

## **Texas Civil Commitment Office**



Christy Jack, Chair  
Board Members:  
Kathryn "Katie" McClure, Vice Chair  
Roberto "Robert" Dominguez  
Rona Stratton Gouyton  
Marsha McLane, Executive Director

Monday, February 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m

### **MINUTES**

#### **Board Members Present**

Christy Jack, Chair  
Robert Dominguez

Katie McClure  
Rona Stratton Gouyton

#### **TCCO Staff**

Marsha McLane  
Jessica Marsha  
Hayley Glisson

Brittney Winters  
Robert MacFarland

#### **Governor's Office**

Tamela Griffin

#### **Convene the Board of the Texas Civil Commitment Office (TCCO)**

Board Chair Christy Jack convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Roll was taken and it was noted that a quorum was present.

#### **Board Chair Report**

Board Chair Christy Jack stated she did not have a formal report and noted that this is a public meeting and the public is welcome. Ms. Jack asked that everyone turn off their phones. Ms. Jack asked that everyone observe the rules of decorum and while someone is speaking there will be no disruptions or distractions and no public outbursts. Ms. Jack stated if there are any issues you will be asked to leave.

#### **Executive Director's Report Concerning Program Operations, Routine Functioning of the TCCO and Legislative Update**

Marsha McLane, Executive Director, stated that the first female was recently civilly committed into the TCCO program. She was scheduled to arrive at the facility in August but her parole was withdrawn and she will be reviewed again next year.

Ms. McLane stated there has been a 22% increase in assaults in the facility in the last year, mentioning specifically an incident where one of the case managers was brutally beaten, so all of the TCCO case managers were involved in security training. Ms. McLane stated in addition to the security training, TCCO provided legislative process training and panel training for both MTC and TCCO staff.

Ms. McLane provided the current TCCC population, stated the facility is 88% full, and that Mr. Bowers would later provide an update on the facility expansion. Ms. McLane discussed testifying in front of the Senate Finance Committee and preparing to testify in front of the House Appropriations Committee. Ms. McLane stated there were eleven exceptional items and after discussing the exceptional items with the LBB (Legislative Budget Board), the twenty-four hour medical care at TCCC was pulled from the docket due to

not saving the state any money. Ms. McLane discussed the current budget and stated we will still remain the cheapest civil commitment program in the United States, with the increase bringing us from \$43,000 per client per year to \$60,000 per year per client.

Ms. McLane stated that Senator Perry will be filing a civil commitment bill sometime this week which will focus on safety for the staff and clients as well as accountability. The clients will be held accountable for their actions and staff have been instructed to write up the clients for any violations. Ms. McLane stated that since the session started TCCO staff have reviewed and analyzed 5,100 bills.

#### **Budget Manager's Report Concerning FY 2025 Budget and Expenditures**

Robert MacFarland began by discussing the estimated operating budget composed of appropriations, cost recovery, and the 5% transfer the state paid for salary increases, totaling \$21,800,000. Mr. MacFarland stated the estimated obligations and projections are based on salary and wages, client services, and medical expenses. Ms. McLane stated we previously moved money from the FY 2025 budget to pay FY 2024 medical bills, and we've requested \$7.3 million in supplemental appropriations.

Mr. MacFarland discussed the offsite medical expenses, stating we were budgeted \$1.8 million and have spent slightly over \$3 million and medical costs continue to go up.

#### **Director of Case Management Services' Report on Presentation Video and Changes to Sex Offender Treatment Curriculum at the Texas Civil Commitment Center**

Kara Gougler, Director of Case Management Services discussed the presentation from the last board meeting, stating it was turned into an educational video. Ms. Gougler stated that she was involved in a roundtable discussion with Lead Clinical Therapist Travis Pittock and TDCJ Deputy Director of the Sex Offender Program Jennifer Deyne; discussing the importance of pro-social support and discussing the steps that certain family members or collateral contacts have to take in order to establish contact. Ms. Gougler stated she met with several clients residing in the community who provided stories from their personal experiences with positive and negative support to include in the educational video. Ms. Gougler stated once the video is finished it will be available for the clients and their loved ones.

Ms. Gougler stated she has attended several planning meetings in regards to changing curriculum, including with a planning committee that includes Sex Offender Program Specialist Janet Latham, Clinical Director Rebecca Lang, Lead Clinical Therapist Travis Pittock, and MTC Director for Behavioral Health Services Nani Cherry to finalize the curriculum changes for Ms. McLane's approval. Ms. Gougler reminded the Board the clients will not have to start over in the program due to the changes. Ms. McLane also stated two clients have been released from Civil Commitment since the last board meeting.

#### **Report from Sex Offender Program Specialist on the Reentry Reboot Grant Program**

Janet Latham, Sex Offender Program Specialist, provided an update on the Reentry Reboot Grant stating that new classes are being offered to clients, such as a forklift certification class and grant instructor-led classes. Ten clients have completed the forklift certification class and ten more are starting. The classes are purposely small to ensure the clients get hands on experience. The grant instructor-led classes include courses on: how to look things up online, how to search for housing, how to look up child safety zones, how to utilize public transportation, how to use an iPad to simulate various things in the real world such as filling out a job application or checking into a doctor's appointment, and a Mavis Beacon typing class.

Ms. Jack asked who is eligible for the forklift certification class and Ms. Latham stated anyone in Tier Three or Tier Four. Ms. Latham provided a few additional updates stating that forty-nine clients are enrolled in soft skill classes, thirty clients have successfully completed the basis computer class, twenty-eight clients have successfully completed the intermediate and advanced computer class, and the third cohort will start computer foundation classes on March 3, 2025. One hundred and twenty six clients have been served and

the target goal is one hundred and fifty clients. Ms. Latham stated she plans to request a no cost extension for up to one year, as long as there is truly no additional cost.

### **Texas Civil Commitment Center Updates Concerning Building and Facility Expansion**

David Bowers, Facility Administrator, discussed the progress that has been made on the facility expansion, including showing photos. Mr. Bowers stated that although construction on the second building was delayed due to a concrete issue, the third building has been moving along with the walls already up and electrical to begin this week. Ms. Jack asked how a concrete issue was determined and Mr. Bowers stated the concrete failed its original inspection, an additional test was completed and the concrete passed inspection. MTC then hired a private company to test the concrete to ensure it was up to code and the concrete passed that inspection as well.

Ms. Jack asked when the second building will be operational and Mr. Bowers stated he believes the building will be operational closer to the end of the year, around September or October. Ms. Stratton-Gouyton asked when the third building will be operational and Mr. Bowers was unable to provide a specific timeline but stated sometime in 2026.

Jennifer Brown, Regional Facility Administrator, was happy to say there are currently eleven clinical therapists at the Texas Civil Commitment Center providing sex offender treatment and two additional clinical therapists will be starting in March. Ms. Jack asked if the clinical therapists remain at the facility for a significant amount of time and are able to build relationships with the clients. Ms. Brown stated the retention on clinical therapists has improved and they will continue to hire to provide additional support.

Mr. Bowers stated that staffing is moving in a positive direction and the facility is currently down eleven security officers. Mr. Bowers stated five clients tested for the GED in January, three clients passed in one subject each, and twenty-one clients are on track to obtain their GED. Mr. Bowers stated a few clients assist with tutoring. Mr. Bowers stated the facility is fully staffed on security supervisor positions and overall the facility is more structured. The client phone policy has been revised and phone calls are now monitored and recorded. Mr. Bowers stated a calendar is sent out to shift key nurses (contracted nurses not employed by MTC) each month and they are able to select the shifts they want to work to ensure there is extra coverage. Mr. Bowers stated that the biggest change in medical is a contract will start on March 1<sup>st</sup> with a telemedicine company who will provide telemedicine to the clients on nights and weekends to cut down on late night transports and medical costs.

Ms. McClure asked if the increase in assaults are committed by the same clients and what is the reasoning for the increase. Mr. Bowers stated yes, the same clients contribute to the increase, and the clients coming from TDCJ do not have behavior management skills, the number of clients refusing treatment is up, and housing is another key piece of the issue. Mr. Bowers stated as dorms continue to open and the population in each dorm decreases he believes there will be a decrease in assaults. Ms. McLane stated the change in leadership and management at the facility has been remarkable, the culture is night and day, and she hopes the culture continues in a positive direction.

Mr. Dominguez asked how many beds each building will hold and Mr. Bowers stated each building will have ninety-six beds. Mr. Dominguez asked if when the new buildings open the original buildings will be updated. Mr. Bowers confirmed the original buildings will be painted to provide a better treatment environment. Mr. Dominguez stated he believes this makes a big difference.

**Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding approval of a participating agreement for required Global Positioning System (GPS) services pursuant to Contract 696-PD-25-25-C016 Electronic Monitoring Services.**

Staff Attorney Hayley Glisson stated that the previous GPS contract term is up, and due to a provision in the Texas Government Code, TCCO is able to piggyback off the new TDCJ GPS contract that has been awarded. The new GPS contract will be with B.I. Incorporated, the contract is already drawn up and TCCO has had several meetings with B.I. Incorporated. Ms. Glisson stated the previous cost was \$2.79 per unit per day and the new cost will be \$2.20 and there will no longer be a charge for spare units, which will save the state money.

Ms. McLane stated the new units are more comfortable to wear and have a portable charger that should last between forty-eight to sixty hours. Ms. Jack moved to award a contract from the day the contract is fully executed by both parties to December 31, 2028 to B.I. Incorporated and authorize Ms. McLane to sign the contract. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed without opposition.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Excused Absences**

Ms. Jack noted that all Board Members were present at the last meeting.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

After determining that all Board Members present had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting, Board Chair Christy Jack asked for a motion to adopt the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, voted on and passed without opposition.

**Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting of the TCCO Board was tentatively scheduled for May 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Texas Civil Commitment Office in Austin.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:54 a.m.**

---

Christy Jack, Chair

---

Marsha McLane, Executive Director