

KENTUCKY JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON  
**MENTAL HEALTH**



<b>Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health Meeting Minutes</b>	
<b>Meeting Date, Time</b>	March 23, 2026; 1:00-3:00 PM ET
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Administrative Office of the Courts 1001 Vandalay Drive Frankfort, KY 40601
<b>Virtual Option</b>	The meeting was also offered virtually through Zoom; a recording can be found <a href="#">here</a> .

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Crystal Adams (Zoom)	Director of the Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Matthew Cole	Commissioner of the Department of Vehicle Registration
Cookie Crews	Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Corrections
Lesia Dennis	Commissioner of the Department of Community Based Services
Van Ingram	Executive Director of Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy
Dr. Lindsey Jasinski (Zoom)	Chief Administrative Officer, Eastern State Hospital
Hon. Cole Adams Maier	Circuit Court Judge
Katie Marks	Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Jaydan Norris	Executive Director, NAMI Kentucky
Hon. Zach Ramsey	Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts
Steve Shannon (Zoom)	Kentucky Association of Regional Programs
Dr. Koleen Slusher	Director of the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center
Hon. John Lindsay Tackett	District Judge
Hon. Stacy Tapke (Zoom)	Past President of County Attorneys Association
Tanya P. Terry	Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk
Diane Thompson	Nelson County Circuit Court Clerk
Hon. Larry Thompson	Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge
Dr. Marc Woods (Zoom)	Chief Nursing Officer, Eastern State Hospital
Ryan Bowman	Delegate – Ashli Watts
Nanci Howard	Delegate – Cora McNabb
Brian Locke	Delate – Randy White
Betty Whittaker	Delegate – Cora McNabb

Wesley Duke	Delegate – Sec. Steven Stack
Melanie Foote	Delegate – Hon. Damon Preston

**Agenda**

- I. Registration and Lunch**
- II. Welcome and Commission Updates**
- III. Update from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet**
- IV. Committee and Workgroup Updates**
- V. Agency Update Roundtable**
- VI. Closing Remarks**
- VII. Adjourn**

**Welcome and Commission Updates**

Honorable Larry Thompson, Chief Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, welcomed members to the Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health quarterly commission meeting. He acknowledged the meeting materials, which included a blue ribbon to recognize Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. He noted that this symbolizes the Commission’s commitment to inclusion, understanding, and improved outcomes.

Chief Judge Thompson further referenced the meeting materials, which included the meeting agenda, minutes from the December Quarterly Commission meeting, and the final 202A Virtual Forum Report. The 202A Virtual Forum Report reflects the work completed through fourteen regional forums held across the Commonwealth over the past year. The forums brought together judges, clerks, law enforcement, behavioral health providers, hospitals, and community partners to discuss how the 202A process is functioning across Kentucky.

He then provided an update on the community mapping workshops, noting that recent events were held in Clark and Hardin Counties. Additional workshops are scheduled for spring, summer, and fall of 2026. He also shared an update the Commission’s legislative recommendation from the Competency Workgroup addressing KRS Chapter 202C.

The Behavioral Health Liaison (BHL) report was also provided in the meeting materials. The report outlined how BHLs are coordinating efforts between the behavioral health and justice systems and highlighted ongoing work in enhanced case navigation and community partnerships. It also identified key challenges and emerging trends. Chief Judge Thompson noted that these reports will continue to evolve as data tracking systems are enhanced to better capture outcomes.

**Update from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet**

Chief Judge Thompson introduced the speaker, Commissioner Matthew Cole from the Department of Vehicle Regulation (DVR) within the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Commissioner Cole provided an

overview of DVR programs and shared key updates. He emphasized the importance of strong administrative infrastructure and highlighted reentry as a priority area. He noted that without proper identification, individuals face significant barriers to accessing housing, treatment, and employment. He explained that identification is also required for Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), banking, and recovery programs, and that lack of identification can prevent individuals from receiving needed benefits and services. He noted that reducing these administrative barriers can help decrease crisis cycling and recidivism.

Additionally, Commissioner Cole discussed efforts to reduce administrative challenges by minimizing burdens on courts and law enforcement through consistent and proactive programming, as well as improvements to Driver Licensing Regional Office (DLRO) processes. These efforts aim to reduce repeat visits and documentation errors. He noted that increased efficiency and consistency are critical to the success of these programs and ultimately support improved outcomes for individuals with mental health needs.

### **Committee and Workgroup Updates**

#### **I. Treatment and Access Committee**

Wesley Duke, General Counsel for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, provided an update on behalf of the Treatment and Access Committee. The Committee's workgroups focused on developing training initiatives and identifying opportunities to enhance court processes.

- 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, shared the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Workgroup report via Zoom. At the beginning of the quarter, the workgroup focused on supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship. She noted that the group has identified additional areas of interest related to guardianship and will continue advancing this work in the coming months.

The workgroup is also continuing efforts to develop two training series, including one focused on KRS Chapter 202B processes and another titled *Autism in the Courts*. Recording of the 202B training series is currently being scheduled. Lastly, Crystal shared information the group received regarding the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center and the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC) Competency Program.

- b. **Strengthening Communities Workgroup-** Dr. Lindsey Jasinski, Chief Administrative Officer at Eastern State Hospital, reported that the Strengthening Communities Workgroup remains active and continues to build upon its training materials and workplan priorities. The group is currently focused on addressing stigmatizing

language and is reviewing existing resources to inform future training and implementation efforts.

During the discussion, Margaret Ivie asked about the timeline for disseminating the training more broadly across the criminal justice system. Dr. Jasinski noted that a formal timeline has not yet been established.

- c. **Court Responses Workgroup-** The Honorable Stephanie Pearce Burke, District Court Judge for the 30<sup>th</sup> District, was unable to attend. Wesley Duke provided an update on Judge Burke's behalf and noted that a more detailed report on the Court Responses Workgroup is included in the meeting materials.

**I. Civil and Family Justice Committee**

Brenda Rosen, Executive Director of Kentucky Work Advocacy, Justice and Leadership, reported on behalf of the Civil and Family Justice Committee. She noted that the Committee's workgroups remain focused on advancing workplan priorities and supporting partners through trainings and collaborative initiatives.

- a. **Domestic Violence Workgroup-** The Honorable Denise Brown, Family Court Judge for the 30th Judicial Circuit, was unable to attend. Brenda Rosen provided the update on Judge Brown's behalf and referenced the meeting materials for a more detailed report on the Domestic Violence Workgroup. She noted that the workgroup is continuing to develop resource guides, trainings, and other educational materials, including the *Domestic Violence Victim's Support Worksheet*, which attendees were encouraged to review in the meeting materials.
- b. **Dependency, Neglect and Abuse-** The Honorable Marcus Vanover, 28th Judicial Circuit, was unable to attend. Brenda Rosen referenced the meeting materials for a more detailed report of the Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse Workgroup.
- c. **Guardianship and Commitment Workgroup-** Stacy Tapke, Kenton County Attorney, provided updates on behalf of the Guardianship and Commitment Workgroup. She reported that the Guardianship Workgroup continues to advance initiatives to improve efficiency within the guardianship process, including efforts related to Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) form revisions. She also shared information received from the University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute regarding Supported Decision-Making. This presentation was also provided to the IDD Workgroup, and both groups are exploring opportunities for continued collaboration on this topic.

She further reported on the Commitment Workgroup's continued work related to KRS Chapter 202A processes and form revisions. She noted that in future meetings, the workgroup anticipates a presentation on the *Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health Virtual Forums: Serving Citizens through the 202A Process*. Following that presentation, the group plans to discuss how to carry forward recommendations and identified needs from the forums.

## II. Criminal Justice Committee

The Honorable Cole Adams Maier, 25th Judicial District, provided an update on the Criminal Justice Committee and referenced detailed updates included in the meeting materials. Committee priorities this quarter included advancements in data entry processes, review of jail survey data, and continued focus on juvenile competency standards.

- a. **Competency Workgroup-** Dr. Koleen Slusher, Director of the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center (KCPC), reported on behalf of the Competency Workgroup. She discussed the group's review of the clerk's manual and potential updates to better highlight the restoration process. She also noted that data related to Seth's Law forms is currently under review, with next steps anticipated at future workgroup meetings.

Dr. Slusher reported that KCPC's inpatient waitlist included 47 individuals at the time of the meeting. She noted a smaller female population within that cohort and an estimated wait time of 2–4 months for inpatient services. Outpatient services currently have an approximate 12-week wait time for completion of an evaluation. She also noted that Seth's Law allows for outpatient evaluations and referenced the Fayette County jail-based program.

During discussion, Melanie Foote noted that the Department of Public Advocacy (DPA) is taking additional steps to redistribute and re-educate stakeholders on relevant forms, including the use of updated training materials and educational videos.

- 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 refining its workplan and is awaiting finalization of the statewide jail survey results, which will inform future priorities. He also referenced a presentation on the Georgetown Police Deflection Program, which focuses on connecting individuals with services as an alternative to arrest. The workgroup anticipates continued analysis of jail survey results in upcoming meetings.
- c. **Juvenile Justice Workgroup-** The Honorable John Tackett, 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, provided the update on behalf of the Juvenile Justice Workgroup. He noted that there is currently a vacancy for a workgroup lead and encouraged interested individuals to

contact Shawna Mitchell and Heather Vice.

- d. **Reentry Workgroup-** Erica Hargis, Director of the Division of Probation and Parole at the Department of Corrections, was unable to attend. Judge Maier referenced that a more detailed report is included in the meeting materials. Judge Maier concluded by thanking Shawna Mitchell and her team for their continued leadership and encouraged members to connect with Heather Vice regarding community mapping initiatives.

### **Agency Update Roundtable**

Chief Judge Thompson opened the floor to agency updates.

Judge Tackett provided an update on the Fayette Court Drug Court graduation and highlighted the importance of showcasing participants' stories in restoration efforts. He noted the event will take place on May 18 at 3:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

Commissioner Marks provided an update on behavioral health system transformation efforts and noted strong cross-system collaboration. She highlighted ongoing efforts to expand the crisis care continuum. In addition, she shared efforts to advance the community paramedicine model. A tele-behavioral health hub is also expanding access to clinicians virtually, increasing service reach.

Commissioner Marks reported that the 1915(i) RISE program continues to expand. She also provided an update on ASAM training (4th edition), noting continued expansion of trainings within the forensic space. She reported that 1,418 individuals have been trained and that participants report increased confidence in serving at-risk individuals following completion of the training. Lastly, she provided contact information for rural health transportation inquiries:

**[ruralhealthtransportation@ky.gov](mailto:ruralhealthtransportation@ky.gov)**.

Commissioner Lesa Dennis provided an update from the Department for Community Based Services regarding challenges in youth foster care placement and treatment. She noted that the Department has been addressing challenges related to children with complex mental health needs whose treatment needs exceed available provider capacity. She referenced two recent reports on this issue, one from the Auditor of Public Accounts and one from the Office of Inspector General (OIG). She encouraged members to review the full report for a comprehensive understanding of these issues.

Brenda Rosen provided an update on the Mental Health Insurance Reform Task Force, noting that it has expanded to include 40 states. She also highlighted KYAN's Law (House Bill 246), which was filed during the 2026 legislative session. Lastly, she shared ongoing period poverty initiatives, including menstrual product collection efforts that will continue throughout the year.

Van Ingram provided closing remarks for the roundtable. He recognized Commissioner Cole and thanked him for his presentation. He emphasized the need for ongoing collaboration related to transportation barriers impacting individuals on probation and parole. He further referenced additional proposed legislation expanding upon SB 90 to increase funding and continue related

initiatives aimed at connecting individuals to needed services.

**Closing Remarks**

Chief Judge Thompson thanked Commission members for their time, commitment, and continued partnership. He expressed appreciation for Commission members, agency partners, and workgroup leaders for their efforts in advancing behavioral health initiatives across the Commonwealth. He reminded members that the next quarterly meeting will be held on June 3, 2026, at the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Contact information: [JCMH@kycourts.net](mailto:JCMH@kycourts.net).

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

The commission adjourned at 3:00 PM ET.

**Additional Information**

**KJCMH Support Staff in attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
Eboni Thompson	Office of Statewide Programs
Shawna Mitchell	Judicial Commission on Mental Health
Heather Vice	Judicial Commission on Mental Health
Angela Darcey	Pretrial
Maria Macaluso	Judicial Commission on Mental Health
Rebecca Hisel	Judicial Commission on Mental Health
Tina Marrow	Compliance Administrator
Audrey Collins	Specialty Courts
Ashley Clark	Family and Juvenile Services
Ian Shepherd	Office of Statewide Programs
Eric Finke	Kentucky Supreme Court
Andrew Hartley	Kentucky Supreme Court
Indica Meeks	Behavioral Health Liaison
Jason Dufek	Pretrial
Nadalie Hardwick	Family and Juvenile Services
Billy Ousley	Specialty Courts
Jason Reynolds	Government Affairs
Elizabeth Nichols	Specialty Courts
Margaret Ivie	Office of General Counsel