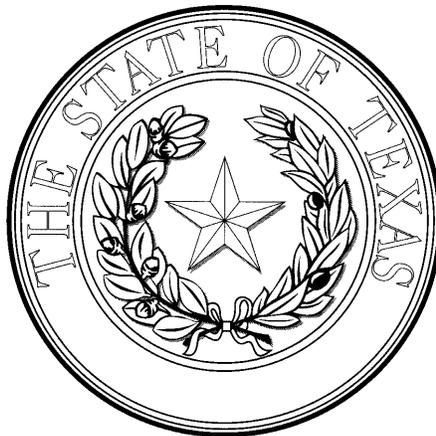


TJPC/TYC Coordinated Strategic Plan 2000-2001



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Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

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Mission Statement

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

Introduction

Coordinated Strategic Plan Background Information

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) and the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) are charged with the responsibility of developing a coordinated strategic plan for juvenile justice in Texas (Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann §61.0911, 141.0471 [Vernon 1990 & Supp. 1999]). The two state-level agencies play a major role in the organization and implementation of juvenile justice services within the state and are an integral part of a large juvenile justice system featuring a partnership of numerous local government, state government and private entities.

TJPC and TYC produced coordinated strategic plans in 1995 and 1997. These plans emphasized strategies to develop a comprehensive approach to juvenile justice in program areas of community protection, accountability and rehabilitation. The TJPC/TYC Joint Board, composed of three TJPC Board members and two TYC Board members, monitor the implementation of the coordinated strategic plan. Staff of the two agencies completed work on all strategies identified under the Comprehensive Approach Sections of the 1995 and 1997 plans. The 1999 plan identifies strategies related to prevention; increasing access to services for female juvenile offenders and juvenile offenders with mental impairments; and maximizing family involvement.

Responsibilities in the Juvenile Justice System

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 provides alternatives to committing delinquents to the custody of the state.

TYC is the other major state-level agency directly responsible for juvenile justice activities. TYC is funded and authorized to administer the state's correctional facilities and correlated community services, including parole services, for youth committed to the custody and care of the state.

Youth who commit offenses cannot enter the juvenile justice system unless they are between ten and seventeen years old at the time of the offense.

Other state-level agencies provide services to the delinquent and pre-delinquent youth of the state. The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) provides services and funding to certain categories of children "at risk," such as children found to have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision and children ages seven to nine involved in delinquent conduct. 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) is involved with accreditation and education policy involving education of delinquent youth as well as those children at risk of becoming juvenile offenders.

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 will also support 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 will make up the task force.

The Attorney General is keenly interested in juvenile justice issues, particularly in the area of school violence prevention. The Criminal Justice Policy Council (CJPC) is responsible for making projections and analyzing and reporting pertinent information related to juvenile justice to the legislature and the governor's office.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) also plays an important role in the juvenile justice system. There are an increasing number of violent juvenile offenders who are certified to stand trial as adults, and the number of determinate sentenced juveniles transferred to TDCJ's Institutional Division from TYC facilities or placed on adult parole is also increasing.

Juvenile Justice System Related Legislation, 76th Legislature, 1999

House Bill 1, the 76th Legislative Session Appropriations bill, contained funding for the construction of an additional 486 TYC beds over the 2000-2001 biennium.

House Bill 1269, by Representative Toby Goodman, is an initiative of the governor requiring the initial detention of children who are referred to juvenile court for an offense involving a firearm. The bill requires such a child to be detained until a judge authorizes the child's release, either before or at a detention hearing, including oral authorization over the telephone.

House Bill 2641, by Representative Patricia Gray, reauthorizes the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) until 2007 under the Sunset review process. The bill dramatically changes the relationship of the HHSC with the agencies under the HHSC umbrella, including TJPC. The bill gives the HHSC expanded authority over management of daily operations of each agency, as well as agency policies. The bill also gives the HHSC commissioners the power to hire and fire the executive directors or commissioners of all the HHS agencies, except for TJPC, with the concurrence of the agency boards. TJPC was exempted from this provision based on the recommendation of the Sunset Commission staff, who cited the unique services the agency provides and its relationship with local autonomous boards.

House Bill 2947, by Representative Toby Goodman, limits the offenses that make a youth eligible for commitment to TYC. It provides that a youth can only be committed for a felony, violation of felony probation, or at least two prior adjudications for felonies or A or B misdemeanors prior to the hearing at which committed.

House Bill 3517, by Representative Toby Goodman, was the omnibus juvenile justice bill of the 76th Legislature.

- a. TYC was impacted by this bill in three major areas;
 - Under previous law, TYC was required to discharge non-sentenced offender youth with mental illness or mental retardation who have met their minimum length of stay and are unable to progress in the treatment program due to their mental impairment. HB 3517 allows the effective date of the discharge to be moved up from 30 days following the filing of an application for follow-up mental health services, to the date the court takes action on the application (or, in the case of mental retardation services, to the date action is taken on the referral). The discharge would be effective immediately if the child is already receiving court-ordered mental health or mental retardation services at the time of eligibility. If these services are being received outside the child's home county, TYC is required to provide the mental health authority of the child's home county notice of the child's discharge 30 days prior to the discharge effective date.

- Allows TYC youth who are at least 17 years of age and who are taken into custody after having escaped from a TYC facility or violated a condition of parole to be detained temporarily in adult jail facilities.
 - Requires TYC professionals to report youth confessions of pre-commitment child abuse, but authorizes the professionals to report the confessions directly to TYC, rather than directly to a law enforcement agency or the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. TYC is required to adopt rules in consultation with DPRS for identifying reports referred for follow-up investigation, based on the severity and immediacy of the alleged harm to the victim.
- b. TJPC was impacted in the following areas:
- Provides an option to the juvenile court to refer proceedings for commitment of a child for mental health or mental retardation services to a court that customarily handles such proceedings.
 - Requires that a child be released from detention if a petition has not been filed in the child's case within 30 working days after the initial detention hearing if the child is alleged to have committed a capital, first degree, or aggravated controlled substance felony, or within 15 working days if the child is alleged to have committed other offenses.
 - Authorizes the juvenile court to release information related to the name, physical description, photograph and alleged offense of a child who is the subject of an arrest warrant or directive to apprehend.
 - Authorizes DPS to release information to the public related to the name, physical description, photograph and committing offense of youth who escape from county detention facilities and other post-adjudication facilities for youth on probation.
 - Gives TJPC the responsibility to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect in all programs operated by a juvenile probation department or under contract with a juvenile board, including a juvenile justice alternative education program, and gives TJPC access to medical and mental health records as necessary for the investigations.
 - Authorizes a court or jury to place a child on probation for a period of time that may continue after the child's 18th birthday, not to exceed 10 years, as an alternative to sentencing the child to commitment in TYC. On motion of the state, the bill requires a juvenile court to hold a hearing to determine whether to transfer a child to an appropriate district court or discharge the child from a probation sentence that will continue after the child's 18th birthday.

