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## Mental Health Peer Services Of Greater Fort Worth

A Consumer Operated Service Provider

### Mental Health & Peer Support Updates from the 89th Texas Legislative Session

The 89th Texas Legislative Session ran from January 14 – June 2, 2025, with a special session from July 21 – August 20, 2025.

Lawmakers filed 8,667 bills, and 1,213 passed (13.9%). Of these, 271 focused on mental health and substance use, with 36 passing and 2 vetoed.

Several important bills stand out for their impact on mental health, recovery, and peer support in Texas:

- HB 4421 – Peer Recovery Organizations: Supports nonprofit, peer-led organizations that provide recovery support and directs state agencies to identify funding and training resources.
- Rider #124 – Recovery Housing: Proposed \$4.39M for recovery housing support, but no state funding was included for FY 2026–27. Beginning Sept. 1, 2025, only accredited homes will qualify for state funds.
- HB 5342 – 988 Crisis Line Trust Fund: Creates a fund to strengthen Texas's suicide prevention and crisis response system.
- HB 5155 – Maternal Opioid Misuse Model: Continues specialized Medicaid care for pregnant women with opioid use disorder and their children.
- HB 3062 – Fentanyl & Drug Poisoning Prevention in Colleges: Starting Fall 2026, incoming students will receive education on fentanyl, suicide prevention, and mental health resources.
- SB 646 – Mental Health Loan Repayment Expansion: Expands eligibility and funding for mental health professionals, especially in rural and bilingual services.
- SB 1401 – Behavioral Health Workforce Pipeline: Builds new education pathways to grow the licensed mental health workforce in Texas.

Other measures addressed parental rights in treatment decisions and reforms in court-ordered treatment.

### Who We Are:

#### Mental Health Peer Services of Greater Fort Worth

is a Peer Run organization--we are controlled, governed, and operated 100% by mental health consumers or 'Peers.' Peers guide our agency, and we use this agency for our own mental health. We call it "MHPS" (pronounce it like 'mips').

Check out our website:

[mhpsogfw.org](http://mhpsogfw.org)

**OUR MISSION:** To empower people with lived experience of mental health challenges to achieve recovery.



## How To Join a Group

- 1) Visit our website  
[www.mhpsogfw.org](http://www.mhpsogfw.org)
- 2) Click on 'Info/Contact' tab
- 3) Complete "Information Sheet for Group"
- 4) Select the desired group or groups
- 5) You will be contacted by MHPS staff with additional information for either a Zoom or In-Person group



## National Hotlines for Immediate Mental Health Support:

1. **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Call 988 or 1-800-273-TALK (8255) for free and confidential support for individuals in distress, 24/7.
2. **Crisis Text Line:** Text MHA to 741741 for free, 24/7 crisis support via text message.
3. **SAMHSA's National Helpline:** Call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for free, confidential, 24/7 information on mental health and substance use disorders.
4. **NAMI Helpline:** Call 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) or email [info@nami.org](mailto:info@nami.org) for information on mental health resources and support.

*Thank you for reading!*

## Peer Support: Advocacy Spotlight

Alannah Puente, MHPS with MHPS of Greater Fort Worth, served as the Keynote Speaker at the Texas Advocates Conference this August, where she shared her vision for expanding Mental Health Peer Support for people with Autism and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs). Using her lived experience, She highlighted the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for increased access to peer-led mental health services tailored to the unique needs and experiences of people in that community.

Alannah facilitates an online peer support group for Neurodivergent people. Visit our website for for more information.

## Peer Support in Numbers

Peers are a growing force in Texas. As of July 2025, there are 2,363 peers statewide, with 1,920 certified. On average, 36 new peers are certified each month — a 3% growth rate.

### For those looking to get connected:

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- Peer Force has a job board for work and internship opportunities.
- [TexasPeerMentors.com](http://TexasPeerMentors.com) provides coaching for certified peers.

**Peers are not only supporting recovery in communities — they are also shaping policy and advocacy efforts across the state.**

All information shared with MHPS of Greater Fort Worth and all MHPS professionals is confidential, always. Peer stories and feedback shared with permission.

