

Alliance *FOR* **Adolescent**
Recovery *AND* **Treatment** *IN TEXAS*

State Youth Treatment – Planning Grant

Family and Youth Engagement Plan

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DISCLAIMER

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Introduction

Purpose of the Plan:

The Alliance for Adolescent Treatment and Recovery in Texas (AART-TX) is an initiative aimed at enhancing the system of care for youth in Texas, ages 12-18, with substance use disorders (SUD) or co-occurring SUD and mental health conditions (COD) and their families. The plan addresses reducing barriers youth face in accessing services; enhancing outreach efforts; developing collaborative community partnerships to augment continuity of care; and providing culturally and linguistically competent services. Direct service providers in four select regions of the state of Texas will comprise the provider collaborative. These providers will expand access to evidence-based assessments and treatments as well as enhance the recovery support system for the population of focus. The aim of the Family-Youth Engagement Plan is to (a) Enhance youth voice in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of substance youth treatment services and recovery supports by increasing empowerment, skill building, leadership, and advocacy opportunities for young people in recovery, (b) Amplify the voice of family members of young people in recovery in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of substance youth treatment services and recovery supports by increasing empowerment, skill building, leadership, and advocacy opportunities for young people in recovery, (c) promote coordination and collaboration with family and youth support organizations to assist in the development of peer support services and strengthen services. This plan will be used to develop models that can be replicated in other Texas communities.

Methodology:

A variety of data sources were used to inform this plan. The Child and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee (CYBHS) and the Alliance for Adolescent Recovery and Treatment in Texas Stakeholder Strategic Planning Group (AART-TX SSPG) provided strategic guidance and oversight for the development of the Family-Youth Engagement Plan. Collaboration with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), and Texas Education Agency (TEA) provided agency-specific data that aided in planning for the population of focus. Data from a series of provider web-meetings, key informant stakeholder interviews and numerous strategic planning work sessions with the AART-TX-SSPG contributed to the final plan. The plan is organized by goals, objectives, and activities that include timeframes for completion and measures of success.

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Goal 1. Enhance youth voice.

Goal 1: Enhance youth voice in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of substance youth treatment services and recovery supports by increasing empowerment, skill building, leadership, and advocacy opportunities for young people in recovery.

Measures of Success:

- Increased participation of youth in recovery on the AART-TX planning group.
- Formalized partnerships among AART-TX, ACCEPT, and Recovery People.
- Briefing document of best practices in youth engagement

Objective	Data/Evaluation	Activities	Time Frame	Team Member(s) Responsible
1.1. Expand representation of youth in recovery on the AART-TX.	Membership lists; notes from meetings	1.1.1 Partner with local providers, recovery high schools, collegiate recovery centers, and advocacy groups to identify youth in recovery.	Target Completion Date: Ongoing. In progress	TIEMH
	Memorandum of Agreement	1.1.2 Formalize AART-TX's relationship with ACCEPT.	Target Completion Date: December 2018	TIEMH ACCEPT
	Notes from meetings	1.1.3 Enhance and formalize collaborative partnership with Recovery People.	Target Completion Date: March 2019 In progress	TIEMH Recovery People
	ACCEPT membership list; list of activities that ACCEPT coordinates with Recovery People	1.1.4 Provide assistance for ACCEPT to incorporate young persons with lived experience into their membership.	Target Completion Date: Ongoing In progress	TIEMH ACCEPT Recovery People
1.2 Ensure that the culture of the AART-TX planning group optimizes the potential for meaningful youth engagement.	Briefing document outlining best practices for youth engagement; minutes from meeting	1.2.1 Partner with ACCEPT to identify and implement best practices for authentic youth engagement within AARTTX planning meetings.	Target Start Date: November 2017 In progress	TIEMH AART-TX
	Meeting schedule; meeting minutes; list of attendees	1.2.2 Schedule quarterly meetings with AART-TX youth members to foster a supportive environment that encourages meaningful roles, opportunities for youth-driven activities;	Target Start Date: April 2019	TIEMH AART-TX

Objective	Data/Evaluation	Activities	Time Frame	Team Member(s) Responsible
		and youth-friendly meetings.		
1.3 Partner with ACCEPT and Recovery People to promote skills building, leadership, and advocacy training to youth members across groups.	Training opportunities, participant lists	1.3.1 Identify and share opportunities for cross-membership training related to skills building, leadership, and advocacy.	Target Start Date: February 2019 In progress	TIEMH ACCEPT Recovery People

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Goal 2. Amplify the voices of family members of young people in recovery.

