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 85\textsuperscript{th} 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.