

JUDICIAL SUMMIT ON MENTAL HEALTH

MARRIOTT DALLAS ALLEN HOTEL &
CONVENTION CENTER, ALLEN TX



NOVEMBER
21-22, 2024

Thursday, November 21, 2024

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| 7:45am | Breakfast | |
| 8:30 – 8:45am | <p>Welcome From the High Courts</p> <p>Hon. Jane Bland, <i>Justice, The Supreme Court of Texas, JCMH Chair</i></p> <p>Hon. Barbara Hervey, <i>Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, JCMH Chair</i></p> <p>Kristi Taylor, J.D., <i>Executive Director, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health</i></p> | |
| 8:45 – 9:30am | <p>Lessons from the Boys in the Bunkhouse: Promoting the Human Rights of Individuals with IDD</p> <p>Ethics, CVA</p> <p><i>Robert Canino, J.D., Regional Attorney, Dallas District Office, U.S. EEOC</i></p> <p>In the 1970s, thirty-two Texas men with intellectual disabilities were moved from Texas State Supported Living Centers to work in a turkey processing plant in Atalissa, Iowa. Lacking basic freedoms and foundational supports, the men were housed together in a converted schoolhouse and worked in abusive, neglectful conditions for more than 30 years. Robert Canino, who prosecuted the case of EEOC v. Hill Country Farms, Inc., dba Henry’s Turkey Services, will discuss how the EEOC used the Americans with Disabilities Act to win compensatory and punitive damages for intentional discrimination of the plaintiffs. The outcome of the case raised national awareness of similar situations across the country and illuminates the vital role in protecting and monitoring the well-being of vulnerable populations.</p> | |
| 9:30 – 9:45am | <p>Lived Experience Expert</p> <p><i>Lesli Fitzpatrick, J.D.</i></p> <p>In this session, Ms. Fitzpatrick will share her experience as the daughter of a man with paranoid schizophrenia and with her own substance abuse. She hopes sharing her story will inspire others to seek help, and give them the courage to overcome their own mental health or substance use disorders.</p> | |
| 9:45 – 10:00am | Break | |
| 10:00 – 10:45am | <p>Clinical and Legal Collaboration in Mental Health Litigation: The Civil Commitment Process</p> <p>CVA</p> <p><i>Daniela Chisolm, J.D.</i> <i>Roberto Kutcher-Diaz, M.D.</i></p> | <p>Lawyer Wellness while Handling Cases with People Who are Unwell</p> <p>Ethics, JV</p> <p><i>Jessica Chevrier, M.S.</i></p> <p>What are the ethical considerations of representing a client with mental illness or intellectual disabilities? And how do you foster</p> |

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| | <p>This presentation offers an in-depth exploration of the intersection between clinical expertise and legal frameworks in civil commitment cases. Participants will gain an understanding of the clinical assessments and legal criteria that guide commitment decisions, the challenges in balancing patient rights with public safety, and the procedures involved in performing a civil commitment.</p> | <p>a work-life balance as the lawyer or system partner at the intersection of mental health and the judicial system? This session will provide concrete actions that individuals or organizations can make to continue to provide ethical representation and protect the well-being of the professionals involved.</p> |
| 10:45 – 11:00am | Break | |
| 11:00 – 11:45pm | <p style="text-align: center;">Diversion before Diversion <i>Hon. Raquel “Rocky” Jones</i> <i>Vickie Rice, J.D.</i></p> <p>In this session, a Dallas District Court Judge and the Special Programs Division Chief of the Dallas County Public Defender’s Office will discuss diversion techniques and considerations for the beginning of a case before formal diversion programs are considered.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Lessons from an Immersive Reentry Simulation <i>De’borah Jones-Poole, LCDC-I</i> <i>Rochion Gregg</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ethics</p> <p>On Wednesday before the Summit, a few attendees experienced a simulation of the common barriers facing someone returning to society after a period of incarceration. This session discusses lessons learned during this simulation and underscores best practices in court diversion programs, early identification competency restoration, and re-entry.</p> |
| 11:45 – 12:45pm | LUNCH | |
| 12:45 – 1:45pm | <p>Long-Term Brain Health of Children: Instilling a Growth Mindset in Individuals and Communities <i>Yolanda Lewis, M.P.A.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">JV, FV</p> | |
| | <p>By using mental health treatment and resources as a protective factor, practitioners can proactively address the mental health of children who find themselves in high-risk situations. This session emphasizes 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.</p> | |
| 1:45 – 2:00pm | Break | |
| 2:00 – 2:45pm | <p style="text-align: center;">Dangerous Women: Confronting Stereotypes in the Criminal Legal and Mental Health Systems JV, Ethics, FV <i>Angel Carroll</i> <i>Marci Simmons</i> <i>Jennifer Toon</i></p> <p>This panel will explore the harmful effects of biases and stereotypes that affect girls and women within the criminal legal and mental health systems. It will specifically address stereotypes related to adultification,</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Evidence-Based Treatment for Substance Use Disorder JV, Ethics, FV <i>Erin Rodriguez, M.S., L.C.P.C., L.A.C.</i></p> <p>Critical to the success of individuals who suffer from a substance use disorder is ensuring that evidence-based treatment services are available for their children and families. During this session, participants will review the importance of having access to and using a continuum of evidence-based substance use treatment resources—from inpatient</p> |

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| | personality disorders, and addiction. Panelists will discuss strategies for professionals working within these systems to recognize and challenge their internal biases in ways that lead to more person-centered and equitable approaches. | residential treatment to outpatient services. Referral processes, case planning, use of family-based therapies, mental health services, and applying trauma-focused care for youth and families will all be discussed. |
| 2:45 – 3:00pm | Break – Afternoon Snack | |
| 3:00 – 3:40pm | Breakout Sessions | |
| 3:40 – 3:50pm | Break | |
| 3:50 – 4:30pm | Breakout Sessions | |
| 4:30 – 4:40pm | Break | |
| 4:40 – 5:30pm | Breakout Sessions | |
| 5:30 pm | Networking Event | |

| Friday, November 22, 2024 | |
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| 7:45am | Breakfast |
| 8:30 – 8:45am | Welcome From the High Courts <i>Hon. Rebeca Aizpuru Huddle, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas</i> <i>Hon. Jesse F. McClure, III, Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals</i> |
| 8:45 – 9:30am | <p style="text-align: center;">2025 Legislative Session Prospective <i>Courtney Harvey, Ph.D.</i> <i>Prof. Brian Shannon, J.D.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">CVA</p> <p>Leading experts and policymakers Professor Shannon and Dr. Harvey will share the top priorities and proposed initiatives from the JCMH and HHSC aimed at advancing mental health care and support across Texas in the 2025 Legislative Session.</p> |
| 9:30 – 10:00am | <p style="text-align: center;">Texas County Mental Health Law Plan: What is Working in Texas? <i>Kristi Taylor, J.D.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">CVA</p> <p>JCMH traveled to nine counties this year for the County Mental Health Law Plan Workshops. The nine counties analyzed how their counties stack up in the areas of Civil Commitment, Early Intervention, Mental Health Courts, and Competency Restoration. JCMH Executive Director Kristi Taylor will tell you what we've learned and how to troubleshoot problems and apply best practices in your own county.</p> |
| 10:00 – 10:15am | Break – AM Snack |
| 10:15 – 11:00am | <p style="text-align: center;">Implementing Risk-Needs-Responsivity Model for Justice-Involved Veterans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ethics <i>Blake Harris, Ph.D.</i></p> <p>In this presentation, Dr. Blake Harris delves into how the Risk-Needs-Responsivity Model—an evidence-based framework designed to assess and address the criminogenic risks and needs of offenders—can be effectively adapted to meet the unique challenges faced by justice-involved veterans. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to tailor risk assessments, identify specific needs related to trauma, mental health, and substance abuse, and apply targeted interventions that align with veterans' individual responsivity factors.</p> |
| 11:00 – 11:15am | Break |
| 11:15 – 12:00pm | <p style="text-align: center;">Utilizing De-escalation & Crisis Negotiation Techniques in Your Court <i>Melvin Bowser, Texas Commission on Jail Standards</i> <i>Sgt. Shawn Edwards, Burleson County</i> <i>Eric Fox, Law Enforcement Liaison, Central Counties Services</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">JV, FV</p> <p>Be prepared with practical de-escalation and crisis negotiation techniques that can be employed by judges, court staff, and other professionals to maintain a safe and orderly environment while addressing the needs of individuals exhibiting disruptive or distressing behavior. Attendees will learn key approaches for effectively calming tense situations, minimizing conflict, and facilitating constructive communication with parties in crisis.</p> |

Thursday Breakout Sessions

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| 3:00 – 3:40 pm | <p>Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative <i>Omar Hernandez</i> <i>Felix Torres, M.D., M.B.A.</i></p> <p>HHSC began the Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative (JIRLC) in 2021 to support efforts to monitor and reduce the number of cases where defendants are found incompetent to stand trial in county jails. Learn from the successes and challenges the JIRLC and its participants have faced from its inception until now.</p> | <p>Navigating MH & IDD in Juvenile Court JV <i>Hon. Cyndi Porter Gore</i> <i>Hon. Cynthia Wheless</i> <i>Molly Davis, J.D.</i> <i>Lynn Hadnot, M.S.</i></p> <p>This panel of judges, attorneys, and mental health experts will walk attendees through one or more real case fact patterns while identifying the points at which a child’s potential MH or IDD needs could be identified, the points at which the child could be diverted, & the appropriate services and dispositions that could be ordered.</p> | <p>What Families Want You to Know to Improve Outcomes for Individuals with SMI <i>Jerri Clark</i></p> <p>Jerri Clark is family resource and advocacy manager at Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC). Her work honors her son, who died from an under-treated severe bipolar disorder. In this session she will speak about how her lived experience has moved her to support system change for people with the most severe and disabling mental illness conditions and the people who love them.</p> | <p>Mental Health is for Everyone <i>Hon. Brent Carr</i> <i>Carol Nati, M.D.</i></p> <p>Attendees will explore methods for recognizing mental health issues among individuals involved in court proceedings, including strategies for identifying major MH disorders. The session will offer practical guidance on supporting individuals with mental illness in court. Additionally, this presentation will address the importance of fostering a healthy work environment for court staff, with a focus on mitigating stress and promoting self-care practices.</p> | <p>Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations in Rural Settings <i>Robert Fox</i> <i>Wes Patton</i> <i>Jeff Phillips</i> <i>Christina Sanders, M.C.J.</i></p> <p>This presentation will teach attendees what it’s like to take on the multi-disciplinary role of a Social Worker in a rural setting working with forensic mental health clients. Speakers will discuss the intersectionality of their roles, and how they use diversion tactics that focus on communication, early intervention, and collaboration. Information will be presented so that other counties may replicate these programs.</p> | <p>Downtown Austin Community Court: Where Criminal Justice & Homelessness Services Intersect FV <i>Jennifer Sowinski, L.C.S.W.</i> <i>Yvonne Mboss, L.C.S.W.-S</i></p> <p>The Downtown Austin Community Court uses a person-centered and trauma-informed approach to help people resolve outstanding cases. Learn how this is accomplished through completing activities that help resolve their experience with homelessness, such as participating in case management and accessing MH & substance use treatment.</p> | <p>Building a Specialty Court from the Ground Up JV <i>Hon. Victor Villarreal</i> <i>Morgan Miller, J.D.</i></p> <p>This session offers a step-by-step guide for developing and implementing a specialty court. Attendees will gain insights into key considerations such as stakeholder engagement, program development, legal frameworks, and effective case management strategies.</p> |
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| <p>3:50 – 4:30 pm</p> | <p>Competency Restoration at the Ground Level: A View from the State Hospital <i>Mark Messer, D.O.</i> Focusing on hands-on experiences and practical insights from the Terrell State Hospital, this presentation offers a detailed look at the strategies employed to assess and address the needs of patients undergoing competency restoration at Texas State Hospitals.</p> | <p>Violence Prevention, School-Based Behavioral Threat Assessments, and the Prevention Practitioner Network JV, FV <i>Kate Shaw, Ph.D., L.M.S.W.</i> This presentation will use the lens of youth interactions with the judicial system to highlight alternatives to incarceration, early identification of at-risk individuals, and cross-disciplinary collaborations to create safer and more resilient communities.</p> | <p>Suicide Prevention for Justice-Involved Individuals <i>Blake Harris, Ph.D.</i> <i>Terri Williams, L.P.C.</i> For a critical and often overlooked aspect of criminal justice and mental health care, attend this session regarding safeguarding the well-being of individuals involved in the justice system. We will explore strategies for identifying, assessing, and mitigating suicide risk among justice-involved individuals, who are disproportionately affected by mental health issues and suicidal ideation.</p> | <p>Preventing Secondary Trauma Ethics <i>Aaron Salinas, D.N.P.</i> <i>Patricia Lerma, M.A.</i> Research has proven that the more time mental health practitioners spend with patients who have experienced trauma, the higher the risk they have of experiencing vicarious trauma. The question that will be addressed: how do we provide adequate care for trauma patients and not become victims of vicarious trauma ourselves?</p> | <p>AOT Court: Voices of Impact Ethics <i>Hon. Joseph Strelitz</i> <i>Daniela Chisolm, J.D.</i> <i>Issac Pino</i> This powerful session takes attendees on a 360-degree journey through Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) by weaving together three critical perspectives: an AOT program graduate, an AOT judge, and a mental health prosecutor.</p> | <p>School-Based Crisis Intervention Teams: A Multidisciplinary Response for Children and Adolescents JV, FV <i>Alyssa Flores, L.P.C.-A.</i> <i>Bridgette Leyva, L.M.S.W.</i> In the 2022-2023 school year, Emergence Health Network launched a CIT initiative with local school districts in El Paso to provide crisis emergency response and intervention. Find out how this CIT program uses a multi-disciplinary response to meet the needs of children and adolescents who are in crisis and students with disabilities, such as autism and IDD.</p> | <p>New Kid on the Block: Inheriting a Specialty Court <i>Hon. Raquel “Rocky” Jones</i> <i>Hon. Lela Mays</i> Specialty courts require a nuanced understanding of both their unique operational dynamics and the established practices that contribute to their effectiveness. If an established specialty court has recently come under your purview, this session is for you. This presentation will provide an overview of the challenges and opportunities faced by new judges, administrators, and practitioners stepping into these roles.</p> |
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| <p>4:40 – 5:20 pm</p> | <p>Behind the Curtain: Competency Restoration at Texas State Hospitals <i>Kaylee Reza, L.C.S.W.</i> <i>Felix Torres, M.D., M.B.A.</i></p> <p>This presentation will provide a high-level overview of individuals served in Texas State Hospitals. We will then provide considerations and implications for inpatient competency restoration, discuss treatment goals within state hospitals for those deemed IST, and enhance awareness of alternative pathways to competency restoration and least restrictive settings.</p> | <p>Help-Seeking Behaviors Among Teens Who Experience Dating Violence JV, FV <i>Patricia Lerma, M.A.</i></p> <p>Adolescent relationship abuse, also known as teen dating violence, has been on the rise for more than three decades. In this session, the presenters will discuss why youth will or will not disclose issues in their relationship; if they do inform someone, why they choose that particular person(s); and how to build trust and confidence in youth seeking help.</p> | <p>Animal Assisted Services in Mental Health Services FV <i>Hon. Charles Stephens</i> <i>Amy Binder, Ed.D.</i></p> <p>Learn how animals can be used in the justice system to promote positive mental health outcomes. This presentation includes a visit from a therapy dog and research from a current case study.</p> | <p>Emerging Trends in MH Care <i>Kelly Bellamy</i> <i>James Montgomery, M.D.</i></p> <p>In this session you will learn about the cutting-edge treatment methods that may be appearing in your treatment court or defendant's treatment plans and how to best utilize them to assist in promoting a defendant's progress.</p> | <p>Transformative Youth Justice: Trauma-Informed Practices for Youth & Emerging Adults in Diversion Programs FV <i>Hon. Denise Hernandez</i> <i>Diana Anzaldúa, L.C.S.W.</i></p> <p>In this session, you'll hear from a County Court at Law Judge and a trauma therapist who partnered to use trauma-informed practices in the Transformative Youth Justice program in Travis County, a court-led diversion program utilizing holistic, community-centered approaches to provide participants developmentally appropriate support, intervention, and mentorship.</p> | <p>Mental Health in Domestic Violence Courts FV <i>Hon. Tammy Kemp</i> <i>Hon. Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez</i></p> <p>Domestic Violence Courts target the domestic violence offender with the intent to reduce recidivism among this population through intense supervision by multi-disciplinary team. Hear from two judges who preside over these unconventional, but effective, treatment courts.</p> | <p>Contingency Management and Behavior Modification FV <i>Erin Rodriguez, M.S., L.C.P.C., L.A.C.</i></p> <p>This module introduces practitioners to the research and the importance of engaging in and utilizing contingency management skills and processes. This session will allow participants to review and understand the research on contingency management and how teams can support families by using a therapeutic response to behavior to improve outcomes.</p> |
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