



85TH SESSION BUDGET OVERVIEW



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH'S BIG SUCCESSES

- SB 292 Contingency (Jail Diversion/Anti-Recidivism Grants): \$37.5 million
- State hospitals – new construction: \$300 million
- State hospitals/SSLCs – repairs: ~\$158 million
- Healthy Community Collaboratives: \$25 million
- Texas Vets + Family Alliance grant: \$20 million
- Mental Health Wait Lists: \$62.6 million
- HB 13 Contingency (matching grants for community MH programs): \$30 million
- HB 1486 Contingency (Peer Specialists): \$3.4 million



STILL SOME NOTABLE SETBACKS

- IDD CFC Rates – Budget paved way for 21-percent IDD rate cuts to CFC attendant services through TxHmL and HCS waivers. HHSC finalized rate cut this summer.
 - HHSC initiated process for rate cut during session, before budget was finalized.
- Medicaid Cost Containment – HHSC must find \$350 million in Medicaid savings throughout system and submit cost-savings plan to LBB.



INTERESTING RIDERS

- HHSC shall develop performance metrics to better hold MCOs accountable for care of enrollees with SMI. (Rider 175)
- LMHA's 10-percent withhold now "at risk," meaning it is paid up front and subject to recoupment if metrics are not met. (Rider 44)
- HHSC shall evaluate impact on overall Medicaid spending and client outcomes for SUD services provided to individuals 21 and up. (Rider 29)
- HHSC shall contract with independent org to evaluate Medicaid managed care. (Rider 220)



A WORD ABOUT WAIT LISTS

- LMHAs are required to provide quarterly wait list updates to HHSC, as they were required by the previous budget. (Rider 48)
- This session, the Legislature approved \$62.6 million to reduce mental health wait lists. (Rider 183)
- HHSC used March, 2017, wait lists to make distributions.
- Centers could not redistribute overserved population to wait list in time to get fair distribution of funds.
- El Paso and some other large urban centers did not fare well on wait list distributions, while other smaller centers received large sums.



CONCLUSION

- Because of the Select Committee on Mental Health's work, mental health and related matters enjoyed a lot of airtime during the 85th Session.
- Large appropriations for state hospitals and wait lists were not enough to address system's needs, but they were viewed by many as one-time commitments.
- Behavioral health community will hope to find receptive legislators in push toward next budget, avoiding "funding fatigue" for system needs.