

HF Awards \$4.6 Million for MH Services

Bridging Grants Help Texas Mental Health Service Providers

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health announced the awarding of \$4.6 million in grants to 50 agencies across Texas to help mental health service providers meet growing mental health needs in the face of increasingly limited resources.

The Foundation's Special Mental Health Services Initiative (SMHSI) was a response to reports of growing pressures on mental health agencies across the state, said Dr. King E. Davis, executive director of the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

"Service providers from every corner of the

state have told about their struggles to keep pace with increasing needs for services in the face of dwindling resources," Davis said. "Clearly, many programs have reached a critical point and need help in bridging service gaps."

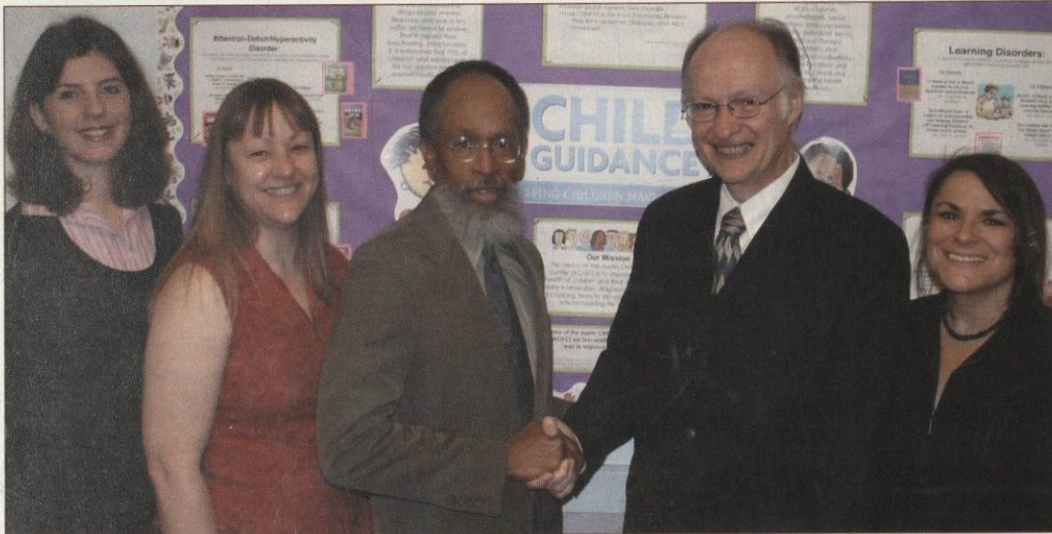
The SMHSI was open to Texas non-profits that provide direct mental health services and could document either their own funding cuts or increases in the demand for services due to funding reductions at other community agencies.

*See the Agencies
Awarded Funding
Starting on Page 4*

Applicants were also required to specify the service reductions made and how services would be restored, maintained, or redirected using Hogg Foundation funding.

The \$4.6 million was divided among eight regions of the state, including the Houston area, where separate resources are dedicated for the benefit of children and families. One-year grants of up to \$100,000 were awarded based upon the strength of applicants' plans for maintaining, restoring, or refocusing direct services to specific target populations of consumers in Texas. Over 150 requests for funding were received, from which the 50 programs were chosen.

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The Austin Child Guidance Center was one of the agencies receiving a \$100,000 grant from the Hogg Foundation's Special Mental Health Services Initiative. Pictured (from left to right) are Josie Kluth, ACGC community relations coordinator; Rebecca Calhoun, director of intake; Dr. King Davis, executive director of the Hogg Foundation; Donald Zappone, executive director of ACGC; and Beth Marsh, president of the ACGC Board of Directors.

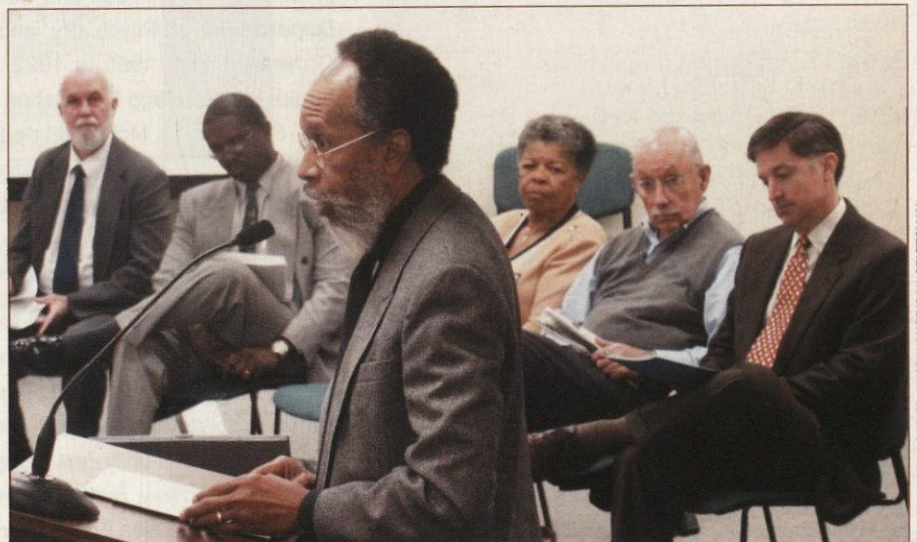
Task Force Commits Austin to Being a Mentally Healthy City

On January 24, Austin Mayor Will Wynn released the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force report which defined the criteria to make Austin a mentally fit community by addressing gaps in services and building upon current strengths.

Established in August of 2004 and partially funded by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, the mayor's Task Force was the culmination of years of community concern over the emerging challenges faced by residents with severe mental illnesses and the need to develop strategies to improve services and achieve community goals. The intent of the Task Force was to identify the criteria that define a mentally healthy community, measure the status of each criterion in Austin/Travis County, and develop an action plan that builds upon Austin's strengths and addresses any weaknesses.

Officials predict that roughly one in five persons (or 130,000 of Travis County's approximately 667,000 adults) suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder. However, only 22,230 persons are eligible for public services by virtue of their having conditions

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Hogg Foundation Executive Director Dr. King Davis addressed the Austin Mayor's Mental Health Task Force during the roll-out of the plan in January. The goal of the Task Force was to make Austin a "mentally healthy community."

The *Hogg Foundation News* is a quarterly newsletter of the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

Since 1940, the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health has responded to its mandate "to develop and conduct... a broad mental health program of great benefit to the people of Texas" (Miss Ima Hogg, 1939), by funding grants for both mental health service projects and research efforts throughout the state. The Hogg Foundation defines mental health broadly to encompass psychological, biological, and social factors that may affect one's overall mental well-being, but affords particular interest to proposals that address its priority areas of mental health research, services, policy, and education.

The Foundation is an administrative unit of The University of Texas at Austin and accomplishes its mandate through public education and grantmaking to mental health service and research projects in the state of Texas.

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health also fulfills its benefactors' mandate by "operating" its own programs—including public education, convening, and program evaluation—to the benefit and enrichment of organizations and communities statewide.

For more information about the Hogg Foundation and its programs, please visit the Foundation's web site at www.hogg.utexas.edu.

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Copies of the Hogg Foundation Guidelines for Grant Applications are available from the Foundation's Publications Division at 512-471-5041, or toll free 888-404-4336, or through the Foundation's web site at hogg.utexas.edu. Grant applications can be submitted online, or by mail to:

The University of Texas at Austin
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
ATTN: Grants Management
P.O. Box 7998
Austin, TX 78713-7998

News and Notes

Moore Fellowships Announced

The Harry E. and Bernice M. Moore Summer 2005 Fellowships have been awarded to three graduate students in the Department of Sociology at The University of Texas at Austin. This two-month appointment runs from June 1 to July 30, 2005 and will allow students to complete research or other dissertation-related activities. Each of the Moore Summer Fellows will give a presentation on their research at the Hogg Foundation's Mental Health Speaker Series in August.

The Moore Fellowship recipients are listed below.

Carol Ann Chavez will use her fellowship to work on her dissertation examining the Latino transgender population and their experiences with mental and medical health care professionals. Chavez is also interested in topics of gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity, and social/psychological health care issues.

Emily Durden will use the time made possible by the fellowship to finish her dissertation entitled, *Marital Status and Physical and Mental Health: A Life Course Perspective*. The work focuses on how physical and mental health impact marital status and related transitions over the life course.

Margaret Vaaler's research highlights the issue of domestic violence within religious households. Her areas of interest include help-seeking behaviors for persons with mental illness and domestic violence and its impact on employment. She hopes to use the Moore Fellowship to complete a literature review and data analysis for a paper to be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

UT Law Summer Interns Named

Two students from The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, James Phillips and Benjamin Wallfisch, will spend their summer at the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health as summer interns.

During their appointment, the students will assist with one or more major projects, including the production and writing of the *Legislative Update: A Practical Guide to the Mental Health-Related Actions of the 79th Texas Legislature* and undertaking follow-up activities to the Robert Lee Sutherland Seminar on reducing the use of seclusion and restraint. In addition, they will participate in a variety of policy-related tasks on an as-needed basis.

In Memorium

Dr. Eugene McDanald

Dr. Eugene McDanald, 90, passed away on March 8, 2005 at his son's home in El Paso. A former member of the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health's National Advisory Committee, McDanald was a well-known researcher, author, and educator.

McDanald's 41-year career as a clinician on the psychiatric staff of the Titus Harris Clinic in Galveston continued until his retirement in 1992. He also served as clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston from 1965 to 1992. He was the author of many publications concerning mental health for the Hogg Foundation and numerous other professional journals.

Because Dr. McDanald dedicated his life to the field of mental health rehabilitation and education, his family has requested memorial contributions be sent to a fund established in his name at the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

Hillary Lucille Fitzhugh

Hillary Lucille Fitzhugh, 39, passed away March 19, 2005. As the director of ChildBuilders, a non-profit organization that works to educate and assist families and children, Fitzhugh was widely respected for her tireless work in promoting programs for improving Houston-area children's lives. A committed leader in both professional and civic endeavors, Fitzhugh also served as a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Anna K. Chase Foundation.

Fitzhugh's family has asked memorial contributions be made to ChildBuilders, at 3800 Buffalo Speedway, Suite 310, Houston, Texas 77098. Contributions may also be made to the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation, an affiliate of an international fraternity dedicated to providing opportunities for personal development for women, to Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation, Attn: Gale Wilkerson, 8701 Founders Road, Indianapolis Indiana, 46268.

Austin Task Force Intent upon Creating Mentally Healthy City

From Page One

(major depression, schizophrenia, or bipolar disorder) that make them eligible for public mental health services. Even then, only about one-third of these clients are actually receiving services.

The Task Force drew more than 80 civic leaders and mental health professionals—representing over 40 civic organizations—to identify the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's community mental health services and to decide what criteria would be essential to defining a mentally healthy community.

Co-chaired by former Texas State Representative Wilhelmina Delco and former Austin Mayor Gus Garcia, the Task Force was supported by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health and other local agencies. The Task Force included the Hogg Foundation's Lynda E. Frost, associate director for mental health policy and law, as well as executive associates Reymundo Rodriguez and Carolyn Young. The Task Force's recommendations addressed the challenges and gaps of mental health services by defining 39 criteria that, when achieved, would define Austin as a mentally healthy community. The criteria were grouped into five categories.

First, the Task Force identified criteria involving the infrastructure of the mental health services in the community, specifically the capacity to provide a wide range of services, particularly psychiatric emergency beds, residential treatment options, and housing supports. The greatest challenge to infrastructure development in Travis County is the scarcity of resources.

Second, the Task Force pointed to a critical need for a marketing campaign to educate the general public. A mentally healthy community fosters mental health educational materials to reduce stigma and to inform citizens that mental disorders are curable afflictions.

The criteria also included establishing standards and guidelines for funding and delivering mental health programs. Needed plans and policies include a coordinated funding plan, standards of care based on culturally competent best practices, a city-wide housing plan, insurance parity for mental and physical health, a suicide prevention plan, and a plan for sharing information between agencies.

At the same time, the criteria for a mentally healthy community required programs that are designed to improve the availability of outpatient services, expand case management, enhance jail diversion programs, and provide mental health education from elementary through high school. Such programs provide a comprehensive continuum of mental health care and avoid the long-term costs of addressing neglected mental health problems.

Lastly, the Task Force argued for public and professional education and training programs addressing specific topics (e.g., appropriate crisis intervention strategies, recovery and self-determination, housing laws, and funding streams) targeted at specific audiences (e.g., law enforcement officials, policymakers, consumers and families). Such public awareness could reduce the stigma associated with mental illnesses and inform individuals about their opportunities for housing, insurance, and integrated services.

Given the sense of urgency, the Task Force developed an ambitious action plan to achieve these standards within six years. In order to address these 39 criteria in such a short timeframe, the Task Force also provided a set of recommendations to operationalize its action plan, based upon members' observations of the process and analysis. Specifically, the Task Force recommended:

- **CREATING A MONITORING COMMITTEE** A monitoring committee appointed by the Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental

Retardation Center's Board of Directors would facilitate implementation of the Task Force's action plan, as well as encourage long-term strategic planning and identify potential funding resources. The monitoring committee will serve for a five-year term and will report to the mayor annually.

- **COORDINATING FUNDING AND PLANNING** A single entity (new or existing) would be responsible for planning, prioritizing, and coordinating community mental health initiatives and funding proposals, subject to endorsement by the Travis County Commissioners Court, the Austin City Council, the Travis County Hospital District, the Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center, and other related boards and commissions. Because new funding sources are unlikely, coordinating initiatives and services among different agencies will improve efficiency and generate cost savings by reducing duplication of services.
- **ENSURING CULTURAL RELEVANCY** To ensure that mental health services are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the needs of Austin's diverse community, the Task Force recommended a comprehensive analysis of ethnic and racial demographics of consumers and an inventory of existing programs serving minorities and anticipated needs.
- **IDENTIFYING BEST PRACTICES AND EVALUATION** The Task Force recommended a systematic process be instituted for identifying best practices and collecting quantitative data to evaluate program effectiveness and outcomes.
- **MEASURING A MENTALLY HEALTHY COMMUNITY** A "mental health dashboard" would be created to measure the progress and impact of the criteria as they are implemented across the city. The "dashboard" would include measures that define a healthy community and document both the process and outcomes (e.g., the number of those in recovery, numbers served, and length of the waiting lists for various services).

"The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health is very enthusiastic about working with the Mayor's Task Force in addressing the mental health needs and opportunities within the city of Austin," said Hogg Foundation Executive Director Dr. King Davis. "We hope the city's leadership will serve as a model for municipalities across the state to consider how to develop mentally healthy communities."

Mayor's Mental Health Task Force

Final Report

Fittest City in America Initiative
Austin, Texas

January 2005

**A copy of the Austin Mayor's Mental
Health Task Force Report is available
from the Hogg Foundation's web site at:**

WWW.HOGG.UTEXAS.EDU/PAGES/TASK.HTML

or the city of Austin's web site at:

WWW.CI.AUSTIN.TX.US/COUNCIL/WYNN.HTM

Hogg Foundation Special Mental Health

PANHANDLE

Covenant Health System Foundation

Covenant Counseling Center
Maintain Mental Health Counseling Services for Underserved and Disadvantaged Populations

This one-time grant allows the center to maintain mental health counseling for underserved and disadvantaged populations in twelve counties surrounding Lubbock and the South Plains.

Lubbock
\$53,500

Lubbock Regional Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center

Case Management Services to Individuals with Mental Health Diagnoses

A program of intensive case management is being supported to reduce or stabilize symptoms, improve functioning, and prevent the deterioration of a person's condition.

Lubbock
\$81,646

South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc.

Free Your Mind Mental Health Program

Support is being provided for a licensed clinical social worker to conduct counseling services for disabled migrant farm workers, provide patients with medication, and build counseling services for youth.

Levelland
\$90,460

Children's Advocacy Center of Lubbock County, Inc.

Clinical Services Position for the Mental Health Component of the Children's Advocacy Center

Funds will provide support for therapy and assessments for children and families in the Lubbock area.

Lubbock
\$22,490

Texas Tech University

Parent Empowerment Project

Funding provides support for both in-home family and school-based therapy sessions.

Lubbock
\$95,992

WEST TEXAS

El Paso Child Guidance Center

Restore Outpatient Mental Health Services

Funding partially restores outpatient mental health services, including those for individual counseling, family and group therapy, psychiatric evaluation, and medication monitoring.

El Paso
\$72,400

Center Against Family Violence, Inc.

Mental Health Services to Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Families

Partial salary support for therapists will help to maintain mental health services lost due to funding cuts to victims of domestic violence and their families.

El Paso
\$45,798

Catholic Counseling Services, Inc.

Maintain Existing Psychotherapy Services

This one-time grant maintains existing psychotherapy services to individuals and families in the Catholic Diocese of El Paso.

El Paso
\$50,000

Jewish Family and Children's Services

Restore Group Sessions

This one-time grant restores provision of group counseling sessions.

El Paso
\$30,000

Centro San Vicente

Restructure Mental Health Program to Offer Services on a Full-Time Basis

Funding supports the restructuring of a mental health program to offer services to low-income individuals by hiring a full-time clinical psychologist and a part-time licensed social worker.

El Paso
\$100,000

Family Services of El Paso

Maintain Level of Counseling Services

Support was provided to maintain the level of counseling services that were lost due to state budget cuts and to meet growing needs for services.

El Paso
\$74,102

Permian Basin Community Centers for MHMR

Reinstate Services for Patients

Funding supports the reinstatement and extension of psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and counseling services for patients who no longer have access to mental health services as a result of state budget cuts.

Midland
\$96,221

Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement

dba MHMR Services for the Concho Valley
Direct Services Provided to Juvenile Probation Population

Approximately 360 assessments of juveniles in the juvenile probation system of the Concho Valley will be supported by this grant.

San Angelo
\$14,364

Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement

dba MHMR Services for the Concho Valley
Transitional Assistance Program

Transitional assistance will be provided for individuals ineligible for state services by hiring a qualified service coordinator to ensure that clients will be contacted, assessed, and assisted in finding treatment through other community resources.

San Angelo
\$85,636

Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas, Inc.

Restore Mental Health Services

Salaries for a full-time clinician and an intern will be supported by this grant, as well as client assistance funds as a way to supplement counseling costs.

Midland
\$46,400

Hill Country Youth Ranch

Big Springs Charter School
Direct Mental Health Services for Real County

This grant supports restoration of mental health services to children and families in the Real County area by hiring a mental health counselor and a psychiatrist.

Leakey
\$26,560

NORTH TEXAS

LifePath Systems

Maintain and Restore Services to Individuals

Funding supports the maintenance and return of essential services for clients through salary support of a part-time psychiatrist and a licensed professional counselor to work with adults.

McKinney
\$47,116

Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County

Restore Services to Tarrant County Consumers with Mental Health Needs

Services will be restored to Tarrant County residents through the purchase of psychiatric services and medications for indigent adults who do not qualify for reduced-cost services.

Fort Worth
\$99,448

Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center

Continuation of Crisis Services in North and East Regions

Funding supports the Crisis Services Program, which provides 24-hour phone screening, community stabilization services, hospitalization, and care coordination for consumers in a six-county region.

Longview
\$100,000

Homeward Bound, Inc.

Restore Mental Health Services

Funding provides for partial restoration of psychiatric services, mental health counseling, and case management and community reintegration.

Dallas
\$97,500

Dallas Metrocare Services

Maintain and Restore Skills Development to Hispanic Children and Adolescents in Dallas County

Services to 100 Hispanic youth will be restored by the hiring of two bilingual, mental health professionals to conduct skills training programs for children and their families.

Dallas
\$98,832

SOUTH TEXAS

Tropical Texas Center for MHMR

Cameron County
Restore Services in Cameron County

Partial restoration of lost service delivery capacity will be achieved by the hiring of mental health professionals to provide counseling and rehabilitation services to clients in Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron Counties.

