

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission on Jail Standards

Place: Texas State Capitol, Room: E2.012
1100 Congress Ave,
Austin, TX 78701

To obtain a recording of the meeting after November 3, 2022, contact staffer William Turner, at 512-463-2690. An electronic copy of the minutes is available at: <https://www.tcjs.state.tx.us/meetings> and on the Texas house video website on this date.

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Date: November 3, 2022

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Judge Stoudt of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call of Commission Members

Judge Bill Stoudt, Chairman	Sheriff Kelly Rowe
Dr. Esmaeil Porsa	Mr. Ross Reyes
Mr. Duane Lock	Ms. Monica McBride
Ms. Patricia Anthony	Sheriff Raul Gonzales
Commissioner Ben Perry	

Commission members present at roll call were Judge Bill Stoudt, Mr. Duane Lock, Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Sheriff Raul Gonzales, Mr. Ross Reyes, Ms. Patricia Anthony, Ms. Monica McBride and Commissioner Ben Perry. Mr. Dennis McKinney, Assistant Attorney General, was also present. Staff members attending in-person included Brandon Wood, Ricky Armstrong, Jason Jouett, Byron Shelton, William Turner, Michael Gravitt, Melvin Bowser, Carol Bernhard, Leslie Speir, Martin Arnold, Richard Morgan, Kaitlin Lopez-Cano, Chris Keith, Zachary Aguirre, and Valerie Woehl.

Others in attendance were:

Jennifer Shumake, Bexar County
Flint Britton, HDR Architects
Sheriff Scott Williams, Coryell Co
Chief Fredrick Robinson, Dallas Co
Sheriff Maxey Cerliano, Gregg Co
Sheriff Ray Scifres, Hockley Co
Sonya Burns, Travis County Advocate
Shane Pool, Detain Inc.
Natash Pelaez- Wagner, GMG Inc.
Megan Milas, CGI
Jeremy Sundh, Bexar Co.
Suzanne Bradford, GMJ Inc.
Sheriff Fredrick Robinson, Dallas Co.
Krish Gundu, Texas Jail Project
Diana Claitor, Texas Jail Project
Sheriff J.C. Hooper, Nueces Co.
Angela Collier, Nueces Co. Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Larry Smith, Smith Co. S.O.
Gary Pinkerton, Smith Co. S.O.
Ms. Elle Cross, Hays Co.
Amy Kamp, Hays Co. Jail Advocate
Karen Minor, Hays County Jail Advocates
Amy Kamp, Hays County Jail Advocates
Kevin Stuart, Brazos Co.
Jay H. Knight, Liberty Co.
Jeremiah Richards, Montgomery Co. S.O.

Pat Marion, Recana
Steve Herrera, Hidalgo County S.O.
John Shoemaker, Smith County
Maria Velasquez, TCSO
Shannon J. Herklotz, Harris County
Raul Banasco, Travis County SO
Jose Hernandez, Webb County SO
Sheriff Erasmo Alarcon Jr., Jim Hogg County
Geraldo Lopez, Hildalgo Co.
Maxy Cerliano, Gregg Co. S.O.
Michael Page, Montgomery Co. S.O.
Bobby Rader, Liberty Co. S.O.
R. Taylor, TDEM
Shannon Srubr, Wharton Co. S.O.
Debra Williams, Dallas Co. S.O.
Judge Roger Miller, Coryell County
Doug Dretke, CMIT, SHSU, Huntsville
Dr. Yan Zhang, CMIT, SHSU, Huntsville
Dr. Bill Wells, CMIT, SHSU, Huntsville
Melissa Gonzales
Sheriff Scott A Williams, Coryell Co., S.O.
Karen Porter, Coryell Co., S.O.
Judge Juan Carlos Guerra, Jim Hogg Co.
Sarah Bigham, Grayson Co. S.O.
Tony Bennie, Grayson Co. S.O.
Tom Watt, Grayson Co., S.O.

III. Approval of Minutes

Sheriff Rowe moved to approve the minutes for the meeting conducted on August 4, 2022.
Commissioner Porsa seconded the motion, which was subsequently approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Angela Collier came to the meeting to share her jail experiences. She said she lived in Madison County and was fifteen weeks pregnant when she was arrested at her house and transported to neighboring county Walker County jail in the middle of the night. She said she was arrested on a Walker Co. warrant. She said the button on the intercom at the jail didn't work and wished the employees wore nametags. She said she filed a complaint and was in disbelief with the answer she received stating that she didn't report she was having a miscarriage when she arrived at the jail. She said that she wished there was somebody at Walker County she could hold accountable. She wished she could understand how the door could be slammed shut on this complaint so quickly.

Amy Kamp, with Hays County Jail advocates spoke and said she was concerned that there was widespread medical neglect in the Hays County Jail. She said the County contracts with Well Path for its medical care. She said they've received several complaints that people are not being seen promptly and that when seen, they are not being seen by the appropriate medical professionals. She said that people are developing severe medical issues because of the lack of care. She gave the example of Ranulfo Benitez-Morales who was shot the night he was arrested. She said they are still concerned that he is going to lose his leg. She said one issue is that Well Path does not make it easy to contact them because there is nobody to contact on their website and she asked the Commissioners to consider any other complaints concerning Well Path and consider whether they are qualified to be offering medical care.

Karen Munoz, also with the Hays County Jail Advocates spoke and read an email she sent to Sheriff Gary Cutler of Hays County concerning a September 2, 2022 transfer that took place. She said the transfer was hurried and that the detainees were awakened early with pepper ball guns pointed in their faces. She said they were not given a chance to put on clothes. She said she was concerned the detainees' belongings were lost or misplaced. She asked the Commissioners for specific provisions or standards governing these types of transfers. She read a letter from the Sheriff concerning the transfer and related that she believed the Sheriff was using the Commission as a scapegoat with regards to his answer to her allegations. She said they are seeking transparency and asked that the Commissioners look into reports of transfers.

Elle Cross, the Right to Justice coordinator with Mano Amiga, a small non-profit based in Hays County spoke. She talked about every human being's relationship with food and said that the quality of food the inmates are left with, leaves much to be desired. She said the quantity of food given in the Hays County jails is so egregiously small that inmates are forced to supplement with Commissary and that the rations lead to conflicts with the inmates. She said that some inmates don't have anyone to help on the outside and that this leaves them helpless and starving. She gave examples of inmates developing health issues that are related to unfit meals or those not appropriate for diabetic patients. She said Hays County jail food was "by far the worst in the area" and that the county is in violation of 281.3 and 281.4 of the Texas Administrative Code. She said the jail should be investigated by the Commission with urgency.

V. Old Business

A. Bowie County - Notice of Non-compliance

Executive Director Brandon Wood reported that Bowie had a Special Inspection in April of this year resulting in a non-compliant status, however, after working with the county, they were recertified after a subsequent inspection on September 20th of this year. At this time, Bowie was found to be in compliance. Therefore, no action is necessary.

B. Coryell County - Notice of Non-compliance and Remedial Order Enforcement

Executive Director Brandon Wood explained that the county was issued a notice of noncompliance, has an active remedial order issued and has been referred to the Office of Attorney General for enforcement of the order. A stop-by review was conducted and it was discovered that the county has been over their approved capacity with 93 inmates. Mr. Dennis McKinney reported that the county did in fact contract with at least one additional county and that last he heard they had been under approved capacity. Sheriff Scott Williams spoke and said they've been diligently trying and he thought doing a "pretty good job" keeping numbers under capacity. He said the counties won't accept their inmates. He said they've reached out to Zapata County despite its distance. He said the Commissioners Court is looking at an expansion to the jail to relieve capacity, giving them another 47 beds. Dr. Porsa expressed concern about the medical care of the inmates. The Sheriff said that the county's medical provider should never have MARS issues. The Sheriff assured Dr. Porsa that he realized the accountability on the medical issues lies with him.

The Commission Recessed until 9:28 am due to technical issues.

Roger Miller, Coryell County Judge addressed the Commission to recap their issues. He said they had a failed bond issue, had pay increases, added a prosecutor and other staff and have been working to alleviate the overcrowding. They worked with an architect to add 47 beds to the existing jail footprint. He said they are continuing to work on building this new facility and that it is feasible. He asked for assistance by TCJS to ensure TDCJ pick up their convicted inmates expeditiously. The Judge said that he wants to assure the Commission that this is a very serious issue for them, that they have it on every meeting agenda and that they will continue to work diligently. Commissioner Lock asked the Judge why Coryell would not transfer inmates to Dallas County and asked that Mr. Wood contact Dallas county to see if they would accept Coryell County's inmates. The Sheriff reported that many counties won't take Coryell's "problem" inmates. Director Wood agreed to contact Dallas County. The Judge told Commissioner Anthony that they are changing medical providers and that he would be proactive in talking to his counterparts in other counties about accepting

their inmates, prior to the next meeting. Director Wood recommended enforcement of the remedial order and asked for an update from Coryell at the next meeting.

C. Hidalgo County - Notice of Non-compliance

Executive Director Wood explained that Hidalgo County was on the agenda because of non-compliance with regards to overcrowding in holding cells as well as keeping inmates longer than the 48-hour limit. He stated that Hidalgo is also on the agenda for a variance. Sheriff Steve Herrera spoke and was happy to report the number of inmates up front in the holding cells has been reduced to under capacity due to the courts ramping back up and other factors. He said Starr, Brooks and Jim Hogg are housing out of county for them. He requested the extension of their variance beds and said they have begun the process on their Willacy jail lease. Director Wood recommend renewal of their 100 variance beds and confirmed Hidalgo's count of 1114 (below approved capacity) Dr. Porsa motioned to approve the recommendation and Sheriff Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Marion County - Notice of Non-Compliance

Executive Director Brandon Wood reported that Marion County became noncompliant due to failure to notify the magistrate within 12 hours concerning mental health issues. He also explained that the county was having difficulty properly filling out the intake form and having consistent observation checks. Director Wood explained that through subsequent inspections they have been found to be back into compliance and that no action is necessary at this time.

E. Nueces County – Notice of Non-compliance

Executive Director Wood said that in June of 2022 Nueces County was issued a notice of non-compliance. The areas cited for overcrowding in holding cells as well as holding inmates in said cells more than the 48-hour maximum. He also said the Intercom issues have continued as well as a failed fire inspection. Sheriff J.C. Hooper and Monica Rios, the jail administrator spoke. Ms. Rios stated that capacity is currently at 101%. She stated that the holding cells are not over capacity and that they are no longer holding inmates for more than 48 hours. Ms. Rios said the kitchen sanitation issues have been addressed and that both facilities passed the required fire inspection. She said the intercoms have been replaced but that it is an ongoing problem with regards to vandalization and repair. She said the audit team has helped keep them in compliance. Sheriff Hooper said they've been investigating new intercom systems and that they may be giving tablets with instructional materials, and he expects this to reduce vandalism. The Sheriff said that the tablets will allow two-way communication with correctional staff. The Sheriff said they house 50 inmates elsewhere and are hoping that Comal County can receive some of their female inmates and possibly three other counties they've reached out to, can take inmates. He said that the new auxiliary court has helped their capacity by

taking and clearing 66 cases since just the end of September. He also said they have a monthly jail population meeting with 12 representatives of various criminal justice related county offices and that this has assisted their operations. Director Wood asked that the Sheriff request reinspection and report on their status at the next Commission meeting. Director Wood said that a remedial order may be required depending upon the February status report. Sheriff Rowe motioned to accept Director Wood's recommendation and Dr. Porsa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Rains County - Notice of Non-Compliance

Executive Director Brandon Wood reported that Rains County became noncompliant in February of 2022. Director Wood noted that at a subsequent inspection, after a change in Sheriff and jail administrator, the county made adjustments and that they have been found to be in compliance. He stated that, for this reason, the recommendation is that no action be taken, however, TCJS inspectors will monitor to ensure that the county is able to maintain compliance.

G. Smith County - Notice of Non-Compliance and Remedial Order Review

Executive Director Brandon Wood reported that Smith County is currently in compliance and that the remedial order is in place. He said the county was having capacity issues and struggling with holding facility compliance. He stated that the county has addressed the issues and was reinspected in July of 2022 and found to be in compliance. Director Wood requested an update from Sheriff Larry Smith. Sheriff Smith said they've drastically improved the intake screening form process, improved their pen-packet process, made medical forms accessible on tablets and that they are now operating at 90% jail capacity. Director Wood recommended that Smith County come before the Commissioners at the next meeting to give an update and to request the remedial order be removed. For this reason, staff recommends no action be taken at this time.

H. Swisher County - Notice of Non-Compliance

Executive Director Brandon Wood reported that Swisher County became noncompliant in September of 2021 after not having maintained documentation regarding life safety training and was past due on fire marshal inspections. They also had issues concerning their intercoms. He stated the County addressed these issues, requested reinspection in June and passed reinspection in July. He stated that, for this reason, the recommendation is that no action be taken at this time.

