



88th Legislative Session Platform

Mental Health America of Greater Houston's legislative work centers on community-driven solutions to promote mental health for all in hopes of building a future with more understanding of mental health conditions and promoting the health and well-being of all people as informed by the work of our Center for School Behavioral Health, Integrated Health Care Initiative, and Veteran's Behavioral Health programs.

To address these issues, we will work to educate the Texas Legislature on the importance of taking the following legislative actions:

1) Increasing school-based initiatives that improve prevention, identification and treatment of behavioral health issues among students in an effort to create safe and supportive school climates, particularly concerning the transition of students back to school from alternative education programs.

2) Ensuring Texas families have healthy pregnancies and better long-term health outcomes by extending Medicaid benefits for pregnant women from 6 months to 12 months post-partum, providing pivotal mental health care coverage for a full year following the birth of a child.

3) Supporting initiatives to reduce the behavioral health workforce shortage, including funding for loan forgiveness and repayment programs for behavioral health professionals and expanding the use of certified peer support specialists, community health workers and navigators in environments such as emergency departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, educational settings, specialty court programs and criminal justice facilities.

4) Promoting the sustainability of integrated health care in Texas by increasing allowable financing mechanisms to implement more robust value-based payment models and available technical assistance to expand collaborative care models, including increasing reimbursement rates for mid-level providers, simplifying provider preparation and credentialing process, and expanding allowable licensures to include licensed master social worker and other similar professionals.

For questions or comments, please contact:

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