



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

**Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial
Commission for Children,
Youth and Families**

June 10, 2016
Meeting Notebook

The State Bar of Texas – Texas Law Center
1414 Colorado Street
Austin, Texas 78701

**Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families**

**June 10, 2016
Meeting Notebook**

Table of Contents

Commission, Committee and Collaborative Council Member List..... 1
Minutes from February 12, 2016 Commission Meeting 2
June 10, 2016 Report to Commission..... 3
Financial Report..... 4

Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families
State Bar of Texas – Texas Law Center
Austin, Texas
June 10, 2016
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Agenda

- 9:30 Commencement / Opening Remarks – The Honorable Eva Guzman
- 9:45 First order of business – The Honorable Eva Guzman
1. Adopt Minutes from February 12, 2016, Tab 2
- 10:00 Executive Director Report – Tina Amberboy / Judge Robin Sage
- 10:20 Commissioner Updates
- 11:15 Break
- 11:30 Commissioner Updates cont'd
- 12:00 Budget Matters / New Projects – Tina Amberboy
- 12:15 Working Lunch & Special Presentation
- 1:00 Lifeworks Presentation – Susan McDowell
- 1:30 Bexar County Children's Court Presentation – Judge Peter Sakai
- 2:00 DFPS Update – Kristene Blackstone, CPS Assistant Commissioner
- 2:15 Office of Court Administration – David Slayton
- 2:30 New Business/Comments from Collaborative Council
- 2:45 2016 Meeting Schedule
September 23, 2016 at State Bar of Texas
- 3:00 Adjourn

INSERT - TAB 1

CHILDREN'S COMMISSION MEMBERS

Hon. Eva Guzman, Chair
 Hon. Harriet O'Neill, Chair Emeritus
 Hon. Rob Hofmann, Vice Chair
 Hon. Jo Ann Battise
 Paula Bibbs-Samuels
 Allison Billodeau
 Kristene Blackstone

Hon. Jean Boyd
 Hon. Gary Coley
 Sheila Sturgis Craig
 Rep. Helen Giddings
 Hon. Bonnie Crane Hellums
 Dr. Andy Keller
 Dr. Octavio Martinez

Hon. Michael Massengale
 Hon. Mary Murphy
 Cindy Patrick
 Hon. Ronald Pope
 Hon. Frank Rynd
 Hon. Peter Sakai
 Hon. Michael Schneider

Luanne Southern
 Vicki Spriggs
 Terry Tottenham
 Hon. Carlos Villalon
 Lt. Col. Travis Walters
 Hon. Judy Warne
 Sen. Royce West

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE

Hon. Eva Guzman,
Chair
 Hon. Harriet O'Neill,
Chair Emeritus
 Hon. Rob Hofmann
Vice Chair
 Hon. Darlene Byrne,
Sr. Judicial Advisor
 Hon. Bonnie Crane Hellums
 Hon. Michael Massengale
 Hon. Dean Rucker
 Vicki Spriggs

*Staff: Tina Amberboy
 Monica Mahoney*

BASIC PROJECTS

Hon. Bonnie Crane Hellums
Chair
 Mary Christine Reed
 Carolyne Rodriguez
 Tanya Rollins
 Hon. Peter Sakai

*Staff: Kristi Taylor
 Monica Mahoney*

TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

Vicki Spriggs, *Chair*
 Jason Hassay
 Hon. Gilford Jones
 Elizabeth Kromrei
 Octavio Martinez
 Robert Nolen
 Hon. Virginia Schnarr
 Hon. Carlos Villalon

*Staff: Patrick Passmore
 Monica Mahoney*

*OCA Advisory:
 Darrell Childers
 Anissa Johnson
 Casey Kennedy
 Tim Kennedy
 Mena Ramon
 David Slayton*

TRAINING PROJECTS

Hon. Michael Massengale, *Chair*
 Hon. Mark Atkinson
 Tymothy Belseth
 Cathy Cockerham
 Barbara Elias-Perciful
 Debra Emerson
 Hon. Richard Garcia
 Tracy Harting
 Pam Kemp
 Tanya Rollins
 Fairy Davenport Rutland
 Hon. Ellen Smith
 Elizabeth Watkins

*Staff: Tiffany Roper
 Milbrey Raney
 Andrea Vicencio*

FOSTER CARE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Hon. Rob Hofmann, *Chair*
 Joy Baskin
 Hon. Alyce Bondurant
 Edna Ramón Butts
 Briana Dovi
 Lori Duke
 Loretta Edelen
 Dr. Monica Faulkner
 Maya Guerra Gamble
 Dr. David Gardner
 Dr. Deena Hill
 Jenny Hinson
 Andy Homer
 Kelly Kravitz
 Kristine Mohajer
 Hon. Cathy Morris
 Jon Olson
 Wanda Peña
 Shannon Ramsey
 Michael Redden
 Ian Spechler
 Julie Wayman
*Staff: Jamie Bernstein
 Andrea Vicencio*

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

M. Lynn Chamberlin
 Irene Clements
 Bill Connolly
 De Shaun Ealoms
 Barbara Elias-Perciful
 Debra Emerson
 Laura Figueroa
 Mike Foster
 Mara Friesen
 Sadie Funk

Helen Gaebler
 Teal de la Garza
 Christina Green
 Sandra Hachem
 David Halpern
 Ashley Harris
 Bruce Kendrick
 Knox Kimberly
 Kelly Kravitz
 Richard Lavallo

Tracy Levins
 Madeline McClure
 Hon. F. Scott McCown, ret.
 Gabriella McDonald
 Susan McDowell
 Pamela McPeters
 Anu Partap
 Judy Powell
 Mary Christine Reed
 Carolyne Rodriguez

Johana Scot
 Janet Sharkis
 Andrea Sparks
 Jeanne Stamp
 Gloria Terry
 Kenneth Thompson
 Arabia Vargas
 Kelly White

STAFF

Tina Amberboy, Executive Director
 Tiffany Roper, Assistant Director
 Jessica Arguijo, Communications Manager
 Jamie Bernstein, Staff Attorney
 Monica Mahoney, Administrative Assistant
 Patrick Passmore, Grant Administrator
 Milbrey Raney, Staff Attorney
 Kristi Taylor, Staff Attorney
 Andrea Vicencio, Administrative Assistant
 Hon. Darlene Byrne, Senior Judicial Advisor
 Hon. Robin Sage, Jurist in Residence
 Hon. Dean Rucker, Jurist in Residence
Office of Court Administration

INSERT - TAB 2

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 12, 2016
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
State Bar of Texas – Texas Law Center
Austin, Texas

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners	Attended	Did Not Attend
Chair, Hon. Eva Guzman, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas, Austin	✓	
Chair Emeritus, Hon. Harriet O'Neill, Justice, retired, Law Office of Harriet O'Neill, Austin		✓
Vice Chair, Hon. Rob Hofmann, Judge, 452nd District Court, Mason	✓	
Hon. Jo Ann Battise, Council Chairwoman, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Livingston		✓
Paula Bibbs-Samuel, Parent Representative, Slayton	✓	
Allison Billodeau, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, Austin	✓	
Lisa Black, Assistant Commissioner for Child Protective Services, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin	✓	
Hon. Jean Boyd, Judge (ret.), 323rd District Court, Fort Worth	✓	
Hon. Gary Coley, Judge, 74 th District Court, Waco	✓	
Sheila Craig, Associate Commissioner, Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities, Health and Human Services Commission, Austin	✓	
Hon. Helen Giddings, Texas House of Representatives, District 109, Dallas		✓
Hon. Bonnie Hellums, Judge (ret.), 247th District Court, Houston	✓	
Dr. Andrew Keller, Chief Operations Officer, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Dallas	✓	
Dr. Octavio Martinez, Executive Director, The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, The University of Texas, Austin		✓
Hon. Michael Massengale, Justice, 1st Court of Appeals, Houston	✓	
Hon. Mary Murphy, Presiding Judge, First Administrative Judicial Region, Dallas		✓
Cindy Patrick, Senior Program Officer, Meadows Foundation, Dallas	✓	
Hon. Ronald Pope, Judge, 328 th District Court, Richmond	✓	
Hon. Peter Sakai, Judge, 225th District Court, San Antonio	✓	
Hon. Michael Schneider, Judge, 315 th Juvenile Court, Houston		✓
Luanne Southern, Senior Director of Texas Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs, Austin	✓	
Vicki Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer, Texas CASA, Inc., Austin	✓	
Terry Tottenham, Of Counsel, Fulbright and Jaworski, L.L.P., Austin	✓	
Hon. Carlos Villalon, Associate Judge, Child Protection Court of the Rio Grande, Edinburg	✓	
Lt. Col. Travis Walters, State Public Affairs Officer (FTUS), United States Air Force, Fort Worth	✓	
Hon. Judy Warne, Judge, 257th Family Court, Houston	✓	
Hon. Royce West, (by proxy Graham Keever), Texas Senate, District 23, Dallas	✓	
Senior Judicial Advisor		
Hon. Darlene Byrne, Judge, 126th District Court, Austin	✓	
Collaborative Council		
M. Lynn Chamberlin, Sr. Assistant County Attorney, Harris County Attorney's Office	✓	
Irene Clements, President, National Foster Family Association, and Consultant, Butterfly Marketing, LLC, Pflugerville		✓

	Attended	Did Not Attend
William B. Connolly, Attorney, Connolly & Shireman, L.L.P., Houston		✓
De Shaun Ealoms, Parent Program Specialist, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin	✓	
Barbara Elias-Perciful, President, Texas Lawyers for Children, Dallas	✓	
Debra Emerson, CPS Director of Permanency, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin		✓
Laura Figueroa, The Arbitrage Group, Inc., Katy		✓
Mike Foster, Assistant Director of Outreach, TCU Institute of Child Development	✓	
Mara Friesen, Deputy Director for Child Support, Office of the Texas Attorney General, Austin		✓
Sadie Funk, Executive Director, Texas Alliance for Infant Mental Health, Austin		✓
Helen Gaebler, Senior Research Attorney, William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law, The University of Texas School of Law, Austin		✓
Teal De La Garza, Attorney, Bill De La Garza & Associates, P.C.	✓	
Christina Green, Director of Public Affairs, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Austin	✓	
Hon. Diane Guariglia, Guariglia & Placzek, PLLC, Houston		✓
Sandra Hachem, Senior Assistant County Attorney, Harris County Attorney's Office, Houston		✓
David Halpern, Director, Promise Mentor Program, Seedling Foundation, Austin		✓
Ashley Harris, Child Welfare Policy Associate, Texans Care for Children, Austin		✓
Bruce Kendrick, Director of Outreach, Embrace Texas, McKinney		✓
Knox Kimberly, Vice President for Advocacy and Education, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Austin	✓	
Kelly Kravitz, Foster Care Education and Policy Coordinator, Texas Education Agency, Austin		✓
Richard Lavallo, Legal Director, Disability Rights Texas, Austin	✓	
Tracy Levins, Manager, Prevention/Early Intervention, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Austin		✓
Madeline McClure, Executive Director, Texas Association for the Protection of Children, Dallas		✓
Hon. F. Scott McCown, Clinical Professor and Director of the Children's Rights Clinic, The University of Texas School of Law, Austin		✓
Gabriela McDonald, Pro Bono and New Projects Director, Texas Appleseed, Austin	✓	
Pamela McPeters, Director of Public Policy, TexProtects, Austin	✓	
Dr. Anu Partap, Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, Southwest Medical Center, Dallas		✓
Judy Powell, Communications Director, Parent Guidance Center, Austin	✓	
Mary Christine Reed, Director, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Austin	✓	
Johana Scot, Executive Director, Parent Guidance Center, Austin	✓	
Janet Sharkis (by proxy Angela Morales), Executive Director, Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities, Austin	✓	
Andrea Sparks, Executive Director, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Austin	✓	
Jeanne Stamp, Senior Program Coordinator, Texas Homeless Education Office, Charles A. Dana Center, Austin	✓	
Gloria Terry, (by proxy Brooke King), Coalition President, Texas Council on Family Violence, Austin		✓
Kenneth Thompson, Fatherhood Program Specialist, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin		✓
Arabia Vargas, Chair, Bexar County Child Welfare Board, San Antonio		✓
Kelly White, Executive Director, LIFT Alliance		✓

Attending Committee Members and Special Guests

Hon. Mark Atkinson, Executive Director, Texas Center for the Judiciary

Lisa Berkman, Williamson County Commissioner

Hon. Jeff Brown, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas

Kathleen Buckley, Nurse, San Antonio

Bruce Esterline, Vice President for Grants, Meadows Foundation

Rebecca Lightsey, former Executive Director, Texas Appleseed

Kris Mohajer, State Education Program Specialist, Department of Family and Protective Services

Andrew Murr, State Representative, District 53

Katie Olse, Associate Commissioner, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin

Jon Olson, State Disproportionality Specialist, Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities, Health and Human Services Commission, Austin

Daniel Perez, Caseworker, Laredo

Raphael Ramos Sifuentes and family

Tanya Rollins, State Disproportionality Manager, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin

Hon. John Specia, Commissioner, Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin

Rachel Yates, Child Therapist

Attending Staff

Tina Amberboy, Executive Director, Children's Commission

Jessica Arguijo, Administrative Assistant, Children's Commission

Jamie Bernstein, Staff Attorney, Children's Commission

Anissa Johnson, Program Specialist VI, Office of Court Administration

Tim Kennedy, TexDECK Project Manager, Office of Court Administration

Monica Mahoney, Administrative Assistant, Children's Commission

Patrick Passmore, Grant Manager, Children's Commission

Mena Ramon, General Counsel, Office of Court Administration

Milbrey Raney, Staff Attorney, Children's Commission

Tiffany Roper, Assistant Director, Children's Commission

Honorable Dean Rucker, Jurist in Residence, Children's Commission

Honorable Robin Sage, Jurist in Residence, Children's Commission

David Slayton, Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration

Kristi Taylor, Project Manager, Children's Commission

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS, Justice Eva Guzman

Justice Guzman called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Recognition of Guests

Justice Guzman welcomed special guests Bruce Esterline, Vice President of Grants with the Meadows Foundation in Dallas, Texas, Rebecca Lightsey, former Executive Director of Texas Appleseed in Austin, Texas, and Lisa Birkman, County Commissioner in Williamson County, Texas.

