CONTINUITY
FISCAL YEAR 2020
ANNUAL REPORT

Meeting our community needs in the midst of the global pandemic
Although 2020 will be remembered as the year of COVID-19, for the Harris Center, this was the year we demonstrated continuity of care through COVID-19 and overcame obstacles that showcased our resilience, innovation and passion for providing quality care to our clients. We are proud of our achievements this fiscal year. First, we transitioned the majority of our employees to work remotely within days, putting the health and safety of our staff and clients as our priority. For the people we serve, we transitioned to a telehealth service structure, establishing a new curbside pharmacy pick up process and implemented numerous safety protocols to ensure social distancing and providing a safe and sanitized environment for our in-clinic visitors.

Emerging Stronger
In partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services, we were able to launch a statewide 24/7 COVID-19 mental health support line. We launched additional virtual support groups to help front line workers impacted by the pandemic and expanded our crisis line staff to meet the demands. In addition, our staff worked diligently to develop new programs and partnerships to improve care and services. In FY2020, for example, we partnered with the UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center and Open Door Mission to launch a temporary 24-hour program, assisting people with mental illness in Houston’s homeless community.

We also obtained a 3-year CARF accreditation, a testament to our advancement of quality services and our commitment to being one of the best mental health and IDD care providers available in the country.

Looking Ahead
We serve our clients with passion, knowledge and personalized attention. As COVID-19 and the related changes in business and society have accelerated our need for innovative transformation, we have persevered and remained a strong resource for our community. I would like to take a moment to thank our entire community, staff and partners for your continued support and dedication to transforming the lives of people with behavioral health and IDD needs. Together, we continue to make a difference.

Wayne Young, MBA, LPC, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

Our Mission
Transform the lives of people with behavioral health and IDD needs.

Our Vision
Empower people with behavioral health and IDD needs to improve their lives through an accessible, integrated and comprehensive recovery-oriented system of care.

Our Values
Collaboration    Leadership
Compassion      Quality
Excellence       Responsiveness
Integrity       Safety

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60,900 Individuals Served
+ 17,900 At The Harris County Jail

20,800+
People served by our Intellectual and Developmental Disability Service Division

24,300+
Adults served by our Outpatient Mental Health Services

3,400+
Adults served by our Forensic Mental Health Services

16,200+
People Served by our Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs

6,800+
Children & Adolescents

3,600+
Eligibility Center
294,765+ Calls Answered

6,735+ Calls answered statewide by the COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line to provide emotional support for anxiety due to COVID-19.

125,120+ Crisis Line calls answered from 36 Texas counties

158,695+ Access Line answered calls from people seeking outpatient services or clients needing connection to their providers.

1,705+ Community members trained in Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, SafeTalk, ASK+, Mental Health 101 and other outreach activities.

As a Texas Regional Suicide Care Support Center, The Harris Center provided training and technical assistance on Zero Suicide to 14 agencies and organizations.

1,945+ Crisis Call Diversion answered 4,095 calls for service and diverted calls completely away from 911 resources and toward mental health supports.
Support for Frontline Workers

To support frontline workers who provide an essential or key public service, The Harris Center extended its support to offer free virtual support groups for essential staff in our community. Please call the COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line at 1-833-986-1919 for more information.

Homeless Shelter Partnership

In response to the pandemic, The Harris Center, UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center and Open Door Mission worked collaboratively to open a 24-hour residential program to assist people with mental illness in Houston’s homeless community after discharge from inpatient care.

The facility offered 28 beds, supporting individuals in a non-stressful environment, while aiming to reduce the occurrence of communal spread of the COVID-19 virus.
This year, The Harris Center expanded telehealth access for behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disabilities services for Harris County residents.

Within a week, we transitioned approximately 1,800 employees to work remotely from home to deliver care either via phone or Lifesize.

223% INCREASE
in telehealth capacity to provide safe and effective care to our clients during the early stages of the pandemic.

Texans Recovering Together

In recent years, The Harris Center has responded to major disasters by providing crisis counseling services to Harris County residents. In this fiscal year, The Harris Center provided support to individuals affected by Tropical Storm Imelda, and are currently providing free emotional support to people who are experiencing anxiety due to COVID-19.

If you would like to learn more about the Texans Recovering Together program in Harris County, please contact 833-927-1806 or send an email to TRT@TheHarrisCenter.org.
Increasing Integrated Care Coordination: Primary Care, Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

Electronic Health Record

In fiscal year 2020, The Harris Center launched the EPIC implementation, an Electronic Health Record system (EHR) that will facilitate the coordination of patient care across multiple healthcare systems.

