

UPDATE TO PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM

April 3, 2024



Downtown Austin
Community Court

ROBERT KINGHAM COURT ADMINISTRATOR

CITY OF AUSTIN

DIVERSION PILOT PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

- On April 2, 2023, Council passed Resolution (20230413-048) directing:
 - Exploration of feasibility of an interlocal agreement for development of Diversion Center
 - Identify financial resources to develop a pilot for mental health diversion services and a bridge housing program
- During the FY24 City Budget adoption process, \$2M of one-time funding was appropriated for the Pilot
- DACC convened City partners, including: Austin Police Department, Austin Public Health, Austin Municipal Court, Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services, and Homeless Strategy Office to understand all City impacts and incorporate their input in the process

CITY OF AUSTIN

DIVERSION PILOT PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

- On February 15, 2024, City Council authorized negotiation of interlocal agreement with IC for up to \$2M for Diversion Pilot Services
 - City contributions to this partnership also include continuation of use of the City owned-property where the Therapeutic Diversion Program will be located
- At the end of March, City put forward an oversight structure for all partners to consider related to our mental health diversion efforts
- DACC will bring item for City Council consideration to authorize execution of agreement for Diversion Pilot services once there is a preliminary consensus from partners on terms for oversight structure

Diversion Background
& Travis County
Diversion Efforts

JUDGE BROWN AND COMMISSIONER HOWARD

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Travis County Focus & Goals for the Pilot

Overview of Mental Health Diversion:
Crisis Care Diversion Pilot Program at
Integral Care

Travis County Investment in Pilot

Central Health Investment in Pilot and
related efforts

TRAVIS COUNTY DIVERSION EFFORTS

- Travis County is dedicated to developing a comprehensive diversion ecosystem for the community, building on existing resources and partnerships
- Integral Care is launching a diversion pilot program, developed through community and stakeholder collaboration, with funding from Travis County, City of Austin, and Central Health to begin addressing some of the community's diversion needs as identified in the Travis County Forensic Mental Health Project Report
- Travis County is exploring increasing the community's capacity to serve individuals on an involuntary commitment
- Travis County is planning for a new mental health diversion center and booking facility

TRAVIS COUNTY FOCUS & GOALS FOR THE PILOT

- To leverage and realign community resources to immediately start addressing needs associated with diversion and defection
- To further develop the services, partnerships, referral pathways, and data infrastructure needed to deliver effective results at scale
 - Pathways to include deflection (drop-offs by law enforcement and first responders) and diversion (pre/post-booking and jail in-reach)
- To leverage learnings from the Forensic Mental Health Report and the pilot to build out the community's diversion ecosystem
- To improve public safety and the outcomes for individuals who intersect with the mental health and criminal legal systems
- To increase access to mental health services, thereby decreasing the number of individuals who are arrested and/or incarcerated due to unmet mental health needs

Mental Health Diversion: Crisis Care Diversion Pilot Program at Integral Care

Dawn R. Handley, M.Ed., LPC – Chief Operations Officer

Marisa A. Malik, LPC – Director of Crisis Services and Justice Initiatives



Integral Care's *System of Care*



Pilot Program Overview

The purpose of the Crisis Care Diversion Pilot Program is to initiate a collaborative diversion program by leveraging existing programs and facilities to expand community resources to immediately address the unmet community needs.

Two Components:

- 1) Expand Integral Care's Psychiatric Emergency Services
- 2) Establish a Therapeutic Diversion Program (15th Street Crisis Respite Beds)



Pilot Program Goals

Stabilize

Stabilize behavioral health conditions and promote long-term community integration through evidence-based mental health and co-occurring treatment interventions.

Reduce

Reduce recidivism by minimizing arrests and incarceration, emphasizing diversion strategies and community-based treatment.

Assist

Assist individuals with complex behavioral health needs by removing barriers to treatment and services.

