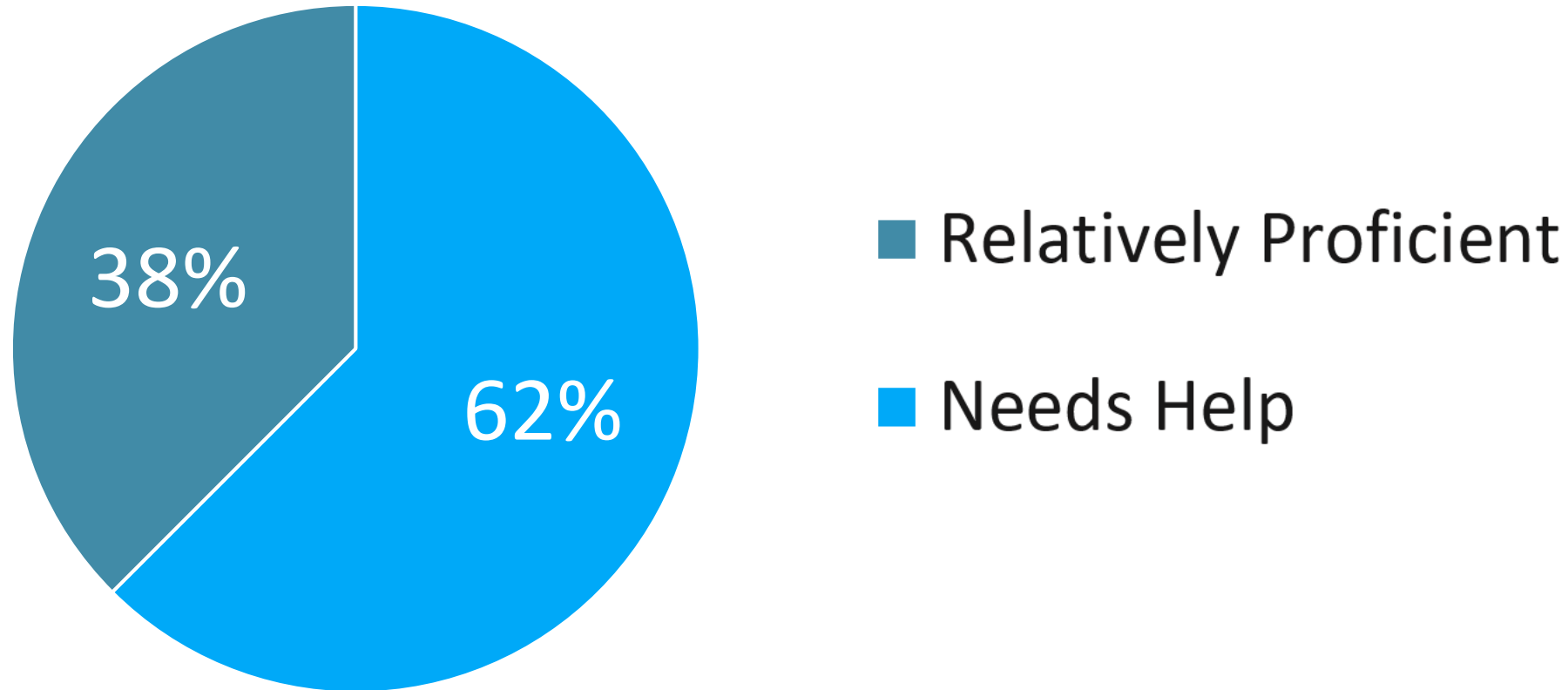
Mental Health Law Plans will lead to fewer people with MI or IDD in the criminal justice system and on the competency restoration waitlist when diversion is possible and appropriate.

