



# HEART OF TEXAS REGION'S Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare System

*Resolving the mental health resource desert in HOTR*

## THE PROPOSAL

Through high-level community coordination, a Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare System (CBHS) seeks to address and resolve our region's inpatient psychiatric bed shortage, crisis service expansion needs, outpatient care management, and alarming behavioral health workforce shortages.

## THE PROBLEM

Rapid population growth in the six counties within the Heart of Texas Region (HOTR) has **outpaced the ability of health organizations to provide behavioral healthcare** in an area with great need. This manifests in three ways:

### ISSUE 1

High poverty rates limit access to medical and behavioral healthcare despite great need among low-income patients.

### ISSUE 2

A severe mental health professional shortage means limited or no care for patients across the region.

### ISSUE 3

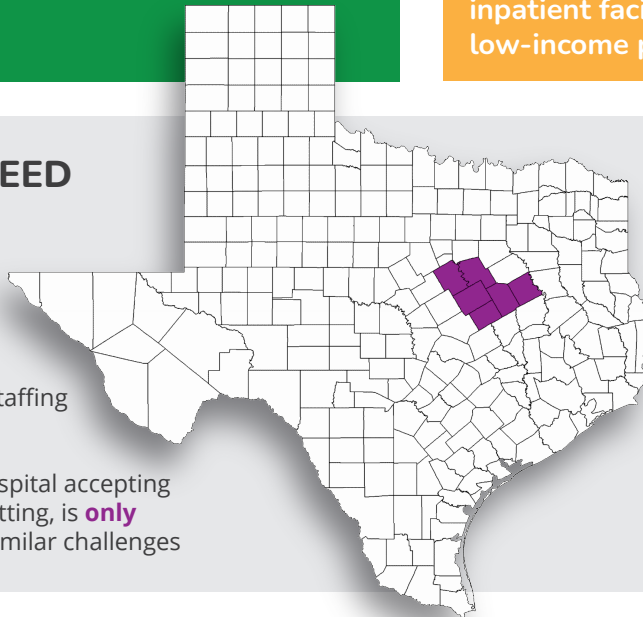
Staffing and funding needs threaten the future of the region's few psychiatric centers, especially the DePaul Center, the only inpatient facility accepting low-income patients.

## A REGION WITH GREAT NEED

- Just **1 mental health provider per 10,000 people** in some counties
- Local Mental Health Authority has just **44 beds for nearly 400,000 people** across six counties with some beds on the verge of closing due to costs and staffing shortages
- DePaul Center, the only psychiatric hospital accepting low-income patients in an inpatient setting, is **only operating 18 out of 48 beds** due to similar challenges

## IMPACTED COUNTIES

**BOSQUE  
FALLS  
FREESTONE  
HILL  
LIMESTONE  
MCLENNAN**



## RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**Expansion of Psychiatric Beds**  
*Section 10.07 (b)*

**Crisis Services expansion**  
*Section 10.07 (d & e)*

**Local Mental Health  
Workforce Development**  
*Section 10.07 (g)*

**Care Management &  
Coordination**

# THE SOLUTION: CBHS

## INCREASE LOCAL INPATIENT CAPACITY

via the **expansion of essential psychiatric beds** at Ascension Providence's DePaul Center. This will provide critical behavioral health services to uninsured/underinsured patients, improve capacity, and decrease reliance on state beds. Currently, **DePaul is operating only 18 of its 48 beds—and at a loss.**

## EXPAND CRISIS SERVICES

This would allow Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network to **fully fund the Crisis Hub**, utilize bond payments to expand crisis operations, and serve as the entry point to the CBHS. The facility will triage mental health patients, provide initial medical clearance, and **allow law enforcement to return to other duties in a timelier fashion.** This will more humanely divert from jail and emergency departments, and **reduce costs for the ERs, law enforcement, and jails.** The Crisis Hub supports community mental health grants, specifically the Mental Health Grant for Justice-Involved Individuals.

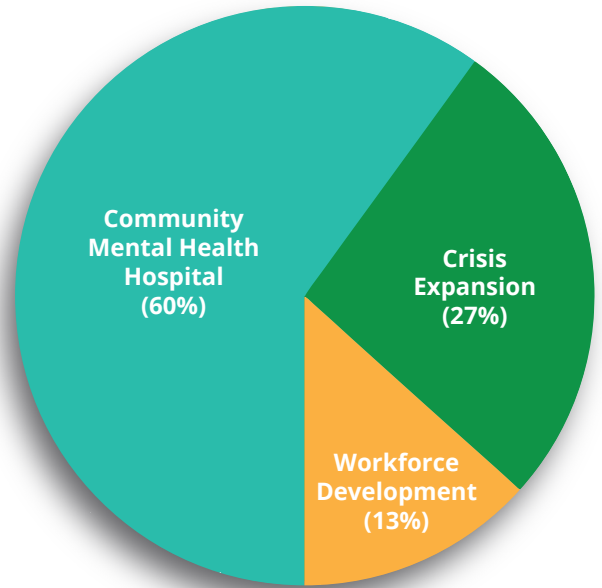
## DEVELOP LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

Loss of local capacity further complicates the strain on the State, which already has an insufficient number of State beds. The CBHS includes a **collaborative workforce development strategy** that allows BHN, BSW, AP, and WFM to train psychiatric medical professionals. This is completed through **WFM's Residency Program** (training dually-boarded family medicine psychiatrists), and by **McLennan Community College** that trains additional behavioral health professionals. This **grows and trains clinical personnel, creates a local workforce, and provides competitive salaries**, allowing us to recruit, hire, and retain regional talent – thus improving outcomes for individuals and **lessening dependence on State resources.**

## CREATE COORDINATED CARE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This effectively **connects individuals to comprehensive outpatient BH care.** Utilizing a care coordination model, this program ensures **continuity upon discharge** from inpatient care and connects people to housing, transportation, continuous outpatient care, and non-medical drivers of health.

## FUNDING CBHS: \$30M



## PROPOSAL PARTNERS

Baylor Scott & White - Hillcrest

Ascension Providence

Waco Family Medicine

Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network  
(Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic)

## KEY SUPPORTERS



McLennan County



Waco Police Department



McLennan Community College



One piece of CBHS, the **Crisis Hub**, is a partnership between the region's LMHA and FQHC that will expand psychiatric support and **minimize the time law enforcement spends on mental health crisis calls.**



The **DePaul Center**, HOTR's only inpatient facility for low-income patients is **operating just 18 of 48 beds** because of costs and staffing.