

## 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 May 7, 2026, contact Richard Morgan, at Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us.

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

**Date:** May 7, 2026

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by 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 Interim Executive Director Ricky Armstrong, Jason Jouett, Todd Allen, Michael Garrett, Michael Gravitt, Martin Arnold, Leslie Spear, Gale Van Pelt Richard Morgan, Chris Keith, Clarissa Fasci, Zachary Aguirre, Lindsey Bailey, Stephanie Reneau, Courtney Elrod, Gabriel Farley Nicole Alexander, Rebecca Perez.

#### Also in Attendance:

|                                       |                                                   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Matt Stockstill, Randall County       | Isabel Gleason, Robertson County Sheriff's Office |
| Sonia Stockstill, Randall County      |                                                   |
| Lewes Owens, Val Verde County         | Reymundo Ruiz, Robertson County Sheriff's Office  |
| Wharton County Sheriff Shannon Srubar |                                                   |

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| Adrian Rodriguez, San Patricio County<br>Chad Stroud, Hunt County Sheriff's Office<br>Stanly Polly, SJCSO<br>Ivan Lopez, Starr County Sheriff's Office<br>Juan Guerra, Starr County Sheriff's Office<br>Cassandra Johnson<br>Lydia Leos, Texas jail Project<br>Trashanda Scott<br>Judge Daryl Melton, Sabine County<br>David Hanso, Texas Jail Project<br>Thomas Diaz, Harris County Sheriff's Office<br>Jason Ross, Burns Architecture<br>Heather Guerrero, Liberty County Jail<br>Cameron Frewin, Liberty County Jail<br>Shane Sowell, Dallas County<br>Dawn Pert, Bexar County<br>Jason Spench, Harris County<br>Dominique Gereax, TCSO<br>Kenneth Vorpahl, TCSO<br>Sheriff Bill Ruland, Robertson County | Shelby McWhorter, TCSO<br>Aimee Morales, Senate Criminal Justice Committee<br>Alexander Lyn<br>Jimmy Fullen, GCSO<br>Mel Williamson, GCSO<br>Kelcie Miller, GCSO<br>Travis Hall, GCSO<br>Gary Pinkerton, Smith County Sheriff's Office<br>Dennis Wilson, ICS Jail Supplies<br>Brandon Poehls, Runnels County<br>Destiny Owens, Travis County Sheriff's Office<br>Tinna Tapia, Travis County Sheriff's Office<br>Deidre Moultrie, Travis County Sheriff's Office<br>Sheriff Don Sowell, Grimes County<br>Natacha Wagner, GMJ, Inc.<br>Dr. Ebony Caesar, Texas Jail Project |
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At this time, Sheriff Rowe moved item XII. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding the Selection or Appointment of the Executive Director, to this point in the meeting. Sheriff Rowe discussed the special meeting of the Commission on April 23, 2026, which resulted in the recommendation that Interim Executive Director Ricky Armstrong be appointed the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. Dr. Porsa made a motion to accept the recommendation, and Sheriff Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Sheriff Rowe asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting conducted February 5, 2026, and April 23, 2026. A motion was made to approve by Dr. Porsa and seconded by Judge Fauth. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. Public Comment**

**Due to technical issues beyond TCJS control the microphone for Public Comment and testimony was inoperable and the comments made are unrecorded. Public commenters in attendance are as follows:**

- Jaqueline Johnson
- Krish Gundu
- Grace Reynolds
- V Patel

- Anthony Johnson
- Alexis Lunghi
- Trashanda Scott
- Cassandra Johnson
- Tiffany Hagans
- Reha Bailey
- Lydia Leos

## V. **Old Business**

### A. **Bexar County Jail – Notice of Non-Compliance and Remedial Order**

- Bexar County Jail Administrator Jennifer Shumake, and the Bexar County Chief Deputy, were in attendance to provide updates regarding the noncompliance and remedial order in place regarding Bexar County Jail. Bexar County representatives offered testimony regarding updates at the Bexar County Commissioner's Court regarding deflection and diversion. Director Armstrong discussed the Bexar County jail's recent passing inspection and advised that Bexar County would need to pass one more inspection to be removed from enhanced enforcement. No action taken.

### B. **Harris County Jail- Notice of Noncompliance and Remedial order**

- Dr. Porsa recused himself from this conversation.** Director Armstrong advised that Harris County is on the agenda for noncompliance and remedial order, and detailed Harris County's previous inspection results, and that Harris County was currently in compliance with jail standards. Jail Administrator Philip Bosquez and Chief Deputy Diaz were in attendance with Kiki Teal, the head of Harris Health at the Harris County Jail. Harris County officials provided updates on the deficient areas from previous inspections, to include staffing, population, and medical services. Director Armstrong asked for an update on inmates housed out of state, and Chief Bosquez advised that Harris County was redesigning a floor as a hospital floor for approximately 1000 inmates. Director Armstrong recommended that no action be taken to allow staff to continue to work with Harris County until Harris County passes two comprehensive inspections to be removed from enhanced enforcement. No action taken.

### C. **Leon County Jail – Notice of Noncompliance and Remedial Order**

- Leon County jail was on the agenda due to the issuance of a notice of noncompliance and the presence of a remedial order. Director Armstrong advised that a comprehensive inspection of Leon County jail took place in March 2026, which Leon County passed and is currently in compliance with minimum standards and would need to pass a second comprehensive inspection to be removed from enhanced enforcement. A Leon County representative provided testimony on their efforts to regain and maintain compliance. Director Armstrong recommended taking no action as Leon County is currently compliant. No action taken.

### D. **Liberty County Jail – Notice of Noncompliance and Remedial Order**

- Director Armstrong advised that Liberty County was on the agenda due to the

issuance of a notice of noncompliance and the presence of a remedial order. Director Armstrong discussed the recent inspection and training conducted between TCJS staff and Liberty County Jail staff. Director Armstrong advised that Liberty County had cleared most of its deficiencies and was moving towards compliance. Representatives from Liberty County were in attendance and provided updates on their efforts to regain compliance with minimum standards. Dr. Porsa discussed the deficiency related to the processing of the screening form for medical, mental health, and IDD. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation of allowing staff to continue to work with Liberty County to regain compliance. The motion was seconded by Judge Fauth. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Rains County Jail – Notice of Noncompliance and Remedial Order**

- i. Director Armstrong advised that Rains County was on the agenda for review of its compliance status. Rains County Sheriff Michael Hopkins and County Judge Brent Hilliard were in attendance to provide testimony and updates. Director Armstrong advised that Rains County Jail had been inspected twice and passed both, removing Rains County from enhanced enforcement. Director Armstrong advised that Rains County Jail has requested the removal of the remedial order, which he recommended. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Lock. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Robertson County Jail – Notice of Noncompliance and Remedial Order**

- i. Director Armstrong advised that Robertson County Jail was on the agenda for review of its compliance status. Robertson County Sheriff Bill Ruland, staff, and Chief Deputy were in attendance to provide testimony and updates on their efforts to regain compliance. Director Armstrong advised that Robertson County had to pass one more inspection to be removed from enhanced enforcement. No action taken.

**G. Runnels County Jail – Notice of Noncompliance and Remedial Order**

- i. Director Armstrong advised that Runnels County jail was on the agenda for review of its compliance status, and that Runnels County had passed two comprehensive inspections and have been removed from enhanced enforcement. Runnels County Sheriff Squyres, Runnels County Judge Julia Miller, and County Commissioner were in attendance to provide testimony. Director Armstrong advised that Runnels County had requested to have the remedial order removed and recommended its removal. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Lock. The motion passed unanimously.

**H. Tarrant County District Attorney Request for Attorney General Opinion (RQ-0590-KP) Regarding § 511.021(a)**

- i. Director Armstrong provided an update on the Attorney General Opinion requested by the Tarrant County District Attorney regarding § 511.021(a). The opinion confirms that the Commission has the authority to promulgate the rules regarding independent investigations. No action taken.

At this time Sheriff Rowe moved the meeting into recess for 10 minutes.

**VI. New Business**

**A. Hidalgo County Jail – Government Code 511.0097 Fire Sprinkler Head Inspection**

- a. Director Armstrong advised that this item should be skipped with no action taken. No action taken.

**B. Hood County Jail – Government Code 511.0097 Fire Sprinkler Head Inspection**

- a. Director Armstrong advised that Hood County was in the planning stages of new construction and was requesting under Government Code 511.0097 to remove sprinkler heads. Director Armstrong recommended the approval of the request from Hood County. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Judge Fauth. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Jasper County Jail – Government Code 511.0097 Fire Sprinkler Head Inspection**

- a. Director Armstrong advised that Jasper County was in the planning stages of new construction and was requesting under Government Code 511.0097 to remove sprinkler heads. Director Armstrong recommended the approval of the request from Jasper County. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation and Commissioner Lock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. San Patricio County Jail – Notice of Noncompliance**

- a. Director Armstrong advised that San Patricio County failed two inspections within 18-months, and a third comprehensive, and is in enhanced enforcement. San Patricio Officials were in attendance to provide updates and testimony on their efforts to regain compliance. Director Armstrong recommended issuing a remedial order to San Patricio County. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Judge Fauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Val Verde (P) County Jail – Notice of Noncompliance**

- a. Director Armstrong advised that Val Verde (P) has regained compliance prior to this meeting, and advised that the field inspector has been working with Val Verde (P) to regain compliance. No action taken.

**VII. Variances**

**A. Dallas County**

- a. **§259.143(b) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas:** Director Armstrong advised that Dallas County was in attendance for the review of a variance approved for one year previously. Dallas County representatives advised that they were in discussions with architects for a facility addition to remove the need for this variance. Director Armstrong recommended approving the variance for one year while Dallas County continued the construction process. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation and Commissioner Anthony seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Galveston County**

- a. **§259.143(b) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas: See below**
- b. **§259.143(c) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas:** Director Armstrong advised that Galveston County was requesting the continuation of a variance approved for one year

previously. Galveston County representatives were in attendance to provide testimony including discussions on bonds for additional construction. Director Armstrong recommended continuing the variance for six months, with review of furnishings at that time. Judge Fauth requested an update on the bond situation at the August Commission meeting. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation and Judge Fauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Sabine County**

- a. **§259.134 Multiple Occupancy Cells:** Director Armstrong advised that Sabine County was on the agenda to request a review of a variance that had been approved previously for six months. Sabine County officials were present to provide testimony and updates. Director Armstrong recommended continuing the variance for six months with an update on the construction/design process at that time. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Commissioner Lock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Starr County**

- a. **§259.133 Single Cells: See Below**
- b. **§259.135 Dormitories: See Below**
- c. **§259.136 Dayrooms: See Below**
- d. **§259.143(b) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas: See Below**
- e. **§259.143(c) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas: See Below**
- f. **§259.143(d) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas:** Director Armstrong advised that Starr County was in attendance for the review of a variance related to helping Hidalgo County house inmates. Starr County representatives were in attendance to provide testimony and updates. Director Armstrong recommended approving the variance for one year. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation and Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Wharton County**

- a. **§259.143(b) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas: See Below**
- b. **§259.143(c) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas: See Below**
- c. **§259.143(d) Furnishings for Inmate Housing Areas:** Director Armstrong advised that Wharton County was in attendance for variance review, and Wharton County representatives were in attendance to provide testimony. Wharton County advised that they are in the construction/design process for a new facility. Director Armstrong recommended approving the variance for one year. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation and Judge Fauth seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Administrative Rules Advisory Committee**

**A. Rules for Adoption**

- a. **§259.168 Television Monitoring**
- b. **§259.264 Television Monitoring**
- c. **§259.358 Television Monitoring**
- d. **§259.454 Television Monitoring**
- e. **§259.770 Television Monitoring**
- f. **§275.1 Regular Observation by Corrections Officers**

- g. **§275.7 Supervision Outside the Security Perimeter – Court Holding Cells**
- h. **§259.117 Inmate Entrance**
- i. **§259.123 Kitchen**
- j. **§259.141 Dormitories**
- k. **§259.151 Detention Doors**
- l. **§259.153 Door Closers**
- m. **§259.737 Dormitories**
- n. **§269.3 Weapon/Ammunition Procedures**
- o. **§263.40 Plans**

Director Armstrong advised that the above rules were out of the public comment period and ready to be voted for adoption. Director Armstrong advised that §263.40 Plans was recommended not to be adopted, and recommended the adoption of all other rules listed. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendations and Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B. Rules for Public Comment**

- a. **§259.132 Exercise Areas**
- b. **§253.1 Definitions**
- c. **§216.6 Complaints**
- d. **§265.4 Inmate Files**
- e. **§265.5 Health Tags**
- f. **§265.7 Telephone Use**
- g. **§267.7 Release of Ward (new)**
- h. **§273.2 Health Services Plan**
- i. **§273.9 Guardianship**
- j. **§281.5 Staff Supervision**

Director Armstrong advised that the above rules were recommended by the Administrative Rules Advisory Committee to be sent to the Texas Register for public comment. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Commissioner Anthony seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- a. **Alirma Davis – Overdetention:** Director Armstrong advised that this has been sent to the ARAC who have requested additional information. Director Armstrong requested additional time to review this petition. No action taken.
- b. **Paula Keeth – Overdetention:** Director Armstrong advised that this petition is similar to the above petition, and requested permission to take this request to the ARAC as well. No action taken.
- c. **Ritu Sampige – Women’s Health:** Director Armstrong discussed this petition, and requested permission to take this to the ARAC as well. Judge Fauth requested staff conduct research done on the costs associated with this petition. No action taken.

#### **D. Four-year Rule Review**

- a. **Readoption**
  - **§283.1 Inmate Discipline Plan**
  - **§283.2 Inmate Rules and Regulations**

- **§283.3 Inmate Grievance Plan**
- **§285.1 Physical Exercise**
- **§258.2 Sunlight**
- **§285.3 Activities**
- **§285.4 Volunteers**
- **§287.1 Education and Rehabilitation Plan**
- **§287.2 Criteria, Eligibility**
- **§287.3 Continuity**
- **§287.4 Library Plan**
- **§289.1 Assignment and Supervision**
- **§289.2 Voluntary Work**
- **§289.3 Maximum Hours**
- **§289.4 Outside the Security Perimeter**
- **§289.5 Non-Exclusivity**
- **§291.1 Inmate Telephone Plan**
- **§291.2 Inmate Correspondence Plan**
- **§291.3 Inmate Commissary Plan**
- **§291.4 Visitation Plan**
- **§291.5 Inmate Religious Practices Plan**

Director Armstrong advised that the above rules were ready for readoption after review by the ARAC and are recommended for readoption. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation and Commissioner McBride seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**b. Publish for Review**

- **§289.3 Maximum Hours**
- **§289.4 Outside the Security Perimeter**
- **§289.5 Non-Exclusivity**
- **§291.1 Inmate Telephone Plan**
- **§291.2 Inmate Correspondence Plan**
- **§291.3 Inmate Commissary Plan**
- **§291.4 Visitation Plan**
- **§291.5 Inmate Religious Practices Plan**

Director Armstrong advised that the above rules were ready to be published in the Texas Register for review, and recommended the publication. Dr. Porsa made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Anthony. The motion passed unanimously.

## **IX. IDD Advisory Committee**

### **A. Update**

Director Armstrong provided an update on the state of the IDD Advisory Committee and legislation related to the advisory committee.

**B. Commission Representative**

This item was kept on the agenda in error and not discussed.

**C. HHSC representative Appointment**

Director Armstrong advised that one member, Dr. Fegan-Bohm, of the IDDAC is no longer serving on the IDDAC and staff are awaiting confirmation of a new member.

**D. Chairman Appointment**

Sheriff Rowe nominated Lee Johnson as the IDDAC Chairman, and Dr. Porsa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. 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.

- XI. Executive Session: Personnel Matters related to the Executive Director:** Sheriff Rowe began the executive session at 11:14 AM. Regular session resumed at 11:27 AM.
- XII. Discussion, Consideration, and possible action regarding the selection or appointment of The Executive Director**
  - A. See item after roll call**
- XIII. Other Business**

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

**XIV. Adjourn**

By appropriate motion to adjourn by Dr. Porsa and a second by Judge Fauth, the meeting was adjourned.

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

- **Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 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 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 Richard Morgan ([Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us](mailto:Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us)) two (2) working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.**