

KENTUCKY JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH



Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date, Time	June 03, 2026; 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
Hon. Robert B. Conley	Deputy Chief Justice, Kentucky Supreme Court
Crystal Adams (Zoom)	Director of the Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Hon. J. Foster Cotthoff	District Court Judge
Cookie Crews (Zoom)	Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Corrections
Lesa Dennis	Commissioner of the Department of Community Based Services
Hon. Tyler Green	District Judge
Chris Griffith	Christian Appalachian Project
Erica Hargis	Executive Director of Division of Probation and Parole
Hon. Debra Hembree Lambert	Chief Justice Kentucky Supreme Court
Amy Luttrell	CEO Goodwill
Hon. Cole Adams Maier	Circuit Court Judge
Katie Marks	Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Kimberly Moser (Zoom)	Kentucky State Representative
Jaydan Norris	Executive Director, NAMI Kentucky
Hon. Damon Preston	Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts
Hon. Zach Ramsey	Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts
Steve Shannon (Zoom)	Kentucky Association of Regional Programs
Dr. Steven Stack	Secretary Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Tanya P. Terry	Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk
Hon. Larry Thompson	Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge
Hon. Brian Wright (Zoom)	Past President of Commonwealth Attorneys' Association
Hon. Marcus Vanover	Family Court Judge

Ryan Bowman	Delegate – Ashli Watts
Hon. Wil Schroder (Zoom)	Delegate – Hon. Russell Coleman
Silas Session	Delegate – Whitney P. Allen Jr.
Agenda I. Registration II. Welcome and Commission Updates III. Update from NAMI – The National Alliance on Mental Illness IV. Committee and Workgroup Updates V. Agency Update Roundtable VI. Closing Remarks VII. Adjourn	
Welcome and Commission Updates Honorable Robert B. Conley, Deputy Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, welcomed members to the quarterly Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health meeting. The month of June was acknowledged as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month and Men’s Mental Health Awareness Month. The meeting materials were referenced, which included the meeting agenda, minutes from the March quarterly Commission meeting, the Community Mapping Report, and an overview of Senate Bill 122 and amendments to KRS Chapter 202C. Updates were shared regarding the Commission’s community mapping workshops. Recent community mapping workshops were held in Hardin, Henderson, Scott, Mercer, Woodford, Bracken, Fleming, Mason, and Boyle counties. The workshops engaged more than 350 participants representing over 200 agencies and organizations. The Commission has completed community mapping workshops in 23 counties. Deputy Chief Justice Conley thanked the judges across Kentucky who provided leadership and support for these efforts. He also recognized Heather Vice, who leads the Commission’s community mapping initiative, for her dedication and commitment to this work. Updates were provided on the Commission’s legislative recommendation addressing KRS Chapter 202C. During the 2026 legislative session, the Commission’s recommendation was incorporated into Senate Bill 122. Commission staff and members of the Competency Workgroup worked closely with Representative Nemes and Representative Moser throughout the legislative process. The Commission’s next steps include developing education resources and providing training opportunities for judges and court partners. The Commission is currently collecting legislative recommendations for the 2027 legislative session. Members were encouraged to submit recommendations to the Commission’s staff attorney, Maria Macaluso. Deputy Chief Justice Conley also acknowledged Maria’s commitment to researching and reviewing the Commission’s legislative proposals.	

Deputy Chief Justice Conley congratulated and recognized Cora McNabb, Executive Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, on her upcoming retirement on July 31. He thanked her for her years of service to the Commonwealth and for the expertise she brought to the Commission. He also recognized Damon Preston, Kentucky's Public Advocate, who recently announced his retirement after 29 years of service to the Department of Public Advocacy.

Update from NAMI – The National Alliance on Mental Illness

Jaydan Norris, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Philanthropy for National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Lexington, provided an informational overview of NAMI. Her presentation included NAMI's history, organizational structure, and mission. NAMI's mission is to provide advocacy, education, and support to individuals and families affected by mental illness. She emphasized the organization's use of evidence-based practices in developing its educational and support programs.

Several local fundraising and awareness initiatives, including NAMIWalks and NAMI Do-It-Your-Way fundraisers, were highlighted. NAMI's Signature Programs were also discussed. These peer-led education and support programs allow participants to share experiences, learn from one another, and access educational classes and support groups. Additionally, NAMI Kentucky's advocacy efforts, including its annual Advocacy Day and participation in NAMI National Hill Day, were highlighted. NAMI's involvement with the Fayette County Mental Health Court was also discussed. Ms. Norris concluded with a brief overview of NAMI's organizational growth. Deputy Chief Justice Conley then welcomed questions from Commission members.

Commissioner Katherine Marks thanked Ms. Norris for her presentation and for her leadership with NAMI Lexington. She emphasized the importance of expanding community-based behavioral health services. The prevalence of co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions among participants in mental health court was discussed. Commissioner Marks emphasized the importance of collecting this data. Chief Justice Lambert commented on the reported 17.77% recidivism rate for the Fayette County Mental Health Court and noted the significance of those outcomes. Ms. Norris thanked Chief Justice Lambert and recognized Judge Tackett for his leadership in the Fayette County Mental Health Court.

Dr. Silas Session highlighted NAMI Homefront, which is NAMI's educational program designed for veterans and their families. Chris Griffith asked how other communities throughout Kentucky could establish a local NAMI affiliate. Ms. Norris explained that establishing a local NAMI affiliate requires a minimum of two dedicated volunteers to conduct outreach, promote the organization, and begin hosting support groups. Amy Luttrell asked Ms. Norris to provide an example of a policy change that NAMI had advocated for. Ms. Norris explained that NAMI had advocated for the changes included in Senate Bill 122, specifically amendments related to Kentucky's involuntary commitment process under KRS Chapter 202A.

Committee and Workgroup Updates

I. Treatment and Access Committee

Amy Luttrell, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, provided an update on behalf of the Treatment and Access Committee. Workgroup members and the Commission staff were acknowledged for their continued leadership and support in advancing the Treatment and Access Committee's initiatives.

a. Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Workgroup

Crystal Adams, Director of the Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, provided the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Workgroup update via Zoom. The workgroup received a presentation on STABLE Kentucky and continues to support implementation of Senate Bill 26, which provides protection for parents with disabilities. The workgroup is continuing efforts to develop two training series. The first focuses on KRS Chapter 202B processes, and the second focuses on supporting individuals with autism involved in the court system.

b. Strengthening Communities Workgroup

Dr. Lindsey Jasinski, Chief Administrative Officer at Eastern State Hospital, and Dr. Marc Woods, Chief Nursing Officer at UK HealthCare, were both unable to attend. Amy Luttrell provided the update on behalf of the Strengthening Communities Workgroup. The workgroup continues developing a training series on stigmatizing language. The meeting materials were referenced, which include a more detailed report on the Strengthening Communities Workgroup.

c. Court Responses Workgroup

The Honorable Stephanie Pearce Burke, District Court Judge for the 30th Judicial District, was unable to attend. Amy Luttrell provided an update on behalf of the Court Responses Workgroup. The meeting materials were referenced, which include a more detailed report on the workgroup's current action items and priorities.

I. Civil and Family Justice Committee

The Honorable Foster Cotthoff, District Court Judge for the 3rd Judicial District, provided an update on behalf of the Civil and Family Justice Committee. The Civil and Family Justice Committee remains focused on advancing workgroup priorities while supporting partners through training opportunities and collaborative initiatives.

a. Domestic Violence Workgroup

The Honorable Denise Brown, Family Court Judge for the 30th Judicial Circuit, was unable to attend. Judge Cotthoff provided an update on behalf of the Domestic Violence Workgroup. The meeting materials were referenced, which include a more

detailed report on the workgroup's progress.

b. Dependency, Neglect and Abuse Workgroup

The Honorable Marcus Vanover, Circuit Judge for the 28th Judicial Circuit, provided an update on behalf of the Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse (DNA) Workgroup. The workgroup continues to focus on strengthening family court policies, practices, and responses for youth impacted by mental health concerns across the state. The focus areas discussed include guardian ad litem appointments, guardian ad litem compensation considerations, youth guardianship and recommitment concerns, and ongoing statutory and procedural issues impacting children and families involved in DNA cases.

Additionally, updates were provided regarding the workgroup's various priority area subgroups. The workgroup continues planning for the next phase of the *Relationships Matter* training series. Current efforts are focused on reviewing survey responses from judges and identifying priority topics to guide future training opportunities. Additionally, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) resource regarding the role of treatment providers is in the final stages of production. The Best Practice Subgroup plans to continue developing resources following completion of the FAQ. The Best Practice Subgroup is also exploring opportunities to collaborate with the Domestic Violence Workgroup to align best practice resources and reduce duplication across related initiatives. Lastly, ongoing efforts were shared regarding training opportunities for court-appointed counsel involved in DNA cases.

c. Guardianship and Commitment Workgroup

Stacy Tapke, Kenton County Attorney, was unable to attend. Judge Cotthoff provided an update on behalf of the Guardianship and Commitment Workgroup. He referenced the meeting materials for a more detailed report.

II. Criminal Justice Committee

The Honorable Cole Adams Maier, District Judge for the 25th Judicial District, provided an update on behalf of the Criminal Justice Committee.

a. Competency Workgroup

Dr. Koleen Slusher, Director of the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center, was unable to attend. Judge Maier provided an update on behalf of the Competency Workgroup. The workgroup continues to explore revisions to the Kentucky Circuit Clerks' Manual to incorporate procedures related to competency evaluations and restoration. The group also continues to examine procedures related to firearm prohibitions and driver's license revocations following incompetency adjudications.

Following the enactment of Senate Bill 122, the workgroup will develop educational resources and statewide training initiatives on KRS Chapter 202C. Judge Maier concluded by providing updates on Kentucky's jail-based competency restoration programs and the current capacity of the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center.

b. Prearrest and Diversion Workgroup

Steve Shannon, Executive Director of KARP, Inc., provided an update on behalf of the Prearrest and Diversion Workgroup. The workgroup continues to analyze responses from the statewide jail survey. The group anticipates discussing the survey results and developing recommendations based on the data received.

c. Juvenile Justice Workgroup

Judge Maier provided an update on behalf of the Juvenile Justice Workgroup. The workgroup has a leadership vacancy and Commission members interested in the position were encouraged to contact Shawna Mitchell or Heather Vice. The group continues to advance its priorities through two subgroups. Judge Maier referenced the meeting materials for a detailed report on the subgroups' progress.

d. Reentry Workgroup

Erica Hargis, Director of the Division of Probation and Parole within the Kentucky Department of Corrections, provided an update on behalf of the Reentry Workgroup. The workgroup received a presentation regarding the statewide jail survey. As the survey results become available, the Reentry Workgroup anticipates collaborating with the Prearrest and Diversion Workgroup on next steps. The Reentry Workgroup is also developing a statewide resource list of reentry services.

Deputy Chief Justice Conley emphasized the importance of reentry efforts across Kentucky's communities. Judge Maier added that the statewide jail survey will provide valuable data to help inform the work of both the Reentry Workgroup and the Criminal Justice Committee moving forward.

Agency Update Roundtable

Deputy Chief Justice Conley thanked the committee and workgroup chairs and opened the floor for agency updates.

Secretary Steven Stack shared that Cabinet staff recently participated in a reentry simulation hosted by the Kentucky Department of Corrections. The reentry simulation provided insight into the challenges individuals face when reentering the community. He also discussed the impact of the state budget on Cabinet operations, explaining that while the Cabinet will need to make budget adjustments, it remains committed to its mission and ongoing initiatives. The importance of continuing collaboration with partner agencies was discussed.

Commissioner Katherine Marks discussed the collaborative efforts that led to the recent statutory changes to KRS Chapters 202A and 202C. She expressed appreciation for the partnership with Dr. Susman throughout the process. The judicial and forensic trainings offered through the American Society of Addiction Medicine in partnership with the Court Responses Workgroup was discussed. There have been 25 training sessions, with each session reaching capacity. Information was shared regarding the upcoming System of Care Academy and additional training opportunities planned for the coming year. Information regarding these training opportunities would be distributed to Commission members following the meeting.

Dr. Silas Session provided several updates from the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He announced an upcoming veterans' employment fair, noting that the event will provide an opportunity for veterans and members of the public to connect with employers from across the region. Additional information about these initiatives would be shared with Commission members.

Amy Luttrell emphasized the need to expand access to mental health services across Kentucky. She highlighted Goodwill Industries of Kentucky's efforts to increase access to mental health and substance use treatment. Goodwill serves many individuals with behavioral health needs through its workforce development programs and offers up to 12 free mental health counseling sessions each month. These sessions are available both virtually and in person.

Closing Remarks

Deputy Chief Justice Conley thanked Commission members for their time, commitment, and continued partnership. Appreciation was given to agency partners and workgroup leaders for their ongoing efforts to advance behavioral health initiatives across the Commonwealth. The next quarterly Commission meeting will be held on September 18, 2026, at the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Contact information: JCMH@kycourts.net.

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

The commission adjourned at 3:00 PM ET.

Additional Information

Noncommission Members and Public in attendance:

Name	Organization
Christie Penn (Zoom)	Department for Behavioral Health Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Jamie Gilliam (Zoom)	Department for Medicaid Services
Roger Short (Zoom)	Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
Kristi Putman (Zoom)	Member

Janice Johnston (Zoom)	Department for Behavioral Health Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities																										
Courtney Maynard (Zoom)	Operation UNITE																										
KJCMH Support Staff in attendance: <table> <tr> <th>Name</th><th>Department</th></tr> <tr> <td>Shawna Mitchell</td><td>Judicial Commission on Mental Health</td></tr> <tr> <td>Heather Vice</td><td>Judicial Commission on Mental Health</td></tr> <tr> <td>Maria Macaluso</td><td>Judicial Commission on Mental Health</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rebecca Hisel</td><td>Judicial Commission on Mental Health</td></tr> <tr> <td>Audrey Collins</td><td>Specialty Courts</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ashley Clark</td><td>Family and Juvenile Services</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ian Shepherd</td><td>Office of Statewide Programs</td></tr> <tr> <td>Eric Finke</td><td>Kentucky Supreme Court</td></tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Hartley (Zoom)</td><td>Kentucky Supreme Court</td></tr> <tr> <td>Indica Meeks</td><td>Behavioral Health Liaison</td></tr> <tr> <td>Elizabeth Nichols</td><td>Specialty Courts</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		Name	Department	Shawna Mitchell	Judicial Commission on Mental Health	Heather Vice	Judicial Commission on Mental Health	Maria Macaluso	Judicial Commission on Mental Health	Rebecca Hisel	Judicial Commission on Mental Health	Audrey Collins	Specialty Courts	Ashley Clark	Family and Juvenile Services	Ian Shepherd	Office of Statewide Programs	Eric Finke	Kentucky Supreme Court	Andrew Hartley (Zoom)	Kentucky Supreme Court	Indica Meeks	Behavioral Health Liaison	Elizabeth Nichols	Specialty Courts		
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