

FY 2016 - FY 2020 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT



Williamson County Juvenile Services
200 Wilco Way Georgetown, Texas 78626

VISION

Making a difference in our community: creating opportunities for positive change through hope, empowerment, prevention and accountability.

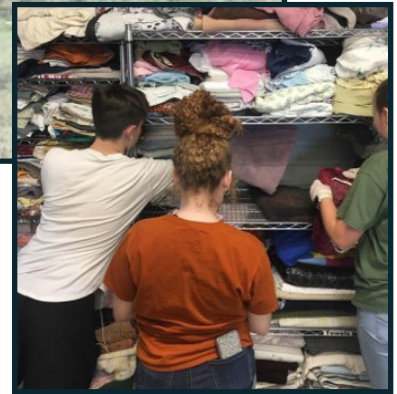
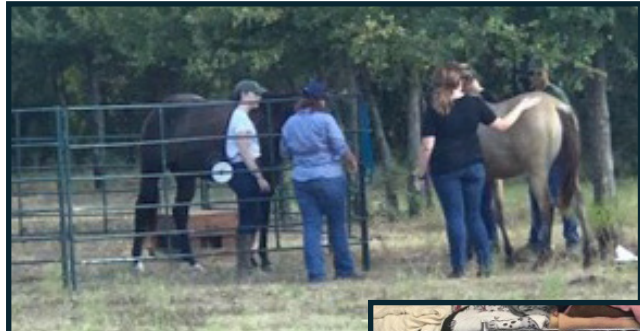
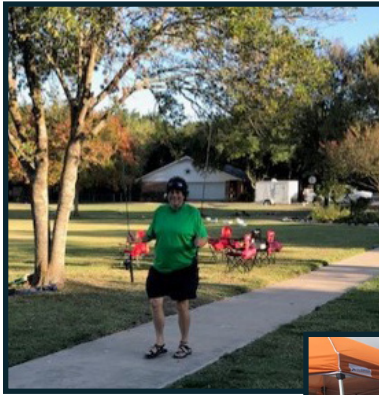


Table of Contents

Juvenile Board of Judges and Executive Leadership

4

From the Desk of the Chief

5

Strategic Plan

6

Values and Beliefs

8

Adverse Childhood Experiences

10

Trauma-Informed Care

12

TBRI Implementation

14

Search Institute

16

Sparks

18

Highlights Timeline

20

Administration and Financial Services

22

Department Referrals

25

Detention

28

Court and Field Services

32

Programs and Classes

41

Mental Health Services

44

Screening/Assessment Data

51

Education

53

Residential

57

WCJS Executive Team Engagement

65

TBRI Training and Consulting

66

News and Announcements

68

WCJS Employees

78

Contract Staff

83

Juvenile Board of Judges



Stacey Mathews
277th Judicial
District Judge
Board Chair



Betsy Lambeth
425th Judicial
District Judge



Rick Kennon
368th Judicial
District Judge



Donna King
26th Judicial
District Judge



Ryan Larson
395th Judicial
District Judge



Bill Gravell Jr.
County Judge

Executive Leadership

Juvenile Services
Executive Director
Scott Matthew, MBA



Assistant Executive Director
Matt Smith, LPC-S



John Pelczar
Director of
Operations



Brooke Hall
Director of Court
& Field Services



Ryan McDowell
Director of
Facilities



Tara Stewart
Director of
Education



Lynn Kessel
Director of
Mental Health



Kay Moore
CORE Facility
Administrator



Becky Jaramillo
Detention Facility
Administrator



Rebekah Castillo
Court Services
Administrator

From the Desk of the Chief



On behalf of the Williamson County Juvenile Board, Juvenile Services' staff, interns, mentors, and volunteers, it is our honor and privilege to present the 2016-2020 Comprehensive Williamson County Juvenile Services Report.

In 2016, as an organization, we developed a strategic plan foundationally approaching juvenile justice service delivery in a new and non-traditional way. We have been steadfast in our focus on the following research-based and evidence-based cornerstones of our strategic plan. As you review this report, each of the following cornerstones will be fully explained: SPARKS® and Developmental Relationships® from the Search Institute out of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Trauma-Informed Care, Trust-Based Relational Intervention® from the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University, Motivational Interviewing, Service Learning, and Community Collaboration. We have found these cornerstones have provided a solid prescription for effective case management, successful residential treatment, and successful outcomes over the past five years. Our mental health continuum of care continues to grow and take on greater responsibility as we placed licensed counselors in each satellite office around the county to expand our effectiveness started through the Preservation Program so many years ago. This has allowed us to take a treatment team approach in each area of the county for youth and families in most desperate need of mental health and case-management services.

On the state level, we have seen only slight reductions in funding even though referrals statewide are at a historic low. I believe legislators see the importance of maintaining funding in our field because more now than ever we are involved in providing much needed mental health services. At TJJD, in concert with counties, a focus has been to reduce the size of the state agency, ultimately redirecting funds back to counties.

Camille Cain was appointed as Executive Director of TJJD in January 2018. Since Ms. Cain's arrival, she has remained focused on reducing commitments to a historic low. Today the number hovers between 750 and 800 youth in custody in the five state schools and halfway houses. We are very proud here in Williamson County that Ms. Cain followed Williamson County's lead by adopting Trust-Based Relational Intervention® and developing "The Texas Model" to create momentum for all counties to reform how we interact with youth and families. Through these efforts Williamson County continues to stay well below our TJJD commitment target each year. On a personal note, in 2019, I was honored and humbled by being reappointed to the TJJD Board of Directors by Governor Gregg Abbott for another 6-year term.

Here at home, we lead the charge as good stewards of public trust by securing grant funding from state agencies and foundations whose vision and missions align well with our own. These grants have increased prevention services, strengthened programs, enhanced transition services, increased mental health services, and added long-term mentoring services, parent coaching, and vocational opportunities.

In 2020, much of the year required us to shift focus to address the unforeseen and sometimes seemingly insurmountable challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. I am proud to say that we met those challenges with determination, endurance, flexibility, and faith, and we are succeeding despite the struggle. I do want to say thank you to everyone here in our organization who sacrificed under these extraordinary circumstances to ensure our youth and families' needs have been met. Also, I want to share my condolences to those families who have suffered so much loss during this unprecedented pandemic.

In closing, throughout this report, you will see not only the fruits of our organization's labors but also those of our loyal community partners and so many individuals who have provided their time, talents, and treasures in supporting our mission and vision.

I thank our Juvenile Board, Commissioner's Court, the 12 Williamson County School Districts, the Auditor's Office, County Attorney, IT, Facilities, and all the other Williamson County Offices who support our agency every day. Thank you for your gracious support.

As you review this report, we hope you become as confident as we are that Williamson County Juvenile Services is a force for positive change and that we are making a positive difference in the lives of youth and families in our community by creating opportunities for positive change through hope, empowerment, prevention, and accountability.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott Hadden".

WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN



DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUUM OF CARE

Mental Health Professionals in Leadership

Department Behavioral Health Services

Community Collaboration

Mental Health in Schools Conference

Behavioral Health Taskforce

MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE IN THE COMPETENCE OF OUR ORGANIZATION BY OUTSIDE STAKEHOLDERS



WCJS Executive Team Engaged in Local Board
Memberships and Collaboratives

Hosting Events and Public Awareness Efforts

Youth Leadership and Citizenship –
Service Learning and Community Service

DEVELOP LOCAL SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF JUVENILES AND FAMILIES



Department Culture – Relationship Focused

Asset Development as Department Philosophy

Developmental Relationships® and Sparks®

Trauma-Informed Care

Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®)

Motivational Interviewing (MI)

Specialized Services



REDUCE “OUT-OF-COUNTY” PLACEMENT/ COMMITMENT TO TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION/ TJJD STATE FACILITIES

Reduction in “Out of County Placement”

Intensive Family Preservation Services

TJJD Commitment Reduction Funds
Specialized Residential Treatment

Keeping Youth Closer to Home

WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES CORNERSTONES

Williamson County Juvenile Services (WCJS) is the county juvenile probation and services department in Williamson County, Texas. Central operations for the department are located at the Juvenile Justice Center in Georgetown, Texas that houses Central Administration, the Juvenile Court, the Juvenile Detention Center, C.O.R.E. Residential Treatment Center, the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, Prevention Services, and Georgetown Court and Field Services. Field Services are administered through additional branch office locations in the cities of Round Rock, Taylor, and Cedar Park. 165 full-time employees including youth engagement specialists (juvenile probation and supervision officers), case managers, counselors, social workers, teachers, nurses, specialists, supervisors, administrators, support staff, and additional part-time staff and contract professionals focus their daily efforts on executing and supporting the WCJS Vision -- "Making a difference in our community: Creating opportunities for pos-



itive change through hope, empowerment, prevention, and accountability." WCJS offers robust services and programs to youth and families including, but not limited to, prevention and early intervention services, direct-care supervision and support, community supervision and engagement, court services, legal advocacy, on-site education and school services, case management, parent enrichment, electronic monitoring, family preservation, crisis intervention, home- and school-based services, counseling, sexual behavior treatment and polygraph, psychiatric medication management, mental health and psychological assessment/evaluation, substance use intervention and treatment, on-site medical services, and residential treatment. WCJS operates under a comprehensive trauma-informed and relational framework; balancing accountability, youth and family rehabilitation, and community protection.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES

VALUES AND BELIEFS ABOUT CHILDREN:

A partial list of therapeutic values and beliefs for staff regarding children includes the following.

(adapted from Hodas, et al.)

Children should be viewed as:

- Significantly different than adults, due in part to an extensive, rapid developmental process, which staff needs to recognize and promote.
- Doing the best they can, given current circumstances and limitations (limitations typically involve knowledge, skills, stability, and support).
- Survivors, whose behavior reflects adaptation to adverse circumstances, limited skills, and physiological imbalances. Children therefore should not be viewed as “bad,” “manipulative,” or “attention-seeking.”
- In need of understanding, respect, support, and redirection – not control, management, coercion, or shaming.
- In need of encouragement to recognize and build on their strengths and competencies.
- Possessing a capacity for resilience and positive change, when offered appropriate treatment and support.
- Capable of active participation in their treatment, when offered the opportunity for a meaningful partnership with staff.

VALUES AND BELIEFS ABOUT FAMILIES:

Staff members ideally recognize the many challenges that families (broadly defined to include the nuclear family, extended family, and highly committed others) face in trying to raise a child, particularly one with special needs. When there is also poverty and scarcity of services, the challenges multiply. With such considerations in mind, and consistent with a commitment to remain strengths-based, the direct care worker needs to disavow such concepts as “the dysfunctional family.”

A partial list of therapeutic values and beliefs for direct care staff regarding the family includes the following.

Families should be viewed as:

- Caring and competent.
- Experts in relation to their child – and therefore key sources of information.
- Partners in treatment, not individuals are to be blamed.
- Allies to professional staff.

VALUES AND BELIEFS

VALUES AND BELIEFS

VALUES AND BELIEFS ABOUT THE NATURE OF TREATMENT:

Staff members cannot be effective if, in reality, they do not believe that mental health treatment and/or therapeutically based interventions in child welfare and juvenile justice can make a positive difference in the lives of children. While it may be naive to assume that all mental health treatment is beneficial, direct care workers should not view services as a “waste of time” or the children being served as being “beyond help.” Stigma cannot be effectively challenged when those entrusted with the care of children privately endorse these same beliefs.

A partial list of therapeutic values and beliefs for direct care staff regarding the nature of treatment includes the following.

Mental health treatment, along with therapeutic interventions in related child-serving systems, should be viewed as:

- Viable and meaningful.
- Mediated through relationships and the restoration of hope.
- Facilitated by a team process in which team members collaborate.
- Focused on accountability and natural consequences, not on punishment.
- Involving the absence of violence, threats, and coercion towards children.
- Respecting the integrity of the child’s body and avoiding the use of restraint, except in an extreme emergency as a last resort to maintain safety.
- Involving ongoing efforts to help the child identify constructive choices.

VALUES AND BELIEFS UNDERLYING PERSONAL MOTIVATION:

It is important that individuals seeking to work with children in placement be motivated to work in such settings for appropriate reasons. A key involves being committed to the job and the children, not just “passing through.” Gratification for the direct care worker should come from helping children, not controlling or using them.

What follows is a partial list of therapeutically based rationales for an individual seeking employment as a direct care worker:

- A desire to help children, not control or exploit them.
- A desire to “give back” to the community and to others.
- A desire to provide children the positive experiences they deserve.
- A desire to learn and grow as a professional and not just “pass through.”

(Adapted from Hodas, et.al)



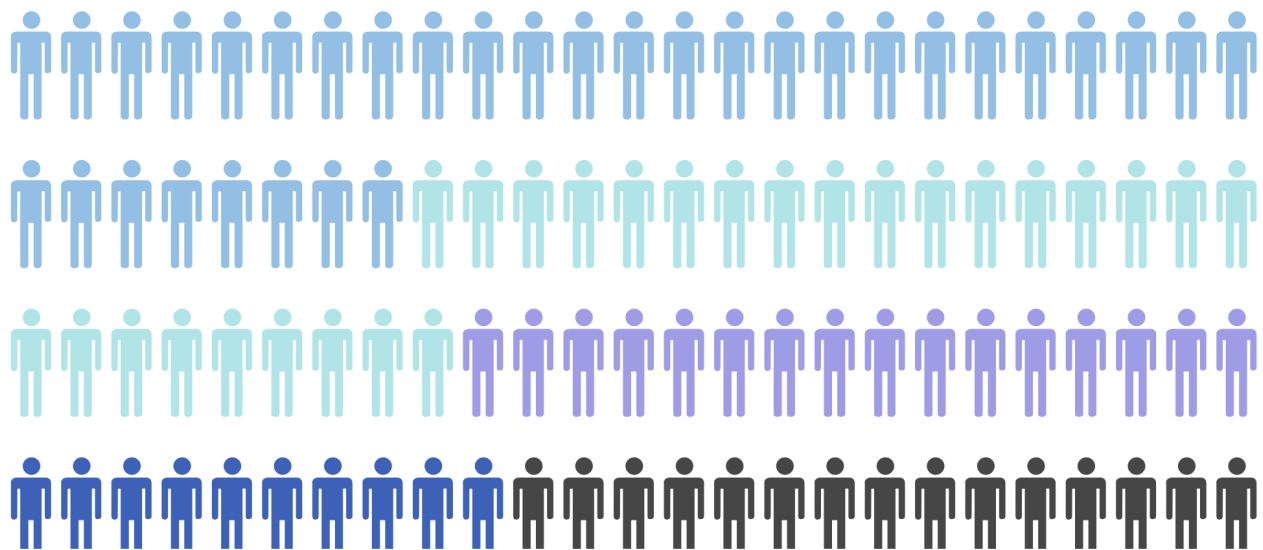
Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years): for example: experiencing neglect or abuse, witnessing violence in the home, or having a family member with a serious health condition. Also included are aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding such as growing up in a household with: substance use, mental health problems, or instability due to parental separation or household members being in jail or prison. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood. ACEs can also negatively impact education and job opportunities. However, ACEs can be prevented. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study is one of the largest investigations of the link between childhood maltreatment and health and well-being later in life. Using data from 17,000 participants, the study which was conducted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Kaiser Permanente, demonstrates that trauma and adverse experiences during childhood are major risk factors for the leading causes of illness and death in United States, as well as for poor quality of life.

[About the CDC-Kaiser ACE Study](#) | [Violence Prevention](#) | [Injury Center](#) | [CDC](#)

ACE SCORE PREVALENCE FOR CDC-KAISER ACE STUDY PARTICIPANTS

ACE Score = Number of ACE Categories



0
ACEs

33%

1
ACEs

26%

2
ACEs

16%

3
ACEs

10%

4,+
ACEs

16%

ACE Scores Reliably Predict Challenges During the Life Course

ACEs are common.

About 61% of adults surveyed across 25 states reported that they had experienced at least one type of ACE, and nearly 1 in 6 reported they had experienced four or more types of ACEs.

Preventing ACEs could potentially reduce a large number of health conditions.

For example, up to 1.9 million cases of heart disease and 21 million cases of depression could have been potentially avoided by preventing ACEs.

Some children are at greater risk than others.

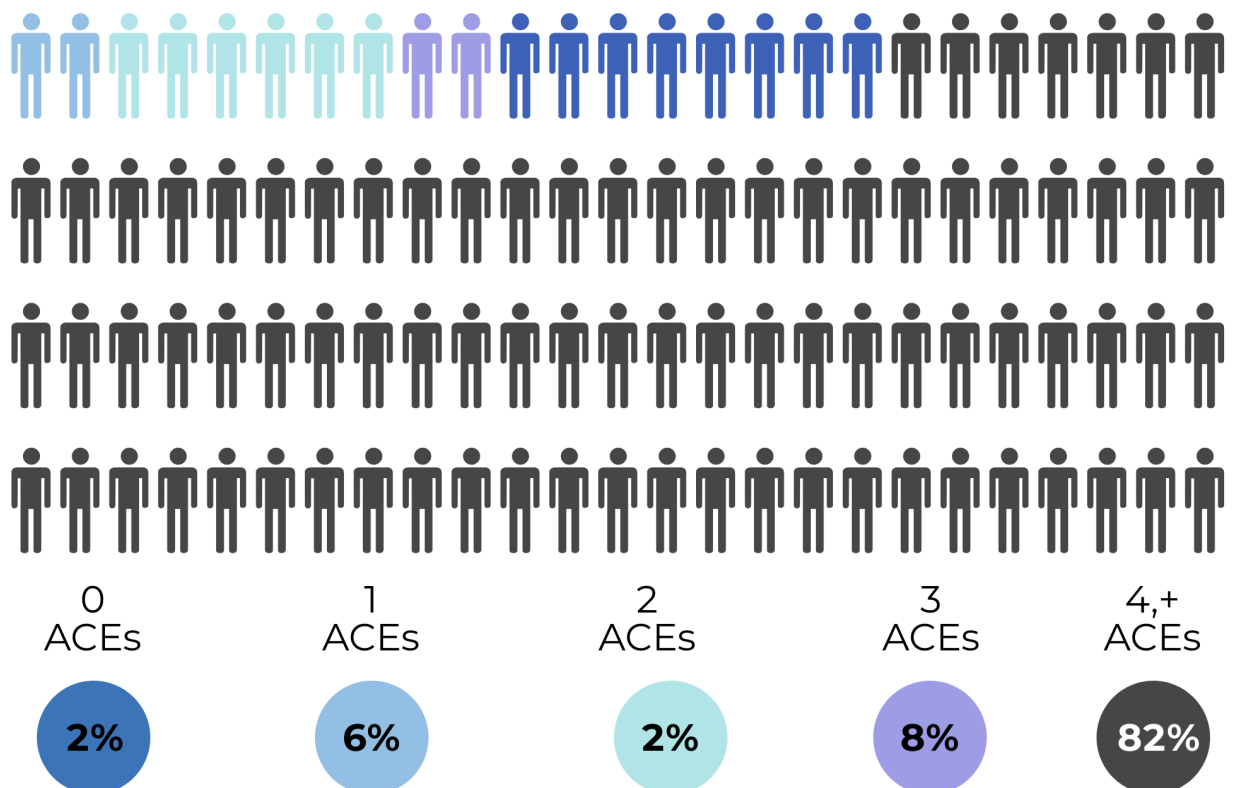
Women and several racial/ethnic minority groups were at greater risk for having experienced 4 or more types of ACEs.

ACEs are costly.

The economic and social costs to families, communities, and society totals hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

ACE SCORES OF 50 CORE RESIDENTS FROM FY 2019 WERE EVALUATED, SHOWING AN ALARMING NUMBER OF ACES FOR YOUTH SERVED IN THE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM. OF THE YOUTH REVIEWED 82% IDENTIFIED AS HAVING 4 OR MORE ACES, AS COMPARED TO 16% IN THE ORIGINAL STUDY.

C.O.R.E. ACEs FY 2019



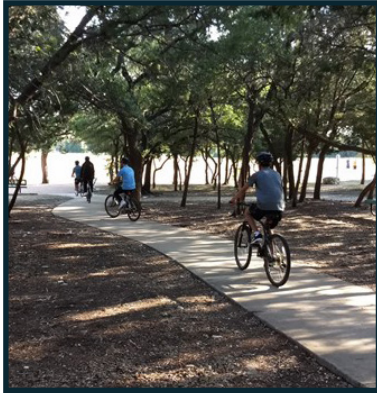
ACE Scores Reliably Predict Challenges During the Life Course

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

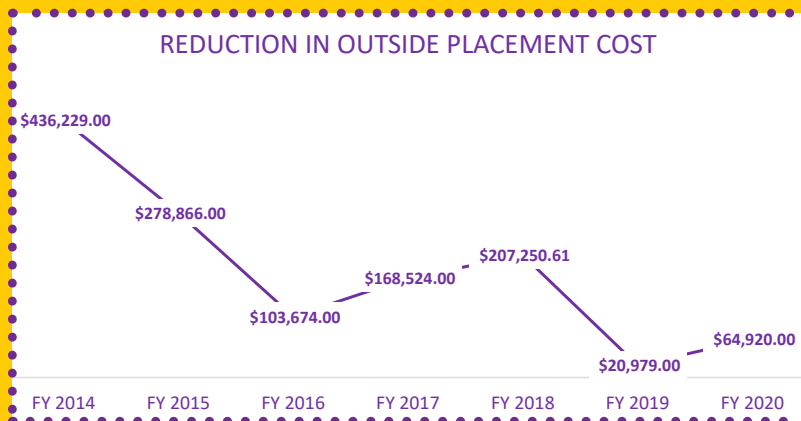
Research base: According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), a trauma-informed child- and family-service system are one in which all parties involved recognize and respond to the impact of traumatic stress on those who have contact with the system; including children, caregivers, and service providers. Programs and agencies within such a system infuse and sustain trauma awareness, knowledge, and skills into their organizational cultures, practices, and policies. They act in collaboration with all those who are involved with the child, using the best available science, to facilitate and support the recovery and resiliency of the child and family.

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

A trauma-sensitive approach is a key component of the WCJS culture. Nearly 100% of youth/families in services with the department have a trauma history and will experience improved outcomes from a trauma-informed and relational system rather than a traditional correctional approach.



TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. While the intervention is based on years of attachment, sensory processing, and neuroscience research, the heartbeat of TBRI® is connection. The Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development has published many peer-reviewed journal articles that provide evidence for the success of the intervention. Trust-Based Relational Intervention® is currently listed on the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC) registry and is rated as being “Highly” relevant in the child welfare system based upon the program being designed to meet the needs of children, youth, and families receiving child welfare services. Trust-Based Relational Intervention® is listed as a promising intervention in two categories: TBRI® Online Caregiver Training & TBRI® Caregiver Training in the area of Parent Training Programs that Address Behavior Problems in Children & Adolescents.



* FY 2018 High needs youth placed out of state in specialized treatment.
 ** FY 2018 \$59,103.61 TJJD Regional Diversion, \$148,147 County Funds
 ** FY 2019 \$20,979.00 TJJD Regional Diversion, \$0 County Funds
 ** FY 2020 \$64,920.00 TJJD Regional Diversion, \$0 County Funds

REDUCTION IN TJJD COMMITMENT

FY 2016 = 10
 FY 2017 = 5
 FY 2018 = 6
 FY 2019 = 1
 FY 2020 = 1

how do we know
IT'S WORKING?

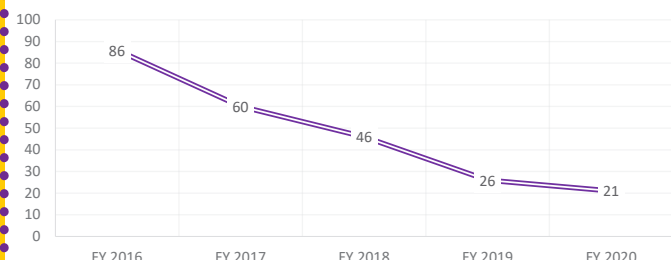
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

6 month follow-up comparison after TBRI® Implementation

CORE RESIDENTIAL
 (trauma-informed)
 VS
ACADEMY
 (military structure)

43% decrease in youth grievances filed
 93% decrease in suicide watches
 31% decrease in physical restraints
 45% increase in completion of program

CASES RETURNED TO COURT FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION



**attributable to working more collaboratively with youth and families using TBRI empowering, connecting, and correcting principles.

TBRI Implementation Strategies

All WCJS staff were trained in TBRI® during summer 2016, and a new partnership formed with the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development (KPID) at Texas Christian University. WCJS is the first juvenile justice agency in the world to implement TBRI® as an intervention framework.

Ongoing TBRI® Champions meetings, addressing specific needs raised, how to spread TBRI® throughout the organization, and provide resources and tools.

TBRI® emails to the entire department with reminders, resources, explanations, and encouragement.

Nurture groups implemented as CORE Residential opens in March 2017; incorporation of new tools (fidgets, weighted blankets, other sensory tools), framework, and strategies. Nurture groups are scheduled once per week in CORE.

JSO and JPO job titles changed to Youth Engagement Specialists, TBRI® language added to job descriptions.

TBRI® Problem-Solving Worksheet was implemented as a staff tool following critical incidents as well as a proactive measure when youth and families appear resistant/disengaged – used in both residential and field services settings.

TBRI® Practitioner and WCJS CORE Senior Supervisor Shannon Morning coaches staff using video replay of critical incidents.

Critical Incident Review worksheet implemented using TBRI® IDEAL Response® and Level of Response® to compare staff intervention to expected actions.

Calming Engagement plans implemented for individual CORE Residents and youth/families in the community.

Continued networking and support with TBRI® partners.

TBRI® parent groups; multi-family events for field focusing on connection and TBRI® concepts.

Field Services begins tracking and measuring Sparks® and Developmental Relationships® as part of TBRI® Connecting Principles.

Field Services begins hosting quarterly Family Nights focused on TBRI® Connecting Principles.

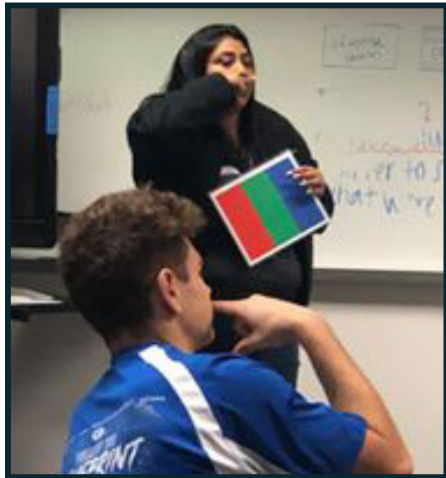
TBRI® language/principles added to the supervision policy.

TBRI® Overview added to New Employee Orientation – trained by WCJS TBRI® Practitioners.

Trauma-Informed Parenting Strategies (TIPS) class offered to parents – includes info on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma-informed care, and TBRI® Principles.

Division Meeting TBRI® concept review and staff share-outs regarding implementation successes and challenges.

1-and 2-day TBRI® Workshops facilitated by WCJS TBRI® Practitioners integrated into WCJS Summer Training for all employees.



WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES TBRI® PRACTITIONERS

- Shannon Morning - Facility TBRI® Coach
- Natalie Bott – Facility Counseling Supervisor
- Amanda Brunson – Facility Counselor II – CORE Residential Treatment
- Kaitlyn Bruch - Field Counselor Supervisor
- Ryan McDowell - Director of Facilities
- Matt Milliken - Facility Senior Supervisor
- Tanielu Tuiasosopo – Prevention/Georgetown Field Supervisor
- Rebekah Castillo – Court/Intake Services Administrator
- Marc Ruiz – Juvenile Probation Officer II



Williamson County Juvenile Services continues to integrate the Developmental Assets in all aspects of supervision and programming, from prevention to placement and aftercare services. This approach reinforces the Department's Vision Statement; solidifies relationships with parents, school and community members; and provides youth with a solid foundation of healthy growth and development. Additionally, the implementation of The 40 Developmental Assets serves the community of Williamson County as a whole by improving quality of life; fostering accountability and personal responsibility; and promoting leadership skills, academics, and employability.

Search Institute's newest research-to-practice initiative focuses on studying and strengthening the Developmental Relationships that help young people succeed. A Developmental Relationship helps young people attain the psychological and social skills that are essential for success in education and in life. The number and intensity of developmental relationships in young people's lives are linked to a range of positive educational outcomes.

<http://www.search-institute.org/research/developmental-relationships>



WCJS views these Developmental Relationships® and Sparks® as critical components of adolescent development. WCJS incorporates relevant staff training opportunities focused on relationship development throughout the department.

DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS FRAMEWORK

According to research by Search Institute, there are **5 key elements** to building strong developmental parent-youth relationships. These areas are:



1. Express Care

Show each other that you enjoy being together. Show that you care about things that are important to each other.

2. Challenge Growth

Help each other push to be your best, learning from failures and being accountable to stay on track.



3. Provide Support

Guide and advocate for each other as you work to overcome obstacles, complete tasks, and achieve goals.

4. Share Power

Take each other's ideas seriously. Work together to solve problems and reach goals.



5. Expand Possibilities

Help each other connect with people, ideas, and opportunities that open up new possibilities for the future.

The Developmental Assest Framework

Search Institute has identified 40 positive supports and strengths that young people need to succeed. Half of the assets focus on the relationships and opportunities they need in their families, schools, and communities (external assets). The remaining assets focus on the social-emotional strengths, values, and commitments that are nurtured within young people (internal assets).

EXTERNAL ASSETS

The supports, opportunities, and relationships young people need across all aspects of their lives.

SUPPORT

Young People need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.



EMPOWERMENT

Young people need to feel valued and valuable. This happens when youth feel safe and respected.



BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Young people need clear rules, consistent consequences for breaking rules, and encouragement to do their best.



CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME

Young people need opportunities – outside of school – to learn and develop new skills and interests with other youth and adults.



INTERNAL ASSETS

Young people need opportunities – outside of school – to learn and develop new skills and interests with other youth and adults.

COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

Young people need a sense of lasting importance of learning and a belief in their abilities.