The Harris Center is working with Harris Health to implement a best-in-class EHR system to support the center’s complex healthcare operations.

Reinforcing The Harris Center’s strategic plan goal of improving care through innovation, the EHR system will allow sharing of patient information among caregivers, greater patient engagement and best practices to improve health outcomes for Harris County residents. The convenient mobile app will allow patients to take a more active role in their treatment.

Improving the Integrated Care Delivery System

To create an improved network model of care, and our client’s overall health outcomes, The Harris Center has developed a new integrated care delivery system to coordinate community primary care, prevention and wellness activities on-site. In collaboration with first responders, law enforcement and hospital staff, the goal is to decrease the utilization of preventable emergency and hospital services, offering a proactive approach to improve the lives of our clients and enhance their care experience.
Finding youth mental health services can be difficult. To help families in accessing quality care, Project CHANGE has joined forces with communities in Harris County and the Texas System of Care to meet that challenge by offering personalized services and support.

Through Project CHANGE we provide wraparound mental health services to people, aged 18-21, who are transitioning from youth to adulthood.

Project CHANGE offers wraparound services to youth and their families in residential treatment centers, working with these individuals, and their families, with the goal of developing a successful reintegration into the community upon discharge.

Youth Peer Support

A unique feature of this program is the inclusion of a Youth Peer Support Specialist to work alongside the clinical team. By drawing on the youth’s own lived experience, navigating both the behavioral health systems and the criminal justice system, our Youth Peer Support Specialist connects with young adults on a different level – inspiring hope and serving as an advocate for those in the program.
The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD, in partnership with Harris County Probate Court 3 and the University of Houston, received a grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program for people with serious mental illness.

This four year project will help build a coalition of stakeholders involved in the civil commitment process to expand existing service capabilities.

As with most large and growing communities in the country, Harris County’s mental health system struggles to keep pace with the expanding demand for services, particularly for individuals with acute needs. The Houston AOT Program serves uninsured or underinsured people with serious mental illness who have consistently struggled with adherence to outpatient treatment, including missed appointments and failure to take medication as prescribed. AOT will aim to reduce the number and duration of inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations, homelessness, incarcerations and interactions with the criminal justice system while improving treatment engagement, treatment adherence and functional outcomes. This program is designed to work with courts to allow these individuals to obtain treatment while continuing to live in the community and their homes.

“Through this grant, the Houston AOT Program can provide life-changing opportunities to Harris County residents who are struggling with mental illness,” said Judge Jason Cox of Harris County Probate Court 3. “We know from research that Assisted Outpatient Treatment can reduce risks such as hospitalization, arrest, incarceration, crime, victimization and violence; we at the Court are excited to work and collaborate with The Harris Center and our other community partners to help these individuals reach their highest potential.”

AOT services include comprehensive health and behavioral health services provided through evidence-based interventions, such as case management, motivational interviewing, psychosocial rehabilitation, cognitive processing therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), substance abuse treatment and other services, as appropriate.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment fills a significant gap in our mental health delivery system in Harris County. With the availability of these intensive services and collaboration with our partners, we can help people with serious mental illness avoid jail, hospitalization and psychiatric emergency services.

Positive Status Reports

New Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program Provides Life-Changing Opportunities
For every $1 spent on jail diversion, the county avoided spending $5.54 on criminal justice costs.

Experienced a 50% reduction in bookings after participants were diverted.

Those diverted were 1.3 times less likely to be booked into jail on a new charge than those in a comparison group that were not diverted.

To date, approximately 3,100 mentally ill individuals have been successfully diverted from the criminal justice system to a program that helps them receive proper treatment for their illness.

To demonstrate the program’s impact, below are outcomes validated by our external evaluators:

- Those diverted with 5+ bookings were 3.1 times less likely to be booked into jail on a new offense than those in a comparison group that were not diverted.
- Those diverted with no previous bookings were 44.9 times less likely to be booked into jail on a new offense than those in a comparison group that were not diverted.

**Expanded CORE Program**

The Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Diversion Center opened in September 2018. Since its induction, external evaluators have found the center has helped reduce the number of jail admissions for low-level misdemeanors among individuals experiencing a mental health illness.

HCSO expanded its telepsychiatry program from 20 to 100 deputies. CORE’s mission is to promptly and accurately assess individuals within Houston and Harris County experiencing a mental health crisis to avoid unnecessary hospitalization and incarceration.

“A recent client of mine, Rachelle, had issues connecting with her mother. Her mother, an assistant principal who is working towards an advanced degree in education, struggled to balance work, family and school demands during these demanding times. While Rachelle understood the reasoning, she was still frustrated with the lack of time she was able to spend with her mother. Apart from her familial relationship issues, she also had trouble completing her homework assignments on time.

