

Minutes

Meeting: Administrative Rules Advisory Committee
Location: The Arc of Texas, 8001 Centre Park Dr
Austin, Texas
Time: 10:00 AM
Date: January 8, 2026

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Sheriff Cass at 10:00 AM.

II. Roll Call of Committee Members

Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Chairman	Jana Pence
Sheriff Wayne Dicky	Lori Compton
Sheriff Scott Cass	Gary Pinkerton
Vacant	Caroline Crain
Sammy Farias	Krish Gundu

The Committee members present at the roll call were: Sheriff Cass, Sheriff Dicky, Jana Pence, Lori Compton, Caroline Crain, Krish Gundu.

Others Present

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III. **Reading and Approval of Minutes**

Krish Gundu made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Caroline Crain.

IV. **Public Comment**

- a. Mark Robinson: Provided testimony regarding his petition for changes to minimum jail standards; specifically regarding the notification of family members of inmates in certain medical situations. He discussed how this issue is currently handled by hospital deference to jail policy and the restrictions on communication. He recommended that jail standards should require that family be notified in situations of inmates admitted to the ICU, hospitalized more than 7 days, undergoing surgery or general anesthesia, or

receiving hospice/end of life care. He acknowledged the security concerns and asked the committee to find a solution.

- b. Dr. Audrey Nath: Provided public comment regarding her public petition for changes to standards; specifically regarding the recommendation that jail standards adopt rules that would require county jails to implement a plan for seizures. She discussed deaths at the Harris County Jail that were seizure related. She discussed her open records request to the Harris County Jail regarding seizure protocols and received no information. She suggested a rule be added to Chapter 273 Health Services to require a specific protocol for seizure treatment, and suggested using the TDCJs practices as a model. She offered her services as a subject matter expert, and stayed at the meeting to provide testimony during the discussion on her petition.
- c. Vernon Pillaff: Provided testimony regarding his daughter and her experience at the Comal County jail, IDD, mental health, and the guardianship database query. He discussed tuberculosis testing, his daughter's refusal of the test, her segregation in the Comal County Jail, and issues with the Local Mental Health Authority and his daughter's hospitalization. He discussed the lack of communication with his daughter. He advocated for a "check system" for tracking of inmates with IDD, and a post release system for inmates with IDD.
- d. Maggie Eaves: Provided testimony regarding her grandson's experience with IDD, an incident in school, and crisis intervention services. She discussed her grandson's issues being labeled "behavioral" instead of IDD related, and her experience with his medical information. She discussed his placement in a single-cell and weight loss, and issues with housing in general population. She also discussed the jail's lack of a seizure protocol. She advised that she had medical and durable power of attorney over her grandson and alleged the jail did not honor the document. She discussed a lack of resources for rural counties regarding IDD and crisis intervention. She urged the committee to focus on deflection from jail, create robust protocols for appropriate care for inmates with IDD, and to urge the legislature to create "something meaningful in the community for our IDD youth who have nothing between SSLCs and jails and the streets". She asked that the commission take guardianship issues seriously and encouraged improve communication between jails and guardians/families.

V. **Old Business**

a. §259 New Construction Rules

Deputy Director Armstrong discussed the changes proposed at the previous meeting to change “CCTV monitoring” to “Video monitoring” in standards to match the language in standards to the modern technology used in jails, and adding the requirement to use digital privacy screens. Krish Gundu made a motion to approve, seconded by Caroline Crain. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff Dicky made a motion to table 259.107 with no action, seconded by Krish Gundu. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff Dicky made a motion to table 259.105 with no action, seconded by Krish Gundu. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff recommended language changes to 259.117 stating that an adjacent private area should be provided to allow for immediate mental health and medical screening in intake areas in new construction. Krish Gundu made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Caroline Crain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Language was suggested to change “covered” to “coved” as a suggestion from subject matter experts. Language was also suggested to remove the word “disagreeable” from this rule. Wayne Dicky made a motion to approve and Krish Gundu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Language was suggested for 259.129 to change “drugs” to “medicine”. The committee rejected this change at the recommendation of staff. The motion was made by Caroline Crain and seconded by Krish Gundu. The motion passed unanimously.

Language was suggested for 259.132 to rewrite this rule for improved clarity. Sheriff Dicky advised that the suggested language was not clear and open to interpretation. Director Wood provided context to the history of this standard and the issues that had been encountered historically, and suggested staff continue to work on the language.

No action taken.

Language was suggested for 259.141 by subject matter experts to update the dimensions of cells and dayrooms to match the International Building Code. Wayne Dicky made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Krish Gundu. The motion passed unanimously.

Language was suggested for 259.144 by subject matter experts to update this standard to reflect current practices in construction of jail walls. Staff recommended to take no action and maintain the standard as-is. A motion to approve the recommendation by Sheriff Dicky and seconded by Krish Gundu. The motion passed unanimously.

Language was suggested to remove the requirement for how doors outside the security perimeter shall be made. Staff recommended that the committee approve this suggestion. Additional language was suggested to increase the width of doors from 28 to 32 inches to match the International Building Code. Sheriff Dicky made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Caroline Crain. The motion passed unanimously.