Edinburg
\$100,000

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas

Church-Based Counseling Services

Funding supports salaries for two full-time professionals to provide psychotherapeutic counseling services to uninsured clients in Cameron County.

San Antonio
\$96,592

Border Region Mental Health Mental Retardation Center

Jail Diversion Project

The salary of mental health professionals and a family partner for counseling and rehabilitation services will be supported to assist juveniles and families in Webb County.

Laredo
\$100,000

University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost Clinic

Mental Health Services at Community Counseling Clinic

Salary support is provided for a clinical specialist, a research assistant, and professional counseling interns to serve residents of Cameron and Willacy Counties.

Brownsville
\$51,400

CENTRAL TEXAS

Rape Crisis Center for Children and Adults

Therapeutic Counseling Services for Sexual Assault Survivors and Their Family Members

Funding restores lost services by hiring two therapists to maintain the current level of counseling to children and families.

San Antonio
\$80,300

Waterloo Counseling Center

Restore Counseling Services to Low-Income Clients with Mental Illness

Funding was provided to support intake and counseling sessions to low-income clients with mental illness who are currently not in treatment.

Austin
\$100,000

Austin Travis County MHMR Center

Resiliency Clinic

This funding supports the establishment of a Resiliency Clinic for brief therapeutic interventions and assistance in applying for appropriate medications to adults at the Austin Travis County Community Mental Health Mental Retardation Center.

Austin
\$100,000

LifeWorks

Youth and Adult Counseling Program

Funds supported salaries for counselors for approximately 200 individuals, youth, and families in the Austin/Travis County area.

Austin
\$100,000

The Center for Health Care Services

Project Restore

Funding supports mental health services provided in joint psychiatric and primary care settings for 600 persons, as well as supporting skills training for physicians in providing psychiatric care.

San Antonio
\$77,505

The Georgetown Community Clinic

Bridge Funding to Support Mentally Ill, Uninsured Adult Patients

Psychiatric care, counseling, and enabling services will be restored for approximately 1,900 uninsured adults in Williamson County through this one-time grant.

Georgetown
\$95,000

Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc.

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities for Children

Salary support is provided for mental health workers at Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities for Children operated in Canyon Lake, Denton, Corpus Christi, and Katy.

Austin
\$100,000

Austin Child Guidance Center

Direct Psychological and Psychiatric Services

Funding supports the retention of a multi-disciplinary team by supporting the salary of a licensed psychologist, increasing child psychiatric and psychological services, and partially restoring a clinical intake worker position.

Austin
\$100,000

Central Counties Center for MHMR Services

Consumers' Medication Needs

Funds are dedicated to restoring services by funding a pharmacy technician to implement the "Medication Sample Management" program at this community mental health center.

Temple
\$26,329

COASTAL BEND

Spindletop MHMR Services

Restore Mental Health Services

Partial support is provided for the restoration of services through the hiring of mental health professionals, and underwriting costs for medications.

Beaumont
\$95,184

Gulf Coast Center

Restore Level of Consumer Medication Support

This grant partially supports restoration of a medication subsidy program for uninsured clients lacking other funding resources.

Galveston
\$94,500

Gulf Bend Mental Health Mental Retardation Center

Restore Service Capacity for Uninsured Adults

Funding supports services for uninsured adults experiencing serious mental illnesses, including pharmacological management, psychiatric evaluations, and case management services.

Victoria
\$77,247

Galveston County Coordinated Community Clinics

Mental Health Services for Patients in Clinic Sites in Galveston County

This one-time grant supports mental health services in two Galveston-area clinics that provide a variety of health services.

La Marque
\$100,000

Nueces County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Community Center

Restore Pathways Program

Therapeutic intervention strategies will be supported for consumers in crisis in an effort to prevent costly and restrictive hospitalization.

Corpus Christi
\$98,485

EAST TEXAS

Anderson Cherokee Community Enrichment Services

Restore Service Delivery Capacity and Redirect Resources

Service delivery capacity will be restored by hiring two rehabilitation specialists to work with adults and children served by this rural East Texas community mental health center.

Jacksonville
\$83,876

Samaritan Counseling Center of East Texas, Inc.

Exceptional Communication Between Parents and Teens Program

Funding restores services by hiring two rehabilitation specialists to work with parents and children served by this community mental health center.

Nacogdoches
\$29,032

Montgomery County Youth Services

Restore Mental Health Services to Youth and Families from East Montgomery County

Salary support is being provided for a counselor to provide individual, family, and group counseling to eastern Montgomery County youths and their families referred for treatment due to family violence.

Conroe
\$48,002

Tri-County Mental Health Mental Retardation Services

Therapeutic Summer Camp

This grant restores lost service delivery capacity by providing salary support for two therapeutic summer camps helping seriously emotionally disturbed youths.

Conroe
\$43,488

Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Brazos Valley

Case Manager Positions for the Adult Mental Health Community Living Skills Program

This grant supports the hiring of three rehabilitation case managers to work in the adult mental health Community Living Skills program run by this rural community mental health center.

Bryan
\$100,000

Twin City Mission

Restore Staff Positions for Services-To-At-Risk Youth (STAR) Program

Service capacity will be restored by hiring two counselors to provide therapy and case management in the Service-To-At-Risk Youth Program for delinquent youths and their families.

Bryan
\$72,374

HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY

El Centro de Corazon

Restore and Redirect Mental Health Services for the East End Community

Funding will support prescriptions for psychotropic medications and pediatric psychiatric services for children, adolescents, and pregnant teens in two clinics and a school-based program.

Houston
\$100,000

DePelchin Children's Center

Restore Mental Health Services to Uninsured Children and Their Families

An internship program comprised of students from several universities will provide mental health services to children and families lacking health insurance.

Houston
\$61,112

Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County

Harris County Youth and Family Mental Health Services Collaborative

A county-wide collaborative of four youth-serving agencies were awarded funding to provide psychological assessments, crisis intervention, counseling, and service coordination.

Houston
\$500,000

Harris County Hospital District

Collaborative Effort to Implement a Coordinated Patient-Centered, Community-Focused Behavioral Health Services Model

This grant award supports a coordinated, community-focused behavioral health services model, including mental health treatment plans and ongoing follow-up by a primary healthcare team.

Houston
\$454,867

Asian-American Family Counseling Center

Project REACH (Restore, Educate, and Advocate for Community Health)

Funding supports Project R.E.A.C.H. in increasing mental health services for Asian American children and their families and addressing issues concerning service availability, accessibility, and utilization.

Houston
\$54,250

SMHSI Awards \$4.6 Million in Grants

From Page One

In making their proposals, agencies frequently cited a number of factors as contributing to the service gaps: rapidly expanding populations, escalating medical costs, fundraising downturns, and recent changes to the financing and structure of the public mental health system. The results of these factors, however, remained frustratingly constant: increasing numbers of persons with mental illness being turned away from services and showing up in emergency rooms, homeless shelters and jails across the state.

"A number of the proposals contained very moving accounts of the dilemmas facing both individuals and communities," said Davis. "If these accounts are anywhere near representative of the rest of the state, we are reaching a critical level of need for mental health care in Texas."

In one scenario, officials told of a 20-year-old male who had been hospitalized in a central Texas hospital after attempting suicide. Although he was in desperate need of follow up counseling and services to ward off the possibility of a future attempt, his lack of health insurance and his ineligibility for public mental health services prevented him from receiving subsequent care by the Austin/Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center. Once he was discharged, the doctors said, they could little more than pray that they would not see him again.

From El Paso—which ranks among Texas' most challenged cities in terms of the numbers of uninsured and poor citizens—many agencies cited reductions in state funding combined with declines in charitable and church-based donations as pressuring their ability to provide services in the community. Yet, the same was also true in North Texas, where a number of mental health service providers warned that they were on the verge of closing their doors without an infusion of funding.

Davis said that "the acute and obvious needs of these communities" required that the Hogg Foundation depart from its traditional philanthropic approach and rethink how to deploy its resources "so that they have the optimum positive impact during a period of uncertainty."

