

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE TODAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE
TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT



A Message From the Director



David Reilly

January has been busy at TJJJ as we continue to move rapidly on a number of initiatives. On January 13, we again met with the Regionalization Task Force as we move toward implementation this summer. At this meeting, we finalized a funding application for the regional diversion of individual youth. We also discussed the work being done within each region to identify regionalization opportunities. A number of private providers shared details of how their services could be incorporated into the regionalization efforts. It was a productive meeting. I am particularly grateful to Travis County for hosting. Our county partners are doing a great job of working within their regions to ensure services are available when we begin our diversion efforts in June.

We are continuing to look for avenues to expand our canine program – Pairing Achievement With Success (PAWS) – into additional facilities. Last November, the PAWS program at our Ron Jackson facility in Brownwood teamed with Service Dogs Inc., an organization that trains dogs to assist Texans living with hearing or mobility challenges. PAWS participants will now provide initial training for shelter animals that will go on to become service dogs. This effort will touch many lives, including those in need of a companion animal as well as the youth trainers. The program at Ron Jackson has now expanded to boys; currently. We also expect the program to be operating at the Gainesville State School later this Spring.

The agency recently implemented an intramural athletic program at each secure campus and all youth are actively participating in seasonal sports. A Players Council was formed at each school, made up of a representative from each team. The council will be a voice for the students to the staff, expressing concerns, ideas, and opinions about the intramural program, and will also relay information from the staff back to their respective teams. I am excited about the intramural programing. It is a natural

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El Paso County Takes To The Big Stage

The El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department's Challenge Academy is the department's long-term residential program that provides evidence-based programming, substance abuse treatment and life skills for the overall growth and development of youth and their families.

Since 2013, the Challenge Academy Explorers Post has been an active participant in the annual Sun Bowl Parade, building parade floats that have special meaning for the youth. It all started with an idea to give back to the community and experience what the community has to offer to our youth. The first float in 2013 drew on the motivation and dedication that fictional boxer Rocky Balboa displayed in not giving up and fighting to win. It was titled "Eye of the Tiger" and received an honorable mention by parade judges.

In 2014, Challenge Academy youth and counselors drew from the fact that most of the youth have to learn to be adults before their time at the expense of their childhood. The group's entry that year was their "Angry Birds" float which received the Governor's Award (Best Presentation of the Parade Theme).

The Challenge Academy's 2015 "Space Shuttle" float stressed that, to reach for the stars, all you need is dedication, motivation and hope. The message to youth was that the sky is the limit and they should reach for the stars in their dreams and goals in life. "Space Shuttle" received the General's Award (Most Outstanding Small Float).

Every float comes with its set of goals, lessons and rewards. Team advisors Lee Camack, Alfredo Saucedo, Rocio Estrada and Margaux Marquez and a set of youth work hours and hours, days to days and even months to raise the money for the float and built it from the ground up. Congratulations to the El Paso Challenge Academy staff and youth for their dedication, hard work spirit of excellence.



2013 "Eye of the Tiger" parade float.



2014 "Angry Birds" parade float.



2015 "Space Shuttle" parade float.



A Message From the Director (continued)

way for youth to build teamwork and participate in normalizing activities. I continually look to expand programming at our facilities that allow kids to be kids.

I've been traveling to a number of facilities during the past several months, engaging our employees in town hall meetings and listening to their suggestions and concerns. This is a very constructive exercise. I leave each facility having learned more about the important work of our incredible staff. Having a two-way dialogue with the people doing the real work of our agency is helping to inform me of how we can achieve a better balance between treatment and accountability in our facilities. It also gives me a tremendous sense of pride in our

staff and our mission.

Finally, the agency published its 2015 Treatment Effectiveness Report last month. This report contains interesting and instructive data on our youth population, commitment numbers, program enrollment and completion rates. Some interesting findings in the report:

- 99 percent of the youth entering TJJD have at least one specialized treatment need, and 98 percent of those are receiving appropriate treatment;
- Psychiatric hospitalizations and emergency room visits hit an all-time low in FY2015, indicating that mental health services provided in the agency

are meeting the needs of the youth;

- The program for youth with substance abuse problems shows a treatment completion rate of 93% overall and demonstrated a reduction of recidivism rates from last year.
- Youth whose combined treatment services included both mental health and substance abuse treatment experienced reduced recidivism rates compared to FY2014, decreasing from 58% to 41%.

The report can be found on our website.



TJJD Implements Human Trafficking Course for All Direct Care Staff in February

Human trafficking has been a prominent training topic in Texas and nationally for several years, a trend likely to continue as more information and statistics become available on trafficking and exploitation, especially related to children. Over the last few years, TJJD and local juvenile probation departments have worked with a number of entities including the Attorney General's Office, Department of Public Safety, Traffick911, Allies Against Slavery, and International Hope, to seek professional development in this area as a proactive measure for staff to enhance awareness and responsiveness to the needs of these youth in our system.

State legislation mandated human trafficking training for all juvenile correctional officers, along with trauma informed care training. TJJD curriculum developers recently completed a new 2-hour human trafficking course that will be implemented into the new hire schedule for all incoming juvenile correctional officers beginning in February. This course is an introduction to human trafficking where a discussion of definitions and terms, myths and facts, and characters and processes are provided. This course also instructs staff on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of victims or traffickers within TJJD facilities as well as the reporting processes once they have been identified. In addition to providing this new course to all new hires, TJJD will also provide this training to all tenured staff. Juvenile probation departments may request this training at any time by the Juvenile Justice Training Academy, or while coordinating regional training.

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



SPOTLIGHT



Vikki Reasor **Principal, Gainesville State School**

What led you to your career in education?

Teaching is what I was born to do. I believe I was called to be a MOM and to TEACH...

Why did you decide to enter the field of juvenile justice?

My Bachelor's degree is in Deaf Education and I started my career teaching the deaf and then moved to special needs kids. I loved working with these kids and organizing events such as the Special Olympics. About 10 years ago, I had the privilege of doing an internship for my master's degree here at Gainesville State School. I was hooked! After completion of my master's degree and principal certification, I waited patiently for a job to open here and as soon as it did, I applied and prayed it would be mine!

What are the biggest differences between being an administrator in public education versus juvenile justice?

Public administrators obviously have more interaction with parents and groups such as cheerleaders and band which bring a unique set of challenges. On the juvenile

justice side, I would say a major difference is the way education and the facility must cooperate and work together to ensure a smooth operation. Thankfully, ours is a very strong team!

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

Our biggest challenge, is trying to reach our students where they are, when at times there are large educational gaps. We want to give each individual student what they need, and it becomes challenging with students on so many levels and coming in at all different times of the year.

What do you want others to know about your department?

I have the most dedicated group of teachers & staff I have ever worked with in my entire career. These teachers have true servant hearts. They genuinely care about our students and want them to leave us with the social, academic, and vocational skills to accomplish great things. The key is that my teachers truly BELIEVE our students can accomplish great things!

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

I enjoy spending time with my husband of 28 years and our three children! We have two in college and one is a senior in high school.

We love to travel anywhere, but especially to places where I can scuba dive!

What is the best part of your job?

Knowing beyond a shadow of a doubt my students feel that my teachers truly care about them and their future and for the short time they are with us...someone invested in their lives and truly gave their all to show what love and grace look like. We have a small window of time here to not only teach, but to remind our students that this is but one short chapter in the book of their lives...there is so much hope for their future.

What advice would you give to a young educator considering work in the juvenile justice field?

Make sure you talk to people who are doing the type of work you are considering. Don't go into it lightly. It is not for everyone. It is a true calling and it is not fair to our students to come into their schools and develop relationships with them for just a short period of time and then leave them. They deserve your dedication and commitment. So please pray about it and talk to your family and make sure they feel it is a fit for you as well. You need to feel strongly that this is your mission in life and your ministry! If this is your calling, don't delay!



TJJD Co-Hosts Strengthening Youth & Families Conference

The 11th Annual Strengthening Youth & Families Conference, held in October at the San Marcos Embassy Suites Conference Center, was a collaborative educational and networking event that brought together helping professionals, advocates, educators, service recipients, and community volunteers.

Approximately 300 people attended the conference, which featured an array of workshops, keynote presentations, and networking opportunities. Representatives from the following agencies and organizations were present: Health and Human Services Commission and Texas System of Care, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Department of Family

and Protective Services, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the State Volunteer Resource Council for Texas Youth, Texas Juvenile Justice Providers Association, Texas Education Agency, Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Prairie View A&M University's Juvenile Crime Prevention Center.

Three prominent keynote speakers were featured – Bryan Samuels, the Executive Director of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; Nan Henderson, an internationally recognized author, trainer, and consultant on fostering human resiliency; and Joe Barton, who is Deputy Chief of Behavioral Health

for the Randall County Juvenile Probation Department.

One of the highlights of the conference was an exclusive screening of the new film *Paper Tigers*, produced by James Redford and Karen Pritzker. *Paper Tigers* is a documentary that follows the lives of several students in an alternative school that specializes in educating traumatized youth. The film examines the approach of Trauma Informed Communities, a promising movement in healing youth struggling with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).

Plans are already underway for the 2016 SYF Conference. For more information, contact Tammy Holland at 512-490-7090.



The conference was kicked off with an opening general session, in a packed room.



Approximately 300 people attended the conference.



Conference participants were able to attend a variety of high-quality workshops taught by subject matter experts.



Evelyn Delgado, Assistant Commissioner for the Family and Community Health Services Division of the Texas Department of State Health Services, provided welcoming comments at the luncheon general session.





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Conference participants enjoyed a networking reception and meeting colleagues from across the state.



Conference participants attended an exclusive screening of the documentary *Paper Tigers*, directed by James Redford and Karen Pritzker.



Dr. Erin Espinosa (left) is presented the Stella Churchill Mullins Champion for Children's Mental Health Award by Holly Vinella (right), daughter of the late Stella Mullins.



Curtis Clay, Associate Director at the Texas School Safety Center for Educational Training Services, performed the beautiful song "God Bless the Child" at the closing general session.



The conference attracted a variety of sponsors and exhibitors, each providing valuable information to participants.



Judy Davis Honored as 2015 Outstanding Community Volunteer

Judy Davis, a volunteer at TJJD's Gainesville State School since July 2002, was presented the Outstanding Community Volunteer of the Year Award at the 11th Annual Strengthening Youth & Families Conference. The award was presented in October by Tammy Holland, TJJD's Manager of Community, Family, and Chaplaincy Programs.

Community volunteers are the heart and soul of many organizations, and certainly make a significant impact within the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. Ms. Davis has contributed more than 5,600 service hours as a mentor, community resource council member, chaplaincy volunteer, co-leader of the grief support group, and tutor.

She has mentored more than 20 youth throughout her tenure at the Gainesville State School. One of these mentee expressed his appreciation for Ms. Davis by writing, "You have been one of my biggest supporters in a place where it is near impossible to find support. I would be down and out and after visitation I would be renewed."

Her support is not just recognized by the youth, but also by their family members, as one mother states, "He was shown unconditional love and acceptance by his mentor."



Rep. Ruth McClendon Honored as 2015 Champion for Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

The Jimmie Hall Kester Champion for Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Award was presented at the 11th Annual Strengthening Youth & Families Conference to State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon. McClendon was recognized as a state leader who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in juvenile justice and in helping communities move forward in the provision of delinquency prevention services.

Representative McClendon has spent her life in the service of others and has focused much of her personal and professional efforts in the pursuit of improving the conditions for youth and families. Her seventeen years of service in Bexar County, in the nineteen seventies and eighties as a juvenile probation officer and administrator, gave her first-hand experience addressing the challenges facing children and their families in the justice system and the impact of this experience on the communities where they live.

She dedicated much of her energy when serving on the San Antonio City Council and later as Mayor pro tempore, from June, 1993 to October, 1996, supporting initiatives that reduced gang violence and expanded opportunities for education for youth in need of intervention and support. Her work continues to address youth, families, and juvenile justice issues on the state level since her election to the Texas House of Representatives in 1996.

Altogether, Representative McClendon has authored, sponsored, co-sponsored and passed more than 172 bills, excluding resolutions, during her tenure in the Texas House, many of which specifically help children who are in need of support through juvenile justice, child welfare and education. Her legislative priorities include improving educational opportunities for students throughout the state, fighting for health care for children and the frail and elderly, creating a climate for businesses to flourish, keeping our neighborhoods safe, enabling counties to implement restorative justice programs, and improving the state's transportation system.



Family Involvement Survey Demonstrates Agency Gains

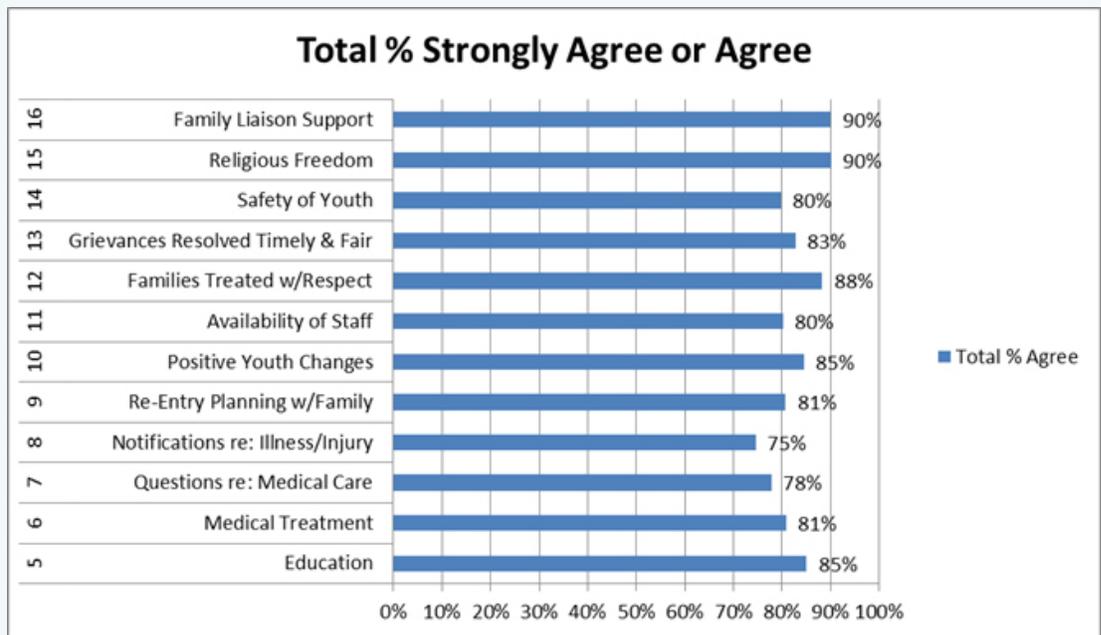
The focus of TJJD’s Family Liaison services is to increase the family involvement in the rehabilitation of youth by developing, organizing, implementing, and overseeing family engagement activities at each facility. The agency has moved from family-informed care to family-involved care and sees families as assets in rehabilitation efforts and successful community re-entry. Family Liaisons coach, educate, support, and encourage family members to participate in and help administer the rehabilitation plan for their youth. Opportunities for family participation come during regularly scheduled campus activities, family-focused seminars and forums, contact and web-based visitation, and multi-disciplinary team meetings.

In March 2008, TJJD administered the first satisfaction survey to families regarding their perception of TJJD services. Those survey results established a baseline from which to measure improvements. In an effort to boost participation, this year’s survey was accessible online throughout the collection period of September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015. The questions showing the greatest improvement regarded the assistance of the family liaisons in communicating the youths’ needs to other staff (+26 points), receiving notifications when their child is ill/injured (+12 points), and including the family in re-

entry planning efforts (+11 points).

The accompanying bar graph summarizes the overall satisfaction rating (agree and strongly agree) of the twelve evaluative questions among those who responded for secure facilities and halfway houses. Not all participants answered all 12 questions below, and only the responses for “agree,” “strongly agree,” “disagree,” and “strongly disagree” were included in the analysis. Responses of “does

8. I am notified in a timely manner when my child is seriously sick or injured
9. The case manager has involved me in my child’s individual case plan and the planning for his/her return to the community.
10. TJJD is helping my child make positive changes.
11. I am able to reach staff when I have questions.



not apply” were excluded from the results.

Family members were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction to the following questions:

5. My child has made progress in education while in TJJD
6. My child receives the necessary medical treatment.
7. I get timely responses to my questions about my child’s medical care.

12. I am treated with respect when I visit TJJD facilities.
13. Grievances that my child has filed are handled in a timely and fair manner.
14. My child is safe at the current TJJD facility.
15. My child is given the opportunity to worship in the religion of his/her choice.
16. The family liaison assists me in communicating my child’s needs to other TJJD staff.



AMIKids-Rio Grande Valley: TJJD's Residential Provider of the Year!

AMIKids- Rio Grande Valley is a medium-restriction/non-secure residential program located in Los Fresnos, TX. AMIKids serve male youth 10-18 years of age. The program provides individual and group counseling services; alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment (moderate); Aggression Replacement Training®; basic carpentry, welding, and basic

maintenance. Education services are provided on-site by the local independent school district.

In Fiscal Year 2015, AMIKids was among eight residential providers under contract with TJJD. AMIKids was selected as the provider of the year based on contract compliance and performance outcomes. The program is licensed by Department



of Family & Protective Services and has been contracting with TJJD since 1985.

Harris County Juvenile Probation Department and Disability Rights, Texas Form Partnership

Submitted by the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department has forged a partnership with Disability Rights Texas (DRTx) to help improve educational outcomes for youth involved with probation. Nationally, 60-70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health condition and almost 30% have a serious disorder that requires immediate significant treatment (National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, 2006). These students are entitled to important protections and behavioral supports under either special education or 504 plans, depending on the severity of their disability. Unfortunately, many students have never been properly identified, or received the services that allow them to make academic and behavioral progress. As a result, students with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be expelled than their typically developing classmates, and many students are referred to juvenile court due to

incidents that occurred at school. For some youth, the incident that brought them to court may have been prevented with improved behavior supports. Parents of youth in the juvenile justice system are often unaware of their rights and how to collaborate with schools and advocate for their child to ensure appropriate educational services.

Through this partnership, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department and DRTx strive to equip parents and families with the resources to effectively partner with their child's school and advocate for the services schools can provide to improve student outcomes for youth who are diverted from court, receiving services in a detention or JJAEP setting, or returning to their community schools. DRTx has already trained juvenile probation staff and is planning to offer additional training to youth and families. DRTx attorneys and advocates are making themselves available to answer technical questions that arise while probation

staff works with schools to improve educational plans for students. Additionally, DRTx will accept referrals for legal representation, if probation encounters efforts to support the family are insufficient to resolve concerns about a student's educational plan. This partnership emerged after Harris County probation leaders visited a model program in Chicago where Equip for Equality, a sister organization of DRTx, works with probation in a similar partnership that has successfully improved outcomes for youth in Cook County. Both DRTx and Harris County probation are excited that the partnership in Houston will have similar positive benefits for the youth of our county.

Disability Rights Texas is the federally designated legal protection and advocacy agency (P&A) for people with disabilities in Texas. DRTx's mission is to help people with disabilities understand and exercise their rights under the law, ensuring their full and equal participation in society.

Resources and videos are available at www.drftx.org.

Families can request assistance advocating for special education services by calling DRTx intake at 800-252-9108 or completing the online intake form.



SPOTLIGHT



Bill Austin

Wise and Jack counties Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

What led you to your career in juvenile justice?

I grew up with a desire to help others and my college years were directed toward working with teenagers. Subsequent to an internship with the Abilene Boys Club, one of my professors talked with me about juvenile probation. After graduation, I applied with the late Lynn Ross at the Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Department and began my career on January 15, 1991.

What types of facilities do you operate?

While our department doesn't operate any facilities, we do contract with several residential treatment programs both in- and out-of-state. The juvenile supports our quest to place youth in residential programs that best meets their needs regardless of location.

What programs do you feel have proven most successful?

The substance abuse program is a favorite primarily due to the expertise and passion of Debbie Cashon, the remarkable lady who runs our program in Wise

and Jack counties. We also have life skills using equine-assisted psychotherapy, individual counseling with three LPCs, Redirection for first offenders, detention alternatives (an intensive supervision with a contract employee) and community service restitution. All programs are effective with some but the passionate people involved with children and families are key to success in each program.

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

Mental health problems are rising both in numbers of referrals and intensity, requiring more innovative and intensive work by probation departments. Quality treatment, whether inpatient or outpatient, is expensive and often difficult to find.

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

We will partner with other departments to provide services for youth with common needs.

What do you want others to know about your department?

A phenomenal staff! We work as a team with many different assignments toward a common goal. We have people with different

strengths and we coordinate our efforts to find solutions for children and families with their unique issues.

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

A fantastic wife of 35 years and I spend time with six grandchildren ranging in age from seven to 17. Volleyball, softball, cheerleading and more. I partnered with two friends raising and training quarter horses for 30-plus years. But currently, fishing and traveling with my wife is a joyful activity. Our faith and church is a huge part of our lives.

What is the best part of your job?

Consulting and discussing individual cases with probation officers and other professionals in bringing about positive change in kids' lives.

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

Keep your eyes on the goal, always look for the good in people and believe that positive change can and will happen. Use your training, surround yourself with positive people and seek God's counsel. Remember that we are all spiritual beings!



TJJD Hosts PREA Audit Readiness Conference

On September 28-30, 2015, TJJD's PREA Compliance Division hosted a statewide PREA Audit Readiness training in Austin at the Omni Southpark Hotel. Attendees included 87 PREA Coordinators, PREA Compliance Managers, Facility Administrators and facility staff from state and local juvenile facilities across Texas. The focus of this three-day intensive training was helping facilities understand the PREA audit requirements, the audit process and prepare for upcoming audits to ensure compliance with the PREA standards. TJJD staff Lisa Capers and Jerome Williams, Department of Justice Certified PREA Auditors, conducted the training along with several guest speakers including Elizabeth Henneke, Policy Attorney for the *Texas Criminal Justice Coalition*, and Keisha C. Martinez, LPC-S, Clinical Services Director at *Out Youth Austin*.

TJJD Begins PREA Audits for Counties

TJJD's PREA Compliance Division began conducting audits of the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act standards in county-operated juvenile facilities in August of 2015. The PREA standards became effective on August 19, 2012. The first audit cycle began August 20, 2013 and will conclude on August 19, 2016. All juvenile facilities nationwide are required to have an audit during the three year audit cycle. Jerome Williams, PREA Compliance Administrator and Lisa Capers, Senior Director of Training and Organizational Development, both Department of Justice Certified PREA Auditors, will be conducting PREA audits of select county juvenile facilities statewide through August of 2016. TJJD is providing audits to county

facilities at no cost to the county for those counties that expressed an interest in having a PREA audit. Jerome and Lisa will be conducting audits in 13 counties covering 19 juvenile facilities in total. TJJD has also contracted with six private PREA auditors to complete an additional 20 audits in county facilities during 2016. TJJD Executive Director David Reilly explained why it is important for TJJD to conduct PREA audits, "TJJD believes that the PREA standards are smart correctional practice for all juvenile facilities and we are committed to supporting PREA compliance. Assisting the counties in securing PREA audits is a critical step to ensure and enhance the sexual safety of youth."

Several departments across the state opted to have their audit done this fall. Denton County was the first county facility audited by TJJD PREA auditors in August of this year. Two of Dallas County's four facilities were audited in September by Jerome Williams. Dr. Terry Smith, Director in Dallas County found the audit experience to be a positive process stating, "While any audit can be anxiety producing...we were glad to be the "pilot" county. The lessons learned and the feedback received will only ensure we are meeting compliance for our Department. This was

a good collaboration." The Bell County Juvenile Services Center was also audited in September. Director Susan Humphrey found the PREA audit to be a paradigm shift from traditional correctional audits. She explained, "For as much as we prepared, we underestimated the level of detail of a PREA audit. It's not just 'checking the box.' It's explaining what the box represents and why you checked it. And it's ensuring that all your staff has the same understanding of the box. Lisa Capers provided us with much assistance throughout the week of our audit and was great at providing feedback each and every day while she was here. We've also had frequent and helpful communications leading up to and following the audit as well." Lubbock County was audited in November and TJJD will resume the PREA audits in the counties beginning with Bexar County in January of 2016. Kimbla Newsom, Youth Services Contracts Manager, also a Certified PREA Auditor, will assist Jerome and Lisa with the audits in the larger facilities in 2016 including four facilities in Harris County. Additionally, Teresa Stroud, Senior Director of State Programs and Facilities, who recently completed the PREA Auditor Training in San Diego, California, will be conducting audits in select counties.



TJJD's PREA Auditors: Kimbla Newsom, Teresa Stroud, Lisa Capers, and Jerome Williams.

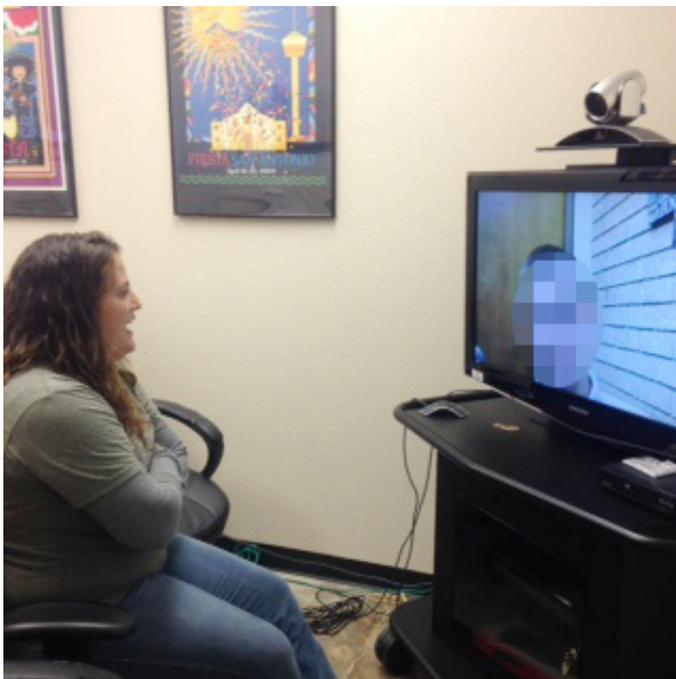
TJJD Utilizes Technology to Bring Families Together

In 2013 the Vera Institute, in conjunction with Families as Partners in Ohio, concluded a research project in which findings supported that family visitation is associated with improved youth behavior and improved school performance of incarcerated youth. These findings suggested that correctional facilities should try to change their visitation policy to promote more frequent visitation with families. Because Texas is such a large state and cost of travel is sometimes prohibitive for our families, in 2013 the Family Supports Department began a focus on virtual family visits with their youth. In FY 2015, 188 webcam sessions connected youth with their family members who were unable to visit their facility.



TJJD parole offices are playing an important role in offering virtual family visits. Most recently the San Antonio District office partnered with Ron Jackson to conduct their 1st Family Connections Web Cam Family Day on December 19, 2015. They had 15 family members participate to virtually visit with their 5 youth, some of whom had not seen their child since commitment. Light refreshments were served and each family received a food goody bag donated by our local Food Bank.

We hope that by encouraging and supporting more family engagement, these youth will utilize that positive energy in their rehabilitation process. There were many tears of happiness and we look forward to continuing to offer these services to our youth and their families.



Willoughby House Christmas

Willoughby House youth in Fort Worth were treated to a Christmas party and celebration with from The Potter's House – Fort Worth Ministries. The youth were part of The Potter's House angel tree and each received almost all of the gifts on their wish list. Youth also received numerous gifts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who have reached out to Willoughby, in hopes of a partnership.

Willoughby House Superintendent Diane Eunice said, "The Potter's House has an exceptional group of men, who have been very generous with their time, during the Thanksgiving (they brought and served the youth Thanksgiving dinner) and Christmas holidays."

One of the highlights for youth was being invited to audition for The Potter's House Christmas Production for non-speaking roles as angels. Two of the youth were selected to participate.

Another youth was given the opportunity for a guitar audition with Ms. Crystal Aikin, the Season 1 winner of the current television show *Sunday Best*. According to Willoughby House Assistant Superintendent Felicia Reynolds, "We really appreciate them giving this youth an opportunity to showcase his talent and it was a great self-esteem booster for him. Prior to his audition, they loaned him a guitar to practice with during his recreational time and days off from work."

Another benefit to come out of the holiday efforts is that several members of The Potter's House, including Pastor Patrick Winfield, have expressed interest in volunteering with Willoughby youth, including partnering in future events. Community and

Family Relations Coordinator Denise Caldwell noted that Pastor Winfield has a background in education and seems very

passionate about working with our youth because he believes in their potential.



Christams Party



Willoughby House "Angels"



Willoughby youth with guitar (far right)

Upcoming TJJD Sponsored or Co-Sponsored Trainings and Webinars

Thinking for a Change

January 19-20, 2016

Texas Juvenile Justice Department - Galveston, TX
Check TJJD website to register

Webinar: MAYSI-2

January 27, 2016

Texas Juvenile Justice Department - Austin, TX
Click here to register

Webinar: Texas Schools, Bullying and the Law

February 9, 2016

Texas Juvenile Justice Department - Austin, TX
Check TJJD website to register

Webinar: Courtroom Demeanor

March 1, 2016

Texas Juvenile Justice Department - Austin, TX
Click here to register

Webinar: Wraparound Services

March 3, 2016

Texas Juvenile Justice Department - Austin, TX
Check TJJD website to register

Trauma Informed Care Training for Trainers

February 1-2, 2016 (15.50 Hours)

Tarrant County Juvenile Probation - Fort Worth, TX
Click here for additional details or to register

Regional Training Officer Planning Session

February 16-18, 2016 (Hours TBD)

Sam Houston State University - Huntsville, TX
Click here for additional details or to register

29th Annual Juvenile Law Conference

February 22-24, 2016 (15.50 Hours)

Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel - San Antonio, TX
Click here for conference brochure.

Regional Trainings (East Texas)

February 22-26, 2016 (26.00 Hours)

Smith County Juvenile Probation - Tyler, TX
Click here for additional details or to register.

Juvenile Probation Officer Basic Training

April 10-15, 2016 (40.00 Hours)

Sam Houston State University - Huntsville, TX
Click here for additional details or to register.

Training Coordinators' Conference

May 2-4, 2016

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Austin, TX
Stay tuned for additional details

Juvenile Probation Officer Basic Training

July 10-15, 2016 (40.00 Hours)

Sam Houston State University - Huntsville, TX
Click here for additional details or to register.

2016 Chief Probation Officers Conference

October 2-5, 2016 (Hours TBD)

Galveston Convention Center and San Luis Hotel - Galveston, TX
Click here for additional details or to register.

2017 Chief Probation Officers Conference

October 1-4, 2017 (Hours TBD)

Galveston Convention Center and San Luis Hotel - Galveston, TX
Click here for additional details or to register.



Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

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

November 2015

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Adrian B. Jones	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Christy L. Watson	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
David I. Whitson	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Deborah K. Unruh	<i>Austin (Ombudsman)</i>
Dwight A. Sadler	<i>Austin (Ombudsman)</i>
Frederick D. Clemmons	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Frederick D. Mask	<i>Gainesville</i>
Iyesha S. Bellard	<i>Giddings</i>
James R. Williams	<i>Giddings</i>
Jarrett R. Massey	<i>Giddings</i>
Juan C. Fernandez	<i>Schaeffer HWH</i>
Roxanne S. Martinez	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Victor O. Hughes	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Charlene M. Hunter Lane	<i>Giddings</i>
Mary M. Perez	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Natasha E. Brown	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Royce R. Myers	<i>Austin (Human Resources)</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Carl M. Smotherman	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Darrell S. Lewis	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
DeLana D. Smethers	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Diana C. Sawyers	<i>Austin (Technology)</i>
Joseph W. Inman	<i>Evins</i>
LaSonda Dials	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Richard Pineda	<i>Gainesville</i>
Sheba L. Graves	<i>Giddings</i>
Yolanda D. Walker	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Abelardo Jimenez	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Gertie M. Calhoun	<i>Gainesville</i>
Kenneth M. Costilla	<i>Austin (Finance)</i>
Ronald A. Bayo	<i>Austin (Finance)</i>
Shawna J. Dennis-Lucius	<i>Gainesville</i>
Sherry G. Britton	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

David A. Horn	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Raul C. Gonzalez	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Suzi C. Rowan	<i>Austin (Finance)</i>

December 2015

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Alba Peña	<i>Austin (Communications)</i>
Cheryse C. White	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Dennis R. Moseley	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Bonnie J. Terpening	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Beverley W. Dalco	<i>Giddings</i>
Derrick R. Mitchell	<i>Giddings</i>
Marisol Hernandez	<i>Giddings</i>
Magdalena Macias	<i>Evins</i>
Mealika D. Brown	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Angela D. Fritts	<i>Austin (Inspector General's Office)</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Luis Limon	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Steven J. Martinez	<i>Evins</i>
Carol A. Thomas	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Ronald Bailey	<i>McLennan Phoenix</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Jaime M. Liscano	<i>Giddings</i>
Gail Y. Thomas	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
David E. Ortega	<i>Tamayo HWH</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

William A. Klein	<i>Austin (Legal Services)</i>
Glenda S. Jackson	<i>Gainesville</i>
Karen A. Forman	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Carol D. McDonald	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Cynthia R. Williams	<i>Ayres HWH</i>

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Gary L. Vaughn	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Jack T. Fletcher	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Belma Salinas	<i>Evins</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Catherine Crenshaw	<i>Giddings</i>
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Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

Continued from page 16

January 2016

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Erica Garcia *Ron Jackson*
Noah J. Contreras *Evins*

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Alan Hernandez *Schaeffer HWH*
Angela D. Mitchell *Austin (Internal Audit)*
Angela M. Haynes *McLennan Phoenix*
Aurelio Jimenez *Schaeffer HWH*
Deborah D. Satchell *McLennan CSJCF*
Kevin E. Josey *Cottrell HWH*
Mildred B. Ford *McLennan CSJCF*
Rachael O. Kapur *Austin (Monitoring and Inspections)*
Shelia D. Jacques *Gainesville*

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Christina Lozano *Evins*
Karen S. Trevino *Ron Jackson O&A*
Latonia Y. Lewis *McLennan Phoenix*
Marcus E. Nelson *McLennan RTC*
Oralia Hernandez *McLennan Phoenix*
Regina S. Davis *McLennan CSJCF*
Tanya M. Hall *Brownwood HWH*
Theresa U. Odiase *Willoughby HWH*

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Colleen L. Levi *McLennan CSJCF*
Mary K. Pearson *Gainesville*
Randy Martinez *York HWH*
Tammara D. McGowan *McLennan CSJCF*

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Lory L. Alexander *Austin (Finance)*
Robin L. Black *McLennan RTC*

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Glenn A. Kurio *Giddings*

