



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

Fiscal Year 2025

Texas Board of Criminal Justice

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Overview

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Rider 35 in Article V of the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 requires the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) to coordinate with county and municipal jails and community centers for methods to provide a 90-day post-release supply of medications, related lab costs, and prescriber costs for those defendants being returned for trial after having been restored to competency under Chapter 46B of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

TCOOMMI is required to provide reimbursement for the cost of providing medications, related lab costs, and prescriber costs 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 each entity 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 individuals 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 expanded mental health services to further meet the needs of 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.

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

According to Texas Health and Safety Code 614.002, the TCOOMMI Advisory Committee is composed of 27 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 TCOOMMI and their agency or association.

Members provide technical assistance to the Advisory Committee on their field of expertise relating to incarcerated individuals with medical or mental impairments while promoting and disseminating information about advisory committee activities to persons or organizations who would benefit from the knowledge.

The TCOOMMI Advisory Committee receives quarterly updates on activities and implementation plans related to Memorandums of Understanding (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, and associations:

- Department of State Health Services
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Correctional Managed Health Care Committee
- Mental Health Association in Texas, Mental Health America
- Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
- Texas Council of Community Centers
- Texas Commission on Jail Standards
- Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
- The ARC of Texas
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Texas

- Texas Veterans Commission
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
 - Correctional Institutions Division
 - Community Justice Assistance Division
 - Parole Division

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 seven appointees with three vacancies:

Judge Robb D. Catalano, Chair

Term expiring 02/01/2029

Sanjay G. Adhia, M.D.

Term expiring 02/01/2029

Trenton R. Marshall

Term expired 02/01/2025

Denise Oncken

Term expiring 02/01/2027

Casey O’Neal, Ph.D.

Term expired 02/01/2025

Joseph V. Penn, M.D.

Term expiring 02/01/2029

Rogelio C. “Roger” Rodriguez

Term expiring 02/01/2027

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 individuals 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, 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.

Education Efforts

Throughout FY 2025, TCOOMMI engaged in efforts to educate, provide technical assistance, and enhance communication with the state mental health facilities regarding returning defendants and the availability of funds through the general appropriations act.

To further expand awareness of the reimbursement process after a defendant's competency has been restored, TCOOMMI, in coordination with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), provided educational materials to releasing hospitals. A notification process surrounding individuals returning to the jail after competency restoration was developed that includes TCOOMMI and the LMHA program. TCOOMMI provided technical assistance sessions with LMHA vendors regarding the reimbursement invoice process, availability of funds, and questions about forms. Together, TCOOMMI and LMHA partners are continuing to address any local barriers that have been identified.

Outreach efforts in FY 2025 to communicate the purpose, mission, and goals of the state available funds include:

- Community partners, such as the Texas Council of Community Centers and TCOOMMI Advisory Committee members, promoting and disseminating information about the reimbursement process.
- TCOOMMI presented on the topic of 46B Continuity of Care efforts at the Mental Health Forum sponsored by the Texas Conference of Urban Counties.
- TCOOMMI participated in technical assistance calls with stakeholders seeking information about the reimbursement program after a decedent's competency has been restored.
- The HHSC-Forensic and Jail Diversion Services hosted the inaugural Summit Conference and invited TCOOMMI to present on the reimbursement process to increase knowledge and advocacy for the program and best practices for transitional patients.

Reimbursements

TCOOMMI coordinates with county and municipal jails and community centers across the state of Texas for Continuity of Care operations. Specifically, TCOOMMI directly reimburses these entities for the cost of competency restoration medications as prescribed by the state mental health facility, along with related lab costs and prescriber costs.

TCOOMMI was appropriated \$500,000 in FY 2025 for the purpose of directly reimbursing entities for the cost of competency restoration medications as prescribed by the state mental health facility, to include related lab costs and prescriber costs. TCOOMMI processed reimbursement for post-release competency medications, related lab costs, and prescriber costs as invoiced in the amount of \$105,946.11 in FY 2025 as of September 2025.

FY 2025 REIMBURSEMENTS TABLE

CENTER	TOTAL COUNTIES SERVICED	TOTAL PRE-AUTHORIZED	TOTAL INVOICED & REIMBURSED
ACCESS	2	\$14,219.79	\$489.22
Burke Center	11	\$23,038.15	\$7,904.80
Central County Services	5	\$27.90	\$27.90
The Center for Health Care Services	1	\$115,429.05	\$78,484.53
Coastal Plains Community Center	9	\$2,065.56	\$ -
Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network	6	\$15,636.87	\$15,283.17
Lakes Regional Community Center	7	\$20,359.80	\$ -
Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities	1	\$6,734.95	\$2,645.26
Denton County MHMR Center	1	\$90.00	\$ -
Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare	3	\$1,368.61	\$1,111.23
Tropical Texas Behavioral Health	3	\$3,575.93	\$ -

West Texas Centers	23	\$8,661.51	\$ -
TOTAL	72	\$211,208.12	\$105,946.11

TCOOMMI established a method of pre-authorization for the LMHAs to request funds and reduce delays in reimbursement that had previously been reported as a barrier under prior rider language. The pre-authorization process has been effective in identifying potential funds needed; however, as evidenced by the difference between authorized and invoiced amounts, additional efforts continue to be made for fund disbursement.

LMHA partners have reported one of the reasons for the difference between authorized and invoiced amounts involves the timing of individuals returning to county custody from the state mental health facilities. Individuals returning from state facilities are attending court quickly after return. With courts able to proceed with a trial soon after defendants return, the pre-authorized funding is not always needed. An additional reason for the difference between the pre-authorized amount and the invoiced amount has been delays in medication cost receipts transferring between the LMHA and the jail prescribers, resulting in targeted technical assistance calls between jail and LMHAs at local levels.

During FY 2025, the only pre-authorization requests which were not ultimately reimbursed have been due to the defendant returning to jail and still considered incompetent.



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