

# TEXAS MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

## SUPPORT IS CRITICAL

### \$88.3 MILLION NEEDED TO DIVERT PEOPLE FROM JAILS AND EMERGENCY ROOMS

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES EXCEPTIONAL ITEM

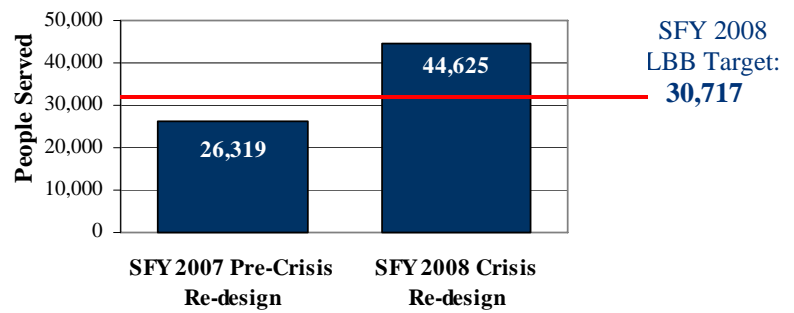
## HISTORY

The 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature appropriated \$82 million to begin implementing an improved mental health crisis system—called Crisis Redesign—as a first step in alleviating the burden your community experiences from the historical lack of state funding for mental health care.

## SUCCESS

In its **first year**, the **Crisis Redesign initiative** funded by the 80th Legislature **met or exceeded** most of its **goals** as supported by Legislative Budget Board targets, Department of State Health Services performance reports and an independent evaluation by Texas A&M University.

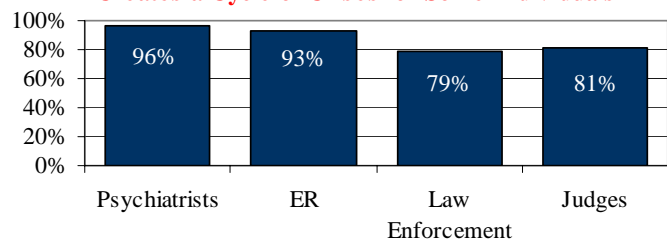
### 70% Increase in Crisis Services



## EXPERT OPINION

392 psychiatrists, emergency room staff, law enforcement officers and judges working with people with mental illness **report the need for increased ongoing and transitional services.**

### Lack of Routine Treatment Services Creates a Cycle of Crises for Some Individuals



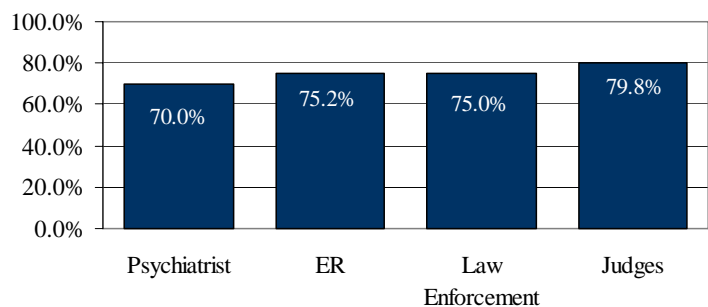
## CONTINUED INVESTMENT

Diverting people with serious mental illness from jails and hospitals requires services to address an immediate crisis as well as treatment to prevent repeat crises. **There is a great need for increased non-crisis mental health services** to avoid crises and resulting burdens on jails and hospital emergency rooms.

The Texas A&M University evaluation clearly shows the need for a **continued investment** to further reduce the burden that a crisis-driven public mental health system can place on law enforcement, emergency rooms and local communities.

—Mental Health America of Texas

### Post-crisis services are NOT adequately funded



## THE NEXT STEP

The Texas Department of State Health Services is requesting \$88.3 million in their Legislative Appropriations Request for Fiscal Years 2010-2011 to continue to expand the Crisis Redesign initiative by providing services to ensure its continued success.

This \$88.3 million is part of the Department of State Health Services **EXCEPTIONAL ITEM REQUEST** and **includes critical components** of a redesigned mental health system **focused on addressing immediate crises as well as preventing more expensive crisis treatment.**

- **Intensive Ongoing Services** – therapy and medication to meet the standards of the Resiliency and Disease Management (RDM) treatment model.
- **Transitional Services** – intensive mental health services tailored to individuals needs for difficult to engage, high need individuals.
- **Crisis Expansion** – intensive crisis services and emergency psychiatric services with extended observation for individuals needing more than 48 hours to be stabilized and children’s respite services-short-term, community-based residential crisis treatment.

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services

**“ 63% of new clients who arrive at local public mental health clinics in crisis are not linked with ongoing care largely due to a lack of available capacity.”** *-Texas Department of State Health Services*

## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The state and local communities will experience a **positive return on investment** through continued reduction in mental health crises being treated by law enforcement personnel and in hospital emergency rooms.

The **initial investment** in this Crisis Redesign initiative has been **successful.**

**Investing in the next phase** – *providing intensive outgoing services, transitional services, psychiatric emergency centers, and children’s respite services* – **will further improve** the mental health **crisis situation** that communities across Texas struggle with daily.

*Providing appropriate treatment options to address crises and prevent crises is a wise use of public resources.*



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