

KENTUCKY JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON
MENTAL HEALTH



Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date, Time	December 14, 2023; 1:00- 3:00 PM ET
Meeting Location	Administrative Office of the Courts 1001 Vandalay Drive Frankfort, Ky 40601
Virtual Option	The meeting was also offered virtually through Zoom; a recording can be found here .

Attendees	
Name	Organization
Crystal Adams	Assistant Director, Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Stacy Bruner	Circuit Court Clerk Association
Hon. Stephanie Burke	District Judge
Hon. Wes Butler	Kentucky Hospital Association
Hon. Denise Clayton	Court of Appeals Judge
Hon. J. Foster Cotthoff	District Judge
Hon. Katie Comstock	Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
Lesa Dennis	Acting Commissioner, Department of Community Based Services
Jim Flynn	Delegate Representative for Nancy Hale, UNITE
Becky Frost	Western State Hospital
Chris Griffith	Christian Appalachian Project
Erica Hargis	Division of Probation and Parole
Hon. Glenda Harrison	Access to Justice
Hon. Tanisha A. Hickerson	District Judge
Van Ingram	Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy
Dr. Lindsey Jasinski	Eastern State Hospital
Sarah Johnson	Department of Corrections
Hon. Lisa Jones	Circuit Judge
Hon. Debra Hembree Lambert	Kentucky Supreme Court
Hon. William "Bo" Leach	District Judge
Lisa Lee	Department of Medicaid Services
Rabbi Shlomo Litvin	Chabad of the Bluegrass
Dr. Katie Marks	Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Hon. Cole Adams Maier	Circuit Judge

Cora McNabb	Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, KELC
Hon. Kevin Mullins	District Judge
Hon. Melissa Moore Murphy	District Judge
Hon. Rebecca Phillips	Circuit Judge
Hon. Damon Preston	Department of Public Advocacy
Brenda Rosen	National Association of Social Workers
Steve Shannon	Executive Director, KARP
Koleen Slusher, LCSW	Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center
Hon. John Lindsay Tackett	District Judge
Hon. Stacy Tapke	Past President of the County Attorney's Association
Hon. Larry Thompson	Kentucky Court of Appeals
Hon. Marcus Vanover	Family Court Judge
Dr. Marc Woods	Eastern State Hospital
Ryan Bowman	Delegate Representative for Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Silas Session	Delegate Representative for Whitney P. Allen, Jr., Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Commission Updates**
- II. Reentry in Kentucky**
- III. Committee and Workgroup Updates**
- IV. Closing Remarks**
- V. Adjourn**

Welcome and Commission Updates

The Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health (KJCMH) convened on December 14, 2023, at 1:00 pm EST. Deputy Chief Justice Debra Lambert, KJCMH Chair, provided opening remarks and thanked the commission members for being present. Attention was drawn to the 2023 KJCMH Summit that was held from May 31 to June 2, 2023, and results shared from the evaluation report completed by Western Kentucky University. The full evaluation report was shared with participants in attendance. Due to the success of the 2023 KJCMH Summit, the commission seeks to start planning a 2025 Mental Health Summit and welcomed feedback from the group on fiscal options.

Thereafter, Deputy Chief Justice Lambert reported on the town hall listening tour occurring between August and November 2023. Beginning in Owensboro, KY, the commission hosted 9 meetings throughout the state. Deputy Chief Justice Lambert discussed the importance of attending these town hall meetings for the purpose of deepening our understanding of the barriers confronting Kentucky citizens. There were more than 1000 attendees across the 9 town halls, and the number of attendees at each meeting location is available upon request. Deputy Chief Justice Lambert shared how the data provided at the town hall meetings will identify common themes across the state. These findings will be shared with the KJCMH

workgroups to be added as an action item in their workplan. In the new year, plans will be made on how to offer pop up town halls for cities that were not covered in 2023.

Appreciation was given to Secretary Eric Friedlander and his staff regarding the unified effort between the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) and the courts.

Additionally, thanks were given to the Cabinet's efforts in providing crisis staff at each event and to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for their support and assistance in town hall logistics.

Rebecca Hisel was welcomed as the new KJCMH administrative support coordinator and the schedule for 2024 meetings was provided to participants in the meeting materials.

Reentry in Kentucky- Presented by Kristin Porter, Kentucky Department of Corrections, Director-Division of Reentry Services

The Kentucky Department of Corrections (DOC) hosted a reentry simulation for commission members from 10am-12pm ET prior to the start of the commission meeting. To start the simulation, organizers handed out an envelope to each participant. Inside the envelope, were temporary identities of someone leaving incarceration. There were various tables set up around the room, each symbolized a task that a newly released individual would need to complete in order to integrate back into their community. The tables included social services, employment, court, medical care, a grocery store, and a pawn shop with participants using a transportation coin to reach each location. Organizers gave little instruction about where to start the reentry journey. At the conclusion of the simulation, the Department of Corrections debriefed the participants about their experience and reiterated that the event is meant to be frustrating and defeating, but only scratches the surface of what formerly incarcerated individuals actually encounter.

Following the simulation from earlier in the day, Reentry Services Director Kristin Porter presented during the commission meeting on the various reentry services and programs available for DOC in Kentucky. Additionally, Ms. Porter provided data and statistics related to incarceration rates. The mission of the Division of Reentry Services is to protect Kentucky citizens and prevent individuals from returning to the system. The PowerPoint presentation was provided within the meeting materials and the attendees were encouraged to review these materials at their convenience. In consideration of the simulation and Ms. Porter's presentation, it was the consensus of attendees to establish a Reentry Workgroup under the Criminal Justice Committee.

Committee and Workgroup Updates

- I. **Criminal Justice Committee:** Judge Cole Maier introduced the Criminal Justice Committee chairs and shared updates on the Opioid Symposium which included presentations from both Judge Maier and Judge Kevin Mullins. Judge Maier concluded the Opioid Symposium update by thanking AOC staff for their support

and commitment. Next, Judge John Tackett and Judge Stephanie Burke briefly discussed the commission's site visit to Miami. They each shared their enthusiasm and reported information back to the workgroups about Miami's diversion programs.

- A. The Prearrest/Diversion Workgroup have been discussing how inmates receive medications and medical services in jails. They have also been reviewing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training across Kentucky. Reference was made to the report provided in the materials for further updates.
- B. The Juvenile Justice Workgroup report was provided by Judge Lisa Jones. The Juvenile Justice workgroup has prioritized crisis services for youth and explored where they fit along the continuum of care for juveniles. Additionally, this workgroup is conducting a survey around the issue of vaping and has met several times to complete mapping activities with the National Center for State Courts. They are awaiting the final report to review.
- C. The Competency Workgroup report was provided by Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center Director, Koleen Slusher. Ms. Slusher shared how the Competency Workgroup reviewed the process regarding firearms restrictions following a mental health commitment. Additionally, this workgroup is exploring standardizing reporting, and finalized language for legislation regarding outpatient evaluation practices.

II. Civil and Family Justice Committee: Judge Foster Cutoff provided the Civil and Family Justice Committee introduction.

- A. The Guardianship and Commitment Workgroup has been exploring the differences and processes of Medicaid suspension and termination for individuals who are committed to institutions. Reference was made to the report provided in the materials for further updates.
- B. The Domestic Violence Workgroup update was provided by Judge Denise Brown. The workgroup has continued exploring data reports to identify trends and opportunities. During the November meeting, information was shared around the Family Justice Center model. The workgroup has also discussed the establishment of subgroups to work on topics around training, advocacy in schools, bench card development for best practices of dismissal of domestic violence cases and utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to service access.
- C. The Dependency, Neglect and Abuse Workgroup update was provided by Judge Marcus Vanover. Judge Vanover identified three priority areas for the workgroup: (1) partners with dependency and neglect areas, (2) understanding the role of treatment providers, and (3) Upstream project with National Center for State Courts.

III. Treatment and Access Committee: Judge Mullins emphasized the success of the 2023 KJCMH Summit and town hall meetings and provided the introduction of workgroup chairs.

- A. The Intellectual and Developmental Disability Workgroup update was provided by Crystal Adams, Assistant Director of the Division of Development and Intellectual Disabilities, Department for Behavioral Health and Development and Intellectual Disabilities. The workgroup has been exploring Court Designated Worker (CDW) and Pretrial Services processes to better identify individualized needs as youth or adults are entering the court system. Additionally, Crystal Adams discussed how this workgroup is looking at Pennsylvania's model of Autism in the Courts to improve Kentucky's identification processes. Discussions continued about the opportunity to provide education to the courts on the necessary evaluations required for diagnosis, treatment, and services for an individual experiencing intellectual disabilities. Currently, this workgroup is working towards producing education modules on a variety of topics for next year.
- B. The Court Responses Workgroup update was provided by Judge Stephanie Burke. Judge Burke discussed how this workgroup has reviewed the expansion of civil criteria for 202A to include those who have a documented history of serious mental and have displayed psychiatric deterioration. The workgroup discussed modernizing the language to be more inclusive and to include terms that will help decriminalize individuals with mental illness. Additionally, Judge Burke discussed how to continue to make uniform protocols with correctional facilities, such as local jails, to simplify procedures between the different levels of courts.
- C. The Strengthening Community Responses Workgroup update was provided by Wes Butler, Attorney for the Kentucky Hospital Association. The workgroup membership is made up of community providers and stakeholders with the core topic areas of discussion being access to care, coordination of care, and early intervention. Additionally, Mr. Butler discussed working on improving transportation access. During this conversation, the needs and target responses at earlier stages were addressed. Lastly, a presentation from Eastern State Hospital on crisis models is expected in the new year.

Closing Remarks

Deputy Chief Justice Lambert thanked the commission members for their participation and ongoing support. The next meeting will be held on March 14, 2024.

Contact information: JCMH@kycourts.net

Webpage: [Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health – Kentucky Court of Justice \(kycourts.gov\)](http://kycourts.gov)

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM ET.

Additional Information

Noncommission Members and Public in attendance:

Name	Organization
Courtney Maynard	Operation UNITE
Hon. Katie Shephard	Kentucky Supreme Court
Hon. Alex Clay	Kentucky Supreme Court
Jason McGinnis	Administrative Office of the Courts
Peter Taylor	NAMI Kentucky
Marty Ballard	Department of Corrections
Katie Green	Department of Corrections
Christi Sorrell	Department of Corrections
Dan Goyette	Department of Corrections
Kristin Porter	Department of Corrections
Jessica Vanburen	Department of Corrections
Tiffany Arnold	Department of Corrections
Rachel Manuez	Department of Corrections
Jonathan D.	Department of Corrections
Andrew Hostley	Department of Corrections
Cynthia Wells	Public
Mary Carpenter	Department for Community Based Services
Jamie Gilliam	Operation UNITE
Joan Gershman	Public

KJCMH Support Staff in attendance:

Name	Department
Jason Dufek	Office of Statewide Programs
Debbie Hall	Office of Statewide Programs
Eboni Thompson	Family and Juvenile Services
Tina Marrow	Office of Statewide Programs
Shawna Mitchell	Office of Statewide Programs
Jennifer Van Ort-Hazard	Office of Statewide Programs
Rebecca Hisel	Office of Statewide Programs
Rachel Bingham	Office of Statewide Programs
Hon. Nathan Goins	Family and Juvenile Services
Ian Shepherd	Office of Statewide Programs
Jacindia Rowe	Kentucky Supreme Court