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

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

**May 3, 2013  
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**

**May 3, 2013  
Meeting Notebook**

**Table of Contents**

<b>Minutes from January 11, 2013 Commission Meeting .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Commission, Committee and Collaborative Council Member List.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>May 3, 2013 Report to Commission.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>April 2013 CIP Committee Meeting Minutes .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Basic Projects - April 2, 2013</b>	
<b>Training Projects – April 4, 2013</b>	
<b>Technology Projects – April 9, 2013</b>	
<b>Texas Blue Print Implementation Plan .....</b>	<b>5</b>

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

**Austin, Texas**

May 3, 2013

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 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 January 11, 2013 Tab 1
- 9:50 Commissioner Updates
- 10:45 Video – Indian Child Welfare Act
- 11:00 Report to Commission – Tina Amberboy/Commission Staff, Tab 3
- 11:20 Video – Foster Youth in Court
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch
- 12:35 Data/Technology Committee Report – Vicki Spriggs, Tab 3, (**page 17**)
- 12:45 Basic Committee Report – Hon. Bonnie Hellums, Tab 3, (**page 2**)
- 12:55 Psychoactive Medications Workgroup – Hon. Diane Guariglia
- 1:05 Training Committee Report – Tina Amberboy, Milbrey Raney, Tab 3, (**page 12**)
- 1:15 Trial Skills Workgroup Update – Justice Michael Massengale
- 1:25 Texas Blue Print Implementation Task Force – Hon. Rob Hofmann, Tab 5
- 1:35 Legislative Update – Hon. Dean Rucker
- 1:45 DFPS Update – Judge John Specia, Audrey Deckinga
- 1:55 Office of Court Administration – David Slayton
- 2:05 Jurist in Residence – Judge Robin Sage, Judge Dean Rucker
- 2:15 Comments from Collaborative Council/New Business  
September 27, 2013 Commission meeting at State Bar of Texas
- 2:30 Adjourn

*Reception - Acknowledgement and Appreciation - Ms. Carlyne Rodriguez*

# **INSERT - TAB 1**

**MINUTES - JANUARY 11, 2013 CC MEETING**

**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**January 11, 2013**

**9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Supreme Court of Texas Courtroom**

Austin, Texas

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members in attendance:**

Chair-Emeritus, Hon. Harriet O'Neill, Law Office of Harriet O'Neill, Austin

Chair, Hon. Eva Guzman, Justice, The Supreme Court of Texas, Austin

Vice-Chair, Hon. Darlene Byrne, Judge, 126th District Court, Austin

Judge Karin Bonicoro, Associate Judge, Child Protection Court of Central Texas, New Braunfels

Audrey Deckinga, Assistant Commissioner for CPS, Dept. of Family and Protective Services, Austin

Hon. Camile Glasscock DuBose, Judge, 38th District Court, Uvalde

Gabriela Fuentes, Office of the Governor, Austin

Stewart Gagnon, Partner, Fulbright and Jaworski, LLP, Houston

Hon. Rob Hofmann, Associate Judge, Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, Mason

Hon. Patricia A. Macías, Judge, 388th District Court, El Paso (attendance via webcast)

Dr. Octavio Martinez, Executive Director, The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, UT Austin, Austin

Hon. Michael Massengale, Justice, 1st Court of Appeals, Houston

Carolyne Rodriguez, Dir. of Texas Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs, Austin

Hon. Dean Rucker, Presiding Judge, 7th Region, 318th District Court, Midland

Fairy Davenport Rutland, Director, Appeals Div., Texas Health & Human Services Commission, Austin

Hon. Cheryl Lee Shannon, Judge, 305th District Court, Dallas

Vicki Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer, Texas CASA, Inc., Austin

Terry Tottenham, Of Counsel, Fulbright and Jaworski, L.L.P., Austin

G. Allan Van Fleet, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery LLP, Houston (attendance via webcast)

Hon. Judy Warne, District Judge, 257th Family Court, Houston

**Members not in attendance:**

Bruce Esterline, Vice President for Grants, The Meadows Foundation, Dallas

Hon Helen Giddings, Texas Representative, District 109

Hon. Bonnie Hellums, Judge, 247th District Court, Houston

Joyce M. James, Associate Deputy Commissioner, HHSC Center for Elimination of Disproportionality & Disparities, Austin

**Staff in attendance:**

Tina Amberboy, Executive Director, Children's Commission

Katie Brown, Staff Attorney, Children's Commission

Ron Clark, Office of Court Administration

Simi Denson, Office of Court Administration  
Casey Kennedy, Director IRM, Office of Court Administration  
Tim Kennedy, TexDECK Project Manager, Office of Court Administration  
Teri Moran, Communications Manager, Children's Commission  
Mena Ramón, Office of Court Administration  
Milbrey Raney, Staff Attorney, Children's Commission  
Tiffany Roper, Assistant Director, Children's Commission  
Hon. Robin Sage, Jurist in Residence  
David Slayton, Interim Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration  
Kristi Taylor, Project Manager, Children's Commission  
Rashonda Thomas, Grant Account Specialist, Children's Commission  
Mari Aaron, Executive Assistant, Children's Commission  
Mary Mitchell, Executive Assistant, Children's Commission

**Collaborative Council Members in attendance:**

Irene Clements, President, Texas Foster Family Consultant, Butterfly Marketing, LLC, Pflugerville  
William B. Connolly, Attorney, Connolly & Shireman, LLP, Houston  
Barbara Elias-Perciful, President, Texas Loves Children, Dallas  
Laura Figueroa, The Arbitrage Group, Inc., Katy (attendance via webcast)  
Mike Foster, Executive Director, Neighbor to Family, Austin  
Sandra Hachem, Sr. Assistant County Attorney, Houston  
Ashley Harris, Child Welfare Policy Associate, Texans Care for Children, Austin  
Bruce Kendrick, Director of Outreach, Embrace Texas, McKinney  
Richard Lavallo, Legal Director, Disability Rights Texas (formerly Advocacy, Inc.), Austin  
Tracy Levins, Manager, Prevention/Early Intervention, Texas Juvenile Justice Dept., Austin  
Rebecca Lightsey, Executive Director, Texas Appleseed, Austin  
Madeline McClure, Executive Director, The Texas Association for the Protection of Children, Dallas  
Diana Martinez, Director of Public Policy and Education for TexProtects, Austin  
Dr. Sandeep Narang, Fellowship Director, Child Abuse and Neglect Division, Pediatrics Department, UT-San Antonio  
Judy Powell, Communications Director, Parent Guidance Center, Austin  
Lisa Ramirez, Women's Substance Abuse Services Coordinator, Dept. of State Health Services, Austin  
Johana Scot, Executive Director, Parent Guidance Center, Austin  
Jeanne Stamp, Sr. Program Coordinator, The Charles A. Dana Center, Austin  
Gloria Terry, Coalition President, Texas Council on Family Violence, Austin  
Meghan Weller, Director of Public Affairs, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Austin  
Larry Williams, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Livingston

**Collaborative Council Members not in attendance:**

Emy Lou Baldrige, Co-Founder, Greater Texas Community Partners, Dallas  
Roy Block, Executive Director, Texas Foster Family Association, San Antonio  
Elizabeth Cox, foster and adoptive parent, San Antonio

Kevin Cox, foster and adoptive parent, San Antonio  
Susan Hopkins Craven, Executive Director, Texas Alliance for Infant Mental Health, Austin  
De Shaun Ealoms, Parent Program Specialist, Dept. of Family and Protective Services, Austin  
Debra Emerson, CPS Director of Permanency, Dept. of Family & Protective Services, Austin  
Paul E. Furrh, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Lone Star Legal Aid, Houston  
Helen Gaebler, Sr. Research Attny, William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law, Austin  
David Halpern, Director, Promise Mentor Program, Seedling Foundation, Austin  
Robert Hartman, Executive Vice President and COO, DePelchin Children's Center, Houston  
Leslie Hill, Managing Attorney, Travis County Office of Child Representation, Austin  
Chris Hubner, Staff Attorney, Travis County Juvenile Probation, Austin  
Shannon Ireland, Executive Director, Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, New Braunfels  
Lori Kennedy, Managing Attorney, Travis County Office of Parental Representation, Austin  
Alicia Key, Deputy Attorney General for Child Support, Office of the Attorney General  
Stephanie Ledesma, Asst. Professor, TSU Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston  
Hon. F. Scott McCown, Executive Director, Center for Public Policy Priorities, Austin  
Leslie Strauch, Clinical Professor, University of Texas School of Law, Austin  
Chadwick Sapenter, CEO and Founder, Little Book of Words, former foster youth, Austin  
Armin Steege, Vice President of Programs, Austin Children's Shelter, Austin  
Kenneth Thompson, Fatherhood Program Specialist, Dept. of Family & Protective Services, Austin  
Arabia Vargas, Chair, Bexar County Child Welfare Board, San Antonio  
Janet Sharkis, Executive Director, Texas Office of Developmental Disabilities, Austin

**CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS, Justice Eva Guzman**

Justice Guzman called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

**Recognition of Guests**

Justice Guzman acknowledged the special guest in attendance: Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson.

Chief Jefferson expressed appreciation on behalf of the Court to the Children's Commission for the programs and activities that the members support and noted the positive impact for the children and families around the state that result. Chief Justice Jefferson noted in particular the collaborative efforts and the efficiency and professionalism evident in the work products of the Commission. The Chief Justice acknowledged former Justice O'Neill for her vision in the establishment of this Commission in 2007. He noted that Judge John Specia played a key role in the efforts to establish the Commission as well. The Chief Justice commented on the configuration of Judge Specia's courtroom in Bexar County during the time he was hearing family court cases. The Chief Justice noted that Judge Specia, with the collaboration of St. Mary's University, was a leader in the utilization of video technology in the courtroom. Following a visit to Judge Specia's courtroom several years ago, the Chief Justice and Justice Paul Green met with the Dean of St. Mary's University School of Law and developed the process to webcast the arguments and meetings of the Supreme Court of Texas. This capability has been available to the Supreme Court justices since 2007. The Chief Justice commented on Judge Specia's appointment to Commissioner of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and noted that there are

few individuals in the state that would be a more suitable choice. Judge Specia, throughout his career, has demonstrated a commitment to the issues that affect children, youth and families in the state. The Chief Justice emphasized that the court is ready to work with Judge Specia in his role as DFPS Commissioner.

Justice Guzman concurred with the comments of the Chief Justice.

Justice Guzman acknowledged additional guests in attendance. Dr. Libby Doggett, spouse of U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett and former Justice Harriet O'Neill.

### **Commissioner Membership Changes**

Justice Guzman introduced Judge Rob Hofmann. Judge Hofmann was appointed to the Children's Commission in October 2012. Judge Hofmann provided brief comments about his background. He has recently completed his eleventh year as the judge of the Child Protection Court of the Hill County. The court serves 12 counties and approximately 13,000 square miles.

Justice Guzman announced that Ms. Selina Mireles, Parent Attorney Representative, has transitioned off the Children's Commission. Recommendations are encouraged for a parent attorney to succeed Ms. Mireles as well as a parent who possesses direct experience with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Service and Child Protective Services.

Judge John Specia has retired from the Children's Commission as Jurist in Residence to assume his new role as Commissioner at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Judge Dean Rucker accepted the role of Jurist in Residence for the Children's Commission. Justice Guzman noted that Judge Rucker will continue to serve in his role as a Commissioner as Judge Rucker is not employed by the Office of Court Administration in his role as JIR.

### **Collaborative Council Membership Changes**

Justice Guzman announced that there are four new members of the Children's Commission Collaborative Council. The new members of the Collaborative Council are: Ms. Jeanne Stamp with the Texas Homeless Education Office at the Charles A. Dana Center – the University of Texas at Austin; Ms. Sandra Hachem, Assistant County Attorney in Harris County; Mr. Bruce Kendrick, who replaces Ms. Penny Cook as the faith-based representative on the Collaborative Council; and Ms. Laura Figueroa with the Arbitrage Group in Houston. Justice Guzman expressed appreciation to all new members for their service.

### **Staff Member Changes**

Justice Guzman announced that Ms. Mary Mitchell has joined the staff of the Children's Commission as executive assistant and Ms. Katie Brown joined as a staff attorney.

## **ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2012 MEETING MINUTES**

Justice Guzman commented that members have had the opportunity to review the minutes and asked for any corrections or discussion. There were no corrections or any discussion.

**ACTION:** Justice Guzman asked for a motion to adopt the meeting minutes of the September 14, 2012 meeting of the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission. Mr. Stewart Gagnon made a motion. The attending members adopted the meeting minutes unanimously.

## **COMMISSION MEMBER UPDATES**

**Hon. Michael Massengale, Justice, 1st Court of Appeals,** commented that later in the meeting he will provide a full report on the work of the Trial Skills Workgroup. At this time, he noted that there are encouraging indications with regard to the establishment of a CPS court of some kind in Harris County. In December 2012, a meeting was held in Houston and was attended by Justice Guzman as well as Judge David Farr, who represented the Harris County Family Courts, and Judge Ken Wise, the Administrative Judge for the Harris County District Courts. Judge Wise acknowledged the need in Harris County and expressed support for obtaining additional resources for CPS cases. Judge Wise wants to see Harris County establish a leadership position in the area of child protection courts. Justice Massengale acknowledged the efforts of Judge Judy Warne in advancing the issue in Harris County. Ms. Rebecca Lightsey and Ms. Brett Merfish of Texas Applesseed have been instrumental in keeping the project on the agenda as well.

Justice Guzman commented on the December meeting in Harris County and noted that the Harris County judges have demonstrated effort and are dedicated to serve the children in CPS cases. The existing level of service is likely to move to an even higher level.

**Hon. Dean Rucker, Presiding Judge, 7th Region, 318th District Court, Midland,** provided an update on the work of the Legal Representation Study Workgroup. Judge Rucker shared the history of the Legal Representation Study and the findings that resulted concerning the quality of legal representation in CPS cases. The Legal Representation Study Workgroup was formed to address the study findings and implement the recommendations made in the study. During 2012, the workgroup met over several occasions both in person and by teleconference. Several presentations were provided to different organizations that included groups of judges, county judges and county commissioners. The draft version of an appointment of counsel plan was provided to the judiciary for feedback. Judge Rucker noted that the response of members of the judiciary was less favorable than he anticipated, including comments that the implementation of the uniform appointment of counsel plan would be unworkable. Judge Rucker noted that as part of the Children's Commission quality improvement process, consideration of the feedback is in process and the workgroup will be tasked with reassessment of the appointment of counsel plan. Some of the recommended reforms that will move forward are legislative. These include providing express statutory authority to counties to establish public defenders offices, managed assigned counsel offices, or the ability to contract with legal aid

providers or the bar section for legal representation of parents and children. The offices can be local and serve a single court or can serve a county or an entire region. The workgroup continues to assess possible legislation that will place additional duties on the Department and judges to inform parents that they are entitled to court-appointed counsel, if indigent and opposed to the relief sought by the Department. An additional area of legislation involves an increase in the continuing education requirement for court-appointed counsel. The present requirement is a one-time, 3-hour training. The workgroup recommendation proposes annual continuing education. The Children's Commission has played an active role in development of high quality educational programs and training for parents' attorneys as well as children's attorneys ad litem. The Legal Representation Study Workgroup will defer its next meeting until the completion of the 83rd legislative session. Going forward, the workgroup intends to reassess the appointment of counsel proposal and to review attorney compensation and some statewide minimum standards for appointed attorneys in order to ensure high quality legal representation in Texas.

**Judge Karin Bonicoro, Associate Judge, Child Protection Court of Central Texas, New Braunfels,** provided an update on the Adoption Day that took place in her jurisdiction. Seventeen families adopted twenty-seven children. Judge Bonicoro noted that her caseload has increased significantly, and is a positive secondary effect of the Adoption Day numbers.

Justice Guzman commented on her opportunity to serve as the trial judge for an adoption proceeding in Fort Bend County last month. The case concerned an infant adoption by two attorneys in Houston.

**Terry Totteham, Of Counsel, Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P., Austin,** reported on Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) and Texas Veterans Initiative programs. The veterans program impacts Texas veterans and their families. Over the past 2 years, the program has served more than 6,000 veterans and their families. A pentagon consultant is conducting a 10-state pilot program modeled on the Texas program. The intent of the pilot is to provide support for Pentagon funding for a national program. TYLA is the service entity of the State Bar of Texas. Mr. Tottenham highlighted the programs for children and families that include "The Little Voice," a video program that address issues of child abuse and neglect and serves as a resource to raise awareness of the issue. An additional program, "Are You Safe" addresses the issues of child interactions in cyberspace. These programs are coordinated through the law related education section of the State Bar of Texas. Coordination with middle and high-school educators is a focus. The program educates on the issue of problems that result from inappropriate posts by young users on social media platforms. Recently, TYLA sponsored a program for youth on that addressed binge drinking. This issue is of significant concern at both the middle and high school levels. TYLA promotes a broad range of programs that deal directly with many of the issues that concern the Children's Commission. Mr. Tottenham invited members to contact him if there is interest in obtaining additional information about TYLAs programs.

**Fairy Davenport Rutland, Director, Appeals Div., Texas Health & Human Services Commission, Austin,** provided an update on the efforts by the State Bar of Texas to address issues of child abuse and neglect. There are many dedicated lawyers who have worked over the years in the area of child abuse and neglect. Ms. Rutland announced that the \$25,000 CIP grant to fund the multi-disciplinary training

conference for attorneys who practice in the area of child welfare is scheduled. In partnership with the Keeping Kids and Toddlers Safe organization, a 3-day conference will be held on June 19-21, 2013. The State Bar will present on day one of the conference, followed on days two and three by Judge Bonnie Hellums, Judge Ron Pope and the Keeping Kids and Toddlers Safe organization. The conference will be held in Houston at the Hamilton Foundation Conference Center. The conference schedule includes break out sessions in the afternoon of the first day for parents' attorneys, children's attorneys and CPS attorneys. The conference content will include best practices to address the needs of infants and toddlers who are victims of abuse or at risk of abuse. There is no cost to attorneys and other stakeholders for the day one training. There is a nominal charge of \$10 for those who will attend the day two and three training. CLE credit will be provided as well. Ms. Rutland noted that the conference seeks to invite as many CPS attorneys as possible. She requested clarification about the use of the CIP Training Committee funds for travel expenses for CPS attorneys who travel to Houston to attend. Ms. Amberboy asked Ms. Rutland to provide a count of the number of slots allocated for the CPS attorneys. Ms. Rutland will provide the numbers to Ms. Amberboy following the meeting. Justice Guzman asked if there will be a webcast option for those unable to travel to Houston. Ms. Rutland noted that videotaping or live-streaming of the conference will be an option. Work is underway on the program for the Advanced Family Law seminar that will take place on August 4-9, 2013. She once again expects the opportunity for a full-day presentation on August 7 on the issues of child abuse and neglect. She expects the Children's Commission to provide attorney scholarships to attend the August 7 presentation. Ms. Rutland also noted that nominations for attorneys who provide distinguished service to children and families will be sought to acknowledge the hard work of outstanding attorneys in the area. The nominations will likely be due in April 2013 and information will be provided in the Bar Journal as well as to targeted groups who work with attorneys who practice in the area.

**Stewart Gagnon, Partner, Fulbright and Jaworski, LLP, Houston,** commented that the Family Courts are seeing cases that involve immigrant children who have been abandoned in the United States or are in some way brought in to the United States by the government through programs. There is an immigrant procedure, the Special Immigrant Status, that identifies these children and provides foster care placement, usually through Catholic Charities. Mr. Gagnon noted that Judge Judy Warne is seeing an increase in these cases in her court. Mr. Gagnon is serving as the full-time ad litem for three of courts in Houston concerning these cases. The practice helps to educate the judges about what will happen to these children and what are appropriate and inappropriate actions. Mr. Gagnon is working with several lawyers with Fulbright and Jaworski in San Antonio to set up a similar service in Bexar County to provide pro- bono representation for affected children. The state court process is simple in most cases. The children in need of supervision are abandoned and once identified, can go into the immigrant process. During 2012, Fulbright and Jaworski handled twenty of these cases and is seeing a rise in the numbers of the cases being filed. Ms. Amberboy asked if the children in these cases are actually in foster care. Mr. Gagnon responded that the United States government identifies the children, puts them in custody and then places them in foster care with a partner organization such as Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities then files the proceeding to have the child identified as a dependent neglected child and puts them into the special immigrant status process in the immigration

court. This is the Office of Refugee Resettlement. In the United States, this is the entity who usually takes possession of the child and makes the placement with an organization.

**Vicki Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer, Texas CASA, Inc.**, updated the members on activities since the September 2012 meeting of the Commission. Texas CASA held its annual conference and approximately 650 staff and volunteers were in attendance. CASA volunteers comprised nearly half of the attendees. In December, Texas CASA held the legislative primer, designed to educate the volunteers on the multiple issues and topics that affect the foster care system in Texas. On January 14, 2013, Texas CASA will hold the first “Texas Children Texas Champions” luncheon to acknowledge support provided by Texas legislators as well as Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas. The three-part training video project that follows families experiences with the foster care system is complete. Texas CASA has received a grant from the Hogg Foundation. The funding will allow Texas CASA to pursue an in-depth look at mental health and inform recommendations for policies that relate to children in the foster care system. Ms. Spriggs commented on ‘The Heartbeat’, a magazine published three times per year and provides a focus on local programs and volunteers as well as efforts to improve the child welfare system to secure safe, permanent homes for foster children. Ms. Spriggs noted that a significant initiative underway with the current legislative session is to secure adequate funding to support CASA programs. She reminded the members that funding is used for supervisory staff who recruit, train and oversee CASA volunteers. Additional initiatives include those that will support advancement of the child protective services budget; support movement and tracking of youth in the system and making sure procedures are in place to keep the CASA volunteers informed of a change in a child’s placement; transparency to enable assessment of the success of child placements; and ongoing discussion that pertains to usage of psychotropic medications in the foster care population.

**Gabriele Fuentes, Appointments Manager, Office of the Governor**, commented that the Governor’s office is very pleased to welcome Judge Specia as the new Commissioner of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Justice Guzman noted the arrival of Judge John Specia.

**Hon. Robin Sage, Senior District Judge and Jurist in Residence**, reported that her duties as Jurist In Residence have grown. One of the duties of the JIR is to provide educational letters to judges. The JIR Letter on education was distributed early this week and will remind judges about the Texas Blueprint and the upcoming Education Summit in Austin on February 19-20, 2013. Judge Sage commented on the one-day multidisciplinary training held in northeast Texas. The training served over 180 people and had to turn away approximately 40-50 more. This highlights the need for training out in the non-urban areas of Texas. Judge Sage hopes to implement an annual training schedule to serve these needs. Judge Sage commented on her attendance at the CIP meeting held last spring in Washington, D.C. One of the areas of focus at the meeting was continuous quality improvement (CQI). As JIR, Judge Sage will undertake a project that will ensure that our court hearings demonstrate continuous quality improvement and reflect the benefit of judicial education.

**Carolyn Rodriguez, Dir. of Texas Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs,** noted that Casey's vision is grounded in safe reduction of foster care. One of the identified priorities in 2013 is judicial support. She noted that permanency summits and action plans have resulted from the process. The Casey team is assessing ways to provide support through judicial teams. The intent is to provide technical assistance and support as judicial teams determine an area of focus identified in the action plan. Casey will also provide another round of technical assistance for the Texas Blueprint recommendation implementation process. Ms. Debbie Staub and Ms. Kathy McNaught will return to Texas to provide assistance during the Education Summit this February and be available to help the Task Force as the implementation work continues. Ms. Rodriguez noted that support of child protective services by Casey is ongoing through program and practice enhancements, particularly those that affect safety and permanency. Ms. Rodriguez announced that she will retire from Casey Family Program at the end of May 2013. Ms. Rodriguez expressed her appreciation to Judge O'Neill and Justice Guzman for the opportunity to be part of the Children's Commission. The Texas Children's Commission has set the standard for many states. The work efforts are serving as models for other states.

Judge O'Neill noted that Ms. Rodriguez has played an instrumental role in the activities of the Commission.

Ms. Rodriguez reminded the members that Judge Specia served as the attorney for Casey Family Programs when the work in Texas began in the 1980's. The relationships among the members and stakeholders are deep and vital.

**Hon. Judy Warne, District Judge, 257th Family Court, Houston,** updated the members on the efforts underway in Harris County to increase permanency. She expressed how important the work of Judge Specia, Justice Massengale, Justice Guzman and Texas Applesseed has been to sustain the initiative for improvement underway in the Harris County Family Courts. Judge Warne commented on the safety issues that affect several of the court building in Harris County that have necessitated some physical moves of at least four CPS courts. These courts are currently in three different buildings, so planning is underway to determine the best process to manage the moves. In addition, all twelve of the CPS judges in Harris County will stand for re-election this term. The actions undertaken to address the issues facing the Harris County Family Courts are demonstrating results in that there are now ongoing meetings and the issue of resources is on the agenda. The judges are encouraged that the need for additional resources has been acknowledged. The Harris County Family Court judges meet every two months. The topic of focus for the first meeting was permanency hearings, since this was identified as the place where the system fails to meet children's needs in some cases. Action included issue of standing orders by the Family Law judges to clarify expectations of the twelve CPS courts with regard to CPS and the County Attorney's Office. Judge Warne held her first PMC review last week and was assisted by the County Attorney's Office with the review of every file on her docket. There has been a collaborative response to assist with preparation of case files prior to the hearing date. Judge Warne's court is the pilot program for keeping child advocates on the PMC cases and has shown success. She noted that Judge Farr and Judge Schneider's courts are focused on bringing the children in for their

hearings and acknowledging the child voice by spending some time with them. Foster parents report positive behavioral responses by these children. Judge Warne looks forward to the ongoing work with Texas Appleseed, Justice Massengale and the other stakeholders who support the effort.

Justice Guzman acknowledged the leadership team of Texas Appleseed, Justice Massengale, Judge Farr, Judge Warne and Judge Specia, as well as Judge Wise on the administrative side.

**Audrey Deckinga, Assistant Commissioner for CPS, Dept. of Family & Protective Services, Austin,** remarked on her support of Judge Specia as the new DFPS Commissioner. She acknowledged Judge Specia's background and knowledge of the history of the Department and the issues. She is confident that he brings both the internal and external perspective to the work. Ms. Deckinga requested to defer additional comments until later in the meeting during her report.

**Dr. Octavio Martinez, Executive Director, The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, Austin,** reported on the award of a policy grant from the Hogg Foundation to CASA. The grant will further work on the issue of mental health of the foster youth population. Dr. Martinez noted that he has been working with Lynn Chrisman and Dr. Jim Rogers on the update to the psychotropic medications guidelines for foster children. The project is near completion. In the first week of April 2013, the Hogg Foundation will hold a 1-day children's mental health conference in Houston. The conference will be dedicated to the transition between youth to adult and associated mental health issues. There will be no charge for this conference and Dr. Martinez opened the invitation to all Commission members interested in attending.

**Hon. Cheryl Shannon, Judge, 305th District Court, Dallas,** provided an update to the Commission on the activities in Dallas. Work continues on the crossover youth program model and good progress has been made on the process to ensure that youth in both the delinquency and CPS systems are being served appropriately. Judge Shannon reflected that during the last Commission meeting in September 2012, the issues affecting this population were highlighted in the context of the educational process. Dallas understands that there are resources available to help address education issues for this population. Judge Shannon commented that Dallas is utilizing the videoconferencing technology and the results continue to be positive with regard to involvement of children at RTCs as well as incarcerated parents in the hearing process. Judge Shannon commented on the Esteem Court, a girls court, that is under the juvenile system, but the young women frequently are involved in the CPS court as well. The efforts of the Esteem Court focus on prevention of further penetration of the young women into either the juvenile or CPS systems. This one of a kind model is under review nationally.

**Judge Rob Hofmann, CPC Judge, Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, Mason,** reported on the presentation of the work of the Education Committee that he and Judge Patricia Macías made at the Texas Child Welfare Conference as well as the NCJFCJ Annual Conference. Judge Macías and Judge Hofmann are the featured judges in the new CASA training video. Judge Hofmann attended the CASA Conference where the video was debuted. Judge Hofmann noted that comments on the Texas Blueprint Implementation Task Force and the Education Summit will be deferred until later in the meeting.

**Hon. Camile Glasscock DuBose, Judge, 38th District Court, Uvalde,** provided a brief update to the members on the CIP training activities. The videoconferencing project is operational and recently provided the ability for a child who was placed in Nebraska to appear. The judge in the case had not seen the child in years. Work continues with coordination of timing matters and system access among children with placements throughout the state as well as securing license requirements. Judge DuBose expressed her congratulations to Judge Specia on his appointment as Commissioner of the Department and acknowledged his immense impact on those who work in the field of child protection.

**Hon. Darlene Byrne, Judge, 126<sup>th</sup> District Court, Austin,** concurred with Judge DuBose's comments with regard to Judge Specia's appointment to the Department. Judge Byrne expressed appreciation to the Children's Commission and the Texas Center for the Judiciary for assistance in bringing the first NCJFCJ Family Law Institute to San Antonio. The Institute will take place on February 24-27, 2013. The Commission and TCJ provided scholarships for those who are interested in attending. Judge Byrne commented on the Adoption Day activities in Travis County and highlighted a unique scenario. The focus this year was on teenage adoption and an eighteen-year old was adopted during the 2012 adoption day proceedings. Judge Byrne noted that she is seeing a significant case load increase in her docket. Prior to the end of 2012, she had 38-40 cases each day. The urgency of efficient management of the PMC docket is critical. These children need forever families and we must continue the work on determining better practices on the front end of these cases. Judge Byrne reported that there is a new Assistant District Attorney, Ms. Beverly Mathews, who has replaced Ms. LaRu Woody who retired at the end of December 2012. Ms. Mathews will handle the prosecution for the Department. She will cover all the child abuse and neglect cases on the civil as well as the criminal side. Judge Byrne acknowledged Senator Lloyd Doggett and his efforts in securing passage of a bill to prevent child abuse and neglect, the Protect Our Kids Act, recently passed in the US Congress. The Act will establish a twelve person commission to analyze national child abuse cases that result in death of the child. Judge Byrne expressed her appreciation to Dr. Libby Doggett and her efforts toward successful passage of the bill.

Judge Bonicoro noted that the data on adoptions kept over the past few years indicates that the number of family members who are now adopting children is at least two times that of the adoption rate by foster parents. The Fostering Connections piece, which comes in at the TMC part of these cases, is showing good outcomes. Judge Bonicoro commented that she does not believe she would see the number of adoptions that are on her Adoption Day docket if it were not for that demographic shift.

**Hon. Harriet O'Neill, Law Office of Harriet O'Neill,** Austin, acknowledged the development and progress of the Children's Commission since its beginning in 2007. Projects such as videoconferencing, Legal Representation Study and the work of the Education Committee have succeeded and are cross-fertilizing into broader levels. The leadership of Justice Guzman was acknowledged.

Justice Guzman introduced Dr. Libby Doggett, Director of the Pew Home Visiting Campaign and Ms. Madeline McClure, Executive Director of TexProtects and a member of the Children's Commission Collaborative Council. Dr. Doggett and Ms. McClure provided a presentation on the national trends supported by the Pew Home Visitation Project. Dr. Doggett provided an overview of the work of the

Pew Charitable Trust, a 501(c)(3) organization whose focus is on policy. The work that issues from Pew is based on solid research practices. Prior work in Texas has focused on corrections. Dr. Doggett has also looked at a pre-K program which involved military children. Presently, home visiting is the area of focus. Dr. Doggett believes it is important to provide information about the solutions that this work on home visiting has identified to the Commission. Pew and TexProtects have collaborated on the efforts around this issue. The presentation content provided research data on early childhood abuse and neglect risk factors related to physical and mental health issues in adults. The data is based on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study, which included 17,000 respondents who were covered by HMOs. The study results indicated that adults with adverse childhood risk factors (sexual abuse, physical and emotional abuse, severe neglect and abandonment) manifest physical and mental health problems in later life. Early identification of children who experience these risk elements can reduce or prevent many of the costly future problems. Figures were provided in the presentation that detailed the annual US funds spend on child maltreatment. In addition to programs that address child abuse and prevention, there is a need to look upstream and address solutions as well. Dr. Doggett stated that research supports home visiting where a professional or well-training para-professional is paired with a pregnant woman who receives support and education throughout the term of the pregnancy to support a positive birth outcome. These services include parenting skills, connection with resources such as education, job placement and child care. Success at this stage to provide support and tools to the mother that will allow her to become a responsible parent is linked to fiscal impact in savings to the taxpayer in terms of reduced needs for physical and mental health support for the child. TexProtects established the Nurse Family Partnership Program in Texas, a well-researched model. Additional programs that are long-standing in the state include Parents as Teachers, Healthy Families and some newer national programs that are in the pipeline. Ms. McClure provided comments about the Texas Association for the Protection of Children (TexProtects), a legislative advocacy organization that conducts research and provides recommendations on bills that are presented to the Texas legislature. Ms. McClure noted that in 2011 there were 255,000 reports of child abuse and neglect in the state of Texas. Preventative services were provided for 19,000 families total from federal, state, local and private funds. The Home Visiting Program is shown by research to reduce child abuse and neglect. The Nurse Family Partnership demonstrates a cost benefit. The per child cost of \$7,300 over the life of the program provides a net benefit of \$34,000, with \$32,000 direct savings to government in reduced judicial, law enforcement and CPS costs as well as mental health. Ms. McClure noted that Dr. Wilson, Director of Research at TexProtects will publish a report on home visiting that will provide detail on research and cost benefits. The Home Visiting Accountability Act was filed during the current legislative session and will ensure that at least seventy-five percent and up to ninety percent of the program funding are invested in true evidence-based research. Up to twenty-five percent of funds will support promising programs. A copy of the presentation is available in the meeting notebook prepared for the meeting.

Judge Byrne inquired if the conduit to family visitation services is through Family Based Safety Services or stand alone through CPS and other entities who roll the program out to the community. Ms. McClure responded that the program is completely separate from CPS. The agencies are stand-alone but are nested with public health departments or YWCA programs. Referrals are generated from pre-

natal doctors, sometimes CPS referrals of pregnant girls in a home, as well as transition resource action centers.

**BREAK:** Justice Guzman recessed the meeting at 11:06 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:21 a.m.

Justice Guzman opened the floor to Justice Michael Massengale and Ms. Milbrey Raney, who will update the Commissioners on the status of the Trial Skills Training project.

