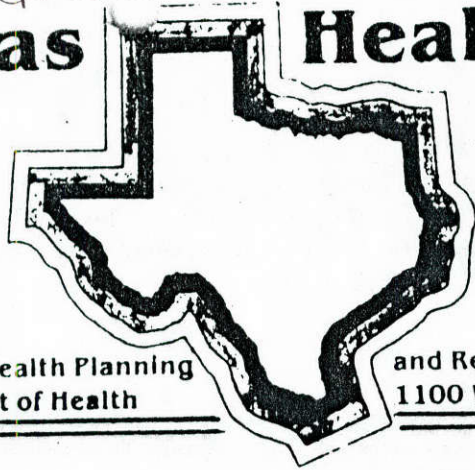


Texas Health Planning NEWS



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SHCC, SHP SUPPORT FUNDING DRUG TREATMENT ACT; FORUMS HELD

The Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) has selected the funding of the R. B. McAlister Drug Treatment Act as one of 15 priority concerns addressed in the 1985 State Health Plan currently being developed under the mandate of P.L. 93-641, as amended. The Act, passed by the 66th Texas Legislature, provides for expanding the state's system of drug abuse services. The Legislature mandated that the Texas Department of Community Affairs/Drug Abuse Prevention Division (TDCA/DAPD) establish and supervise a comprehensive system of services. Officials of TDCA/DAPD say about \$18 million must be appropriated for the next two years if this mandate is to be met.

As an educational endeavor relative to the necessity of funding the Act and a survey of drug abuse service needs at the community level, TDCA/DAPD has been conducting regional forums to highlight these major concerns. Such forums have already been held in Abilene, El Paso, San Antonio, McAllen and Arlington. The next forum will be held in Houston in July. Information concerning this forum is available from TDCA/DAPD at (512)475-2311 or from the Houston-Galveston Area Council at (713)627-3200.

It's during these forums that TDCA/DAPD presents the drug abuse picture in Texas. Agency representatives point out that in 1982 law enforcement officials arrested more than 52,000 people for the possession, sale or manufacture of controlled substances--a 16% increase from 1980. More than 300 individuals die from drug overdoses each year. Information from major metropolitan areas documents the number of people admitted for drug-related crises to hospital emergency rooms (over 1,700 in Dallas, with almost 18% being 17 or younger; about 1,225 in San Antonio, with close to 20% being under the age of 18).

During 1982, TDCA says, almost 1,500 persons were incarcerated in Texas for drug offenses--up 40% from 1980. Drug abuse treatment and prevention services could be an important component for rehabilitating offenders in the Texas criminal justice system. Currently, the state has granted probation to 215,000 individuals, while another 28,800 persons are on parole.

Each year, the number of people referred by Texas prisons and jails to drug abuse treatment programs increases. In 1982, 45% of clients in treatment were referred from the criminal justice system. Since no drug abuse services

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FACILITIES INVENTORY PUBLISHED

The Texas Medical Facilities Inventory and Utilization for calendar year 1982 has been published by the Bureau of State Health Planning and Resource Development, Texas Department of Health. The 930-page bound document is an inventory of medical facilities in the state, along with selected data either provided by these facilities via an annual questionnaire (requesting information for the 1982 calendar year or the facility's 1982 fiscal year) or from a secondary source.

Included are hospitals (acute, special and/or long-term care), nursing and custodial homes, rehabilitation outpatient clinics (MHMR and other), home health agencies (Class A and Class B), dialysis centers, public health centers, health maintenance organizations, migrant health projects and packaged disaster hospitals. Federal, state and restricted (serving a limited segment of the population) facilities and licensed custodial homes are inventoried, but not counted in category or area totals. Data for closed facilities are not included in counts of total admissions, discharges and patient days.

FACILITIES

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All data on which this publication is based are contained in the 1982 Integrated Facilities Masterfile, a computer file resident at the Texas Department of Health under the control of the Bureau of State Health Planning. Other information, besides that reflected in the inventory, is contained in the masterfile and is available upon request.

DRUG TREATMENT ACT

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program exists within the Texas prison system, offenders with treatable drug problems have few possibilities of being adequately rehabilitated before their return to society, officials say.

Prior to 1982, the Texas drug abuse program consisted primarily of implementing categorical grants awarded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse. Services supported by these grants reflected the general federal strategy which focused on treating persons already abusing drugs. Beginning in 1975, an increased effort to prevent the use of drugs emerged as well. The federal categorical grants were replaced in Fiscal Year 1982 with the block grant mechanism for awarding program dollars.

The TDCA/DAPD program is almost totally dependent on federal funding through the block grant mechanism. Reductions in federal funds have caused the loss of many services:

- In Fiscal Year 1980 the amount of federal funds awarded for support of drug abuse services program was \$7.5 million. For FY 1983, the amount awarded was \$6.3 million.
- Accordingly, about 1,560 fewer persons will be served in 1984 and 2,620 fewer individuals in 1985.
- A 32% decrease in TDCA Drug Abuse Prevention Division staff has limited the agency's ability to respond to requests for information and training from service providers and community members.

Spokesmen for TDCA/DAPD have stated the matter bluntly:

"Texans cannot afford any further reductions in drug abuse treatment and prevention services. The need exists in the state to enhance and improve the present system of drug abuse services as mandated by the Texas Legislature."

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