Commissioner Membership Changes

Justice Guzman announced that the Supreme Court added five new Commissioners: Judge Gary Coley of the 74th District Court in McLennan County; Frank Rynd, former District Judge of the 309th District in Harris County and the current general counsel to the Archdiocese of Galveston and Houston; Paula Bibbs-Samuels, a parent representative in Slaton, Texas, currently with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court as an Operations Support Specialist; Cindy Patrick, Senior Program Officer with Meadows Foundation; and Dr. Andrew Keller, Chief Executive Officer of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.

Justice Guzman announced that Allison Billodeau replaced Kara Crawford as the *ex officio* commission member appoint by the Office of the Governor.

Justice Guzman announced Lisa Black's retirement as Associate Commissioner for Child Protective Services (CPS) on March 31, 2016. Justice Guzman also announced that Commissioner Jo Ann Battise was recently elected as Tribal Council Chairwoman of the Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas.

Collaborative Council Membership Changes

Justice Guzman welcomed Ms. Mary Christine Reed with Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid to the Collaborative Council.

Committee Member Changes

Justice Guzman announced that Judge Lamar McCorkle has transitioned off the Training Committee.

Staff Member Changes

Justice Guzman announced the newly hired staff of the Commission: Andrea Vicencio, Administrative Assistant, and Patrick Passmore, Grants Manager.

Adoption of September 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Justice Guzman directed members to Tab 1, noted that members had the opportunity to review the minutes, and asked if there were any corrections or discussion. There were no corrections or discussion points raised.

ACTION: Justice Guzman asked for a motion to adopt the meeting minutes of the September 18, 2015 meeting. Judge Peter Sakai motioned to adopt the minutes. Ms. Luanne Southern seconded the motion. The attending members voted to approve and adopt the meeting minutes unanimously.

COMMISSION MEMBER UPDATES

Ms. Sheila Craig reported on the Poverty Simulation put on by the Center for the Elimination of Disproportionalities and Disparities (CEDD) in partnership with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the Children's Commission on February 5, 2016. The Poverty Simulation was attended by several child welfare judges and their court staff, as well as other child

welfare stakeholders. Ms. Craig emphasized the importance of this training to those who work closely with child welfare issues and the importance of the involvement of the judicial community.

Lt. Colonel Travis Walters reported on a recent observation of Judge Darlene Byrne's courtroom. Lt. Col. Walters also expressed his interest in holding a military summit in Texas in the near future.

Mr. Terry Tottenham reported on the work being done by Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans, noting that the organization has helped over 18,000 veterans since its work began. Mr. Tottenham discussed the book by former State Bar of Texas President Richard Peña, *The Last Plane Out of Saigon*, as a potential educational resource for those that come into contact with members of the military and their families. Mr. Tottenham reported on two projects of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and presented brochures targeted towards youth on tips for interacting with police officers during traffic stops and bicycle safety.

Dr. Andrew Keller reported the work being done with veterans at the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI). Dr. Keller directed Commission members to visit the veteran's page of the MMHPI website for more information on the pilot grant administered by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) regarding the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance.

<http://texasstateofmind.org/focus/veterans/>

Hon. Jean Boyd reported on several activities in Tarrant County: 1) The county will launch the Safe Babies Program in April under the leadership of Judge Ellen Smith and an attorney training for the program on March 29, 2016; 2) Judge Smith started a second track in the current Drug Court Program, called the Recovery Support Program; 3) efforts are underway to create an annual CPS CLE program with the help of the Tarrant County Bar Association; 4) new appointees to the CPS wheel will be required to complete the CLE program, as well as three additional training videos; and 5) Judge Boyd further noted some concerns of Tarrant County judges regarding CPS home studies and Parental Child Safety Placements (PCSPs).

Hon. Ronald Pope reported on the Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) work being done at the Fort Bend County Infant and Toddler Court in collaboration with CPS and Texas CASA. Fort Bend was selected as one of three sites in Texas to begin the CFE initiative. Ms. Vicki Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer of Texas CASA, commented that Texas CASA requested funding for the CFE project be included in the DFPS budget to further enhance collaboration efforts with CPS, noting that CASA works with a staff member designated by CPS on this pilot project and that CPS chose the regions in which the pilot should be first introduced.

Hon. Darlene Byrne gave her report as the Senior Judicial Advisor to the Commission. Judge Byrne reported that she participated in the recent Poverty Simulation and that she was able to relate a recent case in her courtroom to her experience at the simulation. Judge Byrne also reported on the current work of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), noting that she will be travelling to Washington, D.C. in the coming weeks with DFPS Commissioner John J. Specia to discuss

the Family First legislation, which will incentivize states to use federal foster care dollars for prevention efforts and services. Judge Byrne noted that she will be advocating on behalf of the NCJFCJ on various legislative issues surrounding juvenile justice and child welfare while in Washington, including the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Prevention Act. Judge Byrne announced that NCJFCJ will hold a conference in March 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada focused on juvenile justice that includes a probation track, creating a multi-disciplinary training for judiciary and public defenders. Judge Byrne also announced the Annual NCJFCJ Conference will be held in Monterey, California in July 2016.

Judge Byrne also reported on the legislative issues in Texas regarding indiscriminate shackling of young people in the courtroom. The Judge further noted that NCJFCJ is advocating for a more trauma-informed care focus on this issue than the one currently in place and that she is working with the states of Delaware and Ohio for solutions to this issue. Judge Byrne reported on a military summit in Fort Benning, Georgia, noting that NCJFCJ is interested in partnering with a state that has a high number of children in military families to hold a similar summit.

Ms. Lisa Black gave a high-level overview of the current work of CPS, noting that DFPS Commissioner John J. Specia would give a more detailed report to the Commission. Ms. Black reported that CPS has enhanced its policies and practices surrounding PCSPs and that all staff across the state have been notified by memo of the policy changes. Ms. Black also announced that CPS has developed a tool to help staff assess potential caregivers in a PCSP, which has led to both a decrease in the number of PCSPs and better placements for children. Ms. Black reported on the series of Permanency Summits held across the state until February 2016 and the continuing work being done at CPS to focus on permanency. Ms. Black reported that the second phase of the CPS Transformation has begun, which focuses on the Supervisor role and its impact on turnover, retention and case decisions. Ms. Black also reported on the work being done at CPS to focus on safety.

Justice Guzman welcomed special guest Dr. Lindsey Harris Massengale from Houston, Texas.

Hon. Rob Hofmann reported an increase in removals in his court's district. Judge Hofmann also reported that his district court has had two shadow caseworkers successfully present in the court as part of the CPS new model for caseworker training. Judge Hofmann noted the recent trend of collaboration between Mental Health Mental Retardation (MHMR) and CPS in his jurisdiction, and also announced that he has asked the CASA director in his area, as well as the health probation chief and juvenile probation chief, to attend an upcoming meeting at the Center for Life Resources in Brownwood, Texas as part of the collaboration between mental health and CPS.

Ms. Vicki Spriggs expanded on the Collaborative Family Engagement pilot as one of Texas CASA's overall initiatives for growth. Ms. Spriggs reported that Texas CASA updated its Strategic Plan to serve 100% of children in CPS by 2020, noting that Texas CASA currently serves 78% of children in CPS. Ms. Spriggs announced that Texas CASA has sent two specialists to local programs across the state to work on the recruitment, retention, and reengagement of volunteers in an effort to increase the number of

CASA volunteers. Ms. Spriggs reported that Texas CASA recently received a certification from the Human Rights Commission for its work on inclusion of LGBTQ youth. Also that Texas CASA's marketing pilot was executed on January 1, 2016 to inform the public about the CASA program and find the best method to recruit volunteers. Ms. Spriggs updated the Commission on the PMC project, which is in the second year of implementation and expanded to eight counties; the project will produce a toolkit to share best practices with other counties in the future. Ms. Spriggs provided an update on the Child Outcomes & Volunteer Effectiveness (COVE) Project in collaboration with the University of Texas and Child Protective Services. Ms. Spriggs announced the Volunteer Recruitment Strategies Conference to be held on February 18-19, 2016 in Fort Worth, Texas, and the Texas CASA Primer and Luncheon to be held on February 23, 2016 in Austin, Texas.

Hon. Bonnie Hellums announced that the Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe (KITS) Conference is scheduled for June 2016. Judge Hellums reported that she is drafting a Power Point presentation to train caseworkers and lawyers who handle CPS cases on compassion fatigue. Judge Hellums reported on her collaboration with Justice Evelyn Keyes on a proposal for community and child protection court coordination. Judge Hellums suggested that the bicycle safety brochure from the TYLA include information on the Road ID service available at <http://www.roadid.com/>. Judge Hellums offered to assist the Commissioners with work surrounding military families and children from military families.

Hon. Peter Sakai announced the report on Bexar County's redesign project is currently being printed and notified the Commission that he would present on the redesign at the next Commission Meeting. Judge Sakai announced that Bexar County will establish an early intervention program (EIP) to focus on infants, toddlers and young children to operate in conjunction with the Bexar County Family Drug Court. Judge Sakai noted the EIP is grant funded and Bexar County will continue to seek additional funding through public-private partnerships. Judge Sakai reported on his participation on the community panel to interview the new DFPS Regional Director for Region 8, and that he served as a moderator on a judicial panel of rural and metropolitan judges from Region 8 regarding CPS Transformation at a recent Permanency Summit hosted by DFPS. Judge Sakai also reported on the Bexar County CASA program's focus on permanency for children in Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC). Judge Sakai noted that he presented at the Family Juvenile Justice Conference in January 2016.

Hon. Judy Warne reported that at the end of December 2015 there were 750 unaccompanied minors cases (UACs) waiting to be heard. Also, that UAC cases were distributed among 33 Harris county courts, including family, juvenile, and civil courts, to address the extensive backlog issue. Judge Warne announced that Harris County has completely shifted into a paperless system, commented on the success of the CPS Project Court in Harris County, and noted that Judge Katrina Griffith has asked Presiding Judge Olen Underwood to review the statute to determine if the project court may take on other cases in addition to the post judgment review cases currently heard. Judge Warne also mentioned the one-day child welfare track at the Advanced Family Law Conference in August 2016. Justice Guzman announced that scholarships will be available to judges to attend the one-day event.

Hon. Carlos Villalon reported that Tiffany Roper made a presentation at the multi-disciplinary child welfare conference in Harlingen in October 2015. Also that his court recently completed its report for the Weighted Caseload Study, wherein the court tracked time and effort over 30 days to determine the number of judges necessary to handle child welfare cases. Judge Villalon reported on the NCJFCJ Implementation Site Project, noting that the project is transitioning to a new NCJFCJ site manager. Judge Villalon continued to report that the Site Project has begun identifying and scheduling meetings with child welfare stakeholders. Judge Villalon announced that he will speak at an education consortium on February 23, 2016, and ended his update noting that his court has seen the more CASA volunteers recently, noting the impact of CASA's new recruitment strategies.

Justice Guzman welcomed Justice Jeff Brown of the Supreme Court of Texas. Justice Guzman also announced that there would be a special presentation from Raphael Sifuentes and his family following the Commissioner Updates.

Ms. Luanne Southern reported on the work Casey Family Programs related to permanency, safety, prevention, and Title IV-E Waiver. Also that a permanency summit was held on February 8-9, 2016 to discuss each region's continued work around permanency. Ms. Southern reported that Casey is supporting implementation of the Signs of Safety training across the state and sent a team to San Diego, California to hear about their safety effort, Safety Organized Practice, and see the rollout process in an urban area, as well as to northern California to see the effort in a rural county setting. Ms. Southern announced that Casey will attend the first meeting of the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division in Laredo, Texas on February 16, 2016 to assist with PEI's strategic plan and, ultimately, the report to the legislature. Ms. Southern reported on the Title IV-E efforts in Harris County, noting that Dr. John Lyons led the staff training related to conducting the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment and on Business Process Mapping, which will help determine areas in Harris County where CANS is being used and where to decrease duplication. Ms. Southern reported that a team from Texas recently attended the National CANS Conference in Seattle, Washington. Ms. Southern announced that Dr. Peter Pecora will meet with Sasha Rasco and Sarah Abrahams of DFPS on March 3-4, 2016 regarding the research and evaluation protocols in relation to prevention work in Texas.

Justice Michael Massengale noted his enthusiasm to work with the new Commissioners, deferring to give his report during the Training Committee report.

Ms. Paula Bibbs-Samuels introduced herself, noting that she works with CPS as parent collaborator and on the statewide Parent Collaboration Group. Ms. Bibbs-Samuels reported that the Parent Collaboration Group is focused on establishing a parent in every region who can share their experiences with families new to CPS.

Hon. Frank Rynd introduced himself and noted he would like to collaborate with CASA regarding volunteers with his work as chair of program committee for Child Advocates.

Hon. Gary Coley reported on the new Child Protection Court in his court's district led by Associate Judge Nikki Mundkowsky. Judge Coley announced a community awareness event on human trafficking, "Not in My City," in Waco, Texas on February 12, 2016.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT, Ms. Tina Amberboy

Ms. Amberboy reported that Court Improvement Project (CIP) funds were received in the amount of \$1.7 million and that the Commission submitted the year-end report to the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) on December 16, 2015, available on the website at: <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/48790/FINAL-2015-Self-Assessment.pdf>. Ms.

Amberboy reported on projects that the Commission is currently focused on, including an upcoming roundtable regarding children in court on April 22, 2016 (later rescheduled for May 20, 2016) in Austin, and the Hearing Timeliness Project, a project that examines the timeliness in which permanency hearings are held in temporary managing conservatorship (TMC) cases to better understand which cases are being extended, the reason for the extension, and the impact the extensions are having on children and families.

Presentation from Judge Rob Hofmann

Justice Guzman welcomed the Sifuentes family and others, including Raphael Sifuentes, parents Daniel and Teresa Sifuentes, Daniel Perez, the adoption caseworker assigned to the Sifuentes family's case, Rachel Yates, the therapist to Raphael, Kathleen Buckley, the nurse at the hospital in San Antonio, and State Representative Andrew Murr, District 53. Judge Hofmann invited the Sifuentes family and those in contact with them during their case to share their success story with the Commission.

Justice Guzman and Judge Specia presented Ms. Lisa Black with a certificate of service from the Supreme Court of Texas and thanked her for her service to children and families.

Presentation from Bruce Esterline and Rebecca Lightsey

Mr. Esterline and Ms. Lightsey presented on a possible child welfare policy institute in Texas and the phases of establishing the institute. The Commissioners discussed the project.

ACTION: Justice Guzman asked Ms. Lightsey to articulate the motion to be reaffirmed by the Commission. Rebecca presented a motion to the Commission to approve a formal project of researching the feasibility of creating a child welfare policy center or institute that would use research and analysis to strengthen the State's ability to make significant reform in child welfare. Justice Massengale moved that the Commission initiate a formal project to investigate the feasibility of a new child welfare policy center or institute. Ms. Vicki Spriggs seconded the motion. The attending members voted to approve and the request unanimously.

Basic Committee Update

Ms. Kristi Taylor updated the Commission on the Basic Committee projects and noted that the Committee met on January 22, 2016. Ms. Taylor reported on the Poverty Simulation Seminar held on February 5, 2016 hosted by the Committee's Judicial Workgroup Addressing Disproportionality (JWD)

with the CEDD and DFPS. Six judges, court teams from five different counties, attorneys, advocates and other child welfare partners assumed the roles of families facing poverty during the seminar. Ms. Taylor also reported on the report on the Parental Child Safety Placements (PCSPs) Roundtable held in August 2015, available at <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/47987/PCSP-ROUND-TABLE-REPORT-FINAL.pdf>, a project with the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs regarding mediation in CPS cases, and the upcoming DFPS Tribal/State Meeting to be held at the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas in Eagle Pass, Texas on March 31, 2016.

Training Committee Update

Justice Massengale reported that the Training Committee met on January 12, 2016. Justice Massengale updated the Commission on judicial education projects: 1) the 2015 version of the Child Protection Law Bench Book was released at the Child Welfare Judges Conference (CWJC) in August and the 2016 version update is in progress and will be released at this year's CWJC; 2) the Family Justice Judicial Conference was held on January 25-26, 2016 in Bastrop, Texas and included presentations on Child Safety and Domestic Violence by Judge Scott McCown, Child Fatalities by Judge Robin Sage, and Tricks and Traps of Human Trafficking Trials by Kirsta Melton of the OAG; 3) the Committee has budgeted to award twenty-five judicial scholarships to attend the NCJFCJ in Monterey, California and will open the application process by April 2016; and 4) planning is in progress for the 2016 Child Welfare Judges Conference, scheduled for November 14-16.

Justice Massengale also updated the Commission on attorney education projects: 1) 94 scholarships were awarded in fiscal year 2015 to attend the Advanced Family Law (AFL) CLE 1-Day Workshop on Child Abuse and Neglect and 4 scholarships were awarded to attend the NACC Annual Conference; 2) the scholarship application process for the 2016 AFL CLE 1-Day Workshop and the NACC Annual Conference will begin in April; 3) the Commission is scheduled to tape child protection webinars on August 23, 2016; 4) a revised application was submitted to the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS) in September 2015 and the proposed standards are currently being circulated for feedback from the advisory commissions of existing specializations; and 5) the Trial Skills Training (TST) was held on November 4-6, 2015 in a new venue and trained two new faculty members, Judge Melissa DeGerolami of the Child Protection Court of South Texas and Charles Griffin of the District Attorney's Office in Brazos County. Justice Massengale also announced the next TST is scheduled for April 20-22, 2016 in Austin.

Ms. Amberboy discussed the first voting matter to increase the TST budget. At the November 2015 TST, unforeseen travel expenditures from inclement weather and added audio/visual costs not included in the original contract increased costs, resulting in the need to increase for the budget for the April 2016 TST.

ACTION: Justice Guzman asked for a motion to approve the Training Committee request for a budget increase of \$14,199.00. Judge Rynd motioned to approve the request; Judge Hofmann seconded the motion. The attending members voted to approve and the request unanimously.

Ms. Amberboy discussed the second voting matter to confirm the approval of the Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe (KITS) conference that was brought to vote at the September 18, 2015 Commission meeting and was approved under condition that the Commission present a final amount at the February meeting.

ACTION: Justice Guzman asked for a motion to approve the Training Committee request of \$13,060.00. Judge Hofmann motioned to approve the request; Judge Warne seconded the motion. The attending members voted to approve and the request unanimously.

Technology Committee Update

Ms. Spriggs reported that the Technology Committee met on February 3, 2016 and updated the Commission on the Committee's current projects: the Notice & Engagement Web Application now has 250 users that include 99 caseworkers, 77 attorneys, 32 foster parents, 30 advocates, 3 adoptive parents and 3 relatives; the Notice & Engagement Web Application generated 882 notifications related to 558 different hearings from September 1, 2015 to mid-January 2016. Ms. Spriggs continued with an update on the Video Conferencing project, notifying the Commission that for the months of October 2015 through January 2016 over one hundred video hearings were conducted with 112 children and/or youth, 11 courts, and 32 placement facilities participating. There are 28 courts and 72 placement facilities that are video enabled to participate in the collaborative video conferencing project, and the Office of Court Administration (OCA) will upgrade the hardware to improve the reporting capability and enable use from any hand-held device by the end of February 2016.

Ms. Spriggs also reported that a new project is underway for the Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS) that involves matching the attorneys in the CPCMS system with the State Bar of Texas database so that judges can more easily identify and appoint attorneys from the State Bar database. OCA will also assist the Commission with the creation of an interactive map or website where outcome data for children can be displayed by clicking on or hovering over a particular county.

Foster Care and Education Committee Update

Judge Hofmann discussed the new federal law, Every Student Succeeds Act, signed in December 2015 and its statutes regarding students in foster care. Judge Hofmann reported that the Foster Care and Education Committee met on December 14, 2015 and presented an infographic from the Committee's Data Workgroup, available at <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/46343/Texas-Blueprint-Data-Workgroup-Infographic.pdf>. Judge Hofmann reported the projects for 2016 include a joint TEA/DFPS education data report, reviewing surrogate parent laws, developing strategies to clarify confidentiality for students in foster care, examining the parallel foster care and special education transition planning processes, creating resources for new foster care liaisons at TX institutions of higher education, exploring a data match between DFPS and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and improving information sharing and collaboration at the local level. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2016. Judge Hofmann also reported on the Success in Schools initiative implemented by Friends of Wednesdays Child and the outreach from other states regarding the implementation efforts of the Texas Blueprint.

Jurist in Residence Update

Hon. Dean Rucker reported on capacity issues in Region 9 and an upcoming meeting with Judge Hofmann, the three child protection court judges, DFPS Commissioner John Specia, and DFPS Assistant Commissioner for CPS Lisa Black in Midland on February 25, 2016 to identify the problems regarding capacity and discuss solutions. Judge Rucker discussed an interim charge on the reinstatement of parental rights as well as a possible pro bono project for law students that will be presented to the Commission's Parent Resource Group on February 19, 2016. Judge Rucker also reported on the Legal Representation Committee meeting held on January 29, 2016 and announced two subcommittees formed: one subcommittee will focus on the relationship between judges and commissioners courts regarding budgets for court appointed attorneys; the other will examine the relationship, communication and cross training between DFPS attorneys and county and/or district attorneys.

Hon. Robin Sage reported on her work with Judge Rucker regarding the 2016 update of the Child Protection Law Bench Book and with the Training Committee to implement an evaluation process to measure the effectiveness of Trial Skills Training. Judge Sage presented at the New Mexico Child Law Symposium in Albuquerque in January 2016 with Jenny Hinson of DFPS and Gabriella McDonald of Texas Appleseed about the changes in the Texas child welfare system since 2009. Judge Sage discussed the recent Jurist in Residence (JIR) letters on topics such as the CANS evaluation, human trafficking, and a recent ICWA decision from the Eighth Court of Appeals in El Paso, which can be found online at <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/jir/jir-letters.aspx>. Judge Sage announced the Protect Our Kids (POK) Commission released its final report on December 1, 2015. The report is available at <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/46100/PDF-Report-POK-Commission-December-2015.pdf>.

DFPS Update, Commissioner John Specia introduced Katie Olse, Associate Commissioner of DFPS. Judge Specia reported on the Department's Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division and an increase in funding from the legislature for PEI services. Judge Specia announced DFPS will expand the Health Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support (HOPES) program to 16 counties in Texas to focus prevention services on families with children under 5 years of age. Judge Specia also announced the Military Families Initiative to provide prevention services to military families in Fort Hood, Fort Bliss, and the San Antonio area. Judge Specia will meet with the Garrison Commanders of each military base in the coming months. Judge Specia related the success of LifeWorks to establish twenty apartments for young adults who have aged out of foster care, thirteen apartments for homeless young mothers, and fifteen more to offer affordable housing options. Judge Specia announced that DFPS has filed an appeal to the order issued in the United States Southern District Court in Corpus Christi, Texas and that DFPS continues with its efforts of Foster Care Redesign. Judge Specia noted that DFPS is working closely with the Governor's Office on issues related to PCSPs and looking for ways to improve placements, including the implementation of a screening tool that assists DFPS staff in examining misdemeanor offenses. Judge Specia announced a possible new licensing process that aims to regulate family detention centers in South Texas and allow DFPS to assess health, safety, and wellbeing issues of children and families at the centers.

Office of Court Administration, Mr. David Slayton reported that OCA will release the annual statistical report from the judiciary next week for fiscal year 2015, noting a 6.3% increase in the number of CPS cases filed in Texas last year to total 11,700 cases filed. Mr. Slayton announced a recent study that surveyed the workload of judges in Texas with regard to CPS cases and the upcoming meeting of the Judicial Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) on February 24, 2016 to analyze the data. Mr. Slayton reported an increase in UAC cases in fiscal year 2014, noting that OCA expects to see more Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) filings this year. Mr. Slayton also reported on a decreasing trend in the number of truancy cases filed against Texas children, from 22,300 total in fiscal year 2014 to 900 in the first quarter of fiscal year 2015. OCA made an announcement in early 2016 that it is releasing a system to access court documents online by early summer 2016 for Texas judges and attorneys of record.

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL REPORT

Jeanne Stamp, Texas Homeless Education Office reported that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) issued its certified numbers of homeless youth from last school year to be 113,294 youth identified as homeless through Texas school system. Ms. Stamp noted that of those youth identified, 40% are associated with CPS or the juvenile justice system, and 16,000 are classified as unaccompanied homeless youth. The Texas Homeless Education Office is working with schools to identify youth vulnerable to human trafficking and signs of trafficking.

NEW BUSINESS

Justice Guzman announced the dates for the remaining 2016 Commission Meetings: May 13 and September 23.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

INSERT - TAB 3



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

**Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial
Commission for Children,
Youth and Families**

Report to Commission

June 10, 2016

The State Bar of Texas – Texas Law Center
1414 Colorado Street
Austin, Texas 78701

BASIC COMMITTEE REPORT

2.2A Parent Resource Group: Continue hosting and supporting the Parent Resource Group; Reprint and distribute printed and online Resource Guide to assist parents, explore online center with hotline or other direct service delivery.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host and facilitate meetings and calls for the PR Workgroup. ▪ Maintain Parent Resource Guide ▪ Update written product ▪ Post online with LawBox ▪ Provide reprints and distribute ▪ Translate to Spanish ▪ Convene workgroup to discuss online resource center / hotline or other direct delivery or assistance services through the Texas Legal Services Corporation 	<p>The Parent Resource Guide was completed in May 2015 and is accessible in print and online on the Children’s Commission website as well as many other CC partner and advocate websites. The PRG is currently being translated from English to Spanish and should be completed by September of 2016. The Parent Resource Workgroup met on February 19, 2016 and subsequently, the Resource Guide, mobile version and pdf, was sent to all judges on the Jurist in Residence Listserv on March 1, 2016, The Texas State Law Library distributed Guides to attendees at Texas Library Association Meeting in April and mailed a copy to all law libraries in the state, Also, CC staff discussed with Texas Legal Service Center the possibility of establishing a hotline. TLSC is working on an application that will detail the potential activities, number of hotline attorneys required, hours of availability, number of potential clients and client types, data to be collected, surveys and satisfaction measures undertaken, and a budget. The application will be presented at the September 23rd meeting. The workgroup also discussed training topics aimed at attorney who represent parents. Topics suggested: Johana Scot on parent perspective from Texas Home School Coalition CLE; Special populations for attorneys – incarcerated, disabilities, teen parents, non-offending parents; English as second language, undocumented; Importance of attending Family Group Conferences and other meetings; Competency issues for parents, involvement of guardians ad litem for parents, and undiagnosed mental health issues. CC Staff is working with presenters to cover several of these topics during its one-day taping at SBOT on August 23, 2016. The group also discussed the possibility of public service announcement for parents to broadcast on YouTube (former CPS parent explaining to current CPS parent).</p>	<p align="right">\$8,600.00</p> <p align="right">Includes 3600.00 LawBox and 5000.00 in- person support, printing</p>

2.2C Disproportionality: Raise awareness and understanding among judges and key stakeholders involved in the legal system regarding racial disproportionality.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
--------------------	-----------------	---------------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and promote judicial and attorney training on how to apply training and tools designed to reduce institutional racism and bias ▪ Partner with system stakeholders to include disproportionality in cross-systems trainings and in issue-specific workgroups, including one Poverty Simulation Workshop ▪ Help connect judges and lawyers to their communities to develop disproportionality efforts at the local level ▪ Liase with the Texas Health and Human Services State Advisory Coalition for Addressing Disproportionality and Disparities ▪ Staff and monitor the Judicial Workgroup Addressing Disproportionality Workgroup (JWD) meetings, strategies, timelines, and work product for FY2015, including monthly or quarterly strategy meetings with the JWD Co-Chairs ▪ Include information about Disproportionality and bias in its CPS judicial Bench Book 	<p>The Children’s Commission staff recently participated in a project by the Center for the Elimination of Disproportionalities and Disparities (CEDD) to chronicle the progress of Disproportionality work in Texas. CEDD has contracted with former Commissioner Carolyne Rodriguez to interview a broad range of statewide systems leaders, including foster parents, and youth formerly in care. The results of these interviews will be released at the Cross-Systems Summit August 16-17, 2016.</p> <p>On February 5th, the JWD hosted 70 participants in a Poverty Simulation Seminar. Six judges brought court teams to participate in a simulation where they assume the roles of families facing poverty. The seminar was so successful that the Office of Court Administration and several local jurisdictions are now working to bring the Poverty Simulation to their offices.</p> <p>The JWD and Commission staff work on: 1) developing and promoting judicial and attorney training on how to apply tools designed to reduce institutional racism and bias; 2) partnering with system stakeholders to include disproportionality in cross-systems trainings and in issue-specific workgroups; 3) helping connect judges and lawyers to their communities to develop disproportionality efforts at the local level; 4) liaising with the Texas Health and Human Services State Advisory Coalition for Addressing Disproportionality and Disparities; 5) staffing JWD meetings, strategies, timelines, and work product; and 6) updating the CPS judicial Bench Book.</p>	<p>\$25,000.00</p>
---	---	--------------------

2.2D Tribal: Educate judges and lawyers about the importance of ICWA, including the context of historical trauma and tools to assist with practical application.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue the mutually respectful and ongoing relationship with Texas' three federally-recognized tribal nations ▪ Partner with system stakeholders to promote ongoing knowledge and understanding of the ICWA and its importance ▪ Work with national ICWA consultant and Columbia Law School on understanding and implementation of new Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Guidelines and the use of Peacemaking in state courts ▪ Update the ICWA Section and ICWA Bench Cards in the CPS Judicial Bench Book ▪ Continue to support Senior Peacemaker Joann Battise in as Children’s Commission member 	<p>In March, Children’s Commission staff traveled to Eagle Pass, to the reservation of the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas (KTTT). Representatives from DFPS State Office and Legal Division, as well as the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo judge and social worker were able to meet with many social workers, the prosecutor and several members of KTTT. The participants toured the KTTT reservation including the health care clinic, child care center, rehabilitation center, work release program, and foster group home for children. The KTTT were wonderful hosts to a meeting that led to new relationships and mutually-beneficial projects.</p> <p>The Tribal/State Collaborative Workgroup continues to meet monthly and develop new projects for Texas One new project is related to Qualified Expert Witnesses under ICWA. The Children’s Commission will lead this project to help</p>	<p>\$8,000.00</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff and monitor the Tribal/State Workgroup meetings, strategies, timelines, and work product for FY2016, including monthly strategy meetings with Senior Peacemaker Battise and DFPS ▪ Partner with DFPS to support the biannual tribal/state collaborative meetings ▪ Partner with the Alabama-Coushatta to support their judicial symposiums with content and finances ▪ Assist with any CIP grant application, as requested and appropriate ▪ Further connections with Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Kickapoo tribes through the DFPS tribal/state meetings, Annual Conference of the Native American Section of the State Bar and other networking opportunities ▪ Continue to collaborate with the Children's Bureau and the participants of the CIP Peer to Peer Exchange related to the Model ICWA Judicial Curriculum and other best practices for Texas 	<p>collect information regarding expert witnesses for ICWA cases and work with the tribes to make this effort successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Workgroup will also continue to develop new trainings to education judges and attorneys about amendments to the Texas Family Code that requires judges to ask all parties present at each Adversary, Status, and Permanency hearing whether the child or the child's family has any Native American heritage and identify any Native American tribe with which the child may be associated. Children's Commission staff is currently participating in a national consortium of state leaders who work with tribes through their Court Improvement Programs. Staff is also updating the ICWA Section and ICWA Bench Card in the Child Protection Law Bench Book. 	
---	---	--

2.2E Trauma Informed: Support child welfare system efforts to shift toward trauma informed practice.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support Texas CASA efforts to identify and survey trauma knowledge, training available, training accessed, results or impact of training ▪ Sponsor and support additional training events for stakeholders with particular focus on attorneys ad litem ▪ Identify training needs for judges and attorneys and develop and promote training and tools for trauma- informed care ▪ Continue to focus on child well-being and permanency ▪ Include information about trauma informed care in the CPS Judicial Bench Book ▪ Liaise with and participate as a partner in the various trauma-informed workgroups and collaboratives ▪ Monitor the trauma informed care trainings, workgroups, meetings, strategies, timelines and provide reports to the Children's Commission and other stakeholders, as appropriate 	<p>Partnerships with Texas CASA, DFPS, MMHPI, Hogg Foundation and others continue as the state works toward developing a comprehensive trauma-informed care state strategy and practice model for all of child welfare. Research for developing a state strategy will begin with the Texas CASA survey of child welfare stakeholders about the various types of trauma training and programs being offered and utilized around the state. Texas CASA developed and deployed the survey in the Summer of 2015 and issued a comprehensive report in October 2015.</p> <p>Texas CASA is currently working with the Children's Commission to develop an Attorney ad Litem training on trauma. Also, the Children's Commission continues to support DFPS's shift to a trauma-informed care system and align judicial and attorney training about trauma- informed care with CASA, DFPS and other child welfare stakeholders. This is accomplished through conferences, resources, and communication about timely topics from DFPS and other stakeholders. For example:</p> <p>(1) this June 16th and 17th the Children's Commission will help sponsor the Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe Conference in Houston which will feature speakers on trauma;</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>

	<p>(2) the Child Protection Law Bench Book is being updated and includes a chapter on trauma; and</p> <p>(3) staff serves on an advisory committee on the development of a Texas-specific Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment. The new CANS will be rolled out in certain areas in September</p>	
2.2F Child Safety: Parental Child Safety Placements (PCSP).		
2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct Round Table (RT) discussion on Parental Child Safety Placements ▪ Issue PCSP Report with Recommendations ▪ Issue JIR Letter ▪ Identify additional training issues for judges and attorneys ▪ Develop helpful judicial and attorney resources and tools ▪ Work with legal aid providers or other child welfare partners to assist with appropriate closure of PCSPs ▪ Work with Texas Legislature, as appropriate 	<p>A RT on Parental Child Safety Placements was held on August 28, 2015 and a report from the Round Table was issued in December 2015. The report can be linked to here http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/47987/PCSP-ROUND-TABLE-REPORT-FINAL.pdf</p> <p>The Children’s Commission issued a JIR Letter on PCSPs on September 4, 2015. Link to the JIR on PCSPs here: http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/32438/PCSP%20JIR.pdf</p> <p>From March to November, 2015, DFPS made significant improvements to its approach, use, and closure of Parental Child Safety Placements by deploying new tools, resources and processes, improved data collection and analysis.</p> <p>Subsequent to the August Round Table and implementation of the new assessment and process tools, the Department also adopted a policy related to criminal history or potential PCSPs.</p> <p>Effective March 2016, a PCSP cannot be approved if a PCSP home household member has a disqualifying criminal history. Arrests without convictions are not an absolute bar, but must be evaluated. An absolute bar to placement is any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a conviction or deferred adjudication for any felony listed in Appendix 4525: Offenses From the Texas Penal Code, in the attachment Assessing Criminal History Offenses and Convictions for PCSPs; or • a conviction or deferred adjudication for any felony not listed in Appendix 4525, but which has occurred in the last five years. <p>Department staff must evaluate, on a case-by-case basis, any criminal history that is not an absolute bar to placement and decide whether the history would pose a current danger to the child being placed. If staff cannot obtain the information needed to make this determination before placing the child, the PCSP cannot be approved.</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>

2.2G Child Fatalities: Protect Our Kids (POK) Commission.

2016 Action Steps	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to support POK Commission through December 31, 2015 ▪ Write POK Report, including recommendations related to preventing child fatalities due to abuse or neglect ▪ Participate in agency-run collaborative to guide state policy and practice ▪ Collaborate with 85th Texas Legislature on this matter, as appropriate 	<p>May 11th was the first meeting of the Prevention Advisory Committee convened by the Prevention and Early Intervention Division of DFPS. PAC initial work will focus on finalizing rules for operations, establishing bylaws and electing a presiding officer of the committee. The PAC was a key recommendation from the Protects our Kids Commission (POK) The POK Commission was established by Senate Bill 66 during the 83rd Legislative Session and was charged with identifying promising practices and strategies to address and reduce fatalities from child abuse and neglect, and recommending a comprehensive statewide strategy for reducing those fatalities. The POK Commission met several times in FY2015 and divided its work into four subcommittees: Data, Child Fatality Review Team Support, Prevention, and Sustainability. The POK Commission submitted a report to the Legislature on December 31, 2015. Key recommendations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The DFPS Commissioner should create a permanent, high-level advisory board to make recommendations regarding Texas’ efforts for the prevention of child abuse and neglect for a state strategy to promote child safety and well-being through methods such as enhanced data collection and analysis, and expansion of evidenced based and promising practice programs. This Prevention Advisory Board should include representatives such as pediatricians, judges, agency representatives, prosecutors, medical examiners, provider groups, and policy experts in prevention, community advocacy or similar disciplines. 2. DFPS, DSHS and the Prevention Advisory Board should develop and maintain an inventory of the top evidence-based and promising practices addressing child abuse fatality prevention and cost per family, including population-based strategies currently in Texas and location and population-based strategies not in Texas. 3. The State should better support local Child Fatality Review Teams to ensure coordination, training, and consistency. 4. The State should ensure that all Texas counties have a Child Fatality Review Team and should expedite the CFRT case review process. 5. DSHS and DFPS should determine how to better use available data to inform a public health approach to preventing child fatalities and continue to support the work already underway in the Dept’s "Strategic Plan to Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities." 6. The State should evaluate currently available child fatality data resources (CPS and CFRT data) and develop strategies to include near-fatalities. 	<p>\$1000.00</p>

2.2H Permanency and Wellbeing: Additional specific activities intended to heighten awareness about child permanency and wellbeing.

2016 Action Steps	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support efforts to roll out “New Culture of Permanency” at Regional Permanency Summits throughout all DFPS regions ▪ JIR to attend various permanency summits ▪ Include importance of permanency and new permanency culture philosophy and ideas at child welfare judicial conferences ▪ Host foster youth panel at CWJC ▪ Include new legislation in CPS Judicial Bench Book ▪ Design Bench Cards to include well-being and permanency best practices 	<p>The Children’s Commission hosted Amelia Franck Meyer at the annual Child Welfare Judges Conference in August 2015, to train judges on the new Culture of Permanency work initiated by DFPS statewide. Both JIRs have been trained by Ms. Franck-Meyer. The CC sponsored / hosted a foster youth panel on well-being at the August 2015 judges’ conference, and the CPS Bench Book was updated with new legislation and information about well-being and transitioning youth. Bench cards were updated to include specific well-being and permanency best practice questions and issues. The Children’s Commission will sponsor Ms. Franck-Meyer again in August 2016 to present at the Advanced Family Law One Day Child Abuse and Neglect Track. Permanency will be addressed at the 2016 Child Welfare Judges Conference, specifically, promising practices to achieve permanency, permanency updates from DFPS regional directors, and how to address court barriers to permanency.</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>

2.2I Human Trafficking: Participate on Statewide Human Trafficking (HT) Prevention Task Force and work with child welfare community on child welfare related issues such as identification, services, training, data collection, and collaboration.

2016 Action Steps	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate with Office of Attorney General and statewide HT Task Force ▪ Work with DFPS on identification and assessment of children from child welfare system who are victims or at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking ▪ Gain understanding of existing data collection efforts and identify additional or new data collection elements or efforts needed ▪ Coordinate and collaborate with child welfare agency and other child welfare partners on various programs and efforts to combat HT occurring a local or regional levels ▪ Understand, participate, and help identify HT placements and services available to foster children who are trafficked or at risk of being trafficked ▪ Identify training needs for judges, attorneys, and other stakeholders ▪ Collaborate on prevention efforts at state, regional and local levels as appropriate 	<p>On April 21, 2016, the Children’s Commission participated in a Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force meeting coordinated through the Office of the Texas Attorney General. At the meeting, Children’s Commission staff participated in a small group discussion about efforts to prevent domestic minor sex trafficking and in particular the high numbers of human trafficking victims who run away from foster care or have a history of child abuse or neglect. The meeting also addressed emerging best practices and efforts to build coalitions against human trafficking throughout the state.</p>	<p>\$1000.00</p>

<p>2.4A. Legal Representation Committee. The committee exists to explore various aspects of legal representation in Texas child welfare cases, including due process, financial impact on the state and counties, policy and legislation that supports the legal representation system, outreach, education, training, standards of representation, timely and meaningful court hearings, and high quality legal advocacy.</p>		
<p>2016 Action Steps:</p>	<p>Progress Report</p>	<p>FY2016 BUDGET</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff and support the LRS workgroup by hosting / facilitating meetings, reimbursing travel expenses for workgroup members, developing agendas and preparing meeting materials, collecting attendee information and match ▪ Meet at least twice throughout 2015 and 2016 to discuss ▪ Develop and adopt statewide standards of representation ▪ Continue to develop and improve county relationships and local relationships ▪ Act as a resource for the Texas Legislature 	<p>LRC met on 1/29/16 to discuss the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinstatement of Parental Rights - Online training for Attorneys Ad Litem - Improving relationships, communication and cross training between TDCAA and state regional attorneys - Strengthening Relationships with County Organizations - Standards of Representation for Children and Parents - Follow up to 2011 Legal Representation Study - Possible Family Code amendments related to appointing CASA in Court Ordered Services Cases - Texas Board of Legal Specialization Application <p>In February, the LRC established two subcommittees: DFPS/County & District Attorney Relationships and Training and Advocacy for Adequate Legal Representation with Counties and Commissioner’s Courts. The DFPS Legal Representation Subcommittee has met several times and has as its charge: 1) study and make recommendations regarding training opportunities for attorneys representing DFPS in child protection cases; 2) study and make recommendations regarding how to improve communication and collaboration between DFPS Regional Attorneys, County Attorneys, and District Attorneys; and 3) study and make recommendations regarding the scope and objectives of representation of DFPS in child protection cases. The subcommittee is working on all three prongs of the charge and will present recommendations to the Legal Representation Committee later this year.</p> <p>In May, the Children’s Commission issued a Judicial Guide produced by the LRC subcommittee intended to assist judges explain the law supporting early and upfront legal appointment criteria, the urgency associated with child protection cases, and the necessity of providing courts with adequate funding to efficiently and properly handle child protection dockets. The Guide also explains how judges can gather information about how much counties spend each year on legal representation fees. The Guide also explains how to determine who prepares the budget for a county and the timing of county budget preparation. Please link to the Guide here: http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/68505/Final-</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>

	Judicial-Guide-for-Adequate-Funding-for-Legal-Representation.pdf	
	LRC will meet again on July 29, 2016 and in November 2016.	

2.4B Parent Representation Project: (McLennan County contracts with private law firms for all legal representation of parents.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with McLennan County to develop a one-day training event for attorneys, CPS caseworkers, CASA volunteers, and other community stakeholders • Work with District Judge to refine contract to insert training requirements and standards of representation • Continue to survey and interview firm attorneys, CPS caseworkers, CASA volunteers, parents and other community stakeholders about the challenges and benefits associated with the project • Attempt a more in-depth parent survey to gather information from the parents' perspective on the quality of their representation • Additional court observation to gain a better understanding of court-specific procedures and culture, methods of advocacy, and how the parties relate to one another 	<p>In 2015, the Children's Commission evaluated the private contract appointment set-up in Waco and interviewed several parent attorneys, the prosecutor, and a handful of parents. Training needs were identified as a result.</p> <p>Commission staff will continue to be available to assist with speakers, and topics for the live training in McLennan County in the future.</p>	\$1000.00

2.4D Mediation in Child Protection Cases.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UT will study the best practices and cost-effectiveness of mediation for Travis County and will develop a cost formula that can be applied to other counties in Texas ▪ The Children's Commission will use the research framework and questions developed in this project with other Texas counties ▪ The project will aim to answer four broad research questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What types of child protection cases are best suited for resolution through mediation? – When in the life-cycle of a case is the optimal time for mediation to occur? – How are outcomes affected by mediation, including the legal resolution of the case, child wellbeing, and time to permanency? 	<p>In September 2014, UT applied for a grant to help determine the best practices and cost-effectiveness of mediation for Travis County, Texas. This project also aimed to develop cost formula that could be applied to other counties in the state and to provide a research framework and questions that can be used by other counties. One goal of the project was to determine the costs of mediation measured by the full costs associated with cases that are resolved prior to mediation, at mediation, and at trial and include all real costs paid by the courts and departments to prepare and service the case, in addition to the cost of mediation, foster care placement, and any other relevant costs. A cost analysis of mediation in Travis County Family Courts was submitted in November 2015, but due to data delays associated with the SACWIS / child welfare system, the final report in the project has been delayed and will be processed at year end as a no-cost extension so the project may be completed in FY2016. Link to the Cost Report here: http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/54517/Model-Court-Cost-Analysis-Memo-FINAL.pdf</p>	<p>No Cost Extension</p> <p>\$2,776.00</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is mediation a cost-effective strategy for resolving child protection cases? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Legal resolution will be measured by determining whether all of the legal issues were resolved by mediation, as compared to being partially resolved or not resolved (moving to trial). o The timing and type of outcome of the case will be measured in three ways: time to legal resolution or final order (whatever the outcome), the type of final order (reunification, adoption, PMC to the Department or relative), and time to exit from foster care. Comparisons between cases that are resolved prior to mediation, at mediation, and at trial will be made. o Cost of the case will be measured by the full costs associated with cases that are resolved prior to mediation, at mediation, and at trial. ▪ UT will publish a final report in FY2016 ▪ Based on report, the Children’s Commission will determine whether to fund additional mediation projects to help develop best practices or training 	<p>The final report will be an evidence-based analysis of best practices in mediation and whether mediation in child protection cases is a more cost effective strategy than going to trial without mediation, and whether mediation can be associated with a shorter time to permanency and case resolution.</p> <p>In addition to this study, Children’s Commission staff began meeting with CPS mediation experts in late 2015 to discuss a long-term project, which may include curriculum development or determining promising practices within the state. This initiative is in the planning process, but to determine the current status of CPS mediation, a survey was sent to all judges on the JIR distribution list in May 2016. Responses will be analyzed in June and July and relayed to judges attending the Child Welfare Judges Conference in November. Updates about this initiative will be provided at the next commission meeting.</p>	
--	---	--

2.5A Children’s Commission Round Tables: Round Tables (RT) bring together subject matter experts, judicial and executive branch leaders, and key policymakers to discuss issues affecting child welfare in the State of Texas.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with DFPS to identify RT topics ▪ Form a workgroup to define state purpose and goal of RT, determine format, and develop an agenda ▪ Facilitate and staff workgroup meetings to develop materials, data required, and identify speakers and moderators ▪ Secure meeting location, invitations, attendee lists, travel, and match forms ▪ Produce written report from the RT within 4 to 6 months and disseminate to participants and stakeholders 	<p>The Children’s Commission hosted a Kids in Court RT on May 20, 2016. The RT examined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current law? - Pros of having kids in court - Cons of having kids in court - The obstacles and barriers to having kids in court - How to increase youth engagement / youth voice - Who should be in court? - When should they be in court? - What should happen when kids are in court, and how to make it a positive experience. <p>The RT Report will be published later this year.</p> <p>-</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>

2.5B Jurist in Residence: Jurist in Residence acts as a consultant, trainer, and speaker to provide expert and seasoned judicial advice on matters affecting courts and legal system handling of child welfare cases and issues.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with retired, experienced judges with child welfare experience to serve as JIRs ▪ Attend conference calls, meetings, and conferences as requested / needed ▪ Publish communiqués and letters on emerging, highly pertinent, and changing policy, laws, and practice that may be of interest to judges hearing CPS cases ▪ JIRs will market scholarship and conference attendance opportunities ▪ Assist with writing JIR letters, distribute to the CPS judge listserv, and post JIR letters on the CC website ▪ Provide shorter communications with judges regarding specific training opportunities and other matters of interest 	<p>The Jurist in Residence (JIR) position was created to foster judicial leadership and promote greater expertise among child protection judges. The JIR acts as a consultant, trainer, and speaker to provide expert and seasoned judicial advice on matters affecting courts and legal system handling of child welfare cases and issues. Additionally, informational letter and “blasts” concerning items of interests, such as training events, are routinely issued. In FY2016, the JIR has published newsletters or news blasts on the following topics: 1) Legislative Update from the 84th Legislative Session; 2) Parental Child Safety Placements; 3) Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment; 4) Extended Health Care Benefits for Former Foster Youth; 5) New Data on Education Outcomes of Children in Foster Care; 6) Every Student Succeeds Act; 7) ICWA and <i>In re V.L.R.</i>; 8) January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month; 9) Child & Adolescent Needs Assessment, Part 2; 10) STAR Health Enhancements for Foster Youth; 11) Leadership Changes at DFPS; 12) Advocating for Adequate Legal Representation; 13) Foster Youth Ombudsman</p> <p>Additionally, the JIRs are currently assisting with development of curriculum for the annual Child Welfare Judges Conference and review updates of the Child Protection Law Bench Book.</p>	<p>\$40,000.00</p>

2.5C Assistance to Local Jurisdictions.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work to assist local communities and jurisdictions in providing training, collaborative events, and leadership forums to help improve local child welfare systems 	<p>New for FY2016. Commission staff has provided or will provide training on child welfare topics in a number of local jurisdictions during this fiscal year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education of Children in Foster Care, Child Protection Courts of the Rio Grande Valley, October 2015 - ICWA, Travis County, January 2016 - Legislative Update, Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, April 2016 - Education and the Foster Care System, Williamson County Bar Association, April 2016 - Indian Child Welfare Act, Williamson County Bar Association, April 2016 	<p>0.00 May involve staff travel, which is included in operating budget</p>

2.5D Speaker and Consultant Support.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage with consultants and experts, as needed to help further Children’s Commission goals, including but not limited to, strategic planning, training, and resource 	<p>For 2016, the Children’s Commission will engage with a consultant to help explore establishing a Center for Child Welfare Policy.</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>

<p>or material development, publication, and distribution</p>	<p>Since February 2016, the Children’s Commission has engaged with a consultant to develop a feasibility plan related to establishing a child welfare policy center or institute. See below</p>	
<p><i>2.5E Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Stakeholder Input: The federal CFSR for Texas is scheduled for 2016. Part of the process includes a statewide assessment conducted by the child welfare agency and child welfare stakeholders.</i></p>		
<p>2016 Action Steps:</p>	<p>Progress Report</p>	<p>FY2016 BUDGET</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in the 2016 CFSR onsite review ▪ Participate in developing any Program Improvement Plan 	<p>The federal CFSR is scheduled for June 2016. In FY2015, the Children’s Commission facilitated three stakeholder meetings on November 14, 2014, December 19, 2014, and January 23, 2015. Each meeting was attended by approximately 50 stakeholders representing the judiciary, child placing agencies, child advocacy groups, DFPS management, licensing, contracts, and administration, as well as personnel from the Administration of Children and Families. In January 2016, DFPS submitted its CFSR Statewide Assessment, and in May, the Children’s Commission and other legal system stakeholders met with ACF Regional Staff. The discussion centered on the state’s case review system, termination of parental rights, and service array. The Commission participated in and helped convene a call with the federally-recognized tribes of Texas and the ACF staff regarding ICWA compliance and state/tribe collaborative projects.</p>	<p>\$1,000.00</p>
<p><i>NEW: To support continued significant and sustainable child welfare reform, the Commission voted in February to consider creating a new policy center which could access those more complicated principles of research, analytics, project design and evaluation.</i></p>		
<p>2016 Action Steps:</p>	<p>Progress Report</p>	<p>FY2016 Budget</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine if there is a need for a new institute ▪ Determine if there would be adequate funding to support a center, the best organizational structure, and sustainability of such a center 	<p>To support the continued significant and sustainable child welfare reform, the Commission voted in February to consider creating a new policy center which could access those more complicated principles of research, analytics, project design and evaluation.</p> <p>The purpose of such a center would be to improve the availability and accessibility of evidence-based and Texas-specific child welfare research and analysis in order to facilitate improvement and reform of Texas child welfare and practice.</p> <p>The goals of such a center would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research or contract with other institutions to conduct research on issues identified by the Children’s Commission or the policy center • Perform long-term evaluations of key child welfare practices, policies, and law • Take advantage of being a separate entity in a position of promoting and raising awareness of child welfare needs and issues to others in Texas and nationally • Examine potential policy changes that promote best practices and improve child welfare outcomes 	<p>\$25,000.00</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage freely with diverse entities and organizations including philanthropists, advocates, policy makers and agencies • Hold major awareness-raising events such as research forums, conferences and recognition events • Confer on and support the Children’s Commission’s strategic initiatives <p>The Commission voted in March to supply 25K toward the feasibility effort.</p>	
TOTAL BASIC PROJECTS		\$103,376.00

TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

2.1A Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ): Provides specialized judicial education and training opportunities for active, retired and former Texas appellate, district and county court at law judges, as well as associate judges and court personnel. The Texas Center is designated by the Court of Criminal Appeals as the official registrar of continuing judicial education.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with TCJ to design curriculum and agenda for 2016 Child Welfare Judges Conference ▪ Conduct periodic planning calls, including creation of workgroup to plan agenda ▪ Determine number of attendees TCJ/budget can accommodate ▪ Determine attendee criteria ▪ Coordinate with OCA about inclusion of CPC staff ▪ Identify whether meeting space needed for CPC judges and court coordinators ▪ Develop method of handling travel reimbursements ▪ Identify topics and speakers ▪ Develop agenda ▪ Monitor logistical and other planning information ▪ Meet in person 4-6 weeks in advance of event to discuss organizational responsibilities and duties ▪ Approve attendee list ▪ Survey participants for increases in knowledge and other feedback ▪ Evaluate conference planning process ▪ Evaluate participant feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporate feedback into FY2017 planning, as appropriate 	<p>Planning for the 2016 conference began in February. The 2016 conference is scheduled November 14-16 in Austin. In April, a number of judges participated in a curriculum planning call to discuss topics and speakers for the conference. Speakers and topics are currently being finalized for the conference, but the tentative list of topics includes: a national keynote speaker, child safety and domestic violence, results of the Weighted Caseload Study, national speaker on permanency, regional breakouts to discuss permanency, how to address court barriers to permanency, CPS mediations, case law update, DFPS update with new leadership, medically fragile kids, what judges can do make sure kids get what they need, and a closing presentation by a youth formerly in care. Expected attendance at the conference is 75-80 judges. Also, the Child Protection specialty courts will hold a half-day meeting immediately prior to the conference. Commission staff and TCJ will conduct pre- and post-conference evaluations as part of CQI.</p>	<p>\$235,834.00</p> <p>Includes two Texas judicial conferences scholarships to one national conference, judicial technical assistance, and TCJ overhead to organize and host conferences</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with TCJ to offer scholarships to the 2016 NCJFCJ Annual Conference ▪ Provide input into criteria for scholarships and determines number of scholarships to be awarded ▪ Approve scholarship process and list of scholarship recipients prior to notification ▪ Evaluate TCJ's scholarship process for the NCJFCJ conference ▪ Evaluate participant feedback ▪ Incorporate feedback about the planning process, participant experience, and participant opinion about the training into the FY2017 planning, as appropriate 	<p>The Children's Commission, through its grant to TCJ, will provide scholarships to 20 Texas judges to attend the next annual NCJFCJ conference July 17-20 in Monterrey, California. As with previous NCJFCJ conferences, criteria will be established for the scholarships. The application process for scholarships to the conference opened in April 2016 and all scholarships have been awarded. All judges attending the conference are asked to attend the annual Child Welfare Judges Conference and to participate in pre- and post-conference surveys/evaluations.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide partial funding for TCJ’s annual Family Justice Conference ▪ Provide input into the content of the child abuse and neglect presentation, track, or agenda ▪ Provide feedback regarding judges invited to and slated to attend the child abuse and neglect portion of the conference, including criteria for attending presentation or track ▪ Evaluate feedback solicited by TCJ about the child abuse and neglect portion or event ▪ Conducts CQI on the planning process, event content, and relevant speakers 	<p>The 2016 Family Justice Conference was held in Bastrop January 25-26 and CIP funds were used for a half-day child abuse and neglect track. The sessions on the child abuse and neglect track at the Family Justice Conference included Child Safety and Domestic Violence, Child Fatalities, and the Tricks and Traps of Human Trafficking Trials. The three sessions were attended by approximately 100 judges.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide funds for judicial technical assistance, which may be used for speakers, meeting support and facilitation. 	<p>FY 2015 CIP funds were used to fund speakers and facilitators at several multidisciplinary or judicial events such as the CFSR meetings hosted in November, December and January 2015 (see Basic Committee Report item 2.5E) and PCSP Round Table held on August 28, 2015 (see Basic Committee Report item 2.2F). No funds have been expended to date in FY 2016.</p>	
<p>2.1B Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book: The Bench Book was created in 2010 and has been updated with legislative changes as recently as the 2015 Session. It is available online through the Children’s Commission, Texas Center for the Judiciary, and Office of Court Administration websites.</p>		
<p>2016 Action Steps:</p>	<p>Progress Report</p>	<p>FY2016 BUDGET</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain a Child Protection Law Bench Book that outlines the statutory requirements for judges handling child protection cases, including topical sections, and checklists ▪ Disseminate Bench Book with 2016 updates at annual child welfare judicial conference, as well as to all new judges hearing CPS cases, and upon request ▪ Maintain an updated Bench Book on the Children’s Commission’s website ▪ Ensure all statutory citations are maintained and connected to a statutory resource hosted by LawBox ▪ Update the Bench Book with new information as needed ▪ Track distribution of Bench Book ▪ Convene the Bench Book workgroup at least once in FY2016 in person or via conference call to review substantive changes and approve updates 	<p>The Bench Book was last updated with 2015 legislative changes in August 2015 and distribution of 100 copies occurred at the August 2015 Child Welfare Judges Conference. Also, Bench Cards were modified based on judicial feedback and distributed to judges at 2015 Conference. The Bench Book was posted online on the Children’s Commission website and connected to LawBox (web citation service) in October 2015.</p> <p>In conjunction with the Bench Book Committee, which met in February, Children’s Commission staff is currently working on revisions to the next version of the Bench Book, which will be disseminated at the Child Welfare Judges Conference in November 2016.</p>	<p>\$10,000.00</p> <p>Includes 3600.00 LawBox, 6400.00 for printing and in-person meeting support</p>
<p>2.1C Trial Skills Training (TST): A hands-on training designed to improve the litigation skills of child welfare law attorneys in order to raise the caliber of legal services to children and families in child protection cases; includes fictional CPS fact pattern, with case file covering all statutory hearings building up to final trial; gives parent, child, and state attorneys litigation exercises in the CPS context; includes lectures and demonstrations from trained faculty comprised of senior attorneys and judges, followed by personal coaching; and is based on a Texas-specific case scenario with adapted pleadings and forms created for a termination lawsuit.</p>		

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convene two, 3-day TST events that include lectures, demonstrations, and practice sessions with live witnesses. ▪ Follow same flow as a final trial in a CPS case ▪ Include hands-on practice of trial skills with the assistance of professional, live witnesses, videography, and coaching by trained faculty ▪ Ensure attorney review of practice session with a faculty member for additional feedback ▪ Evaluate each TST event ▪ Edit and update TST curriculum and materials, as necessary 	<p>TST was held in April 2016, training 19 attorneys from 18 Texas counties, mostly from rural areas. All pleadings and case file materials were updated to include current Texas Family Code statutory requirements and model ICWA language. The State Bar of Texas approved 18.75 MCLE hours , including 1.5 ethics hours. Very positive participant feedback shows that curriculum refinements based on prior CQI were effective, especially in the areas of teaching foundations and objections. Extensive CQI conducted after each TST event with changes incorporated into the next TST program, which will be December 7-9 2016. One new TST faculty members was trained and the Children’s Justice Act agreed to cover the cost of participants who represent the state in CPS proceedings. To measure long-term effectiveness and impact, judicial evaluations of the TST graduates is being developed. Faculty CLE scholarships are now geared towards registering and covering related travel costs to CLEs which are related to TST topics or to an ongoing project at the Commission.</p>	<p>\$69,200.00</p> <p>Includes all expenses associated with TST</p> <p>\$26,250.00 Designated for faculty scholarships</p>
<p>2.1D Scholarships: Children’s Commission offers speaker fees, exam waiver fees, and training scholarships for 2 – 3 attorney trainings each year.</p>		
2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide scholarships to State Bar of Texas Advanced Family Law One-Day Child Abuse and Neglect Track Workshop, National Association of Counsel for Children Annual Conference and every-other year, the American Bar Association Conference on Parent and Child Representation ▪ Determine which conferences scholarships will be awarded in FY2016, criteria for award, and amount of scholarship ▪ Create application process, evaluate each scholarship event and process and make CQI changes, as appropriate ▪ Award scholarships pursuant to defined processes, and collect evaluation data from attendees, as appropriate ▪ Amend scholarship process, as necessary, and make recommendations regarding the 2016-2017 funding 	<p>The Children’s Commission administers three attorney scholarships: (1) The State Bar of Texas (SBOT) Child Abuse and Neglect 1-Day Workshop; (2) The bi-annual ABA Parent Attorney Conference and Children and the Law Conference held in Washington D.C.; and (3) the NACC Annual Conference. For the 2016 AFL and NACC conferences, the scholarship criteria was determined and the application process opened in April. (The next ABA conferences are scheduled in April 2017). Scholarships to the Advanced Family Law Child Abuse and Neglect workshop and the NACC conference will be awarded by no later than July 1, 2016. For the AFL workshop, recipients receive scholarships to cover the registration cost; for the NACC conference, recipients receive scholarships to cover registration costs and a small travel stipend.</p>	<p>\$10,000.00 Advanced Family Law One-Day Child Abuse / Neglect Track</p> <p>\$10,000.00 Annual NACC Conference</p>
<p>2.1E CASA will continue to work on assessing trauma knowledge and services among the child welfare community and help provide trauma-related training to attorneys ad litem. CASA will offer scholarships to attend the Annual CASA meeting in FY2016.</p>		
2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribute the 2015 Workforce Survey on Trauma-Informed Care within the Child 	<p>Texas CASA is moving forward to bring trauma-informed care to the many professionals who work with children who have had traumatic experiences. Specifically, CASA began with a</p>	<p>\$29,358.00</p>