Goal 2: Amplify the voice of family members of young people in recovery in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of substance youth treatment services and recovery supports by increasing empowerment, skill building, leadership, and advocacy opportunities for young people in recovery.

Measures of Success:

- Increased participation of family members of young people in recovery on the AART-TX planning group.
- Formalized partnerships among AART-TX, TxFVN, and Recovery People.
- Briefing document of best practices in family engagement

Objective	Data/Evaluation	Activities	Time Frame	Team Member(s) Responsible
2.1 Expand representation of families of young people in recovery on the AART-TX.	Membership lists; notes from meetings	2.1.1 Partner with local providers, recovery high schools, and Collegiate Recovery Centers to identify family members of youth in recovery.	Target Start Date: March 2019	TIEMH
	Memorandum of Understanding	2.1.2 Formalize AART-TX relationship with Texas Family Voice Network (TxFVN)	Target Completion Date: December 2018 In progress	TIEMH TxFVN
	Notes from meetings	2.1.3 Enhance and formalize collaborative partnership with Recovery People.	Target Completion Date: March 2019	TIEMH Recovery People
	TxFVN membership list; list of activities that TxFVN coordinates with Recovery People	2.1.4 Provide assistance for TxFVN to incorporate family members of young persons in recovery into their membership.	Target Completion Date: Ongoing	TIEMH TxFVN Recovery People

Objective	Data/Evaluation	Activities	Time Frame	Team Member(s) Responsible
<p>2.2. Ensure that the culture of the AART-TX planning group optimizes the potential for meaningful family engagement.</p>	<p>Briefing document outlining best practices for youth engagement; minutes from meeting</p>	<p>2.2.1 Partner with ACCEPT to identify and implement best practices for authentic youth engagement within AART-TX planning meetings.</p>	<p>Target Start Date: In progress</p>	<p>TIEMH AART-TX</p>
	<p>Meeting schedule; meeting minutes; list of attendees</p>	<p>2.2.2 Schedule quarterly meetings with AART-TX youth members to foster a supportive environment that encourages meaningful roles, opportunities for youth-driven activities; and youth-friendly meetings.</p>	<p>Target Start Date: May 2019</p>	<p>TIEMH AART-TX</p>
<p>2.3. Partner with TxFVN and Recovery People to promote skills building, leadership, and advocacy training to family members across groups.</p>	<p>Training opportunities, participant lists</p>	<p>2.3.1 Identify and share opportunities for cross-membership training related to skills building, leadership, and advocacy.</p>	<p>Target Start Date: February 2019</p>	<p>TIEMH TxFVN Recovery People</p>
<p>2.4. Develop local groups of youth and family members in targeted regions of the state interested in informing policy and programmatic decisions about the system of care.</p>	<p>Membership lists</p>	<p>2.4.1 Partner with local treatment providers to identify best practices to reach out to and engage family members in policy and programmatic discussions and recommendations.</p>	<p>Target Start Date: September 2018 In-progress</p>	<p>TIEMH Local providers</p>
<p>2.5 Explore methods of using technology to engage youth and families in treatment and recovery options.</p>	<p>Meeting minutes, recommendations</p>	<p>2.5.1 Explore the feasibility of using technology (e.g., virtual meeting spaces, technology-based interventions and supports) as a means of addressing barriers related to transportation.</p>	<p>Target Start Date: July 2018</p>	<p>AART-TX ACCEPT TxFVN Representatives from the technology sector</p>

Conclusion

The Family-Youth Engagement Plan will be a component of the AART-TX Strategic Plan to enhance the adolescent treatment and recovery support system. The AART-TX Strategic Plan provides targeted goals, objectives, and strategies that outline a path to achieve the goals of the Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan as they relate to adolescents with SUD and COD needs and helping to support the families of the youth through effective supports and improved engagement. The Child and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee, supported by HHSC, will oversee the implementation of the AART-TX Strategic Plan, with the support of the partners identified in the plan.