



Montgomery County Mental Health Treatment Facility

Ed Chance, Montgomery County Commissioner, Precinct 3

Senate Health & Human Services Committee
May 9, 2012

Project History

Authorized through Appropriations Act, 81st Legislative Session to create 100 additional psychiatric beds (addressed waiting list)

Governor signed the Act in June 2009

Montgomery County signed contract with Department in May 2010

Tasks required by March 1, 2011:

1. Select a County for the Contract
2. Design and Construct a Building
3. Secure State License as a Private Psychiatric Hospital
4. Recruit, Hire, Train, and Orient Staff
5. Open new facility and begin treating patients

Montgomery County Initiative

- ◆ Contracted with DSHS – 100 forensic beds
- ◆ Designed and constructed facility utilizing experienced local construction contractor
 - County accepted construction risk – no cost overruns
- ◆ Selected nationally recognized mental health provider to operate hospital (GEO Care)
- ◆ Established Advisory Board to work with Commissioners Court
- ◆ Provide ongoing governance of the hospital



Milestones Met

- ◆ Hospital construction completed within 10 months of signing contract with DSHS - completed on time and within budget
- ◆ Achieved licensure as private psychiatric hospital
- ◆ Facility opened and began treating patients March 1, 2011
 - 65 admissions in first 60 days
- ◆ Joint Commission accreditation achieved within 90 days



Economic Impact

- ◆ New \$31.8 million hospital built in Conroe
- ◆ 175 new jobs created – most filled with residents from Montgomery and adjacent counties
- ◆ Local contractors used for housekeeping and lawn maintenance services
- ◆ Wide variety of local goods and services purchased on an ongoing basis
- ◆ Use of \$180,000/year in local utilities

Positive Impact on Competency Restoration Forensic Capacity

MCMHTF established to restore individuals to competency so that their outstanding legal charges could be resolved.

- ◆ March 2011 - Approximately 300 individuals waiting in county jails for competency restoration services before MCMHTF was opened
- ◆ MCMHTF: March 2011 – March 2012
 - 383 patients admitted
 - 292 patients discharged
- ◆ April 2012 – forensic bed waiting listed reduced to approximately 100, partly due to MCMHTF

Therapeutic Environment

Good treatment builds on patient's strengths and skills

Wall mural painted by a patient



Patient library provides for a variety of structured and informal learning opportunities



Gymnasium provides indoor space for exercise

- Structured games and other activities are held on a scheduled basis
- Regular free time is available for each treatment unit.



Building Design Contributes to Efficiency

- ◆ Single nursing station allows for more efficient staffing



Quality & Accountability

- ◆ Joint Commission oversight through monthly data submission and unannounced periodic surveys
- ◆ Annual reviews by DSHS Licensure Division for standards compliance or patient complaint investigations
- ◆ Monthly, quarterly, or annual submission of data on over 40 performance measures used by DSHS Hospitals Section to monitor hospital performance
- ◆ Advocate visits and monitoring
- ◆ Regular GEO Care Corporate Compliance reviews
- ◆ Monthly advisory board meetings

Local Governmental Partner Advantages

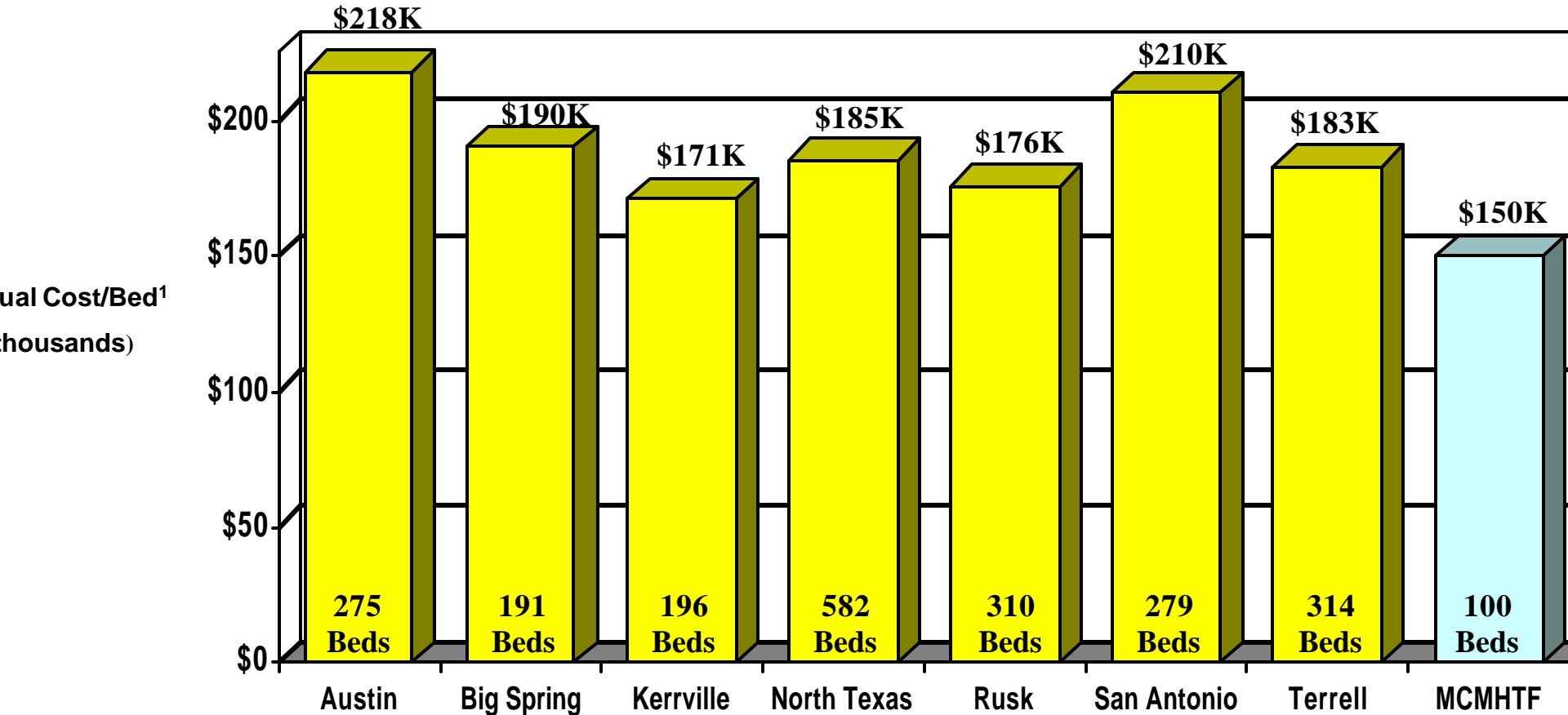
- ▶ Respond immediately to state needs – quick and nimble
- ▶ Access extensive resources, capital, and expertise of a county and its private sector partners
- ▶ County has huge incentive to perform well because failure may result in loss of contract
- ▶ Financial exposure for the state is fixed based on the contracted rate – creates budget certainty

Lessons Learned

- ◆ Economy of scale matters - 100 beds is minimum to be successful
- ◆ Framework for recovering cost of living adjustments similar to state operated facilities is critical
- ◆ Must operate as seamless part of the state system - Reporting, IT, compliance, rules, etc.
- ◆ Keys to success including partnering with experienced and successful construction contractor and mental health provider

MCMHTF - Lowest Cost Per Bed

MCMHTF 12% to 31% less expensive per bed, including debt service



¹Cost per bed based on Section 2.24, Subsection K on page 43 of 95 on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Privatization of One of the State Mental Health Hospitals, RFP No. 53700-3-0000010370 released April 16, 2012 by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. MCMHTF based on total amount of the annual contract.