Enhance

Enhance community partnerships among providers, law enforcement, jails, and court systems, utilizing the Sequential Intercept Model to improve collaboration and facilitate effective diversion strategies.

Psychiatric Emergency Services

A walk-in mental health clinic urgent care clinic for adults and children having a behavioral health crisis.

Eligibility: Adults experiencing a mental health crisis in Travis County, voluntary, regardless of ability to pay

Referral Sources:

- Law enforcement
- EMS and Emergency Departments
- Sobering Center
- Justice personnel (jail counseling staff, attorneys, judges)
- Integral Care's Jail Liaison and mobile crisis outreach teams



Services and Pathways to Care

Services:

- Crisis triage, screening, and assessment
- Psychiatric evaluation
- Psychiatric crisis stabilization
- **Expanded peer support**
- Nursing services
- **23-hour observation services**
- Coordination of Care
- Referral to appropriate resources

Pathways from PES to Care:

- Involuntary
 - Herman Center EOU
 - Inpatient hospitalization
- Voluntary
 - Inpatient hospitalization
 - Crisis Residential (Herman Center, The Inn)
 - Therapeutic Diversion Program
 - Link to ongoing services





Therapeutic Diversion Program (TDP)

A 25-bed facility that offers extended therapeutic respite care with wrap around services.

Eligibility: Adults with mental health, substance use disorder, or Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) who need ongoing behavioral health services.

- 18 or older
- Low risk of harm to self or others
- Able to self administer medications

Referral Sources:

- Deflection referrals from PES & Emergency Departments
- Justice personnel (jail counseling staff, attorneys, judges)
- Integral Care's Jail Liaison



Services Provided

- Medical and Psychiatric Care
- **Recovery and peer support services**
- Medication Support
- **Case management**
- Rehabilitative skills training
- Therapeutic, trauma-informed groups
- **Coordinated assessments**
- Wellness groups and activities
- **Housing navigation**
- **SOAR trained staff**
- Harm reduction education and counseling
- **Nutritional group education and counseling**



Facility Investment

In 2009, Integral Care, the Mayor, County Judge, and Central Health agreed to align funding and commitment to a crisis care system.

The City of Austin contributed a 20-year lease agreement for the building on 15th Street that will be repurposed for the use of TDP.

Integral Care recognizes this generous commitment and contribution and looks forward to the utilization of this building to provide crisis care and transitional services.



Impact & Pilot Program Measures

IMPACT MEASURES

- Reduction in recidivism (arrest, booking, jail beds days)
- Increased community stabilization and integration
- Equity: access to the Project and impact for BIPOC vs. Non-BIPOC

PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL MEASURES

- Working with partners to establish program measures in each contract
- Establish data use agreements
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will occur throughout pilot

Stakeholder Engagement

Task Group Goals

- Develop operational protocols for each referral pathway
- Provide data driven updates
- Receive feedback and jointly problem solve with stakeholders and community

Task Groups: Members include stakeholders, partnering agencies, community members, individuals with lived experience, and funders (City, County, Central Health)

- Executive Task Group
- Referral Pathway Task Group
- Data and Measurables Task Group
- Clinical Interventions and Resource Task Group

7 Fundamental Principles

- 1) Based on shared set of values
- 2) Designed for complexity
- 3) Cost Effective
- 4) Accountable to the people and populations
- 5) Clinically effective
- 6) Provide value-based involuntary interventions
- 7) Use shared data for continuous improvement



Budget

Diversion Pilot Budget by Year

Diversion Pilot Budget	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Psychiatric Emergency Services	\$11,451,116	\$2,899,747	\$4,171,400	\$4,379,969
Therapeutic Diversion Program	\$12,251,349	\$3,229,847	\$4,400,732	\$4,620,770
Total Pilot	\$23,702,465	\$6,129,594	\$8,572,132	\$9,000,739

