



TEXAS  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT

**Statement from Camille Cain  
On the Complaint Filed with the U.S. Department of Justice**

October 21, 2020

AUSTIN—Camille Cain, Executive Director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, issued this statement regarding the complaint filed today by Disability Rights Texas and Texas Appleseed with the U.S. Department of Justice:

“The Texas Juvenile Justice Department is committed to providing an environment that safely and professionally addresses the needs of the most vulnerable youth in our state by focusing on therapy, rehabilitation, and education. The agency has suffered from long-standing systemic problems, and during my tenure, TJJD has dedicated itself to implementing reforms to address these issues and create positive outcomes.

Reform is not easy, and it does not happen quickly. However, we have already seen improvements that show promise. The [Texas Model Plan for Reform](#) lays out the agency’s needs and the ongoing steps we are taking to be able to address critical areas, including reliable and professional staffing, reduced population size, smaller facilities with specialized treatment programs, improved mental health care, and robust reentry services. The youth in our care have intense levels of need and risk, including extremely high levels of childhood trauma. Our goal is to move toward a system that allows us to work with youth in lower population settings and with sustainable staffing levels with salaries for direct-care staff that match the skills the job requires.

With support, I believe that the Texas Model can create the kind of juvenile justice system that we all want for our youth.”

*For additional information, contact Brian Sweany at [brian.sweany@tjjd.texas.gov](mailto:brian.sweany@tjjd.texas.gov) or 512-490-7028.*