



TEXAS CENTER
FOR THE JUDICIARY

Engaging the Faith Community
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Department of Family and Protective Services
2017 Child Welfare Judicial Conference
November 14-16, Austin

Faith-based History

- Prior to 1875, the church was the institution that dealt with the mistreatment of children.
- 1995 - The Advisory Committee on Promoting Adoption of Minority Children (ACPAMC)
- 2003 - Congregations Helping in Love and Dedication (CHILD)
- 2017 - Re-energized Faith-based is part of the Commissioner's 10-point plan



Current Model



If you dream it, we can do it.



Goal

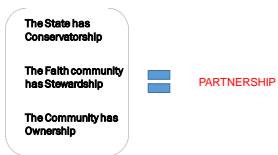


Work Smarter Not Harder but Partner Better

Work with **ALL** faith communities on behalf of children and families who are involved with Child Protective Services (CPS)



The Model



Guiding Principles



Role of Faith-based Staff

- Engage faith community
- Provide training and technical assistance
- Help establish ministry opportunities
- Be the bridge to church/state partnership





Top 5 Faith-based Initiatives

- **Clergy in Court for Kids** - DFPS partners with Judges to invite Clergy to court proceedings to introduce them to how the faith community can work with children and their families that come to the attention of the courts.
- **Children Without Placement (CWOP)** - A temporary living space that children can use while CPS continues searching for a stable placement for our youth for the duration of their time in care.
- **CarePortal and Adopt-A-Family** - These are designed to help connect children and families with vital needs to the faith community through the caseworker. The caseworker makes a request about the needs of the family; the request is then relayed to faith communities within a 15 to 60 miles radius of the family. The goal is that the faith community will help meet the needs of the families in their community.





Top 5 Faith-based Initiatives Continued

- **Babysitting/Parents Night Out**- Establishing a monthly or quarterly time to bring volunteers together to watch and care for children for an allotted amount of time so parents have a break for ex. Date night
- **Blue Sunday and Stand Sunday**- Blue Sunday is the National day of Prayer for Child Abuse and Neglect held in April. We would like for churches to pray on behalf of abused and neglected children and learn ways they can help them. www.bluesunday.org Stand Sunday is held in November, faith communities are asked to stand and raise awareness about children in foster care in the United State and learn ways they can advocate for them. <https://cafo.org/?s=Stand+Sunday>.





Why the Faith Community?

- All religions express the need to help children
- The largest participation
- The widest distribution
- The simplest administration
- The fastest expansion
- The highest motivation





Why the Faith Community?

- Holistic Approach
- They can provide services our families and children need
- Example:
 - Transportation
 - Daycare
 - Monetary
 - Counseling
 - Diverse volunteers





Goal

- Everyone can do something
- Use your gifts
- You don't have to create a ministry to do something
- One faith community support 1 family





Results

- 900 faith partners
- Faith-partners are doing over 2,800 activities
- Re-energize Clergy in the Court
- Faith-based Summit in June 1,000 participants





Results: CarePortal



- Number of counties served **27**
- Children served **3,200**
- Active churches **457**
- Economic impact **\$994,823**

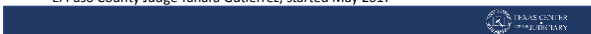




Results: Clergy in the Court



- Statewide implementation in FY 2018
- Currently in the following areas:
 - Bell County Judge Van Orden, started April 2017
 - Burnet County Judge Maybray, started July 2017
 - Williamson County Judge Larsen, scheduled Nov. 6; Judge Lambeth, started October 2017
 - Denton County Judge Sherry Shipment started October 2017
 - Harris County Judge Devlin, started May 2017
 - Harris County Judge Newhouse, started June 2017
 - Harris County Judge Katrina Griffith, started August 2017
 - Webb County Judge Selina Mireles, started August 2017, next session in November
 - El Paso County Judge Yahara Gutierrez, started May 2017



Results: Capacity Building



- Ageing-out Resources
 - Phased In Wichita Falls, TX <http://phasedin.org/> transitional living program emancipated foster youth.
 - 127 Faith Foundation in Mason, TX www.the127.org just opened in October 2017
 - Metro Ministries Foster Sanctuary Corpus Christi, TX <http://ccmetro.org>. Currently serving female youth with 8 beds
- Residential Treatment Centers/support
 - Faith Bridge Church (Spring)
 - Trinity Lutheran Church (Spring) - provide mentorship and surrogate parents
- The ARK Assessment Center & Emergency Shelter for Youth (Catholic Church) 12960 Leopard Street, Corpus Christi, TX, 35 beds
- Wesley United Methodist Church "Care Cottage on the Corner" Harlingen, 6 beds
- Children Without Placements - several faith communities have provided space for foster children to sleep until a more permanent placement was found



Other Things



- Mentoring
- Donations to Rainbow Rooms
- Heart Galleries
- Clothes Closets
- Food pantries
- Birthday Bashes
- Special one time activities
- Back to school drives
- Respite families
- CPS staff appreciation events



FY 2018

- Non-traditional faith communities
- African-American, Hispanic and other communities of color
- Develop a faith-based resource guide
- Launch Adopt-A-Family
- Launch Clergy in the Court for Kids





