

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE TODAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE
TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT



Youth In Custody Practice Model Underway

The Youth In Custody Practice Model (YICPM) officially kicked off on May 3-4, 2016 as four nationally recognized juvenile justice experts gathered at the Giddings State School to meet with TJJD's core project staff and tour the facility.

The YICPM consulting team was comprised of:

- Ned Loughran (Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators);
- Shay Bilchik (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform);
- Michael Umpierre (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform); and
- Kelly Dedel (One in 37 Research, Inc).

The YICPM consultants and subject matter experts 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 the agency achieve four primary goals:

Continued on page 3



(From left to right): Giddings State School Assistant Superintendent April Hannah, Kelly Dedel, TJJD Program Supervisor Debra Blackman, Shay Bilchik (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform), Ned Loughran (Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators), and Michael Umpierre (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform).

A Message From the Director [page 2](#)

Community Strength for Community Youth [page 2](#)

Youth Diversions Begin [page 4](#)

Advisory Council Gets New Chair [page 4](#)

Gainesville Youth Participate in Global Youth Service Day [page 5](#)

Giddings Hosts Family Day [page 5](#)

Willoughby House Participates in Re-entry Week [page 6](#)

Schaeffer House Participates in National Prayer Day [page 6](#)

TJJD Mentor Program Shows Positive Effect on Youth [page 7](#)

Global Youth Service Day Cottrell House and Dallas Parole [page 8](#)

Willoughby House Youth Tour KTVT CBS Channel 11 Television Station in Fort Worth [page 9](#)

In Memory and Appreciation: Chief Ernest Sertuche [page 10](#)

In Memory and Appreciation: Trayce Haynes Alexander [page 11](#)

In Memory and Appreciation: Guadalupe "Lupe" Facundo [page 12](#)

Employees Receiving Tenure Awards [page 13](#)



A Message From the Director



David Reilly

May has been a big month for TJJJD. We completed our first site visit at Giddings for the Youth In Custody Practice Model (YICPM). It was great having the YICPM consulting team of Ned Loughran with the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, Shay Bilchek and Michael Umpierre with the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, and Kelly Dedel with One in 37 Research, Inc., on campus and meeting with our implementation team. Giddings staff were gracious hosts and the time was well spent. I am extremely excited

about the opportunity the YICPM brings to TJJJD. This will give us a proactive chance to thoroughly examine ourselves to create safer campuses, help kids be more successful, become more cohesive and collaborative as an agency and establish a more positive culture. Self-examination is never easy, but the result is worth it. I look forward to the next 18 months.

Our Capstone Project continues to move forward with the Ron Jackson and Gainesville campuses demonstrating success in providing new opportunities for youth who have completed their GED or diploma. We will be rolling this project out to our other three campuses within the next few months. TJJJD staff will also be doing a presentation on the program at the American Corrections Association conference in Boston in August.

We are also deep into the process of developing our five-year strategic plan. Our planning and discussions centered around this plan have been productive thus far. Completion of the plan

will provide framework to take a number of positive steps forward in the next few years.

On the county side, the regionalization effort is ramping up, and individual diversions should begin next month. We hope to divert 10 to 12 youth from state care each month by funding placements at the county level. This initiative provides great promise for increasing the programs and services at the local level, which will help limit the state population to those who truly cannot be served elsewhere.

I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to all our county partners who have worked tirelessly with us through the development of our plan to regionalize services to youth who will be diverted from state placement. A special thanks to the members of the Regionalization Task Force who doggedly stayed with what at times was a tedious undertaking. This will be such an important step in facilitating further growth and program development “closer to home.”