Language was suggested for 259.153 to rewrite this standard to require all swinging detention doors to have a door closer of an appropriate weight. Caroline Crain made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Sheriff Cass. The motion passed unanimously.

Language was suggested to update 259.737 to reflect the same changes as made to other standards regarding dormitories and update the congregation level from 48 to 72 in direct supervision dormitories. A motion to approve was made by Caroline Crain, seconded by Krish Gundu. The motion passed unanimously.

b. §265 Admission

Deputy Director Armstrong discussed this chapter and the ongoing process to improve the suggested rules regarding guardianship to 265 Admissions, 267 Release, 273 Medical. Lee Correia, attorney for the Sheriff's Association of Texas (SAT), provided testimony regarding the wording on these rules during discussion. The Committee requested that staff meet with Lee Correia and the TCJS OAG representative to do additional work and research on this language with a deadline for approval from the Committee by January 30th to be forwarded to the Commission at the February 5th meeting.

No action taken.

- c. §267 Release
See “b” above.

- d. §273 Health Services
See “b” above.

- e. §281.5 Staff Supervision
Language was suggested to the committee to update the language in 281.5 Staff Supervision to require a food protection manager’s license holder be present during food preparation to reflect statute. A motion to approve was made by Caroline Crain, seconded by Sheriff Cass. The motion passed unanimously.

- f. §269.3 Weapons/Ammunition Procedure
Language was suggested to the committee to update this standard regarding weapons because of the classification of the new TASER 10 as a firearm by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. This language would require a sheriff to develop, submit, and implement a weapon/ammunition procedure approved by the Commission. Committee members discussed storage of weapons, possible phasing out of older TASER models, and how some facilities handle this subject already. A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Krish Gundu, seconded by Caroline Crain. The motion passed unanimously.

- g. Four Year Rule Review Process Update
TCJS Staff member Richard Morgan provided the committee members with an update on the rule review process, and advised that chapters 251 through 281 were in the public comment period of the review. No action taken.

- h. Four Year Rule Review: Chapter 275 Supervision of Inmates
Deputy Director Armstrong advised that Chapter 275 currently had no suggestions for changes, and requested that committee members review this section for the next meeting.

- i. Public Petition to Minimum Jail Standards
 - i. Dr. Marc Robinson: Deputy Director Armstrong discussed the public petition for change to standards as made by Dr. Marc Robinson regarding the notification of inmate family when an inmate is under certain conditions in the hospital or ICU. Dr. Robinson provided additional information regarding the notification systems in place in hospitals and the standard operating procedures used. Sheriff Cass discussed potential security concerns and possible jail practices already in place. Deputy Director Armstrong discussed the next parts of Dr. Robinson's petition regarding continuity of care for HIV medication and advised that TCJS does not make medical decisions in standards. He also discussed with committee members regarding common procedures for ensuring continuity of care already in place. Caroline Crain provided context explaining why it is especially important for continuity of care for HIV medication. Sheriff Cass discussed the issues regarding restraints in hospital settings and potential security concerns. Deputy Director Armstrong suggested staff work on language for the next meeting. No action taken.
 - ii. Kenneth Williams: Deputy Director Armstrong discussed the public petition for changes to standards by Kenneth Williams regarding contracted medical care. Sheriff Cass, Lori Compton, and Deputy Director Ricky discussed the potential issues with this proposed rule. The committee agreed to recommend to the Commission that this petition be rejected. Krish Gundu made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Caroline Crain.
 - iii. Dr. Audrey Nath: Deputy Director Armstrong discussed the public petition for changes to standards by Dr. Audrey Nath. Dr. Nath discussed seizure protocols and concerns with continuity of care of seizure medicine. Dr. Nath discussed context of individuals with epilepsy and ability to indicate to jail staff about their condition. Dr. Nath agreed to help produce a white sheet for the committee to consider for taking steps. Caroline Crain provided context regarding seizure action plans. Sheriff Cass asked TCJS staff to work on suggested language for this proposal for the next meeting. No action taken.
 - iv. Mark Dunbar: Deputy Director Armstrong advised that staff had prepared proposed language for this public petition for changes to minimum standards. Sheriff Cass and Lori Compton discussed

potential issues with the requirement that a facility make an agreement with a certified fire marshal as not every county will be able to get such an agreement. Deputy Director Armstrong discussed the process for approving a plan by the Commission staff. Krish Gundu made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Caroline Crain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

j. Subcommittee Assignments

This item was on the agenda in error, this advisory committee does not have subcommittees.

VI. **New Business**

a. Four Year Rule Review Chapter 289 Work Assignments

Deputy Director Armstrong advised the committee members that these chapters would be up for review at the next meeting. No action taken.

VII. **Other Business**

a. None

VIII. **Date for Next Meeting**

a. The next meeting of the Administrative Rules Advisory Committee will be held on April 9, 2026.

IX. **Adjourn**

a. The meeting was adjourned with appropriate motion by Krish Gundu and seconded by Caroline Crain. The motion passed unanimously.