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Health and Human  
Services

# **On the Horizon: Suicide Prevention Efforts in 2022**

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**The Office of Mental Health Coordination**

# The Office of Mental Health Coordination

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- **Mission:**

- ▶ Collaborate with stakeholders to improve policies, programs, and systems to achieve positive behavioral health outcomes for all.

- **Vision:**

- ▶ Cultivate multi-system collaborations to improve the behavioral health system in Texas.

- **Values:**

- ▶ Collaboration;
- ▶ Cultural humility;
- ▶ Integrity; and
- ▶ a Trauma-informed lens.



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# The Office of Mental Health Coordination

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## OMHC Teams

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Planning:** Coordinates with partners to address gaps in support services and oversee several committees and workgroups.
- **Policy, Systems Coordination, and Programing:** Oversees initiatives, including suicide prevention, Texas System of Care, Community Resource Coordination Groups, Trauma-Informed Care, and Mental Health First Aid.
- **Statewide Opioid Coordination:** Ensures opioid services are addressed in a coordinated and comprehensive approach.
- **Veterans Mental Health Coordination:** Oversees Texas Veterans and Family Alliance Grant, Mental Health Program for Veterans, and veterans suicide prevention initiatives.



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# HHSC Suicide Prevention Team

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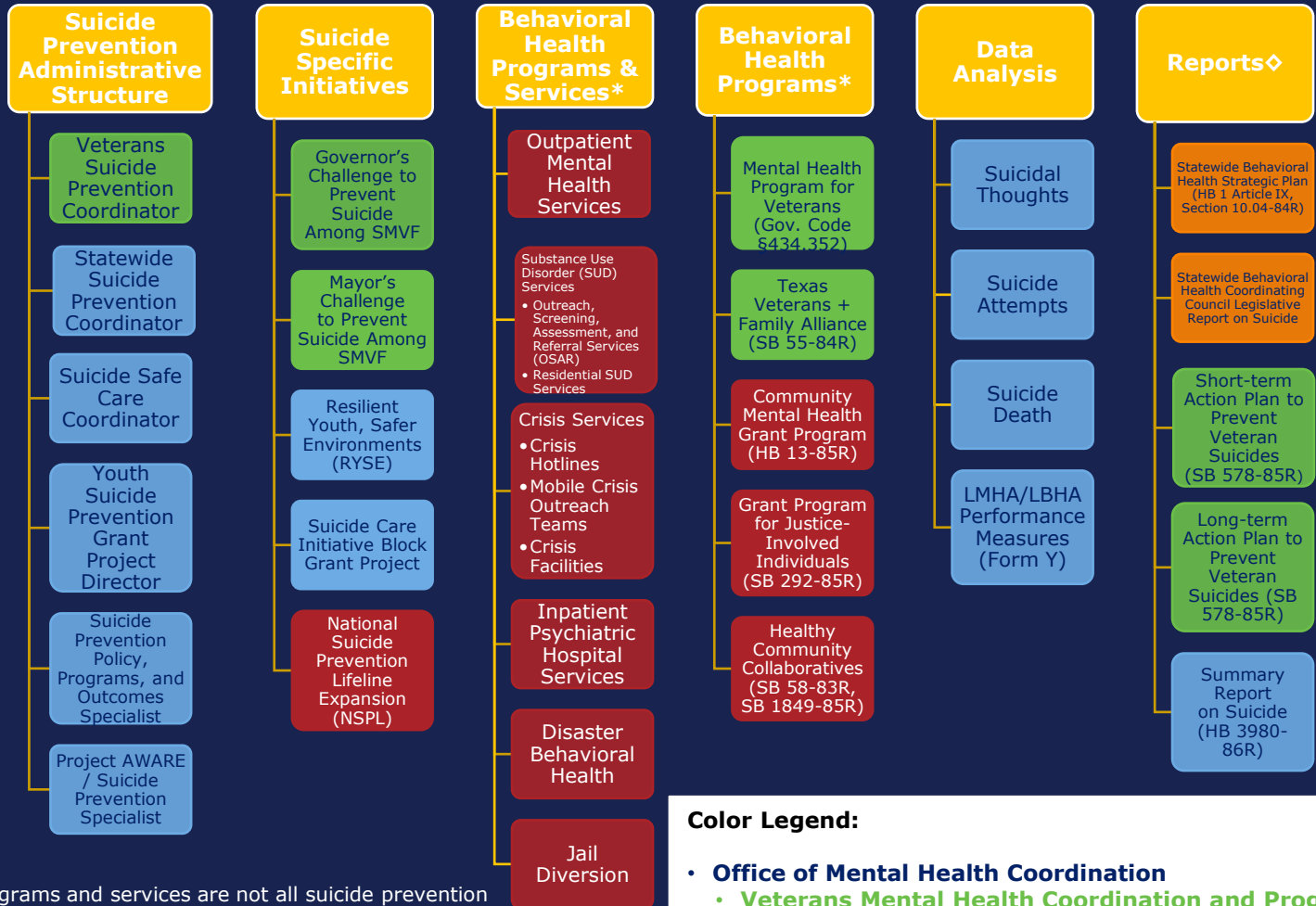
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- Lillian Nguyen: Director of Policy, System Coordination, and Programming
- Tammy Weppelman: State Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Team Lead
- Bethaney Myers: Suicide Care Coordinator
- Laura Hernandez Gold: Suicide Prevention & Project AWARE Co-Coordinator
- Jennifer Haussler Garing: Suicide Prevention Data & Outcomes Coordinator
- Jennifer Crutsinger: Suicide Prevention Youth Grant Project Coordinator
- Tara Reyna: Veterans Suicide Prevention Coordinator



# IDD-BHS Suicide Prevention Efforts

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\* These programs and services are not all suicide prevention specific; however, suicide prevention is a desired outcome.  
 ◇ The reports provide specific information or recommendations which may be implemented through policy, administrative action, or funding action.

**Color Legend:**

- **Office of Mental Health Coordination**
  - **Veterans Mental Health Coordination and Programs**
  - **Policy, Systems Coordination and Programming**
  - **Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Planning**
  - **Behavioral Health Services**

# OMHC Suicide Prevention Team Efforts

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- Suicide Care Initiative: Implement the Zero Suicide framework in the public mental health system.
- Resilient Youth Safer Environments (RYSE): Create comprehensive suicide safe early intervention and prevention systems aimed at supporting youth-serving organizations in the Galveston County area.



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# OMHC Suicide Prevention Team Efforts

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- Enhance availability printed suicide prevention materials through updated Zero Suicide toolkit and other suicide prevention one-pagers.
- Provide training and technical assistance in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.
  - ▶ ASK about Suicide to Save a Life
  - ▶ Counseling on Access to Lethal Means
  - ▶ Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
  - ▶ Specialized presentations to meet the needs of requesting audiences



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# Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (SBHCC)

## Suicide Prevention Subcommittee

- House Bill 4074: Requires SBHCC subcommittee to collect suicide/suicide prevention data and to identify how data are used to make policy.
- Senate Bill 1, Article IX, Section 10.04(f): Requires update on legislative report from H.B. 3980, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019; the report shall include data and recommendations specific to suicides among veterans and foster youth in the state.



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# Thank you

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