I. Terrell County - Notice of Non-Compliance

Executive Director Brandon Wood reported that Terrell County became noncompliant in September of 2021. He stated that the county has had a change in Sheriff since that point in time. Mr. Wood thought it important to note that they had vacated their

facility while they continued to work on the areas of noncompliance. Director Wood said all areas were addressed and they were found to be in compliance after their reinspection in July. He stated that, for this reason, the recommendation is that no additional action is necessary.

J. Uvalde County - Notice of Non-Compliance

Executive Director Brandon Wood reported that Uvalde County was issued a notice of noncompliance due to not following their approved grievance plan. They were providing no interim responses. Director Wood said the county had a change in jail administrator and has resolved the issues at this time, making no action necessary at this time.

10:35 AM- A recess was called and the meeting resumed at 10:49 AM.

K. Proposed Changes to Minimum Jail Standards – Proposed for Adoption

Director Wood recommended that the items listed under “a” below, be approved and adopted for publication in the Texas Register. Dr. Porsa motioned to approve the recommendation and Sheriff Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Wood recommended that the item below listed under “b” referred back to the Advisory Committee for rule review. Sheriff Rowe discussed the bill and its purpose and said that the committee wanted to do more work on the language before they move forward in directing the counties. Commissioner Perry motioned to send back to the advisory committee and Dr. Porsa seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

a. Proposal to repeal and replace § 297

1. Proposed amendment to existing rule § 297.2. Regular Commission Inspections – Comprehensive Commission Inspections every 24 months
2. Proposed new rule § 297.3 Inspection Priority Assessment
3. Proposed amendment to existing rule § 297.4 Certification
4. Proposed amendment to existing rule § 297.5 Notice of Non-compliance/Administrative Order to delete obsolete term “Administrative Order”
5. Proposed amendment to existing rule § 297.6 Response by Officials to delete obsolete term “Administrative Order”
6. Proposed new rule § 297.8 Reinspection
7. Proposed amendment to existing rule § 297.7 Commission Review of Compliance, increased monitoring
8. Proposed new rule § 297.10 Commission Enforcement Action
9. Proposed amendment to existing rule § 297.8 Remedial Order, repeal of obsolete term “administrative order” and minor

adjustments to references

10. Proposed adjustments to numerical order of the remainder of the existing rules §§ 297.8-14 thru 297.14

b. Proposal for Adoption New Rule § 273.2(5) – Duties following miscarriage or physical or sexual assault of pregnant prisoner.

L. Advisory Committee Rules and Procedures

Director Wood explained that the rules for the Advisory Committee in the Commissioners' meeting books have been reviewed extensively and they are believed to be appropriate for the committee's work. He recommended the proposed rules be approved. Sheriff Rowe motioned to approve the Advisory Committee rules and Commissioner Lock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

M. Four-year Rule Review

Director Wood explained that the rotating schedule for the Advisory Committee administrative rule review has been reviewed extensively and is also included in the meeting book for review. He recommended the proposed schedule be approved. Dr. Porsa motioned to approve the Advisory Committee schedule and Sheriff Rowe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. Coryell County -Deletion of sprinklers; Gov. Code § 511.0097

Executive Director Wood stated that Coryell County came before them earlier in the meeting and requested the variance to not require the automated sprinklers in the inmate occupied areas. Director Wood explained that all other areas meet or exceed the systems required. Dr. Porsa motioned to approve the variance and Sheriff Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Grayson County-Deletion of sprinklers; Gov. Code § 511.0097

Judge Bill Majors Grayson County Judge spoke early due to a scheduling conflict. He spoke to the Commission concerning the variance and said the court is in support of the Sheriff on this issue. Executive Director Wood stated Grayson County is requesting that sprinklers not be required in the inmate housing areas in the proposed facilities. He reported that all other minimum standards will be met. Director Wood recommended approval of the deletion of sprinklers. Dr. Porsa motioned for approval and Commissioner Lock seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The county Sheriff spoke and thanked Director Wood and the Commissioners for their support.

C. Liberty County – Notice of Non-compliance

Executive Director Wood explained that Liberty County was having issues with

overpopulation and therefore issued a notice of non-compliance. Sheriff Bobby Rader spoke to the Commission regarding housing out of county in Hardin, Polk, San Jacinto, Fort Bend and Jefferson Counties. He said they are paying approximately \$5,000 per day to house these inmates. He said Vernon and Beauregard in Louisiana have taken 70 inmates from their county leaving their inmate number at 239 for their 281 maximum capacity. The judge spoke about starting the design process in January on a new facility with at least 350 additional beds and maybe as many as 750 beds and asked to speak to Director Wood about the proposed new facility. Director Wood spoke and confirmed that Liberty County has regained compliance and said the agency will work with them to develop a realistic number/needs analysis, therefore no action is required.

D. Sunset Recommendation 1.1 Ensure minimum standards account for varying needs and levels of risk amount different jails.

Director Wood explained that it has been recommended by Sunset that standards may need to vary depending upon the size of the county or jail (i.e. Small v. Large jails). Sheriff Rowe said that as Chairman of the Rules Advisory Committee he didn't have a problem with the committee exploring this a little more in depth. He said the one size fits all approach has created challenges. Commissioner Lock said he could see a slippery slope with regards to this issue and is a bit worried about the smaller counties. Dr. Porsa liked Director Wood's idea of a "floor" or minimum for smaller jails and is not opposed to more stringent standards for more "capable" jails. Commissioner Anthony commented on the quality of the care. Commissioner Perry mentioned that tolerance may be what is needed in this situation. Director Wood requested this item be referred to the Rules Advisory Committee for discussion and clarification. Dr. Porsa made the motion as described and Commissioner Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Petition For Change to Minimum Jail Standards – Cusack, §§ 283.1 and 283.3 relating to records regarding discipline and grievance.

Executive Director Wood explained this was a petition by a member of the public. To consider a rule change concerning county jails filing disciplinaries or grievances individually or in large binders collectively for review by inspectors etc. The rules workshop discussed this, and it was determined this should be addressed at the local level. Sheriff Rowe confirmed this decision and that the committee felt this was just a duplication of current county efforts and would be an onerous requirement. Director Wood confirmed that no action is required.

F. Conversion of Rules Workshop to Rules Advisory Committee

Executive Director Wood explained the current rules workgroup reviews public petitions and that he feels it's appropriate to take on the 4-year rules review duties as well. Director Wood recommended that the Rules Workgroup be converted into a Rules Advisor Committee. Director Wood said that the composition, mission, and member makeup would be the first complicated topic for discussion. Sheriff Rowe

said the committee discussed the best approach at length and that they tabled the discussion for the next meeting. Director Wood directed the Rules Workgroup to begin the process of how to select members again at their next meeting and report back to the full Commission board at the next meeting, therefore no action required at this time.

G. Inspection Priority Assessment

Doug Dretke, Executive Director of CMIT, the Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University spoke about the relationship to the Commission, the Sheriff's Association and others. He conveyed that about a year ago Director Wood contacted CMIT about developing an assessment tool that would meet Sunset's recommendation for prioritized jail inspections. Dr. Dretke contacted Dr. Bill Wells, Chair of Criminal Justice Department at SMSU and reported that he was very excited to work with TCJS to develop this predictive tool. Two additional professors, Dr. Erin Orrick and Dr. Yan Zhang worked collaboratively with Will Turner and other TCJS staff on the project. Dr. Bill Wells gave a presentation and spoke about the project and related the intense work the graduate students at SHSU have done. Dr. Zhang explained the details and progress of the project. She said Mr. Turner provided 40 years of inspection data and they identified 80 data points in the reports. She reported that 839 records with 80 variables have been entered and that preliminary analysis shows technical assistance to be of statistical importance as well as past non-compliance. CMIT provided a PowerPoint presentation to all Commissioners during the meeting. Dr. Wells explained that they are putting their predictive model to the test by using past inspection data as a guide and that going forward they will be testing their objective model in real time with actual inspections. Commissioner Lock encouraged the predictive team to consider the jail turnover rate, which is unusually high at present. Dr. Dretke reiterated their commitment to serve the Agency and Texas. Director Wood thanked the priority assessment team for their outstanding work and recognized Will Turner for his exceptional "Yeoman's" work on the predictive tool. Director Wood said he expects other states to look to the new model as an example going forward. Sheriff Rowe said he believes the Sunset Review members can have confidence in the assessment process moving forward.

