



bhl

Behavioral Health

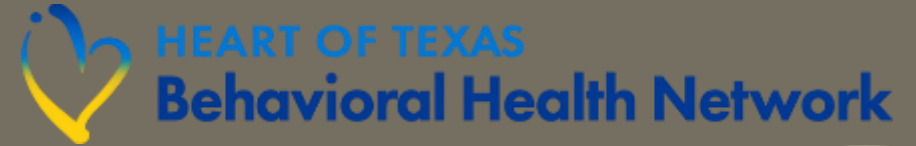
L e a d e r s h i p T e a m

# BHLT: A Look Back at Year 1

*Presentation to Waco City Council*

August 19, 2025

# City of Waco Community Behavioral Health



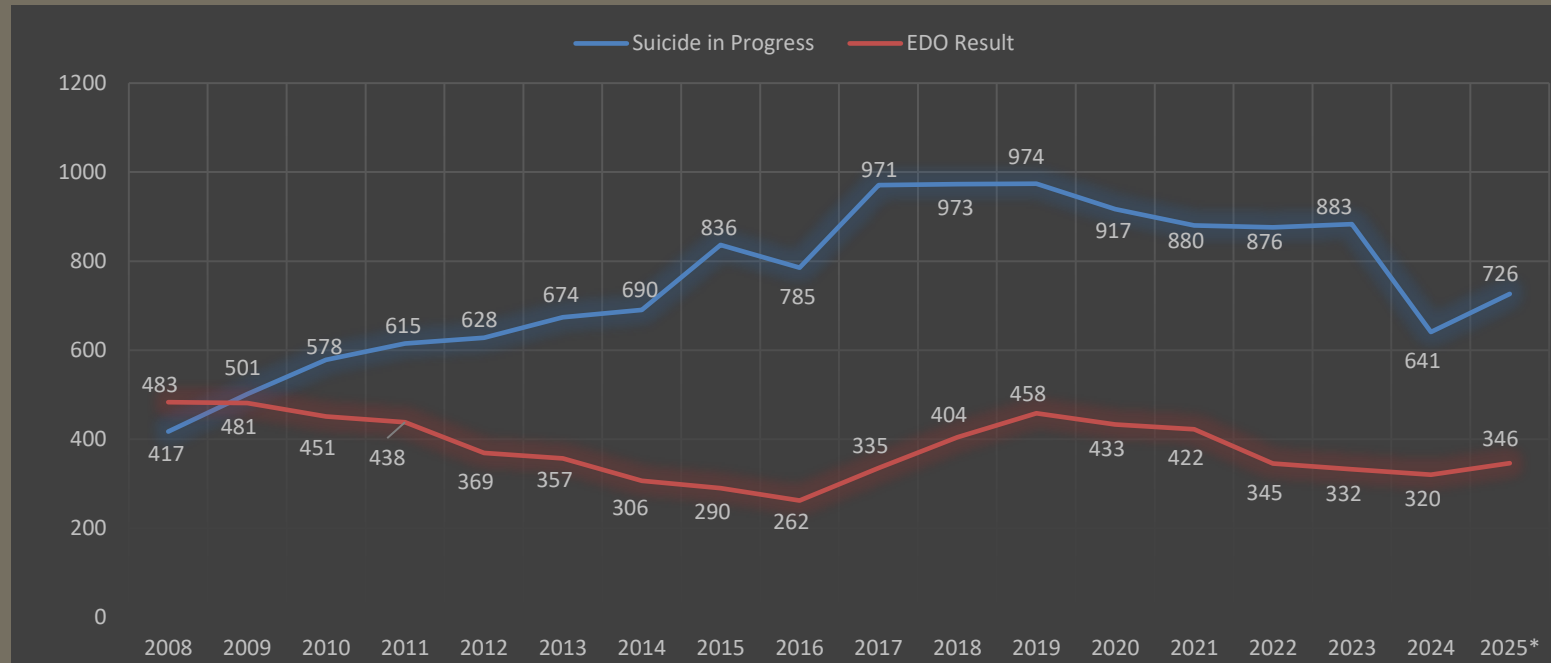
- Outside Agency \$100,000
- BHLT \$200,000
  - RES-2024-464
  - 1-yr, w/2 renewals allowed.



