



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

A non-profit center for Integrated Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, Recovery, & Research

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Memorandum of Understanding between Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas & Hidalgo County Detention Center

Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas (BHSST) and Hidalgo County Detention Center are entering into this agreement to collaborate on Nueva Start Program services funded by SAMHSA. BHSST and Hidalgo County Detention Center agree to partner to link individuals involved in the criminal justice system who have a substance use disorder (SUD) to the Nueva Start Program for SUD outpatient treatment and/or recovery support services. The goal of this collaboration is to develop and maintain a seamless continuum of care for individuals involved in the criminal justice system due to a drug-related offense.

Specifically, this collaboration entails:

BHSST will coordinate directly with the designated Hidalgo County Detention Center representatives to allow Nueva Start Program Staff to provide treatment and/or recovery support services to individuals referred by Hidalgo County CSCD. The Hidalgo County Detention Center Representative will work with the Nueva Start Program Director to coordinate a schedule whereby Nueva Start Program Staff can provide recovery support services at agreed upon correctional facilities.

To accomplish the program goals and objectives related to delivery of SUD outpatient treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support services, the Hidalgo County Detention Center Representative will provide Nueva Start Program Staff with the information for participants referred and at no time will Nueva Start Program Staff approach individuals without prior approval from the Hidalgo County Detention Center Representative.

Hidalgo County Detention Center agrees to allow reach-in into the facilities for pre-release assessment and planning to the Nueva Start Program individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Have a SUD and/or co-occurring substance use and mental disorder;
- Either sentenced to and serving at least one month in a correctional facility (jail/prison/detention center); or
- Are on probation/parole and are at risk of being re-incarcerated in a correctional facility (jail/prison/detention center), due to a probation/parole violation;
- For those currently incarcerated, be within four months of scheduled release to the community, in order to receive services in the correctional/detention setting; and
- Upon immediate release from the correctional facility to the community, be referred to community-based treatment.

Nueva Start Program Staff will provide the following services as appropriate after confirming with the Hidalgo County Detention Center Representative non-duplication of efforts:

- Screen and assess clients for the presence of SUD and/or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders and use the information obtained from the screening and assessment to develop appropriate, person-centered treatment approaches.
- Provide evidence-based and population appropriate treatment services to meet the unique needs of diverse populations at risk.
- Provide recovery support services that provide emotional and practical support to maintain client/participant remission.
- Provide case management that encompasses a team approach and includes criminal justice supervising authorities, SUD treatment professionals, existing treatment alternatives organizations, pursuit of Medicaid and health insurance eligibility, linkage to primary and dental care that support long-term recovery, linkage to recovery community organizations, and law enforcement as appropriate in the community setting.
- Development of comprehensive, person-centered case management plans that directly address the risk factors for recidivism, as determined by validated risk assessments directly related to recidivism, and include delivery or facilitation of services, including substance use and cognitive behavioral interventions.

- Monitor race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity of enrollees in the program so that equity among population groups is addressed.

Both agencies agree to adhere to confidentiality policies and procedures when conducting services in accordance with the Federal Confidentiality rules (42 CFR 2), as well as, the State of Texas confidentiality rules. It is understood no fees or costs associated with Nueva Start Program services will be charged to Hidalgo County Detention Center or individuals referred for services.

This collaborative agreement will remain in effect from September 30, 2023 until terminated by either party. Annual review may be applied with any need changes completed upon request by either party. Either party may terminate without cause by giving the other party a 30-days written notice of termination.

J.E. “Eddie” Guerra
Sheriff
Hidalgo County Detention Center

Date

Monica H. Sanchez, LCSW-S, PSS, ACPS
Chief Executive Officer
Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas

Date