Senate Bill 8, by Royce West, and other bills create a statewide gang database system and other measures to combat the activities of criminal gangs. These bills are a result of the Senate Interim Committee on Gangs and Juvenile Justice chaired by Senator West. The database covers both juveniles and adults and will be maintained by the Department of Public Safety. The bill also permits a person to challenge their entry into the database, first through the head of the agency entering the information and then through a district court.

Senate Bill 1234, by Senator Jane Nelson, requires TYC and five other agencies to transfer \$100,000 each for the biennium to fund the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative (TIFI) of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The HHSC will form a consortium of these contributing agencies with the responsibility for developing criteria for a pilot project for the development of mental health care systems for children under age 18 who are either receiving residential mental health services or who are at risk of needing such services. The HHSC, Consortium members and selected communities will share technical assistance and training resources.

Senate Bill 1574, by Senator Royce West, creates a new prevention and early intervention division within the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS). This division will provide services for children in at-risk situations and consolidate prevention and early intervention services within a single agency in order to avoid fragmentation and duplication of services. Oversight of the Buffalo Soldier Heritage program was transferred from TJPC to DPRS effective September 1, 1999.

Senate Bill 1607, by Senator John Whitmire, authorizes TYC, as appropriate, to permit a mother to keep her baby with her for up to 36 months following birth. TYC is responsible for providing usual care for the mother and reasonable accommodations for the mother to care for her baby. The purpose of this initiative is to blend rehabilitation and prevention in a program that will have a synergistic impact on the lives of teenage offenders who are mothers and their babies.

Progressive Sanctions Implementation, Fiscal Years (FY) 1998-1999

A key component of the juvenile justice reforms approved by the Texas Legislature in 1995 was the adoption of guidelines for disposing juveniles referred to juvenile probation departments. Implemented in January 1996, these Progressive Sanctions guidelines provide for seven levels of incrementally more severe sanctions based on the severity of the offense and the prior history of the juvenile. All 254 Texas counties have adopted the Progressive Sanctions guidelines and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission provides probation professionals training in their use. In FY 1998, TJPC conducted 30 regional training sessions which served approximately 1,150 probation professionals. Three training sessions were held in FY 1999 and 17 training sessions are scheduled for FY 2000.

Although the Progressive Sanctions guidelines are voluntary, the legislature requires departments to report to the state dispositions different from the guideline recommendations. The Criminal Justice Policy Council (CJPC) monitors the use of the guidelines and reported its 1997 data on Progressive Sanctions implementation in July 1999.

The significant findings include:

- The majority of juveniles with a guideline recommendation of level 5 (probation placement) or level 6 (Texas Youth Commission) were actually disposed to a less severe sanction.
- Deviations to less severe sanctions also occurred at lower guideline levels but to a lesser extent than at higher levels.
- The guidelines were more closely followed for first-time non-criminal offenders.
- Juveniles with certain characteristics were disposed according to the guideline recommendation more often than others. For example, juveniles disposed for felony property and felony violent offenses received a less severe sanction than recommended more often than those disposed for felony drug offenses or probation violations.¹

The TJPC FY 2000-2001 legislative appropriation provides \$10.2 million each year of the biennium for Progressive Sanctions levels 1,2 and 3 and \$4.4 million each year of the biennium for sanctions levels 5 or higher, which will be disbursed to the counties on a reimbursement basis. Sanction level 4, intensive supervision, was a funding priority in FY 1996-1997 and FY 1998-1999.

Coordinated Strategic Plan Policy Goals and Strategies

Methodology

A focus group of major stakeholders was convened to identify the needs and issues for the juvenile justice system over the next biennium. The focus group consisted of representatives from law enforcement, local juvenile probation departments, families, the DARE program, universities, child protective services, parole, juvenile corrections, TYC rehabilitative services, mental health, education, criminal justice, and the attorney general's office. Appendix A lists invited guests. Prior to the meeting, all participants were requested to complete and return a two-item questionnaire regarding their opinions of the most pressing needs and issues of the juvenile justice system.

¹ Criminal Justice Policy Council. *Monitoring the Use of Progressive Sanction Guidelines*. Austin, Texas. July 1999

Responses were categorized into major issues prior to the meeting. At the focus group meeting, each category of major issues was addressed and new needs or issues were identified. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants prioritized the issues.

The Steering Committee then analyzed the results and developed goals and strategies to address each of three highest priority issues.

Goals and Strategies

Goal I: Advance prevention efforts through the following:

- A. *Build quality mentoring activities within the juvenile justice system.***
- B. *Work towards a coordinated delinquency prevention plan.***
- C. *Educate professionals, public, and families about the continuum of prevention.***

The focus group for the FY 2000-2001 Coordinated Strategic Plan identified prevention as the most important priority for the juvenile justice system over the next two years. Prevention and punishment do not represent opposite ends of a scale measuring “toughness on crime”. Instead, TYC and TJPC argue that these two approaches share a common goal – the goal of helping youth become lawful, literate, productive, and responsible citizens. More and more research indicates that juvenile crime and delinquency prevention programs not only have a positive impact on troubled youth, but also are good and practical investments.

There are real and practical ways in which the two juvenile justice agencies can begin to advance prevention efforts. The first step is to build quality mentoring activities within the juvenile justice system.

A. Build quality mentoring activities in the juvenile justice system.

Recent research conducted on the Big Brother/Big Sister program indicate that students who were mentored were less likely to engage in a variety of high-risk behaviors, including the initiation of drug and alcohol use and physical aggression towards others. Mentored youth demonstrated better school attendance and better grades and have demonstrated improved relationships with their parents and with their peers.²

² Grossman, J.B. and Garry, E. (1997). Mentoring: A proven delinquency prevention strategy. *OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, April, Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention.

