

Developing regional mental health priorities: A mixed-methods needs assessment of eight states in the southeast United States

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Supplemental Table. Current initiatives and needs for the six regional mental health priorities for the eight Southeast states

Regional Mental Health Priority Area	Current Initiatives	Needs
Mental Health Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce capacity building efforts, including internal knowledge transfer and building the mental health workforce pipeline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill behavioral health positions in community mental health clinics and specialty sectors, including criminal justice and school-based mental health • Identify and implement effective strategies for recruitment, retention, and leadership development of the mental health workforce
School-based Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All states have initiatives to increase the number of mental health staff in schools and strengthen the continuum of care from schools to clinics • Recent school safety legislation and policy includes mandatory professional development in suicide prevention for school personnel and funding for expansion and coordination of school mental health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand mental health services in schools • Improve coordination between schools and community mental health services • Identify and implement behavioral health assessments in schools • Sustainable methods for financing school mental health services
Suicide Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven states have developed and are implementing state suicide prevention plans. Plans aim to coordinate efforts across state agencies, provide trainings in evidence-based practices for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand evidence-based services, focusing on priority populations such as veterans • Reduce access to lethal means

identifying and intervening with people at risk for suicide behaviors, implement programs to promote wellness, and improve public knowledge of risk and protective factors for suicide.

- All states have initiatives for crisis services, such as mobile crisis response teams and stabilization units

Peer Workforce

- All states have peer certification programs
- Peer support services are reimbursable through Medicaid in 7 states
- Initiatives to train peers to address whole health and transitions of care
- Expand peer workforce into the behavioral healthcare system and specialty services, including hospitals, emergency rooms, and prisons
- Educate mental health providers and managers on the role and value of peer specialists and on how to best integrate peers onto their teams

Criminal Justice and Mental Health

- All states implement programs to address mental health issues in the criminal justice system
- Programs include training for crisis intervention teams, pre-arrest diversion programs, and reintegration program
- Strengthen collaborations with state justice agencies
- Training for criminal justice professionals
- Expand services and programs

Supported Housing

- All states implement supportive housing initiatives, including permanent supported housing and transitional housing
- Expand housing programs
- Improve integration and coordination with mental health services
- Sustainable methods for financing housing services

Reference: Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center. Mental health priorities, strengths, and needs of the state mental health agencies in the southeast: Needs assessment report. Atlanta, GA, 2019. <https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/southeast-mhttc/southeast-mhttc-final-needs-assessment-report>.