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On the Horizon: Meeting the Behavioral Health Needs of Texans

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Learning Objectives

- Attendees will have visibility on behavioral health services topics of interests for the 89th Legislative Session.
- Attendees will have visibility to local and state-level suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention activities.
- Attendees will connect how behavioral health services focal points of interest during the 89th Legislative Session advance suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.



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Children's Behavioral Health

It is anticipated that there will continue to be a focus on the behavioral health needs of children and families in the 89th Legislative Session.

The 88th Legislature required the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (SBHCC) to establish a subcommittee to develop a Children's Behavioral Health Strategic Plan.



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Children's Behavioral Health Strategic Plan

The plan shall incorporate the full continuum of care needed to support children and include:

- Descriptions of who provides what services to which children.
- Strategies to identify and address gaps in care.
- Discussion of workforce shortages.
- Information on funding and reimbursement.
- Children-specific data and expenditure information.



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Suicide Prevention

The SBHCC also released its *Report on Suicide and Suicide Prevention in Texas*. The report includes prevalence rates of suicide-related events, including suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, and deaths by suicide in Texas since the year 2000.



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Suicide Prevention Data Highlights (1 of 2)

- Texas has seen an overall increase in suicide mortality with the death rate rising 48 percent;
- Individuals ages 30-34 saw the greatest increase of any age group with an 84.5 percent increase in suicide mortality rate, closely followed by individuals ages 55-59 with an increase of 74.5 percent;
- The rate of suicide mortality for youth in the foster care system was more than twice the rate for youth in Texas for two years in 2020 and 2021, but most recently decreased to zero suicide deaths in 2022 and in 2023;



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Suicide Prevention Data Highlights (2 of 2)

- The rate of calls to the poison control network concerning suspected suicide attempts in girls ages 6-12 increased seven-fold between 2005 and 2021, while the rate for young women 13-19 years old more than doubled; and
- The suicide mortality rate for veterans aged 18-34 rose 134.2 percent between 2001 and 2021, making it the highest rate for the veteran population.



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Project Healing and Engaging After Loss (Project HEAL) (1 of 2)

The Health and Human Services Commission's state suicide prevention team proposed to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Project HEAL, a partnership with select local mental health authorities (LMHAs) that serve geographic areas with higher rates of suicide deaths to strengthen suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention support and services to individuals, families, and communities.



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Project HEAL Grant Goals (2 of 2)

- Increase the capacity and competency of LMHA staff to screen, assess, manage, and treat youth at risk for suicide;
- Increase awareness, early identification, and intervention for youth, ages 10-24, who are at risk for suicide;
- Establish Local Outreach to Survivors of Suicide teams in the identified LMHAs to provide immediate postvention support to families, peers, and youth; and
- Establish and expand youth prevention and postvention support for youth who may be at risk for suicide.



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Thank You

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