



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

**Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP)
FY 2011 Assessment of the Basic,
Data Collection and Analysis,
and Training Grants**

December 31, 2011

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INTRODUCTION

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 Grant Application and Review Process

All fiscal year (FY) 2011 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 oversight of all grant administration duties in FY2011.

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.

FY2011 Grant-Funded Projects			
Project Name	Brief Description	Award	Grant
Child Advocacy Centers of Texas	Child-friendly court room project	\$25,000	Basic
Travis County Office of Child Representative	Public Defender model for representing Children in CPS cases	\$50,000	Basic
Travis County Office of Parental Representation	Public Defender model of representing parents in CPS cases	\$50,000	Basic
ChildSafe – Family Drug Court Partnership	Assessment / coordination of child trauma services for drug court	\$45,990	Basic
Texas Foster Youth Justice Project	Foster youth hotline and legal representation services	\$100,000	Basic
Tarrant County Challenge Family Drug Court	Case management services for drug court in Tarrant County	\$55,139	Basic
Texas Loves Children (TLC) Website	Web-based legal resource for attorneys and judges	\$250,000	Basic
Texas CASA – Expansion and Development	Statewide training for state program staff and expansion	\$210,000	Basic
OCA CPC Judicial Support	Wireless and CPCMS case management system access	20,400	Basic
Disability Rights	Specialized legal representation for crossover youth	\$100,000	Basic
Lubbock Transition Center	Permanency and Placement Review Hearings held at youth transition center in Lubbock	44,360	Basic
Webb County	Drug Court Coordinator and start up expense	\$16,000	Basic

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Video Conference Project	Allow attendance at hearings via video conference technology	\$100,000	Data
Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS)	Enhancement and maintenance of child protection court case management system		Data
National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)	Attendance at NIEM meeting	\$5,000	Data
CUC TechShare	Integration of CPCMS elements into Texas Juvenile Case Management System	\$60,000	Data
Judicial Connectivity Project	Increase internet connectivity and availability for rural child protection courts	\$160,000	Data
Temporary CPCMS Staff	Update / migrate court and case related data into CPCMS for Region 2	\$40,000	Data
OCA CPC Annual Judicial Conference	Judicial education	\$30,000	Training
DFPS /TDCAA Attorney Training	Attorney training	\$50,000	Training
Attorney Scholarships for Advanced Family Law	Attorney training	\$10,000	Training
Trial Skills Training	Attorney training and trials skills and resource development	\$40,000	Training
Child Welfare Law Certification	Certification training and test prep	\$20,000	Training
American Bar Association Scholarships	ABA legal training for child and parent attorneys	\$60,000	Training
Texas Center for the Judiciary	Data management, software, and court services development and coordination	\$531,526	Training
Local Disproportionality Trainings	For local jurisdictions	\$15,000	Training
Drug Court Round Table	Meeting for drug court stakeholders		
Bench Book	Online judicial resource	\$20,000	Basic
Appleseed / Permanency Initiatives			
Notice & Engagement Round Table	RT discussion on notice and engagement of parties in CPS cases	\$15,000	Basic
Legal Representation Study	Workgroup to study implementation of the LRS recommendations	\$0.00	Basic
Jurist in Residence	Judicial consulting and advice on matters affecting CPS courts and	\$50,000	Basic

	judges		
Judicial Technical Assistance	Data analysis to help evaluate jurisdiction's performance in achieving timely permanency	Incl in TCJ contract	Basic
Harris County JTA	Provide assistance and resources to Harris County judges	0.00	Basic
Judicial Dispro Workgroup	Program to help judges recognize and address dispro and disparities in their jurisdictions	15,000	Training
Legal Orphan Committee	Program to help courts stem growing number of children aging out of foster care as legal orphans	5,000	Basic
Tribal Initiatives	Program to establish relationship with tribal partners throughout Texas	0.00	Basic
Psychoactive Medications	Program to examine use of psychoactive medication in foster care cases	0.00	Basic
Trauma Informed and Restraint Issues	Program to examine use of restraints in facilities, reporting, licensing violations	0.00	Basic
Education Committee	Program to address education outcomes for children in foster care	25,000	Basic

Program Development and Outreach

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 Site Visits and Conference Attendance

Executive Director

Date	Location	Purpose
December 2010	Dallas	Speaker at National Zero to Three Conference - Program Development for CIP
January 2011	New Orleans	Attend planning session on addressing Disproportionality in Texas child welfare
February 2011	Houston	Meet with Harris County judicial stakeholders about legal system barriers to permanency
March 2011	Reno	NCJFCJ Spring judicial conference
April 2011	Houston Jackson, MS	Meet with Harris County judges about legal system barriers problems; attend Mississippi Commission

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		on Children meeting;
May 2011	Washington DC	CIP Annual Meeting
June 2011	Dallas Houston	Attend DFPS Supervisor Training; Attend / Speak at KITS conference (infants and toddlers)
July 2011	Washington DC Austin	Meet with Senate Finance Committee Staff; Attend CPS Judges Annual Conference
August 2011	San Diego	Attend National Association of Counsel for Children Conference; Attend Advanced Family Law Conference;
September 2011	Salt Lake City	Attend 4 th Judicial Summit on the Protection of Children

Assistant Director

Date	Location	Purpose
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

Date	Location	Purpose
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 August 2010	San Antonio San Antonio	CPS Judicial Conference Advanced Family Law Conference

IMPACT SUMMARY

The Commission’s strategies applicable to FY 2011 include:

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.

FY2011 Summary of Numbers Served	
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	34,830
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
<i>*GAL – Guardian ad litem in this context is CASA volunteers</i>	

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, 2010 and the other for the calendar year ending December 31, 2010.
- Developed and distributed several Jurist in Residence letters, which are periodic communiqués that focus on a specific issue or problem judges face while hearing CPS cases, such as the extended care for youth exiting foster care, two letters about accessing the new online bench book, foster care redesign efforts, and legal

representation in Texas courts. (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 and transitioned to a new statutorily created Inter Agency Council.
- Continued work pursuant to its Legal Representation Study to reform legal representation in child welfare courts.
- 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.
- Continued collaboration on implementation 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).
- Held one Round Table discussion on notice and engagement of families in child protection process and review hearings
- Worked with DFPS on statutory changes as a result of the Round Table
- Funded over 4,000 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 March 2011, which trained 32 attendees, including Child Protection Court judges and their court staff.
- Add staffing of Psy Meds
- Add staffing of Trauma Informed / Restraints
- Add Tribal efforts
- Add Legal Orphans?
- Add Harris County?

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, 2010 and September 30, 2011:

- 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 60 Commission meetings, committee or workgroup meetings, or conference calls with at least 200 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.
- Commission staff participated in several collaborative calls and meetings in partnership with Casey Family as part of an effort to ?? Finance Reform? Permanency Round Tables?
- 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 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.

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.
- 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.

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.

APPENDIX A: COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

HON. EVA GUZMAN, CHAIR	HARPER ESTES	HON. DEAN RUCKER	STAFF
HON. HARRIETT O'NEILL, CHAIR EMERITUS	JOE GAGEN	FAIRY DAVENPORT RUTLAND	TINA AARBERG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HON. DALENE EYENE, VICE CHAIR	HON. BONNIE CEANE HELLMUS	HON. CHERRY LEE SHANNON	THERRY ROPER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JUDGE KARIN BONICORD	JOYCE M. JAMES	HON. YVONNE GONZALEZ TORRELLIS	KRISTI TAYLOR, PROJECT MANAGER
AUDREY DECKINGA	HON. PATRICIA A. MACIAS	G. ALLAN VAN FLEET	TEJI MOJIBAN
HON. CAMILLE G. DUBOSE	DR. OCTAVIO MARTINEZ	HON. EFF WENTWORTH	MARIL AARON, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
BRUCE ESTERLINE	SELINA MURIELS		HON. JOHN SPECTA (LEFT)
	CAROLYNE RODRIGUEZ		FIRST 18 RESIDENCE
			OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION
			CARL BENGLDES
			ALBINO IRELAIVE DIRECTOR
			OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEES

BASIC PROJECTS	TECHNOLOGY	TRAINING	EDUCATION	STRATEGIC PLANNING
HON. ROBIN SAGE, CHAIR	JUDGE KARIN BONICORD,	HON. CAMILLE G. DUBOSE,	HON. PATRICIA MACIAS,	HARPER ESTES, CHAIR
JOE GAGEN	CHAIR	CHAIR	CHAIR	HON. DARLENE EYENE,
HON. RONNIE CEANE HELLMUS	CATHERINE BARBITT	MARI KAY BECKETT	HON. CHERRY SHANNON,	VICE-CHAIR
COLLEEN MCCALL	JUDGE OSCAR GAMALDON	CATY COCKERHAM	VICE CHAIR	JUDGE KAREN BONICORD
HON. MICKY PENNINGTON	HON. GILFORD JONES	BARBARA ELIAS PERCIPIU	JOY BASKIN	AUDREY DECKINGA
CAROLYNE RODRIGUEZ	ELIZABETH KEMARH	ALICI EMERSON	IM CROW	HON. CAMILLE G. DUBOSE
HON. FILMA SALINAS EIDER	HON. PETER SAKAI	DIHERA EMERSON	LOL DUKE	HON. PATRICIA A. MACIAS
JUDGE VIRGINIA SCHNARR	HON. CHERYL LEE SHANNON	JUDGE RICHARD GARCIA	ANNE HELLDIGNSHEIN	HON. DEAN RUCKER
HON. CHERYL LEE SHANNON	HON. DIANE UNDERWOOD	TRACY LAETING	JUDGE ROB HEIMANN	HON. ROBIN SAGE
HON. DIANE UNDERWOOD	HON. DOUG WARNE	JOYCE M. JAMES	CAROLYNE RODRIGUEZ	
STAFF: TINA AARBERG	STAFF: TINA AARBERG	HON. JAGAR MCCORMIE	ESTHILA SANCHEZ	
KRISTI TAYLOR	BRVAN WILSON	SHONIKA ODOM	ROBERT SCOTT	
	FAIRY DAVENPORT RUTLAND	JUDGE TULIN SMITTI	JENNIFER VESPERA	
	STAFF: TINA AARBERG	STAFF: TIFANY KOEHL		