In a survey of 500,000 youth, only 27 percent of those surveyed reported that they had an adult role model who was caring, responsible, and positive.³ Across the country, it is estimated that 13.6 million youths have no caring, responsible adult in their lives.⁴

Strategy I.A.1. *Identify the resources required to expand TYC's youth advocate program to locations where youth transition from a TYC halfway house to a TYC parole district office.*

TYC's youth advocate (mentoring) program provides a continuity of care for TYC youth who transition from a halfway house to a less structured parole environment in the community. This program is designed to support TYC youth in independent living or on parole who do not have a strong family support system. Advocates receive minimal compensation and help youth find employment, address issues related to school, complete community service and work on the youth's case plan objectives.

TYC's youth advocate program currently operates well in San Antonio. Possible expansion sites are Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, McAllen and Harlingen.

Output Measure: Report identifying resources required.

Strategy I.A.2. *TJPC will research and develop a mentoring program model and share the results with TYC and the probation field.*

Output: Mentoring program model.

Strategy I.A.3. *TJPC will encourage juvenile probation departments to create and employ mentoring programs based on the model.*

Output: Number of mentoring programs created across juvenile probation departments during the plan period.

Strategy I.A.4. *Increase the number of volunteers who provide high quality mentoring services to TYC students in institutions and halfway houses, and when possible, in the community.*

Mentoring encourages TYC youth to reach their potential through supportive relationships with mature, caring and committed adult role models. TYC mentors commit to a minimum of 6-months of working with selected students during weekly hour-long visits.

Through the efforts of the three most established TYC mentoring programs (Giddings, San Saba, and Brownwood), more than 160 students are receiving individualized mentoring with adult role models. Caseworkers are involved in the referral process and many field staff are providing job-

³ Search Institute (1997). Healthy communities, healthy youth. Minneapolis, MN: Author. Internet: <http://www.search-institute.org>.

⁴ Sigismund, B.J. and Mockett, M. (1999). Who's at risk?. *Kaplan/Newsweek: How to Be a Great Mentor*. 1400 I. Street, NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20005.

specific training, all under the direction of the volunteer coordinators. Other mentoring programs are established at Victory Field, Ayres House, Corsicana and Jefferson County.

To increase the availability of mentoring services for its students, TYC commits to undertake the following:

1. Promote awareness of the need for and value of mentors within the Texas Youth Commission.
2. Continue to build a quality mentoring program to support mentors.
3. Recruit, select, train and assign mentors.
4. Measure the outcomes and continue development.

Outcome Measure: One-year rearrest reduction rate due to youth mentoring.

Output Measure: Number of youth enrolled in TYC mentoring programs.

Strategy I.A.5. Pilot and promote a school-based mentoring program that links central office TYC employees with students in need of mentors.

Mentoring has been demonstrated to be an extremely effective method of delinquency prevention. As juvenile justice agencies, it is incumbent upon us to take a proactive role in the lives of children to prevent delinquency. We propose to promote a mentoring program through the following actions.

- a. *Identify a school, taking into account such factors as preferred age of students (elementary, junior high, etc.), location of the school, and its need for mentors.*
- b. *Appoint staff members to act as liaisons between the agencies and the school to ensure success of the mentoring program. These duties will include (but are not limited to):*
 - *Organizing an initial meeting for staff to obtain information about the mentoring program and to answer initial questions.*
 - *Promoting and encouraging participation among staff members.*
 - *Making sure interested staff complete application forms and that the completed forms are forwarded to the school coordinator.*
 - *Setting up training session(s) for new mentors with the school coordinator.*
 - *Actively participating in the mentoring program.*

Executive agency leadership is required to encourage staff to become mentors so they feel able to participate in the program.

Output measure: Number of students mentored by TYC central office staff.

B. Work toward a coordinated delinquency prevention plan.

Over 1.3 million Texas youth are estimated to be at increased risk of delinquent activities due to the effects of poverty, prenatal substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, or parents ill-equipped for the responsibilities of raising a child. Current delinquency prevention efforts, when they are in place, are often fragmented and narrowly focused on specific risk factors.⁵

Delinquency prevention efforts are currently in place at a number of different youth serving agencies. TJPC and TYC are committed to working together to begin to identify the roles and responsibilities of each of the agencies with regard to prevention strategies and to work with other youth serving agencies to identify areas of overlap. Through these efforts, duplication of efforts will be identified and minimized and a coherent and coordinated framework of delinquency prevention will be developed.

Strategy I. B.1. TJPC and TYC will take the lead in developing a coordinated delinquency prevention plan with other youth-serving agencies.

Output: Coordinated Delinquency Prevention Plan.

C. Educate professionals, public, and families about the continuum of prevention.

Scientific research has contributed much to the existing knowledge base of the field of prevention. Researchers have identified more than a dozen community, school, family, and youth risk factors that contribute to or ameliorate the risk of juvenile delinquency. Educating parents, professionals, and the general public about effective prevention strategies is the first step to building healthy, lawful, literate, responsible, and productive youth.

For FY 1999 and FY 2000, the Governor's Office Criminal Justice Division awarded TJPC grants totaling \$148,583 to provide substance abuse training for juvenile probation, detention, and parole officers. This training is weighted heavily toward prevention, since prevention has proven to be a most powerful and cost-effective tool in combating drug abuse. Training for FY 2000 will provide eight comprehensive 40-hour substance abuse training courses at regional sites. Each course will reach approximately 35 juvenile justice professionals.

Strategy I.C.1. TYC will develop and provide presentations related to prevention topics to conferences and workshops, including conferences and workshops hosted by TJPC.

Output: Attendees at Prevention workshops and presentations.

Strategy I. C.2. TYC will provide useful and quality information to parents,

⁵ Senate Interim Committee on Gangs and Juvenile Justice (1998). Thinking outside the box. Final Report of the Senate Interim Committee on Gangs and Juvenile Justice. Texas Senate: Austin, Texas.

students, and professionals through its Prevention web section (<http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/prevention>).

Output Measure: Annual number of hits on the TYC web section.

Strategy I.C.3 **TJPC will create a link from its program information web section to the TYC's Prevention web section.**

Output: Annual number of hits on TYC Prevention web section originating from the TJPC website.

Strategy I.C.4 **TJPC will increase access to the Compendium of Delinquency Prevention Services in Texas by putting it on the agency's website** (<http://www.tjpc.state.tx.us>).

Output: Annual number of hits on Compendium link.

The TJPC publishes a *Compendium of Delinquency Prevention Services in Texas*, currently in its second edition, which is a resource guide for both professionals and the public. This guide provides information on a range of programs, including early intervention, life skills, outdoor adventure, gang prevention, sex offender, and runaway. Included with each program description are the name, address, and telephone number of contact persons.

Strategy 1.C.5 **TYC and TJPC will partner to seek funding from alternate sources which will be used to provide training on validated programs which help juveniles successfully reintegrate into their communities.**

Output: Grant application(s) to potential funders will be generated.

In order to make an impact on the rate of delinquency in Texas, we need to focus our efforts on what works. As stewards of the public dollar, it is imperative that we have confidence in the programs which receive state funding. To attain a level of confidence, delinquency prevention programs which receive state funding should be targeted to those youths who are at increased risk and should be based on elements which are empirically determined to be successful at reducing delinquency and/or gang involvement. By building upon research-based programming elements, we can predict a level of success, and ultimately a level of cost savings.

Goal II: Increase access to an array of specialized services for juvenile offenders who have special needs.

- A. **On behalf of the female youth in the Texas juvenile justice system, TYC and TJPC will coordinate efforts to ensure the provision of a full continuum of services.**
- B. **TYC and TJPC will increase the availability of parenting training programs for teen parents.**
- C. **TJPC and TYC will develop and increase access to services for juvenile offenders with mental impairments.**

It is crucial that we deal not only with the specific law-breaking behaviors that bring youth to the attention of the authorities, but also with any special needs which would affect the outcomes expected and the type of rehabilitative programming provided. An effective juvenile justice system must be responsive to the special needs of the population, including the need for specialized programming for female offenders and for offenders with mental impairments.

- A. **On behalf of the female youth in the Texas juvenile justice system, TYC and TJPC will coordinate efforts to ensure the provision of a full continuum of services.**

The typical female juvenile offender is 15 to 16 years old and is from a poor, inner city neighborhood. She has dropped out of school and has been a victim of physical and/or sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation. She comes from a single parent family with few resources, and has experienced foster home placement. She lacks adequate work and social skills and she abuses a variety of illegal substances (Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, 1996). She came to the attention of the authorities because she was a runaway, truant, and was involved in prostitution and substance abuse.

Texas has seen a slight but steady increase in the overall rate of female juveniles as a proportion of all referrals and commitments over the past several years. As a result, we need to focus additional attention on the specialized needs of females in the juvenile justice system.

Strategy II.A.1. TYC and TJPC will coordinate a joint survey of all agency programs that serve females in the juvenile justice system.

Output: Report detailing program needs and enhancements.

Strategy II.A.2. TYC and TJPC will coordinate a questionnaire to be sent to females who complete their assigned work with the juvenile justice system to discover what aspects of their program helped them achieve success or hindered their progress.

Output: Report that details the programmatic aspects that supported youth success and the barriers encountered.

Strategy II.A.3 ***TYC and TJPC will utilize the information gathered in the survey and the questionnaire to develop a plan for a comprehensive continuum of services for the female in the juvenile justice system, including resources and support needed to assist females with successful community treatment and reintegration.***

Output: *A plan for a comprehensive continuum of services is developed.*

Strategy II.A.4 ***TYC and TJPC will develop a mechanism through which the training needs of staff working with females in the juvenile justice system are identified.***

Output: *Training needs report.*

B. TYC and TJPC will increase the availability of parenting training programs for teen parents.

A substantial number of youth committed to the Texas Youth Commission have children of their own. In FY 1997, thirteen young women had their babies while incarcerated in TYC facilities. These babies were then removed from their mothers and were placed in the care of a guardian or relative to await their mother's release.

Parental separation is difficult for children under any circumstances. The children of incarcerated teen parents are at an increased risk for a host of adverse experiences in life, including aggression, poor school performance, abuse and neglect, truancy, teen pregnancy, mental illness, and criminal activity. One study estimated that children with an incarcerated parent may be almost six times more likely than their counterparts to be incarcerated.

Although not specific to parenting programs in correctional facilities, much of the parenting research shows that high quality parenting and early childhood development programs pay big returns. Children who participate in early childhood programs are 40 percent less likely to be jailed, 50 percent less likely to live on welfare and 50 percent less likely to become a teen parent.

Strategy II.B.1. ***Responding to SB 1607, TYC will establish programs that prepare child-mothers not only to be successfully reestablished in the community as law-abiding citizens, but to be good parents as well.***

Output: *Number of youth served through TYC Infant Care and Parenting Program.*

Strategy II.B.2. ***TJPC will provide technical assistance to juvenile probation departments to expand provision of parenting skills training to juvenile offenders and their parents.***

Output: Number of technical assistance contacts relating to parenting skills programs.

Strategy II.B.3. ***TYC will educate young men regarding the rights, roles and responsibilities of fatherhood.***

Output: Number of young men receiving fatherhood training.

C. TJPC and TYC will develop and increase access to services for juvenile offenders with mental impairments.

Many youth who come to the attention of juvenile authorities or who are committed to juvenile corrections have psychiatric needs, which if addressed earlier, could have potentially eliminated or reduced the frequency or intensity of their delinquent behaviors.

We need to ensure that children receive a comprehensive, culturally competent mental health assessment at the earliest indication of ongoing involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Strategy II.C.1. ***Identify the resources required to ensure that youths who are being considered by juvenile probation departments for out-of-home placement receive a comprehensive, culturally competent mental health assessment prior to disposition.***

Output: Report, including fiscal note, identifying resources required to increase access to mental health services.

Strategy II.C.2. ***Increase the availability of intensive home-based services for the effective treatment of juvenile offenders who have severe emotional disturbances.***

a.) With available funds, TJPC and TYC will increase participation in intensive home-based services over the FY 2000-2001 biennium.

b.) If TYC and TJPC determine that these programs are useful, additional funding will be requested during the 2001 legislative session.

Output: The number of families of juvenile probationers and TYC parolees receiving intensive home-based services.

Outcome: One-year rearrest reduction rate due to intensive home-based services provided to TYC youth.

No child adjudicated delinquent should ever walk away from a juvenile court without experiencing consequences for his or her behaviors. Juveniles must receive swift, certain, appropriate, and consistent sanctions every time they are adjudicated. The presence of a mental impairment does not excuse a youth from responsibility or from the consequences of delinquent or illegal behavior,

however it should affect the type of rehabilitative services provided to the youth, whether those services are provided in an institution or in the community.

Applying accepted prevalence rates (30 percent-50 percent) of juvenile offenders with mental health needs to the 125,608 youth who were referred to juvenile probation departments in 1998 yields an estimated 37,682 to 62,804 offenders who may need mental health services.^{6,7}

TYC statistics indicate that 37 percent of youth in institutions on parole have an emotional disturbance and may need mental health services.

Intensive Home-Based Services: Family Preservation and Multisystemic Therapy

Currently, the TJPC provides partial funding for family preservation programs in the following six counties: Bexar, Denton, El Paso, Harris, Kaufman, and Travis. Each of these programs is based on the Multisystemic Therapy (MST) treatment model developed by Multisystemic Treatment Services.

MST is an intensive family- and community-based treatment that addresses the multiple determinants of serious antisocial behavior in juvenile offenders. The multisystemic approach views individuals as being nested within a complex network of interconnected systems that encompass individual, family, and extra-familial (peer, school, neighborhood) factors. Intervention may be necessary in any one or a combination of these systems.

MST programs, including those currently funded by TJPC, target adjudicated juveniles at risk of placement outside of the home and address the multiple factors known to be related to delinquency across the key settings, or systems, within which youth are embedded. MST strives to promote behavior change in the youth's natural environment, using the strengths of each system (e.g., family, peers, school, neighborhood, and indigenous support network) to facilitate change.

MST is provided using a home-based model of service delivery. This model helps to overcome barriers to service access, increases family retention in treatment, allows for the provision of intensive services (i.e., therapists have low caseloads), and enhances the maintenance of treatment gains. The usual duration of MST treatment is approximately 4 months.

Evaluations of MST have demonstrated:

- reduced long-term rates of criminal offending in serious juvenile offenders,
- reduced rates of out-of-home placements for serious juvenile offenders,
- extensive improvements in family functioning,

⁶ Rottenberg, S. (1977). Responding to the mental health needs of youth in the juvenile justice system. *Focal Point: A National Bulletin on Family Support and Children's Mental Health, Spring*, pp. 1, 3-5.

⁷ Edens, J.F. & Otto, R.K. (1997). Prevalence of mental disorders among youth in the juvenile justice system. *Focal Point: A National Bulletin on Family Support and Children's Mental Health, Spring*, pp. 1, 6-7.

- decreased mental health problems for serious juvenile offenders,
- favorable outcomes at cost savings in comparison with usual mental health and juvenile justice services

Strategy II.C.3: *Juvenile probation departments and TYC will screen juvenile offenders for health insurance and assist juveniles eligible for coverage under Medicaid, CHIP, and Texas Healthy Kids in the application process.*

Historically, some juveniles and their families have been hesitant to access health and mental health services because of income level restrictions for Medicaid and the high cost of health insurance. With the advent of the Texas Healthy Kids Corporation, the Child Health Insurance Program, and the resulting changes to Medicaid, many more youth than ever before will be eligible for coverage and better able to access health services, including mental health services and chemical dependency treatment.

Texas Healthy Kids Corporation

The Texas Healthy Kids Corporation is a non-profit corporation created by the Texas legislature in 1997 to make affordable health insurance available to 1.3 million uninsured Texas children between the ages of two and 18. Voluntary contributions (from communities, businesses, and non-profit groups) may also be used to help families purchase health insurance for uninsured children. THKC benefits are available statewide to uninsured children at all income levels. Families interested in the THKC program can receive application information and an enrollment form by calling 1-877-WELL-KID, or by visiting the THKC Website at www.txhealthykids.com. Premiums currently range from the lower \$40 and \$80, depending upon the county in which benefits are drawn. Insurance is provided by participating HMOs and PPOs.

Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

CHIP makes a substantial amount of federal funding available to states for children’s health insurance subsidies. In order to access this funding, each state must provide matching funds and submit a proposal that meets the guidelines set forth in CHIP (Title XXI of the Social Security Act). The CHIP program is still evolving in Texas and involves a two-phase approach. Phase I extends Medicaid coverage to all children who live at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level and who are 18 years of age or less. The 76th Texas Legislature passed a bill setting up the framework for CHIP Phase II and also budgeted the state funding necessary to allow Texas to receive the federal funds. Phase II will expand coverage to children at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and will be administered by private providers. CHIP Phase I uses the existing Medicaid eligibility and referral structure, augmented with additional Texas Department of Human Services staff. Eligibility is determined at regional offices throughout the state.

The TJPC is presently rewriting its data collection program and has a scheduled completion date of FY 2001, at which time the agency will be able to capture data relating to the screening and assisting of Medicaid-eligible juveniles. In addition, Phase II of the CHIP program will begin in May 2000 and will provide expanded coverage to juveniles. The agencies will be equipped to measure screening and assistance activities for both phases during the next version of the Coordinated Strategic Plan.

Texas Integrated Funding Initiative

SB 1234 by Nelson, expanded the pilot of the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative. The Texas Integrated Funding Initiative represents a unique approach to dealing with youth with multi-agency needs, including chronic and violent offenders with mental impairments. It is an effort to develop local organized family-based service delivery systems for children with multiple needs and to ensure that these systems are accountable for outcomes and that all funding sources, including state, local, and federal dollars, are maximized.

In Travis County, Brown County, and the Wharton-Rosenberg area near Houston, communities have come together to create or designate an entity to serve as an administrative service organization to receive and manage state and local pooled funds. A Community Board designates funds to the fund pool, determines the rates, develops the structure for purchasing and/or arranging services, establishes shared outcomes, and designates the target population. Each of the communities has evolved to meet the needs and demands of a changing and diverse human service environment.

The Integrated Funding Initiative is a means to reverse the trend of increasing reliance on residential care, and an opportunity to create community responsibility for children and families whose needs cross agency and service boundaries by ensuring the provision of intensive community-based services at a cost less than that of residential treatment or incarceration for a year. When services are provided in the community, family members (including other siblings in the home) receive the direct benefit of services, thus increasing the likelihood of treatment effectiveness.

Chapter 531, Section 531.251 of the Government Code calls for the creation of a consortium, consisting of representatives from Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Texas Youth Commission, Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and family members. The consortium will develop criteria for and implement the expansion of the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative pilot project. This consortium will also play an important role in the development of local mental health care systems in communities for minors who are receiving residential mental health services or who are at risk of residential placement, including detention or incarceration.

Strategy II.C.4. *TYC and TJPC will participate as active members of the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative consortium, advocating for youth at*

increased risk of incarceration or reincarceration who are in need of intensive mental health services.

Output: Participate in consortium.

GOAL III: In consultation with family members of youth involved in the juvenile justice system, TYC and TJPC will develop a plan for maximizing family involvement, including the children of TYC youth, in the rehabilitation of the youth.

- A. TYC, TJPC and family members of youth involved in the juvenile justice system will ensure that policies maximize the active involvement of family members in the rehabilitation of the youth.**
- B. TYC will collaborate with family members to develop a plan for providing training to agency board members, staff, family members and other stakeholders related to the importance of family involvement, relevant policies and procedures, and best practices, including techniques to enhance the youths' connection and involvement with their children.**

Families of delinquent or incarcerated youth sometimes face tough challenges -- guilt of turning their son or daughter in to the juvenile authorities, shame, poverty, their own psychiatric or substance abuse problems or history of criminal activity. However, if given access to information, training, and support, families can be very positive forces in the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Encouraging families to be actively involved with their son's or daughter's rehabilitation and increasing the means with which they can do so has the strong potential of reducing recidivism while increasing the resiliency of the youth and family.

Families who try to be involved in their child's rehabilitation may face a variety of obstacles, including lack of ongoing communication regarding child's status, lack of transportation or long and costly drives to rural areas, non-standard visitation policies, and long waits to visit with the youth in rooms that may be small, noisy, and stuffy. Policies, procedures, and lack of information can act as challenging barriers to family involvement.

In 1998, TJPC developed and adopted by rule case management standards which require, among other things, that a written case plan be developed and implemented for all juveniles assigned to court-ordered Progressive Sanctions levels two through five. Case planning involves the process of determining the post-adjudication needs of a juvenile. This includes all appropriate and available assessment and intake information, preliminary investigation information, family dynamics, school history, and victim impact statements. A written case plan outlines services to be provided during the juvenile's term of court ordered probation and also includes the reassessment, reevaluation, and review of the juvenile's risks, needs and initial case plan, in order to make any subsequent changes necessary to best meet the juvenile's status and circumstances over time.

These standards were written in part to ensure that families are involved in the initial case planning process and that they stay involved through periodic case plan reviews.

Strategy III.A. ***TYC, TJPC and family members of youth involved in the juvenile justice system will ensure that policies maximize the active involvement of family members in the rehabilitation of the youth.***

Output: *Changed policies, if necessary.*

Strategy III.B. ***TYC will collaborate with family members to develop a plan for providing training to agency board members, staff, family members and other stakeholders related to the importance of family involvement, relevant policies and procedures, and best practices, including techniques to enhance the youths' connection and involvement with their children.***

Output: *Training plan.*

Additional Information

Intensive Supervision Probation and Aftercare and Parole Programs

The objective of intensive supervision programs (ISPs) is to 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, and most would be placed out of the home in a residential placement facility or be committed to the Texas Youth Commission if the program were not available. The length of time juveniles may be placed in ISP programs varies from department to department and ranges from three months to three-and-a-half years.

In FY 1988, TJPC funded twelve ISP pilot projects to expand local disposition and supervision options in juvenile probation departments across the state. As of the end of FY 1999, more than 79 percent of all juvenile probation departments operated ISP programs, most of which were added between FY 1996 and FY 1999. ISP costs in 1988 were \$7 per day, and increased to \$21.94 by fiscal year 1999, according to a recent survey completed by Texas juvenile probation departments operating an ISP program. The average daily population for FY 1998 was 3,040 juveniles, with a success rate of 76 percent for the same period.

An effective system of aftercare was a joint concern for TJPC and TYC and a committee was assigned to work on this issue. Not only do TYC youth released on parole need aftercare supervision, but also probationers released from placement. The group concluded that all youth need at least 90 days of aftercare supervision and that TYC should seek to contract with probation departments in rural counties with fewer than 12 youth on parole. TYC now currently contracts with probation departments to provide parole services in 94 counties and with private vendors in 132 additional counties.

Intensive Supervision Probation and TYC parole presently operate under enhanced systems that focus on 1) holding youth more accountable, 2) protecting the public, and 3) supporting youth to be successful in the community. Progression through the levels of parole surveillance is based on a time requirement and performance criteria at each level. To support and strengthen the leverage of parole officers, TYC broadened the conditions under which paroled youth can be returned to a more restrictive setting through the conducting of Level III due process hearings for violations of the conditions of parole and/or failure to progress in the Parole Program. Sanctions are progressive and start at the community level. TYC also increased the minimum length of stay for youth on parole status in the home or a home substitute.

Effective May 1997, TYC began a revised parole program with full implementation occurring in July 1998. A paroled youth completes TYC's resocialization program through specified core services in education, community service, treatment and employment. The revised program enhances the role and accountability of the parole officer by providing additional services, goal oriented parole contacts with youth, a separate surveillance process and a structured progressive sanctions model. A youth's progression through the levels of surveillance is based solely on performance outlined in the youth's individual case plan and requirements of the core services.

Evaluation of Aftercare

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

1. **Recidivism.** The aftercare system for local juvenile probation departments differs from the aftercare system of the TYC system in that 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. 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 such problems as substance abuse, sex offenses, mental health problems, and other treatment/rehabilitation programs which local juvenile probation departments provide for youth with diagnosed treatment needs (i.e. conduct disorders, mood disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety disorders, etc.). In calendar year 1998, juvenile probation departments provided sex offender treatment services to 915 probationers. For the same time period, 14,995 probationers received substance abuse services.

In terms of recidivism, the one-year rearrest rate of TYC youth paroled to aftercare in Texas was 62.9 percent for youth tracked into fiscal year 1999.⁸ For the same period, the one-year reincarceration rate of TYC youth paroled to aftercare was 24.9 percent. There is a difference in recidivism, however, between TYC youth placed in aftercare in independent living programs versus those placed at home. For fiscal year 1999, 56.7 percent of the youth released into independent living programs were rearrested within one year, compared to 63.1 percent of the youth released to home on parole. Only 11.7 percent of the TYC youth released into independent living programs were reincarcerated within one year, compared to 25.3 percent of the TYC youth released to home on parole.

⁸ Excluding youth paroled out-of-state through interstate compact.

