

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE TODAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE
TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT



A Message From the Director



David Reilly

We have received a number of positive comments on the redesigned newsletter. Thank you for providing feedback and for contributing articles and information. Our desire is for *Texas Juvenile Justice Today* to be a reflection of the outstanding work done by all Texas juvenile justice professionals. Your comments are helpful and I encourage you to continue to submit articles and reports of your activities to Jim.Hurley@tjjd.texas.gov.

I am excited to announce TJJD's foray into the world of social media. Earlier this month, TJJD launched a twitter account and a Facebook page. You can find our Facebook page at facebook.com/TexasJJD and follow us on Twitter through our handle - @TexasJJD. The agency also has a presence on LinkedIn. You can find that page at www.linkedin.com/company/texas-juvenile-justice-department. I believe these social media platforms will provide an excellent avenue to share all the great things that are happening in juvenile justice in Texas.

Fall continues to be a busy time at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. We had several high profile events at our facilities, including a visit from the British Minister of Justice and a reunion of former youth who returned to thank staff for investing in their lives. Both of these stories are detailed in this newsletter. Once it is final, we will share it with you.

The TJJD Regionalization Task Force continues to meet as we press forward in developing our regionalization plan to reduce the number of youth committed to TJJD. Our FY 2016 target is to divert 30 youth from TJJD placement and an additional 150 in FY 2017. We are nearing completion of our comprehensive review of infrastructure, staffing and programming at county probation departments to determine our best options for diverting youth. A primary consideration has been to define exactly what type of youth best fits our "diversion" definition. I'm pleased at the progress that we're making and I look

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Former Youth Return to Giddings With Thanks

At a September 16 reunion at the Giddings State School, approximately 40 former Giddings youth returned to thank former and current staff who worked with them to turn their lives around and deliver a message of hope to current Giddings residents. The reunion was an effort by Charleston White and the Hyped about HYPE (Helping Youth People Excel) Youth Outreach organization.

White was 14 when he and a group of teenagers were found responsible for the death of a man during a robbery. He was committed to one of TJJD's predecessor agency, the Texas Youth Commission, until his 21st birthday. During that time, White admits that he was a difficult youth, often involved in disturbances and fights. But he acknowledges that he was given a second chance during that time, and that the influences of the adults he interacted with daily while at Giddings was instrumental in his 180

degree turnaround. White has since dedicated his activities to reaching out to other at-risk and incarcerated youth, encouraging them with his personal success story and the idea that it is never too late to turn your life around.

During the morning-long assembly in the Giddings gymnasium, these former youth, many of whom travelled from across Texas to be there, talked about their life-changing time at Giddings and how they were able to turn their lives around. All speakers described familiar patterns in their lives leading up to their Giddings stay – neglected at home, a lack of empathy and respect, hanging out with the wrong crowds and an inability to connect with society. Most acknowledged they were at Giddings for truly horrific crimes and were unable to fully grasp their true impact of their actions. All cited their time at the Giddings campus and, more specifically the people who worked with them on a daily basis, as a pivotal period of

their lives which enabled them to move forward, become mothers and fathers, and play productive roles in their communities.

The returnees also spoke directly to the staff and former staff that were assembled to hear them speak. Nearly every speaker spoke of a specific staff member who stood with them during their incarceration, providing tough love, guidance and hope when those qualities were most needed.

Current Giddings youth also heard the HYPE message about the possibility of redemption and the importance of using their time in TJJD to develop the tools that will serve them when they return to their communities.

"It's not too late for you," White said. "No one is exempt from God's love."

Johnathan Silver with the Texas Tribune covered the HYPE event.

Read Johnathan Silver's article at:
www.texastribune.org/2015/09/27/former-juvenile-offenders-paying-it-forward/



Former Giddings youth returned to campus as adults to thank staff members and encourage current youth.



Charleston White and former Texas Youth Commission Deputy Executive Director Sandy Burnam.

Trauma Informed Care Training Requirements for Juvenile Probation and Supervision Officers

The Juvenile Justice Training Academy (JJTA) has moved forward with the final steps of implementing Human Resources Code Section 221.006, created via Senate Bill 1356, which was passed during the 83rd Texas Legislative Session (2013). The statute requires all juvenile probation and supervision officers to have Trauma Informed Care training prior to certification or renewal (for existing officers). Currently, this course is required for officers to take only once. In July 2015, the JJTA sent an email to all departments advising staff that effective September 1, 2015, all new certification requests or renewals submitted would be required to identify the Trauma Informed Care training as part of the application process. Since Trauma Informed Care has not yet been added to the mandatory topics identified in ICIS, this training will need to be manually entered in on the Trainings Page of the Application and Diane Laffoon, Certification Officer, will be reviewing them. If you need assistance with this, you may contact her directly at 512.490.7782 or Diane.Laffoon@tjjd.texas.gov.

TJJJ's JJTA continues to assist departments with meeting the requirements of Section 221.006 and provide adequate opportunities for departments across the state to get their staff trained.

- If your department is utilizing the curriculum developed by TJJJ, the trainer should have

attended one of the Trauma Informed Care Training for Trainers offered. We want to ensure that staff training this material are adequately trained. TJJJ has hosted a number of Trauma Informed Care Training for Trainers over the last couple of years in an effort to train as many people as possible.

- If your department needs to get trainers qualified to teach this curriculum, TJJJ has scheduled another Trauma Informed Care Training for Trainers for December 7-8, 2015. Additional information can be found here.
- Your department can submit a Training Technical Assistance Request or assist in coordinating a Regional Training effort in which either can contain the Trauma Informed Care Training. To date, all of the regional trainings across the state have offered the TIC training.

