

Establishing a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) in Brazoria County

March 2026

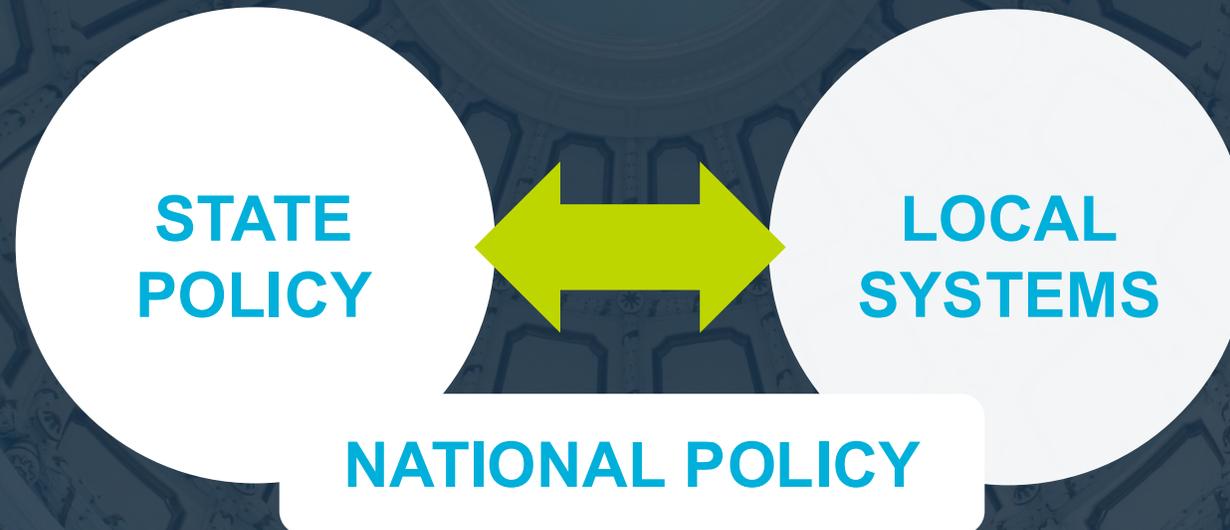
Ron Stretcher, Vice President of Systems Integration

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI):

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Vision: We envision Texas to be the national leader in treating people with mental health needs.

Mission Statement: To provide independent, non-partisan, data-driven, and trusted policy and program guidance that creates equitable systemic changes so all Texans can obtain effective, efficient behavioral health care when and where they need it.



MMHPI Project Team



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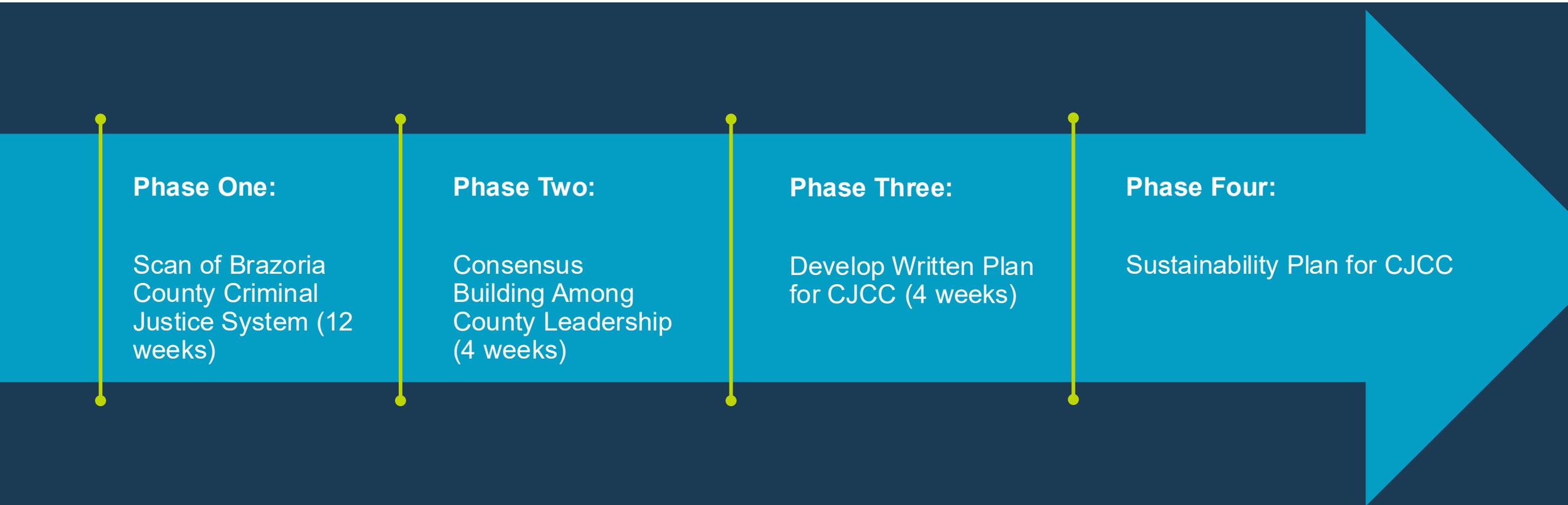
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MMHPI, GCC, and the CJCC

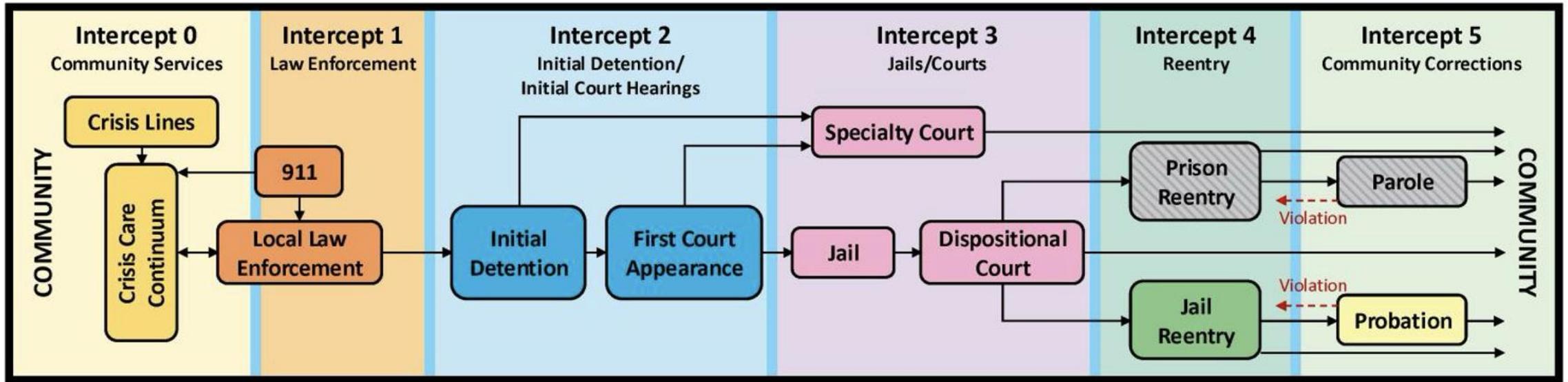
- The Gulf Coast Center (GCC), received a one-time grant from the State, towards system improvements in the mental health space.
- As part of this, MMHPI is conducting work with GCC to establish a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).
- This initiative aims to foster collaboration with key stakeholders from neighboring spaces (criminal justice, emergency services, mental health, step-down services, etc.), towards improvements to the existing system.

Project Timeline: Completed Four Phase Approach



System Scan – Sequential Intercept Model and Priority Considerations

Sequential Intercept Model



Intercept 0 - Community Services:

- Brazoria County should continue efforts to plan, develop and implement a crisis facility with inpatient treatment capacity.
- The new Rider 64 funding allocated to Gulf Coast Center for expanded crisis services is an immediate opportunity to improve crisis services while the broader facility planning continues.
- An initial priority of the CJCC should be a rapid analysis of MCOT and CCRT staffing to determine how many additional resources are needed to meet the demand for services within reasonable time frames.

Priority Considerations

Intercept 1 – Law Enforcement:

- An initial priority for the CJCC is to acquire and evaluate data from local police departments on arrests and other activities to identify opportunities for diversion.
- Standardize protocols across all PSAPs to strengthen coordination between 911, 988 and crisis line services. The Brazoria County Sheriff's Office handles the largest volume of calls and can serve as the starting point.
- Expand partnerships like those at Alvin and Lake Jackson Police Department to embed behavioral health staff in police crisis response and follow up.

Intercept 2 – Initial Detention and Initial Court Hearings:

- A priority for the CJCC is to collect and report on key data metrics for the justice system, publish that data to stakeholders and use the data for planning system improvements. The dashboard under development at the Sheriff's office is a key first step.
- Compare current jail triage and initial court activities to the requirement of Texas CCP Art. 16.22 to ensure compliance with all processes.
- Review current attorney appointment processes to confirm timeframes for appointments, access to attorneys with mental health experience, and timeliness of initial contact with defendants.
- Build upon the DA's pretrial program to establish a formal pretrial diversion program with clear eligibility, standardized referrals, and defined roles for justice partners.

Intercept 3 – Jails and Courts

- A priority for the CJCC is understanding the steps and timeframes for processing cases of persons in jail in the pretrial stage. The time required for cases to be filed, scheduling grand jury, obtaining evidence such as drug analysis and court capacity can all impact the time a person spends in jail awaiting case disposition.
- Review the need for behavioral health care in the jail compared to current staffing. It is critical to have real time, on demand access to crisis care when needed. Specifically, determine the cost to expand psychiatrist hours, case management, and night/weekend coverage.
- A deeper review of the competency restoration process will identify opportunities to reduce the number of persons in jail awaiting competency restoration. A starting point is to understand the timeframes for ordering and completing competency evaluations.

Intercept 4 - Reentry:

- Rapidly review current discharge planning to ensure continuity of care, especially for persons on medication. Ensuring a strong connection to community care is critical to successful reentry.
- A priority of the CJCC is to connect stakeholders to ensure that staffing, housing, transportation, and medication supports are available to all persons upon discharge from jail.

Intercept 5 – Community Corrections:

- Examine the current capacity for specialized supervision caseloads (those funded by TCOOMMI) compared to need and determine if additional capacity is needed.
- A priority for the CJCC is to connect community stakeholders to expand affordable housing, broaden transportation, clarify program eligibility, and increase shelter access for justice-involved individuals.

Consensus Building

Stakeholder Input:

- Key Informant Interviews with 30+ stakeholders.
- We found broad support for a CJCC.
- We identified two groups to include in the CJCC planning and implementation: a newly formed Behavioral Health Leadership Team focused on youth and an existing Suicide Prevention and mental health Consortium.
- Significant interest in status of the facility project and new state crisis funds

Key Informant Interview List

Organization:	Name:	Title:	Status:
ADAPT Programs	Katie Waller	Director of Programs	KII Completed
Alvin PD	Robert E. Lee	Alvin Police Chief	KII Completed
Alvin PD	Jenny Humbird	Detective	KII Completed
Brazoria County	Ron Helson	Attorney at Law	KII Completed
Brazoria County	Sonya Butler	SUD Counselor	KII Completed
Brazoria County Commissioners Court	Jay Burrige	Commissioner Pct. 1	KII Completed
Brazoria County Commissioners Court	Stacy Adams	Commissioner Pct. 3	KII Completed
Brazoria County Commissioners Court	Matt Sebesta	County Judge	KII Completed
Brazoria County Corrections	Dr. Gregory Dillon	Director	KII Completed
Brazoria County Corrections	Kyle Teat	Chief Juvenile Probation Officer	KII Completed
Brazoria County District Attorney	Tom Selleck	DA	KII Completed
Brazoria County Jail	Linda Smith	Program Manager for Forensic Services	KII Completed
Brazoria County Sheriff's Office	Sheriff John Moore	Crime Analyst	KII Completed
Brazoria County Sheriff's Office	Sergeant Michael Vandergriff	Supervises the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Mental Health Unit) Former NAMI President.	KII Completed
Brazoria County Sheriff's Office	Bo Stallman	Sheriff	KII Completed
Brazoria County Sheriff's Office	Madison Polston	PIO	KII Completed

Key Informant Interview List

Organization:	Name:	Title:	Status:
Community Health Network	Ezreal Garcia	Vice President Government Affairs and Public Relations, PIO Director of Emergency Preparedness	KII Completed
Community Health Network	James Simmons	CCBHC Crisis Program Manager	KII Completed
District Courts	Greg Donnell	Associate Judge	KII Completed
Gulf Coast Center	Jennifer Lattermann	Program Manager, ACT Services	KII Completed
Gulf Coast Center	Jerry Freshour	Senior Director Crisis and Justice Services	KII Completed
Gulf Coast Center	Arielle Gray	Program Manager for Crisis Services	KII Completed
Gulf Coast Center	David Hernandez	Program Manager for Crisis Co-Response Services	KII Completed
Gulf Coast Center	Kate Castelline	TCOOMMI Program Manager	KII Completed
Gulf Coast Center	Christen Dobbs-Perez	Galveston Program Manager-Forensic Services	KII Completed
Gulf Coast Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District	Kim Ward	Senior Manager	KII Completed
Houston Galveston Area Council	Madeline McGallion	Public Safety Program Manager	KII Completed
Pearland Chamber of Commerce	Jim Johnson	President/CEO	KII Completed
Pearland Police Department	Officer Z. Davis-Woods	MH Wellness Coordinator	KII Completed
Santa Maria Hostel	Kamesha Brown	Project Coordinator / Peer	KII Completed
Santa Maria Hostel	Autum Valero	Peer Support Specialist	KII Completed

Stakeholder Analysis:

- Sheriff Stallman as Chair and a County Commissioner as Co-chair.
- Remaining Commissioners to serve as ex-officio members – requires following open meetings requirements.
- Start with key stakeholders and allow CCJC to expand membership as they start their work.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (CJCCs)

Introduction to CJCCs

What are Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils?

- A CJCC is a collaborative group of local stakeholders aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Why are CJCCs important?

- Enhance coordination among criminal justice agencies and improve outcomes.
- CJCCs play a critical role in improving the criminal justice system.
- National best practices focus on collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and accountability.
- Effective CJCCs lead to more equitable, efficient, and effective criminal justice processes.
- Encourage further collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and implementation of best practices.



Benefits of a Well-Functioning CJCC

Improved System Efficiency:

- Streamlining processes, reducing redundancies.

Enhanced Public Safety:

- Addressing underlying causes of criminal behavior (e.g., substance abuse, mental health).

Greater Equity and Fairness:

- Ensuring that policies promote fairness and reduce disparities in the justice system.



The Role and Structure of a CJCC

Key Functions:

- Facilitates collaboration among law enforcement, courts, prosecution, defense, corrections, and community agencies.
- Identifies and addresses systemic problems and inefficiencies in the criminal justice system.
- Develops policies and strategies to improve justice system operations.

Core Objectives:

- Ensure fair and equitable treatment of individuals.
- Promote public safety.
- Enhance community involvement in the justice process.

The Role and Structure of a CJCC

Core Members:

- Local government representatives (e.g., mayor, city council members).
- Criminal justice agencies (e.g., police, courts, corrections).
- Community stakeholders (e.g., LMHAs, advocacy groups, people with lived experience).
- Often includes community leaders, academics, and researchers.

Subcommittees:

- May be formed to address specific issues (e.g., juvenile justice, mental health, racial disparities).

Recommended CJCC Membership

CJCC Role	Name	Occupation	Agency/Representing
Chair	Bo Stallman	Sheriff	Brazoria County Sheriff's Office
Co-Chair	-	Elected County Commissioner/Judge	Commissioners Court
Member	Tom Selleck	Elected District Attorney	DA Office
Member	-	Elected District Judge	Felony Courts
Member	-	Elected County Court-at-Law Judge	Misdemeanor Courts
Member	Judge Pat Sebesta	Chief Magistrate	Magistration and Specialty Courts
Member	Robert E. Lee	Police Chief	Local law enforcement agencies
Member	Dr. Gregory Dillon	Chief Adult Probation Officer	CSCD
Member	Kyle Teat	Chief Juvenile Probation Officer	Juvenile Probation
Member	Joyce Hudman	Elected County Clerk	County Clerks Office
Member	Cassandra Tigner	Elected District Clerk	District Clerk's Office
Member	Ron Helson	Private Bar (accepts indigent cases)	Defense Bar
Member	Felicia Jeffery	CEO of GCC	Mental Health/SUD
Member	James Simmons	CCBHC Crisis Services Manager	Brazoria County Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Coalition
Member	-	State Prisons and Parole	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Member	Ezreal Garcia	Community Health Care Provider	CHN
Member	Jim Johnson	Business Community	Pearland Chamber of Commerce

Project Contacts

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Thank You!

For more information visit mmhpi.org.



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