

MHMRA of Harris County

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Service Division

Local Plan

2015

Executive Summary

In accordance with Guidelines for Local Service Planning and Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC), 533.0352 the Harris County Local Authority (LA) ensures that a continuum of services, as mandated by the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) is available to residents of Harris County, service fees are affordable and that services and benefits are not denied to eligible persons because of their inability to pay. The Harris County LA provides assistance to eligible persons by developing a comprehensive range of accessible cost effective services for persons who need supported care, intervention, prevention, education, treatment, or habilitation and seeks to minimize duplication and share financing through the coordination and collaboration among governmental and private entities.

The Harris County LA oversees responsibilities that include the coordination of resources and benefits through the ongoing planning and assessment of community needs and the identification of resource gaps. Those responsibilities include policy development that addresses the needs of the local authority that incorporates the consideration of the public input, best value, and consumer care issues, as well as coordination of services that include collaboration with other agencies, criminal justice entities, and child serving agencies, family advocacy organizations, local businesses, and community organizations. In addition, the Harris County LA ensures that services are coordinated among and between network providers; and other persons, and provides consumers a choice among all eligible network providers.

History and Organizational Overview of MHMRA

Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County (HCMHMRA) was created on November 19, 1965, and was the second center created in Texas. It is the largest mental health and mental retardation (MHMR) center in the country, and is larger than MHMR centers of over 20 states. It provides services in over fifty sites throughout Harris County. Its growth and programmatic innovations and changes have always occurred in full collaboration with the community and the Harris County citizens, the advocacy, academic, law enforcement, behavioral health, physical health, and social service organizations, agencies and training institutions.

The local planning report chronicles the history of MHMRA as well as the outstanding achievements of the Harris County Local Authority beginning with the Laying the Foundation (1965), Expansion Years (1976-1990), Years of Innovation and Redirection (1991-1999), Meeting the Challenging New Millennium (2000-2003) and Major Projects (2003-2013). The Local Authority under the auspices of MHMRA of Harris County is fully aware of the importance of developing an environment that inspires and promotes innovation, and fosters the challenge to do more and better with fewer resources. However, workforce, its management, its Planning Advisory Council, and its Board of Trustees are prepared to meet, with the support and collaboration of the widest variety of individuals and institutions, whatever challenge is required to assure that its mission is fulfilled.

Vision

The vision of the MHMRA is that the public mental health and intellectual disability system will act in partnership of individuals, family members, service providers and policy makers which creates options responsive to individual needs and preferences. This vision includes recognition of these values.

- MHMRA serves individuals that share common human needs, rights, desires and strengths;
- MHMRA celebrates cultural diversity and individual uniqueness and is committed to support individual choices and preferences;
- MHMRA is committed to dynamic leadership and rewards creativity among our staff, volunteers and consumers.

Mission

It shall be the mission of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County (MHMRA), within the resources available, to provide or ensure the provision of services and supports in a respectful fashion that are high quality, efficient, and cost-effective such that persons with mental disabilities may live with dignity and fully functioning, participating, and contributing members of our community as possible, regardless of their ability to pay or third-party coverage.

Under the umbrella of the Agency's mission, the mission of the Intellectual Disabilities Local Authority is that persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities should be able to acquire the skills and access community resources to develop networks of human relationships, learn, work, and live in environments of their choosing.

Philosophy and Values

The Local Authority adheres to the following values that guide the operational support and service delivery of MHMRA of Harris County:

- Integrity: Honesty. Firm adherence to a set of values and principles.
- Accountability: Accepting responsibility for one's actions and the outcomes of those actions.
- Consumer-driven: Developing and implementing services based on consumer needs, priorities, and choices within the resources available.
- Quality: Providing services that make a measurable difference.
- Efficiency: Optimizing the use of available resources to achieve the desired results.

Description of Services and Supports

With the available resources, the Harris County LA provides the listed range of services and supports mandated by the DADS State Contract.

- Eligibility Determination Assessment - Determines whether an individual has an intellectual disability and whether a person is a member of the priority population.
- Service Coordination – Assistance to an individual in accessing medical, social, educational, and other services and supports to help the individual achieve the quality of life and community participation acceptable to the individual.
- Service Authorization and Monitoring - Assistance to an individual with a single need to help the individual achieve the quality of life and community participation acceptable to the individual. The need for the service is re-assessed on an annual basis.
- Support Services - Assistance for individuals not receiving residential services, including community supports, respite services (in-home or out-of-home), and specialized therapies (support services provided by a licensed or certified professional such as psychology, nursing, social work, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech, or behavioral health services).