Community Strength for Community Youth

Members of the Evins Volunteer Council and Tamayo Halfway House-Volunteer Resource Council for Valley Youth met recently to change their by-laws to incorporate Tamayo House youth also as part of the Evins Council’s mission. Standing back row left to right are Evins Council Members; Ignacio Estorga, Larry Keatts, Johnny Rodriguez (Vice-President), and Raul Arredondo (President). Front row left to right is Dr. Kathy Dittman (Tamayo Council-Treasurer), and Evins Council Members, Leo Rodriguez, Irma Guzman and Ricardo Garcia. The Evins Volunteer Council is an IRS non-profit, 501 (C) 3 organization and is incorporated with the State of Texas.



Youth In Custody Practice Model Underway (continued)

- 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 analyzed 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.”



(From left to right) Giddings Assistant Superintendent April Hannah leads Michael Umpierre, Ned Loughran, Shay Bilchik and Kelly Dedel on a tour of the Giddings campus.

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. 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.



Youth Diversions Begin

After nearly a year of organization and planning, TJJD is set to begin assisting counties with diverting eligible youth from state placements. The agency's Regionalization Task Force, comprised of county probation chiefs from around the state along with other stakeholders, has met six times to develop guidelines regarding what type of youth will be best served in a regional placement as opposed to commitment to the state system. The Task Force also worked on a funding mechanism to ensure state funding for these diversions.

Beginning June 1, 2016, TJJD will begin accepting applications from counties to place youth who meet diversion criteria. By the end of Fiscal Year 2016, 30 youth will be diverted from state placement. In 2017, an additional 150 youth will be diverted. TJJD staff, county officials and providers have worked diligently to identify regional placement options that will provide youth with the appropriate services in a location closer to their families.

Once an application is received from a county, TJJD's review team will examine the youth profile and

treatment plan and select the best candidates for diversion. In cases with a short turnaround time, applications may be considered within five days. In all cases, counties will be notified prior to the youth's court date whether the youth will be approved for diversion funding.

According to TJJD Executive Director David Reilly, "Our goal is to treat kids in the least restrictive environments possible. Keeping them closer to their families will increase the chances for positive outcomes."

Advisory Council Gets New Chair

Brazos County Executive Director for Juvenile Services Doug Vance, Ph.D., is the new chairperson of the TJJD Advisory Council. He served as the Council's Vice Chair since 2012 and has been an active leader of the Standards Committee which, since 2012, has been responsible for systemic improvements to the Texas Juvenile Justice System by making beneficial revisions to Texas Administrative Codes 341, 343, & 355 pertaining to state-wide Standards of Care.

Doug has 23 years of experience in juvenile justice serving since 2005 as Executive Director for Juvenile Services in Brazos County Texas. Prior to that, he spent nine years as the Superintendent of both Pre and Post-Adjudication Detention Services for the Dallas County Juvenile Services Department, and he began his

Juvenile Justice Career in Hunt County Texas where he held the title of Assistant Director for the Hunt County Juvenile Probation Department.

Doug is an effective advocate for juvenile services in Texas and is a board member with the Texas Juvenile Detention Association, where he represents TJDA as Co-Chair on a Joint Legislative Committee in partnership with the Texas Probation Association and the Juvenile Justice Association of Texas - advocating for Juvenile Justice at the Texas State Legislature. He is actively involved in his local community serving on the Board of Directors of the Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. He additionally serves as a community volunteer with both the United Way of the Brazos Valley as well as with Crestview

Senior Retirement Center.

In addition to his juvenile probation work, Doug has also served as an Adjunct Professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Sam Houston State University. He also produces and hosts a weekly talk radio show aired each Friday evening on KEOS 89.1 FM radio in College Station, Texas in which he discusses an array of issues and topics that are of interest to children, families, and communities.

Doug has earned Bachelor's Degrees in both Psychology and Secondary Education. He obtained a Master's Degree in Psychology from East Texas State University and earned his Doctoral Degree in Counseling /Psychology from Texas A&M University-Commerce.



Gainesville Youth Participate in Global Youth Service Day

Teens at the Gainesville State School joined millions of others around the globe who were celebrating Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). The Gainesville youth participated in projects that will impact four community organizations in a youth-led initiative.