# Populations of Participating Counties



# **How did the Counties Assess their Proficiency in Mental Health Law?**

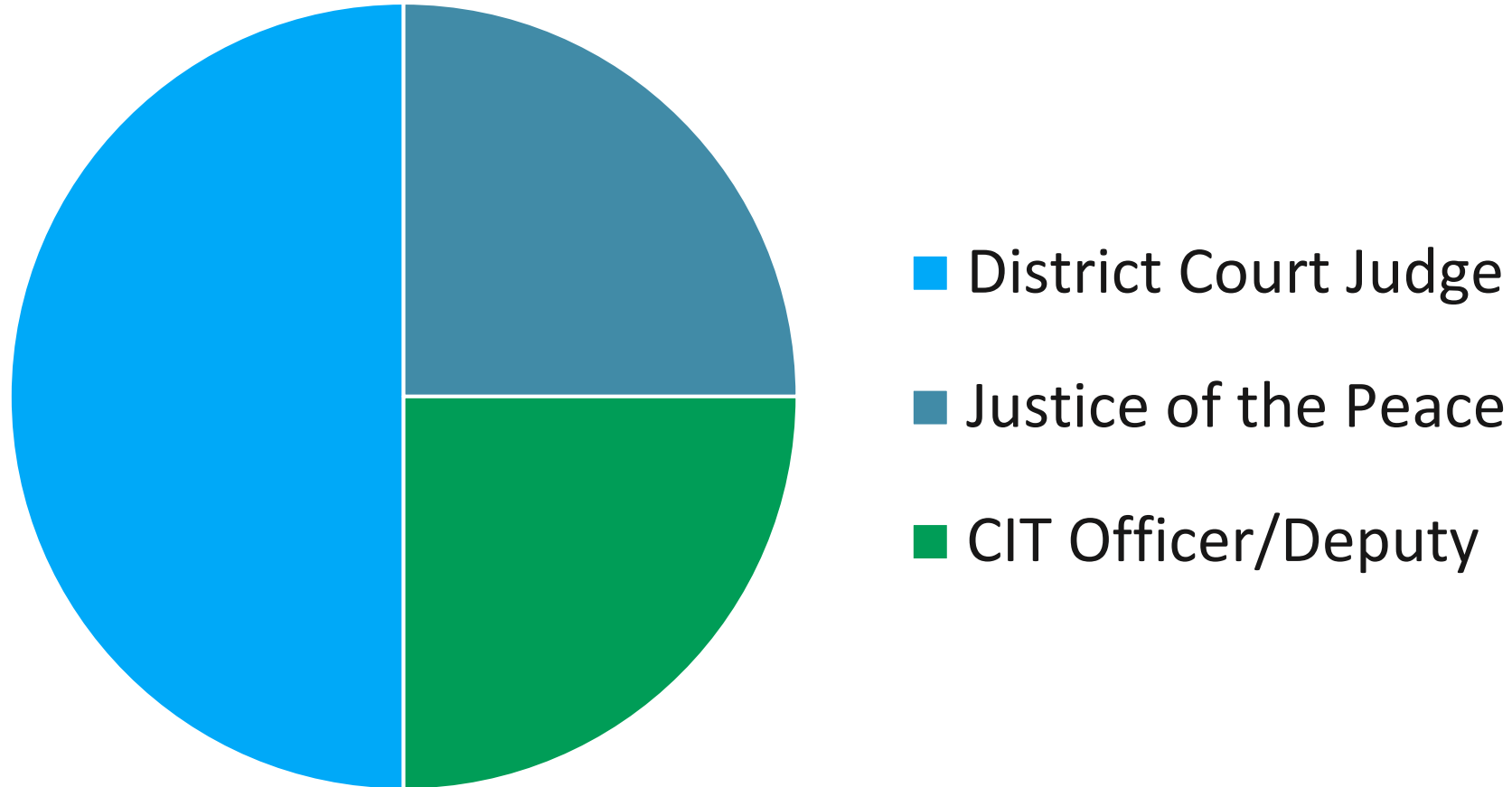
# County MH Law Proficiency Self-Assessment





**Who was the  
County's Champion  
for the MH Law Plan?**

# County Champions by Profession



# Reasons for Applying for the Pilot Program

**To examine our current processes, work to improve them, expand services, and develop a Mental Health Court.**



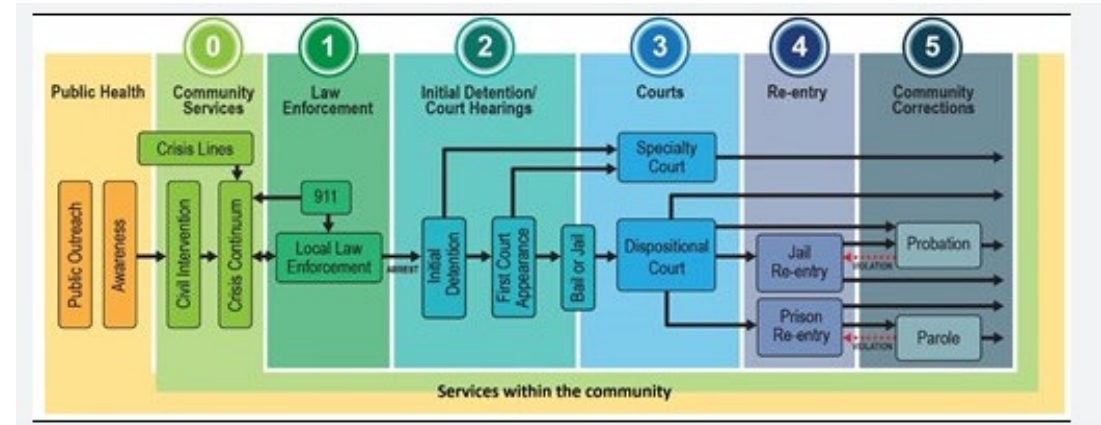
# Prevent Suicide and Improve Crisis Intervention



