

Texas Department of Criminal Justice



Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments: Continuity of Care Report

Fiscal Year 2023

Texas Board of Criminal Justice

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Overview

Agency Rider 35, Article V of the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 requires the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to reimburse HHSC for providing a 90-day post-release supply of medications to those defendants being returned to the committing court for trial after having been committed to a state mental health facility for restoration of competency under Chapter 46B of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

TCOOMMI is required to provide reimbursement for the cost of providing medications in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 each fiscal year of the biennium.

TCOOMMI is required to report to the appropriate legislative oversight committees on the amounts reimbursed to HHSC by October 1 of each fiscal year.

About TCOOMMI

In 1987, the 70th Texas Legislature created TCOOMMI to address health services for the growing population of persons with mental impairments who are associated with the criminal justice system.

TCOOMMI's functions were expanded in 1993 by the 73rd Texas Legislature to include inmates who are elderly, significantly ill, or have physical disabilities.

As a result of legislation enacted by the 84th Texas Legislature in 2015, TCOOMMI was able to expand mental health services to further meet the needs of those individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness.

TCOOMMI's collaborative efforts on behalf of these populations are designed to identify cost-effective and programmatically beneficial alternatives to incarceration.

The TCOOMMI's mission is to provide a formal structure for criminal justice entities, health and human services providers, and other affected organizations to communicate and coordinate on policy, legislative, and programmatic issues affecting justice-involved individuals with special needs.



TCOOMMI Advisory Committee

The TCOOMMI Advisory Committee is composed of 28 diverse members representing criminal justice, health and human services, policy, regulatory, and advocacy fields.

As a collective body, the advisory committee addresses procedural, programmatic, statutory, or administrative issues affecting justice-involved individuals with special needs. As part of their duties, advisory committee members:

- promote and support the legislative mandates assigned to the committee in Chapter 614 of the Health and Safety Code,
- attend and actively participate in regularly scheduled committee meetings, and
- serve as a liaison between the TCOOMMI and their agency or association.

Members provide technical assistance to the Advisory Committee on their field of expertise, while promoting and disseminating information about advisory committee activities to persons or organizations who would benefit from the knowledge.

Additionally, the TCOOMMI Advisory Committee receives quarterly updates on activities and implementation plans related to MOUs and cross-agency coordination to assess progress and barriers faced by agencies in the continuity of care process.

State Agency and Organizational Membership

In addition to the governor's appointees, the TCOOMMI Advisory Committee is made up of the executive head or designee of each of the following agencies, divisions of agencies, or associations:

- The ARC of Texas
- Department of State Health Services
- Texas Council of Community Centers
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Texas
- Mental Health Association in Texas, Mental Health America
- Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities



- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
 - Correctional Institutions Division
 - Community Justice Assistance Division
 - Parole Division
- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- Texas Commission on Jail Standards
- Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
- Correctional Managed Health Care Committee

Gubernatorial Appointees

The governor of Texas is responsible for appointing 10 members who reflect the geographic and economic diversity of the state to the TCOOMMI Advisory Committee for staggered six-year terms. The TCOOMMI Advisory Committee is composed of the following appointees:

Judge Robb D. Catalano, Chair

Term expiring 02/01/2025

Denise Oncken	Term expiring 02/01/2027
Sanjay G. Adhia, M.D.	Term expiring 02/01/2027
Judge Rogelio C. “Roger” Rodriguez	Term expiring 02/01/2027
Trenton R. Marshall	Term expiring 02/01/2025
Casey O’Neal, Ph.D.	Term expiring 02/01/2025
James B. “Brian” Eby	Term expiring 02/01/2025

Continuity of Care

Continuity of care is:

- the identification of medical, psychiatric, or psychological care or treatment needs,
- the coordination of educational or rehabilitative service needs, and



- the development and coordination of a plan for the provision of treatment, care, and services between various agencies to inmates.

The goal of continuity of care is to continue to provide services and treatment for clients releasing from prison or other incarcerated settings, or those under community supervision (probation and/or parole), as well as individuals who are pre-adjudicated, charged, or convicted.

TCOOMMI services act as a bridge to ensure a stable and successful transition between criminal justice systems and the community, while assisting the individual on their path to independent living and self-sufficiency through cost-effective community alternatives to incarceration. Generally, TCOOMMI continuity of care services are provided for each client for up to 90 days.

TCOOMMI mental health programs are designed to provide a responsive system for local referrals from parole, probation, jail, family, and other related agencies.

To ensure that continuity of care is delivered as intended, the TCOOMMI coordinates with state agencies and other TDCJ divisions to ensure access to services. Additionally, TCOOMMI has entered into agreements with Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA) across the state to ensure mental health services are delivered to clients.

Interagency Coordination

The TCOOMMI has maintained the formal agreement with HHSC for reimbursement regarding competency restoration medications.

TCOOMMI was appropriated \$500,000 for the purpose of reimbursing the HHSC during FY 2023. TCOOMMI will process a reimbursement for post-release competency medications in the amount of \$767.69 to HHSC in FY 2023.

FY 2023 Reimbursement to HHSC	
Burke Center LMHA*	\$608.28
Texas Panhandle LMHA**	\$159.41
TOTAL	\$767.69

*Burke Center service area is 12 counties in East Texas.

**Texas Panhandle service area is 21 counties in the Texas Panhandle.

TCOOMMI continues to work cooperatively with and has provided technical assistance as requested to the HHSC. To better assist with awareness and reimbursement processing, a letter will be sent to the HHSC, LMHA, and the Texas Commission on Jail Standards for further distribution.



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