Total Diversion Pilot Budget by Funding Source

Funding Source	Total Funding	Psychiatric Emergency Services	Therapeutic Diversion Program
Travis County	\$6,000,000	\$2,894,486	\$3,105,514
City of Austin *	\$6,000,000	--	\$6,000,000
Central Health	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000	--
State	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Integral Care	\$2,202,465	\$1,056,630	\$1,145,835
Total	\$23,702,465	\$11,451,116	\$12,251,349

* Assuming funding renews after Year 1

COURTNEY LUCAS
PLANNING PROJECT
MANAGER

LAURA PEVETO
DIVISION DIRECTOR



TRAVIS COUNTY INVESTMENT IN PILOT

- On April 20, 2023, the Travis County Commissioners Court authorized \$6.0M of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) over a three-year funding period to initiate a diversion pilot program.
- Travis County, Central Health, the City of Austin, and Integral Care have all worked collaboratively on the pilot design, with input from community members and stakeholders.
- Travis County contract is intended to have an April 1, 2024 start date.
- The contract's program work statement includes a robust set of performance measures and deliverables, along with a community engagement plan that includes specific Task Groups that will continuously inform and enhance the pilot.
- There will be quarterly stakeholder meetings to inform on the pilot status and elicit community feedback for continuous improvement.

