

# **CHILDREN'S COMMISSION**

## **COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose**

The Collaborative Council assists the Children's Commission by informing commission members and staff of local, regional, and statewide issues that impact attorney and judicial practices in child welfare cases.

### **Composition**

The Collaborative Council is an advisory body comprised of child welfare stakeholders from across Texas, including advocates for children, youth, and families. There are approximately 30 Collaborative Council members at any given time.

### **Membership**

Collaborative Council members serve at the discretion of the Children's Commission for no set term. Vacancies on the Collaborative Council may occur at any time during the year as a result of resignation, non-participation, or continued absence from Children's Commission meetings. Three consecutive absences from Children's Commission meetings or non-participation by a Collaborative Council member on assigned committees may result in removal from the Collaborative Council.

### **Limitations**

The Children's Commission is a state entity and thus cannot participate in any lobbying activities. The Children's Commission serves as a resource to the Legislature and does not take a position on any legislation. Collaborative Council members do not represent the Children's Commission and members should not attempt to influence legislation on behalf of the Children's Commission.

### **Collaborative Council Input**

Collaborative Council members have various opportunities to participate and provide input into the activities, projects, and strategies undertaken by the Children's Commission. Collaborative Council members who attend commission meetings are invited to share information at the end of each commission meeting. Additionally, Collaborative Council members are invited to share announcements and resources for distribution to Commissioners. Collaborative Council members are also invited to join in a bi-weekly stakeholder conference call hosted by the Children's Commission, which is typically held every other Wednesday with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the Office of Court Administration (OCA). The Children's Commission convenes an

# CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

## COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL OVERVIEW

annual Collaborative Council meeting, in conjunction with the September Commission meeting, to gather input from Collaborative Council members.

### **Committee Membership Opportunities**

The Children's Commission maintains four standing committees: Systems Improvement, Legal Practice & Process, Training, and Data. The Children's Commission may also form ad hoc committees and workgroups. Collaborative Council members may submit a request to the Committee Chair or to Commission staff to join a Children's Commission committee, workgroup, or task force. Collaborative Council members may also make a recommendation to the Committee Chair or Commission staff for an additional member to participate on a committee, workgroup, or task force. Commission staff has discretion to invite Collaborative Council members to a different or additional project than the one requested, depending on current membership and area of interest. Committee Chairs, in consultation with Commission staff, may add or remove committee members at their discretion.

### **Travel Reimbursement**

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) is federally funded, and travel reimbursement is thereby governed by the reimbursement policies of the CIP, the Children's Commission, and the Supreme Court of Texas. Travel guidelines are outlined on the Commission's [travel webpage](#).

### **Membership Application**

Stakeholders interested in serving on the Children's Commission Collaborative Council should submit their information to the Children's Commission for consideration. The application includes a request for two professional references.

To apply: [Collaborative Council Member Application](#)