



Texas Juvenile Justice Department's Advisory Council on Juvenile Services

Lynn Hadnot,
Chairman
Chief, Dallas County

Jason P. Davis, Deputy
Chair
Chief, Kerr County

Ross Worley,
Chief, Smith County

Honorable Judge Mark
Allen Jasper County
Judge

Lindsey Van Buskirk
CPS Director of Field

Troy Navarrette Chief,
Potter County

Maryanne Denner,
Chief, Hidalgo County

Honorable Judge Foy
O'Brien, Dawson
County Judge

Karina Browning Chief,
Upton County

Ed Cockrell
Chief, Jefferson County

Ashley Kintzer
TJJD, Manager of
Regionalization

Honorable Judge Teana
V. Watson Fort Bend
County Court #5

Shandra Carter
TJJD Executive Director

Advisory Council on Juvenile Services Meeting

Friday, January 9, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting: TEAMS

Meeting ID: 246 228 682 085 3

Passcode: wF3Tq9Ut

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Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 9, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (approx.)

Format: Virtual / Microsoft Teams

Meeting Called By: Advisory Council Chair

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **10:01 AM**. The chair welcomed attendees, wished everyone a Happy New Year, and provided housekeeping guidelines for participation (muting mics, use of chat, hand-raise features, and decorum).

2. Roll Call

The chair conducted roll call. Members present included:

- Vice Chair Chief Davis
- Chief Worley
- Chief Lindsay
- Chief Navarrette
- Chief Denner
- Judge O'Brien
- Chief Cockrell
- Judge Watson

Members not initially present but monitored for late arrival: Judge Allen, Chief Browning.

Ashley assisted with tracking attendance.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes: **Chief Ed Cockrell**
 - Second: **Chief Troy Navarrette**
 - Vote: **Approved unanimously**, no opposed.
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4. State Leadership & Stakeholder Updates

4.1 TJJD Executive Director Update – Director Carter

Key updates:

- Leadership kicked off the year with a **Leadership Academy** for facility leaders.

- Strong collaboration continues between **TJJD, HHSC, and DFPS** under new state leadership (Commissioner Muth at HHSC; Audrey O’Neill at DFPS).
- Work continues on **new facility builds**—design planning underway with emphasis on flexibility and long-term needs. Groundbreaking expected **Spring 2026**.
- TJJD executive team has invested **2,500 hours** into planning new facilities.

4.2 Secure Facility Population – Deputy Executive Director Sean Grove

- **797 youth assigned, 751 present** in secure facilities.
- Comparison (Jan 9, 2025): 766 assigned / 720 present.
- Population increase slowing but still trending upward.
- Challenges include:
 - Youth on bench warrants
 - Youth in county jails pending charges
 - Youth awaiting SPU resolution

Staffing Overview:

- Overall staffing levels: **77% filled** across facilities
- Lowest: **Ron Jackson – 52%**
- Highest: **Evans – 90%**

4.3 Waitlist & Youth Movement – Lou Serrano (Youth Movement Division)

- Waitlist remains a major strain on counties and state facilities.
- Ongoing coordination of **priority moves** for high-risk or mentally unstable youth.
- Increases in **female bed capacity** and closure of one **Phoenix pod** have helped redistribute resources.
- Significant increase in youth movements this fiscal year:
 - **72 more youth moved** compared to the same period last year.
- Counties with highest waitlist burden: **Bexar County** (~25 youth).

4.4 Uniform Policy – Chris Ellison

- New standardized uniforms for TJJD direct care staff:
 - Dark gray pants
 - Dark blue shirts
 - Polos for standard duty; upgraded “Alpha dress” for court/transports
- Alignment with TDCJ uniform structure
- Expected rollout: **3–6 months**

4.5 Human Trafficking Awareness

- January 11 recognized as **Wear Blue Day** for anti-trafficking awareness.
- Agencies encouraged to participate and share photos for social media.

5. Presidium Partnership – Dr. Evan Norton

- TJJJ partnered with **Presidium**, a national leader in preventing sexual misconduct in youth-serving institutions.
- First cohort training: **February 3–5, 2026**.
- Training will review:
 - Screening
 - Reporting
 - Policy improvement
 - Investigations
 - Debrief practices

6. Sex Offender Treatment Provider Initiative

- TJJJ to sponsor **up to 8 positions** statewide to expand LSOTP capacity.
- Supervision provided by a highly credentialed LSOTP supervisor.
- Program beginning February–March.

7. Continuum of Care & Regional Service Updates – Matt Smith

- Regional teams now **fully staffed** (7 Continuum of Care Coordinators + Community Service Managers).
- Goals:
 - Support kids with complex needs
 - Improve cross-system coordination with LMHAs, schools, CPS
 - Reduce deep-end placements through early interventions
- Regional meetings scheduled January–March 2026.
- Crisis pathway mapping project underway with LMHAs and HHSC.

8. DFPS Report – Lindsey Van Buskirk

- Approximately **36%** of DFPS youth overlap with juvenile justice system.
- Only **<1%** of DFPS youth are in detention/TJJJ at any given time.
- **Child Watch** numbers remain around 15–18 statewide.
- Transition updates:
 - **Region 8 (Bexar County)** moves to full community-based care **March 1**

- **Houston region** to begin placement-only phase around **May 1**
 - Highlighted strong TJJJ/DFPS collaboration on a high-needs youth recently transferred from TJJJ to state hospital care.
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9. HB 16 Implementation – Kasi Sohrt

- Counties must update or adopt **Alternate Referral Plans** to comply with HB 16 diversion requirements (misdemeanor assault).
 - Plans must be registered with **TJJJ**, though TJJJ does not review or approve them.
 - Juvenile boards determine adequacy.
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10. Old Business & Subcommittee Work

- **Standards Subcommittee** to review:
 - Mail policies
 - Visitation
 - Protective clothing
 - NCCR challenge process
- Advisory Council confirmed desire to activate subcommittee with updated membership.

Strategic Plan Subcommittee Updates – Rachel Gandy

- Strategic plan organized around diversion, regionalization, and system-wide investments.
 - Mapping grant results to shape goals.
 - Feedback will be gathered during regional meetings.
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11. New Business

11.1 Expiring AC Terms – Ashley Kintzer

Upcoming vacancies in:

- **Central Region**
- **Southeast Region**
- **West Region**
- **Commissioners Court Judge seat**

Ballots to be distributed; responses due **end of January**.

12. Sunset & Legislative Updates – Nathan McDaniel

- Limited-scope Sunset Review will focus **exclusively on regionalization**.
- Sunset inquiries expected **late spring to summer**.
- All chiefs encouraged to respond promptly to Sunset staff when contacted.
- TJJJ welcomes recommendations from counties in advance.

12.1 County Funding Equity Discussion – Chief Lynn Hadnot

Chief Hadnot expressed strong support for any services aimed at helping youth but raised concerns about potential inequities in funding distribution. He emphasized that many counties have already invested significant local resources to provide diversion and detention support. Chief Hadnot noted that if Tarrant County receives additional state funding, it could create frustration among counties that have funded similar services independently.

Director Carter clarified that no funding has been secured at this time; discussions are exploratory and contingent on Senate Finance and leadership decisions. She assured the Council that TJJJ will communicate these concerns during legislative conversations and acknowledged the importance of equitable support for all counties.

Chief Hadnot reiterated that while he supports new initiatives, he hopes counties that have already invested heavily will also receive consideration for additional resources.

13. Waitlist Discussion (Extended)

- Chair emphasized growing burden on county detention centers.
 - Strong request for:
 - Continued transparency
 - More proactive planning
 - Unified advocacy to Legislature
 - Ongoing commitment from TJJJ to:
 - Improve bed availability
 - Expand staffing
 - Prioritize high-risk youth
 - Increase female bed space
 - Continue aggressive youth movement planning
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14. Public Comment

No public commenters registered.

15. Next Meeting

Proposed Date: April 10, 2026

Format: Virtual

Aligned with next TJD Board meeting on **May 15, 2026**.

16. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately **12:32 PM**.