ALAN SCHALSCHA, MD
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



CENTRAL HEALTH

CENTRAL HEALTH – INTEGRAL CARE DIVERSION SERVICES PILOT COLLABORATION

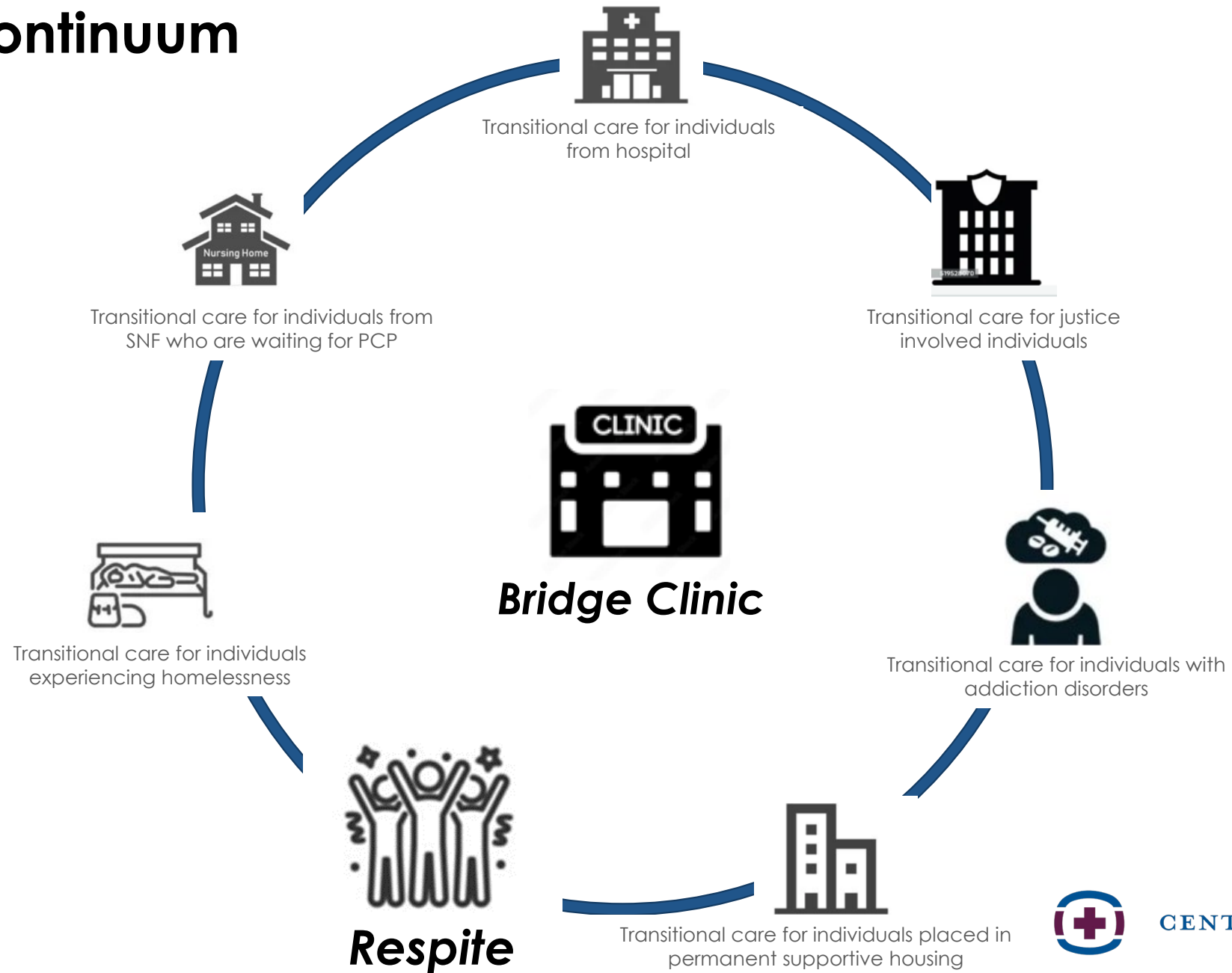


CENTRAL HEALTH

Contract Executed February 5, 2024

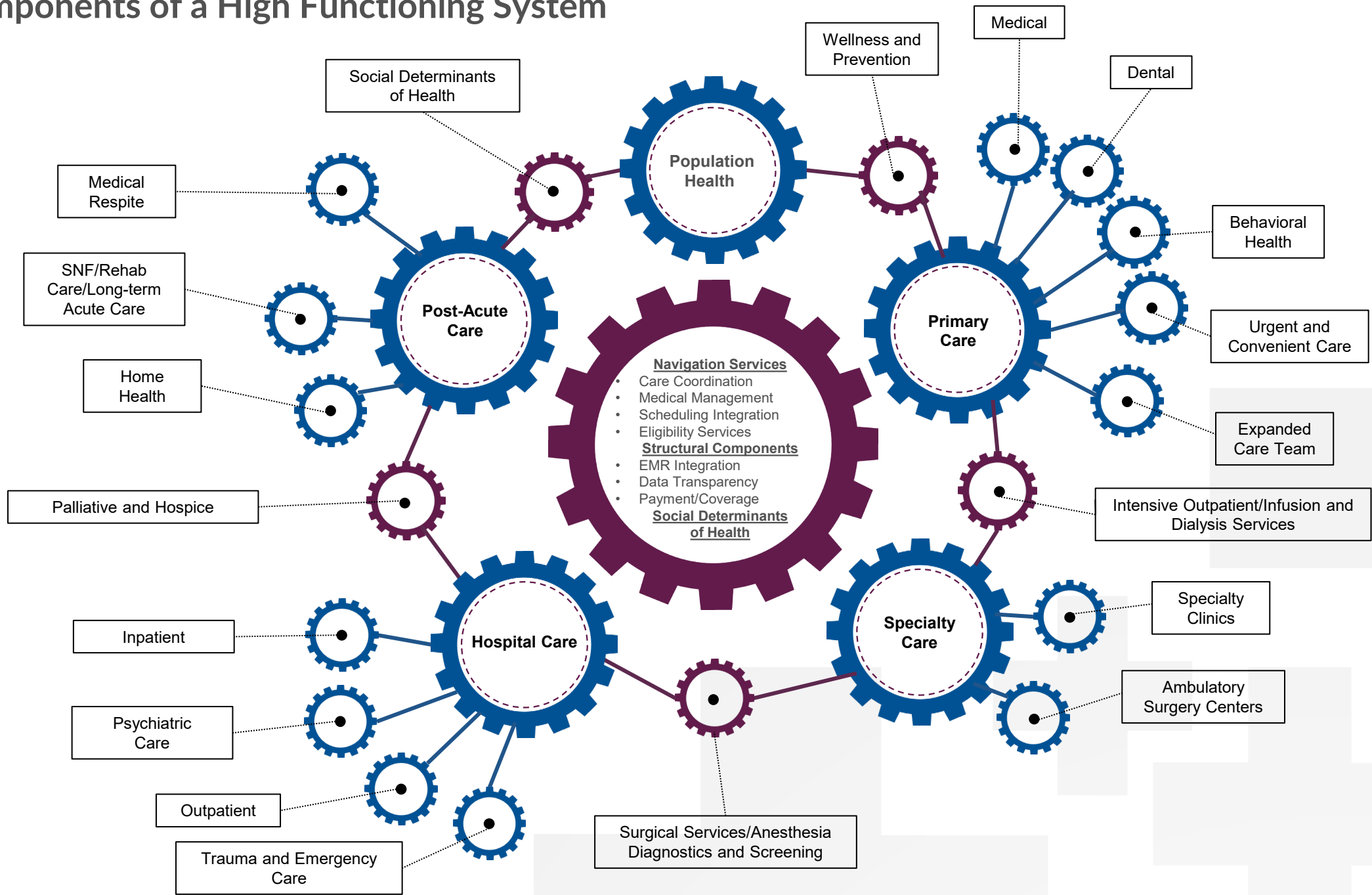
- **Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) Pilot:**
 - Crisis screening, triage, discharge planning
 - Multidisciplinary crisis assessment and treatment
 - 24/7 operations
 - 24/7 prescriber coverage
 - 23-hour observation capability
- **Expanded Agreement for Outpatient Services:**
 - Diagnostic evaluations
 - Psychotherapy and counseling
 - Psychiatry services and medication management
 - Case Management
- **Medically Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use:**
 - Co-occurring serious mental illness and opioid use disorders

