Local Provider Network Development Plan: Fiscal Year 2025

The Texas Health and Human Services (HHSC) requires all local mental health authorities (LMHA) and local behavioral health authorities (LBHA) complete the Local Provider Network Development (LPND) plan and submit in Word format (not PDF) to Performance.Contracts@hhs.texas.gov **no later than December 31, 2024**.

LMHAs and LBHAs are required to complete Part I, which includes providing baseline data about services, contracts, and documentation of the LMHA's or LBHA's assessment of provider availability; and Part III, which outlines Planning and Network Advisory Committee (PNAC) involvement and public comment.

HHSC only requires LMHAs and LBHAs to complete Part II if there are new providers interested to include procurement plans.

NOTES:

- This process applies only to services funded through the Mental Health Performance Contract Notebook (MH/PCN); it does not cover services funded through Medicaid Managed Care. Throughout the document, only report data for the non-Medicaid population.
- The requirements for network development pertain only to provider organizations and complete levels of care or specialty services. Local needs and priorities govern routine or discrete outpatient services and services provided by individual practitioners, and these services are not part of the assessment of provider availability or plans for procurement.
- When completing the template, ensure conciseness, specificity, and use bullet points where possible, providing information only for the period since submitting the fiscal year 2023 LPND plan and adding rows in tables as necessary for responses.

PART I: Required for all LMHAs and LBHAs

Local Service Area

1. Provide information in table 1 about your local service area using data from the most recent Mental and Behavioral Health Outpatient Warehouse (MBOW) data set on LMHA or LBHA Area and Population Statistics, found in the MBOW's General Warehouse folder.

Table 1: Area and Population Statistics

Population	LMHA or LBHA Data
Square miles	2,116
Population density	102
Total number of counties	2
Number of rural counties	2
Number of urban counties	0

Current Services and Contracts

2. Complete tables 2 through 4 to provide an overview of current services and contracts.

3. List the service capacity based on the most recent MBOW data set.

   a) For levels of care (LOC), list the non-Medicaid average monthly served found in MBOW using data from the LOC-A by Center (Non-Medicaid Only and All Clients) report in the General Warehouse folder.

   b) For residential programs, list the total number of beds and total discharges (all clients).

   c) For other services, identify the unit of service (all clients).

d) Estimate the service capacity for fiscal year 2025. If no change is anticipated, enter the same information previous column.

e) State the total percent of each service contracted out to external providers in fiscal year 2024. For LOCs, do not include contracts for discrete services within those levels of care when calculating percentages.

Table 2: Service Capacity for Adult Community Mental Health Service LOCs

LOC	Most recent service capacity (non-Medicaid only)	Estimated FY 2025 service capacity (non-Medicaid only)	% total non-Medicaid capacity provided by external providers in FY 2025
Adult LOC 1m	5.17	5.17	0
Adult LOC 1s	996.83	996.83	0
Adult LOC 2	44.67	44.67	0
Adult LOC 3	17.33	17.33	0
Adult LOC 4	1.33	.33	0
Adult LOC 5	.25	.25	0

Table 3: Service Capacity for Children's Community Mental Health Service LOCs

LOC	Most recent service capacity (non-Medicaid only)	Estimated FY 2025 service capacity (non-Medicaid only)	% total non-Medicaid capacity provided by external providers in FY 2025
Children's LOC 1	25.67	25.67	0
Children's LOC 2	37.25	37.25	0

LOC	Most recent service capacity (non-Medicaid only)	Estimated FY 2025 service capacity (non-Medicaid only)	% total non-Medicaid capacity provided by external providers in FY 2025
Children's LOC 3	16.75	16.75	0
Children's LOC 4	---	---	---
Children's LOC YC	.58	.58	0
Children's LOC 5	.25	.25	0

Table 4: Service Capacity for Crisis Services

Crisis Service	FY 2024 service capacity	Estimated FY 2025 service capacity	% total capacity provided by external providers in FY 2024
Crisis Hotline	865	865	100
Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams	1778	1778	0
Private Psychiatric Beds	Variable: based on need - ACCESS doesn't contract for specific capacity (i.e. # of beds); capacity is based on need at time of service	Variable: based on need - ACCESS doesn't contract for specific capacity (i.e. # of beds); capacity is based on need at time of service	100
Community Mental Health Hospital Beds	N/A	N/A	N/A
Contracted Psychiatric Beds (CPBs)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Crisis Service	FY 2024 service capacity	Estimated FY 2025 service capacity	% total capacity provided by external providers in FY 2024
Extended Observation Units (EOUs)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Crisis Residential Units (CRUs)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Crisis Respite Units (CRUs)	N/A	N/A	N/A

4. List all contracts for fiscal year 2025 in the tables 5 and 6. Include contracts with provider organizations and individual practitioners for discrete services.

    a) In tables 5 and 6, list the name of the provider organization or individual practitioner. LMHAs or LBHAs must have written consent to include names of individual peer support providers. State the number of individual peers (e.g., "3 individual peers") for peer providers that do not wish to have their names listed.

    b) List the services provided by each contractor, including full levels of care, discrete services (such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, physician services, or family partner services), crisis and other specialty services, and support services (such as pharmacy benefits management, laboratory, etc.).

Table 5: Provider Organizations

Provider Organization	Service(s)
None	N/A

Table 6: Individual Practitioners

Individual Practitioner	Service(s)
AVAIL Solutions	Crisis Hotline
Anderson County	MH Crisis Deputy
Best Friends Community Services	Independent Living Skills Training, Vocational training, Day Habilitation, Behavioral Support Services
Bluebonnet Homes	ICF-IDD Residential Services
Cedar Crest Hospital	Inpatient Psychiatric Services
Cherokee County	MH Crisis Deputy
Cherokee County Peer Support Group	Peer Support Services
Clear Lake	Inpatient Psychiatric Services
East Texas Behavioral Network (ETBHN)	Telemedicine, Psychiatric Services, Pharmacy Services; Utilization Management
Amy Garcia	YES Waiver Provider
Gateway Community Partners	IDD Community Supports, Supported Employment, Day Habilitation, Vocational Training, Respite, Recreation
Eulalia Haile	YES Waiver Provider
Hickory Behavioral Center of Longview	Inpatient Psychiatric Services
Mark Janes, M.D.	Contacted Medical Director through ETBHN
Paul Johnson	YES Waiver Provider

Individual Practitioner	Service(s)
Kaufman County Children's Shelter	Emergency Youth Shelter Services
Erik Lenert, PhD	Psychological Services (DIDs)
Medical Behavioral Hospital of Clear Lake	Inpatient Psychiatric Services
Palestine Regional Medical Center	Inpatient Psychiatric Services; Inpatient Forensic Competency Services
Patricia Plasay, PhD	Forensic Evaluations
Megan Striley	YES Waiver Provider
Elizabeth Tann-Frisby, PhD	Behavior Therapy Services & Supports; YES Waiver CLS Services
Texas Specialty Physicians	Psychiatric Services
Tyler Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center	Translation, Sign Language Services
U.T. Health East Texas Behavioral Health	Inpatient Psychiatric Services
Kaylie Ysasi	YES Waiver Provider

Administrative Efficiencies

5. Using bullet format, describe the strategies the LMHA or LBHA is using to minimize overhead and administrative costs and achieve purchasing and other administrative efficiencies, as required by the state legislature (see Appendix C).

• Reduce utility costs through combined purchasing with several other centers
• Participated in ETBHN Regional Provider Network Advisory Committee (RPNAC)

◆ Expanded access to services and increased pool of qualified, credentialed providers by providing nursing preceptorships and unpaid internships
◆ Vehicle Fleet Leasing program to reduce vehicle repair/replacement costs and associated staff time
◆ Reduced telecommunication costs through annual external review identifying and removing redundant systems and services
◆ Upgraded printers, copiers, faxes to improve efficiency and reduce use of paper
◆ Participated in ETBHN Regional Utilization Management Committee providing enhanced review of service delivery outcomes
◆ Partner with local FQHCs to provide medication/medical services for indigent and Medicaid clients
◆ Use PAP programs to reduce medication costs
◆ Outsource Utilization Review & Authorization through ETBHN
◆ Contract for Medical Director and Telemedicine services through ETBHN
• Use ETBHN closed door pharmacy to reduce medication costs

6. List partnerships with other LMHAs and LBHAs related to planning, administration, purchasing, and procurement or other authority functions, or service delivery in table 7. Include only current and ongoing partnerships.

