Numerous outstanding individuals have served on the Children’s Commission as well as its committees and collaborative council, bringing with them experience, innovation, and inspiration to drive our work forward with enthusiasm for what can be accomplished when we put our minds–and our hearts–together. Although intangible, a major accomplishment every year is uniting interested stakeholders from across the child welfare spectrum and forging lasting collaborative relationships that span years and withstand ever-changing circumstances. We owe the children of Texas nothing less than unceasing effort and constant vigilance, which means our work is never done. I am grateful for the opportunity to chair the Children’s Commission and privileged to work with our dedicated collaborators. Leading the effort on the judiciary’s behalf has been an honor.

Hon. Eva M. Guzman, Chair; Hon. Harriet O’Neill, Chair Emeritus; Hon. Rob Hofmann, Vice Chair; Hon. JoAnn Battise; Paula Bibbs-Samuels; Allison Billodeau, ex officio; Kristene Blackstone; Hon. Jean Boyd; Hon. Darlene Byrne; Hon. Gary Coley; Sheila Craig; Hon. Helen Giddings, ex officio; Dr. Andy Keller; Hon. Lawrence Lujan; Dr. Octavio Martinez; Hon. Michael Massengale; Hon. Piper McCraw; 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; Hon. Royce West, ex officio

Front Row: Jamie Bernstein, Staff Attorney; Monica Mahoney, Administrative Assistant; Jessica Arguijo, Communications Manager; Dylan Moench, Staff Attorney; Second Row: Tina Amberboy, Executive Director; Milbrey Raney, Staff Attorney; Andrea Vicencio, Administrative Assistant; Back Row: Patrick Passmore, Grant Administrator; Kristi Taylor, Assistant Director. Not Pictured: Hon. Dean Rucker, Jurist in Residence
### Noteworthy & Numbers

#### Judges Trained
80+ judges trained at the Child Welfare Judges Conference

#### Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons
250+

#### Information and Reference Guides
- Distributed statewide

#### Beyond the Bench: Law, Justice and Communities Summit
- Held in December 2016

#### Notice and Engagement
- 5,743 notifications sent
- 3,614 hearings involved

#### Contributions
- **1,247** attorneys received MCLE credit in CPS-related courses provided by the State Bar of Texas Online library
- **395** attorneys viewed the live webcast on the 84th Legislative Update provided by Children’s Commission staff totaling 1.5 hours MCLE content
- **12%** increase in website traffic based upon the number of users and sessions

#### The Judicial Workgroup Addressing Disproportionality (JWD)
- Was instrumental in the success of the Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals

#### Beyond the Bench: Law, Justice and Communities Summit
- Held in December 2016

#### Judges and Attorney Resource Letters
- **60** judges and attorney resource letters sent

#### Number of video-enabled participants
- **94** Placement Facilities
- **44** Courts
- **19** CASA Programs
The basic Committee oversees a variety of projects that are: 1) tortadult-care and well-being of the children and youth in foster care. Projects include ongoing technical assistance, addressing disproportionate representation and disparities, legal representation, mediation in child protection cases, parent resource, trauma-informed care, and state collaboration.

- In January 2017, the Parent Resource Workgroup established the Spanish-language version of the Parent Resource Guide. The guide is available online on the Children’s Commission website and is widely used by families who access the Family Helpline.

- In February 2017, the Texas Board of Legal Specialties established a Certified Child Welfare Law as the 21st article of legal specialization.

- In May 2017, the Legal Representation Committee established: (1) an initial draft of survey tools. When the study is completed, the subcommittee will analyze the data and report on the findings to the Texas Legislature in September 2018.

- In July 2017, the Children’s Commission launched the Statewide General Information on Trauma-Informed Care (SCTIC) to work on developing and implementing trauma-informed care in the child welfare system. The SCTIC’s goal is to develop a statewide strategy to improve the quality of child care and support system reform, organizational leadership, cross-systems collaboration, and community-led efforts to support system reform, organizational leadership, cross-systems collaboration, and community-led efforts.

- In June 2017, the Child Protection Bench Book was amended to include binding regulations and advocacy guidelines to the Indian Children’s Welfare Commission.

- In July 2017, the Commission’s Tribal-State Collaborative Workgroup held monthly calls to discuss strategies and opportunities to collaborate with the Texas American Indian Heritage Day in September 2017.

- In August 2017, the Commission revised the Child Protection Court Management System (CPCMS) Advisory Council conducted two meetings to discuss essential performance measures that will be most useful to judges and court staff. Once essential performance measures are determined, OAC and Commission staff will develop and implement them as a resource to improve communications between collaborating agencies. Data and Technology Workgroup members on the webpage include a list of courts, placement facilities, as well as their location and contact information.

- In May 2017, the Juvenile Court Judges Conference and the Texas State Bar of Texas Family Law Section held during the 43rd State Bar of Texas (SBoT) Annual Meeting. The Commission staff provided a report to the judges biannually as a resource to improve communications between collaborating agencies. Data and Technology Workgroup members on the webpage include a list of courts, placement facilities, as well as their location and contact information.

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