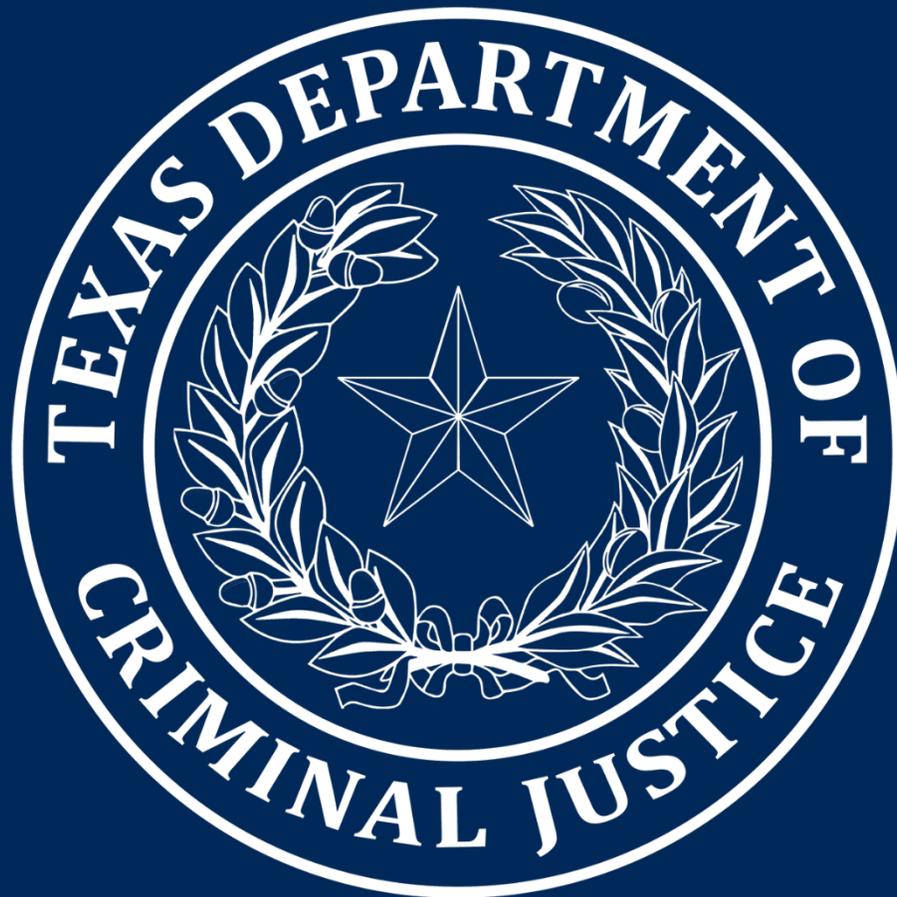


Texas Department of Criminal Justice



**Services to Wrongfully
Imprisoned Persons Annual
Report Fiscal Year 2024**

December 2024

Texas Board of Criminal Justice

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Introduction

Texas Health and Safety Code § 614.021, identifies the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's (TDCJ) Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) as the party responsible for case management functions to assist wrongfully imprisoned persons discharging from TDCJ. The agency is required to annually report on the provision of services under this statute.

About TCOOMMI

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

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

In 2015, as a result of legislation enacted by the 84th Texas Legislature, TCOOMMI was able to expand mental health services to further meet the needs of those individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness. Additionally, during the 86th Texas Legislature in 2020, the TCOOMMI was allocated funds specific to serve expansion in rural communities.

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

As a collective body, the membership 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.

Committee 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 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and cross-agency coordination to assess progress and barriers faced by agencies in the continuity of care process.

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 02/01/2029

Casey O’Neal, Ph.D.	Term expiring 02/01/2025
James B. “Brian” Eby	Term expiring 02/01/2025
Trenton R. Marshall	Term expiring 02/01/2025
Justin J. “J.J.” Koch	Term expiring 02/01/2025
Judge Rogelio C. “Roger” Rodriguez	Term expiring 02/01/2027
Denise Oncken	Term expiring 02/01/2027
Sanjay G. Adhia, M.D.	Term expiring 02/01/2027
Joseph V. Penn, M.D.	Term expiring 02/01/2029
Jennifer M. “Jenn” Gonzalez, Ph.D.	Term expiring 02/01/2029



State Agency and Organizational Membership

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

- The ARC of Texas
- Department of State Health Services
- Texas Council of Community Centers
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of 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:
 - 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



Available Services

In accordance with Texas Health and Safety Code § 614.021, TCOOMMI case management staff is available to assist wrongfully imprisoned persons in accessing the following services:

- Medical and dental services, to include completion of applications for federal entitlement programs;
- Mental health treatment through the public mental health system;
- Appropriate support services to assist in the transition from incarceration into the community; and
- Completion of the application for participation in the group health insurance plans available to state employees. H.B. 1455 was enacted during the 88th Texas Legislative Session updating Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 103.001(d) and Insurance Code § 1551.115 so that participation in group health insurance was expanded to include spouse and dependents.

Wrongfully Imprisoned Persons

During Fiscal Year 2024, there were seven newly identified persons certified by the Comptroller of Public Accounts as having been wrongfully imprisoned.

TCOOMMI staff contacted the seven newly identified persons and provided detailed information regarding assistance in accessing services and resource referrals. These individuals were provided appropriate resource referrals when necessary.

Staff received one follow up inquiry from one of the seven newly identified persons.



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