<p>Welfare System in Texas report through in-person and stakeholder meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the Children’s Commission to develop quality training opportunities for attorneys ad litem to promote trauma-informed care knowledge and approaches to representing children and parents in child protection cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This will be accomplished by conducting at least two meetings with local CASA programs and Attorney ad Litem stakeholder groups to discuss need and best practice ideas around trauma-informed care training and practices and identify best training practices in the CASA network and in attorney training opportunities. ▪ Draft at least one policy change priority, based on the data from the survey, aimed at improving trauma-informed care training and practices in the Texas child welfare system ▪ Meet and collaboratively work with DFPS regarding the agency’s existing trauma-informed care training practices and offer recommendations, based on the Trauma Survey, for expanding their current curriculum to integrate information about trauma and its impact on children ▪ Provide a 3-hour institute at the 2016 Texas CASA Annual Conference on trauma-informed care and lessons learned ▪ Register and provide for travel expenses for up to 10 Attorneys ad Litem to attend the 2016 Texas CASA conference 	<p>survey to assess trauma-informed training, practice, use and effectiveness (http://texascasa.org/understanding-trauma-informed-care-in-texas/). CASA and the Children’s Commission have been presenting on and distributing the survey report in meetings with key stakeholders such as DFPS, the Hogg Foundation, the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, and DePelchin Children’s Center. CASA has also held a meeting with attorneys ad litem, prosecutors, DFPS attorneys and Texas Lawyers for Children to help direct the development of the trauma training for attorneys. The Annual Texas CASA conference will include a 3-hour institute this November 3rd-5th in Dallas where attorney scholarships will be available.</p>	
---	--	--

2.1F State Bar of Texas Online Training: SBOT makes the online training available for free or low cost to parent, child and state legal representatives who take CPS appointments.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with State Bar of Texas to add 2-4 topics to the online CPS library ▪ Identify topics and advise on content ▪ Identify speakers and arrange dates for filming with SBOT ▪ Publicize CLE on website and through other methods such as JIR letter, announcements at Commission meetings and other events ▪ Provide scholarships based on financial need to attorneys in order to access the SBOT online CPS library 	<p>In partnership with the State Bar, the following online courses were made available to court-appointed attorneys and state and DFPS attorneys: 1) Advocating for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care; 2) Resources and Processes for Representing Crossover Youth with Disabilities; 3) Special Education Advocacy for Kids in the Foster Care System; 4) Representing Teen Parents in CPS Cases; 5) Practice Tips on Representing Children; 6) Representing Parents in CPS Cases; 7) Preserving Error and Appeals Issues in CPS cases; 8) Representing Children in CPS Cases, Updated July 2013; 9) Trial Skills in the CPS Case; 10) Moving from Ordinary to Extraordinary Representation in CPS Cases; 11) Child Protection Legislative Update: 84th Legislative Session; and 12) Thinking Ahead: Dealing with Appeals Issues in CPS Cases.</p>	<p>\$2,500.00</p> <p>Includes SBOT online training taped during the one-day per year event, and all costs associated with Commission -produced</p>

	<p>The most recent webinars (numbers 10, 11, and 12) were filmed on July 21 2015 at the SBOT and were available live at a discounted rate to attorneys and judges across the state. These were created with the assistance of Commission staff and publicized through JIRs to the judicial d-list and in concert with the SBOT's online arm (Texas Bar CLE)) and have since been archived on the State Bar's CPS Library's list of CPS-related MCLE. Additionally, the SBOT has added the Advanced Family Law One-Day Child Abuse and Neglect Workshop mentioned above to this roster as per Commission request in 2014 and 2015. The SBOT's online library of CPS-related webinars is available at a discounted rate of \$25.00 per webinar for attorneys who take cases on the CPS docket. August 23, 2016 will be the next one-day of taping reserved for the Commission at the SBOT recording studio. On that date, three hours of CLE related to AAL issues and three additional hours of CLE related to parent representation issues will be taped live, broadcast statewide, and then archived into the CPS library alongside the offerings listed above.</p>	<p>webinars (next item)</p>
--	---	-----------------------------

2.1G Children's Commission sponsored and hosted webinars for attorneys ad litem, judges, stakeholders.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sponsor and host a series of webinars on various topics relevant to child welfare ▪ Ensure training is made available to all attorneys ad litem, parent attorneys, and attorneys representing the State of Texas, as well as judges and stakeholders ▪ Advise on content ▪ Seek Continuing Legal Education credit for each webinar ▪ Post a link to the webinar on website ▪ Notify potential viewers via electronic means ▪ Monitor the number of viewers ▪ Survey for quality of process, content and speakers/presentations ▪ CQI the process and the content 	<p>New for 2016. Since the last commission meeting, staff has conducted research of learning management systems and webinar-type technology to determine the best and most economical method of providing online training. Additionally, staff consulted with the National Association of Counsel for Children regarding effective training evaluation. A list of possible training topics and speakers has been developed, which includes survey responses from attorney scholarship recipients regarding the need for additional training.</p> <p>In February the Children's Commission started a free trial with GoToTraining and anticipates signing a contract within 30-60 days. After the contract for the technology is signed, Commission staff will begin scheduling dates for the trainings and lining up speakers.</p>	<p>Included in above item</p>

2.1H Children's Commission Provides Reimbursement for CWLS Exam Fee and CWLS Recertification for Successful Child Welfare Law Specialists.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide NACC Child Welfare Law Specialization Exam Fee Waivers for attorneys who become certified as CWLS ▪ Provides partial reimbursement for CWLS who are successfully recertified by NACC 	<p>The Children's Commission offers reimbursement of the Certification Exam Fee for Texas attorneys and judges who successfully qualify for and pass the Child Welfare Specialist Exam or those who wish to renew their certification. Commission staff worked with the NACC on the FY 2016 grant application for the certification/recertification. Two reimbursement requests are pending.</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>

2.1I Regional Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Attorney Training.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide support for speaker fees, facility fees and other expenses related to the annual Department of Family and Protective Services Regional Attorney Training 	<p>DFPS will hold its regional attorney training event on November 3 & 4, 2016 for approximately 100 attorneys and staff who provide legal representation to the State of Texas in approximately half the counties in the state. The conference will be held at T-Bar-M Conference Center in New Braunfels. Attorneys will hear presentations and conduct training on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on CPS & APS - Boots to the Bench - Insights from a panel of former DFPS attorneys who are now sitting judges - Burnout & Compassion Fatigue - A Parallel Universe- Criminal Prosecution of a CPS Case - Legal Jeopardy - Teams will compete to answer questions from categories including Licensing, Adult Protective Services and Child Protective Services. - A Doctor's Perspective on Detecting Child Abuse - A Mental Health Primer for Lawyers - Review of psychological testing, DSM-V diagnoses and children's mental health issues. 	\$5,000.00
<i>2.1J Local Attorney Ad Litem Training: Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe (KITS) Conference held in Houston each year.</i>		
2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide support for Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe conference held in Houston each year ▪ Provide notice of conference to judges and attorneys ▪ Seek results of evaluations from organizers ▪ Conduct CQI of process and training content 	<p>In 2016, the KITS conference will be held June 16-17 in Houston. Commission staff is assisting with development of the agenda, which includes topics of interest to multidisciplinary stakeholders, including judges and lawyers, such as Cultivating Connections to Promote Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being, the Intersection of Domestic Abuse, Trauma, and Child Welfare, Trust Based Relational Intervention, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Other Evidence-Based Interventions for Families, the Intersection between Trauma and Secondary Traumatic Stress, Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths, Collaborations to Achieve Equity: Seeking Sustainable Change, Capturing the Issues: Assessment Indicators, Science to Service, Understanding Normalcy and Why It Matters, Running to Keep Up with the Indian Child Welfare Act, Parent-Child Interaction: Underlying Theory and Practical Application, Pregnancy and Alcohol: A Toxic Cocktail, and Visitation and Beyond.</p>	\$13,060.00
<i>2.4C Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS): The goal of the project is to establish a child welfare specialization in with the Texas Board of Legal Specialization to help improve the quality of legal representation in child protection hearings.</i>		
2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide staff support to the TBLS Advisory Committee for FY2016 ▪ Participate on the Advisory Committee ▪ Assist with the following tasks: writing standards or qualifications for attorney 	<p>The Children's Commission submitted a full application for legal specialization in child welfare law to the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS) in April 2015 and a revised application in September 2015. The revised application was based on feedback from the attorneys and judges who serve</p>	\$5,000.00

<p>eligibility, writing the specialization exam, evaluating applications, and providing additional assistance to the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, as requested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in keeping all child welfare partners informed of progress 	<p>as the Advisory Committee to oversee the development of testing standards and to assist in writing the exam. Commission staff attended the TBLS board meeting in December 2015 and the application is currently under consideration by the TBLS board. TBLS circulated the proposed standards for comment by the advisory commissions of other legal specializations and other stakeholders, with the public comment period closing on May 31, 2016. On Tuesday, May 31, 2016, the Children’s Commission submitted a cover letter and a packet of comments received from the Advisory Committee members, some of whom also submitted comments independently. The Children’s Commission will await further instructions from TBLS on how to proceed. If the specialization is approved, the first exam date will likely be in fall of 2017.</p>	
TOTAL TRAINING PROJECTS		\$421,202.00

DATA/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

2.3A Notice and Engagement Tool: The project involves using non-confidential case data to provide email notice to users about upcoming hearings. OCA will continue to expand the use, maintain, and enhance as appropriate.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OCA will maintain the web tool that allows establishing a user ID, searching for a child / case, and setting timely email alerts ▪ Children’s Commission will periodically re-issue announcement to various audiences ▪ Children’s Commission will develop a survey tool to assess the usefulness, effectiveness and accuracy of the system ▪ System login and search information will be monitored ▪ Notices will be examined to evaluate whether the correct hearing data is populating according to search criteria ▪ OCA will report to the Children’s Commission the number of users and hearings included in alerts sent by the system 	<p>The project involves using non-confidential case data to provide notice to parties and interested persons about upcoming hearings, and is distributed via email. As of April 26, 2016, there were 257 users. Between September 1, 2015 and April 26, 2016, the system generated 1203 notifications related to 691 different hearings.</p>	<p align="center">\$324,467.00</p>

2.3B Videoconferencing: The video conferencing project enables children involved in child abuse and neglect cases to participate in permanency and placement review hearings without them being physically present in the courtroom.

