

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 12- **9214**

ORDER ESTABLISHING TEXAS BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE OF PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

On May 20, 2010, this Court established the Education Committee of the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission). In May 2012, the Children's Commission Education Committee issued its final report, *Texas Blueprint: Transforming Education Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care*. As outlined in the *Texas Blueprint*, the report contains many recommendations to improve education outcomes through legislative, policy, and practice changes regarding judicial practices, data and information sharing, multi-disciplinary training, school readiness, school stability and transitions, school experience, and post-secondary education.

With the submission of the *Texas Blueprint*, the Education Committee fulfilled the charge given to it by this Court, but the formation of the Education Committee itself was only the first step in our state's efforts to collaboratively work to improve education outcomes of children and youth in foster care. The Education Committee, recognizing this need, recommended the creation of a Task Force to monitor the implementation of the *Texas Blueprint* recommendations and to further collaboration between court, education, and child welfare stakeholders in Texas. The development of the implementation task force will be critical to ensuring that the spirit of the *Texas Blueprint* recommendations will be realized.

The Court **HEREBY ORDERS:**

1. The Education Committee of the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families has met the charge issued to it in the *Order Establishing the Education Committee of Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families*, and is hereby discharged of any further responsibilities as a committee.
2. The *Texas Blueprint* Implementation Task Force is created to oversee implementation of the *Blueprint* recommendations.

3. The Implementation Task Force shall:

- Meet periodically to assess the progress of implementation.
- Prioritize the *Texas Blueprint* recommendations and strategies.
- Identify which recommendations and strategies are to be implemented and the best methods for implementation.
- Develop an implementation plan, which shall include phases for implementing the prioritized recommendations and strategies.
 - Phase I: Short-term goals
 - Phase II: Intermediate goals
 - Phase III: Long-term goals
- Seek the guidance of the Advisory Council, as needed.
- Provide periodic updates to the Advisory Council and the Children's Commission.
- Create workgroups, as needed, to carry out its charge.
- At the conclusion of Phase I of the Implementation Plan, the Task Force shall provide recommendations to the Children's Commission regarding the need for reauthorization or changes to the structure or membership of the Task Force.

4. The membership of the Implementation Task Force shall include:

- Hon. Rob Hofmann, Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, Mason
- Hon. Alyce Bondurant, Child Protection Court of North Texas, Wichita Falls
- Sarah Abrahams, Casey Family Programs
- Joy Baskin, Texas Association of School Boards
- Cathy Cockerham, Texas CASA
- Lori Duke, Clinical Professor, Children's Rights Clinic, UT School of Law, Austin
- Jenny Hinson, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin
- Julie Wayman, Texas Education Agency
- Others as identified by the Chair of the Implementation Task Force, including a representative of the Texas Association of School Administrators, an attorney who represents parents in child abuse and neglect proceedings, a youth formerly in foster care, and a representative of a child placement organization.

The Implementation Task Force shall be chaired by the Honorable Rob Hofmann, Education Committee member and Judge, the Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, Mason.

5. The members of the Implementation Task Force shall serve for a period of two years, unless further order is issued by this Court.

6. The Implementation Task Force shall be supported by guidance from an Advisory Council comprised of former members of the Education Committee or their successors, and shall include:

- Hon. Patricia Macias, 388th District Court, El Paso
- Hon. Cheryl Shannon, 305th District Court, Dallas
- Commissioner John J. Specia, Jr., Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Commissioner Michael Williams, Texas Education Agency
- James B. Crow, Executive Director, Texas Association of School Boards
- Dr. Johnny L. Veselka, Executive Director, Texas Association of School Administrators
- Carlyne Rodriguez, Casey Family Programs
- Vicki Spriggs, Texas CASA

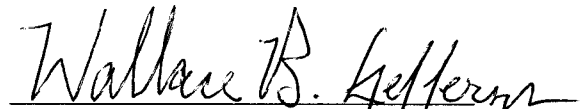
The Advisory Council shall be chaired by the Honorable Patricia Macias, 388th Judicial District Court, El Paso.


The purpose of the Advisory Council shall be to serve as a consultative body for the Implementation Task Force. It will not hold periodic meetings but will be consulted as necessary by the Task Force. The advisory council shall:

- Raise awareness of the *Texas Blueprint* and the importance of improving education outcomes of children and youth in foster care.
- Champion the issue within their respective agencies and disciplines.
- Use its expertise to assist the Implementation Task Force.
- Receive periodic updates from the Implementation Task Force.

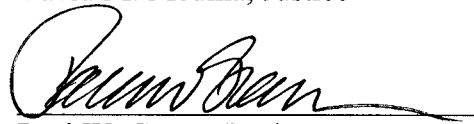
The advisory council shall remain in effect for the duration of the Implementation Task Force or as otherwise directed by the Court.

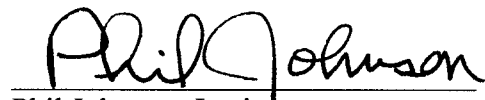
SIGNED this 11th day of December, 2012.

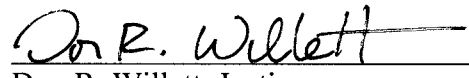

Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice

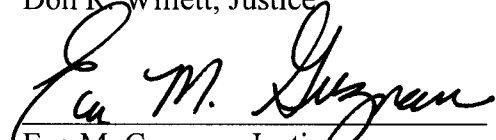

Nathan L. Hecht, Justice

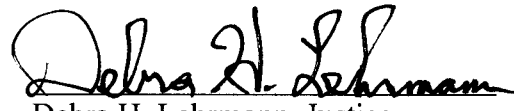
David M. Medina, Justice


Paul W. Green, Justice


Phil Johnson, Justice


Don R. Willett, Justice


Eva M. Guzman, Justice


Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice


Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice