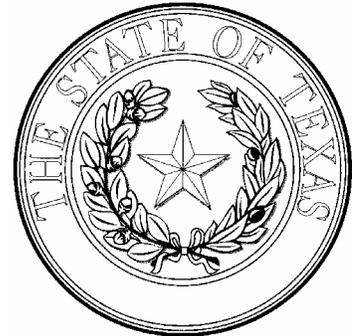


Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
Texas Youth Commission

COORDINATED STRATEGIC PLAN

Fiscal Years 2004-2005



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Table of Contents

Mission Statement	1
Introduction	
Background.....	1
Overview of the Juvenile Justice System.....	1
Juvenile Justice Legislation	2
Goals and Strategies	
Methodology.....	6
Goals and Strategies	6
Additional Information	
Intensive Supervision Probation, Aftercare Services and Parole Programs	12
Evaluation of Aftercare Services	13
Decision Point Criteria to Guard Against Disparate Treatment of Minority Youth.....	14
Population Projections and Characteristics	15
Cross-Agency Performance Measures	16
Conclusion: Program, Resources and Capacity Needs	18

Mission Statement

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and the Texas Youth Commission are committed to achieving a state and local partnership that ensures a comprehensive and coordinated juvenile justice system, which provides public protection, rehabilitation and delinquency prevention.

Introduction

Background

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) and the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) are charged with developing a coordinated strategic plan for juvenile justice in Texas (Tex. Hum. Res. Code §61.0911 and 141.0471). The two state agencies play a major role in the organization and implementation of juvenile justice services within the state and are integral to a system featuring a partnership of numerous local government, state government and private entities. A joint sub-committee comprised of board members from TJPC and TYC approves and monitors implementation of the plan.

This is the fifth biannual Coordinated Strategic Plan produced jointly by TJPC and TYC since 1995. The plan focuses on comprehensive strategies in areas of community protection, rehabilitation and prevention, and evolves from subsequent iterations to address emerging juvenile justice priorities. The 2003 plan identifies strategies related to population management, assessment and decision-making, youth with emotional disturbance, transition, education, and prevention.

Overview of the Juvenile Justice System

Youth served in the juvenile justice system have been adjudicated for an offense(s) committed between their tenth and seventeenth birthday.

The juvenile justice system has several components. Juvenile justice stakeholders at the local level include law enforcement, prosecutors, juvenile courts, juvenile boards, county juvenile probation departments, school districts, governmental or private service providers, victims and families of juvenile offenders and the general public. Local probation services are administered through local juvenile boards, which are funded through county and state dollars.

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission works in partnership with local juvenile boards and juvenile probation departments to support and enhance juvenile probation services throughout the state by providing funding, technical assistance, and training; establishing and enforcing standards; collecting, analyzing and disseminating information; and facilitating communications between state and local entities. TJPC also provides juvenile probation departments with alternatives to TYC commitment through targeted residential placement and special program funding.

The Texas Youth Commission is directly responsible for administering the state's juvenile correctional facilities and correlated community services, including parole services, for youth committed to the custody and care of the state.

The following other state agencies provide services to the delinquent and pre-delinquent youth of the state.

The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) manages delinquency prevention programs that provide services to certain categories of at-risk children, such as children found to have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision and children living in communities with high rates of juvenile crime.

The Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) provides an array of mental health services to at-risk children and juvenile offenders.

The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) provides for community-based chemical dependency treatment and prevention services to juvenile offenders.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) coordinates public education policy and is an educational services resource for school districts with children who are either involved in the juvenile justice system or who are considered at-risk for becoming involved.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is charged with operating a statewide computerized juvenile justice information system and a statewide registry of juvenile sex offenders. DPS also supports a Texas Violent Gang Task Force to proactively track gang activity and the growth and spread of gangs statewide. Representatives from various state agencies, including TJPC and TYC, and local law enforcement make up the task force.

The Attorney General's Juvenile Crime Intervention Section (JCI) is charged with maintaining the Gang Resource System, a secure web site that provides general gang information to criminal and justice agency personnel. JCI also provides training on a wide variety of juvenile issues including: gang awareness and trends; gang recruitment and

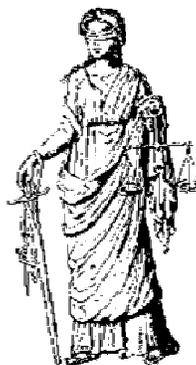
activity on the internet; hate and white supremacy groups; as well as legal programs such as search and seizure, crimes in school and juvenile confessions.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) also plays a role in the juvenile justice system because of the determinate sentenced juveniles transferred to TDCJ's Institutional Division from TYC facilities or placed on adult parole.

Juvenile Justice Legislation, 78th Texas Legislature, Regular Session

2004-2005 Appropriations

House Bill 1 was the appropriations bill of the 78th Legislature. The following is an overview of funding approved, as well as decreases of funding to the system.



Appropriation Impact on the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

TJPC's budget sustained a 3.48 % cut that consisted of the elimination of the Challenge Grants Program and the Non-Residential Program Grants and the restoration of one expenditure item.

In the remaining appropriation strategies, the legislature provided funding for juvenile probation positions and essential services including critical diversionary programs that serve high-risk juvenile offenders. In particular, the legislature gave funding priority to programs such as Level 5 Secure Post-Adjudication Placement Funds and Local Secure Post-Adjudication Funds (formerly known as Construction Bond Facility 25% Operating Costs) that, if eliminated, would

have significantly increased the number of commitments to the Texas Youth Commission. In addition to cuts in general revenue, TJPC and other agencies were directed by state leadership to propose seven percent reductions in the fiscal year 2003 budget. Early on, TJPC sought an exemption request for Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs (JJAEP) funds, Level 5 Secure Placement and the Local Secure Post-Adjudication Funds. After the passage of HB 7, \$3.5 million was restored to current year line items for the Level 5 Secure Placement and Local Secure Post-Adjudication Placement Funds. The JJAEP funds, however, were reduced by \$1.3 million.

Appropriation Impact on the Texas Youth Commission

TYC's appropriation for FY 2004-05 was cut approximately \$33 million dollars from FY 2002-03 levels. This resulted in the closure and transfer of Hamilton State School in Bryan to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Youth at the facility were either transferred to other TYC facilities or, if eligible, to parole.

The 415 staff members at the Hamilton facility transferred to open positions at other TYC facilities, transferred to TDCJ, or accepted other jobs in the Bryan-College Station area. Those who did not find a job will be given preferential consideration for jobs with TYC for 12 months.

TYC was funded to phase in 384 additional beds during the biennium: 320 at McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility and 64 at the Sheffield Boot Camp.

TYC's Prevention Strategy was eliminated. Health Care Services and other Support Services were cut 5% and 6%, respectively. Additionally, 46 positions were eliminated in

administrative and support services. Finally, TYC was not appropriated additional funding for maintenance and repairs of buildings.

Legislation Impacting Juvenile Justice System

House Bill 562, by Representative Brian McCall, requires TYC to obtain a sample or specimen from a juvenile convicted of capital murder for the purpose of creating a DNA record.

House Bill 567, by Representative Leo Berman, authorizes discretionary expulsion of a student that possesses a firearm or a club or commits aggravated robbery if conduct is against another student regardless of where the offense occurs.

House Bill 888 by Representative Harold Dutton, revises the Progressive Sanctions Guidelines. The recommendations to revise the Progressive Sanctions Guidelines as currently written in the Family Code came from a work group of juvenile justice practitioners who reviewed the guidelines during 2002. This group consisted of juvenile court judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, and staff of TYC and TJPC. The group made recommendations about a refocusing of progressive sanctions provisions away from a deviation-reporting emphasis and toward their use as a descriptive model.

The revised Guidelines include the following provisions:

- Substitutes the term "model" for "guidelines" when reference is made to "progressive sanctions" and substitutes the term "departure" for "deviation" when reference is made to assignment of the progressive sanctions levels.

- Reflects the view that the legislature does not expect exact conformity to the provisions of the model.
- Recognizes that departure from the model is not necessarily undesirable and may be highly desirable in some cases.
- Deletes the requirement that departures from the model be reported to the juvenile board.
- Deletes the requirement that the Criminal Justice Policy Council include compliance with progressive sanctions guidelines in its analysis of juvenile justice policies.

House Bill 1314, by Jim Pitts, exempts peace officers, juvenile probation, detention or correctional personnel and certain educational service providers from TEA rules on confinement, restraint and time out. School districts are now required to address self-defense and length of term for the Delinquent Alternative Education Program (DAEP) removal or expulsion in the student code of conduct. The bill clarifies that only the juvenile board has the authority to operate a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP). The bill also requires the JJAEP to serve all mandatory students for which compulsory attendance applies (including 17 year olds).

