About The Harris Center

The Harris Center is the largest mental health and developmental disability care center in Texas. We have an inherent passion for helping those with mental illness and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities live to their fullest potential. We never lose sight of the vast importance of a person’s self-worth. As advocates of respect and acceptance for all, we remain committed to making individuals the central focus of our work.

We partner with hundreds of community advocacy organizations, hospitals, foundations, governmental entities, non-profit groups, and others to connect consumers with the best available care. We are working hard to reduce the stigmas that surround mental illness and intellectual & developmental disabilities through the provision of high-quality services that include community outreach and education.

Harris County’s population of more than four million is represented by at least 90 different languages and cultures. Our team is comprised of skilled physicians, clinicians and support staff fluent in several languages to meet the needs of Harris County residents.

As the state-designated Local Mental Health Authority and Local Intellectual and Developmental Authority for Harris County, The Harris Center provides services and supports that are as high quality, efficient, and cost effective as possible such that persons with mental disabilities may live with dignity as fully functioning, participating and contributing members of our community, regardless of their ability to pay.

Rights Protection Offices
If you feel you have been unfairly treated, have been denied needed services or accommodation by The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD (The Harris Center), or if you are unable to resolve a complaint regarding services with an employee of The Harris Center or their supervisor, you may contact the following Rights Protection Offices:

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD
Rights Protection Officer
9401 Southwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77074
713-970-7742
Accessible 24/7

Texas Health and Human Services
Civil Rights Office
701 W. 51st Street
Mail Code W206
Austin, Texas 78751
1-888-388-6332
HHSCivilRightsOffice@hhsc.state.tx.us

Disability Rights Texas
1500 McGowen St.
Houston, Texas 77004
713-974-7691
1-800-252-9108

Individuals with hearing impairment or loss may call any of the offices above using the free service of Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2989.

All complaints are handled confidentially.
Mental Health Jail Diversion Program (SB1185)

• Program funded by state of Texas thru Harris County Judge’s Office to design and test a criminal justice mental health service model oriented toward reducing the recidivism and frequency of arrests and incarceration of persons with mental illness in the Harris County Jail
• Model designed around Critical Time Intervention principle and evidence based practices.
• An integrated treatment approach (mental health, chemical dependency, physical health, criminogenic risk factors, etc.)
• Goals:
  o Reduce the number of times offenders with mental health diagnoses are arrested.
  o Reduce the number of days offenders with mental health diagnoses spend in jail.

Adult Jail Services

• The Harris Center contract to provide Mental Health Services with the Harris County Jail began in 1978
• Program inside the jail are under the following units:
  o Front Door Clinic Services
  o General Population Service
  o Continuity of Care
  o Intensive Case Management
  o Transitional Case Management

Dual Diagnosis Residential Program (DDRP) - Atascocita
• 60-bed dual diagnosis residential treatment unit for male and female probationers
• An evidence based model for addressing mental health, substance abuse and criminality in a highly structured environment that focuses on psychiatric and medical stabilization, pro-social lifestyles and cognitive behavior treatment.
• 120-150 days program
• Goals:
  o Long Term – reduce the number of re-arrest within a 12 month period
  o Short Term – successful completion of Residential Program

Special Program: Reintegration Court (RIC)
Collaborative effort with Harris County Felony courts to divert low level felony offenses out of jail.

The Forensic Services Division of The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD provides services to meet the needs of children, adolescents and adults with criminal justice involvement. The division focuses on the effective assessment, treatment and management of criminal justice involved patients, both in the community and in secure settings.

Children’s Forensic Services

All clinical services, with the exception of Children’s Forensic Evaluation Services, are provided for the child and family primarily in the home, school, probation or parole office. Forensic Child and Adolescent: Age 10-17. Referrals are received from Probation, Parole, Alternative School and the Justice of the Peace Courts. However, parents can seek services and walk-ins are welcome.

• Community Based Stabilization Unit (CBSU)
• Community Unit Probation Services (CUPS)
• CHOICES
• Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)
• TRIAD Children’s Forensic Evaluation Services
• TRIAD Children’s Mental Health Services
• TCOOMMI Jr (Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments)