



Annalee Gulley
Mental Health America of Greater Houston
2211 Norfolk, Suite 810
Houston, TX 77098

September 30, 2020

The Honorable Chairman Dan Huberty
House Committee on Public Education
Texas Capitol
Austin, TX 78768

House Committee on Public Education
Request for Information

Name: Annalee Gulley
Title: Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs | Chair, HB 906 Mental Health Task Force
Organization: Mental Health America of Greater Houston

Interim Charge 1[E]: *Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:*

- *HB 906, which creates the Collaborative Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services.*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Annalee Gulley and I am the Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs at Mental Health America of Greater Houston. I also serve as the Chair of the HB 906 Mental Health Task Force, which was created by the Texas Education Agency following the successful passage of House Bill 906 during the 86th Legislative Session.

I'd like to take a moment to thank this committee for unanimously voting in favor of this bill when it came before you last year and sending it to the Local and Consent Calendar, where it passed the full House. The support of the members of this committee helped through all stages of the bill process and continues today. Since the end of session, MHA of Greater Houston has worked closely with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as members of the Mental Health Task Force working to fulfill this committee's interim charge to:



- study and evaluate mental health services that are funded by the state and provided at a school district or open-enrollment charter school directly to a student, parent or family member or employee; and
- study training provided to an educator and the impact of the mental health training and services.

Below, please find our brief update:

The 34-member Mental Health Task Force (Table 1) has gathered in person and virtually three times this calendar year: February 11, May 5, and September 15. During year 1, the Task Force focused on determining common language needed to appropriately study and evaluate state-funded, school-based mental health services, as well as training for educators to provide those services, information gathering and evaluating mental health services in Texas, and outlining the role of various mental health professionals within a school.

The finding of the Year 1 work will be shared with the Legislature on November 2, 2020. At that time, I will reach out to all members of this Committee to schedule meetings regarding the Mental Health Task Force’s findings and recommendations, which will include immediately-actionable, school-based supports for students adjusting to changes surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Table 1. School mental health task force members

Required Role	Name/Position	District/Agency
Texas Education Agency Commissioner or designee	Julie Wayman, MSSW, Manager & Interagency Liaison-School Mental & Behavioral Health	TEA
Parent	Tracy King	Parent
Parent	Faith Colson	Parent
Parent	Barbara Granger	Parent
MH Provider	Tracy Spinner, M. Ed., Executive Director, SchoolMed	Urgent Care for Families



Required Role	Name/Position	District/Agency
Licensed Professional Counselor	Bena Glassock, Coordinator of Assessment, Counseling & Health Services	Hereford ISD
Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Francine (Fran) Duane, LCSW	Bryan ISD School Board Private Practice
Certified School Counselor	Tammie Mackeben, Director of School Counseling	Socorro ISD
Psychiatrist	Elizabeth Newlin, MD	UT Health Dept of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
School Administrator	Jodi Duron, Superintendent	Elgin ISD
School Administrator	Steven Shiels, Director of Behavioral Health and Wellness	Fort Bend ISD
MH Foundation Representative	Shannon Hoffman, MSW, LCDC, Policy Specialist	The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
Employee of Institution of Higher Education	Molly Lopez, PhD, Director of the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health	University of Texas-Austin
Licensed Specialist in School Psychology	Tammy Gendke, LSSP, Community Project Manager	Region 3 ESC//Project AWARE
Other MH Representative	Lisa Descant, CEO	Communities In Schools of Houston



Required Role	Name/Position	District/Agency
Other MH Representative	Rebecca Fowler, Public Policy Engagement Strategist	Mental Health America of Greater Houston
Other MH Representative	Annalee Gulley, Director of Public Policy & Government Affairs	Mental Health America of Greater Houston
Other MH Representative	Greg Hansch, Executive Director	NAMI Texas
Other MH Representative	Angelina Brown Hudson, Program Director	NAMI Greater Houston
Other MH Representative	Linda Rodriguez, EdD, Senior Director for School Behavioral Health	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Other MH Representative	Monica Rodriguez, Valley Wide Program Manager	Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
Other MH Representative	Josette Saxton, Director of Mental Health Policy	Texans Care for Children
Other- Licensed Professional Counselor	Jenipher Janek, LPC	Region 12 ESC
Other- Licensed Professional Counselor	Heather Lambert, LPC	Clearhope Counseling Center
Other-Certified School Counselor	Christina Shaw	Pearland ISD



Required Role	Name/Position	District/Agency
Other-Employee of Institution of Higher Education	Leslie Taylor, PhD, Assistant Professor in Dept of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences	McGovern Medical School
Other-Employee of Institution of Higher Education	Eric Storch, PhD, Professor, Vice Chair, McIngvale Presidential Endowed Chair-Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health Sciences	Baylor College of Medicine
Other-Employee of Institution of Higher Education	Stephanie Peterson, LPC, Training and Education Specialist	Texas State University Texas School Safety Center
Other-District Administrator	Jennifer Roberts, EdD, LPC-S, CSC, Director of Student Services, Assistant Professor in the Clinical Mental Health Dept, Adjunct Professor	Lamar Consolidated ISD Assistant Professor for Liberty University Houston Baptist University
Other MH Representative	Pam Wells, EdD, Executive Director	Region 4 ESC
Other Texas Education Agency Representative	Kelly Kravitz, Director of Highly Mobile & At-Risk Populations	TEA
Other Texas Education Agency Representative	Natalie Fikac, EdD AWARE State Coordinator	TEA
Other Texas Education Agency Representative	Eric Metcalf, LMSW, Communities In Schools of Texas	TEA



Required Role	Name/Position	District/Agency
Other-Employee of Institution of Higher Education	Susan Frazier-Kouassi, PhD, Director	Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention, Prairie View A&M University
Other-Employee of Institution of Higher Education	Camille Gibson, PhD, Executive Director	Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention, Prairie View A&M University