

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission
Minutes
July 30, 2019**

Commission Members Present

Lon Shell, Chair, Commissioner, Precinct 3,
Debbie Ingalsbe, Vice Chair, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Elaine Cardenas, Hays County Clerk
Beverly Crumley, Hays County District Clerk
Amanda Erwin, Hays County Bar Association
Michael Hartman, Adult Probation Chief
Marla Johnson, Hays Caldwell Women's Center
Samantha Jones, Criminal Justice Analyst
Martha Joyce, Central Texas Dispute Resolution Center
Jeff McGill, IT Director
Wes Mau, District Attorney
Maggie Moreno, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2
Joanne Prado, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
Chase Stapp, San Marcos Police Chief
Jim Strakos, Hill Country MHDD Center
Tacie Zelhart, County Court at Law Judge, CCAL #3

Others Present

Michael Borajas, *Texas Observer*
Jordan Buckley, Mano Amiga
Mark Cumberland, Hays County Sheriff's Office
Cody Feagan, Hays County Constable Pct 5
Allison Franklin, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
Randolph Goodman, CTDR
Faylita Hicks, Community Member
Bob Klett, SMDP
Eric Martinez, Mano Amiga
Lisa Pacheco, Adult Probation
Jordan Powell, Assistant General Counsel
Kayla Sohns, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition

Summary of Proceedings

Call to Order

1. Update on recent grant approvals by the TIDC and future potential grants.

Commissioner Shell reported that the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) had met recently. Members of the Commission were very complimentary and excited about the Hays

County grant applications, especially the opportunity to pilot test a Padilla program. The committee approved both grants.

Judge Zelhart mentioned she has been working with Efren Chavez to prepare other grant applications for a mental health court and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program (AOTP). She believes funding may be available for an AOTP coordinator. She and Efren are also applying for grants for a specialty court—a drug or DWI court or possibly an Accountability Court that would combine the two and integrate approaches to substance abuse treatment and mental health services within the criminal justice system.

2. Update from the Pretrial Services Subcommittee.

Lisa Pacheco reported that the Commissioners Court had voted on August 27 to approve a new pretrial officer position. The projected start date is October 1, 2019.

The subcommittee has established a small work group comprising representatives of the courts, Sheriff's Office and probation to focus on pretrial issues. Among other things, the work group is considering a lethality assessment in cases involving potential domestic violence.¹

Commissioner Ingalsbe asked if the subcommittee had considered ankle monitors. Subcommittee members responded that there are a number of issues to work out including the mechanics of how notifications would be handled, especially when the adult probation office is closed, and who would pay for the monitors.

Commissioner Shell requested that Michael Hartman arrange a presentation for the next CJCC meeting by the Travis County Chief of Probation to talk about how Travis County handles ankle monitors.

3. Update from the Cite and Release Subcommittee and update on the development of a Cite and Release Diversion program.

Wes Mau distributed a handout (attached) titled "Hays County Cite and Release Diversion (CRD) Program." The document presents a plan for conducting Cite and Release, including qualifying offenses, eligibility, and process. Brazos, the Ticket Writer vendor, will provide a demo on September 24, 2019 at 1:00 PM and answer questions about the software and hardware and how it interacts with Odyssey. The San Marcos City Council is also considering Cite and Release as part of its Criminal Justice Reform efforts. Another Ticket Writer vendor (alternative to Brazos) will be presenting a video on September 30. The City Council will meet to deliberate on the decision October 15.

5. Discussion regarding a Central Magistrate's Office

¹For more information, go to <https://www.Nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/closer-look-lethality-assessment-progm>.

Wes Mau said there may be funds available in late FY20 to support a centralized magistrate. The CCAL and District judges would appoint eligible associate judges to fill the role—full-time during the week and part-time on holidays or week-ends. A stipend would be offered. Only lawyers who have practiced for 4-5 years in Texas would be eligible. Although an interlocal agreement allowing judges to grant authority to JPs was considered previously, it is not legal. There are many details to resolve. At a prefile meeting set for Friday, September 20, JPs will have an opportunity to air their concerns and help think through the process. Estimates of the number of judges needed range from one full-time and one part-time for week-ends to four full-time. Comal County has two full-time judges (JPs who are lawyers). To learn how other counties have set up their centralized magistrates, Hays County will (1) take a field trip to Williamson County to talk to the staff and see a centralized magistrate in operation, and (2) invite Ellen Salyers, Comal County JP to speak.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding meetings times, locations and future topics for discussion.

Meetings have been scheduled as follows:

Meeting and presentation with Brazos on Ticket Writer	September 24, 2019, 1 PM
LEAD presentation	September 30, 2019, 3 PM
Ticket Writer Vendor presentation to San Marcos City Council	September 30, 2019
San Marcos City Council deliberations on Ticket Writer	October 15, 2019
Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee	October 24, 2019, 3 PM
Pretrial Services and Indigent Defense Subcommittee Meeting	December 12

Adjourned 3:45 PM