



PRESS RELEASE
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**Texas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Releases Interim Memorandum on Mental Health Care in the Juvenile Justice System**

On October 17, 2022, the Texas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) issued an Interim Memorandum on mental health care in the juvenile justice system.

The Memorandum results from the testimony provided during in-person panels in Houston, Texas in August 2022. The Memorandum identifies concerns as they emerged from the testimony and conveys the Committee's recommendations that the Texas government expeditiously identify and address the issues within the system.

Committee Chair Merrill Matthews stated, "It is extremely important that the Texas Juvenile Justice system treats the children in its facilities equitably and appropriately, meeting their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs. Recent news stories have raised questions and concerns that the system is failing its mission. The Texas Advisory Committee hopes to identify some of those problems and provide helpful recommendations to address them in a timely manner."

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Advisory Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing, education, and other important themes. For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).