



Guadalupe, Gonzales, and Caldwell Counties Youth Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshop: Executive Summary

In 2023, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services (BTCS) requested a Texas Youth SIM Mapping Workshop from Texas Health and Human Services Commission. The goal of the workshop was to help foster collaboration among behavioral health and juvenile justice stakeholders and improve early intervention and diversion for youth with mental illness (MI), substance use disorders (SUD), and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The workshop took place on March 21, 2024, in Seguin, Texas. This two-pager summarizes the key gaps, opportunities and priorities identified by workshop participants. For a full event summary, review the **Guadalupe, Gonzales, and Caldwell Counties Youth SIM Mapping Workshop Report**.

Invest in Strategic Priorities

- Improve family engagement and access to family services.
- Expand substance use disorder services.
- Formalize youth behavioral health leadership teams or task forces across the three-county region.

Support Local Planning, Partnership, and Education

- **Coordinate:** Strengthen behavioral health and juvenile justice partnerships through regular convening of SIM workgroups and coordination with the Behavioral Advisory Team Youth Subcommittee.
- **Partner:** Identify opportunities to strengthen relationships between youth-serving stakeholders, including BTCS, school districts, law enforcement, and juvenile probation departments.
- **Learn:** Connect from other similar-sized counties implementing best practice models.
- **Train:** Train stakeholder groups on identifying, responding, and effectively treating people with MI, SUD, and IDD.

Build Upon Existing Efforts

- **Increase utilization** of Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) across school districts.
- **Partner** with the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office to provide mental health trainings to law enforcement agencies across the region.
- **Support** organization of community resource coordination groups in Gonzales and Caldwell counties to improve cross system collaboration.
- **Expand** outpatient BTCS youth substance use disorder treatment services for justice-involved youth in Gonzales County.



Gaps, Opportunities, and Best Practices

Tables below capture a few key gaps and opportunities identified by workshop participants. For a full list, review the **Guadalupe, Gonzales, and Caldwell Counties Youth SIM Mapping Workshop Report**. See the [Texas Youth Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Best Practices Document](#) for checklists on best practices to consider by intercept.

Intercepts 0, 1: Communities, Schools, Initial Contact with Law Enforcement

Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-based behavioral health services in primary education • Early intervention and prevention resources across primary schools • Variation in school discipline policies across districts • Pre-arrest diversion options for law enforcement responding to youth in crisis • Information sharing between education, behavioral health, child welfare, and juvenile justice stakeholders • Inpatient mental health treatment beds for high acuity youth • Youth substance use treatment options (prevention and inpatient) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase use of screening and assessments in primary schools for mental health needs. • Increase use of family partners to facilitate parental engagement. • Educate school districts on use of mitigating factors as an alternative to exclusionary discipline. • Increase youth-specific training across law enforcement agencies. • Spread information on access to community resources and social services for parents and child-serving agencies. • Set regular meetings between stakeholders to staff cases and share information.

Intercept 2: Referral to Juvenile Justice Probation

Gaps	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliability of MAYSI-2 screener scores for youth in detention • Continuity of care for youth detained out-of-county • Ongoing communication between school districts and juvenile court • Parent engagement in treatment services while youth are in and out of home placements • Limited treatment and placement options for youth with acute mental health needs • Coordination between juvenile probation departments, CPS, and BTCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement additional screening and assessment tools to use at intake to evaluate youth behavioral health needs. • Ensure school liaisons are regularly participating in juvenile detention hearings. • Provide ongoing trainings and education to parents on juvenile justice processes to increase engagement. • Create detention liaison position to coordinate care for youth in and out of county placements. • Establish regular meetings to staff cases for youth who are multi-system-involved between CPS, BTCS, and county juvenile court stakeholders.