OBJECTIVE
The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division of the Texas Department of State Health Services is aimed at improving health and well-being in Texas by providing leadership and services that promote hope, build resilience, and foster recovery.

KEY FACTS
- The Texas Department of State Health Services’ Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division funds providers of mental health and substance abuse services, who then assist those in need of such services.
- The Texas Department of State Health Services ensures the provision of community behavioral health services through 39 local mental health authorities, 135 substance abuse treatment providers and through NorthSTAR, a publicly funded managed care program.

BUDGETARY IMPACT
Collectively, funding for the five community behavioral health strategies at the Department of State Health Services increased by 13 percent from fiscal year 2006 to fiscal year 2013.

STATUTORY REFERENCES
Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 7 Chapter 534 and 535
Key federal funds include the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant. The SAPT Block grant assists states in developing and implementing prevention, treatment and rehabilitation activities to address alcohol and drug abuse. The CMHS block grant funds comprehensive community mental health services for adults with serious mental health illness and children with a serious emotional disturbance. Both block grants have a minimal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement for the grant to be awarded to Texas. States are required to maintain spending at the average amount of expenditures for the previous two fiscal years to receive CMHS and SAPT Block Grant funds.

Other funding sources for community mental health and substance abuse services include interagency contracts and local contributions from Dallas County for the NorthSTAR program.

**FUNDING TRENDS**

Fig. 2 shows the eight year funding trend for the five community behavioral health strategies at DSHS. The 80th Texas Legislature appropriated $82 million for the 2008–2009 biennium for the redesign of the community mental health crisis system. The redesign was aimed at improving the response to behavioral health crises.

Collectively, funding for the five community behavioral health strategies increased by 13 percent from fiscal year 2006 to fiscal year 2013. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the national average per capita spending on mental health services was $122.90 in 2010. The average per capita spending on mental health services in Texas was $38.99 for the same time period. Texas ranked 50th in per capita spending (general fund appropriations) on mental health services in 2010.

**USEFUL REFERENCES**

DSHS Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division
https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/MHSA/

A Comparison of Behavioral Health Data across NorthSTAR and Other Selected Service Delivery Areas
http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/GEER/GEER01012011.pdf#CompBehavioralHelthData

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