

## ***Criminal Justice and Mental Health Policy***

Due to the large number of individuals experiencing mental health disorders in Texas jails and prisons and the limited coordination between criminal justice and mental health systems, a group of advocates convened to:

- inform lawmakers and other stakeholders on best practices to address the intersection of mental health and criminal justice policy;
- increase coordination across systems to improve outcomes; and
- reduce the number of people with mental health disorders in the Texas correctional system and improve quality of care for those who become justice-involved.

### ***Legislation we support in the 84<sup>th</sup>***

**HB 1855 (Rose):** Relating to incorporating mental health crisis intervention training (CIT) into already required training for correctional officers in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

**HB 1908 (Naishtat):** Relating to continuity of care services available for individuals released from TDCJ, preventing exclusion based on diagnosis. ***Companion to SB 1477 (Garcia)***

**HB 2023 (Naishtat):** Relating to the appointment of a forensic director to provide statewide coordination & oversight of forensic mental health evaluation & services. ***Companion to SB 1507 (Garcia/Rodríguez)***

**SB 1777 (Menéndez):** Relating to the suspension and reinstatement of Medicaid benefits for individuals incarcerated in a county jail. ***Companion to HB 2523 (Collier)***

**SB 890 (Rodríguez):** Relating to restricting the use of administrative segregation for people with mental health disorders & limiting the practice of releasing individuals directly from administrative segregation in TDCJ.

**SB 891 (Rodríguez):** Relating to comprehensive changes to TDCJ policies regarding the confinement of individuals with mental health disorders.

