**JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH**

**COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**October 5, 2022**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

***Co-Chair, Justice Jane Bland, Supreme Court of Texas***

***Co-Chair, Judge Barbara Hervey, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals***

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

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

**JCMH Staff:**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Kristi Taylor** welcomed the members to the meeting and welcomed the Collaborative Council’s newest member, Chris Ritter.

**NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

**Chris Ritter** is the in-house council for the State Bar. In addition to being an attorney Mr. Ritter holds a Master’s Degree in Counseling and previous to his employment with the State Bar, he spent eight years assisting attorneys who were in recovery for substance use and mental health issues.

**ELMININATE THE WAIT**

The Eliminate the Wait campaign has started to focus on regional action. The first regional forum will focus on Central Texas and will be held on December 1st. This will be a collaboration with HHSC. They are working with five or six LMHAs and those LMHAs will select teams to come together and have a deeper discussion about Elminiate the Wait and what it means for their community. During the discussion, attendees will divide by profession, review the checklist, and discuss strategies on how to make the information more accessible. These regional meetings will hopefully take place every quarter in 2023. Regions will be selected according to competency restoration data. Members can nominate a region ny contacting the JCMH or HHSC. Approximately 225 participants are expected to attend the Central Texas Regional Forum and will be eligible to receive CLE, CEU, and TCOLE credits.

**2022 JUDICIAL SUMMIT ON MENTAL HEALTH**

The 2022 Judicial Summint on Mental Health is approaching. As a reminder, it will take place on November 2-4 at the Greatwolf Lodge in Grapevine. JCMH staff have volunteer opportunities available for those Collaborative Council members that plan to attend. There are currently almost 1,000 registrants for the summit, with 350 that will be attending in-person. For the next year’s summit, JCMH will choose a larger venue that can accommodate a larger amount of in-person attendees. Contact JCMH if you are in the Collaborative Council and were unable to secure a spot to attend in-person.

**WHOLE TEXAS INITIATIVE**

The Whole Texas Initiative is focused on increasing registration to the summit from underrepresented counties. Currently there are individuals from 150 counties who have registered for the summit. JCMH staff created a map that shows which counties have yet to have a registrant and are trying to make connections with individuals who live in the missing counties. Collaborative Council members are asked to share summit information with individuals that they may know who live or work in some of the missing counties. At this point the registration would have to be virtual, but it is a high quality live-stream and there will be features to make virtual attendance more interactive and engaging.

**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Hon. Devon Anderson (*President and CEO, Justice Forward*):** Justice Forward is expanding to Fort Bend County thanks to funding from the Texas Bar Foundation. They will be supporting three of Fort Bend County’s courts, one of which is a felony mental health court. The addition of Fort Bend County brings the total of mental health courts that Justice Forward is supporting up to five. Justice Forward supports these courts by helping to secure housing, tutition assistance, transportation, and trauma and grief counseling.

**Dr. Virginia Brown (*Assistant Professor, Community Engagement and Health Equity, Dept. of Population Health, Dell Medical School, UT-Austin*):** Her department is currently working on a project to implement psychiatric advanced directives in health care centers. The department is hoping for input about this design from inviduals who are involved in mental healthcare and the criminal justice system. They are attempting to design a system of notification and creation of this document with the actual usuer community in mind during the design process.

**Judge Brent Carr (*Tarrant County Criminal Court, No. 9)*:** This morning one of Judge Carr’s speciality courts, that assists women who have been victimized by sex trafficking, had a graduation. The women that graudated all suffer from mental health issues due to trauma, but were able to graduate the program, reconnect with their families, and engage in regular therapy sessions.

**Kathleen Casey-Gamez (*Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Indigent Defense Commission*):** She always urges counties to consider a mental health public defender’s office as a necessary mental health component. The newest counties to add a mental health public defender’s office or unit include [Hidalgo County](https://www.traviscountytx.gov/criminal-justice/mental-health-public-defender) and [Nueces County](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDQbzeh8uaM). TIDC also added a [video](https://youtu.be/3ASGlXs2b5w) to their website that shows the efforts in Bexar County to address mental health issues in the legal system.

**Armando Colombo (*President & CEO, The Menninger Clinic*):** He is currently working with Judge Anderson to determine how the Menninger Clinic can help Justice Forward so that they can support Justice Forward’s work.

**Lysette Galvan (*NAMI Texas)*:** NAMI Texas is holding their [annual conference](https://namitexas.org/2022-conference/) on November 3rd through November 5th. If anyone would like to attend please register on NAMI Texas’ website.

**Gilbert Gonzales (*Director, Bexar County Dept. of Behavioral and Mental Health)*:** This coming Monday is [World Mental Health Day](https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day). The theme for this year is “Make Mental Health and Wellbeing a Global Priority”. Bexar County has several activites planned, including a [Mental Health Consortium](https://www.bexar.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=5283) on October 7th, 8:30am-10:30am, which will cover managed assigned care, medication assitive treatment in the jail, and competency restoration.

**Louise Joy (*Partner, Joy & Young, LLP*):** Thinks that more work could be done on rural counties with regard to the civil commitment process. Many of these counties think that they lack jurisdiction for civil commitment since they do not have an inpatient mental health facility in their county. She is working to correct this misonception in order to expand civil commitments in these rural counties.

**Matthew Lovitt (*Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the State Forensic Director, HHSC*):** He would like to encourage members to complete or share the survery that was distributed by JCMH on the use of extended mental health commitments for people who remain incompetent after an initial commitment for competenacy restoration, pursuant to CCP 46B.073. The link was provided in [Judge Specia’s JIR letter](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Jurist-in-Residence-Letter--Gathering-Data-on-Mental-Health-Commitments.html?soid=1130875678979&aid=021wzN3HeaM). He asked that Collaborative Council members who are judges or attorneys complete or share the survey.

**Jen Mudge (*Texas Council on Family Violence*):** It is [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](https://tcfv.org/awareness/). TCFV will be offering a [townhall](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vA8gMK5yRUeBicSwfcQGeg) this week that will feature some of our community members. They also have the [TCFV Statewide Conference on October 19th through the 21st](https://tcfv.org/events/tcfv-statewide-conference-2022/). Members are welcome to register for both events.

**Chris Ritter (*In-House Legal Council, State Bar of Texas*):** The State Bar has been working to help facilitate educational programs to help with a [mental health crisis in the legal community](https://www.tlaphelps.org/). Also, the State Bar produced a [suicide prevention video](https://www.tlaphelps.org/suicide-prevention), which will be released for attorneys to utilize.

**Melissa Shearer (*Director, Travis County Mental Public Defender’s Office*):** The current longest wait for an indivudal to be admitted to the Austin State Hospital is 310 days. The understanding is that clients are not going to go to the State Hospital for competency restoration, but will instead remain in jail. This is especially true for individuals who are charged with a misedemeanor. On a positive note, a newly funded support program for the mental health court was implemented. Transportation can now be provided to and from court for participants in the program.

**Scott Soland (*President, Texas CIT Association*):** Fort Bend County just changed medical providers in our jail. They also have a court-ordered medication program up and running and are starting to see some success with the program.

**Julie Wayman (*Mental and Behavioral Health Manager, Texas Education Agency*):** TEA’s [Advancing Behavioral Health Collaboration Summit](https://schoolmentalhealthtx.org/abc-summit/) will take place at the end of November. The summit will include presentations from HHSC, TJJD, and LMHAs, and will focus on mental health in schoools.

**CLOSING**

Kristi Taylor thanked the attendees for their participation and closed the meeting. 2023 meeting dates and times will be announced on [JCMH’s events page](http://texasjcmh.gov/events/meetings/collaborative-council/).