



**Thursday, December 12, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**Physical –UWDC Community Room: 1314 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76205**

**Virtual – Zoom Video Conference Link Attached in Email**

**Agenda:**

I.	Welcome & Introductions	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
II.	August & October Meeting Minutes	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>VOTE – Approval of Meeting Minutes</b></li> </ul>		
III.	Nominating Committee	Dani Shaw	10 min.
IV.	Data Dashboard	Evelyn Sutton	5 min.
V.	Strategic Plan: Diversion & Prevention: Expanding Efforts	Healthcare & Diversion Isabel Rodriguez + Julie Wright, Healthcare Daphne Houston, Diversion	20 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations and Discussion regarding Strategy: To pursue additional funding sources at the county, state, and federal levels to support Diversion strategies, aiming to prevent homelessness and increase community dollars sourced for the Barriers Fund.</li> </ul>		
VI.	Workgroup Report Highlights (inside packet)		20 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Care Collaborative Recommendation presentation</li> </ul>	Landon Dickeson	
VII.	Backbone Support Highlights (inside packet)	UWDC	10 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denton County Housing &amp; Homelessness Leadership Team</li> <li>• Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team</li> <li>• Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team</li> </ul>	Olivia Williams Shelby Redondo Shelby Redondo	
VIII.	Public Comment	Chair/Co-chair	5 min.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denton Community Shelter Advisory Committee Letter</li> </ul>	Committee	10 min
IX.	New Business	Chair/Co-chair	3 min.
X.	Adjourn	Chair/Co-chair	1 min.

**Next Meeting Date:**

**Thursday, February 13, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | Hybrid Meeting**

**Physical – United Way of Denton County, 1314 Teasley Lane Denton TX 76205**

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## **Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team**

8:00am Thursday, October 10th, 2024.

Hybrid Meeting

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Dani Shaw, opened the meeting and approval of previous minutes will be deferred to the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

### **Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee met, October 9<sup>th</sup> to review items relating to the leadership and executive teams and discuss bylaw changes that will assist in assigning a new appointee, as well as the slate of nominees who will be considered for leadership positions in December.

### **Data Dashboard**

Evelyn Sutton introduced the Homelessness Data Dashboard for homelessness data in Denton County. She presented that those assessed fall into three categories for vulnerability: permanent supportive housing (the most vulnerable), which accounts for 21% of those assessed, rapid rehousing, which accounts for 59.7% of those assessed, and the diversion clients, who make up 18.2% of those represented on the graph and tend to have the lowest need of the three categories. A chart was presented providing numbers from the past three months of individuals experiencing homelessness in different situations in Denton County, such as those fleeing domestic violence or veterans experiencing homelessness. Evelyn then presented dot graphs on the housing needs by year.

### **Strategic Plan Learning Labs- Optimizing Crisis Response**

The housing crisis response system map was introduced, along with the strategic goal for the system to create a continuum of care for how we're serving individuals experiencing homelessness and being at risk of homelessness in the community. The infrastructure created by the system was very helpful during COVID, aiding us in providing money quickly to those in need during the crisis. The speaker refers to it as a helpful system that is resourced ineffectively. Marichelle Samples, Economic Development Director and Ashleigh Feryan, Neighborhood Services Manager, both from City of Lewisville and Leia Atkinson, Housing Programs Coordinator from City of Denton presented their respective city's housing goals for improve housing resources.

Lewisville presented their progress with the affordable housing toolkits. It was presented that their city council has chosen to focus on affordable housing for the third year in a row. Lewisville is using their CDBG funding to look at multifamily accessibility and home rehabilitation for the homes



designated for this program that are aging. Lewisville has created a housing collaborative to expand the real estate that they have to work with in their program. PFC's are introduced and explained as being a means to acquire, construct, and rehabilitate affordable housing. Lewisville is only interested in PFC's with a 30-50% AMI. The revenue from affordable housing projects and its uses were discussed.

Leia Atkinson from the City of Denton introduces self and presents their five key strategies to assist with the economy and opportunities for the members of the community. By focusing on infill, zoning, investment, preservation, and education, we can better house those in the county and educate them on things such as home ownership. It was reported that 48% of households are considered low-income, and out of these, 88% are severely cost-burdened. In 2023, the City of Denton received a Housing Bond of 15 million dollars, and the allocation of funds was presented. The funds were dispersed into Direct Project Financing, Community Land Trust, ADU Log, Down Payment Assistance, and the Access to Counsel Program. Three Code Amendments are being introduced to make housing more affordable: Affordability Incentive Package, Infill Amendment, and Cottage Court Amendment.

