

**Dawn Roberson**

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**From:** Julie Fullingim on behalf of Sunset  
**Sent:** Monday, January 05, 2009 4:41 PM  
**To:** Dawn Roberson  
**Subject:** FW: Texas Commission on Jail Standards Sunset review

**From:** Glenn, Ernie L.  
**Sent:** Monday, January 05, 2009 4:31 PM  
**To:** Sunset  
**Cc:** Katharine Teleki  
**Subject:** Texas Commission on Jail Standards Sunset review

To The Sunset Advisory Commission:

I have reviewed the position statements of the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition and wish to express the support of the Bexar County Re-entry Roundtable for the policy recommendations submitted to you on 15 December 2008, by TCJC. We support all four recommendations as valid and meritorious of the support of the Bexar County team, but emphasize recommendations (1) and (2), as reproduced below (emphasis added) from the original TCJC text, as of primary importance to Bexar County at this stage in our Re-entry initiative.

**(1) TCJS Should Expand its Educational Role in the Prevention of Jail Overcrowding.**

As many survey respondents noted, one of the major challenges that TCJS will face within the next 5 to 10 years will be addressing the ever expanding jail population. To accommodate this, counties and other municipalities will be forced to expand the number of jails. As more jails are built, TCJS will require additional inspectors and other resources to ensure compliance with set standards.

**At this point, TCJS should re-focus its resources to assist jail administrators, county commissioners, and others in developing localized strategies – such as through the use of roundtables composed of key officials – that will concentrate on the reduction of growing jail populations through diversion techniques.**

**(2) TCJS Should Also Expand its Efforts to Inform Jail Administrators and Local Officials about Innovative Reintegration Models to Slow Offender Recidivism.**

A large number of individuals will be exiting county jails in Texas' near future. Many of these individuals will be incarcerated for periods long enough to lose their employment, housing, and, ultimately, the ability to support themselves and their families.

**To prevent offenders from falling back on crime as a means of survival, TCJS should be given additional staff that can focus solely on providing technical assistance for programs that provide rehabilitation, education, and re-integration for inmates confined in county and municipal jail facilities under its jurisdiction. Such programs could include (a) group counseling, (b) drug education, (c) basic education programs, (d) transition planning, and (d) aftercare planning.**

The State can look to Travis County and Bexar County as models in this regard – their jails have innovative programs that assist inmates in re-integrating back into the community. These programs can be duplicated statewide, and TCJS should be staffed to inform counties about what other jails are doing to prepare inmates for release. Additionally, TCJS staff can look to models in other states for best practices with regards to inmate reintegration.

We support all evidence based proactive approaches to controlling and reducing jail populations rather than dedicating more and more public funds to building new jails and prisons and find that the above recommendations, in particular, support that agenda. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ernie L. Glenn, Judge  
Bexar County Felony Drug Court &  
Re-entry Roundtable Legislative Committee Chair