Strategic Priorities – services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Drawing upon the previous year of operational reviews, the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Planning Advisory Council (IDD-PAC) summarized their recommendations for service and program priorities for the Intellectual Disabilities Services Division. The IDD-PAC Authority subcommittee reviewed, discussed and prioritized the identified issues. The strategic priorities were reviewed by the full IDD-PAC before submission to the Program Committee of the Board of Trustees for review and acceptance.

The following page summarize the programmatic priorities from the IDD-PAC that were submitted to the Program Committee of the Board of Trustees, which recommended their adoption by the Full Board of Trustees.

Priority of Persons Served

1. Individuals with Co-occurring Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (including Autism), and Mental Illness;
2. Transition for individuals with IDD (including Autism) post secondary education;
3. Individuals with IDD (including Autism) who are aging;
4. Individuals with IDD (including Autism) in the Criminal Justice System.

Strategic Priorities

- Issue 1: Services and support for individuals with co-occurring Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (including Autism) and Mental Illness;
- Issue 2: Transition services and supports for individuals with IDD (including Autism) post secondary education;
- Issue 3: Services and supports for individuals with IDD (including Autism) who are aging;
- Issue 4: Services and supports for individuals with IDD (including Autism) in the Criminal Justice System.

Local Authority Goals

1. Create a comprehensive and cost effective service delivery system that provides opportunities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become functioning, contributing, and integrated members of society.
2. Establish collaborative relationships with the public and private provider network to maximize the available service array for persons with high intense needs.
3. Establish collaborative relationships with organizations to maximize services and supports for individuals with intellectual disabilities who are aging.
4. Continue to educate families and community members about available service options.
5. Strive to ensure appropriate identification and access to a suitable array of safety net services and supports are available for persons needing such interventions, including individuals with co-occurring IDD and mental illness.
6. Continue the integration of careprocess to address behavioral health needs, IDD, and physical health needs for individuals receiving services through the IDD service delivery system.

Objectives

To achieve the stated goals, the Harris County Local Authority will implement the following objectives:

1. Continue to streamline the access and intake process for services, and expand the availability of services and supports for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities by partnering with community stakeholders.
2. Continue to coordinate supports for individuals by partnering with service providers within the medical, criminal justice, and educational systems for the identified priority list of individuals to be served
3. Continue to join and promote efforts at the state and local levels to develop jail diversion and appropriate community-based programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities within the criminal justice system.

4. Continue to devote staff to public awareness and education for community organizations and agencies, school districts, and criminal justice system regarding services and supports for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the Training & Community Outreach Program.

Resource Development and Allocation

There are two primary sources of funding for the Harris County Local Authority: Medicaid earned revenue and general revenue from the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). The resource development activities include the following:

Maximizing Opportunities for Existing and New Funds and Resources

- Continue to implement strategies to increase the number of Medicaid eligible consumers;
- Continue to obtain additional funding through service contracts with agencies, public and private providers such as Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services (DARS), and waiver programs;
- Continue to aggressively seek to contracts with private providers through the open enrollment process to deliver services funded by DADS to ensure best value;
- Improve efficiencies through the use of available technology such as the use of electronic mobile devices, video-conferencing, laptops and wireless air cards.

The local plan for the Harris County Local Authority is a collaborative effort among the IDD-PAC, local authority leadership staff, administrative support staff (Quality Management, Information Technology, Financial Services) and the Board of Trustees. We are very proud of the level of expertise, support, and commitment of all parties involved. Most importantly, the Harris County Local Authority continues to display leadership and innovation to meet the needs of our residents.

IDD Authority Local Plan - Strategic Priorities

Prior Local Plan	2015 Revised Local Plan
Priorities of Persons Served	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Children at Risk of Institutionalization2. Persons with Co-occurring Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and Mental Illness3. Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders4. Persons with IDD in the Criminal Justice System5. Persons with IDD who are aging	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Individuals with co-occurring Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (including Autism) and Mental Illness2. Transition for individuals with IDD (including Autism) post secondary education3. Individuals with IDD (including Autism) who are aging4. Individuals with IDD (including Autism) in the Criminal Justice System