



THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
THE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

JANUARY 25, 2024
MEETING NOTEBOOK



**January 25, 2024
Meeting Notebook**

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Tab 1
Agenda



Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health
January 25, 2024
AGENDA

10:00	Welcome	Hon. Jane Bland Hon. Barbara Hervey
10:10	Commissioner Introductions	Hon. Jane Bland
12:00	Networking Lunch Sponsored by The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals	Hon. Barbara Hervey
12:30	Executive Director Report	Kristi Taylor
	1. Biennial Report to the Courts	
	2. Budget	Patrick Passmore
	3. Strategic Plan	
	a. Collaborate	Kristi Taylor
	i. Forms	
	ii. Legislative Work	
	iii. Round Tables	
	iv. Community Diversion Coordinator Pilot	Cynthia Martinez
	b. Educate	
	i. Summit	Kama Harris
	ii. Speaking Engagements	
	iii. Video Library, Tools, and Resources	
	iv. Innovations Map	Andy Perkins
	c. Lead	
	i. SIM Mapping	Molly Davis
	ii. Technical Assistance	
	iii. County Mental Health Law Plan	
	iv. Mental Health Court Collaborative	
	v. Communications	Rose McBride
	vi. Reimagining Justice Podcast	



1:00	Continuing Education	Hon. Jane Bland Michelle Fontenot Judge Charles Stephens
1:50	Announcements	Hon. Jane Bland
2:00	Adjourn	Hon. Barbara Hervey

Tab 2

**Executive Committee,
Commissioners,
& Collaborative Council**

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Committee & Commissioners

Executive Committee

Hon. Jane Bland, Co-Chair

Justice

Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Barbara Hervey, Co-Chair

Judge

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Hon. Bill Boyce, Vice-Chair

Justice (Fmr.)

Fourteenth Court of Appeals

Alexander, Dubose & Jefferson, LLP

Hon. Brent Carr

Judge (Ret.)

Tarrant County, Texas

Hon. John J. Specia, Jr.

Judge (Ret.)

Mimari Anderson Clifone & Watkins, PLLC

Megan LaVoie, J.D.

Administrative Director

Office of Court Administration

High Court Liaisons

Hon. Rebeca Huddle

Justice

Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Jesse F. McClure, III

Judge

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Commissioners

M. Connie Almeida, Ph.D.

Director of Behavioral Health

Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services

Hon. Devon Anderson

President/CEO

Justice Forward

Hon. Nelda Cacciotti

Acting 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

Real and Uvalde Counties, 38th Judicial
District

Alyse Ferguson, J.D.

Of Counsel

Rosenthal Kalabus & Therrian

Sonja Gaines, M.B.A.

Deputy Executive Commissioner for

Intellectual and Developmental Disability and
Behavioral Health Services

Texas Health and Human Services
Commission

Hon. Cynthia Porter Gore

Judge

City of Allen Municipal Court

Stephanie Greger, J.D.

Deputy General Counsel

Office of the Governor of Texas

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 and Human Services Commission

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Executive Committee & Commissioners

Hon. Bonnie Hellums

Judge (Ret.)
Harris County, Texas

Hon. Joan Huffman

Senator, District 17
Texas Senate

Hon. Dave Jahn

Judge
Denton County Probate Court No. 1

Hon. Oscar Kazen

Judge
Bexar County Probate Court No. 1

Andrew Keller, Ph.D.

President and CEO
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Adrienne Kennedy, M.A.

Past President
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Hon. M. Sue Kurita

Judge
El Paso County Court at Law No. 6

Beth Lawson

Chief Executive Officer
StarCare Specialty Health System

Chief Mike Lee, M.A.

Chief Deputy Sheriff
Harris County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Elizabeth Byer Leonard

Judge
Midland County, 238th District Court

Hon. Pam Liston

Magistrate Judge
Senior Attorney
Messer, Fort & McDonald, PLLC

Octavio Martinez, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.

Executive Director
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

Hon. Stacey Mathews

Judge
Williamson County, 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

Magdalena Morales-Aina

Director
El Paso County Community Supervision and
Corrections Department

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
Harris County District Attorney's Office

Lee Pierson, J.D.

Chief Mental Health Prosecutor
Dallas County District Attorney's Office

Hon. Larry Phillips

Judge
59th District Court

Vickie Rice, J.D.

Mental Health and Specialty Court Supervisor
Dallas County Public Defender's Office

Andrea Richardson

CEO
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Executive Committee & Commissioners

Hon. Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt

Judge
449th District Court

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

*Deputy Executive Commissioner for the HHSC
Health and Specialty Care System*
Texas Health and Human Services
Commission

Prof. Brian Shannon

Paul Whitfield Horn Professor
Texas Tech University School of Law

Eric Smith

Consultant
Eric W. T. Smith Consulting

Matt Smith

Assistant 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

Julie Wayman

Director, Mental and Behavioral Health
Texas Education Agency

Hon. Cynthia Wheless

Judge
417th District Court

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 Two

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

Chief Executive Office
The Harris Center

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

Director
Reentry and Integration Division, Texas
Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical
or Mental Impairments, Texas Department of
Criminal Justice

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Collaborative Council

Collaborative Council

Hon. Laura Barker

Judge

Williamson County Court at Law No. 2

Kelsey Bernstein

Legislative Consultant

Texas Association of Counties

Hon. Elizabeth Berry

First Assistant Public Defender

Concho Valley Public Defender's Office

Catherine Bialick, M.P.Aff.

Director of Behavioral Health and Justice Initiatives

Texas Health and 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 and Health Policy

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Hon. Clifford A. Brown

Judge

Travis County, 147th District Court

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

Research Scholar in Social Justice and Population Health

The Hastings Center

Hon. Sarah Bruchmiller

Judge

Williamson County, 368th District Court

Sonja Burns

Mental Health Advocate

Angel Carroll

Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships

MEASURE

Hon. Jennifer Cates

Judge

Canyon Municipal Court

Hon. Brad Clark

Judge

Tarrant County Criminal Court #5

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Armando Colombo

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Menninger Clinic

Hon. Marla Cuellar

Judge
Hidalgo County, 275th 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

Dep. Shawn Edwards

Training Coordinator, Crisis Intervention Unit #920
Burlleson County Sheriff's Office

Lesli Fitzpatrick, J.D.

Director of Special Litigation
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Hon. Neal Franklin

County Judge
Smith County

Gilbert Gonzales, L.P.C.

Director
Bexar County Department of Behavioral and Mental Health

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 #1

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Angelita Hunter

Municipal Court Supervisor
City of McKinney Municipal 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
Dallas County, 203rd District Court

Louise Joy, J.D.

Attorney/Partner
Joy & Young, LLP

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 #2

Scott LePor, D.O.

Medical Director
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Katrina LeVert, J.D.

Assistant County Attorney
Fort Bend County Attorney's Office

Yolanda Lewis, M.P.A.

Executive Vice President for Justice and Health
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Hon. Lora J. Livingston

Interim Executive Director
Texas Access to Justice Commission

Chris Lopez, J.D.

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

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Charles Mathias, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio

Hon. Lela Mays

District Judge

Dallas County, 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 and Dementia Practices

Hon. Rita Noel

Student Support Services

Denison Independent School District

Evan Norton, Psy.D.

Director of Integrated Treatment and Support

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Lemuel Odom, L.P.C.-S.

Clinical Supervisor-Psychological & Social Services

Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

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

Manager of Community Interventions & Supports

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

John Petrila, J.D.

Senior Executive Vice President of Policy
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Hon. Daphne Previti-Austin

Attorney
The Law Office of Shawn C. Brown, P.C.

Officer Terry Qualls

Crisis Intervention Coordinator
McKinney Police Department

Janis Reinken, J.D.

