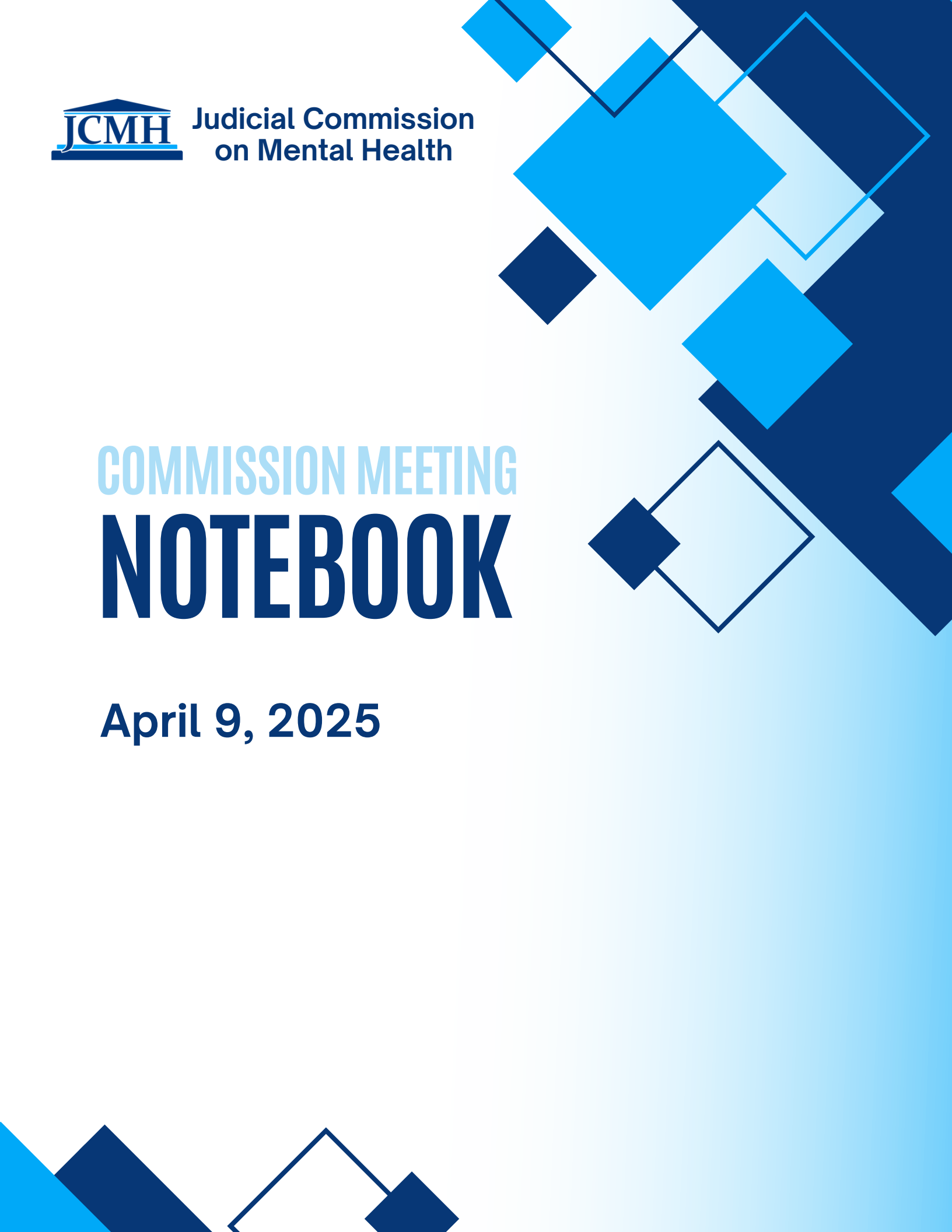




Judicial Commission
on Mental Health

COMMISSION MEETING
NOTEBOOK

April 9, 2025





**April 9th, 2025
Meeting Notebook**

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Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

April 9, 2025

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

10:00	Welcome	Hon. Jane Bland Hon. Jesse McClure, III Hon. Rebeca Huddle Hon. Gina Parker
10:15	Executive Director Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget• 2025 Legislative Session • OCA and Texas Judicial Council• JCMH JIRs and Projects	Kristi Taylor Patrick Passmore Hon. Bill Boyce Prof. Brian Shannon Megan LaVoie Hon. John Specia, Jr. Hon. Brent Carr JCMH Team
10:45	Break	Hon. Jesse McClure, III
11:00	Commissioner Announcements	Hon. Jane Bland
12:30	Networking Lunch Sponsored by The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals	Hon. Jesse McClure, III
1:00	The History of the Americans with Disabilities Act	Brian East, J.D.
1:40	Announcements	Hon. Jane Bland
2:00	Adjourn	Hon. Jesse McClure, III

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Committee & Commissioners

Executive Committee

Hon. Jane Bland, Chair

Justice

Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Jesse F. McClure, III, Chair

Judge

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Hon. Bill Boyce, Vice-Chair

Justice (Fmr.)

Fourteenth Court of Appeals

Partner

Alexander Dubose & Jefferson, LLP

Hon. Rebeca Huddle, Deputy Liaison

Justice

Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Gina Parker, Deputy Liaison

Judge

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Hon. Brent Carr

Judge (Ret.)

Tarrant County Criminal Court 9

Hon. John J. Specia, Jr.

Judge (Ret.)

225th District Court

Of Counsel

Mimari Anderson Clifone & Watkins,
PLLC

Megan LaVoie, J.D.

Administrative Director

Office of Court Administration

Commissioners

Magdalena Morales-Aina, L.P.C.-S.

Director

El Paso County Community Supervision
& Corrections Department

M. Connie Almeida, Ph.D.

Director of Behavioral Health

Fort Bend County Behavioral Health
Services

Hon. Devon Anderson

President & CEO

Justice Forward

Hon. Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt

Judge

449th District Court

Jason Bramow, J.D.

Assistant General Counsel

Office of the Governor

Hon. Nelda Cacciotti

Chief of the Mental Health Division

Tarrant County Criminal District
Attorney's Office

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

Executive Director

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Hon. Camile DuBose

Judge (Ret.)

38th Judicial District

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Committee & Commissioners

Hon. Alyse Ferguson

Of Counsel

Rosenthal Kalabus & Therrian

Associate Judge

Collin County Probate Court

Hon. Cynthia Porter Gore

Judge

City of Allen Municipal Court

Hon. Matt Hand

Judge

Potter County Court at Law No. 2

Blake Harris, Ph.D.

Director of Veterans Mental Health

Department

Texas Veterans Commission

Courtney Harvey, Ph.D.

State Mental Health Coordinator &

Associate Commissioner

Office of Mental Health Coordination,

Texas Health & Human Services

Commission

Hon. Joan Huffman

Senator, District 17

Texas Senate

Trina Ita, M.A., L.P.C.

Deputy Executive Commissioner for

Behavioral Health Services

Texas Health & Human Services

Commission

Hon. David W. Jahn

Judge

Denton County Probate Court No. 1

Hon. Oscar J. Kazen

Judge

Bexar County Probate Court No. 1

Adrienne Kennedy, M.A.

Past President; National Board Member

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Hon. M. Sue Kurita

Judge

El Paso County Court at Law No. 6

Beth Lawson, M.B.A.

Chief Executive Officer

StarCare Specialty Health System

Chief Mike Lee, M.A.

Director of Research & Development

Harris County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Elizabeth Byer Leonard

Judge

238th District Court

Yolanda Lewis, MPA

Executive Vice President for Justice &
Health

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Hon. Pam Liston

City Attorney

City of Decatur

Associate Judge

Town of Fairview

**Octavio Martinez, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.,
M.B.A.**

Executive Director

Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Committee & Commissioners

Hon. Stacey Mathews

Judge

277th District Court

Hon. Tyra Jones McCollum

Judge

Fort Bend County Court at Law No. 2

Beth Mitchell, J.D.

Litigation Coordinator

Disability Rights Texas

Hon. Joe Moody, J.D.

Representative, District 78

Texas House of Representatives

Hon. Brandy Mueller

Judge

403rd Criminal District Court

Hon. Roxanne Nelson

Justice of the Peace

Burnet County Precinct 1

Denise Oncken, J.D., M.B.A.

Bureau Chief (Ret.)

Harris County District Attorney's Office

Hon. Larry Phillips

Judge

59th District Court

Lee Pierson, J.D.

Chief Mental Health Prosecutor

Dallas County District Attorney's Office

Vickie Rice, J.D.

Interim Deputy Chief Public Defender

Dallas County Public Defender's Office

Scott Schalchlin, M.Ed., J.D.

Deputy Executive Commissioner for the

Health & Specialty Care System

Texas Health & Human Services

Commission

Prof. Brian Shannon, J.D.

Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished

Professor

Texas Tech University School of Law

Eric Smith, M.S., M.S.W.

Founder

Eric W. T. Smith Consulting

Matt Smith, L.P.C.-S.

Director of Statewide Youth Services

Continuum

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Hon. Selena Solis

Judge

243rd District Court

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. Victor Villarreal

Judge

Webb County Court at Law No. 2

Hon. Cynthia Wheless

Judge

417th District Court

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Committee & Commissioners

Steve Wohleb, J.D.

General Counsel

Texas Hospital Association

Brandon Wood

Executive Director

Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Hon. J.R. Woolley

Justice of the Peace

Waller County Precinct 2

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

Chief Executive Officer

The Harris Center

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

Reentry & Integration Division Director

Texas Correctional Office on Offenders

with Medical or Mental Impairments,

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Collaborative Council

Hon. Laura Barker

Judge

Williamson County Court at Law No. 2

Hon. Sheila Garcia-Bence

Judge

Cameron County Criminal Court No. 4

Kelsey Bernstein

Chief of Government Relations

Texas Council of Community Centers

Hon. Elizabeth Berry

First Assistant Public Defender

Concho Valley Public Defender's Office

Catherine Bialick, M.P.Aff.

*Director of Behavioral Health & Justice
Initiatives*

Texas Health & 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 & Health Policy

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Virginia Brown, Ph.D., M.A.

*Research Scholar in Social Justice &
Population Health*

The Hastings Center

Hon. Sarah Bruchmiller

Judge

368th District Court

Sonja Burns

Mental Health Advocate

Angel Carroll

*Director of Community Engagement &
Partnerships*

MEASURE

Hon. Jennifer Cates

Judge

Canyon Municipal Court

Daniela Chisolm, J.D.

Division Chief, Juvenile Unit

El Paso County Attorney's Office

Hon. Brad Clark

Judge

Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 5

Armando Colombo

President & Chief Executive Officer
The Menninger Clinic

Hon. Adolfo Cordova

Judge

197th District Court

Leah Davies, L.M.S.W.

Cause Programs Manager

CLEAN Cause Foundation

Colleen Davis, J.D.

Assistant County Attorney

Burnet County Attorney's Office

Hon. Karen Diaz

Justice of the Peace

San Patricio County Precinct 4

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Sgt. Shawn Edwards
Training Coordinator, Crisis Intervention
Unit #920
Burleson County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Drue Farmer
Board Chair
StarCare Lubbock

Lesli Fitzpatrick, J.D.
Director of Special Litigation
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Eric Fox
Law Enforcement Liaison
Central Counties Services

Krishnaveni Gundu
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Texas Jail Project

Rachel Hampton, L.M.S.W.
Chief Mission Officer
Lone Star Justice Alliance

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

Hon. James C. Henderson
Judge
Grayson County Court at Law No. 1

Angelita Hunter
Victim Advocate
Grayson Crisis Center

Hon. Echo Hutson
Judge
Montgomery County Court at Law No. 4

Hon. Sandra Jackson
Judge
302nd Judicial District 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

Hon. Rocky Jones
Judge
203rd District Court

Louise Joy, J.D.
Member
Reed Claymon, PLLC

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

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

Hon. Kirsten Legore
Judge
Guadalupe County Court at Law No. 2

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

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Katrina LeVert, J.D.

Assistant County Attorney
Fort Bend County Attorney's Office

Chris Lopez, J.D.

Assistant General Counsel, State Hospital
Texas Health & Human Services
Commission

Charles Mathias, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
University of Texas Health Science
Center San Antonio

Hon. Lela Mays

Judge
283rd Judicial District Court

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

Officer Brittany Moreno, M.A.

Mental Health Officer
Sugar Land Police Department

Hon. Kirk Noaker, Sr.

Consultant
National Task Group on Intellectual
Disabilities & Dementia Practices

Hon. Rita Noel

Student Support Services
Denison Independent School District

Evan Norton, Psy.D.

Deputy Executive Director
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

John Petrila, J.D.

Senior Executive Vice President of Policy
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Officer Terry Qualls

Crisis Intervention Coordinator
McKinney Police Department

Janis Reinken, J.D.

Chief Clerk (Fmr.)
House Committee on Corrections

Chris Ritter, J.D., M.Ed.

Chief Legal Counsel
State Bar of Texas

Trish Rivera

Rural Health Specialist
Texas Department of Agriculture

Michelle Romero, M.P.A.

Associate Director
Texas Medical Association

Simone Salloum, J.D.

Policy Attorney
Texas Health & Human Services
Commission

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Collaborative Council

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, M.S.

Program Manager
Texas Workforce Commission

Susan Scott, Ph.D., L.P.C.

*Manager of Community Interventions &
Supports*
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Melissa Shearer, J.D.

Director
Travis County Mental Health Public
Defender's Office

Jennie Simpson, Ph.D.

*Associate Commissioner & State Forensic
Director, Office of Forensic Coordination*
Texas Health & Human Services
Commission

Hon. Mike Smith

Judge
35th District Court

Sandra Smith, Ph.D.

Chief Programs Officer
One World Recovery Center

Lt. Scott Soland

Patrol Lieutenant
Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez

Judge
Bexar County Court at Law No. 13

Hon. Nancy Tanner

County Judge
Potter County

Gloria Terry

Chief Executive Officer
Texas Council on Family Violence

Jennifer Toon

Executive Director
Lioness Justice Impacted Women's
Alliance

Haley Turner, M.S.W.

*Deputy Executive Commissioner for
Community Services*
Texas Health & Human
Services Commission

Hon. Ryan Kellus Turner

Executive Director
Texas Municipal Courts
Education Center

Hon. Brian Keith Umphress

County Judge
Jack County

Sally Uncapher, J.D.

Assistant District Attorney
Bexar County District Attorney's Office

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Krista Varney, M.S.W.

Public Policy Coordinator

Texas Council on Family Violence

Nicole Weaver

*YES Waiver Manager, Mental Health and
Substance Use Programs*

Texas Health & Human Services
Commission

Thea Whalen, J.D.

Executive Director

Texas Justice Courts Training Center

Hon. Deborah Wigington

Judge

Comal County Court at Law No. 3

Hon. Angela Williams

Justice of the Peace

Williamson County Precinct 2

Thomas Wilson, J.D.

Assistant District Attorney, Civil Division

Smith County District Attorney's Office

Jay Wooten, J.D.

Chief Public Defender

Galveston County Misdemeanor Mental
Health Public Defender's Office

Hon. Michael York

Justice of the Peace

Lee County Precinct 2

**TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING**

January 31st, 2025

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Zoom – Virtual Meeting

Commissioner Attendees

Hon. Jane Bland, *Chair, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas*

Hon. Rebeca Huddle, *Deputy Liaison, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas*

Hon. Mary Lou Keel, *Deputy Liaison, Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals*

Hon. Bill Boyce, *Vice-Chair, Justice (Fmr.), 14th Court of Appeals; Partner, Alexander, Dubose & Jefferson*

Hon. Brent Carr, *Judge (Ret.), Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 9*

Hon. John Specia, Jr., *Judge (Ret.); Of Counsel, Mimari Anderson Clifone & Watkins*

Megan LaVoie, *Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration*

Dr. M. Connie Almeida, *Director, Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services*

Hon. Devon Anderson, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Justice Forward*

Jason Bramow, *Assistant General Counsel, Office of the Governor*

Hon. Nelda Cacciotti, *Chief of the Mental Health Division, Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office*

Dr. Evan Norton for **Shandra Carter**, *Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Justice Department*

Hon. Alyse Ferguson, *Of Counsel, Rosenthal Kalabus & Therrian; Associate Judge, Collin County Probate Court*

Hon. Matt Hand, *Judge, Potter County Court at Law No. 2*

Dr. Blake Harris, *Director of Veterans Mental Health Department, Texas Veterans Commission*

Dr. Courtney Harvey, *Associate Commissioner, Texas Health & Human Services Commission*

Trina Ita, *Deputy Executive Commissioner of Behavioral Health, Texas Health & Human Services Commission*

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

Adrienne Kennedy, *Past President, National Alliance on Mental Illness*

Beth Lawson, *Chief Executive Officer, StarCare Specialty Health System*

Chief Mike Lee, *Chief Deputy, Harris County Sheriff's Office*

Yolanda Lewis, *Executive Vice President for Justice and Health, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute*

Hon. Pamela Liston, *Associate Judge, Town of Fairview; City Attorney for Decatur, TX*
Dr. Octavio N. Martinez, Jr., *Executive Director, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health*
Beth Mitchell, *Litigation Coordinator, Disability Rights Texas*
Magdalena Morales-Aina, *Director, El Paso County Community Supervision & Corrections*
Rep. Joe Moody, *Representative, District 78, Texas House of Representatives*
Hon. Roxanne Nelson, *Justice of the Peace, Burnet County Precinct 1*
Denise Oncken, *Mental Health Bureau Chief (Ret.), Harris County District Attorney's Office*
Hon. Larry Phillips, *Judge, 59th District Court*
Lee Pierson, *Chief of Mental Health Division, Dallas County District Attorney's Office*
Vickie Rice, *Mental Health and Specialty Court Supervisor, Dallas County Public Defender's Office*
Scott Schalchlin, *Deputy Executive Commissioner, Texas Health & Human Services Commission*
Prof. Brian Shannon, *Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor, Texas Tech University School of Law*
Eric Smith, *Founder, Eric W.T. Smith Consulting*
Matt Smith, *Assistant Executive Director, Williamson County Juvenile Services*
Chief Stan Standridge, *Chief of Police, San Marcos Police Department*
Hon. Charles A. Stephens, *Judge, Comal County Court at Law No. 2*
Hon. Victor Villarreal, *Judge, Webb County Court at Law No. 2*
Hon. Cynthia Wheless, *Judge, 417th District Court*
Michael Sipes for Steve Wohleb, *General Counsel, Texas Hospital Association*
Brandon S. Wood, *Executive Director, Texas Commission on Jail Standards*
Hon. J.R. Woolley, *Justice of the Peace, Waller County Precinct No. 2*
Wayne Young, *Chief Executive Officer, The Harris Center*
April Zamora, *Director, Re-entry and Integration Division, Texas Department of Criminal Justice*

Welcome and Announcements

Justice Jane Bland announced the appointments of Chief Justice Jimmy Blacklock and Justice James Sullivan. Justice Bland expressed excitement for the future of judicial administration under Chief Justice Blacklock. She announced the elevation of Judge Jesse F. McClure III, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, to Chair of JCMH. Judge McClure has served as a Deputy Liaison since 2022. Justice Bland announced the appointment of Judge Mary Lou Keel, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, to Deputy Liaison. Judge Keel was elected to the Court of Criminal Appeals in 2016 following years of service as a trial judge in Harris County.

Judge Mary Lou Keel recognized the importance of the JCMH's work and expressed optimism for the future.

Justice Rebecca Huddle introduced herself to attendees. She has served as a JCMH Deputy Liaison for three years and serves as the Deputy Chair to the Children's Commission. She announced the retirement of Commissioners Dr. Andy Keller, Julie Wayman, and Andrea Richardson, recognizing their work and thanking them for their service. She announced the appointment of Yolanda Lewis, Executive Vice President for Justice and Health, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, to the Commission.

Executive Director Report

Kristi Taylor, Executive Director, informed attendees of her participation in a networking group hosted by the [National Center for State Courts](#). This group consists of those who hold similar roles to Ms. Taylor within each state's respective judicial branch and is an opportunity for JCMH to connect and learn. Ms. Taylor recognized that Texas was the first state with a permanent judicial commission on mental health. About twenty states now have at least one employee dedicated to the intersection of behavioral health and the courts. A few states are setting up commissions through their Supreme Court; others are creating positions through their Offices of Court Administration. Many are in charge of judicial education; some states focus on technical assistance, and some are conducting Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mappings. Another first in the nation led by JCMH is the [County Mental Health Law Plan](#)—a program to analyze and make improvements to the processes involving mental health law.

Ms. Taylor requested attendees share any positive outcomes from experiences with JCMH, as they will be beneficial to quantifying achievements during the legislative session. She highlighted Grayson County as an example. JCMH hosted a SIM mapping in Grayson County, and subsequent implementation of Jail-Based Competency Restoration reduced their waitlist to zero.

Ms. Taylor announced that a technology company would like to pilot with a county an app to track available beds in each local facility. She noted that JCMH and the Judiciary do not endorse any specific companies.

Ms. Taylor announced upcoming meetings and conferences in 2025:

- [Texas AOT Coalition](#) meetings, Feb. 14th, April 15th, August 15th, chaired by Kristi Taylor and Daniela Chisolm
- [Treatment Advocacy Center Symposium](#), March 27th-28th, Kristi Taylor and Daniela Chisolm are speakers
- [AllRise 2025 Conference](#), May 27th-31st
- [Treatment Advocacy Center – AOT Training](#), June 5th-6th
- [Correctional Management Institute TCA Conference](#), June 8th-11th

Ms. Taylor also presented to the [Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities](#) on January 24th, 2025.

Legislative Update

Justice Bill Boyce, Vice-Chair; Partner, Alexander, Dubose & Jefferson, informed attendees that this is the 3rd session in which the Commission collaborated with the Texas Judicial Council and legislators to identify, formulate, and promote specific pieces of legislation to improve the administration of justice. There are 13 proposals formulated by the Legislative Research Committee (LRC), spearheaded by Professor Brian Shannon.

Professor Brian Shannon, Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor, Texas Tech University School of Law, informed attendees that [JCMH recommendations](#) were unanimously adopted by the Texas Judicial Council and are currently under review by the Legislative Drafting Committee. The Legislative Research Committee will monitor proposals throughout the session. Professor Shannon highlighted other bills not proposed by JCMH but that have bearing on relevant statutes.

- SB 643 (Johnson): Expands proper venue for court-ordered mental health services applications; tracks JCMH proposal
- HB 1656 (Howard): Would grant emergency detention authority to paramedics
- HB 1583 (Hull): Makes changes to statutory Apprehension by a Peace Officer without a Warrant form
- HB 1938 (Campos): Expands emergency detention period to 72 hours from 48, revises language for commitment criteria
- HB 1239 (Guillen): Expands emergency detention period to 120 hours from 48
- HB 1461 (Frank): Requires transfer from jail to state hospital within 45 days; if not Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) required to reimburse county for additional jail days
- HB 227 (Hinojosa): Requires transfer from jail to state hospital within 21 days; if not HHSC required to reimburse county for additional jail days
- HB 1538 (Lalani): Grants physicians at facilities a 4-hour hold authority for voluntary patients

- HB 1455 (J. Jones): Requires law enforcement to explain why diversion was not pursued after certain arrests of persons with mental illness who might qualify for emergency detention.
- HB 2069 (Hull): Requires law enforcement to inform parents of child’s emergency detention so parents can seek voluntary care; requires trauma-informed practices
- HB 2161 (Gamez): Prevents purchase of firearms for 30 days following release from emergency detention

OCA and Texas Judicial Council Update

Megan LaVoie informed attendees that as of January 30th, 2025, there were 2,112 House Bills filed, 52 House Concurrent Resolutions, 108 House Joint Resolutions, 988 Senate Bills filed, 9 Senate Concurrent Resolutions, and 43 Senate Joint Resolutions for a total of 3,312 bills filed so far. OCA conducts a fiscal analysis of all bills and how much each bill will cost if they impact the judiciary. As of January 31st, OCA has received 679 of such fiscal notes. Ms. LaVoie highlighted two bills, Senate Bill 64 and House Bill 1692. SB 64 is a refiled bill by Senator Zaffirini relating to notice and filing requirements and court proceedings involving people with mental illness. HB 1692 from Representative Goodwin would create a criminal offense for transfer of a firearm to certain people with mental illness.

Ms. LaVoie highlighted a report from the State Auditor’s Office, [A Review of Competency Restoration Services for Inmates in County Jails](#). OCA has received requests about the report related to district and county clerks reporting mental health cases to the Department of Public Safety. About 40% of those that were on HHSC’s competency restoration waitlist were not reported to the Department of Public Safety. The requests ask questions about reporting and possible training for clerks.

Ms. LaVoie recognized two OCA published reports; one on their [Guardianship Program](#) and a new report on [The Hidden Backbone of Justice](#), a workload study required by the legislature on the workloads of judicial staff across the state. That study evaluated judicial staff workload, composition, pay rate, and needs and additional resources. The report can be utilized by Commissioners for financial requests to county leaders.

Ms. LaVoie informed attendees that OCA signed a contract for a [text reminder program](#) in August, and the program provides reminders for all case types. Thirty counties are signed up for the program and two counties (Tarrant & Hidalgo) have implemented it. Data has shown that text reminders can be one of the best ways to improve court appearances.

JIR Update

Hon. Brent Carr, Judge (Ret.) and JCMH Jurist in Residence, reported there were over 1100 attendees, including those in-person and virtually, at the [2024 JCMH Summit](#). With the help of Rose McBride, the Summit had attendees from all LMHAs and counties in Texas. The keynote presentation “[Boys in the Bunkhouse](#)” was rated amongst the top

presentations. Also highly rated was “[Diversion before the Diversion](#)” by JCMH Commissioner Vickie Rice and Collaborative Councilmember Judge Rocky Jones. All Summit presentations were selected as a favorite by an attendee. Judge Carr presented a [2024 Summit Highlight Reel](#) made by Rose McBride. More information can be found in the [January Commission Meeting Notebook](#) under Tab 5. Judge Carr reminded attendees that the [2025 Judicial Summit on Mental Health](#) is scheduled for October 7th and 8th in Houston, TX and the Commission Meeting is on Monday, October 6th, 2025.

Judge Carr learned through conversations with counties across the state that some counties were unfamiliar with JCMH, and many had not utilized JCMH resources. Judge Carr proposed the creation of a Rural Issues Committee to address Texas’ majority of rural counties and focus on technology and other solutions to distance problems. He is seeking assistance from interested attendees to create a formal proposal for the JCMH Executive Committee.

Hon. John J. Specia, Jr., Judge (Ret.) and JCMH Jurist in Residence, recognized Justice Boyce, Professor Shannon, and Megan LaVoie for their work before and during the legislative session. He informed attendees that he has begun working with a county following their participation in the JCMH County Mental Health Law Plan and noted the struggle that occurs when counties work to implement takeaways from SIM mappings, especially non-urban counties. Judge Specia highlighted the importance of judicial leadership, and expressed excitement to work with Rose McBride to provide webinars and other resources for judges and others to learn how judges can be leaders and make significant impact in this field.

Staff Updates

Molly Davis, Director of Operations, informed attendees of non-JCMH proposal bills relating to juvenile justice.

- HB 186 (Geren): Would ban social media accounts for minors
- HB 1821 (Bowers): Would require juvenile probation departments and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to provide information on records sealing process
- HB 1822 (Bowers): Would allow some determinate sentence cases to be sealed if not transferred to adult criminal court
- HB 1831 (Johnson): Would expand offenses eligible for juvenile drug courts, if prosecuting attorney agrees
- SB 661 (West) & SB 698 (West): Would create the Office of Youth Health & Safety

Ms. Davis informed attendees that JCMH will convene the Bench Book Committee in late April or early May and will be looking for assistance from juvenile law experts.

Ms. Davis reported on final training and technical assistance statistics for 2024. In 2024, JCMH provided education or training at 42 events, in 21 counties to over 3,000 attendees.

These numbers do not include training or education from the Summit or Summer Webinar Series. JCMH provides training on a wide variety of topics, including competency restoration, 16.22 process, ethics, specialty courts, juvenile law, and using multi-disciplinary collaboration to improve court efficiency. JCMH completed 79 other requests for technical assistance requests. These requests range from professional peer networking to expert consultation to SIM mapping. Those requests were from 41 counties and five states, serving over 400 people. JCMH relied on the assistance of many JCMH Commissioners and Collaborative Councilmembers in responding to these requests. Ms. Davis thanked all who helped. Ms. Davis reported JCMH has four upcoming SIM mappings all focused on juvenile justice. These are in Bell, Burleson, Gregg, and Kendall Counties. She highlighted that SIM mappings provide a way to analyze how the justice system interacts with the behavioral health system, strengthen those relationships, make new partnerships, and work on shared priorities for change.

Kama Harris, Director of Policy and Education, informed attendees that the post-Summit email was sent, including links to all recorded summit sessions, a reminder that professional continuing education credits can be obtained for watching recordings, a link to photos taken at the Summit, and top learning points. Ms. Harris presented a video on the 2024 Summit's [Top 15 Learning Points](#) created by Rose McBride. Ms. Harris invited attendees to join the Adult Bench Book Committee, which will convene following the legislative session, or join the Summit Committee.

Andy Perkins, Staff Attorney, provided updates on various JCMH committees. The Data Committee is meeting at 1:00 pm on February 13th and plans to build on the success of the [Best Practice Data Guide](#) to explore ways to use data to improve services and outcomes for everyone. The Substance Use Disorder will meet at 12:00 pm on February 28th. Mr. Perkins reported that JCMH has been working on the conclusion of the Court Liaison Pilot Program with the National Center for State Courts including exploring options for future efforts and tailoring an Implementation Guide

Michael Garcia, Legal Assistant, asked attendees to report any changes in their titles or contact information to JCMH staff. Mr. Garcia informed attendees that JCMH has many Code Books available for order.

Rose McBride, Communications Manager, reported that JCMH has published two new [Reimagining Justice](#) podcast episodes. December's episode highlighted Austin Downtown Community Court. January's episode covered jail-based competency restoration in Grayson County. February's episode features Keisha Morris, Chief SIM Officer, Andrews Center. Ms. Morris's role was created after JCMH provided a SIM mapping workshop to Smith County. Her role ensures that the county is following through with initiatives and priorities that were identified at the SIM mapping.

Ms. McBride reported that all 2024 Summit videos are available on the [JCMH YouTube Channel](#) and [website](#). There is a [form](#) available to submit for CLE credit after watching the videos. [JCMH's video library](#) was updated to categorize the new Summit videos by topic.

Ms. McBride provided an analysis of JCMH social media over the 2024 calendar year. [LinkedIn](#) was the most popular or viewed social media channel. She invited Commissioners and Collaborative Councilmembers to submit accomplishments or posts for JCMH to share and highlight on social media.

Break

Justice Bland recognized Representative Joe Moody, Texas House of Representatives, expressing gratitude for his attendance and his support of JCMH in the legislature.

Guest Presentations

Justice Rebecca Huddle informed attendees that Dr. Melissa Eshelman, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Dell Medical School and former JCMH Commissioner (2021-2024), could not attend, but provided a recorded presentation on [Personality Disorders](#).

Personality disorders are long-term and enduring patterns of behavior and inner experiences that differ significantly from what is expected of individuals. A person may develop a personality disorder from inherited genetics and environmental influences. Separate studies have shown the prevalence of personality disorders at 9.1% and 14.8% in the US population. A large proportion of those diagnosed with personality disorders have one or more mental health disorders, such as depression, anxiety, and substance use disorder. Personality disorders are treatable, especially when treated early in the course. No medications specifically treat personality disorders, but common treatments are dialectical behavior therapy, cognitive behavior therapy, group therapy, and psychoeducation. Thirty nine percent of those with personality disorders seek treatment.

Dr. Evanthe Collins, Vice President of IDD Services Division, The Harris Center, presented how [Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities \(LIDDAs\) identify children who may have an IDD](#).

Dr. Collin's discussed the complexities of identifying and supporting youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities within both the school system and community-based organizations, such as the Harris Center. Different governing bodies result in different diagnosis capabilities and eligibility criteria for schools and local IDD authorities (LIDDAs). Schools are responsible for identifying a broad range of disabilities whereas LIDDAs focus primarily on intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disability.

Despite the differences, there is confusion from families on how to navigate the different systems. The evaluation processes and eligibility criteria vary, with schools required to conduct full individual evaluations (FIE) and develop an individual education plan for educational support, while LIDDAs conduct a Determination of Intellectual Disability (DID) evaluation to qualify individuals for state general revenue funded services. However,

the processes are not always aligned, and families may be uncertain whether they need separate evaluations or if one evaluation can meet both needs.

Funding disparities present another challenge in places like Harris County, where there has been a 62% increase in the population needing services, but funding has decreased by 50%. The criminal justice system faces difficulties properly identifying youth with ID or ASD, often leading to these individuals being underserved or misidentified. The Harris Center created a layman's tool to help non-mental health professionals identify potential cases of ID or ASD. There remains a need for better screening, clearer pathways for service access, and increased resources to ensure individuals with these conditions receive the support needed to thrive within the educational system and broader community.

In answering attendee questions, Dr. Collins highlighted that stigma around IDD is prevalent and it results in those needing services not reaching out until it is a crisis, sometimes when they are older than 30 already. This limits the access to school records. The Harris Center will, with consent, conduct the research for those patients at previous schools and with doctors. She informed attendees that if a member of the judiciary were to flag an individual as potentially having ID or ASD, possibly through the Harris Center's tool, they will take over with their psychologist, who will complete an evaluation. She informed attendees that the DID process is the same for children and adults, and the only difference is the need for background research for adults.

Dr. Collins provided additional materials to attendees before the meeting (those resources may be found under the January 31, 2025 Commission Meeting section on the [JCMH website](#)).

Partner Organization Updates

Chief Mike Lee, Chief Deputy, Harris County Sheriff's Office, reported that he has been present at the Texas Capitol as bills are filed relating to law enforcement and mental health. He reported that law enforcement entities disagree with adding additional burdens on law enforcement but support expansion bills that would give emergency detention authority to paramedics. Chief Lee stated law enforcement would support expanding that authority to mental health professionals.

Chief Lee updated attendees that he has retired from active police service. He remains employed by the Harris County Sherriff's Office in his new role as the Director of Strategic Projects and Legislative Liaison.

Chief Lee brought attention to HB 2103 (Ashby), relating to the adoption of a mental health leave policy for certain jailers. He recommended attendees bring attention of this bill to their local sheriffs.

Trina Ita, Deputy Executive Commissioner for Behavioral Health, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, reported that HHSC has been working on the [Children's Behavioral Health Strategic Plan](#). Ms. Ita recognized Dr. Courtney Harvey's leadership in

convening stakeholders to discuss building a continuum of care for youth and families, addressing gaps in the system. She reported there has been investment from the legislature in previous years on the subject, and there is a current need to have a more focused conversation on the needs of children. A current challenge in Texas is parents relinquishing custody due to concerns of access to behavioral healthcare for high needs children. Ms. Ita informed attendees that HHSC has concluded this work and published a report. She highlighted that there is strong collaboration with the Department of Family Protective Services and TJJD on addressing the behavioral health needs of children, including discussions with policymakers.

Scott Schalchlin, Deputy Executive Commissioner, Texas Health & Human Services Commission, provided a [presentation](#) giving an update on state hospitals. Mr. Schalchlin reported that the maximum-security waitlist has decreased by nearly 50% from July 2023 to December 2024, and the non-maximum-security waitlist has stabilized, with an overall reduction of about 700-800 people since December 2023. Hospital capacity has increased from 1,937 beds in January 2024 to 2,041 beds, and the average daily census has risen from about 1,220 in January 2022 to over 1,900. Ongoing construction and expansion projects include the Texas Behavioral Health Center at UTSW Medical Center, expected to open late this year, along with new facilities in the Panhandle, El Paso, Harlingen, and San Antonio to add additional beds, particularly for forensic patients. State hospital replacements in Terrell and North Texas will also add 75 forensic beds each. Additionally, local hospitals will add new mental health inpatient facilities in the Rio Grande Valley, Montgomery County, and Victoria County, contributing hundreds of new forensic beds. Legislative support has been crucial in facilitating these expansions and increasing capacity to meet growing demand.

Dr. Octavio Martinez, Jr., Executive Director, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, reported that the Hogg Foundation has published the 2024 (6th Edition) [Guide to Understanding Mental Health Systems and Services in Texas](#). The guide is a data-driven and evidence-based resource on mental health and substance use systems and services, funding, and various policy issues. This is the first year the guide has been published online only. Dr. Martinez reported that the Hogg Foundation's policy unit at the Texas Capitol serve as an educational resource and provide information on their policy priorities. The [policy priorities](#) fall under three categories, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Access to Mental Health Resources.

Yolanda Lewis, Executive Vice President for Justice and Health, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, reported that Meadows continues to aid the criminal justice system to respond to individuals who may have mental health issues. She provided an update on Meadows' attempt to secure funding to aid the entire state of Texas to address 911 calls and crisis responses. They hope to hear more on this in April. This is an opportunity provided to Michigan, Ohio, and Texas, to invest deeply in crisis response across the board and work with local communities to expand innovative systems. Meadows is working with local communities and partners on addressing intergenerational trauma and brain health for children. The goal is to support the court system and address the needs of these children.

Dr. Blake Harris, Director of Veterans Mental Health Department, Texas Veterans Commission, reported that the Justice-Involved Veteran Program is providing an annual review of the veteran treatment court progress to the legislature. The program is publishing a bench card for judges across the state. They previously published a veteran-specific sequential intercept model for justice-involved veterans and provided a series of webinars with the National Justice Involved Veteran Network. The program continues to work with the Network, focusing on specific parts of the intercept, including creating discussion panels.

Dr. Harris reported that the Texas Veterans Commission is tracking legislative bills that prioritize veteran mental health. He brought attention to HB 153 (Raymond), relating to the eligibility of service members and veterans to participate in a veterans' treatment court program. Dr. Harris stated the change would be a paradigm shift from the goodness of fit model that most specialty courts work under now. He informed attendees that there are additional bills related to providing training on veterans' mental health needs to jailers. Dr. Harris recommended attendees utilize the [Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Progress Report](#) as a resource to gathering the state agency perspective and recommendations.

Dr. Evan Norton, Deputy Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, on behalf of Shandra Carter, expressed optimism in the current budget bills of the Texas House and Senate. Those bills include salary increases for direct care staff and significant investment for increased capacity for diversion and early intervention. TJJD, with Meadows, is conducting resource mapping across the state. Dr. Norton invited attendees to collaborate with TJJD on devising a pathway for youth with mental and behavioral health needs to use TJJD resources without the need for formal adjudication.

April Zamora, Director, Re-entry and Integration Division, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, reported completion of the sunset review process. The process merged the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) into the new Re-entry and Integration Division. This division is based on the TCOOMMI model, but the programs merged into a continuity of care process for those in prison programs. The division includes therapeutic communities and has special needs programs available for those with mental health disorders or intellectual and developmental disabilities. TCOOMMI will now be involved in the screening process for these programs to ensure proper placement. The division will be working with the TCOOMMI Advisory Committee to discuss development of the continuity of care path. The goal is to centralize treatment.

Ms. Zamora reported the Division still has an exceptional item on the TDCJ budget request for \$12 million to support existing services through contracted LMHAs. Additionally, their legislative request includes funding for 180 additional beds for their three duly diagnosed residential facilities. These facilities are utilized for diversion before adjudication while ensuring continuity of care without leaving the community.

Ms. Zamora reported that TCOOMMI published their [biannual report](#). TDCJ has launched their peer support specialist program with 15 specialists actively launched and another 36 in training through a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant.

Brandon Wood, Executive Director, Texas Commission on Jail Standards, requested that attendees review the Advisory Committee's Legislative Report. He expressed hope for the next legislative session that the legislative report will include more recommendations and actionable items addressing the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the justice system. Mr. Wood reported tracking of the issues faced by individuals with dementia in the criminal justice system.

Alexander Comsudi, Grant Attorney & Administrator, Court of Criminal Appeals, reported that Judge David Newell is the new liaison for the Court of Criminal Appeals Judicial and Court Personnel Training Program. The program supports statewide legal education for judges, attorneys, court personnel, law enforcement, and law students. Currently six of the Court's grantees train on mental health with a pending application from the Center for American and International Law for mental health funding. He invited attendees to reach out to his office for more information on the trainings provided by the Court's grantees.

Meeting Adjourned

Justice Jane Bland thanked attendees for coming and announced the next commission meeting on April 9th at the Texas Law Center.



**TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION
ON MENTAL HEALTH**

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

April 9, 2025

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 designed to bring together experts to solve systemic problems. The JCMH Legislative Research Committee is an example of multidisciplinary stakeholders working together to create legislation recommendations for the Texas Judicial Council. Below are descriptions of the JCMH committees as well as other collaborative efforts of the JCMH.

1. Commission

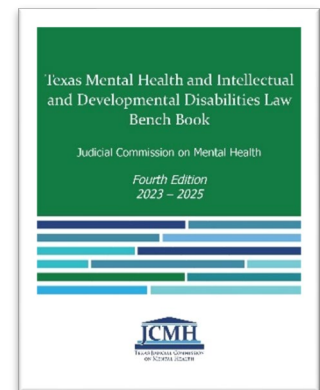
Commissioners guide and direct the JCMH staff with the benefit of their wide range of experiences and responsibilities. The Commission sits three times a year, collaborating to promote best practices and improve the function of the judiciary for those with mental health, substance use, and IDD needs. Commissioners also participate in additional collaborative events on occasion and serve three-year renewable terms (most recently appointed or reappointed on January 1, 2024).

2. Collaborative Council

The Collaborative Council keeps the JCMH updated on emerging issues in the field. JCMH staff holds online meetings in which the 83 Collaborative Council members can learn about new initiatives and share their organization's conferences, projects, and best practices from around the state. The Collaborative Council met once already in 2025, on February 11, and will meet again on May 13 and September 9. After each meeting, JCMH staff provide links to resources that were mentioned during the meeting. [Materials](#) from past meetings and upcoming scheduled meetings can be found on the JCMH website.

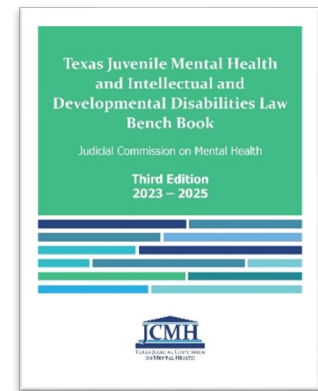
3. JCMH Bench Book Committee

The JCMH Bench Book Committee is chaired by Judge Camile DuBose. The Committee developed the first edition of the Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book in 2018. In October 2023, the Committee published its 4th Edition in print and [online](#). To date, over 800 copies have been distributed. The Committee will begin preparations for the 5th Edition during the Summer of 2025.



4. Juvenile Bench Book Committee

The Juvenile Bench Book Committee is chaired by Judge Cynthia Wheless. The Committee launched the Texas Juvenile Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book (commonly called the Juvenile Bench Book) in 2020. In 2023, the Committee published the 3rd edition in print and [online](#). To date, over 600 print copies have been distributed.



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 presentations promote the JCMH mission and are at the forefront of this dynamic legal field. [Summit Proposal Requests](#) are now open and are due April 16, 2025. The Committee is scheduled to meet in May 2025 to prepare the agenda for the 8th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health.

6. Legislative Research Committee

JCMH Vice Chair Bill Boyce chairs the Legislative Research Committee (LRC), which creates legislative proposals to improve the administration of justice and submits them to the Texas Judicial Council. Professor Brian Shannon leads the drafting subcommittee. In November 2023, the LRC began preparing for the 89th Legislative Session and met several times through spring and summer of 2024. Thirteen proposals were submitted to the Texas Judicial Council, which adopted them all unanimously in September 2024. The 2024 JCMH Legislative Recommendations and Report can be found [here](#).

7. Substance Use Disorder Committee

Judge Roxanne Nelson chairs the Substance Use Disorder Committee. The Committee has met three times since its formal inception on September 24, 2024, and is prioritizing judicial education on substance use disorder issues, juvenile-specific substance abuse issues, and interventions before re-entry.

8. 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.

9. Long-Term Planning Committee

The Long-Term Planning Committee, chaired by Judge John Specia, Jr., has focused on setting longer-term goals and offering feedback on potential JCMH projects. 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 20, 2022, the [2023 Strategic Plan](#) was approved by the Commission and Executive Committee.

10. Data Committee

The Data Committee, chaired by Dr. Connie Almeida and Chief Rosie Medina, has finalized a [Best Practice Guide to Texas Mental Health Court Program Data Collection and Use](#), and is collaborating on a parallel effort in the Office of Court Administration.

Additional Committee work is focused on identifying gaps and inefficiencies in current systems to offer advice and education on ameliorating those issues, including in the areas of civil commitments, distinctions between mental health and IDD concerns in court proceedings, and ongoing focus on 16.22 collection and use.

11. JCMH Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of Justice Jane Bland, Judge Jesse McClure III, Justice Rebeca Huddle, Judge Gina Parker, 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. 8th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health

The 2025 Summit will take place on October 6-8, 2025, at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria in Houston, Texas. As in prior years, the Summit will offer a web simulcast for attendees who are unable to travel in person. This year we are looking for presentations that cover AOT, emergency detention, civil commitment, law enforcement diversion, early identification, mental health courts, competency restoration, and re-entry. [Proposal Requests](#) are now open and are due April 16, 2025. This year the Summit is projected to have tracks divided by rural and urban/suburban as well as adult and youth.

2. Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book

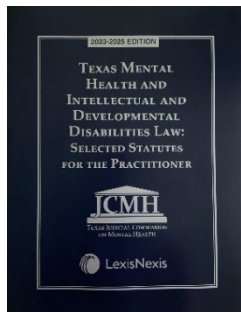
The Bench Book is a 358-page book for Texas judges hearing cases regarding persons with mental illness and/or IDD. Each section contains applicable statutory processes, relevant best practices and guidance, and cross-references to mandatory forms. The fourth edition of the Bench Book added over 100 pages of new material and forms, including an index, and

was released in October 2023 at the Judicial Summit on Mental Health. A digital version of the 4th Edition is currently available on the JCMH website.

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, and suggested forms. The third edition of the Juvenile Bench book was released at the 2023 Judicial Summit on Mental Health. A digital version of the 3rd edition is currently available on the JCMH website.

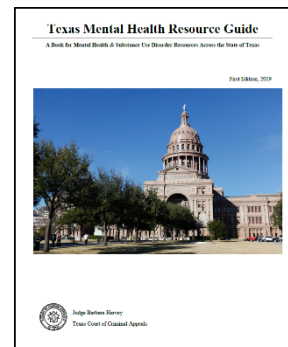
4. Mental Health [Code Book](#)



The JCMH, building on the work of Chris Lopez at HHSC, created the *Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law: Selected Statutes for the Practitioner*, a collection of Texas statutes related to mental health and IDD in one convenient volume. The Code Book was updated and streamlined following the 88th Legislative Session. Print copies can be ordered by sending an email to JCMH@txcourts.gov and a digital version is available on the JCMH website.

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@Texascourts.gov.



6. Jurist in Residence Letters

Judge John Specia, Jr., Senior District Judge (Ret.) and Judge Brent A. Carr (Ret.) distribute letters to keep judges, attorneys, and other stakeholders updated on relevant changes to the law and share helpful resources and tools. Two letters were sent in 2024 and recent topics include information about the competency restoration webinar series, Summit registration details, and applications for the Treatment Courts Collaborative. All previously released Jurist-in-Residence letters are available on our website, [here](#).

7. Resource Letters

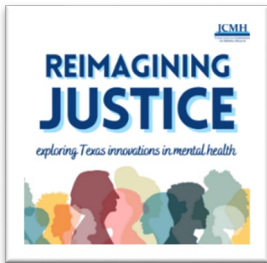
Resource Letters are short communiques designed to quickly disseminate information and announcements about resources and training opportunities for stakeholders. JCMH has issued two Resource Letters so far in 2025, including information on grants, helpful publications, and training and education opportunities. All previous Resource Letters are available [here](#).

8. JCMH Website

The JCMH website offers resources and information to support collaboration between the judicial and mental health systems. It features information about initiatives including [mental health courts](#), training programs, and [technical assistance](#) tools. The site provides access to [publications](#), including reports and guides, and promotes events like the annual [Judicial Summit on Mental Health](#). Additionally, users can explore resources related to mental health law, treatment courts, and specific programs like the County Mental Health Law Plan. Recently added to the website is the “[News](#)” homepage, which features news from across the state relating to the intersection of mental health and justice.

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, 24 episodes have been released. Our March episode dives into the work of the Court Liaison pilot programs in Denton and Grayson Counties. Email JCMH staff if you have an innovative program in your county that you would like to see highlighted.



10. Legislative Materials

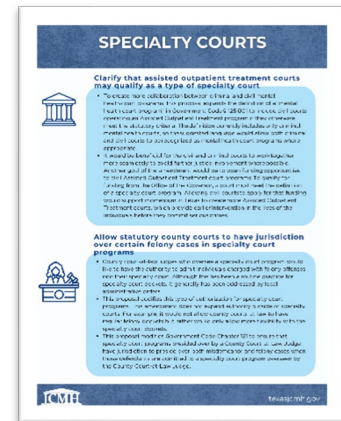
The JCMH prepares tools and resources regarding mental health and IDD legislation.

In advance of the 89th legislative session, thirteen proposals were submitted to the Texas Judicial Council, which unanimously adopted them all in September 2024. The 2024 JCMH Legislative Recommendations and Report can be found [here](#). Summaries of these proposals can be found [here](#).

11. Presentations to Partner Organizations

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

- March 28, 2025, Molly Davis presented “The Intersection of Mental Health and Juvenile Justice,” at the Texas Association of Counties Spring Judicial Seminar in Lubbock, Texas.
- March 26, 2025, Kristi Taylor presented “Collaborative Care in Forensic Psychiatry for AOT Courts,” at Treatment Advocacy Center’s 2025 National AOT Symposium and Learning Collaborative in Annapolis, Maryland.
- February 27, 2025, Molly Davis and Rose McBride presented “Telling Your Agency’s Story,” at the State Agency Quality, Process Improvement, and Innovation Subcommittee meeting.



- January 24, 2025, Kristi Taylor presented the JCMH Legislative Proposals at the quarterly meeting of the Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities.
- January 17, 2025, Kristi Taylor was the guest speaker on the Austin Bar Association’s “Stop the Stigma,” podcast in Austin, Texas.
- January 10, 2025, Kama Harris presented on Competency Restoration at the Bexar County Managed Assigned Counsel Office in San Antonio, Texas.

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

In 2024, JCMH launched a pilot program called the [Texas County Mental Health Law Plan](#), in which the eight participating counties received four classes on Texas Mental Health Law, a checklist for self-analysis, and in-person workshops offering hands-on assistance, tools, and resources to support their work in creating a County Mental Health Law Plan. 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 were asked to create a multidisciplinary team, if one did not already exist, that would review the JCMH Mental Health Law Checklist and then complete a template reflecting the county’s current and future policies related to the relevant mental health law issues according to the Sequential Intercept Model. The JCMH has provided reports containing each county’s current practices, policies, and opportunities for growth discussed in the on-site workshops to each county’s team leader.

2. Court Liaison Pilot Project

The JCMH is wrapping up the first phase of the Court Liaison Pilot Project to support a position focused on identification of individuals with mental illness charged with nonviolent misdemeanor offenses and connection to appropriate treatment. Denton, Grayson, and Smith Counties were the initial pilot locations, and each hired a Coordinator in Fall 2021. Results from this cohort are encouraging, and JCMH is requesting funding for an additional pilot round in new counties to continue implementing positive change in addressing issues at the intersection of criminal justice and mental health on the local level.

3. Competency Restoration Webinar Series

In the summer of 2024, JCMH produced a three-part series of [webinars](#) approved for CLE credit on various aspects of competency restoration law. Over 800 people attended the sessions, which were recorded and are available on the [JCMH website](#).

4. 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. In December 2022, a Round Table on complex issues in Emergency Detention proceedings was held; the [report](#) is available on the JCMH website.

5. 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 treatment court programs. In 2024, JCMH held 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 culminated at the Texas Association of Specialty Courts Conference in March 2024 in Fort Worth. Judges from seven counties participated in the

Collaborative. The Collaborative was offered again in 2025 in an expanded format that included treatment courts related to substance use. In total, both cohorts of the Collaborative served 10 judges whose courts reach 36 counties.

JCMH also provides Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshops to communities, and in 2024 and 2025 will target juvenile justice systems for mapping workshops. So far in 2025, JCMH has completed youth mappings in Bell and Burleson Counties and plans to map Gregg and Kendall Counties later in the year.



6. Innovations Map

The County Resources and Innovations in Mental Health Map ([Innovations Map](#)) allows user submissions to identify resources available to every Texas community, and the map has been redesigned to allow a specific focus on juvenile resources and highlight notable milestones and innovations, both locally and statewide.

Judicial Commission on Mental Health FY2025

April 2025 Financial Report

FY2025 Available Funds

FY2025 JCMH Funding	
FY2024 Appropriation - 13011	\$ 1,350,000
FY2025 COLA - 13011	\$ 70,740
CCA - Summit	\$ 20,000
FY2025 Funds Available	\$ 1,440,740

FY2025 Budget vs. Actuals

	Actual	Budget	Balance
Operating	\$ 364,356	\$ 818,518	\$ 454,162
Commission Projects	\$ 93,836	\$ 479,250	\$ 385,414
Scholarships	\$ 178	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,822
Grants	\$ 102,600	\$ 111,558	\$ 8,958
Total	\$ 560,970	\$ 1,429,326	\$ 868,356

Financial Status as of November 2024

FY2025 Funds Available	\$ 1,440,740
Expenditures to Date	\$ (560,970)
FY2025 Fund Balance	\$ 879,770
Budgeted Expenditures Outstanding	\$ (868,356)
FY2025 Unobligated Funds	\$ 11,414



**TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
YEAR END REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
-2024-**

April 9th, 2025

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JCMH Strategic Plan

I. Mission, Principles, and Vision

A. Mission

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

B. Principles

The JCMH promotes our mission through:

1. Leadership in identifying and informing improvements in serving those who encounter the justice system with behavioral health needs and intellectual and developmental disabilities.
2. Education and resource collaboration for community diversion from justice system encounters, when appropriate for the individual's health and community safety.
3. Collaboration aimed at raising awareness of available treatments of mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities as a justice system partner.
4. Education about the social determinants of justice system involvement for those with behavioral health needs and intellectual and developmental disabilities.
5. Education about treatments and recovery, including trauma-informed care, to further judicial leadership in these efforts in mental health courts and beyond.
6. Education about best practices that are data-driven, evidence-based, outcome-focused, accessible, and reportable at every intercept of the criminal justice system.
7. Education about the lived experiences of individuals and peer programs as an integral part of recovery.
8. Education aimed at reducing the stigma associated with mental health challenges, as it decreases empathy, understanding, and connection to treatment.
9. Collaboration in data collection and data sharing—necessary to measure and improve outcomes—and with technological assistance to improve accessibility to services for those in the justice system.
10. Education about secondary trauma and the development of resiliency and workforce wellness for those who work with traumatized individuals.

C. Vision

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

II. Implementation

A. Collaborate

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

B. Educate

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

C. Lead

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

III. Organization

A. Governance

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

B. Human Resources and Communications

1. Select Commissioners and Collaborative Council based on an array of expertise and backgrounds.

2. Select and retain a highly qualified staff.
3. Share JCMH projects and resources through a variety of media.
4. Provide information about the JCMH and opportunities to get involved to stakeholders—including members of the judiciary, legal community, law enforcement, mental health providers, advocacy groups, and interested members of the public.

C. Evaluation

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

2024 Goals and Deliverables

I. Strategies and Activities

A. Collaborate

1. **Collaborate with stakeholders to collect and analyze data, practices, law, and policy with the goal of improving court function for people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.**
 - a. **Prepare legislative priorities for the upcoming 89th Regular Session.**
 - i. In advance of the 89th Legislative Session, the Legislative Research Committee completed and submitted this [final report and recommendations](#) to the Texas Judicial Council.
 - ii. On September 27th, the [Texas Judicial Council adopted](#) all 16 of the JCMH recommendations.
 2. **Seek consensus on interpretation and implementation of mental health laws, explore different perspectives, and record findings.**
 - a. **Solicit feedback and input at regional and local forums, focus groups, and trainings.**
 - i. Held general and subcommittee meetings:
 - 1) January 5, 2024 Mental Health Courts Collaborative
 - 2) January 18, 2024 Specialty Courts Meetup
 - 3) January 18, 2024 Data Committee Meeting
 - 4) January 25, 2024 Commission Meeting
 - 5) February 2, 2024 Mental Health Courts Collaborative
 - 6) February 5, 2024 Small Legislative Research Committee Workgroup
 - 7) February 6, 2024 Collaborative Council Meeting
 - 8) February 13, 2024 Legislative Research Committee
 - 9) February 15, 2024 Specialty Courts Meetup
 - 10) February 16, 2024 Texas AOT Coalition
 - 11) March 1, 2024 Mental Health Courts Collaborative
 - 12) March 4, 2024 Small Legislative Research Committee Workgroup
 - 13) March 7, 2024 Executive Chair Meeting
 - 14) March 14, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting
 - 15) March 18, 2024 Small Legislative Research Committee Workgroup
 - 16) March 21, 2024 Specialty Courts Meetup
 - 17) April 10, 2024 Legislative Research Committee
 - 18) April 12, 2024 Commission Meeting
 - 19) April 18, 2024 Data Committee

20)	April 19, 2024	Texas AOT Coalition
21)	May 14, 2024	Collaborative Council Meeting
22)	May 16, 2024	Specialty Courts Meetup
23)	May 23, 2024	Executive Committee Meeting
24)	June 21, 2024	Summit Committee Chair Meeting
25)	July 3, 2024	Data Committee Chair Meeting
26)	July 12, 2024	Summit Committee Meeting
27)	July 18, 2024	Specialty Courts Meetup
28)	August 15, 2024	Specialty Courts Meetup
29)	August 16, 2024	Texas AOT Coalition
30)	August 29, 2024	Executive Committee Meeting
31)	September 10, 2024	Collaborative Council Meeting
32)	September 19, 2024	Specialty Courts Meetup
33)	September 24, 2024	Substance Use Disorder Committee Meeting
34)	October 17, 2024	Specialty Courts Meetup
35)	October 17, 2024	Data Committee Meeting
36)	October 24, 2024	Executive Committee Meeting
37)	November 20, 2024	Commission Meeting
38)	November 21, 2024	2024 Judicial Summit on Mental Health
39)	November 21, 2024	Substance Use Disorder Committee Meeting
40)	December 9, 2024	Executive Chair Meeting
41)	December 12, 2024	Executive Committee Meeting
42)	December 19, 2024	Specialty Courts Meetup

3. Explore potential partnerships to promote early awareness and education about mental health, substance use disorders, and IDD in the court system.

a. Continue to collaborate with partner organizations to promote and enhance their work.

i. Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):

1. Held quarterly meetings with the Office of the Forensic Director to collaborate on SIM Mapping strategies.
2. Participated in a bi-weekly Task Force led by State Hospitals to update and rewrite the curriculum and study guide used in fitness restoration services for youth in State Hospitals or State Supported Living Centers.
3. Participated in the creation of the Children’s Behavioral Health Strategic Plan led by the Office of the Mental Health Statewide Coordinator and the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.

- ii. Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC) – Served as faculty for statewide Judicial Trainings on Mental Health Resources including Mental Health First Aid. Provided updated resource materials for their use.
- iii. Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Policy – Completed participation in two-year audit of the Hogg Policy Fellowship Academy.
- iv. Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute – Participating in the Youth Justice Continuum of Care, which will develop a statewide Continuum of Care model from September 2024 to December 2025, focused on diverting youth from the justice system and ensuring communities have access to evidence-based mental health services.
- v. JCMH attorneys collaborated with and spoke at conferences for the Center for American and International Law, Justice Court Training Center, Texas Association of Pretrial Services, Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, NAMI Texas, Texas Association of Counties, Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities, Texas Association of Specialty Courts, Texas Municipal Court Education Center, and the Williamson County Bar Association.

B. Educate

1. Develop high-quality, multi-disciplinary education in coordination with state and national training experts and raise awareness of best practices and areas requiring improvement.

a. Create, promote, and lead the Seventh Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health.

- i. The 2024 Judicial Summit on Mental Health took place on November 21-22, 2024, in Allen, Texas.
 - 1) 1,183 registrants (407 in person and 776 livestream)
 - 2) A representative from every Texas county and every Texas LMHA registered to attend.
 - 3) Secured 9.75 continuing education credits with 4.5 ethics hours. An additional 4.5 hours are available by video after the Summit.
- ii. Held multiple Summit Curriculum Committee meetings (full committee & committee chair/internal)

b. Provide specialized mental health law training to at least six counties or regions.

- i. Provided individualized mental health trainings on civil commitment, early intervention, competency restoration, and Mental Health Courts to eight pilot counties for the County Mental Health Law Plan.
 - 1) Medina County – May 8, 2024
 - 2) Fort Bend County – June 11, 2024
 - 3) Burleson County – June 26, 2024
 - 4) El Paso County – July 24, 2024
 - 5) Burnet County – August 5, 2024
 - 6) Hays County – August 7, 2024
 - 7) Duval County – September 10, 2024
 - 8) Travis County – September 27, 2024
- 2. **Create and provide tools and resources on key concepts and court procedures related to mental health, substance use, or IDD.**
 - a. **Create new resources for mental health laws, mental health procedures, and mental health courts.**
 - i. Data Guide created by the Data Committee released November 21, 2024.
 - ii. County Mental Health Law Plan and Checklist
 - b. **Create at least four new videos for the video library on mental health law.**
 - i. Online trainings created by JCMH staff for the County Mental Health Law Plan (CMHLP).
 - 1) January 26, 2024, [CMHLP Training Session on Civil Commitment](#)
 - 2) February 9, 2024, [CMHLP Training Session on Early Intervention](#)
 - 3) February 23, 2024, [CMHLP Training Session on Specialty Courts](#)
 - 4) March 8, 2024, [CMHLP Training Session on Competency Restoration](#)
 - ii. JCMH Summer Webinar Series on Competency Restoration
 - 5) June 20, 2024, [What You Need to Know About Competency Restoration](#)
 - 6) July 25, 2024, [Law & Process of Jail-Based Competency Restoration and Court-Ordered Medications](#)

- 7) August 15, 2024, [Options for People who are Deemed Unrestorable](#)
- iii. Recorded Sessions from JCMH Staff that are also archived in JCMH video library
 - 8) July 9, 2024, Center for American and International Law, Competency Restoration Seminar, [Not Competent / Not Restorable, What's Next?](#)
- c. Expand Innovations Map to include resources for youth (Exceptional Item).**
 - i. The County Mental Health Resources and Innovations Map was updated on April 19, 2024, to allow filtering by age group and also to specifically highlight community resources and innovations.
- 3. Strive to serve as both a statewide and national leader in mental health, substance use, and IDD law and practice.**
 - a. Speak at no fewer than twelve partner events including national and statewide conferences.**
 - i. February 22, 2024, [TMCEC Prosecutors Seminar](#), Mental Health in Municipal Courts
 - ii. February 27, 2024, [37th Annual Juvenile Law Conference](#), Ethics in Complex Chapter 55 Cases
 - iii. February 28, 2024, NAMI State Advocacy Network, Mental Health Law Looking Toward the Next Legislative Sessions
 - iv. March 12, 2024, HHSC Jail In-Reach Presentation, Mental Health & Jails
 - v. March 26, 2024, [Texas Association of Specialty Courts Conference](#), Ethics in Juvenile Court
 - vi. March 27, 2024, [Texas Association of Specialty Courts Conference](#), Ethical Considerations for Specialty Courts
 - vii. March 29, 2024, [Texas Association of Counties Spring Judicial Education Session](#); Mental Health in Juvenile Court
 - viii. April 4, 2024, Spring 2024 Mental Health Workshop; The History of Treatment Courts
 - ix. April 17, 2024, [Texas Association of Pretrial Services Annual Conference](#); Mental Health in Texas: Updates to the 17.032 Process
 - x. April 19, 2024, [National Rural Justice Collaborative](#), Rural Strategies in Mental Health Law
 - xi. June 14, 2024, Travis County Juvenile Probation Department; Mental Health for Juvenile Probation Officers

- xii. June 20, 2024, Texas HHSC Office of the Forensic Director; Competency Restoration Resources
- xiii. July 9, 2024, Center for American and International Law; Competency Restoration Seminar, [Not Competency / Not Restorable, What is Next?](#)
- xiv. August 23, 2024, Pathways to Hope Conference, co-presenting with Judge Yolanda Huff
- xv. August 27, 2024, Mental Health Law class at the University of Houston School of Law in Houston, Texas.
- xvi. September 19, 2024, Williamson County Inns of Court; Complexities in Texas Competency Restoration Law.
- xvii. October 10, 2024, The Texas Coalition for Healthy Minds & the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health inaugural Behavioral Health Policy Summit; Behavioral health policy issues in the upcoming Legislative Session.
- xviii. October 26, 2024, American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law's 55th Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia; Collaborative Care in Forensic Psychiatry: A Proposal for the Innovative Collaboration Between Academic Psychiatry and the Local Justice System
- xix. November 1, 2024, Williamson County Bar Association, Complexities in Texas Competency Restoration Law.

C. Lead

1. **Identify and prioritize the needs of the judiciary and judicial stakeholders to improve courts' ability to serve people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.**
 - a. **Use surveys, focus groups, and other research methods to identify the needs and priorities of the judiciary.**
 - i. Created new JCMH Substance Use Disorder Committee – met online on September 24, 2024, and November 21, 2024 at the Summit.
 - ii. February 2024, Lubbock County SIM Mapping Workshop
 - iii. August 2024, Duval County SIM Mapping Workshop co-facilitated with Texas Justice Courts Training Center
 - b. **Host Youth SIM Mappings (Exceptional Item).**
 - i. November 2024, Cameron County
 - ii. October 2024, Smith County
 - iii. September 2024, Grayson County

- iv. April through August 2024, Williamson County, co-facilitated with Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
 - v. April 2024, Blanco and Llano Counties
- 2. Serve as a resource in the development of policy, legislation, and practice recommendations, including policy recommendations for consideration by the Texas Judicial Council.**
- a. Begin preparing in advance of next legislative session.**
 - i. Legislative Research Committee Meetings
 - ii. In advance of the 89th Legislative Session, the Legislative Research Committee completed and submitted their final report and recommendations to the Texas Judicial Council.
 - iii. On September 27th, the Texas Judicial Council adopted all thirteen of the JCMH recommendations.
 - b. Conduct County Mental Health Law Workshops in 8 counties.**
 - i. Provided individualized mental health trainings on Civil Commitment, Early Intervention, Competency Restoration, and Mental Health Courts to eight pilot counties for the County Mental Health Law Plan.
 - 1. Medina County – May 8, 2024
 - 2. Fort Bend County – June 11, 2024
 - 3. Burleson County – June 26, 2024
 - 4. El Paso County – July 24, 2024
 - 5. Burnet County – August 5, 2024
 - 6. Hays County – August 7, 2024
 - 7. Duval County – September 10, 2024
 - 8. Travis County – September 27, 2024
- 3. Assist judges in leading local and regional initiatives to improve mental health, substance use disorders, and IDD service delivery and capacity.**
- a. Provide technical assistance and SIM mapping to counties.**
 - i. As of December 1, 2024, completed 72 Technical Assistance requests, serving 340 people in 41 Texas counties and the states of Colorado, Kansas, Maryland, and Ohio.
 - ii. Facilitated or co-facilitated SIM Mapping workshops in eight counties: Blanco, Cameron, Duval, Grayson, Llano, Lubbock, Smith, and Williamson.

- iii. Continued support of the three counties in the Court Liaison Program (previously the Community Coordinator Pilot Program), including working with a third-party evaluator.
- b. Continue to improve the JCMH website and the Texas County Resources and Innovations Map.**
 - i. An April 2024 update allows filtering resource list in each jurisdiction to show juvenile, adult, or all entries, and created new space to specifically highlight innovative practices and programs to foster collaboration and implementation statewide.
- c. Leverage communications strategies to reach new counties.**
 - i. All 254 counties had registrants at the Summit.
 - 1. This results from direct contact to judges, lawyers, and LMHAs from counties that have never before registered for the Summit.
- d. Launch County Mental Health Law Plan project with pilot counties.**
 - i. Launched the County Mental Health Law Plan pilot project, which provided technical assistance to 8 counties in Texas.
 - ii. Provided four online classes and subsequent in-person visits with each of the 8 counties to work with stakeholders on the intricacies of their county's mental health law policies and procedures.
 - iii. Each county receives a full report that includes suggested next steps to advance their county's mental health law practices.
- e. Launch Mental Health Courts Collaborative.**
 - i. Conducted the first-of-its-kind online learning collaborative for judges who wanted to start a mental health court in spring 2024. The Collaborative consisted of 3 online discussion sessions and a one-on-one mentoring relationship with an experienced mental health court judge. Participating judges represented 26 counties: Bexar, Collin, El Paso, Hays, Lubbock, Tarrant, and a 20-county region of the Texas panhandle.

II. Organizational Administration

A. Increase Financial Resources

- 1. Identify funding and resource options available to facilitate the Commission's efforts to serve the state.
 - a. Requested exceptional item funding from the legislature for 2025-2026.
- 2. Endeavor to increase resources and funding and maximize the effective and

efficient use of available judicial system resources.

3. Oversee the administration of funds appropriated and granted to the Commission.

III. Evaluation

A. Examine Quality and Relevance

1. Measure the Commission's success annually considering the overarching principles and strategies.

B. Track Visibility

1. Measure Commission visibility through communication strategies and other means such as website analytics or surveys.

- a. Podcast

- i. Launched *Reimagining Justice: Exploring Texas Innovations in Mental Health* in March 2023.
- ii. Podcast goal: Introduce listeners to innovative thinkers and ideas at the intersection of mental health and criminal justice across the state and provide concrete steps to replicate innovations.
- iii. Overall plays across platforms in 2024: 891 (1,183 total since 2023)
- iv. Released 12 episodes in 2024 (20 total since 2023).

- b. Social media

- i. [Twitter](#)
 - a) January 2024: 460 followers
 - b) December 2024: 499
- ii. [Facebook](#)
 - a) January 2024: 431 followers
 - b) December 2024: 573
- iii. [LinkedIn](#)
 - a) January 2024: 887 followers
 - b) December 2024: 1,412
- iv. [Instagram](#)
 - a) January 2023: 133
 - b) December 2024: 168

- c. Earned Media

- i. [An article about the County Mental Health Law Plan was published in the Fort Bend Independent.](#)
 - ii. [A story about County Mental Health Law Plan aired on KVIA in El Paso.](#)
 - iii. [An article thanking Judge Hervey, Chief Justice Hecht, and Presiding Judge Keller was published in the Texas Bar Journal.](#)
- 2. Targeted Communication
 - a. JIR letters.
 - i. Two 2024 JIR letters
 - b. Resource Letters
 - i. Sent 8 Resource Letters in 2024 to date to over 1800 subscribers.

2025 Goals

I. Strategies and Activities

A. Collaborate

1. Collaborate with stakeholders to collect and analyze data, practices, law, and policy with the goal of improving court function for people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.
 - a. Serve as a resource for the Legislature for all bills related to mental health law.
2. Seek consensus on interpretation and implementation of mental health laws, explore different perspectives, and record findings.
 - a. Solicit feedback and input at regional and local forums, focus groups, and trainings.
3. Explore potential partnerships to promote early awareness and education about mental health, substance use disorders, or IDD in the court system.
 - a. Continue to collaborate with partner organizations to promote and enhance their work.

B. Educate

1. Develop high-quality, multi-disciplinary education in coordination with state and national training experts and raise awareness of best practices and areas requiring improvement.
 - a. Create, promote, and lead the Eighth Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health.
 - b. Provide specialized mental health law training to at least six counties or regions.
2. Create and provide tools and resources on key concepts and court procedures related to mental health, substance use, or IDD.
 - a. Create new chapters or update existing chapters of the adult and juvenile bench books.
 - b. Create new resources for legislative updates and other mental health laws, procedures, and courts.
 - c. Create at least four new videos for the video library on mental health law.
 - d. Continue to expand Innovations Map to include new innovations and resources.
3. Strive to serve as both a statewide and national leader in mental health, substance use, and IDD law and practice.

- a. Speak at no fewer than twelve partner events including national and statewide conferences.

C. Lead

1. Identify and prioritize the needs of the judiciary and judicial stakeholders to improve their ability to serve people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.
 - a. Use surveys, focus groups, and other research methods to identify the needs and priorities of the judiciary.
 - b. Host Youth SIM Mappings (Exceptional Item).
2. Serve as a resource in the development of policy, legislation, and practice recommendations, including as a resource for the Legislature for all bills related to mental health law.
3. Assist judges in leading local and regional initiatives to improve mental health, substance use disorders, and IDD service delivery and capacity.
 - a. Provide technical assistance and SIM mapping to counties.
 - b. Continue to improve the JCMH website and the Innovations Map Website.
 - c. Leverage the communications strategies to reach new counties.
 - d. Continue the Mental Health Law Plan project with additional counties.
 - e. Continue to support the Court Liaison Pilot Program through its fourth and final year; consider expansion of the Court Liaison Program, dependent on exceptional item approval in appropriations from Legislature.
 - f. Expand the Mental Health Courts Collaborative to include all treatment courts such as DWI Courts and Drug Courts and rebrand as the Treatment Courts Collaborative.

Transfer to Civil Commitment with Assisted Outpatient Treatment

One alternative for addressing the competency restoration crisis for those with untreated mental illness

Is your jail struggling to serve individuals living with untreated severe mental illness who don't know they are ill?

Is your county using its limited resources to serve those with SMI caught in the revolving door of criminal legal involvement with few positive results?

If you answered YES to either of these questions,

join us to learn about a “new” tool in the toolbox for communities who are willing to collaborate with their system partners to get those in crisis needed treatment so they can get out of your jail and move forward with their lives.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, jail administrators, mental health authorities and others with a desire to help those with untreated severe mental illness who are caught in the revolving door of incarceration due to a lack of insight into their illness.

June 5-6, 2025

Day One: 12:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Day Two: 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Menger Hotel

204 Alamo Plaza

San Antonio, TX 78205

[Training](#)
[Registration](#)



Hotel Reservations

[Click here](#)

to reserve a room using the group rate.

CLEs are being requested

Follow JCMH on social media!

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