

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** Commission on Jail Standards

**Place:** Stephen F Austin Building  
Room 170  
1700 Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701

To obtain a recording of the meeting November 7, 2024, contact Richard Morgan, at [Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us](mailto:Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us).

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Date:** November 7, 2024

## **I. Call to Order**

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

## **II. Roll Call of Commission Members**

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

Commission members present at roll call were Chairman Stoudt, Dr. Porsa, Mr. Duane Lock, Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Sheriff Raul Gonzales, Ms. Patricia Anthony and Ms. Monica McBride. Commissioner Perry was absent. Staff members attending in-person included Brandon Wood, Ricky Armstrong, Jason Jouett, Todd Allen, Michael Garrett, Michael Gravitt, Martin Arnold, Leslie Spear, Chris Keith, Clarissa Fasci, Zachary Aguirre, Lindsey Bailey, Stephanie Reneau, Courtney Elrod, Gabriel Farley.

Chairman Stoudt read aloud the guidelines for public comment at this time.

**Others in attendance were:**

Chad Stroud, Hunt County Sheriff's Office  
Wendy Karr, Hunt County Sheriff's Office  
Dennis Wilson, ICS Jail Supplies  
Michael Starkey, ICS Jail Supplies  
Ron King, Parker County Sheriff's Office  
Nan Terry, Tarrant County  
Cassandra Johnson, Texas Jail Project  
Julie Griffin, Texas Jail Project  
Jay Coons  
Kevin Windham, Shelby County Sheriff's Office  
Tiffany Ryals Shelby County Sheriff's Office  
Chad Hooper, Shelby County Sheriff's Office  
Philip Bosquez, Harris County Sheriff's Office  
Jennifer Shumake, Bexar County Sheriff's Office  
Kevin Stuart, Brazos County Sheriff's Office  
Jason Davis, Brazos County Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff Bobby Rader, Liberty County  
Allison Harbison, Shelby County  
Jay Knight, Liberty County  
Tom Bellmyer, Shelby County Sheriff's Office  
Tessie Toney, Travis County  
Jason Ross, Burns Architecture  
Jay Elliot, Falls County  
Jocilet Griffin, Justice4EvanLee.org  
Deborah Smith, Harris County  
Ethel Green  
Jeff Reese, Justice4Evan  
Rev. Vernon Ozan, Justice4Evan  
Deborah Smith  
Karen Munoz, Hays County

Sarah Knight, Harris County  
Becky Delawne, Tarrant County  
Matt Stockstill, Randall County Sheriff's Office  
Chris Forbis, Randall County Sheriff's Office  
Natalie Oliver, Howard County Sheriff's Office  
Katie East, Howard County Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff Stan Parker, Howard County  
Sheriff David Criner, Midland County  
Craig Yarrington, Gregg County  
Priscilla Chavez, Texas jail Project  
P. Sorcha Costigan, Texas jail Project  
Sheriff Russ Authier, Parker County  
Shannon Herklotz, Dallas County Sheriff's Office  
Goldie Van Zandt, Texas Jail Project  
Sheriff Marshall Lynch, Delta County  
Tanner Crutcher, Delta County  
Fawnya Doiron, Harris County  
Joel Janssen, Bexar County  
Audrey Nath, Harris County  
David Hanson, Texas Jail Project  
Columbia Wilson  
Samantha Carpenter, Liberty County Sheriff's Office  
Jon Ede, Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Maria Velasquez, Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Eduardo Jackson, Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Robert Jordan, Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Eboni Calbow, Texas Jail Project  
Daniel Ramos, Harris County  
Michael Zhany, Houston Landing  
Christopher [illegible], Feed Your Hood organization

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Stoudt asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting

conducted August 1, 2024. Director Wood discussed a change made to the minutes and Chairman Stoudt accepted the changes. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the minutes, and Commissioner McBride seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

**Sarah Knight** – Provided testimony regarding her son, Jaylen Anderson, who passed away at the LaSalle Correctional Facility in Louisiana as a Harris County contract inmate in April 2024. Ms. Knight discussed allegations of medical neglect as the cause of her son’s death. She discussed the accountability of Harris County in this situation, and the tracking of custodial deaths for contract inmates out of state. She asked the commission to change its policies and begin tracking custodial out of state deaths of Texas inmates.

**Audrey Nath** – Identified herself as a neurologist and epileptologist practicing in Texas. Provided testimony regarding the custodial death of Anthony Simmons. She discussed a lack of data on seizure related deaths in county jails and stated concern that seizure related deaths are miscategorized. She provided a proposed protocol for county jails regarding seizures based on a consensus guideline from the American Epilepsy Society. She stated that seizure deaths are preventable deaths.

**Fawnya Doiron** – Identified herself as the director of MD Anderson Cancer. She provided testimony regarding her son, Zachary, who was incarcerated at the Harris County Jail and passed away in 2023 after being bonded out of the county jail. She discussed the lack of investigation of her son’s death, and the performance of the Harris Health system at the Harris County Jail and stated that both the Harris County Jail and Harris Health must be held accountable.

**Nan Terry** – Provided testimony regarding TCJS variance procedures, including variances at the Tarrant County Jail without an expiration date. She discussed the creation of a policy on variances without an expiration date, to limit and discourage their use and provide more transparency. She asked if the commission could require state inspectors to provide all variances, especially those with no expiration, on every inspection. She questioned the compliance of the Tarrant County Jail due to the Tarrant County Jail’s number of beds granted by variances without expiration date. She also provided testimony regarding the Tarrant County Jail’s custodial deaths and how they are investigated, and alleged that the Tarrant County Jail has been investigating their own custodial deaths, instead of having an outside law enforcement agency perform the investigation. She also discussed the Bureau of Prisons’ guidance document regarding withdrawal related deaths, and that these deaths are preventable.

**Julie Griffin** – Provided testimony regarding the Tarrant County Jail variances without expiration dates, and the number of beds that they add. She asked if the commission or variance subcommittee has a policy on variances without expiration dates, and if these variances are reviewed during inspections, and why the commission allows variances when

there is “such a high rate of in custody deaths” at the Tarrant County Jail. She requested that the commission not allow more variances without expiration dates.

**Cassandra Johnson** – Identified herself as an aviation specialist in Fort Worth, Texas. Provided testimony regarding her son with special needs. She discussed her son’s difficulties with getting mental health care after graduating high school, pending placement in a mental health facility, his arrest, and death of a fentanyl overdose while in custody in the Tarrant County Jail. She asked how fentanyl got into the Tarrant County Jail, and alleged that 25 other custodial deaths at the Tarrant County Jail had gone uninvestigated. She alleged that the Tarrant County Jail denied him medical care and allowed illegal drugs into the facility. She requested accountability and transparency and requested the commission to become involved in this matter.

**Becky Delawne** – Provided testimony regarding the Sandra Bland Act and the requirement for custodial deaths to be investigated by an outside law enforcement agency. She discussed the Tarrant County Jail’s assignment of the Fort Worth Police Department as their outside investigating agency, and alleged that more than 20 custodial deaths at the Tarrant County Jail were not investigated by the Fort Worth Police Department over the previous three years. She alleged that Tarrant County Jail detective performed the investigations and that the Fort Worth Police Department reviewed the investigations. She asked that the Commission require compliance with the Sandra Bland Act by Tarrant County.

**Karen Munoz** – Provided testimony on behalf of the parents of Hinata Monroy [sic]. The parents are looking for help with obtaining legal custody of their autistic son. Ms. Munoz describes complaints filed with service providers, ombudsmen, IDD Organizations, and hospitals. She also describes poor services provided by his group home, and incarceration at the Bexar County jail. She alleges lack of adequate medical care. She requests an investigation into this matter.

**Priscilla Chavez** – Provided testimony regarding her brother John Ray Zamora and his custodial death at the Willacy County Jail in 2022, and Clarissa Gomez who is currently incarcerated in the Willacy County Jail. She discussed an incident in which Ms. Gomez requested assistance during a panic attack and alleged that the care received was inadequate. She alleged that the Willacy County Jail has a pattern of not providing adequate medical care.

**Lydia Leos** – Providing testimony on behalf of Julian Denna, and regarding custodial deaths at the Bexar County Jail. She identified herself as a business owner in San Antonio, and an advocate, and directed her comments to any representative of Bexar County at the meeting. She discussed her son’s custodial death while incarcerated at the Bexar County Jail and alleged inadequate medical care. She also discussed other custodial deaths at the Bexar County Jail. She asked if the commission is thoroughly investigating each death and recommending remedial actions when necessary. She requested the commission to create policy to dictate how custodial death notifications are made to family members and the community. She requested that the commission make a policy regarding humane notification

of custodial deaths.

