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Increasing Access and Quality of Reentry Peer Recovery Support Services in Texas

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Texas Health and Human Services

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Agenda

- People With Lived Experience
- Introduction: Jose N. Flores
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
Recovery Support Services (RSS) History
- Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR)
 - ▶ RSS
 - ▶ Re-entry
 - ▶ Collaboration with The University of Texas Health
Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA)
 - ▶ Numbers Served



People With Lived Experience

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recognizes that people with lived experience are fundamental to improving mental health and substance use services and should be meaningfully involved in the planning, delivery, administration, evaluation, and policy development of services and supports to improve processes and outcomes.



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Introduction: Jose N. Flores



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- Family history of substance use, mental illness and adverse childhood experiences.
- Juvenile and adult justice system involvement from age 13 to 36.
- Released from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in 2012:
 - ▶ Served almost 13 years.
 - ▶ Four years of parole left to discharge.
 - ▶ One year of GPS ankle monitoring.
 - ▶ Nine months of aftercare requirements.

Introduction:

Jose N. Flores (2 of 2)



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- While on parole supervision:
 - ▶ Graduated from community college in 2015 and completed an undergraduate degree in 2018.
 - ▶ Worked full-time as an addiction counselor with adults and youth in residential, outpatient and opioid treatment clinic settings.
 - ▶ Started graduate school for clinical mental health counseling in 2018 to become licensed professional counselor (LPC).
- 2019: Began working as a Program Specialist VII with HHSC, providing subject matter expertise for TTOR RSS programs.

HHSC RSS History (1 of 2)

Events that shaped peer RSS:

- **1992:** Ann Richards and Bob Bullock introduce, and Texas Legislature passes, a bill supporting the Criminal Justice Treatment Initiative.
- Early graduates of the Criminal Justice Treatment Initiative, including Dillon West, founded the Winner's Circle Chapter in Texas, a peer support group for people involved in the criminal justice system.
- **1998–2001:** SAMHSA implements grants to support peer recovery advocacy work nationwide. Texas recovery leaders are part of the movement.
- **2002:** SAMHSA implements grants for Recovery Community Organization (RCO) development. El Paso, Dallas, Houston and Austin are some of the early Texas RCOs established.



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HHSC RSS History (2 of 2)

Events that shaped peer RSS:

- **2014:** Texas Department of State Health Services funds 22 pilot RSS programs at RCOs and substance use treatment programs.
- **2017 to present:** Additional funding to state behavioral health agencies for opioid crisis response expands funding for peer RSS to address substance use challenges.
- **2018:** Texas Legislature passes legislation allowing peer recovery support to be a billable Medicaid service beginning Jan. 1, 2019.
- **2019:** HHSC establishes Medicaid-specific state certification of peer recovery support specialists.