Gainesville City Manager Barry Sullivan led the kick-off event, issuing a proclamation, making it "Global Youth Service Day in Gainesville, Texas." Youth learned about children's health as they made "booboo bunnies" for the local hospital emergency room and Children's Hospital. They learned about problems associated with literacy as they made alphabet coloring books with traceable letters for the local Head Start program. Youth learned about hunger as they created colorful paper baskets filled with nutritious

snacks for VISTO. Youth also learned about animal abuse/neglect as they made puppy blankets and chew toys for Noah's Ark animal shelter.

Global Youth Service Day recognizes the positive impact that young people have on their communities 365 days a year. GYSD is celebrated in more than 135 countries with youth-led service projects. Youth involved in the juvenile justice system are just as equipped to do good in their communities as those outside



(Left to right) Gainesville City Manager, a Gainesville youth and Gainesville State School staff Megan Sanders work on a GYSD project.

the system. Many possess strong leadership qualities and desire to make a positive impact on others. GYSD gives them the perfect opportunity to practice pro-social behaviors and demonstrate empathy for others.

Giddings Hosts Family Day



Giddings State School welcomed families on May 7, 2016 for a Family Day. The weather was beautiful. Families enjoyed a meal, participated in games and enjoyed quality time together. The time that is provided for families on these special days is crucial to the youth's success in their treatment.

Each boy was offered a flower to give to their mother or special loved one in honor of Mother's Day. There were numerous youth that were able to connect with family members that they have not seen for long period of time.

Some youth are fathers and one was able to see his daughter for the very first time. He looked her over many times, noticing that she had toes just like him! He will have an opportunity to participate in PAPA classes taught to youth that are fathers. These classes teach skills and inform the fathers of responsibilities they will have upon release.



Willoughby House Participates in Re-entry Week

Willoughby House hosted a Reentry Appreciation event for youth to commemorate the U.S. Justice Department's designation of April 24-30 as National Re-entry Week.

Superintendent Diane Eunice said, "We wanted to recognize youth who had attained various achievements while at TJJD, such as getting a job, earning a GED or High School Diploma, earning college credits from Navarro College, completing community service hours and obtaining vocational certifications. The youth received a certificate, cake and ice cream and most importantly applause and cheers from their peers and staff."



The event was spearheaded by Workforce Reentry Specialist Christi Villegas who plans to collaborate with Willoughby House and make National Reentry Week an annual event while highlighting youth who have been engaged in constructive activities that will benefit them once they are released back into the community.

Felicia Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent said, "The youth really appreciated being celebrated for their achievements and it served as motivation, for them to keep working hard and investing in themselves, so that they can transition from Willoughby with tools that will be useful to them."

Ms. Villegas comes to Willoughby House twice a month and works with the youth on employment skills.

"Next year, with Ms. Villegas help, we hope to expand this event and make it even more special for the youth," Ms. Eunice said. "We continually stress to them how important it is to take advantage of all the opportunities and resources that are provided to them so that they can be more prepared for life outside of TJJD. For us, that's what National Reentry is all about – getting our youth prepared for their second chance."

Schaeffer House Participates in National Prayer Day



Schaeffer House participated in this year's National Prayer Day on May 5th. There were various presenters brought in that spoke about careers, public service, knowledge in their field, music (experiences in a recording studio and music lessons to the youth), mime performances, and how faith has helped them throughout their different journeys. Every one of these individuals brought a different outlook to all the youth that attended. Fourteen youth in the morning attended and 19 in the afternoon. It was a great success.

