

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 February 5, 2026, contact Richard Morgan, at Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us.

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Date: February 5, 2026

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call of Commission Members

Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Chairman	Mr. Ross Reyes
Dr. Porsa, Vice Chairman	Ms. Monica McBride
Mr. Duane Lock	Sheriff Richard Kirkpatrick
Ms. Patricia Anthony	Judge Joseph Fauth III
Commissioner Ben Perry	

Commission members present at roll call were Sheriff Rowe, Dr. Porsa, Mr. Duane Lock, Sheriff Richard Kirkpatrick, Judge Joseph Fauth, Ms. Patricia Anthony and Ms. Monica McBride. Commissioner Ben Perry and Mr. Ross Reyes were absent. Staff members attending in-person included Ricky Armstrong, Jason Jouett, Todd Allen, Michael Garrett, Michael Gravitt, Martin Arnold, Leslie Spear, Richard Morgan, Chris Keith, Clarissa Fasci, Zachary Aguirre, Lindsey Bailey, Stephanie Reneau, Courtney Elrod, Gabriel Farley Nicole Alexander, Rebecca Perez.

Also in Attendance:

Michael Starkey, Henderson County SO	Sheriff Michael Hopkins, Rains County
Kristen Morales, Falls County SO	Byron Ryder, Leon County SO
Jason Campbell, Falls County SO	Mike Ward, Senator Flores' Office
Russ Anthier, Parker County SO	Eric Hensley, Montgomery County SO

<p>Lonnie Kettler, SCSO Lydia Leos Jacquelyne Johnson, Tarrant County Citterece McGregor, Tarrant County Steve Smith, Falls County Jody Krumnow, Falls County Cassandra, Tarrant County Maxey Cerliano, Gregg County Michael Reed Jr., Lubbock County Gordon Goldhammer, Lubbock County Kathleen Pokluda, Williamson County SO Lon Burnam Don Sowell, Grimes County SO Judge Peter Sakai, Bexar County Matthew Polanco, Bexar County Yvette Utley Jim Wells County Wendy Karr, Hunt County SO William Trammel Judge Brent Hilliard, Rains County Krish Gundu, Texas Jail Project Shane Sowell, Dallas County SO John Pilkington, TCSO William Phariss, Tarrant County SO Ronny Taylor, San Jacinto Lexi Messandra Lynsni Jennifer Shumake, Bexar County SO Noah Barshop, Bexar County Jorge Campos, Bexar County SO Tracy McClain Mark Waszczak, Travis County SO Derrick Easton, DSABC Brittany Cheatham, Hunt County SO Alice Miller, Leon County Patrick Dougherty Lisa Miller, Bastrop County SO Mark Hanna, Bastrop County SO Christopher Washington, Bastrop County SO Kiki Teal, Harris Health Cody Copeland, Austin American Statesman Joel Jansen, BCSO Martin Pepin, Cherokee County SO Daniel Moreno, Texas Jail Project Sheriff Carl Squyres, Runnels County</p>	<p>Caroline Wilburn Jeremiah Richards, Montgomery County SO Jay Elliot, Falls County Ron King, Parker County Gunnar Seaquist, BHDA/Liberty County April Pottorf, DLR Group Dawn Pena, Bexar County David Anspach, Robertson County SO Pamela Paz Alex Nguyen, Texas Tribune Joshua Heator Kevin Garrett, Travis County Thomas Diaz, Harris County SO Phillip Bosquez, Harris County SO Julie Fletcher, CCSO Robert Green, Kendall County Josh Hawthorne, Kendall County J. Segura, Travis County SO Wayne Gondeck, DRG Architects Carl Griffith, GMJ H Guerrero, Liberty County SO S Carpenter, Liberty County Deborah Smith, Harris County Kylene Smith Dennis Wilson, ICS Jail Supply Linda Authier John Shoemaker, Smith County Anthony Johnson, Tarrant County Maranda Mills Sarah Knight Jonathan Zitzmann, Montgomery County SO Sheriff Wesley Doolittle, Montgomery County Michelle Basart, Runnels County SO Brandon K Poehls, Runnels County Commissioner's Court Larry Walden, Parker County Commissioner's Court John Forrest, Parker County Tom Wash, DLR Group Sheriff Bill Ruland, Robertson County Reymundo Ruiz, Robertson County Todd Harris, Chambers County SO Ebony Ceasar, Texas Jail Project Brent Dickson, CCSO</p>
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III. Appointment of Interim Executive Director

Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the appointment of Ricky Armstrong as Interim Executive Director and seconded by Judge Fauth. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Sheriff Rowe asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting conducted November 7, 2025. A motion was made to approve by Dr. Porsa and seconded by Judge Fauth. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment

- Pedro “Pete” Treviño Jr. (Jim Wells County Judge / South Texas Judges & Commissioners Association): Spoke in support of Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai. He highlighted jail issues in rural counties, especially the costs of transporting and housing inmates in other facilities (e.g., Jim Wells County spent \$87,000 in one month on transport and outside housing out of a \$7M sheriff’s budget) and the need for better evaluation and treatment of mental health and special-needs inmates. He called for more dialogue and planning between the Commission, rural counties, and sheriffs.
- Lon Burnam (Former Texas State Representative, Tarrant County): Addressed Tarrant County Jail and the Sandra Bland Act, opposing the Tarrant County District Attorney’s request for an opinion which he believes would narrow the scope of required independent investigations into jail deaths, and exclude deaths of people who die in hospitals after being transported from jail, as well as natural deaths. He cited cases as examples where classification as natural deaths obscures alleged neglect. He read from a letter by faith leaders urging that all deaths in custody (including those occurring in hospitals) be fully and independently investigated.
- Anthony Johnson Sr. (Father of Anthony Johnson Jr., Tarrant County): Spoke about his son Anthony Johnson Jr., a Marine veteran with schizophrenia, who died in Tarrant County Jail. He alleged multiple violations of Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) rules, including: §273.2 Health Services – failure to provide prompt mental health care, §273.5 Mental Disability/Suicide Prevention Plan – no effective referral to mental health professionals, §275.1 Supervision – inadequate face to face observation, and §277.3 Restraints – his son was restrained, pepper sprayed in the mouth, left without medical oversight, and died. He Asserted these standards are mandatory, not suggestions, and were “ignored.” He questioned whether the Commission enforces its own rules, and said that if not, the Commission is “part of the problem.”
- Jacqueline Johnson (Mother of Anthony Johnson Jr.): Described who her son Anthony “AJ” Johnson Jr. was (Marine, living with schizophrenia). She provided a timeline of her son’s experience at the hospital and the jail, alleging criminal acts by the jail staff. She discussed the manner of her son’s death while in custody. She claimed Sheriff Waybourn released a sanitized, edited video to the public, while the unredacted video is being

withheld by the Attorney General's office despite the family's consent to release. She framed this as corruption and a racial justice issue, saying Black and Brown families do not get full justice but at least deserve transparency. She directly asked why the full video remains hidden and what concrete steps the Commission will take to prevent similar deaths.

- Myrna Mills (Daughter of Kimberly Phillips): Spoke about her mother Kimberly Phillips, a 56-year-old grandmother and vegan who died in Tarrant County Jail (Feb 18, 2025). She alleged that the jail refused to accommodate her vegan diet, so she could not eat the food, reported getting ill, and begged for suitable food and chaplain contact. When Myrna raised concerns with a jail official, they allegedly said, "This isn't a hotel. She can't have it her way. We don't supply vegan plates." She stated that family had \$2,000 to post bond, but the bond was placed "on hold" without clear explanation, so she stayed in jail as her health declined. Myrna says her mother repeatedly said she was afraid she was going to die; and that the jail delayed action until she was near death. Myrna was blocked from visiting for a week and was not notified when her mother was hospitalized or when she died. She argues that the denial of appropriate food and medical response amounted to torture and neglect.
- Cassandra Johnson (Mother of Traylon Wormley, Tarrant County): Spoke about her son Traylon Wormley, who died in Tarrant County Jail on July 20, 2022. Said she previously gave the Commission a packet of medical history and documentation, asserting that authorities are selectively using parts of the record instead of examining the full context. She advised that the report from the Medical Examiner stated his death was "apparently a fentanyl overdose", ruled accident, but she believes that given his disability and mental health, lack of investigation and care should constitute neglect and possibly homicide, not an "accident." She discussed the nature of the investigation into her son's death and stated that the investigation conducted by the Fort Worth Police Department was inadequate.
- Lamonica Bratton (Mother of Chaske Bunner, Tarrant County): She introduced herself as mother of Chaske Bunner (often pronounced "Chastity"), who died in Tarrant County custody. She advised that her family was told her daughter's death was from natural causes, and discussed her daughters known medical history and the withholding of medical records by the county hospital. She stated that "natural causes" has become a convenient label to obscure neglect in custody. She focused on legacy and impact on grandchildren and argued that allowing someone to die due to "neglect in jail" is not natural causes; it's a breach of public trust.
- Citterece McGregor (Mother of Christopher McGregor, Harris County): Spoke about her son Christopher McGregor, who died in Harris County Jail on Jan 30. She provided copies of the legal complaint describing his final days. He discussed the circumstances around her son's death, including starvation, dehydration, and a treatable strep-throat infection. She discussed his mental health history, lack of capacity, and similar health concerns during previous jailings. She argued that people like Christopher need high level secure mental health care, not jail and that jail is being used as a default mental health facility. She emphasized the need for Rider 56 implementation, which is aimed at creating intermediate care facilities and reducing forensic wait lists. She asked sheriffs, jail administrators, especially Harris County, to respond to the HHSC Rider 56 survey to help create immediate care facilities and change the pattern of deaths in jail.

- Tracy McLean (Mother of John Robert “Ra” Holmes III): She advised that she is a registered nurse with experience at the Austin State Hospital, the Travis County Jail, CCA, and a legal nurse for the Texas Attorney General. She discussed her son’s experience with jailings, mental health issues, traumatic brain injury, and capacity. She alleged that court ordered medication is often withheld until just before release, guaranteeing rapid decompensation and re-arrest. She urged sheriffs and administrators to complete the Rider 56 HHSC survey by Feb 12, to drive creation of intermediate facilities.
- Sarah Knight (Mother of a Jaylen Anderson): She discussed her son’s death at the LaSalle Corrections unit while outsourced from the Harris County Jail. She also spoke on behalf of Eric Carlson, who also died at LaSalle (Louisiana) after transfer from Harris County. She discussed Carlson’s medical history at the LaSalle Corrections unit and stated that he and his cellmate had requested medical care multiple times without receiving it, or it being delayed. She discussed that although medical complaints are the largest category received by the Commission, TCJS has no explicit enforceable standard of medical care in its rules. She noted there are no standards that directly address starvation/dehydration in custody, and responsibilities of medical/jail staff when people with serious mental illness decompensate and die. She discussed how jailers must keep food and water logs and do checks, yet people still die; questioned how this is not a punishable offense when failure to render aid on the street is. She requested the Commission create clear, enforceable standards of medical care to prevent deaths from starvation, dehydration, and treatable illnesses.
- Lily Olivia Leo (Mother of a decedent in Bexar County): She addressed family notification when a person dies or becomes critically ill in jail. She discussed the circumstances surrounding her son’s custodial death. She discussed the lack of a minimum jail standard requiring jails to promptly contact legal next of kin when someone suffers a serious medical emergency or dies in custody and called this an obvious standard that should already exist.
- Krish Gundu (Director, Texas Jail Project): Provided testimony regarding custodial deaths in Texas County Jails. She discussed the number of “preventable” deaths in county jails. She argued that pretrial detention is functioning as a de facto death sentence. She discussed the rate of deaths and suicides at the Bexar County Jail compared to their population. She discussed the items provided to the Commission members in their workbooks, specifically criticizing the lack of regular reports or analysis or custodial deaths. She argued that the Commission should routinely study custodial deaths like hospitals do with mortality review to identify patterns, root causes, and evidence-based recommendations. She urged the Commission to formally and systematically review and track deaths in custody using the data she provided to the members.

