

THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
THE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH



January 16, 2026
Meeting Notebook



TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION
ON MENTAL HEALTH

January 16th, 2026
Commission Meeting Notebook

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Tab 1
Agenda

Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health Commission Meeting

January 16th, 2026

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

Zoom

txcourts.zoom.us/j/81022896335

AGENDA

9:00	Welcome	Hon. Jane Bland Hon. Jesse F. McClure, III Hon. Rebeca Huddle Hon. Gina Parker
9:10	Executive Director Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget• OCA and Texas Judicial Council• JCMH JIRs and Projects• Collaborative Council Report	Kristi Taylor Patrick Passmore Megan LaVoie Hon. John Specia, Jr. Hon. Brent Carr JCMH Staff Dr. Chibueze
:00	Partner Organization Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Law Enforcement• Health & Human Services Commission• Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute• TCOOMMI• Texas Commission on Jail Standards• Texas Juvenile Justice Department• Hogg Foundation	Hon. Jane Bland Chief Mike Lee Chief Stan Standridge Trina Ita Scott Schalchlin Yolanda Lewis April Zamora Brandon Wood Shandra Carter Dr. Octavio Martinez
:00	Announcements	Hon. Jane Bland
:00	Adjourn	Hon. Jesse F. McClure, III

Tab 2

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

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Committee & Commissioners

Executive Committee

Hon. Jane Bland, Chair

Justice

Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Jesse F. McClure, III, Chair

Judge

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Hon. Bill Boyce, Vice-Chair

Justice (Fmr.)

Fourteenth Court of Appeals

Partner

Alexander Dubose & Jefferson, LLP

Hon. Rebeca Huddle, Deputy Liaison

Justice

Supreme Court of Texas

Hon. Gina Parker, Deputy Liaison

Judge

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Hon. Brent Carr

Judge (Ret.)

Tarrant County Criminal Court 9

Hon. John J. Specia, Jr.

Judge (Ret.)

225th District Court

Partner

Anderson Clifone

Megan LaVoie, J.D.

Administrative Director

Office of Court Administration

Commissioners

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

Director

El Paso County Community Supervision
& Corrections Department

M. Connie Almeida, Ph.D.

Director of Behavioral Health

Fort Bend County Behavioral Health
Services

Hon. Devon Anderson

President & CEO

Justice Forward

Hon. Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt

Judge

449th District Court

Jason Bramow, J.D.

Assistant General Counsel

Office of the Governor

Hon. Nelda Cacciotti

Chief of the Mental Health Division

Tarrant County Criminal District

Attorney's Office

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

Executive Director

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Hon. Camile DuBose

Judge (Ret.)

38th Judicial District

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Committee & Commissioners

Hon. Alyse Ferguson

Of Counsel
Rosenthal Kalabus & Therrian
Associate Judge
Collin County Probate Court

Hon. Cynthia Porter Gore

Judge
City of Allen Municipal Court

Hon. Matt Hand

Judge
Potter County Court at Law No. 2

Courtney Harvey, Ph.D.

State Mental Health Coordinator &
Associate Commissioner
Office of Mental Health Coordination,
Texas Health & Human Services
Commission

Hon. Joan Huffman

Senator, District 17
Texas Senate

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

Deputy Executive Commissioner for
Behavioral Health Services
Texas Health & Human Services
Commission

Hon. David W. Jahn

Judge
Denton County Probate Court No. 1

Hon. Oscar J. Kazen

Judge
Bexar County Probate Court No. 1

Adrienne Kennedy, M.A.

Past President; National Board Member
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Hon. M. Sue Kurita

Judge
El Paso County Court at Law No. 6

Beth Lawson, M.B.A.

Chief Executive Officer
StarCare Specialty Health System

Chief Mike Lee, M.A.

Director of Research & Development
Harris County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Elizabeth Byer Leonard

Judge
238th District Court

Yolanda Lewis, MPA

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

Hon. Pam Liston

City Attorney
City of Decatur
Associate Judge
Town of Fairview

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

Executive Director
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

Hon. Stacey Mathews

Judge
277th District Court

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Committee & Commissioners

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

Representative, District 78

Texas House of Representatives

Hon. Brandy Mueller

Judge

403rd Criminal District Court

Hon. Roxanne Nelson

Justice of the Peace

Burnet County Precinct 1

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

Bureau Chief (Ret.)

Harris County District Attorney's Office

Hon. Larry Phillips

Judge

59th District Court

Lee Pierson, J.D.

Chief Mental Health Prosecutor

Dallas County District Attorney's Office

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

Deputy Executive Commissioner for the Health & Specialty Care System

Texas Health & Human Services Commission

Prof. Brian Shannon, J.D.

Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished

Professor

Texas Tech University School of Law

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

Founder

Eric W. T. Smith Consulting

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

Director of Statewide Youth Services

Continuum

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Hon. Selena Solis

Judge

243rd District Court

Chief Stan Standridge

Chief of Police

San Marcos Police Department

Hon. Charles Stephens

Judge

Comal County Court at Law No. 2

Hon. Victor Villarreal

Judge

Webb County Court at Law No. 2

Hon. Cynthia Wheless

Judge

417th District Court

Steve Wohleb, J.D.

General Counsel

Texas Hospital Association

Brandon Wood

Executive Director

Texas Commission on Jail Standards

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
Executive Committee & Commissioners

Hon. J.R. Woolley
Justice of the Peace
Waller County Precinct 2

Wayne Young, M.B.A., L.P.C., F.A.C.H.E.
Chief Executive Officer
The Harris Center

April Zamora, M.Ed., L.C.D.C.
Rehabilitation & Reentry Division
Director
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Collaborative Council

Hon. Sheila Garcia-Bence

Judge

Cameron County Criminal Court No. 4

Kelsey Bernstein

Chief of Government Relations

Texas Council of Community Centers

Hon. Elizabeth Berry

First Assistant Public Defender

Concho Valley Public Defender's Office

Catherine Bialick, M.P.Aff.

Deputy Associate Commissioner

Office of Forensic Services &
Coordination, Texas Health & Human
Services Commission

Alison Mohr Boleware, L.M.S.W.

Founder & Legislative Consultant

Alison Mohr Boleware Consulting

Tim Bray, J.D.

Commissioner's Court Attorney

Comal County

Amanda Britton, M.Ed., L.P.C., N.C.C.

Clinical Director

Ector County Juvenile Probation
Department

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

*Research Scholar in Social Justice &
Population Health*

The Hastings Center

Hon. Sarah Bruchmiller

Judge

368th District Court

Sonja Burns

Mental Health Advocate

Christine Busse, MSW

Peer Policy Fellow

NAMI Texas

Angel Carroll

*Director of Community Engagement &
Partnerships*

MEASURE

Hon. Jennifer Cates

Judge

Canyon Municipal Court

Uche Chibueze, Psy.D., A.B.P.P.

Assistant Director of Health Services

Harris County Juvenile Probation
Department

Hon. Brad Clark

Judge

Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 5

Armando Colombo

President & Chief Executive Officer

The Menninger Clinic

Hon. Adolfo Cordova

Judge

197th District Court

Bill Cox, J.D.

Director of Public Defense Improvement

Texas Indigent Defense Commission

Leah Davies, L.M.S.W.

Cause Programs Manager

CLEAN Cause Foundation

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Colleen Davis, J.D.

Assistant County Attorney
Burnet County Attorney's Office

Hon. Karen Diaz

Justice of the Peace
San Patricio County Precinct 4

Dana V. Drexler, J.D.

Deputy Division Director
Harris County Attorney's Office

Sgt. Shawn Edwards

President
Texas CIT Association

Hon. Drue Farmer

Board Chair
StarCare Lubbock

Lesli Fitzpatrick, J.D.

Director of Special Litigation
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Eric Fox

Law Enforcement Liaison
Central Counties Services

Tucker Furlow, J.D.

Assistant District Attorney
Civil Division, Hays County Criminal
District Attorney's Office

Lori Gallo, L.M.S.W.

Forensic Social Worker
Bexar County Managed Assigned
Counsel

Krishnaveni Gundu

Co-Founder & Executive Director
Texas Jail Project

Rachel Hampton, L.M.S.W.

Chief Mission Officer
Lone Star Justice Alliance

Greg Hansch, M.S.W.

Executive Director
NAMI Texas

Hon. James C. Henderson

Judge
Grayson County Court at Law No. 1

Michaela Himes, J.D., M.T.S.

Special Programs Division Deputy Chief
Dallas County Public Defender's Office

Hon. Echo Hutson

Judge
Montgomery County Court at Law No. 4

Hon. Sandra Jackson

Judge
302nd District Court

Lee Johnson, M.P.A.

Chief Executive Officer
Texas Council of Community Centers

Windy Johnson

Program Manager, IGR
Texas Conference of Urban Counties

Hon. Rocky Jones

Judge
203rd District Court

Louise Joy, J.D.

Member
Reed Claymon, PLLC

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Leah Kelly
Certified Family Partner
Integral Care

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

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

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

Jonathan Lemuel
Director of Forensic Services
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

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

**Patricia Lerma, N.C.C., L.P.C.,
L.C.D.C.**
*Doctoral Student; Research & Teaching
Assistant*
University of Texas Health Rio Grande
Valley

Katrina LeVert, J.D.
Assistant County Attorney
Fort Bend County Attorney's Office

Chris Lopez, J.D.
Assistant General Counsel
State Hospital, Texas Health & Human
Services Commission

Hon. Lela Mays
Judge
283rd Judicial District Court

Rosie Medina, J.M.
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
El Paso County Juvenile Probation
Department

Kristin Meeks, J.D.
Senior Policy Analyst
Texas Indigent Defense Commission

Joanna Mendez, M.S.S.W., L.C.S.W.
Assistant Adjunct Professor
Steve Hicks School of Social Work,
University of Texas at Austin

Officer Brittany Moreno, M.A.
Mental Health Officer
Sugar Land Police Department

Jeffery Murray
Domestic Security Strategist
National Threat Assessment Center,
United States Secret Service

Hon. Rita Noel
Student Support Services
Denison Independent School District

Evan Norton, Psy.D.
Deputy Executive Director
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Patricia Ortiz, M.D.
*Assistant Professor, Psychiatry Clerkship
Director*
Texas Tech Health El Paso

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

Keely Petty, CPsy.D.
Training Coordinator
WestCare

Officer Terry Qualls
Crisis Intervention Coordinator
McKinney Police Department

Chris Ritter, J.D., M.Ed.
Chief Legal Counsel
State Bar of Texas

Trish Rivera
Rural Health Specialist
Texas Department of Agriculture

Michelle Romero, M.P.A.
Associate Director
Texas Medical Association

Simone Salloum, J.D.
Policy Attorney
Texas Health & Human Services
Commission

Melissa Schank, M.A.
Executive Director
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers
Association

Jonas Schwartz, M.S.
Program Manager
Texas Workforce Commission

Susan Scott, Ph.D., L.P.C.
*Manager of Community Interventions &
Supports*
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Melissa Shearer, J.D.
Director
Travis County Mental Health Public
Defender's Office

Mike Shirley, J.D.
Chief Prosecutor
Montgomery County District Attorney's
Office

Hon. Mike Smith
Judge
35th District Court

Sandra Smith, Ph.D.
Chief Programs Officer
One World Recovery Center

Lt. Scott Soland
Patrol Lieutenant
Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

Hon. Rosie Speedlin-Gonzalez
Judge
Bexar County Court at Law No. 13

Hon. Nancy Tanner
County Judge
Potter County

Jennifer Toon
Executive Director
Lioness Justice Impacted Women's
Alliance

Haley Turner, M.S.W.
*Deputy Executive Commissioner for
Community Services*
Texas Health & Human
Services Commission

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH Collaborative Council

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

Shen Ureste
Chief Executive Officer
Texana Center

Krista Varney, M.S.W.
Public Policy Coordinator
Texas Council on Family Violence

Kyle Walker
Legal Systems Manager
Ending Community Homelessness
Coalition

Nicole Weaver
*YES Waiver Manager, Mental Health and
Substance Use Programs*
Texas Health & Human Services
Commission

Thea Whalen, J.D.
Executive Director
Texas Justice Courts Training Center

Hon. Deborah Wigington
Judge
Comal County Court at Law No. 3

Hon. Angela Williams
Justice of the Peace
Williamson County Precinct 2

Thomas Wilson, J.D.
Assistant District Attorney, Civil Division
Smith County District Attorney's Office

Jay Wooten, J.D.
Chief Public Defender
Galveston County Misdemeanor Mental
Health Public Defender's Office

Andrea Wright, M.D.
Chief of Forensic Medicine
Office of Forensic Services &
Coordination, Texas Health & Human
Services Commission

Hon. Michael York
Justice of the Peace
Lee County Precinct 2

Tab 3

October 2025 Meeting

Minutes

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING

October 6th, 2025

1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria
2222 W Loop S, Houston, TX 77027

Commissioner Attendees

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

Hon. Jesse F. McClure, Chair, Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

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

Hon. Gina Parker, Deputy Liaison, Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

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

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

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

Jeffrey Tsunekawa for **Megan LaVoie**, Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration

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

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

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

Hon. Alyse Ferguson, Associate Judge, Collin County Probate Court

Hon. Cynthia Porter Gore, Judge, City of Allen Municipal Court

Hon. Dave W. Jahn, Judge, Denton County Probate Court No. 1

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

Adrienne Kennedy, 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

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

Hon. Pamela Liston, City Attorney, City of Decatur

Hon. Stacey Mathews, Judge, 277th District Court

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

Beth Mitchell, Litigation Coordinator, Disability Rights Texas

Magdalena Morales-Aina, Director, El Paso County Community Supervision & Corrections

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

Denise Oncken, *Mental Health Bureau Chief (Ret.), Harris County District Attorney's Office*

Hon. Larry Phillips, *Judge, 59th District Court*

Lee Pierson, *Chief of Mental Health Division, Dallas County District Attorney's Office*

Dr. Jennie Simpson for **Scott Schalchlin**, *Deputy Executive Commissioner, Texas Health & Human Services Commission*

Prof. Brian Shannon, *Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor, Texas Tech University School of Law*

Eric Smith, *Founder, Eric W.T. Smith Consulting*

Hon. Selena Solis, *Judge, 243rd District Court*

Hon. Cynthia Wheless, *Judge, 417th District Court*

Steve Wohleb, *General Counsel, Texas Hospital Association*

Wayne Young, *Chief Executive Officer, The Harris Center*

Emily Eisenman for **April Zamora**, *Director, Re-entry and Integration Division, Texas Department of Criminal Justice*

Welcome and Announcements

Justice Jane Bland opened the meeting and welcomed commissioners.

Judge Jesse F. McClure III thanked commissioners for their attendance and expressed gratitude on behalf of the commission to Wayne Young for hosting a tour of the Harris Center's Diversion Center after the commission meeting.

Justice Rebeca Huddle announced the passing of Commissioner Vickie Rice. Ms. Rice passed on July 5th after battling cancer. Justice Huddle reflected on Ms. Rice's significant contributions and lasting impact on the Commission.

Judge Gina Parker announced the addition of new Collaborative Councilmembers and welcomed them to Commission. Judge Parker reported that the Collaborative Council will be evolving to continue supporting Commission initiatives with Daniela Jimenez Chisolm as the new staff lead.

Executive Director Report

Kristi Taylor, Executive Director, thanked all attendees for their work and support of the Commission. Ms. Taylor announced the publication of the JCMH Biennial Report. Ms. Taylor emphasized the valuable expertise of the commissioners and cited a recent roundtable discussion on emergency detention orders as demonstrating the breadth of experience within the Commission.

Budget Update

Patrick Passmore reviewed the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and reported that, as of October 2025, the JCMH did not anticipate lapsing any Fiscal Year 2025 funds.

Mr. Passmore provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, noting a \$1.7 million increase over Fiscal Year 2025. The additional funding supports staff salary adjustments, the hiring of a program specialist, increased operating costs, and the expansion of the Court Liaison Pilot Program to five additional counties. The JCMH also received a grant from Texas Tech University to continue developing courtroom curriculum for forensic psychiatrists.

Office of Court Administration (OCA) and Texas Judicial Council Update

Jeffrey Tsunekawa, *Director of Court Services, OCA*, reported that the Texas Judicial Council has been less active since the passage of the Court Omnibus Bill and the adjournment of the second special legislative session. The Texas Judicial Council will begin convening committees in the Fall to begin planning for 2026 with recommendations from those committees before the 90th legislative session.

Mr. Tsunekawa highlighted growing statewide and national attention on judicial security and privacy. Mr. Tsunekawa reported a 97% increase in judicial security incidents with 2,200 for Fiscal Year 2025. In the 89th Legislative Session two bills passed, HB 5081 and HB 16 (Court Omnibus Bill), that extended privacy protections for court staff and strengthened existing protections for judges.

In addition, the Legislature allocated \$4 million for the creation of a statewide case management system for specialty courts, including mental health courts. Mr. Tsunekawa reported that over half of the new specialty courts that were registered with OCA in Fiscal Year 2025 were mental health courts.

JIR Update

Hon. John J. Specia, Jr., Judge (Ret.) and JCMH Jurist in Residence, highlighted the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping initiative as one of JCMH's most visible and impactful efforts. SIM mappings provide a framework to identify points within the justice system where individuals with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or intellectual or developmental disabilities can be diverted to treatment and supportive services. Judge Specia reported that JCMH has conducted nineteen SIM mapping workshops for adult and juvenile justice systems statewide since 2021. In 2025, JCMH mapped juvenile justice systems in Bell, Burleson, Kendall, and scheduled an additional mapping in Hutchinson County for December of 2025. He emphasized that judges play a key leadership role by convening stakeholders and leading community conversations to improve justice and behavioral health systems across Texas.

Hon. Brent Carr, Judge (Ret.) and JCMH Jurist in Residence, reported on the launch of the Rural Issues Committee. The committee held its first meeting on September 22nd, 2025, with strong participation, including presentations from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, the Hogg Foundation, and Texas Council of Community Centers. He emphasized that the committee aims to bring stakeholders together to identify gaps, share information, and promote coordination at the intersection of the justice and mental health systems in rural communities. Judge Carr reported that participants identified service gaps across rural regions and underscored the need for a coordinated statewide approach.

