

Eliminate the Wait

Speakers

Dr. Jennie M. Simpson is the State Forensic Director at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and a nationally recognized policy expert on cross-sector collaborations between behavioral health and criminal justice systems. In addition to oversight and coordination of forensic services, programs, and policies, Dr. Simpson leads innovative statewide policy and technical assistance initiatives. A specialist in diversion programs and policy, Dr. Simpson has provided training and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies, consulted with law enforcement leadership on behavioral health, and conducted research on behavioral health and law enforcement collaborations. Dr. Simpson received a Ph.D. in medical anthropology from American University.

Dr. Jennie Simpson



Colleen Davis



Colleen Burke Davis is an Assistant County Attorney at the Burnet County Attorney's Office. A graduate of Rockhurst University and The University of Texas School of Law, she is a leader in her office, where she oversees responsibility for the misdemeanor criminal cases, juvenile cases, protective orders and appeals. In each of these areas she gives a special focus to the mental health concerns as they arise, and tries to use creative, out of the box methods, to bring about positive resolutions. When not working, Colleen loves spending time with her family and being a Mom.

Kristi Taylor is the Executive Director of the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH). She has over 25 years of experience as an attorney and policymaker. After receiving a BBA with Honors in Finance from the McCombs School of Business and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law, Taylor represented children and parents in the child welfare system for seven years.

Kristi Taylor



In 2006, Taylor was selected by the Supreme Court of Texas to create the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families. She later served as a Staff Attorney and Assistant Director of the Children's Commission. In 2017, Ms. Taylor spearheaded the planning for a new judicial commission on mental health and was named the Executive Director in 2018.

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Summary



As of June 24, 2022, the number of people found incompetent to stand trial and waiting in Texas jails for restoration treatment at a state hospital hit a new record: 2,409. In this presentation, Kristi Taylor explained the challenges and possible solutions to the competency restoration crisis. The main goals of the presentation included:

- Identify Challenges Associated with the Current Waitlist for Inpatient Competency Restoration Services
- Provide an Overview of the Eliminate the Wait Campaign
- Discuss YOUR role to Eliminate the Wait (Sheriffs, County Attorneys, JPs, Attorneys)
- Share Opportunities for Diversion with Ideas for Rural Counties



Taylor also explained the 16.22 process, and why it is important. Upon arrest, if the magistrate determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that the defendant has a mental illness or intellectual disability, then the magistrate must order the local mental health authority, LIDDA, or another qualified expert, to collect information and provide a written report to the magistrate, known as a 16.22 report.