How To Go About Receiving Approval For Utilizing Existing Trauma Informed Care Curriculum

Some departments have advised us that you are being approached by various companies offering their services in regards to Section 221.006 or that you were already using some form of existing curriculum. Many of these companies are offering training courses targeting verbal interventions which, while important, do not meet the intent of this bill. To clarify, the intent of Section 221.006 is to improve our

approach with traumatized youth, which comprises a significant majority of the population we serve. When we approach traumatized youth with traditional or generalized approaches, we often contribute to the "trauma-incarceration-trauma cycle". The difference is not just knowing how to de-escalate a youth in general, but recognizing the impetus of a behavior or response as trauma related. This spurs a more individualized approach. So, while one may use some of the skills learned in a verbal interventions course, staff must also be able to acknowledge when these strategies are not appropriate and distinguish the unique relation between the behavior and the traumatic experiences and impact those experiences have had for a particular child. In addition to staff learning to recognize trauma related behaviors, a trauma informed care approach also involves helping youth recognize his/her trauma triggers and reactions and assisting them in finding alternative approaches.

The topics required by Section 221.006 include:

- The impact of trauma on childhood development;
- The relationship between trauma and behavioral problems, including delinquency;
- How to recognize the effects of trauma in a youth's behavior;

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Former Youth Return to Giddings With Thanks

forward to the continued input from all our county partners.

The Regionalization Task Force meeting notes and agenda are published online for your review at: tjjd.texas.gov/aboutus/regionalization.aspx

We are also developing a Management Action Plan (MAP) to continue to address the safety and security of our state facilities, outline gang management planning, and ensure youth in our custody receive appropriate consequences for both their positive behavior as well as misbehavior. Embedded in this plan are elements of our Youth In Custody pilots which are focused on improving the daily life of youth in TJJJ by creating additional flexibility in how a youth spends his/her day. This MAP acts as a roadmap to share with state leadership and legislative offices.

I am also stepping up my visits to our facilities. There is no substitute for gaining a better understanding of operations on the ground than being there – talking with our staff and kids. I always come away learning something I didn't know, even if that may be only gaining a heightened sense of urgency for our initiatives to improve safety and security, giving ourselves and the kids more confidence for improving campus life, fully maximizing our treatment programs, and ultimately improving outcomes. That's really our mission and why we are all here.

Trauma Informed Care Training Requirements for Juvenile Probation and Supervision Officers

- How to respond appropriately to a traumatized youth's reactions; and
- How to manage stress caused by working with a traumatized population (sometimes referred to as vicarious trauma.)

In addition, the nine essential elements of Trauma Informed Care to be established in the curriculum include:

1. Maximize the child's sense of safety.
2. Assist children in reducing overwhelming emotion.
3. Help children make new meaning of their trauma history and current experiences.
4. Address the impact of trauma and subsequent changes in the child's behavior, development, and relationships.
5. Coordinate services with other agencies.
6. Utilize comprehensive assessment of the child's trauma experiences and their impact on the child's development and behavior to guide services.
7. Support and promote positive and stable relationships in the life of the child.
8. Provide support and guidance to the child's family and caregivers.
9. Manage professional and personal stress.

The curriculum developed by TJJJ contains all of the specific elements described above, however, if your department is already training staff using another curriculum, we will need to approve the curriculum (prior to its use) to ensure that the curriculum covered will be adequate in order to meet the Section 221.006 mandate as outlined above. Any courses not meeting information outlined above will not be approved. If you would like to submit the curriculum for approval, please forward the request to Kristy Almager at Kristy.Almager@tjjd.texas.gov and include all related training materials for review.



Please contact Kristy Almager at 512.490.7125 or Chris Ellison at 512.490.7245 if you have any questions or would like to discuss this legislative mandate.

UK Minister of Justice Studies Texas Criminal Justice Reforms

British Minister of Justice Michael Gove visited the Giddings State School on September 23 as part of his fact-finding tour of Texas to learn more about recent reforms in Texas criminal justice.

In addition to meeting with public policy makers and advocates and touring Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities, Gove wanted a first-hand view of the Giddings State School and the Capital and Serious Violent Offenders program.

Executive Director David Reilly and Giddings Superintendent Jorge Gonzalez provided a tour of the Giddings campus. During the tour, Gove spoke to numerous Giddings staff members and youth while visiting the school building, welding shop, auto mechanics shop, dormitories and the security unit.

A BBC camera crew and reporter also accompanied Gove as he toured Giddings. The BBC is producing a documentary about criminal justice reform in Texas and how leaders in the UK hope to replicate many of the reforms. While the documentary is currently unavailable for viewing in the U.S., the UK's Daily Telegraph wrote an article about the Minister's visit and included a summary of the Giddings visit.



Giddings School Assistant Principle Peter French (left) meets with UK Minister of Justice Michael Gove.



Minister Gove is interviewed by the BBC in the Giddings welding shop.



UK Minister Gove tours the auto mechanics shop.

Read the report at: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/11909309/The-Texas-prison-experiment-that-inspired-Michael-Gove.html

Harris County JPD Hosting Interns

Student interns at both undergraduate and graduate levels rotate throughout the different divisions of Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD) providing exposure to all aspects of the juvenile justice system. During 2014 HCJPD hosted 21 interns collectively completing approximately 6,400 hours. Juvenile Probation Officers take on the assignment of teaching and mentoring, providing them professional and practical experience.

As a final project the interns prepare and deliver a presentation to the executive staff where they combine academic knowledge with practical experiences learned during their internship. HCJPD maintains a strong affiliation with local universities and continues to expand the current list to include universities from other states.

The HCJPD Doctoral Internship Program in Professional Psychology provides internship opportunities for students who are currently enrolled in a doctoral program in psychology (clinical, counseling, forensic, or school psychology). Each year, HCJPD accepts three full-time interns for a twelve-month paid internship. HCJPD is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), and interns are selected through APPIC's annual match process.

HCJPD is currently under review to be accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) during spring of 2015. Interns are required to complete a minimum of 2,000 clock hours to be used towards licensure. Interns work at least 40 hours per week with at least 25% of the time devoted

to direct services. Interns conduct assessments, provide individual, family, and group therapy, crisis intervention, and consultation services. During 2014, five interns completed approximately 4,800 hours; in addition to nine practicum students who completed approximately 2,500 hours.



Evins Provides Parenting and Paternity Classes

Evins Regional Juvenile Center Family Liaison Elva Benitez introduced the Parenting and Paternity Awareness (p.a.p.a.) curriculum to eight youth at the facility who are young fathers. Key themes in the curriculum focus on the importance of father involvement, the value of paternity establishment, the legal realities of child support, the financial and emotional challenges of single parenting, the benefits of both parents being involved in a child's life, healthy relationship skills, and relationship violence prevention. Mrs. Benitez said she hopes the program will provide the youth with tools that will help them be good responsible parents when they leave TJJD and are reunited with their children.

The 10-week course consists of weekly classes and is optional for the youth. During their first

class, Mrs. Benitez went around the room and each youth was asked to introduce themselves and give their child's first name. Youth Raman, who is a soon-to-be father, said, "My son is due soon—as early as next month and I'm

very happy about it and I want to learn as much as I can."

The p.a.p.a. curriculum was originally developed by the Office of the Attorney General's Child Support Division and has been in use in Public Schools since 1995.



Elva Benitez discusses the privilege and responsibility of parenting with Evins youth.

TDA Awards TJJD With Certificate of Excellence

The Texas Department of Agriculture Administrative Review of the TJJD National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs (NSLP/SBP) was completed in September 2015 and TJJD earned an excellent report. There were no findings against the agency and the reviewer said TJJD would receive a certificate of excellence signed by the Texas Commissioner of Agriculture.

Last year, only 17 of approximately 500 contracting entities (CEs) reviewed in Texas received an excellent award. The reviewer said that it is very rare for a residential child care institution to receive an excellent award due to the added challenges. The reviewer was very complimentary of the processes in place in Nutrition and Food Services. She reported that the reviewers visiting the sites said that the staff was friendly and knowledgeable,

that the food served looked very fresh, that there was a good variety of foods served, and that the breakfast and lunch meals met program requirements.

TJJD congratulates Treva Whitehead (Nutrition Services manager) and Lauren Baxter (Nutrition Specialist) for their diligent work. The agency also compliments the facility Nutrition and Food Service staff for their hard work and dedication.

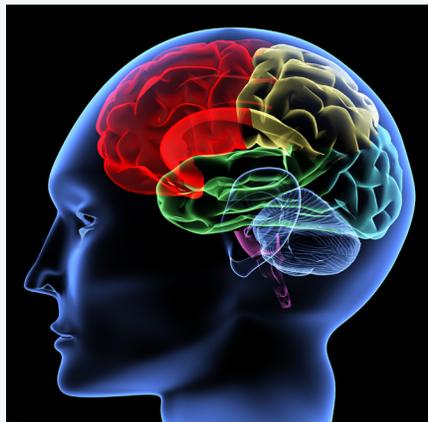
El Paso County Focusing on Acquired Brain Injury

In 2010, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) in collaboration with the Office of Acquired Brain Injury (OABI), piloted a program to identify youth involved in the justice system that may have presented with an undiagnosed traumatic brain injury (TBI). The collaboration between TJJD and the OABI established objectives to identify justice-involved youth with a TBI utilizing the Brain Injury Screening Questionnaire (BISQ) in an effort to provide “pathways to services” designed to reduce recidivism, foster healthier individuals and improve cognitive and emotional regulation skills.

Through the collaboration developed between the TJJD and the OABI, the El Paso County Juvenile Justice Center was able to develop a partnership with Dr. Wayne Gordon at Mount Sinai School of Medicine’s Brain Injury Research Center. The partnership was designed to afford services to justice-involved youth identified with a TBI. Through this collaborative effort the development of the Youth Short Term Executive Plus Program (YSTEP) was designed.

The program is based on an adult model developed by and used at Mt. Sinai’s Brain Injury Research Center which has been modified and formatted for an adolescent population through the application of cognitive behavioral strategies coupled with dialectical behavior therapy mindfulness skills. It is designed to facilitate the development of executive functioning in adolescents as well as develop that have been identified as possibly having a traumatic brain injury through the administration of the BISQ and/or youth that have demonstrated a history of poor problem solving and/or self regulating skills.

The El Paso program focuses on providing group services utilizing the YSTEP curriculum to youth court-ordered into the Challenge Academy, which is a secure post adjudication para-military style program that offers supportive residential drug treatment services and youth court order to Intensive Supervised Probation under the Serious Habitual Offenders Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP). Both populations have been identified as having a higher likelihood of exposure to activities that may enhance the likelihood of a TBI (i.e. history of abuse, assaults,



substance use, etc) as well as a higher rate of recidivism based on identified risk factors and limited protective factors.

