SB 1849 and changes to Jail Standards

In order to meet the mandated deadlines of the bill, this process started on August 3, 2017

Staggered implementation dates
Four phases

SB1849 also changed 16.22 CCP
Magistrate notification within 12 hours (previously 72 hours)
Effective September 1, 2017
Phase I

A. Serious Incident Report

B. Death in Custody Investigation

C. Continuity of Medications
Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Serious Incident Report

8 Categories
Suicides, Deaths, Assaults
Escapes & Use of Force
Serious Bodily Energy
Death in Custody Investigations

Outside Investigation
Texas Rangers
Locals can assist
Continuity of Medications

Qualified medical professional shall review ASAP any prescription medication when prisoner is taken into custody.
Continuity of Medications

§273.2(12) provide procedures that shall require that a qualified medical professional shall review as soon as possible any prescription medication a prisoner is taking when the prisoner is taken into custody.
Continuity of Medications

TA Memo sent 1/3/2018

Described what was required

Included simple addendum
-Signed & Returned
Qualified Medical Professional

1. Physicians
2. RNs
3. LVNs
4. NOT: EMTs or Pharmacists
Phase II

Jail Administrator Exam
On-Line
75 Questions
100% to Pass
Appointed after 3/1/2018
Phase III

A. 24-Hour Access to Mental Health

B. 24-Hour Access to Medical

C. Electronic Verification of Checks
Ability to access mental health professional
• at the jail through a telemental health service
• 24 hours a day

Ability to access a health professional
• at the jail or through a telehealth service
• 24 hours a day or,
• if unavailable at the jail, transport them

Install electronic sensors or cameras to ensure accurate checks of cells for at-risk inmates.
  • Prisoner Safety Fund
  • Jails 96 beds or less are eligible

• ADOPT: September 1, 2018
• COMPLY: September 1, 2020
Phase IV

Mental Health Training
• Required county jailer training course
• 8 hours of mental health training
• Approved by TCOLE and the Commission
• Current license holders have until August 31, 2021 to take an approved eight hour mental health training course.

• TCJS now has 3 mental health trainers

• Responsible for teaching/conducting the mental health training course in their assigned region.

• No charge to the county for the training

• GAP! 9/1/2017 to ??/??/2018
Suicides FY 2015-2017

- 2015: 33
- 2016: 26
- 2017: 15