Justice Massengale reported that in collaboration with Ms. Raney, the work on the Trial Skills Training project is moving forward. A training program will be rolled out during 2013. The Trial Skills Workgroup consists of sixteen members. The work has been allocated to two subgroups. One has focused on the specific type of trial skills that will be delivered in the program. The other group has worked on the curriculum and reflects the substantive aspects of the trial skills training. The first pilot training program will be ready later this year. This project developed in response to the perception that there is a deficiency in the overall level of litigation skills of attorneys involved in CPS cases. While this is not applicable to every practitioner in the field, there are attorneys who handle these cases who can benefit from basic trial concept training. The intent of the training is to provide a resource to improve attorney skills and ensure that practitioners in the area have knowledge of what is required to provide basic representation at trial for children and parents. The elements include how to properly submit evidence, records handling, basics of witness examination and how to manage an expert witness. While these are basic skills, the importance of correctly managing these elements of the case becomes apparent in the event of an appeal of the case. The goal is to equip attorneys with trial skills that will result in a post-trial record that will enable review of the case at a later time. Justice Massengale acknowledged that numerous training programs exist that can be tapped for source reference. There has been extensive thought around what this project will deliver that will be unique to this training program. The substance of this trial skills training are basic skills that are generally applicable to various litigation contexts, but the training will be context-specific to child protection law. A fictional CPS case scenario has been developed that includes elements which will be familiar to practitioners in the area as well as provide an example of what to expect when going to trial with this type of case. Development of the case scenario has been time-intensive and extensive discussions were held with regard to engaging an outside group to prepare the case scenario. The conclusion was that the intent of this training, as well as financial cost and the flexibility of the design of the program would be best met by the internal development of customized materials. Justice Massengale highlighted the details of the case scenario and additional details are provided in the presentation contained in the meeting notebook. The notebook materials provide a preview that will be included in the trial notebook content. Justice Massengale noted that the Table of Contents for the document is reminiscent of an index page of a clerk's record from a CPS case. An entire set of documents will be included that provide a case scenario that will allow the faculty to develop training exercises that are tailored to the types of issues that arise in CPS cases. The fact pattern contains a number of different facets that present varied training opportunities. The case that will be used for the training includes various scenarios (incarceration, mental health issues, voluntary paternal rights relinquishment, etc.). Each of the issues in the case will provide teaching opportunities and provide a chance to focus on the variables that may arise during a CPC case. The flexibility built in to the design of the content allows

adaptation to different training opportunities. The packet of materials used by the recipients of the training can be used at the conclusion of the training as 'go-by' information. In addition, the materials will allow the opportunity to provide practice tips, which will be incorporated into the written materials as well as the oral presentations. Delivery of the training will be similar to the NITA trial training but unique to Texas law, policy, and terminology. A two-day training in a courtroom-like setting is planned. The program will be a combination of lecture-type presentations by faculty as well as a component for allowing participants to practice their trial skills. There will be videotaping of the participants who will, with faculty, observe their performance while an experienced practitioner provides direct feedback. This necessitates a small ratio of faculty to trainers, set at 1 trainer to every 4 participants. The ability to offer this training will provide a valuable learning opportunity to the participants. As the training is rolled out across the state, there will be an effort to reach out to local judges and practitioners and ensure that any local nuances and features of local practice are included. The pilot project will take place in Austin, Texas. The training will include the basic building blocks of a trial and include opening and closing statement, direct and cross examination, handling objections to evidence, properly proved documents and proper introduction of evidence. The training will include information on particular kinds of expert issues that may arise in these cases. Dr. Sandeep Narang, a member of the Trial Skills Workgroup, will provide an expert report from the emergency room doctor who performs the emergency room examination of the children in the fictional scenario. Dr. Narang will facilitate interaction with fellows from his program who are doctors in training to work in the area of child abuse and neglect and serve as mock expert witnesses. Other members of the faculty who will deliver the training will be finalized and meet in April 2013. Professor Peter Hoffman has agreed to provide a "Train the Trainers" program. The expectation is that most of the faculty will be NITA trained or possess experience and expertise in delivery of trial skills training. Professor Hoffman and the other trainers who will be designated, will be asked to prepare a brief presentation that will be videotaped and subsequently made available online through the State Bar of Texas mentor series continuing legal education program. The first training session is planned to take place during a yet to be designated week in the last 2 weeks of June 2013 in Austin. Details on the training location and facility information will be finalized and announced at the May 3, 2013 meeting of the Children's Commission. There will be ongoing evaluation and revisions to the program as required. Justice Massengale acknowledged the work of Ms. Cathy Cockerham, Texas CASA and her assistance with the case scenario development. Also, Ms. Pam Parker, DFPS, provided numerous forms that will be used in the training notebook and case scenario. Additionally, the efforts of a group of volunteer editors have worked to develop the trial skills training materials. The group includes Ms. Elizabeth Watkins, Ms. Alice Emerson, Mr. Patrick Howard and Ms. Tracy Harting. In addition, Justice Massengale acknowledged the efforts of the Children's Commission staff – Ms. Milbrey Raney, Staff Attorney and Ms. Leigh Mathews Rodriguez, Intern.

Mr. Stewart Gagnon asked how many people will be trained per session and Justice Massengale responded that the plan is to train twenty-four attorneys, with six trainers.

Ms. Raney commented that the intention is to train all of the attorneys in the courtroom so whether the attorneys are representing parents or children or the Department, the training is open to all.

The Juvenile Law Section of the Houston Bar Association is having an ad litem seminar on April 19-20, 2013. The seminar will include participation by child abuse medical team specialists. Mr. William Connolly made an offer to assist with recruitment of trainers for the trial skills efforts.

**REPORT TO THE COMMISSION, Ms. Tina Amberboy, Executive Director**

Prior to beginning the Report to the Commission, Ms. Amberboy announced that a Children at Risk session will be presented in Houston, Texas on January 23, 2013. The presentation will provide information on the legislative process and may be of interest to any members in the Harris County area.

Ms. Amberboy reported that the Children's Commission submitted its year-end report to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the end of December 2012. The full report can be accessed on the Children's Commission website. The report includes annual metrics on the meetings, conference calls and various workgroup gatherings and the number of hours spent on these activities. In FY 2012 there were 79 Commission meetings, committee or workgroup meetings or conference calls totaling 1,300 meeting hours. These meetings serve to inform the projects that the Commission works on each year and ensure progress for the project goals and intent. The total for in-kind or cash match for FY 2012 was \$758,139.

Ms. Amberboy updated the members on a new project, the Family Visitation Round Table. The Round Table is in response to the Parent Representation Leadership Forum held on September 11-12, 2012 in Norman, Oklahoma. The Commission provided travel funds for several judges and parents' attorneys to attend the Forum. An action plan was developed following the completion of the Forum and the Round Table on Family Visitation was one of the action items. A planning group was formed and work is underway to prepare for the Round Table that will be held in Austin, Texas on March 1, 2013, at the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. Invitation letters will be distributed within the next 7-10 days. The goal of the Round Table is to identify improvements in the family visitation process.

Ms. Amberboy reported on the Permanency Summit that was held in October 2012, in Rockwall, Texas. There were seventeen teams of judges in attendance at the Summit. Their focus was on how to improve permanency outcomes for children on their dockets. Each judge included a team that consisted of CPS staff, supervisors, and the lawyers and prosecutors in their courtroom. The teams developed action plans that included how to get the child(ren) to court and involve the child(ren) in their hearings. Three of the jurisdictions requested development of a video that will provide children and youth with information on the importance of their involvement in the case and provide them with tools to use to reduce any fear or intimidation they may have of appearing in court. Texas Appleseed is providing extensive follow up to the Summit. Their efforts include work with the jurisdictions to define how the Children's Commission, Texas Appleseed and Casey Family Programs can help the teams with implementation of the action plans developed at the Summit. In collaboration with the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Texas Appleseed is working to produce a video for foster youth. Funding for this

video project will come from the Texas Center for the Judiciary's Judicial Technical Assistance budget. An update report will be provided at the May 3, 2013 meeting of the Children's Commission.

Ms. Amberboy announced that the Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book is printed and copies of the Bench Book have been mailed to all the new judges who were sworn in this month. Printed copies are available from the Children's Commission on request and can also be accessed online from the Children's Commission website.

Ms. Amberboy gave the floor to Ms. Kristi Taylor who delivered a presentation on the Psychotropic Medications report. Ms. Amberboy noted that the report was released this week. The topic of psychotropic medications and foster youth is complex and the report content reflects a balanced overview of what the state can do to address the issue.

Ms. Taylor noted that the report reflects the work from the Psychotropic Medications Round Table that was held in Austin, Texas in July 2012, as well as input from the Psychotropic Medications Workgroup and the numerous stakeholders involved in discussions on the issue.

The July Round Table, facilitated by Judge F. Scott McCown, brought together judges, attorneys, parents, medical doctors, psychiatrists, case workers, and Department leadership with front-line perspectives on the issue. The report contains 20 recommendations organized in three sections, the first being consent; the second being agency oversight; and the third being Judicial Review.

The issue of trauma informed care and alternative practices was considered and Ms. Taylor noted the need to elevate awareness around trauma informed care practices. The Psychoactive Medications Workgroup will reconvene in the spring and plan a collaborative meeting with the Department's Trauma Informed Care Workgroup to determine steps to raise awareness of trauma informed care practice in a tangible, concrete manner. Ms. Taylor noted Judge Warne's comments with regard to better behavior of foster children who are heard in court.

Justice Guzman acknowledged the work of the Psychoactive Medications Workgroup and the report and encouraged all to read the report.

**EDUCATION SUMMIT AND TEXAS BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE**, Judge Rob Hofmann

Judge Hofmann reported that the work of the Education Committee concluded with the publication of the Texas Blueprint. The next event is the Education Summit that will be held in Austin, Texas on February 19-20, 2013. Registration numbers are expected to total between 150-200 for the Summit. The summit planners targeted Regional Teams based on the 20 Educational Service Centers throughout Texas. There will be representatives from local school districts with high numbers of foster youth enrolled in their schools as well as judges with jurisdiction including those school districts. In addition, there will be CPS staff, CASA staff and other stakeholders. The goals of the Education Summit are to raise the awareness of the educational needs of foster children and to promote information

exchange and collaboration between the court, education and child welfare systems. The Summit will provide an opportunity for the regional teams to establish working relationships as they return to their regions. The Summit is unique in terms of the multidisciplinary collaboration that is reflected in the planning as well as providing the first opportunity for many of the education system representatives to receive information about the work of the Education Committee and the Texas Blueprint. The speakers identified for the Summit reflect local, statewide and national perspectives. A report on the Education Summit will be provided at the May 3, 2013 meeting of the Children's Commission.

Judge Hofmann provided a status report on the Texas Blueprint Implementation Taskforce. In December 2012, the Supreme Court ordered the creation of the Implementation Taskforce. The members served on the Education Committee or its sub-committees. There is an initial two-year duration for the taskforce to implement the charge, which is to implement recommendations contained in the Texas Blueprint. The Implementation Taskforce held its inaugural meeting in Austin on January 8, 2013. The next meeting will be on April 3, 2013 in Austin. Judge Hofmann noted that there is an Advisory Council in place to ensure continuity of the work of the Education Committee. Advisory Council members include Judge Patricia Macías, Judge Cheryl Shannon, DFPS Commissioner Judge John Specia, TEA Commissioner Michael Williams, Mr. James Crow, Executive Director of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), Dr. Johnny Veselka, Executive Director of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), and Ms.Carolyn Rodriguez, Casey Family Programs.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND VOTING MATTERS**

### **Data/Technology Committee Report**

Ms. Vicki Spriggs referenced the report on the projects of the CIP Data/Technology Committee and the work that has occurred since the September 2012 meeting of the Children's Commission. The details that pertain to the update are described more fully in the committee report in the meeting notebook.

### **Basic Committee Report**

Because of the abbreviated schedule for this Children's Commission meeting, Ms. Amberboy deferred the oral presentation of the report and directed the Commission members to review the details of the CIP Basic Committee project that are described more fully in the committee report in the meeting notebook.

### **Training Committee Report**

Judge Camile DuBose provided an update on the activities of the CIP Training Committee. She focused on attorney and judicial training.

Judge DuBose noted Justice Massengale's report on the work that is ongoing with regard to attorney trial skills training. Work is underway with the State Bar of Texas on the child protection webinars. Three of the webinars have been filmed and the topics include: i. Best Practice tips for representing children in CPS cases; ii. Special education advocacy for children in the foster care system; and iii. Representing a teen parent in a CPS case. These videos will be made available online through the State

Bar of Texas website for no charge later this week. The Commission staff continues its work to create a streamlined process to publicize, review, approve and award scholarships to attorneys to allow them to attend state and national conferences which include the NACC Conference, both ABA Conferences for parents' attorneys and children's attorneys, as well as the child abuse and neglect track of the Advanced Family Law Conference. Feedback from attorneys who have received prior training scholarships has been good. Judge DuBose acknowledged the State Bar of Texas Child Abuse and Neglect Committee's upcoming conferences that was described in detail earlier in the meeting by Ms. Rutland. The Commission staff is preparing a grant to request an exam fee waiver for approved Texas applicants for the NACC Child Welfare Specialization examination. Fees have been set aside for Texas applicants who are approved to sit for the exam or are in the approval process. At present NACC reports 33 Texas applicants, all of whom are approved to take the exam and 2 of whom are judges. By mid-December 2012, NACC had an additional 50+ application requests from Texas for the 2013 exam. Scholarship offerings to cover the exam fee are expected to be awarded quickly. The 2013 exam season is January 1 – November 30, 2013.

Judge DuBose provided a status update on the judicial education planning that is underway. She acknowledged Judge Hofmann's earlier report on the Education Summit. The Texas Center for the Judiciary will offer scholarships to the 2013 NCJFCJ Conferences. There will be a conference in February 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. This Judicial Institute will offer a more focused delivery model and will address family law and cutting edge developments in the area. The annual NCJFCJ Conference will take place on July 14-17, 2013 in Seattle, Washington.

The Children's Commission continues to work with the Texas Center for the Judiciary to develop agendas and curriculum for the Implicit Bias Conference scheduled for March 25-26, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas and the Child Welfare Judges Conference that will be held on May 21-23, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. The annual Child Protection Court meeting will be held in conjunction with the Child Welfare Judges Conference.

Judge DuBose referenced the Education Summit and asked the Children's Commission for an amendment to the Texas Center for the Judiciary grant award statement because of the strong response for participation in the upcoming Summit. In order to accommodate as many attendees as possible and serve those attendees who will travel in to Austin to attend the Summit, she requested authorization to fund an additional \$31,614.00. The Texas Center's current grant award is in the amount of \$595,924.00. The amended total will be \$627,538.00 as of February 1, 2013.

**ACTION:** Justice Guzman asked for a motion to approve the increase in the CIP grant amount to the Texas Center for the Judiciary from \$595,924.00 to \$627,538.00. Judge Bonicoro made a motion to approve the request to amend the total of the CIP grant to the Texas Center for the Judiciary in the amount of \$627,538.00. Justice Massengale seconded. The members voted to approve the award of additional funds to the CIP grant for the Texas Center for the Judiciary in the amount of \$31,614.00. The CIP grant amount to the Texas Center for the Judiciary is amended to a total of \$627,538.00.

### **Remarks from Judge John Specia**

Judge John Specia spoke to the members of the Children's Commission with regard to his appointment to Commissioner of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. He commented that his appointment was a result of his work and experience as the Jurist in Residence over the past with the Children's Commission. He acknowledged that his work as Jurist in Residence for the Commission was highly satisfying when compared to his responsibilities in the private sector in providing mediation services. Judge Specia acknowledged his support of judicial leadership throughout his career and he felt he could not abdicate the opportunity to accept the appointment to Commissioner of DFPS. During the first forty days as Commissioner, Judge Specia has traveled extensively throughout the state. He will seek to continue the work of the Children's Commission through communicating to the DFPS staff the themes of leadership and empowerment of staff with good decision-making skills. He wants to see the role of CPS supervisors strengthened and will address the ongoing issue of recruitment and retention. Judge Specia gave special emphasis to collaboration. He acknowledged that the members of the Children's Commission are dedicated to addressing the needs of children and families of Texas by bringing together a highly divergent group. He acknowledged the input of Ms. Judy Powell in his work in dealing with parents in CPS cases. A goal he will implement at the Department is to teach staff how to disagree about issues in a professional manner. Over the past forty days, meetings have taken place with judges, child welfare boards, Department staff, district attorneys and police chiefs. The Department has to reach out to each community. There will not be adequate resources for the Department alone to address its core responsibilities. He acknowledged the present circumstances that pertain to families in Midland-Odessa and the effects of the current oil boom on the economic conditions there. Judge Specia reiterated that under his leadership, the Department will work as hard as possible to provide services and make good decisions and address the issue when there is a bad decision. Partnership will be emphasized and developed. Judge Specia expressed his appreciation to the Children's Commission members for the opportunity to serve as Jurist in Residence.

Ms. Audrey Deckinga followed Judge Specia's remarks by providing an update on Foster Care Redesign. Efforts at system changes that will provide better outcomes for children include getting children in placements that are closer to their homes, keeping sibling groups intact, ensuring that placements are least restrictive settings, and minimizing placement disruptions and placement moves. Data from other states indicates that when performance-based contracts are implemented, there are successful outcomes associated with getting children to permanency more quickly. The high level overview of Foster Care Redesign involved a Public Private Partnership who met over a twelve month period. The 82nd Legislature agreed to implementation of Foster Care Redesign as a Public Private Partnership as well as sustaining provider funding. The process entailed draft RFPs, financial and programmatic evaluations. Several weeks ago, authorization of the first contract to award Foster Care Redesign is expected this week. Provident Service Corporation is the first single source continuum contractor (SSCC) under Foster Care Redesign. This means that the Department will contract with one entity who will then sub-contract with residential and foster care providers and providers of other services in order to meet the outcomes specified in the contract. This will take place in Regions 2 and 9. There are huge distances associated with these regions across 60 counties. There is one small residential treatment center in those 60 counties. The regions are impacted by the oil boom and have few mental

health services. The Foster Care Redesign is a community-based model and it is good timing that Judge Specia intends to emphasize community partnerships and collaborations. Once signed, the Foster Care Redesign contract becomes effective on February 1, 2013. The intention of Foster Care Redesign is to test various models and designs. The hope was to launch implementation in both a rural and urban area, but the implementation area is solely rural. At this time, there is an RFI on the Department's website seeking comments and input on the Public Private Partnership design and how to make the process easier, how to obtain more applicants while staying true to the model, what regions or catchment areas should be included and how to accommodate the required parameters. The RFI will inform the work that will occur prior to the next implementation. The goal is to have 2 models going simultaneously and identify the strengths and weaknesses of each. Ms. Deckinga anticipates dramatic improvements in the system as the implementation efforts progress.

Ms. Spriggs noted that the regions selected are problematic and asked how will the Department get a true sense of effectiveness in this rural setting.

Ms. Deckinga and Judge Specia noted that there is a sense of urgency to launch the new model in order to be able to assess more than one model. The results from Regions 2 and 9 cannot be extrapolated to Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and the valley. He emphasized that the program is in the pilot phase and will be changed. There is much to learn and we will continue to move forward.

Judge Bonicoro commented on the similarity to service plans; one size will not fit all. Expect to find that what works in one region will vary in the next. There are differences in access to services, local providers, community resources and other variables. The success models are likely to exhibit marked differences in different regions. The key will be in how the contracts will be adapted and the adaptations displayed by the continuum of service provider.

Judge Hofmann noted that both Regions 2 and 9 extend significantly into the Hill Country. He inquired as to when the judges working on the ground will be introduced to the model.

Judge Specia noted that this is a development process to launch the model. The system is being built and collaborations are being established. The judges will be pulled in by them. Judge Specia wants the judges to contact him if there are any concerns.

Ms. Deckinga commented that assistance has been provided by Casey Family Programs with regard to the communication and implementation plans. The Department is currently seeking to fill a high level position for the role of implementer for CPS and DFPS in Regions 2 and 9. This person will oversee local implementation of the plans.

Judge Specia commented that Providence has hired Mr. Bob Hartman, formerly Executive Director of DePelchin. Mr. Hartman brings experience and history from an organization that is highly thought of in the field.

Ms. Deckinga noted that Mr. Hartman was a co-chair of the Department's Trauma Informed Care Workgroup and they are seeking to fill his role in that workgroup.

Ms. Carolyn Rodriguez noted that another series of meetings around the start up of foster care redesign has to do with forming this comprehensive operations manual. There will be a third party contracting who will work through Casey Family Programs with the Department and with SSCC. The various nuances of the rollout are taken into consideration, such as what should happen if the judge in the next place has requirements that vary from the previous area. There must be operational processes that speak to such issues and take into account how local communities operate as the design goes ahead.

Ms. Deckinga noted that the Department is still involved in the Children's Rights lawsuit. The class was certified by a federal judge in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Department then appealed to the Fifth Circuit and the class was decertified. Children's Rights has since filed additional classes. The next class certification hearing for the Department will be held in two weeks in Corpus Christi. She reminded the members that the issue is on children in Permanent Managing Conservatorship.

Judge Specia noted that work is underway on the Legislative Approval Requests. He intends to request what is needed in the budget and live with what is granted.

#### **Office of Court Administration (OCA) Update**

**Mr. David Slayton, Administrative Director** reported on the upcoming strategic planning meeting with the regional presiding judges that will take place on January 24-25, 2013 in Austin, Texas. The intent of the meeting is to examine the mission of the child protection courts in Texas and begin to plan for whether the legislature grants additional courts. The request is for three new child protection courts to serve the state. Depending on the funding appropriated by the legislature, OCA wants to have plans in place to get the courts operational as quickly as possible. A survey was distributed to all judges in the state to obtain input about child protection courts and how caseloads are being handled. The survey results will be discussed with the regional presiding judges at the strategic planning meeting. In addition, a focus group was held with all child protection court judges to determine their thoughts on their ability to handle current caseloads as well as identify their needs.

Mr. Slayton provided some statistical data on the Texas Remote Interpreter Program. During 2012, there were 32 requests from the child protection courts for Spanish-speaking interpreters. Twenty were actually performed. The program has been expanded to all Texas courts who hear CPS cases after discussion with Children's Commission staff. In addition, onsite interpretation services are available inside the Austin area. Mr. Slayton has observed some recent increase in the amount of requests following the expansion. The program remains underutilized, however.

Mr. Slayton noted that the Office of Court Administration maintains all the statistics for the judiciary. The annual statistical report is close to completion. Some of the statistics for FY 2012 include over 9,200 child protection cases filed in the state of Texas. Almost 8,500 of those cases were disposed. This shows that the Texas courts are processing a significant number of cases. As of the end of August, the

Texas child protection courts had caseloads that ranged from 518 cases per judge to 169 cases per judge. The average number of cases per judge is over 300. OCA has reviewed research that indicates that a judge should be able to handle 270 cases. The fact that the average number of cases each judge handles is greater than 300 supports the need for additional courts. Mr. Slayton encouraged the Commissioners to discuss this matter when they meet with legislators.

In November 2012, the Judicial Council passed a number of proposals. One deals specifically with juvenile justice issues. There is movement on the issue at the Capitol. Chief Justice Jefferson made the topic of child ticketing in our schools a priority during the last biennium. Some of the results and recommendations since the 82nd session include efforts to expand deferred prosecution and ensuring that courts are the final, not the first step for disciplinary issues in schools as well as provide that there is a presumption that children between ages 10-15 are considered not to have the capability to commit Class C misdemeanors. This is a rebuttal presumption. Class C misdemeanor cases involving children who have mental or emotional disabilities are transferred to juvenile courts, who have more resources to handle the needs of these children than the justice and municipal courts. Presently, the law provides that these cases are initiated through issuance of a ticket or citation to the child by school discipline officers. A sworn complaint is not required. The recommendation is to move the process to one of a sworn complaint process in order to provide more protection for children and better information for prosecutors and judges. If the recommendations are enacted, the result will be more parity between the juvenile system in areas of confidentiality. This will affect children who, upon turning 18, will no longer carry the conviction throughout their lives and this change will allay court costs as well. The present law assigns the obligation to pay court costs and fines to the child, not the parents. It is possible that a 10 year old child can have warrants issued for failure to pay the associated courts costs and fines. The ability will be placed in the statute to allow judges to waive the court costs.

Mr. Lavallo commented that there needs to be an exemption in the law that addresses waiving these fines for foster children.

Mr. Slayton noted that there is a community service provision in the law.

Judge Specia commented on the e-filing order and noted that the possibility exists that a waiver on the court costs may be obtained on the filing. Mr. Slayton responded that in December 2012, the Supreme Court of Texas mandated e-filing. This is on a tiered-schedule for the courts in Texas and affects each civil case including family, juvenile and probate cases at district and county courts. The e-filing mandate will be effective on January 1, 2014 in the appellate courts and urban courts in the state and will continue over a four-year period until implemented by every court in the state. OCA has signed a contract with the vendor that includes an exemption from fees for those government filers who are not required to pay filing fees currently. This includes child welfare cases and indigent filers.

Judge Specia noted that there are significant technical elements associated with the e-filing requirement. Attorneys will be required to e-file and there is a training component inherent in the mandate process.

Justice Guzman noted that the time for this Children's Commission will be abbreviated to allow time for members to attend the luncheon in honor of Judge John Specia's appointment as Commissioner of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

#### **COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL REPORT**

Justice Guzman noted that the time for this Children's Commission will be abbreviated to allow time for members to attend the luncheon in honor of Judge John Specia's appointment as Commissioner of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. She invited members of the Collaborative Council in attendance to provide comments.

**Mr. Larry Williams, Consultant for Indian Child Welfare and Representative for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Court, Livingston,** invited all members of the Children's Commission and stakeholders to the third annual Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Judicial Symposium in Livingston, Texas on April 26 [*note that following the announcement, Mr. Williams contacted the Children's Commission and provided a correction for the date of the tribal Judicial Symposium that will take place on April 25, 2013*]. Participants in the symposium will include Native American judges throughout North Dakota and tribes in California, Oklahoma and Mississippi who will speak about the court system and how the various tribes develop and conduct their court systems. The area of child protective services and the relationship with the tribes and non-Indian organizations such as CASA and child advocacy centers will be addressed. Mr. Williams noted that there has been productive interaction between the Children's Commission and tribal representatives. To date, there are two MOUs completed between the tribal organizations and the State of Texas.

**Mr. William Connolly, Attorney, Connolly & Shireman, LLP, Houston,** commented on the issue of the prevalence of non-compliance with the child placement resources form and how placements are not being identified quickly enough in the beginning of cases. In conjunction with this, there is a need to rework the reluctance to locate family members. He believes there is a critical need to revamp the ICPC that prevents placement with qualified relatives. Mr. Connolly offered his services to look into the matter he raised.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Justice Guzman announced that the 2013 meetings of the Children's Commission are scheduled on May 3, 2013 and September 27, 2013.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

# **INSERT - TAB 2**

**MEMBER LIST**

## CHILDREN'S COMMISSION MEMBERS

Hon. Eva Guzman, Chair  
 Hon. Harriet O'Neill, Chair Emeritus  
 Hon. Darlene Byrne, Vice Chair  
 Hon. Karin Bonicoro  
 Audrey Deckinga  
 Hon. Camile G. DuBose  
 Bruce Esterline  
 Gabriela Fuentes  
 Stewart W. Gagnon

Hon. Helen Giddings  
 Hon. Bonnie Crane Hellums  
 Hon. Rob Hofmann  
 Joyce M. James  
 Hon. Patricia A. Macías  
 Dr. Octavio Martinez  
 Hon. Michael Massengale  
 Carolyne Rodriguez  
 Hon. Dean Rucker

Fairy Davenport Rutland  
 Hon. Cheryl Lee Shannon  
 Vicki Spriggs  
 Terry Tottenham  
 G. Allan Van Fleet  
 Hon. Judy Warne

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### EXECUTIVE

Hon. Eva Guzman,  
*Chair*  
 Hon. Harriet O'Neill,  
*Chair Emeritus*  
 Hon. Darlene Byrne  
*Vice Chair*  
 Audrey Deckinga  
 Hon. Bonnie Crane Hellums  
 Hon. Camile G. DuBose  
 Hon. Dean Rucker  
 Hon. Patricia A. Macías

### BASIC PROJECTS

Hon. Bonnie Crane Hellums  
*Chair*  
 Gabriela 'Gaby' Fuentes  
 Colleen McCall  
 Carolyne Rodriguez  
 Hon. Peter Sakai  
 Judge Virginia Schnarr  
 Hon. Cheryl Lee Shannon  
 Hon. Olen Underwood  
 Hon. Doug Warne  
*Staff: Tina Amberboy*  
*Kristi Taylor*

### TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

Vicki Spriggs, *Chair*  
 Dan Capouch  
 Jason Hassay  
 Hon. Gilford Jones  
 Octavio Martinez  
 Robert Nolen  
 D.J. Tessier  
 G. Allan Van Fleet  
 Bryan Wilson  
*Staff: Tina Amberboy*

*OCA Advisory*  
 Darrell Childers  
 Simi Denson  
 Casey Kennedy  
 Tim Kennedy  
 David Slayton

### TRAINING PROJECTS

Hon. Camile G. DuBose  
*Chair*  
 Hon. Mark Atkinson  
 Tymothy Belseth  
 Cathy Cockerham  
 Barbara Elias-Perciful  
 Alice Emerson  
 Debra Emerson  
 Hon. Richard Garcia  
 Tracy Harting  
 Joyce M. James  
 Hon. Lamar McCorkle  
 Sandeep Narang  
 Shaneka Odom  
 Pam Parker  
 Fairy Davenport Rutland  
 Hon. Ellen Smith  
 Elizabeth Watkins  
*Staff: Milbrey Raney*

## COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Emy Lou Baldrige	Mike Foster
Roy Block	Natalie Furdek
Irene Clements	Paul E. Furrh, Jr.
William B. Connolly	Eileen Garcia
Elizabeth Cox	Helen Gaebler
Kevin Cox	Mike Griffiths
Susan Hopkins Craven	Sandra Hachem
Lauren Donder	David Halpern
De Shaun Ealoms	Julie Harris-Lawrence
Barbara Elias-Perciful	Robert Hartman
Debra Emerson	Leslie Hill
Laura Figueroa	Chris Hubner

Shannon Ireland	Chadwick Sapenter
Bruce Kendrick	Johana Scot
Lori Kennedy	Janet Sharkis
Alicia Key	Jeanne Stamp
Richard Lavallo	Armin Steege
Stephanie Ledesma	Leslie Strauch
Rebecca Lightsey	Gloria Terry
Madeline McClure	Kenneth Thompson
Hon. F. Scott McCown, ret.	Arabia Vargas
Diana Martinez	Larry Williams
Sandeep Narang	
Judy Powell	

## STAFF

Tina Amberboy, Executive Director  
 Tiffany Roper, Assistant Director  
 Kristi Taylor, Program Manager  
 Milbrey Raney, Staff Attorney  
 Katie Brown, Staff Attorney  
 Teri Moran, Communications Manager  
 Rashonda Thomas, Grants & Finance Specialist  
 Tara Grigg Garlinghouse, Intern  
 Mari Aaron, Executive Assistant  
 Mary Mitchell, Executive Assistant  
 Hon. Dean Rucker, Jurist in Residence  
*Office of Court Administration*  
 Hon. Robin Sage, Jurist in Residence  
*Office of Court Administration*

# **INSERT - TAB 3**

**REPORT TO THE COMMISSION-MAY 3, 2013**



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

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

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION  
May 3, 2013

201 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Supreme Court of Texas  
Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families  
Report for May 3, 2013

MINUTES –January 11, 2013 meeting (adoption pending), **TAB 1**

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, **TAB 2**

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, **TAB 2**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, **TAB 2**

STAFF CHANGES, **TAB 2**

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### Basic Grant Committee

The Basic Committee held a conference call on April 2, 2013. For minutes regarding the full discussion at the meeting, please see **Tab 4**.

#### **1. Child Protection Law Judicial Bench Book**

The Bench Book was introduced at the 2010 CPS Judicial Conference and has been available to judges through the Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ) since November 2010. Staff updated the Bench Book in November 2012. The Children’s Commission contract subscription with LexisNexis will not be renewed. The Office of Court Administration is currently working to convert all Bench Book links to the Texas Legislature Online (TLO) site by October 2013 and will monitor that the TLO links are current. Copies of the Bench Book continue to be available online through OCA, or, a printed version can be provided by request to the Children’s Commission. New judges received a copy during their January 2013 training. Judges who attend the May 2013 Child Welfare Judges Conference will also receive a copy.

#### **2. Appleseed / Permanency Workgroup**

Texas Appleseed completed its study of Texas children in PMC and published its final report in November 2011. Since that time, Appleseed, DFPS, Casey Family Programs, CPPP, CASA, and the Children’s Commission have been working on how best to implement the recommendations in the report. In 2012, Appleseed completed a cost analysis to determine the current cost of hearings in multiple jurisdictions in order to learn how expensive a bench mark hearing process might be and a survey of several courts to evaluate PMC hearing quality. In October 2012, the Children’s Commission

also worked with Appleseed on the first-ever Permanency Summit, which was held on October 8-9 in Rockwall, Texas. Similar to Beyond the Bench, the conference hosted 17 teams of Texas judges, attorneys and caseworkers from all over the state to work on a very pressing issue concerning thousands of Texas children who are stuck in foster care and what they can do to get them out and into permanent homes. Each jurisdiction submitted an action plan that included goals and strategies directed at involving youth in their court hearings in person or by other means such as video conferencing and youth-authored court reports. Selected jurisdictions have been contacted by Texas Appleseed with offers of assistance to implement the plans developed during the summit. Three jurisdictions requested a video for youth who come to court. The video has been shot and the final product will be presented at the May 3, 2013 Children's Commission meeting. The 2014 Permanency Summit planning is underway. The Commission also worked with Appleseed on a Jurist in Residence Letter to update participants on what's happened since the Summit. That letter was distributed in January 2013 and can be linked to from the Children's Commission website.

### **3. Round Table Series**

**Psychotropic Medications:** In 2011, the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission) was asked by members of its Collaborative Council to examine how judges, the child welfare agency, and other advocates and interested persons could work together to further decrease the use of psychotropic medications in Texas' foster youth. The Children's Commission formed a multi-disciplinary workgroup (Workgroup) led by Judge Diane Guariglia, Associate Judge from the 245th District Court in Harris County and Dr. James Rogers, Medical Director at the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), to study the processes for consent, oversight, and judicial review of the use of psychotropic medications in Texas foster care. After meeting for approximately a year the Workgroup determined that an in-depth discussion among a larger group of stakeholders would be beneficial. On July 6 2012, the Children's Commission, in partnership with the DFPS, Casey Family Programs, and the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP), convened a Round Table to discuss the matter. Over 50 judges, attorneys, psychiatrists, child welfare leaders, mental health experts and advocates attended the Psychotropic Medications Round Table facilitated by Judge Scott McCown.

During the Round Table, participants discussed the Consent Process, Judicial Review, and Agency Oversight, including a detailed discussion of the Psychotropic Medication Utilization Parameters for Foster Children (Parameters). The participants reviewed current statutes, policies, and practices surrounding the use of psychotropic medications and offered their expertise and insights from the field regarding what is working well and what is not. There were many concerns regarding the gaps in the

system, but also many ideas for improvement. The recommendations from the Round Table are included in the Report issued on January 7, 2013, and carry varying degrees of support and opposition and are generally aimed at improving training and awareness of the medical consent process and training, amending the family code to enhance accountability to adhering to certain processes, and improving information collection and sharing with a broader array of stakeholders to improve oversight and advocacy within the system and on behalf of our foster youth. The report was circulated during the current legislative session and informed many of the bills that were drafted.

**Family Visitation:** On March 1, 2013, with the help of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP), and Casey Family Programs, the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children’s Commission) held a round table discussion on family visitation in Child Protective Services (CPS) cases. The round table brought together judges from across the state, representatives of DFPS and CPS, prosecutors, attorneys, former foster youth, foster parents, biological parents, and parent advocates involved in CPS cases. The purpose of the round table was to advise DFPS on how to move from its traditional one-size-fits-all approach to one that serves the child and family in a more individual manner. The discussion focused on why we have visits between parents and the children who have been removed from their care, the motivation and punishment aspects of visitation, the frequency, supervision, location of visits, and who develops the plan that embodies the elements that families and advocates rely on to guide them toward an outcome that serves the child’s best interest while acknowledging their parents’ rights.

The Children’s Commission formed a workgroup in December 2012 to plan the round table. To help gather stakeholder input, the workgroup designed and administered three surveys that were distributed in advance of the round table: CPS Organizational Self Study on Visitation Policy and Practice, a Child Placing Agency Organizational Self-Study, and a Stakeholder Survey on Parent, Child and Sibling Visits. The Children’s Commission received responses from CPS, 46 CPAs, and over 800 stakeholders who identified themselves as judges, attorneys, CASA volunteers and supervisors, CPS caseworkers and supervisors, foster parents, foster alumni, parents, and relatives. Each survey was designed to elicit information about CPS and CPA organizational structure in place to support family visitation, as well as attitudes and feelings toward frequency, supervision, parental behavior during and in between visits, and myths regarding perceived barriers to frequency and quality.

Each participant was provided in advance of the round table a *Practice Guide to Support Lasting Reunification and Preserving Family Connections for Children in Foster Care* (Minnesota Practice Guide) published by the Minnesota Department of Human

Services, Child Safety and Permanency Division. Also, the round table opened with a presentation on Best Practices for Visitation and Family Time by Ms. Katie Compton and Ms. Stephanie Sifuentes (Compton-Sifuentes). Compton-Sifuentes presented the audience with a picture of what ideal family visitation looks like: a written plan developed in collaboration with the family that promotes regular, frequent, and meaningful visitation in a home-like environment that has the appropriate level of supervision and that is healthy for the child and family, and promotes reunification.

Commission staff is currently writing the report from the Round Table.

#### **4. Legal Representation Study (LRS)**

The Children's Commission created a 30-member multidisciplinary LRS Workgroup in 2011 to implement the study's recommendations. The LRS Workgroup met several times during FY2012 to develop a plan that would afford due process, timely and meaningful court hearings, and high-quality legal advocacy. Children's Commission staff and Commission members also made several presentations to various groups in FY2012 including: Judicial College for Advanced Studies, Advanced Family Law Child Abuse and Neglect Conference, Texas Association of Counties Legislative Conference.

Legislation filed in response to the work of the LRS during the current legislative session includes amendments to Chapters 107, 262 and 263. Re Chapter 107, SB1759 amends Sections 107.004 and 107.0131 to impose an ongoing CLE requirement of 3 hours of instruction each year in child protection law for attorneys representing children and parents; Section 107.0132 to clarify that once an AAL appointed to represent an alleged father has completed his/her their duties, the court shall dismiss the attorney; Section 107.013(a) to clarify that an indigent parent who is opposed to the suit, whether for termination or conservatorship is entitled to an attorney, if indigent and it repeals 107.013(c); Section 107.014 is new and spells out the duties of an attorney appointed to represent a parent cited by publication and provides for the AAL dismissal once his/her duties have been satisfied. Re Chapter 262, SB1759 amends Section 262.102 to require any emergency order authorizing the possession of a child to state in boldface type and capital letters that the parent has the right to be represented by an attorney, if indigent; Section 262.201 allows for an extension to the time to hold a full adversary hearing so that the court can advise a parent who is indigent and who appears in opposition to the suit that they have a right to an attorney, and it allows the parent and their attorney up to seven days to respond to the petition and prepare for the adversary hearing. All sections governing the expiration of temporary restraining orders are also amended to accommodate any extension of time granted under new 262.201 (a-3). Re Chapter 263, SB1759 adds Section 263.0061 to require the court to advise each parent not represented by an

attorney at each Status Hearing and each subsequent Permanency Hearing of their right to be represented by an attorney, if indigent.

In 2013, the LRS Workgroup will continue to examine whether compensation can be reformed at a statewide level through state-provided funding or another source, rather than the current system which pays attorneys solely from county funds. Another issue related to compensation is whether counties should be required to publish a clear list of expenses that are reimbursable. The LRS was generally supportive of this idea. LRS Workgroup members will also continue to work on the issue of building and implementing a statewide information and bill tracking system to track, report, and analyze attorney time spent on cases and dollars paid by the county. The LRS Workgroup believes that attorney standards would help ensure high-quality representation, but further discussion is needed before defining standards and deciding who will draft them, and what level of support from LRS Workgroup and Commission members the effort will require.

## **5. Jurist in Residence**

The Jurist in Residence position was created to foster judicial leadership and promote greater expertise among child protection judges. In 2012, the Commission published JIR newsletters on free online training for parent attorneys, CPS staff realignment after the 82nd Legislative Session, new appellate rules applicable to parental termination cases, DFPS subpoena policy, training scholarship announcements, court hearing practices and court costs, and OCA's Spanish interpreter program for CPS cases. Most recently, Judge Sage published a JIR on the Texas Blueprint: Transforming Education Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care. Link to JIR letters here: <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/news.htm>

Judge Sage will soon begin working on a court observation project, the Hearing Quality Project to provide enhanced qualitative data with regard to judicial handling, legal representation, and parent satisfaction with legal representation and the process. A component of the federal CIP funding requires that data must be collected that demonstrates that parties receive adequate legal representation and due process with regard to hearings. The Children's Commission has developed an observation tool and two surveys that will be utilized for pre- and post- hearing activities. Parents and attorneys will be surveyed following the case. The project is targeted to begin in June 2013 and end by September 30 2013 and Judge Sage will visit courts in both rural and large cities in Texas.

## **6. Judicial Disproportionality Workgroup (JDW) and Tribal Initiatives**

The JDW met on March 25, 2013 prior to the Implicit Bias Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The members are in support of identifying methods to expand awareness of disproportionality among the judiciary and systems. The constraints for use of CIP funds were acknowledged and the group discussed options to get the content into new judges school as well as the Advanced Family Law Conference for associate judges. The JDW considered whether or not the Implicit Bias Conference should be presented as a one-time option for judges to receive information on bias and disproportionality issues or if the content can be structured to provide ongoing information to judges each year. The work group agreed that innovative ways are needed to plug in to other conferences as well as expand these issues to wider audiences. This will be an ongoing matter for the JDW.

This year's Implicit Bias Conference was held on March 25 and 26, and included a presentation by Dr. Kate Ratliff and her research with the Project Implicit research group at the University of Florida at Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Ratliff's presentation provided a quantitative perspective on the issue of bias. Representative from the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond also provided a presentation.

The JDW also continues to build relationships with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and Kickapoo tribes in Texas. On April 25, 2013, the 3rd Judicial Symposium of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas was held at the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation in Livingston, Texas. Justice Eva Guzman was a keynote speaker at the event. A topic of discussion at the Symposium was the recent oral argument before the United States Supreme Court regarding a landmark case on the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Baby Veronica case. The tribe requests CIP funding in the amount of \$3,000.00 for speaker fees and travel and printed materials.

Ms. Amberboy asked the CIP Basic Committee members during the April 2 committee call to approve the request for FY2013 CIP funds in the amount of \$3,000.00 to cover the travel expense for speakers and supplies. Judge Sakai made a motion, Judge Underwood seconded. The members unanimously approved the expense for the 3rd Annual Judicial Symposium. The matter will be presented to the Children's Commission for ratification at the May 3, 2013 meeting.

## **7. Psychoactive Medication Workgroup**

Psychotropic Medication Utilization Parameters (Parameters) were created in 2005 to encourage the appropriate use of psychotropic medications in foster children. The Parameters have been considered successful, leading to a significant reduction in the overall use of psychotropic medications and decreases in the use of multiple medications for the same purpose. After receiving feedback regarding concerns about psychoactive medications in early 2012, the Children's Commission formed the Psychoactive Medication Workgroup (PMW) to improve communication, gain a better understanding of the Parameter review process, and identify possible gaps and solutions in this system. In early July 2012, the Commission co-hosted a Round Table meeting on Judicial Practices in the Oversight of Psychoactive Medications and Texas Children in Foster Care. The Round Table brought together judges, child psychiatrists, STAR Health and DFPS leadership, as well as other subject matter experts, for an all-day discussion of how judges handling CPS cases can exercise best practices to help consider and eliminate non-pharmacological interventions before resorting to the use of psychoactive medications.

In addition to the work of the PMW, several other advocates and stakeholders approached the legislature about filing legislation aimed at curbing and controlling further the use of psychotropic medications. To date, there are nine bills on file to address the use of psychotropic meds in the foster care population.

*HB915, which was drafted and then amended through a collaborative process that brought together many advocates and stakeholders, was passed out of the House in mid-April.*

*HB 915 would change the requirements for prescribing a psychotropic medication to a foster child and would modify legal and medical oversight of a foster child's medical care.*

*Key provisions of the bill: It provides for a definition of Psychotropic Medication - a medication prescribed to treat symptoms of psychosis or another mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder by affecting the central nervous system to change behavior, cognition, or affective state, which would include: psychomotor stimulants; antidepressants; antipsychotics or neuroleptics; agents for control of mania or depression; anti-anxiety agents; and sedatives, hypnotics, or other sleep-promoting medications.*

*Consent by a foster parent or other person authorized to give consent would be valid only if given voluntarily and without undue influence and if the person authorized to give consent had received verbal or written information about the: specific condition to be treated; expected beneficial effects on that condition from the medication; probable health and mental consequences of not consenting;*

*probable clinically significant side effects and risks from the medication; generally accepted alternative medications and any non-pharmacological options; and reasons the physician recommends proposed treatment.*

*Regarding medication review, Attorneys ad litem and Guardians ad litem must: review a child's medical care and attempt to determine, in a developmentally appropriate way, the child's opinion on that care; advise 16 year olds of the right to seek the court's authorization to consent to medical care; and update the court at each hearing on non-pharmacological options provided to child and the dates of office visits with the prescribing physician since the last hearing.*

*The Court at a permanency or placement review hearings must: review the child's medical care, determine whether the child was provided an appropriate opportunity to express an opinion on that medical care and, determine for a child receiving psychotropic medication, whether the child had been provided with non-pharmacological options and had seen the prescribing physician at least once every 90 days.*

*DFPS would be required to train individuals seeking to become authorized consenters on informed consent for psychotropic medications. Also, a child's transition plan must include info about: using the medication; resources to assist with medication management; and informed consent and right to seek the court's authorization to consent to medical care at age 16.*

*DFPS must work with HHSC to monitor the use of psychotropic medications for: foster children dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare; and those under DFPS supervision through an interstate agreement.*

## **8. Restraint Group / Trauma Informed Services**

The TIC Workgroup has developed a new chapter for the Child Protection Judges' Bench Book and plans to develop more materials for judicial and attorney education. While the TIC Workgroup has been on hold as DFPS has been developing its strategic plan to integrate trauma-informed care into child protective services, representatives from the TIC Workgroup have participated in strategic planning sessions with DFPS to begin the work of making the entire Texas child welfare system more aware of and responsive to the effects of trauma on child development and mental health.

In 2011, DFPS launched an initiative to transition the Texas child welfare system into a trauma-informed system. Part of this initiative includes coordinating with HHSC and STAR Health to identify evidence-based, trauma-informed treatment strategies and build a network of trained behavioral health providers to offer these services. This initiative includes four subgroups to focus on specific sectors of this work:

- Trauma-informed assessments/tools: to identify a menu of evidence-based and evidence informed assessment protocols, which incorporate trauma history as part of optimal mental and behavioral health care, that would best serve children and families and make recommendations to DFPS leadership.
- Trauma-informed training: to develop trauma-informed training for staff and caregivers, including classroom as well as computer based applications. There is now a 2-hour training online for external uses at: [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Training/Trauma\\_Informed\\_Care/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Training/Trauma_Informed_Care/default.asp)
- Trauma-informed caregiver support: to develop recommendations and protocols for supporting caregivers, including birth parents, adoptive parents, foster parents, providers, and kin.
- Trauma-informed staff support: to develop recommendations and protocols for supporting staff and other stakeholders affected by secondary traumatic stress, direct trauma, compassion fatigue, burnout, and compassion success.

#### **9. Texas Blueprint: Implementation Task Force, formerly Education Committee**

In December 2012, the Supreme Court of Texas signed an order officially discharging the Education Committee from its duties and creating a new *Texas Blueprint* Implementation Task Force and Advisory Council to continue the collaboration begun by the Education Committee and monitor the progress of implementation of the recommendations issued in the *Texas Blueprint*. The Texas Blueprint Implementation Task Force chaired by Judge Rob Hofmann, former Education Committee member, includes:

- Hon. Alyce Bondurant, Child Protection Court of North Texas, Wichita Falls
- Sarah Abrahams, Casey Family Programs
- Joy Baskin, Texas Association of School Boards
- Cathy Cockerham, Texas CASA
- Lori Duke, Clinical Professor, Children’s Rights Clinic, UT School of Law, Austin
- Jenny Hinson, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin
- Michael Redden, New Horizons
- Julie Wayman, Texas Education Agency
- Others to be identified by the Chair of the Implementation Task Force, but including an attorney who represents parents in child abuse and neglect proceedings and a youth formerly in foster care

The Implementation Task Force met on January 8 to discuss the charge to it issued by the Supreme Court of Texas and on April 3 to develop an implementation plan to guide its work through December 2014, when it will provide recommendations for future work to the Children’s Commission. The Task Force created three workgroups, which

will be chaired by members of the Task Force and will commence meeting by July 31, 2013:

- Training and Resources, Workgroup Chair: Sarah Abrahams, Casey
- School Stability, Workgroup Chairs: Joy Baskin, TASB, and Jenny Hinson, DFPS
- Data, Workgroup Chair: Julie Wayman, TEA

An Advisory Council was also created to support the work of the Task Force and to provide guidance, as needed. It will be chaired by Judge Patricia Macias, former chair of the Education Committee, and includes:

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

Many of the Task Force members served on the planning team for the February 19-20, 2013 Foster Care and Education Summit. More information on the summit is provided in the Training Committee section below.

### **Texas TRIO Grant (Education)**

In October 2011, the Texas Education Agency, in partnership with DFPS and the Children's Commission, received a 17-month grant to support collaboration between education, child welfare, and the courts in Texas. As part of this grant, Commission staff has participated in weekly conference calls and monthly in-person meetings with its partners. In addition, Commission staff has participated in monthly meetings with stakeholders in Harris County, including the Houston Independent School District, to implement some of the strategies identified in the Education Committee's Texas Blueprint.

The state-level team, which includes commission staff, continues to meet and work on the development of training and other resources for education, child welfare, and court stakeholders, including:

- A resource guide for education stakeholders about foster care, the unique needs of children in care, and how to support foster students in the school setting, which will be released in February 2013
- Two webinars for the newly created foster care liaisons in each school district
- School District Foster Care Liaison 101: Guidance, October 2012
- School District Foster Care Liaison 201: Understanding CPS and the Courts, November 2012
- A listserv for the foster care liaisons in each school district, which is being maintained by the Texas Education Agency

### **Training Grant Committee**

The Training Committee met by conference call on April 4, 2013. For minutes regarding the full discussion at the meeting, please see **Tab 4**.

#### **1. Attorney Education**

**Attorney Practitioner Manual:** The Attorney Practitioner Manual was not updated in FY 2012 as planned for lack of staff time, but is on the agenda for fall 2013 after the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session will have concluded.

**Attorney Ad Litem Appointment Eligibility Online Training:** The State Bar offers online courses, at no charge on the following topics:

- Advocating for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
- Resources and Processes for Representing Crossover Youth with Disabilities
- Special Education Advocacy for Kids in the Foster Care System
- Representing Teen Parents in CPS Cases
- Practice Tips on Representing Children
- Representing Parents in CPS Cases

#### **Possible 2013 and 2014 Topics:**

- Preserving error and appeals issues in CPS cases (being filmed 6/25/2013)
- Discovery in CPS cases
- Jury selection series (jury demand, jury charge, voir dire)
- SIJS/ immigration issues
- Pretrial matters
- Mediation in CPS cases
- Updated Representing Children in CPS Cases (being filmed in June 2013)

**Attorney Scholarships:** In September 2012, the Commission approved using \$50,000 of FY2013 for scholarships to send Texas attorneys to training conferences related to child abuse and neglect cases. A new software program, Cvent, is in use to streamline the scholarship process. The conferences for which attorneys scholarships will be available in FY2013 will include:

**NACC Child Welfare Law Conference** – The NACC annual conference offers nationally known expert speakers on multi-disciplinary topics related to legal representation in child abuse and neglect cases. Commission scholarships usually cover registration for the conference, and may cover preconference sessions on various topics such as Red Book training for NACC Child Welfare Law Certification. Commission staff works with NACC to develop the grant award statement, which describes the purpose of the program, NACC's deliverables and a training evaluation component. Staff also verifies and approves attorney applicants by confirming their good standing with the State Bar, and verifying with a sponsoring judge that they accept appointments to represent children, parents or DFPS. In 2012, the Commission provided \$400 registration scholarships to send 17 Texas attorneys to NACC's annual conference in Chicago. In 2013, the NACC annual conference will be held August 26-28 in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Scholarships for Child Abuse and Neglect Track at Advanced Family Law (AFL)** – The AFL conference offers a day-long Child Abuse and Neglect training each year at the annual State Bar of Texas Advanced Family Law Conference. Commission scholarships cover the \$100 registration fee for the one-day session, or for subsequent video replays of the training. In 2011 and 2012, the Commission funded 100 and 118 registration scholarships, respectively. Commission staff works with the State Bar of Texas to negotiate an interagency agreement each year, and as with all scholarships, staff verifies and approves attorney applicants by confirming their good standing with the State Bar, and verifies with a sponsoring judge that the attorneys accept appointments to represent children, parents, or DFPS. In 2013, the one-day Child Abuse and Neglect Track at Advanced Family Law will be held August 7th in San Antonio.

**American Bar Association Center for Children and the Law Parent Attorney Conference and Child Law Conference** – this conference is scheduled for July 10-13, 2013 in Washington DC. The conferences bring together experienced child and parent attorneys, foster alumni, parents, judges, child welfare agency representatives, and other key stakeholders to receive not only substantive training, but also tips for returning to their home states to work on ways to improve the quality of legal representation for children and parents. To date, there are 52 applicants for 20 scholarships of up to \$907.00 to cover registration

and three night's stay at the conference hotel for either one of the conferences.

**Trial Skills Workgroup “Train the Trainers” Training** - As reported at the January Commission Meeting, commission staff completed the bulk of the Case Scenario, which includes a full fictional CPS case and related pleadings, legal forms, and documents from the outset of the case through a trial on the merits. On April 11-12, a select group of faculty met in Austin to discuss all aspects of the Trial Skills Training Curriculum. Also, Professor Peter Hoffman, a member of the Trial Skills Workgroup and trained by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA), trained the faculty on April 12 to present this curriculum to child welfare attorneys around the state. Commission staff also partnered with workgroup Member Leslie Strauch at UT Law to have law students participate in trial skills exercises before the faculty, based on the exhibits created from the fact pattern,. Dr. Sandeep Narang, a member of the Commission's Collaborative Council and the Trial Skills Workgroup, created an emergency room doctor's report on the baby in the case scenario and served as the expert witness at the training. Among other exercises, exhibits contained in the Case Scenario will allow attorneys to practice entering a business record affidavit and learn about qualifying and conducting direct and cross examinations on expert witnesses. Following an additional Faculty Development training in June, 2013, the curriculum will be fully developed, and the Trial Skills faculty will be fully prepared to teach and critique future participants in the Trial Skills Training. The Trial Skills Training will also include individualized video-taped exercises and a faculty-attorney consultation of the participant's performance during at least one of the trial skills exercises.

**State Bar of Texas Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Multi- Disciplinary Child Welfare Law Conference** – The conference will take place June 19-21 in Houston and has been combined with the “Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe (“KITS”)” conference in Houston. The CAN portion will be held on June 19, 2013 and the KITS conference will continue through June 21, 2013. Judge Len Edwards of California will be at the KITS conference and has agreed to arrive early to be part of a panel on the 19th along with Judge John Specia.

**Parent Attorney Leadership Conference** – This training held September 11-12, 2012 in Oklahoma City, was a joint project of federal Court Improvement Program leaders, and multidisciplinary teams from LA, NM, OK, AK. The conference was intended to help Texas strategize about how to improve the level of legal representation for parents as well as improve respect for and self-esteem of attorneys who chose to represent parents; demonstrate how quality parent representation is tied to improved outcomes through a review of current data; understand what is needed at a minimum to achieve quality parent representation, both in and out of the courtroom and at the policy level; and empower parent attorneys to be leaders, trainers, mentors and system reformers. The team developed an action plan at the conference that includes: 1. Design and

convene a statewide Child Welfare Law Conference; 2. Adopt Standards of Representation for Parents' Attorneys; 3. Identify organization that can develop and operate a parent-focused resource such as an Information Packet or Guide for Parents, including parent client's rights, attorney duties, remedies for ineffective assistance, and grievance process; 4. Design and convene Family Time Round Table to discuss child welfare agency's current policies and practices regarding family visits and visitation; 5. Improve Family Placements at Beginning of Conservatorship Case. A Round Table of Family Visitation (see item 4 of this report) was held on March 1, 2013 in Austin.

Additionally, the CIP programs from the Region VI states and staff from the American Bar Association continue to communicate periodically to continue the work started during the planning phase of the conference, including developing resources for other states interested in holding similar conferences or further supporting parent attorneys in their jurisdictions including a white paper that outlines how to plan a joint-sponsored event. The conference states have also collaborated on an ABA publication titled "Indicators of Success in Parent Representation." The Commission will post the report on its website once final.

## **2. Judicial Education**

**The Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ)** – At the August joint committee meeting, FY2013 funding was approved by the Training Committee for TCJ to continue its CIP projects, including the following:

**Judicial Scholarships to Attend the NCJFCJ National Conferences** –The the next NCJFCJ conference is scheduled July 14-17, 2013 in Seattle. TCJ has awarded all 25 scholarships to the conference. Each judge attending the NCJFCJ National Conference will also attend the Child Welfare Judges Conference, scheduled May 21-23, 2013 in San Antonio.

**Permanency Summit (replaced Beyond the Bench Conference in FY 2012)** – The 2nd Permanency Summit is scheduled October 14-16, 2013 in San Antonio. The planning group for the 1st Permanency Summit is planning the second event and Texas Appleseed is doing follow up with a number of teams that attended 1st Permanency Summit. The planning team is currently working on identifying which jurisdictions to invite. Using Beyond the Bench as the model, new teams of a judge, DFPS, CASA, prosecutor/state's attorney, child's AAL, and parent attorney, will be invited. At Child Welfare Judges Conference, there will be a meeting of judges who attended the 1st Permanency Summit to determine what changes were made in jurisdictions after summit.

**Implicit Bias in Judicial Decision-Making Conference**–The goal of the conference is to educate judges about the effect of cultural biases on decision

making and how these biases have contributed to disparate outcomes for African American, Native American and Hispanic youth and families involved in the judicial system. This conference was held in March 25-26, 2013, in San Antonio. It received very good feedback and next year's conference is likely to be scheduled in February 2014. Ms. Penix added that the evaluations had been compiled and for quality the conference scored an overall score of "5" which is a perfect score.

**Child Welfare Judicial Conference** – This year's Child Welfare Judges Conference is scheduled for May 21-23, 2013 in San Antonio; Judge Specia will be the key note speaker to give his vision for DFPS. Other topics include a lunch for new judges, a legislative update, sessions on criminal convictions and relative placements, the legal requirements of ICWA, permanency and well-being, courtroom management, and vicarious trauma (of judges and court staff). Tentative dates for the 2014 conference are May 7-9, 2014.

**Education of Foster Youth Summit** – Texas' first Foster Care and Education Summit was held in February 2013 in Austin. It was attended by approximately 200 judges, school district and education service center representatives, DFPS and CASA staff, and state level advocates. The feedback has been very positive and the Commission is working on a final report. The report details the planning process used and how certain school districts were identified for an invitation. A joint invitation from Justice Eva Guzman and the Commissioners of DFPS and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) was sent to superintendents from those school districts, who were paired with a judge from that jurisdiction. To complete each regional team, representatives from all 20 of the education service centers around the state were invited as well as DFPS and CASA staff from each education region. One of the goals of the summit was to allow DFPS and judges to get to know the school districts within their jurisdiction. The summit raised awareness that educational outcomes of children and youth in care are very poor and they need the education, judicial, and CPS systems to work together collaboratively to improve those outcomes. Several seasoned judges mentioned that they had never had contact with their school districts before the summit. The summit led to new collaborations and attendees left with a renewed awareness of how they contribute to the challenges and what they can do to help.

**Other Judicial Conferences** – TCJ broadened the scope of the language in its grant application to include conferences held by national organizations other than the NCJFCJ, which was approved by the committee in August 2012.

**Judicial Technical Assistance** –The committee approved funding for the Texas Center for the Judiciary to work with experts who may provide judicial technical assistance to improve moving children to permanency. In past fiscal years, judicial technical assistance primarily funded analysis of county-level data, particularly looking at permanency outcomes.

**Funding for Local Training** –Funding for local training is included in the award given to TCJ.

**Office of Court Administration (OCA) Judicial Education** – The CIP Training Grant ordinarily funds an annual two-day workshop for CPC judges to cover current multi-disciplinary topics. However, because of the overlap between topics and speakers, the OCA Judicial Education conference is being merged with the Child Welfare Judges Conference being held May 21 – 23, 2013, with a meeting of the CPC judges to discuss technical and other issues related to their courts immediately following the end of the judicial conference.

### **Technology Committee Report**

The Data/Technology Committee met by conference call on April 9, 2013. For minutes regarding the full discussion at the meeting, please see **Tab 4**.

**Education Website** – OCA has set up a website devoted to the Education Committee and the projects involving improving education outcomes for children in foster care. The Children’s Commission Staff have authority to modify and populate the site with information.

**Event Management System** – Cvent has been in use for approximately 90 days. The Commission staff is documenting best practices and usage tips for users to ensure the application is addressing the business needs of the Commission. Cvent helps Commission staff manage the 200+ commissioners, committees, council, stakeholder, and interested person lists currently used by Commission staff. This tool also allows the staff to automate contact information, membership status, and committee assignments and will help staff to identify and collect federally required match data. The Children’s Commission also intends to use the program for conference marketing and commission meetings.

**Notice and Engagement Web Application** – The project involves using non-confidential case data to build a system whereby notice of statutory hearings and other court-related events requiring notice to parties and interested persons can be distributed electronically. The Children’s Commission and DFPS

have been collaborating over past 2 years as a result of the CFSR and PIP. Based on feedback from stakeholders such as caregivers and foster parents, Texas needs a better system to ensure that everyone gets notice of hearings. At present there is more hearing date information in the CPCMS system than IMPACT and so the pilot system will be built with hearing information generated by CPCMS at this time. The Children's Commission will work with Child Placing Agencies and DFPS on how to provide information about this new project to interested persons to help determine its usefulness and usability. In the meantime, OCA staff is also building an IMPACT interface, which is a long-term goal and may require a practice change for DFPS caseworkers. Children's Commission staff will handle coordination with foster care providers and child protection court judges to pilot the effort and document usage and usability. Role-based security issues need to be finalized before testing of alternate system can commence. The proposed pilot site region will be Region 8/San Antonio.

**Attorney Billing System** – A role for attorneys appointed to cases is being added to the CPCMS role-based security project for later use that may involve a uniform identification and billing system that can help provide information on the number of Texas attorneys providing legal representation in child protection cases, their level of training, and the amount of money counties are spending on court appointed legal representation year to year. The CPCMS system is being enhanced to include role-based security identifiers for other system stakeholders and advocates as well. The Commission's LRS workgroup is aware of this project, but OCA is building the tool and has identified a common set of fields that will allow for a common billing form when the time comes. OCA is also looking at collaborations, because other entities have expressed interest in the model. Attorneys will be able to access the system online and report their time. This input will then generate a 'common' voucher that can be provided to the judge for signature and route on through appropriate county channels. Another goal is to capture activities that are occurring and what billing is to the counties for specific activities. The determination whether or not to bill per hour or at a flat rate is open. The intention is to determine what types of services are being provided in each county and what the level of service. The LRS workgroup has identified a need to ease the burden to the counties, but it is necessary to compile data to determine how to move forward.

**Video Conferencing** – This project enables local courts presiding over child protection cases to have children participate in their placement/permanency hearing without them being physically present in the courtroom. A video link hosted and maintained by OCA provides the judge the opportunity to interact with the child or youth when they cannot be in the courtroom or in attendance

at their hearing. Although not a replacement for seeing the child in person, video conferencing can allow the judge can gain perspective on the youth's issues, wants and needs, and see the child's demeanor and body language. As of 1, there are 45 RTCs which can link to VTC services. FY2012 COA facilitated 56 hearings in six courts. In FY2013, the number of courts served will total between 15 and 20. DFPS has worked with OCA to develop a notification procedure for DFPS workers to make them aware that the communication option is available for the children they serve who are in RTC placements. A one-page instruction sheet is in draft mode. There is also discussion of a pilot program for use of the videoconferencing system by outside entities other than the courts. A process and procedure is established for court scheduling, but if the participant universe is expanded, it will be necessary to review and revisit processes and procedures. Region 7 is expected to be the initial focus area for expansion of use.

#### **CPCMS –**

- Demo CPCMS website to provide interested courts/independent counties the ability to test drive the CPCMS with their own data.
- Export CPCMS Court Docket Calendar in a standard calendar format to enable other devices (e.g., blackberries, iPhones) and applications (case management systems) to process and display the Docket Calendar information outside of the CPCMS system.
- Expanded Roles Based Security for CPCMS to accommodate other user roles that can be authorized for view (only), data entry (only), a restricted combination of and data entry, or unlimited view and data entry.
- Update Training / Marketing Videos (online) CPCMS – Update and expand the training videos to cover all of the v3.0 through v3.3 releases in 2011 and the v4.0 through v4.3 releases in 2012.

**Spanish Interpreter** - OCA Child Protection Courts as well as other Texas courts can schedule an interpreter using a web-based calendaring system on a first-come, first-served basis. Licensed court interpreter Mr. Marco Hanson works remotely, using a speaker phone or videoconferencing, to provide courtroom interpretation for as many as 20 hours a week. However, this project has struggled with utilization. Although it is available to all courts the process to use the service requires pre-planning, which is sometimes difficult and the need may be somewhat unpredictable. The service was recently offered to the Offices of Parent and Child Representation in Travis County to assist with client and family interviews through the end of the 2013 grant year.

**Child Protection Court (CPC) Strategic Plan** – The CPC Strategic Plan is aimed at developing a three to five year plan to addressing CPC court workloads in various funding scenarios. OCA has requested funding for three additional courts and is working with the Regional Presiding Judges on how to use the funds within, and to benefit, the current child protection court set-up.

# **INSERT - TAB 4**

**MINUTES - APRIL 2013 CIP COMMITTEES MEETING**

# **CIP BASIC GRANT-TAB 4**

**CIP BASIC COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 2, 2013**

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

**April 2, 2013  
via conference call**

Toll free: 1-877-820-7831  
Participant Passcode: 629943

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS**

**Members Present**

**Members Absent**

Name		Name
<b>Judge Bonnie Hellums, Chair</b>		
<b>Ms. Gabriela Fuentes, Member</b>	Teleconference	<b>Ms. Colleen McCall, Member</b>
<b>Ms.Carolyn Rodriguez, Member</b>	Teleconference	<b>Judge Doug Warne, Member</b>
<b>Judge Peter Sakai, Member</b>	Teleconference	
<b>Judge Virginia Schnarr, Member</b>	Teleconference	
<b>Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon, Member</b>	Teleconference	
<b>Judge Olen Underwood, Member</b>	Teleconference	

<b>Ms. Tina Amberboy</b>	In Person
<b>Ms. Kristi Taylor, Staff</b>	In-Person
<b>Ms. Mari Aaron, Staff</b>	Teleconference

The Committee had a quorum present for this meeting.

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**II. Update on Basic projects**

**a. Child Protection Law Judicial Bench Book**

Ms. Taylor reported that the Children’s Commission contract subscription with LexisNexis will not be renewed. The Office of Court Administration is currently working to convert all Bench Book links to the Texas Legislature Online (TLO) site by October 2013 and will monitor that the TLO links are current. Copies of the Bench Book continue to be available online through OCA, or, a printed version can be provided by request to the Children’s Commission. New judges received a copy during their January 2013 training. Judges who attend the May 2013 Child Welfare Judges Conference will have the opportunity to obtain a copy as well.

**b. Texas Appleseed Project**

Ms. Amberboy provided a project update on this ongoing Permanency Project. Following the inaugural Permanency Summit for Judges in October 2012, seventeen multi-disciplinary teams of Texas judges, attorneys and caseworkers from throughout

Texas returned to their jurisdictions to work on implementing local plans to help children achieve permanency. Selected jurisdictions have met with Texas Applesed to complete surveys and evaluations to assess the plans developed during the summit. Three jurisdictions requested a video for youth who come to court. The video has been shot and the final product will be presented at the May 3, 2013 Children's Commission meeting. The 2014 Permanency Summit planning is underway.

Discussion:

Ms. Carolyne Rodriguez asked if the video can be used for judge training as well and if a utilization plan has been developed. Ms. Amberboy noted that the plan is to present the video at the Child Welfare Judges conference in May. The video link will be uploaded to the Department's website, Texas Lawyers for Children and the Children's Commission website with the goal of showing to youth who have questions about appearing in court for their cases.

**c. Round Table Series**

Ms. Taylor provided updates on the recent Round Tables. The Family Visitation Round Table was held on March 1, 2013. Attendees included parents, attorneys, judges and other stakeholders. A report on the results and recommendations from the round table discussion will be prepared by the Children's Commission staff.

The report on the Psychoactive Medications Round Table was published in January 2013. The report was circulated widely during the current legislative session and informed the eight bills that were drafted. Ms. Amberboy noted that there is a committee substitute to HB 915. The Department and LBB put a \$1.14mm fiscal note on the bill. Ms. Amberboy will distribute a copy of the bill to the CIP Basic Committee members distributed to the group following this call.

Discussion

Ms. Carolyne Rodriguez asked if the reports can be shared within Casey and Ms. Amberboy confirmed that they can. Reports can be sourced on the Children's Commission website.

**d. Legal Representation Study (LRS)**

Tina Amberboy reported on status of the Legal Representation Study. The details on the legislation filed in response to the work of the LRS during the current legislative session includes amendments to Chapters 107, 262 and 263. **Re Chapter 107**, SB1759 amends Sections **107.004 and 107.0131** to impose an ongoing CLE requirement of 3 hours of instruction each year in child protection law for attorneys representing children and parents; Section **107.0132** to clarify that once an AAL appointed to represent an alleged father has completed his/her their duties, the court shall dismiss the attorney; Section **107.013(a)** to clarify that an indigent parent who is opposed to the suit, whether for termination or conservatorship is entitled to an attorney, if indigent and it repeals **107.013(c)**; Section **107.014** is new and spells out the duties of an attorney appointed to represent a parent cited by publication and provides for the AAL dismissal once his/her duties have been satisfied. **Re Chapter 262**, SB1759 amends Section **262.102** to require any emergency order authorizing the possession of a child to state in boldface type and capital letters that the parent has the right to be represented by an attorney, if indigent; Section **262.201** allows for an extension to the time to hold a full adversary hearing so that the court can advise a parent who is indigent and who appears in opposition to the suit that they have a right to an

attorney, and it allows the parent and their attorney up to seven days to respond to the petition and prepare for the adversary hearing. All sections governing the expiration of temporary restraining orders are also amended to accommodate any extension of time granted under new **262.201 (a-3)**. **Re Chapter 263**, SB1759 adds Section **263.0061** to require the court to advise each parent not represented by an attorney at each Status Hearing and each subsequent Permanency Hearing of their right to be represented by an attorney, if indigent.

**e. Psychoactive Medications**

Ms. Taylor provided an update on the status of the workgroup. The workgroup will reconvene on April 23, 2013. Although legislation from the 83<sup>rd</sup> session will not be final at that time, the workgroup agenda will consider next steps and how to impact systems and new mandates detailed in the Psychoactive Medications Round Table Report.

**f. Trauma-Informed Care Workgroup (TIC)**

Ms. Taylor noted that the work of this group will eventually be incorporated with that of Psychoactive Medications. During numerous discussions among the Psychoactive Medications workgroup, there was emphasis to look for behavioral cause before medicating. The Department and the Children's Commission have developed an ongoing collaborative focus on these efforts. The issue of use of restraints was included in the Bench Book and the content was informed by experts on the topic.

**g. Judicial Disproportionality Workgroup (JDW) and Tribal Initiatives**

Ms. Taylor provided information on the status of the JDW and tribal initiatives that are underway. The JDW met on March 25, 2013 prior to the Implicit Bias Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The members are in support of identifying methods to expand awareness of disproportionality among the judiciary and systems. The constraints for use of CIP funds were acknowledged and the group discussed options to get the content into new judges school as well as the Advanced Family Law Conference for associate judges. Judge Sakai noted that the group considered whether or not the Implicit Bias Conference should be presented as a one-time option for judges to receive information on bias and disproportionality issues or if the content can be structured to provide ongoing information to judges each year. The work group agreed that innovative ways are needed to plug in to other conferences as well as expand these issues to wider audiences. This will be an ongoing matter for the JDW.

Ms. Taylor noted that this year's Implicit Bias Conference included a presentation by Dr. Kate Ratliff and her research with the Project Implicit research group at the University of Florida at Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Ratliff's presentation provided a quantitative perspective on the issue of bias. Representative from the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond also provided a presentation. Discussion is ongoing as to the People's Institute's effectiveness with Texas judges.

The JDW continues to build relationships with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and Kickapoo tribes in Texas. On April 25, 2013, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Symposium of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas will take place at the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation in Livingston, Texas. Justice Eva Guzman, Chair of the Children's Commission will provide keynote remarks at the event.

The United States Supreme Court will hear the Baby Veronica case the following week.

Ms. Amberboy provided details on the FY2013 CIP Grant Application from the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe for the 2013 Judicial Symposium. The tribe requests CIP funding in the amount of \$3,000.00 for speaker fees and travel and printed materials.

**ACTION:** Ms. Amberboy asked the CIP Basic Committee members to vote to ratify the request for FY2013 CIP funds in the amount of \$3,000.00 to cover the travel cost of speakers and supplies for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas 3rd Annual Judicial Symposium. Judge Sakai made a motion, Judge Underwood seconded. The members unanimously ratified the expense for the 3rd Annual Judicial Symposium. The matter will be presented to the Children's Commission for approval at the May 3, 2013 meeting.

#### **h. Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM)**

Tina Amberboy reported on the Crossover Youth Practice Model. The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute has been involved with Travis County in implementing its Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) since 2010. Casey Family Programs and the CJJR began spreading the CYPM to other counties in Texas in 2012. The CYPM is built around a core set of principles and is designed specifically to improve outcomes for "crossover youth" (youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems) by creating greater efficiencies and levels of effectiveness through the collaborative efforts of these two systems. In 2012, the CYPM expanded to five additional counties - Bexar, Tarrant, Dallas, El Paso, and McLennan. CJJR convened three meetings in Texas in 2012, and convened the latest meeting in March 2013. At the March meeting, the group decided they would work with DFPS and TJJD to develop a strategy for selection of a new cohort of sites for expansion of the CYPM. The sites will continue to collect data, develop a strategy to build capacity at the state and local level to support the expansion, explore legislative strategies that will support the CYPM into 2014, identify opportunities at Judicial, DFPS, and TJJD conferences or trainings. Six Texas counties now participate. Resources required to collect the data and handle the cases are extensive but provide good results. The Children's Commission role is primarily one of logistical assistance and support for CJJR.

#### **i. Jurist in Residence (JIR)**

Judge Robin Sage and Judge Dean Rucker now serve as Jurists in Residence for the Children's Commission.

Judge Sage has begun work on a court observation project, the Hearing Quality Project. A previous report produced by NCJFCJ and Casey Family Programs provided results of observations of 7 courts in Texas and approximately 60-70 hearings. The intent of the Hearing Quality Project is to provide enhanced qualitative data based on Judge Sage's expertise with child welfare cases. A component of the federal Court Improvement Project funding requires that data must be collected that demonstrates that parties receive adequate legal representation and due process with regard to hearings. The Children's Commission is working with Texas Applesseed to develop an observation tool to be utilized for pre- and post- hearing activities. Parents and attorneys will be surveyed following the case. The project is targeted to begin by Sept 30, 2013 and Judge Sage will visit courts in both rural and large cities in Texas.

#### **Discussion**

Judge Shannon welcomes Judge Sage to Dallas to observe the Juvenile courts. She explained the

Attorney for the day program that is used in Dallas. The attorney appointed remains on the case unless there is a need to withdraw. Dallas is unique in some respects. The threshold is indigence, but Judge Shannon noted that indigence is presumed.

Ms. Taylor asked about the administrative issues involved with the system. Judge Shannon commented that dockets are reviewed each week and appointments go through a set rotation schedule.

There was discussion about how the process is perceived by the Commissioners Court. Judge Shannon noted that the commissioner have not targeted the program yet. Filings are down. Initially, Judge Shannon expected that if parents have a lawyer at the onset of the case, the case would be resolved more quickly, but that does not appear to be the case. However, parents are aware of their rights and they are adequately represented.

Ms. Amberboy commented on research findings. There have been national efforts to get parent representation earlier in the case; only one case supports that parents get resolution more quickly when a lawyer is appointed sooner. The results are similar with mediation; cases are not resolved that much sooner.

Judge Shannon observes that clients often need more time for services resulting in the extension of the case through the duration of the case timeline.

It was noted that savings can occur on the 'back end' when reunification or placement with kin can be achieved and provide the best outcome for the child while providing a fair opportunity to the parents in the case.

### **III. Next Meeting Schedule**

#### **Next Basic Committee meeting – August 22, 2013**

This will be the annual in-person meeting in Austin of all CIP Committees (Basic, Data/Technology and Training). Quorum for each of the CIP Grant Committees is critical for this meeting because approval of FY2014 CIP budget and project expenditures will be on the agenda. Information on meeting time and specific location will be forthcoming via email.

### **IV. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

# **CIP DATA/TECHNOLOGY GRANT-TAB 4**

**CIP DATA/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 9, 2013**

**Supreme Court of Texas  
Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families  
Data/Technology Committee**

**April 9, 2013  
via conference call**

Toll free: 1-877-820-7831  
Participant Passcode: 629943#

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present**

**Members Absent**

Name		Name
Ms. Vicki Spriggs, Chair	Teleconference	Mr. Jason Hassay, Member
Mr. Dan Capouch, Member	Teleconference	Hon. Gilford Jones, Member
Hon. Gilford Jones, Member	Teleconference	Dr. Octavio Martinez, Member
Dr. Octavio Martinez, Member	Teleconference	Mr. Robert Nolen, Member
Mr. G. Allan Van Fleet, Member	Teleconference	Ms. D. J. Tessier, Member
Mr. Bryan Wilson, Member		Mr. G. Allan Van Fleet, Member

**OCA Technical Advisory Staff  
(non-voting)**

Ms. Simi Denson	Teleconference	Mr. Darrell Childers
Mr. Casey Kennedy	Teleconference	Mr. Ron Clark
Mr. Tim Kennedy	In-Person	

**Children’s Commission Staff**

Ms. Tina Amberboy	In-Person
Ms. Mary Mitchell, Staff	Teleconference
Ms. Mari Aaron, Staff	Teleconference

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Amberboy called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**II. Event Management System**

Ms. Amberboy reported that Cvent has been in use for approximately 90 days. Commission administrative staff is documenting best practices and usage tips for users to ensure that the application is addressing the business needs of the Children’s Commission projects and activities. A primary feature of the tool is to allow Children’s Commission staff to keep affiliate information up to date and collect federally required match for the CIP grant.

Discussion: Ms. Spriggs noted that Texas CASA is a Cvent user and are pleased with it. The Children’s Commission administrative staff will consider developing an informal user group

conference call or meeting schedule with Texas CASA superusers to inform the best practices and usage tips noted above. Mr. Wilson commented that he has encountered difficulties with the link functionality of the emails he has received from Cvent. Mari Aaron will follow up with OCA and determine if this is a whitelist issue, a user configuration matter or an issue to address with Cvent Customer Support.

### **III. Bench Book Update**

Ms. Amberboy reported on current status. The Bench Book was updated in November 2012. The document is available online through OCA or in a printed version by request. Ron Clark, OCA and Teri Moran, Children's Commission, are updating the links. Links will be transitioned to Texas Legislature Online (TLO) from LexisNexis. This is the third and final year of the subscription to LexisNexis. OCA will notify LexisNexis of non-renewal in October 2013 with a target completion of conversion of links to TLO by that time. The Bench Book was provided to all new judges who took the bench in January 2013 and will be made available to all judges who attend the 2013 Child Welfare Judge Conference in May.

### **IV. Notice and Engagement Web Application**

Ms. Amberboy reported on the status of this ongoing project. The project involves using non-confidential case data to build a system whereby notice of statutory hearings and other court-related events requiring notice to parties and interested persons can be distributed electronically. Web screens are under development using data from CPCMS. Estimated 8 weeks from April 1 to completion for CPCMS linkage. OCA staff is also building an IMPACT interface, which is a long-term goal and may require a practice change for DFPS caseworkers. Children's Commission staff will handle coordination with foster care providers and child protection court judges to pilot the effort and document usage and usability.

Discussion: Mr. Casey Kennedy provided some additional details on the pending implementation. Role-based security issues need to be finalized before testing of alternate system can commence. Mr. Kennedy mentioned that the proposed pilot site region will be Region 8/San Antonio. The CIP Data-Technology members are encouraged to help increase awareness of the project.

### **V. Attorney Billing System**

Ms. Amberboy provided an update on this long-range project that will be built into the CPCMS role-based security project for later use that may involve a uniform identification and billing system that can help track the number of attorneys providing legal representation in child protection cases, their training, and the amount of money counties are spending on court appointed legal representation year to year. The Commission's LRS workgroup is overseeing the progress of this project, but OCA is building the tool and has identified a common set of fields that will allow for a common billing form when the time comes.

Discussion: Mr. Casey Kennedy commented that OCA is looking at collaborations, because other entities have expressed interest in the model. Judge Jones expressed concern about the effects of this system on small counties and the requirements associated with electronic submission of the information. Mr. Casey Kennedy noted that attorneys can access the system online and report their time. This input will then generate a 'common' voucher that will be provided to the judge for signature and route on through appropriate county channels. Judge Jones noted that there is significant variance in bill rates among counties and this will be evident if hours are the basis. Mr. Casey Kennedy commented that the goal is to capture activities that are occurring and what billing is to the counties for specific activities. The determination whether or not to bill per hour or at a flat rate is open. Ms. Amberboy noted that the project ties back to the work of the LRS workgroup and the reform efforts that stemmed from their efforts. The intention is to determine what type of services are being provided in each county and what the level of service. There is a need to identify the spend in counties on legal representation in CPS cases. Judge Jones commented that even though there is a contract public defender's office in his county, billings for CPS cases are beginning to outstrip. Ms. Amberboy acknowledged that there is a need to ease the burden to the counties, but it is necessary to compile data to determine how to move forward.

#### **VI. Video Conferencing**

Mr. Tim Kennedy provided an update on this project which enables local courts presiding over child protection cases to have children participate in their placement/permanency hearing without them being physically present in the courtroom. A video link hosted and maintained by OCA provides the judge the opportunity to interact with the child or youth when they cannot be in the courtroom or in attendance at their hearing. Although not a replacement for seeing the child in person, video conferencing can allow the judge can gain perspective on the youth's issues, wants and needs, and see the child's demeanor and body language. OCA has worked with DFPS to resolve inoperability issues between the OCA VTC solution and the equipment owned by DFPS. As of April 1, there are 45 RTCs which can link to VTC services. FY2012 COA facilitated 56 hearings in six courts. In FY2013, the number of courts served will total between 15 and 20. Commission staff will also begin working with OCA in developing a one-page set of instructions on how to utilize video conferencing.

Discussion: OCA has resolved the firewall issues with the Department offices and videoconferencing equipment. Mr. Dan Capouch will meet with Mr. Tim Kennedy to develop a notification procedure for DFPS workers to make them aware that the communication option is available for the children they serve who are in RTC placements. Mr. Capouch will also update Ms. Colleen McCall. A 1-page usage instruction guide is in draft mode and once completed, Mr. Tim Kennedy, Mr. Dan Capouch and Ms. Colleen McCall will determine a method of best use. There was additional discussion with regard to a pilot program for use of the videoconferencing system by outside entities other than the courts. A process and procedure is established for court scheduling, but if the participant universe is expanded, it will be necessary to review and revisit processes and procedures. Region 7 is expected to be the initial focus area for expansion of use. Judge Jones inquired

to what extent the system interacts with other systems. Mr. Tim Kennedy explained that there is interaction with any other system – H.264 video standard. There are issues concerning open port settings on network firewalls. A list was developed of the open port settings; security policy must be in place to allow communication between systems. Some organizations restrict traffic flow on the ports to only outbound information; this issue will have to be resolved. A possible solution involves temporarily opening the ports to allow the session and then closing the ports at the end of the videoconference. This involves additional administrative time and effort but is a reasonable compromise. Judge Jones noted that there are issues in some jails and public defenders offices. Mr. Bryan Wilson asked if more courts are on the list to add for the service. Mr. Tim Kennedy confirmed that target courts are identified. At present, interested courts can contact him and he will place them in the ‘que’ for set up. Mr. Kennedy will provide the list to Mr. Wilson and coordinate resource information. Judge Jones expressed interest in participating. The action items resulting from the discussion include 1) Mr. Tim Kennedy will complete the 1-page user guide; 2) work will continue with DFPS to expand knowledge about the availability of the service; 3) Mr. Kennedy will exchange lists with Mr. Wilson and coordinate resources information; 4) Burnett County will be added to the wait list.

## **VII. CPCMS**

Ms. Amberboy and Mr. Kennedy provided an update on the pending and ongoing projects associated with CPCMS that include:

- Demo CPCMS website to provide interested courts/independent counties the ability to test drive the CPCMS with their own data.
- Export CPCMS Court Docket Calendar in a standard calendar format to enable other devices (e.g., blackberries, iPhones) and applications (case management systems) to process and display the Docket Calendar information outside of the CPCMS system.
- Expanded Roles Based Security for CPCMS to accommodate other user roles that can be authorized for view (only), data entry (only), a restricted combination of and data entry, or unlimited view and data entry.
- Update Training / Marketing Videos (online) CPCMS – Update and expand the training videos to cover all of the v3.0 through v3.3 releases in 2011 and the v4.0 through v4.3 releases in 2012.

Discussion: Prioritization of enhancement request tickets is ongoing and this item will go on the agenda of the August 22, 2013 joint CIP committee agenda for funding.

**VIII. Spanish Interpreter**

Ms. Amberboy provided an update on the Texas Remote Interpreter Project (TRIP). OCA Child Protection Courts involved in the project can schedule an interpreter using a web-based calendaring system on a first-come, first-served basis. Licensed court interpreter Mr. Marco Hanson works remotely, using a speaker phone or videoconferencing, to provide courtroom interpretation for as many as 20 hours a week. Unfortunately, the project is underutilized and may not be continued in FY2014. The Children's Commission has attempted to work with Travis County since they are nearby to utilize Mr. Hanson's services. Mr. Hanson will provide translation services for the upcoming Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) Guatemalan Delegation meeting that will be held in Dallas, Texas on April 19. No update for April meeting.

**IX. Child Protection Court (CPC) Strategic Plan**

Ms. Denson provided an update. The CPC Strategic Plan is aimed at developing a three to five year plan to addressing CPC court workloads in various funding scenarios. In January, the Presiding Judges met over two days to begin developing a shared vision for the CPC program that would inform the practical decisions needed to address court workloads. At the meeting, they reviewed current court caseloads and survey results from both the CPC judges and district judges around the state. Using the values articulated at the strategic planning session, OCA is working with the Presiding Judges to develop several options to address high workloads while allowing for the possibility of future program expansion.

**X. New Business**

Members brought forth no new business items for discussion.

**XI. Next Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Amberboy reminded members that the annual joint meeting of the CIP Basic, Data/Technology and Training committees will be held in Austin, Texas on August 22, 2013 at the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. (CACTX). Attendance at this meeting is important in order to have quorum for each of the CIP committees since budget matters will be discussed that pertain to the FY 2014 CIP project funding requests.

**XII. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

# **CIP TRAINING GRANT-TAB 4**

**CIP TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 4, 2013**

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

**April 4, 2013  
via conference call**

Toll free: 1-877-820-7831  
Participant Passcode: 629943

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS**

<b>Members Present</b>		<b>Members Absent</b>
Name		Name
Judge Camile DuBose, Chair	Teleconference	Ms. Joyce James, Member
Ms. Cathy Cockerham, Member	Teleconference	Ms. Shaneka Odom, Member
Ms. Barbara Elias-Perciful, Member	Teleconference	Judge Lamar McCorkle, Member
Ms. Alice Emerson, Member	Teleconference	Dr. Sandeep Narang, Member
Ms. Pam Parker, Member	Teleconference	Judge Mark Atkinson, Member
Ms. Fairy Davenport Rutland, Member	Teleconference	Ms. Elizabeth Watkins, Member
Judge Ellen Smith, Member	Teleconference	Justice Michael Massengale, Guest
Mr. Tymothy Belseth, Member	Teleconference	
Ms. Tracy Harting, Member	Teleconference	
Ms. Jenny Hinson for Debra Emerson, Member	Teleconference	
Judge Richard Garcia, Member	Teleconference	
Ms. Heidi Penix, Guest	Teleconference	
Ms. Tiffany Roper, Staff	In-Person	
Ms. Milbrey Raney, Staff	In-Person	
Ms. Mary Mitchell, Staff	In-Person	
Ms. Mari Aaron, Staff	Teleconference	

The Committee had a quorum present for this meeting.

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Raney called the meeting to order at 12:07, and deferred the adoption of minutes until Judge DuBose could join the call.

**II. Adoption of Minutes**

ACTION: Judge DuBose asked for a motion to ratify the approval of the November 29, 2012 minutes of the Training Committee. Ms. Davenport Rutland made a motion, Ms. Elias-Perciful seconded and the minutes were ratified with no dissent.

**III. Changes to Committee and Staff**

Ms. Raney announced the appointment of three new members: Judge Mark Atkinson, new Executive Director of TCJ; Tymothy Belseth, Youth Specialist, Region 7, DFPS; Elizabeth Watkins, Assistant District Attorney, Anderson County. Mr. Belseth introduced himself and provided brief comment on his background and community engagement to date. Additionally, Ms. Raney announced that Ms. Alice Emerson will remain on the Training Committee, but in a new capacity. Ms. Raney invited Ms. Emerson to brief the committee on her new role. Ms. Emerson has moved to the Travis County

Office of Child Representation, so now offers an AAL perspective in addition to her experience as a prosecutor.

#### **IV. Update on Training Grant Funding**

Ms. Roper provided an update on funding. Distribution of the FY2013 CIP grant funds is expected in April 2013 from the Children's Bureau. Ms. Roper explained that the federal budget negotiations have affected the distribution of CIP funds and commission staff will provide updates to the committee as warranted.

#### **V. Update on Training Projects**

##### **a. Attorney Practitioner Manual**

Ms. Raney reported on the status of the Attorney Practitioner Manual written in 2009 as part of National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) Texas trainings. Given the Legislative Session, staff will wait to finalize their updates until after the 83<sup>rd</sup> Session concludes.

##### **b. Attorney Appointment Eligibility Training**

Ms. Raney reported on the status of the most recent attorney appointment training course. The course, which was videotaped at the State Bar on May 22, 2012, provides training on best practices representing children in CPS cases, representing teen parents, and advocacy for foster kids with special education issues, is finally online at the SBOT "Online Classroom" series. Commission staff will be working on updating the 2008 Attorney Ad Litem Training shortly to meet the statutorily required minimum 3 hours of CLE. The goal is to make the training available on-line and free of charge to attorneys seeking appointments.

##### **c. Child Protection Webinars**

Judge DuBose reported that upon the Commission's request, the State Bar has created a new category of online CLE, called "CPS." Clicking on this category will bring up the CPS Mentor Series, which the staff has been adding to in collaboration with volunteer attorneys on various child welfare related topics. Out of the seven online classes listed, commission staff has been involved in coordinating five. There is one more class on the horizon on appeals of CPS cases, to be taped on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

##### **d. Attorney Scholarships**

Judge DuBose briefed that the Children's Commission is planning to award scholarships to the same upcoming conferences this summer as in years past:

- July: American Bar Association (ABA) Conferences for Parents' Attorneys and for Children's Attorneys;
- August: State Bar of Texas (SBOT) Advanced Family Law Seminar's 1-Day Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) track, and the NACC's annual summer conference.

We have two new systems in place for management of the summer scholarships:

- A newly developed internal CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) process for how scholarships are awarded and for evaluation of those conferences.
- A new software program, CVent, which will streamline how we publicize the scholarships and communicate with applicants. The Commission and scholarship applicants are already benefitting from this.

We are currently offering 10 scholarships to the ABA Parent Attorney Conference and 10 to the Children and the Law Conference. These will be reimbursements up to \$907 apiece for the cost of conference registration and three night's stay at the hotel where the conference is being held. Applicants are required to submit a judicial letter of approval along with their applications. Ms.

Raney thanked Ms. Elias-Perciful and Ms. Beth Page of DFPS for helping to publicize these scholarships. There is \$20,000 budgeted for attorney scholarships to the NACC conference, and \$10,000 to the 1-Day CAN track during Advanced Family Law.

Ms. Raney added that at the time of the call, the commission received 39 ABA scholarship applications to date and of those, 18 have judicial letters of recommendation. The applications are fairly evenly spread over the two ABA conferences (for parent and child attorneys). The application process closes on April 12, and the application review process will commence the week of April 15.

**e. Trial Skills Training**

Judge DuBose provided an update on the Trial Skills Training. As reported at the January Commission Meeting, commission staff completed the bulk of the Case Scenario. On April 11-12, a select group of faculty, mostly comprised of members of the Trial Skills Workgroup, will meet to discuss all aspects of the Trial Skills Training Curriculum. Peter Hoffman will train our faculty to present this curriculum; Professor Hoffman is a member of the Trial Skills Workgroup and has worked extensively with the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA). The workgroup is partnering with UT Law to have law students participate in trial skills exercises before the faculty. These exercises will be based on exhibits created from the fact pattern. The faculty will critique the law students and then Professor Hoffman will coach the faculty on the best teaching methodology to assist them in getting ready to present this training.

Ms. Raney added that the Commission has created toxicology results on the fictional mom and Dr. Narang has created an emergency room doctor's report on the baby in the case scenario. Dr. Narang will be an expert witness as well as a faculty member. One of the law students will be an attorney ad litem (AAL) to examine Dr. Narang on direct examination, and then an attorney for mom will examine him on cross-examination. A law student volunteer will also portray a prosecutor to practice the trial skills involved in dealing with an expert. The toxicology report on the mother will allow people to practice entering a business record affidavit. The main benefit will be to the faculty who will have a chance to critique future participants in the Trial Skills Training. Ms. Raney also provided an overview of the schedule for both the Train the Trainers event and the pilot project of this hands-on Trial Skills Training, which will follow on June 28 and 29, 2013, in Austin. Ms. Raney provided a list of the proposed faculty members. She concluded by saying that there will be a videographer at the Train the Trainers event with the intention that DVDs will be available for future training. A short question and answer session followed regarding the logistics of the program.

**f. NACC Grant: Fee Waiver for Child Welfare Specialist Exam**

Judge DuBose advised that NACC will be working with staff to complete a Grant Application for reimbursement of the Certification Exam Fee for Texas attorneys and judges who have qualified to sit for the Child Welfare Specialist Exam. Currently, there are a total of 33 current Texas applicants, which does include some of those who applied in 2012 (applicants have a two year window to complete the exam). This includes 3 judges. Texas has more CWLS judges than any other state!

**g. SBoT CAN Committee Multi-disciplinary Training in FY2012**

Judge DuBose invited Ms. Davenport-Rutland and Ms. Elias-Perciful to provide an update. Ms. Elias-Perciful advised that the conference has been combined with the "Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe ("KITS")" conference in Houston. The CAN portion will be held on June 19, 2013 and the KITS conference will continue through June 21, 2013. Judge Len Edwards of California will be at the KITS conference and has agreed to arrive early to be part of a panel on the 19<sup>th</sup> along with Judge John Specia. Ms. Elias-Perciful added that the agenda was looking strong, and may contain breakouts during the afternoon session. Ms. Elias-Perciful will send a "save the date" email.

## **JUDICIAL EDUCATION**

### **The Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ)**

At the August 2012 CIP committee meeting, funding was approved by the committee for FY2013 for TCJ to continue its CIP projects, including the following:

#### **Education Summit**

Texas' first Foster Care and Education Summit was held in February 2013 in Austin. It was attended by approximately 200 judges, school district and education service center representatives, DFPS and CASA staff, and state level advocates. The feedback has been very positive and Ms. Roper is working on a final report. Judge DuBose invited Ms. Roper to provide a brief update. Ms. Roper felt that the summit was very successful. During the planning process, the planning team identified the school districts around the state with the highest numbers of foster children enrolled in their schools. A joint invitation from Justice Eva Guzman and the Commissioners of DFPS and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) was sent to superintendents from those school districts, who were paired with a judge from that jurisdiction. To complete each regional team, representatives from all 20 of the education service centers around the state were invited as well as DFPS and CASA staff from each education region. One of the goals of the summit was to allow DFPS and judges to get to know the school districts within their jurisdiction. The summit raised awareness that educational outcomes of children and youth in care are very poor and they need the education, judicial, and CPS systems to work together collaboratively to improve those outcomes. Several seasoned judges mentioned that they had never had contact with their school districts before the summit. The summit led to new collaborations and attendees left with a renewed awareness of how they contribute to the challenges and what they can do to help.

#### **NCJFCJ Annual Conference**

Judge DuBose advised the group that the next NCJFCJ conference is scheduled July 14-17, 2013 in Seattle. There are approximately 25 scholarships, which will be awarded to the conference; these scholarship recipients will be required to attend the annual Child Welfare Judges Conference, scheduled May 21-23, 2013 in San Antonio. Ms. Roper added that TCJ has awarded all the available scholarships.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Permanency Summit**

Judge DuBose informed the group that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Permanency Summit is scheduled October 14-16, 2013 in San Antonio. The planning group for the 1<sup>st</sup> Permanency Summit is planning the second event and Texas Appleseed is doing follow up with a number of teams that attended 1<sup>st</sup> Permanency Summit. The planning team met and is working on identifying which jurisdictions to invite. Using Beyond the Bench as the model, new teams of a judge, DFPS, CASA, prosecutor/state's attorney, child's AAL, and parent attorney, will be invited. At Child Welfare Judges Conference, there will be a meeting of judges who attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Permanency Summit to determine what changes were made in jurisdictions after summit.

#### **Implicit Bias in Judicial Decision-Making Conference**

This conference was held in March 25-26, 2013, in San Antonio. It received very good feedback and next year's conference is likely to be scheduled in February, 2014. Ms. Penix added that the evaluations had been compiled and for quality the conference scored an overall score of "5".

### **Child Welfare Judges Conference**

This year's Child Welfare Judges Conference is scheduled for May 21-23, 2013 in San Antonio; Judge Specia will be the key note speaker to give his vision for DFPS. Other topics include a lunch for new judges, a legislative update, sessions on criminal convictions and relative placements, the legal requirements of ICWA, permanency and well-being, courtroom management, and vicarious trauma (of judges and court staff). Tentative dates for the 2014 conference are May 7-9, 2014.

### **Region VI Parent Representation Forum**

The Region VI Parent Representation Forum was held in September 2012. One of the actions on the State Action Plan developed at the Forum, the Family Visitation Round Table was held on March 1, 2013. Both conferences were very well received.

### **Mediation Project**

Judge DuBose advised that Ms. Roper would report on this project after the legislative session.

### **VI. New Business**

Judge DuBose opened the floor for new business. Mr. Belseth asked whether the Commission would be involved in Texas REACH. Ms. Roper provided background information on the program and highly recommended attendance. The next conference will be held at Lone Star College in Houston, June 3-4, 2013. Information is available on the Texas REACH website.

Members brought forth no other new business items for discussion.

### **VII. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

# **INSERT - TAB 5**

**TEXAS BLUE PRINT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**



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## ***Texas Blueprint*** **Implementation Plan, Version: May 2013**

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### **Texas Blueprint Implementation Task Force Members**

- **Judge Rob Hofmann, Chair**, Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, Mason
- **Judge Alyce Bondurant**, North Texas Child Protection Court, Wichita Falls
- **Sarah Abrahams**, Casey Family Programs, Austin
- **Joy Baskin**, Texas Association of School Boards, Austin
- **Cathy Cockerham**, Texas CASA, Austin
- **Lori Duke**, Children's Rights Clinic, The University of Texas School of Law, Austin
- **Jenny Hinson**, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin
- **Michael Redden**, New Horizons, Abilene
- **Ian Spechler**, Disability Rights Texas, Austin
- **Julie Wayman**, Texas Education Agency, Austin

### **Charge to Implementation Task Force**

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

Objective	Responsible Person/Entity	Completion Date	Measure
<b>1. Meet periodically to assess progress of implementation</b>	Task Force	December 2014	Number of meetings held and attended during duration of Task Force
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 8, 2013</li> <li>• April 3, 2013</li> <li>• June 5, 2013</li> <li>• September 2013</li> <li>• December 2013</li> <li>• No later than 4-6 weeks prior to 2014 Children’s Commission Meetings</li> </ul>			
<b>2. Prioritize the <i>Texas Blueprint</i> Recommendations</b>	Task Force	March 2013	Task Force members review and prioritize recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey developed to assist Task Force members in prioritizing recommendations</li> <li>• Task Force members complete survey</li> <li>• Survey results analyzed for presentation to Task Force members</li> </ul>			
<b>3. Identify recommendations and strategies to be implemented and the best methods for implementation</b>	Task Force	April 4, 2013	Task Force members meet and identify recommendations, as evidenced in Implementation Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force meets and analyzes and discusses survey results</li> <li>• Task Force determines recommendations and strategies to be implemented</li> <li>• Task Force determines need for workgroups regarding recommendations and strategies identified</li> </ul>			

Objective	Responsible Person/Entity	Completion Date	Measure
<p><b>4. Develop an implementation plan, which shall include phases for implementing the prioritized recommendations and strategies</b></p>	Task Force	Draft by May 3, 2013; final by September 27, 2013	Implementation plan drafted and approved by Task Force
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Commission staff drafts implementation plan and circulates for approval of Task Force</li> <li>• Upon completion of first meetings of workgroups, implementation plan updated and finalized</li> </ul>			
<p><b>5. Seek the guidance of the Advisory Council, as needed</b></p>	Task Force	June 5, 2013	Task Force determines when appropriate to seek guidance of Advisory Council
<p><b>6. Provide periodic updates to the Advisory Council and the Children’s Commission</b></p>	Task Force	Ongoing; May 3, 2013; September 27, 2013; 2014 Children’s Commission meeting dates (TBD)	Task Force Chair or Children’s Commission staff provide update to Children’s Commission at every scheduled Commission meeting; Task Force Chair provides update to Advisory Council as deemed appropriate
<p><b>7. Create workgroups, as necessary, to carry out charge</b></p>	Task Force	September 27, 2013	Workgroups created and number of meetings held
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force determines number, subject matter, and leadership of workgroups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>School Stability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chairs: Joy Baskin, Jenny Hinson</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chair: Sarah Abrahams</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chair: Julie Wayman</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Task Force	April 4, 2013	Workgroups and leadership determined
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workgroup composition determined</li> </ul>	Workgroup	June 1, 2013	Workgroup composition

Objective	Responsible Person/Entity	Completion Date	Measure
	chairs		determined
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workgroups meet</li> </ul>	Workgroup members	Ongoing but first meeting by no later than July 31, 2013	Number of workgroup meetings held
<p><b>8. Provide recommendations to the Children’s Commission regarding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. The need for reauthorization or changes to the structure or membership of the Task Force</b></li> <li><b>b. Phases II and III of the implementation process</b></li> </ul>	Task Force	December 2014	Task Force provides written report regarding the progress of the Task Force and recommendations to the Children’s Commission regarding the need for reauthorization or changes to the structure or membership of the Task Force, including need for Phase II of the Task Force
<p><b>9. School Stability Workgroup</b></p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force identifies chairs, Joy Baskin and Jenny Hinson</li> </ul>	Task Force	April 3, 2013	Workgroup chairs identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force identifies subject matter of workgroup: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase foster care capacity across school districts</li> <li>○ Implement and support House Bill 826 ISD liaisons</li> <li>○ Support timely enrollment when children initially enroll or change school placements</li> <li>○ Improve decisions regarding keeping children in their school of origin</li> <li>○ Address issue of lost credits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Task Force	April 3, 2013	Subject matter of workgroup identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairs of Workgroup determine membership of workgroup</li> </ul>	Joy Baskin, Jenny Hinson	June 1, 2013	Workgroup members identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairs of Workgroup determine meeting schedule for workgroup and begin holding meetings</li> </ul>	Joy Baskin, Jenny Hinson,	Ongoing but first meeting by no	Number of workgroup meetings held

Objective	Responsible Person/Entity	Completion Date	Measure
	Children's Commission staff	later than July 31, 2013	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workgroup determines objectives and tasks</li> </ul>	Workgroup	During initial meeting	Objectives and tasks added to Task Force Implementation Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workgroup reports progress to Task Force</li> </ul>	Joy Baskin, Jenny Hinson	Ongoing; reports due to Task Force during periodic meetings	Workgroup chairs provide oral updates to Task Force during periodic meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workgroup provides recommendations, as necessary, regarding subject matter, including need to continue consideration of subject matter after conclusion of Task Force</li> </ul>	Workgroup	By no later than December 1, 2014	Workgroup develops written recommendations, as necessary
<b>10. Training Workgroup</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force identifies chair, Sarah Abrahams</li> </ul>	Task Force	April 3, 2013	Workgroup chair identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force identifies subject matter of workgroup: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve judicial training and resources</li> <li>▪ Expand training and resources for child caregivers and child welfare stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Enhance training available to schools</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Other Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop and amass content for Children's Commission education website</li> <li>▪ Use existing stakeholder resources to promote training and raise awareness</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Task Force	April 3, 2013	Subject matter of workgroup identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair of Workgroup determines membership of workgroup</li> </ul>	Sarah Abrahams	June 1, 2013	Workgroup members identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair of Workgroup determines meeting schedule for workgroup and begins holding meetings</li> </ul>	Sarah Abrahams,	Ongoing but first meeting by no	Number of workgroup meetings held

Objective	Responsible Person/Entity	Completion Date	Measure
	Children's Commission staff	later than July 31, 2013	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup determines objectives and tasks</li> </ul>	Workgroup	During initial meeting	Objectives and tasks added to Task Force Implementation Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup reports progress to Task Force</li> </ul>	Sarah Abrahams	Ongoing; reports due to Task Force during periodic meetings	Workgroup chairs provide oral updates to Task Force during periodic meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup provides recommendations, as necessary, regarding subject matter, including need to continue consideration of subject matter after conclusion of Task Force</li> </ul>	Workgroup	By no later than December 1, 2014	Workgroup develops written recommendations, as necessary
<b>11. Data Workgroup</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task Force identifies chair, Julie Wayman</li> </ul>	Task Force	April 3, 2013	Workgroup chair identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task Force identifies subject matter of workgroup: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data</li> <li>Perfect and expand the routine exchange of aggregate data between agencies to determine how children in foster care fare educationally and to evaluate improvement in those education outcomes over time</li> <li>Improve child-specific information sharing to ensure that all agencies and stakeholders have the necessary information to serve the education needs of children in foster care</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Task Force	April 3, 2013	Subject matter of workgroup identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair of Workgroup determines membership of workgroup</li> </ul>	Julie Wayman	June 1, 2013	Workgroup members identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair of Workgroup determines meeting schedule for</li> </ul>	Julie	Ongoing but first	Number of workgroup

Objective	Responsible Person/Entity	Completion Date	Measure
workgroup and begins holding meetings	Wayman, Children's Commission staff	meeting by no later than July 31, 2013	meetings held
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup determines objectives and tasks</li> </ul>	Workgroup	During initial meeting	Objectives and tasks added to Task Force Implementation Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup reports progress to Task Force</li> </ul>	Julie Wayman	Ongoing; reports due to Task Force during periodic meetings	Workgroup chairs provide oral updates to Task Force during periodic meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup provides recommendations, as necessary, regarding subject matter, including need to continue consideration of subject matter after conclusion of Task Force</li> </ul>	Workgroup	By no later than December 1, 2014	Workgroup develops written recommendations, as necessary

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