



Annual Report on the Screening of Offenders with Mental Illness

**As Required By
The 2016-17 General Appropriations Act, H.B. 1,
84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015
(Article II, Department of State Health Services, Rider 35)**



**Department of State Health Services
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Executive Summary

The 2016-17 General Appropriations Act, H.B. 1, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015 (Article II, Department of State Health Services, Rider 35) requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and community centers, through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to identify offenders with mental impairments in the criminal justice system, collect and report prevalence data, and accept and disclose information relating to a special needs offender. DSHS is required to report to the Legislative Budget Board efforts to facilitate the exchange of information between agencies no later than September of each fiscal year.

DSHS annually updates the existing MOU between the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), representatives of Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs), and community supervision and corrections departments for the purpose of instituting a continuity of care and services program for individuals with a history of mental illness in the criminal justice system. DPS is responsible for the operation of the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS). TLETS is able to search for exact and probable matches of every county jail inmate's personal information (date of birth, social security number, first and last name, race, and sex) in the Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS) database managed by DSHS. CMBHS is a web-based integrated electronic clinical management system for state-funded mental health and substance use providers. Information is entered in real time by the jails, allowing for data to be exchanged daily.

For the adult population, 234 counties initiated 991,073 match requests between September 1, 2014 and August 11, 2015. A total of 73,844 inquiries resulted in exact matches, meaning the data matched on all six criteria (last name, first name, date of birth, sex, social security number, and race). A total of 369,013 inquiries resulted in a probable match. During this same time period, there were 19,132 match requests for adolescents, resulting in 732 exact matches and 6,776 probable matches.

Introduction

The 2016-17 General Appropriations Act, H.B. 1, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015 (Article II, DSHS, Rider 35) states that pursuant to Health and Safety Code §§614.013 and 614.017, DSHS and community centers, as defined in the Texas Health and Safety Code §534.001(b), shall, through an MOU, identify offenders with mental impairments in the criminal justice system, collect and report prevalence data, and accept and disclose information relating to a special needs offender if the disclosure serves the purpose of Chapter 614, Health and Safety Code.

DSHS shall report to the Legislative Budget Board no later than September of each fiscal year its efforts to facilitate the exchange of information between agencies pursuant to Health and Safety Code §614.017. The report shall include, but is not limited to: the manner in which information is exchanged between agencies, the frequency with which the information is exchanged, and the agencies most frequently involved in the exchange of information.

Background

The 80th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, which amended the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 614 to include the DPS Bureau of Identification and Records in the data exchange process. As amended, the Health & Safety Code §614.017 requires DSHS and DPS to develop a real-time identification and data-exchange system for special needs offenders, which replaced the 72-hour manual data exchange process. This revision to the data-exchange process was an effort to ensure more expedient data exchange to support continuity of care for individuals with mental illness who are involved with the criminal justice system, and local post-booking jail diversion activities. DPS is responsible for the operation of TLETS, a real-time identification and data exchange system for special needs offenders that replaced the previous 72-hour manual data exchange process. DSHS developed the data exchange process in collaboration with the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) and the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS). DSHS annually updates the existing MOU between the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), representatives of Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs), and community supervision and corrections departments for the purpose of instituting a continuity of care and services program for individuals with a history of mental illness in the criminal justice system.

Data Exchange System

When an individual is booked into a county jail, this tracking system matches their information (last name, first name, date of birth, social security number, sex, and race) against the Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS) database managed by DSHS. CMBHS is a web-based integrated electronic clinical management system for state-funded mental health and substance use providers. CMBHS serves as the primary system of record for state-funded mental health and substance use services. Inmates who, within the last three years, have had a state psychiatric hospitalization or mental health community service encounter, authorization, or assessment provided by either the LMHA or Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) are identified through the match request process.

Match Criteria

DSHS uses the following match criteria to identify offenders with a history of mental illness:

- Exact match - the data inquiry matches last name, first name, date of birth, sex, social security number, and race; or
- Probable match - the data inquiry matches one of the following match criteria options listed below
 - Probable Match Criteria Option 1: last name, first initial, date of birth, and sex;
 - Probable Match Criteria Option 2: last name, first initial, birth year, sex, and social security number;
 - Probable Match Criteria Option 3: the first 3 letters of the last name, first initial, the year and month of birth, sex or social security number; or
 - Probable Match Criteria Option 4: last name matches any other criteria found, first initial matches any other criteria found, age is within 5 years, sex, and social security number matches to any other criteria found.

Continuity of Care Response

If a partial or exact match is identified, the jail receives a report with that individual's name and location of the last LMHA/LBHA in which a service was provided. The jail staff then contacts the LMHA/LBHA to conduct a screening and provide linkage to mental health services provided in the community via the LMHA/LBHA. Once the LMHA or LBHA receives the report they screen the individual for eligibility for continued services provided through their agency.

2015 Prevalence Rates

For the adult population, 234 counties¹ initiated 991,073 match requests between September 1, 2014 and August 11, 2015. A total of 73,844 inquiries resulted in exact matches, meaning the data matched on all six criteria (last name, first name, date of birth, sex, social security number, and race). A total of 369,013 inquiries resulted in a probable match. During this same time period, there were 19,132 match requests for the adolescent population, resulting in 732 exact matches and 6,776 probable matches.

Conclusion

The data exchange system has increased collaboration and communication between the local jails and LMHA/LBHA. This data exchange system is useful in redirecting individuals with mental health issues from the jails to ongoing mental health services. The county jails have also increased the use of TLETS from fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2015. For example, in fiscal year 2014, there was an additional 708 probable matches for adolescents, which indicates that juvenile justice or other law enforcement providers increased use of the system.

¹ Of the 254 counties in the state of Texas, per the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (August, 2015), 18 counties do not operate a county jail facility and 2 counties operate 72-hour facilities that have not participated in the CCQ inquiries.