



### **Community Vision**

We envision unfettered access to quality, community-based behavioral health services throughout Comal County for families, children and adults. We expect that services will reflect evidence-based practices whenever possible. In order to accomplish this vision, we intend to work together in multiple ways to:

- ❖ Promote community education, prevention, and postvention;
- ❖ Develop a comprehensive continuum of locally available services that addresses the needs of the community, and
- ❖ Expand and improve access to services for all.

### **Crisis Response, Law Enforcement and Justice**

1. Assemble a response team of mental health professionals, law enforcement and emergency medical providers dedicated solely to responding to crisis, intervention and postvention services.
2. Dedicate Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Arts at dispatch centers to assist in identifying behavioral health calls and guiding the response.
3. Establish a formal procedure between law enforcement, the District Attorney's office, and EMS to provide alternatives to incarceration and emergency rooms that includes education, training and response when interfacing with people in crisis.
4. Diversify local resources for appropriate alternatives to jail and the emergency room.
5. Provide mental health services to youth and adults in detention.
6. Include mental health specialists in established disaster emergency response team planning, intervention and postvention to provide psychological first aid, resources and peer support around a community activating event.
7. Research, fund, and institute a shared client database among law enforcement, behavioral health providers, and social support organizations.

### **Substance Use**

8. Grow programs for early intervention and prevention of substance use.
9. Develop a collaborative partnership between behavioral health professionals and local hospitals to provide detox beds, prevent relapses and provide people with follow-up services and support.
10. Ensure access to local low-barrier substance use treatment options at every stage of recovery.
11. Prioritize the development of low to no-barrier access to behavioral healthcare, including substance use, for students before, during, and after the school day.

### **Student and School District Support**

12. Establish an education coalition to improve regular communication between school districts and community nonprofits and stakeholders.
13. Develop and adopt training and education on behavioral health and suicide prevention for students, school district staff, staff of youth serving organizations, and parents.
14. Enhance school district crisis plans through inclusion of local community mental health providers in planning, response, and after-care of an activating event.

### **Community Care**

15. Expand the local workforce of qualified behavioral and physical health providers and support staff through training, licensure, and supervision opportunities.
16. Establish a financial opportunity committee to strengthen the local continuum of care, prioritizing whole health services integration and 24/7 responsiveness.
17. Develop programs and provide trainings for enhanced workforce support for individuals with mental and behavioral health disorders.
18. Develop programs designed to relieve isolation and corresponding mental health issues among senior citizens.
19. Promote education for safeguarding homes against lethal means.