VI. Old Business

A. Bexar County – Notice of Noncompliance and Remedial Order

Director Armstrong advised that Bexar County was on the agenda due to notice of non-compliance and a remedial order in place. Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai was present to

provide an update.

Judge Sakai advised that Bexar County was currently in compliance with minimum jail standards, and would be discussing the Bexar County Commissioner's Court's commitment to improving jail operations, systems, continuity of care, and diversion. He provided documentation to the Commission members highlighting the steps being taken at Bexar County. He discussed the external factors putting pressure on the county that have led to problems at the jail, including population growth and urbanization, the wait for forensic beds and other treatment options, and historic compensation for the underfunding of the sheriff's department. He discussed staffing and the new positions that the Commissioner's Court approved in the most recent budget. He provided an overview of the ways that Bexar County has invested in their criminal justice system.

Bexar County reported that their "paper ready" list of inmates (those ready to be sent to TDCJ) was 198, with none over 45 days. They also advised that their average length of stay was 111 days.

Director Armstrong advised that Commission staff conducted an administrative re-inspection in August 2025, and the Bexar County Jail was currently in compliance. Director Armstrong advised that the Bexar County Jail would need to pass two comprehensive inspections to have the remedial order removed, and recommended no action be taken.

B. Cherokee County - Notice of Non-Compliance and Remedial order

Cherokee County was on the agenda for notice of non-compliance and remedial order. Sheriff Brent Dickson was present to provide an update. He advised that Cherokee County had passed their second required inspection to have the remedial order removed. He discussed the funds the Cherokee County Commissioner's Court had invested for new technology and security systems.

Director Armstrong recommended that the remedial order be removed regarding Cherokee County. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Judge Fauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Falls County Jail – Notice of Non-compliance and Remedial Order

Fall County was on the agenda for non-compliance and remedial order. Director Armstrong advised that Falls County had been removed from enhanced enforcement and recommended the removal of the remedial order regarding Falls County. Director Armstrong also discussed the proactive steps that Falls County had taken to ensure they remained in compliance with minimum jail standards. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve, and Sheriff Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Fisher County – Notice of Noncompliance

Director Armstrong advised that Fisher County was on the agenda due to the issuance of a notice of non-compliance. He advised that Commission staff received an official

letter, with certified minutes, from the Fisher County Commissioner's Court stating that their jail has been decommissioned and is no longer in the purview of the Commission.

E. Harris County Jail – Notice of Non-Compliance and Remedial Order

Dr. Porsa recused himself from the discussion regarding Harris County.

Harris County Chief Deputy Tommy Diaz was in attendance to provide updates on the steps that Harris County has taken to regain compliance. He discussed the commissioner's court approval of 130 new positions, and a significant reduction in the length of stay for inmates.

Chief Philip Bosquez provided an update on the deficient items from the most recent inspection of the Harris County Jail. He advised that on January 15th a new fire system was installed at the 1201 facility and advised that passing inspection documents had been forwarded to Inspector Garrett. He discussed 100 new detention officer positions approved to be filled and discussed their academy schedule for new officers; he discussed the 38 new supervisor positions that had been approved. He discussed the creation of a medical division with officers and professional staff to focus on the delivery of medical and mental health care. He discussed the plans for redesigning a floor of the 1201 facility as a hospital floor which would house 1000 inmates.