### **Optimizing Crisis Response Discussion**

The meeting participants were split into groups to discuss "Improving Effectiveness of the Housing Crisis Response System".

### **Public Comment**

A participant asked for a database of low-income tax credit properties which was sent out. Gary Henderson shared that he would like to discuss how nonprofits can be good partners and advocates for our partner agencies in the next meeting. A participant commented on tax exemptions for nonprofits. Next month a policy summit on housing will be held in Austin. Olivia Mata-Williams reports that a new grant has been identified for diversion navigation and backbone support will apply. Shelby shared that Credible Mind has had 3,000 users in our community. VITA is hiring an Economic Mobility Manager. There will be a Digital Literacy and a Job Skills workshop towards the end of the month.

### **New Business**

### **Adjourn**

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## DATA Workgroup: DECEMBER 2024

CHAIR: STEPHEN COFFEY

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

*Identify ways to integrate data support for other HHLT workgroups to advance funding and advocacy efforts*

### Meeting Summary

There are currently 591 households actively experiencing homelessness on our Housing Priority List. The 591 total number for breaks down into:

38 families	29 Veteran households
591 individuals	171 households experiencing chronic homelessness
6 fleeing domestic violence	

Denton County school districts' data was updated in September 2024. The two largest school districts reported the following:

Denton ISD: 640 students (Sept 2024)  
Lewisville ISD: 631 students (Sept 2024)

Housing intervention prioritization breakdown:

Diversion Services: Households (17.9%; 106)  
Rapid Rehousing Intervention: Households (50.4%; 298)  
Permanent Supportive Housing Intervention: Households (31.6%; 187)

The workgroup discussed how to call out system accomplishments through the data dashboard.

The workgroup discussed strategies to encourage higher levels of participation in the HHLT Workgroup Collaboration Survey.

### Action items

Survey disseminated and followed up to increase participation.

### Accomplishments

### Concerns

### Next Meeting Dates

February 5, 2025: Zoom



## Housing: DECEMBER 2024

CHAIR: TERRY WIDMER

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- *Improve housing outcomes for those on the HPL*
- *Identify and plan trainings to support best practices in case managers i.e., motivational interviewing and stages of change*

Meeting Summary (provide meeting date and items discussed during meeting)

Front door agencies participate weekly in problem-solving barriers to support the path to housing for individuals and families on the Housing Priority List.

Short Term Action Items

- THN Vacancy Reporting pilot is being rolled out to make improvements to the Housing Priority List

Accomplishments

- Landlord Engagement implemented an updated referral process form, doubling the number of monthly referrals and successful housing solutions.

Concerns

- Identifying training resources to support agencies staff
- Permanent Supportive Housing beds are at capacity for Denton County

Next Meeting Dates

Weekly on Mondays, 3 PM- 4 PM (excludes holidays)

Hybrid; UWDC and Zoom



## Diversion: DECEMBER 2024

CHAIR NAME: DAPHNE HOUSTON

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- *Implement and support Diversion workflow in HMIS for agencies*
- *Identify and apply for additional funding sources to expand Diversion efforts*
- *Increase community dollars sourced for Barriers Fund*

Meeting Summary (provide meeting date and items discussed during meeting)

This group is in the data collection phase, identifying how existing funding is being spent on diversion efforts. The goal of the group is that this data will establish a baseline to support funding expansion and resources for diversion efforts.

Short Term Action Items

- Identify and track HMIS Diversion data; expand which variables are needed and identify additional data sources
- Create and facilitate training resources for improved HMIS production of navigating the two diversion tracks
- Incorporate Vacancy Reporting Pilot into Diversion process

Accomplishments

- Created system map of Diversion tracks (pre and post CE)

Concerns

- Availability of flexible funds to support diversion problem-solving efforts.

Next Meeting Dates

Zoom- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 2pm



## CROSS CARE COLLABORATION: DECEMBER 2024

CHAIR(S): MEGAN BALL & LANDON DICKESON

OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- ✓ *Update local Sequential Intercept Model map*
- *Educate key stakeholders on system processes*

### Meeting Summary (provide meeting date and items discussed during meeting)

This group is currently in the knowledge-gathering phase, identifying gaps in the current system as it relates to the unhoused population and determining what can be done on a local level to address these gaps.