- 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

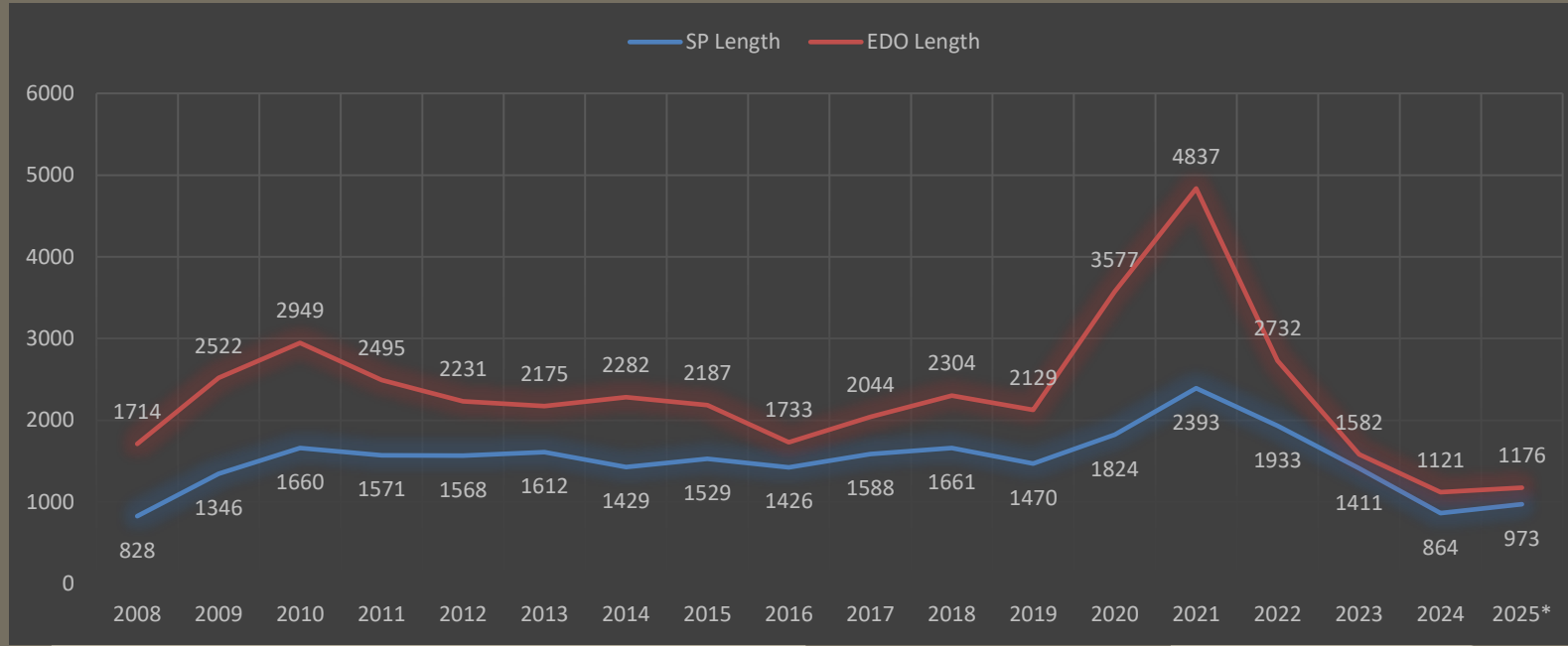
- Dispatch diversion program - Began February 2024
- Team has diverted 1,303 calls for service
  - 652 - Police response
  - 214 - Combined response
  - 352- Non-Police response
  - 85 - Non process response

# City of Waco Community Behavioral Health Outcomes



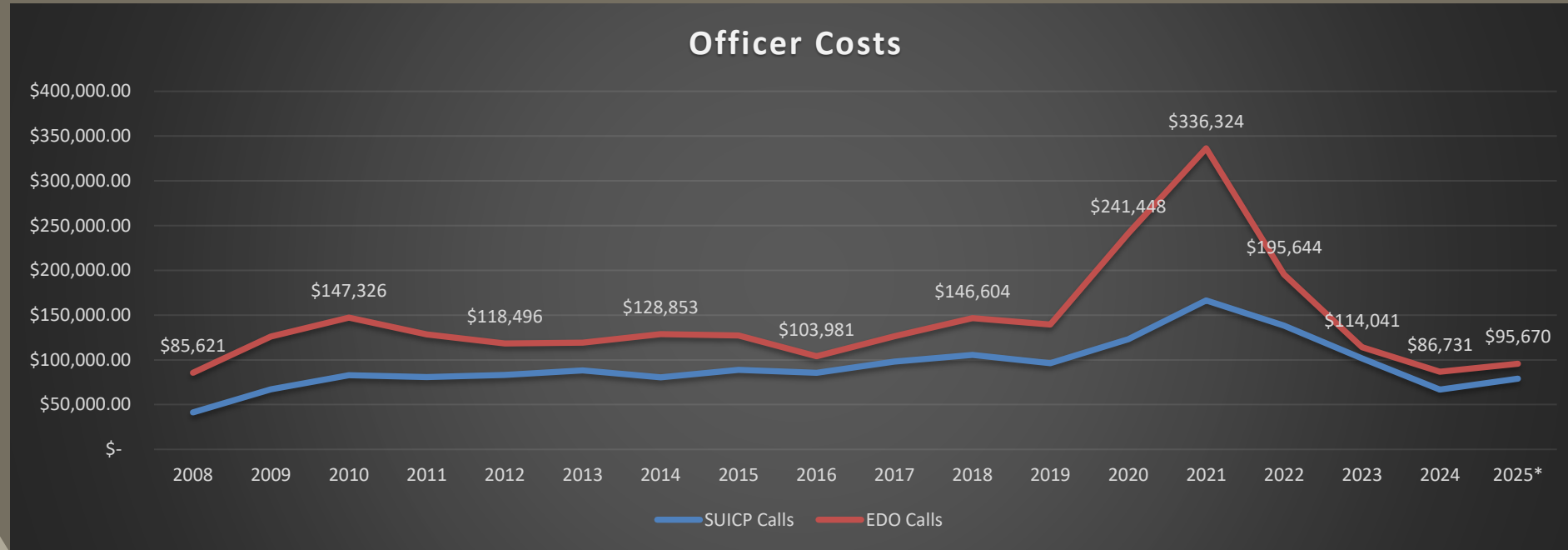
- "Suicide In Progress" call numbers peak in 2019
- Slight declines since, until 2023
- EDOs follow the same pattern
- Crisis Center opened May 2024
- Should see an 18% reduction over 2023 if trends continue

# 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 89<sup>th</sup> 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: 89<sup>th</sup> 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