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SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS PERMANENT JUDICIAL  
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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**Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP)  
FY 2010 Assessment of the Basic,  
Data Collection and Analysis,  
and Training Grants**

**December 31, 2010**

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## **INTRODUCTION{TC "INTRODUCTION" \F C \L 1}**

The Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Commission) was created in 2007 and has been the grant administrator of the Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP) grants since 2008. The Commission oversees numerous projects and programs aimed at improving the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, youth and families in the Texas child welfare system.

A multidisciplinary executive-level group, the Commission is led by judges. It is chaired by Justice Eva Guzman, Supreme Court of Texas (Supreme Court), and is composed of officials from the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and Child Protective Services (CPS), non-profit foundation and state bar leaders, private attorneys, legislators, judges and other elected officials, and other child welfare stakeholders. The Commission's structure includes a general advisory group called the Collaborative Council and three standing committees – Basic Projects, Technology and Training – each of which oversees issue-specific workgroups and projects. In June 2010, the Supreme Court formed an Education Committee to work toward improving education outcomes for foster children. In addition to CIP grant-funded projects, the Commission directs several other ad hoc committees and workgroups and numerous staff-led projects.

The Commission links to a larger stakeholder community through its 40-member Collaborative Council, whose members include foster families, attorneys, CASAs, parent advocates, and former foster youth. Representatives from institutions of juvenile justice, mental health and education are also included, as well as representatives from the private provider community, children's advocacy centers and many other child-protection and child and family advocacy groups.

The Commission facilitates a weekly conference call led by the Commission's Executive Director that keeps the Commission, DFPS and other stakeholders connected and up-to-date on one another's activities. The Administrative Director of the Office of Court Administration (OCA) is a regular attendee, as well as OCA's jurist in residence, Judge John J. Specia, (ret.). The weekly meetings have created a vital, ever-strengthening connection between the judiciary, CPS, and other stakeholders. Maintaining weekly contact not only furthers better understanding of one another's challenges, it also gives attendees a chance to brainstorm about ideas and solutions and identify opportunities to support one another. The frequency, consistency, and the high priority leaders have given the meetings has been key in establishing and growing the new culture of collaboration that, on the state level, has become the norm rather than the exception. The Commission's inclusive, collaborative structure and broad, high-level membership has injected new energy into, and enhanced the visibility of, the state's court improvement efforts.

### **Administration of Grant Funds**

The Commission granted CIP awards to subgrantees and funded several staff-directed and contract projects aimed at fulfilling its CIP strategies.

**1.1 {tc "New Grant Application and Review Process" \f C \l 2}Grant Application and Review Process**

All fiscal year (FY) 2010 grant recipients applied for grants in a timely manner per grant application instructions posted on the Commission's website at <http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/children.asp>. The Commission's Executive Director took over all grant administration duties in 2010 with the departure of the full-time grant manager. She employed a simple, two-step process to ensure fairness as well as consistency with federal program instructions and the Commission's strategic plan.

The executive director reviewed applications and referred them to one of the three standing Commission committees – Basic Projects, Technology, or Training. The committees reviewed each recommendation (and if requested, the full application) and determined whether to send it to the Commission for funding approval. See Commission, Committee and Collaborative Council members in Appendix A.

A list of all CIP-funded projects with a brief description is shown below.

<b>FY2010 Grant-Funded Projects</b>			
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Grant</b>
Brazos Valley	National Adoption Day Activities	\$850	Basic
Bowie County	National Adoption Day Activities	\$1,500	Basic
Travis County Office of Child Representative	Public Defender model of representing children in CPS cases	\$100,000	Basic
Travis County Office of Parental Representation	Public Defender model of representing parents in CPS cases	\$100,000	Basic
ChildSafe – Family Drug Court Partnership	Assessment /coordination of child trauma services for drug court	\$46,083	Basic
Texas Foster Youth Justice Project	Foster youth hotline and legal representation	\$80,000	Basic
Tarrant County Challenge Family Drug Court	Case management services for drug courts that includes a research component.	\$100,000	Basic
Texas Loves Children (TLC) Website	Web-based legal resource for attorneys	\$250,000	Basic
Texas CASA – Expansion and Development	Statewide training and expansion	\$237,800	Basic
Harris County	Infant & Toddler's Court	\$50,000	Basic
Dallas County	Videoconferencing Project	\$50,000	Data

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OCA CPC Judicial Support	Judicial support	\$20,400	Basic
Texas Data Enabled Courts for Kids (TexDECK)	Data management, software, and court services development and coordination	\$264,582	Data
OCA CPC Annual Judicial Conference	CPC Annual Training	\$29,300	Training
DFPS Attorney Training	Attorney Training	\$5,000	Training
Texas Center for the Judiciary	Judicial training and national conference sponsorship	\$635,841	Training

**FY2010 Contract Projects**

Project Name	Brief Description	Award	Grant
NACC Attorney Training	Attorney ad litem training – 8 in FY010	\$85,000	Training
Jurist in Residence	Judicial consultation services	\$28,000	Basic

**FY2010 Staff-Directed Projects**

Project Name	Brief Description
Judicial Technical Assistance	Court-specific reports on permanency measures
Round Table Series	Collaborative discussion of relevant child abuse and neglect issues
Advocacy Inc. Legal Representation Project	Provide free legal representation for dually managed youth
CPS Judges Bench Book	Judicial resource
Legal Representation Study	Statewide survey / study of legal representation in Texas
Children in Long Term Care / Texas Appleseed Study	Study of children and youth in long term care
State Task Force on Disproportionality	State effort to reduce disparity and disproportionality
CFSR / PIP Participation	PIP development
Child Welfare Law Certification	Certification Exam held in Spring 2010; 3 pre-examination “Red Book” Trainings held in FY 2010
Education Committee	Effort to improve educational outcomes for foster children

Child Welfare Law Certification	Attorney specialization
Strategic Planning	Effort to revise Commission's strategic plan
Mediation Project	Study of mediation in CPS cases
Summit III	National Judicial Leadership Conference

**Development**

The Commission staff engages in several levels of program administration and development through overseeing grant funded projects, managing staff directed projects, staffing committee and commission meetings, and travel to attend and present at various conferences.

**2.1 Staff {tc "Site Visits and Program Monitoring" \f C \l 2}Site Visits and Conference Attendance**

**Executive Director**

Date	Location	Purpose
October 2009	Bastrop Austin Waco	Strategic Planning Committee National Judicial Summit Attorney Training - Child Abuse and Neglect
December 2009	Dallas	Speaker at National Zero to Three Conference - Program Development for CIP
January 2010	Dallas	Attended conference and accepted award on behalf of Justice O'Neill
March 2010	Bastrop	Commission Transition Planning
April 2010	Dallas New York Galveston San Antonio	Program Development meeting in Dallas, TX Attended conference "Charter a better future for youth" in NYC Harris County Beyond the Bench Training TX Meeting with Bexar County about child welfare data
May 2010	Bastrop	Implicit Bias Training / Bench Book meeting
June 2010	Denver	Conference "Using Technology in Courts"
July 2010	Dallas Washington Houston	CASA Foundation meeting CIP Data and Tech / Agency and Courts Conferences Beyond the Bench Conference follow-up
August 2010	San Antonio San Antonio	CPS Judicial Conference Advanced Family Law Conference
September 2010	Houston Bastrop	Presentation to Annual TASB/TASA Conference First Education Committee meeting

**Assistant Director**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
October 2009	Bastrop Waco Ft. Worth	Strategic Planning Committee Attorney Training - Child Abuse and Neglect Attorney Training - Child Abuse and Neglect
November 2009	Dallas	Attorney Training - Child Abuse and Neglect
December 2009	Harlingen	Attorney Training - Child Abuse and Neglect
March 2010	Bastrop	Attended transition /future planning for Commission
April 2010	Galveston	Harris County Beyond the Bench
May 2010	Washington Bastrop San Marcus	Symposium regarding educational needs of foster youth in Washington, DC Implicit Bias Training / Bench Book meeting Conference related to education of foster youth
July 2010	San Diego	Nat. Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges Annual Conf. in San Diego, CA
August 2010	San Antonio San Antonio	CPS Judges Conference Advanced Family Law Conference
September 2010	Houston Bastrop	Presentation to Annual TASB/TASA Conference First Education Committee meeting

**Project Attorney**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
May 2010	Bastrop	Bench Book meeting
June 2010	Denver	Conference "Using Technology in Courts"
July 2010	Washington	CIP Data and Tech / Agency and Courts Conferences
August 2010	New Braunfels	Multidisciplinary meeting with Judge Bonicoro
August 2010	San Antonio	CPS Judicial Conference
August 2010	San Antonio	Advanced Family Law Conference

**IMPACT SUMMARY**

The Commission's strategies are:

1. Promote judicial leadership to improve the administration of justice in child protection cases;
2. Identify and promote best practices to improve outcomes affecting safety, permanency, and well-being in child protection cases;
3. Improve awareness about the need to strengthen courts for children, youth, and families in child protection cases;
4. Improve the quality of legal representation in child protection cases; and,
5. Promote accountability for improvements in courts that administer justice in child protection cases.

To help achieve these strategies, subgrantees were required to develop and include in their grant application a set of evaluation measures that would best track project accomplishments. Data collected from subgrantees thus far indicates that CIP funds have impacted a large number of people through direct services or program involvement.

<b>FY2010 Summary of Numbers Served</b>	
<b>Total number of people or agencies that benefited from CIP funds via collaborative efforts, training events, case management tools, project consultation, or direct grant funding</b>	<b>34,830</b>
Number of judges served through at least one project	925
Number of attorneys served through at least one project	11,292
Number of guardian <i>ad litem</i> s (CASA) served through at least one project	8,649
Number of collaborative agencies participating with subgrantees	200 +
Number of parents and children served through at least one project	41,130
Number of training events held	15
Number that attended training events	782
Number of hours provided that met statutory or licensure standards for judges, attorneys, or GALs*	5720
*GAL – Guardian ad litem in this context is CASA volunteers	

In addition to overseeing grant-related administrative and fiscal duties, Commission staff spent substantial time and effort on many other court improvement efforts and projects, such as:

- Published two annual reports, one for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009 and the other for the calendar year ending December 31, 2010.
- Developed and distributed a Jurist in Residence Letter, which is a periodic communication that focuses on a specific issue or problem judges face while hearing CPS cases, such as the permanency care assistance program. (Appendix B). The letters are sent from Judge John Specia, OCA’s Jurist in Residence to the Commission.
- Published a *Better Courts for Kids and Families* newsletter. (Appendix C)
- Participated in the Statewide Task Force on Disproportionality that meets quarterly.
- Developed an online Bench Book for child protection judges, in development during FY2010 and launched November 2010.
- Conducted a Legal Representation Study to assess how various Texas courts appoint and compensate attorneys and how much specialized child welfare training is required of appointed counsel.
- Partnered with the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) on eight local training conferences attended by 267 attorneys who represent the child welfare agency, parents and children in child protection cases.
- Continued a partnership with Texas Appleseed in a research study on children who are in the permanent managing conservatorship of DFPS that focuses on barriers to permanency and ways to overcome them. The report was published in November 2010.
- Participated in the statewide Public-Private Partnership, an ambitious effort to redesign foster care in Texas.

- Contributed to development of the state's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) – especially court-related strategies – to address the most recent CFSR findings. (Commission Executive Director, Tina Amberboy, is a formal member of the PIP planning team).
- Helped to initiate and fund a legal representation project for dually managed youth, who are foster youth who are incarcerated within the Texas Youth Commission system, and foster youth with extreme disabilities who reside in a State Supported Learning Center (formerly State Schools). Two Advocacy, Inc., attorneys travel throughout the state to represent more than 65 dually managed youth or youth in State Supported Learning Centers. The program is expanding to include youth who are at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- Held one Round Table discussion on foster children and youth who are in the Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) of DFPS.
- Funded 2,577 additional copies of The Foster Youth Justice Project's *Guide to Those Aging out of Foster Care in Texas*, which Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid has distributed to foster youth and those who work with them.
- Provided judicial training to 311 judicial officers or court personnel through the Texas Center for the Judiciary's training conferences and national conferences.
- Funded continued refinements and support for the new Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS) that was developed with CIP funds and launched in 2009 in the 17 Texas child protection specialty courts. The CPCMS system incorporates several of the *Building a Better Court* performance measures that were published in early 2009.
- Funded and participated in OCA-sponsored Annual Child Protection Court Update held in October 2009, which trained 32 attendees, including Child Protection Court judges and their court staff.
- Provided two Red Book trainings through the National Association of Counsel for Children to 62 Texas attorneys. The trainings help attorneys prepare for the exam for Child Welfare Law Certification that was approved in May 2009. In 2010, 12 Texas attorneys and one judge took the exam and became certified.

### **ONGOING, MEANINGFUL COLLABORATION**

The Commission's creation and activities have increased the visibility of child protection issues at the state and local levels and its collaborative structure has encouraged greater stakeholder participation in court improvement initiatives. The Commission engages in and promotes a culture of collaboration in Texas between the judiciary, DFPS, and other stakeholders through routine and scheduled interaction and through joint projects. Commission staff is active in many collaborative activities and, in addition to staffing and overseeing many of the aforementioned projects, also engaged in the following activities between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010:

- Sponsored and participated in weekly collaborative conference calls with child welfare stakeholders, including DFPS executive leaders. Commission staff organized and held 25 weekly collaborative conference calls that lasted approximately one hour each and included several collaborative partners on each call. Collaborative partners who attended the vast majority of these calls included the CPS Assistant Commissioner and

other high-level CPS staff, the OCA director and his staff, Commission and Supreme Court staff, and representatives from Texas CASA and the Texas Center for the Judiciary. Occasionally, other invitees, such as judges and legislative staff, attended the meetings, depending on the issues addressed. The weekly collaborative meetings often served as a springboard for ideas that became staff-directed projects. During the calls, each partner provided a brief synopsis of their organization's current efforts and concerns and described how they thought other collaborative partners might assist or be affected. The meetings served to inform partners of the many ongoing initiatives in Texas to improve the child protection system.

- Sponsored, funded, facilitated, or participated in an additional 26 Commission meetings, committee or workgroup meetings, or conference calls with at least 130 individual stakeholders for a total of 1007 collaborative hours. (See Appendix D).
- Commission staff participated in several collaborative calls and meetings as part of its partnership with Texas Appleseed, which has conducted a comprehensive study about barriers to permanency for youth who are in the Permanent Managing Conservatorship of DFPS. Fulbright and Jaworski, a prominent Texas law firm, donated over 500 pro bono hours to this project. The law firm of McGinnis, Lochridge, and Kilgore also contributed pro bono service to the project.
- More than child 34,830 individual stakeholders participated in or benefited from a Commission-sponsored activity or grant-funded activity in FY 2010.
- Commission-funded and Commission-sponsored activities generated more than \$1.8 million dollars worth of in-kind or cash match in FY 2010.

## **BASIC GRANT PROJECTS**

The strategic plan included in Texas' 2010 Basic CIP grant application included broad, statewide efforts to improve safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families in the child welfare system. The Commission's strategic plan encompasses these efforts and goes beyond them to further its mission of developing and implementing policy initiatives to strengthen courts for children, youth and families, thereby improving the safety, permanency, and well-being of all involved.

