

MEMBERSHIP



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

Collaborative Council

Membership
Directory



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COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Children's Commission Collaborative Council Membership Directory

The Collaborative Council assists the Children's Commission by informing commission members and staff of local and statewide activities, events, and issues that affect attorney and judicial practices in CPS cases.

The Collaborative Council is composed of child welfare stakeholders and advocates from across Texas, including child/youth and parent advocates. There are currently 43 Collaborative Council members.

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tymothy Belseth	Sadie Funk	Knox Kimberly	Judy Powell
M. Lynn Chamberlin	Helen Gaebler	Kelly Kravitz	Mary Christine Reed
Irene Clements	Teal de la Garza	Richard Lavallo	Carolyne Rodriguez
Bill Connolly	Christine Gendron	Tracy Levins	Tanya Rollins
Sarah Crockett	Sandra Hachem	Hon. F. Scott McCown, ret.	Johana Scot
De Shaun Ealoms	David Halpern	Gabriella McDonald	Janet Sharkis
Barbara Elias-Perciful	Ashley Harris	Susan McDowell	Andrea Sparks
Debra Emerson	Lisa Harst	Pamela McPeters	Ian Spechler
Mike Foster	Felix Herrera	Kate Murphy	Jeanne Stamp
Will Francis	Alex Hunt	Katie Olse	Gloria Terry
Mara Friesen	Bruce Kendrick	Jon Olson	Kenneth Thompson

Updated April 2019

Tymothy Belseth

Research Coordinator

Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing

www.txicfw.socialwork.utexas.edu

3001 Lake Austin Blvd.

Suite 1.204

Austin, Texas 78703

tymothy.belseth@austin.utexas.edu

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing connects communities to research, training, and programs that promote the wellbeing and resilience of children, families and the people who serve them.

Lynn Chamberlin

Senior Assistant County Attorney

Harris County Attorney's Office

www.harriscountycao.org

1019 Congress, 17th Floor

Houston, Texas 77002

Lynn.Chamberlin@cao.hctx.net

Irene Clements

Content Expert, National Liaison

Texas Foster Family Association

www.tffa.org

1102 Prairie Ridge Trail

Pflugerville, Texas 78660

irenecllements17@gmail.com

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

To be a respected statewide voice for foster, kinship and adoptive families through networking, education and advocacy.

Bill Connolly

Attorney

Connolly & Shireman, LLP

www.connollyshireman.com

2930 Revere, Suite 300

Houston, Texas 77098

Sarah Crockett

Public Policy Coordinator

Texas CASA

www.texascasa.org

1501 W Anderson Lane, Suite B-2

Austin, Texas 78757

scrockett@texascasa.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Texas CASA's mission is to support local CASA volunteer advocacy programs and to advocate for effective public policy for children in the child protection system.

De Shaun Ealoms

Parent Program Specialist

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

www.dfps.state.tx.us

701 W. 51st Street

Austin, Texas 78751

P.O. Box 149030

Austin, Texas 78714

aundrea.ealoms@dfps.state.tx.us

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The mission of The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by involving clients, families, and communities.

Barbara Elias-Perciful

Director

Texas Lawyers for Children

www.TexasLawyersforChildren.org

P.O. Box 192586

Dallas, Texas 75219

Barbara@TexasLawyersforChildren.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

TLC's mission is to improve court case outcomes for abused and neglected children by enhancing the quality of legal services they receive, by raising public awareness, and by facilitating improvement in systems that serve children and families. The most important decisions about an abused or neglected child's future are made in court. TLC exists to help ensure that those decisions are the best possible for the child.

Debra Emerson

CPS Director of Permanency, Family and Youth Services

Department of Family and Protective Services

www.dfps.state.tx.us

701 W. 51st Street

Austin, Texas 78714

debra.emerson@dfps.state.tx.us

Mike Foster

Administrator

Central Texas Table of Grace

www.centraltexastableofgrace.org

P.O. Box 52

Round Rock, Texas 78680

fostermh@outlook.com

Will Francis

Government Relations Director

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter

<https://www.naswtx.org/>

810 W. 11th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

wfrancis.naswtx@socialworkers.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

NASW/TX is committed to advancing professional social work practice and the profession; and to promoting human rights, social and economic justice, and unimpeded access to services for everyone. Its members work in a broad range of settings including child welfare, hospitals and other health care settings, community agencies, government, academia, business, nursing homes, schools, and private practice.

Mara Friesen

Deputy Attorney General for Child Support (IV-D Director)

Office of the Attorney General - Child Support Division

www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/welcome-to-the-child-support-division

P.O. Box 12017

Austin, Texas 78711-2017

mara.friesen@oag.texas.gov

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Child Support

Sadie Funk

Executive Director

First3Years

www.first3yearstx.org

15851 Dallas Parkway, #106

Addison, Texas 75001

sfunk@first3yearstx.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

We educate, advocate, and collaborate to advance the healthy development of infants and toddlers.

Helen Gaebler

Senior Research Attorney
William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law

www.law.utexas.edu/publicinterest

The University of Texas School of Law
727 E. Dean Keeton Street
Austin, Texas 78705
hgaebler@law.utexas.edu

Teal de la Garza

Associate Attorney
Bill De La Garza & Associates

www.billdelagarzapc.com

17050 El Camino Real
Houston, Texas 77058
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Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Our firm provides counsel and representation in many areas of the law, but our primary focus is in divorce and family law. We understand these matters are intensely personal and have both immediate and long-term ramifications. Our goal is to protect our clients in the process through sound legal advice, creative solutions and staunch courtroom advocacy.

Christine Gendron

Executive Director
Texas Network of Youth Services

www.tnoys.org

P.O. Box 26855
Austin, Texas 78755
cgendron@tnoys.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The mission of TNOYS is to strengthen, support, and protect critical services for Texas youth and their families.

Sandra Hachem

Senior Assistant County Attorney
Harris County Attorney's Office

<http://www.harriscountycao.org/>

1019 Congress, 17th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
sandra.hachem@cao.hctx.net

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Fulfill statutory duties and oath of the office of Harris County Attorney.

David Halpern

Assistant General Counsel
Texas A&M

Moore/Connally Building
301 Tarrow, 6th Floor
College Station, Texas 77840
dhalpern@tamus.edu

Ashley Harris

Director of Policy and Community Engagement
United Ways of Texas

www.uwtexas.org

1910 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78702
ashley.harris@uwtexas.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

To strengthen and support the work and impact of local United Ways in Texas.

Lisa Harst

Strategic Partnerships Associate
Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX)

www.cactx.org

1501 W. Anderson Lane, Building B-1
Austin, Texas 78757
lharst@cactx.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The mission of CACTX is to restore the lives of abused children by supporting children's advocacy centers (CACs) in partnership with local communities and agencies investigating and prosecuting child abuse.

Felix Herrera

Consul for Protection and Legal Affairs
Consulate General of Mexico in Austin

<https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/austin/>

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fherrera@sre.gob.mx

Alex Hunt

Attorney & Counselor at Law
Hunt Law Firm, P.L.L.C.

23212 Red River Drive
Katy, TX 77494
achunt@gmail.com

Bruce Kendrick

Director of Life Initiatives

Watermark Community Church

www.watermark.org

7540 LBJ Freeway

Dallas, Texas 75251

bkendrick@watermark.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Calling all people to be fully devoted followers of Christ.

Knox Kimberly

SVP - Advocacy and Stakeholder Relations

Upbring

www.upbring.org

8305 Cross Park Drive

Austin, Texas 78754

knox.kimberly@upbring.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Breaking the cycle of child abuse by empowering children, families and communities.

Kelly Kravitz

Director, Special Populations

Texas Education Agency

www.tea.texas.gov

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Kelly.Kravitz@tea.state.tx.us

Richard Lavallo

Legal Director
Disability Rights Texas

www.disabilityrights.org

7800 Shoal Creek Blvd., #171-E
Austin, Texas 78757
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Tracy Levins

State Development Specialist
Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health

<http://sites.utexas.edu/mental-health-institute/>

1717 W. 6th Street #310
Austin, Texas 78703
t.levins@austin.utexas.edu

Hon. Scott McCown

Clinical Professor and Clinic Director
UT Law School Children's Rights Clinic

www.law.utexas.edu

727 East Dean Keeton Street
Austin, Texas 78705
smccown@law.utexas.edu

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:
Representing children.

Gabriella McDonald

Pro Bono & New Projects Director
Texas Appleseed

www.texasappleseed.org

1609 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 201
Austin, Texas 78701
gmcdonald@texasappleseed.net

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Texas Appleseed's mission is to promote social and economic justice for all Texans by leveraging the skills and resources of volunteer lawyers and other professionals to identify practical solutions to difficult systemic problems.