Chief Bosquez advised that Harris County had 575 inmates paper ready, with none over 45 days. He advised that the average time for pickup by TDCJ was approximately 26 days. He also advised that Harris County currently outsourced 1050 inmates outside of Texas, and that number was reduced by 300 in 2025.

Head of Harris Health at the Harris County Jail, Kiki Teal, was in attendance to address concerns raised by Commissioner Lock at previous meetings regarding the delivery of medical care. She advised that there had been significant improvements in the delay of patient appointments, including transfer to the emergency room, which has been reduced to less than 10 incidents for the time period of November 2025 to January 2025. She advised that incidents involving delay of medication and insulin administration were also below 10 incidents for January 2026. She reported overall significant improvements over the previous three months and significant decreases in the delays in care and transferring to the emergency room facilities.

Commissioner Lock requested Harris County provide this information regarding delays in care overtime as a trend at the next Commission meeting. Director Armstrong advised that staff could present this information.

Director Armstrong advised that the Harris County Jail was inspected in December 2025 and all deficiencies except the two discussed earlier had been cleared. He discussed the agreed upon action plan between the Commission and Harris County, and recommended no action be taken at this time to allow staff to continue to work

under that agreed upon action plan.

F. Leon County Jail – Notice of Non-Compliance and Remedial Order

Leon County was on the agenda for notice of non-compliance and remedial order. Leon County Jail Administrator Alice Miller, Leon County Judge Byron Ryder, and Chief Deputy William Trammel were in attendance to provide updates. Ms. Miller advised that Leon County Jail was in compliance with minimum jail standards and continues to have staff send her all intake screenings to assess that they are conducted properly. She also advised that she conducts training on the screenings, disciplinaries, and life safety every 6 weeks with her staff.

Director Armstrong advised Leon County is required to pass two comprehensive inspections to be removed from enhanced enforcement status, and the remedial order will be evaluated after those inspections have been passed, and recommended no action be taken.

G. Liberty County – Notice of Noncompliance and Remedial Order

Liberty County was on the agenda for notice of non-compliance and remedial order. Gunnar Seaquist, counsel for Liberty County, was in attendance to provide updates along with the Jail Administrator Heather Urias, and Captain Carpenter. Mr. Seaquist advised that Liberty County and the Commission’s representative from the Office of The Attorney General were close to an agreed upon action plan to resolve deficiencies. He reported that fire restoration was almost complete, locks and intercoms are being repaired/replaced as parts become available, and issues with inmate behavior and vandalism. He advised that Liberty County has begun the process of planning for a new jail facility.

Director Armstrong advised that Inspector Garrett performed a comprehensive inspection in December 2025 of the Liberty County Jail and found it non-compliant, but that the jail has come a long way since their previous inspections. Director Armstrong commended the Liberty County Jail for the effort they have shown in repairing the jail. Director Armstrong recommended allowing staff to continue to work with Liberty County to fix the existing deficiencies and to get a signed agreed upon action plan. A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Dr. Porsa and seconded by Judge Fauth. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Rains County – Notice of Non-Compliance

Rains County was on the agenda for notice of non-compliance and remedial order. Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard was in attendance to provide testimony with Sheriff Michael Hopkins. Judge Hilliard advised that Rains County had a dedicated records compliance officer and installed the Guardian electronic checks system. Judge Hilliard also detailed the plans the commissioner’s court has made to support the jail, and his own efforts. He provided commission members with documentation including photographs of the work done at the jail.

Director Armstrong advised that Rains County was in enhanced enforcement and a

remedial order was in place and that Rains County had passed one of the required two comprehensive inspections required to be removed from enhanced enforcement. Director Armstrong recommended that no action be taken.

I. Robertson County – Notice of Non-Compliance and Remedial Order

Robertson County was on the agenda for notice of non-compliance and remedial order. Robertson County Sheriff Bill Ruland was in attendance to provide an update along with Jail Administrator David Asnpar, assistant Jail Administrator Ray Ruiz, and Robertson County Judge Joe Scarborough. Sheriff Ruland advised that deficiencies regarding documentation have been resolved, and that new leadership had been brought in to make needed changes.