The Commission's Basic Projects Committee oversees the basic grant funds and helps implement the Commission's strategic plan goals related to them. Members of the Basic Projects Committee include representatives of the judiciary, DFPS, Texas CASA and Commission staff. Basic grant funds are used to fund projects through grant agreements or contracts with outside organizations and through staff-directed projects. Using these funds, the Commission worked to improve the state child welfare system through:

- Funding expenses associated with Commission meetings and member travel.
- Supporting the activities of the executive director and other Commission staff, including strategic and program development, implementing the CIP grant program, conducting site visits, attending judicial and child welfare conferences, and both coordinating and attending stakeholder meetings.

- Disseminating information to the judiciary and stakeholders through the Commission’s website, newsletter, meeting minutes, Jurist in Residence communications, other publications, and personal contacts.
- Ensuring that statewide collaboration on all CIP grant activities were conducted in a meaningful and ongoing manner.
- Advocating for projects that improve court performance and practices throughout the state.

**Summaries of Basic Grant Projects**

<b>3.1 Brazos Valley National Adoption Day</b>
<b>Amount of Award</b> \$850.00
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Voices for Children, Inc., CASA of Brazos Valley
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
National Adoption Day <sup>1</sup>
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 children were adopted into 6 families.</li> <li>• Media coverage increased community awareness.</li> <li>• A state senator made presentations.</li> <li>• Provided a free training session to local attorneys about the adoption process; attended by 3 attorneys.</li> <li>• Provided opportunity to recruit volunteer advocates.</li> <li>• Created a celebratory community event to increase community awareness.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>
Voices for Children, Inc., CASA of Brazos Valley, Texas CPS, local newspaper and television.

<b>4.1 Bowie County National Adoption Day</b>
<b>Amount of Award</b> \$1,500
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Texarkana Young Lawyers Association
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
National Adoption Day <sup>2</sup>
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 adoptions were completed.</li> <li>• Provided free attorney training for 3.5 CLE hours.</li> <li>• Distributed "What's Happening: In Court?" a free activity book for children.</li> <li>• Increased the number of attorneys qualified to take CPS cases.</li> <li>• Provided opportunity to recruit volunteer advocates.</li> <li>• Created a celebratory community event to increase community awareness.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>

<sup>1</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, Basic Grant Application, August 30, 2009, pg 10, item 4.5

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services , CASA, Texas CPS, local media
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<b>5.1 Travis County Office of Child Representation</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$100,000</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Travis County
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Office of Child Representation <sup>3</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
Travis County OCR provides early, consistent legal representation to children by attorneys who have subject area expertise, institutional knowledge, and experience with the CPS dockets of Travis County.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided legal counsel for 539 clients in 296 case assignments.</li> <li>• Received 243 new cases totaling 446 new clients.</li> <li>• Closed 96 cases – and about 33% were closed due to case conflicts such as prior representation of a party to a case – attributable largely to the long work histories of OCR staff.</li> <li>• Each OCR attorney completed at least 8 hours of Continuing Legal Education allowing them to be appointed to the College of the State Bar.</li> <li>• Instituted court protocol to request release of information from parents at the initial hearing, which often decreases the delay of waiting to get the information from CPS.</li> <li>• Addition of social worker case management has strengthened legal representation compared to the private appointment model. The social worker gathers and gets crucial information to attorneys faster which reduces delays as well as increases the pool of potential placements.</li> <li>• Responsible for decline in Travis County's expenditures on private attorney's fees in CPS cases – 15% in the first nine months of FY2010, of which 9% is believed to OCR.</li> <li>• Presented 14 trainings on issues on child abuse and neglect that received high approval ratings.</li> <li>• Staff participated in court-sponsored Brown Bag CLE training.</li> <li>• Oversight Committee met almost seven times.</li> <li>• Refined office policies and procedures and gained approval from Oversight Committee.</li> <li>• Created a rotating, on-call system for OCR attorneys to improve accessibility and prompt response time.</li> <li>• Created a forms bank to increase efficiency.</li> <li>• Completed first of 3-phase professional evaluation by George Mason University to evaluate OCR's efficiency and outcomes. The evaluation showed that many community stakeholders believe legal representation has improved with OCR.</li> <li>• Continued to refine case management database to improve data collection.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>
Attorney General (Child Support Division), Austin Bar Association (Adoption Day,

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, pg. 12, item 4.11

outreach), Austin Recovery (site visit), Center for Child Protection (site visit), Children's Commission Collaborative Council, DFPS (State Office, Investigations, Child Welfare Board, Conservatorship, Family Group Conferences, Adoptions), Model Court, Collaborative Council, Cincinnati Model Court Site Visit, SafePlace, Travis County Database Committee, Travis County Family Search and Engagement Committee, Travis County Mental Health Public Defender's Office, Travis County Juvenile Probation/Gardner Betts (site visit), Travis County Placement Docket Work Group (monthly), Travis County District Judges (quarterly meetings with Judge Darlene Byrne), University of Texas School of Law Children's Rights Clinic, University of Texas School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic, University of Texas School of Social Work

<b>6.1 Travis County Office of Parental Representation</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$100,000</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Travis County
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Office of Parental Representation <sup>4</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
The Travis County Office of Parental Representation (OPR) provides early, competent legal representation and social worker services to primary parents who have had or who are at risk of having their children removed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services due to allegations of abuse or neglect.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<p>OPR has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Been named, "Best of Austin 2009 – Best New Family Friendly Government Office" by the Austin Chronicle.</li> <li>• Represented 283 individual clients during grant period.</li> <li>• Closed 88 cases and reunified 52 families, or 60% of closed cases.</li> <li>• Accepted 100 % of all cases appointed.</li> <li>• All OPR attorneys have exceeded 45 hours of Continuing Legal Education allowing them to be appointed to the College of the State Bar.</li> <li>• Oversight Committee met almost monthly.</li> <li>• Refined office policies and procedures and gained approval from Oversight Committee.</li> <li>• Completed Judicial Survey. Respondent judges (13) "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that their dealings with OPR were professional, accurate and that OPR staff had superior knowledge of the law. Respondent judges said OPR demonstrated skills in trial advocacy and was aware of the community services available to our clients.</li> <li>• Completed first of 3-phase professional evaluation by George Mason University to evaluate OPR's efficiency and outcomes summarized in a report that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recognized OPR as having quickly become a resource in the legal community.</li> <li>○ Determined that OPR achieved many of its goals in its first year of operation.</li> <li>○ Noted how OPR attorneys have been described by others as zealous advocates for their clients and put their needs first.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, pg. 11, item 4.10

- Staff Social worker conducts assessments on each client as early as possible in the case and provides an individualized case management plan that may change during course of case.
- Staff social worker involved with efforts to reduce disproportionality such as committee involvement and training system stakeholders. involvement, social worker conducts training
- The effect of OPR being involved early in most cases has led to appropriate placements, faster determination of client’s needs and greater success of reunifying families and/or permanency in our cases.
- Staff serves as a resource for technical support to private attorneys on the rotation list for TDFPS cases and out-of-county attorneys.
- By participating in court-sponsored CLE events open to the public, OPR is expanding the public’s awareness of child welfare topics as well as being successful in establishing relationships with key players in this area of law.
- OPR has been successful in securing expanded visitation hours by modifying standard supervised visitation for all parents from one hour a week to two hours, twice a week.
- Reduced civil attorney fees for the county – in the first 9 months of 2010, civil attorney fee expenditures have declined by 15% over 2010, which had a reduction of 9%.
- Expanded the ability to find extended family members through collaboration committee efforts.
- OPR has conducted monthly multidisciplinary training for OPR, DA’s office, and CASA.
- Assisted the Travis County Domestic Relations Office with obtaining protective orders for clients prior to court proceedings.
- Staff involved with efforts to help youth aging out of care through Transition Court, and with the Cross-Over docket, which handles cases where clients are involved in both a criminal and Child Protection cases.

**Collaboration**

Office of Child Representation (OCR), District Attorney’s Office, University of Texas School of Law Children’s Rights Clinic, DFPS, CASA of Travis County, Travis County Office of Domestic Relations, Search and Engagement Committee, CrossOver Docket,

<b>7.1 ChildSafe / Family Drug Court Partnership</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$46,083</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Alamo Children’s Advocacy Center, d.b.a. ChildSafe, is a nonprofit children's advocacy center in Bexar County.
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Alamo Children's Advocacy Centers (ChildSafe) <sup>5</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
This ChildSafe project provides a continuum of services to families in the Bexar County Family Drug Court (FDC) who are identified as having a sexual abuse issue. ChildSafe offers services to the child who makes the outcry of sexual abuse, their siblings, and non-

<sup>5</sup> Ibid pg. 10, item 4.4

offending family members. The CIP grant pays for a part-time case coordinator to coordinate services between ChildSafe and the Bexar County Family Drug Court.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<p>The Case Coordinator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed 724 court affidavits to assess for sexual abuse of children.</li> <li>• Attended FDC meetings.</li> <li>• Provided services to 105 families, six of which were from FDC and 99 from the CPS Courts. The 105 families included 188 children and 31 parents.</li> <li>• Increased by 27% the number of individuals served from the year before.</li> <li>• Screened more families for services than in the previous year by committing more of the case coordinator's time to review all of the affidavits from FDC and CPS courts.</li> <li>• Increased the interaction between ChildSafe and judges.</li> <li>• Of the families ChildSafe had served, there were no new referrals to CPS during the grant.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>
Family Violence Prevention Services, Family Service Association, Alpha Home, The Patrician Movement, ChildSafe, CPS, Bexar County Family Drug Court, Judges Saldana and Sakai, Mid-coast Family Services

<b>8.1 Texas Foster Youth Justice Project</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$80,000.</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) is one of three legal aid service corporations in Texas. It serves most of South Central and Far West Texas.
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Texas Foster Youth Justice Project <sup>6</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
The Foster Youth Justice Project provides information and services to foster youth, especially those who are in long term care and/or are aging out of care, using a 24-hour legal hotline, a website, training conferences and publications. Project staff in many cases also provides direct legal representation.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<p>Core activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided legal information to foster youth.</li> <li>• Provided direct representation to foster youth in 211 cases involving matters such as family law (often involving domestic violence), landlord tenant, consumer, sealing juvenile and criminal records, barriers to higher education, obtaining CPS records, problems with identification documents (not having them or having documents with different/incorrect names), public benefits including food stamps and SSI, among others.</li> <li>• Trained the staff of agencies serving foster youth.</li> <li>• Conducted 10 separate training conferences for current/former foster youth.</li> <li>• Provided Pro Se legal resources.</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, pg. 11, item 4.8

- Promoted safety, permanency and well-being for foster youth by informing them of their basic rights, transition services, educational options, medical decision making and health insurance options.
- Began creation of a pro se litigant resource library.
- Conducted outreach by traveling and making presentations.
- Maintained and updated an informational website.
- Telephone hotline staffed by legal assistant who interviews youth and refers information to appropriate attorney and provides significant guidance to callers about, for example, negotiating the system.
- Received 125 requests for materials.
- Published:
  - 2, 577 copies of the 2nd edition of "A Guide to Those Aging out of Foster Care in Texas."
  - 661 copies of "A Guide to Sealing Juvenile Records."
  - 95 project posters.
  - 1,360 project brochures.
  - Street Smart (guide to local laws that impact youth for a variety of cities) : 61
- Project director served on the DFPS Transitional Living Services work group that made extensive recommendations to the legislature.
- Conducted outreach to foster youth in partnership with local CASA and PAL programs.
- 17,644 – number of website page views
- 15,402 – number of unique website-visitor IP addresses

**Collaboration**

Family Violence Prevention Services, Family Service Association, Alpha Home, The Patrician Movement, ChildSafe, CPS, Bexar County Family Drug Court, Judges Saldana and Sakai, Mid-coast Family Services

<b>9.1 Tarrant County Challenge Family Drug Court</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$100,000.00</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Tarrant County Challenge
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Tarrant County Challenge Activities <sup>7</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
Tarrant County Challenge is a nonprofit agency that works to reduce substance abuse in Tarrant County. It partners with Tarrant County courts to serve people involved with CPS cases who have substance abuse problems. The CIP grant helps fund the position of intensive case manager in the Tarrant County Family Drug Court.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued collaborative model with a full-time intensive case manager.</li> <li>• Served 27 families with 42 children.</li> <li>• Drug court successes have energized the community and spurred community support,</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, pg. 11, item 4.7

for example, a dentist provided some free dental care and another provider offered some extra recovery services to drug court graduates.

- Added a representative from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services join to collaborative group in order to strengthen services.
- Family Drug Court (FDC) staff continues to provide technical assistance. Additionally, the Tarrant County FDC has provided ongoing technical assistance to DFPS, Longview FDC, Dallas FDC, and several others jurisdictions that are planning to start drug courts.
- Several elected officials from local and state government attended the FDC hearings and have expressed how impressed and moved they are by the successes the program is experiencing.
- Better case documentation, communication and accountability was facilitated with new web-based case management database that allows the Judge, ICMs, CPS workers and FDC supervisor to access client case records from any computer with internet access.
- Increased the number of judicial reviews that parents have with the FDC judge.
- Provided parents with incentives/rewards to reinforce NA/AA attendance, to participate in treatment, obtain a job, and manage stress.

**Collaboration**

323rd District Court, Department of Family and Protective Services, Tarrant County Challenge, Lena Pope Home, Recovery Resource Council, CASA of Tarrant County, MHMR – Addiction Services, MHMR – Mental Health, MHMR – ECI, MHMR – Evaluation, VOA Light, VOA Riverside, Nexus Recovery Center, North Texas Addictions Counseling and Education, Salvation Army, Union Gospel Mission, The Next Step, The Women’s Center, Texas Wesleyan School of Law, Bearden Investigative Agency, Community Enrichment Center – Adopt-a-Family Program, Ladder Alliance, Positive Influences, Red Oak Books, Community Learning Center.

**10.1 Texas Loves Children (TLC) Website**

**Amount of Award: \$250,000**

**Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent**

Texas Loves Children

**Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application**

Texas Lawyers for Children Website<sup>8</sup>

**Project Description**

Texas Loves Children, Inc. is a nonprofit agency in Dallas that has developed a website and online communication tools for attorneys and judges. Staff also conducts legal training. The CIP grant helps fund the salaries of TLC staff and contract personnel.

**Activities and Accomplishments**

The TLC website project seeks to raise the standard of practice by equipping judges and attorneys with a comprehensive, topically organized, word-searchable online legal resource, as well as a communication tools and services such as secure discussion boards and email alerts. TLC's information and tools help courts make better recommendations and decisions in child protection cases.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, pg. 11, item 4.9

- Of the 1425 registered users, 11 judges and 55 attorneys responded to an online survey; 100% of the 11 judges and 96% of the 55 attorneys said the online center helped them achieve the best interest of the children involved in their cases.
- Continued ongoing updates and expansion of the online child abuse library with new materials and resources. The library focuses on legal, medical, and psychological information pertinent to child abuse and neglect and child protection.
- Updated and expanded communication and collaboration tools.
- Provided critical new information about changes in state and federal legal developments and breaking news in Texas, with analysis on how would impact children’s cases.
- Continued statewide pro bono registry that provides a way for attorneys from all fields of practice to register to assist in children’s cases.
- Continued partnering with the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the State Bar Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect to recruit pro bono attorneys to represent a specific population of children who are in the state's permanent managing conservatorship and who do not have a legal advocate.
- Added 1,263 new materials.
- Received in November 2010 the “Award for Excellence in Social Innovation” given by the Dallas Center for Nonprofit Management that recognizes *“a novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient and sustainable... and demonstrates significant positive change around a specific social issue.”*
- Added announcements and content at the request of Commission staff, such as training opportunities, the Commission's Jurist in Residence letter, and information about Travis County's model court.
- Sent 20 email alerts to judges and attorneys about time-sensitive news.
- Posted 31 news alerts to the home page.
- Created an email network for participants of the Commission's PMC Round Table after the conference ended to allow participants to continue communications and information sharing.
- Distributed and gathered information for the Commission by emailing registered users information such as links to Commission surveys and notices of Commission-sponsored training scholarships.
- Continued partnership with Texas Foster Youth Justice Project by posting information on TLC's web site about the project.
- Continued collaboration with Advocacy, Inc, by posting training materials and information about their dually managed youth project.
- Added 102 registered users to a total of 1,425.
- 22, 348 – number of visits to the website.
- 212,676 – Number of page views.

**Collaboration**

Texas Child Protection Specialty Courts, Texas Association of Child Protection Judges (TACPJ), Department of Family and Protective Services, Office of General Counsel, Office of Court Administration, Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA), State Bar of Texas, Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office, Harris County Attorney’s Office, National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, National

Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect (now Child Welfare Information Gateway), Fort Worth – Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, Texas Young Lawyers Association, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Center for Public Policy Priorities, the National Child Protection Training Center, and the ABA Center on Children and the Law.

<b>11.1 Texas CASA – Expansion and Development</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$237,800</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Texas CASA, Inc., advocates for abused and neglected children in the court system through the development, growth and support of local CASA programs.
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Texas CASA, Inc. <sup>9</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
With Texas CASA’s support, local CASA programs recruit, train, and supervise volunteers to serve as court-appointed guardians ad litem or special advocates in child protection services cases. The CIP grant helps fund various recruitment efforts and training courses for both staff and volunteers.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<p><b>Strengthening local CASA program's capacity to provide effective and consistent advocacy for children through volunteers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased the number of CASA volunteers to 6,619 in 2010 from 5,446 in 2009, a 17.2% increase.</li> <li>• 20,818 – Number of children CASA served.</li> <li>• 200 – Number of judges served.</li> <li>• 311 – Number of persons trained.</li> <li>• Launched new recruitment campaign, <b>Recruitment 360</b>, based on the popular Volunteer Roundup Word of Mouth program:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trained 86 persons, 99% of evaluations agreed or strongly agreed that the training met their expectations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Volunteer Education:</b> This 16-hour conference is a train-the-trainer course and was attended by 27 CASA staff.</li> <li>• <b>Advocacy and Volunteer Management Training:</b> Twenty-six persons attended this core-skills training, which met the expectations of 96% of participants.</li> <li>• <b>Executive Director Leadership Institute:</b> Created by best-selling authors, this 2-day course covers practices of exemplary leaders. Executive directors of 58 CASA programs attended, and 93% said it met their expectations.</li> <li>• <b>Training of New Executive Directors:</b> Four sessions were provided and attended by 38 new executive directors, 100% of whom said it met their expectations.</li> <li>• <b>New one-day course suggested by the Texas CASA Statewide Volunteer Council:</b> This new course that puts together CASA staff and volunteers to share experiences and discuss best practices was attended by 76 participants and met the expectations of 93%.</li> </ul>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, pg.8, item 4.2

- **Web-based training modules:** Although Texas CASA staff thoroughly researched this training option, it was found to be cost-prohibitive, so two alternatives have been suggested.
  - *Provide local programs with training modules that can be customized for their jurisdiction.*
  - *Provide a series of short webinars on program management or child advocacy best practices.*

**Expanding CASA services into additional counties**

Texas CASA provided intensive, as-needed support – staff time and training – to both the staff and boards of start-up CASAs and those interested in expanding services.

- The state's 69th CASA program – established in Williamson County -- completed its first year of services.
- Three local CASA programs are seeking to expand into neighboring counties, and one already has – the Harrison County CASA in Marshall, Texas, expanded to Marion County.

**Collaboration**

National CASA, DFPS, Texas C-Bar, Greenlights, leaders within the CASA network, attorneys ad litem, and speakers with expertise in accounting, public relations and leadership development

**12.1 Harris County Infant and Toddlers Court**

**Amount of Award: \$ 50,000**

**Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent**

Harris County

**Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application**

None

**Project Description**

This project is the creation of a court docket specifically for CPS cases involving infants and toddlers aged 0 – 3, and it is based on the Zero to Three model. The project's goals include ensuring a continuum of services, providing education about the issues affecting this population, creating a replicable program, reducing parental recidivism, building local capacity, implementing and utilizing data tracking and utilization models, and identifying cost-saving measures. These goals will be accomplished through improved access to primary and mental health care, access to Early Child Intervention (ECI) services, increased visitation, addiction recovery, family conferencing, and overall use of a collaborative, therapeutic and problem-solving judicial approach. CIP funds support the expenses for personnel/salary required for start-up activities. Because the docket is not yet operational, this project will be included in next year's report.

**13.1 Dallas County Videoconferencing Project**

**Amount of Award: \$ 50,000**

**Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent**

Dallas County

**Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application**

None

<b>Project Description</b>
This is a project to install a video conferencing system in two Dallas County Juvenile District courts (304th and 305th) to allow children and youth more participation in their cases. Court staff has developed protocols for using the system, and procedures such as securing rooms and scheduling the system's use. Because the system is not yet operational, this project will be included in next year's report.

<b>14.1 OCA CPC Judicial Support</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$20,400</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
The Office of Court Administration (OCA)
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Office of Court Administration <sup>10</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
The CIP grant pays for internet connectivity via wireless air cards for CPC judges, which allows them to access the web-based CPCMS.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided wireless data cards to all judges and court staff to maintain the case management system that provides updated docket information.</li> <li>• Allows judges who travel the vast majority of the time to stay in touch with their court coordinator in their home jurisdiction.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>
Staff of the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families, 129 Texas counties, Child Protection Court Advisory Council, Office of Court Administration, 17 Child Protection Courts.

**TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROJECTS**

The Commission's Technology Committee is responsible for vetting technology projects that meet CIP and Commission goals and making recommendations to the Commission. The Commission charged the Technology Committee with implementing the Commission's strategic plan goals that relate to data collection and analysis. Members of the Technology Committee include representatives of the judiciary, DFPS, Texas CASA, attorneys and Commission staff. Technology grant funds are used to fund projects through grant agreements or contracts with outside organizations, and through staff-directed projects. Using Technology grant funds, the Commission worked to improve the state child welfare system by:

- Funding expenses associated with Commission meetings, member travel, and meeting-related expenses.
- Supporting the activities of the executive director and other Commission staff, including strategy and program development, implementing the CIP grant program, conducting site visits, representing Texas courts, attending judicial and child welfare conferences, and attending coordinating stakeholder meetings.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid, pg. 9, item 4.3.

- Disseminating information to the judiciary and stakeholders through the Commission’s website, newsletter, meeting minutes, Jurist in Residence communications, other publications, and personal contacts.
- Ensuring statewide collaboration on all CIP grants is conducted in a meaningful and ongoing manner.
- Advocating for projects that improve court performance and practices throughout the state.

**Summaries of Technology Grant Projects:**

<b>15.1 Texas Data Enabled Courts for Kids (TexDECK)</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$264,582</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
The Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA) is the administrative arm of the state's court system and provides technical and administrative services to certain trial and appellate courts.
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Proposed List of Data Grant Projects for FY2010 <sup>11</sup>
<b>Program Description</b>
TexDECK is the name of a group of CIP-funded projects all aimed at improving data collection and analysis in child protection cases and integrating the exchange of information between courts, the state's child protective agency, and related government entities. CIP funds pay primarily for the TexDECK project manager's salary and additional contracted IT professional services. Ongoing TexDECK projects include collaborating with national groups who are working to establish data exchange standards and creating and updating comprehensive case management software.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<p><b>Functional Requirements Study (FRS)</b></p> <p>As the blueprint for building child-protection case management software, the Functional Requirements Study is a document that maps, as far as possible, every step in a child-protection case. In FY 2010, the FRS was upgraded from version 1.0 to version 2.0, adding items that address Toolkit Outcome Measures and the following items that were identified since publication of version 1.0, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCA CPCMS as a Case Study and will include all system Help files:</li> <li>• User Guide</li> <li>• Outcome Measures – Data Field Matrix</li> <li>• System Utilization Guidelines (as directed from the Presiding Judges)</li> <li>• Medication Chart &amp; Notes</li> </ul> <p><b>Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS)</b></p> <p>TexDECK staff created CPCMS, a state-of-the-art, case management software system for child protection courts.</p>

<sup>11</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, Training Grant Application, August 30, 2009, pgs 9-10, items 5.2-5.5

- Launched CPCMS in late 2009 for the state's 17 Child Protection Courts (CPC) – child protection specialty courts formerly called Cluster Courts.
- Because CPC courts handle child protection cases in 130 (mostly rural) of the state's 254 counties, the use of CPCMS affects significant numbers of individuals involved in the state's child protection system, including:
  - 11, 551 children and youth.
  - 6,888 parents.
  - 1,755 CASAs or other volunteers.
  - 20 judges and 18 of their staff members.
  - 9,238 attorneys.
- Added specifications to CPCMS that allows it to capture 20 of the 30 measures in the *Toolkit for Court Performance Measures in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases*. This makes it possible for CPC courts to capture and analyze nationally recognized outcome measures.
- Added several reporting functions to CPCMS.
- Continued efforts to encourage other Texas courts to adopt CPCMS or some of its components by advising Texas courts of the availability of the CPCMS source code, database schema, and all supporting documentation at no cost.
- Worked with CPC courts for solutions to improve internet connectivity because CPCMS is a web-based software system and its functionality is affected by the availability and speed of courts' internet.
- Worked with the County Information Resource Agency (CIRA) to explore the possibility of their hosting the CPCMS system and implementing it in their member counties. The project was put on hold because of timing complications but will be revisited in 2011 for possible implementation in 2012.
- Worked with another consortium of Texas counties (The TechShare program of the Texas Conference of Urban Counties (CUC) to explore implementing CPCMS in three urban counties, Tarrant, Bexar and Dallas. The project was put on hold because of timing complications but will be revisited in 2011 for possible implementation in 2012.
- Began working with Tarrant County to develop and implement a case management system based on CPCMS.

**Data Interchange Standards**

OCA, through the TexDECK project, has continued working with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and a workgroup of state and national members to develop national data interchange standards, which is the technology necessary to allow direct (computer-to-computer) data exchange between the courts and the child protection agency.

- TexDECK staff contributed to the completion of some of the critical components (or data models) called Information Exchange Packet Documents (IEPDs) that will facilitate future direct data exchange. The following five of the eight IEPDs the workgroup identified as first priorities were completed in 2010:
  - Court findings
  - Dependency petition
  - Hearing notification
  - Placement change notification

○ Representation notification.  
Two of the eight (Court report and Service plan) were completed in 2009 and one (Case plan) is in development.

**Collaboration**

Texas DFPS, Texas CPS, 323rd District Court (Tarrant County), 126th Judicial District Court (Travis County), 311th District Court (Harris County), 330th Family Court District (Dallas County), CPCMS Advisory Group, Child Protection Court of Central Texas, Sabine Valley Child Protection, South Plains Cluster Court, Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, Child Protection Court of the Rio Grande Valley West, Brazos River Valley Cluster Court, Centex Child Protection Court, North Texas Child Protection Court, Child Protection Court of South Texas

**TRAINING GRANT PROJECTS**

The Commission's Training Committee is responsible for vetting judicial, attorney and multidisciplinary training projects that meet CIP and Commission goals and making recommendations to the Commission. Training grant funds are used to fund projects through grant agreements or contracts with outside organizations, and through staff-directed projects. The Commission charged the Training Committee with implementing the Commission’s strategic plan goals that relate to training judges, attorneys and other stakeholders around the state through:

- Funding expenses associated with Commission meetings, member travel, and meeting-related expenses.
- Supporting the activities of the executive director and other Commission staff, including strategic and program development, implementing the CIP grant program, conducting site visits, representing Texas courts, attending judicial and child welfare conferences, and attending and coordinating stakeholder meetings.
- Disseminating information to the judiciary and stakeholders through the Commission’s website, newsletter, meeting minutes, Jurist in Residence communications, other publications, and personal contacts.
- Ensuring statewide collaboration on all CIP grants is conducted in a meaningful and ongoing manner.
- Advocating for projects that improve court performance and practices throughout the state.

**Summaries of Training Grant Projects:**

<b>16.1 OCA CPC Annual Judicial Training</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$29,300</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
The Office of Court Administration (OCA)
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Child Protection Court Annual Update <sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, pg. 8, item 4.6

<b>Project Description</b>
The CIP grant funds and OCA conducts an annual 2-day training for OCA's 17 CPC judges. The project also pays to send CPC judges to other relevant training conferences.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
Judicial training helps child protection court judges and staff improve their knowledge, skills and abilities to facilitate consistent decisions for safety, permanency and well being of children brought before them. <b>CPC Annual Conference, Oct. 5-6, 2009</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32 judges and staff attended.</li> <li>• 146.25 – Number of CLE hours attendees earned.</li> <li>• Conference received an average rating of 5 on a scale of 1 to 5.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Training Conferences</b> (and number that attended)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TACA Conference (1)</li> <li>• NCSCS Fundamental Issues of Caseflow Management (4)</li> <li>• Texas Judicial Summit (1)</li> <li>• NCJFCJ Annual Conference (1)</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>
Staff of the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families, 129 Texas counties, Child Protection Court Advisory Council, Office of Court Administration, 17 Child Protection Courts, the CEO of Centene Corporation's Foster Care Program, the Director of STAR Health, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

<b>17.1 DFPS Attorney Training</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$5,000</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
None
<b>Project Description</b>
A grant agreement between Commission and DFPS reimbursed the travel expenses of seven DFPS prosecutors to attend the State Bar of Texas Advanced Family Law Conference in August 2010.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
Better legal representation will lead to more timely resolution of child welfare cases, ensuring that children are placed in a permanent home more quickly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 DFPS attorneys attended the Advanced Family Law Conference.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>
DFPS, State Bar of Texas, State Bar of Texas Child Abuse and Neglect Committee

<b>18.1 Texas Center for the Judiciary: Judicial Training and National Conference Sponsorship</b>
<b>Amount of Award: \$635, 841</b>

<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>						
Texas Center for the Judiciary is a nonprofit corporation established in 1973 by the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas to provide continuing judicial education programs for the state's judiciary and supportive personnel.						
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>						
Status of Current CIP Training Grant Projects <sup>13</sup>						
<b>Project Description</b>						
The Texas Center for the Judiciary conducted four in-state training programs (Beyond the Bench, Associate Judges Conference, CPS Judicial Conference, and Disproportionality - Implicit Bias) and coordinated scholarships for two national training programs (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law (NCJFL).						
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>						
<b>Training Conferences</b>						
<b>Texas Center for the Judiciary Conferences</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>Number Judges</b>	<b>CLE or CJE Hrs</b>	<b>Total CLE or CJE Hrs</b>
Beyond the Bench / Harris County	April 2010	Galveston	138	22	10	220
Associate Judges	July 2010	Austin	96	69	12	828
CPS Judges	August 2010	San Antonio	96	48	12	576
Disproportionality / Implicit Bias	May 2010	Bastrop	35	24	10.5	252
<b>National Scholarships</b>						
NCJJ Annual	March 2010	Las Vegas	60	54	17	918
NCJFCJ Annual	July 2010	San Diego	52	48	17.25	840
<b>Total Trained</b>			<b>477</b>			
				<b>Total Judges</b>	<b>265</b>	
					<b>Total CLE/CJE</b>	<b>3634</b>
<b>Post-training surveys reveal training's positive results</b>						
When judges and other stakeholders are trained on relevant and important issues, they are better equipped to make decisions leading to increased safety, permanency and well being for children and families.						
At each TCJ training course, participants commit to completing a survey six months later to describe how they've changed their behavior or applied what they learned as a result of the training, and what kinds of action plans subsequently implemented. Completed surveys show that most training participants return to their communities and immediately begin trying to apply what they learned. For example, participants of the September 2009 Beyond the Bench have already implemented or will soon implement many new processes to						

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, pgs 7-8, items 4.2-4.5

improve court performance.

**Based on a Beyond the Bench conducted in FY2009, participant judges reported that as a result of the 2009 Beyond the Bench training they now:**

- Conduct routine transition hearings for youth in long term care when they turn 16.
- Introduce the "Child's Court Report" into the court process.
- Use mediations more often, on a case by case basis.
- Order drug assessments earlier in the court process.
- Conduct regular collaborative meetings with other stakeholders, usually monthly.
- Collaborate with Attorney General's office to try to get temporary child support orders in CPS cases.
- Require reports from attorneys ad litem describing their efforts to meet with their child or youth clients.
- Implement teleconferencing or video conferencing to allow more youth participation mainly, but also others, such as an undocumented parent who cannot cross the Mexico/Texas border.
- **Rio Grande Initiative:** Several judges along the border of Mexico, from Laredo to Brownsville, created this multidisciplinary effort to provide training to participants in court cases, recruit service providers, and work together to address pressing problems.

**Changes other stakeholders have made or will make:**

- The Kingsville police department will:
  - Include a module on CPS and CASA in its new-officer training.
  - Participate in a multidisciplinary response team that addresses child protection issues.
  - Police officers visit CPS worker and CASA volunteers at their places of business as part of a community policing initiative.
- Staff of the Ricardo Independent School District actively supports their local CASA in fundraising and recruitment efforts.

**Overall, judges and others who have attended TCJ training courses have indicated that as a result of the training, they:**

- (1) Are more likely to ask about the health, medical care, school attendance, and other indicators that children are being properly cared for;
- (2) Have an enhanced awareness of child-protection issues;
- (3) Have greater cross-disciplinary communication; and
- (4) Have more tools that enhance their ability to make better-informed decisions**

**Collaboration**

Associates in Human Development Counseling, LLC Rolling Meadows IL, Brief Therapy Institute Dallas, Advocacy, Inc., Center for Public Policy Priorities, Advocacy, Inc., Univ. of Oklahoma, Dept. of Pediatrics, Supreme Court Children's Commission, Travis Consulting Co., Chapin Hall at the Univ of Chicago, Santa Maria Hostel, National Screening Center, Child Advocates, Inc., Brazoria County, Law Office of Macy Cassin, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Law Offices of George Clevenger, Connolly & Shireman, LLP, Family Time Crisis & Counseling

Center, Texas Children's Hospital, Harris Co. Juvenile Probation Dept, CPS, Homes with Hope, Claudia Canales, Attorney, Donna Everson, Attorney, Farias Law Firm, Macy Cassin, Attorney, Harris County, Harris County Attorney's Office, The Griffith Law Firm, PLLC., Harris Co. Attorney's Office, Katie Flynn, Brian Fischer, Attorney, CPD Division Chief, Vickie Longwill, Attorney, City of Houston Police Dept., City of Pasadena Police Department, Harris County Protective Services, Wendy L. Prater, Attorney at Law, Law Office of Karina A. Ramirez, Marc Ritter, Attorney, Raul Rodriguez, Attorney, Harris Co. Children's Crisis Care Center, Connolly & Shireman, LLP, Harris County DA's Office, Harris Co. Children's Assessment Center, Law Office of Patrick Upton, Kathleen Vossler, Attorney, Bobbie Young, Attorney, Carel Stith, Attorney, Eric McFerren, Attorney, Harris Co. Juvenile Probation, Houston Works USA, DePelchin Children's Center, Supreme Court of Texas, Courthouse & Law Enforcement Center, Plunkett & Gibson, Circuit Court of Cook County, Sacramento State University, Polk County Court, Harris County MHMR, Betty Blackwell Attorney, Casey Family Programs, Child Prot. ct. of Central Texas, Thompson Coe Attorneys, Hon. Len Edwards, State of Wisconsin, Office of Attorney General, A-STEP Seminars, Univ. of Texas School of Law, Peoples Institute for Survival and Beyond, Port Arthur HOPE, Office of Court Administration, Justice of the Peace, NCJFCJ Nat'l Conference, Nat'l Conf on Juvenile & Family Law, Justice Court Training Center, Texas CASA, Casey Family Programs, Tx Health and Human Services, Dr. Connie Almeida, Psychologist, Transitions, Casa de Esperanze, State of Texas Deputy General Counsel, Texas Lawyers for Children, Texas Youth Connection, Tracy Harting, Attorney, Chadwick Sapenter, Simpson Martin, L.L.P.

<b>19.1 NACC 33rd Annual Conference</b>
Amount of Award: \$ 130,000
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
National Association of Counsel for Children
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Child Welfare Law Conference <sup>14</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
<p>The NACC annual training conference offers nationally known expert speakers on multi-disciplinary topics designed to provide attendees with the tools needed to provide effective legal representation in child abuse and neglect cases.</p> <p>The Commission gave an award statement to the NACC in FY2010 to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration scholarships for Texas attorneys to attend the conference.</li> <li>• Funding for speaker-related expenses.</li> </ul> <p>The conference was held October 20-23, 2010, in Austin, Texas, and will be included in the FY2011 report.</p>

<sup>14</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, Training Grant Application, August 30, 2009, pg 9, item 4.9

**CONTRACT PROJECTS**

<b>20.1 NACC Attorney Training</b>					
<b>Amount of Total Award: \$180,00</b>					
<b>Amount Used in FY2010: \$85,000</b>					
Grant period was FY2009 and FY2010 – Training conducted over two years.					
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>					
Attorney Training <sup>15</sup>					
<b>Project Description</b>					
The Commission signed an \$180,000 contract in September 2008 with the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) to develop and conduct between 14 and 17 statewide training conferences for attorneys who represent children, parents, or the child welfare agency in child protection cases. Nine conferences were conducted in FY 2009 and eight in FY 2010.					
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>					
<p>Provided basic and advanced attorney training regarding legal representation in child protection cases. Better legal representation will lead to more timely resolution of child welfare cases, ensuring that children are placed in a permanent home more quickly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted eight trainings in FY 2010.</li> <li>• Produced a manual for Texas attorneys representing parents and children in CPS cases that all attendees received. Available online at: <a href="http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/children/pdf/TXTrainingManual.pdf">www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/children/pdf/TXTrainingManual.pdf</a>.</li> <li>• Coordinated with courts in six sites regarding training needs.</li> <li>• Developed scripts and PowerPoints for future on-line training.</li> <li>• Promoted work of Children’s Commission.</li> </ul>					
<b>Name of Event</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b># Attended</b>	<b>CLE</b>	<b>Total CLE</b>
The Abuse and Neglect Case: A Practitioner’s Guide	October 2, 2009	Longview	31	8	248
The Abuse and Neglect Case: A Practitioner’s Guide	October 20, 2009	Waco	19	7.5	142.5
The Abuse and Neglect Case: A Practitioner’s Guide	October 22, 2009	Fort Worth	41	7.5	307.5
Red Book Training	October 28, 2009	Houston	37	5.5	203.5
The Abuse and Neglect Case: A Practitioner’s Guide	November 6, 2009	Dallas	72	7.5	540
Red Book Training	November 7, 2009	Dallas	25	5.5	137.5
The Abuse and Neglect Case: A Practitioner’s Guide	December 2, 2009	Harlingen	23	7.5	172.5

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, pg. 10, item 5.7

Case: A Practitioner's Guide					
The Abuse and Neglect Case: A Practitioner's Guide	December 4, 2009	Corpus Christi	19	7.5	142.5
<b>Totals</b>			<b>267</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>1,894</b>

**Collaboration**

Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families; National Association of Counsel for Children, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, The State Bar of Texas, Texas Lawyers for Children, Texas CASA, Texas Office of Court Administration, The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, The Travis County Office of Parent Representation, The Texas Children's Justice Act, The Texas District and County Attorneys Association, Children's Rights Clinic, The University of Texas School of Law, W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, Austin Bar Association, Court Appointed Family Advocates Section, Children's Justice Center of El Paso, Center for Public Policy Priorities, Harris County Attorney's Office, Bexar County District Attorney's Office, Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, The Honorable Dean Rucker, Midland County, The Honorable Patricia Macias, El Paso County, Judge Oscar Gabaldon, El Paso County, The Honorable Darlene Byrne, Travis County, Judge Charles Montemayor, Bexar County, Judge Richard Garcia, Bexar County, The Honorable John Specia, Bexar County, The Honorable Larry Thorne, Jefferson County, The Honorable Bonnie Hellums, Harris County, The Honorable Donald Dowd, Cass County, The Honorable Robin Sage, Gregg County, The Honorable Gary Coley, McLennan County, Judge Ellen Smith, Tarrant County, The Honorable Cheryl Shannon, Dallas County, The Honorable Terry Shamsie, Nueces County, Judge Cathy Morris, Child Protection Court of South Texas, Judge Jo Ann Ottis, East Texas Cluster Court, Judge Ricardo Flores, Child Protection Court of the Rio Grande Valley West, Judge Karin Bonicoro, Child Protection Court of Central Texas, Judge Paul Gallego, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Administrative Judicial Regions Cluster Court, Judge William Martin, Northeast Texas Foster Care Docket, Judge Kevin Hart, South Plains Cluster Court, Judge David Dunn, Southeast Texas Cluster Court, Judge Eric Andell, Brazos River Valley Cluster Court and Three Rivers Cluster Court, Judge Sam Bournias, Brazos River Valley Cluster Court, Judge Charles Van Orden, Centex Child Protection Court, Judge Sylvia Chavez, Child Protection Court of the Permian Basin, Judge Philip Vanderpool, Northern Panhandle Child Protection Court, Judge Robert Hofmann, Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, Judge Virginia Schnarr, Sabine Valley Child Protection Court, Judge Mary Craft, Three Rivers Cluster Court, Judge Alyce Bondurant, North Texas Child Protection Court, Judge James Belton, Child Protection Court of the Rio Grande Valley East

<b>21.1 Jurist in Residence</b>
<b>Amount: \$28,000</b>
<b>Subgrantee/Fiscal Agent</b>
Office of Court Administration (OCA)
<b>Corresponding Item in Strategic Plan</b>

None
<b>Project Description</b>
The CIP grant pays for the expert consulting services of Senior District Judge John Specia (ret).
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<p>The Jurist in Residence (JIR) project was created to foster judicial leadership and promote greater expertise among child protection judges. John J. Specia, a retired District Judge, serves as the Jurist In Residence and assists the Children’s Commission in fulfilling its strategies to improve safety, permanency and well-being for children and families involved in the Texas child protection system. The Commission uses the JIR for various projects that impact improvements to courts and court processes. In FY 2010, the JIR met with Commission staff and DFPS executives and staff on a regular basis to plan, discuss, and strategize about the CPS Permanency Data, the CPS Bench Book, Mediation in CPS cases, judicial training for Beyond the Bench and Implicit Bias in Judicial Decision-making, partnerships with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), and served on the Texas Applesseed Permanency Study Workgroup.</p> <p>The JIR also met with judges around the state, including traveling to Austin, Dallas, Harlingen, Houston, and D.C., and spoke at several conferences on behalf of the Children’s Commission.</p>
<b>Collaboration</b>
See above

**STAFF-DIRECTED PROJECTS**

<b>22.1 Judicial Technical Assistance</b>
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
None
<b>Project Description</b>
<p>Primarily, a report that evaluates a jurisdiction’s performance on several permanency outcome measures is provided to judges who request it. The data on outcome measures are extracted from the CPS databases and are among those that all states are required to collect as part of the federal evaluation process. Data analysis is available on the following metrics:</p> <p><b>With regard to Timeliness</b> - Percentage of final orders issued within 1 year, Number of final orders issued after more than 1 year, Mean time from TPR to adoption for children who were adopted.</p> <p><b>With regard to Permanency outcomes</b> – Percentage of children who reunify from TMC, Percentage of children exiting TMC into PMC, Of the children who enter PMC, percentage who enter PMC without TPR, Age break down of children entering PMC without TPR, Percentage of children who are in PMC without TPR and have a subsequent TPR within 12 months, Percentage of relative PMC versus relative adoption, Of children exiting TMC or PMC, percentage who exit to a permanent home, Of children who aged out, percentage who were in</p>

care 3 or more years, Of children who exited PMC with TPR, percentage who did not exit to a permanent home, Percentage of children who left care and who reentered care within 12 months.

**Activities and Accomplishments**

This joint project with the Center for Public Policy Priorities resulted from the well-received February 2010 PMC Round Table. Judges may use a jurisdiction-specific report based on data to help them identify areas for improvement. To date, a permanency data analysis has been provided to Bexar County, Travis County, Tarrant County, Gregg County, the Cen-Tex Child Protection Court, and requests are pending for Harris County, Anderson County, Brazos County, the Brazos River Valley Cluster Court #1, Ellis County, and Smith County. We have also used the following counties as comparison counties in preparing the specific county summaries: Harris, Dallas, McLennan, Henderson, Smith, Northeast Texas Foster Care Docket, Sabine Valley Child Protection Court, Child Protection Court of Central Texas, South Plains Cluster Court, and Brazos River Valley Cluster Court #1.

**Collaboration**

NCJFCJ, TCJ, DFPS, Casey Family Programs, Applesseed Inc., Advocacy Inc., Center for Public Policy Priorities, Bexar County, Travis County, Tarrant County, Gregg County, the Cen-Tex Child Protection Court, and requests are pending for Harris County, Anderson County, Brazos County, the Brazos River Valley Cluster Court #1, Ellis County, and Smith County, Harris, Dallas, McLennan, Henderson, Smith, Northeast Texas Foster Care Docket, Sabine Valley Child Protection Court, Child Protection Court of Central Texas, South Plains Cluster Court

**23.1 Round Table Series**

**Corresponding Item in Strategic Plan**

Round Table Series<sup>16</sup>

**Project Description**

The goal of the Round Table Series is to advance ideas that result in sound executive agency policy, carefully planned legislation, and improved judicial handling of child protection cases. Each Round Table brings together a multidisciplinary group of subject matter experts and stakeholders to discuss issues affecting child protection in Texas.

**Activities and Accomplishments**

***PMC Round Table***

The topic of this Round Table, held in February, was about the large number of children in the state's permanent managing conservatorship (PMC) and what judges could do to both reduce their numbers and keep the population from rebuilding. Data about PMC children from around the state was examined, such as when and how they exit care, and the discussion included ways that the data could inform decision-making. The discussion satisfied a CPS Program Improvement Plan (PIP) project, and a paper on the discussion was posted on the Commission's website. There were 50 attendees. The Judicial Technical Assistance project (see item 20.1) resulted from this Round Table.

<sup>16</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, August 30, 2009, Basic Grant Application, pg 13, item 4.15; Training Grant Application, pg 8, 4.8; Data Grant Application, pg 10, item 5.7

<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Office of General Counsel, DFPS, William B. Connolly &amp; Associates, 247th District Court, 38th District Court, Office of Court Administration, Casey Family Programs, Bexar County District Attorney's Office, Texas CASA, Inc., Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Child Protection Court of South Texas, 305th District Court, Texas Department of Family &amp; Protective Services, 126th District Court, Travis County District Attorney's Office, Texas Department of Health &amp; Human Services Commission, Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Harris County Attorney's Office, Texas Department of Family &amp; Protective Services, Child Protective Services, DFPS, The University of Texas School of Law, Center for Public Policy Priorities</p>
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<p><b>24.1 Advocacy Inc. Legal Representation Project</b></p>
<p><b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b></p> <p>Formerly TYC/CPS Dually Managed Youth / Advocacy Inc. Project<sup>17</sup></p>
<p><b>Project Description</b></p> <p>This project provides free legal representation to dually managed youth, who are foster youth who are incarcerated within the Texas Youth Commission system, and foster youth with extreme disabilities who reside in a State Supported Learning Center (formerly State Schools). Two Advocacy, Inc., attorneys travel throughout the state to represent more than 65 dually managed youth, or youth in State Supported Learning Centers. The program is expanding to include youth who are at risk of getting involved in the juvenile justice system. Providing legal representation should lead to improved outcomes for these youth.</p>
<p><b>Activities and Accomplishments</b></p> <p>This project directly resulted from a Commission workgroup that started meeting in 2008 to improve the outcomes of dually managed youth. In FY 2010, Advocacy Inc. hired two attorneys who travel around the state representing some 76 clients, most of whom are dually managed youth but also including some are youth who are at risk for involvement in the TYC system. Although the Children's Commission budgeted \$50,000 in CIP funds for this project in FY2010, the funds were not used because Advocacy Inc. received enough funds to cover first year costs from two nonprofit foundations – The Meadows and Rees-Jones Foundations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placed 20 of 21 eligible clients within the community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Judicial and Attorney Training/Technical Assistance</b></p> <p>At the request of local judges, the project's attorneys provided continuing legal education training to judges and attorneys in Bexar County in February. The presentation was well-received and led to an additional invitation to present at a meeting of Bexar County attorneys and CPS case workers in June. Additionally, project attorneys presented at the August 2010 Annual CPS Judges' Conference, giving a 2-hour presentation to 35 judges regarding efforts to improve outcomes for dually managed youth.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, National Association of Counsel for</p>

<sup>17</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, Basic Grant Application, August 30, 2009, pg 12, item 4.14

Children, Texas Youth Commission – various facilities, state supported living centers (SSLCs) – various facilities, Bexar County Family Court, The Meadows Foundation, Rees-Jones Foundation, Texas Access to Justice Foundation, 323rd District Court in Tarrant County, 286th Dist Court in Hockley County, 397th District Court in Grayson County, 217th District Court in Angelina County, District Court of Willacy County, 64th District Court of Hale County, 313th District Court of Harris County, 315th District Court of Harris County, 321st District Court of Smith County, 207th District Court of Caldwell County

<b>25.1 CPS Judges Bench Book</b>
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Bench Book <sup>18</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
In FY2010, the Children's Commission developed an online Bench Book for CPS judges. The Bench Book was officially launched in November 2010.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
The CPS Bench Book is a valuable resource for judges who hear CPS cases because it provides essential information in a user-friendly way. The Bench Book is a tool that will help judges make better decisions, resulting in improved safety, permanency and well being of children in the CPS system. It is organized by event (e.g., investigations, removals, adversary, status, permanency, placement, final hearing, appeals, and adoption) and topically (ICPC, ICWA, Medical Care, Permanency Care Assistance). It is accessible via a secure log-in on the Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ)'s website and includes free access to specific citations in Lexis/Nexis. It currently contains not only statutory requirements and checklists, but also informative chapters on other important topics such as Disproportionality, STAR Health and the Permanency Care Assistance program and numerous links to helpful guidelines, forms and other websites. Additional content, including case law, DFPS policy, and best practice tips, will be added over the next year.
<b>Collaboration</b>
Bench Book Planning Committee members, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Center for the Judiciary

<b>26.1 Legal Representation Study</b>
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Legal Representation Study <sup>19</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
In this study, stakeholders in the child protection system were interviewed and/or surveyed to determine how legal representation for children and parents in CPS cases is handled around the state. Study results will be used as the basis for system, policy, and practice changes to improve outcomes for children and families in the child protection system.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>

<sup>18</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, Basic Grant Application, August 30, 2009, pg 12, item 4.12

<sup>19</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, Data Grant Application, August 30, 2009, pg 10, item 5.6

The advisory group is reviewing the study, which is scheduled to be released in January 2011. Study results show findings that are similar to Appleseed’s PMC study and confirm what many stakeholders in the child-protection community had anticipated. The study shows that much variation exists in almost every aspect of CPS legal representation in Texas – from the timing and length of appointments to the size of the pool of available, qualified attorneys. While attorney compensation rates, qualification standards and training opportunities also differ from county to county, one constant surfaced. According to the majority of those stakeholders surveyed who are *not* child or parent attorneys – specifically, current or former child and parent clients, CPS caseworkers and CASA volunteers –attorneys for children and parents do not communicate enough or at all with other principle parties and interested persons, including their own clients.

**Collaboration**

Legal Research Study Advisory Group, Legal Research Study Workgroup, Texas CASA, DFPS, Texas Appleseed, survey participants, including judges and court coordinators who regularly hear CPS cases, appointed attorneys, CPS prosecutors, DFPS supervisors, Court Appointed Special Advocate (guardian ad litem) supervisors, and parents and youth that had been the subject of a CPS legal case from the following counties: Bexar, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis, and from the 17 Texas Specialty Child Protection Courts,

**27.1 Children in Long-Term Care/Texas Appleseed Study**

**Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application**

Children in Long-Term Care / Texas Appleseed <sup>20</sup>

**Project Description**

The Commission supported a study conducted by Texas Appleseed on children in the state's permanent managing conservatorship (PMC) to determine barriers to permanency and ways to improve their outcomes.

**Activities and Accomplishments**

The study findings, released in November 2010, reinforced known problems such as youth reporting that they did not had a voice in court proceedings. Most stakeholders interviewed or surveyed – including a wide spectrum of attorneys, judges, youth and other stakeholders – said they believe the overall quality of statewide legal representation for PMC children suffers from a lack of well-trained attorneys and inadequate compensation of appointed counsel. Study findings suggest that the timing and length of attorney appointments may correlate with the size of a county's budget. The study results provide information that can be used to recommend policy and legislative changes to improve outcomes for children who are stuck in long term foster care.

**Collaboration**

McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, L.L.P, Research & Planning Consultants, LP. , The RGK Foundation, Rees-Jones Foundation, The Meadows Foundation, Texas Bar Foundation, Harold Simmons Foundation, Rockwell Fund, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Casey Family Programs, Center for Public Policy Priorities, 126th District Court,

<sup>20</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, Training Grant Application, August 30, 2009, pg 12, item 4.13

Child Protective Services, 38th District Court, Uvalde, 126th District Court, Travis County, Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P., Travis County Juvenile Court,, Advocacy, Inc., 307th District Court, Gregg County, CASA Texas, Gunderson, Sharpe & Walke, L.L.P., 225th District Court, Bexar County, Temple-Inland

<b>28.1 State Task Force on Disproportionality</b>
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
None
<b>Project Description</b>
The mission of the Statewide Task Force on Disproportionality is to reduce disproportionality and disparities in child welfare by partnering with communities and systems with shared vision and leadership. The Commission's executive director is a member of the multidisciplinary Task Force that meets at least quarterly. Task Force members must guide and share in the leadership roles, be accountable to their own systems, and work collaboratively to strengthen the work.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
In FY 2010, the Executive Director participated in several meetings of the Task Force on Disproportionality and partnered with other task force members to sponsor a judicial training regarding implicit bias in judicial decision-making. In FY 2011, the Commission will sponsor training for judges on how to reduce disproportionality and disparities in child welfare.
<b>Collaboration</b>
The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, Casey Family Programs, Texas State University-San Marcos, DFPS, Greater Faith Community Church, Office of Court Administration, Travis County Model Court, Houston Leadership Council, PVAMU Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, DFPS State Advisory Council, HHSC-Civil Rights Division, San Antonio Police Department, Children's Crisis Care Center, Texas CASA, School of Social Work Stephen F. Austin University, Travis County Parent Advocacy Center, University of Texas at Austin Department of Diversity and Community Engagement, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Austin Community College, Department of State Health Services, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, Texas Foster Family Association, El Paso Family Court, Tyler ISD, The Hogg Foundation-UTA, City of Lubbock, Travis County Office of Parental Representation, American Indian Community Partner

<b>29.1 CFSR/PIP Participation</b>
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Collaboration with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and Other Stakeholders to Implement Strategic Plan <sup>21</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
Judicial collaboration with the state's child welfare agency is accomplished through close communications between Commission members and staff, and DFPS officials. The Commission's Executive Director is a member of the CFSR/PIP state team and actively

<sup>21</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, Basic Grant Application, August 30, 2009, pgs 6-7

recruits judges to participate in the CFSR/PIP process.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<p>As part of its agreement to assist with the Program Improvement Plan (PIP), the Children’s Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated a Round Table discussion on permanency data and exits from care. Staff of The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) analyzed the data used at the Round Table, presented a report, and moderated and facilitated the discussion. Link to the product of that Round Table here: <a href="http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/children/pdf/CompletePMCSummary.pdf">http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/children/pdf/CompletePMCSummary.pdf</a></li> <li>Implemented the Judicial Technical Assistance project in partnership with CPPP staff that provide data analysis and technical assistance. Court-specific reports and analysis of permanency data have been completed for the following jurisdictions: Bexar County, Travis County, Tarrant County, Gregg County, and the Cen-Tex Child Protection Court.</li> </ul> <p>Reports are pending for: Harris County, Anderson County, Brazos County (Bryan), the Brazos River Valley Cluster, Ellis County, and Smith County. To show comparisons among a variety of jurisdictions, permanency data from the following counties was included in each report: Harris, Dallas, McLennan, Henderson, Smith, Northeast Texas Cluster, Sabine Valley Cluster, Central Texas Cluster, South Plains Cluster, and Brazos River Valley Cluster Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission staff in FY2011 will work with DFPS, Texas Appleseed, and Casey Family Programs, to construct outreach efforts centered around the Texas Appleseed Report on children in long term care.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Casey Family Programs, Appleseed Inc., Advocacy Inc., Center for Public Policy Priorities, counties and child protection court jurisdictions listed above.

<b>30.1 Child Welfare Law Certification</b>
<b>Corresponding Item in FY 2010 Grant Application</b>
Child Welfare Law Certification <sup>22</sup>
<b>Project Description</b>
The Texas Board of Legal Specialization in May 2009 approved the application of the National Association of Council for Children (NACC) to offer Child Welfare Law Certification to Texas attorneys.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<p>In FY 2010, the Children's Commission provided two Red Book trainings through NACC to 62 Texas attorneys (see item 17.1, NACC Attorney Training) to help them prepare for the 2010 Child Welfare Law Certification exam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twelve attorneys and one judge from Texas took the 2010 exam and became certified.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>

<sup>22</sup> Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP), 2010 Grant Applications & Strategic Plans, Training Grant Application, August 30, 2009, pg 9, item 4.10

NACC, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Travis County Office of Child Representation, Travis County Office of Parental Representation

**31.1 Education Committee**

**Project Description**

To develop initiatives designed to improve courts and court practice regarding educational outcomes of children and youth in the child protection system, the Supreme Court of Texas created the Education Committee as a new standing commission committee in June 2010. The Supreme Court order creating the Education Committee gave it the following directives:

- Identify and assess challenges to educational success of children and youth in the Texas foster care system;
- Identify and recommend judicial practices to help achieve better educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care;
- Seek to improve collaboration, communication, and court practice through partnerships with the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas education system, and stakeholders in the education and child-protection community;
- Identify training needs regarding educational outcomes for the judiciary and for attorneys who represent DFPS, children, and parents in child protection cases;
- Seek to develop a collaborative model that will continue systemic improvement of educational outcomes;
- Make recommendations regarding the exchange and sharing of education-related data; and,
- Provide the following to the Children’s Commission:
  - 1) Preliminary report regarding the first meeting of the committee and the committee’s structural organization and goals by no later than December 31, 2010;
  - 2) Interim report by no later than August 31, 2011 regarding the progress of the committee; and,
  - 3) Final report by no later than March 31, 2012 regarding the progress of the committee and specific recommendations for further progress.

**Activities and Accomplishments**

The Education Committee held its first meeting September 30-October 1, 2010, and its activities will be reported in the FY 2011 report.

**Collaboration**

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Casey Family Programs, Texas CASA, Texas Education Agency, the Texas Association of School Boards, the Texas Association of School Administrators, the American Bar Association Legal Center on Foster Youth and Education

**32.1 Strategic Planning**

**Project Description**

At its April 30, 2010 meeting, the Commission directed the three standing committees to review the existing strategic plan and submit their comments or proposed changes to the Strategic Planning Committee, which met on August 19, 2010. The Strategic Planning Committee is chaired by Harper Estes and membership includes chairs of each committee

(Basic - Robin Sage, Technology - Karin Bonicoro, Training - Camile DuBose, Education – Patricia Macias, Legislative – Dean Rucker), Commission Vice Chair Darlene Byrne, and Audrey Deckinga, the DFPS Assistant Commissioner for CPS.
The Children's Commission will vote on the revised strategic plan in FY 2011.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
After two meetings, the committee decided to broaden the strategic plan goals under three headings: <b>Evaluate, Educate, and Improve</b> . The suggested tools to accomplish the goals would be judicial leadership, collaboration and cultural awareness/Disproportionality.
The amended Strategic Plan has not been presented for adoption by the Commission. A more in depth report on the Strategic Plan will be included in the FY2011 Report.
<b>Collaboration</b>
Harper Estes; chairs of each of the four standing Commission committees: Basic – Judge Robin Sage, Technology – Judge Karin Bonicoro, Training – Judge Camile DuBose, Education – Judge Patricia Macias, Legislative – Judge Dean Rucker); Commission Vice Chair and Judge Darlene Byrne; Audrey Deckinga, DFPS Assistant Commissioner for CPS; and Joyce James, Associate Deputy Executive Commissioner, HHSC Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities

<b>33.1 Mediation Project</b>
<b>Project Description</b>
This joint project between the Children’s Commission, the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution and the Mediation Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law, and possibly the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, will focus on collecting and analyzing data related to mediations held in child welfare cases. The study may look at examination of short and long-term impacts of CPS mediation; the impact of mediation on child safety and permanency measures; using family group decision-making in conjunction with mediation; and examination of types of cases referred to mediation. Further reports on this project, which is in development, will be made in the FY 2011 report.
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Training Committee approved \$25,000 for this project at its July 2010 meeting</li> <li>• Children’s Commission staff and partners began meeting to develop the parameters of the project, including identifying data to collect as “baseline”</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>
The Mediation Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law, the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at the University of Texas School of Law

<b>34.1 Summit III</b>
<b>Project Description</b>
Third National Judicial Leadership Summit on the Protection of Children
<b>Activities and Accomplishments</b>
The Commission hosted the third meeting of state court chief justices and high-level leaders in state child welfare agencies October 15-17, 2009. With more than 300

participants, the Texas conference had the highest-ever attendance with 48 states sending multidisciplinary teams of judges, child welfare agency directors, education directors and state court administrators. The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) coordinated the 2-day training conference that included workshops and peer exchange events on:

- Foster Connections to Success Act
- Cross-Over Youth and Dually Managed Youth
- Performance Measurements for Courts
- Engaging Youth In and Out of Court
- Educational Success for Children in Care – Blueprint For Change
- Disproportionality in Foster Care
- Legal Representation for Children and Parents
- Transition to Adulthood: Permanency For Older Youth
- Collaborating for Kids: Child Welfare / Courts / Education
- Engaging Relatives to Care for Youth
- Performance Measures for Courts
- Data Exchange

Improving education outcomes for foster children was the conference focus, and each state team developed an improvement plan for their state. The Commission's new standing education committee created by Supreme Court order June 2010 was a direct result of the Texas Summit III team's work plan.

The first summit was held in Minneapolis in 2005 as a response to the national call to action in the Pew Commission's 2004 Foster Care report that urged states to develop a collaborative approach between the judiciary and child welfare agencies to improve outcomes for foster children. The report also encouraged judges to take a leadership role in collaborative efforts and court improvement activities.

**Collaboration**

Conference of Chief Justices, Conference of State Court Administrators, National Center for State Courts, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Casey Family Programs, the Pew Charitable Trusts, American Public Human Services Association, The Supreme Court of Texas

**APPENDIX A: COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**CHILDREN'S COMMISSION**

<b>HON. EVA GUZMAN, CHAIR</b>	<b>HARPER ESTES</b>	<b>HON. DEAN RUCKER</b>	<b>STAFF</b>
<b>HON. HARRIET O'NEILL,</b>	<b>JOE GAGEN</b>	<b>FAIRY DAVENPORT RUTLAND</b>	<b>TINA AMBERLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>
<b>CHAIR EMERITUS</b>	<b>STEWART W. GAGNON</b>	<b>HON. ROBIN SAGE</b>	<b>TIFFANY ROPER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR</b>
<b>HON. DALENE EYENE,</b>	<b>HON. BONNIE CEANE HELLMUS</b>	<b>HON. CHERY, LEE SHANNON</b>	<b>KRISTI TAYLOR, PROJECT MANAGER</b>
<b>VICE CHAIR</b>	<b>JOYCE M. JAMES</b>	<b>HON. YVONNE GONZALEZ TOURELLES</b>	<b>TEJI MOZAN</b>
<b>JUDGE KARIN BONICORD</b>	<b>HON. PATRICIA A. MACIAS</b>	<b>DR. OCTAVIO MARTINEZ</b>	<b>COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER</b>
<b>AUDREY DECKINGA</b>	<b>DR. OCTAVIO MARTINEZ</b>	<b>G. ALLAN VAN FLEET</b>	<b>MARI AARON, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT</b>
<b>HON. CAMILLE G. DUBOSE</b>	<b>SELINA MURIELS</b>	<b>HON. EFF WENTWORTH</b>	<b>HON. JOHN SPECIA (LEFT)</b>
<b>BRUCE ESTERLINE</b>	<b>CAROLYNE RODRIGUEZ</b>		<b>FIRST IN RESIDENCE</b>
			<b>OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION</b>
			<b>CARL RENGLIDS</b>
			<b>ALMOND LEGAL ADMINISTRATOR</b>
			<b>OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION</b>

**COMMITTEES**

<b>BASIC PROJECTS</b>	<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING</b>
<b>HON. ROBIN SAGE, CHAIR</b>	<b>JUDGE KARIN BONICORD,</b>	<b>HON. CAMILLE G. DUBOSE,</b>	<b>HON. PATRICIA MACIAS,</b>	<b>HARPER ESTES, CHAIR</b>
<b>JOE GAGEN</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>HON. DARLENE EYENE,</b>
<b>HON. RONNIE CEANE HELLMUS</b>	<b>CATHERINE BARBITT</b>	<b>MARI KAY BECKETT</b>	<b>HON. CHERYL SHANNON,</b>	<b>VICE-CHAIR</b>
<b>COLLEEN MCCALL</b>	<b>JUDGE OSCAR GAMALDON</b>	<b>CATY COCKERHAM</b>	<b>VICE CHAIR</b>	<b>JUDGE KAREN BONICORD</b>
<b>HON. MICKY PENNINGTON</b>	<b>HON. GILFORD JONES</b>	<b>BARBARA ELIAS PERCIPIU</b>	<b>JOY BASKIN</b>	<b>AUDREY DECKINGA</b>
<b>CAROLYNE RODRIGUEZ</b>	<b>ELIZABETH KIMORHI</b>	<b>ALICI EMERSON</b>	<b>JOE GAGEN</b>	<b>HON. CAMILLE G. DUBOSE</b>
<b>HON. FILMA SALINAS ENDER</b>	<b>HON. PETER SAKAI</b>	<b>ROBERT NOLEN</b>	<b>TRACY LAETING</b>	<b>HON. PATRICIA A. MACIAS</b>
<b>JUDGE VIRGINIA SCHNARR</b>	<b>HON. CHERYL LEE SHANNON</b>	<b>D. J. TESSIER</b>	<b>JOYCE M. JAMES</b>	<b>HON. DEAN RUCKER</b>
<b>HON. DIAN RUCKER</b>	<b>HON. DIAN RUCKER</b>	<b>LINDA DICKEY</b>	<b>HON. JAGAR MCCORMIE</b>	<b>HON. ROBIN SAGE</b>
<b>HON. DIAN RUCKER</b>	<b>HON. DIAN RUCKER</b>	<b>G. ALLAN VAN FLEET</b>	<b>SHONIKA ODOM</b>	
<b>STAFF: TINA AMBERLEY</b>	<b>STAFF: TINA AMBERLEY</b>	<b>BRVAN WATSON</b>	<b>PAULY DANKER</b>	
<b>KRISTI TAYLOR</b>	<b>STAFF: TINA AMBERLEY</b>	<b>FAIRY DAVENPORT RUTLAND</b>	<b>JUDGE TILIN SMITTI</b>	
		<b>STAFF: TIFANY ROPER</b>		

**COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL**

<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL</b>
<b>HON. EVA GUZMAN, CHAIR</b>	<b>FAY TEU BAUDRUXE</b>
<b>HON. HARRIET O'NEILL</b>	<b>ROY BUCK</b>
<b>CHAIR EMERITUS</b>	<b>IRENE CLEMENTS</b>
<b>HON. DARLENE EYENE</b>	<b>WILLIAM B. CONNOLLY</b>
<b>VICE CHAIR</b>	<b>PENNY COOK</b>
<b>JUDGE KARIN BONICORD</b>	<b>ELIZABETH COX</b>
<b>AUDREY DECKINGA</b>	<b>KEVIN COX</b>
<b>HON. CAMILLE G. DUBOSE</b>	<b>SUSAN HOPKINS CRAWFORD</b>
<b>HON. DEAN RUCKER</b>	<b>DE SHAWN ENOWS</b>
<b>HON. PATRICIA A. MACIAS</b>	<b>BARBARA ELIAS PERCIPIU</b>
<b>HON. ROBIN SAGE</b>	<b>DIERA LAMRISON</b>
	<b>THOMAS ESPARZA, JR.</b>
	<b>BENIGNO J. FERNANDEZ, MID</b>
	<b>MIRE FOSTER</b>
	<b>NATALIE FURDIK</b>
	<b>PAUL E. TORRH, JR.</b>
	<b>ELIEN GARCIA</b>
	<b>DAVID HALPERN</b>
	<b>ROBERT HARTMAN</b>
	<b>LESLIE HILL</b>
	<b>SHANNON IRELAND</b>
	<b>AUDIA KAY</b>
	<b>RICIARD LAWALTO</b>
	<b>STEPHANIE LEDBWA</b>
	<b>DONALD LEE</b>
	<b>TRACY LEVINS</b>
	<b>REBECCA LIGHTSEY</b>
	<b>AMADELINE MCCLEURE</b>
	<b>HON. E. SCOTT MCCOWAN,</b>
	<b>RFT</b>
	<b>TRISTA MILLER</b>
	<b>LUDY POWELL</b>
	<b>CHADWICK SAPIENTER</b>
	<b>JOYANA SCOT</b>
	<b>JANEL SEARNS</b>
	<b>VICKI SPRINGS</b>
	<b>ARAIN STIGGS</b>
	<b>GENE TERRY</b>
	<b>GLORIA TERRY</b>
	<b>KENNETH THOMPSON</b>
	<b>ARAWA VARGAS</b>
	<b>MEGHAN WEILER</b>
	<b>AARON WILLIAMS</b>

## APPENDIX B: JURIST IN RESIDENCE LETTERS



TO: Texas Judges Hearing Child Protective Services Cases

FROM: Hon. John Specia (ret.), Jurist in Residence  
Office of Court Administration

DATE: January 2010

RE: STAR Health & Psychotropic Medications

Greetings fellow judges! This is the first in what I hope and intend to be a monthly note, giving you current and compelling information you need for hearing your CPS docket. If you have any questions or topics that you would like to see covered, please let me know at [jurist@courts.state.tx.us](mailto:jurist@courts.state.tx.us).

For the first installment, I wanted to pass along information on health services for children in foster care provided through [STAR Health program](#), which contracts with DFPS through Superior HealthPlan, for physical and behavioral health care services for the benefit of children in care.

**Q:** What does STAR Health do?

**A:** STAR Health delivers physical and behavioral health services for each child in DFPS conservatorship and maintains an electronic "medical home" for each child.

**Q:** When is a child eligible for STAR Health services?

**A:** Upon entry to conservatorship and services can begin immediately.

**Q:** Who is excluded?

**A:** Children who are: placed outside of Texas; children from other states but placed in Texas; residents in Medicaid-paid facilities (nursing homes, state schools); children dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare; children who have been adopted and the adoption is finalized; in hospice; in DFPS conservatorship, but placed in a TYC facility or on probation.

**Q:** Are older, transitioning youth covered?

**A:** Yes. Youth who have aged out but have remained in paid foster care past their 18th birthday are eligible until the month of their 22nd birthday. Youth who leave foster care at age 18 are eligible for coverage until their 21st birthday. Youth who are 21 and 22 are eligible for coverage if they are attending college or technical school. They must apply by calling 1-800-248-1078. It is not necessary for a court to extend jurisdiction beyond age 18 for this coverage to apply.

**Q:** Does STAR Health cover prescription medication?

**A:** No. Prescription medications are provided through the Vendor Drug Program through Health and Human Services, and not through STAR Health.

**Q:** Do services need to be court ordered?

**A:** No. As long as the service is medically necessary, no court order is required. However, if a judge orders a particular service or specific care that is covered by Medicaid, a signed copy of the order should be sent ASAP by DFPS via fax to Superior at 1-866-702-4837.

**Q:** What happens if I order a service that is not covered by Medicaid?

**A:** DFPS will seek that service through a private pay contract. When entering orders for services that are not covered, Judges should consider drafting an order that provides DFPS the maximum flexibility in contracting because not all providers are available even in a private contract situation.

**Q:** Does STAR Health monitor the use of psychoactive medications?

**A:** STAR Health routinely monitors the use of psychiatric medications in children who are in care to ensure compliance with state parameters and for appropriate prescribing.

**Q:** What is a Psychotropic Medication Utilization Review (PMUR)?

**A:** A review of the use of psychiatric medications for any child in care can be made by any caseworker, judge, foster parent, medication consentor or other concerned entity. A judge can request a PMUR by calling 1-866-912-6283 or by submitting an



TO: Texas Judges Hearing Child Protective Services Cases  
FROM: Hon. John Specia (ret.), Jurist in Residence, Office of Court Administration  
DATE: February 2010  
RE: Opportunities in 2010

Greetings fellow judges! For this installment of our Jurist in Residence letter series, I want to pass along information about several exciting opportunities brought to you and attorneys who appear before you by the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission). This is my second communication, giving you current and compelling information you may find useful for hearing your CPS docket. If you have any questions or topics that you would like to see covered, please let me know at [jurist@courts.state.tx.us](mailto:jurist@courts.state.tx.us).

**Trial Skills Training for Attorneys** – Do you have a promising litigator in your jurisdiction who can benefit from trial skills training? Stay tuned for information about scholarship opportunities to attend National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) training. To recommend an attorney for this outstanding opportunity, please get in touch with Tiffany Roper at 512/463-3182 or [tiffany.ropert@courts.state.tx.us](mailto:tiffany.ropert@courts.state.tx.us).

**2010 National Child Welfare Law Conference in Austin** – Over a hundred scholarships to cover registration fees will be awarded to qualifying Texas attorneys to attend the NACC's annual child welfare conference October 20-23, 2010 in Austin. We expect a huge Texas presence at this educational and informative conference. Go to [www.naccchildlaw.org/?page=TexasScholarship](http://www.naccchildlaw.org/?page=TexasScholarship) for more information.

**Scholarships for Advanced Family Law Child Abuse and Neglect Track** – Texas attorneys now have the option to attend only the one-day child abuse and neglect track during the weeklong Advanced Family Law Conference. Scholarships are available to cover the registration fees of the one-day track, which will be held August 11, 2010 in San Antonio. Look for more information regarding the scholarships on the Commission website, <http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/children.asp>, in coming months.

**Funding for Local Training** – Do you have training issues unique to your jurisdiction? Would you like to bring a nationally recognized speaker to your legal community? Funding may be available to cover some training-related expenses. Contact Tiffany Roper for more information.

**Technology** – The Task Force on Indigent Defense (TFID) released its annual Request for Applications for courts to use to improve indigent defense systems in criminal and juvenile cases. The Intent to Submit Application deadline is February 26, 2010. Although TFID funding is earmarked for criminal and juvenile cases, courts who hear criminal or juvenile *and* CPS cases may use TFID funds for technology, such as videoconferencing equipment or software for tracking cases, collaterally in child protection cases. To find out more information, please contact TFID at 800/499-0656.



TO: Texas Judges Hearing Child Protective Services Cases  
FROM: Hon. John Specia (ret.), Jurist in Residence  
Office of Court Administration  
DATE: March 8, 2010  
RE: Permanency Care Assistance Program

Greetings fellow judges! For this installment of our Jurist in Residence letter series, I want to pass along important information about the Permanency Care Assistance (PCA) program, which is how Texas plans to implement a very important aspect of the *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008*.

**Q: What is the Permanency Care Assistance (PCA) Program?**

**A:** The program provides to qualifying kinship families who take Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) of a child:

- Monthly cash assistance similar to adoption assistance;\*
- Medicaid health coverage; and
- A one-time reimbursement of nonrecurring expenses, including legal fees, incurred in the process of obtaining custody of the child, up to a maximum of \$2,000.

\* The maximum monthly PCA payments are the same as those for adoption assistance and depend upon the child's authorized service level (ASL) at the time the PCA agreement is negotiated.

For more information, go to, [www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/children/pdf/FAQPCA.pdf](http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/children/pdf/FAQPCA.pdf).

**Q: What are the most important things a judge must know about the PCA Program?**

**A:** Before awarding PMC to a relative under this program, the judge should ensure that:

1. The caregiver is verified;
2. The child has been placed with the verified kin for at least six months following the date of the verification;
3. DFPS has determined that reunification and adoption are not appropriate permanency options for the child;
4. DFPS and the kin have signed a PCA Agreement and it is on file PRIOR TO the award of PMC to the caregiver; and
5. Benefits begin once the Court awards PMC to the kin/caregiver

**Q: Which kinship families qualify?**

**A:** A caregiver who is:

1. related or who has a longstanding relationship with the child prior to the child being placed with the caregiver; and
2. a verified foster parent and has served as a verified foster parent of the child for at least *six consecutive months* after becoming verified and prior to appointment as PMC of the child.



To: Texas Judges Hearing Child Protective Services Cases  
From: Hon. John Specia (ret.), Jurist in Residence  
Office of Court Administration  
Date: April 15, 2010  
RE: Permanency Care Assistance Program

Greetings fellow judges! This is a follow up to the previous JIR sent to you on March 8, 2010 in response to several questions I received regarding the issue of verification under the new Permanency Care Assistance (PCA) Program.

**Q: Are the requirements to become verified more stringent than those for licensing?**

**A:** In Texas, foster homes are verified, not licensed. Licenses are granted by DFPS to Child Placing Agencies who in turn verify foster homes. The verification process is the same for all homes regardless of whether the home is being verified to take a child in preparation for a PCA agreement or as a regular foster home. However, as part of the verification process, DFPS can elect to waive certain non-safety issues that might otherwise prevent a home seeking verification to provide foster care to non-relatives from being verified. An example of this is square footage per child or person or the requirement that children of a certain age sleep in separate beds.

**Q: Who is responsible for verifying relative caregivers who wish to enter into a PCA Agreement?**

**A:** Any Child Placing Agency as well as DFPS can verify relatives (fictive or biological) for PCA.

**Q: Is there funding available to accommodate the increase in applications for verification?**

**A:** No. DFPS will use existing resources to accommodate verifications processed by DFPS and CPAs.

**Q: Will DFPS provide services to verified placements once the PCA Agreement is final?**

**A:** There are no post-PCA services at this time. However, DFPS will continue to use existing appropriations to provide services for CPS children in verified placements.

**Q: How long are verifications valid and can they be issued on a temporary basis?**

**A:** Verifications do not have an end date. CPAs are required to re-evaluate a home for compliance with minimum standards at least once every two years.

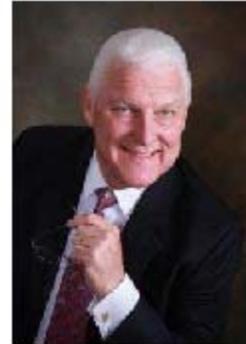
**Q: When does a family stop receiving foster care payments and begin receiving PCA payments?**

**A:** Once PMC is awarded the foster care payments end and the PCA payments begin.

**Q: If the relative switches CPAs during the six month period, must the family become re-verified and start the six month process again?**

**A:** Because each CPA independently verifies foster homes, the home would have to undergo the verification process again. However, the six consecutive month process that requires the child live with the family does not. As long as the child's residence does not change, the six consecutive month residency process is not interrupted even though the home must start the verification process over. [Click here for more information about the PCA program.](#)

If you have any questions or topics that you would like to see covered, please let me know at [jurist@courts.state.tx.us](mailto:jurist@courts.state.tx.us).



TO: Texas Judges Hearing Child Protective Services Cases

FROM: Hon. John Specia (ret.), Jurist in Residence  
Office of Court Administration

DATE: September 1, 2010

RE: Implicit Bias in Judicial Decision-Making

I wanted to update you on a very worthwhile conference I attended this summer. The conference was on implicit bias in judicial decision-making and how cultural and institutional racism contributes to the over-representation of African American children and families in our child protection system. These practices also affect the Native American and Hispanic populations of our state. Another term you may have heard recently to describe the over-representation of African-American children is "Disproportionality."

**Q: How do we know Disproportionality, or over-representation exists?**

**A:** Numerous studies indicate that African-American children are overrepresented in child welfare systems across our nation. In Texas, although African-American children make up about 12% of the child population, they account for almost 28% of the children removed from their homes due to allegations of abuse and neglect.

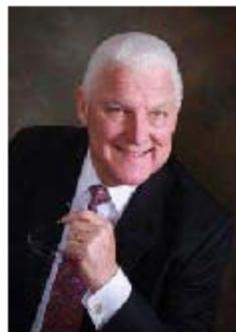
Not only are they removed at higher rates nationally and in Texas, once they enter foster care, a lower percentage of African-American children are successfully reunited with their families and a higher percentage age out of foster care without an adoptive family or other permanent placement. The data also shows that African-American families are less likely than Anglo families to receive in-home family services to prevent removal. See the [DFPS Webpage on Disproportionality](#), and the [March 2010 DFPS report on Disproportionality](#).

Disproportionality in various state systems, such as juvenile justice and child welfare, has been on the national and state radar for years. In Texas, efforts to address the issue gained traction when the 79th Legislature mandated an analysis – which controlled for other factors such as family structure and poverty – to determine whether Texas had a problem, and if so, to create a remediation plan. [79th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 6](#).

**Q: Do we know what variables influence Disproportionality?**

**A:** One very strong predictor of whether a child will be removed is poverty. More than 60% of the children removed in Texas come from families with annual incomes of \$10,000 or less, and poverty rates are higher among African-American families.

**Q: Why should judges care about Disproportionality?**



**To:** Texas Judges Hearing Child Protective Services Cases  
**From:** Hon. John Specia (ret.), Jurist in Residence  
Office of Court Administration  
**Date:** October 5, 2010  
**RE:** Extending Foster Care Beyond 18

I wanted to share information about a very important provision of the federal Fostering Connection to Success and Adoptions Act (FCA) that will affect many of the transitioning young adults on your CPS dockets. As I've mentioned previously, the FCA, which was signed into law in October 2008, is bringing sweeping changes to how child welfare agencies and the judiciary manage foster care cases. One very important change coming your way quickly is extended care.

**Q: What is Extended Care?**

**A:** Effective October 1, 2010, the federal Fostering Connections Act allows states to claim federal Title IV-E dollars for more young adults who opt to remain in extended foster care after turning 18 with the court maintaining oversight. Young adults may now remain in extended foster care until their 21st birthday, provided they participate in one of the required activities – completing a secondary education, attending college or a vocational program, working at least 80 hours per month, or attending a job training program, or are unable to participate in any of these activities due to a documented medical condition. Young adults continuing to complete a high school diploma or GED may stay in extended foster care until their 22nd birthday.

**Q: What do judges need to know to extend care for a young adult aging out of foster care?**

**A:** Starting October 1st, if a young adult turning 18 after that date chooses to extend foster care, the court **MUST** extend its jurisdiction, **HOLD** periodic review hearings, and **MUST** make a judicial determination at least once a year that DFPS has made reasonable efforts to finalize the young adult's permanency plan.

The following findings need to be made to enable DFPS to provide the most robust services for young adults in extended care:

1. The court has jurisdiction over the case pursuant to Texas Family Code Sections 263.601 et seq.
2. The young adult's living arrangement is safe and appropriate;
3. Reasonable efforts have been made to place the young adult in the least restrictive environment necessary to meet the needs of the young adult;
4. DFPS is making reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan in effect for the young adult:



**To:** Texas Judges Hearing Child Protective Services Cases  
**From:** Hon. John Specia (ret.), Jurist in Residence  
Office of Court Administration  
**Date:** December 1, 2010  
**RE:** Bench Book for CPS Judges

Texas Judges hearing CPS cases now have a state-of-the-art information tool at their fingertips! The Children's Commission has created a web-based bench book that is the first of its kind for CPS Judges in Texas. Now, judges can link to the online CPS Bench Book anywhere that has internet access and scroll through its user-friendly navigation for guidance through a hearing or an entire CPS case. It includes a legal overview of the CPS process, hearing checklists, and useful topical information that covers most CPS matters, from Alternatives to Removal to Appeals and Adoptions.

Simply log-in to the CPS Bench Book through the Texas Center for the Judiciary's (TCJ's) website just like you would to access any of the other Bench Books on the TCJ site. For TCJ password help, call Michele at (512) 482-8986, or email her at [michelem@yourhonor.com](mailto:michelem@yourhonor.com)

**Step by step instructions:**

1. Go to: [www.yourhonor.com](http://www.yourhonor.com)
2. Click on **Texas Judiciary ONLY** on the top left of the screen
3. Click on **CPS Bench Book** at the bottom of the screen
4. Enter your log-in and password; for example:

User name: jjudge

Password: judge

This will take you directly to the Bench Book. The navigation is laid out in the "How To" section on the left side of the opening screen.

Judges who access the Bench Book through the TCJ website have free access through Lexis-Nexis to those statutes, case law and other periodicals that are cited in the bench book and linked from it. Live links are indicated by blue text that is also underlined in blue.

**NOTE:** Each time you access the Bench Book if you use Windows Internet Explorer 8 or IE8, you will be asked whether you would like to view mixed content (secure and non-secure information). You must choose "NO" in

order to prevent Internet Explorer 8 or IE8 from blocking the Lexis-Nexis site because it is a website external to TCJ's website and therefore presents "mixed" or unsecure content. From that point forward, you should be able to access any other Lexis link. If you use a browser like Firefox or Google Chrome, you will not see this message.

If you would like to disable this feature, you can do so by following these simple steps:

1. Open IE 8 and select *Tools > Internet Options*
2. Select the *Security* tab
3. Make sure that the "Internet Zone" is highlighted, then click on *Custom Level...*
4. Scroll down the list and look for "Display mixed content" (approximately ¼ way down the list), then select *Enable*
5. Click on "OK" (this will close the box)
6. Click on "OK" again (this will close the Internet Options box)
7. Close Internet Explorer and then re-open it to begin with the new setting

NOTE: Depending on your level of access, your network administrator may need to change this setting for you.

The Bench Book has been tested by a workgroup of judges who contributed to its development. However, as with any new tool, user feedback is critical. Please let us know what problems you encounter, or if you find inaccurate or incomplete information. The Children's Commission will continually add and update content and repair broken links. If you have comments or corrections or if you would like to participate in the editing or updating of the Bench Book, please send an email to [children@courts.state.tx.us](mailto:children@courts.state.tx.us) or [children@txcourts.gov](mailto:children@txcourts.gov) or to Teri Moran at [teri.moran@txcourts.gov](mailto:teri.moran@txcourts.gov).

## APPENDIX C: *BETTER COURTS FOR KIDS* NEWSLETTER



## Better Courts for Kids and Families

*Newsletter of the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families*

*Fall 2010*



### **Justice Eva Guzman Appointed Chair of Children's Commission**

Children's Commission members welcomed their new chair, Justice Eva Guzman, on August 20, the day she presided over her first Commission meeting. The Supreme Court appointed Justice Guzman as the new chair on June 21. She replaces Justice Harriet O'Neill, who accepted the appointment of Children's Commission's Chair Emeritus, just before retiring from the Court this June.

Justice Guzman brings to her new role a long history of commitment to children's issues, having devoted many volunteer hours to organizations that aid children, such as serving on the boards of Texas CASA, The Escape Center, Wesley Community Center, The Chinquapin School and the Advisory Council of The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Houston.

Justice O'Neill first introduced Justice Guzman to Commission members at the April meeting. "She is steeped in children's issues, and we are lucky to have her," Justice O'Neill said.

Justice Guzman told Commission members she was honored to have been asked to serve as chair. "I am both privileged and delighted to be given this opportunity to continue the important work Justice O'Neill started for our state," Justice Guzman said.

Governor Rick Perry appointed Justice Guzman to the Supreme Court on October 8, 2009. She began her judicial career in 1999 when she was appointed to Harris County's 309th District Court, a seat she subsequently won by election in 2000. In 2001, she was appointed to the Texas 14th Court of Appeals in Houston where she served until her 2009 Supreme Court appointment.

### **Courts Using Data as Self-Evaluation Tool and Finding it's More Than Just a Four-Letter Word**

*Commission offers free, confidential data analysis to help judges assess their court's handling of CPS cases*

The Children's Commission began a new project this year that offers judges who hear CPS cases a new tool to help them gauge their court's performance compared to other Texas courts in about a dozen measures of permanency. The project centers on a few of the statistics that all states must collect and report to the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF), which in turn is used to rate every state's child welfare system.

In the Judicial Technical Assistance (JTA) project, interested judges simply fill out and sign a short request form ([click here for the form](#)) and fax it to Commission staff. The form lists 13 measures that DFPS can extract from its databases that are specific to a judge's jurisdiction, such as the percentage of final orders issued within one year and the percentage of children who left care and who reentered care within 12 months (see sidebar for all 13 measures). The Commission has contracted with an expert who analyzes the data and provides a report that helps explain each data measure in its proper context as well as variables that could influence it.

"These reports can help judges identify their court's strengths and weaknesses," Senior District Judge John Specia said. "The data analysis can be a very valuable tool for judges to see how their court is doing in certain areas compared to other Texas courts and to national standards."

*"Data is a language we need to learn as judges if we want to participate and hold our own in policy discussions," – Judge John Specia*

Most Texas courts haven't had any way to evaluate their handling of child protection cases for lack of even basic processes or systems designed for the task, according to Judge Specia. "As judges, we all strive to do what's best for children and families in our courts, but we've never really had much in the way of concrete data to tell us one way or the other how we're actually doing," Judge Specia said.

"Aggregate data can help us see where the system needs to be improved and can inform our decision making, as well as help us determine an appropriate leadership focus," Judge Specia said. Another JTA project benefit is that the 13 permanency measures are among those that ACF uses every few years as part of its Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), where it grades each state's overall child welfare system – of which courts are an integral part, and on which their decisions have significant bearing.

About 10 courts have requested a JTA report since the project began in May. Judge Specia sees the program as a very tangible, useful means for helping judges not only make better decisions, but also for becoming more conversant in the language of data. "It's a language we need to learn if we want to participate and hold our own in policy discussions," Judge Specia said. "Because data is, after all, a language that policymakers already use to assess us."

### Taking a Little Bite Out of the Elephant

#### *Texas dually managed youth now getting legal representation*

Because their number rarely exceeds 100 among a population that teeters above 25,000, the unique legal needs of dually managed Texas youth (foster youth who are also involved with the juvenile justice system) had historically not topped many official to-do lists. Once incarcerated, a foster youth's case complications would begin. A dreary pattern of unintentional but almost routine neglect of their legal (and other) needs would typically follow, thanks mainly to insufficient inter-agency communication processes and seemingly blurred lines of responsibility between the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) and Child Protective Services (CPS).

Though small, they were a group of kids for whom the phrase "falling through the cracks" could have been invented, some experts agreed. That is, until one advocate's appeal to the Children's Commission culminated not only in a 2009 statute raising the bar for their legal oversight, but also in a grant-sponsored program that now provides free legal representation to any of these youth who need it.

*"As far as I know, no one else in the country is doing anything like what we're doing here in Texas," –  
Richard Lavallo, Austin Attorney*

Since January 2010, two Advocacy Inc. attorneys, Ian Spechler and Dustin Rynders, have traveled around the state tending to the legal needs of their 65 clients, 50 of whom are involved with TYC or are at risk of involvement, and 15 who reside in state-supported living centers. Advocacy Inc. is an

Austin-based nonprofit group that advocates for people with disabilities. Richard Lavallo, one of its senior attorneys, is a member of the Commission's Collaborative Council and was the person who in 2008 urged the Commission to look into the plight of these youth.

