

MEADOWS  
MENTAL HEALTH  
POLICY INSTITUTE

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**Mental Health and Addiction in the  
Texas 87th Legislative Session**

Andy Keller, PhD | Wednesday, October 14, 2020

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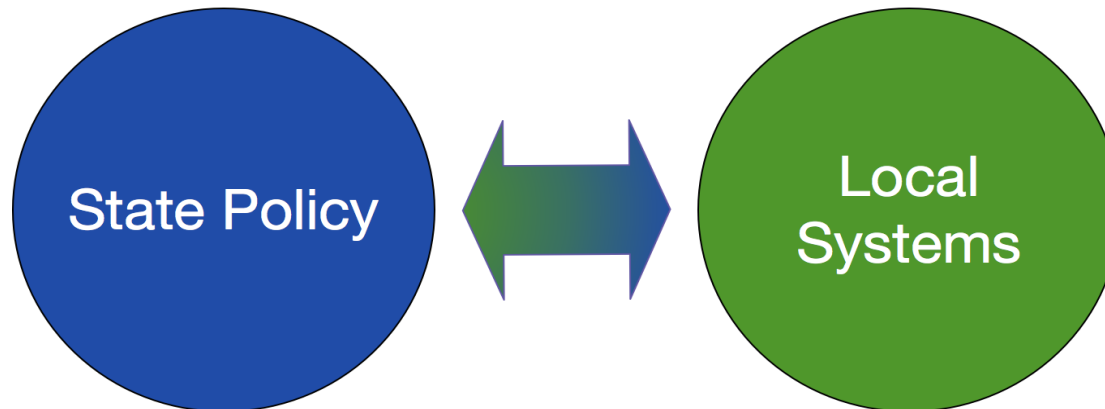
# Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

## Vision

We envision Texas to be the national leader in treating people with mental health needs.

## Mission Statement

To provide independent, non-partisan, data-driven, and trusted policy and program guidance that creates systemic changes so all Texans can obtain effective, efficient behavioral health care when and where they need it.



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- Since our founding in 2013:
  - Texas behavioral health funding is up over \$1.8 billion.
  - Legislators have “found” over \$3 billion more.
- Two legislative sessions: ~~42~~ 43 of 48 priorities passed.

# We Treat the Brain Differently From the Body

**7,632**  
**SUBSTANCE**  
 RELATED DEATHS  
 in Texas in 2018

## THE CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

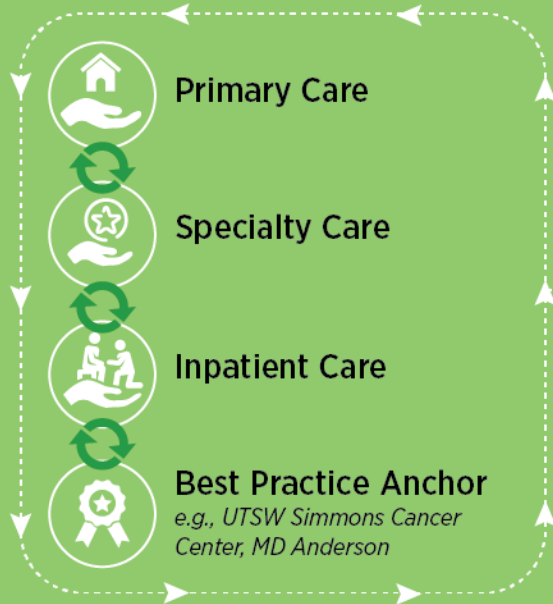
**3,930**  
 DEATHS BY  
**SUICIDE**  
 in Texas in 2018

The Goal of Health Care: **LIVING YOUR LIFE** in the COMMUNITY

PHYSICAL



MENTAL



**The best Mental Health Care is like the best Health Care**





# RESULTS FROM THE 86TH LEGISLATURE

# Building on Our Accomplishments

- The **86th Texas Legislature** appropriated over **\$8.2 billion (AF)** for behavioral health, an estimated **\$616 million increase**. Funding includes:
- **\$120 million** to support **grants to local communities** to expand access to mental health services,
- **\$445 million** for new **state hospital construction**,
- **\$100 million** to fund a new **School Safety Allotment**,
- **\$99 million** to establish the **Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium**,
- **\$59 million** to address population growth and equity issues related to **community mental health services**, and
- **\$26 million** to fund **50 additional community inpatient beds**.

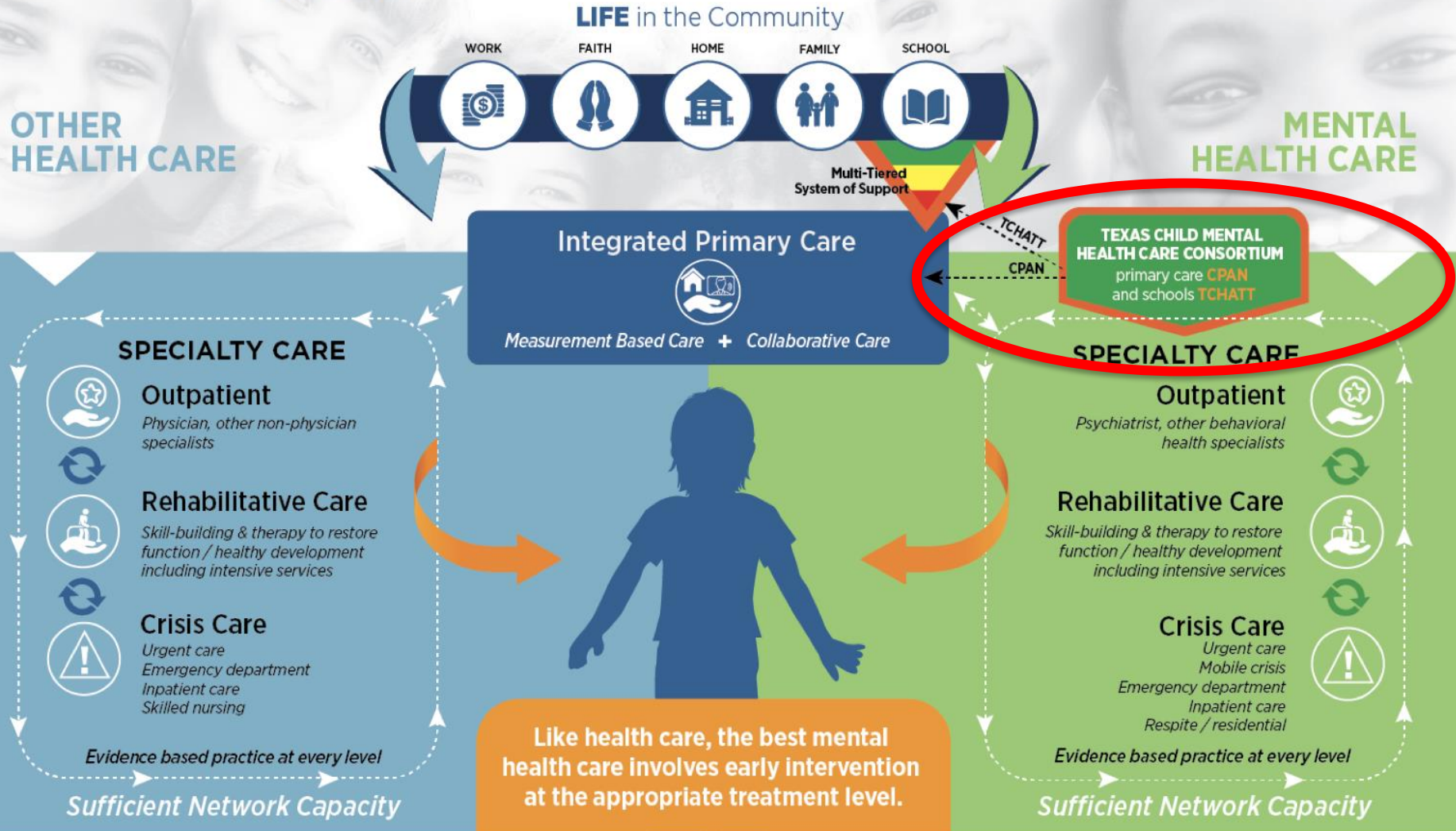
# Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium

**SB 11 (Taylor)** established the **Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium** (Consortium) to foster collaboration among the state's medical schools, with a focus on Texas children.

- **SB 10 (Nelson)**, which created the Consortium, was added as an amendment to **SB 11**.
- **HB 1 (Zerwas)** provides **\$49.5 million** in each fiscal year to fund initiatives assigned to the Consortium.
- The Consortium is **governed by representatives** from all state-funded medical schools, three non-profit organizations, a hospital system, Health and Human Services Commission, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

# We Treat the Brain Differently From the Body

## THE IDEAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM







# LOOKING AHEAD: THE 87TH LEGISLATURE

# Key word describing the next legislative session: uncertainty

- What are the results of the November 3rd elections?
  - How will the makeup of the Texas House and Texas Senate change?
  - Do the Democrats take control of the Texas House?
- What will COVID look like on January 12, 2021 when the 87th Legislative Session officially begins?
  - The Capitol is currently closed to the public; will there be restricted access to the Texas Capitol in January and beyond?
  - Likely to be fewer committee hearings next year and thus fewer opportunities to pass legislation.

# Two certainties: There will be a new Speaker of the Texas House, and there will be a budget deficit.

- In July 2020, Comptroller Hegar revised his revenue estimate and projected a \$4.58 billion shortfall for the 2020-21 biennium (previously estimated \$2.89 billion surplus).
- In January 2021, Comptroller Hegar will issue a new biennial revenue estimate for FY 2022-23, providing the Texas Legislature with the maximum revenue they can use in drafting the new two-year budget.

# The CARES Act and the Coronavirus Relief Fund

- The CARES Act provided \$150 billion to the Department of the Treasury to establish the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF).
  - Of the \$150 billion, Texas received \$11.24 billion from the fund with roughly \$6.18 billion reserved for the state and the remainder allocated for local governments.
- Appropriations from the state have been limited and approximately \$5.5 billion remains.

# Focus Areas of the 87th Legislative Session

Budget

COVID

Police  
Reform

Redistricting

# **Now, more than ever, we must protect and maintain the investments and work of the Texas Legislature and Texas communities in our mental health system.**

- Leveraging the accelerated adoption of telemedicine and telehealth in practices, and HHSC authorization for reimbursing certain behavioral health services in Medicaid when delivered by telemedicine, telehealth, or telephone (audio only).
- Implementing solutions to overcome barriers to broadband deployment in underserved areas and position the state to take advantage of federal infrastructure funding.
- Positioning Texas to best leverage the federal response to COVID-19.

# Continuing the Work of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC)

- Established in 2019 by the 86th Texas Legislature, TCMHCC supports four initiatives to address the mental health care needs for children and adolescents across Texas:
  - Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN)
  - Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHATT)
  - Research Program
  - Workforce Development Program

# Q & A