Legislative Update

Justice Bill Boyce, JCMH Vice-Chair and Chair of the Legislative Research Committee, recognized the significant work of the Legislative Research Committee in developing thirteen proposals for the Texas Judicial Council during the 89th legislative session.

Justice Boyce reported that Senator Zaffirini introduced Senate Bill 1164, which the Governor signed into law, and which went into effect on September 1, 2025. The bill updated the Law Enforcement Emergency Detention Form, clarified a peace officer's duties

during emergency detention at a facility, clarified the venue for court-ordered mental health services, and refined the capacity standard for civil commitment.

Justice Boyce further reported that Representative Leach introduced House Bill 16 during special session to address a drafting error in SB 1164. HB 16, which repeals sections 8, 9, and 10 of SB 1164, was signed by the Governor on September 17, 2025, and took immediate effect.

Staff Updates

Kama Harris, Director of Policy and Education, reported that two major JCMH projects, the Bench Book and the Summit, are culminating at the Summit. She highlighted that the Summit Committee and the Bench Book Committee devoted significant effort to bringing both projects to completion. Ms. Harris thanked Hon. Brent Carr and Hon. Camille DuBose for chairing the committees and recognized their leadership as critical to the success of these initiatives. She also acknowledged Rose McBride for co-directing the Summit and highlighted her significant contributions during a year that included two special legislative sessions and early bench book printing.

Ms. Harris reported the JCMH will be printing a second order of bench book copies, and that commissioners and council members may request additional copies for their staff or counties by contacting the JCMH office. [[JCMH Book Order Form](#)]

Kristi Taylor announced the hiring of former Collaborative Council member, Daniela Jimenez Chisolm as JCMH's senior staff attorney.

Daniela Jimenez Chisolm, Senior Staff Attorney, reported that the Juvenile Bench Book was completed with updates and expansions to improve usability for judges and practitioners. She thanked committee chair, Bill Cox, and the committee members for their hard work.

Ms. Jimenez Chisolm reported that the Collaborative Council is shifting focus to actionable projects that can be reported to the Commission. She noted interest of members to form a Juvenile Committee to provide focused, practice-level perspectives. JCMH is working to support council members through in-person meetings and resources as well.

Ms. Jimenez Chisolm provided an update on the Court Liaison Program. JCMH received funding from the Texas Legislature to expand the program to five new counties. The expansion will focus on systemic efficiency and data collection to effectively measure program impact and outcomes.

Ms. Jimenez Chisolm announced the Texas Mental Health Law Courtroom Curriculum. This law-based curriculum will be integrated into psychiatry residency programs with a focus on the civil commitment process. It has been piloted at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Cetner in El Paso and is now being developed for use at other medical

schools across Texas. The program aims to strengthen collaboration between clinical and legal professionals and better prepare psychiatry residents for courtroom practice.

Andy Perkins, Staff Attorney, reported that as of September 2025, JCMH completed sixty-eight technical assistance requests, serving hundreds of partners in thirty-two counties, many statewide groups and individuals in Texas and organization in Maryland, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. Mr. Perkins highlighted [JCMH's Innovations Map](#) and asked attendees to update JCMH staff on additional programs or organizations to include on the map.

Rose McBride, Communications Manager, announced the publication of the [Biennial Report to the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals](#), covering JCMH work from January 2024 through September 2025. The report, themed Real Texans, Real Impact, highlights Commissioners, Collaborative Council members, and other community members who have supported or benefitted from JCMH initiatives. Ms. McBride noted that the report demonstrates collaboration, leadership, and education, and provides a future outlook on projects planned for the coming year.

Ms. McBride reported that JCMH published six new episodes of the [Reimagining Justice](#) podcast between April and October 2025, highlighting innovative programs in Fort Bend, Bell, Bexar, Williamson, and McLennan Counties.

Ms. McBride also reported that the [Summer Webinar Series](#) returned for a second year, focusing on IDD law. The three webinars covered IDD 101, Civil Commitments to SSLCs, and Forensic Commitments to SSLCs. Recordings are available on YouTube, with links provided on the [JCMH website](#) under “Programs and Initiatives.”

Commissioner Updates

Dr. Jennie Simpson on behalf of Scott Schalchlin, Deputy Executive Commissioner, Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC), reported that the Dallas State Hospital will open in December 2025 with 200 adult beds, and 92 pediatric beds in opening in early 2026. In 2026, HHSC will also add 40 adult geriatric MSU beds at San Antonio State Hospital and open the Terrell Center, a 30-bed youth residential treatment facility. Dr. Simpson announced that in 2027, five additional projects will be completed, including three new hospitals, Panhandle State Hospital, Lubbock Psychiatric Center, and Rio Grande State Center, and two replacement facilities, Wichita Falls State Hospital and Terrell State Hospital, totaling nine upcoming projects. She highlighted that these expansions reflect a \$2 billion legislative investment in bed capacity.

Dr. Simpson reported a year-over-year increase in demand for beds for individuals who have been put on the waitlist for competency restoration. She noted, however, that the average length of stay for competency restoration patients has significantly decreased from 418 days in FY2022 to 201 days in FY2025. Dr. Simpson reported a significant increase in length of stay for individuals found not guilty by reason of insanity, from 487 days in FY2019

to 1,317 days in FY2025, representing 14% of current state hospital beds and affecting overall bed availability.

Emily Eisenman on behalf of **April Zamora**, Director, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Division, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, announced the division formerly known as Re-Entry and Integration is now known as the Rehabilitation and Re-Entry Division. She noted that the Texas Correctional Office for Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) remains an office within the division.

Ms. Eisenman reported that efforts to integrate and streamline substance use and mental health co-diagnosis services continue. She noted that TCOOMMI received partial legislative funding to expand dual-diagnosis residential beds in partnership with probation partners, and implementation has begun with LMHAs hiring staff. Ms. Eisenman also reported that additional legislative funds have allowed the division to restore services that had previously been reduced due to rising costs.

Ms. Eisenman highlighted ongoing work to respond to shifting populations across the state and noted pilot projects with the Juvenile Justice Department to strengthen continuity-of-care networks.

Kristi Taylor provided an update on behalf of **Matt Smith**, Director of Statewide Youth Services Continuum, Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). Mr. Smith reported on new facility construction and efforts to strengthen the youth continuum of care. Construction continues on two 104-bed state-of-the-art facilities in Ellis and Brazoria Counties, with \$104 million in supplemental funding recently approved, bringing total project funding to \$304 million. Both facilities have received legislative approvals, and design work is underway through July 2026. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2026, with completion targeted for October 2028. The Ellis facility will serve youth with the highest-level of mental health needs, and the Brazoria facility will focus on youth with the highest levels of violent behavior. The targeted service models were created to foster safer communities and transform young lives.

Mr. Smith also reported that TJJD is concluding a two-year Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)-funded planning and assessment project, *Building Local Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success*, in partnership with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. The project focused on the creation of new regionalization plans. Following this, TJJD has posted seven Regional Continuum of Care Coordinator positions and one Statewide Continuum of Care Manager position, expected to be filled by mid-November 2025, to support local juvenile probation departments and cross-system partners in prevention, diversion, reentry, and behavioral health coordination. TJJD is also pursuing additional OJJDP grant funding to implement strategies identified through regional and statewide mapping efforts.

Kristi Taylor provided an update on behalf of **Chief Stan Standridge**, San Marcos Police Department. Chief Standridge reported that calls related to mental health services continue

to increase across Texas. He noted that the San Marcos Police Department is certifying all eligible frontline sworn employees as mental health peace officers, with completion expected by year-end.

Chief Standridge highlighted challenges with Extended Observation Units, which are not available in all areas. Law enforcement often must transport individuals to hospitals three to five hours away due to bed availability, removing at least two personnel from patrol for a single roundtrip. He reported that while the average inpatient stay is seven days, clients are frequently released without stabilization, resulting in repeated contacts. He estimated that approximately 20% of law enforcement contacts involve frequent utilizers. Chief Standridge noted that Fire and EMS also respond to these calls, and the lack of cross-system case management contributes to inefficiencies. He recommended that JCMH explore the feasibility of a data management system to enable cross-system case management for high utilizers, with attention to HIPAA and system collaboration.

Chief Standridge also reported that more law enforcement agencies are implementing behavioral threat assessment teams for juvenile and adult clients. He noted concerns regarding information sharing between LMHAs and law enforcement, particularly in juvenile cases, and suggested that this issue may require legal review.

Hon. Cynthia Wheless, Judge, 417th District Court, noted that while behavioral threat teams are active and effective, judges cannot participate ex parte regarding facts at the scene. She suggested that Professor Shannon and Justice Boyce consider creating a carve-out to involve the juvenile probation director or chief instead of the judge.

Kristi Taylor reminded the Commission about the Court Liaison Program, emphasizing its value in improving coordination between justice and mental health systems and noting its upcoming expansion to additional counties.

Hon. Larry Phillips, Judge, 59th District Court, praised the program, noting that it has strengthened collaboration in his county and laid the foundation for additional initiatives, including hiring a criminal magistrate to oversee mental health coordination and embedding mental health staff in local police departments. He highlighted that these efforts have improved compliance with statutes, enhanced early identification of mental health needs, and supported diversion from jail and emergency services.

Hon. Dave W. Jahn, Judge, Denton County Probate Court No. 1, praised the Court Liaison Program, noting that Denton County Commissioners approved fully funding the position and a 6% raise. He highlighted that the liaison role has expanded to supervise pre-trial dockets for two misdemeanor courts and support the Assisted Outpatient Treatment program. Judge Jahn recognized the role as a force multiplier that has strengthened local coordination and encouraged other counties to consider implementing a similar role.

Magdalena Morales-Aina, Director, El Paso County Community Supervision & Corrections, reported on recent statutory changes that allow courts to order outpatient or

community-based supervision and treatment for individuals found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, rather than prolonged inpatient hospitalization.

She emphasized that judges can only exercise this authority if probation departments and LMHAs work together to present a coordinated supervision and treatment plan. She highlighted the need for local program development and statewide collaboration to make this option workable.

Beth Lawson, Chief Executive Officer, StarCare Specialty Health System reported that StarCare Specialty Health System is nearing the opening of an expanded extended observation unit, supported by city and county ARPA funding. She clarified that the Lubbock Psychiatric Center is a state-operated, maximum-security hospital serving jail referrals and is distinct from Sunrise Canyon Hospital. She noted that Sunrise Canyon Hospital, operated by the StarCare Specialty Health System, is a 30-bed inpatient unit currently expanding to 60 beds and will continue to serve non-maximum-security patients in the community.

Hon. Tyra Jones McCollum, Judge, Fort Bend County Court at Law No. 2, shared that networking through the Commission facilitated collaboration between Fort Bend County's new Veterans Court and Justice Forward. She noted that Justice Forward staff observed the Veterans Court in its early stages, resulting in a grant-supported partnership that will strengthen the program and highlighted the value of Commission-facilitated networking.

Meeting Adjourned

Hon. Jane Bland thanked Wayne Young and the Harris Center for generously hosting the Commission for a field trip of their Diversion Center.

Hon. Jesse F. McClure thanked attendees for coming and announced the next Commission meeting would be held in January on Zoom and adjourned the meeting.

Tab 4
Report to the Commission



TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

January 16, 2026

www.texasjcmh.gov

Report of the Executive Director

The mission of the Judicial Commission on Mental Health is to engage and empower court systems through [collaboration](#), [education](#), and [leadership](#), thereby improving the lives of individuals with mental health needs, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The following report will provide an overview of the projects the JCMH has undertaken to further these objectives.

Collaboration

The JCMH has many initiatives developed to bring together experts to solve systemic problems. The JCMH Texas AOT Collaborative is an example of multidisciplinary stakeholders working together to increase awareness and support for both existing and newly established Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs. Below are descriptions of the JCMH committees as well as other collaborative efforts of the JCMH.

1. Commission

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

2. Collaborative Council

The Collaborative Council keeps the JCMH updated on emerging issues in the field. JCMH staff hold online meetings in which the 90 Collaborative Council members can learn about new initiatives and share their organization's conferences, projects, and best practices from around the state. The Collaborative Council met four times in 2025, on February 11, May 6, September 12, and December 16. After each meeting, JCMH staff provided links to resources that were mentioned during the meeting. The Collaborative Council will meet virtually on February 10, August 11, and December 15 at 12 PM (CST), in-person for the first time on May 14, and have an opportunity to network at the 9th Annual Summit. More information and meeting materials can be found on the [JCMH website](#).

3. JCMH Bench Book Committee

The JCMH Bench Book Committee is chaired by Judge Camile DuBose. The Committee developed the first edition of the Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book in 2018. Following the 89th Legislative Session the Committee published its 5th Edition in print and [online](#). Copies were distributed at the 8th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health. At this time, over 800 copies of the 5th Edition of the Adult Bench Book have been distributed statewide.

4. Juvenile Bench Book Committee

The Juvenile Bench Book Committee is chaired by William Cox. The Committee launched the Texas Juvenile Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book (commonly called the Juvenile Bench Book) in 2020. Following the 89th Legislative Session the Committee published its 4th edition in print and [online](#). Copies were distributed at the 8th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health. At this time, over 700 copies of the 4th Edition of the Juvenile Bench Book have been distributed statewide.

5. Summit Curriculum Committee

The Summit Curriculum Committee, chaired by Judge Brent Carr, advises on speakers and curriculum for the Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health. The Committee works to ensure that the presentations promote the JCMH mission and are at the forefront of this dynamic legal field. The Committee's work culminated at the 8th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health with 1,257 total attendees in-person and online.

6. Legislative Research Committee

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

Those interested in volunteering for the Legislative Research Committee in 2026, should email jcmh@txcourts.gov.

7. Texas Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Collaborative

The Texas AOT Collaborative formed when the Treatment Advocacy Center asked local leaders to help guide AOT work in Texas. JCMH Executive Director, Kristi Taylor, co-chairs the Collaborative with Senior Staff Attorney, Daniela Jimenez Chisolm. The Collaborative meets quarterly, with meetings that include an educational component as well as opportunities to share ideas for new projects and discuss issues arising in AOT programs across Texas. In addition, the Collaborative plans to assist in the development of legislative proposals, create new tools and resources, and launch a mentorship program to support AOT practitioners and programs across the state. The Collaborative will meet virtually in 2026 on February 11, April 10, and August 14 at 12 PM (CST).

8. Substance Use Disorder Committee

Judge Roxanne Nelson chairs the Substance Use Disorder Committee. The Committee met three times in 2025 and has recently focused on statutory and practical issues with chemical dependency warrants and detentions.

9. Forms Committee

The Forms Committee, chaired by Judge Dave Jahn, was established in December 2019. Tasked with examining common mental health forms, the Committee sought to produce a set of standardized forms that could be used in any county in the state. The Forms Committee met regularly and developed over 60 [forms](#) related to mental health, which are available on the JCMH website. The Supreme Court Advisory Committee specifically considered seven forms related to mental health and approved these forms for use under Rule 10 (g) of the [Texas Rules of Judicial Administration](#), a rule that prohibits the rejection of these seven forms based on the form itself. The Committee reconvened to edit and approve the JCMH-Approved Forms after the most recent legislative session.

10. Long-Term Planning Committee

The Long-Term Planning Committee, chaired by Judge John Specia, Jr., focuses on setting longer-term goals and offering feedback on potential JCMH projects. On May 19, 2022, the Long-Term Planning Committee met to create an updated JCMH strategic plan with these topics at the forefront. On May 20, 2022, the [2023 Strategic Plan](#) was approved by the Commission and Executive Committee.

11. Data Committee

The Data Committee, chaired by Dr. Connie Almeida and Chief Rosie Medina, published their [Best Practice Guide to Texas Mental Health Court Program Data Collection and Use in 2024](#), and continues to collaborate on parallel efforts with the Office of Court Administration. The Committee also plans to revise this Guide to incorporate specific information for juvenile and IDD cases.

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

12. Rural Issues Committee

The Rural Issues Committee, chaired by Judge Brian Keith Umphress, is focused on strengthening justice in rural Texas through increased awareness of mental health services, collaboration, and effective policy. The Committee held their most recent meeting on December 5th, 2025, with a presentation of the Child Protection Courts as a model for a potential pilot program to create Regional Mental Health Courts. Committee members provided feedback on the proposed court model, and JCMH staff are exploring options to address gaps through a pilot of a Regional Mental Health Court model.

13. JCMH Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of Justice Jane Bland, Judge Jesse McClure III, Justice Rebeca Huddle, Judge Gina Parker, Justice Bill Boyce, Judge John Specia, Judge Brent Carr, Megan LaVoie, and Kristi Taylor. It meets at least quarterly, or more if needed, to advise on JCMH operations, projects, and policy.

Education

The JCMH creates specialized training, resources, and tools for judges, attorneys, court personnel, and other stakeholders.

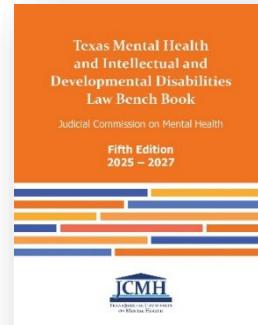
1. Eighth Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health



The 2025 Summit took place on October 6-8, 2025, at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria in Houston, Texas. As in prior years, the Summit offered a web simulcast for attendees who were unable to travel in person. This year's presentation covered AOT, emergency detention, civil commitment, law enforcement diversion, early identification, mental health courts, competency restoration, and re-entry. Session recordings are available on the [JCMH website](#) and the Summit Report can be found in this Commission Meeting Notebook.

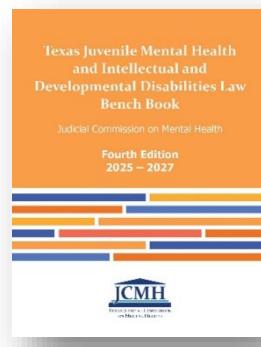
2. Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law [Bench Book](#)

The Bench Book is a 364-page book for Texas judges hearing cases regarding persons with mental illness and/or IDD. Each section contains applicable statutory processes, relevant best practices and guidance, and cross-references to mandatory forms. The 5th edition of the Bench Book added updates from the 89th Legislative Session and additional charts and procedural clarifications. Copies were distributed at the 2025 Judicial Summit on Mental Health. Print copies of the Bench Book and all other JCMH publications can be ordered by completing this [form](#) or sending an email to JCMH@txcourts.gov, and a digital version of the 5th Edition is available on the JCMH website.



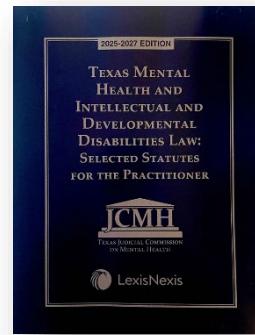
3. Texas Juvenile Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law [Bench Book](#)

The Juvenile Bench Book is a 223-page book for Texas judges hearing cases regarding youth and adolescents with mental illness and/or IDD. Each section contains applicable statutory processes, relevant best practices and guidance, and suggested forms. Copies of the 4th edition of the Juvenile Bench book were distributed at the 2025 Judicial Summit on Mental Health. Print copies of the Bench Book and all other JCMH publications can be ordered completing this [form](#) or sending an email to JCMH@txcourts.gov, and a digital version of the 4th Edition is available on the JCMH website.



4. Mental Health Code Book

The JCMH, building on the work of Chris Lopez at HHSC, created the *Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law: Selected Statutes for the Practitioner*, a collection of Texas statutes related to mental health and IDD in one convenient volume. JCMH staff has updated this reference following the 89th Legislative Session and published the 2025-2027 version with LexisNexis. Print copies of the Code Book and all other JCMH publications can be ordered completeing this [form](#) or sending an email to JCMH@txcourts.gov, and a digital version of the Code Book is available on the JCMH website.



5. Texas Mental Health Resource Guide

The [Texas Mental Health Resource Guide](#) was created from Judge Barbara Hervey's vision and provides an explanation of mental health services and lists resources indexed by type, region, and county. The Resource Guide is intended to be continually updated, and information or resources for the benefit of those with mental health challenges can be sent to the Court of Criminal Appeals at Mentalhealthresource@txcourts.gov.

6. Jurist in Residence Letters

Judge John Specia, Jr., Senior District Judge (Ret.) and Judge Brent A. Carr (Ret.) distribute letters to keep judges, attorneys, and other stakeholders updated on relevant changes to the law and share helpful resources and tools. Two letters were sent in 2025, and 2026 will bring more frequent updates concerning topics following the Sequential Intercept Model. All previously released Jurist-in-Residence letters are available on our website, [here](#).

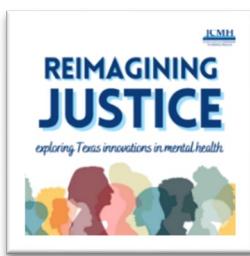
7. Resource Letters

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

8. JCMH Website

The JCMH website offers resources and information to support collaboration between the judicial and mental health systems. It features information about initiatives including [mental health courts](#), training programs, and [technical assistance](#) tools. The site provides access to [publications](#), including reports and guides, and promotes events like the annual [Judicial Summit on Mental Health](#). Additionally, users can explore resources related to mental health law, treatment courts, and specific programs like the County Mental Health Law Plan.

9. Podcast



In 2023, JCMH launched its podcast called: [Reimagining Justice: Exploring Texas Innovations in Mental Health](#). Each month, we highlight a program or practice that other counties can learn from and replicate. So far, 33 episodes have been released. Our January episode with Jessica Chevrier, a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist Associate, discusses workplace wellness and systemic issues like burnout with practical, scalable interventions.

10. Legislative Materials

The JCMH prepares tools and resources regarding mental health and IDD legislation. You can find summaries of the bills passed in the 89th legislative session from JCMH proposals on the JCMH website.

11. Presentations to Partner Organizations

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

- November 15th, 2024, Kama Harris and Daniela Jimenez Chisolm, presented “Legal Walkthrough of Emergency Detention Legislative” at the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, Pi Omicron Chapter at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Nursing, Scholarship Day Conference 2025.
- November 13th, 2025, Kama Harris and Daniela Jimenez Chisolm presented “Emergency Detention Legislative Updates” at the South Texas Justice of the Peace & Constables Association’s 32nd Annual Educational Conference.
- October 23rd, 2025, Kama Harris presented “Addressing Defendants with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities” at the Texas Indigent Defense Commission 2025 Workshop.
- September 11th, 2025, Kristi Taylor and Jonathan Lemuel presented “Jail-Based Competency Restoration” for the Texas Jail Association at the Jail Management Issues Conference in Galveston, Texas.
- September 10th, 2025, Rose McBride presented “Using Multimedia Tools in Judicial Education” at the National Association of State Judicial Educators Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- August 15th, 2025, Kristi Taylor and Professor Brian Shannon provided a legislative update at the Judicial Forum on Mental Health for the Texas Association of Counties in Austin, Texas.
- August 12th, 2025, Daniela Jimenez Chisolm presented “EDO & Civil Commitment” for NAMI El Paso, in El Paso, Texas.



- August 5th-6th, 2025, Daniela Jimenez Chisolm, provided an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) workshop for Metrocare Dallas, in Dallas, Texas.
- July 25th, 2025, Kristi Taylor and Daniela Jimenez Chisolm spoke on an AOT Panel for the Maryland Department of Health on a virtual meeting.
- July 25th, 2025, Daniela Jimenez Chisolm presented “AOT Overview & Pathways to AOT” for El Paso County Probate Court No. 1 in El Paso, Texas.
- July 24th, 2025, Kama Harris provided a legislative update for the Brazos County and College Station CIT Collaborative in College Station, Texas.
- June 11th, 2025, Kristi Taylor and Daniela Jimenez Chisolm presented on AOT for Hays County in San Marcos, Texas.
- May 20th, 2025, Kama Harris presented “Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System” for the Texas Criminal Justice Information Users Group in Austin, Texas.
- May 13th, 2025, Kama Harris and Andy Perkins presented “Lessons from the County Mental Health Law Plan” for the Texas Association of Pretrial Services in Conroe, Texas.
- May 1st, 2025, Kristi Taylor spoke to attendees at the NAMI 2025 Texas Mental Health Capitol Day on the Texas Capitol steps.
- April 30th, 2025, Kama Harris presented “The Civil Side of 46B,” at the Center for American and International Law Mental Health & 46B Conference in Plano, Texas.

To request a JCMH staff member to speak at your event, please complete the [speaker form](#) on our website.

Leadership

The JCMH recognizes that judicial leadership is essential to furthering our mission and supports statewide and local initiatives to provide courts with the tools and resources they need.

1. Texas County Mental Health Law Plan Pilot Program

In 2024, JCMH launched a pilot program called the [Texas County Mental Health Law Plan](#), in which the eight participating counties received four classes on Texas Mental Health Law, a checklist for self-analysis, and in-person workshops offering hands-on assistance, tools, and resources to support their work in creating a County Mental Health Law Plan. The goals of the pilot are to determine if creating such a plan encourages discussions that add collaboration, efficiency, cost-savings, and accountability to county mental health law systems.

Administrative Judges were asked to create a multidisciplinary team, if one did not already exist, that would review the JCMH Mental Health Law Checklist and then complete a template reflecting the county's current and future policies related to the relevant mental health law issues according to the Sequential Intercept Model. The JCMH provided reports containing each county's current practices, policies, and opportunities for growth discussed in the on-site workshops to each county's team leader. The JCMH has taken a year to re-assess this program to understand how to streamline the process.

2. Court Liaison Pilot Project

The JCMH completed the first phase of the Court Liaison Pilot Project to support a position focused on identification of individuals with mental illness charged with nonviolent misdemeanor offenses and connection to appropriate treatment. Denton, Grayson, and Smith Counties were the initial pilot locations, and each hired a Coordinator in Fall 2021. After seeing encouraging results, JCMH requested funding for an additional pilot round in five new counties. In the 89th Legislative Session, JCMH was appropriated 1.5 million to continue implementing positive change in addressing issues at the intersection of criminal justice and mental health on the local level. The JCMH will be partnering with the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health (TIEMH) to create a data collection portal for the five additional counties with a focus on effectively measuring program impact and outcomes. Applications for the Court Liaison Program will open on February 16th.

3. Summer Webinar Series

In the summer of 2025, JCMH produced a three-part series of [webinars](#) approved for CLE credit on topics related to intellectual developmental disability law. Over 300 people attended the sessions, which were recorded and are available on the [JCMH website](#).

4. Round Table Series

Round Table discussions are designed to address key issues affecting mental health and IDD law and the courts that hear those cases. The discussions are usually a half-day program facilitated by a subject matter expert. The topics vary year to year, and the number of Round Tables hosted each year also varies according to the interest of stakeholders and issues demanding attention. In September 2025, a Round Table on complex issues in Emergency Detention Orders was held; the report will soon be published and made available on the JCMH website.

5. Technical Assistance for Courts and Communities



JCMH continues to provide Technical Assistance services, including connecting judges with experts and peers, and assisting in the creation of treatment court programs.

JCMH also provides Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshops to communities, and in 2026 will target rural community justice systems for mapping workshops. In

2025, JCMH completed mappings in Bell, Burleson, Kendall, Lubbock, and Hutchinson counties

6. Innovations Map

The County Resources and Innovations in Mental Health Map ([Innovations Map](#)), first published in 2022, is continuously updated with new resources and user-submitted entries to reflect the services available across Texas communities. The map was redesigned in 2024 to emphasize juvenile resources and to highlight notable milestones and innovations at both the local and statewide levels.

Tab 5
January 2026
Finance Report



TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION
ON MENTAL HEALTH

**Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health
Fiscal Year 2026
January Financial Report**

FY2026 Available Funds

FY2026 JCMH Funding			
FY2026 Appropriation - 13011			\$ 3,071,096
Texas Tech Grant - Training			\$ 25,000
FY2026 Funds Available			\$ 3,096,096

FY2026 Budget vs Actuals

	Actual	Budget	Balance
Operating	\$ 277,105	\$ 969,909	\$ 692,805
Commission Projects	\$ 50,748	\$ 654,587	\$ 603,840
Scholarships	\$ 0	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Grants	\$ 0	\$ 1,453,500	\$ 1,453,500
Total	\$ 327,852	\$ 3,087,997	\$ 2,760,145

Financial Status as of January 2026

FY2026 Funds Available	\$ 3,096,096
Expenditures to Date	\$ (327,852)
FY2026 Fund Balance	\$ 2,768,243
Budgeted Expenditures Outstanding	\$ (2,760,145)
FY2026 Unobligated Funds	\$ 8,099

Tab 6

**8th Annual Judicial
Summit Report**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 8th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health, convened by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health in October 2025, brought together members of the judiciary, behavioral health and medical professionals, attorneys, law enforcement leaders, and policymakers from across Texas to advance coordinated responses for individuals with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, or substance use disorders who encounter the justice system.

Participants overwhelmingly praised the event's organization, relevance, and impact, with more than ninety percent rating it as excellent or very good. The discussions and sessions throughout the Summit reflected a shared commitment to building a more collaborative, effective, and data-driven system of care. Across plenary and breakout sessions, several unifying lessons emerged.

First, participants reaffirmed that collaboration remains the cornerstone of lasting reform. Meaningful progress depends on relationships of trust among courts, behavioral health providers, and community partners who share responsibility for improving outcomes. Speakers emphasized that reform efforts must also humanize those at the center of crisis encounters, ensuring that compassion and trauma-informed practices guide every point of system contact.

Leaders further called for a continued focus on improving the competency restoration process, including community-based restoration and continuity of care after release, and on using data to drive measurable results that inform future investments. Courts and agencies were encouraged to set realistic goals and measure success incrementally, focusing on sustainable progress rather than perfection.

The Summit also highlighted the need to build recovery-oriented systems that empower individuals through community support, to elevate the voices of people with lived experience and their families, and to prioritize early intervention for youth to prevent entry into the justice system as a pathway to care. Participants shared examples of innovation despite limited resources, demonstrating that local leaders can re-engineer existing assets to fill service gaps while maintaining fidelity to public safety and recovery principles.

Finally, throughout the Summit, a recurring message of hope, courage, and shared responsibility emerged. Speakers underscored that leadership in this field requires not only policy coordination but also the belief that mental illness is treatable and that recovery is possible for every individual.

Through the vision and guidance of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the 2025 Summit reaffirmed Texas's national leadership in judicially inspired systems change. By convening diverse partners, facilitating dialogue, and inspiring action, the Commission continues to strengthen cross-system collaboration, advance innovative solutions, and promote a justice system that responds to mental illness with treatment, dignity, and hope.

TOP TEN LEARNING POINTS

1. Collaboration is the Cornerstone of Change

Every successful reform begins with collaboration. From judges on the bench to behavioral health providers, true progress requires cross-disciplinary trust, consistent communication, and a shared vision.

- “Collaboration—in everything—is the key to anything working. Whenever you have two people who want to sit down and address the problem, you can change the system. ‘Let’s call JCMH and see if they have some resources they can give us.’ Collaboration is key.” — *Lee Pierson, J.D., Dallas County DA’s Office*
- “These difficult cases are not one-in-a-million cases. Everyone has these hard cases in their jurisdiction, which tells us that we need to work across agencies collaboratively to find solutions for everyone.” — *Matt Smith, M.A., L.P.C.-S., Texas Juvenile Justice Department*
- “Let’s push against the walls of our silos and collaborate.” — *Hon. Oscar Kazen, Probate Court No. 1, Bexar County*

2. Humanize People at the Center of Crisis Encounters

Crisis response improves when compassion meets data. Integrating trauma science into law enforcement training fosters safer, more empathetic interventions for people in distress.

- “Law enforcement, when we are in a moment of crisis, please judge us as *a person* in dire need of help.” — *Tres Jackson, Autism Lived Experience Expert & Autism Ambassador*
- “Law enforcement should learn about trauma because being trauma-informed improves criminal justice system responses.” — *Becky Haas, Consultant*

3. Improve the Competency Restoration System

Texas leaders emphasized timely evaluation, continuity of care, and shifting restoration closer to the community rather than defaulting to state hospitals.

- “In the past two years we’ve only sent two people to the state hospital after they started our program.” — *Jonathan Lemuel, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, discussing the successes of the new JBCR program in Williamson County*
- “State hospitals are treatment facilities, not long-term solutions.” — *Jennie Simpson, Ph.D., Texas Health and Human Services Commission*

4. Use Data to Drive Results

Data is not optional—it's essential. Tracking high utilizers, outcomes, and process efficiency ensures accountability and smarter allocation of scarce resources.

- “Refine your processes and strategies based on your data. We never stop looking at the data.” — *Domingo Corona, M.A., Arizona Superior Court in Pima County*

5. Set Realistic Goals and Measure Success

Courts must define achievable outcomes. Incremental progress, not perfection, keeps programs sustainable and fosters long-term recovery and system improvements.

- “Four steps to success are to operationalize, visualize, plan, and assess. ... The power of stopping and planning is incredible; to get a common understanding of a problem is critical.” — *Maj. Brent A. Carr Jr., United States Army, Fort Leavenworth, KS*
- “What you have to start with is realistic goals.” — *Hon. Raquel ‘Rocky’ Jones, 203rd Judicial District Court, Dallas County*

6. Build Recovery-Oriented Systems

Sustainable recovery depends on community networks, personal empowerment, and differentiated responses to mental health, IDD, and substance use—not one-size-fits-all treatment models.

- “Recovery capital is the breadth and depth of internal and external resources...” — *Hon. Devon Anderson, Justice Forward*
- “Recovery is not linear; when our clients are not doing well, they reach out to us and their attorney, and we plan the best next step toward success.” — *Diana Hernandez, Capital Area Private Defender Service*

7. Elevate Lived Experience and Family Partnership

Peers and families are catalysts for trust and recovery. Systems benefit when lived experience is valued equally alongside clinical and legal expertise.

- “The way we have always done things has continued to not work. Peers bring something that no one else can bring. It is time for us to look into what peer support can do when put on level ground with every other role in criminal justice intervention.” — *David Johnson, The HEAL US Project*
- “Family shaming must stop.” — *Jerri Clark, Treatment Advocacy Center*

8. Prioritize Early Intervention for Youth

Texas must close service gaps that force young people into justice or child-welfare pipelines just to access care. Prevention is the most effective type of reform.

- “Kids get long-term residential treatment by going through TJJD or DFPS—we need them to get care without going through these systems.” — *Matt Smith, M.A., L.P.C.-S., Texas Juvenile Justice Department*
- “Our child welfare system is designed to protect children and to keep them in place, but we have become a place that children have come to access the behavioral health system.” — *Luanne Southern, M.S.W., Texas Department of Family and Protective Services*

9. Innovate Despite Scarcity

Resource limitations can spark ingenuity. Local courts and counties can re-engineer existing assets and partnerships to fill service gaps instead of waiting for funding or infrastructure.

- “We decided that we weren’t going to let the fact that we didn’t have any treatment beds stop us.” — *Hon. Oscar Kazen, Probate Court No. 1, Bexar County*
- “Compelled medication is really expensive, but if you are having to wait 400 or 500 days in jail to get to the state hospital – your county is spending that money already, just in a different way.” — *Jonathan Lemuel, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services*

10. Lead with Hope, Courage, and Shared Responsibility

Change begins with tone and intention. When leaders express belief in recovery, systems mirror that hope, transforming compliance into collaboration.

- “If your team, if your judge, can engage and show willingness to help rather than punish, the population will engage.” — *Hon. Oscar Kazen, Probate Court No. 1, Bexar County*
- “We have to do more, and we have to remember always and forever that these illnesses are treatable. The answer to a treatable illness is treatment.” — *Jerri Clark, Treatment Advocacy Center*
- “Everyone in the team puts the client first and that’s the first step to meaningful progress. We are really lucky to go slow with clients to get to know them and to be patient. Recovery is not a linear process, but we can rely on the relationship and the trust we have built.” — *Kathleen Tiernan, Capital Area Private Defender Service*

Tab 6
End-of-Year Report



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

-2025-

December 8, 2025

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JCMH Strategic Plan

I. Mission, Principles, and Vision

A. Mission

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

B. Principles

The JCMH promotes our mission through:

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

C. Vision

The JCMH provides Texas judges, attorneys, law enforcement, mental health providers, and other critical stakeholders with knowledge, tools, and resources in a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve outcomes and reduce justice system involvement for

adults and youth with behavioral health needs or intellectual and developmental disabilities.

II. Implementation

A. Collaborate

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

B. Educate

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

C. Lead

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

III. Organization

A. Governance

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

B. Human Resources and Communications

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

C. Evaluation

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

2025 Goals and Deliverables

I. Strategies and Activities

A. Collaborate

1. **Collaborate with stakeholders to collect and analyze data, practices, law, and policy with the goal of improving court function for people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.**
 - a. **Serve as a resource for the Legislature for all bills related to mental health law.**
 - i. Testimony from Executive Director, Kristi Taylor, and JIR, Hon. Brent Carr, on SB 1164 Senate Committee on Criminal Justice.
 - ii. Testimony from Executive Director, Kristi Taylor, on HB 5465 for the Texas House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence.
 - iii. Texas Judicial Council Meeting, June 13, 2025
 - iv. Multiple meetings with OCA – Megan LaVoie and Louis Tomasetti
 - v. Multiple meetings with Legislative small-groups.
 - vi. Executive Committee Members met with Senator Huffman’s Office (Grayson Coker, Legislative Director), Representative Leach, Representative Smithee, and Senator King’s Office, April 9, 2025
 - vii. Four JCMH proposals were passed by the Texas Legislature in SB 1164 and took effect September 1, 2025.
2. **Seek consensus on interpretation and implementation of mental health laws, explore different perspectives, and record findings.**
 - a. **Solicit feedback and input at regional and local forums, focus groups, and trainings.**
 - i. Held committee meetings:

1) January 10, 2025	Treatment Courts Collaborative #1
2) January 16, 2025	Specialty Courts Meetup
3) January 23, 2025	Youth Justice Continuum of Care
4) January 31, 2025	Commission Meeting
5) February 7, 2025	Treatment Courts Collaborative #2
6) February 11, 2025	Collaborative Council Meeting
7) February 13, 2025	JCMH Data Committee Meeting
8) February 14, 2025	Texas AOT Coalition Meeting
9) February 25, 2025	Substance Use Disorder Committee
10) March 7, 2025	Treatment Courts Collaborative #3
11) April 3, 2025	Executive Committee Meeting

12)	April 4, 2025	Treatment Courts Collaborative #4
13)	April 9, 2025	Commission Meeting
14)	April 15, 2025	Texas AOT Coalition Meeting
15)	May 6, 2025	Collaborative Council Meeting
16)	May 22, 2025	Summit Curriculum Committee
17)	June 23, 2025	Adult Bench Book Committee
18)	June 24, 2025	Juvenile Bench Book Committee
19)	August 7, 2025	Executive Committee Meeting
20)	August 15, 2025	Texas AOT Coalition
21)	September 3, 2025	Emergency Detention Round Table
22)	September 12, 2025	Collaborative Council Meeting
23)	September 22, 2025	Rural Issues Committee Meeting
24)	September 23, 2025	Data Committee Meeting
25)	October 6, 2025	Commission Meeting
26)	October 7-8, 2025	JCMH Summit
27)	October 14, 2025	Lubbock SIM Mapping
28)	October 22, 2025	Substance Use Disorder Committee
29)	December 5, 2025	Rural Issues Committee
30)	December 8, 2025	Legislative Research Committee
31)	December 9, 2025	Substance Use Disorder Committee
32)	December 10, 2025	Executive Committee Meeting

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

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

- i. Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council
- ii. TCOOMMI Advisory Committee Meetings
- iii. Emergency Detention Orders and Civil Commitment Overview with NAMI El Paso, August 12, 2025
- iv. OCA Data Workgroup
- v. National Center for State Courts State Court Behavioral Health Coordinator Council
- vi. Sugar Land Police Dept. CIT Meeting on Emergency Detention Orders, September 30, 2025
- vii. Emergency Detention Training Collaboration Meeting, August 6, 2025

- viii. Willacy County NAMI Texas
- ix. Treatment Advocacy Center AOT Advisory Board
- x. JCMH attorneys collaborated with and spoke at conferences for:
 - 1. The Center for American and International Law,
 - 2. Justice Court Training Center,
 - 3. Texas Association of Pretrial Services,
 - 4. Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar of Texas,
 - 5. NAMI Texas,
 - 6. Texas Association of Counties,
 - 7. Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities,
 - 8. Texas Association of Specialty Courts,
 - 9. Texas Hospital Association,
 - 10. Texas Municipal Court Education Center, and
 - 11. Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

B. Educate

- 1. Develop high-quality, multi-disciplinary education in coordination with state and national training experts and raise awareness of best practices and areas requiring improvement.**
 - a. Create, promote, and lead the Eighth Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health.**
 - i. The 2025 Judicial Summit on Mental Health took place on November 7-8, 2025, in Houston, Texas.
 - 1. 1257 registrants (512 in person and 745 livestream)
 - 2. A representative from every Texas county and every Texas LMHA registered to attend.
 - 3. Registrants from 11 different U.S. States
 - 4. Secured 9.00 continuing education credits with 1.75 ethics hours. An additional 10.50 hours, including .75 additional ethics hours, are available by video after the Summit.
 - ii. Held multiple Summit Curriculum Committee meetings (full committee & committee chair/internal)
 - b. Provide specialized mental health law training to at least six counties or regions.**
 - i. June 19, 2025, Summer Webinar Series, IDD 101 and the Community Safety Net
 - 1. 120 unique viewers, [video replay now on YouTube](#)

- ii. July 23, 2025, Summer Webinar Series, Civil Commitment of People with IDD to SSLCs
 - 1. 129 unique viewers, [video replay now on YouTube](#)
- iii. August 20, 2025, Summer Webinar Series, Forensic Commitment of People with IDD to SSLCs
 - 1. 142 unique viewers, [video replay now on YouTube](#)

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

- a. **Create new chapters or update existing chapters of the adult and juvenile bench books.**
 - i. Adult bench book updated with additional subject matter.
 - ii. Juvenile bench book updated with additional subject matter.
- b. **Create new resources for legislative updates and other mental health laws, procedures, and courts.**
 - i. Legislative Updates
- c. **Create at least four new videos for the video library on mental health law.**
 - i. Video celebrating two years (25 episodes) of the podcast and the various innovations
 - ii. AOT Presentation from Hays County workshop on the YouTube Channel
 - iii. JCMH Tour of Harris County's Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Jail Diversion Center
 - iv. 2025 Summit Top 10 Learning Points
 - v. Emergency Detention SB 1164 Law Enforcement Training Video
- d. **Continue to expand Innovations Map to include new innovations and resources.**

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

- a. **Speak at no fewer than twelve partner events including national and statewide conferences.**
 - 1) January 10, 2025, Bexar County Managed Assigned Council Competency Seminar, *Competency Restoration*, San Antonio, TX.
 - 2) January 24, 2025, Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities Quarterly Meeting, *JCMH Legislative Proposals*, Virtual.
 - 3) March 28, 2026, Texas Association of Counties Spring Judicial Seminar, *The Intersection of Mental Health and Juvenile Justice*, Lubbock, TX.
 - 4) March 28, 2025, Treatment Advocacy Center National Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Symposium and Learning Collaborative, *Collaborative Care in AOT & Psychiatry*, Annapolis, MD.

- 5) April 30, 2025, Center of American and International Law, *Mental Health & 46B*, Plano, TX.
- 6) May 1, 2025, NAMI Texas Mental Health Day at the Capitol, Austin, TX.
- 7) May 15, 2025, Texas Association of Pretrial Services Conference, *Improve Mental Health Outcomes in Your Community*, Montgomery, TX.
- 8) June 5, 2025, Treatment Advocacy Center, *Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Training*, San Antonio, TX.
- 9) June 11, 2025, Hays County, *Competency Restoration, Assisted Outpatient Treatment Workshop*, San Marcos, TX.
- 10) June 21, 2025, *TCDLA Floyd Jennings Mental Health Annual Conference*, Houston, TX.
- 11) June 19, 2025, NCSC Behavioral Health Administrators Conference, Chicago, Illinois.
- 12) June 26, 2025, Texas Council of Community Centers Conference, *Collaborative Care in Forensic Psychiatry*, Dallas, TX.
- 13) July 1, 2025, Williamson County, *CCP 16.22 Refresher Training*, Georgetown TX.
- 14) July 2, 2025, *El Paso County Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Training*, El Paso, TX.
- 15) July 16, 2025, Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities Presentation, Virtual.
- 16) July 24, 2025, Texas CIT Association, Emergency Detention for Law Enforcement, Brazos Valley Presentation,
- 17) August 5, 2025, Metrocare Services Training, *Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Overview*, Dallas, TX.
- 18) August 12, 2025, NAMI El Paso, *EDO and Civil Commitment*, El Paso, TX.
- 19) August 15, 2025, Texas Association of Counties Judicial Forum on Mental Health, *Legislative Priorities to Address Mental Health in Texas Counties*, Austin, TX.
- 20) September 10, 2025, National Association of State Judicial Educators, *Going Past the PowerPoint - Using Multimedia Tools to Tell a Story*, Philadelphia, PA.
- 21) September 11, 2025, Correctional Management Institute of Texas, 2025 Jail Management Issues Conference, *Jail Based Competency Restoration*, Galveston, TX.
- 22) September 23, 2025, Texas Hospital Association, *Emergency Detention Order Updates*, San Antonio, TX.
- 23) October 23, 2025, Texas Indigent Defense Commission Workshop, *Addressing Defendants with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities*, Austin, TX.

- 24) October 28, 2025, Mental Health Deputy Technical Assistance Call, *Legislative Updates for Emergency Detentions*, Virtual.
- 25) November 13, 2025, South Texas Justice of the Peace Conference, *Emergency Detention Legislative Updates*, Brownsville, TX.
- 26) November 15, 2025, SIGMA Pi Omicron Nursing Honor Society Conference, *Legal Walkthrough of Emergency Detention*, Edinburg, TX.

C. Lead

- 1. Identify and prioritize the needs of the judiciary and judicial stakeholders to improve their ability to serve people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.**
 - a. **Use surveys, focus groups, and other research methods to identify the needs and priorities of the judiciary.**
 - i. Rural Issues Committee Survey to develop goals and structure of the committee with member feedback.
 - b. **Host Youth SIM Mappings (Exceptional Item).**
 - i. Bell County Youth SIM Mapping Workshop (February 2025).
 - ii. Burleson County Youth SIM Mapping (March 2025).
 - iii. Kendall County Youth SIM Mapping (May 2025).
 - iv. Lubbock County Youth SIM Mapping (October 2025).
 - v. Hutchinson County Youth SIM Mapping (December 2025).
- 2. Serve as a resource in the development of policy, legislation, and practice recommendations, including as a resource for the Legislature for all bills related to mental health law.**
 - a. Added mental health legislative updates to both bench books.
 - b. Created new Emergency Detention Form based on statutory updates; vetted form with statewide experts; distributed form statewide; currently seeking supreme court forms committee approval for EDO form.
 - c. Spoke at multiple conferences on mental health legislative updates
 - i. August 15, 2025, Texas Association of Counties Judicial Forum on Mental Health, *Legislative Priorities to Address Mental Health in Texas Counties*, Austin, TX.
 - ii. September 23, 2025, Texas Hospital Association, *Emergency Detention Order Updates*, San Antonio, TX.
 - iii. October 28, 2025, Mental Health Deputy Technical Assistance Call, *Legislative Updates for Emergency Detentions*, Virtual.
 - iv. November 13, 2025, South Texas Justice of the Peace Conference, *Emergency Detention Legislative Updates*, Brownsville, TX.
 - v. November 15, 2025, SIGMA Pi Omicron Nursing Honor Society Conference, *Legal Walkthrough of Emergency Detention*, Edinburg, TX.

- d. Conducted emergency detention round table post-legislative session to determine if new law created issues and what other legislation may be needed next session.
- e. Worked with CIT organization to create Emergency Detention Legislative Update video for training of officers and other stakeholders using the new EDO form.

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

- a. **Provide technical assistance and SIM mapping to counties.**
 - i. Technical assistance Requests completed in 2025: 89
 - ii. Counties Served: 29
 - iii. Partners Served: 478
- b. **Continue to improve the JCMH website and the Innovations Map Website.**
 - i. New Bench Books, Biennial Report, Code Book, and other resources added to the website for easy use
 - ii. Innovations Map has been updated to include one-pagers on innovations in particular counties that can be replicated.
- c. **Leverage communications strategies to reach new counties.**
 - i. Had representatives from all 254 Texas counties at the 2025 Summit—for the second year in a row.
- d. **Continue the Mental Health Law Plan project with additional counties.**
This goal was put on hold for further evaluation and improved process.
- e. **Continue to support the Court Liaison Pilot Program through its fourth and final year; consider expansion of the Court Liaison Program, dependent on exceptional item approval in appropriations from Legislature.**
 - i. Completed Implementation Guide and Final Report and published nationally through NCSC.
 - ii. Legislature approved JCMH's \$1.5 million request for five new counties to receive a Court Liaison.
- f. **Expand the Mental Health Courts Collaborative to include all treatment courts such as DWI Courts and Drug Courts and rebrand as the Treatment Courts Collaborative.**
 - i. Rebranded to Treatment Courts Collaborative.
 - ii. Met four times in 2025.
 - iii. Four Counties graduated from the program in 2025.

II. Organizational Administration

A. Increase Financial Resources

1. Identify funding and resource options available to facilitate the Commission's efforts to serve the state.
 - a. Requested exceptional item funding from the legislature.
 - b. Legislature approved JCMH's \$1.5 million request for five new counties to receive a Court Liaison.
2. Endeavor to increase resources and funding and maximize the effective and efficient use of available judicial system resources.
 - a. JCMH budget increased by the Texas Legislature
3. Oversee the administration of funds appropriated and granted to the Commission.

III. Evaluation

A. Examine Quality and Relevance

1. Measure the Commission's success annually considering the overarching principles and strategies.
 - a. JCMH [Biennial Report](#) published and is available both digitally and in print.

B. Track Visibility

1. Measure Commission visibility through communication strategies and other means such as website analytics or surveys.
 - a. Podcast
 - i. Overall Plays Across Platforms from January – November 2025: 976
 - ii. Released 12 episodes in 2025.
 - b. Social media
 - i. [Twitter](#)
 - 1) January 2025: 496 followers
 - 2) November 2025: 514
 - ii. [Facebook](#)
 - 1) January 2025: 600 followers
 - 2) November 2025: 812
 - iii. [LinkedIn](#)
 - 1) January 2025: 1,548 followers
 - 2) November 2025: 1,957
 - iv. [Instagram](#)
 - 1) January 2025: 180 followers
 - 2) November 2025: 201

- c. **Earned Media**
 - i. *Hill Country Community Journal: [Harris completes mental health court training](#)*
 - ii. *Pleasanton Express: [District Mental Health Court attends statewide judicial summit](#)*
- 2. **Targeted Communication**
 - a. Jurist-in-Residence letters
 - i. Two JIR letters in 2025
 - b. Resource Letters
 - i. Three Resource letters in 2025

2026 Goals

I. Strategies and Activities

A. Collaborate

- 1. **Collaborate with stakeholders to collect and analyze data, practices, law, and policy with the goal of improving court function for people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.**
 - a. Prepare legislative priorities for the upcoming 90th Regular Session.
- 2. **Seek consensus on interpretation and implementation of mental health laws, explore different perspectives, and record findings.**
 - a. Solicit feedback and input at regional and local forums, focus groups, and trainings.
- 3. **Explore potential partnerships to promote early awareness and education about mental health, substance use disorders, or IDD in the court system.**
 - a. Continue to collaborate with partner organizations to promote and enhance their work.

B. Educate

- 1. **Develop high-quality, multi-disciplinary education in coordination with state and national training experts and raise awareness of best practices and areas requiring improvement.**
 - a. Create, promote, and lead the Ninth Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health.
 - b. Provide specialized mental health law training to at least six counties or regions.
- 2. **Create and provide tools and resources on key concepts and court procedures related to mental health, substance use, or IDD.**
 - a. Create new resources for mental health laws, mental health procedures, and mental health courts.

- b. Create at least four new videos for the video library on mental health law.
 - c. Continue to improve the Innovations Map to include new innovations.
- 3. **Strive to serve as both a statewide and national leader in mental health, substance use, and IDD law and practice.**
 - a. Speak at no fewer than twelve partner events including national and statewide conferences.

C. Lead

- 1. **Identify and prioritize the needs of the judiciary and judicial stakeholders to improve their ability to serve people with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or IDD.**
 - a. Use surveys, focus groups, and other research methods to identify the needs and priorities of the judiciary.
 - b. Host SIM Mappings across the state to improve collaboration and communication among local participants.
- 2. **Serve as a resource in the development of policy, legislation, and practice recommendations, including as a resource for the Legislature for all bills related to mental health law.**
 - a. Begin preparing in advance of the next legislative session.
- 3. **Assist judges in leading local and regional initiatives to improve mental health, substance use disorders, and IDD service delivery and capacity.**
 - a. Provide technical assistance and SIM mapping to counties.
 - b. Continue to improve the JCMH website and the Innovations Map Website.
 - c. Leverage the communications strategies to increase the number of attorneys attending the Summit.
 - d. Expand the Court Liaison Pilot Program to five new counties.
 - e. Statewide build-out of the Texas Mental Health Law Curriculum.

II. Organizational Administration

A. 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.**

III. Evaluation

A. Examine Quality and Relevance

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

B. Track Visibility

1. Measure Commission visibility through communication strategies and other means such as website analytics or surveys.
 - a. Podcast
 - b. Social media
 - c. Earned Media
2. Targeted Communication
 - a. JIR letters
 - b. Resource Letters

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