**Rachel Gandy – Chief Strategy Officer**

Rachel Gandy came to TJJD as the Chief of Staff in July 2023. She moved to Chief Strategy Officer in June 2025. Before joining the executive branch, she served as a project manager and policy analyst at the Sunset Advisory Commission for five years. At Sunset, she led efficiency and effectiveness evaluations of TJJD, OIO, and the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. She also served on other agency reviews involving economic development; state contracting; and occupational licensing, regulation, and enforcement, for which she and her colleagues earned an impact award from the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society. Prior to government service, she engaged in local, state, and federal advocacy to ensure youth with disabilities have access to a free and appropriate public education. Gandy received her bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University, her Master of Public Affairs from UT’s LBJ School, and her Master of Social Work from UT’s Steve Hicks School.