Workgroups

The chair of a standing committee, with approval of the coalition co-chairs, forms workgroups in order to help accomplish the work of their committee. Workgroup membership is open to all general member organizations, and may also include both individuals and organizations that are not members of the coalition. There are no term requirements.

Current workgroups include:

- **Behavioral Health Workforce** – studies a wide range of issued impacting the behavioral health labor market including recruitment and retention, access to services, telehealth and telemedicine, reimbursement rates, and promote ways to strengthen the profession in order to meets the mental health needs in Texas.
  
  - *Current policy focus includes improving the Loan Repayment Program for Mental Health Professionals and growing the mental health workforce in Texas.*

- **Institutional Rights and Civil Liberties** – works to advance policies that protect the rights of justice involved individuals and others in the mental health system. Too many people with mental health concerns are in the criminal justice system without proper treatment and support.
  
  - *Current policy focus includes ways to ensure medication continuity for people in county jail-based competency restoration programs.*

- **Substance Use Disorders** – focuses on laws and regulations impacting individuals seeking recovery from substance use disorders, including the peers and professionals providing support services.
  
  - *Current policy focus includes the voluntary certification of recovery housing programs, and addressing loopholes in current laws prohibiting the illegal practice of patient brokering.*

- **Youth Mental Health** – identifies needs in mental health services and supports for youth and develops proposals that build out the service continuum at the school and community level while improving coordination and collaboration of stakeholders.
  
  - *Current policy focus includes a gap analysis of the services and treatment provided by local mental and behavioral health authorities, residential treatment centers, and other school and community based providers.*