Susan McDowell

Executive Director
LifeWorks

www.lifeworksaustin.org

3700 South 1st Street
Austin, Texas 78704
Susan.McDowell@lifeworksaustin.org

Pamela McPeters

Director of Public Policy
TexProtects

www.texprotects.org

512 E 11th Street, Suite 20155
Austin, Texas 78723
pamela@texprotects.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The mission of TexProtects is to reduce and prevent child abuse and neglect through research, advocacy and education. We effect change by organizing and educating our members to advocate for increased investments in evidence-based child abuse prevention programs, CPS reforms, and treatment programs to heal abuse victims.

Kate Murphy

Senior Child Welfare Policy Associate
Texans Care for Children

www.txchildren.org

1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 111w
Austin, Texas 78723
kmurphy@txchildren.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

We are a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue children's policy organization. We develop policy solutions, produce research, and engage Texas community leaders to educate policymakers, the media, and the public about what works to improve the well-being of Texas children and families.

Katie Olse

Executive Director
TX Alliance of Child and Family Services

www.tacfs.org

409 W. 13th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
kolse@tacfs.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Statewide nonprofit supporting organizations delivering direct services for children, youth and families.

Jon Olson

Director of Equity and Inclusion
Office of Minority Health Statistics and Engagement – HHSC

www.hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/process-improvement/office-minority-health-statistics-engagement

6330 Hwy 290 East, Ste. 350, Mail Code 1479
Austin, Texas 78723
Jon.Olson@hhsc.state.tx.us

Judy Powell

Communications Director
Parent Guidance Center

www.parentguidancecenter.org

9600 Escarpment Blvd.

Suite 745-255

Austin, Texas 78749

judy@parentguidancecenter.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Advocating for parents involved in the child welfare system and supporting parental rights.

"Help a parent and you've already helped a child."

Mary Christine Reed

Attorney-Project Director

Texas Foster Youth Justice Project-Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

<http://texasfosteryouth.org/>

4920 N. IH 35

Austin, Texas 78751

info@texasfosteryouth.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The Texas Foster Youth Justice Project helps current and former foster youth in Texas. We provide legal advice, assistance, guidance and representation in enforcing foster youth rights and supporting the successful transition to independence. We also provide guidance and training to those that work with foster youth, publish "A Guide to Aging Out of Foster Care in Texas," available for free distribution to foster youth and maintain resources found at TexasFosterYouth.org.

Carolyn Rodriguez

Independent Consultant

carolyn001r@gmail.com

Tanya Rollins

CPS Disproportionality Manager
Department of Family and Protective Services

www.dfps.state.tx.us

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Austin, Texas 78714
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Johana Scot

Executive Director
Parent Guidance Center

www.parentguidancecenter.org

9600 Escarpment Blvd.
Suite 745-255
Austin, Texas 78749

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Advocating for parents involved in the child welfare system and supporting parental rights.
"Help a parent and you've already helped a child."

Janet Sharkis

Director of Strategic Health Alliance
Texas Center for Disability Studies, University of Texas

www.disabilitystudies.utexas.edu

10100 Burnet Road
Suite 1.154, Bldg. 137, L4000
Austin, Texas 78758
sharkisjanet@utexas.edu

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

To optimize well-being and brain health. Strategic Health Alliance bring the voices of the community together as agents of change. Specialty content areas include prenatal exposures, complex brain based disabilities, such as co-occurring mental health conditions and intellectual disabilities, and the impact of experiences on our well-being. Our alliance of volunteers collaborate on public policy, system change, research, strategic planning, education, and community action.

Andrea Sparks

Director, Child Sex Trafficking Team
Office of the Governor

www.gov.texas.gov

1100 San Jacinto Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78701

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Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

To prevent child sexual exploitation, help identify and recover survivors, provide coordinated services to help them heal and thrive, and bring them justice.

Ian Spechler

Hearing Officer
State Office of Administrative Hearings

www.soah.state.tx.us

300 W. 15th St

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Jeanne Stamp

Director
Texas Homeless Education Office

<http://www.theotx.org/>

3925 W. Braker Lane, Suite 3.801

Austin, Texas 78758

jeanne.stamp@austin.utexas.edu

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

To provide guidance, technical assistance and training to educators, service providers, families and students to ensure the identification, enrollment, attendance and school success of highly mobile students.

Gloria Terry

Chief Executive Officer

Texas Council on Family Violence

www.tcfv.org

P.O. Box 161810

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Kenneth Thompson

Fatherhood Specialist

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