



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, March 15, 2021
Via Microsoft TEAMS**

Welcome & Introductions, Commissioner Dr. Garcia, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. All in attendance recorded via Microsoft TEAMS.

Membership & Infrastructure:

There were no changes to membership or infrastructure at this time.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the CJAB General Membership meeting held on December 14, 2020, were made a part of the packet. There was a motion made to accept the minutes as printed.

Presentations:

Dallas County Public Defender's Office– Chief Public Defender Lynn Pride Richardson

Commissioner Garcia introduced the presenter Chief Public Defender Lynn Pride Richardson.

Ms. Richardson, began the presentation by giving a brief overview of the Dallas County Public Defender's Office, which is the largest in the state of Texas and the second oldest. The Public Defender's Office is a very diverse office in which it has many areas of expertise. The Public Defender's Office is required by Commissioners Court to handle a certain number of cases per year to remain cost effective. For year 2020, the felony and misdemeanor criminal division handled 317,485 cases and disposed of 305,417 cases. This is not including other divisions. Ms. Richardson proceeded to review the case of Clarence Earl Gideon.

In 2001, Texas recognized serious flaws in its indigent defense system. Many of whom could not afford an attorney faced criminal conviction with ineffective representation or no lawyer at all. Lawyers paid with public funds were subject to little oversight.

In response the 77th Legislature passed the Fair Defense Act, which provided state funding and set minimum standards for the appointment, performance and payment of lawyers. The legislature also created what is now the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) and charged it with funding, overseeing and improving indigent defense.

Since passage of the Fair Defense Act in 2001, Texas has significantly improved access to counsel. Managed defense programs – like Public Defender and managed assigned counsel programs – help guarantee quality, efficiency and accountability.

Ms. Richardson proceeded to explain the different types of defense models. She began with the Traditional Defense Model. The goal of every defense lawyer in any setting is to get the best case disposition for a client. Holistic client centered defense contrasts with the traditional defense model that emphasizes criminal representation and courtroom advocacy by a single defense lawyer or a team of defense lawyers. Client centered representation does not eliminate this fundamental and compelling obligation. Next, Holistic/Client Centered Defense Model. Holistic defense assembles a team of lawyers by integrating practice areas and encouraging collaboration with professionals in other disciplines. Holistic/Client Centered Representation requires interconnectedness. This can be achieved through interdisciplinary work groups. Public defenders and defense counsel work in interdisciplinary teams to address the immediate case and the underlying life circumstances that contribute to client contact with the criminal justice system. The centerpiece of a holistic office and the primary way to reinforce interconnectedness of the issues that clients face is through the involvement and interaction of interdisciplinary workgroups. These work groups include, but are not limited to, social workers, case managers, mental health and treatment professionals, paralegals, investigators, mitigation specialists, psychologists, psychiatrists, criminal justice advocates, community organizers and organizations, peer support and elected officials. The utilization of an interdisciplinary team relieves, to a certain extent, the need for lawyers to become or act as social workers or treatment providers of which we have no training or expertise. It helps to have some understanding of these disciplines but it is more effective to have the ability to collaborate with professionals who are experts in those areas. Ms. Richardson provided an example of the holistic client centered defense model.

Ms. Richardson described the different specialty problem solving courts in Dallas County, and the involvement that the Public Defender's Office has with these specialty courts. For more information on specialty courts please refer to Power Point presentation. Ms. Richardson then proceeded to go over exonerated cases or wrongfully convicted defendants the DCPD Office has worked. Please refer to Power Point presentation for further details. The presentation was concluded by giving a background on the Internship program, and International Leadership Program of the United States Department of State.

Committee Project Updates:

Criminal Justice Administration & Jail Population Management Update:

LaShonda Jefferson reported on the Jail Population meeting held on March 12, 2021. Excerpts from that packet can be found on pages 54 through 59 of the CJAB packet. The jail population for today is 5,736. The February average jail population was 5,690 and the yearly average is 5,641. Charlene Randolph continued the update. It was reported that the Jail Population survey has now closed and stakeholders meeting are now being scheduled. The purpose of these meeting is to get feedback and improve the jail population packet. Also, the specialty court survey is being finalized and trying to determine how those courts are measuring success. Lastly, the Local Data Advisory Board has been reconvened. This work group meets twice a week and the goal is to reach 90% compliance by 8/1/21.

Fair Defense Committee:

Lynn Richardson gave the update. No further updates to report at this time.

Justice of the Peace:

Judge Steve Seider was not present due to technical difficulty and was not able to provide an update. Mr. Canales will forward the update from Judge Seider to the committee once received.

Law Enforcement/Jurisprudence:

Chief Jim Spivey and Ellyce Lindberg gave the update. There was no meeting scheduled this past quarter. Ms. Lindberg reported that there will be a jurisprudence and law enforcement subcommittee meeting tomorrow March 16, 2021 in order to discuss electronic disposition reporting (EDR) compliance. During this meeting they will be going over the process and request help from all LEA's in Dallas County. Ms. Lindberg also announced that Chief Jim Spivey will be retiring in May. Commissioner Garcia presented a recognition to Chief Spivey on behalf of CJAB. Chief Spivey addressed CJAB committee and thanked everyone for the best wishes in his retirement.

Pretrial:

Jeff Segura gave the update. Pretrial Services continues to do well. Two employees have left for another opportunity in the intake unit. Pretrial Services is working to fill those positions at this time. The ELM unit numbers are currently high at this time. They are using other department staff and assisting ELM. Smart Justice and Alcohol Monitoring units continue to operate with no problems.

Reentry:

Christina Crain gave the update. Unlocking DOORS is doing a lot of work with the Legislature. They are analyzing bills to see which ones will impact re-entry services. The next Unlocking DOORS Re-entry Symposium is set for September 14, 2021. This year it will be virtual once again. Last year there was over 900 people that attended the virtual symposium, and are excited to do it again virtually.

Research:

Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez was not present due to technical difficulty and was not able to provide an update. Mr. Canales will forward the update from Dr. Gonzalez to the committee once received.

Program Update:**Local Data Advisory Board:**

Miguel Canales gave the update. Dallas County is currently at 85.77% for percentage completeness with a goal of 90%. This goal needs to be reached by August 1, 2021. The Local Data Advisory Board has been reconvened and is meeting bi-weekly at this time.

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

The next CJAB meeting will be held on June 14, 2021, at 2:30pm via Microsoft TEAMS.

Mr. Gordon Hikel asked CJAB Committee chair, if Dr. Timothy Bray from University of Texas of Dallas would be able to present during the June 15, 2021 CJAB meeting regarding New Directions for Public Safety and Positive Community Change. Mr. Hikel gave a brief description of the project and its focuses. Commissioner Garcia approved the presentation for June 15, 2021.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved at 3:30PM.