



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
General Membership Minutes for Monday, March, 24 2025**

**Welcome & Introductions:** Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. All in attendance made customary introductions.

**Membership & Infrastructure:**

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

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the December 16, 2024, CJAB General Membership meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jeff Segura and seconded by Dr. Michael Noyes. The motion carried unanimously with no objections or edits.

**Presentations:**

**Opioid Task Force – Ms. Allie Young**

Ms. Allie Yun, Substance Use Program Monitor at Dallas County Health and Human Services, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Dallas County Opioid Task Force and its broader substance use initiatives. She began by outlining the department's efforts funded through an \$11 million CDC Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant awarded in 2023. This grant supports a five-year strategic response to rising opioid-related overdoses, particularly those involving fentanyl.

Ms. Yun emphasized the alarming trends in overdose fatalities, with fentanyl-related deaths rising approximately 90% since the late 2010s. She discussed the launch of a public overdose data dashboard that collects information from EMS, hospitals, the medical examiner, and state sources to provide real-time surveillance of substance use trends.

Among the most impactful initiatives described was the creation of Overdose Response Teams (ORT), currently operating in Dallas and Tarrant Counties. These teams conduct in-home follow-ups within 72 hours of a non-fatal overdose, provide education on naloxone (an opioid-reversal drug), and offer peer support referrals to treatment. Ms. Yun announced plans to expand these teams across 30 municipalities in Dallas County using grant funds.

Additionally, a 24/7 opioid prevention hotline has been established in partnership with Parkland's Poison Center to serve individuals, families, and medical professionals. The hotline connects callers to addiction specialists who offer immediate referrals and clinical guidance.

The Opioid Task Force itself consists of 46 members, including medical providers, community-based organizations, and individuals with lived experience. The task force operates through six specialized workgroups focused on enhancing data collection, expanding treatment access, promoting harm reduction, developing community resources, and advocating for legislative reform. A notable achievement includes the drafting of a legislative support letter advocating for legalizing fentanyl test strips, expanded lab testing capabilities, and Good Samaritan protections. Thirteen leaders from inside and outside Dallas County signed and submitted the letter during the Texas legislative session.

The final portion of Ms. Yun's presentation addressed systemic gaps in treatment continuity for incarcerated individuals. While Parkland operates a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program within the jail, abrupt inmate releases often disrupt care. This significantly increases the risk of fatal overdose post-release. The task force's public safety workgroup is collaborating with multiple stakeholders to create a process map and develop a strategy for seamless transitions from jail-based to community-based treatment.

### **Understanding the Changing Dynamics in Police Recruiting – Dr. Paul Reynolds**

Dr. Paul Reynolds, Associate Professor and Interim Assistant Dean of Research at UNT Dallas, presented findings from four research studies addressing challenges in police recruitment. His presentation drew from interviews with police academy recruits, law enforcement officers, and their families across rural and urban departments.

Dr. Reynolds began by identifying root causes of recruitment and retention challenges: anti-police sentiment post-2014, the impacts of COVID-19, and shifting career preferences among Gen Z workers. He cited data from the International Association of Chiefs of Police showing that over 75% of departments struggle to recruit qualified applicants.

He then outlined the four original studies:

**Blue Bloods Study** – Focused on children of police officers aged 13–17. Findings indicated that these children experience heightened anxiety for their parents' safety and often face social stigma from peers. Interestingly, most were discouraged by their parents from pursuing law enforcement careers, disrupting the traditional generational pipeline in policing.

**Urban Recruitment Study** – Surveyed academy recruits to understand motivation. While pay and benefits remained important, many new recruits were drawn by a

desire to improve police-community relations. Dr. Reynolds highlighted the need for recruitment campaigns to emphasize community impact and support for officer well-being.

Rural Challenges Study – Highlighted resource limitations, poor compensation, and talent poaching by larger agencies. Many small-town departments fear dissolution or consolidation due to unsustainable staffing and budgets. Homegrown programs like police explorer and internship initiatives showed promising recruitment results.

Motherhood in Policing Study – Focused on female officers who are also mothers. The research revealed difficulties balancing work and family, stigma around maternity leave, and a lack of mentorship and support. Single mothers experienced these barriers more acutely, highlighting the need for institutional policies supporting work-life balance.

Dr. Reynolds emphasized that departments must modernize recruitment strategies to appeal to today's workforce, especially Gen Z, through media-savvy content and clear demonstration of organizational support. He encouraged early outreach through high school or explorer programs to build long-term interest in law enforcement careers.

### **Committee Project Updates:**

#### **Criminal Justice Administration & Jail Population Management**

Ms. Charlene Randolph provided the Jail Population Management update, highlighting that in February, the jail population averaged 6,608 individuals, and for 2025 year-to-date, the average is 6,629. As of the meeting date, the jail population stood at 6,595, which is 93% of the current jail capacity. She noted that bookings have consistently exceeded releases for the past several months, contributing to population increases.

Ms. Randolph emphasized the efforts of the Jail Population Management team in manually reviewing custody cases across multiple systems. The team analyzes who is in custody, the basis for their detention, and whether any movement or action is warranted. These insights are shared with criminal justice partners to facilitate appropriate follow-ups.

She recognized team members Ms. Jennifer Corona and Ms. Adrianna Lawson for their diligence. In 2024, the team reviewed over 37,000 cases and facilitated 5,828 releases. These efforts resulted in a 59-day reduction in average length of stay, leading to an estimated \$29 million in savings for the County. In 2025 so far, they have reviewed 9,030 individuals, with 27% requiring follow-up. Their interventions contributed to a 61-day reduction in stay for many, equating to approximately \$6 million in cost savings.

The Commissioners Court and Budget Office were thanked for approving two temporary staff positions to support this work, and Ms. Randolph emphasized that the performance metrics clearly validate the department's impact.

### **Fair Defense**

There were no updates to report from the Fair Defense Committee at this time.

### **Justice of the Peace**

There were no updates to report from the Justice of the Peace at this time.

### **Law Enforcement and Jurisprudence**

Ms. Ellyce Lindberg delivered an update on the county's efforts to meet the 90% Electronic Disposition Reporting (EDR) requirement. As of March 2025, Dallas County has 16,955 open arrests that must be closed and accurately reported by August 1, 2025. This figure represents unclosed arrests from 2019 through 2023.

Ms. Lindberg explained that EDR compliance directly affects millions of dollars in grant funding across the county, including support for nonprofit agencies and law enforcement. Achieving this target requires the collaboration of all justice system partners. The Clerk's Office, District Attorney's Office, and law enforcement agencies have been provided with case-specific lists and are asked to review and act promptly.

Ms. Charlene Randolph added that Gary Fitzsimmons has been working with the IT department to restore court reports that identify pending case actions. These reports had been offline since changes were made to the Odyssey case management system. The restored functionality will assist in identifying unresolved cases and help courts take action toward closing them.

It was noted that while technical issues have improved, the primary challenge is the growing volume of cases. With more arrests occurring post-pandemic, agencies must increase disposition rates to maintain compliance. The team continues to hold stakeholder meetings and remains committed to transparency and accountability in the process.

### **Pretrial Services**

Mr. Jeff Segura reported that the Pretrial Services caseload has remained stable. The department is currently monitoring policy developments that could impact procedures, including legislation related to filing charges when a monitoring device is tampered with. Mr. Segura has engaged the District Attorney's Office in these discussions and is exploring whether to present an update to CJAB at a future meeting.

### **Reentry**

In Ms. Christina Melton-Crane's absence, Ms. Jessica Gamez provided the Reentry Committee update. Ms. Crain spoke at the Mental Health Symposium hosted by Commissioner Garcia. Additionally, the team continues to work in

partnership with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office on the Focused Deterrence program and is actively recruiting additional police departments to participate.

The committee is coordinating with departments such as the Sheriff's Office, Juvenile Department, and the courts to align reentry services across the justice system. Agencies interested in participating or learning more were encouraged to contact Ms. Crain directly at 214-215-8152.

**Research:**

Dr. Michael Noyes noted that Dr. Reynolds' presentation constituted the committee's research update for this quarter.

**Program Update:**

**Legislative Session Review**

Ms. Janie Metzinger provided a briefing on pending legislation in the Texas 89th Legislative Session with relevance to mental health and criminal justice. A printed packet of bill summaries was distributed, and she will be sending an electronic version with links to the full texts.

Key bills highlighted included:

House Bill 170, related to medical examinations for drug court proceedings.

House Bills 234 and 893, proposing updates to extreme risk protective orders.

House Bill 1455, targeting mental health jail diversion protocols.

House Bill 1826, addressing postpartum depression screening for incarcerated women.

Senate Bill 528, requiring detailed reporting on inpatient competency restoration.

Ms. Metzinger noted that some proposals may result in unfunded mandates and encouraged members to evaluate bills for their operational and fiscal impacts. Ms. Metzinger and other participants raised the issue of securing funding for well-intentioned legislation and stressed the importance of voicing concerns to lawmakers.

**Public Comments:**

No public comments were received.

**Announcements:**

The next CJAB General Membership meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2025, at 2:30 PM at the Oak Cliff Government Center.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 PM.