### Short Term Action Items

- Set focus for subcommittees: Data and SIM Map update

### Accomplishments

- Final SIM map updates complete
- Presented recommendations to DCBHLT and garnered support and approval

### Concerns

- The need for hard data to quantify the county need, such as average number of people served, cost per person/per day
- There is a lack of adequate mental health diversion options for law enforcement
- New legislation that allows law enforcement to transfer responsibility of care

### Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, February 6, 2025; (Meets the first Thursdays of each month; with exceptions of holidays)

11:30 AM- 1:00 PM Hybrid: UWDC office and Zoom



## Denton County Homeless Coalition: DECEMBER 2024

CHAIR: ELENA SHEHAN

### OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- *Expand agency participation in PIT Count*
- *Strengthen education on housing efforts*
- *Increase funding to support housing stability*
- *Increased access to information*

### Meeting Summary

In the October meeting, the Coalition presented the Service Provider Awards to Triconne Brooks, Our Daily Bread and Nataya Sizemore, Giving Grace.

In the November meeting, the Coalition celebrated the success of the inaugural walk, the volunteers, the supporters and plans for the next one.

Additionally, progress towards the goals the Coalition created at the end of 2023 was discussed to ensure advancement in strategic planning was occurring on an ongoing basis.

### Short Term Action Items

- Recruit more external volunteers to participate in planning and outreach
- Recommendation to consider DCHC forming its own 501c3 was presented

### Accomplishments

- The Walk Home raised \$3,000 and had 67 supporters register for the inaugural launch
- Behind the Scenes Nov panel kicked off Hunger & Homelessness Awareness week + PIT planning

### Concerns

- Continue to focus on volunteer engagement and recruitment

### Next Meeting Dates

Meets monthly on the last Wednesday of each month, alternating between UWDC and Next Steps in Lewisville.

January 29: Denton- @ United Way of Denton County offices



## Healthcare: DECEMBER 2024

CHAIR: ISABEL RODRIGUEZ

### OBJECTIVE & GOALS 2023-2025:

- *Increase access to healthcare services for people experiencing homelessness*
- *Increase community resources for healthcare workers*
- *Identify data points from participating organizations and agencies in Denton County*

### Meeting Summary

The workgroup discussed next steps in medical respite planning considering data needs to support priorities. Briar Deen, Texas Health Resources, presented on the approved data sharing agreement process lined out for the hospital. The group is continuing conversations with hospitals, Texas Homeless Network (HMIS), and United Way of Denton County (HMIS Backbone support administrator) to make progress towards data sharing.

### Short Term Action Items

- Continue to work with agencies and medical providers for healthcare needs assessment
- Continue to identify stakeholders and build membership
- UBH is requesting workgroup feedback on intake forms and Thriving screening
- ODB + HSNT grant collaborative is ending December 2024, group is exploring Find Help linkage to continue medical communication between organizations.

### Accomplishments

- Invited faith-based organizations to the group

### Concerns

- The gap in available healthcare services for people experiencing homelessness and unmet health needs are a growing concern for agencies.

### Next Meeting Dates

- First Tuesdays, monthly excluding holidays
- January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025; Zoom



November 2024 Backbone Support Updates:

**Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team**

- Landlord Engagement implemented updated referral form which increased referrals by 50%
- The Salvation Army-Lewisville hosted the quarterly Housing Crisis Response System 101 training
- Supporting Our Daily Bread for Spring semester to recruit interns to complete intake, coordinated entry assessments, and goal setting.

**Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team**

- Approved the Cross Care Collaborative recommendations
- Starting to discuss the 10 year anniversary of DCBHLT planning

**Denton County Workforce Success Leadership Team**

- VITA hired an Economic Mobility program manager that will oversee VITA during the tax season and continue to expand the mobility efforts year-round.
- Job Skills workshop rescheduled for February

Cross Care Collaborative  
Workgroup

Chairs: Landon Dickeson &  
Megan Ball  
November 20, 2024



## Executive Summary and Recommendations

Denton County Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Map: Resource updates 2024