POSITIVE VALUES

Young people need to develop strong guiding values or principles to help them make healthy life choices.



SOCIAL COMPETENCIES

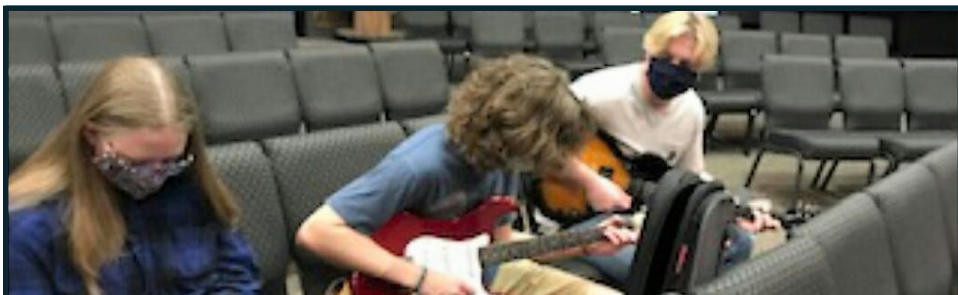
Young people need the skills to interact effectively with others, to make difficult decisions, and to cope with new situations.



POSITIVE IDENTITY

Young people need to believe in their self-worth and to feel that they have control over the things that happen to them.





Relationships with caring adults and peers can increase student engagement and improve academic motivation. Students who experience developmental relationships 1) get better grades, 2) have higher aspirations for the future, 3) and participate in college-preparatory activities more frequently. Search Institute research shows that kids who thrive have two important supports: knowledge of what their sparks are and adults who support the development of those sparks. Several research studies show that creative arts, athletics, and learning are the top interests that kids identify as their sparks. Other activities, such as reading, volunteering, nature, and spirituality also spark kids' passions.

<http://www.search-institute.org/sparks>

Raising Community Awareness Through Partnership



In 2018, in an effort to broaden and deepen trauma-informed awareness and competency to the Williamson County community, Williamson County Juvenile Services partnered with Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, Georgetown Health Foundation, The Georgetown Project, and Williamson County and Cities Health District as founding members of a new local collaborative -- Resilient Wilco. Resilient Wilco provides training, consultation, and trauma-informed support to local organizations working to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and build a more resilient future for our communities.

Local Volunteer Trainers from the participating organizations offer ground-breaking insights and training on emerging relationship-science and neuroscience at NO-COST to local communities. Following the Self-Healing Communities model out of Washington State and using the national curriculums developed by ACE Interface and Community Resilience Initiative, these learning opportunities raise awareness and offer strategies grounded in N.E.A.R. Science (Neuroscience, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experience, and Resilience.)

To date, Resilient Wilco trainers have delivered 30 N.E.A.R. Science Trainings to more than 2000 attendees from Williamson County schools, non-profits, community collaboratives, and conferences. WCJS Asst. Executive Director Matt Smith, Director of Mental Health Services Lynn Kessel, and Round Rock Field Services Supervisor Kristen Adams collectively reached a total of 1,266 participants.



www.healthywillamsoncounty.org/resilientwilco



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK: "I LOVED THE PRESENTATION. THE INFORMATION WAS GREAT AND WELL PRESENTED. IT WILL HELP ME UNDERSTAND THE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES I WORK WITH AND MAKE ME MORE CONSCIOUS OF HOW I INTERACT."



REDUCING DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT

In 2019, in partnership with Bluebonnet Trails Community Services and The University of Texas at Austin, Williamson County Juvenile Services pursued a grant opportunity to address Disproportionate Minority Contact for youth entering the Juvenile Justice System in Williamson County. Following a delay due to COVID-19, in 2020, the University of Texas was awarded the grant and the project is scheduled to initiate in 2021.

The project will work to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact by raising awareness through training and technical assistance to the key intercept points across the system: Community Prevention, Arrest, Referral, Detention, Petition, Adjudication, and Disposition. The project will collaborate with the existing Resilient Wilco initiative

to train key decision-makers across these intercepts in Trauma-Informed Care and Diversion, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) curriculums.

WCJS Asst. Executive Director Matt Smith and Director of Mental Health Services Lynn Kessel will dedicate 10% of their time over the 3-year grant cycle to assist in the establishment of cross-sector partnerships, ensure representation from the key intercept points, and participate in the review of related policies and recommendation of policy action. Through these efforts, Williamson County will be reimbursed \$50,506 by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) grant over the 3-year period.

FY 2016 - FY 2020

2015

"BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS" TRAINING FOR ALL STAFF (REVIEWED IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT, CONTRASTED HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, PROVIDED A TOOLBOX OF SKILLS TO USE, PROVIDED PRACTICE ACTIVITIES).

WCJS ADOPTED TRUST-BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION® (TBRI®) AS THE NEW TRAUMA-INFORMED FRAMEWORK FOR JUVENILE SERVICES. ALL STAFF WAS TRAINED IN TBRI® DURING SUMMER 2016 THROUGH LOCAL NON-PROFIT STARRY.

SUMMER

2016

A NEW PARTNERSHIP FORMED WITH KARYN PURVIS INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KPIDC) AS WCJS IS THE FIRST JUVENILE JUSTICE AGENCY IN THE WORLD SEEKING TO IMPLEMENT TBRI AS AN INTERVENTION FRAMEWORK. KPIDC TRAINERS PRESENTED A 1-DAY TBRI OVERVIEW FOR ALL WCJS SUPERVISORS AND LEADERSHIP IN JULY IN GEORGETOWN.

HOSTED A "SPARKS FAIR" AS THE CULMINATION OF THE SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR WCJS RESIDENTS.

TRUST-BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION (TBRI) TRAINING FOR ALL STAFF (FURTHER WORK ON RELATIONSHIP BUILDING WITH YOUTH "FROM HARD PLACES" FOCUSING ON KEY PRINCIPLES OF CONNECTING, EMPOWERING, AND CORRECTING).

KARYN PURVIS INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT TRAINERS WERE ON-SITE TO OBSERVE STAFF INTERVENTIONS WITH YOUTH, INTERVIEW STAFF, AND ASSESS OVERALL CULTURE TO TAILOR TRAINING SPECIFIC TO THE DEPARTMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION STRENGTHS AND NEEDS.

OCTOBER

2016

NOVEMBER

2016

STARRY TRAINING DIRECTOR AND TBRI® EDUCATOR JESSICA KILPATRICK, LPC TRAINED 150 ISD AND COMMUNITY PROFESSIONALS IN TBRI® IN THE CLASSROOM AT THE 2016 WILLIAMSON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE.

WCJS INCORPORATES TBRI FOR TEENS® INTO NEW EMPLOYEE TRAINING.

JANUARY

2017

ALL JSOs AND JPOs PARTICIPATED IN DOCUMENTARY LED TRAINING ACTIVITIES (PAPER TIGERS & RESILIENCE) FOCUSED ON ACEs, WHAT A TRAUMA-INFORMED SYSTEM LOOKS LIKE, AND HOW TO CONTINUE TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION.

KARYN PURVIS INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT TRAINED ALL STAFF IN A TAILORED TBRI® OVERVIEW IN A JUVENILE JUSTICE SETTING.

SUMMER

2017

WCJS TBRI® PRACTITIONERS DESIGNED AND EXECUTED A 2-DAY WORKSHOP AND TRAINED ALL STAFF DURING JSO/JPO SUMMER TRAINING.

WCJS CHANGES ALL JSO & JPO JOB TITLES TO "YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SPECIALISTS". WCJS BEGINS INCLUDING THE "CORE BELIEFS (HODAS)" DOCUMENT AS PART OF THE INTERVIEW/HIRING PACKET.

FIELD AND PREVENTION SERVICES BEGAN DATA TRACKING ON SPARK DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT IN SPARK ACTIVITIES.

WITH FUNDING SUPPORT FROM A PARTNERSHIP WITH TRAVIS COUNTY COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN (TCCC) AND KPIDC, JUVENILE SERVICES SENT 7 STAFF MEMBERS TO A WEEK-LONG TBRI® PRACTITIONER TRAINING.

EQUINE ACTIVITY PROGRAM FOCUSED ON LEADERSHIP FOR AT-RISK YOUTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RIDE ON CENTER FOR KIDS (R.O.C.K.).

MARCH

2017

APRIL

HIGHLIGHTS TIMELINE

2020

WCJS APPLIES TO FORMALLY PARTNER AS A TBRI® AMBASSADOR AGENCY WITH KPICD.

WCJS PARTNERS WITH KPICD IN NIDA; FUNDED LeSA (LEVERAGING SAFE ADULTS) RE-SEARCH STUDY DESIGNED TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TBRI® PARENT/CAREGIVER COACHING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH TRANSITIONING HOME FROM JUVENILE JUSTICE RESIDENTIAL CARE.

WCJS SELECTS SHANNON MORNING AS THE FIRST TBRI® COACH FULLY DEDICATED TO TRAINING, COACHING, AND SUPPORTING STAFF MEMBERS IN TBRI® IMPLEMENTATION.

NOVEMBER

2017

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WILLIAMSON COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGES BETSY LAMBETH AND STACEY MATHEWS, WCJS HOSTED 150 LAW ENFORCEMENT, COURT, AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS IN A 1-DAY TBRI® OVERVIEW AS PART OF THE 1ST ANNUAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN THE LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS CONFERENCE IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

MARCH

2018

WCJS SENT AN ADDITIONAL FOUR STAFF MEMBERS TO TBRI® PRACTITIONER TRAINING WITH THE KARYN PURVIS INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT (2 PROBATION OFFICERS, DETENTION SUPERVISOR, FAMILY PRESERVATION SUPERVISOR).

WCJS INCORPORATES "3 PILLARS OF TRAUMA-WISE CARE (FELT SAFETY, CONNECTION, COPING)" AS OVERALL DEPARTMENT FOCUS, TRAINS ALL STAFF IN 3 PILLARS.

JUNE

2018

FIELD SERVICES DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED A TIERED "SPARK LADDER" DESIGNED FOR YOUTH TO CONTINUE TO PROGRESS IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN SPARK ACTIVITIES. JPO EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS BASED ON OFFICER COMPETENCY IN ASSISTING YOUTH IN PROGRESSING THROUGH THE SPARK LADDER.

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PILOT PROGRAM OFFERED AT HOPEWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL IN ROUND ROCK ISD THROUGH NON-PROFIT PARTNER CATALYST COLLECTIVE.

AUGUST

2018

WCJS IMPLEMENTS THE TBRI® FRAMEWORK INTO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (JJAEP), OVERHAULS BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT, AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES USING TBRI®.

JUNE

2019

WCJS SENDS FIVE ADDITIONAL STAFF MEMBERS TO TBRI® PRACTITIONER TRAINING IN HOUSTON.

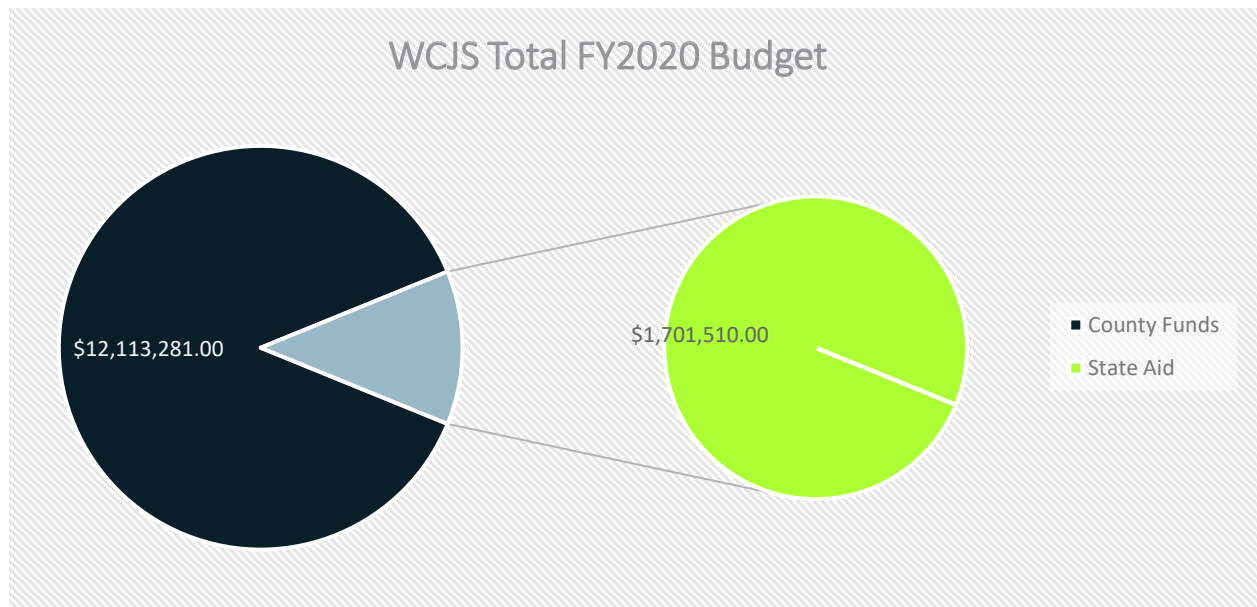
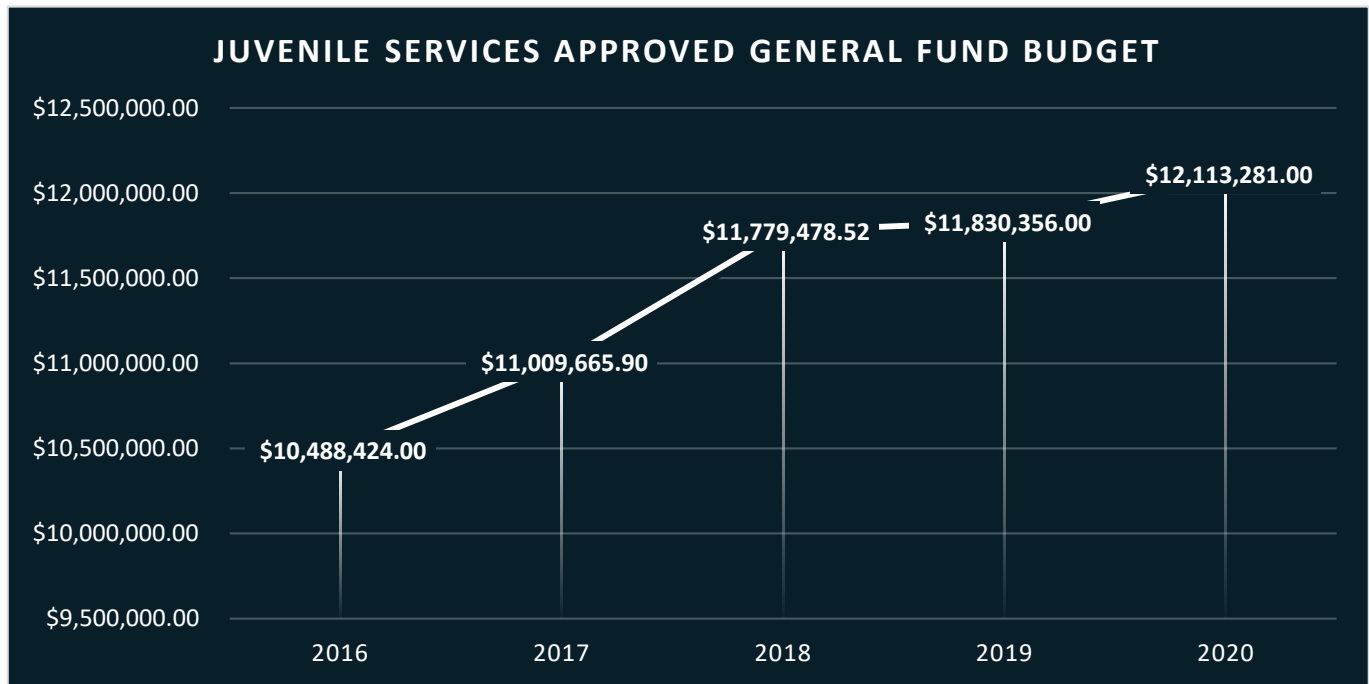
JUVENILE BOARD CHAIR AND JUVENILE JUDGE STACEY MATHEWS BEGINS REQUIRING ALL ATTORNEYS REQUESTING AN APPOINTMENT TO JUVENILE CASES FIRST ATTEND A VIDEO OF THE TBRI® OVERVIEW TRAINING FROM THE CONFERENCE.

JANUARY

2018

Administration and Financial Services

The Financial Services Division is responsible for overseeing a variety of department functions including the department budget, grant management, records management, employee certification/re-certification, processing job applicants and new employees, food services, accounts payable/receivable, and purchasing. As always, the success of the division would not be possible without the assistance of several other county agencies, particularly the County Auditor's Office, Budget Office, Human Resources Department, County Purchasing Department, County Attorney's Office, and Information Technology Department. The assistance provided by these departments throughout the year is greatly appreciated.



In 2018 WCJS applied and was accepted into the Regional Service Enhancement Project (Grant R). Grant R allows WCJS to place youth in specialized programs with residential service providers and reimburses the county for a portion of the fees. From 2018 to the present, six youth involved with Grant R received \$145,002.61 in reimbursement funds for placements.

Administration and Financial Services

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

As Williamson County has continued to see year over year growth, WCJS also saw a drastic increase in volunteer opportunities. Due to the continued growth and need, WCJS Administration decided in April 2019 to designate a Volunteer/Intern Coordinator to manage all the intricacies of volunteers and interns. Under the Direct Supervision of the Assistant Director of Operations of Juvenile Services, the Volunteer/Intern Coordinator is responsible for the supervision of citizen involvement and volunteer and intern programs for the benefit of the youth and families under the care and custody of WCJS. The Volunteer/Intern Coordinator facilitates contact between WCJS and local organizations, groups, universities, churches, and individuals interested in the volunteer or intern programs.

FY 2016 THROUGH FY 2020 WCJS TOTALED 16,268 VOLUNTEER HOURS.



Generations Church



Friendly Will Baptist Church



Freedom Church



Agape

Due to Williamson County Juvenile Services' commitment to working with the community, there are several organizations that volunteer throughout the year. Several churches in the area provide support by providing meals during holidays, weekly religious services, assistance to families in need through donations, or offer prayer and guidance to youth and staff upon request.



First Baptist Church of Georgetown



Gideons International

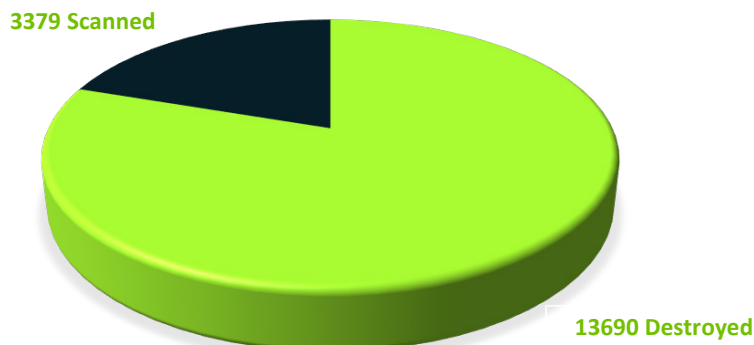


Celebration Church

DATA AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

WCJS continues to move to a paperless file system in alignment with changes in Texas Family Code 2017 and 2019 edition, specifically, Chapter 58 Subchapter C-1 regarding Sealing and Destruction of Juvenile Records.

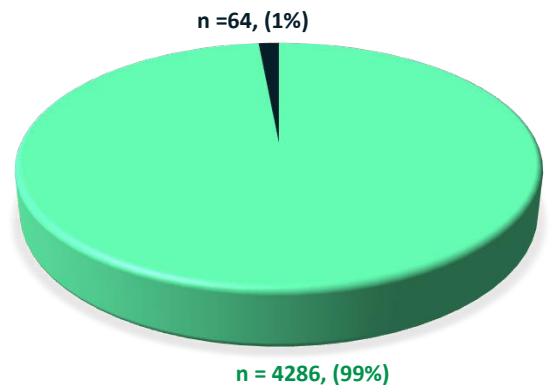
PROGRESS TOWARDS PAPERLESS



BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2017 AND FY2020 13,690 PAPER FILES FOR DESTRUCTION PER TEXAS FAMILY CODE §58.264 AND 3,379 FILES HAVE BEEN DIGITIZED.

SINCE 2017, 4,350 FILES HAVE BEEN REVIEWED FOR AUTOMATIC SEALING.

AUTOMATIC SEALING UPDATE



■ Qualified ■ Non Qualified

Department Referrals

In FY2020, Williamson County Juvenile Services received a total of 758 referrals.
Of those 569 were formal referrals.

A FORMAL REFERRAL OCCURS WHEN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

Delinquent conduct - conduct indicating a need for supervision or violation of probation was allegedly committed; and

The juvenile Department has jurisdiction; and

Either a face-to-face contact occurs with department personnel regarding the alleged offense or authorization to detain the juvenile is established.

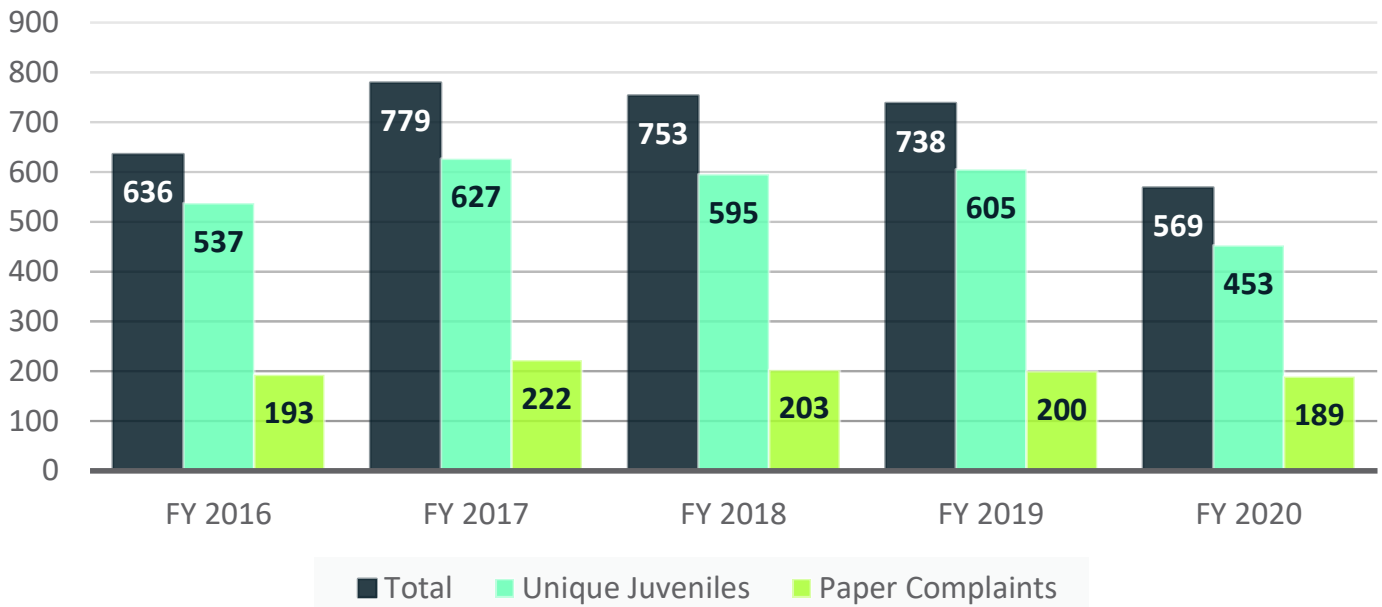
FELONY OFFENSES	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault	16	16	8	17	6
Robbery	11	7	10	9	17
Assaultive	36	54	49	60	62
Other Violent	0	0	0	1	1
Burglary	19	32	32	17	16
Theft	6	19	14	20	28
Other Property	14	16	13	18	13
Drug Offense	29	39	31	74*	44
Weapon Offense	5	3	2	2	3
Other Felony	24	26	36	29	34
TOTAL	160	212	195	247	224

*In 2019 Any controlled substance under Penalty Group 2 that contains Tetrahydrocannabinols (i.e. THC Oil, edibles) became an automatic felony so long as it contains less than one gram. HSC 481.113 and HSC 481.116. The punishment of Marijuana (the plant base substance) offenses under HSC 481.120-122 is entirely based on its weight and location (Drug-Free Zone- schools, parks) under 481.134.

CLASS A/CLASS B MISDEMEANORS	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Weapon Offenses	1	4	6	5	5
Assaultive	128	154	155	188	154
Theft	63	73	52	38	21
Other Property	39	32	39	38	33
Drug Offenses	96	124	156	86*	3
Other Misdemeanors	49	90	71	71	67
Contempt of Magistrate	0	1	3	5	2
Violation of Court Order	73	68	38	32	27
TOTAL	449	546	520	463	312
CINS	27	21	38	27	33

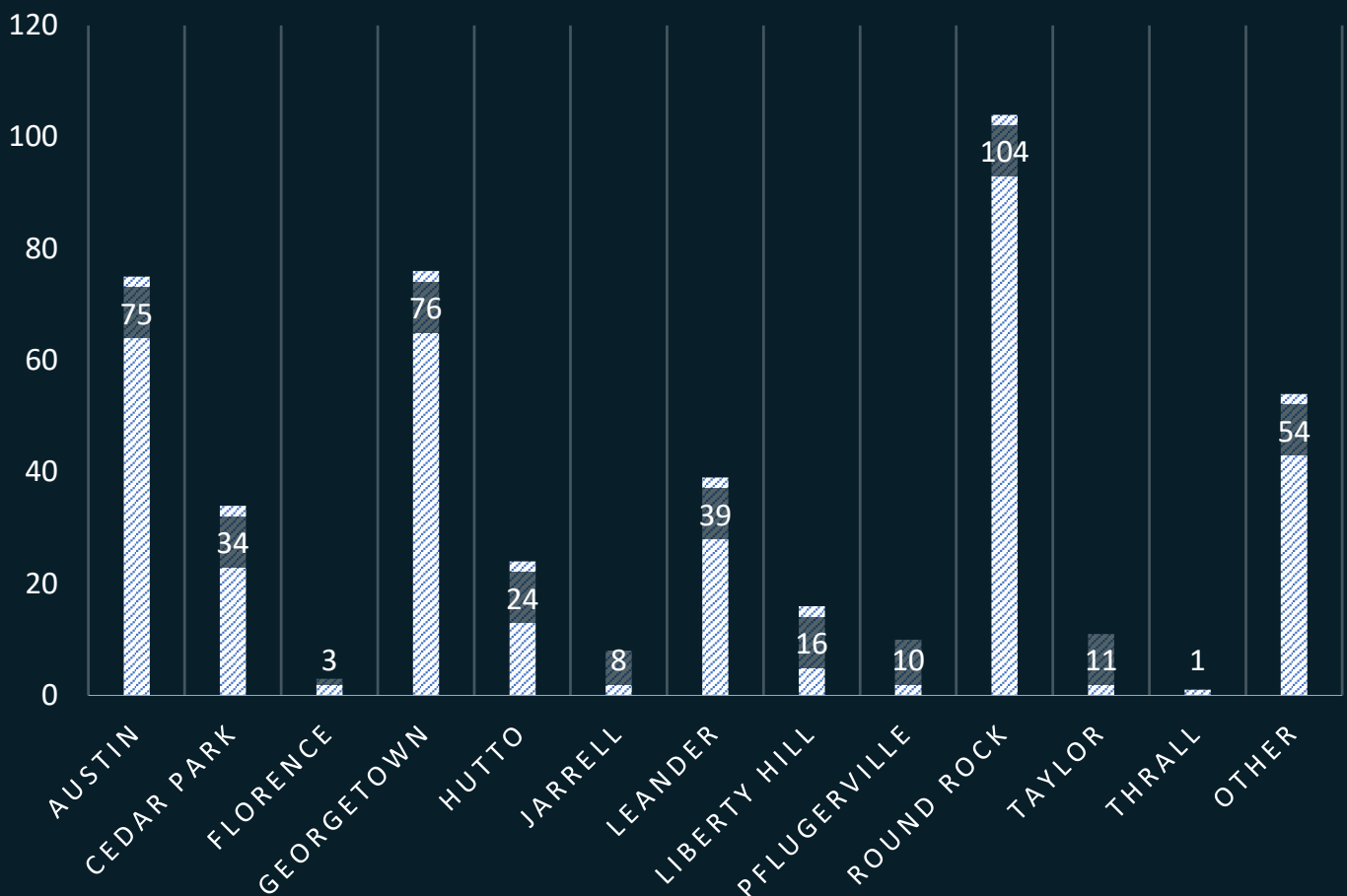
Between FY 2016 and FY 2020, Williamson County Juvenile Services received a total of 3,475 formal referrals.

Total Referrals

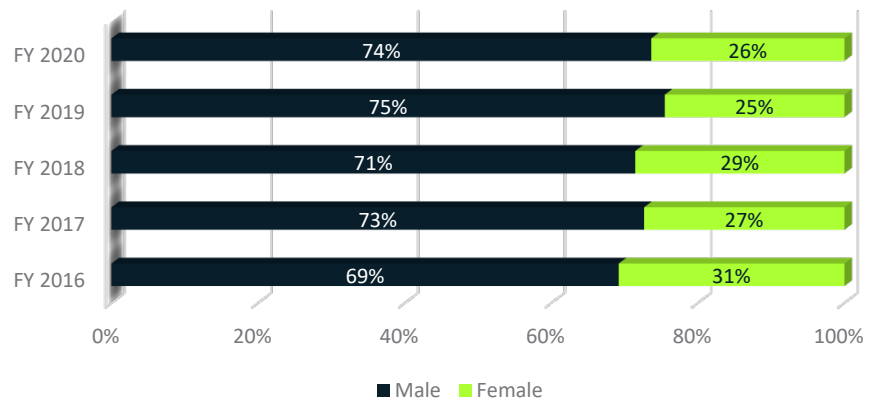


Includes Formal and Paper Formalized Referrals.

REFERRAL BY CITY FY 2020



Referral: Gender



Disposition is the juvenile equivalent of an adult sentence; disposition is a final decision as to how a juvenile's case is handled. Because WCJS has a primary focus on rehabilitating children, dispositions typically include a treatment plan aimed at addressing identified risks and needs in the child's current living environment. Disposition outcomes and assigned services and supervision strategies vary and may include but are not limited to restitution, assignment of service projects, community supervision, counseling, parent enrichment, family preservation, mental health and substance use treatment, urinalysis, electronic monitoring, case management, school intervention and advocacy, vocational training and job placement, residential treatment, and commitment to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Dism/Withdraw (Dept)	92	104	88	88	54
Sup Caution (Dept)	35	110	83	96	42
Deferred Pros (Dept)	179	196	214	216	170
5301 Under Age 12 Referral (Dept)	0	0	4	10	2
No Prob Cause (Pros)	2	0	0	2	0
Refused	27	24	17	27	11
Non-Suited	42	41	41	60	66
Sup Caution (Pros)	0	0	0	0	1
Deferred Pros (Pros)	0	1	0	0	1
Dismissed (Court)	18	53	56	57	81
Adjudicated / No Disp	16	26	30	17	17
Deferred Pros (Court)	37	56	54	61	39
Adjudicated Prob	83	62	51	56	32
Deter Sent Prob	1	3	3	2	3
Modf / Extd Prob	73	68	38	32	27
Indeter Commit	9	4	6	1	1
Deter Commit	1	1	0	0	0
Cert as Adult	0	1	0	0	0
Consolidated	23	22	20	34	29
Transfer / No Dispo	3	12	4	7	5
TOTAL	641	784	709	766	581

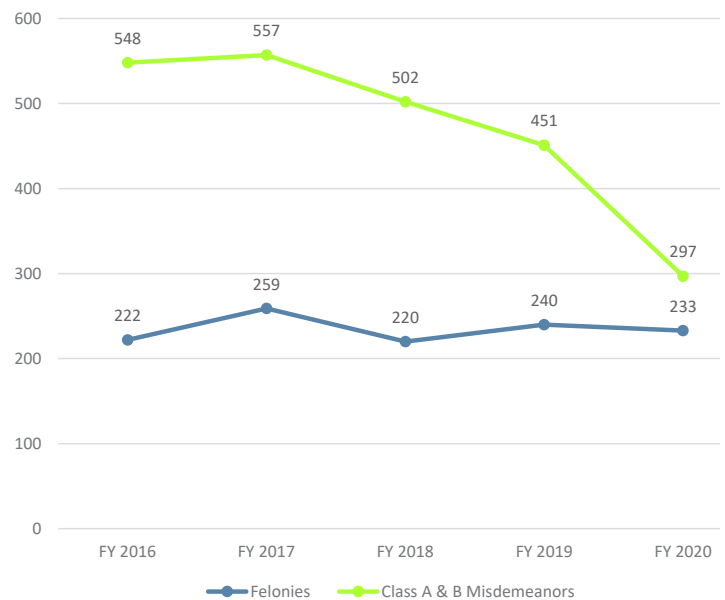
*5301 Under Age 12 Referral (Dept) was added to Texas Family Code in 2017 to assist in providing services outside the juvenile justice system for children 10 to 11 whose cases do not involve crimes of violence or weapons and would otherwise qualify for deferred prosecution.

Detention

Recognizing that being taken into custody and detained can be traumatic for a youth, WCJS Detention/Intake Services strives to reduce the impact of the trauma and help youth feel safe and supported as quickly as possible. All Detention/Intake staff are trained in trauma-informed care and TBRI®. Various staff throughout the facility have completed TBRI® Practitioner Training, as a means to continue integrating the framework into detention services and practices. Listed below are some of the detention practices unique to Williamson County:

WCJS is committed to working collaboratively to move cases out of detention as quickly as possible so youth are not detained longer than necessary. Collaborative case staffings occur biweekly and include participation from the County Attorney's Office, defense attorneys, court and field services staff, residential staff, detention staff, mental health staff, and a consulting contract psychologist. These case staffings help expedite cases and ensure critical information is shared to establish a comprehensive plan of care for the youth and family.

Offense Degree: Juveniles Placed in Detention

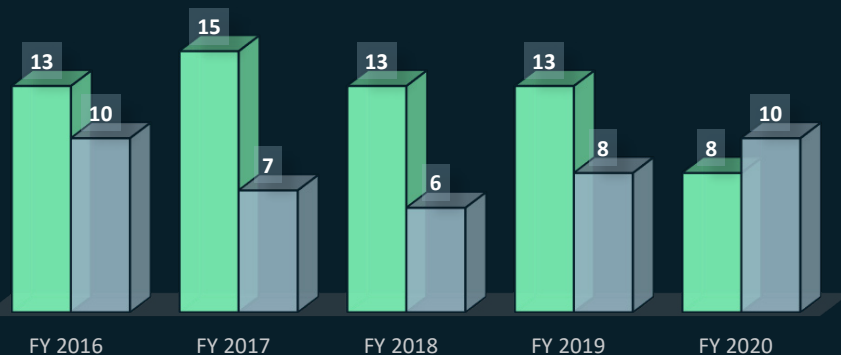


Includes youth admitted into Detention multiple times for the same offense.
Youth may have multiple offenses when brought into Detention

Upon release, WCJS intake team members conduct deferred intakes immediately so there is no lapse in time before initiating services and supervision. This is a critical step in providing a smooth transition home with early intervention.

OFFENSE: AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

■ Felonies ■ Class A/Class B Misdemeanors

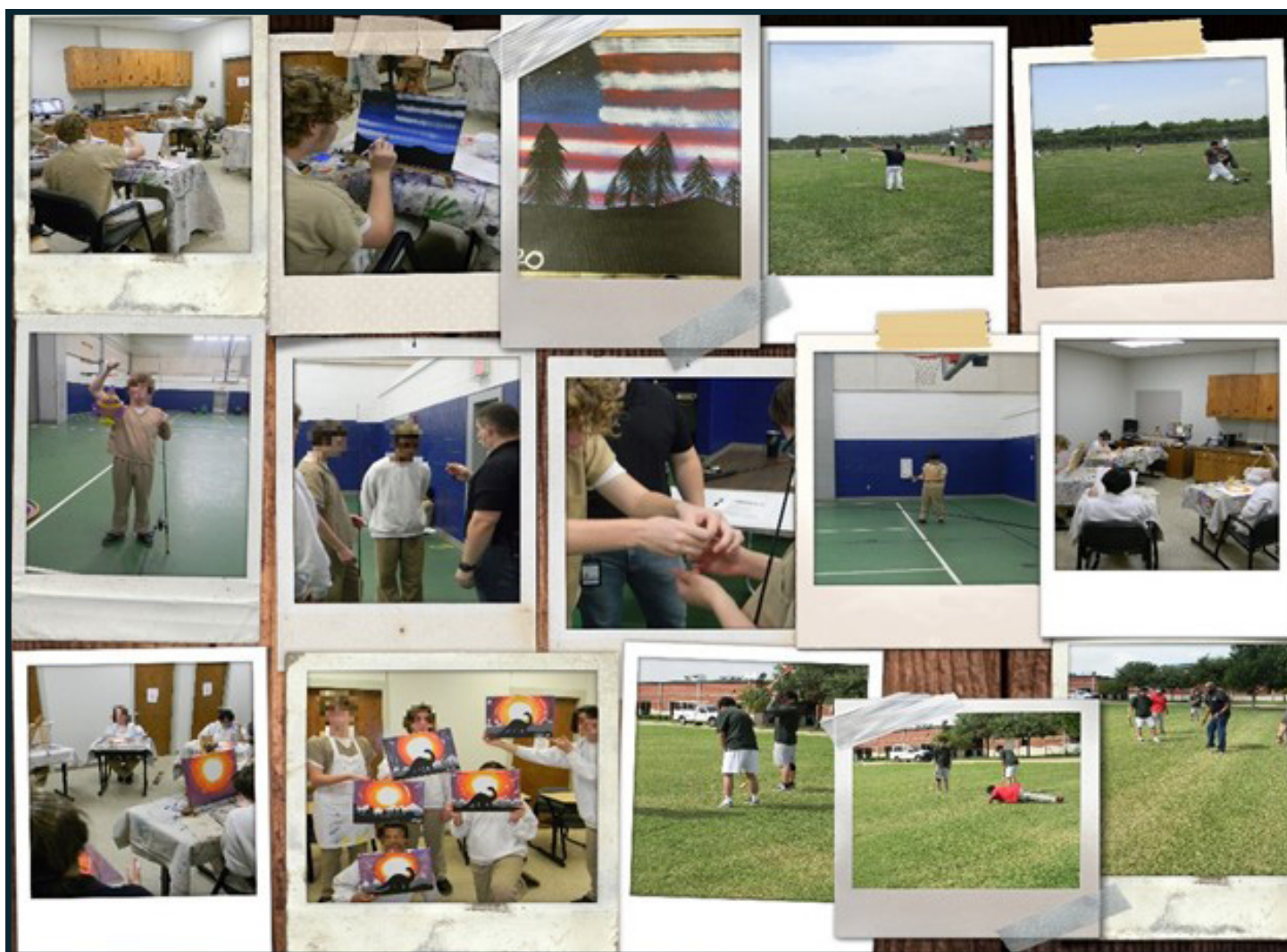


*Average length of stay after being held for a detention hearing.

Counseling services are made available to all detention residents through department counselors and counseling interns. All detention residents receive weekly individual and group counseling. On-site family counseling and psychiatric medication management are also available to detention youth. Substance assessments are available on-site through contracted provider, Phoenix House. The goal is to engage youth in the treatment process as soon as possible to avoid further penetration into the system.

DETENTION LENGTH OF STAY		FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
	Average Length	11	9	8	10	9

Detention residents also regularly participate in skill-building and enrichment activities including, but not limited to, YES connections, nurture groups, art therapy, recreation therapy, motivational speaker presentations, cinematherapy, holiday events, athletics, and music therapy.

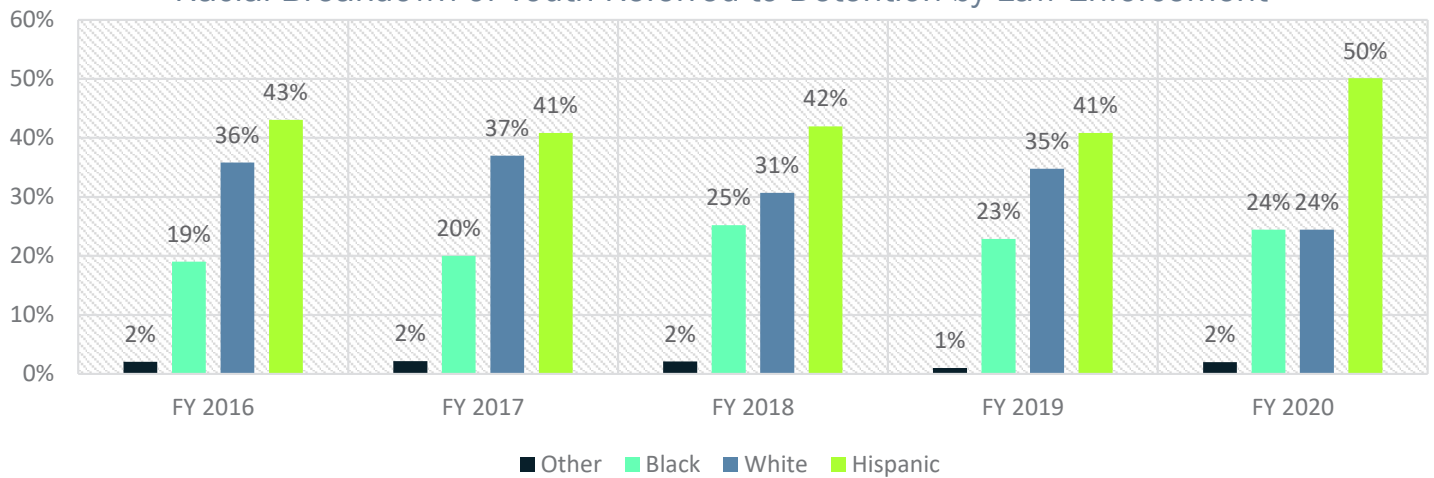


Per state standard, all youth are administered the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2) upon admission. When the screening indicates a need for mental health intervention, WCJS counselors and counseling interns are available to meet with youth immediately, rather than having to refer them to a community provider. WCJS partners with local behavioral health hospitals when acute-care behavioral health treatment is warranted.

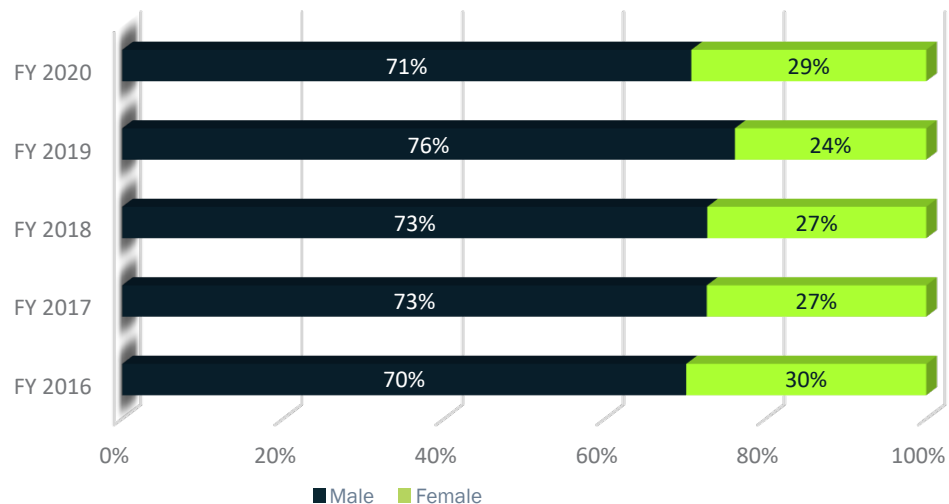
OF THE MAYSI-II SCREENINGS COMPLETED IN FISCAL YEAR 2020,
22.6% OF YOUTH REPORTED A TRAUMATIC EVENT HISTORY (147 REPORTS OUT OF 648)

NOTE: While this percentage is significant, national statistics indicate that traumatic experience history is nearly universal for justice-involved youth; many may deny or minimize this history at intake.

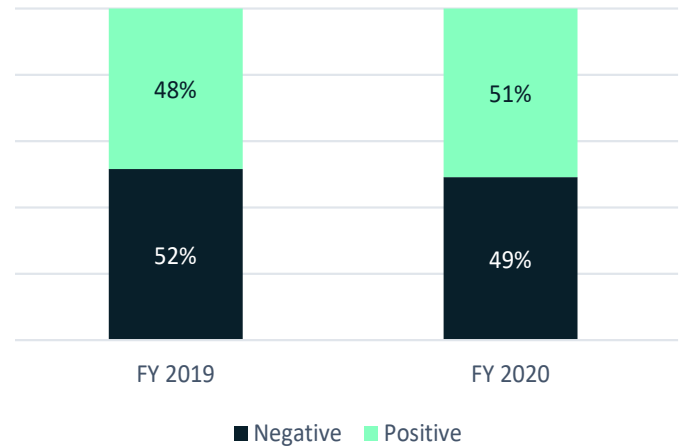
Racial Breakdown of Youth Referred to Detention by Law Enforcement



Detention: Gender



Detention: Drug Test Results

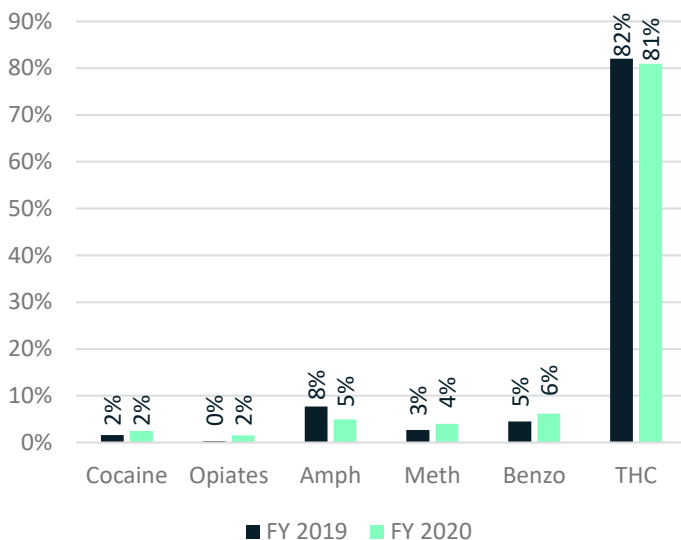


A juvenile who has been taken into custody by law enforcement and presented for detention is administered an instant urinalysis as part of the intake process and procedure. The drug test shall occur on at least one of the following instances upon referral to the detention center:

- VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT IN RESPONSE TO DETENTION INTAKE STAFF REQUEST;
- VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION BY YOUTH TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AT SCHEDULED DETENTION HEARING;
- AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITION OF RELEASE FROM DETENTION;
- AS A COURT-ORDERED CONDITION OF DETENTION;
- AS A COURT-ORDERED CONDITION OF RELEASE FROM DETENTION.

Detention UA Results	FY 2019	FY 2020
Negative	361	269
Positive	339	279
Total	700	548

Detention: Positive UA Breakdown



Court & Field Services

COURT

Under the guidance and leadership of the Williamson County Juvenile Court, WCJS Court Services is focused on a complete continuum of trauma-informed legal representation and advocacy for youth throughout the system. Below are core practices unique to Williamson County that help ensure youth are fully supported throughout the court process:

TBRI Practitioner



Rebekah Castillo
Court/Intake Services
Administrator



- Juvenile Judge Stacey Mathews requires attorneys' submitting applications for appointment to juvenile cases in Williamson County to complete 8 hours of youth behavioral health training in topics including substance abuse, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®).
- At the initial detention hearing, the Juvenile Judge appoints an attorney allowing for immediate legal representation and reduced detention stay.



J. R. Hancock
CORE Attorney Advocate

- Post-disposition, in cases where youth are ordered into CORE Residential Treatment Program, attorney advocate J.R. Hancock is appointed to support and provide legal advocacy for youth throughout their stay in the residential program. Mr. Hancock is an active member of the treatment team who positively impacts youth motivation, decision-making, transition services, and family investment in the program.
- Juvenile Judge Stacey Mathews partners with canine therapy provider Austin Dog Alliance to support youth experiencing anxiety and trauma responses in the court room and in court hold through the use of therapy dogs.



The Honorable Stacey Mathews was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the bench of the 277th District Court in 2014. She was subsequently elected by an overwhelming majority of voters in 2018. Judge Mathews was an English and Social Studies teacher for eight years, as well as an adjunct professor for the University of St. Thomas. Next, she decided to return to the classroom as a student to pursue a law degree at the University of Houston Law Center, in part because of her ongoing desire to help children. While in law school, she interned in the Child Abuse Division of the District Attorney's Office and served as an ad litem attorney for abused and neglected children. After graduation, she was awarded a two-year fellowship dedicated to the representation of children with special needs in both the school and juvenile justice systems. Judge Mathews continues to serve and has served as the Board Chair for the Juvenile Services Department in Williamson County and Juvenile Judge since 2016. She serves as a Commissioner for the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health where she was appointed by the Texas Supreme Court in 2019. She is a member of the Williamson County Bar Association, Inn's of Court, and a board member of the Georgetown Health Foundation where she serves on the Grants Committee.

Court officers are trained in department cornerstones and attempt to link youth and families with early intervention opportunities and supports as soon as possible rather than waiting for the court to determine the need for services. This practice often shortens the overall length of supervision and strengthens engagement in the rehabilitative process, sometimes diverting the case and/or reducing the level of supervision.

The Court Team provides supervision, case management, and support to youth pending court. The youth on this caseload vary in supervision level. In some cases, the youth is on Conditions of Release with an Electronic Monitor, Conditions with No Monitor, Administrative Conditions, or a paper referral from law enforcement. These youth can also be in detention. The Court Officer works to assess the youth's needs and provides appropriate referrals to community resources. They work with the County Attorney's Office, Defense Bar, and Court to make recommendations regarding dispositions in cases. The Court Team works with a Department Counselor and Case Manager to provide additional services and support during the court process to the families in need.



INTAKE

The Intake Team is the first point of contact, in most cases, when a youth is referred to the department. They review the offense report for probable cause, determine if a youth should be detained or released from detention, assist with detention intakes, and complete deferred intakes with the youth and family. This team has worked to complete deferred intakes more efficiently upon release from detention. When the family is able, these intakes are completed on the date of release so there is no delay in supervision. WCJS recently added a part-time officer to this team, so they are better able to serve the youth and families.

SUPERVISION TYPE	FY 2020			
	TOTAL	PENDING COMPLETION	SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS	PERCENTAGE
Conditional Pre-Disposition	246	57	145	83%
Court Ordered Probation	109	43	41	77%
Deferred Prosecution	308	73	165	77%
Interim Deferred Prosecution	12	3	9	100%
Interim Inter-County Transfer	72	24	31	76%
Interim Probation	10	1	5	60%
Permanent Probation	6	3	3	100%
Temporary Pre-Court Monitoring	45	6	35	91%

TRANSPORT AND SUMMONS

The Transport and Summons Team works to serve summons to families for court appearances and transport youths to necessary appointments. In most cases, the juveniles in need of transport are in detention; however, the team will provide transportation to all families in need, assisting with detention intakes, court visitation, and other duties. The team's goal is to provide summons as quickly as possible so that families have time to prepare to be present for court.



Jerry Castillo

Court Process and Transport Officer

Dominique Messer

Court Process and Transport Officer

PREVENTION SERVICES

In 2012, WCJS created a Prevention Team through Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention grant-funding. The team now consists of 4 full time employees who coordinate varied prevention and early intervention services. Including a First Offender Program, crisis intervention services for at-risk youth in the community, JJAEP Transition Services, an introductory informational half-day class about the Juvenile Justice System for youth and parents, Mental Health Taskforce events, faith-based collaborations, mentoring services, and a robust truancy diversion program.

TBRI Practitioner



Tanielu Tuiasosopo
Prevention/Georgetown
Field Supervisor

The Prevention Team works with First Offenders, the SEARCH Program, and provides community outreach. They supervise youth for 90-120 days and work with the youth to identify and nurture their SPARK. The team works with families to connect them to community resources. The Prevention Team is working in schools to educate youth on the juvenile justice system and teaching coping skills for managing stress. The Prevention Team assists with the Mental Health in Schools Conference organizing a Community Resource Expo.

start

"I think it was very motivational and it had lots of information."



The **START Program** is a half-day educational program offered at no charge and open to all members of the community, juvenile offenders, parents, and at-risk youth. Attendees are provided with an overview of the Williamson County Juvenile Justice Center, the Texas Juvenile Justice System, and the Williamson County residential programs. Although many of the participants come as a result of referrals due to the youth's involvement with the police or chronic school behavior issues, the START Program is also offered for families and youth stakeholders working to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. One of the most poignant components of the START Class is when C.O.R.E. Residents visit to answer questions about what daily life looks like as a C.O.R.E. Resident. Youth are encouraged to ask residents questions and are given honest answers. This peer-to-peer interaction is often noted by the youth who attend the program as the most impactful portion of the class. A virtual tour of the Juvenile Justice Center is offered at the end of each class and includes a walk-through of a residential dorm, The juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP), the courtroom, and detention.

In FY 2019, 353 youth and their families attended the START program.

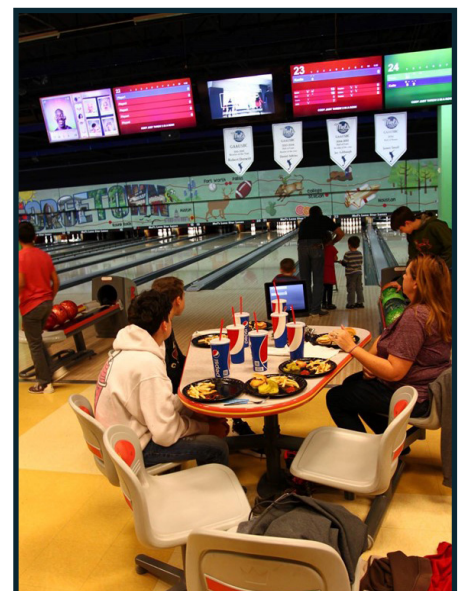
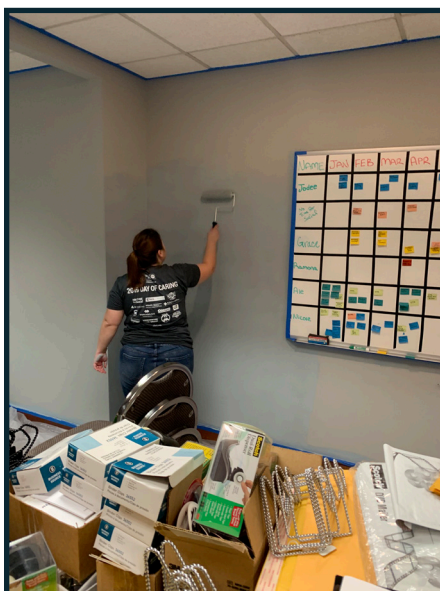
"It really opened my eyes to the consequences of my actions."

PREVENTION SERVICES CONTINUED

The **SEARCH Program** is a diversion program designed to serve youth and families who are experiencing conflict within their homes. The program focuses on strengthening family relationships and encourages family support and positive family communication. The SEARCH Program works toward assisting both the youth and the family in building support, developing positive values, and encouraging peaceful conflict resolutions.

Between FY 2016 and FY 2020, the SEARCH Program served a total of 48 youth.

"I have a much better understanding of where I am right now and the opportunities I have."





THE PREVENTION TEAM IS WORKING IN SCHOOLS TO EDUCATE YOUTH ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND TEACHING COPING SKILLS FOR MANAGING STRESS. THEY HAVE GIVEN DEMONSTRATIONS WITH THE ENGINE PLATE AND INTRODUCED ACES AND THE TBRI® FRAMEWORK.

THE PREVENTION TEAM ALSO ATTENDS JOB FAIRS TO EDUCATE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES ON THE WCJS VISION AND CORNERSTONES.



FIELD SERVICES

TBRI Practitioner



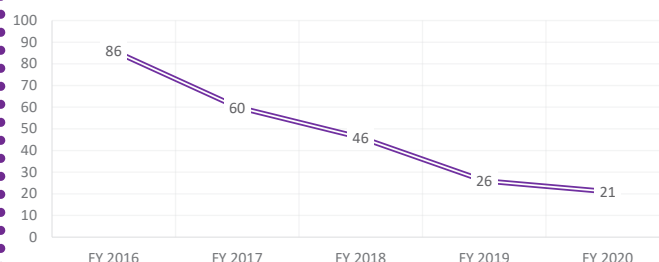
Marc Ruiz - Juvenile
Probation Officer II

Following a change in leadership in the field unit, field services overhauled service delivery focus and related strategies in 2017. Listed below are some of the specific changes that are already yielding better outcomes for youth and families served by the field unit:

- Job title change – all field JPOs are now **Youth Engagement Specialist**s with a focus beyond supervision to actively engaging youth and connecting them to healthy activities, relationships, and resources.
- Field Services implemented the use of the Mapping Relationships tool, Sparks tool, and tracking system for Spark identification, Spark activity connection, connection to community resources, and Developmental Relationships pre- and post-supervision. The tracking tool is set up to measure the progress of each officer, each field office, and the entire unit.
- WCJS clarified that the primary goal of the field officer is to support youth and families' success rather than catching them doing something wrong. Field Services clarified that violations are not always tied to sanctions, but rather encouraged Youth Engagement Specialists (JPOs) to focus on proactively teaching and supporting the youth and families.
- Field Services shifted its focus on the language of the field from supervision to engagement, from sanctions to interventions blended with an increase in visits and energy toward building relationships and supporting youth and families. This change included more home visits, more parent contact, and strengthened connection to the community.
- Field Services removed unnecessary paperwork and redundancy and looked for efficiencies that allowed the field more time to focus on youth and family engagement and case management.
- Field Services ensured that Youth Engagement Specialists are providing adequate parent support and education including informing them of TBRI® practices and interventions and linking them to community and parent supports.

- Field Services ensured that Youth Engagement Specialists are referring youth to community resources and services appropriately. In order to do this, Field Services focused on attending collaborative community and ISD meetings in order to be aware of the ever-changing available resources.
- Field Services ensured that Youth Engagement Specialists learned to provide basic skills training with youth and families to assist them in building relationships and supporting youth with their case plan goals (regulation skills, life skills, social/relationship skills, cognitive skills, job/interview skills, communication skills, etc.)
- Field Services coordinated with WCJS Adventure Therapist Marla Burns LPC-S and other community partners to set up Family Nights on a quarterly basis in a community site for each field office (Georgetown, Round Rock, Taylor, Cedar Park). These events have strengthened bonds among families, WCJS, and the community resulting in improved family perceptions regarding the community's interest in their success and well-being.

CASES RETURNED TO COURT FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION



**attributable to working more collaboratively with youth and families using TBRI empowering, connecting, and correcting principles.

FIELD CONTINUED

If a youth has to return to court, the Field Officer will continue to work with them and support them through the process. They will work with the County Attorney's Office, Defense Bar, and Court to make recommendations in the case.