Among the presenters were: Jesse Dorantes (Peace Officer and Firefighter) from El Paso County ESD-2 Fire Marshal's Office, Greg Whited (retired Peace Officer and Fire Investigator) from Texas Gas Service, Nathan De La Cruz (Musician) from Seed For His Harvest Ministries, Pastor Ray De La Cruz (Head Pastor) from Seed For His Harvest

Ministries, Lisa Sanchez, Local Recording Christian Artist, Gus Aguilar and Jessica Dorantes (Youth Connections) from Temple of Divine Restoration, Samuel Partridge (Keyboardist) from Seed For His Harvest Ministries, and the Miming Kingdom Business group from the Rock Faith Center.

TJJD Mentor Program Shows Positive Effect on Youth

Numerous national studies have noted the positive benefits of mentoring relationships for at-risk and juvenile justice-involved youth. TJJD has utilized mentors with its youth since the 1990s with strong evidence of the benefits of these relationships.

Mentoring can take place in a TJJD facility, halfway house, or on parole. Mentoring involves a responsible adult volunteer visiting a youth one-on-one, ideally for 4-8 hours per month for a minimum of six months. Mentors are expected to focus on establishing a positive relationship, helping with goal setting, obtaining resources, and increasing a youth's social skills. The mentoring program aims to develop a youth's self-confidence and help a youth discover his/her strengths through a trusting, supportive relationship. Faith mentoring has an additional component emphasizing personal spiritual growth. Religious principals provide the foundation for faith mentoring sessions.

Mentors are primarily recruited by Community Relations Coordinators or by other mentors through word-of-mouth referrals. Mentors are carefully screened with a volunteer application, criminal and driving record check, character references, and a face-to-face interview with a TJJD representative. After a mentor is selected, he or she signs an agreement of confidentiality and participates in a three-hour training and orientation. Mentors are provided with information on TJJD's policies, population, and rehabilitative strategy. Mentors are also given an overview of communication skills, learning styles of adolescents, and suggestions for structured activities.

After the initial training, mentors are expected to attend at least two mentor mixers each calendar year. These events help mentors get to know each other better, provide

support for one another, and receive training from subject-matter experts on a variety of topics relevant to mentoring relationships. Mentor mixers also provide opportunities for Community Relations Coordinators and other TJJD staff to get to know mentors and to communicate policy or procedural updates. Mentors may attend these events via telephone or videoconference if they are unable to travel to them.

Thoughtful mentor/mentee matching is critical to a mentoring program's success. TJJD youth can request a mentor or can be referred to the mentoring program by a caseworker, Community Relations Coordinator, or other TJJD staff person. Factors considered in matching decisions include gender, age, primary language, needs and strengths, life experiences, and mentor/mentee preferences. Though Community Relations Coordinators follow the same basic guidelines in mentor/mentee matching, there is some variation across locations. TJJD is in the process of developing a matching protocol to ensure consistency statewide. Participation in the mentoring program is completely voluntary - youth must sign consent and are free to terminate the mentoring relationship at any time.

A total of 409 youth were served by TJJD's mentoring program in FY 2015. Several youth were served in more than one location type, beginning mentoring relationships in institutions and continuing the relationships in halfway houses or on parole. Overall in FY 2015, 226 youth were mentored in TJJD's secure facilities, 163 in TJJD's halfway houses, and 41 while on parole. Mentored youth comprised approximately 11 percent of TJJD's institutional population, 29 percent of halfway house population, and 4 percent of parole population.

TJJD's Research Department

completed an analysis of the impact of mentoring on TJJD youth. Some of the key findings are listed below.

- TJJD's mentoring program is successful in serving its target population (i.e. youth with longer sentences/minimum lengths of stay). Youth with long-term mentor matches are most likely to have high severity committing offenses and determinate sentences.
- The number of new mentor matches increased this year. Overall in FY 2015, 287 new mentor matches were initiated. This is a substantial increase over FY 2014, when 186 new matches were initiated.
- The average duration of a standard mentoring match was 5 months in FY 2015, whereas faith mentoring matches averaged 7.4 months. Both types of matches were considerably shorter in FY 2015 than in FY 2014.
- Among youth released from TJJD in FY 2014, 29 percent of those with more than 180 days of mentoring were rearrested within one year of release, whereas 44 percent of those with less than 180 days of mentoring, and 47 percent of those without mentoring, were rearrested within a year.
- 26 percent of mentored youth in the FY 2012 release cohort had been re-incarcerated at the three-year mark. Among non-mentored youth released in FY 2012, 37 percent had been re-incarcerated at the three-year mark.
- Fifty-six percent of mentored youth released in FY 2014 earned a GED or high school diploma within 90 days of release, compared to 45 percent of non-mentored youth.
- In FY 2014, 21 percent of youth with more than 180 days of mentoring were reading at grade level upon release, compared to 17 percent of youth with less than 180 days of mentoring and 14 percent of youth with no mentoring at all.



Global Youth Service Day Cottrell House and Dallas Parole

Cottrell House youth turned their focus to helping those in the community most in need of a helping hand as part of their Global Youth Service Day activities. As they considered the homeless people in their community and their daily struggle, they decided that they could help provide them with a sense of worth and know that they are not alone. The youth made 55 gift bags filled with water, towels, granola bars, chips, tooth paste and tooth brushes, Christian literature and resource information.

Youth thought about friends that they knew that were homeless and things that could have helped them. While they understood that the items in the bags were not going to solve the issue of homelessness, the youth wanted the homeless to know that someone truly cares

about them. Youth delivered the items to the Salvation Army and received a tour of their facility to learn about the different programs available to help the homeless. Youth were amazed at how many individuals are homeless. They learned that the Salvation Army provides shelter to over 300 individuals every night. Youth then worked in the kitchen and fed about 200 individuals that afternoon.

Youth DP stated, “These items are just a little something to help them. I wish I could do more because I do not want anyone to starve or feel lonely.”

Youth JW stated, “Wow and this is just one shelter in Dallas. This is a real problem. That’s a lot of people.”

JCO VI Stephen Miles stated, “This is good for the youth to see so that they can understand

that there are people in this world struggle to do better and with help they accomplish just that.”

Youth also wanted to learn more about HIV and AIDS. The Dallas Resource Center came to Cottrell House to educate the youth on the virus. Youth learned the difference between HIV and AIDS. They also learned the different ways to contract the virus and how to protect themselves.

The Dallas Resource center has new building and youth in on parole in Dallas decided to paint motivating canvas pictures to hang on their walls. The Resource Center was excited to accept the paintings.



Cottrell House youth prepared 55 gift bags to present to the homeless people in their community.



A Cottrell House youth works the food service line at the Salvation Army.



Willoughby House Youth Tour KTVT CBS Channel 11 Television Station in Fort Worth

Willoughby House youth were given an opportunity to tour the local television station, KTVT CBS Channel 11, and learn first-hand what goes on behind the scenes.

The youth toured the broadcasting room, dressing room for the news casters, media room, audio/video room and different offices. They also learned about the different job duties and work schedules, the procedures to follow when someone calls and reports news and the importance of reporters to be the first to get to a scene and broadcast the news first.

Superintendent Diane Eunice said, “This was an exciting community outing for the youth because it exposed them to what a career in broadcasting and journalism could possibly look like and the hard work that goes into being an anchor, reporter, camera operator, and other jobs. They learned that it’s not just all glamour and being on television, but it involves a lot of preparation.”

One youth shared that he thought it was so cool to meet a guy whose main job is keep up with high speed chases and listening to radios and scanners all day, to track police activity, so that he can report it.

Assistant Superintendent Felicia Reynolds said, “Several of our youth work at fast food restaurants but we want to show them that they don’t have to limit themselves to just that one industry and to realize that there are vast career opportunities around them, if they go to college and apply themselves. We appreciate the JCO staff who initiated this endeavor and plan to continue providing the youth with more opportunities like this.”





IN MEMORY AND APPRECIATION

Chief Ernest Sertuche

DeWitt County Juvenile Probation Chief Ernest Sertuche passed away in April. The following article appeared in the Victoria Advocate:

'He believed everybody had a second chance'

YORKTOWN - Ernest Sertuche struggled with drug and alcohol problems after he was injured in the oil field, becoming addicted to pain medicine and then other drugs.

But despite his troubles, he managed to turn his life around, get an education and help change the lives of troubled teens.

The chief probation officer for the DeWitt County Juvenile Probation office died April 15 in his sleep after a brief illness. He was 58.

He had served with the department for 15 years, the last 10 as chief. He brought to his job not only his passion to help troubled youth but his experience as one as well.

"He would tell those kids, 'You can't bullsh-- a bullsh---er. I know. I've been there,'" said Sertuche's wife, Nelda.

"He believed everybody had a second chance," she said.

The two celebrated their 40th anniversary April 10. Two days later he entered DeTar Hospital in Victoria. When Nelda left him the night of April 14, she did not think it would be the last time she'd see him alive.

"I said, 'When you leave here, we're gonna go on that trip that we've been talking about. Because there's no reason for us to put it off. You've been working too hard, we're just going to do it.' And he just gave me a little smile like... Now I think about (it), the smile was like, 'I'm not sure I'm going to,'" Nelda said, her voice trailing off as she choked back tears.

No one could say how many lives Sertuche touched in his time in the probation department. But everyone agreed he treated juveniles under his watch as if they were his kids and that he was fair but full of discipline.

"He was passionate about kids and their well-being," his widow said. "If he felt like somebody was being unjustly treated, he was ready to go to battle. Injustice, he just couldn't see that for anyone."

It was that passion that left a mark on Pama Hencerling, the chief juvenile probation officer for Victoria and Goliad counties. She taught Sertuche when he was first working to become a probation officer.

"He was really rehabilitative with them. His message was not to just punish the kids but to teach them," she said.

Sertuche's past experiences are part of what drove him to go the extra mile and spend his career

in juvenile probation - something Hencerling said is hard to find these days.

"You can punish, you can recommend punishment to the judge and just go from a sanction standpoint. But to really dig down deep and find out what's going on within these kids' heads, and maybe what's going on in their family. It takes a lot more time to get to know these kids," she said.

Sertuche's daughters, Kristy and Sara, said they did not know the challenges their father and mother had faced, especially when they were young. But they loved their father and the time they spent with him.

"A lot of people regret because they didn't say what they needed to say, but nothing was left unsaid. We knew he knew," Kristy said.

In a 1994 Advocate article, Sertuche discussed how he had dropped out of high school as a freshman and spent the next 23 years using drugs and alcohol and going in and out of employment.

That frankness was what made Sertuche who he was, said his wife.

"(He said,) 'It's the truth. That way, no one can hold that over my head. But the real reason, Nelda, if one person is saved by me coming out ... If I can change, and they can learn that, and they can see or hear that,



Chief Ernest Sertuche (continued)

it's all worth it to me," she said.

The following thoughts were shared by his coworkers:

Ernest E. Sertuche was a good man. I met him when I applied for the juvenile probation department. Ernest showed me the in and outs of what it takes to be a juvenile probation officer. He was a leader, a teacher, and a friend. He showed me things to help bring out the best in me. He will be deeply missed.
– Luis F. Gonzalez, Dewitt County Juvenile Probation Officer

I had the honor to have worked with Chief JPO, Ernest Sertuche for 8 years, as a CaseWorker/JCMS Clerk. Ernest was a true gentleman who cared deeply for the children and their families whom entered into the juvenile system; and he worked sincerely with them on a daily basis. Mr. Sertuche had a caring heart and dug his heels to reach deep into the hearts of

the children and the root of their problems.

Ernest was an intelligent man with so much knowledge in his field of work. He was a person with that passion to reach every child and make a difference in their lives. I lost not only a boss, but a best friend who was like the older brother I never had. He will truly be missed in my life and in our department.
Rest Easy Chief!

