

From: Shandra Carter <Shandra.Carter@tjjd.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 7:28 AM
To: Juvenile Probation Counties <Juvenile.Probation.Counties@TJJD.Texas.Gov>
Subject: TJJD Intake Update

Chiefs,

I am incredibly disappointed to have to inform y'all that we will temporarily be halting intake of youth committed to TJJD. All five state secure facilities are implementing variations of their emergency operation planning. The current risk is that the ongoing secure facility staffing issue will lead to an inability to even provide basic supervision for youth locked in their rooms. This could cause a significantly impaired ability to intervene in the increasing suicidal behaviors already occurring by youth struggling with the isolative impact of operational room confinement. Two weeks ago, I contacted y'all about my three options for intake of committed youth waiting for a TJJD bed, but the situation has further deteriorated. As the staffing strength at each secure facility becomes more grim, we have no other option.

Though the following steps cannot stop our hemorrhaging of staff, the agency is implementing them in an effort to resume intake as soon as it is safe to do so:

- Moving the female behavioral stabilization unit from our Ron Jackson unit to the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility
- Cease the Intensive intervention Programs (IIP) for violent youth at the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility and Evins Regional Juvenile Center, where we treat our most violent youth. IIP is a programmatic intervention that is intended to manage lower-level aggression and violence.
- Reduce female population by 16 at the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex to meet the current available staff, and move them to the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility, currently holding 242 males
- Review youth about to age out of TJJD jurisdiction for potential safe release to the community
- Identifying if any determinate sentenced youth may be eligible for early release to TJJD or TDCJ parole.

These are the least worst measures, but we are attempting to safely make room for the 130 TJJD-committed youth currently in your county facilities. Please know that I am painfully aware of the strain this further causes in the detention bed crisis. I fully recognize that our biggest risk here is a youth who should be detained is in the community and commits a horrific violent crime.

I am happy to answer any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Shandra Carter, LCSW

Executive Director, Interim

(o) 512.490.7612

shandra.carter@tjjd.texas.gov

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

1711 San Jacinto Blvd, Ste. 120

Austin, TX 78758