"Our benefactors had chosen their endowment to be for 'the benefit of the people of Texas,'" said Davis. "We were convinced that committing Foundation monies to help sustain these vital mental health services was the best way of complying with those wishes."

Davis gave special acknowledgement to Hogg Foundation employees Sherry Forman-Ricks, Margarita Alvarez, and special consultants Debbie Berndt and Brandy Gazo, for leading and managing the Special Mental Health Services Initiative.

Foundation, UT School of Journalism Announce James Hogg Award for Mental Health Reporting

A new award to recognize news reporting on mental health issues has been announced by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health and the School of Journalism at The University of Texas at Austin.

The James Stephen Hogg Award for Mental Health Reporting recognizes exemplary journalism that informs, educates, or empowers the people of Texas on issues related to mental health and mental illness.

"News media are the primary source of information for how the public views and understands mental health issues," said Jeffery R. Patterson, communications director for the Hogg Foundation. "This award seeks to distinguish reporting that stimulates productive discussion about mental health issues and informs the public to reduce stigma and discrimination."

Entries were divided into print and broadcast (radio/television) categories and will be judged on writing/production quality, capacity for explaining complex issues, and contributions to public understanding about mental illness and associated stigma.

"Informed journalists can have a significant impact on understanding of public health issues," said Lorraine Branham, director of the UT School of Journalism. "Award programs such as this are one way that the UT School of Journalism seeks to broaden reporters' knowledge and expertise, and establish exemplars for truly great work."

The award is named for former Texas Governor James Stephen Hogg, who pursued a career as a newspaper editor and lawyer before his career in politics. The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health was established by the children of Governor Hogg and his wife Sarah Ann as a living tribute to their family's commitment to public service and philanthropy.

Stories were accepted in either print or broadcast categories, and must have been published or broadcast in the state of Texas between March 1, 2004 and February 28, 2005.

First place winners will receive \$1,000, second place winners will receive \$500, and third place winners will receive \$250. Winners will be announced in June 2005.



Gov. James Stephen Hogg

The University of Texas at Austin

Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

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The Hogg Foundation's Mission

*To develop, support, evaluate, and promote
culturally relevant mental health services,
research, public policies, and education.*

Are the Kids Alright? *Documentary* Rebroadcast on Texas PBS Stations in April

Seven Texas Public Television stations were part of a coordinated April 5 rebroadcast of the award-winning documentary *Are the Kids Alright? Stories of Children's Mental Health Services in Texas*.

The rebroadcast of the hour-long film, which relates the struggles facing Texas children with mental illnesses, was seen on PBS stations KCOS in El Paso, KEDT in Corpus Christi, KLRN in San Antonio, KLRU in Austin, KOCV in Odessa, KUHT in Houston, and KWBU in Waco.

Produced by award-winning documentarians Karen Bernstein and Ellen Spiro of Mobilus Media in Austin, the film was the first statewide television documentary in Texas to address issues surrounding children's mental health care. This film is the product of nearly two years of research and interviews to understand the multifaceted issues and tough decisions confronting the state's mental health system.

The film unfolds through the stories of children, therapists, parents, and judges who deal with the issues of children with mental illnesses on a daily basis. The documentary not only portrays the steep obstacles and

painful choices confronting families who have a loved one suffering from mental illness, but the daily struggles of mental health advocates, service providers, and policymakers in helping these youths get treatment.

The documentary was produced through an expansive and innovative partnership among a number of funders and organizations, including the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health and the Department of Radio, Television and Film at The University of Texas at Austin, HoustonPBS,

the Houston Endowment, the Austin Film Society, and The Meadows Foundation of Dallas.

"This says a great deal about how well this documentary has been received in communities across the state, and the continued importance that mental health services for children has in the

statewide debate," said Jeffery R. Patterson, director of communications for the Hogg Foundation.

Patterson said that free VHS copies of the documentary are still available in English and Spanish by emailing the Hogg Foundation at comm@hogg.utexas.edu or by calling toll free at 888-404-4336.



Are the Kids Alright?