



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES AND CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

April 25, 2016

For Immediate Release

TJJD Selected To Participate in National Practice Model

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) has been selected by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University to participate in the pilot phase of the Youth in Custody Practice Model (YICPM), which is a comprehensive and effective service delivery approach for youth in residential care.

The YICPM will assist TJJD with 18 months of training and technical assistance to align core, research-based principles with everyday practice and achieve more positive outcomes for youth, families, staff and communities. It is designed to help agencies achieve four primary goals:

- Promote safe, fair and healthy environments for youth, staff and families;
- Prepare, equip, empower and support staff to provide effective services;
- Increase positive youth and family experiences and outcomes; and
- Enhance community safety.

TJJD's three pilot sites – Giddings State School, Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg, and the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility in Mart– will be analysed on alignment of every day practices to core, research-based principles of best practices in four key areas:

- Case planning,
- Transition planning,
- Community-based services and
- Facility-based services (e.g. education, behavioral health, behavior management, rehabilitative programming).

TJJD Executive Director David Reilly noted that the agency was one of only four nationwide selected to participate in this highly competitive program.

“I am very proud and excited that the Texas Juvenile Justice Department was selected to participate in the Youth in Custody Practice Model,” Reilly said. “This is a timely and tremendous opportunity for us to examine and refine every aspect of our service delivery and, with the help of nationally recognized experts, integrate and implement the next layer of best practices and reforms to improve the outcomes of the youth we serve.”

Scott W. Fisher, Chairman | David Reilly, Executive Director

11209 Metric Blvd. Bldg. H, Ste. A, Austin, Texas 78758 | Post Office Box 12757, Austin, Texas 78711

(Tel) 512.490.7130 | (Fax) 512.490.7717 | WWW.TJJD.TEXAS.GOV

TJJD Selected . . . continued

-more-

The training and technical assistance will be delivered by national experts with experience in the youth in custody arena. They will support TJJD in:

- Assessing current practices compared to the comprehensive, research-based blueprint presented by the YICPM;
- Developing a customized action plan to implement desired policy and practice improvements and achieve measurable objectives;
- Training staff on the research undergirding the YICPM strategies;
- Building and broadening a coalition of support for the system improvements through an implementation team and a key stakeholders group;
- Creating strategies designed to achieve long term sustainability of the efforts, such as policy development, training, quality assurance and performance measurement; and
- Measuring the effectiveness of the training and technical assistance in changing practices and achieving positive outcomes.

TJJD has already begun an analysis of service delivery gaps at its facilities. The YICPM leadership team and national experts will meet at Giddings State School May 3-4 to review these gaps and discuss remedial approaches. Following the gap analysis, a strategic plan will be developed with priority areas addressed first. Work groups and implementation teams will tackle each area, with national subject matter experts brought in for consultation and technical assistance as necessary. Sustainability of reform efforts will be emphasized through changes in infrastructure and an emphasis on data collection and performance measurement.

More information about the YICPM can be reviewed on the CCJR website:
<http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/our-work/yicpm>.

###

Contact Jim Hurley at 512-490-7016 for more information.