Until then, Mr. Lavallo had been thoroughly skeptical about the Children's Commission. "I expected it would be just another group that would rubber stamp the same old status quo of a dysfunctional system," Mr. Lavallo said, "But I was absolutely proven wrong."

Before he knew it, he was part of a Commission-directed multi-disciplinary work group that developed an MOU outlining new communication commitments between TYC and CPS. From there, Mr. Lavallo wrote and found backing for a bill that required courts to better monitor dually managed youth. A few months later, the Commission partnered with the Rees Jones Foundation, Texas Access to Justice Foundation and the Meadows Foundation to fund the salaries for hiring two attorneys to represent the crossover youth in Texas, and helped secure private funding that covered the project's first-year costs.

"Needless to say, I was totally impressed," Mr. Lavallo said. "And I'm no longer a skeptic about the Commission." At first, Mr. Lavallo feared it would be hard to get enough cases, but it didn't take long before judges heard about the no-cost-to-their-county's service, and happily began appointing the young attorneys to the cases. The project has expanded to include representing some at-risk youth, mainly because judges who have heard about the program have asked for help keeping at-risk youth away from trouble. Mr. Spechler and Mr. Rynders have already begun working with TYC and CPS on several systemic problems these youth face (see article below).

"As far as I know, no one else in the country is doing anything like what we're doing here in Texas," Mr. Lavallo said. "And I don't believe any of this could ever have happened without the Commission."

**Release Review Panel Catch-22 is Just One Unique Problem Crossover Youth Face**  
Advocacy, Inc. attorneys are working with TYC and CPS officials to address some of the unique problems dually managed youth commonly face.

#### **Hurdle to getting released**

Right now, crossover youth typically run into a difficult systemic problem right before TYC discharges them, when they go before a release review panel that will determine whether or when they may leave, according to Ian Spechler, one of the two Advocacy Inc. attorneys who represent these youth. "The panel is holding it against our kids that they're foster children and often don't yet have any place to go," Mr. Spechler said, because it's difficult for CPS staff to reserve beds when they don't know what the panel will decide. "It's a situation where youth need a placement approved before TYC releases them but at the same time CPS can't have a placement approved until we know they're getting out." While the agencies work on a solution, Mr. Spechler plans to also develop more relative and fictive kin placements and take advantage of the [permanency care assistance program](#).

#### **Mental health barriers**

When a youth leaves TYC and switches to a parole caseworker from the caseworker in the facility, in addition to the usual potential for information loss in that exchange TYC's standing order that restricts youth to their placement for 30 days post release can prevent access to needed care, Mr. Spechler said.

"Because they cannot leave, their mental health care often lags behind. We try to keep judges informed of these situations." There is also insufficient trauma therapy available when youth are incarcerated, according to Mr. Spechler. "A large portion of these youth have been sexually and physically abused or have experienced neglect, and many have trouble sleeping because of what they've experienced," Mr. Spechler said, adding that he is working with TYC and CPS to address this need.

#### **Safety concerns**

Their history abuse and neglect also contributes to mental health problems and behaviors that tend to put them at a higher risk for being picked on or bullied by other youth in these facilities, according to Advocacy attorney, Dustin Rynders. "A lot of our youth don't necessarily feel safe. So we try to encourage judges to encourage TYC and CPS to collaboratively develop good safety plans so they'll feel safe in these facilities," Mr. Rynders said.

#### **Court participation**

By law all youth are supposed be attending their hearings. And while a few have attended in person or by phone, Mr. Spechler said. "As a matter of course, most of our youth are not attending theirs."

"Most of these kids are older teenagers who understand what's going on and have a stake in it, and they want to participate," Mr. Rynders said. "They're always asking, 'What's going on with my case?'" Mr. Rynders sees videoconferencing as the best solution, and says getting if for his clients is another ongoing effort.

## **Children's Commission Honors and Says Goodbye to Justice Harriet O'Neill**

Justice Harriet O'Neill, who spearheaded the creation of the Children's Commission and served three years as its chair, presided over her last meeting this April before retiring from the court two months later. "It has been a privilege and an honor to work with all of you," Justice O'Neill told attendees at the April meeting. "I'm proud of the collaborative effort we have begun and look forward to seeing it continue under the capable leadership of Justice Guzman."

Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson said he and the other Supreme Court Justices have been amazed at Justice O'Neill's accomplishments. "Not long after the Commission was created, I began to hear from Chief Justices around the country who had heard that we were doing something extraordinary in Texas, something different," Justice Jefferson said. "Harriet's vision of judicial leadership is being realized, and is demonstrating how courts can have a pro-active role that improves the lives of citizens."

Justice O'Neill's leaving, although [unwanted], is yet another example of the success of her vision, Justice Jefferson said, because the work will go on without her. "She visualized a Commission that would not be personality based or temporary," Justice Jefferson said. "But rather one that would outlast her – a permanent Commission, grounded in a shared commitment to improving courts for families."

At that April meeting, Children's Commission Executive Director, Tina Amberboy, presented the unsuspecting Justice Neill with the first award that the Children's Commission intends to periodically bestow on persons or organizations for their noteworthy service to children. Justice O'Neill received a prolonged standing ovation as she received the award named in her honor – The Harriet O'Neill Award for Excellence.



*The Harriet O'Neill Award for Excellence is shown in the foreground at the April Children's Commission meeting.*



*Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson is shown with Justice O'Neill at her informal goodbye party at the Supreme Court.*



*Justice O'Neill waves goodbye at her last Children's Commission meeting as chair this April.*

In addition to the award, the Children's Commission staff had put together a commemorative book of letters to Justice O'Neill from Commissioners, Collaborative Council and Committee members, legislators and others. A farewell reception in her honor followed the April Commission meeting.

"I can't tell you what this means to me," Justice O'Neill said. "It has been an honor to work with each and every one of you, and I look forward to continuing our work for many more years to come."

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**APPENDIX D: MATCH TOTALS**

<b>GRAND TOTAL MATCH - FY 2010</b>				
<b>October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010</b>				
	<u>Basic</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>Training</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
TOTAL SUBGRANTEE MATCH (CASH + IN-KIND)	<u>\$1,155,254.00</u>	<u>\$94,504.00</u>	<u>\$465,360.00</u>	<u>\$1,715,118.00</u>
TOTAL COMMISSION MEETING/ACTIVITY MATCH (CASH + IN-KIND)	\$49,569.04	\$2,510.47	\$59,689.04	<u>\$111,768.54</u>
TOTAL COMBINED MATCH (MEETING/SUBGRANTEE)	\$1,204,823.04	\$97,014.47	\$525,049.04	<u>\$1,826,886.54</u>
			<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL MATCH</b>	<b>\$1,826,886.54</b>

**APPENDIX D: COMMISSION MEETING / ACTIVITY MATCH**

Commission Meeting / Activity Match				
First	Last	Hourly Rate	Hours	Value
Mari	Aaron	\$0.00	8.50	\$0.00
Tina	Amberboy	\$0.00	48.00	\$0.00
Catherine	Babbitt	\$30.00	5.00	\$150.00
Emy Lou	Baldridge	\$100.00	3.00	\$300.00
Andy	Barbee	\$30.00	4.00	\$120.00
Conni	Barker	\$50.00	13.00	\$650.00
Lisa	Black	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Nin	Blankenship	\$0.00	0.50	\$0.00
Roy	Block	\$35.00	6.00	\$210.00
Karin	Bonico	\$45.34	23.00	\$1,042.82
Phil	Breitenbucher	\$0.00	1.50	\$0.00
Dewey	Britt	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Jane	Burns	\$35.00	4.00	\$140.00
Darlene	Byrne	\$67.31	22.00	\$1,480.82
Jan	Capouch	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Audrey	Carmical	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Carole	Clark	\$67.31	5.00	\$336.55
Irene	Clements	\$30.00	16.00	\$480.00
Cathy	Cooksham	\$30.00	10.50	\$315.00
Jary	Coley	\$65.31	4.00	\$261.24
William B.	Connolly	\$30.00	3.00	\$90.00
Elizabeth	Cox	\$30.00	3.00	\$90.00
Kevin	Cox	\$30.00	4.00	\$120.00
Susan Hopkins	Craven	\$45.00	6.00	\$270.00
Hahn	Dao	\$0.00	1.50	\$0.00
Ken	DeCenchio	\$0.00	1.00	\$0.00
Audrey	Deckinga	\$0.00	10.00	\$0.00
Simi	Denson	\$0.00	1.00	\$0.00
Camille Glasscock	DuBose	\$67.31	10.50	\$706.78
De Shaun	Ealoms	\$0.00	3.00	\$0.00
Barbara	Elias-Perofful	\$65.00	15.00	\$975.00
Nico	Emerson	\$0.00	4.75	\$0.00
Debra	Emerson	\$0.00	15.00	\$0.00
Ema Salinas	Ender	\$67.31	6.00	\$403.86
Bruce	Esterline	\$500.00	8.00	\$4,000.00
Christopher	Falleian	\$30.00	3.00	\$90.00
Amy	Fitzgerald	\$0.00	3.00	\$0.00
Mike	Foster	\$30.00	10.00	\$300.00
Natalie	Furdek	\$0.00	1.50	\$0.00
Oscar	Gabaldon	\$50.48	5.00	\$252.40
Joe	Gagen	\$100.00	16.00	\$1,600.00
Stewart W.	Gagnon	\$600.00	6.00	\$3,600.00
Katy	Gallagher-Parker	\$30.00	1.00	\$30.00
Eileen	Garcia	\$20.00	4.00	\$80.00
Richard	Garcia	\$50.48	11.00	\$555.28
Gail	Gonzales	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Gwen	Gray	\$0.00	0.50	\$0.00
Sylvia	Greigo	\$20.00	9.00	\$180.00
Eva	Guzman	\$72.00	6.00	\$432.00
David	Halpern	\$30.00	9.00	\$270.00
Steven	Hardt	\$0.00	3.00	\$0.00
Kevin	Hart	\$45.31	4.00	\$181.24
Tracy	Harting	\$30.00	2.00	\$60.00
Robert	Hartman	\$30.00	6.00	\$180.00
Jason	Hassay	\$30.00	7.50	\$225.00
John	Hathaway	\$45.31	4.00	\$181.24
Nene	Heiligenstein	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Bonnie	Hellums	\$67.31	9.00	\$605.79
Bruce	Hermes	\$0.00	3.50	\$0.00
Leslie	Hill	\$0.00	16.00	\$0.00
Rob	Hoffman	\$45.31	4.00	\$181.24
Julie	Hooten	\$0.00	1.00	\$0.00
Shannon	Ireland	\$30.00	7.00	\$210.00
Joyce	James	\$0.00	12.00	\$0.00
DeJuana	Jemigan	\$30.00	4.00	\$120.00
Gilford	Jones	\$67.31	1.00	\$67.31
Tim	Kennedy	\$0.00	16.50	\$0.00
Liz	Krommel	\$0.00	5.50	\$0.00
Richard	LaVallo	\$30.00	17.00	\$510.00
Stephanie	Ledeema	\$0.00	9.00	\$0.00
Tracy	Levine	\$30.00	3.00	\$90.00
Rebecca	Lightsey	\$40.00	13.00	\$520.00
Teresa	Limas	\$0.00	1.00	\$0.00

FY 2010 Texas CIP Grants Assessment

Doug	Lowe	\$30.00	4.00	\$120.00
Jessica	Lynch	\$12.00	10.00	\$120.00
Patricia A.	Madias	\$67.31	10.00	\$673.10
William	Martin	\$78.00	4.00	\$304.00
Octavio	Martinez	\$203.00	3.00	\$609.00
Coleen	McCall	\$0.00	11.00	\$0.00
Jamar	McCortie	\$30.00	21.50	\$645.00
F. Scott	McCown	\$85.00	9.00	\$765.00
Selena	Mireless	\$30.00	4.00	\$120.00
Georgina	Morales	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Teri	Moran	\$0.00	34.50	\$0.00
Robert	Nolan	\$31.73	5.50	\$174.52
Kathleen	Ochoa	\$0.00	7.00	\$0.00
Shaneka	Odern	\$0.00	2.00	\$0.00
Katie	Ogden	\$30.00	3.00	\$90.00
Harriet	O'Neill	\$72.00	9.00	\$648.00
Beth	Page	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Fam	Parker	\$0.00	5.00	\$0.00
Ron	Pope	\$67.31	4.00	\$269.24
Judy	Powell	\$35.00	6.00	\$210.00
Mena	Ramon	\$100.00	5.00	\$500.00
Ruben	Reyes	\$67.31	0.50	\$33.66
Carl	Reynolds	\$120.00	18.50	\$2,220.00
Carolynne	Rodriguez	\$75.00	13.00	\$975.00
Tillary	Roper	\$0.00	36.00	\$0.00
Dean	Rudler	\$85.00	22.00	\$1,870.00
Fairy Davenport	Rutland	\$85.00	13.50	\$1,147.50
Robin	Sage	\$85.00	36.00	\$3,060.00
Peter	Sakai	\$67.31	2.00	\$134.62
Chadwick	Sapenter	\$30.00	4.00	\$120.00
Barbara	Schafer	\$30.00	1.50	\$45.00
Virginia	Schnarr	\$46.03	8.00	\$368.24
Johana	Scott	\$35.00	6.00	\$210.00
Cheryl Lee	Shannon	\$67.31	20.00	\$1,346.20
Janet	Shankle	\$0.00	6.00	\$0.00
Jodie	Smith	\$30.00	1.00	\$30.00
Christie	Smith	\$0.00	2.00	\$0.00
Ellen	Smith	\$46.31	7.50	\$339.83
Andrea	Sparla	\$40.00	4.00	\$160.00
John	Specia	\$0.00	29.00	\$0.00
Arman	Steege	\$0.00	9.00	\$0.00
Kristi	Taylor	\$0.00	18.50	\$0.00
Jim	Terrell	\$30.00	3.00	\$90.00
Glenn	Terry	\$30.00	3.00	\$90.00
Kenneth	Thompson	\$0.00	6.00	\$0.00
Lisa	Thompson	\$0.00	11.00	\$0.00
Jessica	Tyler	\$35.00	4.00	\$220.00
Jinda	Uecker	\$35.00	5.00	\$175.00
Alan	Underwood	\$85.00	2.00	\$170.00
St. Alan	Van Fleet	\$85.00	3.00	\$2,040.00
Sina	VanOsselaer	\$40.00	3.00	\$120.00
Archie	Vargas	\$30.00	6.00	\$180.00
Karen	Walker	\$1.00	2.00	\$2.00
Doug	Wame	\$85.00	5.00	\$425.00
Aaron	Williams	\$0.00	3.00	\$0.00
Gary	Williams	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Sryan	Wilson	\$75.00	7.00	\$525.00
		<b>TOTAL MEETING HOURS</b>	<b>1007.25</b>	<b>\$44,015.44</b>
		<b>TOTAL TRAVEL HOURS</b>	<b>138.95</b>	<b>\$10,933.10</b>
		<b>VALUE FOR MATCH</b>	<b>1148.25</b>	<b>\$54,948.54</b>
		<b>NACC Training</b>		<b>\$38,890.00</b>
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$111,788.54</b>
<b>Collaborative Meetings</b>				
# meetings	25			
avg time	1			
total meeting time	25			
avg # participants	6			
total meeting time * Total meeting hours	150			