Chief Clerk (Former)
House Committee on Corrections

Chris Ritter, J.D.

In-house 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 and 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

Melissa Shearer, J.D.

Director
Travis County Mental Health Public Defender's Office

Jennie Simpson, Ph.D.

Forensic Director
Texas Health and Human Services Commission

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Hon. Mike Smith

Judge

Brown County, 35th District Court

Sandra Smith, Ph.D.

Vice President

Via Hope

Lt. Scott Soland

Patrol Lieutenant

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez

Judge

Bexar County Court at Law #13

Hon. Nancy Tanner

County Judge

Potter County

Gloria Terry

Chief Executive Officer

Texas Council on Family Violence

Jennifer Toon

Mental Health Peer Policy Fellow

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Haley Turner, M.S.W.

Deputy Executive Commissioner for Community Services

Texas Health and 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

Nicole Weaver

YES Waiver Manager, Mental Health and Substance Use Programs

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Thea Whalen, J.D.

Executive Director

Texas Justice Courts Training Center

**JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Collaborative Council**

Hon. Deborah Wigington

Judge

Comal County Court at Law #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

Tab 3
Minutes from October 2023
Meeting

**TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
October 18, 2023
10:30 A.M. –12:00 P.M.
Moody Gardens Hotel & Resort
Galveston, Texas**

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 F. McClure, III, Deputy Liaison, *Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals*
Hon. Bill Boyce, Vice-Chair, *Justice (Former), 14th Court of Appeals; Partner, Alexander, Dubose & Jefferson*
Dr. M. Connie Almeida, *Director, Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services*
Hon. Brent Carr, *Judge (Ret.), Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 9*
Hon. Cory Carlyle, *Justice, 5th Court of Appeals*
Hon. Francisco Dominguez, *Judge, 205th District Court*
Alyse Ferguson, *Of Counsel, Rosenthal Kalabus & Therrian*
Dr. Courtney Harvey, *Associate Commissioner, Texas HHSC*
Hon. Bonnie Hellums, *Judge (Ret.), 247th District Court, Harris County*
Hon. Yolanda Huff, *Judge, Bexar County Court 12*
Hon. Dave W. Jahn, *Judge, Denton County Probate Court No. 1*
Hon. Oscar J. Kazen, *Judge, Bexar County Probate Court No. 1*
Beth Lawson, *Chief Executive Officer, StarCare Specialty Health System*
Hon. Elizabeth Byer Leonard, *Judge, 238th District Court, Midland County*
Hon. Tamara Needles, *Judge, 427th District Court, Travis County*
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*
Hon. Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt, *Judge, 449th District Court, Hidalgo County*
Prof. Brian Shannon, *Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor, Texas Tech University School of Law*
Chief Stan Standridge, *Chief, San Marcos Police Department*
Hon. Charles A. Stephens, *Judge, Comal County Court at Law No. 2*
Hon. Cynthia Wheless, *Judge, 417th District Court, Collin County*
Wayne Young, *Chief Executive Officer, The Harris Center*

Welcome and Announcements

Justice Jane Bland opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance for the final Commission meeting for 2023. She announced that the Commission will be combining the Commission meeting and the annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health and thanked JCMH staff for their work on dual efforts to make this happen. Along with updates from state agencies and Commission initiatives for discussion. She also instructed everyone to Tab 1 for the agenda and Tab 3 for the meeting minutes from the previous Commission meeting. Justice Bland then introduced Judge Hervey.

Judge Barbara Hervey also welcomed all in attendance and announced that there would be time at the end of the meeting to receive announcements from the commissioners and collaborative council. Judge Hervey also announced JCMH new staff attorney Andy Perkins who joined in August. Andy has dedicated his career to public service. He has clerked for a United States Magistrate in Abilene and later worked in the Child Support Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office.

Executive Director Report

Kristi Taylor directed attention to the Commission Report, which catalogs current Commission projects and Committee activities of 2023. Ms. Taylor reported a productive year, with Judge Brent Carr as Jurist-in-Residence, five legislative proposals passed, a rule on mental health forms in the Rules of Judicial Administration, a podcast, CLE production, Sequential Intercept Model mapping workshops, and new programs like the Texas Mental Health Law Plan and Mental Health Courts Collaborative.

Budget

Kristi Taylor directed everyone to tab 5 of the notebook that contains a 2023 budget summary. A detailed comparison of the Commission's 2022-23 year-over-year actuals with the 2024 budget is recommended. The 2024 budget increased by \$134,500, including \$100,000 for Youth SIM and \$34,500 for a 5% cost-of-living adjustment. Increases in revenue sections are also noted. She also reported that SIM Mappings continue into 2024, with plans to map two more youth systems. Applications are available on the website under Technical Assistance. The goal is to provide resources and technical assistance to historically overlooked communities.

Communications

Rose McBride reported that JCMH has six episodes of the podcast, *Reimagining Justice: Exploring Texas Innovations in Mental Health*, and the goal is to highlight communities in Texas who are doing something innovative and lay the groundwork for how other communities can implement them into the own county or community. She discussed recent podcast in which she interviewed Collaborative Council and Commissioners Judge Kirk Noaker, Judge Renee Betancourt and Judge Wheless. She stated she will be doing a podcast with one of the Summit presenters, Judge Sawyer from Philadelphia. She stated that she is always looking for new people to contribute to the

podcast and that the JCMH podcasts are available on few stations such Apple and Spotify. Rose discussed the video library that is available on the website which includes educational videos related to the of JCMH and is always looking for people to be on the podcast.

Sixth Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health

Kristi Taylor reported this year's Summit attracted over 500 registered attendees from 140 counties, 12 states, and two countries. Highlights included workshops on grant funding, competency restoration, breakout sessions, and Resource Booths for local community assistance. She expressed gratitude to the JCMH team, particularly Kama Harris, who has served as Summit Director for three years. She thanked the team for their tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth running of the summit, including curriculum committee, content development, speaker coordination, and logistics. Ms. Taylor thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the Summit. She encouraged the 500 plus attendees to attend as many sessions as they could and invited everyone to attend the networking hour after the last session sponsored by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

Adult Bench Book

Kama Harris reported the fourth edition of the Bench Book is set to be launched at the Summit, featuring over 100 pages of new material and forms, including a section on peer support, procedure charts, and a full index. Additional hard copies can be requested via email, and the digital version will be available soon. Kama Harris called on Molly Davis for the Juvenile Bench Book update.

Juvenile Bench Book

Molly Davis reported that the Juvenile Bench Book, the third in three years, is set to debut at the Summit. Ms. Davis thanked Judge Cyndi Wheless and committee members who contributed, the bench book includes new chapters on Re-entry and Community Corrections, and covers legislative updates from 2023, including changes to Chapter 55 of the Family Code and House Bill 3186. If you didn't get your copy or if it is no longer available at the Summit, please email us and we will ship copies to you.

County Mental Heal Law Plan

Andy Perkins reported the Mental Health Law Plan is a toolkit for communities who have completed a Sequential Intercept Model mapping to better administer cases with mental health issues. The Commission has created a checklist to encourage collaboration and provide step-by-step advice on best practices. The JCMH is hosting a Pilot Program to launch the MH Law Plan, providing technical assistance and resources to pilot counties. Administrative Judges will create a multidisciplinary team to review the checklist and complete a template reflecting the county's current and future mental health law plans. This initiative will evolve and develop as it is field-tested, but the checklist is ready, and we're excited to announce it at the Summit and begin working with interested parties.

Mental Health Courts Collaborative

JIR Judge Brent Carr reported that JCMH is launching the Mental Health Courts Collaborative, providing technical assistance and support for judges starting or re-starting mental health court programs. The initiative will feature three virtual meetings covering topics like model courts, judicial ethics, and grant writing. The Collaborative will also have the opportunity to network at the annual Texas Association of Specialty Courts conference in Fort Worth in March 2024. Judge Carr announced to join the Mental Health Courts Collaborative Coffee tomorrow morning at 7:45 in the Garden Cay Room. We'll have applications available there and on the JCMH website as well.

Stage Agency Updates

Kristi Taylor announced that state agencies will update you on their projects and initiatives.

Chief Stan Standridge, San Marcos PD reported that he will be teaching an 8-hour Leadership Series to all the chiefs in the state of Texas for the next two years. This course addresses the pre-mortem analysis of Robb Elementary, which will identify points of intervention. This series will include a module on mental health. They are establishing behavioral threat assessment groups at city-- and county--levels and stressing the need for leadership collaboratives called behavioral advisory teams. They have successfully implemented these teams in San Marcos and Hays County and aim to replicate their success across Texas by exposing police chiefs to mental health service improvements.

Dr. Courtney Harvey, HHSC reported update on behalf of the Health and Human Services Commission as well as the Statewide Behavioral Health coordinating Council. Texas A&M University is conducting a two-year study on mental health and resiliency in Texas. The state received \$30 million for the 2024-25 biennium innovation grant program, focusing on upstream approaches to mental health services for children and families. Eligible entities include hospitals, hospitals, districts, local mental health authorities, childcare facilities, counties, municipalities, and non-profit organizations. The grant is a matching grant, and there will be matching associated with it. The council has been legislatively directed to publish a children's mental health strategic plan due to the legislature in 2024.

Dr. Evan Norton, TJJJ, reported TJJJ allocated \$145 million for probation funding, salaries, and services. There will be increased salaries for mental health professionals. \$200 million was allocated for 200 new beds and new builds. Texas Facilities Commission just started their study for this. The Georgetown University Youth In-Custody Model takes the Texas Model to next level, building a DBT-certified girls' program in next few years. Four to five states have already visited.

Announcements

Justice Bland invited Commissioners and the Collaborative Council to make announcements.

Justice Rebecca Huddle thanked the JCMH staff for all their work on the JCMH Summit, recognized Judge Carr and thanked everyone who contributed their time.

Deputy Shawn Edwards, Burleson County Sheriff's Office reported the Texas CIT conference is a collaborative event for law enforcement mental health professionals, focusing on educating law enforcement to treat individuals with dignity and respect. The conference will take place from April 18th to 20th, 2024 on South Padre Island.

Dr. Connie Almeida announced a new project launched in Fort Bend County, funded by the Second Chance Office of Juvenile Justice, which focuses on visitation policies for incarcerated parents and their children. The project, called Always Parenting, aims to change the environment where children and parents visit jails while incarcerated and continue through the county after release. The Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) program is being explored. Fort Bend has been working with TCU to develop a law enforcement curriculum, with trainers and a TBRI clinician. This is important for the emotional well-being of first responders. The county has added clinical supports through behavioral health services.

Judge Henderson, Grayson County reported a population of 130-150,000, was awarded a JCMH grant in 2021 to hire a mental health diversion coordinator. Elizabeth Groves was hired to establish a framework for dealing with mental health inmates and defendants in the criminal justice system. The county initially had no established framework, but after attending Judge Hawker's mental health court, the county decided to elevate the expertise of the criminal defense bar. They initially planned to establish a Managed Assigned Council Office to handle mental health case load, but later aimed to take over all Indigent Defense of Adult Defendants misdemeanor and felony cases. They applied for a grant from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and a meeting is scheduled to establish a board of directors for a nonprofit corporation operating as the North Texas Council program. The goal is to expand beyond Grayson County to be a regional program.

Judge Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez, Bexar County a social worker and attorney, presides over Bexar County Court at Law Number 13. The court handles domestic violence cases and has the highest number of family violence and child removals in the state. Gonzalez challenges judges to address the root causes of domestic violence and proposes a program that treats offenders with substance abuse issues. Judge Gonzalez believes that addressing the root causes of violence could reduce domestic violence cases and would like to be recognized as a specialty court through the OCA. They have been denied previously due to the population numbers which is, in turn, affected by the lack the funding.

Judge Huff, Bexar County made two announcements regarding the Winter Mental Health Court Graduation Ceremony on December 1st. The ceremony will be held off campus, with three community advocates speaking. The ceremony typically has 20-25 graduates and includes lunch for attendees. The next announcement is that the Bar County Specialty Court Coalition will hold a CL for the DA's office and his prosecutors. The team will speak to the prosecutors about the

specialty court programs, which are free for prosecutors. The event is open to the public, with a nominal fee of \$25.

Lyssette Galvan, NAMI Texas announced their annual conference at the Post Oak Hilton that will be held on November 3 & 4, 2023 and stated anyone interested could get more information at their resource booth at the Summit. She also thanked Justice Bland for speaking in May at the Capitol.

Judge Stephens, Comal County, reported that a year ago, SIM mapping was done with HHSC for adult systems and juvenile systems. We partnered with them for a youth SIM mapping in Comal County. The success of this led to the desire for a juvenile drug court.

Denise Oncken, Harris County District Attorney's Office announced that it's been over five years, a mental health Diversion Center in Harris County, run by the local Mental Health Authority Wayne Young, has diverted over 9,000 individuals for low-level misdemeanor charges without criminal charges. The Center's 5-year anniversary coincides with the judicial commission's presence.

Wayne Young, Chief Executive Officer of the Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD announced the Youth Diversion Center in Harris County has been opened to assist youth charged with assault of a family member. Typically, these youths are diverted to juvenile detention centers, where they are subsequently referred to a crisis residential facility, providing support and assistance to both the youth and their families.

Anna Gray, Prosumers International, discussed a recent report from the World Health Organization and the United Nations' Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights. They emphasize the need for a shift in mental health systems and the trauma that causes issues. Ms. Gray encouraged everyone to review the report and its recommendations, which can be found online or in her handouts with QR codes. The full title is "Guide and Practice on Mental Health Human Rights and Legislation," which includes recommendations for future legislative proposals.

Meeting adjourned

Judge Barbara Hervey announced the Court of Criminal Appeals is awarded \$30 million annually for the education of judges and defense bar prosecutors. They collaborate with organizations like the forensic science commission and law enforcement. All eight grantees train on mental health, and their websites provide information on training times and locations. Judge Hervey announced the upcoming Commission meeting on January 25, 2024 in Austin and thanked everyone for attending.

Tab 4

End of the Year Report



2023

Year End Report

Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health



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JCMH Strategic Plan

Vision Statement

Every Texas judge and attorney has the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to apply a comprehensive and collaborative approach to diverting appropriate individuals with mental health needs, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities away from the criminal justice system, balancing community safety and well-being.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Judicial Commission on Mental Health is to engage and empower courts through collaboration, education, and leadership and thereby improve the lives of individuals with mental health needs, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Overarching Principles

The JCMH will achieve success through collaboration, education, and leadership that promotes our mission with these overarching principles:

1. Judicial and attorney leadership, mentorship, and action are needed to improve court efficiency, performance, and accountability.
2. Diversion away from the justice system should be considered when appropriate for individual wellbeing and community safety.
3. Prevention has an important role in the justice system.
4. Social determinants of health including race, gender, socioeconomic and geographic factors are drivers of justice involvement.
5. Recovery is possible but not always linear.
6. Best and promising practices should be data-driven, evidence-based, outcome-focused, accessible, trainable, and reportable with fidelity.
7. Neuroscience and trauma-informed care inform practices at every intercept of the criminal justice system.
8. The lived experiences of individuals and peer programs are an integral part of recovery.
9. Stigma decreases empathy, understanding, and connection to treatment.
10. Data collection and data sharing are necessary to measure and improve outcomes.
11. Technology can help facilitate fairness and accessibility in the judiciary.
12. Secondary trauma is common among judges and attorneys who have frequent contact with traumatized individuals. Resiliency can be developed for workforce wellness.

The JCMH will accomplish its mission by convening experts, generating knowledge, and developing capacity in the areas of Collaboration, Education, and Leadership.

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 functioning for people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.
2. Seek consensus on how the mental health laws are to be interpreted and implemented, explore different perspectives, and record findings.
3. Explore potential partnerships to promote early awareness and education about mental health, substance use disorders, or IDD in the court system.

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.
2. Create and provide tools and resources on key concepts and court procedures related to mental health, substance use, or IDD.
3. Strive to serve as both a statewide and national leader in mental health, substance use, and IDD law and practice.

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.
2. Serve as a resource in the development of policy, legislation, and practice recommendations, including policy recommendations for consideration by the Texas Judicial Council.
3. Assist judges in leading local and regional initiatives to improve mental health, substance use disorders, and IDD service delivery and capacity.

II. Organizational Administration

A. Adhere to Governance Structure

1. Accomplish Commission work through committees with final approval by the Executive Committee.

B. Increase Financial Resources

1. Identify funding and resource options available to facilitate the Commission's efforts to serve the state.
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.

C. Enhance Human Resources

1. Ensure a highly qualified staff by recognizing achievement and promoting wellness and self-care.
2. Ensure expert Commissioners by considering new Commissioners every three years.

D. Execute Communications Strategies

1. Use social media to share the work of the Commission and partner agencies with followers through Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.
2. Target media outlets to share JCMH projects and resources with the public.
3. Contact our audience—judges, attorneys, law enforcement, mental health providers—directly via email to provide information about opportunities to get involved with the JCMH.

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.

C. Ensure Transparency

1. Provide progress reports to the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal every two years.
2. Share Commission work on the JCMH website, including information regarding grants.

Looking to 2024

2024 Goals

I. Collaborate

- A.** Collaborate with stakeholders to collect and analyze data, practices, law, and policy with the goal of improving court functioning for people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.
 - i. Prepare legislative priorities for the upcoming 89th Regular Session.
- B.** Seek consensus on how the mental health laws are to be interpreted and implemented, explore different perspectives, and record findings.
 - i. Solicit feedback and input at regional and local forums, focus groups, and trainings.
- C.** Explore potential partnerships to promote early awareness and education about mental health, substance use disorders, or IDD in the court system.
 - i. Continue to collaborate with partner organizations to promote and enhance their work.

II. Educate

- A.** Develop high-quality, multi-disciplinary education in coordination with state and national training experts and raise awareness of best practices and areas requiring improvement.
 - i. Create, promote, and lead the Seventh Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health.
 - ii. Provide specialized mental health law training to at least six counties or regions.
- B.** Create and provide tools and resources on key concepts and court procedures related to mental health, substance use, or IDD.
 - i. Create new resources for mental health laws, mental health procedures, and mental health courts.
 - ii. Create at least four new videos for the video library on mental health law.
 - iii. Expand Innovations Map to include resources for youth (Exceptional Item).
- C.** Strive to serve as both a statewide and national leader in mental health, substance use, and IDD law and practice.
 - i. Speak at no fewer than twelve partner events including national and statewide conferences.

III. Lead

- A.** 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.
 - i. Use surveys, focus groups, and other research methods to identify the needs and priorities of the judiciary.

- ii. Host Youth SIM Mappings (Exceptional Item).
- B.** Serve as a resource in the development of policy, legislation, and practice recommendations, including policy recommendations for consideration by the Texas Judicial Council.
 - i. Begin preparing in advance of next legislative session.
 - ii. Conduct County Mental Health Law Workshops in 8 counties.
- C.** Assist judges in leading local and regional initiatives to improve mental health, substance use disorders, and IDD service delivery and capacity.
 - i. Provide technical assistance and SIM mapping to counties.
 - ii. Continue to improve the JCMH website and the Innovations Map Website.
 - iii. Leverage the communications strategies to reach new counties.
 - iv. Launch Mental Health Law Plan Project with pilot counties.
 - v. Launch Mental Health Courts Collaborative.

2023 Year in Review

2023 Goals and Deliverables:

Goals that were expressly stated as 2023 goals in the 2022 End of Year Report are written in bold.

I. Collaborate

A. Collaborate with stakeholders to collect and analyze data, practices, law, and policy with the goal of improving court functioning for people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.

i. Serve as a resource for the Legislature for all bills related to mental health law.

a. Visited with Legislators and staff as a resource for pending bills.

1. On April 5 and 6, JCMH met with seven legislative staffers, provided education on JCMH's legislative proposals, and received feedback.

b. Justices, staff, and JCHM Commissioners and Collaborative Council members testified in the following legislative hearings:

1. Senate Committee on Finance, February 9, 2023 (Hon. Kirk Noaker testified on law enforcement training regarding persons with IDD)
2. House Appropriations Committee, February 15, 2023 (Dr. Andy Keller testified on mental health funding)
3. Senate Committee on Finance, February 16, 2023 (Chief Justice Hecht testified on the budget)
4. House County Affairs Committee, March 8, 2023 (Greg Hansch testified on mental health services)
5. House Higher Education Committee, March 20, 2023 (Dr. Andy Keller testified on HB 15/HJR 135)
6. Senate Health & Human Services Committee, March 22, 2023 (Dr. Andy Keller testified on SB 26)
7. Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education, March 30, 2023 (Alison Mohr Boleware testified on SB 532)
8. Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, April 18, 2023 (Justice Jane Bland, Hon. Brett Carr, Kristi Taylor testified on SB 2479)
9. House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, April 25, 2023 (Kristi Taylor testified on HB 5088)

10. House Committee on Human Services, May 10, 2023 (Greg Hansch testified on HB 1337)

c. Staff provided additional resource information to stakeholders, including OCA, on the following bills:

1. SB 2479
2. SB 1624
3. SB 1585
4. SB 725
5. HB 1310
6. HB 4366

ii. Held general and subcommittee meetings:

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| a. | Jan. 26 | JCMH Commission Meeting |
| b. | Feb. 7 | Collaborative Council Meeting |
| c. | Feb. 15 | Data Committee meeting |
| d. | March 9 | Bench Book Committee Meeting |
| e. | March 30 | Chair Meeting |
| f. | April 5 | Legislative Subcommittee Meeting |
| g. | April 6 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| h. | April 12 | JCMH Commission Meeting |
| i. | May 9 | Bench Book Committee Meeting |
| j. | May 10 | Data Committee Meeting |
| k. | May 16 | Collaborative Council Meeting |
| l. | June 1 | Summit Committee Meeting |
| m. | June 16 | Juvenile Bench Book Committee Meeting |
| n. | Aug. 4 | Bench Book Committee Meeting |
| o. | Aug. 5 | Juvenile Bench Book Committee Meeting |
| p. | Aug. 10 | Summit Committee Meeting |
| q. | Aug. 11 | MH Courts Collaborative Listening Session |
| r. | Aug. 30 | Chair Meeting |
| s. | Aug. 31 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| t. | Sept 12 | Collaborative Council Meeting |
| u. | Sept. 13 | Data Committee Meeting |
| v. | Sept. 26 | Small Group Legislative Meeting |
| w. | Oct. 18 | JCMH Commission Meeting |
| x. | Oct. 30 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| y. | Nov. 14 | Legislative Research Committee Meeting |
| z. | Dec. 13 | MH Courts Collaborative Curriculum Meeting |

B. Seek consensus on how the mental health laws are to be interpreted and implemented, explore different perspectives, and record findings.

i. Create and host three events related to mental health law.

JCMH hosted three Focus Groups where to seek input on mental health law implementation, including:

- a. Aug. 11 Mental Health Courts Collaborative Listening Session
- b. Sept. 7 Mental Health Law Plan Focus Group
- c. Dec. 7 Resource and Innovations Map Focus Group

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

i. Continue to collaborate with partner organizations to promote and enhance their work. For example, JCMH will serve as experts in the quarterly Eliminate the Wait Regional Events in partnership with HHSC.

- a. Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) – Held quarterly SIM Mapping meetings with HHSC, participated in development of HHSC’s Youth SIM Mapping Workshop, shared strategies for screening SIM applicants and received program updates on SIM Community of Practice.
- b. Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) – Assisted in writing the mental health section of the Indigent Defense Coordinator Guide. Currently providing updates to the guide after 2023 legislative session.
- c. Texas Justice Court Training Center (TJCTC) – Provided training for judges on emergency detentions. Provided updated resource materials and procedure charts on mental health law for their use.
- d. Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC) – Served as faculty for statewide Judicial Trainings on Emergency Detentions. Provided updated resource materials and procedure charts on mental health law for their use.
- e. Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Policy – Participated in Policy Fellowship Academy.
- f. JCMH attorneys collaborated with and spoke at conferences for National Association of Pretrial Services, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, Texas Association of Pretrial Services, Texas Municipal Court Education Center, the Texas Justice Court Training Center, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and Correctional Management Institute of Texas.

ii. Collaborate with judges and representatives from other judicial and attorney training organizations and agencies to develop curriculum related to

specific mental health laws.

- a. Representatives from JCMH, the Justice Court Training Center, the Texas Suicide Collaborative, and Texans Care for Children met to discuss training curriculums and programming for judges to increase suicide awareness, decrease suicides statewide, and help in suicide data collection, per the Texas State Plan for Suicide Prevention.
- b. Ongoing participation in statewide task force to create educational materials and training for judges, attorneys, and juvenile probation officers on Chapter 55 of the Texas Family Code.

II. Educate

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

- i. **Create, promote, and lead the Sixth Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health**
 - a. October 18-20, 2023; Moody Gardens; more than 500 in-person attendees and more than 700 virtual.
 - b. 2023 Summit Goals were met:
 1. Continued to have speakers who are knowledgeable, practical, & engaging.
 2. Increased variety and involvement in topics by utilizing breakout sessions.
 3. Change the timing of the 2 days (half-day, full-day, half-day) with breakout tracks and more breaks (more time between sessions, longer lunch, network opportunities).
 4. Speaker proposal and PowerPoint deadlines reduced last-minute organizational demands.
- ii. **Provide specialized mental health law training to at least six counties or regions.**
 - a. North Hill Country Regional Mental Health Training; Burnet, TX; April 25, 2023 (Blanco, Burnet, Llano, San Saba Counties attended);
 - b. Mental Health Court Webinar; virtual, May 31, 2023;
 - c. Llano County 16.22 Training; Llano, TX; Oct. 27, 2023.
 - d. Mental Health Courts Collaborative
 1. Identified existing mental health courts or dockets in Texas.
 2. Launched the Mental Health Courts Collaborative to provide peer support, mentoring, and guidance to judges who preside over mental

health court programs.

- e. Launched the County Mental Health Law Plan pilot program to encourage collaboration, accountability, and efficiency in county mental health law systems.
- f. Provided Technical Assistance to eight counties regarding mental health court programs.

B. Create and provide tools and resources on key concepts and court procedures related to mental health, substance use, or IDD.

i. Create new chapters and update existing chapters of the adult and juvenile bench books.

- a. Published and printed the Adult Bench Book on schedule—after the legislative session but in time to give to Summit attendees. The 4th edition updated the law and added more nuance to topics relating to emergency detentions, peer support, etc. This edition added 120 pages, an appendix, and an index. Over 500 books were distributed at the 2023 Summit, and the 4th edition is currently being reprinted.
- b. Published and printed the Juvenile Bench Book on schedule. The 3rd edition finished the Sequential Intercept Model, included a detailed section on TJJD, and explained changes to Chapter 55 of the Texas Family Code. This edition added 46 pages for a total of 191 pages. Over 400 books were distributed at the 2023 Summit and a reprint was ordered.

ii. Create new resources for legislative updates and other mental health laws.

- a. [Emergency Detention Round Table Report](#), March 2023
- b. [Legislative Summaries for 88th Legislative Session](#), July 2023
- c. [The Texas CCP article 16.22 Guide](#), 2nd ed., September 2023
- d. [Adult MH and IDD Bench Book, 4th ed.](#), October 2023
- e. [Juvenile MH and IDD Bench Book, 3rd ed.](#), October 2023
- f. Mental Health Law Update (educational paper) for TDCLA Mental Health Conference publication, November 2023
- g. [Jurist-in-Residence Newsletter](#), January, March, July, September 2023
- h. [Resource Letter](#), 13 in total
- i. [Texas Innovations Map](#)

iii. Video Library

a. **Goal: Create at least twelve new videos for the video library on mental health law.**

b. Video Library Actual:

1. Organized past Summit (2018 – 2022) videos in the video library by topic on the JCMH website.
2. Created videos to promote the 2023 JCMH Summit.
3. Streamed live videos of each Commission meeting and added recordings to the video library and JCMH YouTube page.
4. Created a 30-minute “how-to” video to accompany the JCMH 10-Step Guide for creating a mental health court.
 - a. Played the video during a webinar about mental health courts, led by Jurist-in-Residence Judge Brent Carr. We were approved for 1 CLE hour live and for on-demand use.
5. Began work on a video explaining the 16.22 process.

C. Strive to serve as both a statewide and national leader in mental health, substance use, and IDD law and practice.

i. **Speak at no fewer than twelve partner events including national and statewide conferences.**

- a. University of Texas Psychiatric Department Meeting; Austin, TX; April 10, 2023.
- b. Hays County Specialty Court Symposium, San Marcos, TX; April 28, 2023.
- c. Texas Association of Pretrial Services Conference; Rockwall, TX, May 11, 2023.
- d. Correctional Management Institute of Texas’s 17th Annual Conference on Managing Juveniles with Sexual Behavior Problems; Austin, TX, June 12, 2023.
- e. RISE 23 by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals; Houston, TX, June 27, 2023.
- f. National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies; New Orleans, LA, September 18, 2023.
- g. Justice Court Training Center, Emergency Detention Webinar; virtual, November 7, 2023.
- h. Texas Municipal Court Education Center, Statewide Regional Clerks Conferences, Accessing and Using Mental Health Resources, November

15, 2023.

- i. Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA), Mental Health Legislative Update, Dallas, TX, November 17, 2023.
- j. Texas Municipal Court Education Center, Statewide Regional Judges Conferences, Emergency Detentions (10 over the 2022-2023 Educational Year).

III. Lead

A. 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.

- i. Use surveys, focus groups, and other research methods to identify the needs and priorities of the judiciary.
 - a. Emergency Detention Round Table
 - b. Children's Mental Health Round Table
 - c. Focus Groups
 - 1. Mental Health Courts Collaborative
 - 2. Mental Health Law Plan
 - 3. Innovations Map

B. Provide technical assistance and SIM Mapping to counties.

- i. Expert Consultation
 - a. Purpose: Connect judges, attorneys, and other stakeholders to subject matter experts.
 - b. Accomplished: 60 requests from 32 counties and 3 states, serving 1031 stakeholders.
- ii. Mapping Workshops
 - a. Purpose: facilitating collaboration between courts and their local community, enabling them to identify opportunities to services and gaps in resources.
 - b. Accomplished: Hosted six workshops; developed and facilitated specialized workshop for Juvenile SIM mapping in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- iii. Peer Networking
 - a. Purpose: Connecting judges and attorneys with peers and facilitating peer mentorship.
 - b. Launched: Mental Health Courts Collaborative to provide peer support,

mentoring, and guidance to judges who preside over mental health court programs.

iv. Resources

- a. Continued to grow and organize the list of resources relevant to judges and attorneys, made the repository (Innovations Map) easily accessible, and added features to enhance functionality for users.

C. Serve as a resource in the development of policy, legislation, and practice recommendations, including policy recommendations for consideration by the Texas Judicial Council.

- i. Began work on next legislative session in the second half of 2023.

D. Assist judges in leading local and regional initiatives to improve mental health, substance use disorders, and IDD service delivery and capacity.

- i. Provide technical assistance and SIM mapping to counties.
- ii. Continue to improve the JCMH website and the Innovations Map Website.
- iii. Leverage the communications strategies to reach new counties.

E. Continue to provide assistance to the three counties in the Community Forensic Coordinator Pilot Program, including choosing and working with the third-party evaluator.

i. Direct Coordinator Support

- a. Access to JCMH staff point person.
- b. Provided connections to other coordinators across Texas in similar roles for ongoing peer support and networking.
- c. Provided relevant materials and resources directly to coordinators.

ii. County Support

- a. Provided first SIM mappings to these pilot counties, assisted with coordination and participant recruitment, and offered ongoing technical assistance.
- b. Encouraged enrollment in HHSC's Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative.

iii. Third Party Evaluator

- a. Contracted with NCSC to provide program evaluation.
- b. JCMH staff held meetings to gathered information from about the coordinator program.
- c. NCSC completed on-site visits for each county to continue gathering program information and providing some recommendations.

IV. Organizational Administration

A. Increase Financial Resources

- i. Identify funding and resource options available to facilitate the Commission's efforts to serve the state.
 - a. Requested and received exceptional item funding from the legislature.
- ii. Endeavor to increase resources and funding and maximize the effective and efficient use of available judicial system resources.
- iii. Oversee the administration of funds appropriated and granted to the Commission.

V. Evaluation:

A. Examine Quality and Relevance

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

B. Track Visibility

- i. Measure Commission visibility through communication strategies and other means such as website analytics or surveys.
 - a. Podcast
 1. Launched *Reimagining Justice: Exploring Texas Innovations in Mental Health* in March 2023.
 2. 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.
 3. Overall plays across platforms (as of mid-November): 292.
 4. Released 8 episodes (1 per month) by the end of 2023.
 - b. Social media
 1. [Twitter](#)
 - a) January 2023: 335 followers
 - b) Current (mid-November): 342
 2. [Facebook](#)
 - a) January 2023: 227 followers
 - b) Current (mid-November): 350
 3. [LinkedIn](#)

- a) January 2023: 478 followers
- b) Current (mid-November): 793

4. Instagram

- a) January 2023: 65
- b) Current (mid-November): 128

c. Earned media

1. 2023 Media Appearances:

a) TV stations

- [Travis County's largest mental health facility is its jail. Judge Brown looking at diversion options](#) – January 13, 2023, KXAN
- [Williamson County prepares to launch new competency restoration program](#) – February 21, 2023, KVUE
- [Texas legislators working on bill that supports mental crisis cases](#) – July 12, 2023, KRGV
- [Valley workshop helping juveniles with mental health needs](#) – September 26, 2023, CBS4

b) Newspapers/Radio

- [The mentality of mental illness: No cure means creative action](#) – January 15, 2023, Dallas Morning News
- [JCMH hosts mental health seminar](#) – March 8, 2023, Jacksboro Herald-Gazette
- [Young, Jack Counties devise mental health strategy at workshop](#) – March 8, 2023, Olney Enterprise
- [Young, Jack Counties Fine-Tune Mental Health Goals](#) – April 6, 2023, Olney Enterprise
- [Hidalgo County DA, local law enforcement working to better understand mental health](#) – June 8, 2023, myRGV.com
- [Tarrant County could receive funds from state for inmate psychiatric beds, mental health resources](#) – June 14, 2023, KERA News
- [Community Diversion Coordinator Program advocates for jail inmates with mental health issues](#) – June 14, 2023, Tyler Morning Telegraph

c) Industry publications/magazines

- [County jails and mental health](#) – Winter 2023, County Magazine
- [A Ray of Hope: Diversion Program Changing Lives in Smith County](#) – February 2023, County Progress

- ii. Targeted Communication
 - a. JIR letters.
 - 1. 2023 Goal: Send 4 JIRs.
 - 2. 2023 Actual: Sent 4 JIRs, including Judge Brent Carr's inaugural JIR in July 2023.
 - 3. 2023 Goal: Increase subscribers by 10% to 2000.
 - 4. 2023 Actual: culled over 200 dead email addresses from distribution list in 2023; currently have 1,803 active subscribers.
 - b. Launched Resource Letters to quickly distribute informational and educational resources.
 - 1. Sent 13 Resource Letters in 2023 to over 1800 subscribers.

APPENDIX

JCMH 2024 Calendar

MONTH	EVENT	DATE	TIME
January	Mental Health Courts Collaborative #1	1/5/24	12:00 PM
	Specialty Courts Meet Up	1/18/24	10:00 AM
	JCMH Data Committee Meeting	1/18/24	1:00 PM
	JCMH Commission Meeting	1/25/24	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
February	Mental Health Courts Collaborative #2	2/2/24	12:00 PM
	Collaborative Council Meeting	2/6/24	12:00 PM
	Legislative Research Committee Meeting	2/13/24	
	Lubbock SIM (tentative)	2/20 – 2/22/24	All Day
March	Mental Health Courts Collaborative #3	3/1/24	12:00 PM
	Specialty Courts Meet Up	3/21/24	10:00 AM
	TASC Conference	3/26 – 3/28/24	All Day
April	Legislative Research Committee Meeting	4/9/24	
	JCMH Commission Meeting	4/12/24	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
	Specialty Courts Meet Up	4/18/24	10:00 AM
May	Collaborative Council Meeting	5/14/24	12:00 PM
June			
July			
August			
September	Collaborative Council Meeting	9/10/24	12:00 PM
October			
November	Commission Meeting (at Summit)	11/20/24	To be determined
	JCMH 7 th Annual Summit	11/21 – 11/22/24	
December			

Supreme Court of Texas - Court Improvement Projects
Actuals: Judicial Commission on Mental Health FY2022 - 2023
Budget: Judicial Commission on Mental Health FY2024
September 2021 - August 2023

Judicial Commission on Mental Health

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Revenue		
2022 General Revenue	63,312.37	
2023 General Appropriation	1,250,000.00	
Billable Expenditure Revenue		
CCA - Summit (10/23)		\$ 20,000.00
Hogg Foundation - Summit (10/23)		\$ 7,500.00
FY2024 Appropriation - 13011		\$ 1,350,000.00
FY2024 COLA - 13011		\$ 34,468.72
Total Revenue	1,313,312.37	1,411,968.72
Expenditures		
Operating		
Administrative - SCOT	17,032.00	\$ 20,000.00
Books/Publications and Reference Materials	13.50	\$ 1,200.00
Communication Services	3,810.40	\$ 600.00
Continuing Education	4,822.66	\$ 6,000.00
Furniture/Equipment/Software		
Computer Equipment - Expensed	13,926.00	\$ 2,000.00
Computer Software - Expensed	3,016.96	\$ 3,020.00
Furnishings, Equipment and Other - Expensed	4,271.92	\$ -
Total Furniture/Equipment/Software	\$ 21,214.88	\$ 5,020.00
Meeting Supplies/Services		
Audio/Visual		\$ 2,000.00
Cleaning Services	560.00	\$ 600.00
Data Processing Services	434.00	\$ 500.00
Meeting Room Rental		\$ 3,000.00
Printing	1,691.59	\$ 1,500.00
Total Meeting Supplies/Services	\$ 2,685.59	\$ 7,600.00
Membership dues	1,080.00	\$ 1,200.00
Office Supplies	2,369.96	\$ 3,000.00
Shipping		\$ 2,500.00
Personnel - Judicial Commission on Mental Health		
Jurist in Residence	15,199.32	\$ 20,000.00
Payroll Expenses	643,897.10	\$ 689,374.44
Total Personnel - Judicial Commission on Mental Health	\$ 659,096.42	\$ 709,374.44
Travel		
Commissioner Travel	-355.76	
	7,480.64	\$ 10,000.00

Staff Travel	25,423.55	\$	25,000.00
Total Travel	\$ 32,548.43	\$	35,000.00
Total Operating	\$ 744,673.84	\$	791,494.44
Commission Projects			
County Mental Helath Plan - Contractor	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
IEM - Eliminate the Wait Regional Trainings	499.84		
Innovation Map Data Research	15,406.25	\$	10,000.00
JCMH Summit	238,291.65	\$	260,000.00
Juvenile Justice Bench book (Law Box, meeting & printing)	14,848.00	\$	15,000.00
Mental Health Bench book (Law Box, meeting & printing)	\$ 23,599.00	\$	20,000.00
Mental Health Code Book - Printing		\$	20,000.00
PRA - SIM Train the Trainer			
RoundTable	377.65	\$	10,000.00
SIM Mapping	85,500.00	\$	90,000.00
Total Commission Projects	\$ 388,522.39	\$	435,000.00
Grants			
JCMH - OCA Technology Grant	13,609.09	\$	18,854.00
Community Diversion Coordinator Pilot		\$	141,244.97
NCSC - CDCPP Evaluation 2022-2025 (183,884)	139,778.00	\$	-
Total Grants	\$ 153,387.09	\$	160,098.97
Scholarships			
JCMH Attorney and Stakeholder Scholarships	5,502.41	\$	5,000.00
JCMH Judicial Education Scholarships	500.00	\$	8,000.00
Total Scholarships	\$ 6,002.41	\$	13,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,292,585.73	\$	1,399,593.41
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 20,726.64	\$	12,375.31



JCMH LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND RESULTS

88th Legislative Session

Before the commencement of the 88th Legislative Session, the JCMH developed and submitted legislative proposals to the Texas Judicial Council. This review compares those proposals to the bills passed during the 88th legislative session.

PASSED PROPOSALS & LEGISLATION

Issue	Proposal	Result
<p style="text-align: center;">EMERGENCY DETENTION</p> <p>Allow Electronic Application for Emergency Detention Warrants by Qualified Professionals at Hospitals and Mental Health Facilities</p>	<p>This amendment would permit someone employed by LMHA to electronically make the request for emergency detention.</p>	<p>SB 2479, Section 1.</p> <p>Proposed as: “an employee of the LMHA”</p> <p>Filed as: “licensed professionals employed by LMHA”</p> <p>Passed as filed.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PASSED: May 24, 2023 SIGNED: June 18, 2023 EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2023</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COURT-ORDERED MEDICATION</p> <p>Authorization of Blood Draws for Patients Receiving Court-Ordered Medication</p>	<p>This amendment to Texas Health and Safety Code section 574.106 would permit mandatory blood draws for patients admitted to the state hospitals for involuntary psychoactive medication administration purposes.</p>	<p>SB 2479, Section 4.</p> <p>Filed version substantively the same as proposed. Passed as filed.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PASSED: May 24, 2023 SIGNED: June 18, 2023 EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2023</p>



<p style="text-align: center;">EMERGENCY DETENTION</p> <p>Clarify of a Law Enforcement Officer's Duties Upon Presenting an Individual for Mental Health Services</p>	<p>This amendment to Texas Health and Safety Code section 573.012 clarifies that a law enforcement officer does not have a duty to remain at a healthcare facility or emergency room once the officer responsibly delivers an individual under a warrant for emergency detention.</p>	<p>SB 2479, Section 3.</p> <p>Filed version substantively the same as proposed. Passed version substantively the same as filed & proposed versions.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PASSED: May 24, 2023 SIGNED: June 18, 2023 EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2023</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CLASS C MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES</p> <p>Permit use of Article 16.22 Procedures for Class C Misdemeanors</p>	<p>Amend Texas Code of Criminal Procedure article 16.22 to allow for the inclusion of Class C misdemeanors in the early identification process.</p>	<p>SB 2479, Section 1.</p> <p>Filed version substantively the same as proposed. Passed as filed.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PASSED: May 24, 2023 SIGNED: June 18, 2023 EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2023</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BONDS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NONVIOLENT OFFENSES</p> <p>Harmonize Mental Health Personal Bonds with Recent Amendments</p>	<p>Amend Texas Code of Criminal Procedure article 17.03 to reconcile the conflicts created in regard to offenses that are eligible for personal bonds and offenses that allow for a mental health personal bond.</p>	<p>SB 2479, Section 2.</p> <p>Filed as Proposed.</p> <p>Passed as Filed.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PASSED: May 24, 2023 SIGNED: June 18, 2023 EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2023</p>



PROPOSALS THAT DID NOT PASS

<p>EMERGENCY DETENTION</p> <p>Authorize LE to Secure Firearms Found in Possession of Persons in Emergency Detention Under a Warrant</p>	<p>This amendment grants the peace officer the same authority in both situations. The amendment also allows for an orderly disposition of a secured firearm under article 18.191 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Disposition of a Firearm from Certain Persons with Mental Illness.</p>	<p>Included in Filed version of SB 2479, Sections 4 & 46.</p> <p>Removed in S committee substitute.</p> <p>Also included in HB 5088 (identical to SB 2479).</p>
<p>COMPETENCY RESTORATION</p> <p>Limit Inpatient Competency Restoration for Nonviolent Misdemeanors to extraordinary circumstances</p>	<p>Amend Texas CCP Chapter 46B to limit inpatient competency restoration for nonviolent misdemeanors to extraordinary circumstances. The amendments create out-patient treatment alternatives in nonviolent misdemeanor cases for some defendants charged with non-violent misdemeanor offenses.</p>	<p>Included in Filed version of SB 2479, Sections 7 – 17, 19-20, 25.</p> <p>Removed in S committee substitute.</p> <p>Also included in HB 5088 (identical to SB 2479).</p>
<p>COMPETENCY RESTORATION</p> <p>Create Procedures to Address Defendant’s Deteriorating Mental Condition After Returning from Competency Restoration</p>	<p>This amendment to art. 46B.084 clarifies the process to identify and reevaluate those recently restored individuals whose mental health has deteriorated while in custody awaiting the final disposition of their case.</p>	<p>Included in Filed version of SB 2479, Sections 18, 21-24</p> <p>Removed in S committee substitute.</p> <p>Also included in HB 5088 (identical to SB 2479).</p>
<p>COMPETENCY RESTORATION</p>	<p>Amend Texas CCP article 46B.009 to allow for good time credit for defendants that</p>	<p>Included in Filed version of SB 2479, Section 6.</p> <p>Removed in S committee substitute.</p>



<p>Provide Credit for Participation in Outpatient Competency Restoration Programs</p>	<p>participate in court-ordered outpatient competency restoration services.</p>	<p>Also included in HB 5088 (identical to SB 2479) and HB 1401.</p>
<p>COMPETENCY RESTORATION CLASS C MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES</p> <p>Permit Class C Misdemeanor Dismissal when the Defendant is Not Competent</p>	<p>Amend Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 45 by creating article 45.0214 to allow for the dismissal of Class C misdemeanors when the judge has probable cause to believe that the charged individual lacks the capacity to understand criminal proceedings or to assist in the defendant's own defense and is unfit to proceed.</p>	<p>Included in Filed version of SB 2479, Section 5.</p> <p>Removed in S committee substitute.</p> <p>Also included in HB 5088 (identical to SB 2479) and HB 1401.</p>
<p>NONVIOLENT OFFENSES</p> <p>Allow Emergency Mental Health or IDD Services and Deferral of Arrest for Nonviolent Offenses</p>	<p>Amend Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 14 to create article 14.036 that would allow for the delay of arrest of an individual patient with mental illness or intellectual disability, who is charged with a nonviolent offense, until that person's condition stabilizes. The aim of this proposal is to defer jailing of that person until the person is no longer actively undergoing emergency treatment for a mental health crisis.</p>	<p>Included in Filed version of SB 2479, Section 1.</p> <p>Removed in S committee substitute.</p> <p>Also included in HB 5088 (identical to SB 2479).</p>



Sixth Annual

JUDICIAL SUMMIT ON MENTAL HEALTH

OCTOBER 18-20, 2023

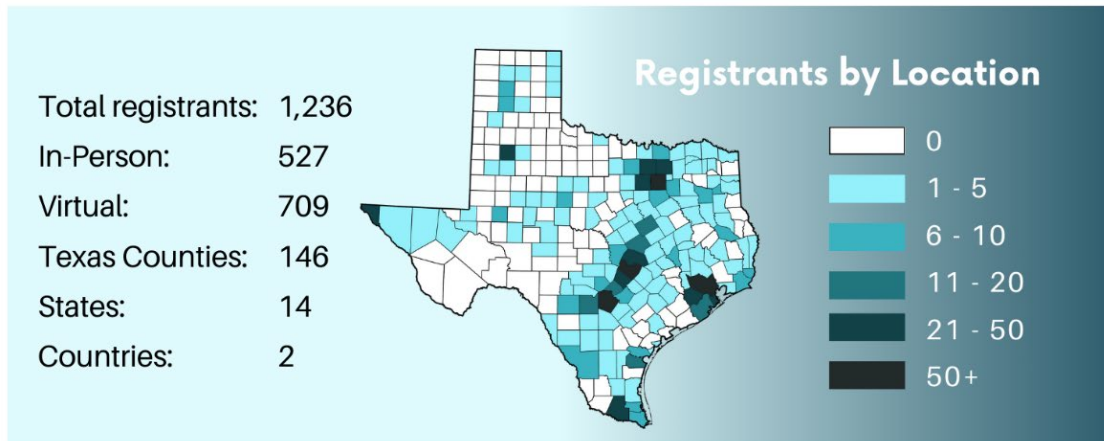
Judicial Summit on Mental Health Executive Summary

From October 18-20, 2023, the 6th annual Texas Judicial Summit on Mental Health brought together 1,236 key stakeholders including representatives from the criminal justice system, mental health community, and legal experts to address critical issues at the intersection of mental illness and the justice system. Convened by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH), the event featured Dr. Xavier Amador as a thought-provoking [keynote](#) speaker, challenging the audience to rethink how we speak to, and the assumptions we make about, people with serious mental illness. The Summit offered expert panel discussions and breakout sessions sharing practical suggestions and tools. The Summit also explored cutting-edge strategies for early identification of mental health issues, innovative approaches to reduce reliance on the competency restoration system, and novel ways for county leaders to ensure that every effort is made to accomplish their goals by delving into the best practices in the adult and youth-serving systems. The diverse array of speakers contributed a wealth of new resources, all of which will be accessible on the JCMH website, TexasJCMH.gov, along with [recordings of each session](#). Below are ten of the key learning points from the Summit:

- 1) **Anosognosia**—unawareness of one’s mental health disorder—affects about 50 percent of people with serious mental illness. The [LEAP](#) method by [Dr. Xavier Amador](#) gives you the tools to persuade someone “in denial” about their mental illness to accept treatment and services.
- 2) **Relationships matter.** “We will never win on the strength of our argument; we win on the strength of our relationship,” stated [Dr. Amador](#).
- 3) **We must consider individuals *individually*.** “Cookie-cutter justice, is no justice at all.” [Judge Stephanie Sawyer](#) developed a [Resource-Based Sentencing & Supervision Program](#) for courts where she uses technology to divert appropriate individuals while ensuring public safety.
- 4) **Now is the time for a special focus on youth.** [Judge Cyndi Porter Gore](#) highlighted her specialized [juvenile municipal court docket](#) and an earlier session with [Judges David Newell and Ryan Turner](#) laid out new youth grant and diversion opportunities that are available with [recent legislation](#).
- 5) **Mental Health [Jail Diversion Centers](#) divert appropriate individuals away from the criminal justice system.** These [centers](#) are being built around the state, including urban and rural counties. Find a model that inspires your county.

- 6) Save [competency restoration \(CR\) services](#) for cases where the State has a **compelling interest to prosecute**. HHSC's new [Texas Competency Restoration Guide](#) recommends that communities collaborate to understand its definition of compelling interest to prosecute. Variables to consider may include the nature of the offense and aggravation factors, circumstances of the offense, concerns and safety of the alleged victims and community, availability of inpatient CR; and wait time to receive CR in the context of the maximum sentencing term provided by law for the alleged offense.
- 7) Counties can create a [Mental Health Law Plan](#) to coordinate their use the most **appropriate, efficient, and cost-savings responses to people with serious mental illness and intellectual and developmental disabilities**. JCMH has a [checklist](#) and technical assistance to help.
- 8) [Grant-writing skills](#) help to **successfully secure funding**. There are resources to improve your grant-writing skills and a [Toolkit for Applying for a Grant to Start or Expand a Specialty Court](#).
- 9) **Do your part to prevent people with IDD from being overrepresented in the criminal justice system**. Make sure you seek [resources](#) to know [how to best interact with people with IDD](#).
- 10) Use [evidence-based practices for self-care](#). Professionals in this field are particularly susceptible to depression, anxiety, and substance use disorder. [Ask for help](#) when you need it.

2023 SUMMIT STATISTICS



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

The following information is based on the Survey Responses of 243 Respondents

Overall, how would you rate the event?

- 94.58% Excellent or Very Good
- 4.17% Good
- 1.25% Fair or Poor

How would you rate the organization and format of the event?

- 91.77% Excellent or Very Good
- 7.41% Good
- 0.82% Fair or Poor

POST-SUMMIT SURVEY RESPONSES

Attendees were asked to choose their top 3 sessions of the Summit, they chose:

- 69.96% "I'm not sick, I don't need help."
- 39.51% Mental Health Law Legislative Updates
- 28.81% Living with Serious Mental Illness

If attendees chose a Breakout Session as a favorite, they preferred:

- 17.86% Emergency Detentions and OPCs
- 9.18% Competency Restoration (CCP 46B)
- 9.18% Mental Health Courts

ATTENDEE COMMENTS

Top Takeaways

- Collaboration is key
- Not every solution works for everyone
- Anosognosia – what it is and how it affects people
- An understanding of new laws/legislative update
- There is hope for change!

Most Liked Parts of the Summit:

- Networking and resource sharing
- Availability of an online option
- The Speakers
- The variety of topics
- Dr. Amador

Suggestions for Improvements:

- More focus on law enforcement
- More breakout sessions
- Breakout sessions for online attendees
- Website timed out for online attendees

Topics or Speakers attendees want to see added to the Summit Program:

- More rural-focused sessions
- Guardianship
- More lived experience experts
- Law Enforcement perspective
- Veterans experience

Additional Comments and Feedback:

- “Every aspect was professional and well executed. Thank you!”
- “Keep up with the virtual option. It means a lot to be able to have our staff join from their locations and not only have the in-person option.”
- “There were too many excellent breakout sessions competing- it would help to have one or 2 additional time frame options not miss them!”

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