



Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Data Coordinators' Conference
September 12-13, 2016
Embassy Suites Hotel I San Marcos, Texas

Presenter Biographical Information
in Alphabetical Order

Lory Alexander, Juvenile Justice Research Program Administrator at TJJD

Lory Alexander has been a juvenile justice researcher for more than 15 years analyzing data involving youth committed to state custody in Texas. Her work with the Texas Youth Commission and Juvenile Justice Department has included internal and external reporting and program evaluation. Lory previously worked and published as a nurse researcher and transitioned to juvenile justice when she returned to Texas.

Carolina Corpus-Ybarra, Research Specialist at TJJD

Carolina earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from St. Edward's University and a Master of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. Since 2001 she has dedicated her professional energy and commitment to working for justice-involved youth and their families. Carolina began her career as a juvenile detention officer with the Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Department. She has worked for the legacy Texas Youth Commission in Interstate Compact, at Giddings State School and with the Release Review Panel. In addition, she has served as a contract parole officer for the Williamson County Juvenile Probation Department, a program specialist for the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments, also known as TCOOMMI, within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and as an accreditation and compliance officer for Travis County Juvenile Probation. Carolina joined the Texas Juvenile Justice Department team in November of 2015 as a Research Specialist.

Andy Fazzio, Professional Development Training Specialist at TJJD

Andy has been involved in Juvenile justice for over 25 years, running facilities in Oregon, then becoming a sub-contractor for a company that implemented validated risk assessments around the country. I trained 14 states and over 100 counties in validated risk assessments and Motivational Interviewing trainings. Andy presently works for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department as a trainer and am MINTED, (Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers). Andy presents at conferences and still have a consulting business that does various trainings around the country.

Freya Gaertner, Research and Planning Specialist at TJJJ

Prior to joining TJJJ as a Research Specialist in 2014, Freya was a Research Associate at the Child and Family Research Partnership in UT Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs, where she studied the impacts of social policies related to families. She also has experience in education policy research and program evaluation, having worked for the American Institutes for seven years. She has a BA in Political Economy from UC Berkeley, and an MA in Counseling Psychology from the University of San Francisco.

Tonya Gonzalez, Budget Analyst at TJJJ

Tonya is the County Grants Administrator at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. She has been employed with the Texas Justice Department (legacy TJPC) since April 2006. Tonya began in the Title IV-E Foster Care Reimbursement Program before moving into the state-funded county grants. Tonya reviews and processes the county grant budgets, contracts, adjustments, amendments, and expenditures.

Daniel Gunter, Research Specialist at TJJJ

Daniel Gunter graduated with a BS in Criminology from Florida State University in 2005. After moving to Austin in the summer of 2006, Daniel began working with the State Pension Review board in 2008. From there, Daniel went on to work for Texas Workforce Commission as a Foreign Labor Analyst before joining Texas Juvenile Justice Department in 2012. Daniel began working for the agency as a Performance Accountability Specialist assisting the State Programs & Facilities division in data-informed decision making before transitioning to the Research Department in July of 2015, where he works primarily with State data. Daniel received an MBA from West Texas A&M University in spring of 2013.

Tom Gunter, JCMS Trainer at TJJJ

Tom Gunter has been with the JCMS Support Team for more than 4 years. He currently develops training materials and provides JCMS Basic Training to JPD and TJJJ staff. He has worked with the agency 17 years in a variety of IT and training roles.

Deborah Harris, Regional County Program Administrator at TJJJ

Deborah Harris is responsible for the Central and Southeast regions. Deborah has more than 26 years of experience in Social Services including 15 years with TJJJ and its legacy agency TYC. Her social services experience includes work in Protective Services, Community Mental Health, Probation, and Parole. Deborah has a unique understanding of criminal justice at both the community and secure facility level. She has extensive leadership experience as well as experience in program development and training among other skills. Deborah is nationally certified in Dealing with Gangs in a Juvenile Facility. She is actively involved in the Texas Violent Gang Task Force, Texas Gangs Investigation Association, American Counseling Association, and American Correctional Association among other Deborah has a Master's of Arts Degree in Counseling and a Master's of Science Degree Specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy both from Prairie View A&M. Deborah has a BS in Psychology with a Minor in Sociology. She also has an Associate's Degree in Business Management.