VII. Variances

A. Cherokee County – Installation of Variance Beds

Director Wood said the county came before the Variance Subcommittee and that staff are requesting approval of the variance per the Subcommittees recommendation. Commissioner Lock motioned to approve the variance and Sheriff Rowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Hidalgo County – Variance Beds

No action necessary as addressed on earlier agenda item.

C. Wharton County – Variance Beds

Director Wood said staff and the county have been working together. Sheriff Shannon

Srubar and Judge Phillip Spenrath of Wharton County spoke about the 24-bed variance request. The judge explained their population are felons and that their female population is contributing to the population problem. Dr. Porsa asked about capacity for healthcare for additional detainees. The Sheriff said there are no manpower issues related to all standards and the variance beds. Director Wood asked the Sheriff about communication with other criminal justice entities in the area and the Sheriff clarified that these meetings are taking place regularly. Director Wood recommended Wharton County be approved to install the additional 24 beds for a 12-month period. Commissioner Lock motioned for approval of the variance and Dr. Porsa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. IDD Advisory Committee

Executive Director Brandon Wood explained that the Advisory Committee has met and that they are working on the IDD Committee Report that is Due December 1st, 2022 to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, and other governmental entities. Staff are also working on their required report. Sheriff Rowe confirmed that the draft of the Report has been submitted for review along with the Agency's required report and that meetings will resume to manage the IDD populations in the jails. No action required.

IX. Staff Report

A. Completed Jail Projects

None in the quarter.

B. Jail Planning and Construction List

The 3-page construction report is include in the packet.

C. Jails in Compliance/Noncompliance

Total in status of non-compliance - 30

D. Status of Remedial Orders

Coryell and Smith counties were discussed under their respective agenda items earlier in the Commission meeting.

E. Status and Composition of Jail Population

Director Wood reported that the County Jail population has increased significantly over the past 12 months and asked that the various stakeholders and Commission meeting attendees discuss the jail population with their local representatives. Mr. Wood said that the local population of inmates was 62,000 on October 1st, 2021 and increased to 70,000 on October 1st 2022, an amount he said, that should be raising red flags everywhere.

F. Executive Director's Activities

- August 19 Attended retirement ceremony for TCOLE Executive Director Kim Vickers in Austin, Texas.
- August 24 Attended and participated as Chair of Texas Coordinating Council for Veteran's Services-Criminal Justice Subcommittee in Austin, Texas
- August 25 Met with representatives from Hunt County to discuss future jail needs and planning in Austin, Texas
- August 30 Testified before Joint Budget Hearing Committee in Austin, Texas
- September 6 Met with representatives from Border Prosecution Unit regarding Operation Lone Star and Border Security Operations in Austin, Texas
- September 7 Attended Texas Coordinating Council for Veteran's Services meeting in Austin, Texas
- September 11-16 Attended CMIT/TJA Annual Conference and participated in presentation in Galveston, Texas
- September 21 Met with representatives from San Patricio County to review new county courthouse in Austin, Texas
- September 30 Presented at Travis County Leadership Academy in Austin, Texas
- October 6 Met with representatives from Grayson County regarding jail addition in Austin, Texas
- Met with representatives from Coryell County regarding potential jail addition in Austin, Texas
- October 11 Met with representatives for Randall County regarding the proposed financing of a jail addition in Austin, Texas
- October 19 Attended TCJS-IDD Advisory Committee meeting in Austin, Texas
- October 26 Attended TCJS-Rules Workshop meeting in Austin, Texas
- November 1 Met with representatives from Trinity County regarding proposed temporary jail and future needs in Austin, Texas

In addition to the listed in-person meetings, the Executive Director continues to meet with interested parties virtually when it is not possible to conduct meetings in the traditional manner. This includes TCJS specific issues as well as in support of Operation Lone Star.

