



THE MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

**Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs & Border Security:
Improving How Texas Meets the Mental Health Needs of Veterans and Their Families**

Kyle Mitchell | May 22, 2018

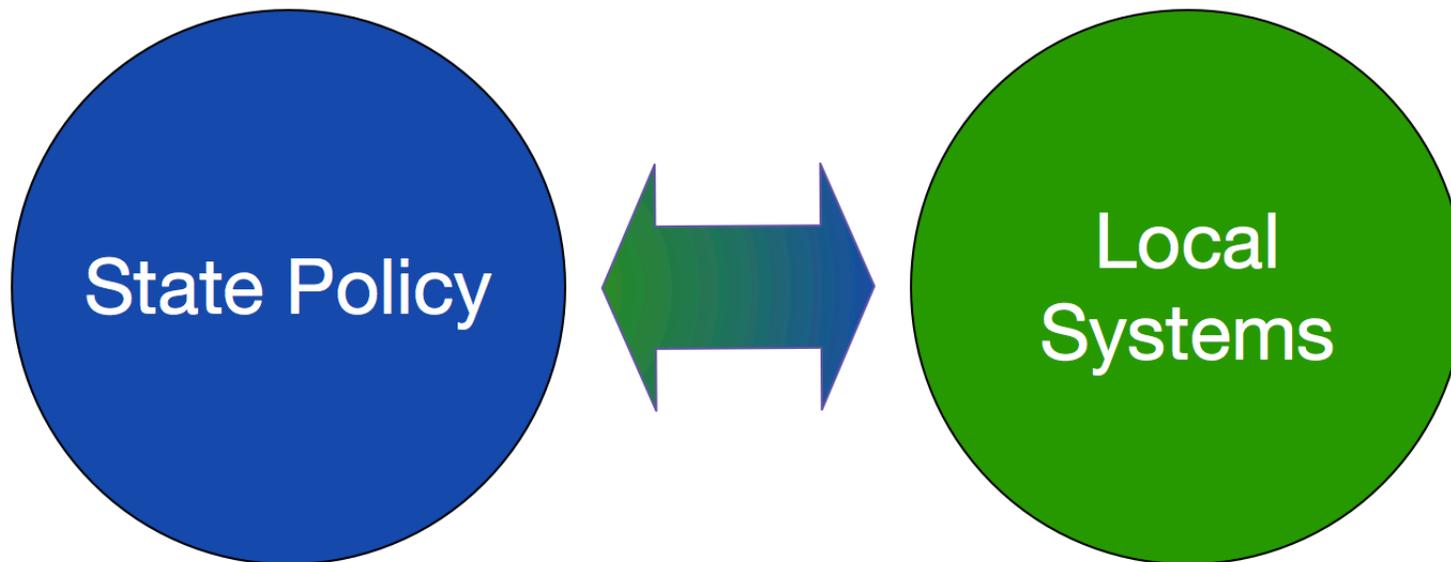
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Vision

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

Mission Statement

To provide independent, non-partisan, 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.



Texas Veterans – Prevalence Data (2015)

Estimated Number of Texas Veterans with Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorders, 2015				
	Male		Female	
Any Mental Illness	213,782	14.3%	44,711	24.8%
Mental Illness (mild)	121,093	8.1%	19,291	10.7%
Mental Illness (moderate)	47,839	3.2%	11,538	6.4%
Mental Illness (serious)	43,354	2.9%	13,702	7.6%
Substance Use Disorder	101,658	6.8%	7,392	4.1%
Alcohol Use Disorder	91,194	6.1%	6,851	3.8%
Illicit Drug Use	17,940	1.2%	1,623	0.9%

Addressing Needs Through Peer Services

81(R) SB 1325 (Nelson) established the **Mental Health Program for Veterans** to provide peer-to-peer counseling for veterans.



The Health and Human Services Commission (**HHSC**) and the Texas Veterans Commission (**TVC**) coordinate to administer the program.

The program provides **peer counseling services** to service members, veterans, and their families through contracts with **local mental health authorities (LMHAs)**, **local behavioral health authorities (LBHAs)** and the **Texas A&M University Health Science Center (TAMUHSC)**.

Expansion to Meet Additional Needs

The Legislature has continually supported **important expansions in this program** – most recently through **85(R) SB 27 (Campbell)**, which focused on the “peer service” nature of these services.

What are others ways the Legislature can continue to support this program?

- **Budget alignment** of TVC funding.
- Additional support for the **justice-involved veterans** and **faith-based** work at TVC.
- **Additional funding** for peers or focused populations.



Addressing Needs Through Community Grants

- **84(R) SB 55 (Nelson)** directed HHSC to establish a grant program to support **community mental health programs** that provide and coordinate **mental health services and treatment** for **Texas veterans and their families**.
 - The **Texas Veterans + Family Alliance (TV+FA)** provides grants to existing or developing **community collaboratives** to fund delivery and coordination of mental health and supportive services.
 - Communities must match state grants on a **dollar-for-dollar basis**, demonstrating their commitment to addressing mental health needs of veterans and their families.

Texas Veterans + Family Alliance in Action

Two **Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinics at Endeavors™** - in **El Paso** and in **Killeen** - provide high-quality, accessible, and integrated mental health care to veterans and their families, regardless of discharge status or ability to pay.

Veteran “one-stops” in the **Rio Grande Valley, Waco, and Central Texas.**

Increased access to a **broad range of mental health care services** for veterans and their families across the state.

Changes Affecting TV+FA

- **85(R) HB 13 (Price)** created the **Community Mental Health Grant Program** to provide incentives for state-local collaborations to *help Texas communities tailor solutions to fit the mental health challenges they face.*
 - Communities must match state grants in an amount equal to **50 percent of the grant amount** if the community mental health program is located **in a county with a population of less than 250,000.**
- In October 2017, HHSC and MMHPI *mutually agreed* to terminate MMHPI's role as the **no-cost administrator** for the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Program.

Addressing Needs Through TVC Grants

- **Veteran Mental Health grants** focus on *the mental health needs of veterans and their families* through projects that emphasize **direct services to veterans and their families**.
- **Veteran Treatment Court grants** *assist Texas veterans* in obtaining services through **Veterans Treatment Court programs**.
- TVC and HHSC should *continue their close coordination* to achieve the goals of their grant programs and prevent duplication in funding.

TEXAS STATE
— of —
MIND

THE MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

okay
to say

The truth is: mental illness affects more people than you may think, and we need to talk about it. It's Okay to say..." okaytosay.org