Chara Heskett, Research Specialist at TJJJ

Chara Heskett moved to the Austin area almost 2 years ago from Arlington, VA after finishing her Master of Arts degree in Forensic Psychology. Prior to this, she attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Chara worked on multiple research projects during undergraduate including the development of a theoretical model of crowd response to police intervention and the effects of rap and hip-hop lyrics on juvenile delinquent female body image. While attending Marymount, Chara participated in a study assessing public opinion of the juvenile justice system overall and the perceived effectiveness of specific programs such as boot camps, commitment to secure facilities, and group homes. Also while attending Marymount, Chara interned at the Fairfax County Public Defender's Office as a mitigation specialist, writing numerous mitigation memorandums to assist in sentencing decisions of both adult and juvenile offenders. Upon moving to the Austin area, Chara began work as a Child Protective Services Investigator for Williamson County. After leaving CPS, Chara joined the TJJJ Research team in April 2015.

Pernilla Johansson, Director of Research and Planning at TJJJ

Pernilla Johansson, Ph.D. is Director of Research and Planning of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. She directs research, evaluation and planning activities related to juvenile justice statistics, programming, and policy. Pernilla joined TJJJ as a Planner in June 2013. Before joining TJJJ, Pernilla was Manager of Research and Statistics in Dallas County Juvenile Department. At Dallas JPD she planned, directed and performed program evaluations, statistical research, strategic planning, and performance measurement management. She has worked extensively with data-informed decision-making and program development with staff and stakeholders throughout the juvenile justice system. She also coordinated the implementation of the Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS) in Dallas JPD. Prior to joining Dallas JPD, she was an adjunct lecturer and administrator at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Pernilla holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Political Economy and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas. She received her Bachelor of Science in Criminology from Stockholm University, Sweden. Pernilla's dissertation research tested a female-specific pathway to serious, violent, and chronic offending using data from the Texas juvenile justice system. In graduate school, she also conducted research about gender, race and case-processing in the juvenile justice system and about gender and risk factors for runaway youth. Her research has been published in Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice and Crime and Delinquency.

Ashley Kintzer, Planner for Regionalization at TJJJ

Ashley Kintzer has worked for TJJJ and its legacy agency TYC for more than eight years. She worked as a legal assistant in the Appeals Section in the Office of General Counsel from 2008 – 2013 and as a technical writer in the Office of General Counsel from 2013 – 2016. Ashley graduated from St. Edward's University in 2004 with a BA in criminal justice and a minor in communications. Ashley graduated from Texas State University in 2008 with a Master's in criminal justice.

Jocelyn Lewis, Research Specialist at TJJD

Jocelyn Lewis received her Master of Science degree in Sociology and her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and Psychology from Texas A&M University at College Station. She taught Criminology and Sociology of Deviance at Texas A&M University and Introduction to Sociology at Blinn Community College. Jocelyn returned to her hometown of Austin to teach Social Problems at the Art Institute. She joined the Research and Planning Division at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in January 2014. Jocelyn devotes her time as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Glenn Like, Research Specialist at TJJD

Glenn Like has been analyzing data and using Excel professionally since 2001. He worked as part of Travis County's Justice & Public Safety department from 2001 to 2006, which involved creating a lot of ad hoc reports from the county's integrated justice system in order to get data to put into Excel to analyze. He then worked for a consulting firm until 2016; this involved analyzing data from other peoples' ad hoc reports (often in Excel). Now he works for TJJD, where he is learning how to create ad hoc reports from the state's data; he is sure that putting them into Excel to analyze is coming.

Judy McReynolds, Senior Title IV-E Program Specialist at TJJD

Judy McReynolds is the Sr. Title IV-E Program Specialist in the Probation and Community Services Division at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. She has worked with Juvenile Probation Departments, HHSC, TJJD and DFPS staff for the past 19 years in the areas of Medicaid eligibility and the Title IV-E Federal Foster Care Reimbursement Program. The last 7 years of which have also included the development, modifications, promotion, training and technical assistance of the Juvenile Medicaid Tracker (JMT) System and most recently the web page for the HB839 reporting.

Beverly Ratzlaff, JCMS Support Analyst at TJJD

Beverly Ratzlaff has been with the JCMS Support Team for 4 years. She currently provides technical assistance and excellent customer service to the juvenile probation departments using JCMS. She enjoys assisting counties with data entry and cleaning up their data.

Lori Robinson, Director of Community Mental Health Services at TJJD

Dr. Lori Robinson works for TJJD as the Director of Community Mental Health Services. Lori has extensive experience working with adolescent offenders including youth with sexual behavior, substance abuse, and mental health treatment needs. She has worked with victimized youth and survivors of sexual assault in variety of settings including residential treatment, state operated facilities, and community based outpatient programs. She worked with the Texas Youth Commission and Texas Juvenile Justice Department from September 2005 to November 2013 as a Director of Clinical Services and Director of Treatment for the State Operated Programs and Facilities. More recently, she worked as a Placement Director at Pegasus Schools Inc.

Dr. Robinson earned her BA in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, her Master of Education degree in Counseling and Guidance from Southwest Texas State University, and her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the APA accredited program Texas A & M University. She completed an APA accredited pre-doctoral internship at Nova Southeastern University's Community Mental Health Center. She is a Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Sex Offender Treatment Provider and Supervisor, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Board Approved Supervisor for Licensed Professional Counselors.

Lou Serrano, Regional County Program Administrator at TJJD

Lou Serrano oversees the South, West, and Panhandle regions. Lou has worked in the field of Juvenile Justice for 26 years, beginning in Deaf Smith County in 1989 as a field supervision officer. In 1990, Lou was appointed to the position of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Deaf Smith County. While in Deaf Smith County, Lou was able to obtain both state and local funding to open the Deaf Smith County Youth Home, a 12 bed residential facility for male delinquent offenders. At the time, the facility was noted for its innovative and creative approach in dealing with delinquent offenders.

On March 1, 2001, Lou was appointed the Director of Juvenile Services for Ector County. The department employed over 50 dedicated juvenile justice professionals, along with administrative staff. Part of the department operations included the Ector County Youth Center, a 48 bed secure juvenile detention facility. The Ector County Youth Center "post-adjudication" program was the first of its kind in the State of Texas, opening in 1974. Lou has been a past member of the Panhandle Association of Juvenile Probation Officer's, the West Texas Juvenile Chief's Association, and a member of the Texas Probation Association. Lou is a graduate of West Texas A & M University, obtaining his degree in Criminal Justice Administration in 1988.

Nydia D. Thomas, Special Counsel, Legal Education and Technical Assistance at TJJD

Nydia D. Thomas has an extensive background in juvenile law and juvenile justice system administration at the state and local levels. She joined the staff of the former Texas Juvenile Probation Commission in 1998. In the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, she serves as Special Counsel for Legal Education and Technical Assistance (LETA) in the TJJD Office of the General Counsel. The LETA provides professional training to a range of juvenile justice stakeholders to ensure compliance with statutory laws and administrative rules. This section publishes legislative commentary and statutory implementation guides and other juvenile-law related materials. Ms. Thomas has published topical articles on juvenile law and is a contributing editor/author of the state's foremost juvenile justice treatise, *Texas Juvenile Law*, editions, by the late University of Texas Professor Robert O. Dawson. She is also a recurring faculty member for the Correctional Management Institute of Texas and the Texas Association of Counties. Ms. Thomas is a graduate of Howard University School of Law and gained valuable experience on Capitol Hill while working for a Member of Congress and a Washington-based congressional research foundation. Nydia is a former councilmember and Mayor-Pro Tem of Cleveland, Texas and has received both gubernatorial and attorney general appointments.

Anthony Welebob, Training Specialist at TJJD

Anthony Welebob, a Training Specialist from Austin, Texas, and is a graduate from Southwest Texas State University in 1988. He has 28 years of experience in the community corrections, both adult and juvenile probation. For ten years, he served as a Parole Officer specializing in the supervision of sex offenders. Anthony specializes in the area of management training, development of trainers (TOT), and is a certified Meyers-Briggs facilitator. When Anthony is not busy working, he spends his time officiating soccer at various levels and running for pleasure.

James Williams, Senior Director of Probation and Community Services at TJJD

James Williams joined TJJD in December 2012 after serving as the Director of Juvenile Services for the 35th Judicial District in Brown County, Texas. He had been a juvenile probation officer with that county since 1983 and has served as the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer since 1986. He is active in numerous professional and civic organizations, is currently a member of the Brown County Hospital Authority and is on the invited faculty of Sam Houston State University, Correctional Management Institute. He also served 12 years on the board of the Brownwood Independent School District, three of those years as president, and is an active member of the Texas Probation Association. As a result of his lengthy tenure as a chief juvenile probation officer, has established relationships with nearly all 165 Texas juvenile probation departments and juvenile justice practitioners statewide. James was an active participant with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission throughout his career and served as the agency's Chief in Residence in 2010. James is a graduate of Howard Payne University.

Amanda Zamarron, Applications Development Service and Support Manager at TJJD

Amanda Zamarron has been employed with Texas Juvenile Justice Department since August 1999. As the TJJD Product Owner for JCMS, she is responsible for the change requests and enhancements to JCMS Basic.