The Denton County Behavioral Health SIM Map update was completed by a joint workgroup with representation from both the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team and the Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team. This group convened monthly for a year determining resources available at each intercept (0-5). The organizations in attendance included members from the judicial sector, law enforcement, public health, veteran services, nonprofit agencies, behavioral hospitals, hospitals, the local mental health authority, mental health practitioners, municipalities, and community members. The chairs, Landon Dickeson (Executive Director, Ranch Hands Rescue), and Megan Ball (Homeless Programs Manager, City of Denton) provided facilitation and oversight of the scope of work and process. Special thanks to Judge McCary and Judge Jahn for presenting on the judicial intercepts and the court's process for impact for individuals and households interacting with the court system. Additional thanks to Bexar County for presenting how they developed their build out of their continuum of care, and Kerr, Collin, and Williamson County Local Mental Health Authorities for opening their doors and allowing us to tour their facilities and learn from them about best practices, lessons learned, and programmatic effectiveness.

**Findings.** The SIM map highlights crucial steps at each intercept, including crisis services, law enforcement interactions, initial detention, jail-based services, and reentry support. However, it also identifies several gaps within the system, such as limited crisis stabilization beds and step-down options, insufficient step-down capacity for individuals with varying acuity levels of mental health needs, and a gap in data accessibility and data sharing across entities (e.g. hospitals to nonprofits upon

discharge or jails to nonprofits after discharge). The overlapping prioritized gaps in intercepts 0,1, and 4, refer to a lack of beds relative to the crisis presented, the need for assessment for services, treatment, and staffing. An additional prioritized gap is the lack of cross-sector systemic collaboration, calling out the need for personnel and data infrastructure that allows shared information at appropriate levels across networks.

**Recommendations. Prioritized intercepts 0,1, and 4** To enhance the effectiveness of the mental health continuum of care, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Prioritize closing the gaps at intercepts 0,1, and 4 with a proposed Extended Observation Unit. Aligns with the July 2022 Judicial Commission on Mental Health Priority #1: Drop Off Triage/Diversion Center. (Texas judicial commission on mental health, sequential intercept model mapping report for denton county (2022).

**The Extended Observation Unit (EOU) includes:**

- 48-hour locked facility with a proposed Sally Port for drop off for law enforcement
- Proposal for a 12-bed unit, for individuals coming from the community needing emergency mental health services.
- Evaluation and assessment for levels of acuity to determine patient’s next steps. Step-down options available:
  - Crisis Residential Unit; # of beds
  - Psychiatric Inpatient hospital beds; # of beds contracted

Budget	Proposed	Frequency
Construction	\$10,000,000*	One-time
Operational	\$4,600,000**	Annual

\*Based on 2022 cost estimates

\*\*Subject to change

2. Increase collaborative capacity to strengthen the continuum of care is a recommended priority that addresses intercepts 0,1, and 4. Service coordination between intercepts 0,1, and 4 have an absence of cohesion and continuity. The recommendations are to consider hiring a facilitator to support the coordination of services across sectors. This proposed facilitator will oversee and support the orchestration between entities (e.g. hospitals, law enforcement, nonprofit agencies, etc...) to address the deficiency of systemic coordination.

Additionally, to address the data sharing need, the recommendation is to invest in data sharing infrastructure that is accessible by cross sector entities, and/or allowable to enter data sharing agreements by cross sector entities.

Find Help is the system currently being used with this pilot and its annual cost is \$32,000. Aligns with JCMH Priority #4.

3. Future considerations: Recommendation to continue Cross Care Collaborative for 2025 for the purpose of addressing additional intercept findings and to complete:

A. Cost benefit analysis of the Extended Observation Unit

B. Prevention (pre-intercept 0) map created for Denton County

C.1. Postvention (intercept 5) planning to close gaps

D. Trainings and technical assistance support

E. Collaborative grant writing

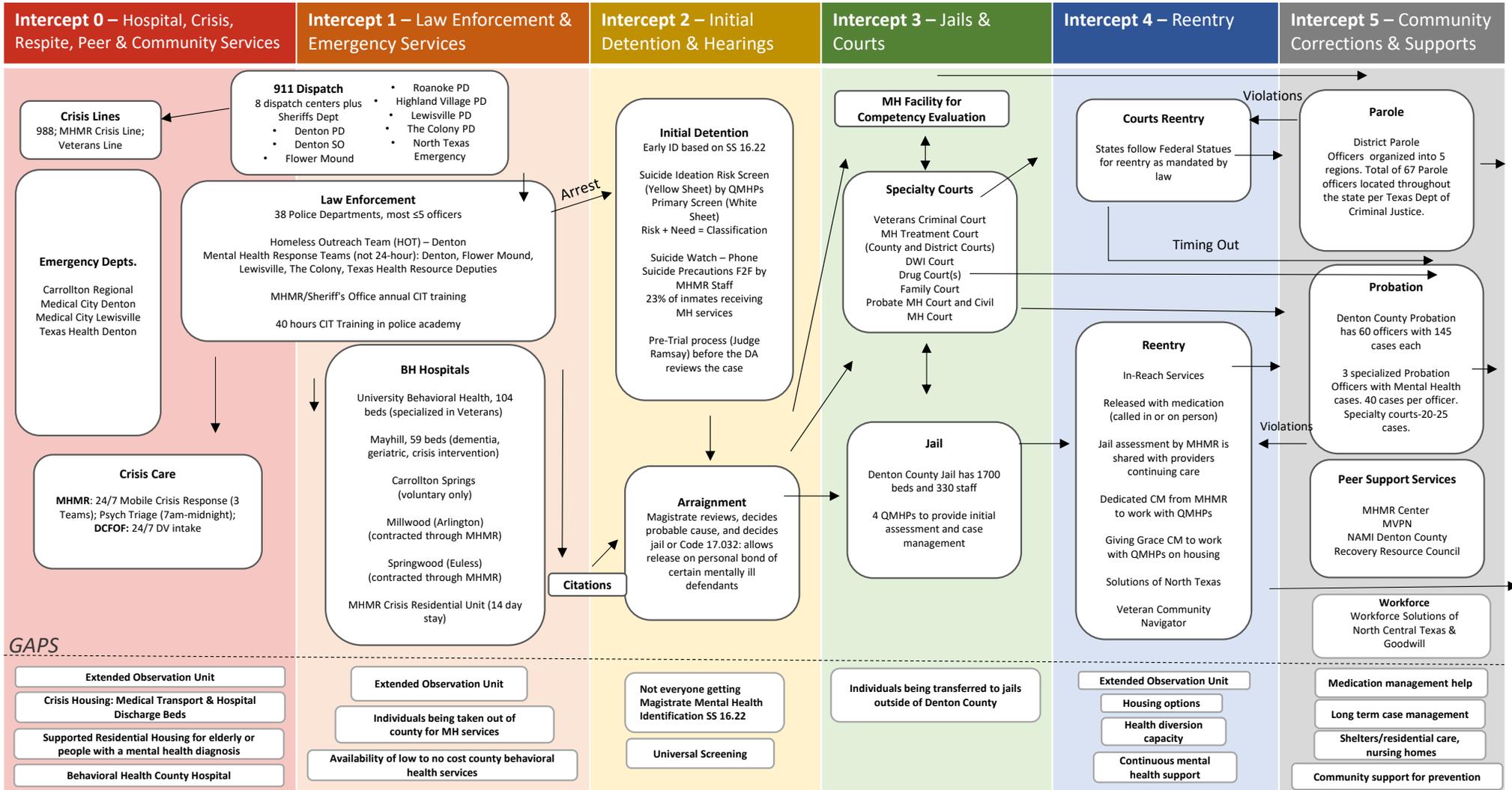
This recommendation is to support credentialed and non-credentialed staff in specified approaches to increase their knowledge and practice of engaging, assessing, and treating

clients/patients/guests, with their complex needs regardless of acuity. Aligns with JCMH Priority #3.

Denton County can strengthen its mental health continuum of care by addressing these prioritized intercept recommendations. By implementing the proposed Extended Observation Unit, advancing data sharing infrastructure, and expanding trauma-informed training, we can improve outcomes for individuals experiencing mental health crises. This investment will enhance the system's capacity to provide timely, effective, and compassionate care, benefiting both individuals and the community.

Type	Extended Observation Unit	Crisis Residential Unit	Crisis Stabilization Unit
Capacity	Proposed: 12 beds	Existing: 8 beds	6-16 beds
Challenges	Upstart cost	Funding (?)	Costly to maintain Regulations make it difficult to operate
Feedback			
Operational Cost	\$4.6M	\$5M	\$4M

# DENTON COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Leadership Team SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL MAP 11.2024



INTERVENTION

DIVERSION

ASSESSMENT

STABILIZATION

TRANSITION

SUPPORT

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY