

Galveston County Justice and Mental Health System Modernization Project

Final Report for Project Period of April 2025 to April 2026

April 13, 2026

MEADOWS
MENTAL HEALTH
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I. Introduction

This is the final progress report of this project year covering work from April 17, 2025 to April 10, 2026. As documented in the prior annual reports, and quarterly progress reports, the Coordinating Council has become an effective body to manage the improvements related to the design and adoption of the complex justice and mental health system modernization policies impacting multiple agencies. Since the first meeting in July 2018, the Coordinating Council has met 146 times as of the last meeting at the time of this report of April 10, 2026. During this twelve-month project period, the Coordinating Council met 21 times and addressed over 50 project tasks discussed below.

Section II of this report summarizes key metrics for calendar year 2025. **Section III** presents the Coordinating Council meeting agendas during this twelve-month period and **Section IV** provides documentation of the project tasks. **Section V** presents appendices showing some of the key documents during this reporting period. These three sections add to the material presented in the July 14, 2025, and November 17, 2025 progress reports.

The Meadows Institute, at the request of County Judge Mark Henry and Commissioners Court, conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Galveston County pretrial, judicial and mental health system policies and processes in 2017. The Institute then presented a report in November of 2017 providing a roadmap to county and judicial leaders to design a more effective pretrial assessment and supervision system and make improvements related to magistration, court processes, and system responses for justice involved mentally ill persons.¹

A significant number of policies have been adopted since 2017 when the initial system assessment was presented to Galveston County officials. These policies have addressed deficiencies raised in the 2017 systemwide assessment report or during subsequent interim studies and reviewed by the Council. The Meadows Institute documented policies adopted in a report issued on June 3, 2022 and presented in a special in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council to “celebrate” the project accomplishments.² The accomplishments are also reviewed in the project’s Annual Reports issued during April of each project year. A most recent update of the accomplishments and pending tasks was presented to the Coordinating Council for review during its in-person meeting of January 24, 2025. This report was updated for the October 17, 2025 in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council. The accomplishments are

¹ See: Galveston County Justice System Assessment: Findings and Recommendations, November 13, 2017

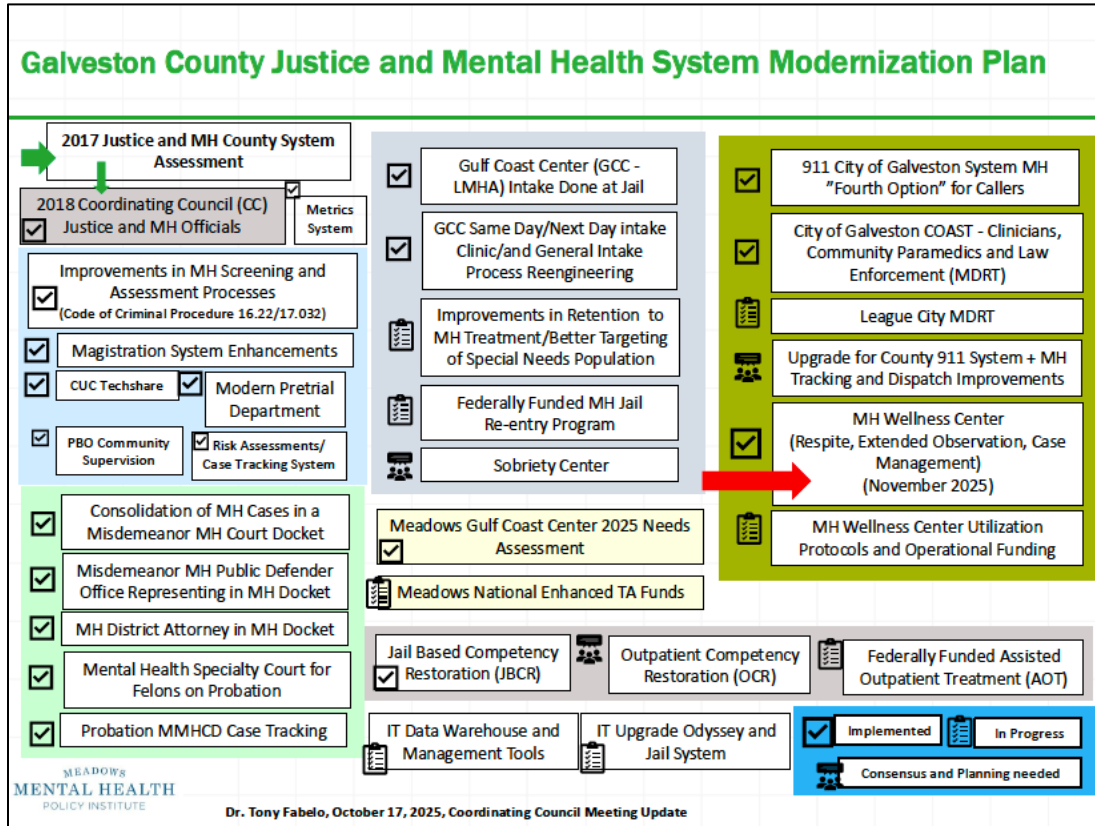
² Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, June 3, 2022. Galveston County Justice and Mental Health System Modernization Project: Review of Accomplishments Since 2018.

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summarized on the updated **Figure 1** below. The figure highlights with a red arrow one of the major accomplishments of the project: the inauguration of the first ever Mental Health Wellness Center on October 16, 2025 in a “Blue-Ribbon” cutting ceremony. The center had a “soft opening” in April 2026 and, pending certification by the state Health and Human Services Commission, will be fully operational in May 2026.

The Mental Health Wellness Center will be a hub to better coordinate the continuum of care for mentally ill persons. The center provides bed capacity for an Extended Observation Unit (EOU), nine beds in private rooms for up to three days of observation and stabilization, and three 24-hour observation beds for crisis stabilization. The center also provides a Crisis Respite Center, 12 beds for up to 14 days of voluntary stabilization, development of service plans, and connection to outpatient resources. The center is a drop-off for persons in mental health crisis for Galveston County law enforcement after proper screening from clinical staff. Psychiatric evaluations, medication management, crisis-focused therapy and support are part of the service package. The implementation of law enforcement Multidisciplinary Response Teams (MDRT) in the City of Galveston (COAST program) and League City is also enhancing the ability to better utilize the center. These MDRT teams of police and emergency services work with embedded clinicians to better handle mental health crises in the community and divert appropriate persons in crisis to the center instead of an emergency room or the jail.

Figure 1: Project Map Updating Accomplishments and Pending Tasks Update Presented to the Coordinating Council Meeting of October 15, 2025



II. Summary of Key Metrics for 2025

Key system metrics are collected monthly and presented to the Coordinating Council for review periodically. The 2025 metrics are presented below. It is important to note that the Galveston County population grew since the start of the project by 10.2%, from 337,639 in 2018 to an estimated 372,228 in 2025.

Jail Population Tables

Table 1 below shows the average monthly number of Galveston County jail bookings, jail releases and jail population for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The average jail population increased by 10% in 2025 (from 974 in 2024 to 1,074 in 2025). The statewide jail population increased by 2% during the same period according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards reports. The average jail population "staying behind" in jail every month (number of bookings minus number of releases) increased by 15% in 2025 (from 237 to 273) and by 48% between 2021 to 2025 (from 185 to 273).

Not shown in the table is that the average percentage of releases that were released in 24 hours or less decreased from 71% in 2023 to 67% in 2025. The average number of felony defendants still in jail custody and not indicted increased by 21% from 2021 to 2025 (from 285 to 346) and by 8% between 2024 and 2025 (from 319 to 346).

The jail population since December 2025 has stabilized and the jail is operating lower than 90% of capacity at the time of this report. The jail population on April 1, 2026 was 1,025.

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Table 1: Average Number Monthly Galveston County Jail Bookings, Jail Releases and Jail Population on First Day of Month and Average Jail Population Staying Behind in Jail Every Month, 2021 to 2025

Calendar Year	Average Number of Jail Bookings	Average Number of Jail Releases	Average Jail Population First Day of Month	Average Operating Capacity Percentage*	Average Population Staying Behind in Jail Every Month**
2021	1,276	1,092	985	83%	184
2022	1,218	1,008	979	82%	210
2023	1,244	1,033	942	79%	211
2024	1,209	972	974	82%	237
2025	1,305	1,031	1,074	90%	274
Percent Change 2021 to 2025	2%	-6%	9%		48%
Percent Change 2024 to 2025	8%	6%	10%		15%

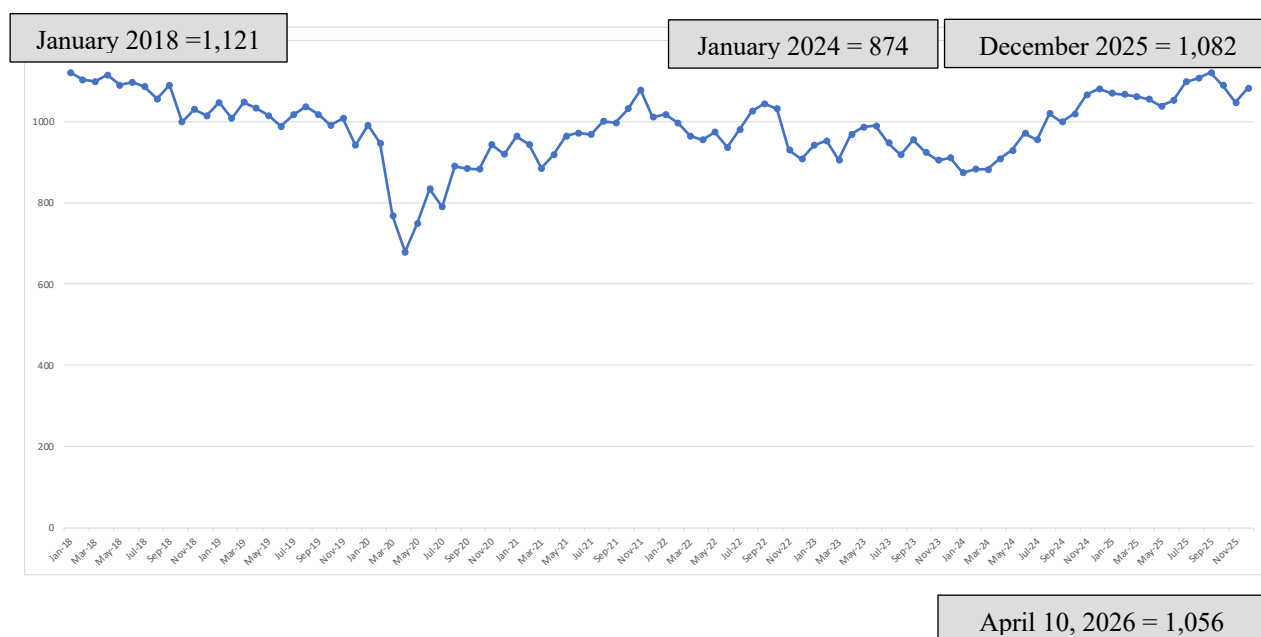
* Jail capacity for January to October 2025 = 1,187 (see note below on methodology adjustment in November 2025). Internal capacity was expanded by 36 additional beds in late October 2025 bringing the total capacity from 1,171 beds to 1,207.

**Average population staying behind monthly in jail = booking minus releases.

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Figure 2 below shows the monthly Galveston County jail population from project start in January 2018 to December 2025. The jail population was -3% lower in December 2025 than when the project started in January 2018 (1,082 vs. 1,121). However, the jail population of December 2025 was 24% higher than in January 2024. As stated above, the jail population since December 2025 has stabilized and the jail is operating at about 90% of capacity at the time of this report. The jail population on April 10, 2026 was 1,056.

Figure 2: Galveston County Jail Population by Month (First Day of Month), January 2018 to December 2025



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Table 2 below shows the average monthly jail releases on Personal Bond and the population under supervision by the Personal Bond Office (PBO) for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The average number of releases to PBO increased by 11% in 2025, from 265 in 2024 to 295 in 2025. The average population under PBO supervision increased by 5% in 2025 from 1,275 in 2024 to 1,333 in 2025.

Not shown in the table is that the average compliance rate stayed the same in 2025 at 97%. The percentage of eligible defendants in which the magistrates follow on the recommendations of the risk assessment tool remained the same in 2025 as in 2024 at 48%.

Table 2: Average Monthly Number of Jail Releases on Personal Bond. Population Under Supervision by Personal Bond Office and Percent of Jail Releases on Personal Bond, 2021 to 2025

Calendar Year	Average Number of Jail Releases on Personal Bond	Average Number Under Personal Bond Office Supervision	Average Percent of Jail Releases on Personal Bond
2021	66	544	6%
2022	152	517	15%
2023	258	1,109	25%
2024	265	1,275	27%
2025	295	1,333	29%
Percent Change 2021 to 2025	347%	145%	
Percent Change 2024 to 2025	11%	5%	

Judicial System Tables

Table 3 below shows the average monthly number of pending cases in District and County Courts for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The average yearly number of pending cases in District Courts declined 7% in 2025, from 2,379 in 2024 to 2,219 in 2025. The decline since 2021 was 28%, from 3,083 in 2021 to 2,219 in 2025. The average yearly number of pending cases in County Courts declined 14% in 2025, from 3,412 in 2024 to 2,934 in 2025. The decline since 2021 was 45%, from 5,319 in 2021 to 2,934 in 2025.

Table 3: Calendar Year Average Number of Pending Cases in District Courts and County Courts, 2021 to 2025*

Calendar Year	Average Number of Pending Cases District Courts	Average Number of Pending Cases County Courts
2021	3,083	5,319
2022	2,975	3,699
2023	2,606	3,474
2024	2,379	3,412
2025	2,219	2,934
Percent Change 2021 to 2025	-28%	-45%
Percent Change 2024 to 2025	-7%	-14%

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Table 4 below shows the average monthly number of days from arrest to case disposition in the District and County Courts for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The average number of days between arrest and case disposition in County Courts was 206 days in 2025, about the same number of days as in 2024 (at 210) while for District Court that number was 250 days, lower than the 283 days in 2024. Since 2021, the average number of days between arrest and case disposition have been declining in both court systems (by 30% in District Courts and 34% in County Courts).

Table 4: Calendar Year Average Number of Days from Arrest to Case Disposition in the District Courts and County Courts, 2021 to 2025

Calendar Year	Average Number of Days District Courts	Average Number of Days County Courts
2021	356	313
2022	354	354
2023	327	211
2024	283	210
2025	250	206
Percent Change 2021 to 2025	-30%	-34%
Percent Change 2023 to 2025	-12%	-34%

Table 5 below shows the average monthly number of days from magistration to first court setting in the District and County Courts for 2023, 2024 and 2025. The average monthly number of days from magistration to first court setting increased by 26% between 2023 and 2025 in County Courts (from 49 days to 61 days) and stayed the same in the District Courts (at 41 days in 2023 and 2025). Not shown in the table is the performance target set by the County and Judicial Technology Advisory Committee (CJTAC). For County Courts, the performance target is 14 days between magistration and case filing and 53% of cases were on target on average in 2025. The performance target for District Courts is 3 days between magistration and case filing and 89% of cases were on target on average in 2025.

Table 5: Calendar Year Average Number of Days from Magistration to First Court Setting in the District Courts and County Courts, 2023 to 2025

Calendar Year	Average Number of Days District Courts	Average Number of Days County Courts
2023	41	49
2024	37	51
2025	41	61
Percent Change 2023 to 2025	-1%	26%

Not shown in the table is the percentage of cases dismissed in the courts. In 2025, the average percentage of cases dismissed in the District Courts was 35% (up from 34% in 2024) and in the County Courts it was 54% (down from 58% in 2024).

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Table 6 below shows the average monthly number of pending Family cases in District and County Courts and the total pending for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The average yearly number of pending Family cases in County and District Courts decreased significantly in 2025. In District Courts, it decreased by 40% (from 1,978 in 2024 to 1,181 in 2025) and in County Courts it decreased by 21% (from 1,325 in 2024 to 1,045 in 2025). The total number of pending Family cases decreased by 33% in 2025 (from a total of 3,303 in 2024 to a total of 2,226 in 2025) and by 41% since 2020 (from 3,755 in 2020 to 2,226 in 2025).

Table 6: Calendar Year Average Number of Pending Family Cases in District Courts and County Courts and Total Pending as Reported by the Office of Court Administration, 2020 to 2025

Calendar Year	Average Number of Pending Family Cases District Courts	Average Number of Pending Family Cases County Courts	Average Number of Total Pending Cases in County Courts
2020	1,928	1,828	3,755
2021	2,237	1,926	4,163
2022	2,275	1,892	4,167
2023	2,093	1,775	3,868
2024	1,978	1,325	3,303
2025	1,181	1,045	2,226
Percent Change 2020 to 2025	-39%	-43%	-41%
Percent Change 2024 to 2025	-40%	-21%	-33%

Mental Health and Indigent Defense Tables

Table 7 below shows the average monthly number of Code of Criminal Procedures (CCP) 16.22 mental health reports conducted by the Gulf Coast Center (GCC) and the average number of persons in jail awaiting competency proceedings for 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The average number of monthly CCP 16.22 reports completed by the GCC declined 14% in 2025 (from 177 to 153) and declined 17% from 2022 (from 185 to 153). Not shown in the table is that reports completed for felony cases declined at a slightly higher level as reports completed for misdemeanor cases. In 2025, there was a 22% decrease in the number of misdemeanor reports (average of 67 in 2024 compared to 52 in 2025) and a 25% decrease in the average number of felony reports (from an average of 81 in 2024 to 61 in 2025).

The number of defendants awaiting competency in jail increased by 71%, for a monthly average of 10 in 2024 to 17 in 2025. Not shown in the table is the number of defendants returned from the State Hospital and awaiting trial increasing by 61%, from an average of 4 in 2024 to an average of 7 in 2025. The average monthly number of defendants in the State Hospital increased by 29%, from an average of 7 in 2024 to 9 in 2025.

Table 7: Calendar Year Average Number of Total Mental Health Assessments Conducted by Gulf Coast Center and Number of Persons in Jail Awaiting Competency, 2022 to 2025

Calendar Year	Average Number of Mental Health Assessments	Average Number of Persons Awaiting Competency in Jail
2022	185	9
2023	162	11
2024	177	10
2025	153	17
Percent Change 2022 to 2025	-17%	80%
Percent Change 2024 to 2025	-14%	71%

A discussion related to this area, and data not shown in tables, is that the average percentage of booking screened positive for mental health declined from 40% in 2024 to 31% in 2025, but the decline was driven by a steep decline in this percentage starting when UTMB took over health services at the jail in August 2025. Before UTMB took over the services, the average percentage of booking identified as positive for mental health was 36% from January 2025 to July 2025, compared to 25% between August 2025 to December 2025. It is not known at the time of this report if the decline is related to improvement in screening protocols or a true decline in the number of bookings screening positive for mental health. This is pending review.

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The screened positive in proportion to the number of magistration declined from 55% in 2024 to 43% in 2025. But this is driven again by changes in the screening before and after the UTMB takeover of these services. The average percentage of magistrated cases identified as positive for mental health was 48% from January 2025 to July 2025, compared to 34% between August 2025 to December 2025.

The average number of bookings screened positive declined by 17% in 2025 (from 485 in 2024 to 404 in 2025), while the average number of mental health reports conducted by the GCC as discussed above declined by 14% (from 177 in 2024 to 153 in 2025). There were on average 32 fewer monthly reports produced by the GCC in 2025 compared to 2022.

The average number of CCP 17.032 hearings (MH Pretrial Bond) stayed about the same in 2025 with a monthly average of 15 in 2025 compared to 14 in 2024. The MH Pretrial Bond releases also remained stable with an average monthly release of 13 in 2025 compared to 14 in 2024.

Table 8 below shows the average monthly number of misdemeanor defendants appointed to the Misdemeanor Mental Health Public Defender Office, average number of new cases appointed and average monthly caseload from 2023 to 2025. The average number of monthly misdemeanor defendants appointed to the MMHPD increased by 20%, from 51 in 2023 to 62 in 2025. The average number of misdemeanor cases appointed increased by 34% during the same period, from 65 in 2023 to 88 in 2025. The average monthly caseload increased by 24%, from 132 in 2023 to 163 in 2025. The caseload numbers below are also equivalent to the number of cases in the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Docket. This is based on the examination of the metrics conducted during this period and documented below.

Table 8: Calendar Year Average Number of Misdemeanor Defendants Appointed to the Misdemeanor Mental Health Public Defender Office, Number of New Cases Appointed and Average Caseloads for the Month, 2023 to 2025

Calendar Year	Average Number of Misdemeanor Defendants Appointed	Average Number of Misdemeanor Cases Appointed	Average Monthly Caseload
2023	51	65	132
2024	53	81	143
2025	62	88	163
Percent Change 2023 to 2025	20%	34%	24%
Percent Change 2024 to 2025	15%	8%	14%

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Table 9 below shows the average monthly number of misdemeanor defendants disposed by the MMHPD, the average number of cases dismissed that were represented by the office and the percent of cases dismissed out of cases disposed from 2023 to 2025. The average number of misdemeanor cases disposed by the MMHPD increased by 41% from 2023 to 2025, from 65 in 2023 to 92 in 2025. The number of misdemeanor cases represented by the office dismissed increased by 82 percent, from 34 in 2023 to 61 in 2025. The percent of cases dismissed was 51% in 2023, to 68% in 2024 and 66% in 2025.

Table 9: Calendar Year Average Number of Misdemeanor Defendants Disposed by the Public Defender Office and Average Number of Cases Represented by the Public Defender Office Dismissed and Percent of Cases Dismissed, 2023 to 2025

Calendar Year	Average Number of Misdemeanor Cases Disposed by Public Defender Office	Average Number of Misdemeanor Cases Represented by Public Defender Dismissed	Percent of Dismissed Cases of Cases Disposed
2023	65	34	51%
2024	76	52	68%
2025	92	61	66%
Percent Change 2023 to 2025	41%	82%	
Percent Change 2024 to 2025	20%	17%	

III. Documentation of Coordinating Council Meeting Agendas

This section documents Coordinating Council meeting agendas and topics reviewed. During the project period of April 17, 2025 to April 10, 2026, the Coordinating Council met 21 times as of the meeting of April 10, 2026

Meeting 126	April 25, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Open Meeting • Commissioner Hank Dugie ○ May 1 TCJS hearing review of April 17 ○ TCJS hearing strategy • Review of Sheriff Office Capacity Variance Request ○ Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ○ Update Jail Population Numbers/Trend ○ Progress in achieving compliance with TCJS ○ Space for GCC Forensic ○ Exploring Potential Dickinson Booking Center • Review of GCC Worktables and Related Issues ○ Felicia Jeffery, CEO GCC ○ New worktable for Jail Reentry Program ▪ CSG Justice Center Planning Guide Attached ○ Review of Potential Federal Funding Cuts ○ Emotional Intelligence Training for Brazoria and Galveston County -TCOLE Credit Eligible) ▪ May 22 for Galveston County and May 23 for Brazoria County ○ Review Opioid Settlement Funds ▪ Last update on this issue was on September 6, 2024 CC Meeting • Review of Legislation Introduced by Senator Huffman ○ Aaron Johnson ○ Summary of Potential Impact of SB 9, SJR No. 1 and SJR No. 5 Related to Pretrial and Bail Restrictions ○ Continuation of Review of Legislation ▪ SB 40 relating to the use by a political subdivision of public funds to pay bail bonds ▪ SB 8 relating to agreements between sheriffs and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enforce federal immigration law ▪ SB 1047 relating to the release of defendants on bail, the duties of a magistrate in certain criminal proceedings, and the notice provided by peace officers to victims of family violence, stalking, harassment, or terroristic threat ▪ HB 36 relating to the monitoring of certain family violence offenders, the provision of resources for family violence victims, and the collection of information about conditions of bond imposed in family violence cases and certain other criminal cases ▪ Texas County Criminal Justice Planning Group Update ▪ Potential State Funding Grants for Pretrial	

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Meeting 127	May 9, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Open Meeting ○ Update on Construction Progress of Wellness Center ▪ See attached • Results of May 1 TCJS ○ Results of May 1 TCJS hearing ▪ Chairman Holmes and/or Commissioner Dugie ○ Dr. Fabelo on What is the Next Steps in Process by TCJS • Review of Sheriff Office Capacity Variance Request ○ Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ○ Update - Jail Population Numbers/Trend ○ Update - Space for GCC Forensic ○ Update - Exploring Potential Dickinson Booking Center ○ Update Item 9 on April 11, 2025 Sheriff Mental Health Support for Community Crisis and GCC ▪ “Galveston County Sheriff Deputy Access to GCC Virtual Clinicians” • On-Going Review of GCC and Mental Health Policies and Programs ○ Felicia Jeffery, CEO GCC and Jerry Freshour, Deputy • Assistant Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Worktable ○ See attached material • Update Jail Reentry Program Planning Guide and Funding • Early Planning for Wellness Center Operation and Upcoming Tasks to Complete Worktable for Coordinating Council • Review Need to Establish Mechanism for Electronic Request of Emergency Detention Orders as Allowed by SB 2479 from the 88th Texas Legislature in 2023 ○ See attached material	

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Meeting 128	May 30, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Open Meeting • Review of Sheriff Office Capacity Variance Request ○ Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Update - Jail Population Numbers/Trend ▪ Update – TCJS Variance and Compliance Issue • Attached: Letter of May 21, 2025 from TCJS to Sheriff • Strategy for submitting plan by end of June to TCJS ▪ Update - Space for GCC Forensic ○ Mel Villareal, Chief Deputy and Jerry Freshour, GCC, Senior Director ▪ Update – Item 9 “Galveston County Sheriff Deputy Access to GCC Virtual Clinicians” ▪ Potential consolidation of 911 systems under Sheriff Office • Review of GCC Worktables and Related Issues ○ Review Process for Emergency Detention Orders Transfer Warrant Orders, Order of Protective Custody and SB 2479 from the 88th Texas Legislature in 2023 Allowing for Electronic Requests to the Court ▪ Fabelo and Felicia Jeffery and Jerry Freshour, see report attached ○ Update Jail Reentry Program Planning Guide and Funding ▪ Jerry Freshour ○ COAST Anniversary Event ▪ Jerry Freshour ○ Update – “Emotional Intelligence” training for law enforcement on May 22 and 23, 2025 ▪ Jerry Freshour ○ In Progress and Pending for Future Council Meetings ▪ Fabelo • AOT Worktable • Wellness Center Worktable • MDRT 2.0 Worktable • Review of Key Proposed Legislation Introduced ○ Aaron Johnson ▪ SB 664: Relating to qualifications, training, removal, and supervision of certain masters, magistrates, referees, associate judges, and hearing officers. • Sent to the Governor for signature • Attached: Final Version SB 664 to the Governor	

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Meeting 129	June 13, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Open Meeting • General Updates ○ Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Update – Jail Population Numbers/Trend ▪ Update – Corrective Plan of Action to TCJS Submitted May 29, 2025 • Attached: Letter attached ○ Felicia Jeffery and Jerry Freshour ▪ Update – Item 9 “Galveston County Sheriff Deputy Access to GCC Virtual Clinicians” – First Review ▪ Jail Reentry and AOT Planning Guide submissions ▪ Update of legislative appropriation for Wellness Center • Review of Report with Analysis of SJR 5 and SB 9 ○ Fabelo, Johnson, Wessels, with Members Feedback/Reactions for Further Review (continue to next meeting) ▪ See attached report ▪ SJR 5 in the constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail for certain felons. ▪ SB 9 relates to the confinement or release of defendants before trial or sentencing and the condition of and procedures for setting bail and reviewing bail decisions. ○ The goal of this report is to provide an early review of the new policy framework set by these two bills as best understood by Dr. Fabelo with assistance from Arron Johnson and Bob Wessels and consultation with others outside Galveston County. ▪ Discussions are needed in future meetings to clarify some key protocols, determine implementation issues and the impact on Galveston County.	

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Meeting 130	June 27, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Memory of Judge Kerry Neves • General Updates ○ Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Jail population numbers/trend and any other relevant updates ▪ Status of internal capacity expansion ○ Felicia Jeffery ▪ Update on legislative appropriation for Wellness Center and other new legislative mandates ○ Special Legislative Session Starting July 21, 2025 ▪ Among other items the Special Session includes addressing Governor’s veto concerns related to SB 2878 omnibus judicial branch operations bill (veto proclamation attached) • Continuation of Review of Report with Analysis of SJR 5 and SB 9 ▪ See attached report again ○ Recap for SJR 5 from last meeting: ▪ SJR 5 is the constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail for certain felons ▪ After review during meeting last week, Judge Robinson recommended that we wait and see if SJR 5 passes in the constitutional referendum on November 4, 2025 to then develop an implementation workplan. ▪ Relevant questions for future planning if it passes: • When is the “clear and convincing evidence” hearing taking place by the District Attorney? • How is the required defense counsel going to be integrated in the process? ▪ “Homework” from last meeting was to estimate how many of the no-bail eligible population today end up being released on bail. • Results: Aaron Johnson was able to track the release of defendants eligible for the denial of bond. Of the potential defendants eligible for bond denial under SJR 5 that were tracked for this assignment, 14% were released on bond within an average of 175 days. No defendants charged with Murder were able to post bond. However, 89% of defendants with Aggravated Assaults SBI/w DW were able to post bond. Aggravated Assault represents the largest group of these charges which would fall under the new law. If NONE of the Aggravated Assault defendants can post bond at the initial magistration hearing as stated in the new law (if adopted by the voters), then there would be approximately 100 additional defendants who will have to stay in jail awaiting appeal of the no-bail decision, which would impact the jail population. More refined analysis will be conducted in the future if the amendment is approved. ○ Today: Review of SB 9 (start on page 7) relates to the confinement or release of defendants before trial or sentencing and the condition of and procedures for setting bail and reviewing bail decisions.	

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Meeting 131	July 11, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Update construction Wellness Center (see attached) • General Updates ○ Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Jail population numbers/trend and any other relevant updates ▪ Status of internal capacity expansion • Completion of Review of Report with Analysis of SB 9 ○ See attached report again with only the pages left to discuss • Update on Implementation of Chapter 65, SB 1518 Terrorist Offender Registration Program ○ Jack Rody, DA and Chief Deputy SO, Mel Villareal ▪ Reminder Note: The 88th Texas Legislature in 2023 created a new section of the Penal Code, Title 12, Chapter 76, defining a set of “terroristic offenses” for punishment enhancements. In the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 65, the legislature then created the Terrorist Offender Registration Program. Based on the provision of this law a reportable conviction or adjudication occurring on or after January 1, 2024, needs to be reported by local officials to the Texas Department of Public Safety. ▪ We reviewed this at the meetings of July 19, August 9 and November 1, 2024 ▪ Pending questions: • Have local protocols been established between District Attorney, or courts, to report to the local centralized registration authority the appropriate reportable persons? • Has DPS already established “an alert flag on the criminal history record information of each person who is required to register under this chapter that would be visible and accessible to a peace officer, criminal justice official, or employee of a law enforcement agency while in the performance of the officer’s, official’s, or employee’s official duties.”? (Article 65.007, (b)). • Have local protocols been established or will be established for a local court to determine when a person no longer represents a threat to public safety and the person’s “duty to register” expires? (Subchapter C, Article 65.101) • Review Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Workplan ○ Jerry Freshour, Senior Director for Crisis and Justice Services, GCC ▪ See attached workplan	

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Meeting 132	July 25, 2025
• Chairman Holmes • General Updates ○ Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Jail population numbers/trend and any other relevant updates ▪ Status of internal capacity expansion ▪ UTMB Jail Health Services Contract – August 18 start date? ○ Personal Bond Office, Aaron Johnson ▪ Bond Type Information (see attached) ○ Jerry Freshour, GCC ▪ Grant application, HHSC Mental Health Grant for Justice Involved Individuals ▪ Connection with UTMB and GCC • Technology Feasibility Report to Implement Electronic Transmission of Emergency Detention and Protective Orders ○ Chris Martinez, Galveston Department of Enterprise Services, Deputy Director ▪ See attached report • Who Initiates and Who Receives Electronic Requests and Reports ○ Jerry Freshour, Senior Director for Crisis and Justice Services, GCC ▪ Preconstruction flowchart to MH Wellness Center (see attached) • Review of Reporting to DPS by District and County Clerks of Defendants Declared Incompetent to Stand Trial ○ Daniel Betancourt, District Clerk, Diana Cuevas, County Clerk, and Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC ▪ Results of Review in Memo from Christy Dobbs-Perez (see attached)	

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Meeting 133	August 5, 2025
• Chairman Holmes • General Updates ○ Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Jail population numbers/trend and any other relevant updates ▪ Status of internal capacity expansion ○ Felicia Jeffery and Jerry Freshour, GCC ▪ Jail Reentry Plan for BJA - Status ▪ Grant proposals for the HHSC ▪ Rider 64 Funding (see attached report) • Review of Checklist Workplan for SB 9 and Potential for SJR 5 ○ Fabelo, Brandi Reyes and Aaron Johnson ▪ See attached checklist report ▪ See additional relevant information – Special Session HB 244 page 49 • Review of Six-Month Statistical Trends ○ Fabelo ▪ See attached report • Review of September Schedule ○ September 5, 2025 Coordinating Council -scheduled ▪ Report on progress with SB 9 checklist ▪ Report on Electronic System for Emergency Detention/Transfer Warrants/Protective Orders ▪ Report by Misty Witmer IT Projects ○ Pending development late September: ▪ Plans for opening day of the MH Wellness Center ▪ Plans for policy roundtables: • Jail population trends and long-term jail capacity expansion needs • Expediated Court Disposition Docket Proposal • Misdemeanor MMH Court Docket Metrics • Electronic Emergency Orders (depending on progress report from Mike Martinez' group on September 8)	

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Meeting 134	September 5, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Wellness Center Opening Moving to October ○ Jack Rody retirement September 30, 2025 • General Updates ○ Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Jail population numbers/trend and any other relevant updates ▪ Status of internal capacity expansion ○ Aaron Johnson, PBO ▪ Update on OCA Briefing on SB 9 – FAQ • See attached OCA document ▪ Request by Criminal Court Board to remove from the Financial Questionnaire the entry on “Court Appointed Attorney Eligibility”. • See attached • TIDC Report Review – Second Follow-Up Policy Monitoring Review of Galveston County’s Indigent Defense Systems – August 2025 ○ Joel Lieurance, Senior Policy Monitor and Ashley De La Garza, Senior Policy Analyst TIDC ▪ See attached report • Review of IT Projects – Status Report and Report on the Department of Enterprise Services ○ Misty Witmer, Chief Information Officer, Galveston County • Review of Roundtable Discussions in Person ○ Plans for policy roundtables ▪ Jail population trends and planning for capacity expansion • Pending set up with Tyler Drummond ▪ Misdemeanor MH Court Docket • September 18 at 2 pm to 5 pm, Justice Center, 4th Floor, Suite 4100 Conference room (invites out after CC meeting) • See attached material imbedded in the invite • Calendar invite today to: ○ Judge Mallia (already invited by email on August 22 and review memo on August 1), Cristian Urbina, Jay Wooten, Monica Gracia, Christen Dobbs-Perez, Jerry Freshour, Willie Lacy, Aaron Johnson, Chris Martinez and Ryan Delgado, Department of Enterprise Services, Jack Rody or appropriate designee ▪ Impact Disposition Docket • Move to October with visit during the opening of the MH Wellness Center	

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Meeting 135 (In Person)	September 19, 2025
Location: County Court Commissioners Courtroom, 722 Moody Avenue – 21st Street	
ROLL CALL AND GENERAL UPDATES	
• Chairman Holmes and Chief of Staff Tyler Drummond ○ Introductory comments • Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ○ Jail population numbers/trend and any other relevant updates ○ Status of internal capacity expansion ○ Preliminary discussion on possible permanent jail capacity expansion • Wellness Center Review of Worktable ○ Identify Steps Related to the Opening and Initial Operations of the Center ▪ Felicia Jeffery, CEO GCC and Jerry Freshour, GCC • Electronic Transmission of Emergency Detention and Protective Orders – Workgroup Report ○ Jerry Freshour, GCC ▪ SB 1164 – update in Emergency Detention Criteria ○ Chris Martinez, Galveston Department of Enterprise Services ▪ Flow of detention process for computerization purposes • Report back from Roundtable Discussion on Misdemeanor MH Court Docket ○ Roundtable participants ○ Update on BJA grant Jail Reentry Plan – funds approve for program start ▪ Review of Worktable by Christen Dobb-Perez, GCC • Use of Information Technology to Improve Agency Efficiencies: Demonstration of TechShare and CSS Case Management ○ Aaron Johnson, PBO Director	

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Meeting 136	October 3, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Wellness Center Opening Tentative October 16 or 17 “Blue Ribbon Cutting” ○ Need to add new DA for the list at appropriate time • Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Jail population numbers/trend and any other relevant updates ▪ Status of internal capacity expansion • *Monthly Report to Commissioners Court and Review of TechShare Galveston County Jail Registration Workflow ○ Aaron Johnson, PBO Director ▪ See material attached *Postponed to a later time as discussion of items below took all the meeting time • Review of Proposal for CloudGavel Electronic Warrant Solution ○ Mel Villareal, Chief Deputy ▪ See material attached • IT Business Planning Needed to Integrate CloudGavel in Galveston IT “Ecosystem” ○ Misty Witmer, Galveston County Chief Information Officer ▪ Need to evaluate Motorola Premier system in process to determine if it provides warrant processing functionality • If not, determine how CloudGavel can integrate in the platform ▪ Odyssey Cloud update is going to be implemented in Galveston and there is a need to determine how CloudGavel can integrate to this platform ▪ Need to determine who is “mapping” the business processes to make CloudGavel work with all the potential agencies involved • Is this done by CloudGavel staff or expected to be done by Galveston Enterprise Services?	

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Meeting 137 (In Person)	October 17, 2025
In Person - Location: County Court Commissioners Courtroom, 722 Moody Avenue – 21st Street	
ROLL CALL AND GENERAL UPDATES	
• Chairman Holmes ○ Welcome ○ Introduction of new Galveston County District Attorney Kenneth Cusick ○ Ask each member of the council and related staff to introduce themselves and tell DA Cusick what their job is • Update of January 24, 2025 Overview Report ○ Dr. Fabelo • Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Status of internal capacity expansion ▪ Request by Galveston County to Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) to convert all jail living areas from Direct Supervision to Indirect Supervision • MH Wellness Center Law Enforcement Flowchart ○ Felicia Jeffery, Jerry Freshour of the GCC • Workplan Identifying Steps to Evaluate, Integrate and Implement Proposal for CloudGavel Warrant Processing Application ○ Misty Witmer, Galveston County Chief Information Officer • Update on Progress with Checklist Items Due September 1, 2025 Workplan for SB 9 ○ Checklist 5: Same county policy related to felons released on bail and another felony offense in SAME county – September 1, 2025 ○ Checklist 7 – Restrictions on Personal Bond – September 1, 2025 ○ Checklist 8 – Plead guilty felon second degree or higher not eligible for community supervision needs to be jailed after plea and before the sentence – September 1, 2025. ○ Checklist 9 – Affirmative finding regarding failure to appear – September 1, 2025 ▪ OCA District Court cases Standardize Judgement Form ▪ County Court local form ○ Checklist 10 – new victim notification rights report to victims and from victims regarding defendant’s bail. ○ Checklist 11 – Modify Magistrate Form – September 1, 2025	

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Meeting 138	October 31, 2025
• Chairman Holmes • Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Internal capacity expansion and/or other updates • + 36 beds increasing capacity to 1,207 ▪ Status of City of Galveston 911 system transferring to the 911 Sheriff Office System • Workplan Update on Activities Related to Opening of the MH Wellness Center ○ Felicia Jeffery, Jerry Freshour ▪ Item 15: Center Security Services ▪ Item 16: Facility Training for GCC Staff for Life Safety, Alarms, Audio-Visual, Security & Access (needed for Fire Marshall certification) ▪ Item 20: Sheriff-Police Chiefs-GCC meeting for protocols for appropriate law enforcement referrals to the center • Annual Review of Personal Bond Office Operations ○ Aaron Johnson, PBO Director ▪ TechShare Workflow Overview – Importance Under SB 9 and Potential Approval of Proposition 3 – SJR 5 (see attached) • Risk Assessment based on prior criminal history ▪ Review of Financial Assessment Process (see attached) ▪ Review of Monthly Report to Magistrates (see attached, shorten version of report for this meeting) ▪ Review of Harris County pretrial policies compared to Galveston County pretrial policies (see attached)	

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Meeting 139	November 14, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Welcome • Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Internal capacity expansion and/or other updates • + 36 beds increasing capacity $1,171 + 36 = 1,207$ • Update on Activities Related to Opening of the MH Wellness Center ○ Felicia Jeffery, Jerry Freshour • Brainstorming on Protocols to Implement SJR 5 Constitutional Amendment Requiring the Denial of Bail for Certain Felons ○ Representatives of Judiciary and District Attorney ○ See Report by Dr. Fabelo attached ▪ Summary of Points to Brainstorm on Adoption of Protocols to Implement SJR 5 ▪ Workplan Draft ○ Notes ▪ SJR 5 policies become effective as soon as the Secretary of State certifies the vote with the earlier effective day of November 19, 2025 and the latest effective date of December 4, 2025. ▪ It is important for Galveston County to adopt protocols that can pass potential future litigation challenges regarding implementation. ▪ This policy would apply to about 20% of the District Court cases filed in Galveston County and has the potential to impact the jail population growth. ▪ This policy requires new protocols, particularly from the District Attorney that is now required to have a hearing to show by “clear and convincing evidence” that the defendant should be denied bail. ▪ This policy sets a constitutional right to counsel for the new hearing ▪ At the time of this report, the Office of Court Administration has not issued a guidance report. ▪ At the time of this report, the Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA) have stated in their briefings to prosecuting attorneys that it is unclear what the implementation protocols should be for SJR 5.	

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Meeting 140	December 5, 2025
• Chairman Holmes ○ Welcome • Sheriff Fullen and/or Senior Staff ▪ Internal capacity expansion and/or other updates • + 36 beds increasing capacity $1,171 + 36 = 1,207$ • Revisit SJR 5 Protocols Discussion from November 14, 2025 CC Meeting ○ Judge Robinson, DA Adam Poole, Arron Johnson, PBO ▪ See attached two policy scenarios to discuss and agree on protocol • Update on Meeting with Magistrates and Related Magistration Metrics ○ Aaron Johnson, PBO Director ▪ See attached information ▪ (Update on OnBase System back on line) • Update on Activities Related to Opening of the MH Wellness Center ○ Dr. Fabelo on behalf of Felicia Jeffery, Jerry Freshour ▪ See attached orientation brochure for law enforcement • Quick View of Early 2026 Issues ○ Dr. Fabelo ▪ Review FTA codification in Odyssey (Jay Wooten raised issue) ▪ SB 9 policies pending implementation on January 1, 2026 (mainly OCA) • Updated PSRS • Cross County Notification for new arrests ▪ Review MH Docket workplan that has been on hold • Update on BJA Jail Reentry Program for MH Docket Support ▪ Update on AOT initiatives ▪ Review UTMB MH screening numbers/protocols ▪ Review competency statistics and implication of increasing numbers ▪ Update on implementing electronic emergency MH detention orders system ▪ Review of MH Court ▪ Review GCC Same Date, Next Days year outcomes ▪ Review of Multidisciplinary Response Team implementation project GCC and Meadows ▪ Review GCC expansion of services grant in Brazoria and Galveston (Rider 64) ▪ Review indigent defense in preparation for TIDC coming back in April 2026 ▪ Review Galveston County annual statistics 2025 ▪ Update on Cloud Gavel feasibility ▪ Update on IT projects ▪ First tracking of SJR 5 eligible defendants ▪ Review of expediated docket proposal that is pending ▪ Review what is the Sheriff Crime Reduction Unit ▪ Update of review by Sheriff office of potential staff deployment to indirect supervision model ▪ Update Sheriff Unified Dispatch System ▪ Centralized Justice Intake and/or jail capacity expansion assessment ▪ Update of magistration metrics and report	

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Meeting 141 (In Person)	January 23, 2026
In-Person meeting hosted by GCC at the MH Wellness Center Location: MH Wellness Center, 1205 Oak St., La Marque, TX • Welcoming ○ Chairman Holmes ○ Tyler Drummond, County Judge Henry Chief of Staff • Update of Facility Status and Opening ○ Felicia Jeffery, CEO, Gulf Coast Center and/or Jerry Freshour, Senior Director for Crisis & Justice Services • Presentation of MH Wellness Center Intake, Assessments, and Treatment Protocols ○ Introduction by Dr. Fabelo ○ Jerry Freshour, Senior Director for Crisis & Justice Services ○ Crystal J. Williams, LCSW, Wellness Center Clinician Lead, GCC ▪ See attached report • Walk Through Facility to Understand Processes and Program Space ○ Crystal J. Williams, LCSW, Wellness Center Clinician Lead and Jerry Freshour, GCC	

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Meeting 142	February 6, 2026
• Chairman Holmes ○ Welcome • Update Sheriff Office ○ Sheriff Fullen or Sheriff Senior Staff • Follow-up Questions and Feedback from January 23 Meeting at MH Wellness Center ○ Need to develop summary criteria on MH Wellness Center referral for use by the MMHPD ○ Continuity of Care protocols for mentally ill persons exiting the jail ▪ Jerry Freshour, GCC ▪ Crystal J. Williams, LCSW, Wellness Center Clinician Lead • Update in Grant Funding for Justice Involved Individuals for the COAST team ○ Jerry Freshour, GCC • Judicial Public Portal Issue and Update ○ Misty Witmer, Director, Chief Information Officer • Odyssey Migration to Cloud ○ Misty Witmer, Director, Chief Information Officer • CloudGavel Update ○ Misty Witmer, Director, Chief Information Officer ▪ See attached worktable and article on Tyler Technologies buying CloudGavel	

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Meeting 143	February 20, 2026
• Chairman Holmes ○ Welcome • Update Sheriff Office ○ Sheriff Fullen or Sheriff Senior Staff ▪ Contact TCJS to change capacity in line “p” of their Galveston County Jail Population Report to 1,207 • Recommendation to Abolish the County and Judicial Technology Advisory Committee (CJTAC) ○ Dr. Fabelo and Misty Witmer, Director, Chief Information Officer • Recommendation to Move Forward with the Adoption of CloudGavel ○ Misty Witmer, Director, IT Department ▪ Tyler Technologies now owns CloudGavel • Assumption that Tyler Technologies will integrate CloudGavel in Odyssey • Assumption that once integrated CloudGavel this will be part of the Odyssey cloud update ▪ Procurement process by the county already examined • Ms. Witmer reviewed on February 19 with the County Purchasing Agent the above recommendation • Purchasing Agent stated that based on first year and on-going cost, IT will have to go through the RFP process ○ Enterprise Services Business Analyst, working with each relevant department, will gather the necessary information for the next steps ▪ Chairman Holmes will inform Tyler Drummond, Chief-of-Staff on this proposal after this meeting ○ Misty Witmer will update the Coordinating Council on March 6 again ▪ Report if a Cooperative Services Agreement is available for this purchase • Update in MH Wellness Center ○ Felicia Jeffery, CEO, GCC • Comments on Upcoming Third Follow-up of Texas Indigent Defense Commission ○ Judge John Grady and/or Monica Gracia and Judge Robinson and/or Brandi Reyes ▪ Texas Indigent Defense Commission notified the county leaders on January 27, 2026 that they will conduct the 3rd follow-up policy monitoring review of the Galveston County indigent defense processes with an on-site visit on March 3rd and March 5. ▪ See attached response to TIDC in October 2025 by County and District Courts	

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Meeting 144	March 6, 2026
• Chairman Holmes ○ Welcome • Update in MH Center ○ Felicia Jeffery, CEO GCC • Electronic Transmission of Emergency MH Orders Feasibility Report ○ Department of Enterprise Services ▪ Chris Martinez, Ryan Delgado ▪ Misty Witmer, Director, Chief Information Officer • See attached report • Electronic Warrants System: Next Steps for Evaluation, Procurement and Implementation ○ Misty Witmer, Director IT Department ▪ See attached report • Comments on Texas Indigent Defense Commission Site Visit ○ Judge John Grady and/or Monica Gracia and Judge Robinson and/or Brandi Reyes ▪ Texas Indigent Defense Commission 3rd follow-up policy monitoring review March 3rd and March 5.	

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Meeting 145	March 20, 2026
• Chairman Holmes ○ Welcome • Update Sheriff Office ○ Sheriff Fullen or Sheriff Senior Staff ▪ Contact TCJS to change capacity in line “p” of their Galveston County Jail Population Report to 1,207 • General Comments from Indigent Defense Commission Related to Their Visit to Galveston County ○ Joel Lieurance, Senior Policy Monitor and Ashley De La Garza, Senior Policy Analyst ▪ See attached overview • Electronic Warrants System: Workplan with Estimated Timeline ○ Misty Witmer, Director IT Department ▪ See attached report • Update on Prior IT Projects and Newer Projects ○ Misty Witmer, Director IT Department ▪ Prior Projects • OSSI • Text Notification for People on Bond • Age of District Court Cases • Data Warehouse • Magistration Courtroom Upgrades ○ Need for temporary space while upgrades take place	

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Meeting 146 (In Person)	April 10, 2026
In Person - Location: County Court Commissioners Courtroom, 722 Moody Avenue – 21st Street • Chairman Holmes ○ Welcome • Introduction to Judge Leslie Yates ○ Chairman Holmes, Dr. Fabelo, Judge Yates ▪ Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Docket ▪ Felony Mental Health Specialty Court ▪ Jail Competency Workgroup • Update in MH Center ○ Felicia Jeffery, CEO GCC ○ Update on law enforcement meetings ▪ Jerry Freshour, GCC ○ Final Construction Cost Figure for MH Center ▪ Fabelo • Update on April 9 Workshop Reviewing Case Processing During Weekend and Issues Impacting the Timely Appointment of Counsel for District Court Cases ○ Fabelo and company • Update on Newer IT Projects ○ Misty Witmer, Director ▪ Newer Projects • Frequent Visitors to Justice Center • Off-Site Data Center • Multi-Factor Authentication • Security Governance • AI Applications • Records Management • OpenGov Nuisance Abatement ▪ Legislative Mandates • Article 17.021 integration of PSRS with local jail and case management systems effective January 2026	

IV. Documentation of Project Tasks and New Initiatives

This section documents the Coordinating Council project tasks and new initiatives discussed during this period of April 17, 2025 to April 10, 2026. The highlights of the activities reviewed by the Coordinating Council are presented below followed by the more detailed tables.

Summary of Tasks and Activities Period One (April 17, 2025 to July 14, 2025)

- Various tasks related to assisting the Sheriff Office in preparing for the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) request for a regulation variance to add 36 beds internal capacity and clear an order of non-compliance related to the timely delivery of medicines to inmates.
 - Monitoring of jail population and execution of various policies by the Sheriff Office, District Attorney and Judiciary to prevent a jail overcrowding problem.
 - Request for variance to add 36 beds to the internal capacity and preparation for TCJS hearing on May 1, 2025 to review variance issue and formulate a corrective action plan to address order of non-compliance related to the timely delivery of medicines to inmates.
 - Follow up activities to review steps to address non-compliance order and get final approval of variance request, which occurred on May 29, 2025 after the corrective action plan was submitted on the same date.
 - The Director of TCJS accepted the plan on June 13, 2025.
- Various tasks related to the development of workplans to address pending issues or the implementation of new programs.
 - Three workplans were developed during this period and are under monitoring by the Coordinating Council.
 - Sheriff – Gulf Coast Center coordination workplan
 - Jail Reentry Gulf Coast Center workplan
 - Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) workplan
 -
- Review of report analyzing the potential impact on Galveston County of SB 9 magistration and pretrial policies and SJR 5 related to the proposed constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail for certain felons that is up to the voters on the November 4, 2025 referendum.
 - Workplan to address the new requirements.

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- Monitoring and discussions related to the construction and funding of the Mental Health Wellness Center.
 - The construction of the center is in progress and expected to be completed by October 2025.
 - The legislative request for the operational funding of the center was approved by the 89th Texas Legislature in the amount of \$8.9 million for 2026 and 2027.
 - An additional \$5 million in state funding for the Gulf Coast Center was approved for developing crisis and in-patient services for both Galveston County and Brazoria County.
- Other activities in process include:
 - Training for law enforcement on mental health interventions.
 - Expansion of Multidisciplinary Response Teams for mental health in League City
 - Review of potential use of telehealth protocols for mental health cases for Galveston County Sheriff Deputies.
 - Review of need to implement electronic transmission of Emergency Detention and Protective Orders.
 - Review of draft proposal for implementation of Impact Disposition Docket twice a year.
 - Review implementation of SB 1518 Chapter 76 of Penal Code related to terrorist offenses and registration in Texas Department of Public Safety database.

Summary of Tasks and Activities Period Two (July 14, 2025 to November 14, 2025)

- Inauguration of the Mental Health Wellness Center
 - Inauguration on October 16, 2025, in a “Blue-Ribbon” cutting ceremony of the first-ever Mental Health Wellness Center serving Galveston County.
- The GCC reported and updated the list of grants received to support mental health services in the county totaling \$18,471,031 as of the update to Coordinating Council on September 19, 2025.
- Reviewed the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Docket (MMHCD) operations that started in 2022 to identify areas for improvements.
 - Research and review in roundtable discussion with officials involved with the MMHCD led to eight recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the program.

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- Recommendations are pending a work plan development at the time of this report.
- Increase in internal jail capacity authorized by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards on June 13, 2025.
 - During the in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council of October 17, 2025, the Sheriff Office reported that the capacity modules were in place and internal capacity has been expanded by the allowed 36 additional beds, bringing the total jail capacity from 1,171 beds to 1,207.
- Briefing and integration into the Coordinating Council of newly appointed Galveston County District Attorney Kenneth Cusick.
- Review of findings by Texas Indigent Defense Commission from their third audit report of Galveston County indigent defense practices and responses by the county.
 - The original findings related to the appointment timeliness and appointed procedures from TIDC occurred in June 2017.
 - In March 2022, five years later, TIDC did a follow up review to evaluate whether the findings from the 2017 review had been satisfied. That review found two of the five findings were satisfied, and the rest were left pending.
 - The current review, three years after the March 2022 review, found that in felony cases, the courts narrowly missed TIDC's threshold for making timely determinations of indigence and this was a finding from the 2017 review.
 - The current review presented a new finding that the misdemeanor courts met this threshold, but they did this by making several denials of indigence to persons who appeared to meet automatic indigence qualifiers.
 - On October 3, 2025, the District Court Administration submitted their response to the 2025 report stating that a clear protocol to address the finding has been put in place.
 - On October 22, 2025, the County Court Administration submitted their response to TIDC basically saying that they will determine indigence "according to standards directed by the indigence plan".
- A review of six policies adopted under Senate Bill 9 bail policy changes, adopted by the last Texas Legislature in 2025 that became effective on September 1, 2025.
 - The review showed that the county has complied with the implementation requirements and deadlines.

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- Annual review of the operations of the Personal Bond Office (PBO).
 - The PBO is using its computerized tools effectively to manage the office (the use of TechShare and the case management system CSS).
 - The office continues to conduct financial assessments and risk assessments in a timely manner for the information to be available for the magistrates to make decisions and continue to provide detailed statistical reports to the magistrates every month.
 - Despite the office operating effectively, in 2025 the percentage of Personal Bond eligible defendants that are getting approved by magistrates for Personal Bond declined from 53% in January 2025 to 29% in September 2025 and this is the lowest approval rate since January 2023.
 - The average approval rate between January 2023 and September 2025 was 41%.
 - When presented with this information, the magistrates in their monthly meeting with the PBO Director on October 23, 2025 stated that this decline was due to: (a) seeing more people with longer criminal histories; (b) seeing more people with enhancements; and, (c) seeing more on-view arrests with additional warrants from other counties.
 - Data presented to the magistrates showed that the risk assessment profile of the population considered for personal bond did not change significantly between January 2025 and September 2025.
 - Examination of data now available from the Office of Court Administration shows that in 2024 there were 748 defendants in District and County Courts who committed new law violations while on bail or community supervision.
 - Ten of those were under the supervision of the PBO, or 1%, while 738, or 99%, were on surety bonds or probation supervision.
 - Early in 2026 the magistrates adjusted upwards their approval rate to the prior average of about 40%
- Research working with the District and County Clerks and the GCC was conducted to verify that the reporting of mental health competency case information to DPS was accurate, and the exercise confirmed the accuracy in the reporting.
- Started process to evaluate the implementation of electronic transmission of Emergency Detention and Protective Orders to increase efficiency in processing these orders, particularly as demand may increase for these orders with the opening of the Mental Health Wellness Center.
- Review of the feasibility of implementing an application that allows for the creation and approval of warrants electronically from any internet-enabled device, tracking the status

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of all criminal warrants as they move through the justice process, and the search and sharing of all warrant data across jurisdictional boundaries.

- Review of the potential impact and protocols needed to implement SJR 5 constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail for certain felons that will become effective before December 4, 2025
 - Protocols will have to be put in place to comply with the requirements of SJR 5.

Summary of Tasks and Activities Period Three (November 15, 2025 to April 10, 2026)

- Review and adoption of referral, intake and assessment protocols that will initially be used to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the Mental Health Wellness Center.
 - The goal is for law enforcement to call a dedicated line to the GCC for clinical staff to determine what is the best drop off point for a person in custody. If the best drop off point is the center, then once the person is received, it will be immediately accessed to verify that the center is the best location, either to stabilize the person under the intensive Extended Observation Unit or EOU, or the Respite Center program or connecting the person to outpatient and family services.
- Review of feasibility of implementing electronic transmission of emergency detention and protective orders.
 - During the Coordinating Council meeting of February 6, 2026, a report was presented by the Department of Enterprise Services team. The report reviewed the current process, statutory provisions that apply, case volume considerations and then operational and feasibility constraints of implementing electronic transmission of emergency detention and protective orders. The report concluded that the “low volume and upstream operational constraints limit the feasibility and benefits of additional process changes or electronic solutions.” In other word, the initial idea of having electronic transmission of emergency detention and protective orders was not feasible, and therefore, would not be implemented.
- Acquisition of state grant funds to support mental health law enforcement diversionary teams.
 - During the Coordinating Council meeting of February 6, 2026, Jerry Freshour, GCC, reported that under the Mental Health Grant for Justice Involved individuals the state granted over \$1.2 million each year through state fiscal year

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2029 for supporting COAST and supporting a Community Intervention Team (CIT) in Brazoria County.

- Comprehensive review of Department of Information Technology (IT) projects.
 - During the Coordinating Council meeting of February 6 and February 20, 2026, and March 6 and March 20, and April 10, Misty Witmer, Galveston Chief Information Officer, reviewed all the main projects in-process by the IT Department as described in the worktables below.
- Abolition of the County and Judicial Technology Advisory Committee (CJTAC)
 - During the Coordinating Council meeting of February 20, 2026, Dr. Fabelo, with the agreement of Misty Witmer, recommended the abolition of the CJTAC.
 - CJTAC was designed to assist Ms. Witmer in identifying areas to develop new information technology tools to assist the agencies. The creation of the Department of Enterprise Services now provides a great resource to develop and test new information technology tools. Moreover, recently, the participation and interest in the CJTAC have diminished.
 - Ms. Witmer now will shift to reporting to the Coordinating Council every other meeting and, based on that report, the assistance on interagency information technology will be determine and guided by the council.
- Recommendation to move forward with electronic warrant processing system
 - During the Coordinating Council meeting of February 20, 2026, Dr. Fabelo, with the agreement of Misty Witmer, recommended moving forward to adopt the CloudGavel warrant electronic processing platform. However, Ms. Witmer reviewed on February 19 with the County Purchasing Agent the above recommendation and the Purchasing Agent stated that based on first year and on-going cost, IT will have to go through the RFP process.
 - Judge Robinson, Presiding Judge of the District Courts, recommended an extensive review of business practices involving county agencies, and law enforcement agencies, to make sure that a comprehensive electronic warrant processing system can serve all involved. This was reaffirmed by Chairman Holmes who said we needed to follow a methodical evaluation of the processes and have a plan that meets the procurement requirements in the county. Based on these recommendations the process started in that direction.
 - During the Coordinating Council meeting of March 6, 2026, Misty Witmer presented a report on the steps needed to meet procurement guidelines. During the Coordinating Council meeting of March 20, 2026, Misty Witmer presented a work plan delineating target dates for implementing the different steps in her

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March 6, 2026 report. At the time of this report this process was moving forward, with Ms. Witmer to report back to the Coordinating Council.

- First observations of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission follow-up compliance audit of October 2025
 - During the March 20, 2026, meeting of the Coordinating Council, staff from the TIDC reviewed their visit of March 3-5, 2026.
 - TIDC staff were not ready to report on their review of the County Courts compliance emanating from the October 2025 report but alluded to an issue on the District Court in which the lack of a District Clerk on duty during the weekends was impacting negatively the timing in the appointment of counsel.
 - Chairman Holmes expressed the need to further explore how to address this issue and that review is in process at the time of this report.
 - Dr. Fabelo presented a report reviewing the history of the TIDC involvement in Galveston County, going back to their first report of 2017. He stated that he would like to see the issues resolved as it has been now almost nine years since the original audit, with subsequent audits in 2022 and 2025.
 - Dr. Fabelo thinks that these issues are not hard to fix but requires a commitment to fix them for good. Dr. Fabelo stated that he would invite the TIDC to present their full report in the June 2026 meeting of the council.
 - Dr. Fabelo organized an in-person workshop on April 9, 2026 to review with the principal agency representatives process issues that may be negatively impacting the timeliness of indigent defense appointments for felony cases during the weekend. Preliminary findings were discussed during the April 10, 2026 in-person Coordinating Council meeting.
- Briefing and introduction to the Coordinating Council of Judge Leslie Yates
 - Judge Leslie Yates was appointed on March 31, 2026 by Galveston County Commissioners Court to replace Judge Wayne Mallia. She will oversee the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Docket (MMHCD), the Felony Mental Health Specialty Court and participate in the Jail Competency Workgroup.
 - On April 10, 2026, Dr. Fabelo and Chairman Holmes, organized an in-person briefing for Judge Yates with Jay Wooten, MMHPD, Felicia Jeffery, Christy Dobbs-Perez, Jerry Freshour of the GCC and Probation Director, Willie Lacy to review each of the key areas under Judge Yates and discuss need for improvements in the next twelve months.
 - During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 10, 2026, Chairman Holmes introduced Judge Yates to the Coordinating Council.
- Final construction cost of the Mental Health Wellness Center
 - During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 10, 2026, Dr. Fabelo presented the final construction cost figures for the Mental Health Wellness Center as requested by Zack Davidson, on behalf of Dr. Fabelo, for the Galveston County

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Budget Department on March 23, 2026. This was requested because the Texas Association of Counties upcoming publication on Galveston County project should have the final figure available from the budget office. The funding breakdown was:

- ARPA: \$12,447,072
- General Fund: \$1,996,027.79
- Total Facility Cost: \$14,443,099.79

Jail Population Monitoring and Capacity Management

Activity DONE	Preparation for Galveston County Meeting with Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) on May 1, 2025
	Dr. Fabelo prepared a report to brief Sheriff Fullen and his staff and Commissioner Dugie, who will lead the delegation representing the county during the hearing. Dr. Fabelo briefed the Sheriff and his staff on April 17 and Commissioner Dugie on April 18. During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 25, 2025, Dr. Fabelo discussed Commissioner Dugie’s strategy for the meeting, namely that by the TCJS direction, he will be the one leading the Galveston County delegation and moderating the participation of others, like Sheriff Fullen and Chairman Holmes. As of the day of this council meeting, the jail was operating at 88% of capacity (1,050 population out of 1,187 capacity). Relevant Background: During the January 24, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Dr. Fabelo noted that the Galveston County jail started operating at over 90% of capacity in late 2024. Between January 2024 and December 2024, the population rose by 22% (from 883 to 1,081), and the jail was operating at 93% of capacity at the end of December 2024 for the first time in recent years. Dr. Fabelo attributed this increase to an uptick in the number of felony probation violations in jail, as well as an increase in parole populations with “blue warrants” or pending charges, immigration holds, and convictions to prison. These populations collectively accounted for 25% of the jail population in December 2024, compared to 20% in January 2024. Statewide, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) reported a 6% increase in the jail population between January 1 and November 1, 2024. A more refined analysis was presented in an updated report to the Coordinating Council on its February 21, 2025 meeting. The updated report confirmed the earlier analysis, with the county jail operating at 97% of capacity on February 17, 2025. The Coordinating Council on its two February meetings (7th and 21st) and its two March 2025 meetings (14th and 28th) reviewed potential areas in which more effective protocols may help reduce some of the pressures related to the increase of the jail population and reviewed the request for the jail capacity variance. The request for the capacity variance was submitted to the TCJS on March 17, 2025 and at the time of this report it was under review by the Commission. Interim actions included the review of the felony indictment process, review of the time to get inmate “paper ready” for transfer to TDCJ, and creation of an expedited docket to disposed selected cases that have been pending in court. Appendix 1 presents the short-term work plan adopted at the time.

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Activity DONE	Exploration of Satellite Booking Facility in Dickinson Detention Center
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 25, 2025, the Sheriff and his staff discussed the potential for using the Dickinson Detention Center as a jail booking facility, holding defendants for less than 24 hours. This facility is under review by the TCJS, but it seems to meet the requirements for a satellite booking facility. More details are pending the development of the workplan based on statements made during this meeting by Captain Gagnon. During the Coordinating Council meeting of May 9, 2025, the Sheriff stated that this option is now off-the-table and no longer under consideration.
	Relevant Background: During the Coordinating Council meeting of October 11, 2024, Dr. Fabelo and Aaron Johnson presented the first planning report reviewing the number of CCP Article 15.17 hearings in front of a magistrate judge in Galveston County and how they were distributed by zones, with agencies in a “north zone” potentially assigned for intakes and hearings in the proposed League City intake center if the facility were to be used in that manner. During the period of September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024, there were 18,039 Article 15.17 hearings in front of a magistrate judge in Galveston County. Agencies in the North Zone accounted for 23% of the intakes, an average of 11 per day, compared to 77% of the intakes in the South Zone (County Jail), which averaged 38 per day. Next planning steps were identified. During the December 12, 2024 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Dr. Fabelo presented a summary of the findings from a memo of November 7, 2024 to Tyler Drummond, Chief-of-Staff to County Judge Henry. This memo analyzed various questions raised by Mr. Drummond. Among other points, the analysis showed that: (a) there are no municipalities beside League City setting bail and not using the required SB 6 Public Safety Reporting System (PSRS); (b) municipalities generally speaking do not hold many misdemeanors over 24 hours, or felonies over 48 hours, due to not establishing probable cause on time or delays in transportation to the county jail of persons needing magistration (an examination of the TechShare statistics from October 2023 to September 2024 showed during that period only 20 cases out of 14,388 cases magistration (.0001%) may have fallen in this category); and (c) the volume of cases magistrated do not make it feasible to use the League City facility as a magistration center for cases arrested in a defined “north zone” of the county. Based on this data analysis, and further discussions, the Chief-of-Staff decided at this time it was no longer necessary to pursue this idea. During the November 1, 2024 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Dr. Fabelo presented a review of legal concerns raised by Major Walker, GCSO, during the September 27, 2024 meeting of the Council. Galveston County is complying with the CCP 15.17 48-hour requirement for magistration but Major Walker wanted to know if a person can make a “due process” claim that they are waiting too long for the magistration hearing, particularly if they have the money to post bond. Major Walker thought this may be an “unnecessary delay” that infringes on a person’s constitutional or legal rights. He wanted to know if a claim like that will be sustained by a court as part of a complaint against the county. Paul Ready, General Counsel, found no legal issue of concern and stated that people have tried to make that claim before and have lost. Major Walker was not present in the meeting.

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Activity DONE	Hearing with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) Regarding Galveston County Request for a Capacity Variance
	Galveston County through the Galveston County Sheriff Office made a request for adding internal jail capacity to address potential jail population increase during the summer and allow for planning time to face potential impact of future restrictions in pretrial policies. As discussed above, the capacity variance was submitted to the TCJS on March 17, 2025 and was shared with the Coordinating Council on its March 14, 2025 meeting. The TCJS reviewed the requested capacity increase and requested visual and floor plans to determine if the space configuration will meet requirements. The commission calculated an additional 36 beds to be added to the capacity per variance request (per Director Wood on April 25, 2025). During the May 1, 2025 Texas Commission on Jail Standards Meeting, the Galveston County request was discussed. Sheriff Fullen, Captain Gagnon, Commissioner Dugie and Chairman Holmes testify during the meeting. The commission granted a staff motion that would allow the staff to approve a variance for adding 36 beds. However, the commission asked the staff to review and have a plan of corrective action before approving the variance. The issue is related to potential delays in the delivery of medicines on a timely basis to the inmates. Dr. Fabelo after the meeting met with Director Brandon Wook and Ricky Armstong, Assistance Director, to understand better the next steps. Per this conversation, Dr. Fabelo informed Commissioner Dugie, Chairman Holmes and Mel Villareal, Chief Deputy of the Sheriff, that the next step is for the commission to send them an evaluation report of all the material that they have reviewed and request a response to that report from Galveston County. Dr. Fabelo stated to Chief Deputy Villareal that he was expecting the Coordinating Council to be informed on when the report was received and steps that would be taken to respond in a timely manner. Dr. Fabelo stated that the main issue will be around the issue of the timely delivery of medication to the inmates and the documentation of when the medication was administered.

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Activity DONE	Review of Galveston County Sheriff's Office Jail Health Services Plan
	During the May 9, 2025 Coordinating Council meeting, Dr. Fabelo reported on his review of the Galveston County Sheriff's Office Jail Health Services Plan. The plan is in place and was received by the TCJS on August 5, 2024. The plan basically states that the "Contract Medical Services" (VitalCoreHS) is charged with the responsibility to provide medical services. This includes the timely administration of medications and the documentation for that delivery. To resolve the concerns of the TCJS it probably will be necessary to review the VitalCoreHS contract and their standards regarding the timely delivery of medications. However, on May 8, 2025, Tyler Drummond, Chief-of-Staff informed Dr. Fabelo that VitalCoreHS would no longer be the medical provider and that a new contract is being developed for UTMB to become the jail medical provider. UTMB operated the Correctional Managed Care for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and as such has experience in delivering services in the correctional setting. UTMB is scheduled to start operating the health services at the jail on August 18, 2025. Mr. Drummond authorized Dr. Fabelo to inform Brandon Wood, Director, TCJS, of this upcoming change so Mr. Wood takes this into consideration when they issue their evaluation report to Galveston. This report will give direction to the county as to what corrective plan of action is needed for the TCJS to approve the capacity variance requested on March 17, 2025 and discussed during the TCJS Commission hearing of May 1, 2025. At the question of the Sheriff Mullen on when can they move to clear this issue and get the variance, Dr. Fabelo stated that he cannot speak for the commission but his understanding was that they are going to have to wait until the commission sends it report or assessment and determine what specifically the commission wants the county to do to reassure them that their concern is being addressed. Dr. Fabelo stated that as soon as the Sheriff Office gets notification from the Commission that they should let him know so a clear response strategy can be formulated. During the Coordinating Council meeting of July 25, 2025, Dr. Fabelo confirmed that UTMB will continue given access to health records to the GCC for continuity of care. Jerry Freshour, GCC, confirm this during the meeting.

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Activity DONE	TCJS Rescinded Notice of Non-Compliance and Granting Capacity Variance
	During the May 30, 2025 Coordinating Council meeting, Dr. Fabelo shared a letter to Sheriff Fullen from the TCJS rescinding the notice of non-compliance issued on December 17, 2024. However, the letter requested a “review of current policies and procedures regarding ordering medications to ensure that physicians’ orders are being followed and that medications are received and distributed without delay.” The Sheriff Office is then to notify the TCJS “of any changes made after this review and ensure all appropriate jail medical personnel receive documented training.” On May 29, 2025, Brandon Wood, Director of the TCJS, sent a letter to the County Judge and Sheriff approving the additional internal capacity for a period of one year. On the same date, the Sheriff Office submitted to Mr. Wood a letter documenting the corrective action plan requested. Dr. Fabelo informed the Coordinating Council during its meeting of June 13, 2025 that Brandon Wood, Director of the TCJS, in a phone conversation before the meeting, stated that he is good with the response and corrective plan of action. Mr. Wood is expecting the Galveston Sheriff Office to audit the medication delivery protocols on a regular basis once the UTMB contract for providing health services at the jail is implemented in August. Captain Gagnon agreed that the review protocol can be implemented in the future. Appendix 6 presents the letter rescinding order of non-compliance. Appendix 7 presents letter to County Judge and Sheriff Fullen approving variance. Appendix 8 presents letter from Sheriff Fullen to Brandon Wood with corrective action plan.

Activity Done	Review Internal Capacity Expansion to Add 36 Additional Internal Beds to Capacity Per Variance Approval by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards
	During the July 25, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, the council reviewed with the Sheriff Office staff the status of the implementation of the additional increase in internal capacity by 36 beds per variance approval by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS). Staff stated that they have placed an order for the modules that they need for expanding the internal capacity and these are in the construction process. They expect about six to eight weeks for the delivery of the modules. During the August 8, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, the Sheriff Office reported that the module delivery is still pending. During the September 5, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Captain Gagnon on behalf of the Sheriff Office reported that the internal capacity expansion furniture/modules are still pending delivery. She said at the time that it will be four weeks, meaning mid-October 2025. During the in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council of September 19, 2025, the Sheriff Office staff stated that they are still looking at mid-October for the delivery of the modules. During the in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council of October 17, 2025, Captain Gagnon on behalf of the Sheriff Office reported that the capacity modules are in place and internal capacity has been expanded by the allowed 36 additional beds, bringing the total capacity from 1,171 beds to 1,207. During the Coordinating Council meeting of December 5, 2025, Dr. Fabelo stated that the Sheriff Office needed to notify the TCJS that the 36 beds are fully operational and that the capacity of the jail was not 1,207. The TCJS needed that notification so they can change the capacity total in their mandated Jail Population Report. Sheriff staff Lt. Schlageter stated that they will do that. Dr. Fabelo reiterated the request again on the February 6 meeting of the Coordinating Council and on the March 20, 2025 meeting as this task had not been completed. However, during the April 10, 2026 Coordinating Council meeting, Lt. Schlageter, on behalf of the Sheriff Office, reported that the TCJS stated that they could leave the baseline capacity of 1,171 in their reports as it is, and change it to 1,207 at the option of the local administrator. Lt. Schlageter stated that they would leave the baseline capacity of 1,171 in the TCJS reporting.

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Activity Pending Further Review	Internal Study Related to Impact and Feasibility of Converting All Living Areas in the Jail from Direct Supervision to Indirect Supervision
During the in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council of October 17, 2025, Captain Gagnon on behalf of the Sheriff Office, clarified that the office is exploring the impact and feasibility of converting all living areas in the jail from Direct Supervision to Indirect Supervision to better manage staffing shortages. To do this, the Sheriff Office must compile information for the TCJS and request a variance related to this issue. Among the requirements by the TCJS is for the county to submit a staffing analysis that will include the employee retention rate. If approved the TCJS will require the reporting of incidents involving physical, sexual and verbal assaults against staff and amongst inmates at three, six and nine months. This was stated in a letter from the TCJS to the County Judge and Sheriff on September 30, 2025. During the council meeting of October 17, 2025, Captain Gagnon stated that this exercise is in a very early stage, and she did not see having the information required until the beginning of 2026.	

Activity Pending Further Review	Review of Potential Consolidation of 911 Local Systems in Centralized Sheriff Office Countywide Dispatch
During the May 30, 2025 Coordinating Council meeting, Dr. Fabelo asked the Sheriff Office about the potential consolidation of various local 911 systems into a centralized countywide dispatch system operated by the Sheriff Office. Dr. Fabelo stated that Meadows will start a project referred as MDRT 2.0 that involves integrating clinicians into the 911 call respond process and developing decision tree to training 911 dispatchers on when to reach out to clinician and potentially an MDRT team that could be developed in different localities (the first one after the Galveston City MDRT COAST is presently under development in League City. During this meeting Mel Villareal, Chief Deputy Sheriff, stated that this project is under conceptual stage and no specific plans are in place. Based on that, Dr. Fabelo will recommend the Meadows team to continue to move forward with the MDRT 2.0 project at this time. During the October 31, 2025 Coordinating Council meeting, Dr. Fabelo asked the Sheriff Office about the potential consolidation of the City of Galveston 911 Dispatch system with the 911 Sheriff Office dispatch system. Captain Cagnon reported that at the time of this meeting discussion have not more forward by the city officials. Relevant background: In the November 1, 2024 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Captain Margo Ihde presented a report with an overview of the Galveston County 911 system and the identification of Mental Health call. The county has eight Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), including the Sheriff Office. The PSAP with Galveston, Dickinson, Texas City, Santa Fe, Kemah, La Marque and League City Police Department share the same Computer – Aided Dispatch Platform and they own their dispatch records and do not have to share information. All the agencies have a “Call Type” or “Nature of the Call” code for mental health and the type of call is determine by 911 Telecommunication Officer. The agencies do not have a call disposition code to close the call referencing mental health as the primary contributing factor and none utilize any statistics related to mental health calls. The GCSO have Mental Health Disposition Codes, but they are used at the discretion of the on-site deputy, and the number of calls in which these disposition codes were used is low (41 total in 2023).	

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Pretrial System

Activity DONE	Preliminary Review of Potential Impact of Proposed Pretrial Legislation
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 25, 2025, PBO Director Aaron Johnson continued monitoring pending legislation introduced during the 89th Texas Legislature ending its regular session in May 2025. Mr. Johnson stated that if SB 9, SJR No. 1 and SJR No. 5 related to pretrial and bail restrictions are approved, between 20 to 25% of all felony defendants will be held initially until a preventive detention hearing can be held. About 50% of all defendants in the state are now eligible for Personal Bond but this number will decline, and the utilization of Personal Bond will also decline. During the Coordinating Council meeting of May 31, 2025, Aaron Johnson reviewed SB 664, related to the qualifications and supervision of magistrates. He explained Chapter 54 rules over the operation of magistrates in specific counties and this bill only referred to those counties. The magistrates in Galveston County do not operate under Chapter 54. There is a “general provision statewide” but the initial interpretations have been that this applies only to Chapter 54 counties. During the Coordinating Council meeting of June 13, 2025, Dr. Fabelo presented an in-depth analysis SB 9 relating to the confinement or release of defendants before trial or sentencing and the conditions of and procedures for setting bail and reviewing bail decisions and SJR 5 the proposed constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail for certain felons that is up to the voters on the November 4, 2025 referendum. The goal of this report was to provide an early review of the new policy framework set by these two bills as best understood by Dr. Fabelo with assistance from Arron Johnson and Bob Wessels and consultation with others outside of Galveston County. Judge Robinson and District Attorney Roady took the lead in the first review of SJR 5. The suggestion is to wait until other agencies present commentaries and until SJR 5 is approved by the voters as there is the possibility that voters will reject the proposed amendment. The review of SB 9 was done during the Coordinating Council meeting of June 27, 2024 and continued during the Coordinating Council meeting of July 11, 2025. Further discussions are needed to clarify some key protocols, determine implementation issues and the impact on Galveston County. Legal interpretations at the time of this meeting were still pending from state agencies or professional organizations like the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. The next step is to develop a checklist of action items to follow up for implementation.
	Appendix 11 presents the report by Dr. Fabelo to the Coordinating Council on June 13, 2025. This appendix was updated after the SJR 5 was approved by voters and a new analysis of that bill was produced.
	Relevant Background: It is important to note the progress that Galveston County has made in strengthening the Personal Bond Office (PBO) and in the utilization of personal bonds for releasing defendants from jail. During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 6, 2024, Aaron Johnson, PBO Director presented an update on the risk assessment yearly validation research (Static Risk Assessment – SRA Levels). The updated report showed that the overall success rate was 90% for those classified and released under Personal Recognizance and Personal Bond Level 1 and 86% for those on Personal Bond Level 2. Success refers to the rate of court appearances within 120 days and the rate of no new offenses within the same period. The same rate in the prior year was 90% for the first group and 79% for the second group. The second group, with more conditions of supervision, showed an improvement for no FTAs within 180 days (87% in 2024 vs. 84% in 2023) and for new offenses 98% had none within 120 days both years. The research showed the tool to be predictive of pretrial success and showed an increase in the utilization of the tool by the magistrates. The proportion of defendants released on personal bond out of all jail releases increased to 27% in 2024 from a low of 6% in 2021, showing an expanded utilization of the Personal Bond Office (PBO). The compliance rate for those under the supervision of the Personal Bond Office continues to be around 97%.

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Activity DONE	Implementation Checklist for SJR 5 and SB 9
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of August 8, 2025, Dr. Fabelo discussed the implementation checklist for SB 9 and potentially for SJR 6 if it passes the referendum on November 4, 2025. Brandi Reyes and Aaron Johnson, who helped develop the checklist, assisted in the presentation. Judge Robinson commented on various items. Many of the policy changes are effective September 1, 2025, not leaving much time for implementation. During the in-person Coordinating Council meeting of October 17, 2025, items due by September 1, 2025, presented below were reviewed. Based on the members' statements during the meeting, these items below are considered accomplished by the county. One item not completed at this time is the responsibility of the OCA (9). This is to design a new Standardize Judgement Form that includes the new requirements on the affirmative findings for Failure-to-Appear. Checklist 5: Same county policy related to felons released on bail and another felony offense in SAME county – September 1 Checklist 7 – Restrictions on Personal Bond Checklist 8 – Plea guilty felon second degree or higher not eligible for community supervision needs to be jailed after plea and before the sentence Checklist 9 – Affirmative finding regarding failure to appear: OCA District Court cases Standardize Judgement Form County Court local form Checklist 10 – new victim notification rights report to victims and from victims regarding defendant's bail. Checklist 11 – Modify Magistrate Form During the Coordinating Council meeting of November 14, 2025, Dr. Fabelo presented an updated version of the prior SJR 5 analysis. This policy will become effective when the Secretary of State certifies the vote, but no later than December 4, 2025. There are many questions about how this policy should be implemented, like for example, the timing of the new "clear and convincing evidence hearing" by the District Attorney. The Texas District and County Attorney Association has basically briefed the District Attorneys that there is no clarity about implementation protocols. At the time of this report, no guidance has been issued by the Office of Court Administration. The report presented by Dr. Fabelo recommended that the "clear and convincing" evidence hearing occurs within the 45 hours mandated for setting bail by Code of Criminal Procedures 15.17 as this policy was not change with the constitutional amendment. Appendix 13 presents Dr. Fabelo updated report. During the Coordinating Council meeting of November 14, 2025 the council reviewed the report by Dr. Fabelo presenting an analysis of SJR 5 and suggesting potential implementation protocols. The review of the report was led by Administrative District Judge Jared Robinson and District Attorney Trial Division Chief Adam Poole. Judge Robinson praised the major improvements to the Galveston County magistration system done in prior years and stated that the efficiency of this system would allow Galveston County to comply effectively and in a timely manner, with the SJR 5 provisions. The present processes will be used to have the required District Attorney "clear and convincing evidence" hearing for the judge to determine if a denial of bail was applicable within the timeframe set by present law. The indigent defense representation will use the current appointment of counsel system at magistration for felony defendants that was also adopted as part of the prior system improvements. The council will review the topic again to facilitate any potential issues that may arise as the policy is implemented starting no later than December 4, 2025.
	See Appendix 13 for the checklist. This appendix was updated after SJR 5 was approved by voters and a new analysis of that bill was produced.

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Activity DONE	Implementation Checklist for SJR 5
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of December 5, 2025, Dr. Fabelo discussed the implementation checklist for SJR 6 presented during the November 14, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council. SJR 5 became effective on this date. He also presented a document with two protocol scenarios to revisit the protocol conversation of the November 14, 2025 meeting to make sure that the principals agreed in written on the protocols to be adopted. One scenario discussed before assumes that for SJR 5 eligible defendants will get bail by the magistrate and the District Attorney will have its review, and based on that review, the person may be denied bail. All this to happen within the 45 hours period set by law for setting bail for felony defendants. The second scenario, suggested by Dr. Fabelo, is that the magistrates should not be involved, and a District Judge should deny bail as the law says defendant “shall be deny bail” pending the District Attorney hearing. After the initial denial, the District Attorney will have the hearing and based on that hearing the person may get bail or be denied bail. Neither Judge Robinson nor Mr. Poole of the District Attorney participated in this meeting. Brandi Reyes, District Court Administrator, stated that the court will issue instructions as to the protocol soon. The understanding at this time is that the first scenario (magistrate initially setting bail) will be the one implemented. Dr. Fabelo stated that once the rules are issued, that the council can have another discussion of this issue. At the time of this report, no rules have been issued by the Office of Court Administration, and it is at the local discretion how to interpret and operationalize this protocol. See Appendix 13 for the checklist. This appendix was updated after SJR 5 was approved by voters and a new analysis of that bill was produced.

Activity DONE	Change in Financial Questionnaire Request by the Criminal Courts Board
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 5, 2025, Aaron Johnson, PBO Director, discussed a request made by the Criminal Court Board during their meeting of July 24, 2025. They requested that the section that states “Court Appointed Attorney Eligibility” be removed from the Financial Questionnaire prepared by the Personal Bond office. The section in question summarized the “objective” financial analysis and PBO staff based on that financial analysis put an entry stating that the defendant was eligible for appointment of indigent defense counsel. That questionnaire includes at the end an open section for the judges to determine final eligibility and certify that. During the meeting Aaron Johnson reported that this change was made on August 5, 2025. There were no judges participating at this meeting to discuss the rationale for deleting this item from the financial assessment form. The Texas Indigent Defense Commission Policy Monitoring Review of August 2025, discussed below, noted the role of this financial form item in helping flag cases for further indigent defense review by the judiciary: <i>“In Galveston County, defendants who request counsel after arrest are screened for indigence by the Galveston County Personal Bond Office through a short interview. The information is documented by the Personal Bond Office in a financial affidavit.⁸ Defendants do not produce documentation at this interview, but they swear that the information they provide is true. <u>If a defendant qualifies as indigent under the standards set in the indigent defense plan, the result is noted on the financial affidavit by Personal Bond Office staff.</u> Felony affidavits are forwarded to the felony courts, and misdemeanor affidavits are forwarded to the misdemeanor courts. The felony courts appear to follow the assessment listed on the affidavit and appoint counsel for those meeting the standards set in the indigent defense plan. However, the misdemeanor courts do not appear to consistently follow the assessment from Personal Bond Office staff nor presumptions in Galveston’s ID plan. Instead, defendants are sometimes denied indigence and directed to provide additional information at a later court date, without written reasons for the denial. This process can have the effect of delaying appointments for persons who seem to have qualified for appointed counsel.” (page 7).</i>

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Activity DONE	Annual Review of Personal Bond Office Operations
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of October 31, 2025, Aaron Johnson, PBO Director, reviewed the operations of the Personal Bond Office. The briefing in part was to bring the new District Attorney Kusick up to speed on the major improvements made by Galveston County in the areas of pretrial services. Mr. Johnson reviewed the following: Workflow that was computerized under the TechShare system and the advantages that computerization gave Galveston County in implementing new state mandates related to bail and pretrial policies. This included a streamlined process for law enforcement to submit their information and integration with the pretrial risk assessment protocols. (As discussed in the in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council of September 19, 2025, these tools include the computerized case management system – CSS – that include a dashboard demonstrated to the council that facilitate the director’s review of critical process and supervision issues.) Financial assessment process, describing how this process is conducted and how the staff has access to credit background checks if requested by the judiciary. Monthly meetings with the magistrate to keep them informed of statistical analysis related to their reviews of defendants for Personal Bond. Protocols for conducting the risk assessment and making it available for the magistrates as part of TechShare. At the request of Dr. Fabelo, Mr. Johnson reviewed how the Galveston County pretrial system and policies are not like Harris County, which have been the center of attention for state policy makers. In Galveston County there is NOT an equivalent to the Harris County General Order Bonds in which most misdemeanor defendants are released automatically without a bond amount or personal bond fee, Galveston County bail amounts are higher on average than in Harris County and relatively few defendants get released on personal bond. As reviewed by Dr. Fabelo in the October 17, 2025 in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council, the percentage of Personal Bond eligible defendants getting approved by magistrates for Personal Bond declined from 53% in January 2025 to 29% in September 2025 and is the lowest approval rate since January 2023. The average approval rate between January 2023 and September 2025 was 41%. When presented with this information in their monthly meeting with Aaron Johnson on October 23, 2025, they stated that this decline was due to (a) seeing more people with longer criminal histories; (b) seeing more people with enhancements; and (c) seeing more on-view arrests with additional warrants from other counties. Dr. Fabelo commented that the magistrates may perceive these three issues as the reason for impacting their decision-making, but more empirical evidence is necessary to confirm that. Examination of data now available from the Office of Court Administration shows that in 2024 there were 748 defendants in District and County Courts who committed new law violations while on bail or community supervision. Ten of those were under the supervision of the PBO, or 1%, while 738, or 99%, were on surety bonds or probation supervision.

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Activity DONE	Update on Magistration Metrics and Briefings Related to Decrease in PB Approvals
	Dr. Fabelo in the October 17, 2025 in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council, presented an analysis showing that the percentage of Personal Bond eligible defendants getting approved by magistrates for Personal Bond declined from 53% in January 2025 to 29% in September 2025 and is the lowest approval rate since January 2023. The average approval rate between January 2023 and September 2025 was 41%. When presented with this information in their monthly meeting with Aaron Johnson on October 23, 2025, they stated that this decline was due to (a) seeing more people with longer criminal histories; (b) seeing more people with enhancements; and (c) seeing more on-view arrests with additional warrants from other counties. Aaron Johnson, PBO Director, in September, October, and November 2025 presented the metrics to the magistrates and suggested to them that the data does not support their claim discussed above. During the Coordinating Council meeting of December 5, 2025 Aaron Johnson presented that metrics showing that the risk distribution of the population eligible for personal bond was essentially the same in January 2025 when their Personal Bond approval rate was 53% and September 2025 when their approval rate was 29%. Mr. Johnson reported that after his briefings to the magistrates the approval rate in November increased to 38%. He would continue monitoring this trend and report back. Monitoring of the metrics later showed that the approval rates have increased.

Mental Health General Administration and Programs

Activity DONE	Office Space at the Jail for GCC Forensic Director and Staff
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 25, 2025, the need for office space at the jail for the GCC Forensic Director and staff was discussed with the Sheriff Office. This issue was also discussed with Sheriff Fullen in the briefing of April 17, 2025. Captain Gagnon at this meeting stated that they are working in acquiring this space and they are looking at a two-week window to allocate the space. During the Coordinating Council meeting of May 9, 2025, the Sheriff Office stated that they are working by the GCC to assign office space, and this should be resolved by June 1, 2025. During the Coordinating Council meeting of May 30, 2025, this issue was reviewed again. Captain Gagnon of the Sheriff Office informed the Council that the office is ready for the GCC to move in. Relevant Background: The GCC Forensic Director and staff was housed at the jail in the space formally used by the Sheriff's Mental Health Deputy Program. This program was reorganized when Sheriff Fullen took office and as part of the reorganization the space was reallocated. The request for this space was part of the Sheriff Mental Health for Community Crisis and GCC worktable discussed during the February 5, 2025 Coordinating Council meeting, and updated and discussed again during the April 11, 2025 Coordinating Council meeting. It was also part of the worktable discussed during the April 25, 2025 meeting regarding the Jail Reentry Program Appendix 2 presents the worktable on the Sheriff Mental Health for Community Crisis and GCC. Appendix 3 presents the worktable for the Jail Reentry Program.

Activity DONE	Update on Potential for Opioid Settlement Funding
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 25, 2025, this issue was reviewed again. According to the GCC there were no active grant opportunities under this grant program. The staff was still finding if opportunities were available noting that the Galveston City received \$488,187 and the County received \$1,124,093 but none of this funding was accessed by the GCC. Relevant Background: On June 27, 2024, the US Supreme Court ruled that the massive bankruptcy reorganization of opioid maker Purdue Pharma was inappropriate for a variety of legal reasons and the \$6 billion the company agreed to pay as part of the settlement was put on hold affecting the flow of these funds to states involved in the settlement. The potential for using funds in this settlement for supporting mental health policies was discussed during the Coordinating Council meeting of July 19, 2024 and August 9, 2024. It was discussed how the GCC should also be prepared to have the funding proposal ready for the first grant. During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 6, 2024, GCC staff reported that they have not seen any announcement for the grant. They have an outline of the potential proposal they can discuss with the Council later.

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Activity DONE	Emotional Intelligence Training for Brazoria and Galveston Counties
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 25, 2025, the GCC executives announced that training was scheduled for law enforcement agencies in Galveston County and Brazoria County regarding engagement with mentally ill persons in the community. The training was scheduled for Galveston County on May 22, 2025, and in Brazoria County on May 23, 2025. Participants are eligible for TCOLE credits. The “emotional intelligence training” is directed at enhancing the skill of law enforcement personnel to “communicate effectively, handle stress well, make good decisions, handle conflict productively, are better team players, respond flexibly to change, influence others more, and provide top notch service within their communities” according to the announcement flyer distributed to promote the training sessions. During the May 30, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Jerry Freshour provided the following update: <i>Gulf Coast Center held two Emotional Intelligence for Law Enforcement Trainings last week, one in Galveston County and the other for Brazoria County. We brought in Dr Greg Campbell, a 25-year law enforcement veteran and expert in EQ. The EQ training for law enforcement helps peace officers with EQ skills, job performance with high stress situations, resilience, and well-being. We had 22 attendees to the session for Galveston County and 13 for the Brazoria County session from the sheriff offices and local police departments. We used only 35 of our 60 training licenses this round, so Dr. Campbell will return to provide the training again for another 25 officers.</i> Appendix 4 shows the summary of what was provided in this training. Relevant Background: This training was implementation Item 8 of the Sheriff Mental Health Support for Community Crisis and GCC worktable presented during the Coordinating Council meeting of February 7, 2025, and updated during the Coordinating Council meeting of April 11, 2025.

Activity DONE	Preplanning for COAST Two Year Anniversary Communications Strategy
	During the May 30, 2025 Coordinating Council meeting, Jerry Freshour informed the Council of plans under way, to have a public ceremony celebrating the success of the COAST program, that may include a visit from Senator John Cornyn. On May 20, 2025, in a conference call organized by Marina Walne of the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation, and with participation of the Meadows communications team and the GCC, the initial plan was discussed. Jerry Freshour will keep the Council updated as the plans move forward. Relevant Background: Compassionate Open Access to Services & Treatment (COAST) Team, launched on March 13th, 2023, is a multidisciplinary team composed of a law enforcement officer with mental health training, a fire department paramedic, and a mental health center clinician. The team has the capability to mobilize and respond immediately to people experiencing a mental health crisis in the community of Galveston. The team’s focus is to reduce the number of mental health calls answered by law enforcement, provide a community-based crisis response to people in need of mental health services, and ensure continuity of care while reducing the risk of further law enforcement or criminal justice system involvement. MMHPI conducted an analysis of COAST data from May 2023 to July 2024 and presented a report to the Coordinating Council on October 11, 2024, that included specific recommendations to continue improving the program. A different analysis provided to the COAST administrators showed that between the program start on March 13, 2023 and November 11, 2024, the team responded to 1,645 calls for service and referrals. Of these interactions, 1,395 resulted in linkages with care, including 413 in which the crisis was resolved on the scene. Only 217 of the interactions resulted in the traditional law enforcement response (arrests at the scene – 99 – or taken into custody under an Emergency Detention Order completed by the COAST Team – 118). More work continues to expand data analytical capacity to understand the impact on law enforcement time saved by the utilization by COAST.

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Activity DONE	Review of Potential Telehealth Protocols for Mental Health Cases for Galveston County Sheriff Deputies
During the June 13, 2025 Coordinating Council meeting, Jerry Freshour updated the council on his on-going conversation reviewing the potential use of telehealth protocols for the Galveston County Sheriff Deputies. This was Item 9 in the Sheriff Mental Health Support for Community Crisis and GCC worktable. The goal is for the Deputies to access GCC virtual clinicians for consultation and direction as to the best option to address the needs of a mentally ill person under the custody of a deputy. At the time of this final no progress has been made in this area and no interest has been shown by the relevant agencies to continue pursuing this policy.	

Activity DONE	Review of Mental Health Competency Case Information Submitted by Clerks to DPS
During the Coordinating Council meeting of July 25, 2025, Dr. Fabelo, along with Daniel Betancourt, District Clerk, Diana Cuevas, County Clerk and Christy Dobbs-Perez reviewed the reporting of mental health competency case information by the Clerks to DPS as required by law. The discrepancy in the numbers was explainable due to different protocols for counting these cases and the conclusion was the District Clerk and County Clerk are currently capturing the correct number of people found IST to be reported to DPS. Dr. Fabelo, Daniel Betancourt, District Clerk, Diana Cuevas, County Clerk and Christy Dobbs-Perez reviewed the County and District Clerk offices reporting to DPS on May 12, 2025. The workgroup agreed to generate metrics to verify that the number of persons reported by the clerks in 2024 as having a finding of incompetent to stand trial could closely match the number calculated for the same period by the GCC. The GCC also identified a sample of specific cases declared incompetent for the County Clerk to review and examine the reporting protocol. There were 31 individuals found incompetent to stand trial reported by the County Clerk to DPS in 2024 while the GCC was counting 22 individuals for the same period. For the District Clerk the discrepancy was 39 individuals vs. 31 for the GCC. Christy Dobbs-Perez completed her analysis on July 2, 2025, explaining the discrepancy in numbers and based on this analysis the Coordinating Council reviewed this issue. Relevant Background: Sections 411.052 and 411.0521 of the Government Code and Section 574.088 of the Health and Safety Code (adopted during the 81st Texas Legislature in 2009) was adopted to comply with and implement the requirements of the federal NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007. It requires district and county clerks to report federal prohibited person information as defined in Section 411.052 Government Code to the Texas Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). Prohibited persons refer to identifying a person is eligible to receive or possess firearms. There are various items to report, but this review focused on the reporting of commitments for temporary or extended inpatient mental health services under Chapter 574, Health and Safety Code or Chapter 55, Family Code. There is a manual guiding the reporting and providing more details published by the Office of Court Administration (Texas NICS Mental Health Reporting Manual, April 2025).	

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Mental Health Wellness Center

Activity DONE	Update on Construction and Funding of Mental Health Wellness Center
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of May 9, 2025, a report on the progress of the construction of the center as of April 25, 2025 from Turner and Townsend Heery was presented to the Council. The report shows progress in the inside construction, with electrical panels being installed, the building generator in place and inside walls in process of construction. The timeline shows furniture, order and delivery scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2025 and probably is possible to have a “soft opening” of the center in August or September 2025. During the Coordinating Council meeting of June 27, 2025, Felicia Jeffery reported that the legislative request for the operational funding of the center was approved by the 89th Texas Legislature in the amount of \$8.9 million for 2026 and 2027. During the Coordinating Council meeting of July 11, 2025, Chairman Holmes shared the latest update on the construction of the Center. The timeline is delayed slightly showing now a completion by the end of August 2025. During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 5, 2025 Misty Witmer, in her role as director the Department of Enterprise Services, updated the council on the status of the center. At the time, internal infrastructure work is being completed with a “punch list” pending before they can give the GCC the approval to move into the building. Mid-October 2025 was the pending date for that to happen. Appendix 5 shows the update report presented during this meeting. Relevant background: In 2023 County Judge Henry and the County Commissioners took decisive actions to start the process of establishing the first-ever Mental Health Wellness Center in Galveston County at a cost of \$16.2 million. The center will provide Galveston County and the Gulf Coast Center (GCC) with the ability to assist people in mental health crisis that need stabilization and connection to a network of services after appropriate observation and assessment by a team of clinicians working at the center. Without the center, justice-involved persons in mental health crisis are taken to the jail or hospital emergency rooms as the only viable options for stabilization and observation. Within the center, ten Extended Observation Unit (EOU) beds will support up to 72 hours of observation, stabilization, and delivery of targeted services to adults with a mental health diagnosis. Clinical staff in the facility will work to coordinate care in the community, provide medication management services, and/or if necessary, coordinate an increased level of care – including hospitalization. Law enforcement personnel will also be able to return faster to the field by more efficiently dropping off a person in crisis at the center. As of the time of this meeting the plan continues to be for: 9 beds for the EOU for observing people in crisis up to 72 hours and developing a care plan for them, that may include transferring to outpatient, or in-patient services. 3 beds for 23 hours observation and the same goal of developing a care plan. 12 beds for a Respite Center up to 14 days with the same goal of stabilizing housing, family situation and developing a care plan.

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Activity Done	Review of Workplan Related to the Opening and Initial Operations of the MH Wellness Center
	During the September 19, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, the council reviewed a detailed plan for the opening and initial operations of the MH Wellness Center. The key items included: a) examination of security for the center by the Galveston Sheriff Office; (b) setting a clear flowchart on how people admitted from a law enforcement drop-off will be processed and how they will be transported from the center to another location when necessary; (c) Sheriff-Police Chiefs-GCC meeting, orientation on utilization of the center; and, (d) HHSC Pre-Operational site visit. The funding for the first year will come from funds from the Opioid Abatement Settlement and that is in process. During the October 3, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Chairman Holmes announced the “Blue-Ribbon” cutting ceremony for the center on October 15, 2025. The “soft opening” of the center is expected in November 2025 after the required inspections and approval by the state HHSC. The “Blue-Ribbon” cutting ceremony was conducted on October 15, 2025 with participation of county and state officials and others invited. HHSC is still pending to conduct their assessment and certification. The soft opening is occurring in November with the staffing of the facility in preparation for the full opening at the beginning of December 2025. This date was updated to January 2026 by Jerry Freshour during the Coordinating Council meeting of October 31, 2025. During the October 31, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Jerry Freshour gave an update on plan items. There is a draft agreement under review with North American Security Services to provide security services for the center. This company provides security on similar centers in other localities. The annual cost is \$267,000 for security around the clock. The GCC Asset Management Department created an interim Life Safety training to get the initial facility staff trained and a training consultant is going to integrate that module into the online new hire trainings. This plan should suffice for the Fire Marshall to provide a certificate of occupancy according to our asset management director who has taken the lead on those trainings. During the same meeting, an update was given on Item 20 of the workplan: Sheriff-Police Chiefs Meeting: Protocols for appropriate law enforcement referrals, affidavit required of referring LE agency accepting responsibility for transportation. Mr. Freshour reported that they have prepared material to use in this meeting. One of the Wellness Center Lead Clinicians prepared a one pager for law enforcement training that will provide guidance on appropriate referrals and how to refer. This can be used in a 10-15 minute presentation, emphasizing the advantages of the facility over the ERs and jails for individuals law enforcement find in mental health crisis that don’t need emergency medical care. This meeting is still pending at the time of this report, however, the GCC reported during the Coordinating Council meeting of November 14, 2025 that they are giving tours of the facility and protocol orientation to individual police departments. The punch-list of construction issues was addressed during December 2025 and January 2026 and hiring started in January 2026. During the Coordinating Council meeting of March 6, 2026 Felicia Jeffery reported that the GCC is waiting for HHSC operational inspection and approval that should be completed by the end of March 2026. The goals are to then open the center to take individuals that can benefit from the Respite Center in April 2026 and then open the EOU component by May 2026. During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 10, 2026, Felicia Jeffery reported that the Center will be fully operational, with HHSC certification completed, by May 13, 2026.
	Appendix 15 shows the worktable.

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Activity DONE	Galveston County Mental Health Wellness Center Law Enforcement Referral Flow Chart
	During the October 17, 2025 in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council, Felicia Jeffery and Jerry Freshour presented and reviewed a flowchart that presents the eight steps involved in processing law enforcement referrals to the Wellness Center. There are two critical steps that were discussed with the council: Step 3 regarding crisis screening and RN triage for appropriateness for admission to the Extended Observation Unit (EOU) of the center and Step 8 regarding the transfer of individual from the EOU to inpatient hospital by referring police agency. Ideally under Step 3 there will be a screening done from the field that would allow the GCC clinician to determine the most appropriate level of care before a person is taken to the center. Step 8 ideally will utilize the Sheriff Office to transfer involuntary commitments from the EOU to the inpatient hospital. Voluntary transport will be conducted by the GCC. It is estimated that approximately 60 voluntary transports and 6-12 involuntary transports may occur per month. This flowchart will be used in presentations with law enforcement agencies to depict the referral and flow expected for the effective utilization of the center. Appendix 16 shows the Referral Sources and Law Enforcement Referral Flow Chart.

Activity DONE	GCC Outreach and Briefing to Local Law Enforcement Agencies on Protocols for MH Wellness Center
	During the December 5, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council Dr. Fabelo reported on the progress on the outreach by the GCC on the briefing to local law enforcement agencies on the protocols for the MH Wellness Center. Dr. Fabelo was briefed on this by Felicia Jeffery and Jerry Freshour that could not participate in this meeting due to a preschedule meeting with the GCC staff. GCC finished the brochure for law enforcement trainings on the Wellness Center and has used material for the first two tours of the facility for Texas City and Dickinson police command on the third week of November. Jerry Freshour was joined in those presentations by the new Wellness Center Lead Clinician Crystal Williams. The plan is for Ms. Williams to get tours done with all the police department commands for Galveston County. She plans to then go out to the patrol shift changes for all the departments to train their next level supervisors and officers in the field. Both Texas City and Dickinson police departments said that the Wellness Center's facility's secure features and the planned crisis stabilization services, particularly the law enforcement referral processes, were exactly what they need to begin diverting individuals in crisis to this facility as an alternative to ERs and jails. These department stated that they will follow the clinical recommendations of the GCC clinician at the front of the house, even if that recommendation is for them to take an individual in crisis to an inpatient bed in Harris County when the clinician determines that the Wellness Center is not the most appropriate level of care for their referral. These police departments showed interest in diverting low-level offenders to the facility in lieu of arrest. They had in mind individuals where they suspect mental illness is what is driving low level offenses like trespassing, failure to identify, other examples I can't remember, etc. Next steps are for the GCC continue to bring in the other 11 PD commands from Galveston County and then go to their shift changes until they get through all departments and shifts. An update on March 20, 2026 by Jerry Freshour states that the largest cities in Galveston County police department chief or key staff have been briefed with some more outreach to the smaller departments pending with the help of former Sheriff Mental Health Deputies Director Jaime Castro. Appendix 18 shows a copy of the brochure for law enforcement orientation.

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Activity DONE Pending Further Review	Referral, Intake and Assessment Protocols for MH Wellness Center
The Coordinating Council met in person at the MH Wellness Center on January 23, 2026. In this meeting the GCC center staff and executives presented a document laying down the services of the center, and more importantly, the referral, intake and assessment protocols that will initially be used to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the center. This presentation is shown in Appendix 19. The goal is for law enforcement to call a dedicated line to the GCC for clinical staff to determine what is the best drop off points for a person in custody. If the best drop off point is the center, then once the person is received it will be immediately accessed to verify that the center is the best location, either to stabilize the person under the intensive Extended Observation Unit or EOU, or the Respite Center program or connecting the person to outpatient and family services. The council was then taken to the intake process in a tour of the different areas of the center. Questions and answers followed the tour and presentation. One issue requested by Jay Wooten related to specifying a simple criterion on who should be referred to the center. Another issue requested by Captain Gagnon related a similar clarification for mentally ill persons leaving the jail. On the Coordinating Council meeting of February 6, 2026, Crystal Williams, GCC Wellness Center Clinician Lead, stated that she is setting a workgroup to meet the request from Mr. Wooten and Captain Gagnon and she will report back. At the time of this report this is still pending. Appendix 19 shows a copy of the report provided to the Coordinating Council.	

Activity DONE	Final Cost of Mental Health Wellness Center
During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 10, 2026, Dr. Fabelo presented the final construction cost figures for the Mental Health Wellness Center as requested by Zack Davidson, on behalf of Dr. Fabelo, for the Galveston County Budget Department on March 23, 2026. This was requested because the Texas Association of Counties upcoming publication on Galveston County project should have the final figure available from the budget office. The funding breakdown was: ARPA: \$12,447,072 General Fund: \$1,996,027.79 Total Facility Cost: \$14,443,099.79	

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Activity DONE	Five Million Dollars Rider 64 Funding for Crisis and Inpatient Services for Galveston and Brazoria County
	During the Coordinating Council meeting June 27, 2025, Felicia Jeffery announced new funding in the amount of \$5 million approved by the 89th Texas Legislature for 2006 for the expansion of crisis services and in-patient capacity to be available for Galveston County and Brazoria County. More details were provided during the Coordinating Council meeting of August 8, 2025 by Dr. Fabelo on behalf of Felicia Jeffery, CEO of the GCC. Future progress reports will update the council on the implementation of this initiative. The Coordinating Council will receive regular updates as needed on the utilization of this funding.
	Background The language for Rider 64 in the Appropriations Bill for the 89th Texas Legislature ending in May 2025 is provided below. (a) Included in amounts appropriated above in Strategy D.2.1, Community Mental Health Services, is \$5,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2026 to fund additional crisis stabilization facilities and services and provide additional state-purchased psychiatric inpatient beds at the local mental health authority serving Brazoria and Galveston Counties. (b) Any unexpended and unobligated balances remaining as of August 31, 2026, are appropriated for the same purposes for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2026. Gulf Coast Center will leverage an existing EOU/Crisis Respite contract to add capacity through a portion of the \$5,000,000 appropriated through Rider 64. HHSC will initiate a contract amendment to add the funding and allow for planning activities. Additionally, GCC will dedicate a portion of the \$5,000,000 to their current CPB/PPB contract with a current subcontracted hospital. The added bed capacity through both programs, EOU/Respite and PPBs, will be available to residents of both Galveston and Brazoria Co.

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Activity DONE	Technology Feasibility Report to Implement Electronic Transmission of Emergency Detention and Protective Orders
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of May 30, 2025, Dr. Fabelo presented a report to the Council showing the process for requesting Emergency Apprehension by Peace Officer Without a Warrant (APOWW), requesting a Transfer Warrant and Order of Protective Custody. The report also discussed Texas Health and Safety Code Section 573.012 that mandates that judges must accept applications electronically and reviewed the process set in Brazoria County to accomplish the electronic requests. Dr. Fabelo stated that in a future Coordinating Council meeting, the steps needed to implement electronic request in Galveston County will be discussed as part of the Wellness Center worktable. Electronic requests are a critical component to make the intakes and movements of individuals more efficient when the center becomes operational. Misty Witmer, Galveston County Chief Information Officer and her staff on June 27, 2025, submitted to Dr. Fabelo a “feasibility brief” reviewing the technical steps to implement the electronic reporting. There are no major technology obstacles to put the system in place. This report was discussed during the July 25, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council by Chris Martinez, Deputy Director, of the Department of Enterprise Services. The technology aspect of the initiative is not an obstacle, and the conversation was directed at identifying who or which agencies make the request for the warrants and who or which agencies are the recipients of the request and need to respond. Mr. Chris Johnsen, Special Prosecutor for Mental Health participated in the meeting and made suggestions. Dr. Fabelo asked Chris Martinez to put a workgroup together of the key people to further scope out the feasibility of this and develop a workplan.
	Appendix 9 shows the report to the Coordinating Council with the background in the issue.
	Relevant background: SB 2479 in 2023 amended the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 573.012 to have judges accept electronic applications for emergency detention warrants and protective orders. As summarized by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health Bench Book 2024-2025 Edition: “These legislative changes expand who is authorized to request a warrant electronically (e.g., via email) from a judge for an emergency mental health detention under Texas Health and Safety Code section 573.012. Previous law only allowed physicians to request a warrant for an emergency detention electronically. In less populated areas, a physician is often not available to make an electronic request when an emergency detention warrant is needed. This amendment remedied that issue by allowing other licensed mental health professionals with advanced training and education who are employed by the LMHA to make the request electronically.”

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Activity DONE	Workgroup Report on Implementation of Electronic Transmission of Emergency Detention and Protective Orders
	During the July 25, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, the council reviewed a report from the Department of Enterprise Services stating that the technology for the electronic transmission of Emergency Detention and Protective Orders was not an obstacle to this project. The implementation challenge was to identify who, or which agencies make the request and who or which agencies are the recipient of the request and need to respond. Dr. Fabelo, with the agreement of the council, asked Chris Martinez, Deputy Director of the Galveston Department of Enterprise Services, to put a workgroup to scope out now with stakeholders the relevant issues. Mr. Martinez, along with Mr. Johnsen, Jerry Freshour met on August 4, 2025. The group clarified that the current OPC workflow through the Probate Court will remain the active process for the time being. Jerry Freshour expressed satisfaction with this approach and indicated no immediate need to pursue electronic transmission methods until the court is ready to consider them. The group “also discussed Senate Bill 2479, which allows—but does not require—courts to accept electronic filings. While this provides a legal pathway for digital submissions, the group agreed that any future consideration of electronic filing would need to originate with the Probate Court and stakeholders like Chris Johnsen and Diana Cuevas. Therefore, “no changes to the existing process are planned. We will revisit potential digital solutions if prompted by the court or additional operational needs.” (Ryan Delgado Email to Dr. Fabelo August 4, 2025). Mr. Johnsen stated that he “receives receive applications for OPCs on paper, whether faxed or scanned and emailed. Sun Behavioral has their application packet as fillable electronic forms. They enter the patient specific information on their computer, then print out the forms, get them notarized, and then they get them to me, either by email or by fax.” (Email, August 4, 2025). After reviewing the above reports the above reports, Dr. Fabelo asked the group for more clarification: “what does it mean that this cannot happen until Mr. Johnsen and probate court are ready to explore electronic processes?” On August 1, 2025, Dr. Fabelo followed up with conference call with Chris Martinez and Jerry Freshour, with an email summary to Misty Witmer, requesting that Mr. Martinez develop a flowchart of the electronic system if the “stakeholders” agree to the implementation. Dr. Fabelo stated that he would present this to the Coordinating Council at the September 5, 2025 meeting and request that the stakeholders make their case against the implementation of the electronic system. During the Coordinating Council in-person meeting of September 19, 2025, Ryan Delgado and Chris Martinez of the Department of Enterprise Services reported that they have another approach that using the Odyssey system. This approach was supported by the key stakeholders. However, the department would like to have a “proof-of-concept” for their updated plan. During the Coordinating Council meeting of March 6, 2026 a report was presented by the Department of Enterprise Services team. The report reviewed the current process, statutory provisions that apply, case volume considerations and then operational and feasibility constraints of implementing electronic transmission of emergency detention and protective orders. The report concluded that the “low volume and upstream operational constraints limit the feasibility and benefits of additional process changes or electronic solutions.” In other word, the initial idea of having electronic transmission of emergency detention and protective orders was not feasible, and therefore, would not be implemented. A worktable for these tasks is part of the MH Wellness Center opening and initial operation work plan, presented in Appendix 15.
	Appendix 10 updates the technical feasibility study discussed during the March 6, 2026 council meeting.

State and Federal Grant Programs to Expand Mental Health Community Continuity of Care

Activity Pending Further Review	Jail Reentry Program Implementation Worktable
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 25, 2025, a comprehensive planning worktable was discussed with the council. GCC is in the process of completing a planning guide required by BJA before the department authorizes the expenditures of the program funds. The planning guide requires clear delineation of what is the population of focus and program eligibility, the screening and assessment process, the documentation of evidence-based practice and collaborative case plans and post-release supports, the collection and reporting of performance measures and a plan for sustaining the funding after the federal funding is exhausted. The planning guide is expected to be completed and submitted to BJA by June 2025. At the time of this meeting is not possible to determine when BJA will review and approve the planning guide and release funding for the program. This is more uncertain than usual given the funding cuts and reorganization in-process during the new administration. On April 23, 2025, the GCC received notice from the Justice Center of the Council of State Governments that they were no longer able to provide technical assistance for this program, including completing the planning guide and for the League City MDRT BJA funded program. Dr. Fabelo suggested that the GCC submitted the planning guide on the reentry program at the direction of the council. BJA can then accept the guide, and we have that approved, or tell GCC otherwise. During the May 30, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, this issue was reviewed again. At the time of this meeting the guide submission was still pending. During the June 13, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Jerry Freshour reported that the guide was still pending some information from VitaCoreHS and that it has not been submitted. During the June 27, 2025 and July 25, 2025 meetings of the Coordinating Council, Jerry Freshour reported that the planning guide was still pending. During the July 11, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council Dr. Fabelo reported on his conversations with Jerry Freshour, Deputy Director, GCC, about applying for state grants under the Mental Health Grants for Justice Involved Individuals as it is highly possible that funding for this program may be rescinded by the federal agency. He suggested that the same should be done for the SAMHSA funded AOT Program. Dr. Fabelo will continue to monitor this and report back to the council in the future. During the Coordinating Council meeting of August 8, 2025, Jerry Freshour reported that the re-entry planning guide required as part of the grant was finally submitted to BJA on August 8, 2025. He also reported that the proposed grants to HHSC had been submitted. On September 10, 2025, Christen Dobbs-Perez informed Dr. Fabelo that BJA approve the funding for the program. An updated worktable was presented to the Coordinating Council on the in-person meeting of September 19, 2025. Christen Dobbs-Perez reviewed the big milestone pending: the hiring of staff, the protocols to target and select the population for the program and the infrastructure to collect process and outcome metrics required to be reported to the federal agency. However, on October 1, 2025, the “shutdown” of the Federal Government prevented the GCC from drawing on the funding needed for the program to start. During the Coordinating Council meeting of October 17, 2025, Jerry Freshour informed the council that the GCC can pull federal funds amid the government shut down and they will move forward hiring staff. During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 10, 2026, Christy Dobbs-Perez stated that all staff has been hired and the program could be considered operational as of this date.
	Appendix 3 presents the worktable as of September 19, 2025

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Activity Background	Jail Reentry Program Implementation Worktable (Continued with Background)
	Relevant Background: During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 26, 2024, Felicia Jeffery, CEO of the GCC, along with her executive staff, presented a study tracking the connections and retention in treatment for Mental Health Court Docket individuals with cases closed in the March 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023 period (65 individuals with 111 cases closed by the MHHPD office). The follow-up was done on 46 individuals with 63 cases dismissed. These individuals all had a severe mental health diagnosis. Of the 46 defendants, 33 or 72% completed an intake in the GCC with 13 individuals not having an intake in the GCC for various reasons, like not living in the GCC “catchment area”. Only 11 (33%) of the 33 individuals with an intake in the GCC were still in services 6 months after their cases were dismissed. These 11 individuals represented 16% of all cases closed during the study period. Recommendations to improve retention in treatment included a change in the GCC model to have case managers working more in the community than in office and to develop a same day psychiatric appointment when needed to retain people in treatment. During the October 11, 2024 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Felicia Jeffery, CEO, GCC, announced that the GCC received a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistant (BJA) of the US Department of Justice on September 23, 2024, in the amount of \$825,000 to expand the programs directed at individuals leaving jail with severe mental illnesses. This new program will enhance mental health services for the severely mentally ill released from jail or with a case disposed in the Mental Health Court Docket. Per language in the grant award: "The program seeks to retain individuals in treatment for a minimum of 6 months after jail release or case disposition and reduce recidivism among this population through evidence-based interventions and targeted support services. The program projects to serve 80 adult participants per year for a total of 240 participants over the 36-month grant period." On March 3, 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between sheriff and GCC regarding the new Department of Justice Grant for a Galveston County Jail Reentry Team was signed. The GCC agreed to utilize the DOJ grant funding to provide the clinicians and qualified mental health professionals for the Galveston County Jail Reentry Team to include a Jail Reentry Clinician, two Jail Reentry Case Managers, and a Jail Reentry Peer Specialist. All GCC crisis staff designated for the project will have training and education in jail reentry services to stay up-to-date on evidence based best practices and the law. There are no new costs to the county or the sheriff's office for the Galveston County Jail Reentry Team project. The sheriff's office agreed to continue to provide current office space in the county jail and jail staff assistance with coordination of jail releases to the Galveston County Reentry Team. The Galveston County jail agreed to make referrals to the Galveston County Reentry Team to assist individuals in accessing needed services and resources necessary to reduce recidivism.

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Activity Pending Further Review	Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program Implementation Worktable
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of July 11, 2025, a comprehensive planning worktable was discussed with the Council. Sara Corey representing the GCC, and director of the initiative, participated in the discussion. GCC has completed all the documents required by SAMHSA for the implementation of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program. The “soft start” of the project was projected for June 2025 but SAMHSA has not approved the expenditures of funds to start the program. Dr. Fabelo reported on his conversations with Jerry Freshour, Deputy Director, GCC, about applying for state grants under the Mental Health Grants for Justice Involved Individuals as it is highly possible that funding for this program may be rescinded by the federal agency. He suggested that the same should be done for the BJA funded Jail Reentry Program. Dr. Fabelo will continue to monitor this and report back to the council in the future. During the Coordinating Council meeting of July 25, 2025 Felicia Jeffery, CEO, GCC, announced the SAMHSA approve the expenditure of funds for the program. Dr. Fabelo noted that he will update the workplan to reflect that fact and monitoring will continue. On October 1, 2025, the “shutdown” of the Federal Government occurred. The Coordinated Council is pending an update on the implementation status of the program at the time of this report.
	Appendix 12 presents the worktable. Dates will be updated accordingly as monitoring continues.

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Activity Background	Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program Implementation Worktable (background)
	Relevant Background: During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 27, 2024, Felicia Jeffery, CEO of the GCC, along with her executive staff announced that the GCC received a U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant for \$944,000 to support the creation of an AOT program in Galveston County. GCC applied for this competitive grant in March 2024. AOT was reviewed earlier during the February 9, 2024 meeting of the Coordinating Council. Dr. Robin Gearing, Board Member of the Harris Center for Mental Health and Social Work Professor at the University of Houston, gave an overview of the AOT program in Harris County at that meeting. Judge Kimberly Sullivan, Probate Court, will be working with the GCC and Coordinating Council on this project. AOT provides outpatient services to persons with severe mental health conditions while supervised by a court under the state’s community civil commitment protocols. The goal of AOT is to reduce the number and duration of inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations, homelessness, incarceration, and interactions with the criminal justice system while improving treatment engagement, treatment adherence and functional outcomes. This program is designed to work with civil or probate courts to allow these individuals to obtain treatment while continuing to live in the community and their homes. In Texas, AOT is based on a Civil Commitment strategy as defined in the Texas Health and Safety Code Section 574.0345 (a) and (b) for persons with SMI, persons needing treatment to function independently or prevent relapse that may result in serious harm, and persons unable to participate in outpatient mental health treatment effectively and voluntarily as defined by law. The type of AOT orders can be temporary for up to 90 days, extended up to one year and by modification for an individual that is currently subject to inpatient civil commitment. An individual referred to an AOT program needs to be clinically found to meet criteria as set in statute. Once the criteria are met, a court hearing on an application for court-ordered mental health services can be set following Tex. Health & Safety Code Section 574.009 (a). A “Certificate of Medical Examination” or CME must be completed. The LMHA must complete and file a “Recommendation for Treatment”. The court needs to appoint an attorney for the person if the person does not have one. The court must also find “clear and convincing” evidence for the need for the program as defined in Tex. Health and Safety Code Section 574.0345 (b) and Section 574.0355 (c). Referrals to the program can be as a pre-arrest or post-arrest diversion, and prebooking diversion and post-booking following CCP Article 16.22 TCCP. Texas law allows a pending criminal case to be suspended or dismissed with simultaneous transfer to the probate court for AOT proceedings. Diversion to AOT can also occur for defendants in jail with an Order for Competency, for a defendant that is unlikely to be restored or with charges remaining pending following completion of the maximum competency restoration period. It can also be used to support outpatient or jail-based competency restoration services.

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Activity DONE	Update on Grant Received and Grant Under Consideration by GCC
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 19, 2025, Felicia Jeffery, CEO, and Jerry Freshour, Senior Director, reviewed the list of grants received by the GCC and under consideration as of this date based on the different applications. A summary is below. Awarded Legislative Riders funding: \$13,489, 592 all dedicated to support the operations of the MH Wellness Center. HHHC Rider 48 Program Grants: \$2,606,939 for COAST program and other services. Other HHHC Grant Program: \$209,348 Federal agency grants: \$1,874,500 Governor's Office: \$500,000 Total above: \$18,471,031 At the time of this meeting, there were grant applications totaling \$2,167,618. During the Coordinating Council meeting of February 6, 2026, Jerry Freshour, GCC, reported that under the Mental Health Grant for Justice Involved individuals the state granted over \$1.2 million each year through state fiscal year 2029 for supporting COAST and supporting a Community Intervention Team (CIT) in Brazoria County. The Coordinating Council will continue receiving updates as necessary on the grant funding applications.

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Judiciary and Public Defender Office

Activity DONE	New District Attorney Kenneth Cusick Briefed and Integrated to Coordinating Council
During the in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council of October 17, 2025, the newly appointed Galveston County District Attorney, Kenneth Cusick, was introduced to the council. Mr. Cusick was appointed by the governor to replace retiring District Attorney Jack Roady. The appointment became effective the second week of October. Chairman Holmes personally briefed DA Cusick on the function of the council in a meeting on October 7, 2025. Dr. Fabelo continued the briefing during the visit of October 15, 2025. Conversations will continue to bring the District Attorney up-to-speed on all the projects overseen by the council.	

Activity DONE	Briefing and Introduction to the Coordinating Council of Judge Leslie Yates
Judge Leslie Yates was appointed on March 31, 2026 by Galveston County Commissioners Court to replace Judge Wayne Mallia. She will oversee the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Docket (MMHCD), the Felony Mental Health Specialty Court and participate in the Jail Competency Workgroup. On March 23, 2026 Dr. Fabelo, along with Chairman Holmes, presented an extensive briefing for Judge Yates to help her transition in her new duties. On April 10, 2026, Dr. Fabelo and Chairman Holmes, organized an in-person briefing for Judge Yates with Jay Wooten, MMHPD, Felicia Jeffery, Christy Dobbs-Perez, Jerry Freshour of the GCC and Probation Director, Willie Lacy and other staff to review each of the key areas under Judge Yates and discuss need for improvements in the next twelve months. During the Coordinating Council meeting of April 10, 2026, Chairman Holmes introduced Judge Yates to the Coordinating Council. Once Judge Yates is fully integrated into her new duties, the plan is to review again the need for improvements to the MMHCD that was presented to the council during its September 19, 2025 meeting and continue working to make improvements with the Felony Specialty Court and the Jail Competency Process.	
Appendix 20 presents the briefing report to Judge Yates of April 10, 2026.	

Activity DONE	Draft of Proposal for Impact Disposition Docket Twice a Year Under Review by Judiciary
During the Coordinating Council meeting of March 28, 2025, the issue of establishing an Impact Disposition Docket was discussed. Presiding District Court Judge Robinson agreed for Dr. Fabelo, working with the District Court Administrator, to explore how the impact court model, or a version of it, could be adopted on a permanent basis. Dr. Fabelo during the August 8, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, stated that he plans to have an in-person round-table discussion in late September to further examine the proposal. During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 5, 2025, Dr. Fabelo informed that this roundtable was cancelled given pending the appointment of a new District Attorney. At the time of this report, this proposal is not under consideration anymore due to other activities that the District Court Presiding Judge has implemented to help with the disposition of District Court cases.	

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Activity	Draft of Proposal for Impact Disposition Docket Twice a Year Under Review by Judiciary
Background	(background)
Relevant Background: The Coordinating Council, during its January 26, 2024 meeting, heard a presentation from Brandi Reyes, District Court Administrator, and District Court Judge Neves about the operations of the Impact Court that started in February 2023 with a state grant from the OCA. Dr. Fabelo presented a statistical analysis showing that between February 2023 and December 2023 there were 339 cases disposed by the Impact Court. During that period the overall number of pending criminal cases in the District Courts decreased by 562 cases, with the dispositions generated by the Impact Court accounting for 60% of that decline. Dr. Fabelo also presented an analysis going back to January 2019 showing that the District Court backlog of criminal cases was 2% lower in November 2023 than it was in January 2019, and the backlog was 31% lower than it was at its peak during the COVID Pandemic in August 2021. In November 2023 the backlog was 2,248 cases compared to 2,294 in January 2019 and 3,277 in August 2021. At the time of this meeting, the Impact Court has met the performance goals set by the OCA in its original grant. During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 27, 2024, Brandi Reyes, District Court Administrator, reported that between the start of the Impact Court on February 21, 2023 and September 16, 2024, there have been 430 cases disposed by the court. She also reported that at the August 2024 meeting of the Criminal Court Board, the judges voted to end the Impact Court as of December 31, 2024, and asked the Office of Court Administration (OCA) for the reallocation of unused funds of \$102,955.98 for additional expenses related to court appointed attorneys. OCA agreed on that request. Dr. Fabelo conducted statistical analysis in early 2025 showing that between February 2023 and December 2023 there were 339 cases disposed by the Impact Court. By the end of the program in December 2024, a total of 471 cases were disposed by the Impact Court, helping reduce the backlog of cases. Between the start of the court and December 2024, the backlog of pending District Court cases declined from 2,810 to 2,572 (-8%).	

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Activity DONE	Texas Indigent Commission Monitoring Report 2025 and Responses from District and County Court Administration
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 5, 2025, Joel Lieurance, Senior Policy Monitor and Ashley De La Garza, Senior Policy Analyst for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission discussed the Commission’s monitoring review second follow-up of prior findings. The original findings related to the timeliness of appointments and appointed procedures from TIDC occurred in June 2017. This first report found that counsel was not appointed timely in either felony or misdemeanor cases. In March 2022, five years later, TIDC did a follow up review to evaluate whether the findings from 2017 review had been satisfied. That review found two of the five findings were satisfied, and the rest were left pending. The current review, three years after the March 2022 review, found that in felony cases, the courts narrowly missed TIDC’s threshold for making timely determinations of indigence. This is a finding from the 2017 review. The report presented a new finding that the misdemeanor courts met this threshold, but they did this by making several denials of indigence to persons who appeared to meet automatic indigence qualifiers. Therefore, eight years after the 2017 review, the county still has two pending findings. Dr. Fabelo suggested that these two findings are not difficult to address and after eight years it was time to get this resolved. The first finding is a matter of getting the right paperwork to the District Judges so they can decide on determination of indigence on a timely basis. The findings related to the misdemeanor courts can be resolved by the judges that want to ask for more documentation to support indigence to do that and try to get the documents within one business day, and if not appoint indigent defense counsel within the required time pending further review. No judge was present to discuss the findings and provide context as to the appropriate next steps to address the finding. Dr. Fabelo stated that the topic will be added for a future agenda of the Coordinating Council hoping that the judges or their court administrators can speak to the issue. On October 3, 2025 the District Court Administration submitted their response to the 2025 report stating that a clear protocol to address the finding has been put in place. On October 22, 2025 the County Court Administration submitted their response to TIDC basically saying that they will determine indigence “according to standards directed by the indigence plan.” See Appendix 14 for Executive Summary of the Report (Second Follow-Up Policy Monitoring Review of Galveston County’s Indigent Defense Systems – August 2025)

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Activity Background	Texas Indigent Commission Monitoring Report Follow Up (background)
	The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) during the October 7, 2022 meeting of the Coordinating Council presented a report updating their 2017 review of the county indigent defense procedures. The 2017 review was done as part of the county pre-trial, justice and mental health system review conducted by the Meadows technical assistance team. TIDC transmitted their updated monitoring report to County Judge Henry, Commissioners Court, and the judiciary on October 5, 2022. Their report was titled <i>“Follow-up Policy Monitoring Review of Galveston County’s Indigent Defense Systems”</i> and is dated October 2022. The updated TIDC report found that, related to the prompt appointment of counsel, three of the five original findings of 2017 have not been resolved. The TIDC 2017 report found that “counsel was not appointed timely in either felony or misdemeanor cases. In misdemeanor cases, some defendants with pending counsel requests entered uncounseled pleas. Additionally, in misdemeanor cases, jail docket attorneys did not always represent defendants beyond the week of their assignment, and defendants not wishing to enter a plea were left without means to resolve their cases” (as summarized on page 4 of October 2022 report). Chairman Holmes and the Coordinating Council requested that the District Court and County Court Administrators present to the council their proposed strategies to resolve the pending issues during the meeting of November 18, 2022. The October 2022 report found that in the “prompt appointment” of counsel three of the five original findings of 2017 have not been resolved five years later. TIDC considers the appointment of counsel to represent defendants that qualify and request counsel to be a timely appointment if there is evidence of representation within one working day (plus 24 hours allowed to transmit the request to the courts) of the counsel request (page 11 of report). The three findings from the 2017 report that were not addressed are: (1) untimely felony appointments; (2) untimely misdemeanor appointments; and (3) misdemeanor counsel requests that were never ruled upon, and defendants later waived the right to counsel while requests were still pending. The County and District Court Administrators discussed their responses to TIDC at the November 18, 2022 meeting of the Coordinating Council. TIDC in a November 7, 2022 email to county officials (from Joel Lieurance) accepted the county responses and stated that a follow-up technical assistance visit will be conducted in early 2023. The TIDC email provides a summary of the responses of the county as reproduced below: • <i>“The district courts intend to make extra efforts to ensure counsel is appointed within one working day of receiving the request. Additionally, the district courts have amended the indigent defense to (1) clearly note that counsel requests should be sent to the courts within 24 hours and to (2) bring defendants who did not request counsel before the courts within 3 working days to ascertain whether they have retained counsel.”</i> • <i>“The county courts noted that all misdemeanor counsel requests will be sent to the judge assigned to the weekly jail docket. Pretrial Services will assist with financial affidavits. If a defendant fails to complete a financial affidavit, the request will be denied, and a note will be generated to state the defendant needs to provide additional information for further consideration by the Court.”</i> • <i>“The county courts noted that all misdemeanor counsel requests will be sent to the judge assigned to the weekly jail docket. The judge over the weekly jail docket will rule on all counsel requests within one working day or receipt. A waiver of right to counsel will not be given to defendant unless the Judge makes a finding of non-indigency.”</i> At the time of this report, TIDC was still pending a follow-up visit in 2023 to review again if the policies recommended have been implemented. This follow-up visit did not happen until 2025.

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Activity Pending Further Review	Texas Indigent Commission Monitoring Report 2025 Third Follow Up Audit
	During the Coordinating Council meeting of February 20, 2025, Dr. Fabelo informed the council that Joel Lieurance, Senior Policy Monitor and Ashley De La Garza, Senior Policy Analyst for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission informed county officials on January 27, 2026 that TIDC staff will be onsite in Galveston County on March 3 and March 4, 2026 to do another follow-up to related to their findings from their 2025 Second Follow-up Report and County Responses. Their review will seek to verify whether the issues from the 2025 report have been addressed. For this review, we will examine case files, attempt to observe dockets and magistrate warnings, and interview officials and staff. Our case file review will cover felony and misdemeanor defendants receiving magistrate warnings in December 2025 and January 2026. During the Coordinating Council meeting of March 6, 2026, Monica Gracia, County Court Administrator, and Brandi Reyes, District Court Administrator, reported on their meetings with the TIDC staff and their cooperation with the process. During the Coordinating Council meeting of March 20, 2026, Joel Lieurance, Senior Policy Monitor of TIDC and Ashel De La Garza, Senior Policy Analyst, presented their first impression from their March 3 to 5 visits to Galveston County. They were not ready to report on the County Court observations but reported on the District Court observations. They noted delays with the timely appointment of counsel during the weekend as there is not an available District Clerk staff to process the records. Any request made on Saturday would not be timely as the appointment is likely to have occurred beyond the one-day requirement of appointment after request. Daniel Betancourt, from the District Clerk, confirmed the lack of staffing during the weekend. Chairman Holmes suggested that we review this issue before the TIDC issue their report, expected in early June. Dr. Fabelo presented a report reviewing the history of the TIDC involvement in Galveston County, going back to their first report of 2017. He stated that he would like to see the issues resolved as it has been now almost nine years since the original audit, with subsequent audits in 2022 and 2025. Dr. Fabelo thinks that these issues are not hard to fix but requires a commitment to fix them for good. Dr. Fabelo stated that he would invite the TIDC to present their full report in the June 2026 meeting of the council.
	See Appendix 20 presents Dr. Fabelo’s report to the council on March 20, 2026.

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Activity Pending Further Review	Workshop to Review Case Processing During the Weekend Impacting Timeliness of Indigent Defense Appointments
	Dr. Fabelo, along with Chairman Holmes, conducted an in-person workshop on April 9, 2026, to examine how persons arrested during the weekend are process and how the present processes negatively impacted the timeliness of the appointment of indigent defense counsel at the District Courts. The goal is to try the fix the process and communicate that to the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) before they issue their follow-up audit. TIDC representatives mentioned this potential finding during their presentation to the Coordinating Council on March 20, 2026. Participating in the workshop were Bradi Reyes, District Court Administrator; Alytha Green-Pickney on behalf of Daniel Betancourt, Chief Deputy District Clerk; Aaron Johnson, PBO Director and his staff; Misty Witmer, Galveston IT Director; Ryan Delgado from the Department of Enterprise Services and Adam Poole, Trial Division Chief of the Office of the District Attorney. Ms. Reyes updated the group and stated that her tracking of cases during the Easter weekend reflected compliance with the timeliness of appointments, and this was due to the District Attorney assigning a person to review these cases and the information available on a timely bases for the District Court Administration staff to start the appointment of counsel process. Adam Poole stated that he also was working with the IT department in the flow of electronic information using Sharepoint and that they have been testing the interphase, and they expected that in a week this system will be functional to provide information to the District Attorney's office that will streamline the initiation of the prefiling record. Dr. Fabelo stated that he would report back to the TIDC and suggested to Brandi Reyes to test compliance again during the weekend of April 10, 2026, and when IT certifies that the Sharepoint interphase was operational, then Judge Robinson can sent a letter to TIDC stating that Galveston County has addressed their finding. The final review and letter to TIDC is pending at the time of this report.

Other Judicial Related Areas

Activity DONE	Review of Implementation of SB 1518 Chapter 76 Penal Code
	During the Coordinating Council on its July 11, 2025 meeting the council reviewed the status in the implementation of this policy. Sheriff Deputy Chief Mel Villareal reported via email, and Dr. Fabelo reported to the council, that the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is not creating a Terrorist Offender Registry and instead is using the Sex Offender Registry to get the mandated report of any person convicted under this law. The reporting process is manual, and the registration form was shared with the council. After almost two years of implementation at the time of this meeting there were nine registered persons convicted under this law and registered. None were from Galveston County. Dr. Fabelo stated that this review is done and that the District Attorney should bring back the issue in the future if there was the need to review this policy again or develop a new protocol for reporting.
	Relevant Background: The 88th Texas Legislature in 2023 created a new section of the Penal Code, Title 12, Chapter 76, defining a set of “terroristic offenses” for punishment enhancements. In the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 65, the legislature then created the Terrorist Offender Registration Program. Based on the provision of this law a reportable conviction or adjudication occurring on or after January 1, 2024, need to be reported by local officials to the Texas Department of Public Safety. During the Coordinating Council meeting of July 19, 2024, Dr. Fabelo presented the questions that needed to be addressed to comply with this law. Chairman Holmes will address the first question by asking Commissioners Court to designate the GCSO as the “centralized registration authority”. Commissioners Court approve this designation on September 3, 2024. District Attorney Roady, working with Captain Villareal, Crime Records, GCSO, was to report on the other three issues during the August 9, 2024 meeting of the Council, but this conversation was postponed until a later meeting of the Coordinating Council. During the Coordinating Council meeting of September 27, 2024, District Attorney Jack Roady reported that DPS will be visiting Galveston to discuss reporting protocols at the end of October and until that visit is completed there is no clarity on how to proceed locally. He also reported that the OCA needs to modify the judgement form to accommodate convictions under the new law and that has not occurred. During the Coordinating Council meeting of November 1, 2024, DA Jack Roady and Captain Villareal of the GCSO could not participate in the meeting and this issue was deferred to the December 13, 2024 meeting, but the principals were not available to address this issue at this time. Key pending questions at the time were: • Have local protocols been established between District Attorney, or courts, to report to the local centralized registration authority of the appropriate reportable persons? • Has DPS already established “an alert flag on the criminal history record information of each person who is required to register under this chapter that would be visible and accessible to a peace officer, criminal justice official, or employee of a law enforcement agency while in the performance of the officer’s, official’s, or employee’s official duties.”? (Article 65.007, (b)). • Have local protocols been established or will be established for a local court to determine when a person no longer represents a threat to public safety and the person’s “duty to register” expires? (Subchapter C, Article 65.101).

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Activity Pending Further Review	Review of Process and Outcomes of the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Docket (MMHCD)
	On September 18, 2025, Dr. Fabelo conducted an in-person review of the process and outcomes of the MMHCD. This was done with all the key stakeholders participating in a roundtable to review Dr. Fabelo's report. The participants included Chairman Holmes, Judge Mallia, Cristian Urbina, Jay Wooten, Monica Gracia, Christen Dobbs-Perez, Jerry Freshour, Willie Lacy, Aaron Johnson, Clarissa Morgan, County Clerk, Chris Martinez and Ryan Delgado, Department of Enterprise Services, Kayla Allen, DA First Assistant and Kacey Launius, Misdemeanor DA Division Chief. During the September 19, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Dr. Fabelo presented recommendations for improving the process and outcomes of the program. The most salient findings of the report were that connections to services could be significantly improved by defendants getting their bond condition modified more quickly; probation and pretrial supervision of one officer to over 200 cases under supervision cannot be effective in helping encourage defendants to report and participate in treatment; the monthly metrics of the MMHCD that have been submitted by Cristian Urbina since the beginning of the program need to be reviewed, updated or scrapped for another source; and there is a good effort to connect defendants to treatment but staying in treatment is a challenge (only 33% are still in treatment six months after intake) and, even with connection to treatment, almost half (42%) will recidivate after one year. There were eight items agreed upon by the group, listed below. Item 1: Need to have a MH Prosecutor, like originally designed, as this position is vacant. This DA will understand the program and try to get the cases filed quicker. Item 2: Given the expected activities for probation pretrial that are limited, there was consensus that there is no apparent need to add staff to probation. Caseworkers from PD and GCC do a lot of the follow up and contacts and program intake. Item 3: Some defendants from MMHCD may be placed on probation for various reasons. MH treatment needs to be ordered as a condition of probation. Item 4: There are cases with bond forfeiture in the caseload, and they are there for a relatively long time (about 15% of caseload at the time of this conversation had a bond forfeiture and some have been there for over a year). The suggestion by the group was to get a list every six months of the defendants in the caseload with a bond forfeiture and request the Sheriff to do a "warrant roundup" to clear some of these cases. Item 5: Use of the ORAS Misdemeanor Pretrial instrument to target moderate and high-risk recidivism defendants and use an ACT model (in process) to provide services. Item 6: GCC to set up system for tracking for the target population which requires GCC IT and County IT to work together for this purpose. Item 7: Change monthly metrics to track number of people on the MMHCD using information collected by probation and MMHPD (Cristian Urbina does not have to submit her monthly reports as she has been doing for the last two and a half year). Item 8: To identify defendants and cases for the MMH Docket County Court Administrator to clean the so-called "Green-Flag" to better represent MH defendants/cases for selecting the defendants for the MMHCD. At the time of this report a work plan is pending development, implementation and review by the council. These recommendations were reviewed by the appropriate team with Judge Yates during an in-person meeting on April 10, 2026 before the Coordinating Council meeting and the issues were then discussed with the Coordinating Council. See Appendix 17 for the full report.

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Information Technology and Metrics

Activity DONE	Review of Six-Month Statistical Report
	During the August 8, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, the council reviewed the first six months of 2025 statistics of key metrics. These statistics were presented in Section II of the First Progress Report circulated on July 14, 2025, but new items of information were added regarding the jail population growth. The report showed that the average jail population for the first six months of 2025 was 11% higher than the same average in 2021 and 16% higher than the first six months of 2024. The population was still 6% lower than at project start in January 2018. There were other pretrial, court and mental health metrics discussed with the council. Regarding the jail population, Dr. Fabelo presented two new metrics. One estimated the jail incarceration rate in Galveston County and showed that the incarceration rate per 100,000 population was lower in 2025 at 283 compared to the project start year in 2018 of 335 per 100,000. This means that even though the population in the county during this period increased by 35,767 people (11% increase), the lower crime rate and arrests, the increase in the PBO releases 23% and other factors have helped reduce the incarceration rate. However, recently, the increase in certain jail populations is impacting the increase in the jail population. Probation violators in jail, parole related populations in jail, immigration holds and state populations in July 2025 represented 27% of the total jail population compared to 25% in January 2023 and 22% in January 2024. Policies adopted by the last legislature relating to the restriction of pretrial/bond releases and related to the Sheriff offices assisting in immigration violation arrests, may continue to impact an increase in the population. Dr. Fabelo discussed the plan to have a roundtable or workshop among the key officials in September 2025 to further discuss the implications of these trends for the potential need to expand jail capacity over the long-term.

Activity DONE	Update of January 24, 2025 Presentation and Metrics to CC
	During the in-person meeting of October 17, 2025 of the Coordinating Council, Dr. Fabelo presented an update to the report to the council of January 24, 2025. The updated report shows the average monthly jail population increasing by 10.2% in 2025. The first day of the month jail population in September 2025 was at the same level as when the project started in January 2018 (at 1,121) and on both dates, the jail was operating at 96% of capacity. A larger percentage of the jail population at the end of September 2025 was composed of probation violators, parole related violators, immigration related defendants and inmates that have been sentenced to TDCJ. These populations represented 31% of the jail population compared to representing 22% of the jail population in January 2024. These populations are not easily impacted by local policies. Releases on Personal Bond increased in 2024 by 2.7% but decline by 24% between January and September 2025. Magistrates are changing their decision making. While the population eligible for Personal Bond and their risk profile is the same as in prior years, magistrates approved 29% of those defendants eligible for Personal Bond in September 2025 from a high of 53% in January 2025. The average approval rate between January 2023 and September 2025 was 41% of defendants eligible. Therefore, the combination of the county population continuing to increase, restrictions on bond releases as the top state policy, more punitive state and federal policies backlogging more people in jail and correctional staff shortages at the state and local level, slowing down intakes to TDCJ, means that the council will be dealing with Galveston County jail population issues in 2026 more than in recent years.

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Activity DONE	Revision of Metrics for Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Docket Program (MMHCD)
	During in-person roundtable of September 18, 2025 that reviewed the process and outcomes of the MMHCD, revisions of the program population served metrics were discussed and adopted. The Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Docket (MMHCD) metrics since program start were produced by the Court Coordinator to Judge Mallia every month. The metrics collection started in June 2022 and have been used since then for reports to the Coordinating Council and the progress reports to Galveston County officials. An examination of the reporting methodology conducted during June 2025 and September 2025 showed that the original metrics were overestimating the size of the MMHCD caseload by about 45%. The examination triangulated the original metric with the caseload numbers that started being collected by the probation department since the adoption of their program case management system CSS. It also examined the metrics reported by the Misdemeanor Mental Health Public Defender Office (MMHPD) to the state Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC). The original metrics was based on a count of the so-called “Green Flag” in the Odyssey Court Case Management System. A roundtable of all the MMHCD staff and Judge Mallia reviewed on September 17, 2025 this issue (as described in the project table below). For example, for June 2025 the original metric reported 369 defendants on the MMHCD compared to 226 reported by the probation department in their case management system and 159 in the MMHPD case management system. Therefore, starting in September 2025, the metrics reported for this program will be the metrics collected and reported by the probation department and the metrics reported by the MMHPD to the TIDC.

Activity DONE	Revision of Jail Capacity Metrics Reported in the CJTAC Monthly Report
	The methodology to calculate the Galveston County jail capacity reported in the Criminal Justice Technology Advisory Committee (CJTAC) that started in May 2020 has been updated based on a review during the Coordinating Council meeting of October 31, 2025. The CJTAC number has been slightly higher than the official capacity number reported to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) because of the inclusion of capacity use for temporary or transition housing within the jail. Starting on November 1, 2025, the CJTAC report will use the numbers reported by the Galveston County Sheriff Office to the TCJS.

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Activity DONE	Review Options to Implement Electronic Warrant Platform at Request of the Sheriff Office and Judiciary
	During the October 3, 2025 meeting of the Coordinating Council, the council reviewed material related to CloudGavel Electronic Warrant Platform. This is an “app” that allows for the creation and approval of warrants electronically from any internet-enabled device, allows for tracking the status of all criminal warrants as they move through the justice process and it allows the search and sharing of all warrant data across jurisdictional boundaries. This platform is compliant with CJIS security protocols, and it claims to significantly speed up processing of warrants. According to material provided by CloudGavel an officer on the scene uses the app to generate a warrant, the electronic warrant is then securely sent to a judge for review and approval, and the judge reviews and electronically signs the warrant. The officer is notified of approval and prints and executes the warrant. According to material provided by the company, there were 72 jurisdictions in Texas utilizing the app as of 2025. That included the Sheriff Offices in Travis County, Bastrop County and local police departments. Mel Villareal, Deputy Sheriff, requested a review by the Coordinating Council of this software. Misty Witmer, Chief Information Officer for Galveston County was asked by Dr. Fabelo to review CloudGavel and to determine what needs/requirements are needed to integrate the app into the Galveston Council information technology “ecosystem”. During the October 3, 2025 meeting, Judge Millo and Deputy Sheriff Villareal made their case for the utilization of the app. Misty Witmer, Galveston Chief Information Officer, reviewed the challenges of integrating this app to the Galveston information technology “ecosystem”. Namely, the new Premier One Motorola jail management and dispatching system is pending implementation to replace the old OSSI jail system, and the court Odyssey case management system is pending Tyler Technologies Inc. release of their Cloud system as they would no longer support the Enterprise 2023 on premise update. The issue is not the potential utility of CloudGavel for Galveston but the ability to integrate that system any time soon. Dr. Fabelo stressed that the app gives the impression that it can be downloaded and it would work, like common phone apps, but the local supporting infrastructure and business process on who is connecting to the app and how the warrant processing is to take place need to be examined. He suggested that Ms. Witmer reviews these issues in more detail and report back during the October 17, 2025 meeting of the council. During the October 17, 2025 in-person meeting of the Coordinating Council, Misty Witmer discussed a workplan identifying steps to evaluate, integrate and implement this application. The workplan did not have dates attached to each step as Ms. Witmer needed more time to develop those dates pending other projects in her department. When the workplan is completed with date it will be presented to the Coordinating Council. Steps 1 and 2 is to do a preliminary assessment of the proposed app and review similar counties using the app to determine their integration experience. Step 3 included a review of procurement process issues. Step 4 is to determine the readiness to move forward with integration work and the steps following that include reviewing business protocols, integration and testing and then operationalize the app. The next report to the council will be on Steps 1 and 2, date to be decided based on the progress by IT/Enterprise Services staff.

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Activity DONE	Review Options to Implement Electronic Warrant Platform at Request of the Sheriff Office and Judiciary (continued)
	During the February 6, 2026 Coordinating Council meeting, Misty Witmer, Galveston County Chief Information Officer, reported that since the last discussion of this topic on October 17, 2025, IT received word in late January 2026 that Tyler Technologies purchased the CloudGavel product. Under Tyler Technologies the cost of the product has jumped from roughly \$50-\$70K/annually discussed previously to now \$160,000 for year one and an estimated \$120,000 annually thereafter (with a 5% increase, plus \$15 per warrant over 8,000). This is a trend the IT has noticed before, meaning that when Tyler Technologies Inc buys something the price skyrockets. At the time of this meeting, Ms. Witmer reported no timeline on potential integration with Odyssey and that her team was researching other options. One of the options is another application called EWarrants by a company called ECourt. Ms. Witmer will report back during the February 20, 2026 meeting of the Coordinating Council. During the Coordinating Council meeting of February 20, 2026, Dr. Fabelo, with the agreement of Misty Witmer, recommended to move forward to adopt the CloudGavel warrant processing application. Tyler Technologies now owns CloudGavel and the assumption is that Tyler Technologies will integrate CloudGavel in Odyssey. The assumption is also that once integrated, CloudGavel will be part of the Odyssey cloud update. Ms. Witmer reviewed on February 19 with the County Purchasing Agent the above recommendation and the Purchasing Agent stated that based on first year and on-going cost, IT will have to go through the RFP process and steps are in process at the time of this report to determine how to fulfill all the elements of the procurement process. Judge Millo and Assistant District Attorney Kayla Allen made a presentation of their experiences with CloudGavel. Judge Robinson, Presiding Judge of the District Courts, recommended an extensive review of business practices involving county agencies and law enforcement agencies to make sure that a comprehensive electronic warrant processing system can serve all involved. This was reaffirmed by Chairman Holmes who said we needed to follow a methodical evaluation and one that meets procurement requirements in the county. Based on these recommendations the process started in that direction. During the Coordinating Council meeting of March 6, 2026, Misty Witmer presented a report on the steps needed to meet procurement guidelines. During the Coordinating Council meeting of March 20, 2026, Misty Witmer presented a work plan delineating target dates for implementing the different steps in her March 6, 2026 report. At the time of this report, this process was moving forward, with Ms. Witmer reporting back to the Coordinating Council. Based on this document, Dr. Fabelo will develop a work plan to monitor progress. This part of the review now moves to the specific plans related to the procurement process.

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Activity DONE	Review of Information Technology (IT) – Review of Pressing Projects
	During the February 6, 2026 meeting, Misty Witmer, Galveston County Chief Information Officer, reported on the progress of IT projects in progress that have pressing issues to discuss due to the impact on the Galveston County IT policies and its users. Judicial Public Portal: This is a portal managed by Tyler Technologies as part of their Galveston County platform. This portal is used by local attorneys and others to review/research defendants with pending cases. The company quit supporting this portal and leaving it in place will create major security vulnerabilities. The company has not provided an alternative and users would have to use the Research Texas statewide site. This requires access to the statewide database vs. just the local database. The IT Department is hoping that a new product by the company Justice Access may be available after all the required pending upgrades to the Odyssey platform. Ms. Witmer subsequently sent to the Coordinating Council the information available at the time on Justice Access. This is included as part of county’s Enterprise Justice 2023 Cloud package (Odyssey replacement) that IT is in the process of implementing. The IT staff subsequently provided a demo of this application. Odyssey Conversation to the Cloud: The Department of Enterprise Services is to formally recommend to users of the Odyssey platform that they go with Enterprise Justice 2023 SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) in the cloud rather than continue with our on-premises upgrade. That recommendation was shared with the users in Galveston County before the Coordinating Council meeting of February 6, 2026. The IT team has worked very hard to identify areas that need to be addressed by going to the cloud to ensure the system can still maintain integrations, reporting requirements, and so on. IT has a plan for all those areas identified. EJ2023 is the current supported platform in the cloud for Texas counties. The 2024 version will not be made available to Galveston County and development is already underway for 2025. The IT Department is being told by Tyler Technologies that moving to the cloud keeps Galveston County on the most current versions and gives the county the support that is not presently available on the existing on-prem version. Ms. Witmer recommended moving to the iCloud starting immediately as waiting will double the work that the IT Department would have to do to manage this implementation. Chairman Holmes asked the council if anybody opposed this recommendation and there was consensus to move forward with the proposal. A later addendum to the presentation of February 6, 2026, stated that IT has been working with Tyler Technologies to try to fine tune contracts and pricing. IT received everything back from Tyler Technologies and submitted for legal contract review followed by Commissioners Court approval. An additional funding request is required, and IT was aware this was going to happen. IT needs roughly an additional \$180,000 to fund the first year and the company told IT that the implementation framework was approximately six months.

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Activity DONE	Annual Review of Information Technology (IT) Projects Pending from Prior Years
	During the March 20, 2026 Coordinating Council meeting, Misty Witmer, Galveston County Chief Information Officer, reported on the progress of IT projects in progress. The last comprehensive review by the council was on January 12, 2024. OSSI: OSSI is the law enforcement record, dispatch, and jail management system and the new version will improve the functionality of the system. IT is targeting go-live for the PremierOne and Flex Jail systems toward first week of June 2026. This will replace the primary system, OSSI, used by the Sheriff's Office and members of the Galveston County public safety consortium. The department recently discovered this can also replace GuardOne, which is another smaller system used by the SO. IT is currently working with Galveston County consortium partners to put interlocal agreements in place for the shared use of the platform. At time of this report, IT is 90% complete and is testing end-to-end communications. Training is in process and will be on-going during the next few months. Text Notification for People on Bond: The upgrade in the Odyssey system would provide new functionality to automatically send text notifications to defendants on bond regarding their court hearings. At the time of the January 12, 2024 council meeting, the IT Department reported that the text notification could not be implemented until the upgrade in the system took place. At the time of the March 20, 2026 meeting, the status is the same as the department is focusing on the Odyssey/EJ2023 issue. Age of District Court Cases Tracking System: At the time of the January 12, 2024 council meeting, the IT Department reported that this report was pending the OSSI update due to the need to extract key metric related to time in jail. Prior to the March 20, 2026 council meeting, the CJTAC members indicated that this functionality is no longer needed. However, the IT Department, once the appropriate platforms are in place, will still work to provide this functionality. Once the functionality is established the judicial departments can decide on how to use it for administrative purposes. All this depends on an upgrade and it is unclear at this time the timeline for this. Data Warehouse: At the time of the January 12, 2024 council meeting, the IT Department reported that a contract was signed by Commissioners Court in December 2023 for \$47,000 for professional services to help set up the warehouse. The warehouse will extract data from the operational system to generate key reports. The process will extract data from the production system to the warehouse to allow for report generation and analysis that does not impact daily production. The warehouse will also lead to "cleaning" data for analysis. During the update to the council of March 20, 2026 the department stated that the data warehouse will probably shift with the implementation of both Motorola PremierOne and EJ2023. Database design will be significantly different from both OSSI and the current Odyssey systems. This is an area that will need to be addressed once these systems are in place. Magistration Courtroom Upgrade: The Magistration Room have lost functionality, and this was identified in 2025 as a pending issue. During a previous review of the Magistrate Courtroom with Aaron Johnson, Margo Idhe, and members of the Court Administration, several areas for improvement were identified, including: (a) audio clarity between the courtroom, inmates, and remote judge; (b) video visibility for inmates in the holding area; (c) interpreter communication during hearings; (d) cable management and infrastructure organization; (d) replacement of aging audiovisual equipment; and (e) possible reconfiguration of the current furniture layout to improve staff workflow. During the March 20, 2026 council meeting, the discussion concentrated on the need to find temporary space to allow for the courtroom upgrades.

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Activity DONE	Annual Review of Information Technology (IT) Projects – New Projects in Process
	During the April 10, 2026 Coordinating Council meeting, Misty Witmer, Galveston County Chief Information Officer, reported on new projects approved since the last review. The last comprehensive review by the council was that of January 12, 2024. Frequent Visitors to Justice Center: This is a program that the Sheriff's Office and Justice Center teams are implementing to begin on or around February 1. This program allows frequent visitors to the Justice Center, presumably primarily attorneys, to apply for streamlined access to the Justice Center when they visit. Their application goes through a background check, and they pay an annual fee for this service. The Facilities team has worked with the Sheriff's Office to set up the lobby with new equipment and configuration to accommodate this new initiative. At the time of this meeting, the Sheriff's Office is instituting manual capture, sign-up and renewal process. However, IT intends to put this into as an online process once IT has the nuisance abatement software implemented via OpenGov. They have an application module like what Galveston County IT looking for. The IT team has reviewed with OpenGov and believes it will work for the visitor program. Off-Site Secondary Data Center: Last year the IT Department successfully stood up a second data center in Bryan TX. Previously Galveston County two data centers were only separated by a couple of miles, not giving Galveston County the failover and resilience needed. While IT has implemented most of the infrastructure and network changes necessary for a failover, the department still is working in interconnecting the Bryan Data Center and the League City Data Center with a provider other than Comcast, should Comcast have a significant outage. Multi-Factor Authentication: Implementation of multi-factor authentication for critical hardware and application systems is in process of implementation. Security Governance: IT Department is working with a third party through a grant to finally set in motion Galveston County security governance that becomes the adopted information security policy. These policies will set standards for security-related systems and user behaviors, further protecting employees and data resources. These policies and standards follow industry-adopted guidelines such as those through NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) and CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency). In addition, the vendor is assisting IT in tightening up Galveston IT disaster recovery plan, business continuity plan, and the incident response playbooks such as ransomware/malware and unauthorized data access. Artificial Intelligence Application: IT Department is working on a proof-of-concept/pilot project of Microsoft Co-pilot. This is an AI platform in a more secure, Galveston County-specific environment within the county's Microsoft 365 tenant. It uses a version of a ChatGPT engine to basically be an agent or assistant to your work. The IT Department is in the very "infant stages" and is still developing our AI policy as part of our security governance. Records Management: The IT Department hired a records administrator, who is going to assist the county in establishing records governance while making sure that Galveston County is aligned with TSLAC requirements. In addition, the records administrator will be looking at the security and storage of our existing and future physical records to help establish standards. This includes evaluating/implementing a formal electronic application to digitize and index records.

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Activity DONE	Annual Review of Information Technology (IT) Projects – New Projects in Process (continued)
	OpenGov Nuisance Abatement: Nuisance Abatement Division is under the Sheriff's Office. The goal in nuisance abatement to assists in crime reduction and neighborhood safety. Formerly, the tasks of recording this information were manual, but the IT Department is implementing software approved as part of the FY26 budget to assist the Sheriff's Office in these efforts. OCA PSRS: Article 17.021, adopted as part of the SB 9 in the 2025 Texas Legislature stated, that the “public safety report system must be configured to allow a county or municipality to integrate the jail records management system and case management systems used by the county with the public safety report system.” This was effective January 1, 2026. At the time of this update, Tyler Technologies Inc. was responsible to make the necessary changes to allow for the system integration and this was in process.

Activity DONE	Abolition of the County and Judicial Technology Advisory Committee (CJTAC)
	During the February 20, 2026 Coordinating Council meetings, Dr. Fabelo with the agreement of Misty Witmer, Galveston County Chief Information Officer, recommended the abolition of CJTAC. This committee was the reconfiguration of the project first committee called the Data and IT Committee that was under the direction of Aaron Johnson at the time. The CJTAC was created in March 2023. During the March 31, 2023 meeting on the Coordinating Council, Misty Witmer, Chief Information Officers for Galveston County, reviewed the goals for redesigning the present Data and IT Committee into a committee of agency and judicial representatives that is more targeted to provide information technology tools to the county and judicial agencies. The Data and IT Committee fulfilled its original function of creating statistical reporting metrics for all key aspects of the Galveston County jail, pretrial and judicial system. The County and Judicial Technology Advisory Committee (CJTAC) was designed to assist Ms. Witmer in identifying areas to develop new information technology tools to assist the agencies. The creation of the Department of Enterprise Services now provides a great resource to develop and test new information technology tools. Moreover, recently, participation and interest in the CJTAC have diminished. Ms. Witmer now will shift to reporting to the Coordinating Council every other meeting and, based on that report, the assistance on interagency information technology will be determine and guided by the council.

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V. Appendices

Appendix 1: Worktable Jail Population Review and Capacity Variance Process, January 28, 2025

Task	Description of Task	Agency Persons Responsible	Implementation Date	Status
1	Overview of Felony Indictment Process	DA Roady	February 7, 2025 CC Meeting	
Note	Data from the monthly metrics report of the Coordinating Council shows that on average, for calendar 2024, about 33% of the population in jail are defendants still in custody not indicted (341 in December 2024). The average number of days from arrest to indictment for the same period was 82 days. We need to understand if there are protocols that can be instituted to reduce this population in jail.			
2	Review of Time to Get Inmate “Paper Ready” for Transfer to TDCJ or State Jail	Captain Cagnon, GCSO with Aaron Johnson, PBO Director	February 21, 2025 CC Meeting	
Note	Data from the TCJS shows the Galveston jail had no inmate awaiting transfer to TDCJ over the 45 days threshold. However, a statistical table produced by the GCSO on January 24 showed “convicted felons to TDC” total of 64 of which 54 had been in jail more than 71 days. We need to understand better this number. Is this counting the time it takes to get papers ready? If so, how long does it take to have papers ready?			
3	Review of What is Include in “HELD” Population Statistics Reported by the GCSO	Captain Cagnon, GCSO with Aaron Johnson, PBO Director	February 21, 2025 CC Meeting	
Note	Data from the GCSO of January 24 shows 755 inmates under the “HELD” label but we do not know what population is included here. About 53% of this population is shown as being in jail more that 71 days. We need to understand better who is in this category, particularly those serving longer that 71 days.			
4	Review of State Administrative Code Regarding the Issuance of Capacity Variances to House More Inmate in County Jails	Dr. Fabelo	February 21, 2025	

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Appendix 2: Sheriff Mental Health Support for Community Crisis and GCC, Original Coordinating Council February 5, 2025 and Update for Coordinating Council on April 11, 2025

Task	Description of Task	Agency Persons Responsible	Implementation Date	Status
1	Instructions to Gulf Coast Center (GCC) Crisis Line & Staff Regarding When to Call Police vs Sheriff for Assistance with Mental Health Crisis Meeting the Texas Health & Safety Code 573 Criteria	Sgt Rhett DeMunbrun, Galveston County SO; Jerry Freshour, GCC	01-09-25	Completed
2	Plan Sheriff Support for Crisis at GCC Meeting the Texas Health & Safety Code 573 Criteria (EDOs & Transports)	Sgt Rhett DeMunbrun, Galveston County SO; Jerry Freshour, GCC	01-09-25	Completed
3	Plan for Sheriff Support for Community Crisis in Small Cities with Limited Police Capacity (EDOs & Transports)	Sgt Rhett DeMunbrun, Galveston County SO; Jerry Freshour, GCC	01-09-25	Completed
4	Plan for Clear Creek ISD School Crisis Meeting Texas H&S Code 573 Criteria to be Addressed by School Based Law Enforcement & GCC Youth Crisis Team	Sgt. Rhett DeMunbrun, Galveston County SO; Jerry Freshour, GCC	01-09-25	Completed
5	Sheriff & GCC MOU for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) for Improved Public Safety (Texas Health & Safety Code 574)	Captain Thomas Maffei & Sgt. Rhett DeMunbrun Galveston County SO; Jerry Freshour, GCC	02-14-25	Completed
6	Sheriff's Office Request for GCC-County Written Agreements & Health & Safety Code Regarding SO Mental Health Obligations	Captain Thomas Maffei & Sgt. Rhett DeMunbrun Galveston County SO; Jerry Freshour, GCC	03-3-25	Completed
7	Sheriff-GCC MOU for Jail Reentry Program Funded by the US Department Justice	Jerry Freshour, GCC to Sheriff Staff for Review and Signature	3-5-2025	Completed
8	Sheriff Trainings for Police Departments on Texas Health & Safety Code 573 EDO & Transport Responsibilities & Processes	Captain Thomas Maffei, Sgt. Rhett DeMunbrun, Galveston County SO	May 22 and 23, 2025	Completed
9	Discussion on Galveston County Sheriff Deputy Access to GCC Virtual Clinicians	Captain Thomas Maffei & Sgt. Rhett DeMunbrun Galveston County SO; Jerry Freshour, GCC	Funding and Meadows TA in Process Separate Workplan Pending	In Process
10	Sheriff & GCC Planning for Galveston County Wellness Center Utilization for Crisis & Jail Diversion for SO & Supports	Sheriff Jimmy Fullen; Chairman Holmes as GCC Board Member Felicia Jeffery, GCC; Jerry Freshour GCC	August 2025 Separate Workplan Pending	In Process
11	County Jail Space for GCC Forensic Program Manager	Sheriff Jimmy Fullen; Chairman Holmes as GCC Board Member, Jerry Freshour GCC	Needed as Soon as Possible	In Process

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Appendix 3: Galveston County Jail Reentry Program Worktable Presented Initially to the Coordinating Council on April 25, 2025 and Updated for the Coordinating Council Meeting of September 19, 2025

Task	Description of Task	Agency Persons Responsible	Implementation Date	Status
1	Continuity of Care Coordination for GCC clients booking to Galveston County Jail	Sheriff Henry Trochesset, GCSO; GCJ Medical Provider; Christy Dobbs Perez, GCC	November 2016	Complete
2	TLETs & State Mental Health Database Cross Reference Report for Early Identification of MI and/or IDD Bookings to County Jail	Sheriff Henry Trochesset, GCSO; Christy Dobbs Perez, GCC	November 2016	Complete
3	GCC Registrations at the Galveston County Jail for Mental Health and SUD Services	Sheriff Henry Trochesset, GCSO; Christy Dobbs Perez, GCC	May 2020	Complete
4	Misdemeanor Bookings with MI History Sorted to Galveston County Misdemeanor Mental Health Docket for CCP 17.032 Mental Health Bonds	Christy Dobbs Perez, GCC; Judge Wayne Mallia, Jay Wooten, MH Public Defender	October 2021	Complete
5	GCC Access to Galveston County Jail Psychiatric Records to Facilitate GCC Intakes and Continuity of Care	Sheriff Henry Trochesset; Christy Dobbs Perez, GCC	June 2022	Complete
6	GCC Coordination of Continuity of Care Psychiatric Medications for Jail Releases to GCC Aftercare	GCJ Medical Provider; Christy Dobbs Perez, GCC	May 2020	Complete
7	Coordination Between Galveston County Jail and GCC Forensic Team for Inmate Release Plans	Captain Jennifer Cagnon or designee, GCSO; GCJ Medical; Christy Dobbs Perez, GCC	January 1, 2025	Complete
8	Coordination of Transport of Individuals from Jail to Psychiatric Hospitals under Order of Protective Custody from Probate Court to Warrants	Captain Jennifer Cagnon or designee, GCSO; Christy Dobbs Perez, GCC	January 1, 2025	Complete
9	Sheriff & GCC MOU for the Galveston County Jail Re-Entry Program, Required by Bureau of Justice Administration for Release of Second Chance Act Grant Funding for the Jail Reentry Team	Sheriff Jimmy Fullen; Jerry Freshour, GCC	March 5, 2025	Complete
10	BJA Budget Approval for Galveston Co Jail Reentry Program	Jerry Freshour, GCC	March 6, 2025	Complete
11	GCC Receives 10% of the Grant Funding to Begin Planning with Technical Assistance from BJA Contracted Council State Governments	Jerry Freshour, GCC; Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	March 10, 2025	Complete
12 a	GCC Completes BJA Required Planning Guide Demonstrating Readiness	Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	June 2025	Summited August 11, 2025
12 b	Approval from BJA to Move Forward with Funding to Start Program	Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	September 2025	Funds Approved September 10, 2025
13	Post Staff Hiring Positions and Begin Hiring Process	Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	Unknown – After BJA Approval	Pending
13 a	Hiring – Clinician	Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	After BJA	Pending

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Task	Description of Task	Agency Persons Responsible	Implementation Date	Status
13 b	Hiring – Case Manager	Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	After BJA	Pending
13 c	Hiring – Case Manager 2	Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	After BJA	Pending
13 d	Hiring – Peer Support Specialist	Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	After BJA	Pending
14	Review and acquire space at jail and space at community centers	Chairman Holmes as GCC Board; Jerry Freshour, GCC; Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	Pending Review	Pending
15	Program Start Date – Hire Staff and Other Protocols in Place	Jerry Freshour, GCC; Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	Unknown – After BJA Approval	Pending
16	Access to Galveston County Jail IT Systems for New GCC Re-Entry Staff	Galveston County IT Director Misty Witmer; Christy Dobbs Perez, GCC	Unknown – As Staff On-Boarded	Pending
18	Integration of Program Relevant Component with MH Wellness Center Planning and Worktable Part of the Wellness Center Worktable Pending	Chairman Holmes as GCC Board; Jerry Freshour, GCC; Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	August 2025	Pending
19	Performance Measure Collection and Report	Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	After Program Start	Pending
20	MH Docket Jail Reentry Part II Study of Connection Treatment After Program Start and Enough Cases Track	Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	After Program Start	Pending
21	Develop Funding Sustainability Plan Assuming that Data Analysis Show Effectiveness	Chairman Holmes as GCC Board; Jerry Freshour, GCC; Christy Dobbs-Perez, GCC	After Program Start	Pending
22	Program Funding Ending	Assuming Start of August 2025	August 2028	Pending

Appendix 4: Emotional Intelligence Training for Galveston and Brazoria Law Enforcement by GCC May 23 and May 24, 2025



TARGETED EQ

Focus Areas for Law Enforcement

"The daily challenge of dealing effectively with our emotion is critical because our brains are hard-wired to give emotions the upper hand" – Dr. Travis Bradberry and Jean Graves. *Emotional Intelligence 2.0*

Law enforcement officers who develop their EQ communicate effectively, handle stress well, make good decisions, handle conflict productively, are better team players, respond flexibly to change, influence others more, and provide top notch service within their communities.

Emotional Intelligence Training

Hosted by Gulf Coast Center and Gregory Campbell, PhD
Vice President, Law Enforcement and Government TalentSmartEQ

**5/23/2025**

**8 AM - 5 PM**

**BRAZORIA CO. JAIL TRAINING ROOM**
3602 CR 45
Angleton, TX 77515

**409-502-5247**
Arielle Gray



REGISTER HERE




Space limited to 30 participants

Whether you are aware of them or not, emotions are intertwined in everything you think, do, and say each day on the job, in your career and throughout your life. Emotional intelligence (EQ) is how you handle yourself and others. *Your EQ consists of four core skills:*

SELF AWARENESS
Be better aware of your own emotions and tendencies to understand your strengths, personal style, and impact on others.

SOCIAL AWARENESS
Build awareness of the emotions of other people including unspoken cues and the mood in the room to make better decisions and be more effective, more of the time.

SELF-MANAGEMENT
Manage your reactions effectively by making better decisions and responding to challenges and opportunities productively.

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT
Manage relationships by building, strengthening, and deepening your connections with the people in your social network.

TEXAS STATE of MIND
THE MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

E

TalentSmartEQ⁷

PROGRAM FACT SHEET

This program has one focus...to increase your effectiveness through EQ.

TalentSmart's Developing EQ™ in Policing will take you far beyond knowing what EQ is and how you score on your first EQ test. In this in-person or virtually led session, you'll discover the 66 strategies you can use right away to take your EQ to new heights. Begin your EQ journey toward handling yourself in times of stress and dealing with others skillfully. Reap all the rewards that being emotionally intelligent will bring you.



What You Will Do

- ✓ Discover what EQ is and why it matters in law enforcement.
- ✓ Broaden your awareness of the role of emotions as a law enforcement professional and within your community.
- ✓ Explore the four EQ skills in action: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, and Relationship Management.
- ✓ Discuss real world examples and experiences, what works, what doesn't, and what to do next time.
- ✓ From the Emotional Intelligence Appraisal® - Self Edition assessment results, understand your current level of emotional intelligence (strengths and weaknesses) and where to focus your development.



Benefits of taking the Emotional Intelligence Appraisal®

- ✓ Comprehensive EQ scores, analysis and recommended strategies are based upon the participant's unique score profile and are designed to bridge the learning-doing gap.
- ✓ Your lowest EQ behaviors and your top three EQ strengths, along with strategies to maximize development.
- ✓ A scheduled retest comes with a full change-score report and recommended strategies based on new results.

Appendix 5: Update of Wellness Center Construction Presented to the Coordinating Council on May 9, 2025 and July 11, 2025



Turner & Townsend
Heery

Galveston County Mental Health Wellness Center

Week Ending April 25, 2025



Mock wall approved by architect



Building generator installed



Courtyard

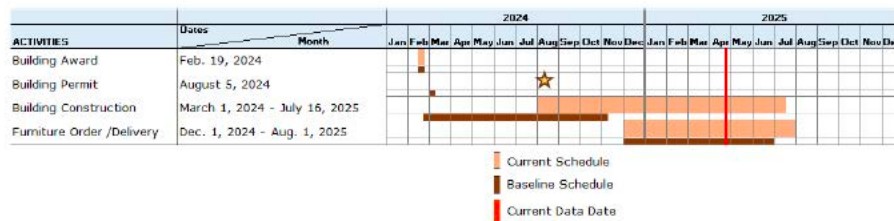


Social area of EOU looking out to Courtyard



Electrical panels being installed

Pictures taken: April 2025



Galveston County Mental Health Wellness Center

Week Ending July 4, 2025



Entry from parking lot



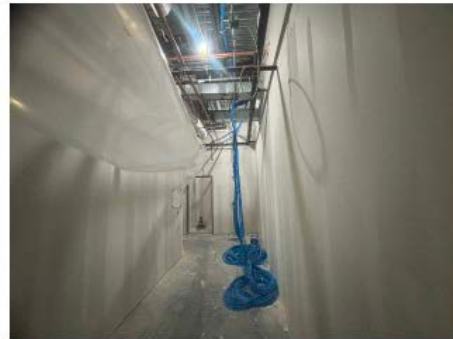
Doors have been installed



Permanent power now on

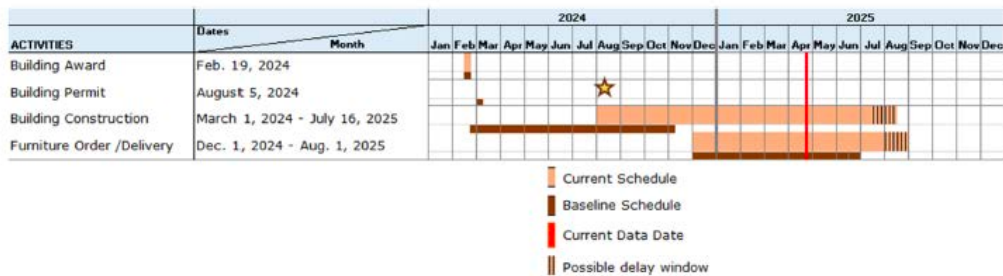


Ceiling grids and light fixtures being installed

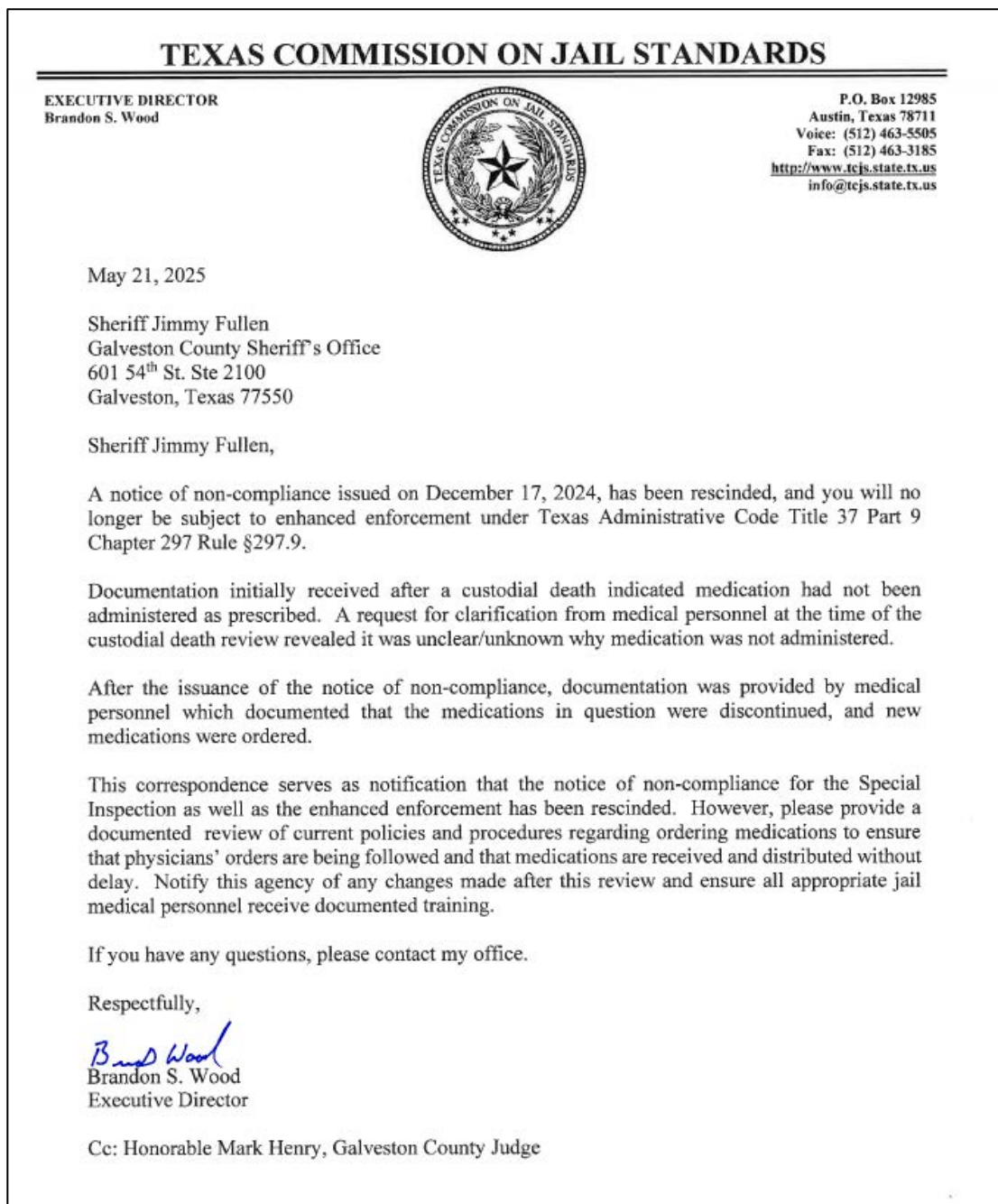


Security & network cabling being installed

Pictures taken: July 3, 2025

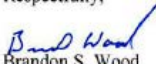


Appendix 6: Letter of May 21, 2025 from Brandon S. Wood, Director, Texas Commission on Jail Standards to Sheriff Jimmy Fullen Rescinding Notice of Non-Compliance of December 17, 2025



Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

Appendix 7: Letter of May 29, 2025 from Brandon S. Wood, Director, Texas Commission on Jail Standards to County Judge Henry and Sheriff Jimmy Fullen Approving Request to Add Internal Jail Capacity Based on Variance Approval

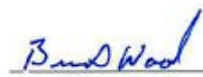
TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS		
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Brandon S. Wood		P.O. Box 12985 Austin, Texas 78711 Voice: (512) 463-5505 Fax: (512) 463-3185 http://www.tcjcs.state.tx.us info@tcjcs.state.tx.us
May 29, 2025		
The Honorable Mark Henry Galveston County Judge 722 Moody Avenue, Galveston, Texas 77550		
and		
Sheriff Jimmy Fullen Galveston County Sheriff 601 54th Street, Galveston, Texas 77551		
Dear Judge Henry and Sheriff Fullen,		
Your request for a variance from Minimum Jail Standards was an agenda item at the May 1, 2025 meeting of the Commission on Jail Standards. Please find enclosed the official action taken on your request. Please contact my office if you have any questions.		
Respectfully,		
 Brandon S. Wood Executive Director		
Judge Bill Stouff, Longview, Chair Dr. Emanuel Porra, M.D., Houston, Vice-Chair Rosa Reyes, Melissa	Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Lubbock Vacant Patricia M. Anthony, Garland	Commissioner Ben Perry, Waco Duane Lack, Southlake Monica McBride, Alpine
The Commission on Jail Standards welcomes all suggestions and will promptly respond to all complaints directed against the agency or any facilities under its purview. To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas		

GALVESTON COUNTY

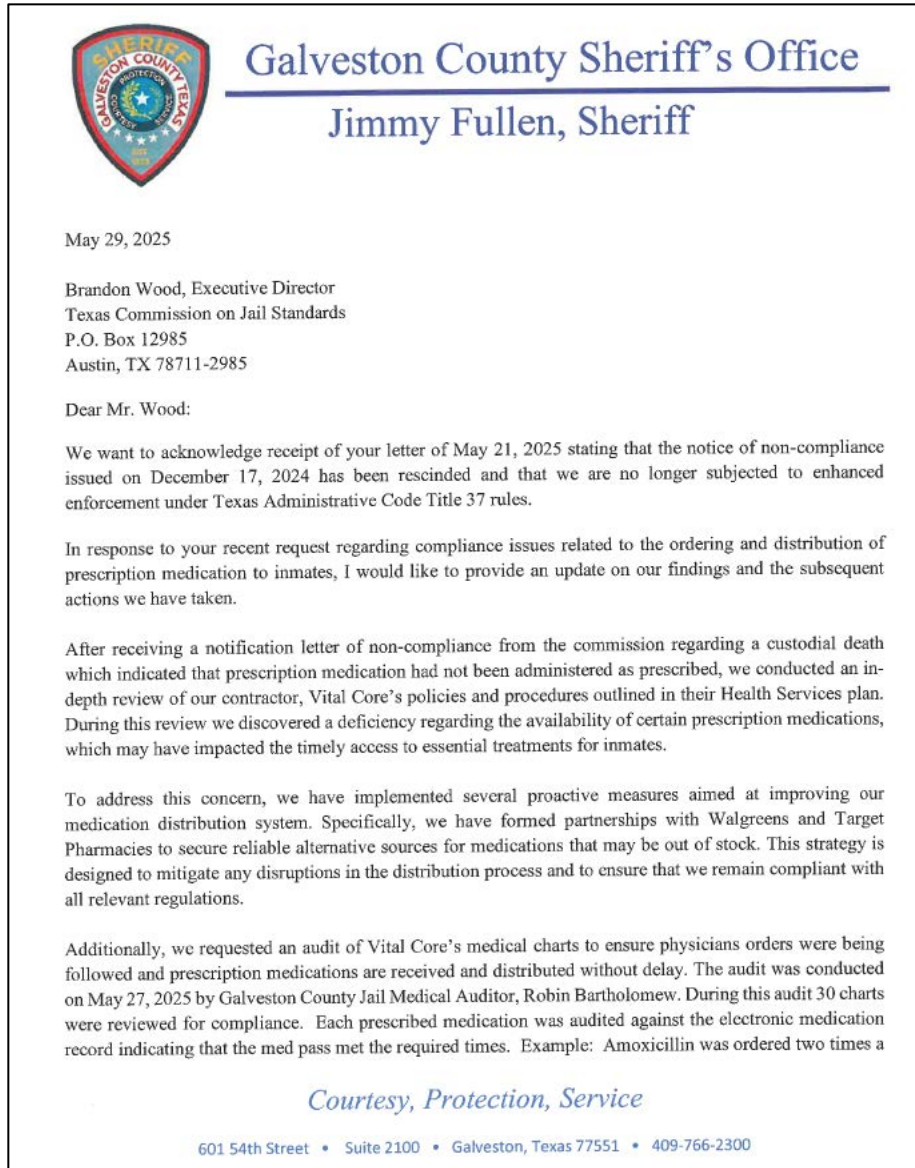
Section: 259.143(b)(c) FURNISHINGS FOR INMATE HOUSING AREAS

Commission Action:

Approved. A motion was made and seconded to allow Galveston County to replace 12 single beds with 12 double bunks in housing units K-100 and K-200, increasing the total capacity for each unit from 24 to 36, and to add, three double bunks in dormitories F-100 and I-300, making the total capacity for each dormitory 56. The total number of variance beds is 36. Adding these additional beds will exceed the requirement ratio of the 1:8 toilets and lavatories by two in housing units K-100 and K-200 and one toilet and lavatory in housing units F-100 and I-300. The additional beds will also exceed the requirement ratio of the 1:12 shower ratio by one shower in all four requested housing units, K-100, K-200, F-100, and I-300. The variance was approved for a 12-month period contingent upon resolved background issues, until the May 2026 Commission Meeting.

 May 29, 2025
Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director

Appendix 8: Letter of May 29, 2025 from Sheriff Jimmy Fullen to Brandon Wood, Director, Texas Commission on Jail Standards, with Requested Corrective Action Plan



Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

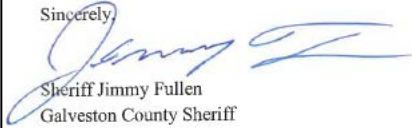
day. Each med pass was documented that the inmate either received, refused or did not go to the cart. I have attached a copy of her audit.

We are currently working on changing medical vendors to UTMB (University of Texas Medical Branch) with a projected date of August 1, 2025. With UTMB being the medical provider for TDCJ, we feel this will further tighten the procedures.

We appreciate your understanding as we continue to enhance our processes and remain committed to the health and welfare of the inmates in our care. If you need any further information or documentation regarding our initiatives, please feel free to reach out.

We will be moving forward to add the additional internal capacity per our capacity variance request approved by the commission on May 1, 2025, as we received your approval letter today. This will greatly help us face the potential increase in the demand for jail space during the summer.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Jimmy Fullen
Galveston County Sheriff

Report to Coordinating Council, May 30, 2025

Peace Officer file a Notification of Detention with a facility - person may be detained 48 hours

Notification - Emergency Detention NO. _____
DATE: _____ TIME: _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS
FOR THE BEST INTEREST AND PROTECTION OF: _____

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY DETENTION

Now comes _____, a peace officer with (name of agency) _____, of the State of Texas, and states as follows:

1. I have reason to believe and do believe that (name of person to be detained) _____ evidences mental illness.

2. I have reason to believe and do believe that the above-named person evidences a substantial risk of serious harm to themselves or others based upon the following: _____

3. I have reason to believe and do believe that the above risk of harm is imminent unless the above-named person is immediately restrained.

4. My beliefs are based upon the following recent behavior, overt acts, attempts, statements, or threats observed by me or reliably reported to me: _____

5. The names, addresses, and relationship to the above-named person of those persons who reported or observed recent behavior, overt acts, attempts, statements, or threats of the above-named person are (if applicable): _____

Notification of Emergency Detention (Statutory)
REV 6/2024

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

For the above reasons, I present this notification to seek temporary admission to the (name of facility) _____, an inpatient mental health facility or a mental health facility deemed suitable by the local mental health authority if an appropriate inpatient mental health facility is not available, for the detention of (name of person to be detained) _____ on an emergency basis.

6. Was the person restrained in any way? Yes ☐ No ☐

PEACE OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

BADGE NO.

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

SIGNATURE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PERSONNEL (if applicable)

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

A mental health facility or hospital emergency department may not require a peace officer or emergency services personnel to execute any form other than this form as a predicate to accepting for temporary admission a person detained by a peace officer under section 573.001, Health and Safety Code, and transported by the officer under that section or by emergency services personnel of an emergency medical services provider at the request of the officer made in accordance with a memorandum of understanding executed under section 573.005, Health and Safety Code.

Notification of Emergency Detention (Statutory)
REV 8/2021

II. Emergency facility needs to transfer person under their care to a mental health facility

Needs to file with the Probate Court or JP acting as a magistrate **Application for Transfer Warrant**

III. JP then need to sign Transfer Warrant Order

Law enforcement can transport from emergency facility to mental health facility using APOWW authority - 48 hours

Need JPs on call for 24 hours access for Application for Transfer Warrant

NO. _____		
THE STATE OF TEXAS FOR THE BEST INTEREST AND PROTECTION OF _____	§ 573.021 § 573.022 § 573.023 § 573.024	IN THE JUSTICE COURT BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS PRECINCT ____, PLACE ____
<u>APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER WARRANT ORDER</u>		
Now comes Applicant and states the following:		
I. Applicant Information		
Name: _____		
Title/Occupation: _____		
Employer/Hospital Facility: _____		
Hospital Facility Address and Phone Number: _____		

II. Patient Information		
Patient Name: _____		
Date of Birth: _____		
Current Location: _____		
Original Admission Date and Time: _____		
Proposed Mental Health Facility: _____		

Proposed Mental Health Facility Contact Name and Phone Number: _____		

III. Relief Requested		
This Patient has been accepted into our Hospital Facility for a preliminary examination based on a peace officer notification of detention, as allowed by Texas Health and Safety Code Section 573.021. A copy of the notification is attached to this Application. _____ (required, must initial) The Patient requires transfer to an appropriate mental health hospital, as allowed		

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

by Texas Health and Safety Code Section 573.022(c). Applicant verifies that the above-identified Mental Health Facility has agreed to receive the Patient.

WHEREFORE, Applicant requests that this Court issue an Order authorizing the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office to transport the Patient from the above identified Hospital Facility where the Patient is currently located to above identified Mental Health Facility for the purpose of emergency detention under Texas Health and Safety Code chapter 573.

DATED the ____ day of _____, 20__.

Applicant

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the above named Applicant this the ____ day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public in and for
The State of Texas

NO. _____	§ 573.001 § 573.002 § 573.003 § 573.004 § 573.005 § 573.006 § 573.007 § 573.008 § 573.009 § 573.010	
THE STATE OF TEXAS FOR THE BEST INTEREST AND PROTECTION OF _____		IN THE JUSTICE COURT BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS PRECTNCT ____, PLACE ____
TRANSFER WARRANT ORDER		
On this, the ____ day of _____, 20 ____, came to be considered the request for transfer of _____ (hereinafter called the "Patient").		
The Court finds that the Patient is presently being held under a peace officer's notification of detention issued pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code chapter 573 at the following location (the "Hospital Facility"): _____ located in _____ County.		
The Court further finds that it is for the best interest and protection of the Patient to have his/her custody and detention transferred from the above named Hospital Facility to this receiving location (the "Mental Health Facility"): _____ located in _____ County.		
It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed that the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office or any peace officer in the State of Texas take possession of the Patient from the Hospital Facility and transport the Patient to the Mental Health Facility, which shall continue the detention of the Patient pursuant to and in accordance with the notification of detention filed with the Hospital Facility. All Parties are advised that the issuance of this Order does not extend deadlines under Texas Health and Safety Code chapter 573.		
HEREIN FAIL NOT, but of this Order make due return to said Court showing how you have executed the same.		
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.		
_____ JUDGE PRESIDING / MAGISTRATE		

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026

OFFICER'S RETURN

Received the _____ day of _____, 20____ at _____ o'clock ____M. and executed by taking into custody patient named _____ and transporting patient to _____ for admission to the facility at the following address _____, on this the _____ day of _____, 20____ at _____ o'clock ____M. in the County of _____, in the State of Texas.

RETURNED: _____

Peace Officer
Brazoria County Sheriff's Office

ACCEPTANCE OF PATIENT

Received at _____, this the _____ day of _____, 20____ the Patient described in the above Transfer Warrant Order together with the following personal property, if any, belonging to said Patient:

_____. A copy of this order should be placed in the Patient's file.

Receiving Mental Health Facility Administrator

Printed Name and Title

Business Phone

IV. Probate Judge ask to sign **Order of Protective Custody**

Issued by a judge in order for a facility to continue to hold a patient in a mental health facility pending a hearing on the application for court ordered mental health services (Civil Commitment)

Cause No. _____	
The State of Texas for the	In the _____ Court
Best Interest and Protection of	_____ County,
_____ (List the initials of the person you want to protect.)	Texas

Motion for Protective Custody
(Sec. 574.021, Texas Health and Safety Code)
(To be completed by a county or district attorney.)

1. An application for court-ordered mental health services ("Application") was filed in the Court and is still pending.
2. A Certificate of Medical Examination for Mental Illness ("Certificate") is attached to this Motion. The Certificate was prepared by a physician ("Certifying Physician") who examined _____ ("Proposed Patient") within the three days before this Motion's filing.
3. The person filing this motion ("Movant") has reason to believe and does believe that: (1) the Certifying Physician stated their opinion that the Proposed Patient is a person with mental illness and gave the detailed basis for that opinion; and (2) the Proposed Patient presents a substantial risk of serious harm to themselves or others if not immediately restrained pending a hearing.
4. Movant's belief is derived from:
(Check all that apply.)
☐ the representation of a credible person;
☐ the Proposed Patient's conduct;
☐ the circumstances under which the Proposed Patient is found.
5. Movant asks the Court to determine—based on the information in the Application, this Motion, and the Certificate—that (1) the Certifying Physician stated their opinion that the Proposed Patient is a person with mental illness and gave the detailed basis for that opinion; and (2) the Proposed Patient presents a substantial risk of serious harm to themselves or others if not immediately restrained pending a hearing. However, Movant

Approved by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health on April 6, 2023.

conditionally requests to present additional evidence if the Court decides that a fair determination cannot be made from the Application, Motion, and Certificate alone.

6. Movant asks the Court to issue an Order of Protective Custody, ordering that a peace officer or other designated person:

(Check one.)

- ☐ take the Proposed Patient into protective custody and immediately transport the Proposed Patient to _____ ("Facility").
- ☐ maintain protective custody of the Proposed Patient at _____ ("Facility").

7. Movant also asks the Court to order that the Proposed Patient be detained in the Facility until a probable cause hearing or a hearing on court-ordered mental health services, whichever is first.

Respectfully Submitted,

County/District Attorney Name and Contact
Information

County/District Attorney Signature

Date

Background from the Judicial Commission of Mental Health Bench Book, Fourth Edition, 2023-2025



Legislative Changes

S.B. 2479 (88th Reg. Sess. (2023)) and S.B. 1624 (88th Reg. Sess. (2023)), both effective September 1, 2023, amended Tex. Health & Safety Code § 573.012 in multiple ways.

1) The judge must accept electronic applications for emergency detention warrants.

The law now mandates that judges must accept applications for emergency detention warrant requests submitted electronically from applicants who are authorized to present the application electronically. Previously, accepting the application in electronic format was discretionary.

2) Doctors and licensed mental health professionals employed by a LMHA can both apply for emergency detention warrants electronically.

These legislative changes expand who is authorized to request a warrant electronically (e.g., via email) from a judge for an emergency mental health detention under Texas Health and Safety Code section 573.012. Previous law only allowed physicians to request a warrant for an emergency detention electronically. In less populated areas, a physician is often not available to make an electronic request when an emergency detention warrant is needed. This amendment remedied that issue by allowing other licensed mental health professionals with advanced training and education who are employed by the LMHA to make the request electronically.

3) Transport is only required when an apprehended person is not already at MH facility.

This legislative amendment clarified that if the individual being apprehended is not already located at the facility, then they should be transported. Thus, clarifying that if the person is already located in the facility, it is not necessary to transport that individual.

4) Law Enforcement Officer is not required to remain at mental health facility after presenting the person under an emergency detention warrant, and proper documentation, to facility.

This amendment to Texas Health and Safety Code section 573.012 clarifies a law enforcement officer's duty upon presenting an individual to a mental health facility under a warrant for emergency detention. Under the revised law, a law enforcement officer does not have a duty to remain at a healthcare facility or emergency room once the officer responsibly delivers an individual under a warrant for emergency detention with all required documentation.

A problem faced by law enforcement officers is that they often have been required to wait while the individual they have transported for emergency mental health services is medically screened or treated before they can leave the healthcare facility or emergency room. This amendment clarifies that this waiting time is not required.

NOTE: This legislative change ONLY amends an officer's duties relating to Emergency Detentions with a Warrant, and not Warrantless Emergency Detentions or Apprehension by a Peace Officer Without a Warrant (APOWWs). Nonetheless, the recommended practice is for healthcare facilities and emergency rooms to follow a similar practice for APOWWs.

Goal: To create electronic transmission protocol in Galveston County for requesting Application for Transfer Warrant Order and Transfer Warrant Order as allowed by law

Texas Health and Safety Code - HEALTH & SAFETY § 573.012. Issuance of Warrant

A judge or magistrate shall permit an applicant who is **a physician** to present an application by:

- (1) e-mail with the application attached as a secure document in a portable document format (PDF); or
 - (2) another secure electronic means, including:
 - (A) satellite transmission;
 - (B) closed-circuit television transmission; or
 - (C) any other method of two-way electronic communication that:
 - (i) is secure;
 - (ii) is available to the judge or magistrate; and
 - (iii) provides for a simultaneous, compressed full-motion video and interactive communication of image and sound between the judge or magistrate and the applicant.
- <Text of (h) as amended by [Acts 2023, 88th Leg., ch. 982](#) (S.B. 2479), § 3>

(h) A judge or magistrate may permit an applicant who is **a physician or a licensed mental health professional employed by a local mental health authority** to present an application by:

- (1) e-mail with the application attached as a secure document in a portable document format (PDF); or
- (2) secure electronic means, including:
 - (A) satellite transmission;
 - (B) closed-circuit television transmission; or
 - (C) any other method of two-way electronic communication that:
 - (i) is secure;
 - (ii) is available to the judge or magistrate; and
 - (iii) provides for a simultaneous, compressed full-motion video and interactive communication of image and sound between the judge or magistrate and the applicant.

(h-1) After the presentation of an application under Subsection (h), the judge or magistrate may transmit a warrant to the applicant:

- (1) **electronically, if a digital signature**, as defined by [Article 2.26, Code of Criminal Procedure](#), is transmitted with the document; or
- (2) **by e-mail with the warrant** attached as a secure document in a portable document format (PDF), if the identifiable legal signature of the judge or magistrate is transmitted with the document.

(h-2) A facility may detain a person who is physically located in the facility to perform a preliminary examination in accordance with [Section 573.021](#) if:

(1) a judge or magistrate transmits a warrant to the facility under Subsection (h-1) for the detention of the person; and

(2) the person is not under an order under this chapter or Chapter 574.

(h-3) **The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System** shall develop and implement a process for an applicant for emergency detention to electronically present the application under Subsection (h) and for a judge or magistrate to electronically transmit a warrant under Subsection (h-1).

Brazoria County presentation below shows how they have set the electronic process

Filing the Application for Transfer Warrant Order (1)

- The emergency facility may file an Application with a Brazoria County Justice of the Peace.
- Attached to the form must be a copy of the peace officer's emergency detention notification.
- The Application must also verify that a mental health facility has been secured.

The form is titled "APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER WARRANT ORDER". It is divided into three main sections: I. Applicant Information, II. Police Information, and III. Other Information. Section I includes fields for Name, Date of Birth, Current Location, Hospital/Inpatient Facility, and Hospital/Inpatient Address and Phone Number. Section II includes fields for Patient Name, Date of Birth, Current Location, Outpatient Address and Phone, and Inpatient Address and Phone. Section III includes a field for Other Information. The form is a PDF document with a header and footer.

Filing the Application for Transfer Warrant Order (2)

- Filing Application during Court's Business Hours (**recommended**):
 - Application may be filed in person or electronically.
 - If filing electronically, contact the Court first and request instructions for filing the Application.
 - Listing of Justices of the Peace:
<https://brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/justice-of-the-peace>

Filing the Application for Transfer Warrant Order (3)

- Filing Application outside Court's Business Hours:
 - Contact the Sheriff's Office to request to speak with the On-Call Justice of Peace concerning a mental health emergency (**979-864-2392**).
 - The Sheriff's Office will notify the Justice of the Peace, and the Justice of the Peace will call the emergency facility to provide instructions for filing the Application.

The Transfer Warrant Order

- If the Justice of the Peace agrees that a patient may be transferred, he/she will sign and email a copy of the Transfer Warrant Order to the emergency facility.
- Once the emergency facility receives the Order, it should contact the Sheriff's Office to coordinate the transfer.

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THE STATE OF TEXAS
FOR THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
AND PROTECTION OF

IN THE JUSTICE COURT
BANDERA COUNTY, TEXAS
PRECEDENT PLACE

TRANSFER WARRANT ORDER

On this, the _____ day of _____, 20____, came to be considered the request
of _____ (hereinafter called the "Petitioner").

The Court finds that the Petitioner is presently being held under a peace officer's
warrant of detention issued pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code chapter 573 in the
following location (the "Original Facility") _____ located
in _____ County.

The Court further finds that it is in the best interest and protection of the Petitioner to have
him/her removed and detained elsewhere than the above named hospital facility to the
following location (the "Transferred Facility") _____ located
in _____ County.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed that the Bandera County Sheriff's Office or
any peace officer or the State of Texas take possession of the Petitioner from the Original Facility
and transport the Petitioner to the Transferred Facility, which shall assume the detention of the
Petitioner in and in accordance with the requirements of detention listed under the Original
Facility. It is further ordered that the issuance of this Order does not extend detention under
Texas Health and Safety Code chapter 573.

HEREIN I, JUDGE, find all of the Order's conditions to be met and hereby issue this
order under my hand and _____ day of _____, 20____.

JUDGE PRESIDING / MAGISTRATE

Appendix 10: Final Feasibility Brief by Department of Enterprise Services Regarding Electronic Transmission of Detention and Protective Custody Orders for Coordinating Council, Updated Report for March 6, 2026 Meeting

Purpose of Review

- Gulf Coast Center requested evaluation of two items:
 - Whether an **Application for Emergency Detention** (as defined in Texas Health & Safety Code §573.011) could be supported or used more consistently; and
 - Whether an **electronic solution** could be implemented to support mental health court workflows in anticipation of future demand.
- To assess feasibility, the existing Order of Protective Custody (OPC) process was reviewed solely as a reference model, as it is the only fully defined and operational mental health court workflow in use.
- Discussions included Probate Court, the Special Prosecutor's Office, IT, and Gulf Coast Center leadership, including Jerry Freshour, Senior Director of Crisis and Justice Services.

Current Process Overview

- Mental health court processes involve multiple independent entities with defined roles:
 - **Hospitals** initiate OPC requests following physician evaluation and completion of required medical documentation.
 - **Chris Johnsen**, Special Prosecutor, reviews submitted packets for legal sufficiency and coordinates corrections when documentation is incomplete or inaccurate.
 - The **Probate Court** initiates and manages cases in Odyssey upon receipt of complete documentation.
 - **Law enforcement** acts under statutory authority through OPCs or Emergency Detention Orders (EDOs), depending on the circumstances.
- OPCs typically originate within hospitals or mental health facilities. Other proceedings, such as outpatient commitments and jail medication hearings, follow different initiation paths and do not rely on OPCs.

Statutory Coverage and Process Review

- Existing statutory tools (**OPCs and EDOs**) already provide legal authority for the majority of mental health crisis scenarios.
 - An **Application for Emergency Detention** exists in statute and was specifically reviewed to determine whether it should be operationalized or enhanced.
 - Based on discussion, this application is used infrequently, applies to a narrow set of circumstances, and provides limited additional value when OPCs and EDOs are available.
 - Jerry Freshour acknowledged these limitations and agreed that broader use of the Application for Emergency Detention would apply only to a small subset of cases and would not materially change current operations.
 - As a result, pursuing changes or electronic support for this application was determined to be low value at this time.
-

Case Volume Considerations

- Tracking indicates approximately **eight mental health cases per month**, including a mix of inpatient (OPC) and non-OPC proceedings.
- At current levels, the Probate Court is able to absorb cases involving Gulf Coast Center without operational strain.
- While overall volume remains relatively low, these matters require **immediate attention when they arise**, which can be operationally disruptive despite their frequency.
- Given current volume, the group determined that developing additional court workflows or system investment would not provide sufficient benefit to justify the associated complexity and effort.

Operational and Feasibility Constraints

- Case initiation occurs outside the court's control, primarily through hospitals and reviewed by Chris Johnsen.
- Intake relies on **secure email and fax** due to document review, corrections, and external dependencies.
- While Odyssey functions effectively once cases enter the court, extending electronic solutions upstream would require:
 - System access for external entities
 - CJIS compliance, training, and governance approvals
 - Broad operational and policy changes
- All parties, including Gulf Coast Center, agreed these factors make upstream electronic intake or broader automation infeasible at this time.

Conclusion

- Existing statutory tools adequately support current mental health court needs.
- The OPC process remains appropriate and unchanged; it was reviewed only as a feasibility reference model.
- The Application for Emergency Detention was evaluated and determined to be of limited practical value given current usage and case volume.
- Low volume and upstream operational constraints limit the feasibility and benefit of additional process changes or electronic solutions.
- These conclusions were reached with concurrence from the Probate Court, the Special Prosecutor's Office, IT, and Gulf Coast Center leadership.

Appendix 11: Analysis SB 9 and SJR 5 for Galveston County Coordinating Council Meeting, June 13, June 27 and July 11, 2025. SJR 9 Analysis Updated for November 15, 2025 Coordinating Council

SJR 5: Constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail for certain felons.
(November 4, 2025 Referendum – Voter Approved with 61% in Favor)

Effective date:³ Date Secretary of State Certifies the Vote

Effective earliest date: November 19, 2025 **and latest effective date:** December 4, 2025

Summary of Points to Brainstorm on Adoption of Protocols to Implement SJR 5:

Present Policy: Arrest → CCP 15.17 hearing to set bond (within 48 hrs.)

New Policy: Magistrate cannot deny bail to eligible SJR 5 defendants as this is done under a new protocol involving a Judge and the District Attorney.

Protocol Decision 1: TechShare to be programmed to flag SJR 5 defendants and send appropriate and timely notifications to magistrates not to review these cases for bail and for Judiciary and District Attorney to identify defendants that are SJR 5 eligible.

New Policy: For a mandatory SJR 5 denial of bond → need SJR 5 District Attorney evidentiary hearing for the state to demonstrate by “clear and convincing evidence” that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably: (1) prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court; or (2) ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense.

Protocol Decision 2: When is the hearing to occur? Within 48 hours as the present CCP 15.17 law requires or within some other timeframe and how is a different timeframe justified?

New Policy: Counsel needs to be present → need indigent defense counsel to be provided on a timely basis to be present in the evidentiary hearing

Protocol Decision 3: Timely appointment of indigent defense when needed or timely notification to private lawyers when applicable.

New Policy: State attorney presents evidence → District Court Judge may disagree with findings by the state attorney → 20-day appeal window by state attorney.

³ This summary of the amendments from Leg Council includes this paragraph explaining it <https://tlc.texas.gov/docs/amendments/analyses25.pdf>:

The Texas Constitution provides that the legislature, by a two-thirds vote of all members of each house, may propose amendments revising the constitution and that proposed amendments must then be submitted for approval to the qualified voters of the state. A proposed amendment becomes a part of the constitution if a majority of the votes cast in an election on the proposition are cast in its favor. An amendment approved by the voters is effective on the date of the official canvass of returns showing adoption. The date of canvass, by law, is not earlier than the 15th or later than the 30th day after election day. An amendment may provide for a later effective date.

Commentary by TF

The constitutional amendment or SB 9 did not make clear when the hearing in which the District Attorney is going to present the “clear and convincing evidence” it supposed to happen.

- The Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA) in their legislative briefings to DAs have said that it is “unclear” how this law might work and they do not recommend any protocol as local courts will have to decide on implementation protocols.
- At the time of the writing of this report (December 10, 2025) the Office of Court Administration (OCA) have not issued a guide to help local officials in implementing the new policy.

Estimated Population Affected by SJR 5 in Galveston County

- Over 700 cases in the categories of crime that apply in SJR 5 were filed in District Courts in 2024 (19% of 3,769 cases added) based on OCA statistics.
- A review of the magistration TechShare statistics for 2024 shows that 619 persons magistrate fit these crimes categories.
- Of the potential defendants eligible for bond denial under SJR 5 that were tracked for this assignment, 14% were released on bond within an average of 175 days.
- If NONE of the Aggravated Assault defendants can post bond that now post bond then this may impact an increase in the jail population of about 100 inmates by the end of 2026.

I. New Policy Framework for Texas that Amends the Constitutional Right to Bail for Certain Felons

Sec. 11d. (a) This section applies only to a person accused of committing one or more of the following offenses:

- (1) murder;*
- (2) capital murder;*
- (3) aggravated assault if the person:*
 - (A) caused serious bodily injury, as that term is defined by general law, to another; or*
 - (B) used a firearm, club, knife, or explosive weapon, as those terms are defined by general law, during the commission of the assault;*
- (4) aggravated kidnapping;*
- (5) aggravated robbery;*
- (6) aggravated sexual assault;*
- (7) indecency with a child;*
- (8) trafficking of persons; or*
- (9) continuous trafficking of persons.*

II. Person Shall Be Denied Bail and District Attorney Then Needs to Show Clear and Convincing Evidence for Denial of Bail in an Evidentiary Hearing

*(b) A person to whom this section applies **shall** be denied bail pending trial **if** the attorney representing the state demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence after a hearing that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably:*

- (1) prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court; or*
- (2) ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense.*

(e) For purposes of determining whether clear and convincing evidence exists as described by this section, a judge or magistrate shall consider:

- (1) the likelihood of the person's willful nonappearance in court;*
- (2) the nature and circumstances of the alleged offense;*
- (3) the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense; and*
- (4) the criminal history of the person.*

III. Judge Can Grant Bail After the Hearing and Need to Write a Justification

- c) A judge or magistrate who grants a person bail in accordance with this section shall:*
- (1) set bail and impose conditions of release necessary only to reasonably:*
 - (A) prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court; and*
 - (B) ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense;*
 - and*
 - (2) prepare a written order that includes findings of fact and a statement explaining the judge's or magistrate's justification for the grant and the determinations required by this section.*

IV. There is No Testimonial Evidence in Hearing and Clear and Convincing Evidence is Defined

This section may not be construed to:

- (1) limit any right a person has under other law to contest a denial of bail or to contest the amount of bail set by a judge or magistrate; or*
- (2) require any testimonial evidence before a judge or magistrate makes a bail decision with respect to a person to whom this section applies.*

V. There is a Right to Counsel at the “Clear and Convincing” Evidence Hearing

- (f) At a hearing described by this section, a person is entitled to be represented by counsel.*

VI. SB 9 Set New Policy to Allow the Appeal of the Judge’s Decision and the Court of Appeals Has 20 Days to Decide

SB 9 provides some language that states that a “district judge must review a bail decision as soon as practicable but not later than the next business day after the date a request to review the bail decision is filed with the district clerk by an attorney representing the state.” After the hearing the judge can decide to set bail, and the District Attorney can appeal the decision. The Court of Appeals must decide in 20 days after the appeal is filed. The Appeals Court “may affirm or modify the bail amount set by the court; or reject the bail amount set by the court and remand the case to the court, with or without guidance, for modification of the bail amount”.

Reference

Art. 17.028. BAIL DECISION

(a) Without unnecessary delay but not later than 48 hours after a defendant is arrested, a magistrate shall order, after individualized consideration of all circumstances and of the factors required by Article 17.15(a), that the defendant be:

- (1) granted personal bond with or without conditions;
- (2) granted surety or cash bond with or without conditions; or
- (3) denied bail in accordance with the Texas Constitution and other law.

(b) In setting bail under this article, the magistrate shall impose the least restrictive conditions, if any, and the personal bond or cash or surety bond necessary to reasonably ensure the defendant's appearance in court as required and the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense.

(c) In each criminal case, unless specifically provided by other law, there is a rebuttable presumption that bail, conditions of release, or both bail and conditions of release are sufficient to reasonably ensure the defendant's appearance in court as required and the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense.

(c-1) Subsections (b) and (c) may not be construed as requiring the court to hold an evidentiary hearing that is not required by other law.

Summary of Federal System Policies in this Area

Designation	Federal (18 U.S.C. §3142)
Authority to deny bail	Yes — magistrate or district judge may deny bail after hearing
Presence of prosecutor	Government attorney present for detention hearings
Presence of defense counsel	Required; indigent defendants appointed under CJA
Timing of initial hearing	Promptly after arrest (usually 1–3 business days)
Scope of hearing	Full detention hearing: considers release, conditions, and detention
Appeal	Defendant or government may appeal release/detention orders de novo

Analysis of SB 9 -----

SB 9: Relating to the confinement or release of defendants before trial or sentencing, including regulating charitable bail organizations, and the conditions of and procedures for setting bail and reviewing bail decisions.

Unless stated below, the provisions become effective on September 1, 2025 (check at the end effective dates by section).

I. District Attorney is Now Require Reporting on Conditions of Pretrial Intervention Programs

Art. 16.24. REPORTING OF CONDITIONS OF PRETRIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM.
As soon as practicable but no later than the 10th business day after the date a defendant enters a pretrial intervention program, the attorney representing the state, or the attorney's designee who is responsible for monitoring the defendant's compliance with the conditions of the program, shall enter information relating to the conditions of the program into the appropriate database of the statewide law enforcement information system maintained by the Department of Public Safety or modify or remove information, as appropriate.

Effective: January 1, 2026

(Commentary: In Galveston County this applies to the District Attorney DWI Pretrial Diversion. The District Attorney Pretrial Diversion targets first time DWIs defendants. The division handled 573 DWI cases in 2022, 510 in 2023, and 343 in 2024 and the completion rate on average for those years was 95%. The conditions of supervision for these defendants should be reported to the Conditions of Bond system managed by the Sheriff Office)

(Commentary: The Galveston County probation department has a pretrial program for the Mental Health Misdemeanor Docket cases. As of May 2025, there were 352 defendants in the docket representing 562 cases. The conditions of supervision for these defendants should also be reported to the Conditions of Bond system managed by the Sheriff Office.)

(Facts: The Conditions of Bond system is not utilized much, at least by our analysis in 2023 that is summarized below:

“Lt. Margo Ihde presented to the Coordinating Council on its January 13, 2023 meeting the first draft of the compilation of monthly statistics regarding Conditions of Bond entered and managed by the Sherriff Office. During the November 3, 2023 meeting of the Coordinating Council Lt. Ihde updated the council on the most recent statistics. Between January 2023 and October 2023 there have been 8,823 new conditions of bond supervision entries with 274 law enforcement verifications occurring which shows low utilization of the system by law enforcement.”)

II. Requires Office of Court Administration to Add More Information to the Public Safety Report (PSR)

Article 17.021:

(F) whether the defendant is currently on community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision for an offense;

(G) whether the defendant is currently released on bail or participating in a pretrial intervention program and any conditions of that release or participation;

(H) outstanding warrants for the defendant's arrest that have been entered into the National Crime Information Center database or the Texas Crime Information System established under Section 411.0541, Government Code, including a warrant issued under Article 42A.751 of this code or Section 508.251, Government Code; and

(I) any current protective orders, as defined by Section 72.151, Government Code, for which the defendant is the subject;

Effective: April 1, 2026

(Facts: The Technical Assistance team has reviewed in the past the protective orders reporting system and that system has not worked well. Recounting of those reviews below:

In August 2022, the technical assistance team reviewed entries into the Guardianship Reporting System and found that only two entries were posted for 2022 at the time of the snapshot on August 8, 2022, compared to 181 between February 22, 2021 and December 24, 2021. Lt. Margo Ihde reviewed this issue during the October 21, 2022 meeting of the Coordinating Council. Lt. Ihde reported on her inquiries to the state agencies about the lack of information. In preparation for her report to the council she identified for the state agencies the lack of guardianship information since March 2022 and the state agencies discovered a problem linking the OCA and DPS systems for the proper transmission of the data to be available in the TLETS. The glitch, therefore, is at the state agency level and is affecting the utilization of this system locally. During the November 4 and 18, 2022 meetings, she reported that the State of Texas has not made any progress in resolving the problem. Then again during the council meeting of January 13, 2023 and March 31, 2023, she reported no progress on fixing the issues at the Office of Court Administration.

During the July 21, 2023 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Lt. Ihde reported again that the system is not working and the Office of Court Administration has not resolved the outstanding problems with the system.

On the November 3, 2023 meeting, Lt. Ihde finally reported that the system was working as of October 12, 2023. This system has been down since August 2022 and is finally working twelve months later.)

III. Requires Office of Court Administration to allow access to PSR by District Attorney

Article 17.021:

(c-1) On request by an attorney representing the state, the office shall provide to the attorney access to the public safety report system for the purpose of allowing the attorney to access a bail form submitted to the office under Section 72.038, Government Code.

Effective: January 1, 2026

(Commentary: The District Attorney staff to access the PSR needs to have TLETS certification with yearly renewal, if they already do not have this.)

IV. Requires OCA to Integrate Their PSR with the County Jail Records Management System and Case Management Systems.

Article 17.021:

The public safety report system must be configured to allow a county or municipality to integrate the jail records management system and case management systems used by the county with the public safety report system.

(h-1) The office may provide grants to reimburse counties and municipalities for costs related to integrating the systems described by Subsection (h). The office is not required to provide a grant under this subsection unless the office is appropriated money for that purpose. This subsection expires August 31, 2027.

(i) The office may modify the public safety report system to incorporate technological advances to the system's features regarding notices and to any other processes the office determines will enhance the system's availability to protect the public.

Effective (III and IV): January 1, 2026

(Commentary: The OCA likely won't be able to accomplish this by the deadline, or even years later. Presumably, it would not be the responsibility of Galveston County to accomplish this and presumably the grants would not be available until the OCA figures a strategy to accomplish this integration.)

V. PSR Can be Ordered by Magistrates for Those Not in Custody

Section 3, Article 17.022:

(g) In the manner described by this article, a magistrate may order, prepare, or consider a public safety report in setting bail for a defendant who is not in custody at the time the report is ordered, prepared, or considered.

VI. Same County Policy Related to Felon Released on Bail and Another Offense in Same County

Section 3, Article 17.027:

if a defendant is taken before a magistrate for [charged with] committing an offense punishable as a felony while released on bail [in a pending case] for another offense punishable as a felony and the subsequent offense was committed in the same county as the previous offense, the defendant may be released on bail only by:

- (A) the court before whom the case for the previous offense is pending; or
- (B) another court designated in writing by the court described by Paragraph (A)

(Commentary: This is already the process.)

VII. Other County Policy Related to Felon Released on Bail in One County and Committing a New Offense in Another County

Section 4, Article 17.027:

(2) if a defendant is taken before a magistrate for [charged with] committing an offense punishable as a felony while released on bail for another [pending] offense punishable as a felony and the subsequent offense was committed in a different county than the previous offense, electronic notice of the charge must be [promptly] given to the individual designated to receive electronic notices for the county in which the previous offense was committed, not later than the next business day after the date the defendant is taken before the magistrate, for purposes of the court specified by Subdivision (1) [for purposes of reevaluating the bail decision,] determining whether any bail conditions were violated or taking any other applicable action such as an action described by Subsection (a-1).

(a-1) If a defendant is taken before a magistrate for committing an offense punishable as a felony while released on bail for another offense punishable as a felony, the court before which the case for the previous offense is pending shall consider whether to revoke or modify the terms of the previous bond, or to otherwise reevaluate the previous bail decision.

Effective: January 1, 2026

(Commentary: This requires speedy coordination between the counties, and this should be tested and evaluated.)

VIII. Rules for Magistrate appointed under Chapter 54 (Which Does not Include Galveston County) may not release on bail certain felons

(a-2) A magistrate appointed under Chapter 54, Government Code, may not release on bail a defendant who:

(1) is charged with committing an offense punishable as a felony if the defendant:

(A) was released on bail, parole, or community supervision for an offense punishable as a felony at the time of the instant offense;

(B) has previously been finally convicted of two or more offenses punishable as a felony and for which the defendant was imprisoned in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; or

(C) is subject to an immigration detainer issued by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; or

(2) is charged with committing an offense under the following provisions of the Penal Code:

(A) Section 19.02 (murder);

(B) Section 19.03 (capital murder);

(C) Section 20.04 (aggravated kidnapping); or

(D) Section 22.021 (aggravated sexual assault).

Section on Chapter 54 Magistrates Do Not Apply to Galveston County

Accountability for Those Who Appointed the Chapter 54 Magistrates

(a-3) An order granting bail signed by a magistrate appointed under Chapter 54, Government Code, must include the names of each individual who appointed the magistrate and state that the magistrate was appointed by those individuals.

(c) The local administrative district judge for each county shall designate an individual to receive electronic notices under Subsection (a)(2). The county shall ensure that the name and contact information of the individual designated to receive notices under this subsection are included in the public safety report system developed under Article 17.021.

(d) An individual designated under Subsection (c) who receives an electronic notice under Subsection (a) shall promptly provide the notice to the court specified by Subsection (a)(1), to the district clerk, and to the attorney representing the state and the defendant's attorney, if known, in the pending case for the offense for which the defendant was initially released on bail. A notice provided under this subsection does not constitute an ex parte communication.

IX. Review of Bail Decision for Felons – District Judge Jurisdiction

Article 17.029:

Art. 17.029. REVIEW OF BAIL DECISION. (a) This article applies only to a bail decision:

(1) regarding a defendant charged with or arrested for an offense punishable as a felony; and

(2) that was made under Article 17.028 by the magistrate of a court that does not have jurisdiction to try the offense with which the defendant is charged.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, a district judge in any county in which the offense for which the person was arrested will be tried, or in any county in which the charge for that offense will be filed, has jurisdiction to modify a bail decision to which this article applies, regardless of

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whether the defendant has been previously indicted or information has been previously filed for the offense for which the defendant was arrested.

(Commentary: Cross District Court jurisdiction process that must be implemented if already not in place).

Local Administrative Judge to Set Procedures Relating to Bail Review Requests

(c) The local administrative judge for each county shall establish a procedure for the district clerk to notify each district judge in the county that the district clerk received a request to review a bail decision under this article.

(Commentary: If this procedure is not in place in Galveston County, then it must be set up as required here).

Timing for Judge to Review Bail Decision

(d) A district judge must review a bail decision as soon as practicable but not later than the next business day after the date a request to review the bail decision is filed with the district clerk by an attorney representing the state.

(e) A district judge reviewing a bail decision under this article shall comply with Article 17.09 and shall consider the facts presented and the rules established by Article 17.15(a) in setting the defendant's bail.

(Commentary: This was discussed above under the protocols set by the Constitutional Amendment).

Modification of Bail Decisions

(f) If a district judge modifies a bail decision under this article to increase the amount of bail or to require additional conditions of bail for a defendant who is not in custody, the judge shall:

- (1) issue a summons for the defendant to appear before the judge; and
- (2) give the defendant a reasonable opportunity to appear before issuing a warrant for the defendant's arrest.

X. Restrictions on Personal Bond

Article 17.03:

(b-2) Except as provided by Articles 15.21, 17.032, 17.033, and 17.151, a defendant may not be released on personal bond if the defendant:

- (1) is charged with:
 - (A) an offense involving violence; or
 - (B) an offense under:

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- (i) Section 19.02(b)(4), Penal Code (murder as a result of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance in Penalty Group 1-B);
- (ii) Section 22.07, Penal Code (terroristic threat), if the offense is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or any higher category of offense;
- (iii) Section 25.07, Penal Code (violation of certain court orders or conditions of bond in a family violence, child abuse or neglect, sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking, or trafficking case); or
- (iv) Section 46.04(a), Penal Code (unlawful possession of firearm); or
- (2) while released on bail, parole, or community supervision for an offense involving violence, is charged with committing:
 - (A) any offense punishable as a felony; or
 - (B) an offense under the following provisions of the Penal Code:
 - (i) Section 22.01(a)(1) (assault);
 - (ii) Section 22.05 (deadly conduct); or
 - (iii) [Section 22.07 (terroristic threat); or
 - [(iv)] Section 42.01(a)(7) or (8) (disorderly conduct involving firearm).

(Commentary: This will not affect Galveston County Personal Bond Office operations as they are following some of the provisions already in place from SB 6 and for practical purposes do not release on Personal Bond the new categories of crimes added.)

XI. Charitable Organizations

Revised regulations related to Charitable Bail Organizations.

X. Magistrates Cannot Reduce Bond Amount or Change Conditions of Supervision Set by a Judge

Article 17.092:

Art. 17.092. REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OR CONDITIONS OF BOND PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. A magistrate described by Articles 2A.151(5)-(14) may not reduce the amount or conditions of bond set by the judge of a district court, including the judge of a district court in another county.

XII. Magistrate Release of Felons

Article 17.21:

- (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), before releasing on bail a defendant charged with an offense punishable as a felony, a magistrate shall ensure that:
 - (1) the defendant has appeared before the magistrate; and
 - (2) the magistrate has considered the public safety report prepared under Article 17.022 for the defendant.

XIII. Plea Guilty Felon Second Degree or Higher not Eligible for Community Supervision Needs to be Jailed after Plea and Before the Sentence

Article 27.20:

Art. 27.20. CONFINEMENT BEFORE SENTENCING ON PLEA OF GUILTY OR NOLO CONTENDERE FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES. If a defendant is adjudged guilty after entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere for an offense listed in Article 42A.054(a) punishable as a felony of the second degree or any higher category of offense and for which the defendant is not eligible for community supervision under Article 42A.055 as provided by Article 42A.056, the court shall order that the defendant be taken into custody and confined until the defendant is sentenced.

(Commentary: It is unknown how many of the defendants that enter a plea of guilty are not in jail and now must be brought to jail to await sentencing. Depending on that unknown number, then the impact on the jail population may be more or less.)

XIV. Affirmative Finding Regarding Failure to Appear

Article 42.0195:

Art. 42.0195. FINDING REGARDING FAILURE TO APPEAR. In the disposition of a criminal case involving any offense punishable as a Class B misdemeanor or any higher category of offense, the judge shall make an affirmative finding of fact and enter the affirmative finding in the judgment or dismissal order in the case if the judge determines that the defendant willfully failed to appear after the defendant was released from custody for the offense. The affirmative finding must include the number of times the defendant failed to appear for the offense.

XV. State Right to Appeal for Bail Review Decision Applying to Denial of Bail Offenses

Article 44.01:

The state is entitled to appeal an order of a court in a criminal case if the order:

(7) grants bail, in an amount considered insufficient by the prosecuting attorney, to a defendant who:

(A) is charged with an offense under any of the following sections of the Penal Code:

(i) Section 19.02 (murder);

(ii) Section 19.03 (capital murder);

(iii) Section 22.02 (aggravated assault) if:

(a) the offense was committed under Subsection (a)(1); or

(b) the defendant used a firearm, club, knife, or explosive weapon, as those terms are defined by Section 46.01, Penal Code, during the commission of the assault;

(iv) Section 20.04 (aggravated kidnapping);

(v) Section 29.03 (aggravated robbery);

(vi) Section 22.021 (aggravated sexual assault);

(vii) Section 21.11 (indecent with a child);

(viii) Section 20A.02 (trafficking of persons); or

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(ix) Section 20A.03 (continuous trafficking of persons); or
(B) is charged with an offense punishable as a felony and was released on bail for an offense punishable as a felony at the time the instant offense was committed.

(f-1) In an appeal filed under Subsection (a)(7), a court of appeals shall:

- (1) conduct a de novo review of all issues presented;
- (2) expedite the appeal; and
- (3) issue an order not later than the 20th day after the date the appeal is filed.

(f-2) In an appeal filed under Subsection (a)(7), a court of appeals may:

- (1) affirm or modify the bail amount set by the court; or
- (2) reject the bail amount set by the court and remand the case to the court, with or without guidance, for modification of the bail amount.

(Commentary: This was discussed above under the protocols set by the Constitutional Amendment).

XVI. New Victim Notification Right Added to Code

Article 56A.051 (a) Code of Criminal Procedures:

when requested, the right to be informed in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525:

(A) by a peace officer concerning the defendant's right to bail and the procedures in criminal investigations; and

(B) by the office of the attorney representing the state concerning:

(i) the general procedures in the criminal justice system, including general procedures in guilty plea negotiations and arrangements, restitution, and the appeals and parole process; and

(ii) whether the defendant has fully complied with any conditions of the defendant's bail;

(Commentary: This may become the duty of the Victims Advocates in the District Attorney's Office, and they would have to interphase with the Personal Bond Office to get the updates on the compliance with the conditions of supervision. We are not sure for a person on Surety Bond what information will be available and how it would be collected.)

XVII. Emphasis on Bail Form and Electronic Distribution to District Attorney

Section 17. Section 72.038 Government Code:

(c-1) The office shall provide to the elected district attorney in each county an electronic copy of the form submitted to the office under Subsection (c) for each defendant whose bail is set in the county for an offense involving violence, as defined by Article 17.03, Code of Criminal Procedure. An elected district attorney shall provide an e-mail address to the office for the purpose of receiving a form as provided by this subsection.

Effective: January 1, 2026

XIII. Notice to Victims

Section 18. Section 51A.003 (b), Human Resource Code:

C) the ability of the victim to provide information to the local prosecutor that will be helpful to a magistrate setting bail if the person committing the offense is arrested.

XIX. Effective Dates

SECTION 22. (a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

(b) The following provisions, as added by this Act, take effect January 1, 2026:

- (1) Article 16.24, Code of Criminal Procedure;
- (2) Articles 17.021(c-1), (h), and (h-1), Code of Criminal Procedure;
- (3) Articles 17.027(c) and (d), Code of Criminal Procedure; and
- (4) Section 72.038(c-1), Government Code.

(c) The following provisions take effect April 1, 2026:

- (1) Article 17.021(b), Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by this Act;
- (2) Article 17.027(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by this Act; and
- (3) Article 17.027(a-1), Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act.

Side Issue from HB 75

HB 75 amends Article 15.17, Code of Criminal Procedure, by adding Subsection (h) that read as follow:

(h) Not later than 24 hours after the time a magistrate determines that no probable cause exists to believe that a person committed the offense for which the person was arrested, the magistrate shall enter in the record written findings to support that finding.

Effective: September 1, 2025

(Commentary: The Galveston County magistrate form, shown below, will have to be modified to add their “findings”.

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Trial Court: _____	Case No: _____
Name:	
Booking No.	
THE STATE OF TEXAS	
COUNTY OF GALVESTON	Date/Time

MAGISTRATE WARNING, FINDINGS, AND ORDER

- You are charged with the following:

Offense(s)	Warrant	County	Probable Cause	Affidavit Attached	Bail/Fine	Arrest Date
- TAMPER/FABRICATE PHYS EVID W/INTENT TO IMPAIR - F	No		No	Yes	\$30,000.00	5/24/2025 3:33 PM

- The Court finds that probable cause for further detention exists for each charge marked "Yes" above
- If there is Not Probable Cause for Further Detention and the Sheriff is ordered to release the defendant from custody

For each charge, if the Bail Type shown is Personal Bond, you have the option to make bail via personal bond, surety bond, or cash bond. If the Bail Type shown is Cash/Surety, you have the option to make bail via Surety Bond or Cash Bond.

- You have a right to hire an attorney to represent you.
- You have the right to have an attorney present prior to and during any interview and questioning by peace officers or attorneys representing the State.
- You have the right to remain silent.
- You are not required to make a statement, and any statement you make can and may be used against you in court.
- You have the right to stop any interview or questioning at any time.
- You have the right to have an examining trial if you are accused of a felony.
- You have the right to request appointment of counsel if you are indigent and cannot afford counsel.

Upon inquiry, the Court has found that the Defendant:

- Has not ever served in the U.S. Military
- The Court does not have sufficient information to make this determination
- Defendant Indicates they are a citizen of the United States
 - The person arrested stated that he is a citizen of the United States of America.

In Addition, after advising the Defendant of his/her right to counsel:

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Defendant Waives Appointed Counsel. Defendant affirmed the following: I have been advised of my rights to representation by counsel in the trial of the charge pending against me. I have been further advised that if I am unable to afford counsel, one will be appointed for me. Understanding my right to have counsel appointed for me if I am not financially able to employ counsel, I wish to waive that right and request the Court to proceed with my case without an attorney being appointed for me. I hereby waive my right to counsel.

The Court further ORDERS the following conditions of bond:

Offense: TAMPER/FABRICATE PHYS EVID W/INTENT TO IMPAIR

COURT: No Court Assigned BOND: CASH OR SURETY AMOUNT: \$30,000.00

It is the order of the Court that you shall comply with the following terms and conditions of Bond. If on community supervision, you shall continue to comply with existing conditions of community supervision and/or any additional conditions of Bond.

- No new arrests while out on bond pending trial.
- The Defendant shall not possess alcohol or enter any bar, tavern or lounge.
- Appear in Court on time and at the appointed location and date
- Defendant shall not use any illegal drug or non-prescribed medications

Any violation of these conditions may result in your bond being held insufficient and you being returned to custody.

Time: 7:21 AM

Date:

Magistrate: 

Shelby Scott/Hitchcock Municipal Judge

I acknowledge that I was given the above warning and that I understand my rights as explained to me and the conditions of my bond. I have received a copy of my bond conditions in open Court.

Date:

Defendant Signature:

**Appendix 12: Federally Funded Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Worktable
Presented to the Coordinating Council on July 25, 2025 Update**

Task	Description of Task	Agency Persons Responsible	Implementation Date	Status
1	Convene an AOT Management Team Convene an AOT Management Team to coordinate the project’s development and implementation. The grant notification from SAMHSA was dated 9/13/2024. The four-year award was for \$1,998,000. The award targets 115 people to be served over the four-year period.	Sandy Patterson MA, LPC-S, Behavioral Health Director – Galveston County Sara Corey, AOT Project Director	Submitted by 11/30/24; SAMHSA Approved	Management Team Members identified and approved by SAMHSA; team meets bi-monthly COMPLETED
2	Develop disparities impact statement SAMHSA’s Behavioral Health Disparity Impact Statement (DIS) is a data-driven, quality improvement approach to advance behavioral health equity for all. The DIS is a grant requirement that helps grantees identify racial, ethnic, sexual, and gender minority groups at the highest risk of experiencing behavioral health disparities within their grant projects and implement a disparity reduction action plan with a quality improvement process to address and close the identified gap(s).	Project Director and Management Team	Submitted by 11/30/24; additional information submitted 1/14/25	SAMHSA has acknowledged receipt; item dismissed from deliverables
3	Hire Program Staff – Treatment Team Project Director – 100% Level of Effort (FTE) SARA COREY Project Evaluator – 50% Level of Effort TYLER HANNA AOT Certified Peer Specialist – FTE ALESIA LEVINE AOT Case Manager (QMHP) – two FTEs (1) WARRICK BAKER; (2) VACANCY Care Coordinator Liaison (QMHP) – FTE VACANCY – offer pending	Behavioral Health Director and AOT Project Director	Ongoing until hired	Project Director, Peer Specialist and one AOT Case Manager have been hired as of 5/1/25; continuing interviews for one Case Manager and one Care Coordinator Liaison position; 6/12/25 – Care Coordinator Liaison position pending offer
4	Submit Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) Updated annually, Submit MOUs from relevant community stakeholders that include local referral pathways and roles for partners and community stakeholders. The MOUs should be agreed upon by both parties and include details on the following: o Appropriate referrals to the program	Behavioral Health Director and AOT Project Director	Submitted to SAMHSA by 1/30/25; SAMHSA has confirmed receipt	Executed MOUs (8): Sun Behavioral Hospital, Galveston County Probate Court, Galveston County Mental Health Court, Galveston Police

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Task	Description of Task	Agency Persons Responsible	Implementation Date	Status
	- o Role of stakeholder/partner in actual placement on a civil order - o Role of stakeholder/partner in providing court-ordered treatment and management of privacy rights - o Role of stakeholder/partner in ongoing care at the end of the court order - o Point of contact for each community stakeholder/partner			Department (PD), League City PD, Dickinson PD, Texas City PD, Galveston County Sheriff's Department. MOU Pending Signature: Coastal Health and Wellness.
5	Develop Participant Civil and Privacy Rights Policies and Protocols Develop policies and protocols to ensure that the civil and privacy rights of participants are respected.	Project Director and Management Team	Submitted to SAMHSA by 1/30/25	Approved
6	Develop a Program Implementation Plan Develop a Program Implementation Plan that incorporates a schedule of planned implementation stages and the sustainment phase.	Project Director and Management Team	Submitted to SAMHSA 3/14/25	Pending approval
7	Develop and Submit a Project Staff Training Plan	Project Director and Treatment Team	Submitted to SAMHSA 3/14/25	Approved
8	Establish a Steering Committee Establish a Steering Committee to advise on the impact of AOT on the community. The steering committee has a role in ongoing optimization of the program such as identifying outreach opportunities, planning for education, overall tracking of successes and needs, and aggregated trends of the population (including underserved communities per Executive Order 13985) served by the program.	Project Director and Behavioral Health Director	Submitted to SAMHSA 3/14/25	Approved First Meeting occurred 5/15/25 at 2pm via teams
9	Approval by SAMHSA and Authorization for Program Start All the above items after completion and submission of the progress report to SAMHSA will require the authorization of the agency to start program.			Per Felicia Jeffery in CC Meeting of July 25, 2025 Approval was granted at this time
10	Provide individualized evidence-based treatment to AOT participants This will include a multidisciplinary approach, including person-centered planning that is within	Treatment Team	Pending approval	Will begin once Implementation Plan is approved by SAMHSA

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Task	Description of Task	Agency Persons Responsible	Implementation Date	Status
	the bounds of the civil court order. Interventions should promote the participant's choice wherever possible in medication management, therapeutic interventions, case management, recovery and peer support services that focus on maintaining stability, recovery, wellness, and safety in the community.			
11	Plan for recovery support during and after the civil order has ended. Recovery support services coordination/referrals should be promoted during the term of the court order and afterward with transition to community providers.	Project Director, Management and Treatment Teams	Submitted to SAMHSA 3/14/25	Approved
12	Design and conduct ongoing evaluation to monitor AOT participant progress, treatment outcomes, and successful transitions for individuals during and after completion of an AOT order. Evaluation activities should also include impact on rates of homelessness, incarceration, and hospitalization.	Project Evaluator and Consultation Team	Submitted to SAMHSA 3/14/25	Approved
13	Two Year Interim Report Report on the two-year implementation mark with number of people served at that point and preliminary outcomes for the population served	Project Evaluator and Project Director	Start date August 2025	Report by September 2027
14	Provide ongoing education and outreach to diverse community partners, first responders, and stakeholders to increase awareness of AOT program and/or how to refer to the civil court process.	Project Director and Treatment Team	Grant year 1, 2, 3, and 4	Ongoing after the above milestones are met
15	Assuming program starts on (date) the funding for the program will end on (date). Evaluation report and final number of people that were served by the program.	Project Evaluator and Project Director		

Appendix 13: Implementation Checklist for SJR 5 and SB 9, Coordinating Council Meeting of August 8, 2025. SJR 5 Checklist Updated for Coordinating Council Meeting of November 14, 2025

SJR 5: Proposed constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail for certain felons

Task	Description of Task	Agency
1	Set protocol to identify at initial magistration SJR 5 defendants and flag in computerized TechShare records	Personal Bond Office (PBO)
2	Set protocol for denial of bail and notification to defense counsel	Court Administration and District Attorney
3	Set protocol for timing of the District Attorney required “clear and convincing” evidence hearing	Court Administration and District Attorney
4	Set protocol for judge to prepare a written order that includes findings of fact and a statement explaining the judge's justification for the grant and the determinations required by this section	District Court Administration
5	Set protocol to determine and execute an appeal of the Judge’s decision to the Court of Appeals (the Appeals Court protocol is defined in Article 44.01 as amended in SB 9)	District Court Administration District Attorney
6	Determine if additional county funding is needed for the agencies responsible to execute the above components	Assessment to Coordinating Council for Reporting to Commissioners Court
7	Set “flag” or other ways to identify in computerized records defendants affected by the new policy and track them over time to better estimate impact on court time processing and impact on increasing the jail population	IT

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SB 9: Relating to the confinement or release of defendants before trial or sentencing and the conditions of and procedures for setting bail and reviewing bail decisions

Checklist 1 – Galveston Responsibility

Task	Art. 16.24 District Attorney Reporting Conditions of Pretrial Programs – January 1, 2026	Agency
1	January 1, 2026 District Attorney “uploads” or “identify” persons on DWI Pretrial Program caseload and report their conditions of supervision to Sheriff/DPS System (starting population) County Clerk to execute reporting	District Attorney/ County Clerk
2	Set protocol to report changes in conditions for people active in the program: new conditions, removal of conditions, termination of supervision	District Attorney/ County Clerk
3	Set mechanism to monitor the effective implementation of the protocols	District Attorney/ County Clerk

Checklist 2 – OCA Responsibility – Galveston Utilize

Task	Art. 17.02 Requires Office of Court Administration to Add More Information to the Public Safety Report (PSRS) – April 1, 2026	Agency
1	OCA to added various new elements to the PSRS, like community supervision and parole status, participation on pretrial intervention program, outstanding warrants and protective orders	OCA
2	Training of magistrates in the use/awareness of new elements when the system becomes operational	Personal Bond Office

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Checklist 3 – OCA Responsibility – Galveston Utilize

Task	Art. 17.021 Requires Office of Court Administration to Allow Access to PSRS by District Attorney – January 1, 2026	Agency
1	OCA shall provide access to District Attorney to the PSRS	OCA
2	District Attorney to set protocol to utilize system and certify the staff that uses the system as TLETS compliant	District Attorney
3	Related is Section 17. Section 72.037 of Government Code – provide email to OCA to receive electronic bail form for each defendant whose bail is set in the county for an offense involving violence as defined by Article 17.03 CCP	District Attorney – OCA

Checklist 4 – OCA Responsibility – Galveston Waits Guidance

Task	Art. 17.021 Requires OCA to Integrate Their PSRS with the County Jail Records Management System and Case Management Systems – January 1, 2026	Agency
1	OCA to configure PSRS to integrate local jail records and court case management systems	OCA
2	Office of Information Technology to monitor and access grant funds under the program for the costs of integrating into the PSRS	Galveston Office of Information Technology

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Checklist 5 – Galveston County Responsibility

Task	Section 3, Article 17.027 Same County Policy Related to Felon Released on Bail and Another Offense in <u>Same County</u> – September 1, 2025	Agency
1	Set protocols for magistrate to identify felons released on bail Galveston County coming back with a new felony in Galveston County to notify the courts	In Place Since SB 6 in 2021
2	Protocols to assign case to previous offense court, or court designated in writing to decide on new bail	In Place Since SB 6 in 2021

Note: The notifications to other counties, or from other counties are not tracked by Galveston officials at this time

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Checklist 6 – Galveston County Responsibility

Task	Section 3, Article 17.027 Other County Policy Related to Felon Released on Bail in One County and Committing a New Offense in <u>Another County</u> – January 1, 2026	Agency
1	Set protocols for magistrate to identify felons released on bail in another county who commit an offense in Galveston County to notify designee in another county within one business day for reviewing bond	In Place Since SB 6 in 2021
2	Protocols <u>for other county</u> to notify Galveston County of revocation, modification or reevaluation of previous bail decision Protocol <u>for Galveston</u> to notify other counties of revocation, modification or reevaluation of previous bail decision (Notification in place since SB 6 in 2021 but SB 6 did not require the reevaluation of the bail decision by the other county and vice-versa) Issue to examine: County who owes original case must decide on their original bond decision but not clear if the county holding the person hold them in jail until the original court decides or the person can be released pending the original case judge decision on the bond	Needs new review by District Court Administration Personal Bond Office
3	What new protocol should be adopted in Galveston County to track request out to other counties and coming from other counties What documentation should be held by Galveston to make sure you have complied	To be reviewed by OCA, PBO and District Court Administration
	Language of this section below Waiting for OCA for any guidance at the time of this report	

* Note language below

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Section 4, Article 17.027:

(2) if a defendant is taken before a magistrate for [charged with] committing an offense punishable as a felony while released on bail for another [pending] offense punishable as a felony and the subsequent offense was committed in a different county than the previous offense, electronic notice of the charge must be [promptly] given to the individual designated to receive electronic notices for the county in which the previous offense was committed, not later than the next business day after the date the defendant is taken before the magistrate, for purposes of the court specified by Subdivision (1) [for purposes of reevaluating the bail decision,] determining whether any bail conditions were violated or taking any other applicable action such as an action described by Subsection (a-1).

(a-1) If a defendant is taken before a magistrate for committing an offense punishable as a felony while released on bail for another offense punishable as a felony, the court before which the case for the previous offense is pending shall consider whether to revoke or modify the terms of the previous bond or to otherwise reevaluate the previous bail decision.

NOTE: No language saying that the county with the person cannot release on bail if the court of jurisdiction have not decided expeditiously.

Effective: January 1, 2026

Art. 17.029. REVIEW OF BAIL DECISION. (a) This article applies only to a bail decision:

(1) regarding a defendant charged with or arrested for an offense punishable as a felony; and

(2) that was made under Article 17.028 by the magistrate of a court that does not have jurisdiction to try the offense with which the defendant is charged.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, a district judge in any county in which the offense for which the person was arrested will be tried or in any county in which the charge for that offense will be filed has jurisdiction to modify a bail decision to which this article applies, regardless of whether the defendant has been previously indicted or an information has been previously filed for the offense for which the defendant was arrested.

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Checklist 7 – Galveston County Responsibility

Task	Article 17.03 Restrictions on Personal Bond – September 1, 2025	Agency
1	Set protocols to add to magistrate training and flag in computerized system persons for which new restrictions on granting Personal Bond apply or use PSRS flagging system if OCA implement	Personal Bond Office
2	Review Art. 17.092 to determine application to training of magistrates and set flag in computerized records to clearly identify cases subjected to this section	Personal Bond Office

Article 17.092:

Art. 17.092. REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OR CONDITIONS OF BOND PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. A magistrate described by Articles 2A.151(5)-(14) may not reduce the amount or conditions of bond set by the judge of a district court, including the judge of a district court in another county.

Checklist 8 – Galveston County Responsibility

Task	Article 27.20 Plea Guilty Felon Second Degree or Higher not Eligible for Community Supervision Needs to be Jailed after Plea and Before the Sentence – September 1, 2025	Agency
1	Administrative Judge to report on this to the judges to make sure this provision is implemented District Attorney to inform defense on the implementation of this provision	District Attorney, District Court Administrator

Article 27.20:

Art. 27.20. CONFINEMENT BEFORE SENTENCING ON PLEA OF GUILTY OR NOLO CONTENDERE FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES. If a defendant is adjudged guilty after entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere for an offense listed in Article 42A.054(a) punishable as a felony of the second degree or any higher category of offense and for which the defendant is not eligible for community supervision under Article 42A.055 as provided by Article 42A.056, the court shall order that the defendant be taken into custody and confined until the defendant is sentenced.

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Checklist 9 – Galveston County Responsibility

Task	Article 42.0195 Affirmative Finding Regarding Failure to Appear - September 1, 2025	Agency
1	Affirmative finding to be entered in the judgement or dismissal order if the judge determines that the defendant willfully failed to appear after the defendant was released from custody for the offense District Court dependent on OCA to issue a new Standardize Judgement Form	OCA to create form District Court Administrator monitors OCA process
2	County Court judgement form modifies locally	County Clerk working with County Court Administration
3	Examine issues important to defense as this policy is reviewed and adopted* (OCA may come with a standardize definition)	County and District Court Administrators working and Jay Wooten to review this
3	Circulate new judgement form once adopted	Coordinating Council

* Questions that should be examined:

Is there an accepted definition of “willfull”?

When and who will make the initial determination?

How will that data be gathered and kept?

How will the judge have access to it at time of plea/dismissal?

Will there be notice/ presentation of finding to the parties?

Will there be an opportunity to contest it?

Article 42.0195:

Art. 42.0195. FINDING REGARDING FAILURE TO APPEAR. In the disposition of a criminal case involving any offense punishable as a Class B misdemeanor or any higher category of offense, the judge shall make an affirmative finding of fact and enter the affirmative finding in the judgment or dismissal order in the case if the judge determines that the defendant willfully failed to appear after the defendant was released from custody for the offense. The affirmative finding must include the number of times the defendant failed to appear for the offense.

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Checklist 10 – Galveston County Responsibility

Task	Article 56A.051 CCP New Victim Notification Right Added - September 1, 2025	Agency
1	Set protocols for District Attorney notification at request of victim as to whether the defendant has fully complied with any conditions of the defendant's bail	District Attorney Victim Advocate
2	Related Section 18, Section 51A.003 (b), Human Resource Code provides for victims "to provide information to the local prosecutor that will be helpful to a magistrate setting bail if the person committing the offense is arrested"	District Attorney Victim Advocate

Checklist 11 – Galveston County Responsibility

Task	HB 75 Amends Article 15.17 CCP, (h) – September 1, 2025	Agency
1	Modify Magistrate Form to add "findings" by magistrates "that no probable cause exists to believe that a person committed the offense for which the person was arrested"	Personal Bond Office
2	Circulate form once adopted	Coordinating Council

**Appendix 14: Executive Summary, Second Follow-Up Policy Monitoring Review
of Galveston County's Indigent Defense Systems, August 2025**



**Second Follow-Up Policy Monitoring
Review of Galveston County's
Indigent Defense Systems**

August 2025

Executive Summary

The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) monitors local jurisdictions' compliance with the Fair Defense Act through policy reviews.¹ In this second follow-up review, TIDC observed court hearings, interviewed officials, and reviewed FY2024 data from Galveston County. After the 2025 review, two findings remain pending:

- a. The courts did not follow the local standard of indigence set in the indigent defense plan.
- b. Sample appointments of counsel in felony cases did not meet TIDC's 90% timeliness threshold.

TIDC thanks Galveston County officials and staff for their assistance in conducting this review. TIDC stands ready to provide technical and possibly financial assistance to remedy these issues. TIDC will attempt to conduct a third follow-up review regarding its findings within two years.²

Background

In June 2017, TIDC issued a limited scope review of Galveston County's felony and misdemeanor appointment procedures. The report found that counsel was not appointed timely in either felony or misdemeanor cases. In misdemeanor cases, some defendants with pending counsel requests entered uncounseled pleas. Additionally, in misdemeanor cases, jail docket attorneys did not always represent defendants beyond the week of their assignment, and defendants not wishing to enter a plea were left without means to resolve their cases. The review also addressed data reporting matters.

In March 2022, TIDC conducted a follow up review to evaluate whether the findings from the 2017 review had been satisfied. The review found that two of the five findings were satisfied, and the rest were left pending. (See chart below.)

¹ TEX. GOV'T CODE § 79.037(a)–(b).

² Title 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 174.28(c)(2).

Table 1: History of Monitoring Findings

FDA Core Requirement	Description and Initial Year of Finding	Status after 2025 Review	
		Satisfied	Pending
2. Determination of Indigence	The courts did not follow the local standard of indigence set in the indigent defense plan. (2025)		✓
4. Prompt Appointment (felony)	Timeliness in sample felony cases did not meet TIDC's threshold for presuming a jurisdiction's processes ensure timely appointments. (2017)		✓
4. Prompt Appointment (misdemeanor)	Timeliness in sample misdemeanor cases did not meet TIDC's threshold for presuming a jurisdiction's processes ensure timely appointments. (2017)	✓ (2025)	
4. Prompt Appointment (misdemeanor)	Misdemeanor defendants with pending counsel requests entered uncounseled pleas. (2017)	✓ (2025)	
4. Prompt Appointment (misdemeanor)	Jail docket attorneys did not always represent misdemeanor clients beyond the term of the hearing. (2017)	✓ (2022)	
4. Prompt Appointment (misdemeanor)	Defendants who make bail after being represented by a jail docket attorney do not need to re-qualify as indigent. (2017)	✓ (2022)	

Appendix 15: Workplan Related to the Opening and Initial Operations of the MH Wellness Center Presented to the Coordinating Council on September 19, 2025

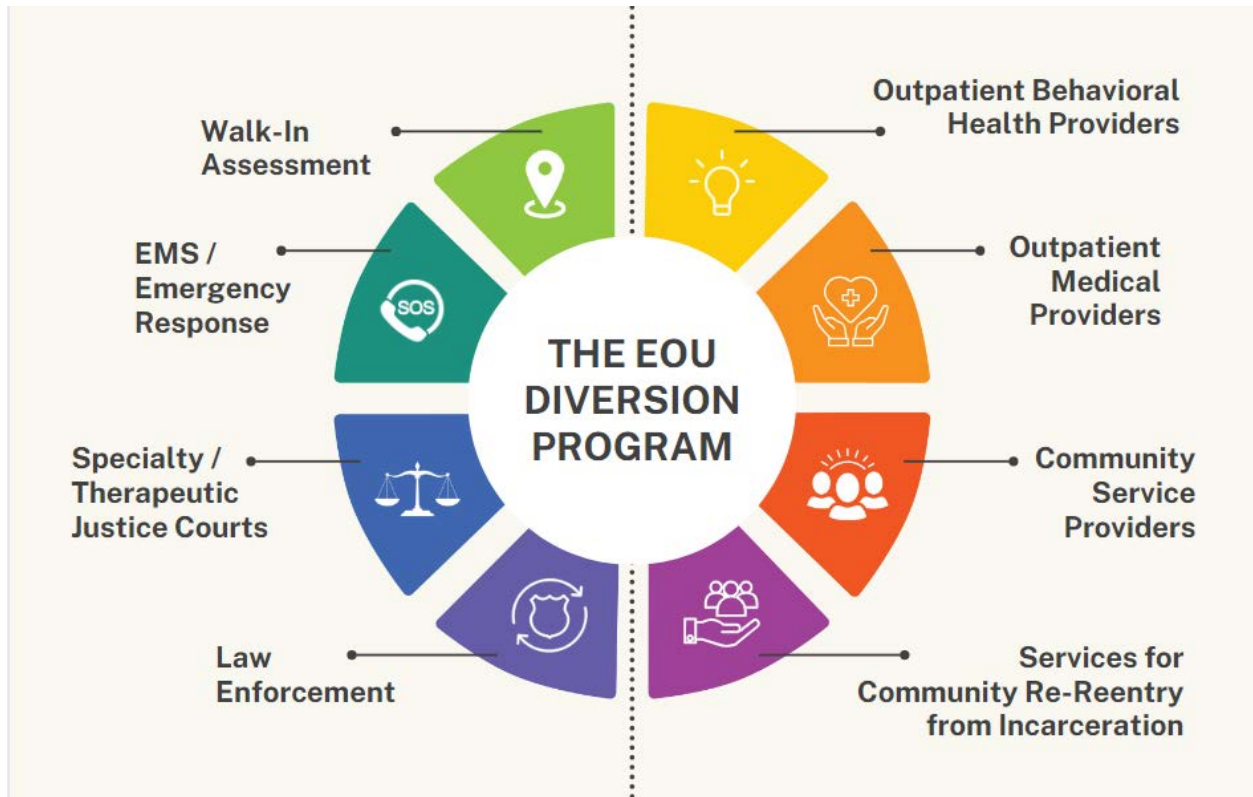
Goal: Identify Steps Related to the Opening and Initial Operations of the Center

Task	Description of Task	Agency Persons Responsible	Implementation Date	Status
1	Wellness Center Implementation Team	Dr. Devon Stanley, Gulf Coast Center (GCC) BT&T	February 3, 2025 Bi-Weekly Meetings	Ongoing
2	Facility Nurse Manager Hire- Bhagya Gangadharan, PNP	Dr. Renee Valdez, CMO GCC	April 14, 2025	Complete
3	Hiring/Staffing Plan for RNs, Therapists, Case Manager, Transportation Specialists, Administrative Specialist, (Four Job Fairs)	Kelsey Hoosier, GCC HR; PNP Bhagya Gangadharan	Recruiting/ hiring underway for all positions	Ongoing
4	UTMB Department of Psychiatry Contract for Facility Psychiatry	Dr. Renee Valdez CMO & Sarah Holt CNO GCC	May 22, 2025	Complete
5	Facility Use Agreement	Jerry Freshour; GCC; Veronica Van Horn, Galveston County	August 1, 2025	Complete
6	Furniture Purchasing	Galveston County	Complete	Complete
7	Medical Equipment & Supplies Purchases	Sam Tingle, GCC	Ongoing	Ongoing
8	Requests for Proposals for After-Hours Tele-Psychiatry	Dr. Devon Stanley, BT&T; Dr. Renee Valdez, CMO GCC	RFP Closed September 15, 2025	Determining Contractor
9	Direct Care Contract with Wood Group	Jerry Freshour, GCC	September 15, 2025	Complete
10	Pharmacy Contracting	Sarah Holt, CNO, GCC	October 1, 2025	Pending
11	Development Staff Training & Orientation Plan for all Positions	Kelsey Hoosier, GCC HR; PNP Bhagya Gangadharan	September 15, 2025	Complete
12	Policy & Procedure Development Admission/Discharge/Medical	Dr. Renee Valdez, CMO GCC	Complete	Complete
13	UTMB Department of Psychiatry & Residents Onboarding Including Simulated Admissions	Dr. Michael Stone, UTMB; Dr. Renee Valdez, GCC	September 22	Ongoing
14	Sheriff Office Review of Facility Security Systems	Misty Witmer; Chief Deputy Melencio Villareal	Ongoing	Ongoing
15	Interlocal Agreement for Deputy & Security Supports	Tyler Drummond, Galveston County	RFP Closed September 12, 2025	Pending
16	Facility Training for GCC Staff for Life Safety, Alarms, Audio-Visual, Security & Access	LaJuan Harris, Turner Townsend	Late September	Pending
17	Develop flowchart depicting agencies/sources of intakes for Wellness Center	Jerry Freshour, GCC	Late September	In Development
18	Protocols for Clinically Appropriate Referrals to Wellness Center/ Inpatient/ ER for Referral Sources (Medical Exclusionary)	Dr. Renee Valdez, CMO GCC	Late September	In Development
19	Protocols for appropriate law enforcement referrals, affidavit required of referring LE agency accepting responsibility transportation	Sheriff Jimmy Fullen, Galveston County	To Be Determined	Pending
20	Sheriff-Police Chiefs Meeting: Protocols for appropriate law enforcement referrals, affidavit required of referring LE agency accepting responsibility for transportation; GCC Designation of Wellness Center & GCC Inpatient Beds as the “suitable mental health facilities” (Texas H&SC Chapter	Sheriff Jimmy Fullen, Galveston County; Felicia Jeffery, GCC CEO	To Be Determined	Pending

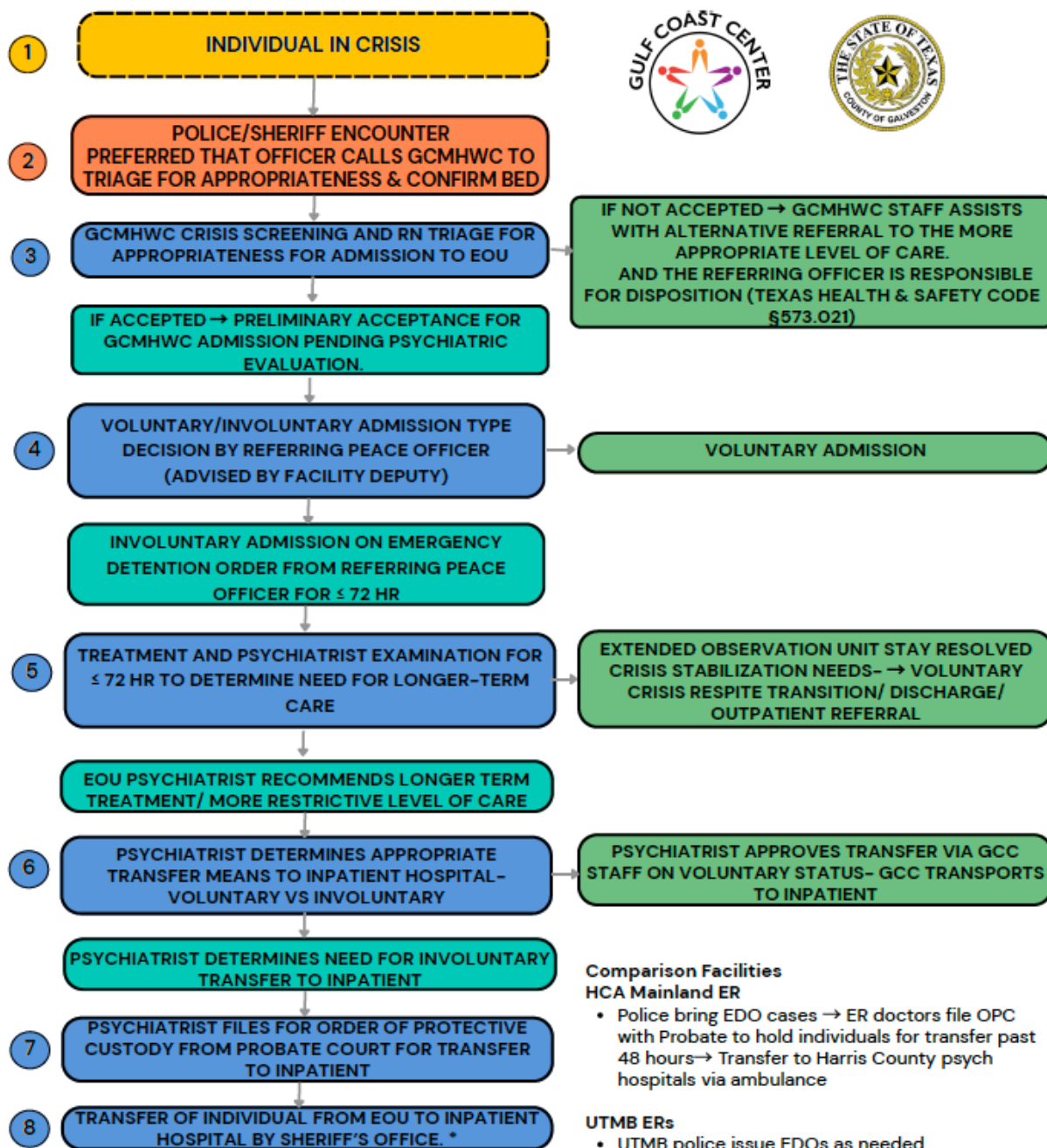
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Task	Description of Task	Agency Persons Responsible	Implementation Date	Status
	573.001); GCC Telehealth Clinician Triage assistance to LE with best facility option			
21	Follow Up on Development of Law Enforcement Referral Protocols Based on Sheriff Discussion with Police Departments	Chief Deputy Melencio Villareal; Galveston County; Jerry Freshour, GCC	To Be Determined	Pending
22	Adopt agreed upon protocols and engage in reach-out/communications strategies to inform relevant agencies/other stakeholders of protocols	GCC/Relevant Agencies	To Be Determined	Pending
23	Integration of Sheriff Deputies Security and Supports	Chief Deputy Melencio Villareal; Galveston County; Jerry Freshour, GCC	To Be Determined	Pending
24	Architect Inspection, ADA Self Evaluation, & Facility Checklists Submission to HHSC	Sam Tingle, GCC Asset Maintenance	Upon Facility Completion	Pending
25	HHSC Pre-Operational Site Visit and Approval	Jerry Freshour, GCC	3 Weeks Prior to Opening	Pending
26	Test protocols at “soft opening” of center	GCC/Relevant Agencies	November 1, 2025	Pending
27	Evaluate protocols and make necessary adjustments Update flowchart and related documents	GCC/Relevant Agencies	December 1, 2025	Pending
28	Explore grant/foundation funding opportunities, identify and apply for funding	GCC/Relevant Agencies	Upon Release of Grants for Diversion/Deputy or Relevant Projects	Pending

Appendix 16: Galveston County Mental Health Wellness Center Intake Sources and Law Enforcement Referral Flow Chart

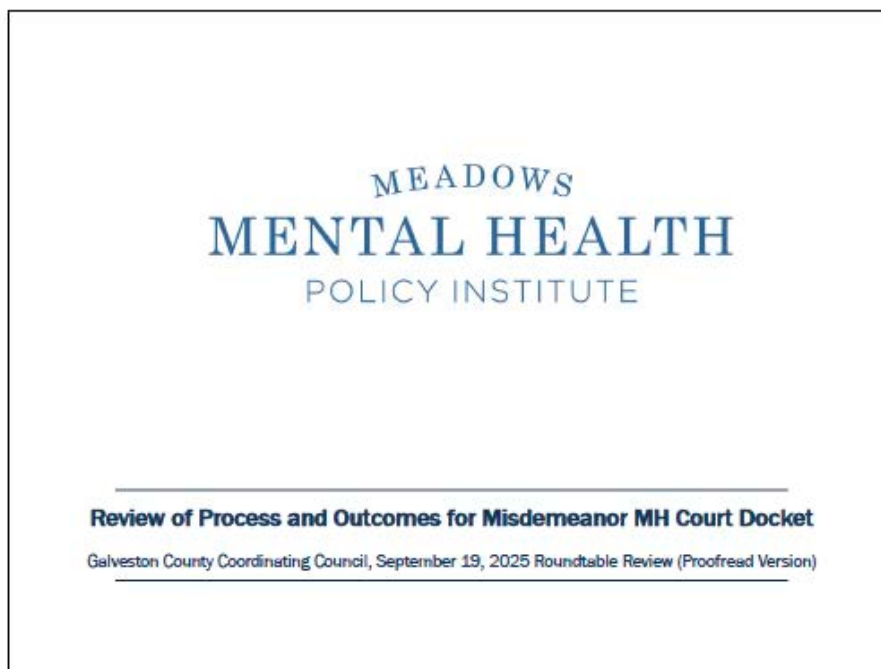


GALVESTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS CENTER LAW ENFORCEMENT REFERRAL FLOW CHART

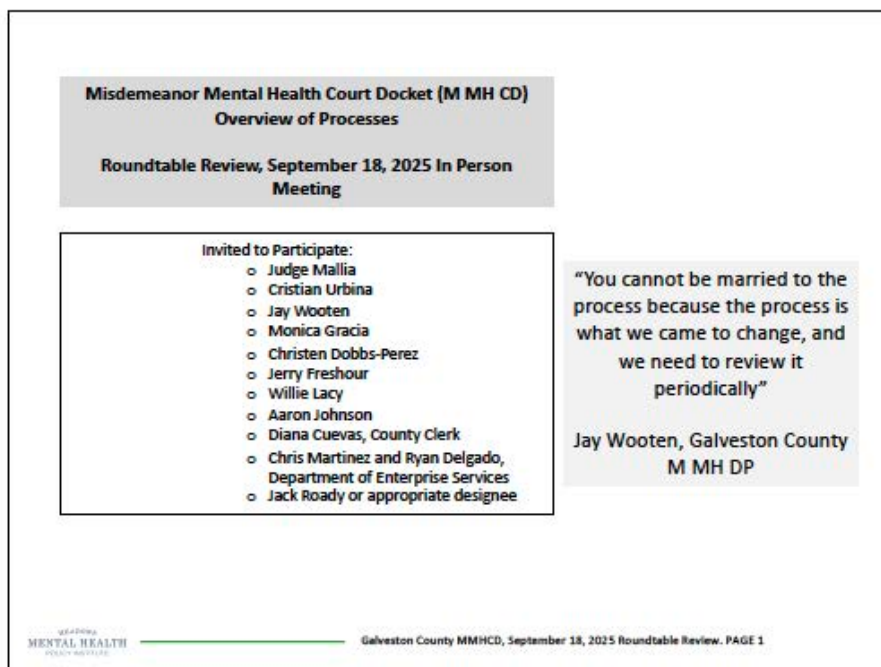


*Units of a similar size average 60 voluntary and 6-12 involuntary transports per month

Appendix 17: Review of Process and Outcomes for Misdemeanor MH Court Docket for Coordinating Council Meeting of September 19, 2025



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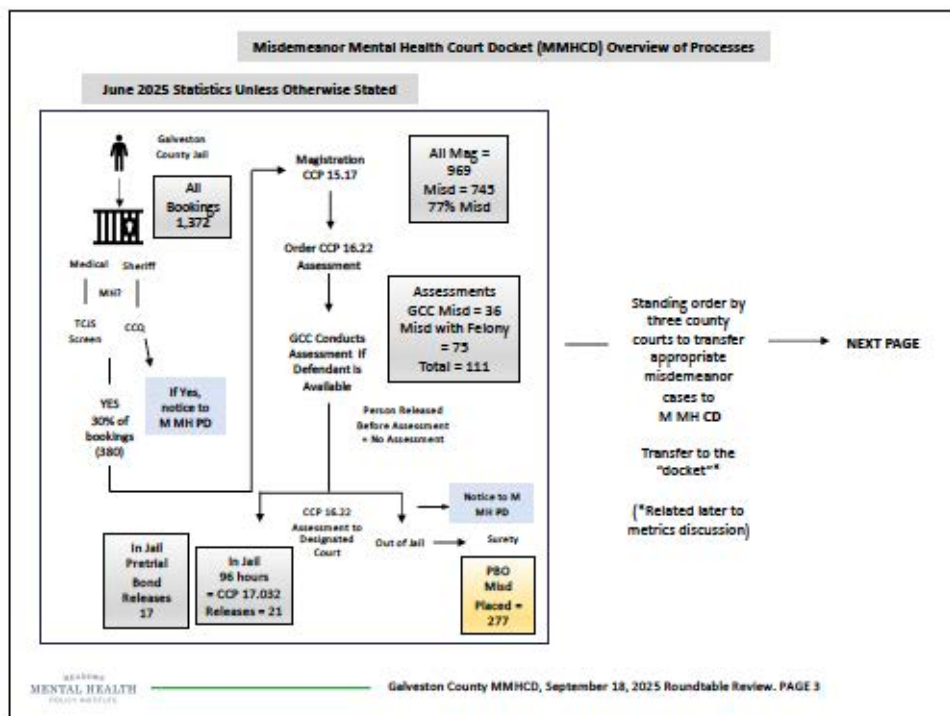
M MH CD Policy/Process Redesign

- Consolidation of cases from three county courts into the M MH CD is more efficient in funneling cases to the M MH PD and identifying defendants for treatment and representation
- The M MH PD provides wholistic representation with their caseworkers which by itself should provide more quality representation than assigned counsel
- The overall case dismissal rate of M MH PD is higher than overall dismissal rate for misdemeanor cases in the county courts and this is impacted by the M MH PD use of caseworker to connect defendant to GCC and make the case in court for dismissal based on the connection to treatment

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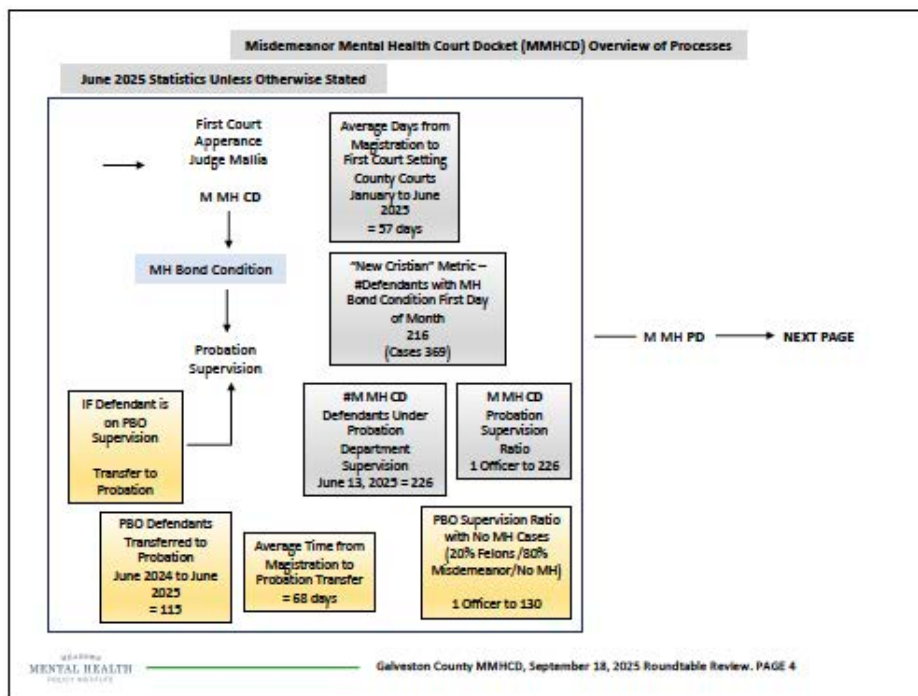
Galveston County MMHCD, September 18, 2025 Roundtable Review. PAGE 2

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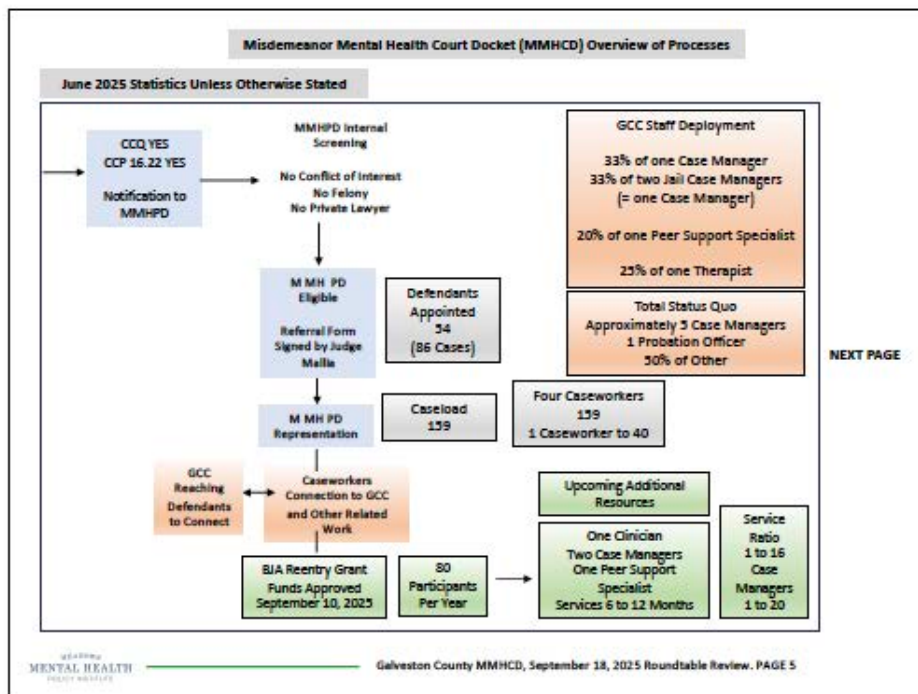


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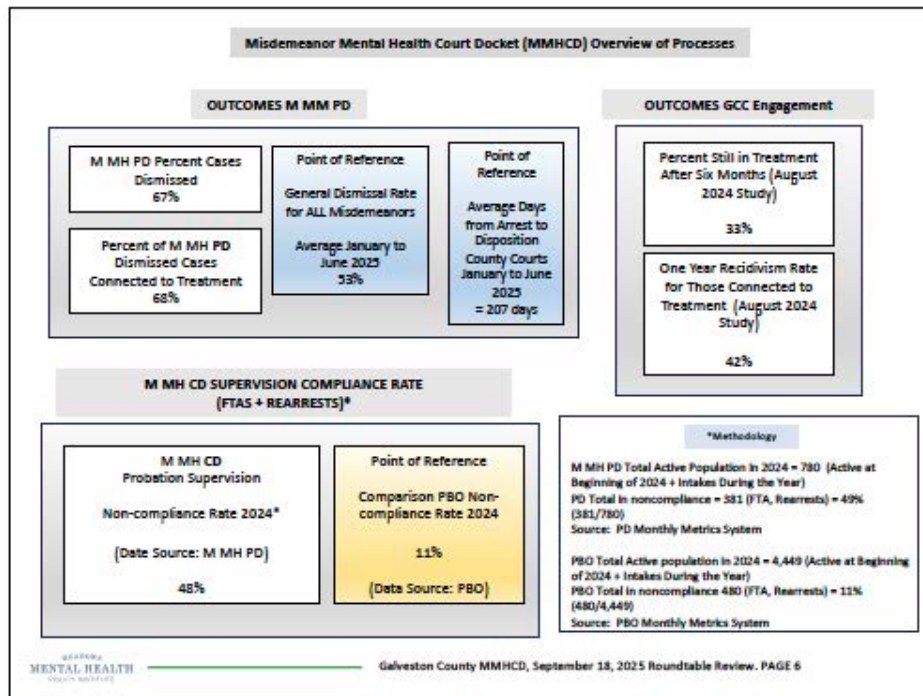
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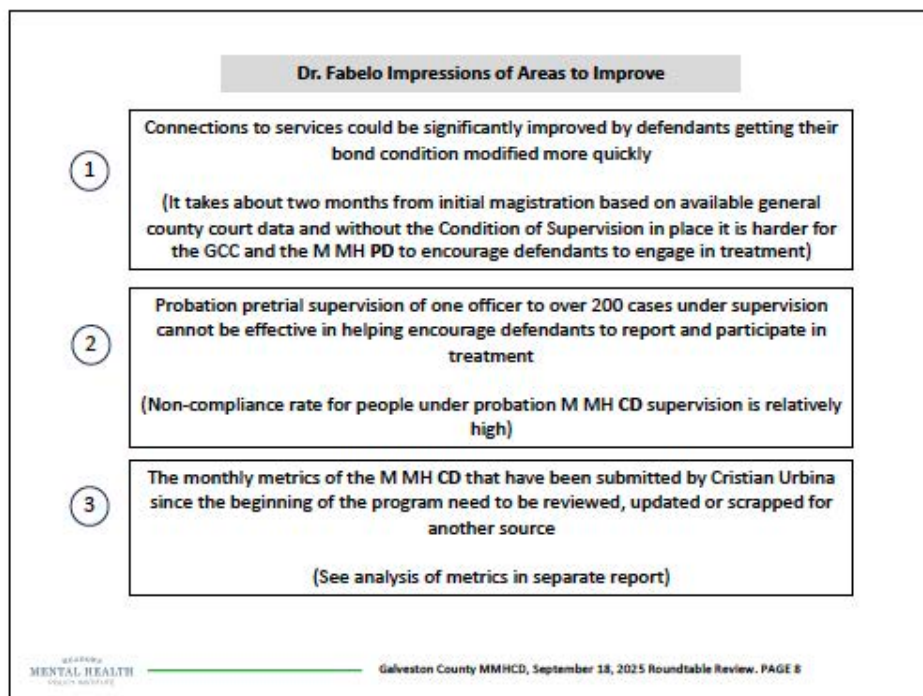
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Dr. Fabelo Impressions of Areas to Improve

4 There is a good effort to connect defendants to treatment but staying in treatment is a challenge (only 33% are still in treatment six months after intake) and, even with connection to treatment, almost half (42%) will recidivate after one year
(BJA Re-entry Grant Program is directed at addressing this issue)

5 Targeting the population for the BJA funded Re-entry Program should be driven by clear protocols to maximize impact on those most likely to need and stay in long term treatment and the protocols need to include an examination of how the new MH Wellness Center may impact the flow of mentally ill defendants admitted to jail or diverted to center

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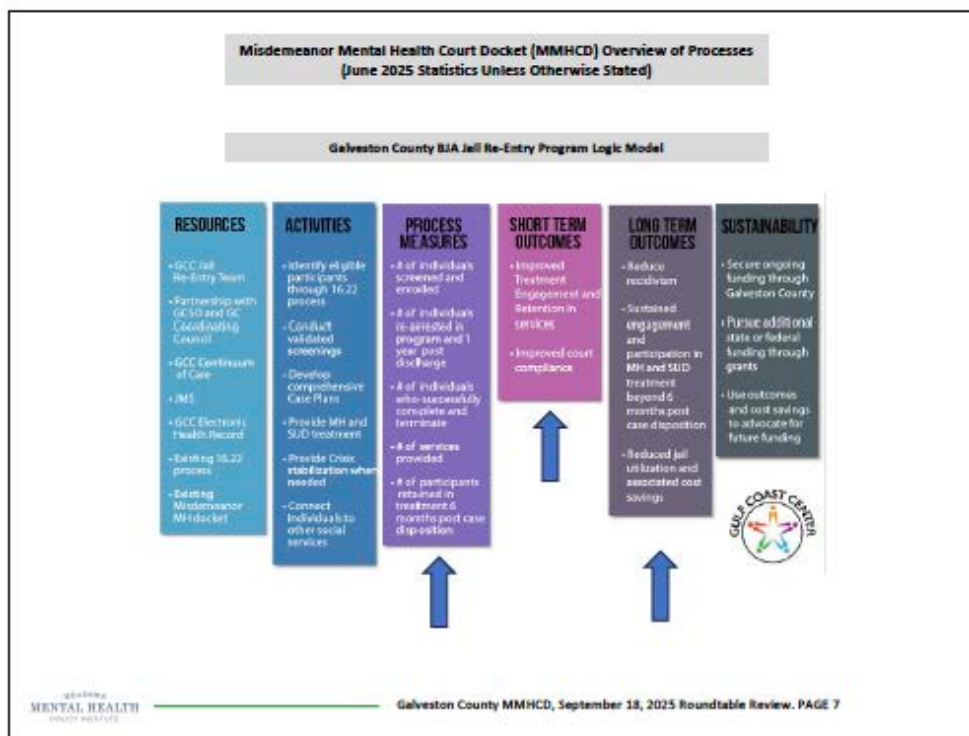
Dr. Fabelo Impressions of Areas to Improve

6 A system process and outcome measures for the BJA grant needs to be put in place on day one of the program and a system to analyze metrics periodically should be instituted (request in GCC for their IT department to establish this system working with county IT data)

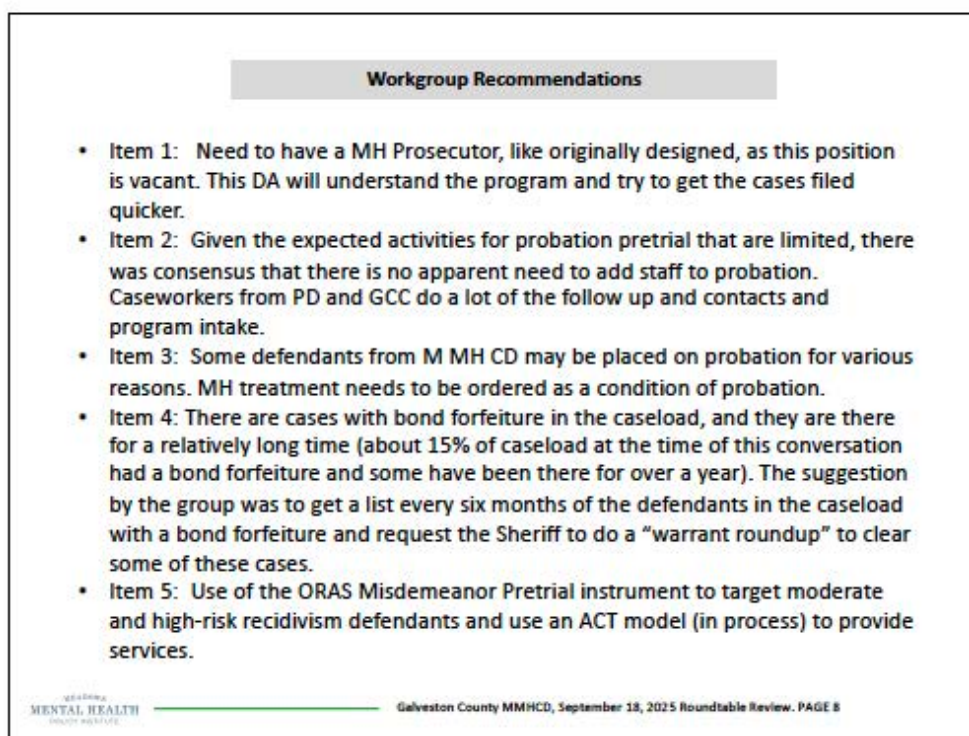
- Number of individuals screened and enrolled
- Number of individuals re-arrested in program and one year post discharge
- Number of individuals who successfully complete and terminate
- Number of services provided
- Number of participants retained in treatment 6 months post case disposition

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11



12

Workgroup Recommendations

- Item 6: GCC to set up system for tracking for the target population which requires GCC IT and County IT to work together for this purpose.
- Item 7: Change monthly metrics to track number of people on the M MH CD using information collected by probation and M MH PD (Cristian Urbina does not have to submit her monthly reports as she has been doing for the last two and a half year).
- Item 8: To identify defendants and cases for the M MH Docket County Court Administrator to clean the so-called "Green Flag" to better represent MH defendants/cases for selecting the defendants for the M MH CD

Thank You!

Dr. Tony Fabelo, tfabelo@mmhpi.org

MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

Mission

To provide independent, nonpartisan, data-driven, and trusted policy and program guidance that creates systemic changes so all Texans can obtain effective, efficient behavioral health care when and where they need it.

Appendix 18: GCC Mental Health Brochure for Training Sessions with Law Enforcement presented to Coordinating Council Meeting of December 4, 2025

Who is Appropriate to Refer to the Extended Observation Unit (EOU)



An EOU bridges the gap between the ER and inpatient hospitalization, providing a community-based crisis stabilization alternative. This short-term program supports recovery and readiness for continued treatment in the community so that individuals can then be safely managed at an outpatient level of care.

The EOU is not intended for individuals who require the inpatient hospital level of care or long-term care to stabilize, or for individuals requiring medical care for superseding medical conditions (example: requiring oxygen, communicable disease, active intoxication, suicide attempt without medical attention < 12 hrs,).

Who We Serve:

- Adults (18+) in mental health crisis
- Voluntary admissions
- Involuntary admissions on Emergency Detention Order/Court Ordered Treatment
- Referrals from law enforcement, EMS, Hospitals, and Community Providers
- Referred by Galveston County Specialty Court or Galveston County Jail Diversion Programs

REFERRAL PROCESS

HOW TO REFER

Call ahead

- Confirm bed availability and appropriateness.

Upon arrival

- RN assessment/Crisis Screening

Admission type:

- Voluntary: individual self admits
- Involuntary: TX Health & Safety Code §573.021 (EDO ≤ 48 hrs)

- **If accepted:** admitted for stabilization and evaluation.
- **If not accepted:** staff assist in linking to a more appropriate level of care.

Goal:

- Accessible emergency mental health care in the community.
- Reduced unnecessary use of hospitals, ERs, and jail
- Law enforcement crisis and jail diversion resource



Contact Us

Galveston County Mental Health Wellness Center
Extended Observation Unit
Operated by Gulf Coast Center

Address: 1207 Oak St, La Marque, TX 77568
Referral Line: 409-XXX-XXXX
24-Hour Crisis Line: 1-866-729-3848
Email: eou@gulfcoastcenter.org
Website: www.gulfcoastcenter.org

Partners:
Galveston County
State of Texas



Working together to keep individuals in need of mental health care safe, connected, and supported in the community.

Galveston County Mental Health Wellness Center

Extended Observation Unit

Providing Galveston County with a safe, short-term crisis stabilization alternative to emergency departments, psychiatric hospitals and jails for individuals in mental health crisis



What is an Extended Observation Unit?

An EOU is a 24/7 short-term behavioral health unit offering up to 48 hours of psychiatric evaluation, crisis stabilization, treatment and linkage to appropriate care to meet each person's crisis stabilization needs.

The EOU provides a calm, therapeutic environment designed to stabilize crisis in the community and reduce the need for hospitalization or incarceration.

EOU Specialized Services

- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Medication Management
- 24 Hr Nursing Care
- Therapy
- Case Management
- Life Skills Training
- Peer Support
- Transition to Outpatient
- Transition to Inpatient Care as Needed
- Step Down Transition from Inpatient Care as Needed
- Average Stay: 24-72 hours



How does an EOU Differ from an ER or Inpatient Hospital?

Setting:	Emergency Room (ER)	Extended Observation Unit (EOU)	Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital
Primary Purpose	Immediate medical stabilization for life-threatening conditions or injuries	Short-term behavioral health stabilization and psychiatric observation	Ongoing psychiatric treatment for individuals requiring long-term or intensive care
Typical Length of Stay	Hours	24-72 hours	Days to weeks
Level of Medical Care	Intensive medical and psychiatric care	Psychiatry & Behavioral Health focused; Limited Medical Care	Moderate to High medical and psychiatric team available 24/7

Still unsure if the EOU is the right level of care?

Please contact the EOU and our mental health professionals will assist with linkage to the most appropriate and safe crisis stabilization resource.

Appendix 19: GCC Mental Health Wellness Center Overview and Intake, Assessment and Program Protocols, Report to the Coordinating Council, January 23, 2026



1



2

Staff Roles Overview

Psychiatric Provider

- Conducts evaluations
- Determines medication needs
- Oversees clinical decision-making

Registered Nurses (RNs)

- Intake screening and vitals
- Medication administration
- Ongoing monitoring
- Medical triage decisions

Case Managers (Qualified Mental Health Professional)

- Conduct Crisis Assessment
- Observation & documentation
- Supportive interventions
- Assist with ADLs and safety

Licensed Clinicians

- Licensed Therapists/Counselor
- Provide crisis intervention
- Facilitate brief therapy
- Safety planning
- Coordinate discharge resources

Program Leadership

- Ensures quality of care
- Oversees compliance and operations
- Coordinates with community partner



3

What Services Can Clients Receive at Wellness Center

- Psychiatric evaluation.
- 24-hour nursing and psychiatric oversight.
- Medication management.
- Crisis-focused therapy and support.
- Safe, calming environment for stabilization.
- Warm handoff to outpatient or inpatient services as needed.

Only adults can receive services at the Wellness Center



4

Extended Observation and Crisis Respite Support

Extended Observation Unit (EOU) is the most comprehensive resource to assess and stabilize individual in crisis

Can serve up to twelve individuals at the time with nine (9) beds in private rooms and three (3) 23-hour observations beds

Respite Center also provides 12 Crisis Respite Beds for up to 14 days of voluntary stabilization, development of service plans and connection to outpatient resources



5

What Is the Extended Observation Unit (EOU)?

- **The Extended Observation Unit (EOU) is a 24/7 short-term behavioral health stabilization program for adults experiencing a mental health crisis**
- **Average stay is 24–72 hours**
- **The EOU provides psychiatric evaluation, crisis stabilization, and linkage to continued care**
- **The EOU is designed to keep individuals safe and reduce unnecessary ER visits or incarceration**



6

For Whom is the EOU Appropriate?

- Individual is in psychiatric crisis but medically stable
- Individual needs short-term observation and stabilization
- Individual is not exhibiting acute medical issues requiring ER care
- Individual need evaluation before determining ongoing care needs



7

What the EOU Is Not?

The Extended Observation Unit (EOU) is NOT:

- A medical unit or ER substitute for medical emergencies.
- A long-term psychiatric care.
- A program for individuals requiring intensive medical support.
- A placement for individuals medically unstable or unable to participate in treatment.



8

ER vs EOU vs Inpatient

ER:

- Immediate medical stabilization for life-threatening conditions
- Length of stay: hours

EOU:

- Short-term behavioral health stabilization
- Length of stay: 23–72 hours. Ideally no more than 48 hours

Inpatient:

- Long-term psychiatric treatment
- Length of stay: days to weeks



9

What are the Referral Sources That We Can Serve

1. Walk-ins when fully operational will be screened and assessed
2. Individuals on Peace Officer Emergency Detention Orders (EDOs) or Voluntary Admission
3. Court-ordered referrals/MMHPD referrals as part of Misd. MH Court Docket
4. Referrals from:
 - Law Enforcement
 - County Jail Diversion
 - EMS
 - ERs
 - Hospitals
 - GCC MCOT & Co-Response Teams
 - Community providers



10

Referral Process

From law enforcement:

Law enforcement should call for consultation to get guidance from clinicians for most appropriate drop-off options.

Law enforcement should call even if they have an Emergency Detention Order (EDO)

For other agencies: call for consultation as to appropriate drop-off options

**ONE DEDICATED REFERRAL
PHONE NUMBER PENDING
SET UP**

Note:

If not accepted staff can assist in linking to a more appropriate level of care.

This may include ER or inpatient psychiatric services

Goal is to streamline admissions process to the drop off officer can take the person to next level of care if necessary



11

Screening to Determine if a Person is Appropriate for the EOU

- ✓ Start: Is the individual 18 or older?
 - If no → Not eligible.
 - If yes → Next.
- ✓ Is the individual in a mental health crisis needing immediate psychiatric stabilization?
 - If no → Refer to outpatient or community services.
 - If yes → Next.
- ✓ Is the individual medically stable?
(Stable vitals, no chest pain, no uncontrolled diabetes, no respiratory issues, no fever/infection)
 - If no → Send to ER.
 - If yes → Next.
- ✓ Does the individual require IV fluids, oxygen, suction, feeding tubes, dialysis, or nursing-home-level care?
 - If yes → ER or medical unit.
 - If no → Next.

- ✓ Is the person safe to participate in psychiatric evaluation and treatment?
(Oriented enough to engage; not actively delirious unless substance-related)
 - If no → ER for medical clearance.
 - If yes → Next.
- ✓ Is the referral voluntary OR under a valid Emergency Detention Order?
 - If no → Clarify legal status.
 - If yes → EOU is appropriate.
- ✓ Final Decision:
 - If medically stable + psychiatric crisis + no exclusionary criteria → Appropriate to stay in EOU.



12

Intake and Program Process

- Arrival & Check-In
- Safety check
- RN exam
- Crisis assessment to determine eligibility for any services included EOU
- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Seen by psychiatric provider (in person MF daytime/telehealth after hours)
- Medication adjustments if needed
- Review of symptoms and history
- Stabilization Period
- Restorative environment
- Medication monitoring
- Crisis-focused therapy or supportive counseling
- Meals, hydration, rest
- Nursing Oversight
- Vitals checks
- Safety assessments
- Monitoring withdrawal risk, medication response, agitation, sleep
- Care Planning
- Begin discharge planning immediately
- Identify outpatient providers or inpatient need
- Discharge or Transfer
- Referral to inpatient if needed
- Warm handoff to outpatient
- Safety planning before leaving



13

Medical Exclusionary Criteria

- Active IVs or central lines.
- Oxygen or suction requirements.
- Communicable diseases requiring isolation (TB, measles, COVID, scabies, etc.).
- Active intoxication or high-risk withdrawal.
- Unstable vitals or medical instability.
- Uncontrolled diabetes (glucose >400 or <60).
- Hypertensive crisis (>180/120).
- Fever $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$ or active infections.
- Cardiac or respiratory instability (chest pain, CHF, O_2 <85%).
- Recent head injury with loss of consciousness.
- Delirium unrelated to substance use.
- Pregnancy (especially third trimester).
- Feeding tubes, Foley catheter, NG tube.
- Unable to safely ambulate or fall risk.
- Nursing home level of care needs.
- Recent suicide attempt (<12 hrs) without ER clearance.
- Any condition requiring higher medical care per MD/RN.



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Safety First

- **Gun Lock Box for officers before entering center**
- **Onsite security 24/7**
- **Controlled front entrance**
- **24-hour video surveillance in most areas of the facility**
- **Staff trained in crisis intervention and de-escalation**
- **Officers available if extreme behavioral escalation occurs**
- **External law enforcement can also be contacted if necessary**



15

Benefits for Law Enforcement & EMS

- Faster, streamlined drop-off for appropriate cases.
- Provides an alternative to ERs and jails.
- Keeps officers available for service instead of waiting in ERs.
- Clear clinical criteria for acceptance.
- Supports crisis diversion efforts.



16

Benefits for Hospitals & Providers

- Decreases psychiatric boarding.
- Provides short-term stabilization without occupying medical beds.
- Promotes continuity of care after discharge.
- Improves patient flow and reduces bottlenecks in emergency departments.



17

What Families Should Expect

- Safe, supportive, structured environment.
- Immediate evaluation and crisis stabilization.
- Medical issues addressed through referral when needed.
- Discharge planning begins at admission.
- Connection to outpatient care or inpatient treatment as appropriate.



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Law Enforcement Orientations Completed as of 1/16/2026:

- Texas City Police Department
- Dickinson Police Department
- Santa Fe Police Department
- University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Police Department



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Contact Information

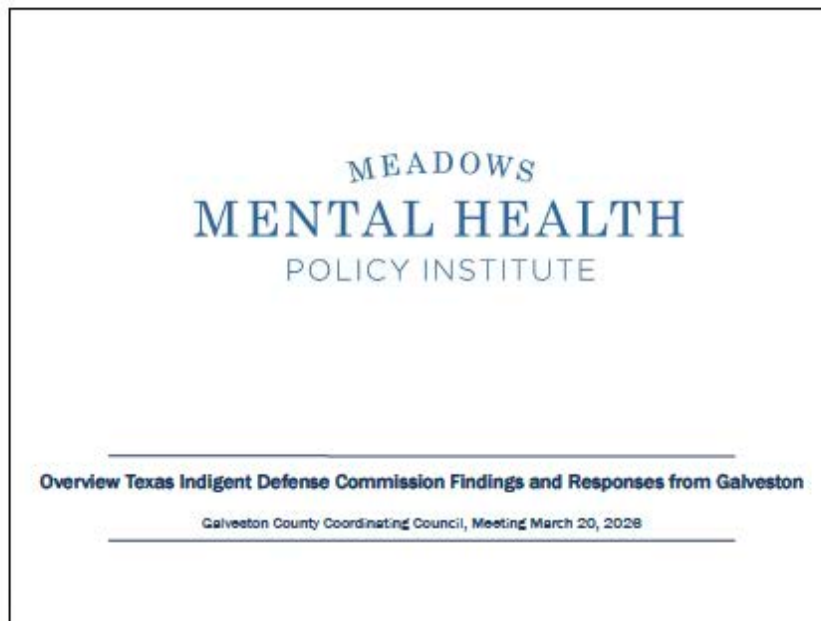
- Website: gulfcoastcenter.org
- Email: eou@gulfcoastcenter.org
- 24-Hour Crisis Line: 1-866-729-3848
- Referral Line:
- Address: 1207 Oak St, La Marque, TX 77568



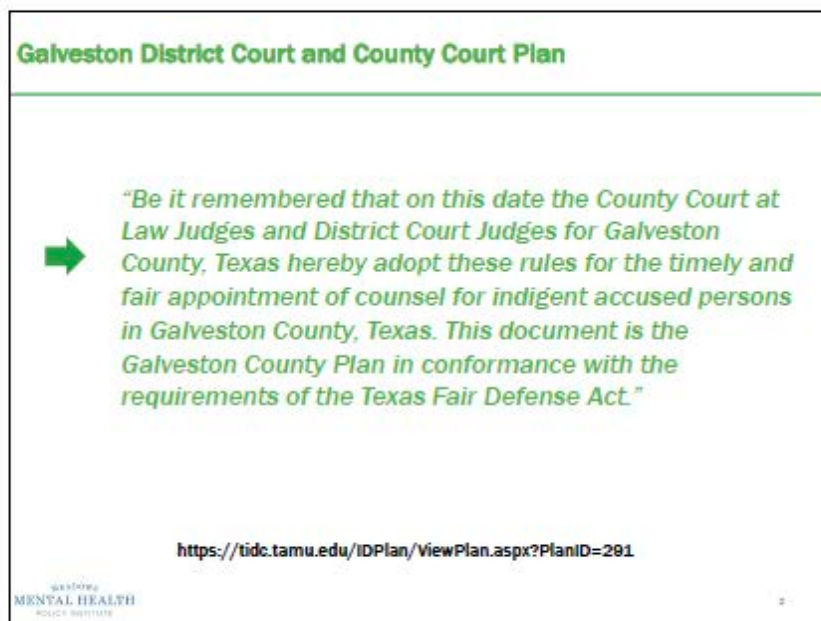
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Appendix 20: Overview Texas Indigent Defense Commission Findings and Responses from Galveston, Report to the Coordinating Council, March 20, 2026

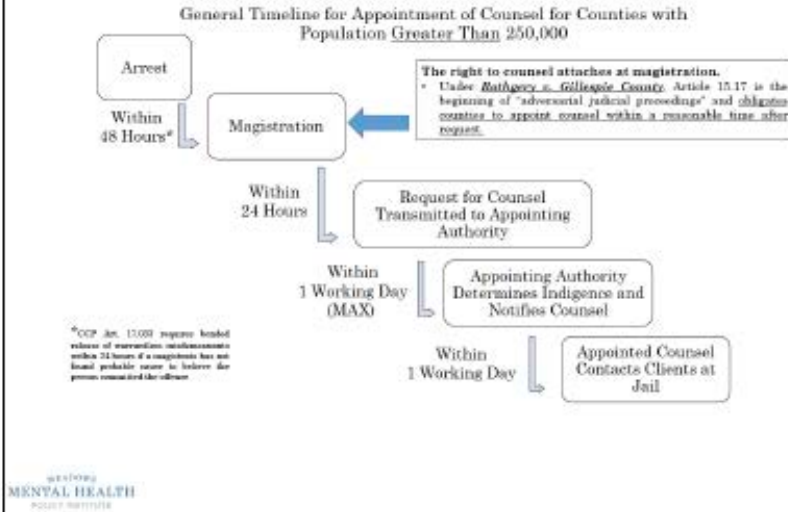


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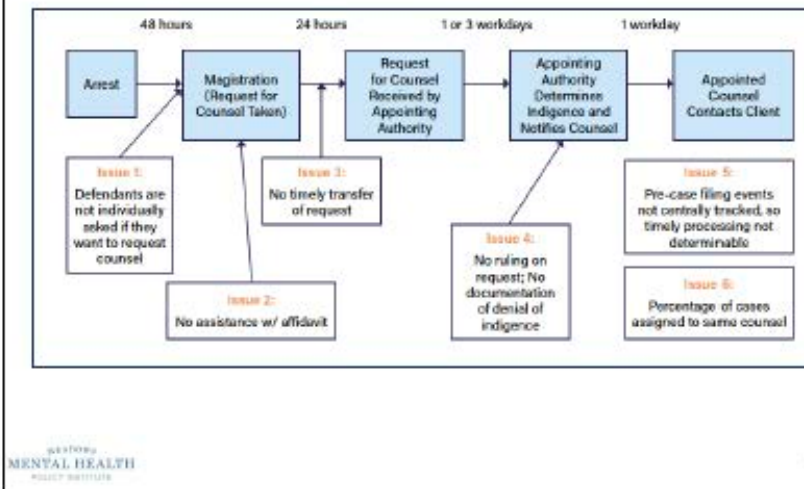
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General Timeline for Appointment of Counsel



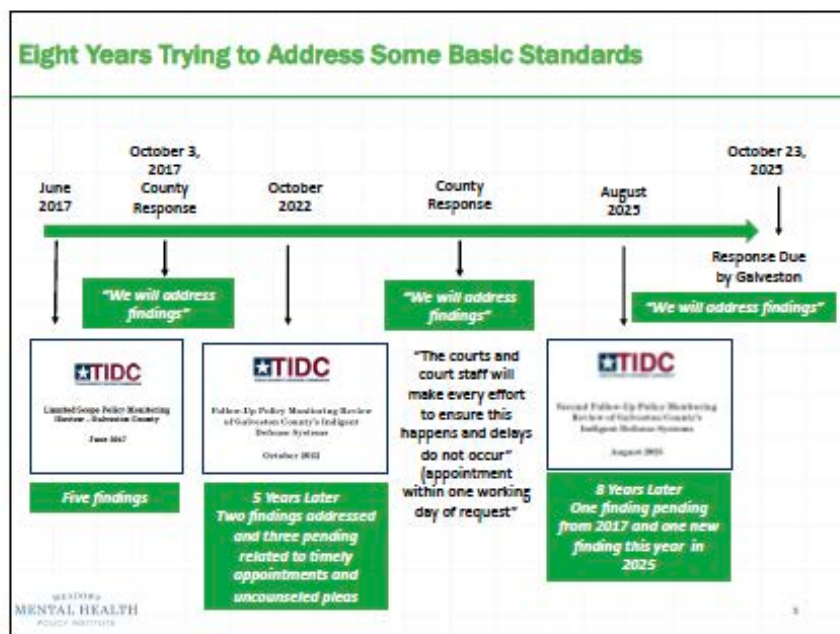
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General Challenges to Meet the Timeline



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Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026



5

County Court Administration Response to TIDC on Finding Two

**THE COUNTY COURT ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO TIDC
2025 FOLLOW-UP MONITORING REVIEW OF
GALVESTON COUNTY'S INDIGENT DEFENSE SYSTEM**

The following are the responses of County Court Administration relating to the Commission's one remaining issue regarding the three Galveston County Courts at Law.

REQUIREMENT 2: DETERMINE INDIGENCE ACCORDING TO STANDARDS DIRECTED BY THE INDIGENCE PLAN.

Resolution:

Defendants will be considered indigent if:

- (1) they are currently serving a sentence in a correctional institution,
- (2) or are currently held in custody,
- (3) or are currently residing in a public mental health facility or are subjects of proceedings in which such commitment is sought,
- (4) or are found to fall under the Financial Standards for Determining Indigence as set forth under part III, No.2 of the current Galveston County Plan of the Texas Fair Defense Act as amended September 26, 2024 with particular emphasis on No.2 (b) regarding eligibility to receive food stamps, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income or public housing.

Logos: TIDC, THE MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

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District Court Administration Response to TIDC

THE DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO TIDC 2025 FOLLOW-UP MONITORING REVIEW OF GALVESTON COUNTY'S INDIGENT DEFENSE SYSTEM

The following response is addressing issues related to five (5) District Courts (felony cases) of Galveston County. The Response is as follows:

D. Case Appointments

I. District Courts

a. Individual Case Appointment

When an indigent defendant appears before a District Judge and requests appointment of an attorney, or when the District Judge receives a request for appointment of an attorney from a defendant who has been determined by the Judge or a Magistrate to be indigent, the Judge shall immediately appoint an attorney from the Master List whose placement on the Graduated List qualifies that attorney to represent the defendant for which the defendant is currently charged or from the Felony Mental Health Attorney Wheel if applicable.

If not appointing an attorney from the Felony Mental Health Attorney Wheel, the District Judge shall appoint an attorney from the first five names on the Master List of those qualified to represent defendants at the level of offense involved. An attorney may not be bypassed for appointment more than two times on the Master List unless the District Judge finds, in writing, that a conflict of interest exists or that good cause exists for bypassing the attorney.

Response from TIDC to Galveston County

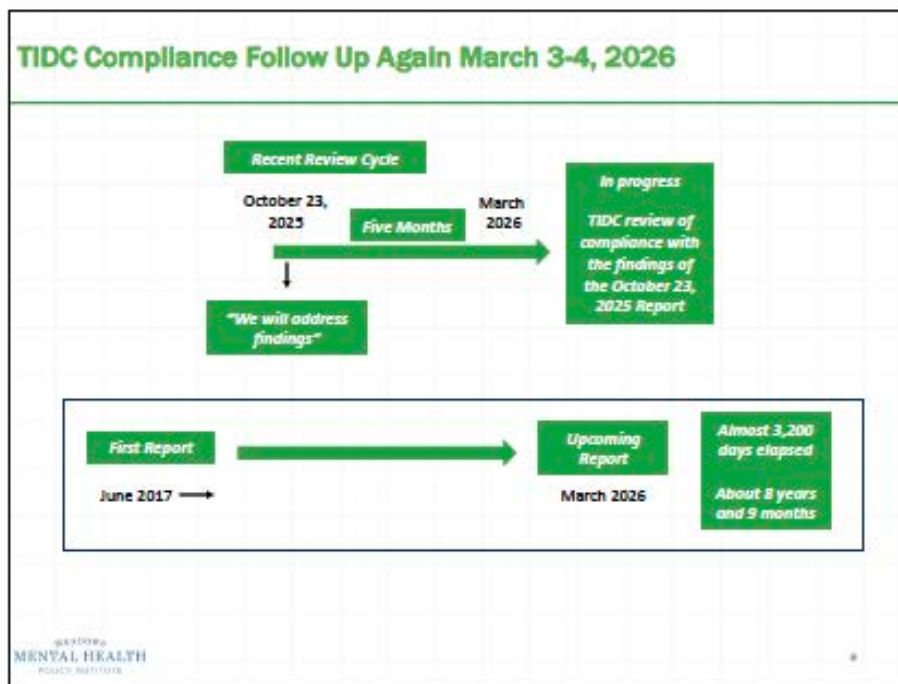
Based on the response, the District Courts will continue to work diligently to appoint counsel from the appropriate list immediately in all cases where someone was found indigent.

In County Courts, it is our understanding that the courts will be following the indigent defense plan's standard of indigence. If an individual meets any of the listed factors, they will automatically be considered indigent. If this understanding is incorrect, please let us know by Monday November 17.

TIDC intends to conduct a follow-up review early in 2026 for a visit. We hope to be able to close the review, provided the two above matters have been addressed.

*Email to Galveston officials of November 10, 2025 from Joel Lieurance and Ashley De La Garza, TIDC

Final Progress Report, April 2025 to April 2026



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Thank You!

Dr. Tony Fabelo, tfabelo@mnhpi.org

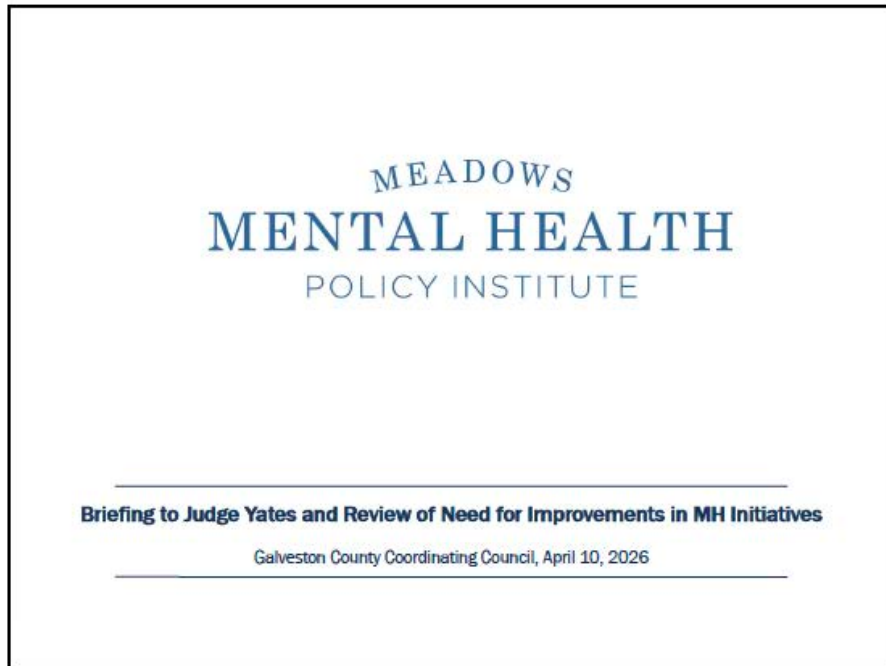
MEADOWS
MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY INSTITUTE

Mission

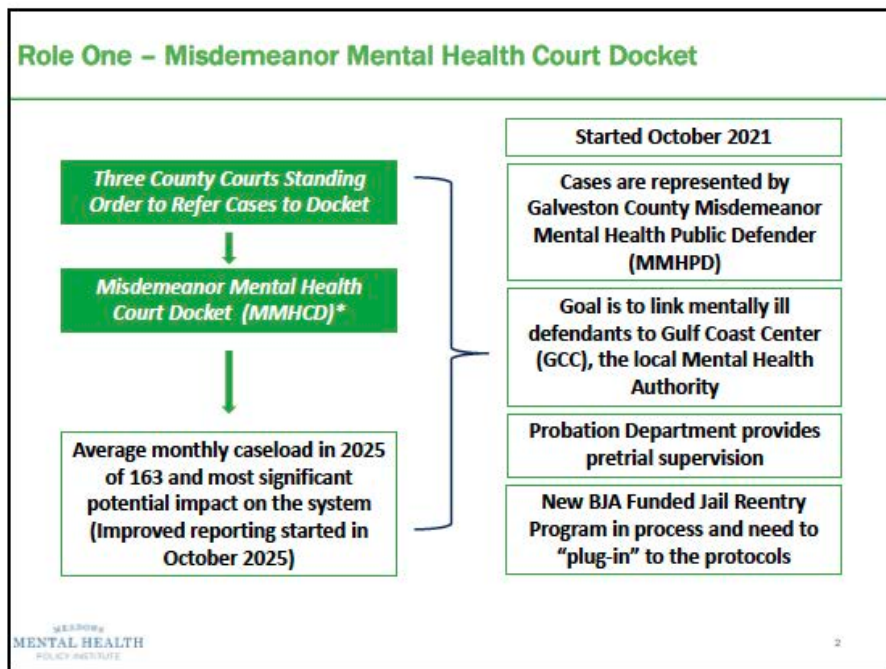
To provide independent, nonpartisan, data-driven, and trusted policy and program guidance that creates systemic changes so all Texans can obtain effective, efficient behavioral health care when and where they need it.

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Appendix 21: Briefing Report to Judge Yates Related to Scope of Her Work and Pending Improvement Issues in Each of Her Areas

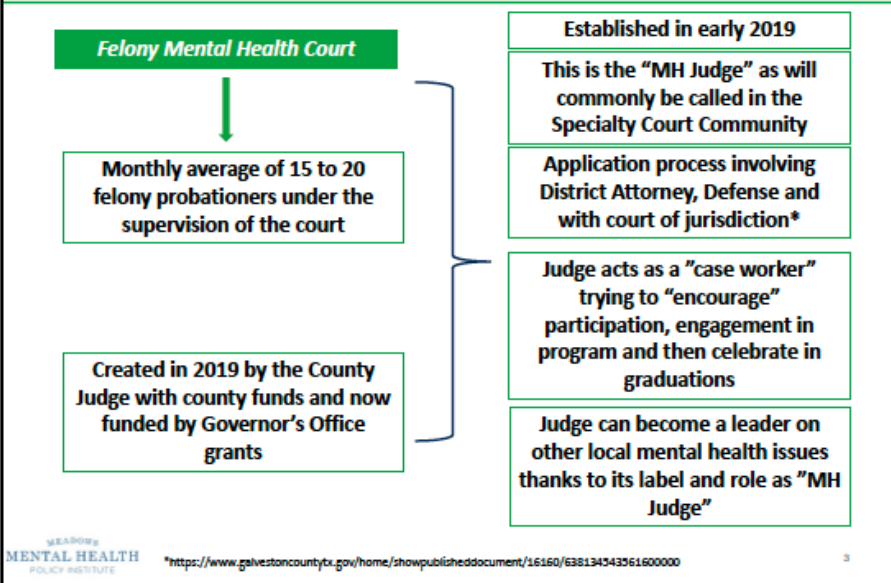


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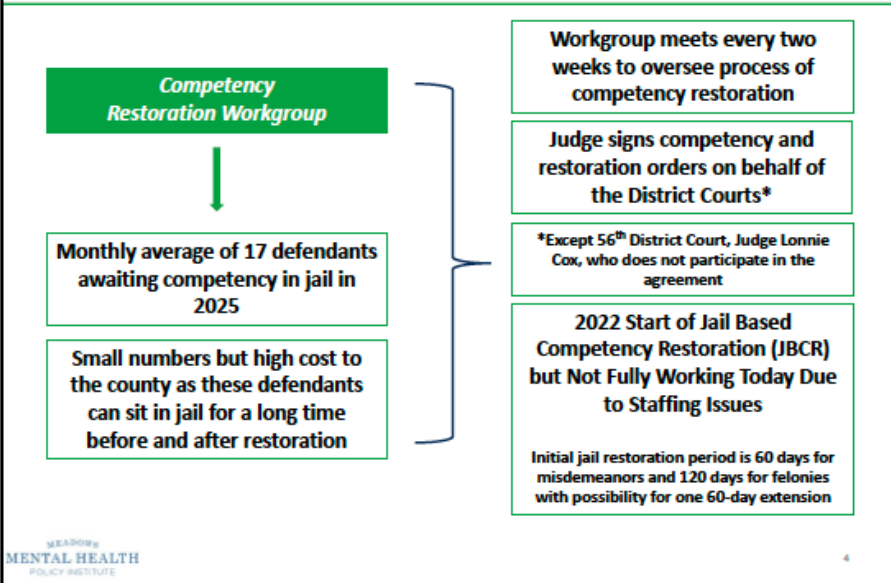
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Role Two – Felony Mental Health Court

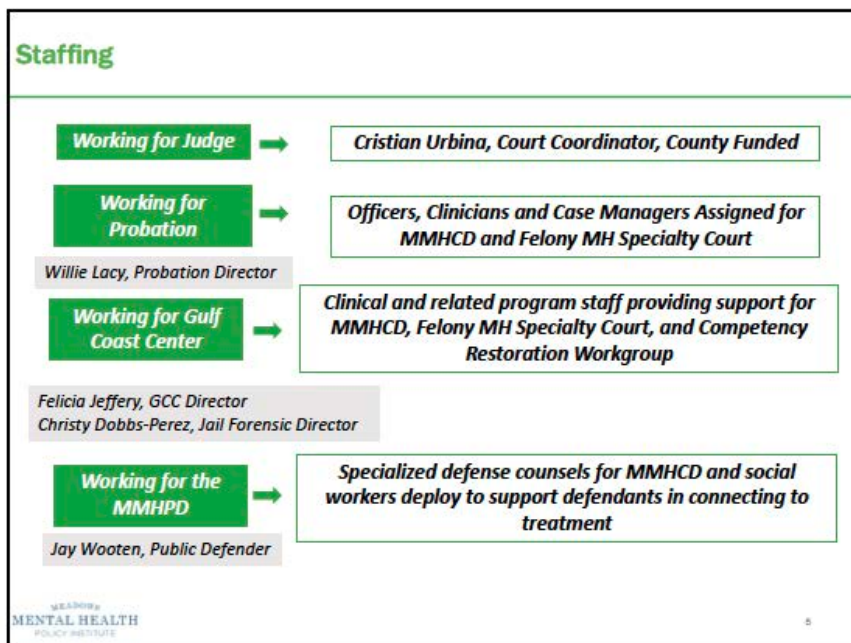


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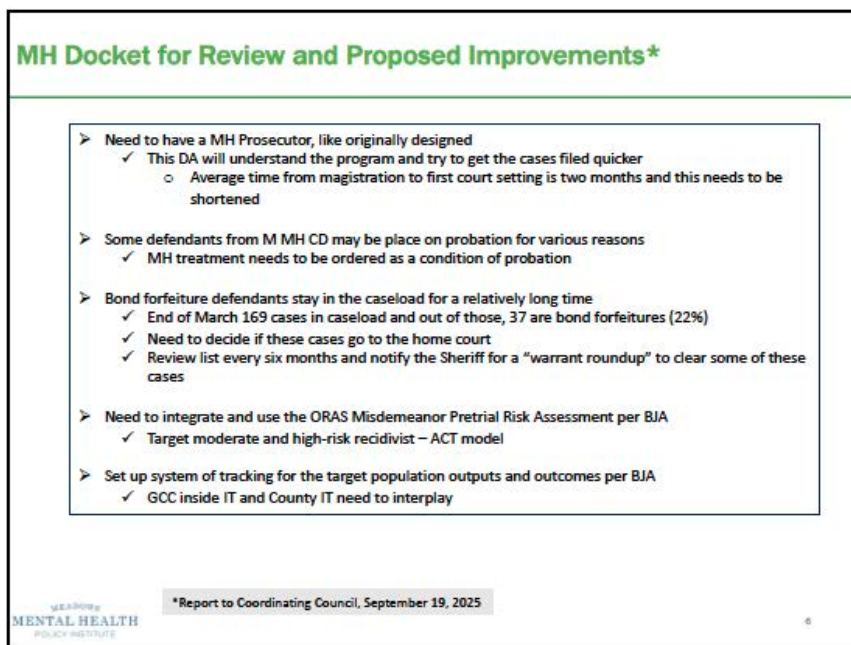
Role Three – Competency Restoration Workgroup



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MH Felony Specialty Court for Review and Proposed Improvements

- Review original program framework of 2019 and adjust as needed
 - ✓ Review program selection and criteria for acceptance for participation as about only 20% of those reviewed get accepted to the program
 - ✓ Explicitly define how a person is discharged and how successful terminations vs. unsuccessful terminations are defined and counted
 - ✓ Set a mechanism to report back to the judge the number/percentage of participants re-arrested after a year by successful and unsuccessful terminations
- Review and update Best Practices protocols
 - ✓ Team operational MOU is still pending
 - ✓ There should be periodic internal review of protocols by team
 - ✓ Program phases should add individualized goals if appropriate
 - ✓ There should be a clear understanding and agreement with judge on key protocols for the program and specific goals for participants
- Review and adopt updated framework of accountability and incentives
 - ✓ Make clear upon entry that program participation is voluntarily but participants cannot leave voluntarily for reasons such as not wanting to enter treatment per clinical recommendations
 - ✓ Create and implement a system of incentives and use them consistently based on the protocols adopted
 - ✓ Make sure that the program team is united when talking to participants with disagreement only discussed during staffing
 - ✓ Review that participants are receiving the stated program "benefits" upon successful completion

Competency Restoration Areas for Review

- Integrating 56th District Court
 - ✓ Currently all competency restoration matters flow through the MH Judge except for matters in the 56th District Court.
 - ✓ This fragmentation leads to inefficiencies and delays in the process of moving defendants from that court through the system and tracking the associated data
- Reduce delays in setting dockets
 - ✓ When individuals return to jail from competency restoration at the state hospital, there are often delays by the district courts setting them on the docket and disposing their cases on a timely manner.
 - ✓ This leads to prolong jail stays for these defendants and potential for decompensation and new findings of incompetency.
- Address workload issues with jail psychiatrist
 - ✓ An increase in the number of individuals found incompetent to stand trial and the subsequent requests for court ordered medications and civil commitments is putting increased workload on jail psychiatrist who is contracted through UTMB Correctional Medicine.