**P. Sorcha Costigan** – Provided testimony regarding her husband and the outsourcing of Texas County Jail inmates. She alleged that her husband, a contract inmate from Sabine County currently incarcerated in Quincy, LA. She described her husband’s difficulties with receiving adequate medical care. She also describes difficulties visiting her husband due to the distance.

**Jeff Reese** – Identified himself as a previous employee of the Harris County Sheriff’s Office. He discussed methods that were used while working for the sheriff’s office to circumvent commission inspections. He discussed custodial deaths since retiring in 2017, and issues with the training provided to employees at the Harris County Jail, and excessive force. He advised that he was in attendance with Jocelit Griffin regarding her son Evan.

**Christopher Jenkins** – Provided testimony regarding the Harris County Jail and transparency, accountability, oversight, and custodial deaths. He discussed the issues he has faced providing information to the sheriff, alleging that the administration levels are the cause of the issue. He discussed a lack of diversion programs, and the possibility of a new jail being built. He stated that the focus should be on preventing new deaths.

**Rev. Vernon Ozon** – Provided testimony regarding the state of the criminal justice system and individuals “overriding the system”. He discussed mental health issues and “putting it in the perspective of getting that taken care of”.

**Mychael Mitchell** – Provided testimony regarding Evan Griffin and his custodial death. He discussed individuals in the Harris County Jail not receiving adequate medical care.

**Deborah Smith** – In attendance with her grandson. Provided testimony regarding her daughter’s custodial death at the Harris County Jail and discussed her inadequate medical care. She discussed diabetic care, including insulin, nutritious/diabetic meals, bedside glucose meters. She discussed issues caring for children with medical needs.

**Ethel Green** - In attendance with Jocelit Griffin. She asked the commission to consider the pictures of her son that are presented and to help how it can.

**Theresa Alford Johnson** – In attendance with the Evan Lee family and discussed the community and waiting for answers regarding his custodial death.

**Jocelit Griffin** – Provided testimony regarding her son, Evan Lee, and his custodial death at the Harris County Jail and the autopsy report from his death. She discussed accountability and requested a family receive “a card or something” from the state after a custodial death. She discussed a lack of communication from the Harris County Jail, the Harris County Sheriff, the County Commissioners, or the city. She also discussed the conditions of the Harris County

Jail. She requested contact from Harris County for closure regarding her son.

**Goldie Van Zandt** – Provided testimony on behalf of Texas Jail Project Executive Director Krish Gundu. She discussed Tarrant County Jail custodial death investigations being performed by Tarrant County and reviewed by the Fort Worth Police Department. She discussed a woman with an intellectual or developmental disability giving birth without medical care, other custodial deaths, and other allegations of inadequate medical care.

**Columba P Wilson** – Provided testimony regarding her grandsons with disabilities, and the difficulties she and her grandsons have faced regarding group homes, and incarceration. She discussed the condition of the state supported living center one of her grandsons is currently housed at. She discussed a need for a hospital specifically for individuals like her grandson.

## V. **Old Business**

### A. **Midland County – Notice of Non-Compliance**

Director Wood advised that Midland County is in attendance due to a standing remedial order. He reported that Midland County was certified as compliant in July 2024, after the previous commission meeting. Director Wood recommended that the remedial order for Midland County be rescinded.

Chairman Stoudt asked if there was a motion to approve the recommendation. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve, and Sheriff Rowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### B. **Harris County - Notice of Non-Compliance**

Chairman Stoudt advised that Dr. Porsa has recused himself from discussions regarding Harris County.

Harris County Assistant Chief Bosquez advised that Harris County has reduced their open funded positions from approximately 180 to 99. Chief Bosquez also reports that all variance beds are still unused per the remedial order, and that Harris County has an average of 1200 beds unused. He also reports that this number fluctuated in October due to the loss of their outsourcing contract with West, Texas, but outsourcing has restarted the week of this meeting. He reported the opening of three new felony courts in October and requested six months to gather and report on metrics regarding the impact of these courts. He reported on the support of the Harris County Commissioner's Court, including additional staffing, outsourcing, and refurbishing existing jail facilities.

Director Wood advised that Harris County continues to provide staff with weekly reports regarding the Harris County Jail population and officer staffing level. He

discussed methods that Harris County is using to ensure they are meeting the 1:48 officer to inmate ratio, including rehousing inmates from areas where they are not meeting the ratio. Director Wood advised that Harris County will continue to provide weekly updates due to the fact the remedial order that is still in effect.

Chief Bosquez reported that the average length of incarceration for inmates has dropped approximately five days since the August commission meeting.