- Suicides have increased, and there is opportunity for change.
- We want to train law enforcement officers in crisis intervention to improve and streamline processes since the current the process because currently it can take 12 hours and leave areas of the county without law enforcement officers.

# To Continue the Work of SIM Mapping

- We want to expand on the work of the SIM Mapping. Not all facets of a functional mental health system were incorporated into the current system, and there is not a complete understanding of mental health laws.
- We hope to see more diversion efforts, streamlined processes, a decrease in local emergency hospitalizations, a decrease in incarceration & detentions, and overall cost savings to the community.



# To Coordinate Across Fields to Use their Mental Health Court to its Fullest Extent



- The county would benefit from training on diversion practices and using our mental health court.
- Information on obtaining grants to help fund programs.

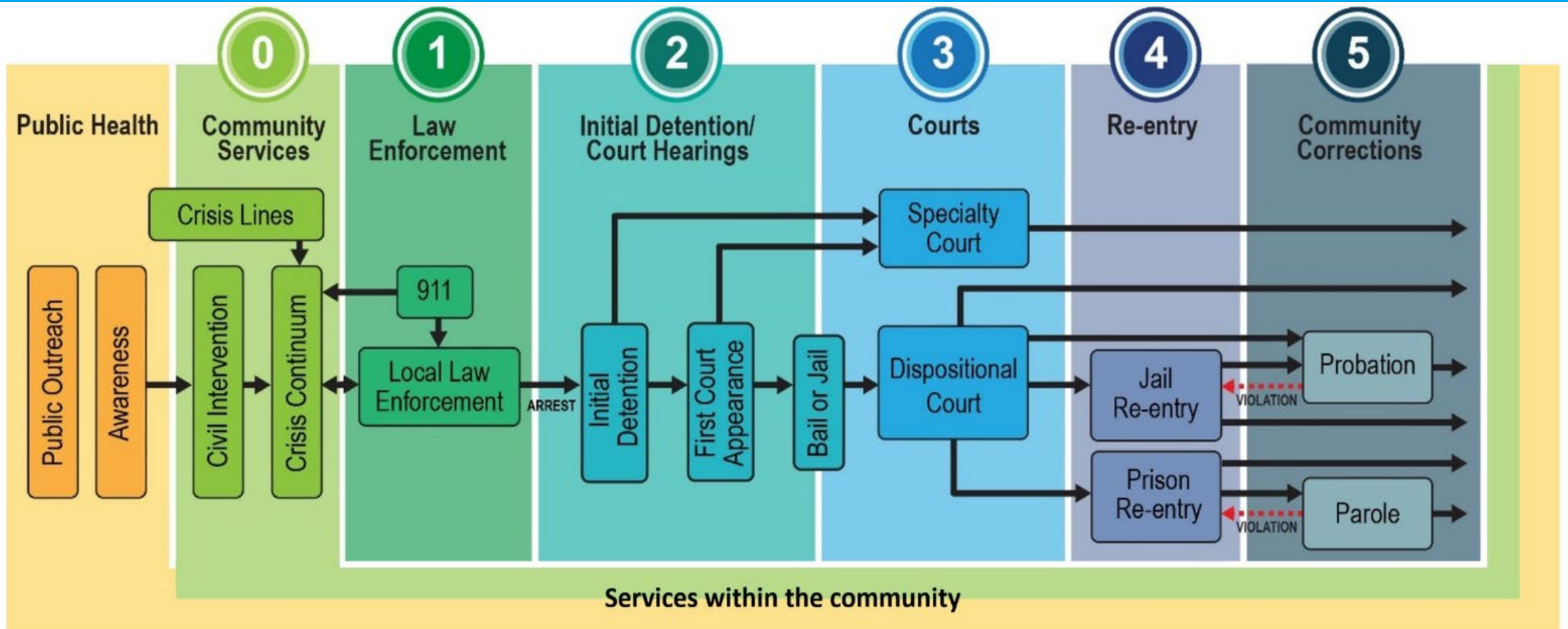
# To Help us Continue on the Right Path

And Share What We've Learned  
Across the State





# Sequential Intercept Model



# Common Themes in Most Counties

# Top Ten Lessons Learned from the JCMH Texas County Mental Health Law Plan



**Find Judicial Leaders and Champions:** Judicial leadership is key. Find your people--passionate leaders and changemakers who care about people with mental illness, SUD, or IDD.

**Collaborate:** Inter-disciplinary work groups are necessary to solve complex problems.

**Know your Resources:** Study your SIM Mapping Report, lists of resources, JCMH Innovations Map.

**Look for Gaps and Opportunities to Implement the Mental Health Laws:** Complete the JCMH County Mental Health Law Plan Checklist for Self-Analysis

**Determine who is Accountable:** For each Intercept determine who is leading, implementing, and tracking.

# Top Ten Lessons Learned from the JCMH Texas County Mental Health Law Plan



**Track Data:** Quantitative & Qualitative; Storytelling is powerful.

**Seek Funding:** Apply for grants, seek out philanthropists, start a nonprofit or a hold a fundraiser to support your work.

**Show County Leaders the Savings:** To dream big and build a diversion center or other resources.

**Celebrate your successes:** Announce wins on social media, JCMH Innovations Map, or the JCMH Podcast; make the champions local heroes.

**Expect More:** Raise the bar on the profession, expect our elected officials to care about mental health.

# What's Working Well in Texas Pilot Counties?

# Burnet

- **Judicial Leadership**
- **Collaboration**
- **Rural Cross Disciplinary Regular meetings**
- **Mental Health Bonds**
- **Regional Public Defender**
- **Statutory improvement**
- **Celebrating successes**





# Burleson

- Know your Resources
- Build Relationships
- Agreements not to go ER
- Jail clinician embedded by Sheriff's Office
- Show Savings to County Leaders
- Burleson County has Mental Health Deputies who reach out to high-utilizers to maintain connections with treatment and services before other law enforcement interactions.



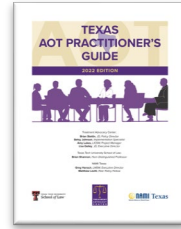
# Duval



- **Judicial Leadership**
- **Early Identification**
- **Engaging Community**
- **Mental Health Officer**
- **Education**



# El Paso

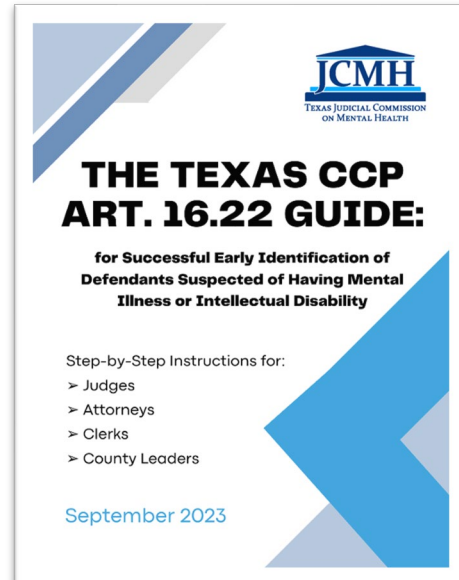


- **Judicial Leader as Champion**
- **Accountability**
- **Track Data**
- **Civil Commitment**
- **AOT**
- **Texas Tech Co-Training Model**
- **OCR**
- **JBCR coming online**
- **Specialty Courts Committee**



# Fort Bend

- ▶ Early Identification/16.22
- ▶ Data Collection
- ▶ Nonprofit to support Specialty Courts
- ▶ JBCR



# Hays

- **Judicial Leader**
- **Seek funding**
- **Specialty Courts: treatment court, veterans court, mental health misdemeanor and felony courts**
- **Innovative Set up for AOT**
- **Celebrating successes**





# Medina



- **Judicial Leaders**
- **Jail Staff**
- **Public defender**
- **Medina County Pre-Trial Services are innovative and trauma-informed**

# Travis

- **Judicial Leadership**
- **Early Identification**
- **Expect more**
- **Competency Restoration Practices**
- **Court-ordered medication**
- **Transformation Project for 15 and 16 years olds involved in family violence**
- **JBCR**



# Thank you and remember these excellent resources!