Director Armstrong advised that Robertson County was in enhanced enforcement, and issued a remedial order in August 2025. Director Armstrong advised that Robertson County passed one of the two required comprehensive inspections to be removed from enhanced enforcement in December 2025. Director Armstrong advised that no action be taken.

J. Runnels County – Notice of Non-Compliance and Remedial Order

Runnels County was in attendance for notice of non-compliance and remedial order. Sheriff Paul Squyres was in attendance to provide an update along with Runnels County Judge Julia Miller, the Runnels County Jail Administrator, and a county commissioner. He advised that they had installed an electronic check system to resolve documentation deficiencies. He also advised that classification of inmates was being double checked to resolve deficiencies in that area. The county judge and commissioner expressed their support for Sheriff Squyres and the jail's needs.

Director Armstrong advised that Runnels County was in enhanced enforcement and issued a remedial order in August 2025. Director Armstrong advised that Runnels County passed one of the two required inspections to be removed from enhanced enforcement in October 2025. Director Armstrong recommended no action be taken.

K. Tarrant County District Attorney Request for Attorney General Opinion (RQ-0590-KP) regarding §511.021(a)

Director Armstrong advised that there was no update on this item from the previous meeting, but the Commission members would be updated when an opinion was issued.

VII. New Business
None

VIII. Variances

A. Bastrop County

Bastrop County was in attendance for variances to the following:
- §259.143(b)(c)(d) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas

- §259.134 Multiple Occupancy Cells
- §259.135 Dormitories
- §259.136 Dayrooms

Captain Lisa Miller provided an update on the Bastrop County Jail’s plans for additional facilities. Director Armstrong recommended approving the variance for one year. A motion was made to approve the recommendation by Dr. Porsa, and seconded by Commissioner Lock. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Chambers County

Chambers County was in attendance for review of variances to the following:

- §259.135 Dormitories
- §259.143(b)(d) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas
- §259.144 (B),2)(d) Segregation

Jail Administrator Todd Harris was in attendance to provide an update on the construction of additional jail facilities. Director Armstrong recommended the variance be continued for one year. A motion was made to approve the recommendation by Dr. Porsa and seconded by Commissioner Lock. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Montgomery County

Montgomery County was in attendance for review of variances to the following:

- §259.135 Dormitories
- §259.136 Dayrooms
- §259.143(b)(C) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas

Montgomery County Sheriff Wesley Doolittle, Chief Deputy Jonathan Zitzman, Jail Administrator Eric Hensley, and Captain Jeremiah Richards were in attendance to provide an update on their population needs, processes, and possibility of building additional jail facilities. Director Armstrong recommended to approve the variance for one year when Montgomery County would be required to have plans on how to move forward without the variances. A motion was made to approve the recommendation by Dr. Porsa and seconded by Commissioner Lock. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Parker County

Parker County was in attendance for review of variances to the following:

- §259.134 Multiple Occupancy Cells

Director Armstrong advised that Parker County had a bond issue fail regarding the construction of a new jail facility. Sheriff Russ Authier, Commissioner Larry Walden, Jail Administrator Ron King, and County Attorney John Forest were in attendance to provide an update. Sheriff Authier advised that Parker County Jail was at approximately 85% capacity but expected issues with population growth. Commissioner Walden provided an update on the county’s long-term plans of repurposing a former private state prison facility, and the plans for funding despite the bond issue failure. Director Armstrong recommended approving the variance for one year with an update at that time regarding the construction of a new facility or the use of the private facility. Commissioner Lock made a motion to approve the recommendation and Dr. Porsa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Tarrant County

Tarrant County was in attendance for review of variances to the following:

- §259.143(b)(c)(d) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas

Tarrant County Chief Pilkington was in attendance to provide an update on Tarrant County's plans to add beds to their Cold Springs facility, with a planned vote regarding these funds the next week. Director Armstrong recommended approving the variance for one year with an update at that time. A motion was made by Commissioner Lock to approve the recommendation, seconded by Judge Fauth. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Administrative Rules Advisory Committee

A. Rules for Adoption

None

B. Rules for Public Comment

The Administrative Rules Advisory Committee recommended changes to the following rules:

- §259.168 Television Monitoring
- §259.264 Television Monitoring
- §259.358 Television Monitoring
- §259.454 Television Monitoring
- §259.770 Television Monitoring
- §275.1 Regular Observation by Corrections Officers
- §275.7 Supervision Outside the Security Perimeter – Court Holding Cells
- §259.117 Inmate Entrance
- §259.123 Kitchen
- §259.141 Dormitories
- §259.151 Detention Doors
- §259.153 Door Closers
- §259.737 Dormitories
- §269.3 Weapon/Ammunition Procedures
- §263.40 Plans

Director Armstrong recommended publication of these proposed rule changes to the Texas Register. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendations, and Judge Fauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Petition for Change to Minimum Jail Standards

Director Armstrong advised that the public petitions from Dr. Audrey Nath and Dr. Marc Robinson were being considered by the Administrative Rules Advisory Committee and required no action at this time. Director Armstrong advised that the committee had requested no action be taken on Kenneth Williams public petition as it would be too cumbersome for all county jails to have contracted medical providers. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation to table Kenneth Williams petition, and Sheriff

Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Four-Year Rule Review

Director Armstrong advised that rules §251 through §281 had been published to the Texas Register for public comment and no comment was received and recommended readoption without changes. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation and Commissioner Lock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Armstrong advised that rules §289 and §291 would be the next set of rules to be reviewed by the committee, and recommendations for the rule review would follow at a later meeting. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation and Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Commission Representative

Director Armstrong advised that this item was on the agenda should Sheriff Rowe choose to appoint another Commission member to the Administrative Rules Advisory Committee. No action taken.

X. IDD Advisory Committee

A. Update

Director Armstrong provided an update on the work of the IDD Advisory Committee, specifically, guardianship and potential minimum standards regarding guardianship.

B. County Judge or Commissioner Appointment

Director Armstrong advised that this item was left on the agenda from the previous meeting in error, and recognized that Judge Parrish from Lubbock County had been appointed at the previous meeting.

C. Commission Representative

Director Armstrong advised that this item was on the agenda should Sheriff Rowe choose to appoint another Commission member to the IDD Advisory Committee. No action taken.

XI. Staff Report

A. Completed Jail Projects

Director Armstrong 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 Armstrong referred Commissioners to the list in their book.

D. Status of Remedial Orders

Director Armstrong listed the counties currently under remedial order. This information was provided in the commission members' books.

E. Status and Composition of Jail Population

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

F. Staff Training/Activities

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

G. Financial Report/Budget

Director Armstrong directed all to the current budget expenditures for FY 2025 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.

XII. Other Business

- **Commission-sponsored Events and Workshops**
- **Commission Staffing**
- **Off Duty Employment**
No events to report.
- **Miscellaneous Letters of Comment**

XIII. Executive Session

Chairman Rowe began an executive session at 1153 AM to discuss personnel matters. The executive Session ended at 1228 and the regular session resumed at that time. Judge Fauth made a motion to approve an increase in salary for Ricky Armstrong, Interim Executive Director, by \$1500 per month. The motion was seconded by Dr. Porsa. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Adjourn

By appropriate motion to adjourn by Commissioner Lock and a second by Commissioner Anthony, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49.

XV. Next Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for:

- **Thursday, May 7th, 2026, 09:00AM at the Stephen F Austin Building**

- Thursday, August 6th, 2026, 09:00 AM at the Stephen F Austin Building

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.

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 Richard Morgan (Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us) two (2) working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



Ricky Armstrong, Interim Executive Director