Director Wood discussed a concern regarding the Harris County Jail's condition and maintenance; specifically, he discussed concerns regarding water reservoirs and water tanks within the Harris County Jail facilities due to their high-rise nature.

Chief Bosquez reported that the Harris County Jail facility at 701 N San Jacinto has been retrofitted with a valve system to allow a water tanker to pump potable water into the facility in the event of water or water pressure loss. He discussed the refurbishing of three of four reserve water tanks. He also discussed a contingency plan to provide water via a 7-to-10-day bottle water supply, which he reports is sufficient for hydration and hygiene purposes.

Commissioner Lock asked what impact Chief Bosquez expects from the new felony courts. Chief Bosquez advised that he cannot provide an expected impact specifically, and that the courts will prioritize felony charges. Tanya Mills, with the Harris County Office of County Administration advised that analysis of the backlog of cases leads her to expect dramatic decreases in the felony case backlog in the first quarter of 2025.

Commissioner Lock discussed the outsourcing of inmates that the Harris County Jail has implemented, and the lack of an outsourcing report for the Dalby Facility in West, Texas. Chief Bosquez advised that all Harris County inmates had been removed from that facility due to its closure and have been rehoused elsewhere. Commissioner Lock discussed the number of inmates that the Harris County Jail has housed elsewhere, including out of state. He asked if the Harris County Jail's first priority as the new courts become functional is to return inmates to Texas from out of state, or if the first priority is to bring inmates from other Texas counties back to Harris County. Chief Bosquez advised that their goal is to reduce outsourcing, from the furthest away facilities first.

Director Wood advised that Harris County is currently under remedial order, and requests that the remedial order remain in place. Commissioner Lock made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Sheriff Rowe seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Liberty County Jail – Notice of Non-compliance**

Director Wood advised that Liberty County was in attendance regarding an in-place

remedial order.

Liberty County Sheriff Rader was in attendance to provide testimony along with County Judge Jay Knight, and Samantha Carpenter who was attending on behalf of the Jail Administrator.

Ms. Carpenter advised that Liberty County currently has four contracts to reduce their population. These contracts are with McLennan County, Kerr County, Johnson County, and Beauregard parish. She reports the current population at 257, which was lower than their average population of 274 in October. She reports that maintenance has been completed on one dormitory, all lights have been repaired, all security locks have been repaired, all windows have been repaired, and that plumbing remains a minor issue. She reports that some repairs cannot be finished until parts have arrived. She reports that overtime pay has been approved as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, which has helped reduce vacancies to 29 and that 15 individuals are processing to enter training in December.

Commissioner Lock discussed the inmates that Liberty County has outsourced to Beauregard Parish. Sheriff Rader advised that they are attempting to move those inmates to another facility due to restrictions on which inmates are accepted to the Beauregard facility.

Director Wood discussed the inmate population at the Liberty County Jail. Ms. Carpenter advised that they have 257 inmates at the Liberty County Jail, 14 at the McLennan County Jail, 10 at the Kerr County Jail, 21 at the Johnson County Jail, and 6 at the Beauregard facility. Ms. Carpenter advised that additional inmates would be rehoused to the McLennan County Jail while the additional staff members are being trained.

Director Wood discussed the staffing at the Liberty County Jail. Ms. Carpenter advised that they have not met the required staffing of seven officers per shift. She advised that they have had three officers on the floor for day shift and between four and five on the floor at nights for the previous week. She also states that deputies have been used to help with control rooms and booking, to help keep officers on the floor. Director Wood advised that a shift with three certified jailers would allow Liberty County Jail to operate at a capacity of 144, and that the current population is over that (257).

Ms. Carpenter advised that a new cleaning service is cleaning and pressure washing each dormitory and shoer areas and began repainting the areas that were identified as deficient.

Director Wood advised that Liberty County has been providing monthly reports as required and has also provided supplemental information to agency staff. Director Wood requested that the remedial order be amended to limit the Liberty County Jail capacity to its staffing level and advised that if Liberty County Jail violates the order



that the agency would recommend referring the issue to the Office of the Attorney General for enforcement. A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Dr. Porsa, seconded by Commissioner Lock. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **D. Shelby County Jail – Notice of Non-Compliance**

Director Wood advised that Shelby County is in attendance to provide an update on their efforts to regain compliance, and that they are expected to request reinspection soon.

Shelby County Sheriff Windham, Chief Deputy Hooper, Assistant Jail Administrator Ms. Rawls, County Judge Harveson, Shelby County Commissioner Belmar, and Emergency management Coordinator Barr were in attendance.

