As in many other communities across Texas, health care is fragmented, with the mind and body being treated separately. The

 Lubbock could benefit from expanding inpatient capacity for psychiatric illnesses where complex, comorbid conditions can be assessed and treated. The amount of inpatient beds would depend on the type (children or adult, short- or long-term stay) and location (specialty hospital or general hospital).

Important recommendations:

- Core group of leaders should take on the task of directing change in the Lubbock area mental health system
- Initial areas of focus for the core group should include:
 - o Integration of the crisis system
 - o Sustained funding for mental health care, especially with potential loss of funding from the Medicaid 1115 waiver program
 - o Targeted expansion of community care capacity to divert people from hospitalization (Assertive Community Treatment) and jail (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment) bookings; including step-down services
 - o Expansion of inpatient capacity
- The Meadows also recommended the development of issue-specific workgroups.

Progress since report completion:

- Based on the recommendation, the Community Parties that commissioned the Assessment have formed the West Texas Mental Health Collaborative and serve as the Founding Parties, its steering committee.
 - The cooperation among leaders is the most critical asset Lubbock has going forward. The test will be to find ways to maintain this cooperation. This challenge informs our recommendation to create a formal governance structure to guide future planning for transforming mental health care in Lubbock.
 - The Founding Parties include high level officials from the Qty of Lubbock, Community Foundation of West Texas, Covenant Health, Lubbock County, StarCare Specialty Healthy System, Texas Tech University, and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and University Medical Center.
- The City of Lubbock Health Department has rolled out the LBK Community network for better coordinated community service referrals.
- The Texas Tech Mental Health Initiative will continue to serve as the facilitator of the West Texas Mental Health Collaborative and the Founding Parties. The TTMHI will work to support and coordinate their efforts across the community and TTU system.

Important findings:

 Leaders in the criminal justice and mental health treatment systems have been innovative and creative in addressing issues arising from the influx of people with mental illnesses into the criminal justice system which can provide an excellent foundation for future improvement.

- Lubbock Police Department has worked to promote the Orisis Intervention Team (OT) and the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), but they still need integration.
- Lubbock was designated the first Stepping Up Initiative Innovator County in Texas for the effort to collect and analyze timely date on people in jail who have mental illness, with the hope of better integrative care. There is an active group, Justice Mental Health Collaboration Program, working to recommend improvement to mental health care in the justice system.
- There seems to be a lack of clarity and consensus in the community regarding criteria for access to care and the potential disposition of crisis situations in which a person appears to have a mental illness.
- < Like in other communities, there seems to be a lack of continuity of care for people discharged from jail.
- VetStar has created a model for veterans involved with the criminal justice system that offers grant-funded support services. TTU has created a campus that is fully supportive of the mental health needs of veterans and their families. These initiatives provide a good foundation for expanding services for veterans in the Lubbock area.
- C There is a limited number of resources in the Lubbock community that provide veteran-specific mental health services.
- Data collected regarding veteran mental health is inconsistent and impedes understanding of barriers and needs within the community to provide appropriate care to veterans.

Important recommendations:

- Work for better integration of care and possible use of telehealth to further integrate initial crisis response to care.
- < As in other areas evaluated by the MMHPI, there is room for improved and integrated use of data.
- An area of improvement within the justice system would be to seek opportunities to better coordinate the responses of law enforcement and other crisis responders, such as StarCare and emergency medical transport.
- C Develop treatment capacity for better transition care when discharged from jail.
- Create consensus on eligibility criteria and integrate crisis response, including a common

suicide ideation.

- Build cooperation between veteran-specific mental health services; improve data collection which can improve mental health care provided to veterans by ensuring appropriate-, militaryinformed care.
- Build partnerships between community organizations and veteran-specific mental health service providers that will allow for greater access to servi issues.

Approaching services for veterans and their families with a better integrated perspectiveincorporate military-informed care and military cultural competencies, could strengthen the model developed in Lubbock.

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Progress since report competition:

- Development of the Chemical Dependency Intensive Outpatient Program (partnership of Covenant, TTUHSC, TTU).
- Continued inpatient care when appropriate (partnership of StarCare, City of Lubbock, UMC).
- Mental health consultation service for governmental entities (jails) through partnership of TTUHSC and various entities across Texas, in response to recent legislation.

includes five core components for preventing, identifying, and treating pediatric mental health conditions. The components include life in the community, integrated behavioral health in pediatric primary care settings, specialty behavioral health care, rehabilitation and intensive services, and crisis and inpatient services.

- < Five components
 - o Component 0: L

mental health resources for pediatricians and other health care professionals serving children and youth. (Component 1)

- There is an excellent foundation for expanding specialty behavioral health care in Lubbock, especially using telemedicine. (Component 2)
- The Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program operated by StarCare is one of the few rehabilitative and intensive services within the Lubbock community. The coordinated efforts of Covenant, TTUHSC, and TTU to create integrated care clinics will offer the Lubbock community intensive care options. (Component 3)
- As in other communities, mental health care in the Lubbock area is often delivered primarily by specialists at the point of crisis. One of the few resources available during the point of crisis in the Lubbock area is the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT), operated by StarCare. The coordinated efforts of Covenant, TTUHSC, and TTU to expand inpatient capacity for children and youth will be vital for those seeking crisis care within the Lubbock community, rather than necessary referrals away from home to seek those services. (Component 4).

Important recommendations:

 Significant issues with children and youth involved in foster care and juvenile justice systems can exacerbate emotional disorders. The implementation of a conceptual framework such as Multitiered System of Support (MTSS) that includes universal mental health promotion strategies for all children could address some of these challenges.

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Progress since report competition:

 Mental health consultation services for pediatricians and other health care professionals serving children and youth are being implemented to improve integrated care through partnerships with TTUHSC and supported by the

- C Develop and meet in issue-specific workgroups to make progress in the priority areas identified
 - o To get involved with the WTMHC issue-specific workgroups, contact Nancy Trevino (nancy.trevino@ttuhsc.edu or 806-743-1634).
- < Continue to build partnerships that can benefit the community by improving mental healthcare in West Texas.