

HEALTHY VISION 2025



Advance Texas' Behavioral Health System

With millions of Texans and their families affected by mental illness and substance use, it is crucial to continue improving the state's behavioral health infrastructure. Poor access to mental health and substance use care burdens the state's criminal justice, school, and child welfare systems; leads to incarceration; and results in misuse of hospital emergency departments.

Physicians support efforts to expand community mental health services, increase availability of substance use treatment and overdose reversal medications, continue improving the state hospital system, and expand investments in mental health and substance use research. Physicians also support a prevention-based approach to the state's mental health and substance use challenges and encourage the state to address adverse childhood experiences, a known contributor to poor mental health outcomes.

(continued)



Physicians Caring for Texans

WE SUPPORT

Advance Texas' behavioral health system toward the goal of helping people access the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

We support SB 10 by Nelson and HB 10 by Thompson.

- SB 10 establishes child psychiatry access networks that allow mental health professionals on the front lines to consult virtually with child and adolescent psychiatrists, helping them deliver better care for patients with behavioral health needs.
- HB 10 establishes a behavioral health research institute to generate knowledge on causes, prevention techniques, and treatment methods for mental health and substance use.

We support SB 305 (the "Good Samaritan bill") by Watson.

- Prevents charging with a crime the first person to request emergency assistance for someone overdosing when that person remains on scene and cooperates with medical and law enforcement personnel.
- Overdose fatalities can be prevented when people can seek medical attention without fear of legal repercussions.

We support HB 4183 by Parker.

- Calls for Texas' public health, child welfare, education, and workforce agencies to collaborate on a statewide, five-year strategic plan to address adverse childhood experiences.
- We know that toxic stress resulting from abuse, neglect, or household dysfunction in childhood can predispose children to problems with development, behavior, and health throughout their lives.

We support House and Senate bills that will stop infectious diseases spread by unsafe injection use and help facilitate treatment.

- HB 75 by Minjarez, HB 746 by Rose, and HB 1722 by Coleman will allow counties to reduce non-sterile syringe use and get those addicted into treatment. Community organizations and providers are asking for changes to HB 746 and HB 1722 to ensure there is proper support and engagement.
- SB 2205 by Rodriguez sets up the Texas IDEA program – a comprehensive, public health initiative to reduce unsafe injection drug use, provide emergency overdose care, and other support services.



Physicians Caring for Texans

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