Chief Hooper reported that all items from their previous inspection marked as deficient have been resolved and that Shelby County Jail is prepared for reinspection.

Director Wood recommended that no action be taken to allow staff to report back at the next meeting regarding Shelby County's compliance. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Sheriff Rowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **E. Falls County – Notice of Non-Compliance**

Director Wood advised that Falls County was in attendance regarding a notice of non-compliance. He discussed the assistance that staff have provided to Falls County, including sending Assistant Director Armstrong with field inspectors to assist. He advised that Falls County has been in non-compliance for six months.

Falls County Sheriff Joe Lopez was in attendance. Sheriff Lopez discussed the efforts taken to correct deficiencies including repairs to lighting, control rooms, life safety equipment and training, and suicide prevention classes. He advised that he has three jailer positions unfilled and has a new jailer in the application process. He advised that he no longer has a maintenance employee and has taken over conducting the generator tests himself.

County Judge Jay Ellis advised that the incoming Falls County Sheriff is already Jail Administrator certified. Chairman Stoudt discussed the incoming sheriff, and his knowledge on the current issues regarding the county's non-compliance.

Director Wood discussed the staffing of the Falls County Jail and indicated that a deficiency was noted previously that control room operators were not licensed jailers, and the Falls County Jail did not meet the staff to inmate ratio as required by minimum jail standards. Sheriff Lopez advised that all his jailers are licensed, and that he expects to have more applicants. Sheriff Lopez also advised that he is not operating short on day shift, but night shift is short 4 days out of the week.

Director Wood recommended the issuance of a remedial order, requiring the Falls County Jail to comply with minimum jail standards, and limit the capacity of the jail to 48 inmates to match the level of staffing they provide on a consistent basis. Sheriff Rowe made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **F. Customer Service Survey**

Director Wood provided an update on the customer service survey completed as part of the agency strategic plan. TCJS began working with the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, located at Sam Houston State University, to review the survey as it was conducted. Dr. Bills of the Correctional Management Institute conducted a follow-up survey, and the results were provided to the commissioners.

### **VI. New Business**

#### **A. Leon County – Notice of Non-Compliance**

Director Wood advised that Leon County was on the agenda regarding a notice of non-compliance issued for an inspection in April 2024, and in enhanced enforcement. He also reported that as of October 15<sup>th</sup> Leon County is back in compliance and will remain in enhanced enforcement. No action taken.

#### **B. Hale County - Automatic Sprinkler System, Deletion of sprinklers; Gov. Code §511.0097**

Director Wood advised that Hale County is requesting the removal of their automatic sprinkler system pursuant to Texas Government Code §511.0097, and that Hale County meets or exceeds all other nationally recognized codes and recommends approval of the request.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation by Dr. Porsa, and seconded by Commissioner Anthony. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **C. Potter County - Automatic Sprinkler System, Deletion of sprinklers; Gov. Code §511.0097**

Director Wood advised that Hale County is requesting the removal of their automatic sprinkler system pursuant to Texas Government Code §511.0097, and that Hale County meets or exceeds all other nationally recognized codes and recommends approval of the request.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation by Dr. Porsa and seconded by Sheriff Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.

### **VII. Variances**

**A. Delta County – 259.143 Multiple Occupancy Cells**

Delta County was on the agenda seeking to add one bed to four multiple occupancy cells which would result in a 1.07 square foot deficiency and raising their capacity from 20 to 24 inmates. The population of the Delta County Jail at this time is 14 inmates, and they have outsourced approximately 20 inmates throughout the previous year. Delta County officials advised that they are in the planning stages of expanding the jail from 20 to 48 beds and are seeking the variance to help them maintain compliance until the expansion can take place.

Director Wood recommended granting the variance for six months to allow Delta County time to begin the process of potentially expanding their facility. A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Commissioner Locke and seconded by Commissioner Reyes. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Hidalgo County – 259.114(d) Segregation, 259.135 Dormitories, 259.143(b) Furnishing for Inmate Housing, 259.143(c) Furnishing for Inmate Housing, 259.143(d) Furnishing for Inmate Housing**

Hidalgo County was in attendance regarding the review of variances previously granted to allow them to assist with maintaining compliance during a significant growth in their population. Director Wood discussed the methods that Hidalgo County has used to help maintain compliance in this matter. Director Wood advised that the Hidalgo County Sheriff and County Judge have requested meetings with staff to begin the planning process for an expansion to their facility.

