



JCMH Strategic Plan (May 2023)

I. Mission, Principles, and Vision

A. Mission

The JCMH engages and empowers courts and court partners through collaboration, education, and leadership, thereby improving the lives of adults and youth with mental health needs, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

B. Principles

The JCMH promotes our mission through:

- i. Leadership in identifying and informing improvements in serving those who encounter the justice system with behavioral health needs and intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- ii. Education and resource collaboration for community diversion from justice system encounters, when appropriate for the individual's health and community safety.
- iii. Collaboration aimed at raising awareness of available treatments of mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities as a justice system partner.
- iv. Education about the social determinants of justice system involvement for those with behavioral health needs and intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- v. Education about treatments and recovery, including trauma-informed care, to further judicial leadership in these efforts in mental health courts and beyond.



- vi. Education about best practices that are data-driven, evidence-based, outcome-focused, accessible, and reportable at every intercept of the criminal justice system.
- vii. Education about the lived experiences of individuals and peer programs as an integral part of recovery.
- viii. Education aimed at reducing the stigma associated with mental health challenges, as it decreases empathy, understanding, and connection to treatment.
- ix. Collaboration in data collection and data sharing—necessary to measure and improve outcomes—and with technological assistance to improve accessibility to services for those in the justice system.
- x. Education about secondary trauma and the development of resiliency and workforce wellness for those who work with traumatized individuals.

C. Vision

The JCMH provides Texas judges, attorneys, law enforcement, mental health providers, and other critical stakeholders with knowledge, tools, and resources in a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve outcomes and reduce justice system involvement for adults and youth with behavioral health needs or intellectual and developmental disabilities.



II. Implementation

A. Collaborate

- i. Collect, analyze, and share data, practices, and policies about justice systems in connection with identifying and providing services to those with behavioral health needs and intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- ii. Seek consensus for best practices in the justice system for addressing behavioral health challenges and intellectual and developmental disabilities that arise with justice system encounters to ensure better outcomes and the safety of all participants.
- iii. Explore partnerships to promote awareness about mental health, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities in the court system.

B. Educate

- i. Develop multi-disciplinary programming in coordination with state and national experts and raise awareness of best practices.
- ii. Create and provide tools and resources on key concepts and court procedures related to mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.



C. Lead

- i. Serve as a leader in mental health law and practice.
- ii. Convene stakeholders to identify needs and improve courts' ability to serve people with behavioral health needs and intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- iii. Serve as a resource in the development of policy, legislation, and practice recommendations, including policy recommendations for consideration by the Texas Judicial Council.
- iv. Assist judges in leading local and regional initiatives to improve behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disability services.

III. Organization

A. Governance

- i. Establish standing and ad hoc committees to lead Commission work.
- ii. Review governance documents every other year.
- iii. Endeavor to maximize the use of financial resources allocated to the Commission.
- iv. Final approval of Commission projects, budget, and other work rests with the Executive Committee, subject to review or approval of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.



B. Human Resources and Communications

- i. Select Commissioners and Collaborative Council based on an array of expertise and backgrounds.
- ii. Select and retain a highly qualified staff.
- iii. Share JCMH projects and resources through a variety of media.
- iv. Provide information about the JCMH and opportunities to get involved to stakeholders—including members of the judiciary, legal community, law enforcement, mental health providers, advocacy groups, and interested members of the public.

C. Evaluation

- i. Measure results and visibility through self-evaluation and other means such as analytics and surveys.
- ii. Provide a report to the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals every two years, a report to the JCMH Executive Committee every year, and interim reports as needed or requested.
- iii. Share Commission work on the JCMH website, including information regarding grants.