The YSTEP program is conducted in 10 -12 sessions with each session building upon the previous week’s lesson. Sessions may range from one to two hours depending on the modalities used (i.e. role play, in vivo activities, coupled with didactic therapy) and programming structure (youth placed in a secure environment vs. community based youth). Youth participating in the YSTEP program are taught techniques and strategies to aid in understanding how the emotional cycle impacts outcomes and behaviors; to recognize triggering

events, thoughts, emotions, sensations and behaviors that contribute to a loss of emotional control as well as poor decision making and or problems solving experiences in an effort to strengthen their understanding of causal relationships.

Lessons include Identifying Triggers and Understanding Anger; Understanding and Exploring Sensations; Relaxation Strategies and Techniques; Thoughts and Thinking Errors and How they Impact Choices and Outcomes; Thinking and the Decision Making Process; Understanding Consequences, Outcomes & Behaviors; Types of Communication & Effective Communication Strategies and the Emotional Cycle as well as Integrating Strategies to Effectively Cope with Difficult Situations.

Although a program evaluation through data analysis being conducted by Dr. Gordon and his team at Mt. Sinai is pending, the lack of resources to address cognitive deficits and emotional regulation issues has sparked interest in the implementation and/or replication of the YSTEP program. In August 2014, Rebecca Derocher with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) conducted a site visit at the El Paso County Juvenile Justice Center to review the program and protocols in place. Interest in implementing the program has also been demonstrated by the country of New Zealand and more recently discussion have occurred with the HRSA TBI Grant Coordinator for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitative Services Ms. Augusta Cash with regards to implementing a program for justice involved youth in Alabama.



Juvenile Justice Training Academy Implements New Legislative Training Initiative for Juvenile Correctional Officers

This past legislative session, House Bill 2372 (84R) reduced the number of initial training hours juvenile correctional officers must receive from 300 to 240 prior to being considered eligible to provide sole-supervision, or when an officer independently has the ability to supervise youth alone. An additional 60 hours of training is still required within the first year of employment. As of October 1, TJJD began implementing this new schedule.

In anticipation of this legislation moving forward, there were several primary areas of focus when discussing how the agency trains new hires to ensure a successful transition to meeting the objectives of this bill that included:

- improving the quality of training (curriculum and delivery);
- adding additional on-the-job training;
- adding a coaching and mentoring component;
- making training more realistic; and
- making training more learner centered (versus lecture based).

By reducing the number of required hours up front, it allows for a JCO to become sole supervised after six weeks, if they have successfully completed all required training, versus the legacy eight weeks. In addition, JCOs are now hired only once a month and will receive required core life and safety courses, along with de-escalation techniques, before receiving any on-the-job training. This will help ensure the safety of both staff and youth.

This revised schedule has been a collaborative effort between the Juvenile Justice Training Academy, State Programs and Facilities, Education Services, Superintendents and senior leadership within the agency. The transition to this new training program is significant for the agency and will likely incur some growing pangs as the agency determines how to enhance the overall training program for new hires and tenured staff alike. This initiative is another sign that TJJD is continually moving forward to demonstrate our passion and dedication to improving retention and creating a better trained staff and a safer environment for our youth.



For additional information on this training initiative, please contact Kristy Almager at 512.490.7125 or Chris Ellison at 512.490.7245.

Mart Education Department Opens Its Doors to Parents

On September 17th, 2015, McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility opened its Education doors to parents. Students and parents took a tour of vocational buildings to learn about our Welding, Horticultural Science, and Principles of Agricultural classes.

After their tour, parents visited throughout the school and, for many of them, this was their first opportunity to visit face-to-face with their youth's teachers and administrators. In many of the classrooms, student work was posted so parents could view what students are learning and the expectations that teachers have for them.



SPOTLIGHT



Mark Williams

Tom Green County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

What led you to your career in juvenile justice?

After finishing my Master's Degree at Abilene Christian and working for a few years as a Campus minister at Texas Tech I tested my entrepreneurial wings and found out I did not really like being my own boss. I asked a friend that I grew up with in San Angelo if he knew of any job openings in the area and the next thing I knew I was interviewing for a JPO position in Tom Green County. My initial interview was in Roy Robb's front yard while he washed his bird dogs. The second interview was in his office and a little more formal. That was the beginning of my JPO career in March of 1986.

What types of facilities do you operate?

When the Post Adjudication facility grants were available Tom Green County applied and received funding to build a 48 bed drug treatment facility that we operated for 6 years. Revenue barely covered expenses for those years and the county finally got permission from the state to convert it to an adult male drug treatment facility. The Roy K. Robb facility is still located in San Angelo but now serves over 100 male offenders and is operated by the Concho Valley CSCD. We do still operate a 25 bed pre-adjudication facility that contracts with and serves 13 West Texas Counties besides Tom Green County.

What programs do you feel have proven most successful?

We have several programs that I am very proud of. One that Roy began in the early 90's that put a JPO in each middle school as a prevention officer. We still operate this program and have continued to have around an eighty five percent success rate diverting kids from the system through the program. I am also very proud of our Youth Advocate Intensive mentoring Program and a program we set up with our local Child Advocacy Center to provide intensive parent mentoring, the parent project and family preservation to a large number of the families we serve.

What do you see as the biggest challenges for juvenile justice in Texas?

I think most would agree that the challenge of dealing with more and more kids with intensive mental health needs is a major concern and is a very complicated problem that is difficult to find a solution to. I also believe that we as a state are not spending our money effectively on prevention services and many families with problems receive no services until their child enters the juvenile justice system.

Are there any changes that you are considering in your county?

With the regional concept being pursued by the state and the changes coming as a result of SB 1630 and determination by some to add 17 year olds to our system I am looking at options to add more pre-adjudication beds to our current detention facility.

What do you want others to know about your department?

I have been very blessed in my career to work for a department with a supportive Juvenile Board, dedicated staff and community support. Those things have been the major contributing factors to a wonderful career and a good department that has helped a lot of kids and families.

When you are not working, how do you spend your time?

I do not have many hobbies but I do have a couple of close friends who own recreational property and I like to go out with them and drive the tractor, grub mesquite and cactus and shoot a few rounds occasionally.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is the people I get to work with every day, the good friends that I have made across this great state in the field of probation, and having a good group of judges who support our efforts to change lives.

What advice would you give to a young new juvenile justice professional?

I tell each of our new employees that this profession is not for everyone and if you do not have a strong desire to help others then you will probably burn out fairly quickly. There are very few professions where you get paid to spend most of your time trying to make the lives of other people better. I love that about what we do!



AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Visit Mart Youth

On Saturday, September 26th, the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary visited the Mart facility, and delivered an “Americanism” presentation to a select group of youth. The purpose of the Saturday Enhancement Activities are to provide opportunities for youth to learn and participate in activities that will help to enhance career development, employability skills, self-sufficiency, family reintegration and self-advocacy. These activities also provide positive behavior incentives for youth, and aid in population management on the weekends.

AMVETS is a volunteer organization made up entirely of veterans. They were the first World War II organization to be chartered by Congress. President

Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 216 chartering AMERICAN VETERANS WORLD WAR II on December 10, 1944. The local chapters of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary work in five main areas of service: Scholarship, Hospital, Child Welfare, Community Service, and of course Americanism. Each local Auxiliary completes independent projects for their community as well as participating in projects for their State Level and National Auxiliaries.

During their visit with Mart youth, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary members spent a several hours teaching the youth how to tie blankets which had been purchased and cut by the Auxiliary members. The blankets will be given to hospitalized

veterans at the Temple Veterans Affairs hospital who require the use of wheelchairs. The veterans will use the blankets to cover their legs and keep warm this winter and will appreciate that the youth volunteered their time to help make someone else more comfortable.

The Auxiliary 76 ladies will be back at Mart again during the Christmas holiday season, hosting one or more of the facility’s Christmas parties. They also plan to bring their “Americanism” program to more Mart youth in February showing the young men what the veterans did for our country. The Auxiliary 76 ladies greatly enjoyed working with TJJD youth and learned as much from the youth as the youth learned from them.



Auxiliary 76 members and Mart youth display the blankets they made during their work session.

Changes Are Coming to the DPS FAST and FACT Clearinghouse Procedures

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will soon be implementing procedural changes with regard to the FAST and FACT Clearinghouse. MorphoTrust USA, the exclusive vendor that collects and submits fingerprints to the FBI on behalf of DPS, is launching a new system called the Universal Enrollment Platform (UEP). The UEP is designed to decrease equipment failure rates, provide mobile friendly scheduling, provide the ability to have on-site credit card payments, make compatible with interstate livescan submissions and provide automated self-service status applicant notifications.

All of these improvements should greatly enhance the overall customer experience and convenience to improve efficiency when getting individuals fingerprinted. This transition started in October and DPS will be contacting each juvenile probation department with specific details regarding implementation.

Historically, DPS provided live rap-back notifications to departments for any activity or arrests in Texas regarding their applicants.

However, it failed to include activity from the National criminal history record unless the prints were rerun through the FBI database. DPS has announced that sometime in the next few months, the FBI rap-back notifications will be live for both state and national criminal history records. In order to receive the live notifications, CJPOs or their designees will need to subscribe to the FBI rap-back notices and applicants will be required to sign a waiver allowing the release of their rap-back information. DPS will provide additional information for everyone currently in the FAST System that must sign a waiver for the department.

The FASTPass fingerprint authorization form will ultimately transition away from the form. In addition, MorphoTrust USA will be replacing the department's ORI number with a unique six character service code that will be used to accurately identify the department moving forward. Unlike the ORI numbers, the service codes will not be sequential numbers and therefore it is highly improbable that an applicant accidentally

enrolls for the wrong department.

The fingerprint fee per applicant is governed by Section 80.001 of the Texas Human Resources Code and was raised from \$9.95 to \$10.00 per applicant, effective October 1, 2015. A separate fee may apply for applicants processed outside of Texas. Individuals may continue to pay by business check, money order or credit card at each location but cash will no longer be accepted. Departments now have the ability to set up an escrow account that may be used online for payment. Additional information on the escrow account may be found at www.l1enrollment.com/state/forms/tx/560d8bc98a7fc.pdf.

Departments will soon be notified by DPS on behalf of MorphoTrust USA regarding all of these and other changes. If you have questions regarding the current FAST or FACT Clearinghouse procedures, please contact Diane Laffoon at 512.490.7782 or Diane.Laffoon@tjjd.texas.gov. DPS may be reached at 512.424.2365, option 6 for additional information on the new changes.

TJJD Releases Updated PREA E-Course for Employees and New Way of Receiving Training Credit

The Juvenile Justice Training Academy (JJTA) recently released an updated version of the PREA e-course for TJJD staff. This e-course is required annually primarily for all non-direct care staff as found in the employee's individual training requirements (all direct care staff and select others are still required to take the classroom version of this course). This e-course discusses the federal

legal laws and the TJJD employee policies which provide protection of juveniles against violence and rape while in TJJD care. Since this e-course was developed using an updated e-learning platform, employees will not automatically receive credit after taking the PREA e-course on your employee training transcript found in the training portal. Credit for taking (only) this course will be entered

by JJTA staff and therefore credit will not be immediately displayed. JJTA will be provided with updated reports on those employees attempting the course on a daily basis. If you take the e-course and successfully pass the exam and credit is not displayed after seven (7) business days, please contact Carla Feller at 512.490.7667 or Carla.Feller@tjjd.texas.gov.