Chief Herrera was in attendance to provide testimony regarding the methods that Hidalgo County has used to house their population and maintain compliance, including operating a facility in Willacy County, and housing inmates in neighboring counties. He discussed sentenced inmates and how that has affected their population. Hidalgo County currently has 446 that are paper ready, but only 26 were picked up by TDCJ. He advised that they have, on average, 200 paper ready inmates and that is part of why they are requesting this variance be maintained. He also advised that the Hidalgo County Jail is fully staffed with 412 officers and has 0 openings.

Director Wood recommended that the variance be extended for one year. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Howard County – Review of Variances**

Howard County was in attendance due to a notice of non-compliance issued previously, and the administrative rules require a jail with a variance appear before the commission. Director Wood advised that Howard County is in compliance at this time.

Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker was in attendance to provide testimony regarding the notice of non-compliance issued to Howard County. He discussed issues with staffing related to a previous jail administrator, who has been replaced. The new jail administrator, along with a newly promoted lieutenant, have been working to ensure compliance at all levels. He also discussed pay raises provided by the Commissioner's Court, and advised that he is only short one position but that applications have been submitted.

Director Wood discussed the Howard County Jail population. Sheriff Parker advised that they currently have a population of 73, with 15 inmates housed elsewhere.

Director Wood recommended that the variance remain in effect and be reviewed at the February 2025 commission meeting, and that no action be taken. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the motion, and Sheriff Rowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Parker County - 259.134 Multiple Occupancy Cells**

Parker County is in attendance regarding a variance to allow additional beds in their existing facility and provide testimony regarding long term plans for inmate housing.

Parker County Sheriff Russ Authier provided testimony regarding long-term plans for inmate housing. He advised that Parker County is in early stages of planning and a new jail with a capacity of 900 and a justice center.

Director Wood advised that the Parker County Jail meets staffing and square footage requirements. Director Wood recommended that the variance be extended for 12 months. Sheriff Rowe made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Lock seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Administrative Rules Advisory Committee**

**A. Rules for Adoption – None**

**B. Rules for Public Comment – None**

**C. Public Petition for Change to Minimum Jail Standards**

- a. Director Wood advised that three petitions for change to minimum jail standards have been received for official referral to the administrative rules advisory committee. No action taken.

**D. Four-year Rule Review**

- a. Chapter 273.1 through Chapter 273.8  
No action taken.

**IX. IDD Advisory Committee – None**

Sheriff Rowe advised that the IDD Advisory Committee members were preparing the biennial legislative report as required by statute.

Sheriff Rowe advised that a member of the IDD Advisory Committee, who represents the state supported living centers has been unable to attend and a recommendation for a replacement has been received: Nicole Hawk, a continuity of service coordinator for Health and Human Services.

Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the appointment, and Sheriff Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **X. Staff Report**

### **A. Completed Jail Projects**

Director Wood reported that the completed projects are listed in the commission meeting book provided to commission members.

### **B. Jail Planning and Construction List**

The 4-page construction report is included in the packets.

### **C. Jails in Compliance/Noncompliance**

Director Wood referred Commissioners to the list in their book.

### **D. Status of Remedial Orders**

Director Wood explained that three remedial orders are in effect: Harris County, Liberty County, Shelby County, and Falls County's remedial order would go into effect 15 days after receipt by the county. This information was provided in the commission members' books.

### **E. Status and Composition of Jail Population**

Director Wood advised members that this information is provided in a one-page report in the commission members books.

### **F. Staff Training/Activities**

Director Wood advised members that a list of training performed by staff members is provided in their book.

### **G. Financial Report/Budget**

Director Wood directed all to the current budget expenditures for FY 2024 in their books.

### **H. Inmate Complaint Report**

Included in their book is the three-month report on complaints. Non-jurisdictional complaints continue to be prevalent.

**XI. Other Business**

- **Commission-sponsored Events and Workshops**
- **Commission Staffing**
- **Off Duty Employment**  
No events to report.
- **Miscellaneous Letters of Comment**  
None

**XII. Adjourn**

By appropriate motion to adjourn by Dr. Porsa, with a second by Sheriff Rowe, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM.

**XIII. Next Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for:**

- **February 6, 2025, Location TBD**

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

**Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services, such as interpreters or persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, large print or Braille, are requested to contact Carol Bernhard (512) 568-8029 two (2) working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.**



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**Brandon Wood, Executive Director**



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**Carol Bernhard, Secretary of the Commission**