



**JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH  
COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY  
JUNE 6, 2022  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

*Co-Chair, Justice Jane Bland, Supreme Court of Texas*  
*Co-Chair, Judge Barbara Hervey, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals*  
*Deputy Liaison, Justice Rebeca Huddle, Supreme Court of Texas*  
*Deputy Liaison, Judge Jesse F. McClure, III, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals*

**JCMH Staff in attendance:**

- **Kristi Taylor, Executive Director**
- **Kama Harris, Staff Attorney**
- **Molly Davis, Staff Attorney**
- **Liz Wiggins, Program Manager**
- **Rose McBride, Communications Manager**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Justice Huddle** opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

**Kristi Taylor** welcomed the attendees and announced that the JCMH and the Children's Commission will hold a roundtable discussion on the needs of children who are in the juvenile justice and welfare systems.

**Judge Barbara Hervey:** Judge Hervey gave an update on the effects of the Uvalde school shooting. Judge Hervey suggested looking into helping in the coordination of grief counselors and mental health support for the community.

**UVALDE SCHOOL SHOOTING RESPONSE**

The JCMH is in a great position to help with mental health support for the Uvalde community. **Kristi Taylor** asked that any members who are directors of graduate programs in mental health counseling, psychology, or social work to be aware of how the Commission could put them in touch with organizations that are currently working in Uvalde and offering mental health support to the community.

**Tim Bray** (*Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute*) informed the attendees that the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute's counseling team and Center for Trauma and Grief has partnered



with organizations in Uvalde to provide services and education to help meet the mental health needs of the area in light of the shooting.

The HHSC Disaster Behavioral Health Team, as well as Deputy Executive Commissioner Sonia Gains and Associate Commissioner Trina Ita are also in Uvalde to offer support to the community.

### **NEW DATA COMMITTEE PROJECTS**

#### **❖ *16.22 Project***

The JCMH Data Committee is creating a project on the 16.22 early identification process. This project will help in the creation of a curriculum and a video that can be used to educate counties on the 16.22 process. The hope is that this effort will lead to a greater uniformity in data collection, as well as higher compliance rates with mandated data collection practices.

#### **❖ *Competency Restoration Project***

JCMH is partnering with HHSC's data division and JCAFS' data division to potentially share data with our judges. Data sharing and participation would be on a voluntary basis and we will be rolling out an announcement soon to solicit interest and participants. The data would be prepared by HHSC and used in a discussion with a judge and other relevant parties about how to address concerns about their competency waitlist. The program has not formally started yet, but the JCMH will make a formal announcement of the program soon.

### **CREATING A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Long-Term Planning Committee has added some topics that will be addressed in our new Strategic Plan. Topics to be added include a focus on youth, a focus on racial, gender, and geographic disparities, and also a focus on creating and supporting mental health courts.

The JCMH has created a ten-step guide on how to build a mental health court. The ten-step guide will be followed by the publication of a comprehensive toolkit to create a mental health court. Currently the ten-step guide is available on our [website](#).

### **ELIMINATE THE WAIT**

We have developed a new pre-trial checklist for our [Eliminate the Wait](#) initiative. This new checklist should help clarify the role of competency restoration services and how it differs from comprehensive mental health treatment. The new checklist is currently being circulated for comment.



Also, we are partnering with **Dr. Jennie Simpson** of HHSC to launch regional Eliminate the Wait sessions that would bring together stakeholders to create a regionally focused checklist. The first region will be central Texas. HHSC will be engaging national experts Judge Steve Leifman and Dr. Neil Gowensmith. This project is still being planned so there are no further details to share, however a tentative launch date is set for December 2022. HHSC anticipates completing one region per quarter. If members have interest in having their region participate, they should reach out to Dr. Simpson or Kristi Taylor.

### **JCMH MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT 2022**

The 2022 Mental Health Summit will take place on November 2nd-4th. The Summit is being held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine. [Registration](#) is currently open for in-person and virtual attendance.

### **MEMBER AND STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Hon. Devon Anderson (CEO, Justice Forward):** [Justice Forward](#) is partnering with the [Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association](#) to hold a CLE on specialty courts. Currently specialty court enrollments are down, and a lot of people do not understand how much these courts offer clients. Justice Forward is also trying to work against election sweeps and judicial turnover by proposing legislative changes that would allow magistrates and associate judges to oversee specialty courts. This would allow for greater consistency for both the mental health court judges and participants.

**Hon. Evelyn Keyes (Fmr. Justice, 1st Court of Appeals):** I am still working with [Prof. Brian Shannon](#) to develop a Mental Health Code. That would probably start after this upcoming legislative session. Justice Keyes also recommended a news article in the Houston Chronicle which details the problems with the State's mental health system, and she urged the members to read it.

**Nydia Thomas (Director of Training, Lone Star Justice Alliance):** [The Lone Star Justice Alliance](#) has an initiative to participate in the [Mental Health First Aid](#) training that is sponsored by the [National Counsel for Mental Wellbeing](#) (previously known as the National Council for Behavioral Health). **Nydia Thomas (Director of Training, Lone Star Justice Alliance):** [The Lone Star Justice Alliance](#) has an initiative to participate in the [Mental Health First Aid](#) training that is sponsored by the [National Counsel for Mental Wellbeing](#) (previously known as the National Council for Behavioral Health). LSJA staff and other individuals will be able to train others on [Youth Mental Health First Aid](#).

**Rachel Hampton (Chief Mission Officer, Lone Star Justice Alliance):** The Lone Star Justice Alliance will be present for the JCMH/Children's Commission roundtable discussion that will be



held later this month. At that event, LSJA will be discussing issues that have been identified inside the Ron Jackson Unit of TJJD and how identified mental health issues on the county level are being passed up to the state level with TJJD. LSJA will also be testifying on the sunset hearing for TJJD, related to some of the work that LSJA is doing. LSJA is working to have TJJD adopt [SAMSHA's Sequential Intercept Model](#) of looking for diversion opportunities at every level of the juvenile justice system.

**Lt. Scott Soland (*President, Texas CIT Association*):** Ft. Bend County has been working on the new court-ordered medication program. It took about a year of conversation with our county attorney and our probate courts to get approval for the program. We are also working on a jail-based competency restoration (JBCR) program. We would like to see the results from the court-ordered medication program before we start the JBCR program.

**Dr. Jennie Simpson (*State Forensic Director, HHSC*):** The HHSC Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative was an effort across HHSC between the State Forensic team, the health and specialty care state hospital team, Dr. Felix Torres and his team, and Robert Tool and the system integration team. Twelve counties have participated since August 2021. The first month included a series of trainings on the jail in-reach process and how to work between your LMHA, your courts, and your jails to actively monitor individuals who are on the forensic waitlist. We zeroed in on that waitlist and those who are waiting in the jails. We spent the past nine months doing monthly technical assistance calls, having experts speak on those calls, and also doing peer to peer learning.

This cohort ends this month and June will be our last technical assistance call for all the twelve counties. A second cohort will launch this autumn. There will be an application process that is open to all counties. The twelve county teams represented four hundred and four people on the waitlist, which is seventeen percent (17%) of the list, and we had one hundred and four official participants. The application for the next cohort will be sent out through JCMH soon, so please keep an eye out for that announcement.

**Terry Qualls (*Crisis Intervention Coordinator, McKinney Police Department*):** Collin County's LMHA, LifePath, has opened the [Living Room Program](#) which is based off of the program in Harris County. [McKinney Police Department](#) is working with that program and trying to get people on the street-level into services. Officers are also continuing to work on growing our CIT services in McKinney and working with the LMHA to try to get people help when they need it.

**Kathleen Casey-Gamez (*Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Indigent Defense Commission*):** The legislature gives the [Texas Indigent Defense Commission](#) (TIDC) four million dollars every two years that is earmarked to create and augment mental health defender programs. TIDC's board meeting is this Thursday and hopefully there will soon be more mental health public defenders in



Texas. TIDC's goal is to align with the creation of mental health courts so that there is a pool of trained mental health defense attorneys that can connect with clients with services. TIDC has a video to share about [Mental Health Public Defenders that features Bexar County Public Defender's Office](#) and has a publication on [Texas Mental Health Public Defender Programs](#).

**Jonas Schwartz (Texas Workforce Commission):** We are working on instituting peer support services in the vocational rehabilitation services array to be able to provide that support to our customers who are seeking employment. Hopefully, it will soon be a permanent facet of our services array.

**Charles Mathias:** The National Highway Safety Administration is coming to Texas this month to do its assessment of our plan for alcohol impaired drivers.

**Tim Bray (sitting in for John Petrila, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute):** A lot of MMHPI's recent focus has been on the response to the Uvalde School Shooting through our [Hackett Center for Mental Health](#) and the trauma and grief team that we have. MMHPI is applying lessons learned after the Santa Fe School Shooting in regard to response and trauma counseling. Also, Yolanda Lewis is leading the development of MMHPI new Center for Justice and Health Policy. This will allow MMHPI to better define their engagement projects that are centered around the justice and health spectrum.

**Gilbert Gonzales (Director, Bexar County Department of Behavioral and Mental Health):** The annual [Nuts and Bolts Training](#) will be held on October 7th. This yearly training is provided to attorneys, judges, and mental health professionals. The training will cover topics such as 16.22, managed assigned counsel, and jail-based treatment. The team will also provide an update on the county's SMART and CORE law enforcement initiatives. These trainings will be online and in-person and members of this Council and the JCMH are welcome to attend virtually.

**Julie Wayman (Mental and Behavioral Health Manager, Texas Education Agency):** The TEA's new [Texas School Mental Health Resources](#) database is online. This is a pilot program that identifies resources that exist within a school's region. TEA also has a [school mental health kit](#) available. TEA's 6th Annual Advancing Behavioral Health Collaboration Summit is taking place on September 20-22nd. It will be a virtual summit.

**Michelle Romero (Associate Director, Texas Medical Association):** TMA's [Board of Trustees](#) and President, Dr. Gary Floyd, have coordinated a mental health rapid response taskforce in response to the Uvalde School Shooting. The taskforce is directed by the Board of Trustees and includes community health centers, the Texas Council, and other advocacy groups and partners. The [Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium](#) is still being developed and will be a great resource in Uvalde.



**Hon. Kirk Noaker, Sr. (Fmr. Magistrate, Burnet County; Senior Specialist, Mental Health & Criminal Justice, The Arc of Texas):** Judge Noaker is now part of the public policy team at the [Arc of Texas](#). The Arc is trying to focus in on the IDD community and be more inclusive when discussing mental health. Judge Noaker is also a part of the [Whole Person Project](#), which seeks to expand access to quality mental health services for adults with IDD. Members should read [HR 7859, from the 117th Congress](#). This proposal establishes guidelines and regulations for creating crisis response for school aged children after a natural disaster or catastrophic event. Finally, the [Texas Commission on Jail Standards’ Intake Form Committee](#) is working to make a more inclusive jail intake form for IDD individuals.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

### CMI Annual Mental Health Conference

Sponsored by the Correctional Management Institute  
 Location: TBD  
 Date(s): October 2022  
 Registration/Event Info: [Here](#)

### Engage and Excel Conference

Sponsored by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute  
 Date(s): 10/13/2022  
 Location: Plano, Texas

### National AOT Symposium

Sponsored by Treatment Advocacy Center  
 Date(s): 10/13-10/14/2022  
 Location: San Antonio, Texas  
 Registration/Event Info: [Here](#)

### Advancing Behavioral Health Collaboration Summit

Sponsored by the Texas Education Agency  
 Date(s): 11/29-12/1/2022  
 Location: Virtual

## CLOSING

**Judge Hervey** thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

### JCMH Upcoming Meeting Dates

MEETING	DATE	TIME
Commission	9/14/2022	10:00am-2:00pm
Collaborative Council	10/4/2022	12:00pm-1:00pm

*Meeting dates are tentative and subject to change if the High Courts’ schedule conflicts. Updates will be sent if there is a change.*