2016 Action Steps:	2015 Progress Update	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OCA will host and support the hardware and software required to facilitate VTC between courts and residential placements ▪ OCA will continue to refine the procedures and protocol between OCA, DFPS, Courts, and other users ▪ OCA will maintain an updated set of instructions for participation and provide to end-users ▪ OCA will continue to maintain a list of Residential Treatment Centers, Courts, and non-court and non-DFPS contracted ▪ OCA will continue to work with DFPS and other entities on expanding capability and feasibility for use beyond court hearings ▪ Continue scheduling and coordinating remote hearings for existing remote users including test calls ▪ Increase the number of participating courts by five (5), increase the number participating DFPS service provider sites by 8 during the fiscal year ▪ Conduct an outreach to specific local CASA program offices that are interested in 	<p>The video conferencing project enables children involved in child abuse and neglect cases to participate in permanency and placement review hearings without them being physically present in the courtroom. OCA hosts and supports the hardware and software required to facilitate video conferencing between courts and residential placements. OCA maintains a list of courts, Residential Treatment Centers and local CASA offices with video conferencing capability. OCA maintains a log of all hearings conducted, including the date, time, participating court, type of hearing, participating placement, length of hearing, any problems with the transmission quality, or technical difficulties.</p> <p>The planned acquisition and implementation of the new video conferencing platform is complete and operational as of June 6, 2016. The new video platform configuration features video conferencing capability from mobile devices, multiparty video conferencing and email and calendar invitation capabilities.</p> <p>For the months of October 2015 through April 2016 (FY2016):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 173 video hearings conducted - 190 children/youth participated - 15 courts participated 	<p align="center">Included above</p>

<p>participating in the video conferencing project. Video conferencing capability will be implemented where possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acquire new video conferencing infrastructure. The new video conferencing infrastructure will provide the capability to conduct video conferencing from mobile technology devices (smartphone and tablets) on android and iOS ▪ Maintain a log of all hearings conducted, including the date, time participating court, type of hearing, participating placement, and length of hearing, any problems with the transmission quality or technological barriers 	<p>- 51 placement facilities participated Courts that are video enabled to participate in the collaborative video conferencing project – 28 (2 in FY16)</p> <p>Placement facilities that are video enabled – 72 (3 in FY16)</p> <p>In addition to the added Courts and Placement Facilities, OCA has implemented video conferencing capability in five local CASA offices for FY2016.</p>	
---	---	--

2.3C Website / Support: Children’s Commission will maintain a website for the Commission for Training and Education efforts, to inform and apprise stakeholders about the Commission, and to provide access to the offerings available from the Children’s Commission and Texas Court Improvement Program.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further develop the Children’s Commission website to better accommodate varying stakeholders and materials for training needs. ▪ The approved proposal and vendor will update the Children’s Commission website by September 23, 2016. ▪ Expand the current training webpage to feature GoToTraining. ▪ Children’s Commission Staff will monitor the website on an ongoing basis to ensure items are added, deleted, and information is maintained in a current and accurate manner. 	<p>The Children’s Commission website is here: http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/</p> <p>In order to appeal to the growing needs of various stakeholders and users of the Children’s Commission website, an assessment of the current format has been made and determined to further develop the site accordingly. A request for a proposal has been submitted and will be available within 30-60 days.</p>	<p>Included above</p>

2.3D Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS): CPCMS is a case management system that is unique to Child Protection Courts. Efficient and full use of the case management system can help decrease the time to permanency and CPC Courts.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OCA will provide project management, programming and testing services for CPCMS ▪ OCA will determine whether there are bug fixes or enhancements required based on input from CPCMS users ▪ OCA will use its CPCMS Advisory Group to determine the nature and priority of CPCMS enhances and bug fixes ▪ CC Staff will participate in the Advisory Group calls and meetings ▪ OCA will consult with the Children’s Commission on the appropriate percentage of time to allocate to CPCMS enhancements 	<p>CPCMS is a case management system that is unique to Child Protection Courts. It has been in use since 2009. OCA provides project management, programming and testing services for CPCMS. OCA staffs a CPCMS Advisory Council of CPC judges, OCA staff and Children’s Commission staff to evaluate bug fixes or enhancements. CPCMS underwent a major upgrade of the CPCMS infrastructure and primary judge page in FY2015. Overall, these changes have made CPCMS more efficient and easier for judges and court coordinators to use.</p> <p>CPCMS is in maintenance mode. OCA continually works on the architecture to streamline how documents are stored so</p>	<p>Included above</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OCA will keep Children’s Commission apprised of equipment and software purchases required for proper and efficient operation and maintenance 	<p>that document storage can be accomplished outside the CPCMS database. Documents stored outside the database will make the system more responsive and easier to use, and as four new CPC courts will be created in FY 2016, this change will allow CPCMS to continue to be responsive as users are added.</p> <p>OCA has completed the CPCMS attorney database project. The project involved using data from the State Bar of Texas database to eliminate duplicate entries for attorneys by identifying each attorney by his/her bar number and the name associated with that bar number on the SBOT website. OCA identified and corrected 2,600 duplicate attorneys in the CPCMS database. OCA modify CPCMS to use the SBOT/CPCMS attorney database to eliminate any new duplicate attorney data added to the CPCMS database during the project and going forward.</p>	
---	--	--

2.3E Weighted Caseload Study: To identify the specific and accurate court and judicial system resources required to adequately handle the state’s child protection caseload.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OCA will work with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to design a weighted caseload project ▪ A Judicial Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) will be formed to provide project oversight and guidance as well as to review project plans and materials ▪ A web-based tool will be developed to for judges to collect data ▪ Training will be developed to explain to judicial officers how to classify and record work during the study ▪ An event-based time study of judicial workload over the course of a four to six week period will be conducted in October/November 2015 ▪ The activities will include all on-bench and off-bench pre-trial, dispositional, and post-disposition activities ▪ An analysis of the time study date will be performed ▪ A composite case weight for CPS cases will be developed ▪ The project will also include a sufficient of time survey to assess whether judges would have sufficient time to fulfill all responsibilities given current resource levels ▪ This particular study will assess whether there is a need for more or less time related to specific phases of case processing, the challenges to effective handling, and proven 	<p>Late FY2015, the Children’s Commission approved a grant to the National Center for State Courts to design and execute a weighted caseload study.</p> <p>NCSC designed a web-based tool used to collect data; prepared training materials that explained how judicial officers should classify and record work during the study, produced a web-based recorded training that participants were able to view at their convenience, created printable forms that judicial officers used to track time on paper during the study period, and provided a glossary defining all case-type event categories.</p> <p>Beginning October 26, 2015 to November 22, 2015 NCSC conducted the event-based time study. All 19 CPC judges asked to participate submitted time, and 38 of 116 district judges entered at least some time during the time study.</p> <p>Subsequen to the time study, NCSC staff compiled and analyzed all the data received during the time study. The event-based data entered by judges during the time study allowed the NCSC to develop a comprehensive case weight for CPS cases. A key strength of the analysis is that it combined information on the number and frequency of occurrence of key events in the life of CPS cases with the time spent by judges on each event. This allowed the CPS case weight to be built at the event level, increasing confidence in the reliability and accuracy of the overall case weight.</p>	<p>\$73,223.00 For NCSC activities, assistance</p> <p>\$6220.00 For JNAC travel expense</p>

<p>efficient and deficient case processes and strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A final meeting will convene for presentation of the results and sufficiency of time survey ▪ A final report that includes CPS case weight recommendations will be published by NCSC and OCA 	<p>Additionally during this reporting period, NCSC conducted the Sufficiency of Time survey. The survey was sent to all the judges that participated in the time study, both CPC and District. Seventeen CPC judges and 19 District judges completed the survey. The survey assessed whether judges have sufficient time to fulfill all of their judicial responsibilities in CPS cases with reasonable quality given current resource levels. The survey provided judges with an opportunity to express their views on current case processing practices, including challenges to the effective handling of CPS cases and proven efficient and effective case processing policies and strategies. These data will provide a reference for the quality adjustment process.</p> <p>The Texas child protective services workload assessment resulted in the development of a final case weight of 293 minutes for child protective service cases. The updated case weight ensures that judges handling CPS cases have adequate time to: review reports prior to hearings; address due process issues and child well-being issues during each hearing; and comply with statutory timelines. The study also determined that CPC judges are able to work five hours per day on case-related matters, when time spent on travel, attending stakeholder meetings, and performing general case administration, each day, is accounted for. The updated case weight provides a more accurate reflection of the complex and demanding nature of handling CPS cases and will allow for a more valid and reliable calculation of the need for district and CPC judges.</p>	
---	--	--

NEW: Hearing Timeliness Project. A partnership aimed at better understanding CPS cases that are being extended beyond the 12-month deadline, and make recommendations on needed changes. The analysis will consider race and ethnicity and will include recommendations for systemic reform. The project will cover SFY 13 or 14.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 Budget
<p>A descriptive analysis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How often cases are extended beyond the statutory deadline for extraordinary circumstances that did not involve a child being on a trial home visit ▪ The legal disposition for all cases that were not extended ▪ The ultimate legal disposition for cases that were extended, and the time to achieve the ultimate disposition or outcome <p>A statistical analysis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cases that had an order issued pursuant to Section 263.401 at 12 months resulting in permanency (exit from foster care) in SFY 13 or 14 ▪ The outcomes of cases that were extended to determine whether ultimate outcome was reunification or another outcome 	<p>For the past several years, 40% of all cases have been extended beyond the original dismissal date. In order to determine how to make appropriate systemic changes to help ensure children are exiting foster care more quickly (ideally within 12 months), Texas must better understand which cases are being extended, the reason for the extension, and the impact the extensions are having. Anecdotal information from judges and CPS staff suggest that it is due to delays in services being set up or parents needing additional time to comply with court orders.</p> <p>Commission staff with OCA used the hearing timeliness / outcome data to identify potential counties with high numbers of 3rd and 4th permanency hearings reasoning that cases with a 3rd permanency hearing before final order would be under an extension order since the statute requires the case be dismissed or otherwise wrapped up within 12 months of the removal date. Delving into CPCMS data on counties with high numbers of 3rd+ permanency hearings,</p>	0.00

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the outcome was not reunification, whether it reflected the original concurrent plan or evidence another pattern. 	<p>and sorting further by cases with an extension order did not yield the output anticipated.</p> <p>So far, the court orders granting the extensions do not explain why or what the extraordinary circumstances are. Also, the CPS court reports that may contain content related to why extraordinary circumstances exist are not uploaded by the CPC Court Coordinators into CPCMS. We have been unable so far to determine (through CPCMS) why cases are being extended. DFPS is going to submit a list of cases and cause numbers that were extended during FY2015 so that we can continue to explore the CPCMS files.</p>	
TOTAL DATA/TECH PROJECTS		\$403,910.00

FOSTER CARE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

2.2B Texas Blueprint: Foster Care and Education Committee will support and monitor implementation of the Blueprint recommendations.

2016 Action Steps:	Progress Report	FY2016 BUDGET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff new standing Foster Care and Education Committee to launch Phase II of the Texas Blueprint Implementation ▪ Ensure the committee meets periodically to assess progress of implementation ▪ Promote continued collaboration between education, child welfare, and the courts ▪ Seek guidance of top-level judicial, education, and child welfare leadership, as necessary ▪ Create and monitor workgroups or subcommittees to carry out charge or purpose of the Foster Care and Education Committee ▪ Foster Care and Education Committee will provide periodic updates on implementation to the Children's Commission at its scheduled meetings during FY2016 ▪ CC staff will include information about education needs, outcomes, laws, policy, practice, and judicial tools in its CPS Judicial Bench Book and Education website 	<p>The Foster Care and Education Committee met on April 15, 2016 to monitor the progress of the Data, Postsecondary, Special Education, and Local Collaboration Workgroups. The Data Workgroup will work towards improved information-sharing and data collection and formulation of an education data report. The Postsecondary Workgroup will develop resources to assist new foster care liaisons at institutions of higher education. The Postsecondary Data Subgroup will also explore the scope of the first data exchange between DFPS and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Special Education Workgroup will focus transition planning in the child welfare and special education contexts, training and designation of surrogate parents, and best practices surrounding confidentiality. The Local Collaboration Workgroup will identify strategies to promote collaboration at the local level. The Foster Care and Education Committee will meet again on August 15, 2016.</p>	<p>\$10,000.00</p>
TOTAL FC&E PROJECTS		\$10,000.00
GRAND TOTAL PROJECTS		\$963,488.00

INSERT - TAB 4



Children's Commission Financial Report

FY 2016 BUDGET REVENUE

Carry Forward from FY 2015		\$ 1,504,975
FY 2016 Distribution		
<i>Basic</i>	\$ 644,757	
<i>Data</i>	\$ 546,734	
<i>Training</i>	\$ 546,734	
		\$ 1,738,225
<u>Available Funds for FY 2016</u>		\$ 3,243,200

FY 2016 OBLIGATIONS

Available Funds for FY 2016		\$ 3,243,200
FY 2016 Obligations		
<i>Indirect</i>	\$ 900,453	
<i>Staff Directed Projects¹</i>	\$ 247,550	
<i>Grants</i>	\$ 671,878	
<i>Scholarships</i>	\$ 50,560	
		\$ 1,870,441
<u>Estimated Balance after obligations</u>		\$ 1,372,759

Current Financial Status

To-date expenditures		\$ 776,512
Outstanding obligations		\$ 1,093,929
To-date balance		\$ 2,466,782
<u>Estimated Carry Forward from FY 2016²</u>		\$ 1,372,853

¹ Increase of \$14,200 additional funds for Trial Skills Training approved during February 2016 Commission Meeting. Increase of \$25,000 for Policy Center feasibility Study approved via email vote in March 2016.

² The \$94 difference between the balance after obligations and carry forward balance represents the quarterly State Hotel Occupancy Tax reimbursement from the State.

6/7/2016