House Bill 1828, by Dan Ellis, changed the Graffiti Eradication Fund to now be called the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Fund. New uses for the fund include teen recognition and recreational programs, juvenile probation departments and intervention programs.

House Bill 2319, by Representatives Harold Dutton and Toby Goodman, was the omnibus juvenile justice bill of the 78th Legislature.

HB 2319 included a number of substantive and technical amendments to the Family Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and other statutes. HB 2319 changed a wide range of provisions relating to parental rights, enforcement of court orders, sex offender registration and children in justice and municipal courts. The following summary includes some of the bill provisions:

- Allows determinate sentenced youth who are 17 years or older and awaiting a transfer hearing, to be detained in an adult jail facility.
- Gives parents the right to in-person private access to their children while they are in custody anywhere in the juvenile justice system. Restrictions may be imposed for security or administrative reasons.
- Entitles the parents to submit a written or oral statement in court regarding needs of the child at disposition.
- Requires DPS, local law enforcement authorities, and private providers to remove all information from its sex offender registry when the duty to register is expired.
- Provides that when a youth's sex offender registration requirement is deferred by a court pending the youth's completion of a treatment program for the offense, the youth's completion of the program results in an automatic excusal of registration unless, after a hearing on the State's motion, the court orders registration.

The following provisions impacted TYC:

- Students ordered by TYC to participate in GED preparatory classes after release will be eligible to do so in a local school district.
- School districts will be required to grant credit towards high school graduation for courses students successfully completed in TYC's educational programs.
- Capital murder offenders will automatically transfer to TDCJ parole at age 21 to finish their sentence rather than to adult prison, if they have not already been discharged or transferred to prison.
- TYC will have the discretion to release information to a youth and to the youth's family only if it determines that doing so would not be detrimental to treatment or would not have an adverse effect on the willingness of persons to provide information to the agency in the future.
- An adult-age youth in TYC will be required to give consent for his parents to have access to his records.

House Bill 2683, by Representative Mary Denny, exempts the performance of TYC students in the accountability measures for the school district in which the student's facility or residential program is located. The bill includes language to ensure that the performance of TYC youth in a facility or residential program will be assessed and considered separately from the school district in which the facility is located.

House Bill 2895, by Representative Ray Allen, clarifies that all records of youth in TYC are confidential – including any personally identifiable information – and that youth and parent access to information about the youth is

authorized as long as it is not detrimental to treatment or would have an adverse effect on receiving information from similar sources in the future. This bill gives TYC subpoena authority comparable to the adult correctional agencies and gives TYC the option to refer certain youth with mental illness who are unable to progress in treatment to the appropriate mental health authority for outpatient services upon discharge.

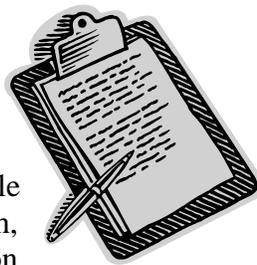
Senate Bill 287, by Senator Rodney Ellis, ensures that state agency boards have an odd number of members. The bill increases the number of TYC board members from six to seven.

Senate Bill 826, by Senator John Whitmire, provides that if a person dies while in custody, the juvenile facility shall investigate the death, and file a written report with the Office of the Attorney General no later than 30 days after the date of death.

Goals and Strategies

Methodology

A series of structured interviews were held with high-level and knowledgeable representatives of six health, human service and education agencies to investigate emerging needs and issues for the juvenile justice system over the next biennium. The questions were scripted and open-ended, and probed resource and service delivery issues related to changes in availability of services for youth in or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system and their families.



The interviews generally revealed that agencies were planning service delivery strategies designed to do “more with less”, but fewer state-paid social services would be available for at-risk youth than is currently the case. Several interviewees highlighted reductions in prevention activities and changes in Medicaid and the Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) behavioral health benefits as areas with implications for the juvenile justice system. Other themes stressed by several respondents included increased reliance on “evidence-based services” (e.g. services that have been scientifically evaluated and proven effective) and the need for partnering among agencies to best employ scarce resources.

The Coordinated Strategic Plan Steering Committee considered the results of these interviews and the priorities developed by TJPC and TYC executive staff when constructing goals and strategies for the current plan.

Goals and Strategies

The FY 2004-2005 Coordinated Strategic Plan promotes goals whereby TJPC and TYC harmonize efforts to protect the public, rehabilitate youth to become productive and responsible citizens, and reduce delinquency. Strategies have been updated to reflect emerging juvenile justice challenges.

The FY 2004-2005 Coordinated Strategic Plan goals and strategies follow.

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and Texas Youth Commission Coordinated Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies Fiscal Years 2004 - 2005

Mission

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and the Texas Youth Commission are committed to achieving a state and local partnership that ensures a comprehensive and coordinated juvenile justice system, which provides public protection, rehabilitation and delinquency prevention.

Goals

- I. Protect the public from the delinquent and criminal acts of juveniles while they are in institutional or community-based correctional programs.
 - II. Rehabilitate youth to become productive and responsible citizens.
 - III. Reduce delinquency through the provision of support, services, training and technical assistance.
-

Goal #1: Protect the public from the delinquent and criminal acts of juveniles while they are in institutional or community-based correctional programs.

Strategies

1. TJPC and TYC will develop a joint commitment projection model.	
Output	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TJPC and TYC will develop and submit a joint commitment projection model to their respective Executive Directors. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	03/01/04
	Staff Assigned
N. Arrigona, TJPC C. Jeffords, TYC	
2. TJPC and TYC will review and make recommendations on information sharing.	
Output	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TJPC and TYC will submit recommendations to their respective Executive Directors. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	10/01/04
	Staff Assigned
N. Arrigona, TJPC C. Jeffords, TYC	
3. TJPC and TYC will share information on demographics related to dispositions with courts, juvenile probation departments, prosecutors and juvenile boards.	
Outputs	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TJPC will create a section in their Annual Statistical Activity Report which breaks disposition data down by ethnicity on a statewide basis. TJPC will make available on their website disposition data by ethnicity on a county by county basis. TYC will develop and distribute a report indicating Sentenced Offender Dispositions by ethnicity. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	11/01/04
	Staff Assigned
N. Arrigona, TJPC C. Jeffords, TYC	

Goal #2: Rehabilitate youth to become productive and responsible citizens.

Strategies

1. TJPC and TYC will identify statewide community partnerships with non-traditional service providers, including faith-based organizations.	
Outputs	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TJPC and TYC will develop a referral resource network for non-traditional services, identified by geographical region. ◆ TYC will incorporate referral resources in appropriate case management standards including parent/youth orientation, case planning, and transition. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	08/31/05
	Staff Assigned
	J. Schwank, TJPC C. Sanders, TYC
2. TYC and TJPC will jointly develop and share best practices for delinquent youth who transition within the public education programs to ensure appropriate delivery of educational services.	
Output	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TJPC and TYC will develop and present a report to TEA on best practices. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	08/31/05
	Staff Assigned
	L. Brooke, TJPC D. Nance, TYC
3. TJPC and TYC will continue to participate with TCOOMMI, TDMHMR, and other agencies in developing a continuum of services for offenders with mental impairments.	
Output	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TJPC and TYC will track the number of youth who receive TCOOMMI-funded services. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	08/31/04
	Staff Assigned
	E. Espinosa, TJPC C. Sanders, TYC

4. TJPC and TYC will study and make recommendations to respective Executive Directors on creating incentives to recruit clinical professionals to under-served areas.	
Output	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TJPC and TYC will make recommendations to respective Executive Directors. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	05/01/04
	Staff Assigned
	V. Tolbert, TJPC C. Sanders, TYC E. Young, TYC

Goal #3: Reduce delinquency through the provision of support, services, training and technical assistance.

Strategies

1. TJPC and TYC will partner to seek alternative funding from private resources to further delinquency prevention efforts.	
Output	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TJPC and TYC will develop at least one joint grant application related to prevention. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	11/01/04
	Staff Assigned
	N. Arrigona, TJPC P. Jereau, TJPC T. Levins, TYC

2. TJPC & TYC will provide education and technical assistance to individuals, agencies and communities related to delinquency prevention.	
Output	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TJPC and TYC will track and report the number of technical assistance requests handled at the end of fiscal years 2004 and 2005. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	0831/04 08/31/05
	Staff Assigned
D. Garza, TJPC T. Levins, TYC	
3. TJPC and TYC will allow and encourage their Central Office employees to become mentors for local at-risk students.	
Outputs	Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TJPC will adopt an agency policy, which allows and encourages staff members to be mentors for at-risk students. ◆ TYC will coordinate the TJPC/TYC mentor activities in partnership with TJPC and local elementary and middle schools. ◆ TYC will track and report the number of TYC and TJPC staff who are mentors. 	TJPC/TYC
	Status
	Planned
	Completion Date
	08/31/04
	Staff Assigned
D. Garza, TJPC T. Levins, TYC	

Additional Information

Intensive Supervision Probation, Aftercare Services and Parole Programs

Intensive supervision probation (ISP) programs provide services as an intermediate sanctions alternative for juveniles who require a higher level of control than youth receiving standard probation services. The programs require strict and frequent reporting to a probation officer who carries a limited caseload and most include additional conditions for rehabilitation or deterrence, such as community service restitution and curfews. Most juveniles placed in ISP programs are at Progressive Sanctions level four. The length of time a juvenile may be placed in an ISP program varies by department and ranges from three months to until the juvenile turns 18 years of age.

TJPC began funding ISP programs in 1988. The average daily cost to provide ISP supervision and services in 2002 was \$14.34 per juvenile. The average daily population for FY 2002 was 2,847 juveniles.

An effective system of aftercare is a shared TJPC and TYC concern. Both TYC youth released on parole and probationers released from placement need supervision. Probation youth need at least 90 days of aftercare supervision. Generally, TYC parole youth need at least nine months of supervision or a period of time based on the most serious classification. TYC is currently developing a fast track incentive program for general offenders to have the opportunity to earn discharge at six months.

In order to more effectively provide parole supervision to all youth, TYC has established contracts with probation departments in rural counties for parole

services. TYC contracts with judicial districts, counties and probation departments in 79 counties. Also, TYC contracts with a private provider for parole services in an additional 147 counties. Contracted parole services have expanded parole supervision in rural areas, and have increased accountability. This has allowed TYC to concentrate resources in the counties that encompass the majority of youth on parole.

TYC's parole program holds youth accountable, protects the public, and helps youth succeed in the community. TYC has expanded surveillance options for high-risk youth. For these youth, a double intensive surveillance level has been added, which requires more frequent contacts with their parole officer during their first 30 days on parole.

Intensive Surveillance and Supervision (ISS) programs are available through a contract provider in the five major metropolitan areas. TYC has developed parole conditions for sex offenders to address specific risk factors and registration requirements.

The parole phase of the Resocialization Program includes 40 hours of constructive activity per week for 90 consecutive days, parole contacts, education/vocational programming, employment, community service, and other required aftercare services. Surveillance levels determine the frequency of a youth's parole contacts and assessments. Progression through the levels of surveillance is based on the youth's completion of minimum time requirements and behavior while in the parole program. Youth who fall under state compulsory attendance law are expected to be enrolled and participate in school. All youth receive parole core services that emphasize the development of individualized community risk management strategies.

TJPC Project Spotlight

Project Spotlight was an intensive community supervision program targeted toward young offenders who possess the highest risk factors and have committed crimes against a person, gun-related offenses, or are failing under supervision. The program, funded through the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office, began September 1, 1999 and operated in the seven largest urban counties in the state. The program operated using teams of probation and law enforcement officers to provide community supervision between the hours of 3 and 11 pm. Participants were required to receive three to five face-to-face contacts a week. In FY 2002, 397 juvenile offenders were served by Project Spotlight.

Outcome data from the first group of Spotlight participants show that 56% of juvenile participants exited the program successfully. A two year recidivism follow-up of juveniles participating in the program showed that 57% of Spotlight offenders were arrested for a new offense compared to 57% of ISP offenders and 45% of juveniles under regular supervision. Nearly 35% of Spotlight offenders were incarcerated in the two-year period compared to 18% of ISP offenders and 10% of juveniles under regular supervision. Because of funding constraints the appropriation for this program was not continued.

Evaluation of Aftercare Services

Outcome evaluation of aftercare may be divided into recidivism and productivity measures.

