

Austin Travis County Integral Care Jail Diversion Programs and Strategies

Jail Diversion

Diversion programs serve as critical strategies in preventing people with mental illness who commit crimes from **entering** or **unnecessarily** remaining in the criminal justice system.

Interception Points	Program	Description
Pre-Arrest Diversion Law Enforcement and Emergency Services	Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)	Austin Police Department and Travis County Sheriff's Deputies that are specially trained to work with individuals who are mentally ill.
	Mental Health Officers - Austin Police Department	Patrol officers who received 40 hours of mental health training and respond to mental health related calls from dispatch.
	Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)	This program consist of ATCMHMR licensed clinicians and nurses who provide behavioral health evaluations to individuals within Travis County. Work closely with the CIT.
Post -Arrest Diversion Initial Hearing	Pre-Trial Services Mental Health Officers	Program that helps incarcerated individuals get released from jail on a Mental Health Bond with condition that they receive mental health treatment through ATCMHMR.
Post Initial Hearings Jail and Courts	Special Reduction MH Docket CC#3	Specialized docket for misdemeanors that streamlines the court process for defendants identified with mental illness.
	Magistrate Special Reduction Docket Judge Leon Grizzard	Specialized docket for felony cases. This court will hear cases that involve a client with a mental illness. This court will also address any felony cases in which the defendant has been found incompetent to stand trial.

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Post Initial Hearings <small>Jail and Courts</small>	Outpatient Competency Restoration Program	Creation of community based competency restoration program that will divert individuals found incompetent to stand trial from within the jail to the community.
	Mental Health Support Court	District Court 390 th – Judge Julie Kocurek This specialty court reviews an individual’s progress with their felony probation conditions and/or adherence to mental health treatment. Serves individuals on probation who are in jeopardy of being revoked because they have been unable to comply with the conditions of their probation. Court meets weekly to review the individual’s progress towards adherence to their conditions to include mental health treatment.
	Mental Health Prosecutor	A Travis County Attorney’s Office prosecutor who is assigned to prosecute misdemeanor mental health cases. An attorney who is well trained in mental health issues and is able to bring that expertise to the prosecutorial role.
	Mental Health Public Defenders Office	A unique special defense unit that works exclusively with individuals with mental illness who are in need of a defense attorney to represent them.
	Juvenile Mental Health Court	Travis County Collaborative Opportunities for Positive Experiences (COPE) is a diversionary program that has specialized proceedings focused on the special needs of youth with mental health disorders.
	Juvenile Public Defender’s Office	Specialized public defenders office, which advocates for the rights of juveniles who have a mental illness.
	Alameda House & Oak Springs	Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration Program (TAIP). Contract between Travis County Adult Probation and ATCMHMR to provide adults on probation with substance abuse treatment and residential type housing.
Reentry <small>Jails, Prisons, Hospitals</small>	ANew	Intensive case management and psychiatric services provided to individuals on parole or probation who meet priority population criteria.
	Family Preservation Program	Provides counseling services to youth on probation and their families with the focus on helping the youth successfully complete their probation requirements.
	Special Needs Diversionary Program	Provides intensive counseling and support services to youth on probation. This is usually the first offense for these youth

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Reentry (continued)	Project Recovery	Residential treatment program that treats individuals who have Public Intoxication - Enhanced charge and have a mental illness and/or substance use disorder.
	The INN	A 16 bed unit that serves to divert individuals from inpatient hospitalization or individuals being released from an inpatient hospital but still require a structured and therapeutic setting before discharge to the community.
Community Behavioral Health Services	Psychiatric Emergency Services	24-hour crisis center staffed by licensed clinicians who provide psychiatric evaluations and inpatient commitment evaluations.
	Outpatient Behavioral Health Services	Provide mental health services and substance abuse services to adults and children who are residents of Travis County, Texas.
	Forensic Intensive Case Management Pilot	Intensive case management provided to six individuals who have multiple arrests for minor crimes but have almost no contact with the community behavioral health system.
Community Collaboration	Austin Travis County Mental Health Jail Diversion Committee	Committee consisting of over 25 separate agencies representing behavioral health and criminal justice systems. Purpose of the committee to address the jail diversion gaps within the Austin/Travis County community and make recommendations to City of Austin and Travis County elected officials on jail diversion funding priorities.
	Mayor's Mental Health Task Force Monitoring Committee	The Mayor's Mental Health Task Force Monitoring Committee (MMHTFMC) is a subcommittee of the Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center Board of Directors. The Monitoring Committee was created and charged to take a lead role in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of 39 Task Force recommendations and coordinating the assistance of existing groups and organizations in that effort

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Community Collaboration	Reentry Roundtable	The Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable works to implement collaborative community-wide strategies for the effective reintegration of formerly incarcerated persons, thereby reducing recidivism, supporting victims and promoting public safety in Austin/Travis County.
	Veterans Intervention Project (VIP)	The Veterans Intervention Project (VIP) is a collaboration to increase awareness of Veterans involved in the criminal justice system. Our Purpose is to ensure that Veterans are identified and referred to appropriate treatment and services, which support reintegration and reduce recidivism.
	Cost Simulation Planning Tool	This project allows for pilot testing the HSRI Mental Health/Jail Diversion Cost Simulation Planning Tool. This computerized model projects the per-person costs and the effectiveness of implementing a mental health jail diversion program planned by the local jurisdiction. The model is a strategic planning tool intended to provide Austin/Travis County and interested stakeholders with information for prioritizing and choosing options for jail diversion programs and planning resource allocation strategies.
	Mental Health Initiative	This project has provided technical assistance to Austin/Travis County in order to bring together various people who represent the Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice system to review all initiatives within the Travis justice system and make recommendations to: a) clearly identify target populations to prevent overlapping services; b) identify processes and data collection procedures that need to be modified to accomplish this goal; c) identify shared outcome goals; and, d) establish the mechanism to monitor the results of the policies. Finally, the Learning Site would also serve as a site to test court processes and data collection tools that can be used in other sites in Texas to assist judges in improving diversion and treatment outcomes for mentally ill offenders.
Other Programs and Projects	Integrated Mental Health Unit	The merging of the specialized adult probation mental health unit and the ATCMHMR ANEW unit.
	ATC/CSH Texas Reentry Initiative	Austin/Travis County was one of three Texas jurisdictions awarded a planning grant by the Corporation for Supportive Housing to help research and identify strategies for permanent supportive housing for a reentry population in our community.

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Legend:

1. **DSHS:** Texas Department of Healthcare Services
2. **ATCMHMR:** Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center
3. **Public Intoxication Enhanced:** In Texas a public intoxication charge is a Class C misdemeanor with is punishable with a fine. Three or more public intoxication charges can be “enhanced” to a Class B misdemeanor, which carries a 180-day sentence and a fine.
4. **TCOOMMI:** Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Health Impairments