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL

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

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

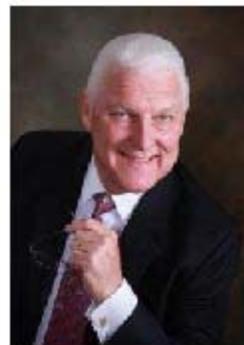
Q: When does a family stop receiving foster care payments and begin receiving PCA payments?

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.



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?

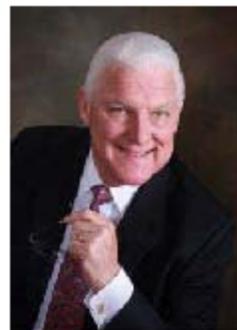
A: Effective October 1, 2010, the federal Fostering Connections Act allows states to claim federal Title IV-E dollars for more young adults who opt to remain in extended foster care after turning 18 with the court maintaining oversight. Young adults may now remain in extended foster care until their 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

Step by step instructions:

1. Go to: 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 or children@txcourts.gov or to Teri Moran at 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."

To unsubscribe, send an email with the word unsubscribe in the subject line to children@courts.state.tx.us

APPENDIX D: MATCH TOTALS

GRAND TOTAL MATCH - FY 2010				
October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010				
	<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>
			GRAND TOTAL ALL MATCH	\$1,826,886.54

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	Amberbooy	\$0.00	40.00	\$0.00
Catherine	Babbitt	\$30.00	5.00	\$150.00
Emily 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	Block	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Kim	Blankenship	\$0.00	0.50	\$0.00
Roy	Block	\$35.00	6.00	\$210.00
Karin	Boniforo	\$45.34	23.00	\$1,042.82
Phil	Breitenbucher	\$0.00	1.50	\$0.00
Dewey	Britt	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Jane	Burnsain	\$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	Cockerham	\$30.00	10.50	\$315.00
Gary	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
Helen	Dao	\$0.00	1.50	\$0.00
Ken	DeCicchio	\$0.00	1.00	\$0.00
Audrey	Deckinga	\$0.00	10.00	\$0.00
Simi	Denson	\$0.00	1.00	\$0.00
Camille Glasscock	DuBoise	\$67.31	10.50	\$706.78
De Shaun	Ealoms	\$0.00	3.00	\$0.00
Barbara	Elias-Pericful	\$65.00	15.00	\$975.00
Alice	Emerson	\$0.00	4.75	\$0.00
Debra	Emerson	\$0.00	15.00	\$0.00
Elma Salinas	Ender	\$67.31	6.00	\$403.86
Bruce	Esterline	\$500.00	8.00	\$4,000.00
Christopher	Felleisen	\$30.00	3.00	\$90.00
Amy	Fitzgerald	\$0.00	3.00	\$0.00
Mike	Foster	\$30.00	10.00	\$300.00
Natalie	Furdak	\$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
Swen	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
Kirne	Helgenstein	\$0.00	4.00	\$0.00
Bonnie	Heflums	\$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
Duke	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
Gifford	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	Levins	\$30.00	3.00	\$90.00
Rebecca	Lightsey	\$40.00	13.00	\$520.00
Teresa	Limas	\$0.00	1.00	\$0.00

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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	McCortle	\$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
	TOTAL MEETING HOURS	1007.25		\$44,015.44
	TOTAL TRAVEL HOURS	138.95		\$10,933.10
	VALUE FOR MATCH	1148.25		\$54,948.54
	NACC Training			\$38,890.00
	GRAND TOTAL			\$111,788.54
Collaborative Meetings				
# meetings	25			
avg time	1			
total meeting time	25			
avg # participants	8			
total meeting time * Total meeting hours	150			