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Behavioral Health

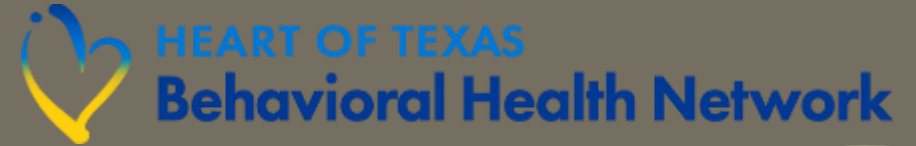
L e a d e r s h i p T e a m

BHLT: A Look Back at Year 1

Presentation to Waco City Council

August 5, 2025

City of Waco Community Behavioral Health



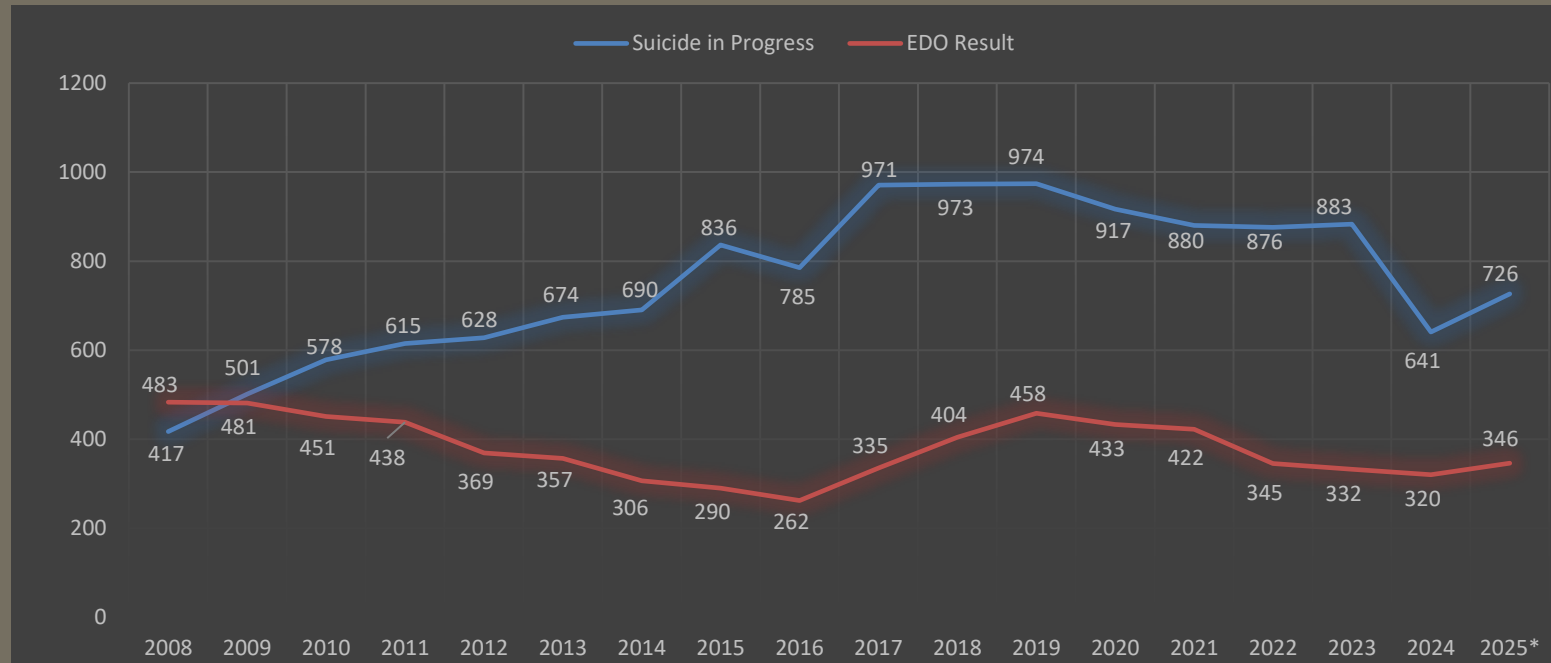
- Outside Agency \$100,000
- BHLT \$200,000
 - RES-2024-464
 - 1-yr, w/2 renewals allowed.



- Crisis Center \$3,000,000/ARPA
 - Opened May 2024
- Reintegration \$65,000 /yr
 - Started 2012
- Medical Clearance \$80,000 /yr
- EDO Transport \$117,000 /avg

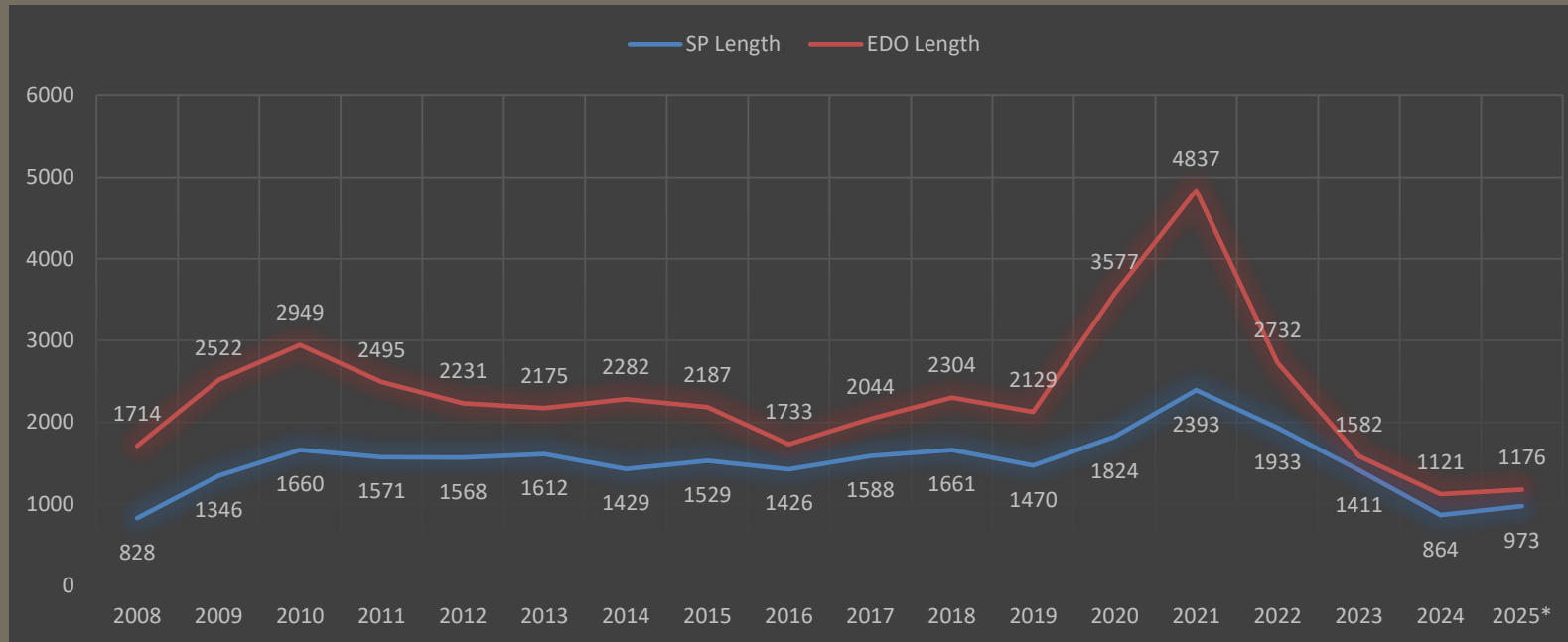
- Dispatch diversion program - Began February 2024
- Team has diverted 1,303 calls for service
 - 652 - Police response
 - 214 - Combined response
 - 352- Non-Police response
 - 85 - Non process response

City of Waco Community Behavioral Health Outcomes



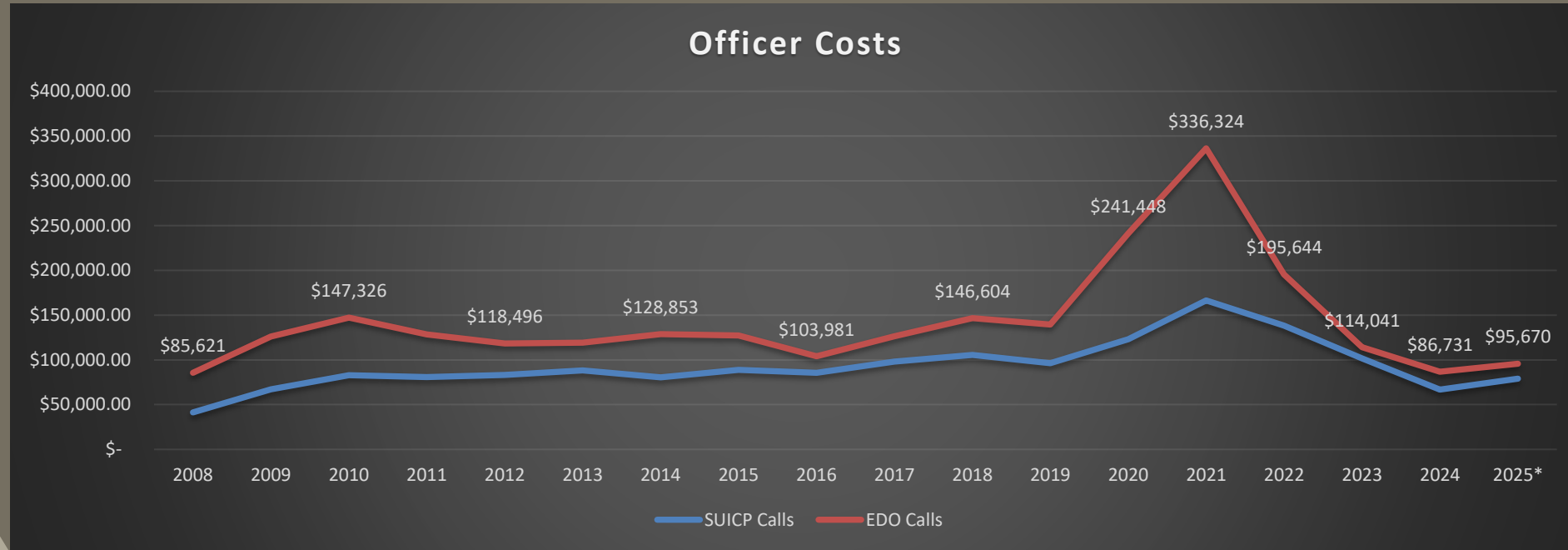
- "Suicide In Progress" call numbers peak in 2019
- Slight declines since, until 2023
- EDOs follow the same pattern
- Crisis Center opened May 2024
- Should see an 18% reduction over 2023 if trends continue

City of Waco Community Behavioral Health Outcomes



- "Total Officer Hours" on EDOs peak in 2021
- Peak driven by COVID
- Sharp declines to sub-2019 levels by 2023
- Should see an 26% reduction over 2023 if trends continue

City of Waco Community Behavioral Health Outcomes



- Officer costs related to EDOs peak in 2021
- Peak driven by COVID
- EDOs follow the same pattern
- Officer costs are driven by the total number of hours
- Should see an 16% reduction over 2023 if trends continue



BHLT: A Collaborative Community Investment

BHLT Annual Budget	
Partner	Budget Year 1
City of Waco	\$200,000
McLennan County	\$200,000
Ascension	\$50,000
Baylor Scott & White	\$50,000
HOT Behavioral Health Network	\$25,000
Waco Family Medicine	\$25,000
Total	\$550,000

What It Takes to Make Lasting Systems Change

1

Common Agenda

- Consensus reached on ultimate goal
- Partners committed to clearly articulated strategies and agreed upon actions

2

Measurement

- Quality data on meaningful indicators available to partners
- Partners contribute data consistently (DSAs and MOUs)

3

Mutually Reinforcing Activities

- Partners have developed a collective plan of action
- Activities are coordinated to align with action plan
- Gaps are filled and reduced duplication of efforts



4

Continuous Communication

- Strategies in place to engage partners and stakeholders
- Targeted marketing and communications strategies in place to reach desired audiences

5

Backbone Organizations: Public Will and Leadership

- Backbone supports the initiative's vision and strategy
- Increased public involvement in an issue
- Increased breadth of partners in support of issue
- Increased media coverage of an issue

6

Mobilize Funding

- Improved alignment of existing resources
- Existing and new resources committed to evidence-based strategies

7

Advance Public Policy

- Changes in laws, regulations and ordinances relevant to the initiative's goals



The Common Agenda

The Behavioral Health Leadership Team will work to ensure that every individual in McLennan County facing moderate to severe behavioral health challenges receives high-quality care by a licensed clinical professional in a timely way, with the goals of strengthening family well-being and improving workforce productivity; reducing individual suffering, emergency department congestion, and crises resulting in law enforcement intervention; and providing appropriate alternatives to incarceration that protect our community and promote public safety.



Identifying the Goal and Developing Shared Measurements

- Led BHLT Steering Committee in priority setting and identified and defined metrics within Data Sharing Action Team
- Developed and Finalizing Data Sharing Agreements with partner entities and collecting baseline data
- Next 12 months: Analyze historical data, receive quarterly data for evaluation and impact of ongoing efforts



Identifying the Goal and Developing Shared Measurements

The Identified Problem

Closure/lack of in-patient behavioral health care

Limited access to high-quality primary care

Workforce shortages in behavioral healthcare providers

The Metrics Tracked

(Total # or %)

- ED visits with behavioral health diagnosis(es)
- Law enforcement trips/hours spent in ED
- Patients served through outpatient psychiatric and preventive services
- PCPs per 1,000 residents
- Individuals with an assigned PCP (empanelment)
- ED visits with behavioral health diagnosis/es
- % of the population with a self-reported PCP visit in the last 6 months
- Performance on standardized quality measures
- Licensed clinicians able to provide psychiatric care
- Mental health providers per 1000 residents
- Patients with behavioral health diagnosis(es) in active treatment
- Patients seen within 48 hours of crisis touchpoint

The Identified Problem

Problems with ED crowding
and over-utilization

Substance use disorder
treatment

Child/adolescent behavioral
health issue prevention

High cost of jailing those in
behavioral health crisis

The Metrics Tracked

(Total # or %)

- Reported ED admissions with behavioral health diagnosis/es
- Diversions by 911 dispatch co-placement
- Diversions by MCOT and other crisis responders
- Medical Clearance at Diversion Center

- Substance use responses at ED
- Utilization of outpatient medication therapy for substance use
- Utilization of ED for detox

- Utilization of school-based behavioral health treatment
- Number of schools agreed to behavioral health best practices
- Number and percentage of children/adolescents with a PCP visit in the last 6 months

- Amount of money spent on jailing those waiting for behavioral health treatment (non-46B inmates)
- Jailed individuals requiring psychotropic meds
- Number of MH consumers who time out sentence
- Jailed individuals waiting for non-ASH behavioral health treatment
- People successfully diverted through law enforcement and healthcare partnerships



Facilitating Strategic Action

In 2024, Prosper Waco led:

7

BHLT Steering Committee Meetings

Established:

- common agenda
- shared priorities
- agreed metrics
- framework for pursuing legislative priorities for the Texas Legislature

9

BHLT Action Team Meetings

Established:

- establishing shared metrics with agreed-upon definitions
- a shared definition of 'crisis'
- Framework for mapping crisis response resources

3

BHLT Coalition Meetings

With over 50 unique attendees representing 40+ local organizations.



Facilitating Strategic Action

In 2025, Prosper Waco has:

- Continued convening BHLT Steering Committee and Action Teams to create robust opportunities for dialogue and action
 - 6 Steering Committee Meetings and 20+ Action Team and Task Force Meetings
- Focused in on supporting crisis response, particularly supporting improving processes such as medical clearance and lab processing at the Diversion Center; law enforcement relief; and de-escalation at skilled nursing facilities to reduce law enforcement intervention.
- Supported the request to the Legislature in the 89th Texas Legislative Session for funding for behavioral health in our community, and with leadership from State Representative Pat Curry, secured \$5 million in new state appropriations to support behavioral health in our community.



Securing Funding: 89th Texas Legislative Session



Comprehensive Behavioral Health Needs Assessment



Child/Adolescent Behavioral Health Prevention: School-Based Screening



Expand in-patient bed capacity: Add two in-patient psychiatric beds daily for uninsured McLennan County residents



Multi-Disciplinary Response Team (MDRT) for Crisis Response & Proactive Coordination of Care for Frequent Systems Engagers



Jail Discharge Medication & Care Coordination for Highest Acuity Existing Inmates



A Look Ahead

- Support the process of the Behavioral Health Needs Assessment and begin organizing around implementation of recommendations
- Pursue additional funding as needed for identified needs and priorities
- Support data collection and tracking of key metrics and performance outcomes of the work implemented with the new state funding and other BHLT priorities
- Support project management of strategies in new appropriation and other BHLT projects