Table 7: LMHA or LBHA Partnerships **Start Date**	**Partner(s)**	**Functions**
1997	East Texas Behavioral Healthcare Network (ETBHN) 11 member centers	Utilization Management Committee; Regional Planning and Network Advisory Committee (RPNAC); Wide Area Network (WAN); Board of Trustees training; Autism Summit; Business Opportunities Committee; Information Service Workgroup; Peer Provider Training and Support; Pharmacy Services; Psychiatry/ Telepsychiatry Services; IDD resource workgroup

Provider Availability

The LPND process is specific to provider organizations interested in providing full LOCs to the non-Medicaid population or specialty services. It is not necessary to assess the availability of individual practitioners. Procurement for the services of individual practitioners is governed by local needs and priorities.

7. Using bullet format, describe steps the LMHA or LBHA took to identify potential external providers for this planning cycle. Be as specific as possible.

   For example, if you posted information on your website, explain how providers were notified the information was available. Describe contacts with your existing network, Managed Care Organizations, past providers and other behavioral health providers and organizations in the local service area via phone and email. Include information on meetings with stakeholders, networking events and input from your PNAC about local providers.

- *Checked HHSC website – no interested provider organizations*
- *Checked region for potential providers (phone books, internet search; State Licensing Boards); no new providers in area*
- *No written or other inquiries have been received from providers since submission of 2022 LPND Plan*
- *Requested input about possible providers in interagency collaboration & other stakeholder meetings, including from the ETBHN RPNAC*

8. Complete table 8 by listing each potential provider identified during the process described above. Include all current contractors, provider organizations that registered on the HHSC website, and provider organizations that have submitted written inquiries since submission of the fiscal year 2023 LPND plan. HHSC will notify an LMHA or LBHA if a provider expresses interest in contracting via the HHSC website. HHSC will accept new provider inquiry forms through the HHSC website from September 1, 2024, through December 1, 2024. When completing the table:

    - Note the source used to identify the provider (e.g., current contract, HHSC website, LMHA or LBHA website, e-mail, written inquiry).
    - Summarize the content of the follow-up contact described in Appendix A. If the provider did not respond to your invitation within 14 days, document your actions and the provider's response. In the final column, note the conclusion regarding the provider's availability. For those deemed to be potential providers, include the type of services the provider can provide and the provider's service capacity.

Do not finalize your provider availability assessment or post the LPND plan for public comment before September 1, 2024.

Table 8: Potential Providers

Provider	Source of Identification	Summary of Follow-up Meeting or Teleconference	Assessment of Provider Availability, Services, and Capacity
None	N/A	N/A	N/A

Part II: Required only for LMHAs and LBHAs with potential for network development

Procurement Plans

If the assessment of provider availability indicates potential for network development, the LMHA or LBHA must initiate procurement.

26 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 301, Local Authority Responsibilities, Subchapter F, Provider Network Development describes the conditions under which an LMHA or LBHA may continue to provide services when there are available and appropriate external providers. Include plans to procure complete levels of care or specialty services from provider organizations. Do not include procurement for individual practitioners to provide discrete services.

9. Complete table 9, inserting additional rows as need.

    a) Identify the service(s) to be procured. Make a separate entry for each service or combination of services that will be procured as a separate contracting unit. Specify Adult or Child if applicable.

    b) State the capacity to be procured, and the percent of total capacity for that service.

    c) State the method of procurement—open enrollment Request for Application (RFA) or request for proposal (RFP).

    d) Identify the geographic area for which the service will be procured: all counties or name selected counties.

    e) Document the planned begin and end dates for the procurement, and the planned contract start date.