Van Zandt County Uses Pet Therapy

Republished from the July 30, 2015 Grand Saline Sun

Kids and Dogs Part of County's Youth Education Initiative

By Vy Townsend Malik
Staff Writer

What does a compassionate, gentle, professional youth officer have in common with a slobbering, lumbering, disciplined bloodhound?

They bring J.K. H.O.P.E. – Just Kids Hands On Pet Education – to the youth of Van Zandt County. The unique intervention program provides those ages 6-18 an opportunity to share respect, responsibility and care for animals through hands-on experiences.

Primary Prevention and Supervision Officer Venetia Stanley works at the county's Youth Multi Service Center, taking her 120-pound, red bloodhound Big Mac to youth in the Juvenile Probation Department, to school groups and to the Canton Animal Shelter where she helps young people develop skills using the natural relationships and unique bonds that develop when kids become responsible for caring for animals.

School Programs

The J.K. H.O.P.E. Program works daily in the Canton Animal Shelter and on special occasions for Citizens League for Animal Welfare (C.L.A.W.) and the

Humane Society, in adoption clinics and in small groups at schools. She and Big Mac are weekly visitors at Grand Saline schools, and in the fall she hopes they will become regulars with the fifth-graders of Fruitvale Elementary School. Stanley hopes to work also in the Canton school.

Big Mac shows off his obedience training and special tricks to students in a small group setting, they get to pet him and learn not to be afraid. They also learn the safe way to approach a dog and ask their owner if they can pet it.

Stanley says one of the purposes of the program is to address the truancy problem by giving students an opportunity to be responsible for an animal. "They gain self-esteem and learn responsibility. If they like themselves because they are helping someone and if they know someone believes in them, they are more likely to stay in school," Stanley said.

Stanley's overall goal for the program is to help youth to develop a sense of responsibility – to animals, to other people and to themselves in completing tasks. Through this creative approach the goal is to allow youth the opportunity to experience success and become more socially adjusted and productive members of the community.

"I want them to learn social skills and to learn to do something really well. I try to make a difference in their lives by teaching them the satisfaction and joy of working with animals."



Canton Shelter

During the summer from 9:00 AM until noon, Monday through Friday, kids in the program get to spend quality time at the Canton shelter being with animals. The program pays the shelter for the "use" of their dogs.

Although the shelter is a "kill shelter" Stanley has seen very few animals that had to be put down. People seem to come every day to find a new pet for their home. And, Stanley admits she does take lots of kittens home to be her "barn cats." "I want to give them at least a chance at a good life," she says.

Kennels, which are immaculate, need cleaning every day. The participants feed the dogs first

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Van Zandt County Uses Pet Therapy

Continued from page 12

and then take a break so the dogs can eat in a calm environment. It is rare that the shelter has a dog that cannot be trusted to interact with the program participants.

“If they like themselves because they are helping someone and if they know someone believes in them, they are more likely to stay in school,”

Then the kids go to work – moving dogs from kennels that need cleaning to those already clean. They remove the leftover food, and someone takes on the task of washing all the food dishes. Others remove the waste on the kennel floors, wet the floors with hoses and scrub with detergent and a long-handled brush.

After rinsing the floor with the hose, the next step is to squeegee the floor to get rid of most of the water, and then use towels to dry it more so a dog will not slip and fall.

Once those tasks are done, the kids get leashes and take the animals outside in the enclosed yard for running and playing on agility equipment, teaching them tricks and being together in a social situation.

The kids work on obedience training with their animals, and Stanley reminds them that success comes in baby steps, and giving the dogs a soft “cheerleading praise.” After the outside time, the kids bring the dogs back in, put them in their individual kennel and usually sit down to pet and talk to their charges.

Building trust is a two-way process that can happen in such situations. The students learn the importance of responsible pet ownership and can feel good about having a part in getting a dog ready to be adopted.

Food, clean environment, exercise, disciplines and love . . . that is probably a winning combination not just for dogs but for humans as well.

It is three hours of hard work, but the rewards are great when a kid and a dog get to snuggle up together.

Stanley’s Mission

Stanley grew up in Houston and has lived in Wood County for 30 years. Her husband Kevin is a paramedic, and they have three daughters, two grandsons and one granddaughter – and lots of animals.

Though her education was in journalism at San Jacinto Junior College and the University of

Houston, she said, “I have always been around kids, and I want to make a difference in their lives.

“My parents were always there for us, their kids. Even if both parents have to work, they still have a responsibility to build a family and to be a parent.

“I believe that a tired kid is a good kid, so I keep them busy. Kids cannot handle a continuous lack of supervision, so I concentrate on being present with them, staying positive. I remind myself that baby steps of responsibility and care aren’t only for gaining the trust of dogs but that approach also works for gaining the trust of kids and teaching them to be responsible.”

“I want to give them at least a chance at a good life.”

So many good character traits that parents want for their children are experienced and learned in the J.K. H.O.P.E. program – patience, compassion, motivation, problem-solving, self-discipline, nurturing and healthy grieving. And much of it comes from loving a dog and being loved in return.

Thanks, Big Mac.



Ayres House Youth Staying Active

Youth at Ayres House were invited by the Boys and Girls Club of San Antonio to take part in its eight-man flag football league. The teams have competed in two games thus far and league play continues until mid-November. The flag football league is free to Ayres youth and they were provided jerseys and cleats.