To help guide Rachelle through these struggles, we focused our time on reframing her thinking around the relationship with her mother, allowing Rachelle to appreciate the moments when she was able to connect with her mother. We also worked to improve her reactions to certain situations, as her initial reactions were to become angry and frustrated.

Throughout the process, Rachelle progressed wonderfully and was able to address the issues in her relationship with her mother, and to view it from a different perspective. She was excited to work on emotion-based activities and was able to reflect upon her own feelings and emotions, something she had struggled with in the past.

Although Rachelle had maintained reasonable grades, disorganization and prioritization of tasks was something she struggled with. To help guide her to success, we worked extensively on organizing her assignments and writing them down. Journaling, and creating a bulleted list of tasks, allowed her to stay on track and gave her a sense of pride and joy as this contributed to the improvement of her grades. She was later granted multiple scholarships from several colleges in the area. She ultimately selected Stephen F. Austin State University, and received enough scholarships to cover the majority of her tuition and fees.

Earlier in the year, a week before her 18th birthday, Rachelle’s case was closed. Before the final session, I had a discussion with her mother, and she stated that her relationship with Rachelle has improved greatly and her outbursts have completely subsided. I have kept in touch with Rachelle and she also reports she is doing very well, is performing well in school and is pursuing a degree in education - just like her mother.”

- Mariken de Monchy, LCSW-S
TRIAD therapist

TRIAD is a consortium of three county agencies (Harris County Protective Services, Harris County Juvenile Probation, and The Harris Center) working together. TRIAD provides county-wide services to intervene with youth and families before involvement with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, mental health and/or juvenile justice systems. There are nine programs that operate under the TRIAD program.
“Dear Mr. Jones,

Our son Danny was born at 24 weeks at 1lb 15oz, spent 4.5 months in the NICU and another 4 months on oxygen while at home. He is now 17 months old.

His birth was by far the most challenging thing our family has ever faced. We have been worried about his development from the very moment he was born. This week, thanks to your amazing team member Melanie, he started walking! This is a HUGE milestone for us and something we have been dreaming and praying about for the past year and a half.

Even though we have never met Melanie in-person, as we conducted all of our visits virtually, we can tell she is a special person. Her kindness and compassion shine through the screen. She has coached us through many important milestones in Danny’s development, helping him to crawl, stand and now walk...each time giving us specific instructions that help him progress rapidly. And all this, from her home in the midst of a pandemic! She has provided reassurance when we needed it. She has crawled around her room to demonstrate techniques for us. She has even incorporated our 3-year-old daughter who often likes to participate in her baby brother’s physical therapy sessions. Above all, she has answered our countless questions with competence and a calm demeanor.

We are forever grateful to her. She has done a stellar job and her work means the world to our family. It’s important to us that we pause and thank the many healthcare workers who have helped to make our miracle baby healthy and strong.

Wishing you and your team continued success and pandemic protection.”

Sincerely,
Danny’s Mother

*The name of the client and his family have been altered to safeguard their privacy.

Melanie Valica is a stellar team member of our Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program. ECI assists parents in addressing the needs of children under the age of three with delayed development and/or certain medical diagnoses which will result in delayed development.
Stuck in the Railroad Tracks

“The Harris Center has partnered with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to accept incoming local calls at The Harris Center’s Crisis Line. Earlier this year, we received a caller who was inebriated and sitting on the railroad tracks with the intent to die. After talking with the caller about his concerns and providing therapeutic support and crisis interventions, he decided he wanted to live. It was at this point, the caller realized his boot was stuck in the railroad tracks and he could not get out.

We worked with our team to call 911 who connected with the railroad service to halt all trains in the area until the caller was safely removed from harm by police officers. The officers escorted the caller home.

The Crisis Line team followed up with the caller multiple times and were able to connect him to SpindleTop Center, the local community mental health center in his area, for ongoing care. The caller called us back the next day to thank the team for talking with him and letting us know that doesn’t plan on harming himself ever again.”

-Bailey and Kandace, Crisis Line Team Members

713-970-7000

Our 24/7 Crisis Line provides a caring, listening ear and open communication of callers to help them cope and stay safe. The Texas Mental Health Crisis Line System requires all Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) to have a crisis line. A regionally based system, urban centers answer calls from the surrounding counties. The LMHAs deploy mobile crisis teams, coordinate with community partners, and refer to outpatient services.
"*Andrew was referred to our Juvenile Justice department by probation in August 2019 for verbal and physical aggression. He was placed on probation for possession of cocaine. Upon meeting Andrew, he was very adamant on continuing drug use and dropping out of school. Andrew recently lost his father during the COVID-19 pandemic that caused minor relapse of behaviors. This resulted in the extension of his probation, for monitoring purposes. Andrew was optimistic and successfully completed probation in June 2020.

I’ve personally seen growth these past few months with Andrew’s behavior and decision making. He has recently started his Graduate Equivalency Degree (also known as “GED”) and reports no drug usage. He has also gained employment since the loss of his father to assist his mother. Andrew reaches out to me on occasion to report positive progression. He has done well with conflict resolution and has also improved communication with authority figures and hopes to continue maximizing his potential."

-Tashica Nelson, Care Coordinator

*The name of the client and his family have been altered to safeguard their privacy.

The Juvenile Justice program provides services to youth ages 10 to 17 who have a diagnosis of mental illness that creates a serious functional impairment at home, school or in the community.
FISCAL YEAR 2020 FINANCIALS

**REVENUES**

- State grants & programs $123,312,937
- Federal Grants $35,762,670
- Harris County Allocation $44,093,032
- Local Billings $37,804,715
- Investment Earnings $1,093,385
- Miscellaneous $5,910,886

Total Operating Revenue $247,977,625

**EXPENDITURES**

- Adult Mental Health $90,121,966
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities $37,987,166
- Child and Adolescent $20,528,013
- Crisis Center $50,480,041
- Community Hospital $30,201,517
- General Administration $31,820,957
- Debt Service Principal $1,091,429

Operating Expenditures $262,264,636

Other sources providing operating financial sustainability includes waiver Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) funding.
The Harris Center established the Inclusion Hub council to lead cultural change and increase diversity awareness within the organization. Employees who are part of the Inclusion Hub collaborate and share ideas to implement engaging activities to integrate diversity into organizational processes and communication.
Law Enforcement Crisis Intervention Teams, 105 N. Chenevert St, Houston, TX 77002
Reintegration Court, 1115 Congress Ave., Houston, TX 77002
Donsky House, 11511 Bob White, Houston, TX 77035
Harris County Jail, 1200 Baker St., Houston, TX 77002
Children’s Evaluation Unit/TRIAD, 1200 Congress Ave., Houston, TX 77002
Reintegration Court, 1201 Franklin St, Houston, TX 77002
Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Diversion Center, 6160 South Loop E, Houston, TX 77087
NeuroPsychiatric Center, 1502 Taub Loop, Houston, TX 77030
Pasadena Cottage, 2122 Wichita St., Pasadena, TX 77502
Pecan Village Apartments, 2208 Cedar Bayou Rd, Baytown, TX 77520
Atascocita Residential- Dual Diagnosis Residential Program (DDRP), 2310 Atascocita Rd, Humble, TX
Post Hospital Crisis Residential Unit, 2505 Southmore Blvd, Houston, TX 77004
Juvenile Justice Alternative Education School (JJAEP) and TCOOMMI (Juvenile), 2525 Murworth, Houston
Crisis Residential Unit/Bristow Homeless Path, 2627 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77004
HPCP, 2800 S MacGregor Way, Houston, TX 77021
Coffee House, 810 Marston St, Houston, TX 77019
Northwest Community Service Center, 3737 Dacoma St, Houston, TX 77092
Applewhite Residential Facility, 526 Applewhite Dr, Katy, TX 77450
Crisis Call Diversion, 5320 North Shepherd, Houston, TX 77091
Peer Respite Program, 5518 Jackson St, Houston, TX 77004
Peer Respite Program, 5705 Warm Springs Rd, Houston, TX 77035
Southeast Community Service Center, 5901 Long Dr, Houston, TX 77087
YES Waiver & Heights Colocation, 6032 Airline Dr, Houston, TX 77076
IDD Day Program, 6125 Hillcroft St, Houston, TX 77081
TRIAD Children’s Mental Health Services, 6300 Chimney Rock Rd, Houston, TX 77081
Stonechase Residential Facility, 6607 Stonechase, Houston, TX 77084
Acres Home Multi Service Center, 6719 W. Montgomery Rd, Houston, TX 77091
Joint Processing Center, 700 North San Jacinto, Houston, TX 77002
Northeast Community Service Center, 7200 N Loop E Fwy, Houston, TX 77028
Pasadena Day Hab Program, 817 Southmore Ave, Pasadena, TX 77502
Southwest Community Service Center & Early Childhood Education, 9401 Southwest Freeway, Houston
Children Mental Health Co-Locations

- Case management
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Skills Training
- Medication Training and Supports
- Family Partner services
- Psychiatric services