

THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
THE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

January 31, 2025
Meeting Notebook





**January 31, 2025
Meeting Notebook**

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Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

January 31, 2025

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

9:00	Welcome	Hon. Jane Bland Hon. Rebeca Huddle Hon. Mary Lou Keel
9:10	Executive Director Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025 Legislative Preview• OCA and Texas Judicial Council• JCMH JIRs and Projects	Kristi Taylor Hon. Bill Boyce Prof. Brian Shannon Megan LaVoie Hon. John Specia, Jr. Hon. Brent Carr JCMH Team
10:15	Break	Hon. Jane Bland
10:30	Presentation: Personality Disorders Presentation: School Districts and IDD	Dr. Melissa Eshelman Dr. Evanthe Collins
11:00	Partner Organization Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Law Enforcement• Health & Human Services Commission• Hogg Foundation for Mental Health• Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute• Texas Veterans Commission• Texas Juvenile Justice Department• TCOOMMI• Texas Commission on Jail Standards• Court of Criminal Appeals Grants	Hon. Jane Bland Chief Stan Standridge Chief Mike Lee Trina Ita Scott Schalchlin Dr. Octavio Martinez Yolanda Lewis Dr. Blake Harris Shandra Carter April Zamora Brandon Wood Alexander Comsudi
11:45	Announcements (Submit via Chat Box)	Hon. Jane Bland
12:00	Adjourn	Hon. Rebeca Huddle

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. Mary Lou Keel, 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.

Chief Deputy Sheriff

Harris County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Elizabeth Byer Leonard

Judge

238th District Court

Yolanda Lewis, MPA

*Executive Vice President for Justice &
Health, Executive Director for Center of
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.

Mental Health & Specialty Court

Supervisor

Dallas County Public Defender's Office

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

Deputy Executive Commissioner for the

HHSC 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.

Assistant Executive Director

Williamson County Juvenile Services

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.

Senior Trial Attorney

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

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

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

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Simone Salloum, J.D.

Policy Attorney
Texas Health & Human Services
Commission

Rachel Samsel, M.S.S.W.

*Deputy Associate Commissioner for
Regional & Local Operations*
Texas Department of State Health
Services

Melissa Schank, M.A.

Executive Director
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers
Association

Jonas Schwartz, 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

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Sally Uncapher, J.D.

Assistant District Attorney

Bexar County District Attorney's Office

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

November 20th, 2024

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Marriott Dallas Allen Hotel & Convention Center

Commissioner Attendees

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

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

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

Hon. Jesse McClure III, *Deputy Liaison, Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rachel Gandy for Shandra Carter, *Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Justice Department*

Hon. Camile G. Dubose, *Judge, 38th District Court*

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*

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

Hon. Bonnie Hellums, *Judge (Ret.), 247th District Court*

Hon. Dave W. Jahn, *Judge, Denton 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*

Hon. Elizabeth Byer Leonard, *Judge, 238th District Court*

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

Hon. Pamela Liston, *Associate Judge, Town of Fairview*

Hon. Stacey Mathews, *Judge, 277th District Court*

Hon. Tyra Jones McCollum, *Judge, Fort Bend County Court at Law No. 2*

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

Denise Oncken, *Mental Health Bureau Chief, Harris County District Attorney's Office*
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*
Andrea Richardson, *Chief Executive Officer, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services*
Prof. Brian Shannon, *Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor, Texas Tech University School of Law*
Eric Smith, *Founder, Eric W.T. Smith Consulting*
Hon. Selena Solis, *Judge, 243rd District Court*
Hon. Charles A. Stephens, *Judge, Comal County Court at Law No. 2*
Hon. Victor Villarreal, *Judge, Webb County Court at Law No. 2*
Julie Wayman, *Director of Mental and Behavioral Health, Texas Education Agency*
Hon. Cynthia Wheless, *Judge, 417th District Court*
Steve Wohleb, *General Counsel, Texas Hospital Association*
Emily Eisenman for April Zamora, *Director, Re-entry and Integration Division, Texas Department of Criminal Justice*

Welcome and Announcements

Justice Jane Bland opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance for the final Commission meeting of 2024. She thanked Judge Barbara Hervey for her service as a jurist and her contributions to JCMH as a founding chair. Justice Bland recognized Judge Hervey's dedication to ensuring the success of JCMH. She encouraged attendees to read the tribute to Judge Hervey in the November [Texas Bar Journal](#) which provides a glimpse into Judge Hervey's leadership in establishing the JCMH.

Judge Barbara Hervey welcomed attendees and expressed gratitude for the kind words. She highlighted the HHSC [Family Guide to Children's Mental Health Services](#) provided to attendees. Judge Hervey briefed attendees on the [meeting notebook](#) and advised attendees on how to make announcements.

Executive Director Report

Kristi Taylor, Executive Director, thanked Judge Barbara Hervey for her leadership and Judge Bonnie Hellums for her service as a Commissioner. Ms. Taylor announced the promotions of staff members Molly Davis to the Director of Operations and Kama Harris to the Director of Policy and Education. She introduced Michael Garcia, Legal Assistant for the JCMH.

Ms. Taylor then discussed the County Mental Health Law Plan and introduced a [video presentation](#) recapping the accomplishments, impact, and purpose of the program. Ms.

Taylor thanked Rose McBride for creating the video and the pilot counties for welcoming the JCMH into their communities.

Budget

Patrick Passmore, Finance Manager, provided a detailed financial report. Mr. Passmore explained the financial status of the JCMH as of November 20th, 2024, and stated that the Commission is on track with the budget for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025. All funds from fiscal year 2024 have been either spent or encumbered. He presented the exceptional items submitted with the Supreme Court's appropriations request on behalf of the JCMH. The total for the exceptional items is \$1,829,000.

JIR Update

Hon. Brent Carr, Judge (Ret.) and JCMH Jurist in Residence, stated that the 2024 Summit had 1100 registered attendees and both thanked and congratulated the Summit Committee and JCMH staff for their efforts. He briefed attendees on the topics to be covered at the 2024 Summit.

Hon. John J. Specia, Jr., Judge (Ret.) and JCMH Jurist in Residence, discussed the Commission's efforts in Sequential Intercept Model Mapping and highlighted the accomplishments of the JCMH staff as they provided workshops to communities throughout the state. He recognized that judicial leadership is critical to this process.

Staff Updates

Molly Davis, Director of Operations, invited attendees to request a SIM Mapping in their communities. She directed attendees to the JCMH website for more information on SIM Mapping. Ms. Davis provided an update on technical assistance projects. JCMH completed 71 technical assistance requests as of November 15th, serving 339 people in 41 Texas counties, statewide groups, and people from the states of Colorado, Kansas, Maryland, and Ohio. She recognized the efforts of attendees in spreading the word about JCMH, helping to provide smaller communities with access to resources. Ms. Davis discussed the Mental Health Courts Collaborative. Over the first three months of 2024, judges who wanted to start a mental health court or who had a brand-new mental health court met on Zoom to learn about grants, funding, data collections, ethics, and other best practices. Participant judges were also paired with mentor judges who have been presiding over treatment courts. The program will continue in 2025 as the [Treatment Courts Collaborative](#), expanding to judges who want to start other kinds of treatment courts. Applications are available on the JCMH website.

Kama Harris, Director of Policy and Education, provided updates on the Legislative Research Committee's efforts and announced that on September 27th the Texas Judicial Council adopted all 16 of the committee's legislative recommendations. The entire [JCMH report](#) is available online.

Andy Perkins, Staff Attorney, provided updates on the Data Committee with thanks given to Dr. Almeida and Chief Medina for their leadership creating a [Best Practice Data Guide for Texas Mental Health Court Programs](#). He provided updates on the Substance Use Disorder Committee. The new committee is chaired by Judge Roxanne Nelson and is focusing in on priorities. Mr. Perkins invited attendees to attend their next meeting.

Rose McBride, Communications Manager, reported that since April the JCMH has released seven more episodes of the JCMH Podcast, "[Reimagining Justice](#): Exploring Texas Innovations in Mental Health." The podcasts feature professionals from diverse backgrounds and focus on innovations that can be replicated in other areas of the state. She invited attendees to inform her of innovations in their communities they would like to see highlighted on the podcast. The podcasts are available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and the JCMH Website.

JCMH also added three new webinars on Competency Restoration to the [video library](#). The webinars each had over 250 registered attendees and featured JCMH Commissioners. These webinars are available for CLE credit with replays on [YouTube](#).

JCMH received media attention from a TV station in El Paso and a newspaper in Fort Bend County for the County Mental Health Law Plan. Ms. McBride announced the 2024 Summit is the first to have a registrant from all of Texas' 254 counties, and a registrant from every LMHA in the state. She gave special thanks to Judge Carr for assisting with registering attendees from the LMHAs and counties without registrants.

Break

Kristi Taylor announced a 15-minute break.

Innovations Map Presentation

Justice Jane Bland introduced Andy Perkins and Jennifer Toon to provide a demonstration of the [Innovations Map](#). The Innovations Map is an interactive guide on the JCMH website providing resources and information for each county in Texas. She informed attendees that it is a tool to be used in their communities, but to also contribute to and grow.

Andy Perkins introduced **Jennifer Toon**, Executive Director, [Lioness Justice Impacted Women's Alliance](#) and JCMH Collaborative Councilmember. Ms. Toon demonstrated how to utilize the Innovations Map by viewing each county's resource list covering different needs. She highlighted that while it was intended to be an aid for direct service providers or those in the legal community, she and other community organizers utilize it too. Mr. Perkins provided additional insights on how to utilize the tool and showcased the ability to filter resources based on age.

Commissioner Reports

Dr. Connie Almeida, Director of Behavioral Health, [Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services](#), received a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for incarcerated parents and their minor children. The grant helps connect families with resources. Their slogan is: "Always parenting."

Hon. Devon Anderson, CEO and President, [Justice Forward](#), advised that since the last meeting (April 2024) Justice Forward has expanded their efforts and is now supporting four additional courts in Fort Bend County. Judge Anderson is an expert in substance use disorder, or SUD, from the perspective of a judge in a drug court and someone in recovery.

Hon. Nelda Cacciotti, Chief of Mental Health Unit, Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office, is one of four attorneys in the mental health unit. In the past year they have focused on the Tarrant County Mental Health Diversion Center. These efforts include educating officers on the center, increasing collaboration, and creating a new pathway for prosecutors to divert more people with pending cases to the Diversion Center, which mostly results in dismissals with agreement to participate in the program.

Hon. Camile DuBose, Judge, 38th District Court, presides over a post-adjudication specialty court. She highlighted [Team Uvalde](#), in its 25th year, which is a group of stakeholders including courts, transportation, education, public health and others, meeting monthly to discuss services provided and issues within the community to address. This group also has a listserv where they can all put out requests for various needs of the citizens.

Rachel Gandy, Chief of Staff, Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), on behalf of Shandra Carter, reported on TJJD's continued implementation of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) in all five of its secure facilities. Next, they would like to bring DBT to their halfway houses, parole, and county facilities. They are working with MMHPI under a federal grant to map local youth resources and make grants.

Hon. Cynthia Porter Gore, Judge, City of Allen Municipal Court, created juvenile and adult specialized dockets for mental health and substance use disorders with a 70% success

rate without recidivism. The court received \$100,000 from the City of Allen to create programs aiding defendants.

Emily Eisenman, Deputy Division Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), on behalf of April Zamora, reported on changes at TDCJ following the Sunset Review Process. One change resulted in a merging of divisions to combine those focused on behavioral health, establishing the Rehabilitation and Re-Entry Division. This division includes Sex Offender Treatment, Substance Use Treatment, TCOOMMI, and Re-Entry. Their legislative appropriations request has been published and approved by their board. TCOOMMI requested \$12 million to support existing services through contracted LMHAs and a joint probation effort for dual diagnosis treatment beds.

Hon. Alyse Ferguson, Of Counsel, Rosenthal Kalabus Therrian, is a defense attorney who also serves as the chairperson for the [Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association](#) (TCDLA) Mental Health Committee. In this role Judge Ferguson leads the mental health training for TCDLA and created a hands-on seminar for attorneys regarding the competency restoration process. TCDLA has also hosted “Bring Your Own Case” workshops. Judge Ferguson was recently also appointed as Associate Judge of Collin County Probate Court.

Hon. Matt Hand, Judge, Potter County Court at Law No. 2, hears juvenile cases and presides over the Panhandle Regional Mental Health Court, the only Regional Mental Health Court in the state. The Court includes 26 Panhandle Counties. Judge Hand would like to see improved services for youth.

Hon. Bonnie Hellums, Judge (Ret.), 247th District Court, announced that this is her last meeting before she retires to Tennessee. She expressed pride in the JCMH and commissioners’ work and recognized its importance.

Hon. Dave W. Jahn, Judge, Denton County Probate Court No. 1, announced the Denton County Commissioners Court allocated \$1 million to fund their crisis residential unit (CRU), formed a committee to supervise the utilization of the unit, and approved funding in the next year to fully fund the court mental health liaison created by a JCMH grant. Denton County is working on establishing an AOT court, including a paralegal for the Mental Health Court to oversee the AOT program, and a CRU stepdown facility. Judge Jahn also helped lead the Texas A&M School of Law Mental Health Panel on World Mental Health Day that featured Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Jesse McClure as moderator, and included JCMH Commissioners Judge Nelda Cacciotti, Judge Alyse Ferguson, and Judge Larry Phillips as panelists.

Adrienne Kennedy, Past National President, NAMI, reported on a 4-hour NAMI training for those in the justice system to bring awareness to people with lived experience, as well as NAMI Basics for young children. Ms. Kennedy is also on the national ALL RISE Board where they have added a Treatment Court Alumni Program. Another announcement is that Dr. Amador has joined the [Treatment Advocacy Center](#).

Beth Lawson, CEO, StarCare, stated that StarCare is the only LMHA with an inpatient hospital. They are currently expanding pre- and post-crisis services, moving from a 30- to 60-bed capacity, and adding a space for a Diversion Center. Ms. Lawson has expertise in Jail-Based Competency Restoration, system service design, public policy, and public finance.

Chief Mike Lee, Chief Deputy, Harris County Sheriff's Office, is responsible for overseeing all the daily operations of the Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Gonzalez. Harris County Jail has a population of 9,713 so they are currently outsourcing individuals to Louisiana and Mississippi. Harris County is known for its excellent Diversion Center, Sobering Center, Co-Responder Model, and other models. Harris County is currently studying why their length of stay in jail is 5 times longer than the average in Texas. The JBCR Program has been successful with 324 people restoring to competency in 2.5 years, averaging a 92 percent success rate.

Hon. Elizabeth Leonard, Judge, 238th District Court, stated that her county implemented JBCR and praised the program as cost saving, efficient, and effective. She also announced that a mental health hospital with a 140-bed capacity will be built in the Permian Basin and 40 beds for competency restoration will be added for non-secure facilities, with an expected opening date in April 2025.

Yolanda Lewis, Executive Vice President for Justice and Health, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) shared that MMHPI was one of three sites nationwide to receive a one-year planning grant as an implementing partner to develop a behavioral health emergency response state plan. It is an opportunity to scale good strategies with a 3-year multimillion dollar opportunity including pass-through grants. They plan to start with select facilities as a foundation for a 10-year investment opportunity. They are focusing on ensuring that 911 calls are coded properly, implementing and scaling health-forward alternative responses, and preventing unnecessary lethal force.

Hon. Pam Liston, City Attorney, City of Decatur, and Associate Judge, Town of Fairview, informed attendees that youth diversion plans are now required to be submitted by municipal and justice courts to the state. This process allowed her to connect the municipal court, county court and county juvenile probation department. She is also teaching this year with the [Texas Municipal Courts Education Center \(TMCEC\)](#) on ways for judges to allocate funds to better serve communities, specifically on how to work with the funding provided to communities for a juvenile court coordinator. She also expressed pride that the JCMH legislative proposals are moving forward.

Hon. Stacey Mathews, Judge, 277th District Court, expressed gratitude for the work of the JCMH and noted the difference between the first meeting of the JCMH to now. She informed attendees that Williamson County has started a JBCR Program from the [Eliminate the Wait](#) work and seen great success. The county's juvenile services department partnered with Step Up Texas and the MMHPI for juvenile SIM mapping. This helped the

county find gaps, learn what resources are needed, and learn how to keep youth shallow in the system.

Hon. Tyra Jones McCollum, Judge, Fort Bend County Court at Law No. 2, leads a Veterans' Treatment Court and observed a dramatic increase in participation (from 4 to 30 participants in 14 months) by changing one question. Instead of asking potential participants if they were veterans, the question on the intake form was changed to: "Do you have military service?" The change in the question helps to avoid any perceived stigma and has significantly changed participant responses. Judge McCollum also reported that 3 new treatment courts launched in the last year, including a diversion court, and Fort Bend held their first Diversion Court Fair. The fair's purpose was to introduce the specialty courts to the community.

Amber Morson, Operations Manager, Texas Veterans Commission (TVC), on behalf of Dr. Blake Harris, advised that the TVC oversees six programs relating to justice-involved veterans, homeless veterans, rural community and faith-based partnership, provider training, suicide prevention, and veterans peer network. TVC is also preparing for the Legislative Session. Additionally, she agreed with Judge McCollum that changing the wording of the veteran intake question is a best practice, and one that TVC supports and suggests across Texas.

Hon. Roxanne Nelson, Justice of the Peace, Burnet County Pct. 1, reported on the success of the Hill Country Regional Public Defender's Office for Llano, Blanco, and Burnet counties. The Public Defender's Office has been working with a social worker, mental health deputy, and mental health paramedic. Judge Nelson also made a plea for all on the Commission to keep the needs of the 240 rural counties of Texas at the forefront as the next legislative session approaches.

Denise Oncken, Bureau Chief, Harris County District Attorney's Office, reported that the Harris County Diversion Center has diverted 12,000 people without criminal charges in the last 6 years. Harris County has also trained over 5,000 police officers regarding diversion. The biggest change that she has seen over the last 6+ years is the mentality of the officers to handle the cases and the people in them with respect.

Hon. Larry Phillips, Judge, 59th District Court, reported that Grayson County implemented JBCR and, with the assistance of the JCMH, Grayson County has no waitlist for state hospital competency restoration. Community leaders on the [Texoma Behavioral Health Leadership Team](#) (TBHLT) helped the courts partner with JCMH for a diversion coordinator grant and two SIM Mappings. From the SIM mapping, the county has been able to implement an adult diversion center. Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott provided a \$1 million grant to the TBHLT, which will be used to start a chair-based diversion program. Judge Phillips also serves as the President of the [Texas Association of Specialty Courts](#).

Lee Pierson, Chief Mental Health Prosecutor, Dallas County District Attorney's Office, reported that the division expanded to 11 attorneys over the past year. Their work has

reduced the number of total individuals on the Dallas County competency restoration waitlist from 400 to 265 and reduced the number of people charged with misdemeanors on the waitlist from 78 to 3. This saved the county 91,285 jail bed days, or the equivalent of \$7.7 million. They have also decreased intake time. The office is currently examining competency restoration from the front end, upon entry into the jail, and not just the back end when individuals are put on the waitlist in court.

Vickie Rice, Mental Health and Specialty Courts Supervisor, Dallas County Public Defender's Office, announced she has been named the Acting First Assistant in the Dallas County Public Defender's Office. Four positions were added to their Behavioral Health Section and an additional position was added for Competency Restoration cases. Additionally, her staff are visiting clients in the state hospital and working to determine whether there is a compelling interest in prosecuting the cases or a dismissal is appropriate. Ms. Rice would like to learn more about better supporting emerging adults ages 17-21 who are leaving foster care; and would like to teach those youth how to better advocate for themselves and prevent them from entering the adult criminal justice system.

Andrea Richardson, Chief Executive Officer, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, stated that Bluebonnet Trails is a local mental health authority, local intellectual developmental disability authority, and an Outreach Screening Assessment and Referral (OSAR) entity. They serve eight counties for IDD and mental health, 10 counties for autism treatment, six counties for early childhood intervention, and 30 counties for OSAR. Bluebonnet Trails operates a respite program serving 300 youth in Williamson County and 100 youth in Guadalupe County annually. They created a 16-bed program for youth, which makes a difference with the children who are without placement. The programs focus on education, breaking cycles, and family engagement so the youth can return home.

Professor Brian Shannon, Paul Whitfield Horn Professor, Texas Tech University School of Law, touted the great work occurring in Lubbock including having the first LMHA to have a psychiatric hospital (StarCare Sunrise Canyon Hospital). He echoed Beth Lawson's report that they are doubling capacity at Sunrise Canyon with state-appropriated funds. ARPA funds for the city and county allowed the construction of a crisis drop-off center named the Hope Center. Professor Shannon reported a lot of collaboration between local community leaders, presenting a bright future with improved services.

Dr. Jennie Simpson, Associate Commissioner and State Forensic Director, Texas HHSC, on behalf of Scott Schalchlin. Dr. Simpson announced that the Office of Forensic Services has moved to the Health and Specialty Care Centers side of HHSC which works with state hospitals and the state supported living centers. Two pilot programs in Dallas and Travis Counties will move with her office. The Jail In-Reach Program will be expanding to a statewide program.

Eric Smith, Founder, Eric W.T. Smith Consulting, announced he has recently been appointed to the board of the [National Schizophrenia Foundation](#) and gave the keynote address at the NAMI annual conference in Kansas. During his work he has heard praise

about the work being done in Texas, especially by JCMH, and informed others about utilizing JCMH resources online.

Hon. Selena Solis, Judge, 243rd District Court, shared that she is an expert at starting adult mental health courts and can help others. Her mental health court was the first of its kind in El Paso County and there was no dedicated funding for it. Judge Solis also shared her experience and the impacts of participating in the County Mental Health Law Plan pilot program and SIM mapping provided by JCMH. She proudly announced that based on the insights from the CMHLP and SIM mappings, El Paso is starting JBCR in 2025. She reported that El Paso has a Specialty Court Committee that is chaired by Judge Anchondo, and it brings together stakeholders to share ideas.

Hon. Charles Stephens, Judge, Comal County Court at Law No. 2, spoke about the Student and Family Empowerment (SAFE) program, which provides support to county residents whose children are struggling with school attendance. The program helps to prevent youth ages 6 to 17 from entering the system.

Hon. Victor Villareal, Judge, Webb County Court at Law No. 2, presides over juvenile, criminal, mental health, and guardianship cases. He announced that his two specialty courts received grants from the Office of the Governor to expand mental health services in the county. The Youth Center for Success is a juvenile drug court that is working well. Judge Villareal commented that they were thoughtful as in naming the court to prevent stigma. He expects their first graduation in January 2025.

Hon. Cynthia Wheless, Judge, 417th District Court, reported that her youth mental health court was also thoughtfully named RISE to prevent youth from having to reveal their court involvement in school or other possibly stigmatizing situations. It is a wonderful collaboration between the district court, misdemeanor courts, and juvenile probation, all learning from each other. Judge Wheless touted the importance of the Managed Assigned Counsel Program in Collin County.

Steve Wohleb, General Counsel, Texas Hospital Association (THA), reported that the THA is currently focused on the upcoming legislative session. There is special emphasis on ensuring the financial viability of private psychiatric facilities. He reported on the struggle of the private psychiatric facilities to keep their doors open with current reimbursement rates.

OCA Specialty Courts

Erin Morgan, Specialty Courts Program Manager, Office of Court Administration (OCA), reported she has been working to educate herself on mental health courts, and appreciates the support from JCMH staff and partners. She hopes to provide more support at the state level for mental health services.

Final Notes

Hon. Brent Carr, Judge (Ret.) and JCMH Jurist in Residence, reported that he and Dr. Carol Nati were invited by the Texas Center for the Judiciary to provide a presentation on secondary trauma as it affects judges, attorneys, and other professionals, in September.

Meeting Adjourned

Judge Barbara Hervey thanked attendees for coming and shared two projects she hopes to see completed in the future. First, that the legislature works to ensure that every jail in every county has adequate pharmaceutical supplies. She suggested looking into state contracts for larger quantities so that no one is in jail without access to their prescribed medication because the county cannot afford a specific medication. Her second project is to address the special needs of children in school, while they are small, to prevent future system involvement. Judge Hervey adjourned the meeting.

Judicial Commission on Mental Health FY2025

January 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	\$ 295,680	\$ 818,518	\$ 522,838
Commission Projects	\$ 43,031	\$ 479,250	\$ 436,219
Scholarships	\$ 178	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,822
Grants	\$ 102,600	\$ 121,454	\$ 18,854
Total	\$ 441,490	\$ 1,429,222	\$ 987,732

Financial Status as of November 2024

FY2025 Funds Available	\$ 1,440,740
Expenditures to Date	\$ (441,490)
FY2025 Fund Balance	\$ 999,250
Budgeted Expenditures Outstanding	\$ (987,732)
FY2025 Unobligated Funds	\$ 11,518

Judicial Summit on Mental Health

Executive Summary & Top Learning Points

The Judicial Commission on Mental Health brought together 1,183 people committed to improving the justice system for people with mental health concerns during the 7th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health in Allen, Texas, from November 21-22, 2024. Participants included stakeholders from diverse professions—from judges and attorneys to mental health clinicians and law enforcement officers. For the first time, the Summit boasted registrants who work in all 254 counties in Texas and representatives from each Local Mental and Behavioral Health Authority. The event featured a presentation by keynote speaker Robert Canino, a Regional Attorney with the Dallas District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Mr. Canino civilly prosecuted a case against Henry’s Turkey Service, a turkey processing plant in Iowa that brought intellectually and developmentally disabled men from Texas to work for illegally low wages, all while subjecting them to physical and emotional abuse. This story, along with those from other presenters who spoke about their lived mental health experiences, gave the audience a new perspective on their work, highlighting an opportunity to lead with empathy. The Summit also explored real-life examples of how to utilize risk assessment and de-escalation tactics, the present-day needs of services for youth, and how collaboration is key to improving the system for everyone involved. The expansion of breakout sessions at this year’s Summit provided participants with 21 different topics to explore. All resources from the Summit are available on the [JCMH website](#), with recordings of each session forthcoming. Below are fifteen of the key learning points from the Summit:

- 1. Collaboration is Still Key.** The theme of collaboration emerged throughout the 2024 Judicial Summit on Mental Health. Robert Canino, the attorney mentioned above, stated, “It takes a team of experts all pointed in the same direction to make it work. We have to share information and think of it as not my job, but our job. Collaborating within the community and with the client’s family is immensely important.” Jerri Clark gave a poignant account of her family’s experience in the mental health and criminal justice systems, stating “There is a knowledge gap that has blamed families instead of engaging with them to improve outcomes. ... Talking to and listening to families like mine is in everyone's best interest.” And finally, the JCMH County Mental Health Law Plan promotes collaboration by bringing together the civil and criminal sides of a county to help each other.
- 2. Mind the Gap—Jargon can be a Barrier Between Professions.** In *Clinical and Legal Collaboration in Mental Health Litigation: The Civil Commitment Process*, Daniela Chisolm and Dr. Roberto Kutcher-Diaz highlighted this concept. Dr. Kutcher-Diaz remarked: “To more effectively collaborate, we need to break things down in a way that everyone can understand.” Chisolm gave examples of how “the differences between medical language and legal language can be a barrier,” and how to work together to eliminate those barriers.

- 3. Include and Amplify the Voices of People with Lived Experience.** This theme was represented by many speakers throughout the summit, including Lesli Fitzpatrick who publicly shared her story for the first time. Marci Simmons stated: “A solution is found in age-appropriate, person-centered care that treat individuals as experts in their experiences, valuing their voices in guiding care.” Robert Canino reminded us that “when victims are quiet, find an expert who can amplify their voice.” Jerri Clark added: “the biggest things families wanted providers to know are that we are allies, and we want to problem solve with the system to make lives better for our loved ones.” Jennifer Toon shared that “finding a therapist with lived experience was fundamental to my healing.”
- 4. Eliminate Stigma and Meet People Where They Are.** Dr. Courtney Harvey noted that during the development of the Children’s Mental Health Strategic Plan that “focus groups revealed there is still a lot of stigma for youth around receiving care.” Marci Simmons reminded the audience that “None of us in this room are the worst decisions we've made,” and that “when you use those [stigmatizing] labels you reduce those people to those labels. Say it enough and people will feel that way.” Anna Grey recommended from the audience: “Don’t interact with the diagnosis, interact with the individual.” Dr. Blake Harris pointed out that it is “very important when we’re working with adolescents and veterans, [to] incorporate things that are relative to the population you are working with but also the individual.”
- 5. Embody and Systemize Self-Care Throughout an Organization.** Jessica Chevrier stated in her presentation: “Burnout isn't an individual phenomenon. We can't address burnout just with self-care but have to do it systematically.” She noted that “we are struggling to maintain workforce in the areas of mental health and the justice system, but we continue to lose hundreds of years of experience by failing to address burnout institutionally.” Her advice to employers is to lead by example: If you want people to take care of themselves you have to do it, too.
- 6. Provide a Holistic Approach and Wraparound Services that Address Underlying Trauma.** Judge Rocky Jones and Vicki Rice discussed techniques and considerations for the beginning of a case before formal diversion programs are considered. They encouraged participants to review Pretrial Guidelines, use assessments to determine requirements for success, determine the ultimate goal for the defendant, and develop your court’s non-negotiables. They also advised courts to be relatable to build trust. Rice warned audience members to “make no mistake, the system is traumatic; the system itself is causing trauma. You have to be open; you have to be trusting; our clients don't trust us, ... I call it an armor they put on.” To that end, Judge Jones encouraged participants by saying, “each and every individual here can divert an individual and get them off the path... the Pre-Trial Officer and Judge are the ones that may have to show the defendant a clear path.”
- 7. Walk a Mile in Someone Else’s Shoes.** JCMH Commissioners and Collaborative Council members participated in a re-entry simulation. They reflected on how profoundly the experience changed their perspective on their own work, with Judge Karen Diaz stating: "I felt helpless, and it felt like there was nowhere I could turn. I had to go destress afterward because

of how this simulation made me feel." Judge Selena Solis noted: "after the experience, I'm going to have a better understanding of the struggles and encourage them to persevere." Judge Diaz added: "I am going to try to make sure that those people who have to walk that mile have the resources and people who can help walk them through these programs and the individuals have the information they need to be successful when they come out."

- 8. Beyond being Trauma-Informed, We Must be Grief-Informed.** Dr. Julie Kaplow and Yolanda Lewis presented a session on the importance of nurturing resilience and adaptability to address symptoms of grief and trauma before negative behaviors lead children to become involved in the criminal justice system. Lewis challenged the audience to "think about child brain health and how it affects childhood prosperity." Dr. Kaplow informed us that "bereavement is the strongest predictor of poor school outcomes above and beyond any other form of trauma." Lewis added that "in 2023, 68% of youth admitted to TJJD noted having an incarcerated household member," which is a type of ambiguous loss.
- 9. Follow the Science and Adjust Accordingly. For example, Learn about Adulthood and Medicated Assisted Treatment.** Angell Carroll, Marci Simmons and Jennifer Toon presented information on Adulthood, which skews how people, including professionals, perceive certain children, leading them being viewed as more adult. Another summit session, *Evidence-Based Treatment for Substance Use Disorders* by Erin Rodriguez highlighted that "universal screening policies help improve equitable access to treatment." Erin also stated that, "there is no research that indicates that it is helpful for a client to have to stop the use of medication [for addiction treatment] before they leave your program. We cannot change those brain synapses simply by having them in court."
- 10. If We Don't Track the Data, We Erase People and Their Experiences.** Angel Carroll emphasized that "When you are not counting, you erase girls. You erase their experiences. That's why data is so important."
- 11. Self-Assess with the County Mental Health Law Plan.** For example, many counties have found jail-based competency restoration is resolving some of their long waitlists for competency restoration services. Anything we can do to strengthen JBCR will knock the waiting list numbers down tremendously. Use the CMHLP Checklist to see if your county is ready for JBCR.
- 12. Focus on the Youth.** Dr. Courtney Harvey told the audience that "the acuity of the needs of the children is higher than ten years ago. There is a need for more crisis services, outpatient services, residential care, and inpatient care for children in Texas. Parents want more access to counseling services for their children, but workforce is an issue." This message to focus on prevention aligns with a statement from Judge Rocky Jones in her presentation: "If we do this right in the beginning, then maybe, just maybe, we won't have as many people in the criminal justice system."

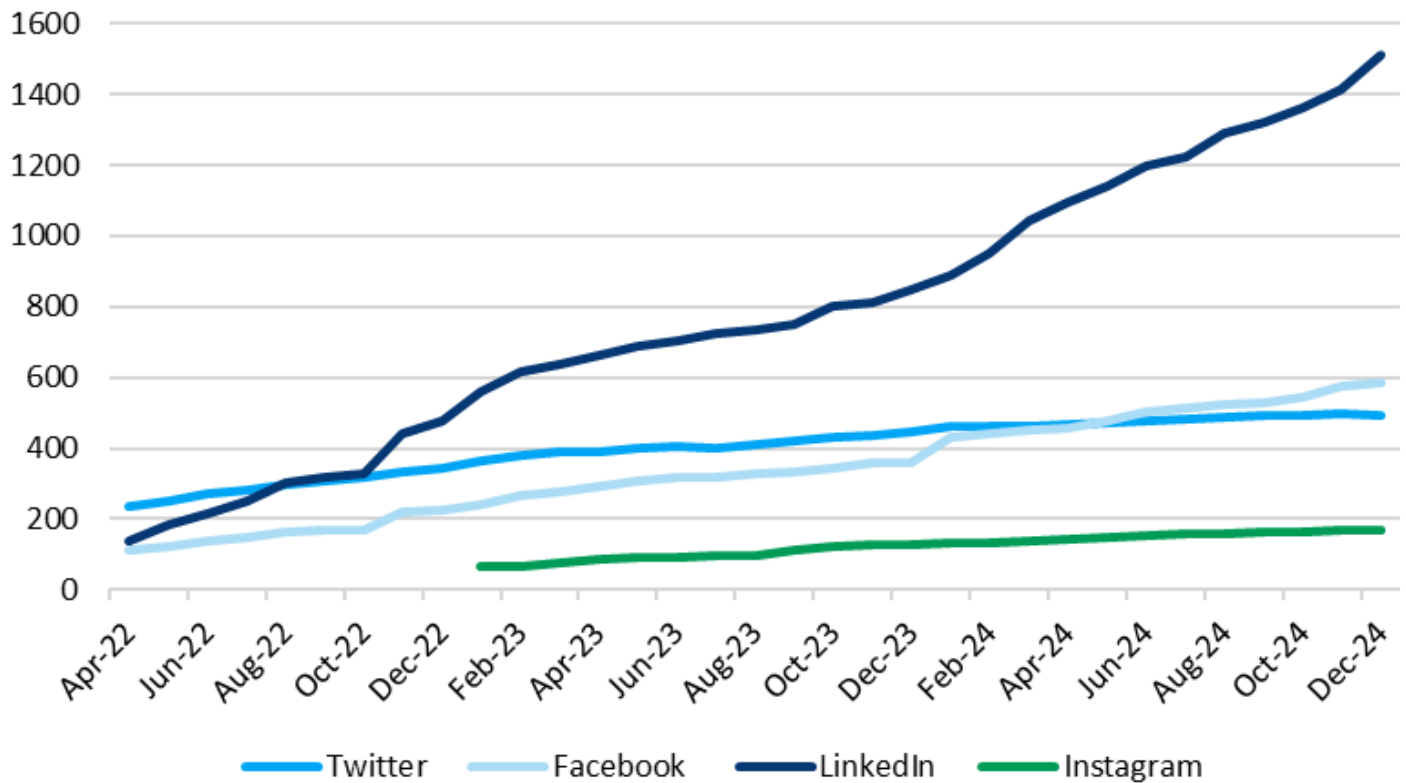
- 13. Families are Allies and Want to Help Problem Solve with the System.** Jerri Clark shared her family's heartbreaking and frustrating experience of losing her son to mental illness and what she wished professionals knew: "Talking to and listening to families like mine is in everyone's best interest. There is a knowledge gap that has blamed families instead of engaging with them to improve outcomes."
- 14. Use Risk Assessments to Direct your Resources and Most Intensive Services to High-Risk Individuals and Minimize Services to Lower Risk Individuals.** Dr. Blake Harris stated: "the risk principle says you need to direct your resources and your most intensive services to high-risk individuals, and you want to minimize services to lower risk individuals." Erin Rodriguez made a similar point: "Over 50% of providers in the US are not equipped to treat high-risk, high-need individuals. So that means we can do hours and hours of treatment but if the treatment provider is not utilizing these services and aren't equipped to handle it, we are not going to see the outcomes we are hoping for." Dr. Harris recommended that "when you are providing support to someone, you need to engage in ongoing sustainable support in a person's natural community. Look at their natural environment, not the one they should live in, but the one they actually live in."
- 15. There are Steps You can Take to De-escalate a Stressful Situation.** Law enforcement officers walked the audience through de-escalation techniques, with Eric Fox highlighting: "We can all exhibit tactical transparency—tell the individual what is going to happen, so they have an idea of what to expect. Shawn Edwards offered: "Do what you can to keep a calming environment--say good morning; try to take away some stress; offer solutions and reasonable options." Melvin Bowser noted that "the mistake I see the most when people are trying to de-escalate someone is going straight to problem solving when that person isn't in the right frame of mind due to their heightened state of emotion. It's like trying to logic with your drunk friend, they have to sober up first."

Conclusion

Judge John Specia, Jr. wrapped up the summit by thanking the participants: "By being here, you are a leader." Judge Specia adjourned the gathering with congratulations to the JCMH: "It was monumental that the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals came together to create the JCMH; It's been a unique experiment that has worked out extraordinarily well."

JCMH SOCIAL MEDIA 2024

Followers across social platforms



Some of our highest performing posts this year

Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health
1,512 followers

As Chief Justice Nathan Hecht's retirement nears, the [Supreme Court of Texas](#) Justices and staff got together this morning to wish him luck and bid him farewell.

The Justices shared stories and memories of their time serving on the Court with the Chief, and staff shared some of his more memorable quotes.

Chief Justice Hecht's legacy is cemented in Texas history. The JCMH is grateful for his leadership; our Commission would not exist without him. Thank you Chief, and best wishes!

Eric Smith and 176 others

1 comment · 6 reposts

Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

November 22, 2024

THAT'S A WRAP! We closed out the Summit with four wonderful presentations.

More content to come next week, but thank you to everyone who participated as a speaker, attendee, or volunteer. The 7th Annual Summit was a huge success!

Boost

20

Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

June 12 at 11:00 AM

Good morning from Fort Bend County! We are in Sugar Land for the second of nine County Mental Health Law Plan workshops.

Commissioner Dr. Connie Almeida and Collaborative Councilmembers Officer Brittany Moreno, Tim Bray, and Katrina LeVert are some of our participants today.

See insights and ads

Boost post

10

1 comment · 2 shares

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