G. Staff Training/Activities

- **August 9, 2022** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted a 4-hour IDD Training for Jailers courses (#2831) in Burnet, Texas for 7 detention officers.
- **August 10, 2022** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted a 4-hour Suicide Prevention for Jailers course (#4901) for 5 detention officers, and a 4-hour IDD Training for Jailers course (#2831) for 12 detention officers in Burnet, Texas.
- **August 23, 2022** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted two (2), 4-hour Suicide Prevention for Jailers courses (#4901) in Pecos, Texas for 12 detention officers.
- **August 24, 2022** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted two (2), 4-hour Suicide Prevention for Jailers courses (#4901) in Pecos, Texas for 29 detention officers.
- **August 29, 2022 - September 2, 2022**- Assistant Director Alicia Soto-Barker attended the TCLEADS (Leadership Education Achieving Developmental Success) hosted by the Travis County Sheriff's Office.
- **August 30, 2022** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted two (2) 4-hour IDD Training for Jailers courses (#2831) for 42 detention officers in Weatherford, Texas.
- **August 31, 2022** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted two (2) 4-hour IDD Training for Jailers courses (#2831) for 29 detention officers in Weatherford, Texas.
- **September 1, 2022** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted two (2) 4-hour IDD Training for Jailers courses (#2831) for 23 detention officers in Weatherford, Texas.
- **September 14, 2022** – Complaint Inspectors Clarissa Fasci and Chris Keith attended portal training at Austin Headquarters.
- **September 11-16, 2022** - Executive Director Brandon Wood, Assistant Director Ricky Armstrong, Inspectors Jason Jouett, Michael Gravitt, Martin Arnold, and Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser presented at the Jail Management Conference in Galveston TX for the Texas Jail Association.
- **September 19-23, 2022** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser assisted Bell County Sheriff's Office with a 40-hour Jail Mental Health Officer certification course (#5900) in Belton, Texas for 12 detention officers.
- **September 21, 2022** - Staff Services Officer Carol Bernhard attended the State Comptroller's Agency's Security Coordinator training via WebEx.
- **September 21, 2022** - Staff Services Officer Carol Bernhard attended the State Comptroller's Agency's Capps ASC training via WebEx.
- **September 21, 2022**- Inspector Jason Jouett taught Objective Jail Classification for 30 jail staff in the Panhandle area.
- **September 21-22, 2022** – William Turner received online training on Excel Power Query, provided by Udemy.com.
- **September 27, 2021** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted two (2), 4-hour Suicide Prevention for Jailers courses (#4901) in Hallettsville, Texas for 15 detention officers.
- **September 28, 2021** - Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted two (2), 4-hour Suicide Prevention for Jailers courses (#4901) in Hallettsville, Texas for 26 detention officers.

- **September 26- 30, 2022-** Assistant Director Alicia Soto-Barker attended the TCLEADS (Leadership Education Achieving Developmental Success) hosted by the Travis County Sheriff's Office.
- **October 10-13, 2022-** Assistant Director Alicia Soto-Barker and Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser attended the Ninth Annual Mental Health Conference, in Allen, TX.
- **October 12, 2022-** Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser conducted two (2), one (1) hour IDD and the Justice Involved courses the Ninth Annual Mental Health Conference in Allen, TX.
- **October 31 - November 4, 2022 -** Mental Health Trainer Melvin Bowser assisted Correctional Management Institute of Texas conduct a 40-hour Jail Mental Health Officer (#5900) Master Trainer course in Huntsville, Texas for 24 detention officers.

H. Financial Report/Budget – Fiscal Year End Report

I. Inmate Complaint Report

Director Wood pointed out the substantial increase in the number of complaints over the last two (2) year period. He explained that the requirement to post instructions for filing complaints resulted in a substantial increase. He said that since about March, the number of complaints went from 150-200 to approximately 400 per month, on average. Director Wood explained that approximately 1/2 of the complaints are non-jurisdictional, yet the agency is required to answer each one of them.

X. Other Business X

- Commission-sponsored Events and Workshops

Subcommittee and Workshop topics were referenced under their specific agenda item.

- Commission Staffing

The Compliance Monitor resigned and the open position has been posted. Will Turner was promoted to Analyst IV.

- Off Duty Employment

None

- Letters of Comment

The TCJS Mental Health Trainer Mr. Bowser received a letter from a trainee in Brazos County commending him for his work.

XI. Next Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for:

-Wednesday, February 8th – Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 Congress Ave., Room #170

-Thursday, May 11, 2023 – Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 Congress Ave., Room #170

-Thursday, August 3, 2023 – Texas State Capitol, Room: E2.028, 1100 Congress Ave

-November 2, 2023 - Texas State Capitol, Room: E2.028, 1100 Congress Ave

- XII.** By appropriate motion to adjourn by Commissioner Ben Perry with a second by Dr. Porsa, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 A.M.

The Board may meet in Closed Session on any item listed above if authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Ann. Ch. 551.



Brandon Wood, Executive Director

December 12, 2022



Carol Bernhard, Secretary of the Commission

December 12, 2022