

Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team (DCBHLT) Charter

Context:

Texas ranks 50th in the nation for the amount it spends per person for mental health care. Inadequate state funding puts the burden on local resources, and leads to increased rates of incarceration and higher use of public hospital emergency rooms, homeless shelters, and the foster care system. Denton County is one of the lowest funded counties in the state of Texas.

A significant number of persons who are incarcerated in Texas and in the Denton County jail are receiving behavioral health services. Currently, the jail serves as the # 1 mental illness inpatient facility, which law enforcement recognizes that many of those do not belong.

MHMR is the designated local mental health authority for Denton County. MHMR is currently serving clients over capacity based on funding.

Important steps have been taken especially in the area of understanding the impact of mental health on a community. Progress is also being made with Veterans, with an increase in awareness and funding resources available. Additionally, there is strong community support in Denton County to address behavioral health, and system flaws, which should be capitalized to ensure that the creation and implementation of a fully functioning behavioral health leadership team is in place to serve as the single point of accountability.

Purpose:

The Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team is tasked to convene as a policy making team to improve the planning, coordination, oversight, and implementation required to create systems change, for behavioral health services in Denton County.

Composition and Roles:

The DCBHLT shall consist of no less than fifteen (15) and no more than thirty-three (33) members. Such number may be increased or decreased by the DCBHLT.

The DCBHLT shall be composed of appointees from the following entities.

(3-5) Denton County Commissioners Court appointees

(1-2) Denton City Council appointees

(1-2) Lewisville City Council appointees

(1) Small Cities/Towns appointee

(3-7) Health Systems, Hospitals, MHMR, Health Department appointees

(1-2) Health Insurance Providers appointees

(4-8) Human Systems, ISD's, Higher Education, Law Enforcement, WATCH appointees

(1) United Way of Denton County appointee

Officers:

The DCBHLT will have a chair, co-chair, secretary, past chair (after 1 year) and ex-officio members.

Workgroups/Sub-committees: The DCBHLT will define workgroups and sub-committees as deemed appropriate and necessary. Workgroups/Sub-committees will meet outside of the regularly DCBHLT meeting schedule and provide reports to the DCBHLT.

Resources and Support:

United Way of Denton County Inc. (UWDC) will serve as the fiscal agent and backbone organization of the DCBHLT to provide staff, guide vision and strategy, support aligned activities, establish shared measurement practices, build public will, advance policy and mobilize funding.

Operations:

To ensure members are actively engaged, members are expected to attend 75% of the meetings. Meetings of the DCBHLT will be held monthly for a period of six (6) months. DCBHLT members will review the scheduling needs to determine meeting frequency after the initial six (6) months.

Meetings of the DCBHLT will be held at the United Way of Denton County Inc. office and be open to the public. Meeting agendas and minutes will be made available through DCBHLT/UWDC website.

The meetings of the DCBHLT shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of the "Roberts Rules of Order".

Deliverables:

1. Selection of the following officers:
 - Chair
 - Co-Chair
 - Secretary
 - Past Chair
2. Development of Bylaws
3. Development of a comprehensive strategic plan addressing initial priority areas with outcome measures.
4. Develop a community based behavioral health system.

Adopted Date _____

Charter verified by signature of DCBHLT members.

**Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team (DCBHLT)
Charter
Signature Page:**

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