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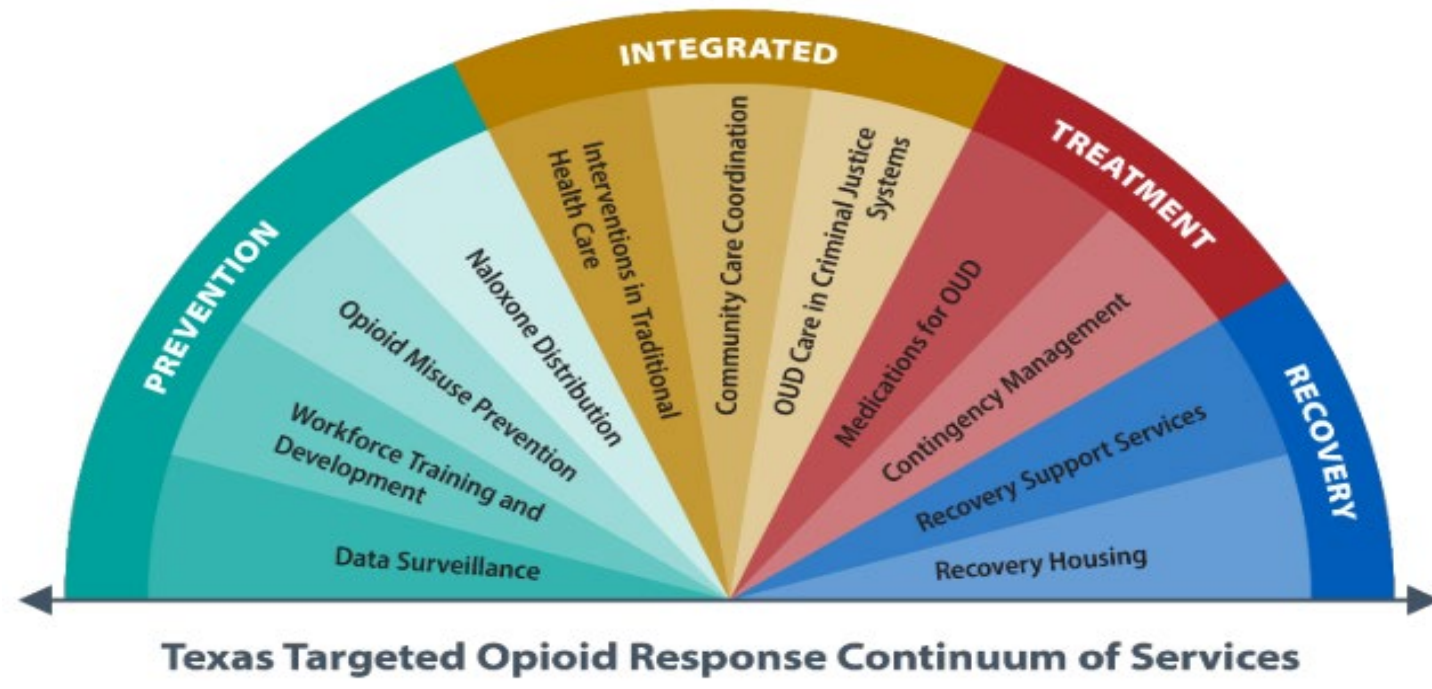
TTOR

- TTOR is a public health initiative operated by HHSC through federal funding from SAMHSA.
- TTOR's mission is to save lives and provide lifelong support to Texans with opioid and stimulant use disorders by expanding access to prevention, integrated services, treatment, and RSS.



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TTOR Continuum of Care



TTOR RSS Service Array

- Peer support
- Medication-assisted recovery support (MARS)
- Recovery workforce training and technical assistance
- Housing for opioid medication-assisted recovery expanded services (Project HOMES) and evaluation



Types of RSS



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Direct Recovery Services	Indirect Recovery Services	Education Services
Face-to-face coaching	Health and wellness supports	Alcohol and drug
Telephone or video coaching	Alcohol- and drug-free social activities	Recovery
Traveling companion coaching	Community service projects	Life skills
Recovery support groups		Employment
		Computer skills
		GED and other education services

Focus on Reentry

In 2019, TTOR provided additional funding to enhance the already implemented mental health peer support reentry pilot program at three local mental health authorities in Texas.

This program provides community-based peer services and access to services from licensed mental health professionals who assist with transition or “re-entry” into clinically appropriate community-based substance use and mental health services.



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HHSC Collaboration with UTHSCSA: Be Well, Texas

- In 2021, TTOR contracted with UTHSCSA to streamline funding to community providers and continue efforts to address the opioid crisis, also known as TTOR-Be Well, Texas, RSS.
- Purpose: expand a network of RSS organizations that provide peer support, access to recovery housing, employment support and reentry from criminal justice and rehabilitative settings to foster health, home, purpose and community.



TTOR Numbers Served: RSS (1 of 2)



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Peer support:

- 3,256 new unduplicated participants received direct RSS.
- 7,961 people were offered peer recovery coaching support services.
- 1,056 new individual admissions to medication-assisted treatment that can be attributed to the facilitation efforts of a recovery coach.

Medication-assisted recovery support:

- 23 MARS training events occurred.
- 355 people attended.

TTOR Numbers Served: RSS (2 of 2)



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Recovery workforce training and technical assistance:

1,993 people completed training in:

- Core and Recovery Support Peer Specialist Supplemental.
- Certified Methadone Advocate.
- MARS.
- Suicide prevention.

Project HOMES and evaluation:

- 581 people were served through 14 MARS specific recovery residences.
- 458 residents received peer coaching or mentoring.

Resources

- txopioidresponse.org/resources
- sph.uth.edu/research/centers/chppr/research/homes/#home-find-location
- txcope.org/home
- peerforce.org/
- viahope.org/
- tcbap.org/



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Thank you

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