Also recently, at the request of Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Calvert Jr., four eager young men from Ayres house assisted the Commissioner's Office with a graffiti wipeout project in a northeast Belxar County neighborhood. The neighborhood's wall was littered with graffiti for a half block and the Ayres House boys, JCO Leander Allen and Community Relations Coordinator Jarvis Soileau accepted the challenge of repainting the entire wall. Commissioner Calvert thanks the Ayres House staff and youth and rewarded the youth men with pizza while offering encouraging words about seizing positive opportunities to better their lives.



Ayres House youth repaint a neighborhood wall tagged with graffiti.



Youth participating in eight-man football received new cleats and jerseys.



Youth participating in eight-man football received new cleats and jerseys.

Willoughby House Celebrates Law Enforcement Appreciation Month

In recognition of Law Enforcement Appreciation Month, Willoughby House hosted its first annual appreciation “Meet and Greet” for local police officers and law enforcement officials.

Law enforcement members joined youth and Willoughby House staff in sharing sandwiches, chips, juice and donuts. They also received Certificates of Appreciation.

Willoughby House Superintendent Diane Eunice credits Assistant Superintendent Felicia Reynolds with the inspiration for this project.

“We really wanted to show our appreciation for our local officers because they always show up when their assistance is needed, even if they could have just taken our reports over the telephone. They sometimes stop by on occasion just to see what we’re all about.”

One local police officer, Sgt. Preston Walker with the Fort Worth P.D., stopped by for the meet and greet.

“Sgt. Walker shared that he has been on the force for 26 years and it was nice listening to him share experiences he’s had in the field and how things have changed over the years,” Eunice said. “He wanted us to know

that there are good officers out there who care about public safety as well as protecting and serving. Hopefully, one day our youth will realize that, as well.”

Other guests that stopped by were from the Office of Inspector General’s office. OIG Officers Joey Hasten and Matthew Blackstock enjoyed an early snack, spoke with youth and received certificates.

“Our goal is to make this an annual event because it gave our youth an opportunity to speak with the officers and not see them as a threat,” said Eunice. “We look forward to continue cultivating our relationship with our local law enforcement.”



San Antonio Police Sgt. Preston Walker



OIG officers Joey Hasten (left) and Matthew Blackstock

Building Relationships & Supporting Youth: A Positive Approach to Juvenile Justice

Historically, the juvenile justice system has operated from a deficit-based mentality.

“The system would identify problems and try to fix those problems. This ends up being a very negative approach,” says Williamson County (TX) Juvenile Services (WCJS) Executive Director Scott Matthew.

This is why around 7 years ago Matthew began looking at how WCJS—which includes a detention center, residential facilities, an on-site school, and community prevention programs—could take a positive approach in their work with youth and families.

“These youth are already in what is perceived to be a negative place in a negative situation, so expanding on the positives they have going for them is very powerful.”

That’s when Matthew found The Georgetown Project, a community initiative in Williamson County that has been building Developmental Assets in the lives of youth since the 1990s. Matthew met with The Georgetown Project’s Executive Director Leslie Janca to discuss how his juvenile justice department could tap into the strong network of support for positive youth development already present in the community. “Juvenile services is kind of a nontraditional out-of-school time organization and we were really excited about having them as a partner,” says Janca.

“A big thing for me was that there was already an established language,” says Matthew about the Developmental Assets. He also

highlights the fact that the asset framework of youth strengths and supports has been measured and used with millions of young people around the world. “Search Institute provides an evidence-based foundation about how kids thrive and succeed. If we build these things [assets] around them, we know we’re making an impact.”

By adopting the Developmental Assets framework, WCJS staff found that they could more easily connect with other community partners who were also using the asset framework with youth. As Matthew explained, the alignment of philosophies makes young people feel more supported

framework.

To build on this work with the Developmental Assets, WCJS recently started incorporating the Developmental Relationships Framework into their programming. “We have found it useful to connect Developmental Assets and developmental relationships,” says Assistant Chief and Director of Mental Health Services Matt Smith. “It’s hard to know how to build relationships. It’s difficult to find time. The Developmental Relationships Framework has helped us narrow our focus and get more strategic in using all that Search has given us.”



The Developmental Asset categories are painted on the walls in the hallways of WCJS.

when they leave the juvenile justice system to work with outside agencies, which is a huge benefit for all involved.

Assets have also helped improve staff morale at WCJS. “The change in the organization has been huge,” says Mathew. “If you come to work every day just looking for problems, it’s not pleasant. When people have the feeling that they are doing something good and identifying positive things, it’s motivating.” Matthew says the organization still identifies problems, but the staff now creates positive programs to support those issues using the asset

The organization has started a dialogue about the Developmental Relationships Framework and is planning to use the framework in the future as a professional development tool. “We have a really lively, ongoing discussion in our organization and we are finding many different ways to integrate Search Institute research into

training and practical tools to use with youth,” says WCJS Prevention Coordinator and Chaplain Kory Capps.

Matthew, Smith, Capps, and the WCJS staff have transformed the image of juvenile justice services in Williamson County. “We’re a resource, we provide youth services,” says Matthew. “Kids who come under our services are no different than the kids who don’t. It’s not a negative thing to be involved in juvenile services and the Developmental Assets have helped us come a long way to create that image.”

