



# **Annual Report on the Screening of Offenders with Mental Illness**

**As Required By  
The 2014-2015 General Appropriations Act,  
S.B. 1, 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, 2013  
(Article II, Department of State Health Services Rider 43)**



**Department of State Health Services  
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## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Background .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS).....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Matching Process .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The Continuity of Care Response.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Fiscal Year 2014 Data.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>4</b>

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## **Executive Summary**

[The Texas Health and Safety Code §614.013 and §614.017](#) mandate that the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in collaboration with community centers, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), and community supervision and corrections departments. The purpose of the MOU is to establish a process by which offenders with mental illness in the criminal justice system will be identified. [The 2014-2015 General Appropriations Act, S.B. 1, 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, 2013 \(Article II, DSHS Rider 43\)](#) requires DSHS to collect and report data on the prevalence of offenders with mental illness to the Legislative Budget Board each fiscal year.

In fiscal year 2014, there were a total of 463,152 match requests for adults that resulted in 76,561 exact matches and 386,591 probable matches. There were 7,587 match requests for adolescents that resulted in 725 exact matches and 6,862 probably matches.

## **Introduction**

The 2014-2015 General Appropriations Act, S.B. 1, 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, 2013 (Article II, DSHS Rider 43) states that pursuant to Health and Safety Code §614.013 and §614.017, DSHS and community centers, as defined in the Texas Health and Safety Code §534.001(b), shall, through a memorandum of understanding, identify offenders with mental impairments in the criminal justice system, collect and report prevalence data, and accept and disclose information relating to a special needs offender if the disclosure serves the purpose of Chapter 614, Health and Safety Code.

DSHS shall report to the Legislative Budget Board each fiscal year its efforts to facilitate the exchange of information between agencies pursuant to Health and Safety Code §614.017. The report shall include, but is not limited to: the manner in which information is exchanged between agencies, the frequency with which information is exchanged, the type of information most frequently exchanged, and the agencies most frequently involved in the exchange of information.

## **Background**

Chapter 614 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, specifically, sections §614.013 – 614.017 mandates that an MOU be established between the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), DSHS, the Texas Department of Public Safety, representatives of Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) appointed by the commissioner of DSHS, and community supervision and corrections departments for the purpose of instituting a continuity of care and services program for offenders with mental illness in the criminal justice system. The MOU must establish methods for:

- Identifying offenders with mental illness in the criminal justice system and collecting and reporting prevalence rate data to Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Illness (TCOOMMI);
- Developing interagency rules, policies, procedures, and standards for the coordination of care of and the exchange of information on offenders with mental illness by local and state criminal justice agencies, DSHS, LMHAs, the Commission on Jail Standards, and local jails;
- Identifying the services needed by offenders with mental illness to reenter the community successfully; and
- Establishing a process to report implementation activities to TCOOMMI.

## **Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS)**

DPS is responsible for the operation of the TLETS system. TLETS is a real-time identification and data exchange system for special needs offenders that replaced the previous 72-hour manual data exchange process. The revision to the data exchange process was an effort to ensure more expedient data to support continuity of care for individuals with mental illness who are involved with the criminal justice system, and to supplement local post-booking jail diversion activities. Through the use of the TLETS system, every inmate booked into a county jail has a continuity of care query (CCQ) initiated. The inmate's personal information (i.e., date of birth, social security number, first and last name, ethnicity, and gender) is matched against the Clinical Management

for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS) database managed by DSHS. CMBHS is a web-based integrated electronic clinical management system for state-funded mental health and substance use services providers. CMBHS serves as the primary system of record for state-funded mental health and substance use services. Inmates who have received services via the LMHAs, NorthSTAR, or state mental health facilities are identified through the CCQ process.

### **The Matching Process**

When a CCQ is initiated, DSHS uses the following match algorithm to identify offenders with a history of mental illness:

- Exact match - the data inquiry matches on last name, first name, date of birth, gender, social security number, and ethnicity; or
- Probable match - the data matches one of the criteria below:
  - Last name, first initial, date of birth, and gender; or
  - Last name, first initial, birth year, gender, and social security number; or
  - The first 3 letters of the last name, first initial, the year and month of birth, gender or social security number; or
  - Last name matches to any others found, first initial matches to any others found, age is within 5 years, gender, and social security number matches to any others found.

Once CMBHS receives the TLETS inquiry and searches for matching information, it prepares a return report for the county jail. The selection of data for the return report is completed in accordance with the following selection criteria:

- The match is on an individual who is a registered client with a presenting problem of mental health; or
- The registered client has a state hospitalization, mental health community service encounter, authorization, or assessment since fiscal year 2011.

### **The Continuity of Care Response**

Once the county jail receives the CMBHS return report, jail staff contacts the LMHA or NorthSTAR, and supplies them with a copy of the match report. The LMHA or NorthSTAR providers are statutorily and contractually required to conduct an assessment of these individuals to screen for eligibility for continued services provided through their agencies.

### **Fiscal Year 2014 Data**

For the adult population, 234 counties initiated CCQs, for a total of 463,152 match requests in fiscal year 2014. A total of 76,561 inquiries resulted in exact matches. A total of 386,591 inquiries resulted in a probable match. For the adolescent population, 198 counties initiated CCQs, for a total of 7,587 match requests. A total of 725 inquiries resulted in exact matches, while 6,862 resulted in a probable match.

## **Conclusion**

Through interagency collaborations, DSHS continues to identify offenders with behavioral health issues, in an attempt to reorient these individuals to services that are available through the community mental health system.