

Texas Corrections Planning Committee: A strategic partnership for Tuberculosis prevention and care in correctional and detention facilities

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Background

In the United States (U.S.), more people are incarcerated in Texas than in any other state. This population is disproportionately affected by Tuberculosis (TB).

In 2016, 11.6% of Texas TB cases occurred among people incarcerated at the time of diagnosis compared to 3.5% in the U.S.

TB outbreaks continue to occur in correctional settings, posing a greater risk for widespread transmission to the general public.

Methods

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) formed the Corrections Planning Committee (CPC) to improve TB prevention and care in correctional and detention facilities in Texas.

For optimal decision making, the committee size was set at 40 members. Conscientious member selection was done to balance public health and corrections representation and to ensure adequate expertise from multiple disciplines.

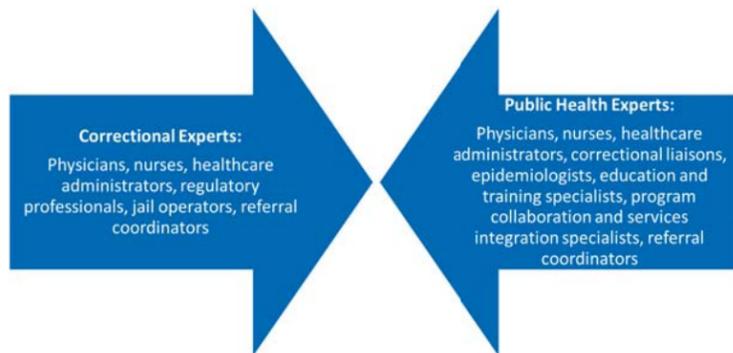


Figure 1. Correctional and Public Health Experts

Methods

Various activities were done by the CPC to create an Action Plan to drive DSHS decisions and ensure well-coordinated efforts. These activities included:

1. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis
2. Four annual meetings
3. Four planning and evaluation surveys
4. One full committee conference call
5. Individual calls with committee members

The Action Plan is effective for a five-year period from 2014 to 2018. In addition, DSHS engages CPC in an annual plan review cycle to make adjustments, as necessary.



Figure 2. Strategic Planning Cycle

Every year in September, the CPC meets for two days in Austin, TX to work on the Action Plan activities and assess the Plan implementation progress. The annual review is also done during this in-person meeting.

Results

An Action Plan was created as the framework for TB prevention and care in correctional and detention facilities in Texas. The DSHS program staff was ultimately accountable for demonstrating results from the Action Plan implementation.

Action Plan Strategic Priorities

1. Promote the use of new and existing TB screening tools for earlier and more effective TB screening and diagnosis.
2. Enhance TB contact and cluster investigations based on best practices, sound evidence, and multi-agency collaboration
3. Improve discharge planning and continuity of care by providing guidance and fostering collaboration between public health departments, correctional facilities.
4. Increase education and training opportunities related to TB in correctional and detention facilities.
5. Advance ongoing communication between public health and correction partners to ensure a successful alliance for TB prevention and control.

Activities

The Action Plan outlines short and long term objectives for each strategic priority as well as specific activities to achieve each objective. Some examples of activities in the plan are creating state guidelines, tools, and a website for corrections TB prevention and care. Partners collaborate to complete activities. The CPC Chair tracks all outcomes and provides an annual status report.

Activity Status	Total	Proportion
Done	18	34%
In progress	11	21%
Ongoing	23	43%
Not approved	1	2%
Total	53	100%

Table 1. Status of Action Plan Activities

Conclusion

TB prevention and care in correctional and detention facilities are challenging and require continuous well-coordinated efforts. The CPC has been one of the most effective means to bring together all partners to exercise our collective responsibility for effective TB control in these settings.

By forming the CPC, DSHS intends to leverage knowledge and resources already in existence and to avoid reinventing the proverbial wheel. Building on that foundation, the CPC has yielded new and innovative ways to address common challenges and protect the public health.

The CPC is envisioned as a perpetual committee as long as TB remains a threat in correctional and detention facilities in Texas. On September 25-26, 2018, DSHS will host the 5th Annual Corrections Planning Committee Meeting. In-person biennial meetings will be hosted thereafter. Once a critical structure has been created to accomplish the CPC mission, fewer in-person meetings will be necessary and shorter virtual meetings will be used to maintain a strong collaboration.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank the following partners for their participation in the CPC.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Cure TB
- Customs and Border Protection
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Heartland National TB Center
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security
- Texas Local and Private Jails
- National Tuberculosis Controllers Association
- Office of Refugee Resettlement, Department of Health and Human Services
- Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center
- TB Net Binational Program (Migrant Clinician's Network)
- Texas Center for Infectious Disease
- Texas Commission on Jail Standards
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texas Department of State Health Services, Public Health Regions 7 and 8
- Texas Jail Association
- Texas Local Health Departments
- U.S. Marshals Service

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CPC materials and additional TB resources for correctional facilities are available at <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/tb/programs/corrections/>