Table 9: Procurement Plans

Service or Combination of Services to be Procured	Capacity to be Procured	Method (RFA or RFP)	Geographic Area(s) in Which Service(s) will be Procured	Posting Start Date	Posting End Date	Contract Start Date

Rationale for Limitations

Network development includes the addition of new provider organizations, services, or capacity to an LMHA's or LBHA's external provider network.

10. Complete table 10 based on the LMHA's or LBHA's assessment of provider availability. Review 26 TAC Section 301.259 carefully to be sure the rationale addresses the requirements specified in the rule (See Appendix B).

    a) Based on the LMHA's or LBHA's assessment of provider availability, respond to each of the following questions.

    b) If "yes" is answered for any restriction identified in table 10, provide a clear rationale.

    c) If the restriction applies to multiple procurements, the rationale must address each of the restricted procurements or state that it is applicable to all the restricted procurements.

    d) The rationale must provide a basis for the proposed level of restriction, including the volume of services to be provided by the LMHA or LBHA.

Table 10: Procurement Limitations

	Yes	No	Rationale
1. Are there any services with potential for network development that are not scheduled for procurement?			
2. Are any limitations being placed on percentage of total capacity or volume of services external providers will be able to provide for any service?			
3. Are any of the procurements limited to certain counties within the local service area?			
4. Is there a limitation on the number of providers that will be accepted for any of the procurements?			

11. Complete table 11 if the LMHA or LBHA will not be procuring all available capacity offered by external contractors for one or more services and identify the planned transition period and the year in which the LMHA or LBHA anticipates procuring the full external provider capacity currently available (not to exceed the LMHA's or LBHA's capacity).

Table 11: Procurement Transitions

Service	Transition Period	Year of Full Procurement

Capacity Development

12. In table 12, document the LMHA's or LBHA's procurement activity since the submission of the fiscal year 2023 LPND plan. Include procurements implemented as part of the LPND plan and any other procurements for full LOCs and specialty services that have been conducted.

    a) List each service separately, including the percent of capacity offered and the geographic area in which the service was procured.

    b) State the results, including the number of providers obtained and the percent of service capacity contracted because of the procurement. If no providers were obtained because of procurement efforts, state "none."

Table 12: Procurement Activities

Year	Procurement (Service, % of Capacity, Geographic Area)	Results (Providers and Capacity)

PART III: Required for all LMHAs and LBHAs

PNAC Involvement

13. Complete table 13 to show PNAC involvement. PNAC activities should include input into the development of the plan and review of the draft plan. Briefly document the activity and the committee's recommendations. Add additional lines as needed.

Table 13: PNAC Involvement

Date	PNAC Activity and Recommendations
12/11/2024	Plan approved by ETBHN RPNAC with no changes recommended

Stakeholder Comments on Draft Plan and LMHA or LBHA Response

Allow at least 30 days for public comment on draft plan. Do not post plans for public comment before September 1, 2024.

In table 14, summarize the public comments received on the LMHA's or LBHA's draft plan. If no comments were received, state "none". Use a separate line for each major point identified during the public comment period and identify the stakeholder group(s) offering the comment. Add additional lines as needed. Describe the LMHA's or LBHA's response, which might include:

- Accepting the comment in full and making corresponding modifications to the plan;
- Accepting the comment in part and making corresponding modifications to the plan; or

- Rejecting the comment. Please provide explanation for the LMHA's or LBHA's rationale for rejecting comment.

Table 14: Public Comments

Comment	Stakeholder Group(s)	LMHA or LBHA Response and Rationale
None	N/A	N/A

Complete and submit entire plan to Performance.Contracts@hhs.texas.gov by **December 31, 2024**.

Appendix A: Assessing Provider Availability

Provider organizations can indicate interest in contracting with an LMHA or LBHA through the LPND website or by contacting the LMHA or LBHA directly. On the LPND website, a provider organization can submit a Provider Inquiry Form that includes key information about the provider. HHSC will notify both the provider and the LMHA or LBHA when the Provider Inquiry Form is posted.

