



HILL COUNTRY MHDD CENTERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair:

*Commissioner
Donna Eccleston*

Vice-Chair:

Judge Chris Schuchart

Secretary:

Judge Brett Bray

Judge Herb Senne

Judge Souli Shanklin

Mr. Joe Lovelace

Judge Tom Pollard

*Mr. Wallace
Whitworth*

Mr. Eloy Padilla

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ross C. Robinson

COUNTIES SERVED:

*Bandera, Blanco,
Comal, Edwards,
Gillespie, Hays,
Kendall, Kerr,
Kimble, Kinney,
Llano, Mason,
Medina, Menard,
Real, Schleicher,
Sutton, Uvalde,
and Val Verde*

January 17, 2018

1115 WAIVER VETERANS' SERVICES PROJECT ENDS JANUARY 2018

After more than five years of conducting Veterans' Services through the Medicaid 1115 Transformation Waiver program, Hill Country MHDD Centers has made the difficult decision to terminate its 1115 Waiver Veterans' Services project. The agency will cease providing these specialized services in January 2018.

The Veterans' Mental Health Services program was developed to meet the overall needs of veterans who experience behavioral health issues. The project expanded veterans' peer support services to identify veterans and their family members who need comprehensive community-based, wraparound behavioral health services, such as psychiatric rehabilitation, skills training, crisis intervention, supported housing and supported employment. These were intended to complement, but not duplicate, services offered through the Veterans' Administration and other community veteran organizations. The overall goal was to provide these community-based, wraparound behavioral health services to treat symptoms prior to the need for utilization of emergency departments, inpatient hospitalization, or incarceration.

Texas currently is transitioning from a fee-for-service-based system; it continues to increase utilization of managed care outcomes to achieve program savings and improve the delivery of health care to Texans. This shift in service delivery funding has required Hill Country MHDD Centers to scale back programs that can no longer be funded through waiver incentive payments and have no other reimbursement options. The Veterans' Services program has been successful in changing lives and providing resources such as navigation, peer support services, resource linkage, community engagement and awareness activities. However, with over 2,364 organizations across Texas competing for the same funding dollars, funding for veteran-based organizations is limited.

Hill Country MHDD Centers will continue to serve veterans through the state-funded Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) program and Veterans' Administration services provided out of agency clinics. Mental health services and group peer support services will continue to be provided to veterans through clinics located throughout the 19 counties served by the agency. Clinic staff will continue to assist with resource navigation and empower each individual's personal recovery goals. Additionally, a network of currently existing veterans' service organizations continues to be available in most communities, or in nearby adjacent communities. Every effort will be made to link veterans who will be impacted by this decision with services that will meet their individual needs.

819 Water Street, Suite 300, Kerrville, Texas 78028

Tel: (830) 792-3300, FAX: (830) 792-5771

Website: www.hillcountry.org

Nine employees are impacted by the closure of the Veterans' Services program. "We are equally committed to the staff employed in this program," said Executive Director Ross Robinson, "and will work closely with them either to secure other employment within our organization or to support their transition to new employment outside the agency."

"We are thankful to our veterans and personnel who have worked together so effectively over these past few years," said Robinson. "We especially want to thank our counties and communities for their continued support of the veteran community."

Hill Country MHDD Centers provides mental health, intellectual and developmental disability, substance abuse, and other behavioral health services throughout 19 counties in the greater Texas Hill Country.

-End-