TJJD Honored at TIBH Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner



On September 23 at the TIBH (Texas Institute for Blind and Handicapped) Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner,

TJJD was recognized for being among the top 10 state agencies in purchasing products through TIBH using the state's set-aside program. Others in the top ten include some rather large agencies such as the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

The state set-aside program was established through legislation in 1978 to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities or who are physically and mentally challenged. The goal of the program is to provide good paying, rewarding jobs to people who would otherwise not have the same opportunities as able bodied people. Artie Lee Hinds was a wealthy philanthropist that made it her mission to make sure the program was successful. She was Chairman of the Board for over 20 years. During her time as Chairman the program grew from \$50,000 per year to over \$100 million per

year. Texas' set-aside program is recognized as the premier program of its kind in the United States, a model that other states follow.

The dinner was about honoring those agencies and individuals that help to make this program successful and TJJD was one of those agencies honored. However, the main focus of evening was on the individual workers and employees who benefit from the program by overcoming the odds by becoming successful members of society. Artie Lee Hinds Award recipients are selected from a group of 38 nominees.

Upcoming TJJD Sponsored or Co-Sponsored Trainings

Juvenile Probation Officer Basic Training

November 15-20, 2015 (40.00 Hours)

Sam Houston State University - Huntsville, TX

[Click here](#) for additional details or to register.

2015 Data Coordinators' Conference

November 16-17, 2015

Omni Bayfront - Corpus Christi, TX

[Click here](#) for additional details or to register.

New Chiefs Development Program

November 30-December 4, 2015 (32.00 Hours)

Sam Houston University - Huntsville, TX

[Click here](#) for additional details or to register.

Regional Training (Southeast Texas)

November 30-December 4, 2015 (25.50 Hours)

Brazoria County Juvenile Probation Department

Angelton, TX

[Click here](#) for additional details or to register.

Trauma Informed Care Training for Trainers

December 7-8, 2015 (13.50 Hours)

Hays County Government Center - San Marcos, TX

[Click here](#) for additional details or to register.

Regional Training (South Texas)

December 14-18, 2015 (26.00 Hours)

Cameron County Juvenile Probation - San Benito, TX

[Click here](#) for additional details or to register.

Juvenile Probation Officer Basic Training

January 10-15, 2016 (40.00 Hours)

Collin County Juvenile Probation Department

McKinney, TX

[Click here](#) for additional details or to register.

29th Annual Juvenile Law Conference

February 22-24, 2016

Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel - San Antonio, TX

Registration available in late November.

Juvenile Probation Officer Basic Training

April 10-15, 2016 (40.00 Hours)

Sam Houston State University - Huntsville, TX

[Click here](#) for additional details or to register.

Juvenile Probation Officer Basic Training

July 10-15, 2016 (40.00 Hours)

Sam Houston State University - Huntsville, TX

[Click here](#) for additional details or to register.

Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

TJJD would like to recognize the following employees who have received a tenure award since September 2015. On behalf of the agency, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and service to the State of Texas.

September 2015

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Bobby R. Jacobs	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Calvin D. Berger	<i>Giddings</i>
Charles H. Scott	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Crizelda V. Litif	<i>Evins</i>
Jennifer K. Bennett	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Jennifer M. Betancourt	<i>Evins</i>
Juan M. Cervantes	<i>Evins</i>
Michelle M. Cohen	<i>Austin (Finance)</i>
Patricia I. Osazuwa	<i>Giddings</i>
Raynita M. Christopher	<i>Gainesville</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Betty J. Neal	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Brandon K. Menefee	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Danna G. Beane	<i>Ron Jackson O&A</i>
Jannetta P. Williams	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Jerquandrick D. Seaton	<i>Cottrell HWH</i>
Jorge Matta	<i>Schaeffer HWH</i>
Nicole A. Brewer	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Perry W. Stewart	<i>Gainesville</i>
Romekka P. Petty	<i>Gainesville</i>
Tania E. Williams	<i>Giddings</i>
Todd A. Hanks	<i>McLennan RTC</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Cristela Castillo	<i>Evins</i>
Danny E. Vasquez	<i>Austin (Finance)</i>
Gary L. Travis	<i>Giddings</i>
Joycelynn S. Shirley	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Karol H. Davidson	<i>Austin (Legal Services)</i>
Ramona A. Gray	<i>Austin (Training & Organizational Development)</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Alison Travis	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Blanca E. Leyva	<i>Schaeffer HWH</i>
Geroderick Franklin	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Jerry B. Boydson	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
John K. Shepherd	<i>Ron Jackson O&A</i>
Kimberly J. Burton	<i>Gainesville</i>
Stacy L. Scott	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Van Foster	<i>Dallas District Office</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Thomas W. Brown	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
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THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Frank Brown	<i>Giddings</i>
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October 2015

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Homero Serna	<i>Evins</i>
Juanita L. Lopez	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Laura A. Alvarez	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Steven E. Wilcox	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Tina G. Handrick	<i>Giddings</i>
Tony G. Wyatt	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
William A. Fowler	<i>Gainesville</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Hector R. Adame	<i>Schaeffer HWH</i>
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FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Mary T. Garrity	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Regina M. Petros	<i>Gainesville</i>
Staci L. Fountain	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Dana G. Barber	<i>Giddings</i>
Iantha Coleman	<i>Austin (General Counsel)</i>
Jacqueline J. Davis	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Karen R. Saucillo	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Lorenzo Cyrs	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Monica Hobbs	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Natasha N. Murphy	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Nicki M. Satterfield	<i>Austin (Finance)</i>
Robert C. Waller	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Shelia D. Truesdale	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Vicente Rodriguez	<i>Evins</i>

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Fidel Garza	<i>Evins</i>
Ramona M. Tucker	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Velre C. Boyd	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Lucia Rodriguez	<i>Austin (Training & Organizational Development)</i>
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FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Christianne Mallette	<i>Austin (Chief of Staff)</i>
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