Recidivism

TYC has four key performance measures related to recidivism. In FY 2003, these rates were:

One-year rearrest rate	52.8%
One-year rearrest rate for violent offenses	8.7%
One-year reincarceration rate	24.7%
Three-year reincarceration rate	52.2%

The aftercare system for local juvenile probation departments differs from the aftercare system of TYC. The vast majority of juvenile probationers never leave their homes and are therefore supervised and treated in the context of their families, schools, and communities. Two-thirds of the juveniles referred in 2000 did not have a re-contact (i.e., a subsequent referral) within one year of their initial referral for the year. The remaining one third did return within the year with a subsequent referral. This subsequent contact occurred an average of 120 days after the first referral in 2000.

Productivity

Aftercare services for many juvenile probation departments include services delivered to juvenile probationers after residential placement and upon their return to their family or legal guardian. Services may be delivered to juvenile probationers after they successfully complete their treatment for issues such as substance abuse, sex offenses, and mental health problems. Local juvenile probation departments may provide other treatment/rehabilitation programs for youth with diagnosed treatment needs (e.g., conduct disorders, mood disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety disorders, etc.).

In calendar year 2002, juvenile probation departments provided inpatient sex offender treatment services to approximately 372 probationers, outpatient sex offender treatment services to 1,393 probationers, substance abuse services to approximately 14,682 probationers, and mental health services to approximately 14,265 probationers.

TYC measures productivity using outcome measures for the constructive activity rate and the diploma/GED rate. Constructive activity is defined as youth either being employed or in school. For youth in aftercare in fiscal year 2003, 30.8% were employed and 36.0 % were in school at the time of their last parole contact; and 58.4 % were in one or the other, with some doing both. Of the youth released to parole or discharged in FY 2003, 47.0% of those at age 16 or above had a high school diploma or GED within 90 days of release. Fifty-one high school diplomas or GEDs were awarded to youth in aftercare in FY 2003, with the rest obtaining their degrees or diplomas prior to release from TYC residential programs

Decision Point Criteria to Guard Against Disparate Treatment of Minority Youth

Minorities have historically been vulnerable to disparate treatment at each stage of the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Data from juvenile probation departments in calendar year 2002 indicate that a higher proportion of Anglo juveniles received supervisory caution and deferred prosecution dispositions than did Hispanic and African American juveniles. A higher proportion of African American juveniles were disposed to probation and to TYC than were Hispanic or Anglo juveniles. Some difference in dispositions among racial groups may be seen in the offense severity

distribution by race categories. A similar proportion of African American and Anglo juveniles were disposed for felony offenses (21.1% compared to 20.7%, respectively). However, African American juveniles were slightly more likely to be disposed for a violation of probation than were Hispanic or Anglo juveniles (15% compared to 12.5% and 11% respectively).

One of the reasons behind the inclusion of Progressive Sanctions Guidelines in the 1996 Juvenile Justice Code was the perceived ethnic and geographic disparity at the court disposition stage of the juvenile justice system. TJPC and TYC will continue to examine the extent to which ethnicity is related to the sanctions.

TYC monitors minority participation in specialized treatment programs through its non-key performance measure “Specialized Correctional Treatment Equity Ratio.” This measure is the ratio of the percentage of ethnic minority youth with a high need for specialized treatment programming, compared to Anglo youth, who successfully complete such a program prior to release to parole or agency discharge.

For 2003, the ratio was 0.77. This means that 30% of minority youth with high mental health needs, compared to 39% of their Anglo counterparts, received and completed specialized treatment for their needs. Ethnic minorities with mental health needs are less likely to be identified by community mental health providers. Consequently they also may not receive a formal psychiatric diagnosis *at intake* into TYC. Later, if a youth manifests emotional disturbance, he or she will be referred for appropriate psychiatric or psychological services at his or her placement. Such services are provided as needed throughout the TYC system.

During the FY 2002-2003 biennium, TYC developed the cultural competency skills of its educators, mental health professionals, and case workers. With this increased sensitivity to the issues and needs of a diverse population, the identification of minority youth for specialized services is expected to improve.

In another initiative to address disparate treatment, both TJPC and TYC are represented on the Governor’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (GJJAB). Working directly with the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division, the GJJAB, and in particular its subcommittee on minorities, has spent considerable time looking at the extent and possible causes of disproportionate numbers of racial and ethnic minorities in the state’s juvenile justice system.