Chief, you will forever remain in our Hearts! – Diana M. Heil, JCMS Clerk

I had the honor to have worked with Chief Ernest E. Sertuche for 4 years, as his Office Manager/JCMS/Data Coordinator. Ernest E. Sertuche was a good man who cared for his workers, his kids in our department, and even his own family. This man could love strong and deep and would stand up and defend any of us at any given time as needed.

This man would go out of his way to get down to the bottom of things like a child in need or in trouble. But would also had a stern hand when needed. There was nothing that one of our kids would do that E. Sertuche wouldn't already know about, they could not fool him.

This job was his career and his life. He loved doing what he loved.

His family stood by him while he did what he loved. But Chief ALWAYS tried to be it all: a father, a leader, a teacher, a husband, a friend, a boss, a male figure in all our kids' lives. I only had the honor of knowing this man 4 yrs. but felt like a life time. And I am very thankful for the time I had with E. Sertuche he taught me a lot.

Chief, you will forever remain in our Hearts FOREVER & ALWAYS! – Melissa F. Gunter, Office Manager/Data Coordinator/JCMS



IN MEMORY AND APPRECIATION Trayce Haynes Alexander

Trayce Haynes Alexander, of Cat Spring, Texas passed away in April. She was a JCO IV at the Giddings State School and began her employment with the Texas Youth Commission on January 5, 2009, as a JCO III. She was promoted to a JCO IV on April 1, 2010.

Trayce was a hardworking, loyal and dedicated staff member and friend. Her number one priority was the youth in her dorm and she would drive one hour and forty minutes everyday (even in ill health) to try to make a difference in the lives of the youth she worked with. She was well respected by both staff and youth due to her extraordinary work ethic. The boys could always depend on her to hold them accountable. She is survived by her husband Geoff Alexander and two daughters, Kristyn and Robyn Alexander.

Trayce was born on September 3, 1952. She earned a BS from Southwest Texas State University in Law Enforcement.



IN MEMORY AND APPRECIATION Guadalupe “Lupe” Facundo



Guadalupe County Juvenile Probation Officer Guadalupe “Lupe” Facundo passed away in April in a car accident. The following obituary ran commemorating her life and service:

“Msgt. Guadalupe “Lupe” Facundo, USAF Retired, passed away on April 11, 2016 at the age of 60 in Cibolo, TX. She was born September 16, 1955 in San Marcos, TX to Pedro Facundo and Maria Mosqueda.

She was raised in San Marcos and assisted with raising her younger siblings before graduating from San Marcos High School in 1974. In January 1977, Lupe joined the United States Air Force where she proudly served for 20 years. After retiring from the Air Force in 1997, she continued her life of service. She joined the Schertz Police Department as a reserve police officer, the Comal County Sheriff’s Officer as a deputy jailer and in late 2000 joined the Guadalupe County Juvenile Services Department in the Schertz and Seguin offices as a juvenile probation officer where she was currently employed.

She was assisting with Seguin ISD’s truancy and prevention program until her passing. Lupe was a true believer of God and her Catholic faith. Her children and grandson were her world

and she was always very proud of them. She was a beloved mother, daughter, sister, friend, co-worker and role model. She was caring, thoughtful, strong, motivated and never gave up. She loved with all her heart and was the bond that brought the family together.

She was a lover of animals, especially her dogs. She was a great woman and would do as much as she could for anyone she knew.

Guadalupe County Juvenile Probation Chief Ron Quiros added the following thoughts:

There are elements of working in close proximity to someone that makes their death even more tragic than it may already be. Lupe’s office was ten feet away from mine, and with only one hallway, that means I greeted her daily and she in kind greeted me. Her death in a car accident two weeks ago makes me stop and recognize the impact that death can have on a juvenile probation department however, this is not the first time I have experienced untimely deaths in juvenile probation.