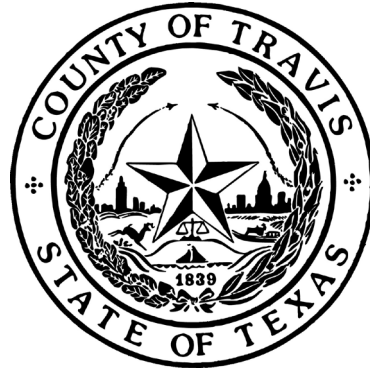
Care Continuum



CENTRAL HEALTH

Components of a High Functioning System





Integral Care



CENTRAL HEALTH

QUESTIONS

APPENDIX SLIDES

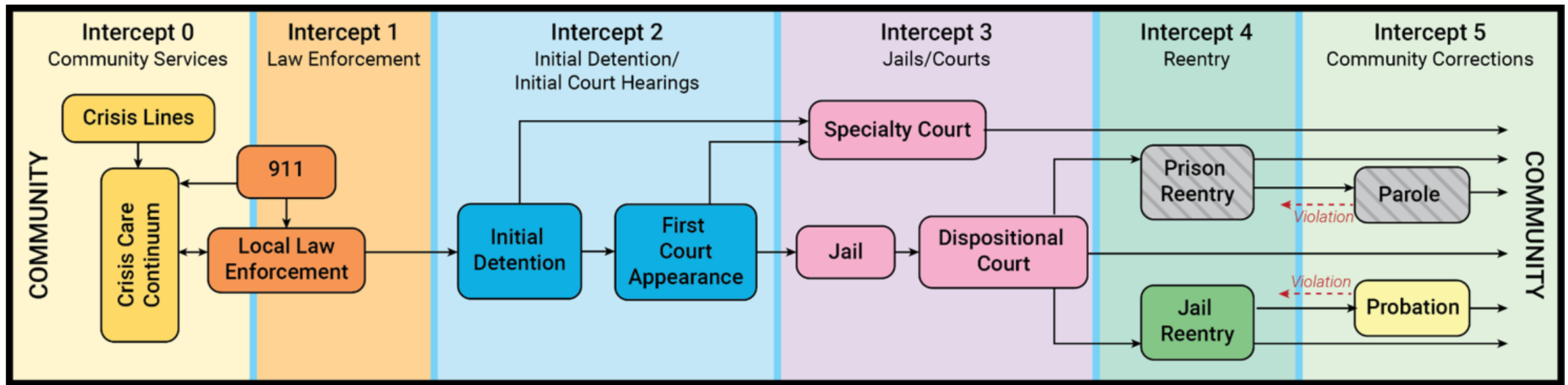
DEFLECTION AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Deflection programs occur before arrest or prior to initiation of a law enforcement or other legal system contact. These programs generally provide a path to treatment for individuals with mental health or substance related needs with the goal of averting the need for an emergent response from law enforcement or health services. Programs typically involve law enforcement, peer support specialists, recovery coaches, clinical staff, case managers or social workers.

