



Children's Commission.

For Judges and Lawyers Handling Child Protective Services Cases

February 23, 2018

Judicial Commission on Mental Health

The Children's Commission is pleased to announce that the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals held their first-ever joint hearing on January 11, 2018 to consider establishing the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health. The two high courts heard from mental health experts, judges, veterans, law enforcement, and family members who have been affected by mental illness. The witnesses had varied backgrounds, but all agreed that there was great potential for a statewide judicial commission on mental health, and that collaboration between the judiciary, mental health experts and policymakers would improve the lives of many. Populations with increased mental health needs include individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, individuals involved in the criminal justice system, veteran and military populations and their families, youth in the juvenile justice system, and children and youth in foster care. Recognizing the important intersection between these at-risk populations and the courts, the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals took the historic step of establishing a permanent judicial commission on mental health to elevate the conversation and collaboration between the judiciary, mental health experts, and policymakers to create innovative solutions to complex problems.

The Children's Commission looks forward to partnering with this sister commission in the future and to furthering our joint goals of improving outcomes for vulnerable populations in our state through judicial leadership and collaboration with various stakeholders.

To view the January 11, 2018 joint hearing, please link [here](#); to view photos from the joint hearing, link [here](#).

Also, the Judicial Commission on Mental Health is accepting applications for a [Staff Attorney](#) and [Executive Assistant](#). These positions report directly to the Executive Director of the Judicial Commission on Mental Health. All applicants must submit a resume and a State of Texas employment application; a link to the State of Texas application is included in the announcement. The job postings are open until filled.



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