



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

June 8, 2022

Ms. Cecile E. Young  
Executive Commissioner  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
P.O. Box 13247  
Austin, Texas 78711-3247

Dear Commissioner Young:

The tragedy in Uvalde at Robb Elementary School has left a community and its children traumatized and searching for help. As these families begin to rebuild their lives, it is essential that the children of Uvalde have access to mental health treatment.

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has jurisdiction over behavioral health services on behalf of the State. In the 2021 legislative session, \$8.4 billion was appropriated for behavioral health, including \$113 million for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium. In the 2019 legislative session, \$7.78 billion was appropriated for behavioral health, including \$100 million for the then newly created Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium.

Given this substantial capacity, I am asking that you use all available resources to work with families to provide behavioral health services to every child in Uvalde who desires support.

The generous outpouring of help from numerous non-profit organizations and mental health providers of every type reflects the resiliency and community of this state. As your team is on site coordinating all of these efforts and working closely with the Hill Country Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Centers and other local organizations, also work with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium to ensure every child in the community is served. Mental health resources and community support are crucial for Uvalde to begin to heal.

This directive is in addition to the important work you are doing to provide other necessary mental health services to the impacted families, teachers, and the entire Uvalde community. It is important to maintain the 1-888-690-0799 hotline as a 24/7 single point of contact for anyone in the community seeking mental health assistance.

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Texans have always come together to support one another in times of tragedy, and this time will be no different. Although we cannot erase what happened in Uvalde, we can ensure, through the coordinated efforts of HHSC, TEA, and other organizations, that every child in that community gets the support they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

GA: shd

cc: Commissioner Mike H. Morath, Texas Education Agency

cc: Vice-Chancellor David Lakey, M.D., Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium