



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services, Child, Adolescent and Family Branch Report of the Federal Site Visit to the Texas State System of Care (TxSOC)

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Site Visit Team:

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The observations and recommendations detailed in this report resulted from a series of focused discussions conducted by the site visit team with the Texas State System of Care (TxSOC) key staff, families, youth, community partners and stakeholders. These groups shared information regarding the progress made since the initiative was funded in July 2013. Recommendations were formed after a series of meetings that took place over the course of three days, including on-site meetings to a community expansion site. Each meeting had a specific focus that corresponded to the seven categories in the site visit protocol.

HIGHLIGHTS – STRENGTHS NOTED IN REVIEW

- Graduated federally-funded System of Care sites are actively involved in the decision-making and mentoring of new sites throughout Texas.
- Texas SOC has developed a comprehensive strategic plan with input from stakeholders, families, youth, and community leaders that drives their system of care efforts across the state. The plan is logical and actionable.
- Use of technology to share information, trainings, and technical assistance across the state is remarkable.
- The outreach that TxSOC has made to engage all 254 Texas counties in system of care in such a short amount of time is remarkable. Local communities, such as Tropical Texas Behavioral Health, are a testament to the tremendous work that is being done on the ground to bolster access and awareness of mental health services and supports.
- Training is consistent and evolves with community needs and all trainings are inclusive and welcoming of new members.
- There are strong local system of care efforts, as seen at Tropical Texas Behavioral Health. All services and supports are grounded and based on cultural and linguistic competency.

- Social marketing efforts and activities have been extensive.
- Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day events and efforts are present, both at the state level and locally.
- TxSOC has engaged a broad group of stakeholders that reflects the great diversity of Texas.
- Sustainability efforts are a constant focus. Leadership and staff are committed to expanding services and supports across the state and continue to do so by evolving efforts, particularly around training and funding streams.
- There is strong knowledge of existing evidence based programs and how to adapt them to communities.
- The leadership and staff of TxSOC are using evaluation data to track program outcomes, identify gaps in services and needs for improvement, as well as effectiveness and successes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use existing and new data to educate and infuse system of care principles and values through the state and with key stakeholders, including through social marketing efforts.
- Disseminate data to all key stakeholders, including the youth and family groups.
- Partner with local independent school districts and juvenile justice to coordinate efforts and expand system of care services and supports.
- Ensure that youth and family voices are encouraged and supported throughout all aspects of the system of care, including collaboration with local community efforts. Increase youth involvement on the social marketing and public education working group.
- Continue and expand efforts related to financing through block grants.
- Collaborate with the State Medicaid Office and analyze utilization data for managed care.
- Create a cultural and linguistic competency working group to address growing issues around population of focus. Coordinate with local communities that have existing and strong cultural and linguistic competency efforts.
- Coordinate with the Office of Minority Health around efforts to reduce uninsured individuals.

The operation of the Texas System of Care Initiative is a partnership of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission & the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas at Austin.