2. Productivity. The TYC productivity outcome measures are the constructive activity rate and the diploma/GED rate.

For youth on aftercare in fiscal year 1999, 38.2 percent were employed and 23.2 percent were in school; 53.2 percent were in one or the other. Of the youth paroled in FY 1999, 37.2 percent had a high school diploma or GED within 90 days of placement onto parole. However, there were only 75 high school diplomas or GEDs awarded in aftercare in fiscal year 1999, with the rest obtaining their degrees or diplomas while in TYC primary care programs.

Decision Point Criteria to Guard Against Disparate Treatment of Minority Youth

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

One of the driving forces 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 race is a factor in the sanctions.

TYC also monitors minority participation in specialized treatment programs through its non-key performance measure "Specialized Treatment Equity Ratio." This measure is the ratio of the percentage of ethnic minorities with a high need for specialized treatment to successfully complete the corresponding specialized treatment, in comparison to the similar percentage for non-minorities.

Population Projections and Characteristics

The Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council projected in September 1998 (based on 1997 referral and population data) that in the next five years the juvenile justice system will experience the following number of referrals:

Year	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Felony Referrals	Delinquent Referrals
2000	2,130,037	124,184	27,131	90,679
2001	2,144,531	126,807	27,704	92,595
2002	2,156,549	128,982	28,180	94,183
2003	2,186,990	134,492	29,384	98,207
2004	2,204,611	137,682	30,080	100,536

There were 125,608 referrals to juvenile probation authorities in Texas during calendar year 1998, a decrease of 0.4 percent from 1997, and the third decrease in total referrals since 1988. Total dispositions for the same period were (approximately) as follows:

Progressive Sanctions Level 1 – Supervisory Caution	36,617
Progressive Sanctions Level 2 – Deferred Prosecution	25,583
Progressive Sanctions Level 3 – Adjudicated Probation	16,787
Progressive Sanctions Level 4 – Adjudicated Probation w/ ISP	5,699
Progressive Sanctions Level 5 – Adjudicated Probation w/ Secure Correctional Placement	2,856
Progressive Sanctions Level 6 – Indeterminate Commitment to TYC	3,142
Progressive Sanctions Level 7 – Determinate Commitment to TYC or Transfer to Criminal Court	707

It is projected by the Criminal Justice Policy Council that the distribution of intakes to TYC will be as follows:

Fiscal Year	New Commitments		Parole Revocations and Court Recommitments		Other Returns by TYC		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
	2000	3,219	68%	703	15%	843	
2001	3,237	66%	752	15%	901	19%	4,890
2002	3,290	66%	775	16%	928	19%	4,993
2003	3,346	66%	793	16%	950	19%	5,089
2004	3,436	66%	809	16%	969	19%	5,214

TYC projects that its average daily population and end-of-year population needs by fiscal year will be as follows:

Year	Average Daily Population	End-of-Year Population
2000	5,802	5,916
2001	5,977	6,037
2002	6,092	6,146
2003	6,200	6,254
2004	6,322	6,390

Cross-Agency 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*:

Measure	Calendar Year 1998
From Vision Texas...	
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (DPS)	3½ per 1,000
Juvenile drug-related arrest rate (DPS)	7½ per 1,000
Number of referrals to the juvenile justice system (TJPC)	125,608
Percent of juveniles referred who provide community restitution (TJPC)	30%
Average rate of juvenile reincarceration within three years of initial release (TYC FY 1998)	49%
Average time served by violent juvenile offenders (in months) (TYC FY 1998)	24.5 months

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...	
Felony offense referral rate per juvenile population (TJPC)	12 per 1,000
Violent felony offense referral rate per juvenile population (TJPC)	3 per 1,000
One-year rearrest rate (TYC FY 1998)	47%
One-year rearrest rate for violent offenses	11%
One-year incarceration rate (TYC FY 1998)	28%

Conclusion: Program, Resource and Capacity Needs

No additional program, resource, or capacity needs are required to initially operationalize the 2000-2001 Coordinated Strategic Plan. Additional program, resource, and capacity needs may be identified for consideration by the two juvenile justice agencies and the legislature as we move to implement the strategies contained in this plan.

The 2000-2001 Coordinated Strategic Plan not only brings together the resources of the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission to enhance the collective capacity of the juvenile justice system, but it also provides the agencies with direction as they develop individual agency strategic plans and formulate Legislative Appropriations Requests for the next biennium. Both agencies are committed to continued collaboration and partnership while moving juvenile justice into the 21st century.

Appendix A

Focus Group Participants

Charles Bailey	Prairie View A&M University
Debbie Berndt	Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
Charlotte Brooks	Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Debra Byler	Fayette County Juvenile Probation Department
Thomas Chapmond	Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
Michael Courville	Texas Police Chiefs' Association
Sherma Cragg	Texas Youth Commission
Linda Crawford	Texas Education Association
Patti Derr	Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
Nancy Emmert	Texas Youth Commission
Tony Fabelo	Criminal Justice Policy Council
Megan Ferland	Office of the Attorney General
Karen Friedman	Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
June Groom	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Silvester Guzman	State Community Resource Coordination Group Office
Sherrri Hammack	State Community Resource Coordination Group Office
Patricia Hayes	Texas Youth Commission
Regenia Hicks	Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
Chuck Jeffords	Texas Youth Commission
William Kelly	The University of Texas at Austin
Marilyn Kennerson	Texas Youth Commission
Elizabeth Lee	Texas Youth Commission
Tracy Levins	Texas Youth Commission
Belinda Lopez	Parent with son in Texas Youth Commission
Christi Mallette	Texas Youth Commission
James Martin	Jefferson County Juvenile Probation Department
Sherrri Moore	Harrison County Juvenile Services
Glenn Neal	Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
Wanda Redding	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Tim Rogers	Foster Families
Margy Thompson-Bradberry	118 th Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department
Dave Williams	Southwest Texas State University

Appendix B

TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION AND TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION COORDINATED STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND STRATEGIES FY 2000-2001

Mission: The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and the Texas Youth Commission together are committed to providing a state and local partnership that ensures a comprehensive juvenile justice system which achieves public protection, accountability, rehabilitation and delinquency prevention.

- Goals:**
- I. Advance prevention efforts through building mentoring services, working towards a coordinated delinquency prevention plan, and educating professionals, public, and families about the continuum of prevention.
 - II. Increase access to an array of specialized services for juvenile offenders who have special needs.
 - III. Develop and implement a plan for maximizing family involvement in the rehabilitation of youth.