One of the GJJAB’s planned activities for the next two years is to develop a risk assessment instrument that will consider the nature of decision-making at intake and detention in the juvenile justice system. The purpose is to create and field-test an objective, refined instrument for possible use at detention intake by juvenile justice practitioners in determining the level of risk of pre-adjudicated youth. Texas State University and Texas A&M University will be involved in conducting the research to identify decision-making points in the system where disproportion is occurring and to identify both prevention and intervention strategies that may reduce disproportion. Once the instrument is developed, it will be piloted in Denton and Travis counties.

Population Projections and Characteristics

The Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council projected in “Adult and Juvenile Correctional Population Projections: Fiscal Years 2003-2008” (January, 2003) that in the next five years the juvenile justice system will experience the following number of referrals:

Year	Projected Juvenile Population	Projected Total Referrals
2004	2,454,899	120,384
2005	2,483,262	123,384
2006	2,508,791	124,824
2007	2,516,684	125,270
2008	2,516,898	125,282

There were 105,910 referrals to juvenile probation authorities in Texas during calendar year 2002, a decrease of 6.4 % from 2001 – the seventh consecutive decrease in total referrals. Total dispositions for the same period were as follows:

Type of Disposition	Number*	Percent of Total
Supervisory Caution	25,746	25.2%
Deferred Prosecution	22,337	21.9%
Adjudicated Probation	27,456	26.9%
TYC	2,615	2.6%
Certified as Adult	214	0.2%
All Other*	23,802	23.3%

* Table does not include consolidated dispositions. “All Other” includes dispositions of dismissed, withdrawn, no probable cause, refused/non-suited, not guilty, and transferred.

The distribution of intakes to TYC was projected to be as follows:

Fiscal Year	New Commitments		Recommitments & Returns by TYC		Total
	#	%	#	%	
2004	2,704	72%	1,076	28%	3,780
2005	2,766	72%	1,091	28%	3,857
2006	2,801	72%	1,105	28%	3,906
2007	2,812	72%	1,109	28%	3,921
2008	2,813	72%	1,109	28%	3,922

It is projected that TYC’s average daily population and end-of-year population by fiscal year will be as follows:

Year	Average Daily Population	End-of-Year Population
2004	5,150	5,222
2005	5,212	5,228
2006	5,269	5,310
2007	5,353	5,396
2008	5,420	5,444

These projections are likely to change after TJPC and TYC finalize their joint commitment projections model.

Cross-Agency Performance Measures

The following measures and activity directly support the benchmarks for public safety and criminal justice articulated in *Vision Texas, The Statewide Strategic Planning Elements for Texas State Government*:

<i>Vision Texas</i> Measures	Performance
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (DPS, CY 2002)	1.7 per 1,000
Adult violent crime arrest rate (DPS, CY2002)	1.8 per 1,000

To further evaluate the effectiveness of the Texas juvenile justice system, TJPC and TYC have identified the following additional cross-agency outcome measures:

Additional Outcome Measures	Performance
Felony probation revocation rate (TJPC, CY 2002)	30 per 1,000
Juvenile drug-related arrest rate (DPS, CY 2002)	4 per 1,000
Felony offense referral rate per juvenile population (TJPC, CY 2002)	10 per 1,000
Violent felony offense referral rate per juvenile population (TJPC, CY 2002)	3 per 1,000
Average time served by violent juvenile offenders (TYC, FY 2003)	30.8 months
Average rate of juvenile reincarceration within three years of initial release (TYC, FY 2003)	52.2%
One-year rearrest rate (TYC, FY 2003)	52.8%
One-year rearrest rate for violent offenses (TYC, FY 2003)	8.7%
One-year reincarceration rate (TYC, FY 2003)	24.7%

Conclusion: Program, Resources and Capacity Needs

Neither additional programs nor capacity will be required to bring the 2004-2005 Coordinated Strategic Plan into action. Available agency resources will be directed toward the plan goals. However, should additional needs be identified in the course of implementing the strategies contained in this plan, those needs will be included in the agencies' future strategic plans.

The 2004-2005 Coordinated Strategic Plan brings together the resources of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and the Texas Youth Commission to support the success of the juvenile justice system. It also provides the agencies with direction as they develop their respective strategic plans and Legislative Appropriations Requests for the next biennium. TJPC and TYC are committed to continued collaboration and partnership in order to promote the safety of Texas communities and the healthy and productive development of youth involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in the juvenile justice system.

Coordinated Strategic Plan Steering Committee, FY 2004-2005

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