I worked for Bexar County Juvenile Probation when a co-worker and

friend committed suicide and I worked for Travis County Juvenile Services when two officers were murdered. I should know how this feels but this was different for us here. Something about having to contact Lupe’s caseload, take care of our staff and accepting the support from department’s from across the State made this one hurt differently than the other deaths. Somehow, my previous lessons of grief did little to abide the tide of sorrow and sadness felt by all of us, and especially me.

But as for me, today, I know that small departments have to deal with these deaths in a whole different manner. After Lupe passed I was heartbroken to learn of Ernie Sertuchee’s passing in Dewitt County. I can’t imagine what that small, close knit department is struggling with in moving through their grief. I know you join me in praying for all of the lost souls who have given their lives in service to the children of our world and I hope that the tides slowly ebbs for another day of service.

Ron J. Quiros
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
Guadalupe County Juvenile
Services

We are sad to announce that longtime TJJD employee, Cory Applewhite, has passed away. We will provide more information in our next newsletter.



Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

TJJD would like to recognize the following employees who have received a tenure award since April 2016. On behalf of the agency, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and service to the State of Texas.

April 2016

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Margaret D. Askey	<i>Austin (Probation and Community Services)</i>
Lillian C. Bell	<i>Gainesville</i>
Jennifer L. Eyler	<i>Giddings</i>
Shanetra D. Gertman	<i>Giddings</i>
Marlon G. Womack	<i>McLennan Phoenix</i>
Linda E. Martinez	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Tonya A. Gonzalez	<i>Austin (Finance)</i>
Jose L. Maltos	<i>Evins</i>
Maria De Lourdes Carrizales	<i>Evins</i>
Becky L. Moore	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Commy D. Johnson	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Jason E. Waller	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Dixie B. Hewitt	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Kim L. Adams	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Roberto Hernandez	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Sherry L. Carter	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Tammy A. Horton	<i>Brownwood HWH</i>
Lutitia Williams	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Cynthia L. Larson	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Dellandra L. Oshodi	<i>Willoughby HWH</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Roxanne Alley	<i>Austin (Legal Services)</i>
Gilda N. Barajas	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Tony A. Stewart	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Maxine K. Benson-Cooper	<i>Giddings</i>
Shirley A McCullough	<i>Austin (General Counsel)</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Claude H. Mathis	<i>Giddings</i>
Robin P. Bunch	<i>Giddings</i>

May 2016

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Ashley N. Jackson-Allen	<i>Giddings</i>
Billy G. Newton	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Diane T. Wren	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Martha A. Castillo	<i>Giddings</i>
Migael I. Escamilla	<i>Evins</i>
Theresa A. Montgomery	<i>McLennan RTC</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Charlie G. Hubbard	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Fernando Varnador	<i>McLennan Phoenix</i>
Jacqueline E. Johnson	<i>Gainesville</i>
Marco Reta Jr.	<i>Ron Jackson O&A</i>
Moncerrato C. Moya	<i>Evins</i>
Richard B. Mann	<i>Austin (Probation and Community Services)</i>

Robert G. Wolfe	<i>Ayres HWH</i>
Sean R. Wilson	<i>Giddings</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Deidre Hernandez	<i>Austin (Finance)</i>
Donna L. Coody	<i>Brownwood HWH</i>
Jeaney M. Anderson	<i>Austin (Education Services)</i>
Lashunda N. Love	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Taranie T. Scott	<i>Gainesville</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Jeremy Williams	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Ociel Carrillo	<i>Giddings</i>
Patrick R. Koll	<i>Evins</i>
Phillip D. Gipson	<i>Gainesville</i>
Suellen L. Hornsby	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Teresa W. Stroud	<i>Austin (State Programs and Facilities)</i>

Wander L. Curry	<i>Giddings</i>
-----------------	-----------------

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Janie Ruiz	<i>San Antonio District Office</i>
------------	------------------------------------