Diversion programs are post-arrest interventions that occur at some point prior to final entry of judgment. Programs can take place before charges are filed, before first appearance, or before adjudication. Successful completion of these programs results in dismissal of charges and in some instances clearing of associated records of the case or arrest. Programs authorized by legislation are typically administered by prosecutors or court officials.

Source: <https://www.ncsl.org/civil-and-criminal-justice/the-legislative-primer-series-on-front-end-justice-deflection-and-diversion>

SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL (SIM)



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Avoid Jail
(aka: deflection)

Create Rapid and Appropriate Exits from the
Criminal Legal System

Community Reintegration

TRAVIS COUNTY FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

				
DUAs, Technology Update and Data Sharing	“Diversion” Center	Establish a Range of Housing Options	Certified Peer Programs Expanded	Counsel at First Appearance (CAFA)
WHAT: Digitize county’s legal infrastructure; add to existing Central Information Exchange for data sharing at all levels.	WHAT: Create a pre/post arrest “Diversion Center”.	WHAT: Establish a range of housing options through pilot programs and boarding home regulations.	WHAT: Expand certified peer programs across the components of the system.	WHAT: Reinstate pilot program for CAFA and determine how to continue project after year pilot.
Est. Time: 1 – 2 years	Est. Time: TBD – dependent on court’s direction	Est. Time: Multiple housing recommendations cause wide time variables.	Est. Time: 6 months – 1 year	Est. Time: 6 months – 1 year
Cost: \$10 – 15M; \$15 - 20K	Cost: \$30.7M Build (32 beds); \$5.4M Annual Budget	Cost: \$1.8M-\$2.5M	Cost: \$15K one time; \$1.5M Annual Budget	Cost: \$4M
GAP Addressing: Ineffective database and technology	GAP Addressing: Limited prearrest diversion options and post-arrest coordination between legal and clinical processes	GAP Addressing: Insufficient amount and types of housing	GAP Addressing: Insufficient Certified Peer Support Specialists	GAP Addressing: Insufficient Counsel

Together – these 5 recommendations can impact the system; alone we’ll end up with the system we have today with new bottlenecks.

All costs are estimated.

See: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/topics/forensic-mental-health-planning>

TRAVIS COUNTY DIVERSION RESOLUTION & FUNDING

- On March 21, 2023, the Commissioners Court unanimously approved a resolution on diversion, endorsing “the creation of a Jail Diversion Center and a new central booking facility that will further decriminalize mental illness, reduce the number of people in jail with mental illness, and provide equitable access to healthcare, housing, workforce, and legal services.”
- On April 20, 2023, the Commissioners Court allocated \$6.0M of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) over a three-year funding period to initiate a diversion pilot with Integral Care, the Local Mental Health Authority, as the lead agency with participation from other community partners.