

A Brief History of Children's Mental Health Issues in Texas



Debbie Berndt – Children's Mental Health Forum

June 10, 2008

Does this sound familiar?

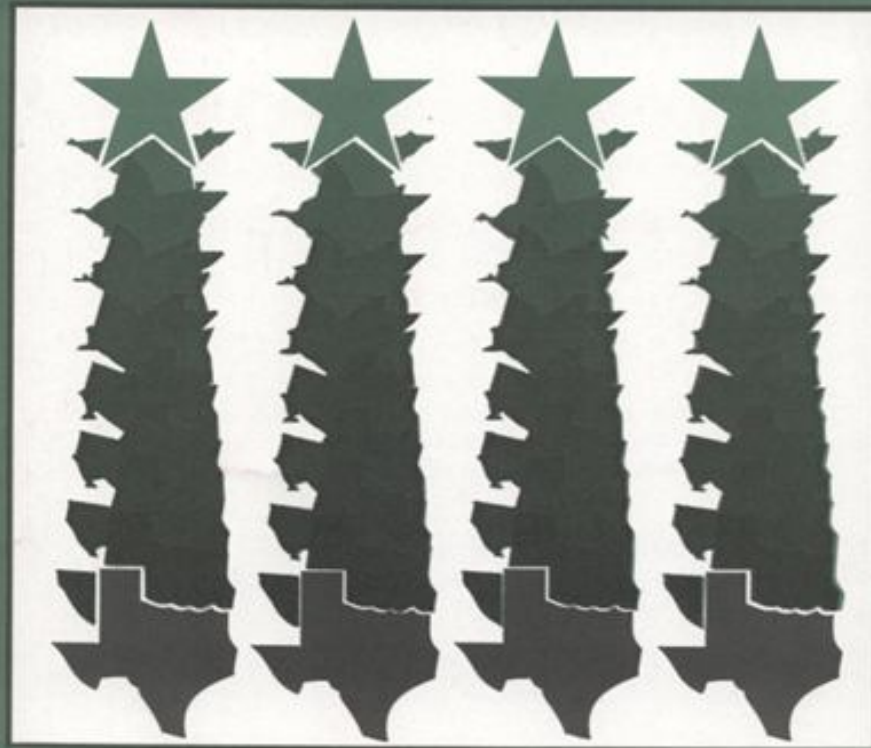
- The lack of a state philosophy and plan concerning children restricts agencies' ability to plan cooperatively and coordinate programs and dollars.
- Resources are scarce, especially in rural areas, and children must deteriorate to the point of being at serious risk of harm to themselves or others, or get in trouble with the law, to get help.
- Children with serious emotional disturbance are being under-identified and underserved in the public schools
- There is an inadequate mental health emergency response system.
- There is a serious shortage of child psychiatrists.

DO KIDS COUNT?

**How Texas Serves Children
and Adolescents with Severe
Emotional Disturbance**

**A Report of
the Mental Health Association in Texas**

1989



**EDUCATION AND MENTAL HEALTH:
PROFITABLE CONJUNCTION
VOLUME I**

**REPORT OF THE JOINT TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY/
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND
MENTAL RETARDATION TASK FORCE ON
EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE**

**TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

JANUARY 1991

- 1991: Texas Legislature appropriated \$21 million for the Texas Children's Mental Health Plan



Wraparound Services and
Residential Options:
Phase II of the
Texas Children's Mental Health Plan

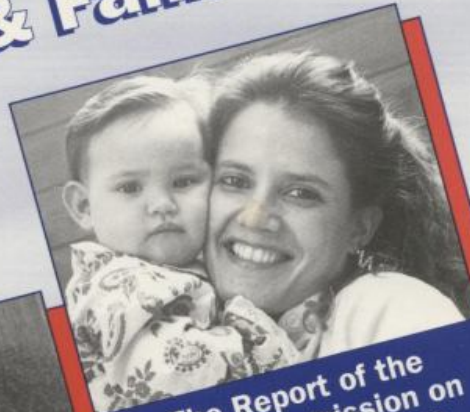


A Report of the Residential Treatment Planning Committee

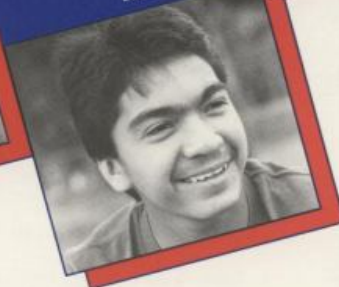


Safeguarding Our Future

Children & Families First



The Report of the
Texas Commission on
Children and Youth
December 1994



Executive Summary

- 1996: Robert Wood Johnson grant to pilot systems of care
- 1999: 76th Texas Legislature established the state systems of care project, the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative
- 2002: 77th Texas Legislature
 - Required study of mechanisms to finance mental health services for youth in the juvenile justice system
 - Provided funds to TJPC and TCOMI for a Special Needs Diversionary Program for juvenile offenders with mental health needs



