



2018-2020 Report to the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals



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From the Co-Chairs

The National Alliance on Mental Illness estimates that 1 in 5 will undergo a mental health challenge during their lifetime. When a person with a mental health need cycles through Texas courts without connecting to care and treatment, it represents a lost opportunity to heal—and to prevent further legal trouble. With specialized training, resources, and tools for the resolution of cases involving people with mental illness, Texas courts can work to improve the lives of the mentally ill who intersect with the judicial system and protect all who appear in court.

The intersection of mental illness and the law crosses all jurisdictions, requiring solutions that span the entire state court system. Our two highest courts are dedicated to raising the bar for this work. Two examples: As the current President of the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Justice Nathan Hecht collaborates with jurisdictions throughout the country to develop best practices. And Presiding Judge Sharon Keller chairs the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, which through her leadership supports efforts to identify people with mental illness and divert them appropriately. Texas now has 14 counties with specialized indigent defense programs for mental health matters.

We are pleased that our state courts in Texas lead the nation in identifying and working to improve the challenges associated with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and our court system. It has been two years since the first meeting of the Judicial Commission on Mental Health, a collaborative dedicated to bringing committed stakeholders together to forge solutions. In addition to two statewide summits, the JCMH has developed resources for judges and stakeholders, is engaged in training local communities and courts on best practices and offers local judges technical assistance and expertise. These accomplishments reflect the resolve of many engaged in this effort—both high Courts, the Commissioners, and the Collaborative Council. We are particularly indebted to the JCMH and Children’s Commission staff, who facilitate this undertaking. We are grateful to all for your work, and we offer this report of our progress in the last two years. Together, we will continue to improve the Texas judicial system for children, youth, and adults who are experiencing mental health challenges.

Hon. Jane Bland, Co-Chair
Justice
Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Barbara Hervey, Co-Chair
Judge
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals



From the Executive Director

In 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals did something extraordinary—they sat together as one court and heard from judges, attorneys, psychiatrists, veterans, law enforcement, and individuals and family members who have been affected by mental health challenges and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). One such witness, Adrienne Kennedy, is a mother who lost her son to mental illness, now President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She testified that “the Texas criminal justice system continues to serve as a default provider of mental health services for many individuals. Most inmates eventually return home, where the consequences of inadequate treatment capacity for mental illness play out in predictable and damaging ways for these individuals, their families, and their communities.”



Following that impactful hearing, Texas’ high Courts founded the Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH) as the first joint commission of both Courts. Judges and attorneys are only a part of a very fragmented mental health system, but the JCMH brings together many disciplines to create integrative solutions. Before the first meeting of the JCMH, we asked Commissioners what they hoped to gain through the JCMH. They told us that they wanted to learn from other experts and judges who have had success with innovative ideas. They said they wanted to hear from individuals with lived experience. Commissioners stated that they wanted to improve collaboration, increase training and education, and work closely with the Legislature for better outcomes in early identification, diversion, and connection of individuals with mental health treatment, especially in the rural areas. With those goals in mind, we created a strategic plan and began our work. The JCMH Commissioners and Collaborative Council have been incredibly responsive and generous, donating hundreds of hours of time toward achieving these objectives. And the results have been unprecedented.

Mental health and IDD law are in the national spotlight. Our state’s best and brightest are lending their talents and the JCMH staff is gladly there to help to inspire, organize, and propel these efforts. I am deeply grateful to the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals for prioritizing this work and leading by example. I would also like to thank the Commission and Collaborative Council for their contributions and support. I am reminded daily that our work is instrumental in changing lives.

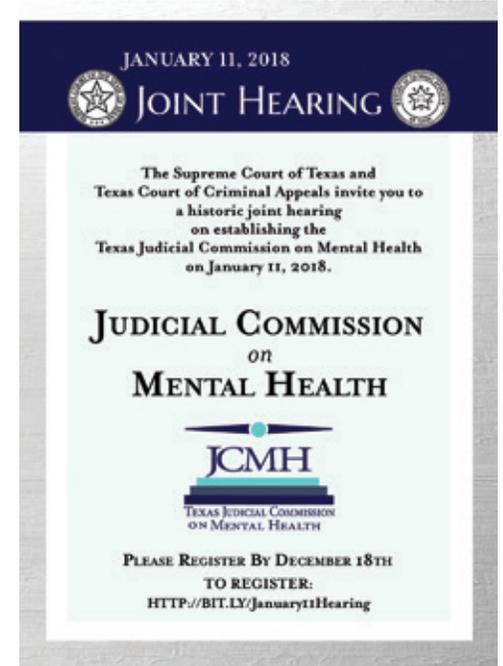
Kristi Taylor
Executive Director

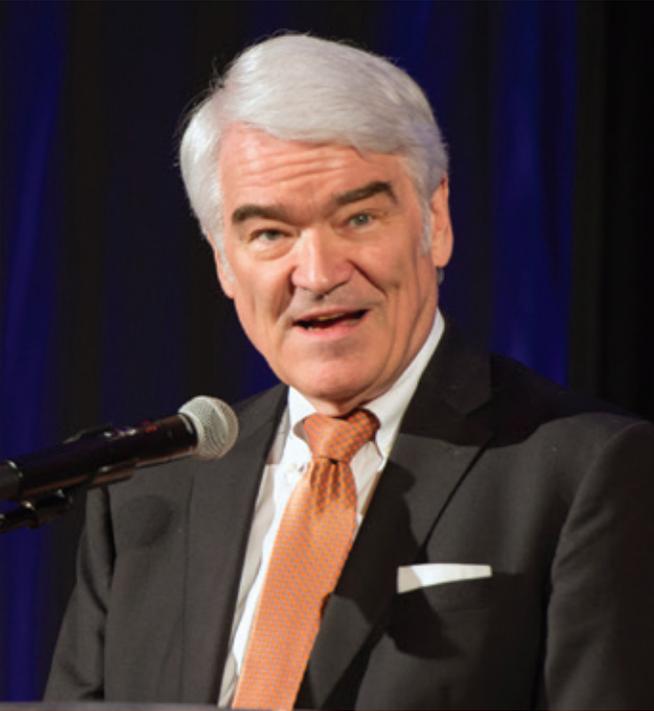


Historical Background

The Judicial Commission on Mental Health was created as a result of the dedication and collaborative efforts of numerous stakeholders across Texas. Over the course of three years, the 84th and 85th Texas Legislatures and the Texas Judicial Council examined the various entry points into the mental health system for children and adults. These efforts highlighted the need for a more coordinated approach.

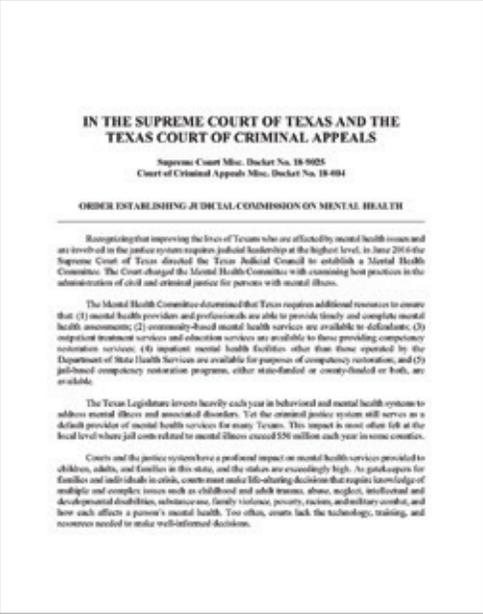
Following the Texas Judicial Council's [2016 Mental Health Committee Report](#) and recommendations, the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals came together on January 11, 2018, to hold a historic hearing [establishing the JCMH](#). At that hearing, Justices and Judges from Texas' two highest Courts heard testimony regarding the need for a statewide judicial commission and collaboration between the judiciary, policymakers, and mental health experts.

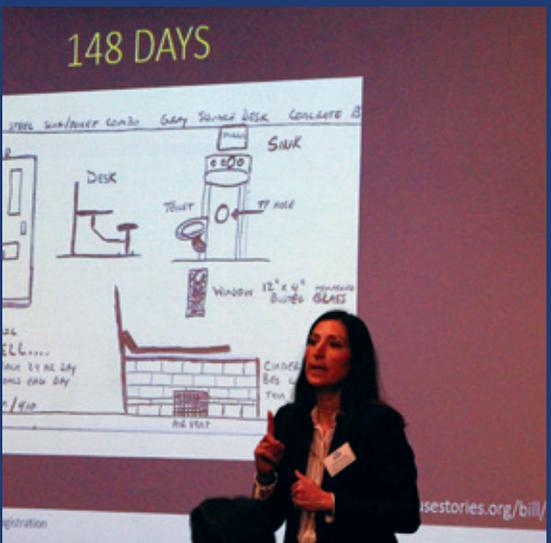




Visionary Leadership

Chief Justice Nathan Hecht and Presiding Judge Sharon Keller shared the vision of bringing Texas' two highest Courts together to create the Judicial Commission on Mental Health. The original Co-Chairs of the JCMH were Justice Jeff Brown and Judge Barbara Hervey. After Justice Brown was appointed the Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Justice Eva Guzman, current Chair of the Children's Commission, served as the interim Co-Chair of the JCMH, until the appointment of Justice Jane Bland to the Supreme Court on September 11, 2019.

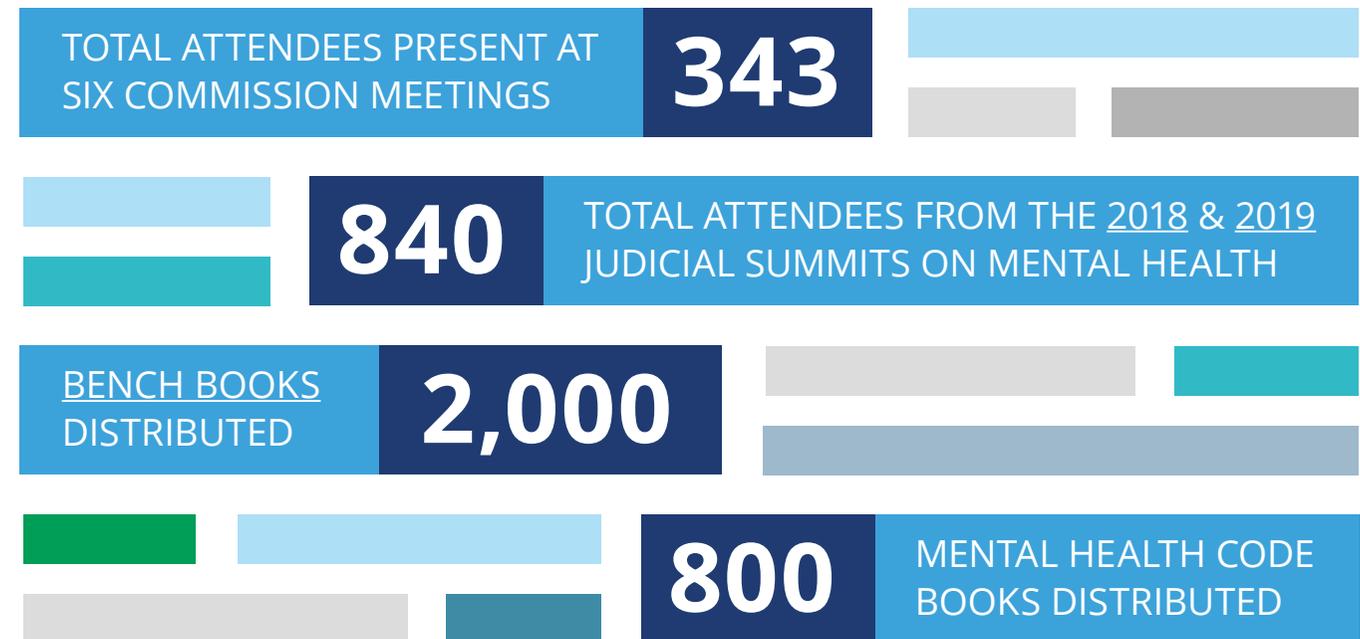




Mission

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, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders.

BY THE NUMBERS



Committees and Collaboratives



Legislative Research Committee

On October 1, 2019, the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas appointed twenty-two members to the JCMH Legislative Research Committee. The Court liaison from the Supreme Court is Justice Jane Bland, and the liaison from the Court of Criminal Appeals is Judge Barbara Hervey. The Chair of the Committee is Justice Bill Boyce. The Committee's purpose is to assist the two Courts in studying the organization and practices of the Texas judicial branch related to behavioral and mental health needs. The Committee's first meeting was December 5th, 2019. After this meeting, the Committee created three workgroups:

- Competency Restoration
- Diversion
- Services

The Committee and its workgroups met throughout spring 2020 to formulate a slate of legislative recommendations that will be presented to the Texas Judicial Council for consideration in anticipation of the 87th Legislative Session.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Hon. Bill Boyce, *Chair*, Houston
- Hon. Camile DuBose, Uvalde
- Hon. Drue Farmer, Lubbock
- Kevin Garrett, Austin
- Dr. Courtney Harvey, Austin
- Hon. Guy Herman, Austin
- Hon. Barbara Hervey, Austin
- Senator Joan Huffman, Houston
- Dr. Andrew Keller, Dallas
- Hon. Evelyn Keyes, Houston
- Hon. Stacey Mathews, Round Rock
- Beth Mitchell, Austin
- Representative Joe Moody, El Paso
- Hon. Roxanne Nelson, Burnet
- Prof. Brian Shannon, Lubbock
- David Slayton, Austin
- Lt. Scott Soland, Fort Bend
- Hon. John Specia, San Antonio
- Hon. Polly Spencer, San Antonio
- Hon. Charles Stephens, New Braunfels
- Hon. Ryan Turner, Austin
- Hon. Cynthia Wheless, McKinney



Supreme Court SB 362 Task Force

The 86th Legislature enacted Senate Bill 362, which directed the Supreme Court to adopt rules to streamline and promote the efficiency of court processes under Chapter 573 of the Health and Safety Code and adopt rules or implement other measures to create consistency and increase access to the judicial branch for mental health issues. The Supreme Court established the [Task Force for Procedures Related to Mental Health](#) to make recommendations to the Court. The Chair of the Task Force is Judge Brent Carr, and the Court's liaison is Justice Jane Bland. The Task Force must submit a Status Report to the Supreme Court of Texas by December 1, 2020. The first meeting of the Task Force was December 2, 2019.



The members decided that there were four areas on which the Task Force will concentrate its initial efforts:

- Recommendations regarding a possible technology solution to address some of the problems faced in the emergency detention process;
- The standardization of some common mental health forms;
- Legislative recommendations for the 87th Legislative Session; and
- Long-term policy and legislative recommendations.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

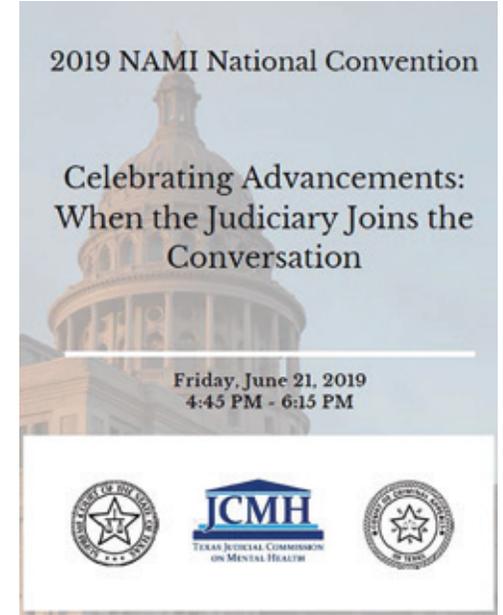
Hon. Brent Carr, *Chair*, Fort Worth
Monique Allen, Houston
Hon. Bill Boyce, Houston
Hon. Danny Dominguez, Laredo
Dr. Melissa Eshelman, Austin
Dr. Robert Greenberg, Temple
Hon. Clay Harrison, Sulphur Springs
Dr. Courtney Harvey, Austin
Hon. Barbara Hervey, Austin
Hon. Guy Herman, Austin
Hon. Dave Jahn, Denton

Lee Johnson, Austin
Major Mike Lee, Houston
Beth Mitchell, Austin
Hon. Roxanne Nelson, Burnet
Denise Oncken, Houston
Hon. Robin Ramsay, Denton
Prof. Brian Shannon, Lubbock
David Slayton, Austin
Hon. John Specia, San Antonio
Hon. Ralph Swearingin, Ft. Worth
Steve Wohleb, Austin



NAMI National Annual Conference

The JCMH partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness to create a [judicial presentation](#) at the national NAMI Annual Conference. Judge Barbara Hervey, Justice Bill Boyce, Judge John Specia, Dr. Andrew Keller, and former City of Dallas Police Chief David Brown participated in the presentation in Seattle on June 21, 2019. The session was titled, “Celebrating Advancements: When the Judiciary Joins the Conversation.”



Round Table Series

Emergency Detention Round Table – December 4, 2018

The JCMH facilitated a [panel of experts](#) who came together to create consensus around a complex issue with differing views on statutory interpretation.



Critical Points Round Table – July 19, 2019

In a new, nationally recognized model, judges met together with individuals with lived experience to improve judicial practices along the Sequential Intercept Model; a report and [bench card](#) were created from the survey and round table.

BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION
Critical Points Round Table: A Look at the Sequential Intercept Model with Lived Experience Experts
 Friday, July 19, 2019
 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Adam American Resource Center
 Ballroom
 840 Cameron St, Austin, TX 78754
 Co-facilitated by:
 Adriana Kennedy - President, NAMI
 John Penick - VP, Adult Policy
 The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
 Lived experience experts can provide vital guidance on gaps and opportunities in the sequential intercept model. This round table will provide individuals and families with lived experience an opportunity to share insights and recommendations to help develop tools and resources for courts and mental health system stakeholders.
 Please email jcmh@tcjms.texas.gov to receive more information. Lunch and travel expenses will be provided, but space is limited.
 JCMH | www.texasjcmh.org | NAMI

Critical Points on the Sequential Intercept Model

INTERCEPT 1: PUBLIC HEALTH

- Before there was a diagnosis, were you familiar with the signs and symptoms of mental illness (MI) or intellectual and developmental disability (IDD)?
- Who first helped to identify MI or IDD? For example, did a physician, teacher, mental health professional, friend, or family member first recognize the signs and symptoms? Did anyone refer you to resources?
- Do you believe a public awareness campaign would have been helpful?

INTERCEPT 2: COMMUNITY SERVICES

- When a crisis occurred, were you aware of resources in your community that provide MI or IDD services?
- Did you know how to access your local mental health authority (LMSA) or local IDD authority (LIDDA)? If so, what services were available?

INTERCEPT 3: INITIAL CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Did it appear that the officers and law-enforcers had training that equipped them to interact with someone with MI or IDD? What challenges to crisis interventions did you experience?
- Were emergency detention releases or in-custody procedures considered instead of arrest?
- Are there dedicated stabilization units in your community to handle mental health crises? If yes, were they helpful?
- Was HIPAA (or other confidentiality concerns) a barrier to sharing information across agencies?



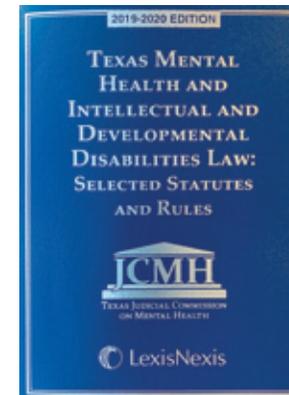
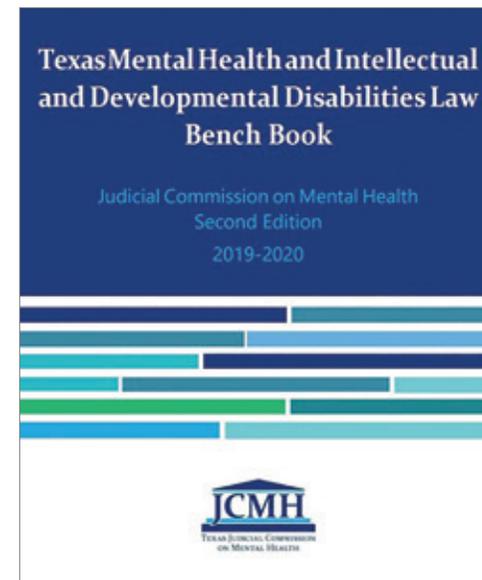
Education Projects

Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book – 2nd Edition

“It’s an incredible document on a complex process. I admire and appreciate your passion for this work.”

“I’ve been a police officer for twelve years and this is the first time some of this was explained.”

The Bench Book is a 165-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 second edition of the Bench Book was released at the Judicial Summit on Mental Health on November 18, 2019. This edition includes two new sections on civil commitment and criminal competency restoration. The JCMH quickly distributed five hundred Bench Books—with many attendees asking for copies to take back to their counties—and is currently taking orders for the new printing of an additional five hundred books. The Bench Book is also available in [digital form](#) on the JCMH website.



Texas Mental Health Code Book

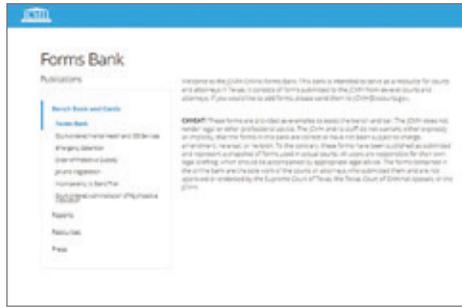
Building on the popular and extremely beneficial work of Chris Lopez at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, the JCMH created Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law: Selected Statutes and Rules, a collection of Texas statutes related to mental health and IDD in one convenient volume. Lexis printed 1,000 hard copies of this resource, which are available to those who would like to order a copy, and the [digital version](#) is available on the JCMH’s website. Stakeholders may also purchase a hard copy through Lexis if they are unable to secure one of the initial 1,000 copies.

Legislative Summaries

The JCMH created and distributed various [legislative summaries](#) of bills passed during the 86th Legislative Session, including:

- a comprehensive review of all new bills related to mental health and IDD;
- a summary of these bills sorted according to the Sequential Intercept Model; and
- detailed one-page summaries of the three main bills affecting mental health law from the 86th Legislative Session.



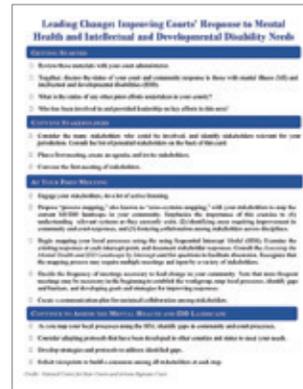


Online Forms Bank

Judges from several Texas counties have submitted nearly 100 sample forms related to mental health court processes that are currently on the JCMH website. These forms are meant to be resources for courts, and new forms will be added to the [Forms Bank](#) as they are received.

Bench Cards

In partnership with the National Center for State Courts, the JCMH created and distributed bench cards entitled “[Leading Change: Improving Courts’ Response to Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Needs](#)” and “[Assessing the Mental Health and IDD Landscape by Intercept](#).”



Jurist in Residence

The Jurist in Residence for the Judicial Commission on Mental Health is the [Honorable John J. Specia Jr.](#) Judge Specia served as a District Judge of the 225th District Court and a Senior District Judge in San Antonio for nearly 30 years. The JIR acts as a consultant, trainer, and speaker to provide expert and seasoned judicial advice on matters affecting courts.

The JIR writes informative letters to keep judges updated on relevant changes to the law as well as share helpful resources and tools.

In September of 2019, the letter summarized some of the most important legislative updates regarding mental health and IDD from the 86th Legislative Session. The December 2019 letter spotlighted resources such as the grant program, the Bench Book, the Texas Mental Health Resource Guide, as well as some upcoming conferences. The January letter provided information and resources regarding creating a mental health court, a topic that was in demand at the Judicial Summit in November.



Mental Health Education and Resources from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

“It is my hope that, as resources are expanded across the state, we will all share in reshaping our approach to mental health.”

– Judge Barbara Hervey

Education Grants

Pursuant to Chapter 56 of the Texas Government Code and the General Appropriations Act, the Judicial Education Section of the Court of Criminal Appeals administers grants for the purpose of providing continuing legal education courses, programs, and technical assistance projects. The grants are for judges, court personnel, prosecuting attorneys and their personnel, and criminal defense attorneys who regularly represent indigent defendants in criminal matters. The grants are also for law enforcement officers, law students, and other participants to attend innocence training programs related to defendants’ claims of factual innocence following conviction. And in 2017, the Texas Legislature passed the Judge Julie Kocurek Judicial and Court Security Act, providing grants to train individuals responsible for providing court security.

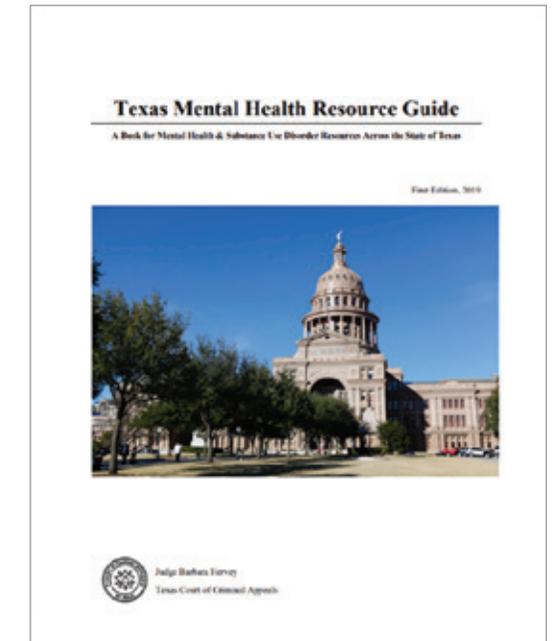
The Texas Legislature has continued to invest resources into the mental health system and is particularly interested in the implementation of mental health education. In 2017, the Legislature appropriated funds to the Court of Criminal Appeals to provide grants for continuing legal education, courses, and programs for judges and court staff, prosecuting attorneys, and criminal defense attorneys on mental health issues and pre-trial diversion. The Legislature specified that judicial education shall include information for judges and staff on mental health care resources available in the court’s geographic region.

In 2019, the Legislature appropriated additional funds to the Court of Criminal Appeals for the development of a training program to educate and inform judges and their staff on mental health care resources available in the State of Texas.

Currently, there are eight grantee organizations who conduct mental health training: the Texas Center for the Judiciary, the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, the Texas Justice Courts Training Center, the Center for American and International Law, the Texas Association of Counties, the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and the Texas District Court Alliance. These organizations provide conferences, webinars, bench books, forms, flow charts, and links to other helpful resources.

Texas Mental Health Resource Guide

Judge Barbara Hervey had a vision for a statewide, comprehensive resource guide with practical information to improve the lives of those in the criminal justice system who might be better served through alternatives to incarceration. With assistance from the grantee organizations, the Court of Criminal Appeals brought this vision to fruition and released the [Texas Mental Health Resource Guide](#). The Resource Guide 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 so readers are invited to send the Court of Criminal Appeals any information or resources for the benefit of those with mental health challenges.





“The Summit was a milestone moment for behavioral health and criminal justice. If awareness is the key to change, then, thanks to the Summit, we are well on the way to establishing an approach that actually works, reduces suffering, and saves lives.”

Leading Change in Texas

Judicial Summit on Mental Health

“Attending this event made me more aware of what I can do personally to facilitate, on a basic level, the solution for people in my community.”

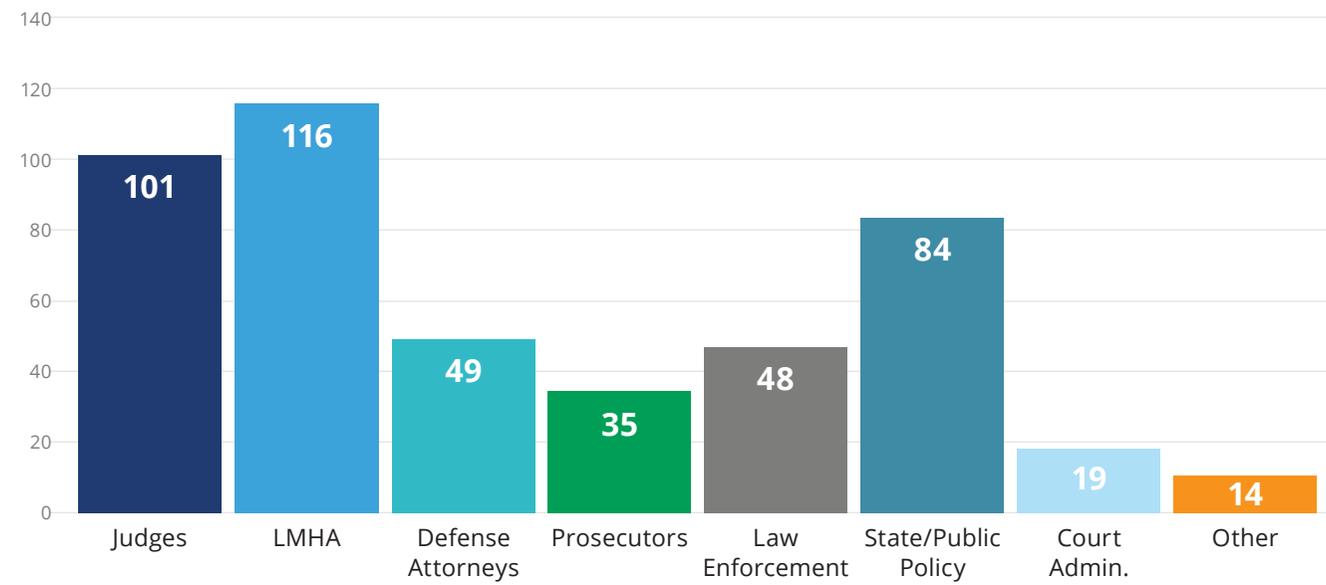
“The presentations were particularly well presented and imparted a wealth of information.”

The Judicial Commission on Mental Health has hosted two annual Judicial Summits on Mental Health. The [first conference](#) was in October of 2018 in Houston, Texas, and was created in conjunction with the Supreme Court Children’s Commission. At the Summit, leaders in civil and criminal justice, mental health treatment, and child welfare met to develop strategies to strengthen the judiciary’s response to adults and children with mental health challenges or developmental and intellectual disability (IDD).

The [second annual Summit](#) was on November 18-19, 2019, in San Marcos, Texas. The 2019 Summit drew nearly five hundred judges and stakeholders from across the State of Texas to discuss and develop solutions to the many challenges faced by individuals in the court system with mental illness or IDD. Attendees included judges from all levels of the judiciary, academia, law enforcement, advocacy groups, prosecutors, defense attorneys, mental health and IDD service providers, representatives from various state agencies, policymakers, persons with lived experience, and many others.

Those who attended the Summit were encouraged not only by the information that was presented, but by the number and diversity of the participants. Many attendees commented on how much they appreciated the ability to network and collaborate with people from across the state whom they would not ordinarily encounter.

2019 SUMMIT ATTENDEE COMPOSITION



“The energy of the Summit gives me hope that change is coming to help reduce the forensic bed population in state hospitals and jail beds in the 254 counties.”





“I believe the work of the Commission and the Summit itself are transformative approaches to this work. I’m excited for the Summit, I have told anyone who listens that the 2018 Summit was THE BEST summit I have ever attended. It was well organized, well suited for the audience, allowed for tons of networking AND the subject matter expertise was exceptional.”



Grants

In Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the Judicial Commission on Mental Health approved a total of \$250,000 to fund eleven local court improvement grants.



1. 38th Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD)

The [38th CSCD](#) supervises individuals placed on community supervision by the courts in Uvalde, Medina, and Real Counties. In that capacity, the 38th CSCD also supervises many clients who suffer from mental health issues who are participants in the 38th Judicial District Specialty Court Program. The JCMH provided the 38th CSCD with a grant to obtain updated case management software to more accurately identify probationers with mental illness and improve collaboration between mental health and criminal justice team members.

2. Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

[Bluebonnet Trails Community Services](#) is the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) responsible for planning and coordination for mental health, substance use, developmental disabilities, and autism services in an 8-county Central Texas service area. This service area includes Fayette and Lee Counties, and the JCMH has awarded Bluebonnet Trails a grant to provide those counties with mobile telemedicine units. The grant will also allow those counties to provide training to relevant stakeholders regarding the Sandra Bland Act and adherence to procedures outlined in Article 16.22 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

3. Border Region Behavioral Health Center

[Border Region Behavioral Health Center](#) is the LMHA responsible for providing support to adults and children with mental illness and IDD for the residents of Webb, Jim Hogg, Starr, and Zapata counties. The JCMH granted the Border Region Behavioral Health Center funds to host a summit to provide education for, and encourage collaboration between, the various mental health stakeholders in the region.

4. Caldwell County

[Caldwell County](#), recognizing that mental and behavioral health treatment is often a better solution for many individuals than incarceration, received a grant from the JCMH to engage certified facilitators to conduct a Sequential Intercept Mapping of their community. Caldwell County hopes to use this SIM to strengthen the relationships among the judicial, law enforcement, jail, and LMHA systems in order to refine and improve the systems of care.

5. Comal County Court at Law No. 2

Judge Charles A. Stephens presides over [Comal County Court at Law No. 2](#) and recognized that information sharing across systems is critical to reducing the number of individuals with mental illness involved with the justice system. Thus, Judge Stephens, in collaboration with Hill Country Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Centers, designed the Comal County Data Sharing Project. The JCMH awarded CCL No. 2 funds to purchase software designed to accomplish the goals of this project by allowing stakeholders in the mental health system to access and share information.

6. Harris County Probate Court Three

[Harris County Probate Court Three](#) is a statutory probate court created by the Texas Legislature and presided over by Judge Jason Cox. The Court is tasked with the primary responsibility of administrative jurisdiction for all mental health commitment hearings in Harris County Texas. Probate Court Three, along with Probate Court Four, conducts the mental health proceedings for approximately 18 different psychiatric facilities in Harris County. The JCMH awarded a grant to Probate Court Three to improve due process access to patients for final commitment hearings. Probate Court Three will use grant funding to purchase teleconferencing equipment to allow patients who are not able to come to court physically—due to issues related to their mental health—to attend the hearings remotely.

7. Lone Star Justice Alliance

The mission of [Lone Star Justice Alliance](#) (LSJA) is to redirect youth out of the Texas justice system and into healthier and less-expensive community-based treatment programs. LSJA does this through three program areas: 1) the Transformative Justice Program, which is an alternative to incarceration program for young adults, 2) direct representation, which enforces the protections owed to youth by the US Constitution and Texas law, and 3) community engagement. The Transformative Justice Program's focus especially benefits young adults with mental health issues who fall victim to punitive criminal sentencing if left untreated. LSJA has brought together several partners who will evaluate and address the mental wellbeing of youth participants to provide a successful rehabilitation. The JCMH awarded grant funds to the LSJA to purchase technology and equipment to further the goals of the Transformative Justice Program.

8. Pecan Valley Centers

The mission of [Pecan Valley Centers](#) is to provide help and hope to all who strive to overcome challenges associated with mental illness, alcohol and chemical dependency, and IDD within their service area. The JCMH awarded grant funds for Pecan Valley Centers to contract with Policy Research Associates to conduct a Sequential Intercept Mapping session for Hood County. The project will pull together community mental health professionals, municipal and county law enforcement, and criminal court personnel for the common goal of diverting those with mental health needs away from the criminal justice system and toward effective treatment.

9. Tarrant County Mental Health Diversion Program

[Tarrant County's Mental Health Diversion Program](#) is a specialty court program founded in 2003 for participants with mental health stressors in the criminal justice system. Judge Brent A. Carr presides over this program, and its mission is to provide participants resources and support to attain emotional well-being and a foundation for long-term success with individualized treatment plans. The JCMH funded a grant that will allow the Program to conduct a program evaluation aimed at improving court efficiency. The grant will also allow the Program's staff to receive additional training and education, as well as to purchase additional equipment and supplies.

10. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

[The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley](#) Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention (OVAVP) collaborates with community partners to provide resources for victims and survivors of interpersonal violence as well as provides educational activities. OVAVP is collaborating with the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counselling (SRCS) to use grant funds from the JCMH to offer two training opportunities. The first event will be a stakeholder seminar to provide introductory co-education to judges, attorneys, licensed chemical dependency counselors, and other mental health service providers on shared and adjacent processes. The second event will be a cross-training with multi-disciplinary stakeholders with a special focus on strengthening collaborations formed and initiatives undertaken following the first event.

11. County Court at Law No. 4, Williamson County

Judge John McMaster, who presides over [County Court at Law No. 4](#), has been investigating best practices and options to improve the justice system for the mentally ill for nearly two years. Currently, individuals with mental health issues who need to attend court for civil commitment or medication management hearings must be transported by local ambulance providers. Often, individuals are strapped to gurneys as they are brought into the building, which increases anxiety and can hinder recovery. The JCMH awarded a grant that County Court No. 4 will use to obtain tele-justice equipment to allow patients to receive fair and prompt representation while remaining safe and secure at one of the two behavioral health hospitals located within the county.

2018-2020 Judicial Commission on Mental Health

Supreme Court of Texas:

Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht

Justice Paul W. Green

Justice Eva Guzman

Justice Debra Lehrmann

Justice Jeffrey S. Boyd

Justice John Phillip Devine

Justice Jimmy Blacklock

Justice Brett Busby

Justice Jane Bland

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals:

Presiding Judge Sharon Keller

Judge Michael Keasler

Judge Barbara Hervey

Judge Bert Richardson

Judge Kevin Yeary

Judge David Newell

Judge Mary Lou Keel

Judge Scott Walker

Judge Michelle Slaughter

Commissioners:

Hon. Jane Bland, Co-Chair

Justice
Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Barbara Hervey, Co-Chair

Judge
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Bill Boyce, Vice-Chair

Former Justice
Fourteenth Court of Appeals
Alexander, Dubose & Jefferson, LLP

Camille Cain

Executive Director
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Hon. Brent Carr

Judge
Tarrant County, Criminal Court No. 9

Terry Crocker

Chief Executive Officer
Tropical Texas Behavioral Health

Gerald Davis

Former President and CEO
Goodwill Industries of Central Texas;
Current Partner at Mission Squared

Hon. Francisco Dominguez

Judge
El Paso County, 205th Judicial District Court

Hon. Camile DuBose

Judge
Medina County, 38th Judicial District

Dr. Tony Fabelo

Senior Fellow for Justice Policy
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Sonja Gaines

*Deputy Executive Commissioner for Intellectual and
Developmental Disability and Behavioral Health Services*
Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Hon. Ernie Glenn

Drug Court Magistrate Judge
Bexar County

Hon. Sid Harle

Judge
4th Administrative Judicial Region

Courtney Hjaltman

Policy Advisor
Office of the Governor

Hon. Joan Huffman

Senator, District 17
Texas Senate

Dr. Andrew Keller

President and CEO
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Adrienne Kennedy

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

Major Mike Lee

Major, Mental Health & Jail Diversion Bureau
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