Brazoria County, Texas
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)
Bylaws
May 2026

I. Preamble

Brazoria County Commissioners Court recognizes the role of county government in administering and coordinating local public safety, criminal justice, and health systems, as well as the complex needs of individuals who interact with these systems. Individuals with behavioral health needs, physical health conditions, and substance use disorders are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system and often experience repeated contact across multiple systems. These interactions can result in extended system involvement, increased utilization of public resources, and higher associated costs. In the absence of coordinated, cross-system approaches and access to appropriate services and supports, individuals may continue to cycle between health and criminal justice systems, resulting in less optimal outcomes for both the individual and the community.

Brazoria County is committed to strengthening coordination, alignment, and outcomes across health and criminal justice systems. To support this effort and facilitate collaboration among system partners, Brazoria County Commissioners Court establishes the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council as a structured, cross-sector body to identify shared priorities, align strategies, and support the implementation of data-informed approaches with measurable outcomes. These bylaws outline the structure, purpose, and responsibilities of the Council.

II. Enactment

The Brazoria County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is authorized and established by Brazoria County Commissioners Court Order ~~XXXXX~~ NO.I.2. on ~~DATE~~June 9th, 2026 to support coordination and system improvement across criminal justice and health systems. The CJCC provides a structured forum for collaboration and consensus among participating agencies and stakeholders. With the support of the Brazoria County Commissioners Court, the Council reviews policies, programs, and data, and considers best practices to inform (1) policy recommendations

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to criminal justice, health, and human service partners to improve system coordination and performance, and (2) recommendations related to policy and funding priorities for the Commissioners Court.

III. Purpose and Mission

The Council's purpose is to support data-informed, cross-system strategies that improve coordination, effectiveness, and outcomes across criminal justice and health systems in Brazoria County. The Council focuses on individuals who are involved in, or at risk of involvement in, the criminal justice system and who may have unmet health and related service needs. The Council advances this purpose by identifying system-level challenges, developing data-informed policy and practice recommendations, and supporting sustainable, system-wide improvements that enhance public safety, system performance, and community well-being.

The CJCC's mission is to:

- Improve system effectiveness and the efficient use of resources, including identifying and leveraging grants and other funding opportunities.
- Strengthen collaboration among criminal justice, health, and human service agencies and stakeholders.
- Enhance communication, coordination, and information sharing across systems.
- Support the development and expansion of cross-system, problem-solving strategies that improve health and justice outcomes.
- Recommend planning, financial, operational, and programmatic improvements to support system-level change.
- Provide system leaders with data-informed insights and evidence-based practices to guide policy and program development.

IV. Organization

A. Meetings

The Council shall meet each month, with more frequent meetings as necessary to perform its responsibilities.

- The Council will hold meetings on a date and time determined by the membership.
- The Council meeting will follow the Texas Open Meetings Act and post all meetings as a committee of Brazoria County Commissioners Court.
- The location and agenda for each meeting shall be distributed at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting and following Open Meetings requirements.
- Any member may request an agenda item by notifying the Chair, or the Co-Chairs in the Chair's absence.
- Minutes shall be available and distributed at the subsequent meeting for review and approval by the Council.

B. Responsibilities

The Council shall have the following responsibilities and authorities:

- Identify strengths, challenges, resources, and strategies to improve system effectiveness and coordination across criminal justice and health systems.
- Conduct comprehensive evaluations of the Brazoria County criminal justice and health systems, using quantitative and qualitative methods to review policies, practices, outcomes, and opportunities for system-level improvement.
- Address pressing community challenges, including the disproportionate impacts of the justice system on individuals with health, behavioral health, or other service needs.
- Ensure that individuals involved in the criminal justice system are appropriately assessed and considered for interventions that support health and well-being, without compromising public safety or unnecessarily extending system involvement.
- Develop recommendations and decisions informed by data, research, and evidence-based practices to improve system performance, reduce recidivism, and enhance outcomes across justice and health systems.
- Facilitate discussion and deliberation on policy and practice solutions and recommend or support implementation of changes within the law, including identifying potential legislative or policy reforms.
- Provide and support data analysis, planning, and implementation efforts, using data to guide continuous system improvement.
- Promote and support collaboration and coordination among criminal justice, health, and human service stakeholders, including effective alignment of resources and shared problem-solving strategies.

C. Council Members

The Council shall be responsible for the governance and oversight of its work. As described herein, members shall have voting and decision-making authority and responsibility for recommendations on the design of policies, programs, and resource allocation associated with the work of the Council.

Members:

Two (2) County Commissioners Court Officials
Elected Sheriff, Brazoria County Sheriff's Office
Elected District Attorney, DA Office
Elected District Judge representing Felony Courts
Elected County Court-at-Law Judge representing Misdemeanor Courts
Chief Magistrate, Magistration and Specialty Courts

A Police Chief, representing Local law enforcement agencies
Chief Adult Probation Officer, CSCD
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Juvenile Probation
Elected County Clerk, County Clerks Office
Elected District Clerk, District Clerk's Office
A Defense Bar Attorney (accepts indigent cases),
CEO of GCC, Mental Health/SUD
CCBHC Crisis Services Manager, Brazoria County Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Coalition
Texas Department of Criminal Justice Parole Division
Community Health Care Provider, CHN
Business Community, Pearland Chamber of Commerce

The initial Chair and Co-Chairs shall be:

Chair:

Commissioner Stacy Adams – Commissioner, Brazoria County Precinct 3

Co-Chairs:

Commissioner David Linder – Commissioner, Brazoria County Precinct 4
Sheriff Bo Stallman – Sheriff, Brazoria County Sheriff's Office

The following positions will be initially held by the following individuals:

- A Police Chief representing Local law enforcement agencies- Robert E. Lee
- A Defense Bar Attorney – Ron Helson
- CCBHC Crisis Services Manager, Brazoria County Suicide – James Simmons
- Community Health Care Provider, CHN – Ezreal Garcia
- Business Community, Pearland Chamber of Commerce – Jim Johnson

D. Officers and Members

Leadership.

The Council shall be led by the Chair and two (2) Co-Chairs.

- These positions will be served for a minimum of three (3) years.
- These positions will be performed by individuals who meet those criteria and are willing to participate in the Council.
- When someone steps down, resigns, or when the term expires, the Council will select future leadership.

Responsibilities of the officers.
The Chair and Co-chairs shall approve the agenda and preside over the regular and special meetings of the Council.

Voting members.
Each Council member shall have one vote.
- Designees (see section F) may vote on behalf of a member when properly identified.

Ex-officio non-voting members.
The Council may add additional ex-officio non-voting members at its discretion.

Additional Members.
Additional voting members may be added to the Council through amendments to the Bylaws as deemed appropriate by the Council.

Standing and Ad Hoc Committees.
The Council may establish standing and/or ad hoc committees to complete specialized goals that overall align with the mission towards advancing the criminal justice system and mental health care. The scope, focus and expectations of these subcommittees is to be decided by the Council.

E. Conflict of Interest
Any member present at a meeting in which a matter is discussed and who personally or whose employer has a pecuniary (including by contract) or property interest, such member shall declare the potential conflict of interest.
- The member with a declared conflict shall not vote on matters related to the conflict and shall refrain from attempting to influence the decisions of the other voting members.

F. Designee by Official Member
Council members may designate one chief staff person to represent them and vote at Council meetings when needed. Any member wishing to appoint a designee must identify the individual in writing and address it to the Council Chair, with the Co-Chairs copied.

G. Quorum
A quorum is no less than a simple majority of the total membership. Action may be taken by a majority of those present voting and by not less than a majority of the quorum.

H. Meeting Documentation

All Council and committee meetings shall be documented in writing, as meeting minutes are reviewed and approved by members.

V. Strategic Plan

The Council will develop and maintain a current strategic plan that defines its goals and objectives and outlines how it will achieve them.

VI. Budget and Resources

Recognizing the critical importance of its work, the Council shall pursue resources to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the behavioral health and justice system in Brazoria County. Council Chairs and Members may advocate for budgetary allocations in support of programs and priorities that meet the strategic objectives of the Council and Brazoria County. Resources shall be pursued, utilized, and maintained to foster interagency collaboration, improve outcomes across criminal justice and health systems, and ensure sustained progress.

VII. Amendment of Bylaws and Charter

Amendments to the Bylaws and Charter require a vote consisting of 2/3rds of present voting members. When necessary, the Council Chair and Co-Chairs, shall accept proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Charter, and add them to the agenda for a regularly scheduled meeting. If approved, the Council shall enact any action in response to the proposed change and make it effective immediately.

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