**FINANCING MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES FOR JUVENILE
OFFENDERS WITH MENTAL
ILLNESS**



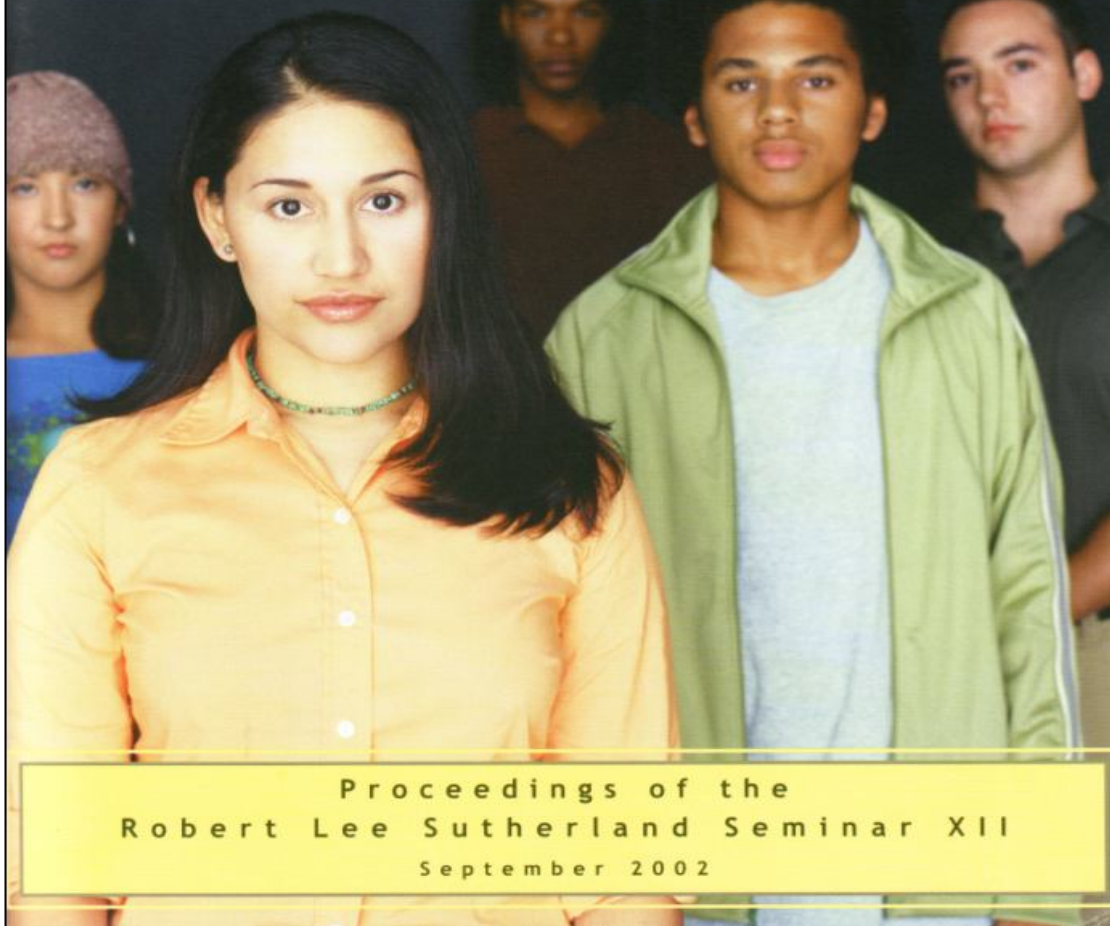
*as required by
Article 1, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Rider 63*

December 1, 2002

HOGG FOUNDATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Juvenile Justice and Mental Health

Appropriate Assistance • Breaking Barriers • Collaborating Communities



Proceedings of the
Robert Lee Sutherland Seminar XII
September 2002

Mental Health and Juvenile Justice in Texas

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
February 2003



Back to School

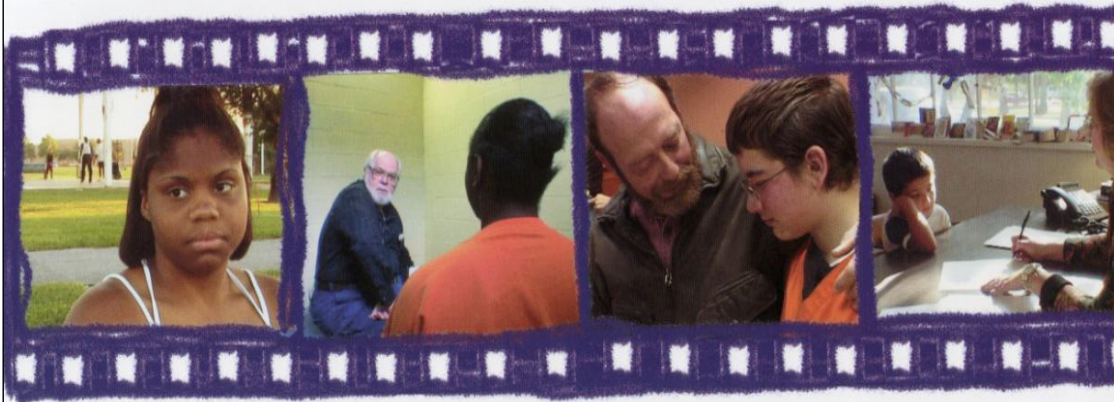
Advancing School-Based
MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN TEXAS



A collaborative effort of:
Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
Texas Education Agency
Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
Mental Health Association in Texas

2003: 78th Legislature, HB 2292:

- Reorganized state health and human services agencies, which resulted in the elimination of children's mental health division of state mental health agency.
 - Required HHSC to evaluate systems of care.
 - Required TEA to assess school-based mental health and substance abuse programs and provide recommendations to local communities.
-



Are The Kids Alright?

STORIES ABOUT CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH IN TEXAS

A DOCUMENTARY BY KAREN BERNSTEIN AND ELLEN SPIRO

Supported by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, HoustonPBS, the Houston Endowment, and the Meadows Foundation

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN TEXAS

A Guide to Policy Issues and State Services



Report to the Governor and 79th Legislature

**Systems of Care for Children With Severe
Emotional Disturbances And Their Families**

Submitted by the
State Texas Integrated Funding Initiative
Consortium

In cooperation with the

Texas Health And Human Services Commission

House Bill 2292, Section 2.166
78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003

January 2005

**ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS**

Texas Education Agency
Division of Interagency Coordination
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494
512- 463-9283
www.tea.state.tx.us



- **2005:** 79th Legislature changed health care delivery, including mental health care, for children in foster care

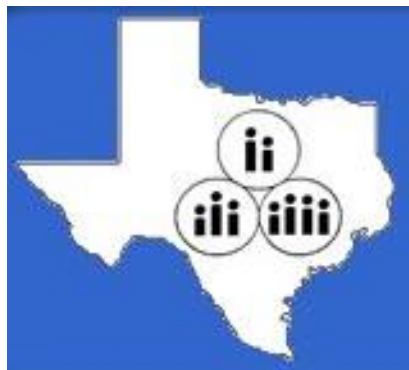
**Children's Mental Health in Texas:
A State of the State Report**



**Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT)
May, 2006**

**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
POLICY ISSUES**

2006 - 2007



2007: 80th Texas Legislature failed to pass legislation to establish Children's Behavioral Health Council



What common themes were identified?

- There is inadequate access to treatment.
- The lack of access has unintended consequences for services that serve children and youth-schools, juvenile justice, child welfare
- Service delivery and resource use planning is uncoordinated at the state and local levels.
- Evidence-based intensive community treatment and support services are lacking.

What common themes were identified?

- Family and youth involvement is critical.
- Services must be culturally competent.
- There is insufficient attention to effective prevention and early intervention.
- There are not enough qualified mental health professionals.

What recommendations were made to address these concerns?

- Increase funding through the public mental health system.
- Maximize the availability and use of Medicaid and CHIP.
- Increase funding for services where children and youth are located –e.g., schools, juvenile justice settings.
- Increase the supply of specific intensive treatment models.
- Amend the state Medicaid plan to provide Home and Community Based Services to children at risk of parental relinquishment due to mental illness.

What recommendations were made to address these concerns?

- Expand the system of care approach in communities statewide.
- Increase meaningful family and youth involvement in policy development, service planning and delivery and peer support services.
- Invest in prevention and early intervention, including suicide prevention.
- Address the inadequate supply of mental health professionals.

After 20 years, what gains have been made? In Forum meetings, we'll hear about:

- Status of health care delivery through the public mental system, Medicaid/CHIP and foster care
- Potential impact of legislative changes to the juvenile justice system for youth with mental health disorders
- Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waiver for children with serious emotional disturbances
- Upcoming relevant legislative priorities, including agency appropriations requests

After 20 years, what gains have been made? In Forum meetings, we'll hear about:

- Agency efforts to partner with families
- Status of education-related issues, including school-based mental health services
- Cultural and linguistic competence
- State efforts in prevention and early intervention, including efforts to enhance the social/emotional functioning of young children.

After 20 years, what gains have been made? In Forum meetings, we'll hear about:

- Drug and alcohol demand reduction strategies
- New service delivery approaches, such as treating mental health in primary care settings and other natural entry points.
- Your ideas!