During its assessment of provider availability, it is the responsibility of the LMHA or LBHA to contact potential providers to schedule a time for further discussion. This discussion provides both the LMHA or LBHA and the provider an opportunity to share information so both parties can make a more informed decision about potential procurements.

The LMHA or LBHA must work with the provider to find a mutually convenient time for an informational meeting. If the provider does not respond to the invitation or is not able to accommodate a teleconference or a site visit within 14 days of the LMHA's or LBHA's initial contact, the LMHA or LBHA may conclude that the provider is not interested in contracting with the LMHA or LBHA.

If the LMHA or LBHA does not contact the provider, the LMHA or LBHA must assume the provider is interested in contracting with the LMHA or LBHA.

An LMHA or LBHA may not eliminate the provider from consideration during the planning process without evidence the provider is no longer interested or is not qualified of specified provider services in accordance with applicable state and local laws and regulations.

Appendix B: Guidance on Conditions Permitting LMHA and LBHA Service Delivery

In accordance with 26 TAC Section 301.259 an LMHA or LBHA may only provide services if one or more of the following conditions is present.

1. The LMHA or LBHA determines that interested, qualified providers are not available to provide services in the LMHA's or LBHA's service area or that no providers meet procurement specifications.

2. The network of external providers does not provide the minimum level of individual choice. A minimal level of individual choice is present if a person and their legally authorized representative(s) can choose from two or more qualified providers.

3. The network of external providers does not provide people with access to services that is equal to or better than the level of access in the local network, including services provided by the LMHA or LBHA, as of a date determined by the department. An LMHA or LBHA relying on this condition must submit the information necessary for the department to verify the level of access.

4. The combined volume of services delivered by external providers is not sufficient to meet 100 percent of the LMHA's or LBHA's service capacity for each level of care identified in the LMHA's or LBHA's plan.

5. Existing agreements restrict the LMHA's or LBHA's ability to contract with external providers for specific services during the two-year period covered by the LMHA's or LBHA's plan. If the LMHA or LBHA relies on this condition, the department shall require the LMHA or LBHA to submit copies of relevant agreements.

6. The LMHA and LBHA documents that it is necessary for the LMHA or LBHA to provide specified services during the two-year period covered by the LMHA's or LBHA's plan to preserve critical infrastructure needed to ensure continuous provision of services. An LMHA or LBHA relying on this condition must:

    a) Document that it has evaluated a range of other measures to ensure continuous delivery of services, including but not limited to those

identified by the PNAC and the department at the beginning of each planning cycle;

b) Document implementation of appropriate other measures;

c) Identify a timeframe for transitioning to an external provider network, during which the LMHA or LBHA shall procure an increasing proportion of the service capacity from external provider in successive procurement cycles; and

d) Give up its role as a service provider at the end of the transition period if the network has multiple external providers and the LMHA or LBHA determines that external providers are willing and able to provide sufficient added service volume within a reasonable period of time to compensate for service volume lost should any one of the external provider contracts be terminated.

Appendix C: Legislative Authority

2022-23 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021 (Article II, HHSC, Rider 139)

Efficiencies at Local Mental Health Authorities and Intellectual Disability Authorities. HHSC shall ensure that LMHAs, LBHAs and local intellectual disability authorities that receive allocations from the funds appropriated above to HHSC shall maximize the dollars available to provide services by minimizing overhead and administrative costs and achieving purchasing efficiencies. The Legislature also intends that each state agency which enters into a contract with or makes a grant to local authorities does so in a manner that promotes the maximization of third-party billing opportunities, including to Medicare and Medicaid.

Funds appropriated above to HHSC in Strategies I.2.1, Long-Term Care Intake and Access, and F.1.3, Non-Medicaid IDD Community Services, may not be used to supplement the rate-based payments incurred by local intellectual disability authorities to provide waiver or ICF/IID[a] services.

[a] ICF/IID - Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability