

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



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January 3, 2018

Dear Sheriff and Jail Administrator:

As you know, SB1849 required the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to adopt a minimum standard regarding the continuity of prescription medications. Information regarding this new requirement was previously provided to you in a TA Memo and was published for comment in the Texas Register. This new rule was adopted by the board and became effective January 1, 2018.


In order to ensure all counties incorporate this requirement into their existing Health Services Plan, we request that you sign the attached addendum and return it to the Commission by February 1, 2018. We will attach it to your approved plan. This will demonstrate that you have amended your plan, and that it complies with the requirements of SB1849.

Send in ONLY the addendum. If you submit the entire Health Services Plan, it will be returned without approval. This is necessary due to the fact that if the entire plan is submitted, it has to be reviewed in its entirety to ensure that no other changes have been made. It is our goal to ensure that all counties have updated their Health Services Plan as quickly as possible. If 240 counties/facilities were to submit their entire Health Services Plan for review, it would take at least 3 months to review them all and we would not be able ensure counties are complying with the new law.

If you have any questions regarding the submission of the addendum, please contact Tomas Torres at (512) 463-3236 or tomas.torres@tcjs.state.tx.us.

For those of you that picked up on that, Ms. Luz Lozano retired at the end of the year after 26 years of service with the agency. We are going to miss her greatly as she was without equal when it came to Operational Plans and reviewing them.

Sincerely,


Brandon S. Wood
Executive Director

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair
Jerry W. Lowry, New Caney, Vice Chair
Larry S. May, Sweetwater

Sheriff Dennis D. Wilson, Groesbeck
Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Lubbock
Dr. Esmail Porsa, M.D., Parker

Commissioner Ben Perry, Waco
Duane Lock, Southlake
Melinda E. Taylor, Austin

"The Commission on Jail Standards welcomes all suggestions and will promptly respond to all complaints directed against the agency or any facilities under its purview".
To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas

_____ County

HEALTH SERVICES PLAN ADDENDUM
CONTINUITY OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

The following addendum to the _____ County Health Services Plan is effective January 1, 2018:

A qualified medical professional shall review as soon as possible any prescription medications an inmate is taking when the inmate is taken into custody. In this context, qualified medical professionals include but are not limited to physicians, Registered Nurses (RN), and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) performing their duties within the scope of their license. For this purpose, pharmacists and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) are not qualified medical professionals.

Sheriff's signature

Date

Jail Administrator's signature

Date