



**JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH  
COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY  
September 12, 2023  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

*Chair, Justice Jane Bland, Supreme Court of Texas*

**JCMH Staff:**

- **Kristi Taylor, Executive Director**
- **Kama Harris, Staff Attorney**
- **Andy Perkins, Staff Attorney**
- **Cynthia Martinez, Legal Assistant**
- **Patrick Passmore, Finance Manager**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Kristi Taylor** welcomed the members to the meeting and welcomed the Collaborative Council's newest members. **Justice Bland** welcomed all members.

**NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

**Katrina LaVert** is the Assistant County Attorney for Fort Bend, **Kristin Meeks** is a Senior Policy Analyst with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, and **Judge Elizabeth Berry** is the First Assistant Public Defender with the Concho Valley Public Defender's office. **Sergeant Michael Krogman** is with Round Rock PD CIT. Judge Lora Livingston, is serving as the Interim Director of the Texas Access to Justice Commission. **Jennifer Cates** is a Municipal Court Judge with the City of Canyon. **Dr. Evan Norton**, Senior Director of Integrated Treatment and Intervention for TJJD, and **Dr. Scott Lepor**, Medical Director of TJJD joined the call. **Hon. Rosie Speedlin Gonzales**, County Court #13 Bexar County, also joined the Collaborative Council. Kristi Taylor introduced the new JCMH Staff Attorney, **Andy Perkins**.

**2023 JUDICIAL SUMMIT ON MENTAL HEALTH**

The [2023 Judicial Summit on Mental Health](#) is approaching. As a reminder, it will take place on October 18–20, 2023, at the Moody Gardens in Galveston. There are currently 477 in-person registrants for the Summit, and 375 who will be attending virtually. JCMH staff is requesting volunteers from both the Collaborative Council and Commissioner for both in-person and online break-out sessions. A Google document to sign up is available for those who would like to volunteer for the members that plan to attend is available [here](#). One of the speakers you will hear at the summit is Dr. Xavier Amador, who is a nationally known expert regarding anosognosia. Adrienne Kennedy was able to secure Dr. Amador for the Summit as a keynote speaker.



## **MENTAL HEALTH LAW PILOT PROGRAM**

Kristi Taylor announced a new pilot program, the Mental Health Law Pilot Program, which is based on the indigent defense plans from the Texas and Indigent Defense Commission. The County Mental Health Law Plan seeks to offer pilot program counties JCMH technical assistance, tools, and resources, including a checklist and template, to support their work in creating such a County Mental Health Law Plan over a six-month period. The goals of the pilot are to determine if creating such a plan encourages discussions that add collaboration, efficiency, cost savings, and accountability to county mental health law systems. JCMH would like to start with 3 to 6 counties that are willing to use the checklist that was created, which is similar to Eliminate the Wait. JCMH will be recruiting those counties, and then they will have access to free technical assistance and be the first to try out the new tool. The pilot will be announced in the next two weeks and the draft checklist is attached to this email for feedback.

## **MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thea Whalen** (*Executive Director, Texas Justice Court Training Center*) The TJCTC is offering two classes for Justices of the Peace that relate to mental health: one is on mental health resources for judges presented by Texas Lawyers Assistance Program and one on rural magistration and emergency detention orders.

**Jen Mudge** (*Texas Council on Family Violence*): TCFV has a class coming up on domestic violence awareness on October 5th, 2023 at 10 a.m. It is [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#). TCFV will be offering a [townhall](#) this week that will feature some of our community members. They also have the [TCFV Statewide Conference on October 19th through the 21st](#). Members are welcome to register for both events.

**Chris Ritter** (*In-House Legal Counsel, State Bar of Texas*): TLAP is developing an App for attorneys struggle with MH stress, anxiety, depression to provide more information about MH to help many of their clients (and themselves). Cindy Tinsdale, State Bar President, is focusing on MH in her presidency.

**Hon. Rosie Speedlin Gonzales** (*County Court #13 Bexar County*) is a new member of the Collaborative Council and announced that she presides over a court of first impression in Texas, one of three in the country called the Relections Court that works with first time offenders of family violence. It's a trauma based intensive, outpatient program where they heal the trauma. The participants get sobriety, housing, and employment. The program can be finished in about 10 months but can take up to 2 years to finish the program successfully. If they can do that, then their case is not only dismissed but also expunged at no cost to the participant. The program has seen great success as they have had 21 graduates in the 2 years of it's innception and have had zero re-offenders.



**Catie Bialick** (*Director of Behavioral Health and Justice Initiatives - HHSC*)

**The Suicide Care in Texas Juvenile Justice Settings Learning Collaborative** is a peer-to-peer learning opportunity for Texas county teams to work together to implement strategies to reduce suicide risk among justice involved youth. [Click here](#) for more information. Deadline to apply is October 5.

**Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity: Best Practices for Outpatient Coordination, Communication and Reporting**

Texas Health and Human Services Commission is offering a training for local mental health authorities (LMHA) and local behavioral health authorities (LBHA) and their partners on best practices for coordinating, communicating, and completing reporting requirements related to individuals found not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) in the community. This two-hour webinar will provide an overview of the NGRI process and highlight best practices from counties across Texas.

September 27, 2023

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. CST

Location: [GoToWebinar](#)

For those with access to Centralized Training and seeking CE credits: [REGISTER HERE](#)

All others: [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Alison Mohr Boleware** (*Director of Policy - Hogg Foundation for Mental Health*) shared a resource that we have we have our legislative session summary, both a written document and webinar about mental health and substance use legislation. Both can be found here: <https://hogg.utexas.edu/project/88th-legislative-summary>

**Lesli Fitzpatrick** announced her new role with TDCJ and hopes for further collaboration between JCMH and TDCJ.

**CLOSING**

Kristi Taylor announced that the Commission meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 10AM prior to the Summit at Moody Gardens, thanked the attendees for their participation, and closed the meeting.