



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

THE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Judicial Commission on Mental Health

October 18, 2023
Meeting Notebook



**October 18, 2023
Meeting Notebook**

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Tab 1
Agenda



Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

October 18, 2023

AGENDA

10:30	Welcome	Hon. Jane Bland Hon. Barbara Hervey
10:45	Executive Director Report Adult Bench Book Juvenile Bench Book County Mental Health Law Plan MHC Collaborative	Kristi Taylor Kama Harris Molly Davis Andy Perkins Hon. Brent Carr
11:15	State Agency Update Law Enforcement HHSC TJJD TCOOMMI Commission on Jail Standards	
11:45	Announcements (Please submit)	Hon. Jane Bland
12:00	Adjourn	Hon. Barbara Hervey

Tab 2
Executive Committee,
Commissioners,
& Collaborative Council

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Executive Committee & Commissioners

Executive Committee

Hon. Jane Bland, Co-Chair

Justice

Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Barbara Hervey, Co-Chair

Judge

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Hon. Bill Boyce, Vice-Chair

Justice (Fmr.)

Fourteenth Court of Appeals

Alexander, Dubose & Jefferson, LLP

Hon. Brent Carr

Judge (Ret.)

Tarrant County, Texas

Hon. John J. Specia, Jr.

Judge (Ret.)

Mimari Anderson Clifone & Watkins, PLLC

Megan LaVoie, J.D.

Administrative Director

Office of Court Administration

High Court Liaisons

Hon. Rebeca Huddle

Justice

Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Jesse F. McClure, III

Judge

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Commissioners

M. Connie Almeida, Ph.D.

Director of Behavioral Health

Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services

Hon. Cory Carlyle

Justice

Fifth Court of Appeals, Dallas

Shandra Carter, L.C.S.W.-S.

Executive Director

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Hon. Francisco X. Dominguez

Judge

El Paso County, 205th Judicial District Court

Hon. Camile DuBose

Judge

Real and Uvalde Counties, 38th Judicial District

Melissa Eshelman, M.D.

Associate Professor

University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School

David Evans, M.A.

Chief Executive Officer

Integral Care

Tony Fabelo, Ph.D.

Senior Fellow for Justice Policy

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Alyse Ferguson, J.D.

Of Counsel

Rosenthal Kalabus & Therrian

Sonja Gaines, M.B.A.

Deputy Executive Commissioner for

Intellectual and Developmental Disability and

Behavioral Health Services

Texas Health and Human Services

Commission

Kevin Garrett, J.D.

Assistant Public Defender

Travis County Public Defender's Office

Courtney Harvey, Ph.D.

State Mental Health Coordinator & Associate

Commissioner

Office of Mental Health Coordination, Texas

Health and Human Services Commission

Hon. Bonnie Hellums

Judge (Ret.)

Harris County, Texas

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Executive Committee & Commissioners

Courtney Hjaltman, J.D.
Deputy Legislative Director
Office of the Governor

Hon. Yolanda Huff
Judge
Bexar County Court at Law No. 12

Hon. Joan Huffman
Senator, District 17
Texas Senate

Hon. Dave Jahn
Judge
Denton County Probate Court No. 1

Hon. Oscar Kazen
Judge
Bexar County Probate Court No. 1

Andrew Keller, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Adrienne Kennedy, M.A.
Past President
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Hon. M. Sue Kurita
Judge
El Paso County Court at Law No. 6

Beth Lawson
Chief Executive Officer
StarCare Specialty Health System

Chief Mike Lee, M.A.
Chief Deputy Sheriff
Harris County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Elizabeth Byer Leonard
Judge
Midland County, 238th District Court

Hon. Pam Liston
Magistrate Judge
Senior Attorney
Messer, Fort & McDonald, PLLC

Octavio Martinez, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

Hon. Stacey Mathews
Judge
Williamson County, 277th District Court

Beth Mitchell, J.D.
Litigation Coordinator
Disability Rights Texas

Hon. Joe Moody, J.D.
Representative, District 78
Texas House of Representatives

Hon. Tamara Needles
Judge
Travis County, 427th Criminal District Court

Hon. Roxanne Nelson
Justice of the Peace
Burnet County, Precinct 1

Denise Oncken, J.D., M.B.A.
Bureau Chief
Harris County District Attorney's Office

Lee Pierson, J.D.
Chief Mental Health Prosecutor
Dallas County District Attorney's Office

Hon. Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt
Judge
Hidalgo County, 449th District Court

Scott Schalchlin, M.Ed., J.D.
Deputy Executive Commissioner for the HHSC
Health and Specialty Care System
Texas Health and Human Services
Commission

Prof. Brian Shannon
Paul Whitfield Horn Professor
Texas Tech University School of Law

Shelley Smith, L.M.S.W.
Chief Executive Officer
West Texas Centers, Howard County

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Executive Committee & Commissioners

Chief Stan Standridge, M.P.A.

Chief of Police

San Marcos Police Department

Hon. Charles Stephens

Judge

Comal County Court at Law No. 2

Hon. Cynthia Wheless

Judge

Collin County, 417th District Court

Brandon Wood

Executive Director

Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Wayne Young, M.B.A., L.P.C., F.A.C.H.E.

Chief Executive Office

The Harris Center

April Zamora, M.Ed., L.C.D.C.

Director

Reentry and Integration Division, Texas
Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical
or Mental Impairments, Texas Department of
Criminal Justice

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Collaborative Council

Collaborative Council

Hon. Devon Anderson

President & CEO
Justice Forward

Hon. Laura Barker

Judge
Williamson County Court at Law No. 2

Kelsey Bernstein

Legislative Consultant
Texas Association of Counties

Hon. Elizabeth Berry

First Assistant Public Defender
Concho Valley Public Defender's Office

Catherine Bialick, M.P.Aff.

Director of Behavioral Health and Justice Initiatives
Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Alison Mohr Boleware, L.M.S.W.

Director of Policy
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

Tim Bray, J.D.

Vice President for Justice and Health Policy
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Virginia Brown, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Dept. of Population Health
Dell Medical School,
The University of Texas at Austin

Hon. Sarah Bruchmiller

Judge
Williamson County, 368th District Court

Sonja Burns

Mental Health Advocate

Hon. Nelda Cacciotti

Assistant Criminal District Attorney
Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office

Angel Carroll

Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships
MEASURE

Hon. Jennifer Cates

Judge
Canyon Municipal Court

Armando Colombo

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Menninger Clinic

Leah Davies

Cause Programs Manager
CLEAN Cause Foundation

Colleen Davis, J.D.

Assistant County Attorney
Burnet County Attorney's Office

Dep. Shawn Edwards

Training Coordinator, Crisis Intervention Unit #920
Burleson County Sheriff's Office

Lesli Fitzpatrick, J.D.

Director of Special Litigation
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Hon. Neal Franklin

County Judge
Smith County

Gilbert Gonzales, L.P.C.

Director
Bexar County Department of Behavioral and Mental Health

Hon. Cynthia Porter Gore

Judge
Allen Municipal Court

Krishnaveni Gundu

Co-Founder & Executive Director
Texas Jail Project

Rachel Hampton, L.M.S.W.

Chief Mission Officer
Lone Star Justice Alliance

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Collaborative Council

Greg Hansch,
M.S.W.
Executive Director
NAMI Texas

Hon. James C.
Henderson
Judge
Grayson County
Court at Law #1

Angelita Hunter
Municipal Court Supervisor
City of McKinney Municipal Court

Lee Johnson, M.P.A.
Chief Executive Officer
Texas Council of Community Centers,
Inc.

Windy Johnson
Program Manager, IGR
Texas Conference of Urban Counties

Kathy Johnston, Rural Health Specialist
State Office of Rural Health, Department
of Agriculture

Louise Joy, J.D.
Attorney/Partner
Joy & Young, LLP

Hon. Evelyn Keyes
Justice (Ret.)
First Court of Appeals

Sgt. Michael Krogmann
Crisis Intervention Team Sergeant
Round Rock Police Department

Scott LePor, D.O.
Medical Director
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Katrina LeVert, J.D.
Assistant County Attorney
Fort Bend County Attorney's Office

Yolanda Lewis, M.P.A.
*Executive Vice President for Justice and
Health*
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Hon. Lora J. Livingston
Interim Executive Director
Texas Access to Justice Commission

Chris Lopez, J.D.
Assistant General Counsel, State Hospital
Texas Health and Human
Services Commission

Mike Lozito
Judicial Services Director
Bexar County

Charles Mathias, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
University of Texas Health Science
Center San Antonio

Hon. Lela Mays
District Judge
Dallas County, 283rd Judicial District
Court

Hon. Tyra Jones McCollum
Judge
Fort Bend County Court at Law #2

Rosie Medina, J.M.
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
El Paso County Juvenile Probation
Department

Kristin Meeks, J.D.
Senior Policy Analyst
Texas Indigent Defense Commission

Joanna Mendez, M.S.S.W., L.C.S.W.
Assistant Adjunct Professor
Steve Hicks School of Social Work,
University of Texas at Austin

Trooper Bianca Morales
Highway Patrol
Texas Department of Public Safety

Magdalena Morales-Aina, L.P.C.-S.
Director
El Paso County Community Supervision
and Corrections Department

Officer Brittany Moreno, M.A.
Mental Health Officer
Sugar Land Police Department

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Collaborative Council

Jennifer Mudge, M.S.W.
Public Policy Coordinator
Texas Council on Family Violence

Hon. Kirk Noaker, Sr.
Consultant
National Task Group on Intellectual
Disabilities and Dementia Practices

Hon. Rita Noel
Student Support Services
Denison Independent School District

Evan Norton, Psy.D.
*Director of Integrated Treatment and
Support*
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Susan Palacios, Ph.D., L.P.C.
*Community Mental Health Program
Administrator*
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

John Petрила, J.D.
*Senior Executive Vice President
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Meadows Mental Health Policy
Institute

Hon. Daphne Previti-Austin
Attorney
The Law Office of Shawn C. Brown,
P.C.

Officer Terry Qualls
Crisis Intervention Coordinator
McKinney Police Department

Janis Reinken, J.D.
Chief Clerk (Former)
House Committee on Corrections

Chris Ritter, J.D.
In-house Legal Counsel
State Bar of Texas

Michelle Romero, M.P.A.
Associate Director
Texas Medical Association

Lt. Joe Ross
Mental Health Peace Officer
Grayson County Sheriff's Office

Simone Salloum, J.D.
Policy Attorney
Texas Health and Human Services
Commission

Rachel Samsel, M.S.S.W.
*Deputy Associate Commissioner for
Regional & Local Operations*
Texas Department of State Health
Services

Melissa Schank, M.A.
Executive Director
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers
Association

Jonas Schwartz
Program Manager
Texas Workforce Commission

Melissa Shearer, J.D.
Director
Travis County Mental
Health Public Defender's
Office

Jennie Simpson, Ph.D.
Forensic Director
Texas Health and Human
Services Commission

Matt Smith, L.P.C.
*Assistant Executive Director/ Director of
Mental Health Services*
Williamson County Juvenile Services

Hon. Mike Smith
Judge
Brown County, 35th District Court

Sandra Smith, Ph.D.
Vice President
Via Hope

Lt. Scott Soland
Patrol Lieutenant
Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Collaborative Council

Hon. Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez

Judge

Bexar County Court at Law #13

Steve Wohleb, J.D.

Senior Vice President/General Counsel

Texas Hospital Association

Hon. Nancy Tanner

County Judge

Potter County

Gloria Terry

Chief Executive Officer

Texas Council on Family Violence

Jennifer Toon

Mental Health Peer Policy Fellow

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Haley Turner, M.S.W.

Deputy Executive Commissioner

for Community Services

Texas Health and Human

Services Commission

Hon. Ryan Kellus Turner

Executive Director

Texas Municipal Courts Education

Center

Sally Uncapher, J.D.

Assistant District Attorney

Bexar County District Attorney's Office

Julie Wayman, M.S.S.W.

Mental and Behavioral Health

Manager, Interagency Liaison

Texas Education Agency

Nicole Weaver

YES Waiver Manager, Mental Health and

Substance Use Programs

Texas Health and Human Services

Commission

Thea Whalen, J.D.

Executive Director

Texas Justice Courts Training Center

Hon. Deborah Wigington

Judge

Comal County Court at Law #3

Thomas Wilson, J.D.

Assistant District Attorney, Civil Division

Smith County District Attorney's Office

Tab 3

April Meeting Minutes

**JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 12, 2023
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
State Bar of Texas
Austin, Texas 78701**

Welcome and Announcements

Justice Jane Bland opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. She announced that the Judicial Commission on Mental Health is celebrating its fifth anniversary today, and the meeting will focus on the Commission’s past, present, and future. The meeting will also feature projects and plans, including a discussion of the Emergency Detention round table led by Judge Jahn. Justice Bland approved the meeting minutes from the January commission meeting.

Announcements

Justice Barbara Hervey welcomed everyone and announced that the JCMH is accepting applications for the Collaborative Council twice each year, in January and in July. The collaborative Council will meet three times in 2023. Judge Hervey asked that commissioners or collaborative council members with announcements fill out a card at the registration table to be called on at the end of the meeting.

Kristi Taylor advised that later in the meeting, the Commission will participate in an exercise to collect memories and achievements from the past five years, as well as watch a video of highlights and memorable moments from those first five years, made by Rose McBride.

Report on new Supreme Court Rule of Judicial Administration 10 and JCMH-Approved Forms

Justice Bill Boyce reported that S.B. 362, enacted by the 86th Legislature, directed the Supreme Court of Texas to adopt rules to streamline and promote the efficiency of court processes and increase access to the judicial branch for mental health issues. The Supreme Court issued an order preliminarily approving amendments to Rule of Judicial Administration 10 that governs local rules, standing orders, and forms. The amendments provide that a court cannot require a party to use a local form or reject a properly completed form approved by the Supreme Court or one of its reporting organizations.

Justice Jane Bland thanked Justice Boyce, who, as a senior member of the Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee, was able to shepherd the process through the committee. This process served as a springboard for the larger discussion of how to make the courts more accessible for non-lawyers, including the Rules of Judicial Administration, the Children's Commission, and Access to Justice. The project has approved seven forms, which can be found on the JCMH website. The Supreme Court is deciding which additional forms should be vetted and approved.

Justice Bland thanked the Commission and the S.B. 362 Committee for their assistance with the substance of the work and for their attention to issues faced by self-represented people.

New Jurist in Residence

Judge Brent Carr was introduced as JCMH's new Jurist in Residence. He announced that he and Judge Specia will begin work on a project to support counties wishing to build a mental health court or docket, starting with the 24 counties with a population of 200,000 or more. Judge Carr advised that JCMH is planning a CLE webinar about Mental Health Courts featuring three judges. A trailer video for the webinar was played. Finally, Judge Carr mentioned the 2023 Summit registration fees for in-person and virtual attendance and reminded everyone that proposals are due Friday, April 14th.

Executive Director Report

Kristi Taylor led the Commission in an activity to collect JCMH highlights and memories from Commissioners and the Collaborative Council about their service with the JCMH. Attendees added their achievements and memorable moments from their connection with the JCMH to the large paper timeline on the wall, and then watched a video reflecting on the Commission's first five years.

Strategic Plan

Judge John Specia reported the Long-Term Planning Committee met in May 2022 to brainstorm improvements for the JCMH strategic plan. The Executive Committee approved a final strategic plan, including a mission statement, fundamental principles, vision statement, implementation portion, organization section, and short-term policy priorities. The committee's goals are to steer the Commission's work and projects.

Budget

Patrick Passmore gave an overview of how the JCMH funds are being used.

Emergency Round Table Report

Judge Dave Jahn stated that the report from the December 2022 Round Table on Emergency Detention is now available. Emergency Detention is a temporary action that holds a person for a preliminary examination and crisis stabilization. There are disparities across the state in how it is handled, with some counties having full access to Emergency Detentions at any time of the day or night, and others experiencing limited access. Improvements can be made to address the frustrations of stakeholders, such as educating the public and using technology to hold court hearings. The major themes of the report are the need for Mental Health Peace Officers, for a legislative fix to prevent abandonment of people involved in the civil commitment process, for the formation of a pool of visiting judges to complete emergency detention warrants, and for the development of County Mental Health Law Plans to close gaps, eliminate redundancies, and inform community members of the processes used by their county. These changes could help

medical professionals save time and improve relationships between providers and the court system. He thanked all who participated in this discussion, including judges from all levels of the judiciary, attorneys, representatives from the hospital and medical associations, law enforcement, medical providers, and experts from state agencies.

Justice Barbara Hervey announced that lunch was hosted by the Court of Criminal Appeals and there was a cake to celebrate the JCMH's 5th Birthday.

Legislative Status Update

Kristi Taylor announced that updates would be given on legislative proposals by the JCMH and by other state agencies.

Megan LaVoie reported that there are over 7000 bills filed this year, with 13% of House bills and 22% of Senate bills having been passed. The House's version of the Budget as of April 6 included \$9.6 billion for mental health resources, including additional funding for continued transformation. The mental health system is receiving \$236.3 million to address workforce challenges, \$331 million for additional community education, \$55 million to expand mental health crisis services, \$60 million to expand community mental health grant programs, \$30 million to expand multisystemic therapy, \$156 million to expand children's mental health care, and \$24 million to expand loan repayment program for mental health professionals. The Senate has substituted a Senate Bill for a 5% salary increase for 2024 and 2025, \$6 million to support the creation of a new case-level data system, and two additional staff to support H.B. 1. May 8 is the last day for House Committee to report House bills. The House and Senate have different timelines for bills, and May 11th is the last day for the House to consider them. There is no rider for comparable increases, but there are more target increases throughout the budget.

Data Committee

Dr. Connie Almeida announced that the [16.22 Guide](#) has been finalized and 100 printed copies are available for free. The Data Committee will meet again to discuss next steps and develop recommendations for a new project.

Long-Term Planning Committee

Judge John Specia reported that the Long-Term Planning Committee has been exploring how to support judges in their work, creating and augmenting mental health courts, incorporating best practices for youth, and improving disparate outcomes.

Criminal Legislative Proposals

Professor Brian Shannon reported that the Criminal Subcommittee of the Legislative Research Committee (LRC) submitted seven proposals to the Texas Judicial Council, two of which were filed in [H.B. 1401](#) by Rep. Moody. H.B. 1401 includes two proposals, one addressing the statutory authority for Justices of the Peace and Municipal Court Judges to dismiss Class C misdemeanors when the defendant lacks capacity.

The remaining unfiled proposals are to amend Code of Criminal Procedure 46B to limit or create alternatives to competency restoration services or competency proceedings in certain misdemeanor cases; amend C.C.P. 46B.084 to address the situation of individuals whose condition degrades in the interim between determination of competency and resumption of adjudicative hearings or a trial; and amend C.C.P. 16.22 to include Class C Misdemeanors, allowing judges to order a 16.22 interview and report on persons charged with Class C misdemeanors to identify the issue and connect them to mental health services. The next proposal seeks to harmonize mental health personal bonds with last session's bond bill (S.B. 6). The passage of the bond bill in the 2021 second Special Legislative Session created a conflict between which offenses allow someone to be released on personal bond (under C.C.P. 17.03) versus on a mental health personal bond (under C.C.P. 17.032). The final proposal amends the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure to add in Article 14.036 that would allow for the delay of arrest for individuals who are charged with nonviolent offenses but who are undergoing emergency mental health or IDD treatment.

Civil Legislative Proposals

Judge Brent Carr reported that the Civil Subcommittee submitted four proposals to the Texas Judicial Council, which were unfiled at the time of the meeting. The four proposals are: Electronic Application for Emergency Detention Warrants by Qualified Professionals at Hospitals and Mental Health Facilities; Security of Firearms Found in Possession of Persons in Emergency Detention Under a Warrant; Authorization for Blood Draws for Patients Receiving Court-Ordered Medication; and Clarification of a Law Enforcement Officer's Duties Upon Presenting an Individual for Mental Health Services. Judge Carr reported that in 2021, the JCMH experienced a high degree of success at the legislature and that ten proposals were passed into law.

JCMH Juvenile Proposals

Molly Davis reported that the Chapter 55 rewrite has been included in several bills, including H.B. 5088, and its companion, S.B. 2479, as well as in stand-alone bills H.B. 1359, H.B. 2037, and S.B. 1585. Other youth mental health bills to watch are H.B. 2066, concerning the diversion of certain foster youth from the juvenile justice system; S.B. 728, which would require individuals who are 16 and older who are found not guilty by reason of insanity or to lack responsibility for their conduct and adult wards to be entered into the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System; and H.B. 3186, a diversion framework for youth charged with fine-only misdemeanors.

Announcements

Justice Bland invited Commissioners and the Collaborative Council to make announcements.

Partner Agency Announcements

TJJD Legislative Director, Preston Steufert

The two biggest things at TJJJ have been the Sunset Process and the budget resulting from those findings. The Sunset Process was completed last year and went well.

Two Major Issues:

1) Achieving Balance Between Supervision and Population

Many recommendations were to address the workforce shortage and problems that arose due to low staffing. The Texas Model for TJJJ provides treatment for youth, but it's impossible to implement with low staffing. Implementation of Trust-Based Relational Intervention was begun before COVID and they saw some positive results with fewer assaults, more felt safety. However, the great resignation led to some youth being on lockdown for 22 hours a day. This was not a punishment, only a measure to keep youth safe during had low staffing, but TJJJ acknowledges this was unacceptable.

To address the workforce concerns, staff received a 15 percent raise. Starting correctional officers now earn about \$47,000 a year. TJJJ also implemented retention initiatives such as the Buddy System where new staff work alongside a mentor for the first 60 days. Also, accountability has been a focus.

Youth in TJJJ:

- 84% of youth admitted need mental health treatment, up 19% from 2015
- 14% have ID and 95 percent have two or more specialized treatment needs.
- 71% have 3 or more specialized treatment needs.

2) Sustainable County Services

There are 165 county probation departments throughout Texas, each with different populations, priorities, and resources. The availability of resources needed to meet the needs and risks of the youth within each jurisdiction is often inadequate at every level of the county system. The goals of the system are to provide the needed resources for youth within it.

Executive Director, Shandra Carter has met for the first time with groups of counties for their feedback. Ten years ago, TYC and Probation were combined, but now they are working together better.

Regionalization Task Force from 2016 was evergreened. They are doing community development of mental health treatment resources, mental health, or drug courts. The goal is keeping youth shallow as possible in system. Counties are overwhelmed with these cases. They recently published a helpful report that outlines plans for both diversion of individual youth and development of community support.

Board will go through streamlining: require juvenile justice background, give ability to appoint advisory bodies. Sunset will be revisited in two years. Judge Hervey thanked the Commission, Judge Kazen, and Adrienne Kennedy for support during a family crisis.

Adrienne Kennedy—Past President, Current Board Member, NAMI National

Stated it's a privilege to be trusted in a crisis.

In Texas there are two national trainers for children and youth called NAMI Basics. There are only 4 trainers in the country, and Adrienne is one of them and another is in Dallas.

Commissioner Sonja Gaines, HHSC, Community Services

Most activity in mental health that she has seen.

HB1, SB1

- Additional 234 Purchased Psychiatric Beds:
- Currently, 560 contract beds in community
- Allow 150 specialized competency restoration beds
- 15-bed expansion Sunrise Canyon in Lubbock
- \$8.5 million stepdown housing expansion for indivs in state hosp. over a year
- Crisis respite for youth/mobile crisis outreach team for youth
- \$15 million expansion of SB 292 Grant Program; \$7.5 million expansion of HB 13 Grants
- New innovation grant for high-risk children and families
- \$15 million Multi Systemic Therapy Expansion
- Coordinated care expansion youth up to age 30 for early onset psychosis
- Uvalde Specialized Campus and house the LMHA

SB 26 by Senator Kolkhorst would require state hospital and LMHAs to work together on discharge plans on complex cases and require a HHSC Public Reporting System of mental health performance on a website.

Four Texas LMHAs operate as 988 Centers, a national initiative to obtain help and support. 988 is answered 24/7. In-state answer rate was previously 45% and is now 76 %.

Commissioner Scott Schlachin, HHSC State Hospitals

Initiated big pay raise Feb. 1st across all staff in state hospitals

Impact: Since December, forensic waitlist down by 160

Average daily census up 121 since Sept. because bringing beds back online

In Dec. the number of beds offline due to staffing was 781, is not 532, and is expected to be in the 400s soon.

Staffing Numbers: Full Time Employees/Equivalents on Jan. 31st was 5911, now have 6500, more staff since July 2021, netted 600.

Amarillo (100 bed non-MSU) Lubbock (50 bed MSU), Rio Grande (50 bed MSU), El Paso (50 bed forensic), San Antonio (50 bed MSU).

Adds Transition Specialist at each state hospital for complex cases.

Question: How far are we from being fully staffed: Currently, HHSC is 1200 short on staff but had 1800 vacancies before pay increases in January. Summer is a prolific time for hiring.

Brandon Wood and Ricky Armstrong, Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Currently no directives in any bills for TCJS, but they are watching HB 1751, HB 3346, SB 444, SB 2479, HB 484.

April Zamora, TCOOMMI

Asked for 15% raise, received 7.5% raise for MH Contractors

Asked for more MH staff for facilities

Rider 35-- \$1 million over biennium to HHSC will come back

When a person returns to jail restored, TCOOMMI will pay LMHA or be in agreement with local jail to pay for medication, adding municipal jails but did not provide lab or doctor fees

Previously TCOOMMI had the money, but it had to go through HHSC and was not being used

Also, April is National Second Chances Month and Texas Second Chances Month.

Commissioner Announcements:

Lee Pierson, Dallas County DA Mental Health Chief

Growing staff for MH Dept up to 16 people but requesting referrals for attorneys who might be interested.

Dr. Almeida

Fort Bend hosted a TBRI For Law Enforcement Three-Day Training went well and looking to expand to other states.

Yolanda Lewis, MMHPI, Executive Director for Center for Justice and Health

New Initiative: First 48 Hours after Arrest—there is funding upstream, but courts have been left out of many efforts

At a state level, they are mapping out the first 48 hours with Tim Bray. If you are interested in the project, please contact Yolanda Lewis. Fort Bend is the first to participate.

Judge Roxanne Nelson thanked the JCMH staff for all the hard work, written materials, and community training in the past five years. Many kudos for the small but mighty team.

Dr. Melissa Eshelman

Dr. Christopher Thompson from UCLA will open Think Consultants, a new forensic psychiatric practice, in Austin, Texas.

Judge Yolanda Huff

Bexar County creates a Specialty Court Resource Guide and the 2023 Guide is available and free. There will also be a seminars for various specialties.

Hays county is hosting an all-day Mental Health Court Symposium on April 28th, 2023.

Wayne Young

May 1 Harris County will open a Youth Diversion Center, smaller than adult Diversion Center but with the same principles.

Denise Oncken

The Harris County Diversion Center celebrates its five-year anniversary with great success. They have diverted over 7,000 incidents with no criminal charges.

Meeting adjourned

Judge Barbara Hervey announced the upcoming Commission meeting in Galveston on October 18, 2023, before the Summit begins, and thanked everyone for attending.

Tab 4

Report to the Commission



TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION
ON MENTAL HEALTH

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

October 18, 2023

www.texasjcmh.gov

Report of the Executive Director

The mission of the Judicial Commission on Mental Health is to engage and empower court systems through [collaboration](#), [education](#), and [leadership](#), thereby improving the lives of individuals with mental health needs, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The following report will provide an overview of the projects the JCMH has undertaken to further these objectives.

Collaboration

The JCMH has many initiatives created to bring together experts to solve systemic problems. The JCMH legislative committees are an example of multi-disciplinary stakeholders working together to create legislation recommendations for the Texas Judicial Council. Below are descriptions of the legislative committees as well as other collaborative efforts of the JCMH.

1. Commission

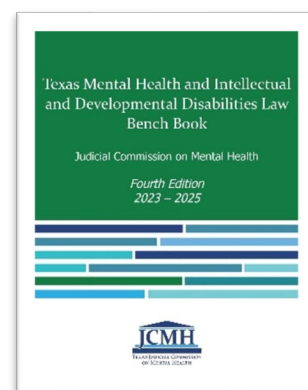
JCMH Commissioners provide a deep well of collaboration through their diverse backgrounds and experiences. Commissioners meet at least three times a year, providing information to promote best practices and improve the function of the judiciary for those with mental health, substance use, or IDD needs. The Commissioners often participate in additional collaborative events when needed. Commissioners typically serve two-year renewable terms, but the current terms were extended to three-year terms due to the challenges of meeting during the pandemic.

2. Collaborative Council

The Collaborative Council keeps the JCMH updated on emerging issues in the field. JCMH staff holds online meetings in which the collaborative council members can share their organization's conferences, projects, and best practices from around the state. The Collaborative Council met three times in 2023. After each meeting, JCMH staff produced a detailed summary that highlighted upcoming trainings from partner organizations, as well as links to resources that were mentioned during the meeting. [Materials](#) from past meetings and upcoming scheduled meetings are provided on the JCMH website.

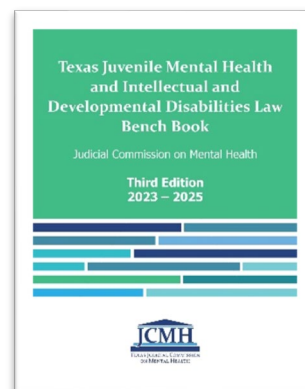
3. JCMH Bench Book Committee

The JCMH Bench Book Committee is chaired by Judge Camile DuBose. The Committee began its work in early 2018 to develop the first edition of the Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book. In October 2023, the Committee is publishing its 4th Edition in print and [online](#) and anticipates distributing over 500 physical copies at the Summit.



4. Juvenile Bench Book Committee

The Juvenile Bench Book Committee is chaired by Judge Cynthia Wheless. The Committee began in 2020 to launch the Texas Juvenile Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book (commonly called the Juvenile Bench Book). In 2023, the Committee is publishing the 3rd edition in print and [online](#) and anticipates distributing over five hundred physical copies.



5. Summit Curriculum Committee

The Summit Curriculum Committee, chaired by Judge Brent Carr, advises on speakers and curriculum for the Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health. The Committee works to ensure that the presentation topics promote the JCMH mission and lead the way in this ever-changing legal field. The Committee met on June 16 and August 10, 2023, to work on the 6th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health. See tab 6 of this notebook for detailed information on the Summit.

6. Legislative Research Committee

In September 2022, the JCMH Legislative Research Committee (LRC) completed a report detailing seven criminal law proposals, four civil law proposals, and a proposed revision of Texas Family Code Chapter 55 that was submitted by an outside committee of juvenile law experts. This 88th Legislative Session Report was submitted to the Texas Judicial Council, which voted to approve all of the proposals.

The 88th Legislature passed the following JCMH Proposals:

- All of the Texas Family Code Chapter 55 revisions in [Senate Bill 1585](#), which took effect on September 1, 2023.
- Five JCMH Proposals in [Senate Bill 2479](#), which took effect on September 1, 2023. The passed proposals were:
 - Permitting use of CCP art. 16.22 early identification of individuals with mental illness for Class C Misdemeanors;
 - Harmonizing Mental Health Personal Bond Laws with Personal Bond Laws;
 - Allowing Electronic Application for Emergency Detention Warrants by Qualified Professionals at Hospitals and Mental Health Facilities;
 - Clarifying a Law Enforcement Officer's Duties upon Presenting an individual for Mental Health Services; and
 - Allowing Blood Draws for Patients Receiving Court Ordered Medication.

The LRC will begin meeting in preparation for the 89th Legislative Session in November 2023.

7. Forms Committee

The Forms Committee, chaired by Judge Dave Jahn, was established in December 2019. Tasked with examining common mental health forms, the Committee sought to produce a set of standardized forms that could be used in any county in the state. The Forms Committee met regularly and developed over 60 [forms](#) related to mental health, which are available on the JCMH

website. The Supreme Court Advisory Committee specifically considered seven forms related to mental health and approved these forms for use under Rule 10 (g) of the [Texas Rules of Judicial Administration](#), a rule that prohibits the rejection of these seven forms if they are properly completed. A [report](#) of all Commission activities related to S.B. 362 (86th Reg. Sess. (2019)), including that of the Forms Committee, is available on the website.

8. Long-Term Planning Committee

The Long-Term Planning Committee, chaired by Judge John Specia, Jr., has focused on long-term goal setting and offering input on possible new JCMH projects. Specifically, the Committee discussed how to support judicial leaders in their work: (i) as judicial leaders within with their communities; (ii) creating and augmenting mental health courts and dockets; (iii) incorporating best practices for youth; and (iv) including best practices related to improving disparate outcomes for diversities such as race, geography, gender, and economic factors. On May 19, 2022, the Long-Term Planning Committee met to create an updated JCMH strategic plan with these topics at the forefront. On May 2, the [2023 Strategic Plan](#) was approved by the Commission and Executive Committee.

9. Data Committee

The Data Committee, chaired by Dr. Connie Almeida, met in February and September 2023 to continue work on the 16.22 Data Project and launch a new project focused on determining data collection best practices for mental health specialty courts and general jurisdiction courts in mental health-related cases.

The 16.22 Data Project began with an educational campaign to encourage counties to utilize the 16.22 process for early identification of individuals with mental illness or IDD in the local criminal justice system and to ensure proper reporting to OCA. The Committee has helped to create a 16.22 Step-By-Step Guide which is now available [here](#) on the JCMH website and in print. This Committee will also assist in the creation of an education video on the 16.22 process.



10. JCMH Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of Justice Jane Bland, Judge Barbara Hervey, Justice Rebeca Huddle, Judge Jesse McClure III, Justice Bill Boyce, Judge John Specia, Judge Brent Carr, Megan LaVoie, and Kristi Taylor. It meets at least quarterly, or more if needed, to advise on JCMH operations, projects, and policy.

Education

The JCMH creates specialized training, resources, and tools for judges, attorneys, court personnel, and other stakeholders.

1. 6th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health

The 2023 Summit will take place on October 18-20, 2023, at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas. This year's highlights include a workshop on securing grant funding, information on competency restoration, and a variety of resource booths to assist attendees in their counties. Over 500 people are registered to attend in person, with another 500 online.

2. Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law [Bench Book](#)

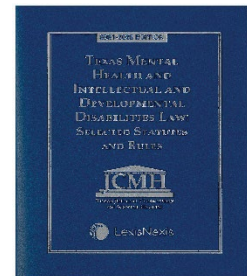
The Bench Book is a 358-page book for Texas judges hearing cases regarding persons with mental illness and/or IDD. Each section contains applicable statutory processes, relevant best practices and guidance, and cross-references to mandatory forms. The fourth edition of the Bench Book added over 100 pages of new material and forms, including an index, and will be released in October 2023 at the Judicial Summit on Mental Health. Print copies of the Bench Book and all other JCMH publications can be ordered by sending an email to JCMH@txcourts.gov, and a digital version of the 4th Edition will be available on the JCMH website soon.

3. Texas Juvenile Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law [Bench Book](#)

The Juvenile Bench Book is a 190-page book for Texas judges hearing cases regarding youth and adolescents with mental illness and/or IDD. Each section contains applicable statutory processes, relevant best practices and guidance, equity considerations, and suggested forms. The third edition of the Juvenile Bench book will be released at the 2023 Judicial Summit on Mental Health. Print copies can be ordered by sending an email to JCMH@txcourts.gov and a digital version of the 2nd edition is currently available on the [JCMH website](#).

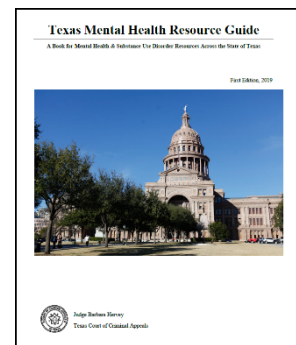
4. Mental Health [Code Book](#)

The JCMH, building on the work of Chris Lopez at HHSC, created the *Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law: Selected Statutes and Rules*, a collection of Texas statutes related to mental health and IDD in one convenient volume. The updated version of the Mental Health Code Book following the 88th Legislative Session will be available soon.



5. Texas Mental Health Resource Guide

The [Texas Mental Health Resource Guide](#) was created from Judge Barbara Hervey's vision and provides an explanation of mental health services and lists resources indexed by type, region, and county. The Resource Guide is intended to be continually updated, and information or resources for the benefit of those with mental health challenges can be sent to the Court of Criminal Appeals at Mentalhealthresource@txcourts.gov.



6. Jurist in Residence Letters

Judge John Specia, Jr., Senior District Judge (Ret.) and Judge Brent A. Carr (Ret.) distribute letters throughout the year to keep judges, attorneys, and other stakeholders updated on relevant changes to the law and share helpful resources and tools. Four JIR letters have been sent in 2023, and recent topics include legislative updates, emergency detentions, and Summit registration details. All previously released Jurist-in-Residence letters are available on our website, [here](#).

7. Resource Letters

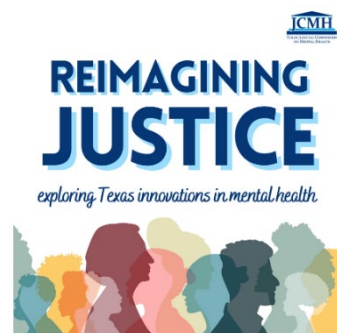
In 2023, JCMH issued eight Resource Letters. Resource Letters are short communiques designed to quickly disseminate information and announcements about resources and training opportunities for stakeholders. The 2023 letters included information on suicide prevention flyers, a webinar on trauma history and psychotropic medication, HHSC's Pre-Arrest Diversion Learning Collaborative, and a juvenile justice Judicial Training Institute, among others.

8. JCMH Website

The JCMH website highlights the JCMH's body of work. The site showcases JCMH's [events](#), [publications](#), various [technical assistance](#) offerings, and [news](#) related to the Commission. By utilizing forms on the website, requests for [technical assistance](#) have been streamlined to allow users to make a request directly from the page. Our [Beyond the Bio](#) page adds a unique touch by sharing personal information about our commissioners and collaborative council members. The Video Library section of the site gives users access to educational materials in a video format. The JCMH's webinar about starting a mental health court is featured, as well as a brand-new section that organizes past Summit presentations from 2018 – 2022 by topic.

9. JCMH Podcast

In 2023, JCMH launched its podcast called: *Reimagining Justice: Exploring Texas Innovations in Mental Health*. Each month, we highlight a program or practice that other counties can learn from and replicate. So far, 6 episodes have been released, featuring: the Arc of Texas's Whole Person Project, the GEMS program in Collin County, the Harris County Sheriff's Office CIRT and CORE programs, the Harris County Public Defender's Office's Peer Navigator Project, StarCare's Multisystemic Therapy Program in Lubbock, and Hidalgo County's trauma-informed juvenile courtroom. Email JCMH staff if you have an innovative program in your county that you would like to see highlighted.





Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health
 Legislative Summary of SB 2478
 SEN. JUDITH ZAFFRINI / REP. JOE MOODY
 Relating to procedures regarding certain persons who are or may be persons with a mental illness or intellectual disability.

Section 1. (1) Allows Electronic Application for Emergency Detention Warrants by Qualified Professionals at Hospitals and Mental Health Facilities
 Issue: Previous law only allowed physicians to electronically request a warrant from a judge for an emergency mental health detention under Texas Health and Safety Code section 172.011, in less-proscribed areas, a physician is often not available to electronically request a detention when an emergency detention warrant is needed.
 SB 2478: This amendment permits licensed mental health professionals with advanced training and education to electronically make the request.

(2) Permits use of Article 16.22 Procedures for Class C Misdemeanors
 Issue: CCP art. 16.22 prohibits mandated an interview & report only for individuals charged with a Class B misdemeanor or higher who are suspected of having a mental illness or intellectual disability.
 Courts hearing Class C offenses often treat one people with severe mental illness in the justice and municipal courts before their mental health operators to a point where the individual is arrested on a high-level misdemeanor or felony offense.
 SB 2478: Amends Texas Code of Criminal Procedure article 16.22 to allow for the initiation of Class C misdemeanors in the early identification process.
 The aim of this law is to give the judge who frequently interact with the population of defendants the tools to identify potential issues and connect those individuals to mental health services. This law will give the judge the additional discretion to order a 16.22 interview and report on persons charged with Class C misdemeanors.

10. Legislative Materials

The JCMH prepares tools and resources regarding mental health and IDD legislation. You can find summaries of the bills passed in the last legislative session from JCMH proposals, as well as a summary of passed mental health legislation organized by sequential intercept [here](#).

11. Presentations to Partner Organizations

JCMH leaders have been featured speakers at national and statewide events. Also, JCMH staff have been invited to speak on mental health topics, specialty courts, and collaborative leadership at many conferences and events in the past few months:

- In September 2023, Kama Harris presented on “Mental Health Diversion at Every Budget” for the at the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies 50th Annual Conference and Training Institute in New Orleans, LA.
- In June 2023, Judge Brent Carr, Kristi Taylor, and Molly Davis presented “How to Start a Life-Changing Mental Health Court” at the 2023 National All Rise Conference in Houston.
- In June 2023, Molly Davis presented “Project Safer: A Better Approach to Diversion, Family Preservation and Public Safety” at the Corrections Management Institute of Texas’s 17th Annual Conference on Managing Juveniles with Sexual Behavior Problems in Austin.
- In May 2023, Kristi Taylor and Kama Harris Presented “Mental Health Diversion at Every Budget” at the Texas Association of Pretrial Services in Dallas, Texas.
- Each month throughout the 2022-2023 training year, Kama Harris has been teaching a Primer on Emergency Apprehensions and Detentions to municipal judges across Texas through the Texas Municipal Court Education Center's Regional Judges Seminars.

To request a JCMH staff member to speak at your event, please complete the [speaker form](#) on our website.

Leadership

The JCMH recognizes that judicial leadership is essential to furthering our mission and supports statewide and local initiatives to provide courts with the tools and resources they need.

1. Texas County Mental Health Law Plan Pilot Program

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 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.

Administrative Judges will create a multidisciplinary team, if one does not already exist, that would review the JCMH Mental Health Law Checklist and then complete a template reflecting the county's current and future plans related to the relevant mental health law issues according to the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM).

If your county is interested in applying to be a pilot site for the County Mental Health Law Plan, email Kirk D. Noaker, Sr. at kirk.noaker@gmail.com or telephone 830-265-9201 with questions. The application deadline is October 31, 2023.

2. Community Diversion Coordinator Pilot Project

The JCMH, in partnership with HHSC, granted funds to three counties for a pilot project intended to divert individuals with mental illness who are charged with nonviolent misdemeanor offenses from the criminal justice system. Three test sites were selected for implementation: Denton County, Grayson County, and Smith County. Each county hired a Coordinator in Fall 2021. In 2022, JCMH hosted SIM workshops for all three counties and each coordinator has an action plan report to work from. The program evaluation for all three counties by the National Center for State Courts is underway.

3. Round Table Series

Round Table discussions are designed to address key issues affecting mental health and IDD law and the courts that hear those cases. The discussions are usually a half-day program facilitated by a subject-matter expert. The topics vary year to year and the number of Round Tables hosted each year also varies according to the interest of stakeholders and issues demanding attention. A Round Table on children's mental health issues was co-hosted by the Supreme Court Children's Commission in June 2022; the [report](#) is available on both commissions' websites. In December 2022, a Round Table on complex issues in Emergency Detention proceedings was held; the [report](#) is available on the JCMH website.

4. Technical Assistance for Courts and Communities

JCMH continues to provide Technical Assistance services, including connecting judges with experts and peers, and assisting in the creation of mental health court programs. In July 2022, JCMH began offering half-day Mental Health Law Education trainings to communities upon request, starting with Liberty County, McLennan County, and Burnet counties. In 2024, JCMH will hold the first-of-its-kind Mental Health Courts Collaborative, an online peer mentorship and collaboration forum for judges who want to start a mental health court, that will culminate at the Texas Association of Specialty Courts Conference in March 2024 in Fort Worth.



JCMH continues to provide courts with access to Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshops. JCMH has participated in facilitating and planning numerous workshops, and partners and consults with various agencies and contractors to expand capacity and reach more communities. In 2023, JCMH mapped Jack County, San Patricio County, and both adult and youth systems in Hidalgo County; and will map El Paso County youth systems in October and Hutchinson County in November. JCMH plans to map Lubbock County and Cameron County in 2024 in addition to two yet-to-be-determined Counties' youth systems.



5. Innovations Map

The County Resources and Innovations in Mental Health Map (Innovations Map) was published in 2022. On August 18th, 2022, new and improved features for the site were released, including the ability to access each county page directly, a statewide resource page that automatically feeds into each county page, and the ability to print (or save to PDF) the displayed information. The new features also customized how data is entered and then displayed to the public. JCMH continues adding resources to this map, and the map is being retooled to enable focus specifically on juvenile-specific resources.

Tab 5
Budget

Judicial Commission on Mental Health FY2023

October 2023 Financial Report

FY2023 Available Funds

FY2022-2023 State Appropriation	
FY2022 Strategy B.1.4 (UB)	\$ 63,312
FY2023 Strategy B.1.4	\$ 1,250,000
Total State Appropriation	\$ 1,313,312

FY2023 Budget vs. Actuals

	Actual	Budget	Balance
Operating	\$ 735,661	\$ 753,000	\$ 17,339
Commission Projects	\$ 155,153	\$ 386,625	\$ 231,472
Scholarships	\$ 1,002	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,998
Grants	\$ 13,609	\$ 119,000	\$ 105,391
Total Expenditures	\$ 905,946	\$ 1,262,625	\$ 357,200

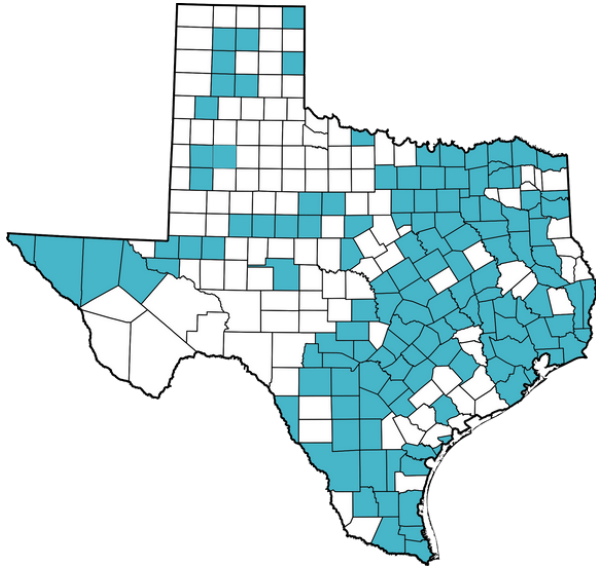
Financial Status as of October 2023

State Appropriation FY2022-2023	
FY2022 Strategy B.1.4 (UB)	\$ 63,312
FY2023 Strategy B.1.4	\$ 1,250,000
FY2023 Funds Available	\$ 1,313,312
FY2023 Expenditures to Date	\$ (905,946)
FY2023 Closing Balance	\$ 407,367
FY2023 Accounts Payable	\$ (734.00)
FY2023 Encumbrance	\$ (375,699.16)
FY2023 Estimated Lapse	\$ 30,933.66

Tab 6

Announcements

2023 JUDICIAL SUMMIT ON MENTAL HEALTH



- More than 130 counties represented
- More than 500 in-person registrants
- Nearly 1,000 registrants total

Wednesday, October 18 at 5 pm: Networking Reception

Please join us at the end of Day 1 for an hour of meeting new people, catching up with your fellow Commissioners and Collaborative Council members, and answering attendee questions about the JCMH. All attendees and speakers are invited to the reception.

Thursday, October 19 at 7:45 am: Mental Health Court Coffee

Start Day 2 at the Mental Health Court Coffee and the official launch of JCMH's Mental Health Courts Collaborative! Those who are interested in starting a mental health court program or supporting an emerging mental health court program can learn about the Collaborative, pick up an application, and chat with judges of established mental health courts.

Thank you to our Commissioners and Collaborative Council members who have volunteered to help with our Breakout Sessions on Thursday afternoon. If you have any questions during the Summit, please contact a staff member and we will direct you towards an answer.

COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH LAW PLAN

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

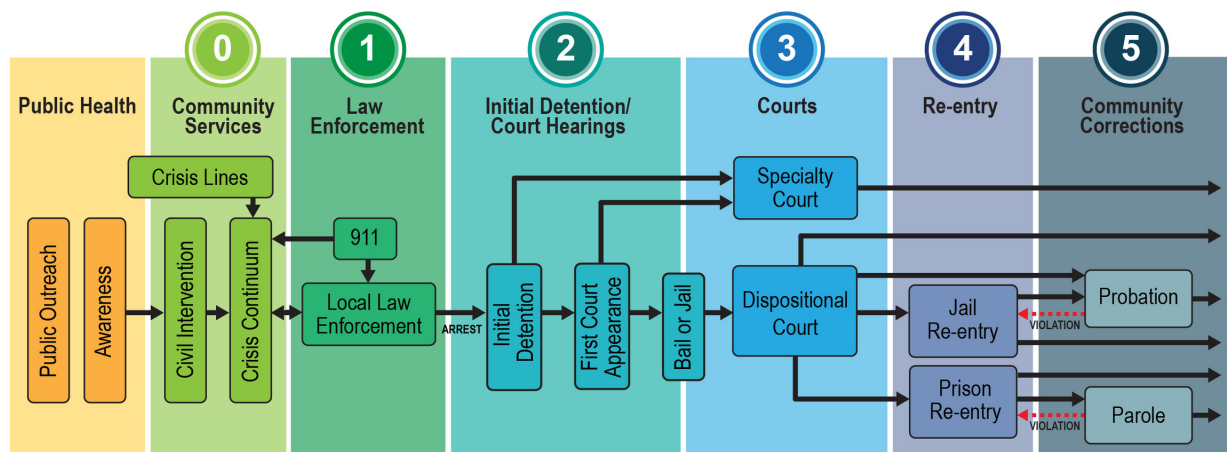
The Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH) is seeking Texas Counties to participate in a County Mental Health Law Plan Pilot Program that will provide FREE resources.

WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

The laws relating to persons with mental illness or intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) are complex and span several different codes affecting multiple, diverse stakeholders.

HOW WILL A COUNTY BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATION?

- Identifies gaps and resources
- Clarifies roles within counties
- Streamlines complex MH processes
- Provides access to FREE resources
- Identifies MH best practices
- Creates accountability



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.

Administrative Judges (or their designee) will create a multidisciplinary team, if one does not already exist, that would review the JCMH Mental Health Law Checklist and then complete a template reflecting the county's current and future plans related to the relevant mental health law issues according to the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM).

If your county is interested in applying to be a pilot site for the County Mental Health Law Plan, email Kirk D. Noaker, Sr. at kirk.noaker@gmail.com or telephone 830-265-9201 with questions. The application deadline is October 31, 2023.



JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Courts Collaborative

Problem: Most counties with a population of 200,000 or more are required to have a MHC, yet many counties of this size do not.

For: Judges who intend to start a MHC or whose MHC is less than a year old.

What: A pilot group of judges who meet monthly on Zoom to learn from mentor judges about starting a MHC, overcoming common obstacles, avoiding legal pitfalls, and serving more people with mental illness who are justice-involved. The pilot group will then become mentors for the next group.

When: January 5, February 2, and March 1 over Zoom; in person at TASC Conference in March. Check-ins on Zoom at 6 months and 12 months (Oct. 2024, April 2025).

Next Step: Applications open at MHC Collaborative coffee on Oct. 19 in Galveston.

Follow JCMH on social media!

Scan the QR codes to follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Instagram