What strategies will we use to meet our goals?	Who is responsible?	Outputs and Outcomes
I. Advance prevention efforts through the following:		
A. Build quality mentoring activities within the juvenile justice system.		
1. Identify the resources required to expand TYC's youth advocate program to locations where youth transition from a TYC halfway house to a TYC parole district office.	TYC	Output: Resource report.
2. TJPC will research and develop a mentoring program model and share the results with TYC and the probation field.	TJPC	Output: Mentoring program model.
3. TJPC will encourage juvenile probation departments to create and employ mentoring programs based on the model.	TJPC	Output: Number of mentoring programs created across juvenile probation departments during the plan period.
4. Increase the number of volunteers who provide high quality mentoring services to TYC students in institutions and halfway houses, and when possible, in the community.	TYC	Output: Number of youth enrolled in TYC mentoring programs. Outcome: One-year rearrest reduction rate due to youth mentoring.
5. Pilot and promote a school-based mentoring program that links central office juvenile justice system employees with students in need of mentors.	TYC	Output: Number of students mentored by TYC central office staff.

What strategies will we use to meet our goals?	Who is responsible?	Outputs and Outcomes
B. Work towards a coordinated delinquency prevention plan.		
1. TJPC and TYC will take the lead in developing a coordinated delinquency prevention plan with other youth-serving agencies.	TYC and TJPC	Output: Coordinated Delinquency Prevention Plan.
C. Educate professionals, public, and families about the continuum of prevention.		
1. TYC will develop and provide presentations related to prevention topics to conferences and workshops, including conferences and workshops hosted by TJPC.	TYC	Output: Attendees at Prevention workshops and presentations.
2. TYC will provide useful and quality information to parents, students, and professionals through its Prevention web section.	TYC	Output: Annual number of hits on the TYC web section.
3. TJPC will create a link from its program information web section to the TYC Prevention web section.	TJPC	Output: Annual number of hits on the TYC Prevention web section originating from the TJPC website.
4. TJPC will increase access to the <i>Compendium of Delinquency Prevention Services in Texas</i> by putting it on the agency's website.	TJPC	Output: Annual number of hits on the <i>Compendium</i> link.
4. TYC and TJPC will partner to seek funding from alternate sources which will be used to provide training on validated programs which help juveniles successfully reintegrate into their communities.	TYC & TJPC	Output: Grant application(s) to potential funders will be generated.
II. Increase access to an array of specialized services for juvenile offenders who have special needs.		
A. On behalf of the female youth in the Texas juvenile justice system, TYC and TJPC will coordinate efforts to ensure the provision of a full continuum of services.		
1. TYC and TJPC will coordinate a joint survey of all agency programs that serve females in the juvenile justice system.	TJPC and TYC	Output: Report detailing program needs and enhancements.
2. TYC and TJPC will coordinate a questionnaire to be sent to females who complete their assigned work with the juvenile justice system to discover what aspects of their program helped them achieve success or hindered their progress.	TJPC and TYC	Output: Report that details the programmatic aspects that supported youth success and barriers encountered.

What strategies will we use to meet our goals?	Who is responsible?	Outputs and Outcomes
3. TYC and TJPC will utilize the information gathered in the survey and the questionnaire to develop a plan for a comprehensive continuum of services for the female in the juvenile justice system, including the resources and support needed to assist females with successful community treatment and reintegration.	TJPC and TYC	Output: A plan for a comprehensive continuum of services is developed.
4. TYC and TJPC will develop a mechanism through which the training needs of staff working with females in the juvenile justice system are identified.	TJPC and TYC	Output: Training needs report.
B. TYC and TJPC will increase the availability of parenting training programs for teen parents.		
1. Responding to SB 1607, TYC will establish programs that prepare child-mothers not only to be successfully reestablished in the community as law-abiding citizens, but to be good parents as well.	TYC	Output: Number of youth served through the TYC Infant Care and Parenting program.
2. TJPC will provide technical assistance to juvenile probation departments to expand provision of parenting skills training to juvenile offenders and their parents.	TJPC	Output: Number of technical assistance contacts relating to parenting skills programs.
3. TYC will educate young men regarding the rights, roles and responsibilities of fatherhood.	TYC	Output: Number of young men receiving fatherhood training.
C. TJPC and TYC will develop and increase access to services for juvenile offenders with mental impairments.		
1. Identify the resources required to ensure that youths who are being considered by juvenile probation departments for out-of-home placement receive a comprehensive, culturally competent mental health assessment prior to disposition.	TJPC	Output: Report, including fiscal note, identifying resources required to increase access to mental health services.
2. Increase the availability of intensive home-based services for the effective treatment of juvenile offenders who have severe emotional disturbances and the preservation of their families. a) With available funds, TJPC and TYC will increase participation in intensive home-based services over the FY 2000-2001 biennium. b) If TYC and TJPC determine that these programs are useful, additional funding will be requested during the 2001 legislative session.	TYC and TJPC	Output: The number of families of juvenile probationers and TYC parolees receiving intensive home-based services. Outcome: One-year rearrest reduction rate due to intensive home-based services provided to TYC youth.

What strategies will we use to meet our goals?	Who is responsible?	Outputs and Outcomes
3. Juvenile probation departments and TYC will screen juvenile offenders for health insurance and assist juveniles eligible for coverage under Medicaid, CHIP, and Texas Healthy Kids in the application process.	TJPC and TYC	
4. TYC and TJPC will participate as active members of the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative consortium, advocating for youth at increased risk of incarceration or reincarceration who are in need of intensive mental health services.	TJPC and TYC	Output: Participate in consortium.
III. In consultation with family members of youth involved in the juvenile justice system, TYC and TJPC will develop a plan for maximizing family involvement, including the children of TYC youth, in the rehabilitation of the youth.		
1. TYC, TJPC and family members of youth involved in the juvenile justice system will ensure that policies maximize the active involvement of family members in the rehabilitation of the youth.	TJPC and TYC	Output: Changed policies, if necessary.
2. TYC will collaborate with family members to develop a plan for providing training to agency board members, staff, family members and other stakeholders related to the importance of family involvement, relevant policies and procedures, and best practices, including techniques to enhance the youths' connection and involvement with their children.	TYC	Output: Training plan.