



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, June 23, 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 March 24, 2025, CJAB General Membership meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion to approve was made by Judge Valencia Nash and seconded by Mr. Jeff Segura. The motion carried unanimously with no objections or edits.

Presentations:

Dallas County Pretrial Services Overview

Mr. Jeff Segura, recently appointed Director of Dallas County Pretrial Services in February 2025, presented a comprehensive overview of his department's operations. He emphasized that it had been over six years since Pretrial Services last provided a full update to CJAB and used the opportunity to offer a deep dive into the department's mission, structure, and key accomplishments.

Mr. Segura explained that the mission of Pretrial Services is to enhance public safety by supervising individuals released on bond and ensuring compliance with court conditions while recognizing the fundamental presumption of innocence. He detailed the department's five primary operational units: Intake and Assessment, General Pretrial Supervision, Smart Justice (mental health supervision), Alcohol Monitoring, and Electronic Monitoring.

The Intake and Assessment Unit operates 24/7 and conducts initial interviews and risk assessments using the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) tool to assist magistrates in making informed bond decisions. Staff conduct financial affidavits and evaluate eligibility for supervision or release. Mr. Segura stressed that these initial contacts often occur during a defendant's worst moment and stressed the department's commitment to dignity and respect in its interactions. There are 17 staff in this unit which include 15 technicians and 2 supervisors.

The General Pretrial Unit supervises individuals released under low-cost county bonds and also serves as a flexible "catch-all" for cases requiring tailored supervision. Due to narrowing eligibility criteria and offense types, this unit now releases fewer individuals than in previous years, often only 10 per month compared to 10 per day in prior eras.

Smart Justice was highlighted as a key program focused on individuals with behavioral health concerns. It originated in 2018 and works with defendants who are flagged for mental health needs at booking. Staff collaborate with the courts to conduct triage and connect eligible individuals to outpatient services, with the goal of diversion and support. Mr. Segura noted that gaps still exist, particularly for individuals from communities with historically limited mental health access.

The Alcohol Monitoring Unit supervises approximately 1,400 individuals at any given time. These clients are typically on bond for second or subsequent DWI offenses and are required to use ignition interlock devices or alternative alcohol monitoring technology. Mr. Segura offered anecdotal insights into the excuses clients give for failed tests (e.g., mouthwash or cold medicine), explaining how the technology differentiates between incidental exposure and alcohol consumption.

The Electronic Monitoring Unit is responsible for around 500 individuals, including high-risk defendants charged with serious offenses such as murder and capital murder. These individuals are often released with strict monitoring conditions, including GPS, curfews, and home confinement. Mr. Segura described how staff work with courts to impose exclusion zones, monitor violations in real time, and now expedite warrant requests when a monitor is removed.

Mr. Segura concluded by describing the department's robust internship program, which operates year-round. Many interns later join the department full-time. He expressed appreciation for ongoing collaboration with the Criminal Justice Department and announced efforts to expand the General Pretrial Program by working with defense attorneys to increase appropriate referrals.

89th Texas Legislative Session Summary

Chief Gary Tittle of the Richardson Police Department, representing the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA), provided a detailed legislative update focused on criminal justice and law enforcement-related bills from the 89th Texas Legislative Session. Chief Tittle began by placing the 2025 session in historical context, noting that almost 9,000 bills were filed, an unprecedented number since he began tracking legislation in 2007. Of those, TPCA tracked over 1,034 bills, with 151 sent to the Governor's desk.

Chief Tittle highlighted several key legislative wins and challenges. House Bill 2217, authored by Rep. Wharton, establishes a new grant through the Governor's Criminal Justice Division for funding ballistic windshields in patrol

vehicles. This bill was motivated by the tragic loss of officers, including incidents in Dallas, where officers were shot through windshields. Another notable bill, HB 4264 by Rep. Heffner, would provide a one-time \$6,500 grant to law enforcement officers who attain master proficiency certification through TCOLE. Although the bill passed, it was not funded in the final state budget, presenting a missed opportunity for retention incentives.

Chief Tittle also discussed Senate Bill 2570, which addresses officer liability for use of the newly released Taser 10, a less-lethal tool with a firing mechanism resembling a firearm. SB 2570 offers legal protection to officers who use the device properly under department policy and training guidelines, alleviating concerns that its resemblance to a gun might complicate use-of-force cases.

Accreditation of police departments remains a TPCA priority. While Texas has approximately 2,500 law enforcement agencies, only about 200 are accredited. Chief Tittle noted that HB 33, championed by former Uvalde Mayor and freshman legislator Rep. McLaughlin, passed with broad support and embedded high standards for incident response and law enforcement readiness. Though the accreditation language was not included, the emotional weight of the Uvalde tragedy contributed to unanimous passage.

Regarding intoxicating cannabinoids, Chief Tittle discussed Senate Bill 3, which proposed a complete statewide ban on Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC products. He cited concerning data, including that Texas has more than 8,500 vape shops, significantly more than McDonald's and Starbucks combined, and that arrests for THC vape possession, especially in schools, are escalating. Despite Senate support, the House watered down the bill, and the Governor ultimately vetoed it. Chief Tittle emphasized that the THC ban will likely reemerge in the July 21 special session.

Mental health legislation saw limited progress. Senate Bill 1164 by Sen. Zaffirini expands the criteria for emergency mental health detentions to include individuals unaware of their risk to self or others. The bill may also permit EMS and firefighters to initiate detentions, although the statutory language remains vague.

Additional bills of interest included SB 1333, which criminalizes unlawful squatting, and legislation to outlaw AI-generated child pornography, including synthetic images that depict real individuals performing fabricated acts. Chief Tittle explained the difficulties of prosecuting crimes involving digitally altered images and expressed optimism that the new law would aid in addressing internet crimes against children.

Chief Tittle concluded by noting that TPCA is preparing a comprehensive summary of the bills that passed and will distribute it to cities, departments, and legal teams for review. He reminded the board that most new laws take effect on September 1, giving agencies a narrow window to review and implement

required changes. He thanked the board and CJAB leadership for their continued engagement and support.

Committee Project Updates:

Criminal Justice Administration & Jail Population Management

Ms. LaShonda Jefferson provided the update on behalf of the Criminal Justice Administration and Jail Population Management Committee. Ms. Jefferson reported the Jail Population Management Committee Meeting was held on June 13, 2025 and excerpts of the packet could be found on pages 45 through 52 of the CJAB packet. She reported that the average daily jail population for May 2025 was 6,877, bringing the year-to-date average to 6,692. As of the meeting date, the jail was operating at 98% capacity, a level she characterized as an emergency. During June, 3,494 individuals had been booked into custody while only 3,406 were released, contributing to a net increase. Jefferson noted that May's booking count 5,053 was the highest since January 2020. Several concerning trends were identified, including a marked rise in female incarceration (1,006 women in custody, representing 93% of capacity) and an increase in individuals with suspected behavioral health needs. Her team sent 191 inquiries seeking updates on competency evaluations, court dates, parole and TDCJ transfers, and case filings. Transfers to parole and specialized programs like SAFE-P and ISF remain sluggish. The DEWR (Detention Early Warning Report) tool remains offline, though IT is actively working on restoration. Despite these challenges, 2,921 individuals have been released following inquiries this year, resulting in an average 55-day reduction in stay and saving the County more than \$14 million.

Fair Defense

Representing the Fair Defense Committee, Ms. Christina Dean, joined by Mr. Paul Blocker, provided a detailed overview of their ongoing efforts to address case backlog and promote equitable access to defense services. Ms. Dean stated that her office is actively reviewing unfiled felony cases where individuals have remained in jail beyond 30 days without formal charges. Of the 478 such cases identified in a recent review, the Public Defender's Office was assigned 78 and has filed writs in all of them. She emphasized that her team continues to refine data tracking using eDefender to better evaluate writ outcomes and ensure timely interventions.

Ms. Dean highlighted the office's commitment to mental health diversion and commended the Miami Model as a leading national standard for crisis response. Two staff members recently attended specialized training in Miami and are now working to adapt the program to Dallas County's local context. The model emphasizes proactive intervention at Intercepts 0 and 1, allowing for diversion before arrest or at the initial law enforcement contact. Commissioner Garcia praised the Public Defender's initiative in both the Miami Model and in protecting defendants' rights. She remarked that the County must not only process cases

efficiently but also with compassion and fairness, and that early diversion efforts like these are a key step in reducing recidivism and long-term system burden.

Justice of the Peace

Judge Valencia Nash of the Justice of the Peace Courts reported that courts continue to experience system connectivity and latency issues. She mentioned an upcoming July 7 meeting with Mr. Martin to address the courts' system needs and ensure coordinated solutions.

Law Enforcement and Jurisprudence

Ms. Ellyce Lindberg turned over the Law Enforcement and Jurisprudence update to the DA's Mental Health Division, who provided an in-depth review of a newly implemented grant-funded initiative in partnership with Metrocare. This pilot program has embedded eight mental health professionals, including case managers and peer support specialists, directly within the District Attorney's Mental Health Division. The program, now 102 days into its pilot phase, has supported 117 clients through coordinated case management, crisis stabilization, and court system navigation. The team reported successfully resolving 23 acute crises and helping numerous clients secure housing, maintain treatment compliance, and avoid incarceration. In total, 920 jail bed days were avoided—translating to an estimated savings of approximately \$81,000 for the county. Peer support staff provided culturally competent assistance, linking individuals to needed mental and behavioral health services, often in situations of extreme vulnerability.

Commissioner Garcia commended the Mental Health Division and Metrocare team for their dedication and results. Commissioner Garcia emphasized the importance of continuing this work and expressed her support for identifying sustainable funding streams to extend the program beyond its current September 30 grant expiration.

Pretrial Services

Jeff Segura, who had earlier presented the Pretrial Services overview, added that there were no additional updates at this time. He reaffirmed Pretrial's commitment to increasing safe releases through pretrial referrals.

Reentry

In Ms. Christina Melton-Crain's absence, Ms. Jessica Gamez delivered the Reentry Committee report. Ms. Crain continues to work closely with Shenna Oriabure on the Focused Deterrence initiative and met with Dallas PD to discuss serving individuals coming through that program. Ms. Crain is looking to bring on additional law enforcement agencies to the program. Furthermore, she is partnering with Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas on a new upskilling and job-readiness initiative focused on individuals residing at the Volunteers of America (VOA) federal halfway house. In support of broader reentry efforts, Ms. Crain is also increasing outreach to local employers to promote second chance hiring opportunities, with more than 150 employer partners engaged to date.

Research:

Dr. Michael Noyes was unable to attend, no updates provided.

Program Update:**Electronic Data Reporting**

Ms. Ellyce Lindberg and Ms. Charlene Randolph presented a critical update on Electronic Data Reporting (EDR). As of June 23, 2025, Dallas County still needed to close 3,901 arrest records to meet the state-mandated 90% compliance threshold by the August 1 deadline. They stressed that failure to meet this threshold would result in the loss of criminal justice grant funding for all County departments and nonprofit partners. To address the backlog, the Clerk's Office has identified approximately 1,000 cases potentially eligible for exclusion. These are being reviewed in partnership with the courts and law enforcement. IT is actively assisting with case identification and reporting solutions. Ms. Lindberg emphasized that only four entities: law enforcement, the DA's Office, the courts, and clerks have authority to effect EDR-eligible case resolutions. All stakeholders were urged to expedite processing and collaborate closely to safeguard essential funding.

Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

Announcements:

The next CJAB General Membership meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2025. Ms. LaShonda Jefferson announced the 25th Annual DCCCJA Training and Recognition Luncheon. This event honors pretrial, parole, and probation officers from seven counties and highlights their service to over 50,000 supervised individuals in North Texas. The theme for this year's luncheon is "Relentless Service," and tickets are available for \$15. Mr. Domingo Garcia will serve as keynote speaker. Donations and sponsorships are still being accepted.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.