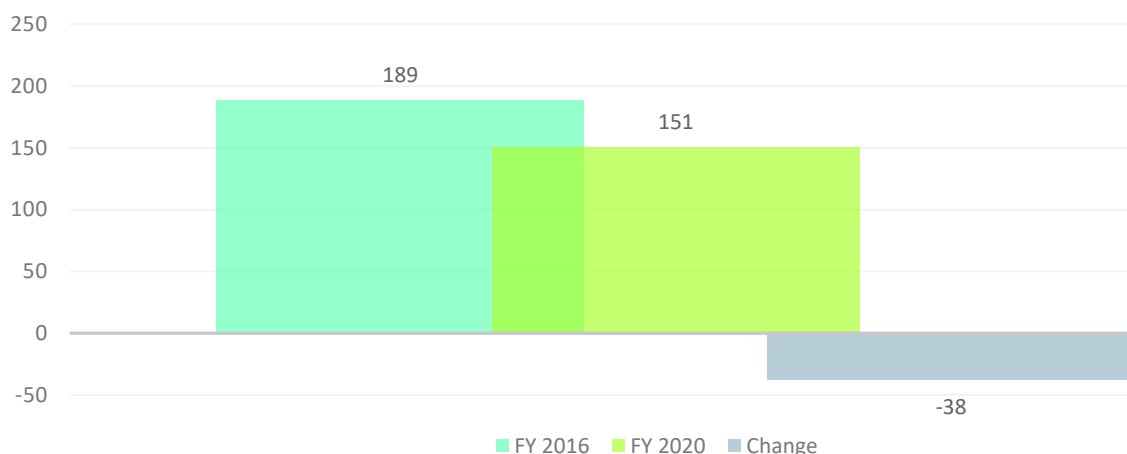
The Back to School Bash started in 2017 and has since been hosted annually. This event is to kick off the school year in a positive light. The Williamson County community donates the food for the event and partners with WCJS to make a fun evening for families. Hairstylists attend the event and offer free haircuts. Other partners join in the fun to share what their organization can offer to families. Partners include the Williamson County Health District, Austin Community College, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, STARRY, Dell Children's Health Plan, and Chick-fil-A. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2020/2021 school year WCJS was not able to host the event but, still provided school supplies to our families in need with the support of the community.



Williamson County Juvenile Services now employs full-time counselors in each satellite office to provide a treatment team approach to case management. The counselor works with the supervisor and staff to ensure mental health needs are addressed early. This team is solution-driven and works to find individualized plans for each youth and family.

From FY 2016 to FY 2020, the average number of days youth is on Supervision has decreased by 38 days.

Average Days of Supervision FY2016 to FY20





PROGRAMS/CLASSES

CHAPERONE TRAINING

Parents of youth on supervision for a sexual offense are required to take Chaperone Training. The training consists of education and instruction on high-risk situations that may trigger sexual impulses. Through open forum discussion, parents strategize methods of reducing risk within their homes, including identifying risks, setting boundaries and safety planning. This class is set up for individual families.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND SEXTING

An educational program to help raise awareness in a variety of different areas for youth and their parents through a Power-Point presentation, guest speaker, participant interaction, and group discussion. The program encourages youth to use Developmental Assets by motivating them to have positive family communication and talk with other trusted adults about the difficulties with dating relationships, including issues involving dating violence, harassment, cyber-bullying, and sexting. There is a parental portion separate from the youth class aimed specifically on how to properly have conversations with their children about dating abuse, monitoring their child's internet activity and how to provide guidelines when using digital technology. Meanwhile, the youth discuss how to help someone being abused as well as helping the abuser, how to remain safe with technology and the consequences of sexting. Youth learn how to handle dating violence situations and how to progress towards healthy relationships while the parents learn more about family support and boundaries.

VICTIM EMPATHY

The Victim Empathy Class intends to give families insight into the victim and how they feel and what they experienced. This allows families the opportunity to understand the expectations of preventing future criminal activity and victimization. Parents are required to attend to provide support of the youth, allowing reflection to take place among the family. The Christi Center is a nonprofit grief center that provides support for those who have lost a loved one and has partnered with our office to facilitate the classes. The program begins by facilitating a discussion on defining Empathy and



the importance of an empathic approach in decision making. Speakers share their victimization stories to help the participants understand the information presented. Hearing stories from secondary victims of crime helps our participants understand the ripple effect of victimization and how empathic approaches to decision making can help cut away at that ripple.

DRUG EDUCATION

Drug Education is a one-time class that addresses both the physiological and psychological effects of substance abuse in youth. This includes how drugs affect the brain, the consequences of addiction, drug trends, and media and other influences. Parents are provided techniques for prevention and early intervention, warning signs, risk and protection factors, and ideas on how to build a positive relationship with their children. This program promotes positive values, resistance skills, personal responsibility, and positive identity. Both the parent and youth attend this program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RESTITUTION

Youth under the supervision of Williamson County Juvenile Services are required to perform Community Service Restitution (CSR). It is the goal of WCJS to provide juveniles with meaningful CSR opportunities that will build Developmental Assets and allows for the participants to gain respect for the community as a whole. When a youth performs CSR it allows them to restore the harm they have caused the community while being introduced to valuable experiences.

During FY 2016- FY 2020
15,864 hours of Community Service
Restitution were completed.
*any sealed records are not included in this number



PROGRAMS/CLASSES

“One thing I found particularly beneficial was discussions about brain development and physiology... both presenters were well prepared, positive and very informative.”

TRAUMA INFORMED PARENTING STRATEGIES (TIPS)

TIPS (Trauma-Informed Parenting Strategies) is a parent class that educates parents about the impact trauma has on behavior and offers trauma-informed parent interventions to enhance their relationship with their teenagers. Topics include the Adverse Childhood Experience Study, Trust-Based Relational Intervention®, and other trauma-related information. This class is offered to parents of youth on community supervision as well as parents of juveniles residing in the CORE Treatment Program.

“My friend was in the Gang Program and it changed his mindset to no longer affiliate with gang members.”

GANG PREVENTION

The Gang Prevention Program is gang prevention and intervention program which uses the Phoenix Curriculum. This program is designed to protect students against the highest risk factors for gang involvement and links them to the most available protective factors and assets. The intervention curriculum is designed for youth with higher risks. These resources are used to address the risk factors underlying gang recruitment and gang involvement.



PROGRAMS/CLASSES



Mental Health Services

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUUM OF CARE

The strength of WCJS lies in its connection to and support from the generous community of Williamson County. The county is blessed with a wide array of youth and family serving health organizations, agencies, and non-profits. WCJS takes a systems approach to serve youth and families, recognizing the value of investing in strengthening community connection. WCJS hosts collaborative professional development opportunities to strengthen community resources for youth and families.

MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Beginning in 2011, WCJS, in partnership with local youth mental health advocate Linda Meigs, took the lead in organizing and hosting an annual Mental Health in Schools Conference. Each year, the conference features national and state experts and includes a focus on trauma-informed care, research and evidence-based treatment approaches, and positive youth development. The conference is an attempt to braid school and community resources focused on youth behavioral health, featuring a Community Resource Expo with more than 30 local agencies represented. Each of the 12 ISDs in Williamson County is represented at the conference. Through the generosity of community sponsors, the conference is at no cost to participants. Conference evaluations throughout the years have reflected a high level of satisfaction. The most recent conference hosted 200 ISD and community agency professionals.



MENTAL HEALTH TASKFORCE

WCJS hosts the Williamson County Mental Health Taskforce meetings in the Main Training Room of the Juvenile Justice Center. Assistant Chief Matt Smith and Mental Health Advocate Linda Meigs chair the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Taskforce. This collaborative connects Juvenile Services with more than 68 local partners and agencies working together to improve the lives of youth and families with behavioral health needs.

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Taskforce comprises school districts, private and non-profit organizations, public agencies, and other stakeholders interested in improving the behavioral health of Williamson County children and youth.

Each year, the Taskforce hosts Children's Mental Health Awareness events and collaborative training opportunities, including the annual conference. The Taskforce has provided legislative recommendations and has worked diligently to identify and fill local gaps in youth services. In 2014, two private behavioral health hospitals were built in Georgetown, and two youth substance abuse treatment providers initiated services in Williamson County. WCJS partnered with Phoenix House by offering office and conference room space at the WCJS Round Rock field office. Increasingly, ISDs and youth-serving agencies are collaborating to improve and expand behavioral health service delivery. Several ISDs have now initiated school-based behavioral health services in cooperation with community-based providers, the Georgetown Health Foundation, the local mental health authority, and behavioral health hospitals. In 2017, 8 of the 12 ISDs in Williamson County were partnering with community providers for youth behavioral services on campus.



Linda Meigs
Mental Health Advocate

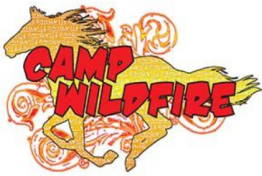
ADVENTURE THERAPY

Adventure therapist, Marla Burns, continues to introduce the youth on supervision to a variety of outdoor experiences, including rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, and fishing. Grant funds have allowed WCJS to provide paddle boarding opportunities. Marla is also a TBRI® Nurture Group facilitator and she conducts Nurture Groups throughout the facility, teaching calming skills, expressing and receiving care, communicating needs, and other crucial social/emotional skills. These Nurture Groups have been highlighted by TCU as exemplary.



This grant funded program is an adventure-based counseling program in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife, who have provided the department over \$58,000 in funding, for at-risk youth ages 10-17, and their families. The program utilizes outdoor learning experiences combined with processing/debriefing that helps to link the skills learned in the outdoor experience to skills necessary for everyday life situations. Outdoor experiences include biking, fishing, hiking, camping, backpacking, kayaking, paddle boarding, and indoor/outdoor rock-climbing. Many of the youth and families are experiencing these activities for the first time.

The GO! Program provides participants with opportunities to learn outdoor skills and familiarize participants with healthy, pro-social activities available within the Texas State Park system and surrounding local parks.



Williamson County Juvenile Services partnered with the Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF), through a grant funded by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) totaling over \$34,000, to offer Camp Wildfire. This two-day program featured a unique combination of PowerPoint presentations, horse trainer presentations, monologues from historical figures, video clips, hands-on work with horses, and therapeutic art projects. These camps were used to educate the participants on the plight of the American Mustang and the roles advocates played to address the past and current issues these horses face.

Hands-on activities with horses were by far the highlight of each camp. The presenters shared their own experiences with Mustangs and facilitated activities that required participants to work together to accomplish tasks in the arena with their horse. These activities helped the participants better understand the mindset of a Mustang and what things might influence their behavior and reactions to their environment.

Challenge Course activities consist of both Low Elements and High Elements. Low Elements take place on or near the ground and require the group to work as a team to address a challenge, utilizing the strengths, abilities and ideas of each group member. By working in collaboration, the group learns the value of support, encouragement, strong communication skills, and trust from others.

High Elements bring individuals face-to-face with some of their own personal fears. Persevering through several physically difficult challenges, choosing to move forward with courage, and supporting others are recurring concepts as participants move through the challenges that take place 30 - 35 feet off the ground.

TRUE NORTH PROJECT



Therapeutic Recreation Program
Williamson County Juvenile Services



Marla Burns



WILLIAMSON COUNTY

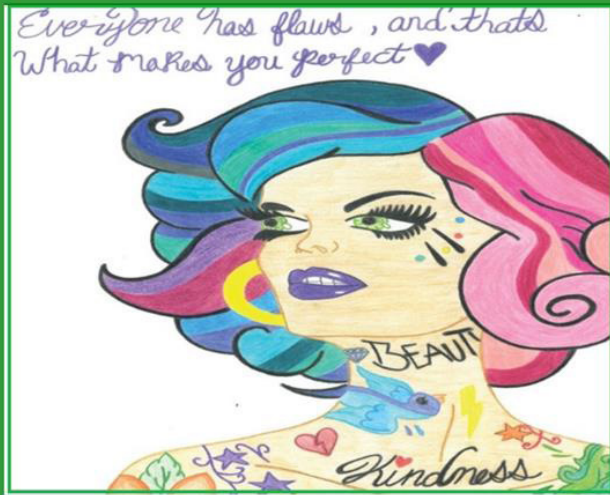
9th Annual Mental Health in Schools Conference
Healthy Adults, Resilient Students



Williamson County
5th Annual Mental Health in Schools Conference

"What I Wish My Teacher Knew..."

OCTOBER 29-30, 2015



Williamson County
6th Annual Mental Health in Schools Conference

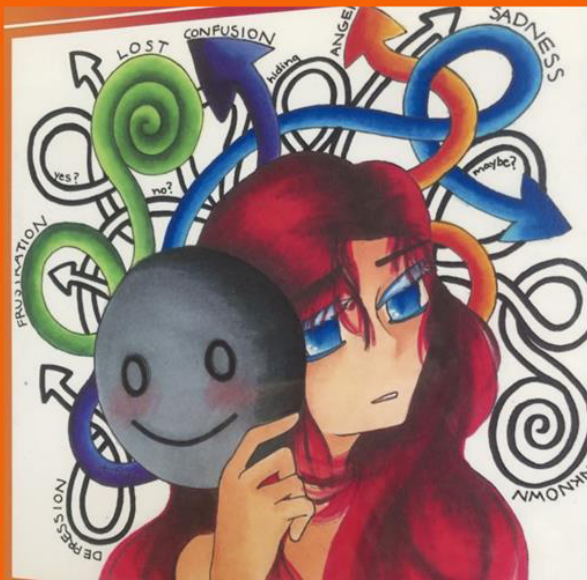
**REVISITING THE 3 RS:
RELATIONSHIPS, RESPECT, & RESILIENCE**
NOVEMBER 3-4, 2016



Williamson County
7th Annual Mental Health in Schools Conference

CONNECTING DISENGAGED STUDENTS

JANUARY 23-25, 2018



WILLIAMSON COUNTY

8th Annual Mental Health in Schools Conference:

Improving School Safety through Social Emotional Health

Presented by Momentous Institute and the
Williamson County Child and Youth Behavioral Health Taskforce

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL HEALTH

**momentous
institute**
Powered by Salesmanship Club since 1929



November 8-9, 2018

WILCO GROUP TO HOST 6TH ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Community Impact Newsletter
By Cody McCrary
6:09 PM Oct 13, 2016 CDT

A group in Williamson County is bringing awareness to mental health for youth in local schools.

For the sixth year in a row, the Children & Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the Williamson County Mental Health Task Force will host its Mental Health in Schools Conference.

The conference, which will be held Nov. 2-4, focuses on bringing school officials, local agencies and behavioral health providers together to provide support and improved outcomes for students.

This year's event, called "Revisiting the Three Rs: Relationships, Respect, & Resilience," and will educate participants about bullying, restorative discipline and trauma-informed interventions. Presenters will speak on subjects concerning restorative justice and dialogue, child development as well as a student panel on identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning.



On Nov. 2, The Georgetown Project will host a screening of the documentary "Resilience," a film about adverse childhood experiences and treating and preventing toxic stress.

Matt Smith, chairman of the Children & Youth Behavioral Subcommittee of the Williamson County Mental Health Taskforce, said the event not only benefits Williamson County schools, but communities as well.

"The better the public understands

mental health issues, the less stigma those who are impacted by mental health issues must deal with," Smith said. "This conference allows educators, counselors and other school officials to learn, grow and support each other, our students and our families."

Smith said that in the past each school district in Williamson County has been represented, and all school and community professionals who work with children and families in Williamson County are encouraged to attend.



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CONTINUED

As Williamson County Juvenile Services has continued to grow and expand, the Mental Health Services Division also changed considerably to support the significant culture and residential/field program changes in the department. As the department transitioned to one treatment-focused, secure residential program, all of the licensed mental health providers were trained in evidence-based modalities including TF-CBT (Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) and EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing) to best serve the youth and address the underlying reasons for their behaviors. Additionally, all graduate counseling students completing their internship at Williamson County Juvenile Services have been required to complete the online TF-CBT training, so they are better prepared to work with this population.

The Family Preservation Program, a specialized team of professionals who worked with intense cases in the community and homes across the county, was modified in 2018 to increase the capacity to serve more families in the field offices. A licensed mental health counselor was assigned to each satellite probation office to serve the intense cases in those local areas. A case manager is also assigned to those cases that are at the highest level of need. The number of cases served with the previous Family Preservation model ranged from 7-12 at any one time. The new format serves 18-30 families at a given time. Not only can WCJS serve more intense cases involving family conflict and mental health and safety issues, but WCJS is also growing the probation staff toward more fully conceptualizing a case, considering all the contributing factors of the behaviors exhibited.

Several of the licensed mental health staff have been trained as TBRI® Practitioners, and they are an important part of strategizing the TBRI® implementation needs of WCJS department as we continue to shift toward a comprehensive trauma-informed framework.

TBRI® Practitioner



Natalie Bott
Facility Counseling
Supervisor

TBRI® Practitioner



Amanda Brunson
Facility Counselor II
CORE Residential
Treatment

TBRI® Practitioner



Kaitlyn Bruch
Field Counselor
Supervisor

Occupational Therapy (OT) is a new addition to the treatment for facility residents. WCJS had 2 OT interns in 2017 and again in 2019, utilizing WCJS as a place to gain experience and practice in providing OT services. This adjunct treatment includes helping with basic self-care habits, teaching essential life skills, and identifying and providing support to youth with sensory needs.

In FY 2020, 226 Psychiatric Evaluation appointments were completed for youth in CORE, Detention, field probation.



Courtney Bearden, PMHNP

PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATIONS

Through a contract with Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, Courtney Bearden, PMHNP, provides psychiatric evaluation and medication management for youth with mental health needs. Parents/guardians are invited to participate in these appointments allowing the family to learn and understand the diagnose and symptoms, as well as strategies for supporting the youth.

FY 2020 Counseling Hours

Facility or Program	Individual Counseling Hours	Group Counseling Hours	Family Counseling Hours	Crisis Assessment or Intervention
Detention	374	268	32	126
C.O.R.E.	875	1525	404	
Field	768	61	271	
JJAEP	313	38	29	
<i>Total</i>	2330	1892	736	



From 2016-2020, 59 graduate students interned in the fields of counseling, social work, recreation, administration, and occupational therapy. 16 in FY 2016, 13 in FY 2017, 8 in FY 2018, 9 in FY 2019, and 13 in FY 2020.



JUVENILE JUSTICE PUTTING HEALTH FIRST

Angela Hardin and Wolf attended Williamson County Juvenile Justice Center's first Behavioral Health in the Legal and Justice Systems Conference Nov 17th. Wolf is training to be a therapy dog; just one of the increasingly useful tools in the box for better emotional health.

The Conference was proposed by District Judges Stacey Mathews and Betsy Lambeth to provide a forum for attorneys, CPS case workers, law enforcement and all manner of child advocates to collaborate on "Trust-Based Relational Intervention."

Juvenile Services Assistant Director Matt Smith said, "We are primarily concerned with the root cause when a child comes into the system and TBRI is a new way of dealing with and helping kids. The more science discovers and understands about how the brain reacts —trauma, addiction, at-risk environments and even neurobiology—the more we can recognize what's really going on and how we can make positive change."

Visit Child.TCU.EDU for information about how TBRI is making a difference in the Justice System.

Advocate Newstx.com

By Ann Marie Kennon December 9, 2017

Substance Use Services

The chart below details the substance use services provided to youth on supervision in FY 2020 and FY 2019.

SERVICE TYPE	INSTRUMENT/PROGRAM	DATA
Screening	Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-II)	All youth formally referred to the department are screened. 218 youth in FY 2019 and 150 in FY 2020 were identified as having a High MAYSI-II score and thus referred for a secondary screening.
Assessment	Urinalysis	In FY 2019 and FY 2020, 2,290 youth received urinalysis while on supervision or in placement.
Assessment	Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI)	46 youth received in-house substance abuse screening administered by counselors for FY 2019 and FY 2020
Prevention/ Early Intervention	Drug Education Class	128 youth and their parents attended this class focused on substance use.
Assessment	Bluebonnet Trails Community Service	64 youth were assessed for Intensive Out-Patient Treatment, or Yes Waiver Program. Of those 34 received treatment services. Note: Referrals were low due to incorporating Department Counselors in Juvenile Services Field Offices.
Intensive Out-Patient Treatment (IOP)	Phoenix House	FY 2019 and FY 2020, 30 youth received IOP treatment services at an average of 10 hours per week
Supportive Out-Patient Treatment	Phoenix House	FY 2019 and FY 2020, 17 youth received outpatient treatment services.
Psychological Assessment	Psychological Evaluations Eric Frey, Ph.D	FY 2019 and FY 2020, 74 youth received psychological evaluations

Note: Due to COVID-19 in FY 2020; referrals and outside services were limited.



Jon Briery, LPC-S, LCDC

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

Drug Treatment Group - 45 youth received individual, family, and group substance abuse treatment services while in CORE residential treatment.



Phoenix House offers individual, group, and family sessions in which the needs of the youth are determined through a comprehensive assessment before starting treatment. The psychoeducational therapy groups offer juveniles an opportunity to develop resistance skills, find alternatives to using drugs, and techniques to maintain sobriety while in a supportive group of their peers. Drug testing is also a vital part of the treatment to maintain sobriety and provide accountability. If a youth needs more treatment, Phoenix House can provide insurance-based residential treatment.

Between FY 2016 and FY 2020, 179 youth attended intensive outpatient treatment with Phoenix House.

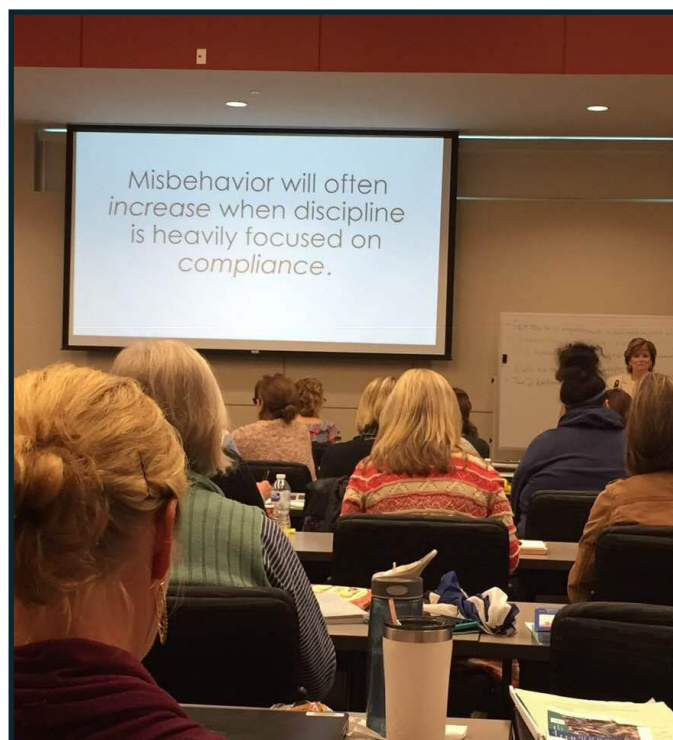
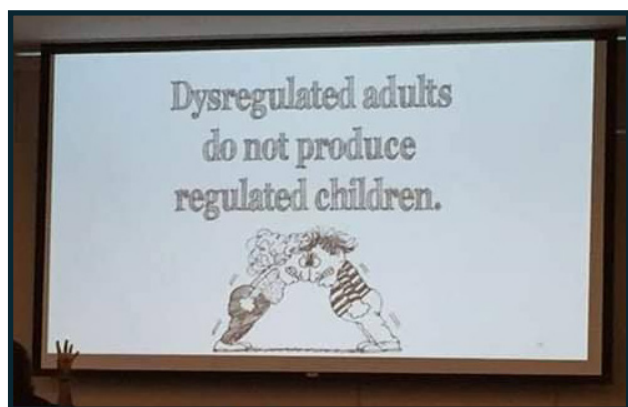


During FY 2016 – FY 2020,
157 psychological
evaluations were conducted.



PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS

Juvenile Services contracts with Eric Frey, Ph.D., to conduct court-ordered psychological evaluations as deemed necessary to aid in evaluating a youth's mental health, identifying any potential diagnoses, and assessing therapeutic needs. Juveniles admitted into residential programs receive a psychological evaluation beforehand. Dr. Frey also provides yearly training to the department staff to ensure they are knowledgeable about mental health diagnoses.



Education



Tara Stewart was selected as the new principal by the Georgetown Independent School District on May 19, 2020, to lead the Williamson County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP.)

Stewart served as assistant principal at the JHW Inspire Academy Meridell campus in Liberty Hill and has been acting principal since January. There she was responsible for supporting a broad range of learning for students in grades 5-12 in need of neuropsychological and behavioral treatment in a therapeutic environment. Before that, she served as assistant principal at Vandegrift High School in Leander ISD and as the district 504/ADA Coordinator. At both the campus and district levels, Stewart has valuable experience working together with faculty, students, and families to nurture the culture and development of quality educational settings.

As principal, Stewart will lead the facility's mission to make a difference in the community by creating opportunities for positive change through hope, empowerment, prevention, and accountability. Stewart's background as an administrator in residential treatment will

serve her well in her new role as she and her team will serve JJAEP students with similar needs and positively impact the whole student through a trauma-informed, social-emotional framework.

Stewart holds a master's degree in educational psychology and a graduate academic certificate in gifted and talented education from the University of North Texas. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Texas A&M University.

The JJAEP is operated by Williamson County, with educational support and staffing provided by Georgetown ISD. In partnership, WCJS and GISD work to rehabilitate, educate, and support students and their families from the 12 Independent School Districts within Williamson County.

Georgetown ISD is the administrative agent that provides educational services for all students placed in programs within WCJJC, both secure and non-secure programs. The education department provides all courses required for graduation and a number of elective courses for students in Detention, CORE (residential treatment), and the JJAEP. All education staff are highly qualified under No Child Left Behind and most of the teachers are certified to teach in at least 2 content areas. WCJS Education has an excellent, veteran group of educators on the team who exhibit a passion for the student population and the challenges they present.

S.T.E.P. continues to strive to engage students in growing, learning, and serving through various methodologies including, direct-teach instruction, project-based instruction, service projects, discipline instruction, and on-line computer instruction for credit recovery and acceleration. The goal is to connect or re-connect students to the learning process and expand upon their positive relationships with others and the community in general. Education creates and maintains opportunities for students to stay on track for graduation with their peers via education programming and in collaboration with the students' home campuses. All students receive educational support specific to their needs:

Special Education - resource classes, inclusion support, behavioral support, counseling and other therapies, classroom accommodations, behavioral goals, and individual education plan implementation and support.

Section 504 - all accommodations as outlined in 504 plans.

State Testing - provisions of STAAR testing, remediation assistance, EOC testing and re-testing.

English Language Learners - linguistic accommodations and support.

The education team completes professional learning at the beginning of each year specific to the needs of the student population served: Crisis Prevention Intervention

Mental Health First Aid

Trauma Informed Care

TBRI

First Aide / CPR / AED (biannually)

Prison Rape Education Act (PREA)

Child Abuse and Human Trafficking Awareness

Suicide Awareness

Sexual Harassment

Emergency Operations

TJJD Standards

In addition, teachers participate in various content area and instructional methodology training relative to their individual areas of certification. The Education Team is extensively trained to work with the high-risk youth that are served.

2017 GRANTS AND GAINZ FOR JUVENILE SERVICES



Advocate Newstx.com
By Ann Marie Kennon
May 8, 2017

Williamson County Juvenile Services Principal Bob Fisher (2nd from left) and his students received \$2500 from Assistant Chief Cory Tchida (3rd left) as part of the city-wide distribution of money raised at last month's annual Chase-the-Chief Fun Run and 5K. The award marks the first time funds have been disbursed to the Juvenile Center, which, although educating students from all over Williamson County, is technically a GISD facility.

Coach Dee Martin (3rd right) says money will go toward the Center's wish list for sports equipment, volleyball nets and other athletic needs.

Residents at the facility also have a new community connection in House of Gainz gym (bottom photo) in Georgetown. Prevention Coordinator Kristin Davidson says, "It is a massive fitness facility with a different vibe than a traditional chain gym. It attracts serious body builders and fitness competitors—a little tough, a little gritty. I personally love it." Davidson says HOG embraced the kids with open arms and opens the gym for them to work out any time.

"I've been bringing groups of kids out there every Sunday and in a relatively short time I've noticed improvements in attitude, overall better moods, and it has been a chance for them simply to feel normal again. Some of the trainers and members of the gym have re-

ally taken to the kids and have volunteered their time to teach them different skills and weightlifting. The boys are really flattered when gym members offer them advice and encouragement. It has really evolved into something special."

More about the gym at HouseOfGainzGT.com



The Educator of the Year for 2019-2020 was Erin Gertsema. "Ms. Gertsema is a Rock Star all around! Creative, caring, devoted, knowledgeable, passionate, and just plain great with kids! Goes above and beyond in serving kids and the program."

Attendance Rate 95% (Aug - March)

Education Continued

SPECIAL PROGRAM STUDENTS ***

Special Education	113
Section 504	41
ESL / LEP	10

*** All grade levels CORE/JJAEP/Detention

RECIDIVISM RATE **

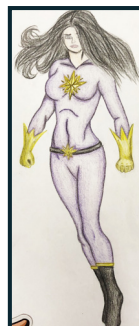
Total Students Enrolled	118
Repeat Placements from 2018-2019	10
Recidivism Rate	8.40%

** All grade levels CORE/JJAEP Students

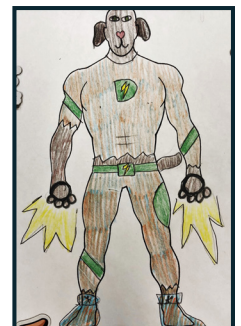
ACADEMIC PROGRESS for Academic Year August 2019- June 2020

For this section of data, High School Students from JJAEP and CORE are included. To be counted, they needed to be present at semester end and completed at least 6 weeks on the WCJS campus.

Total # of HS Students	Total # of courses completed	Total # of credits earned	Average # of credits earned	Total # Courses Recovered
53	292.5	135.5	2.6	23.5



TWO EXAMPLES FROM THE
EDUCATION INTENSIVE
SUPERHERO PROJECT.



COOK: EDUCATION CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AT WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20200814/cook-education-challenges-successes-at-williamson-county-jvenile-services>



Austin American
Statesman
By Terry Cook
Aug 14, 2020

Well, it's back-to-school time in Central Texas, or is it? One school is like no other.

Williamson County Juvenile Services — within the Georgetown school district boundary — holds classes for three student populations every academic year and this time, amidst a continuing pandemic.

The three groups include detention students awaiting their court appearance, residential treatment program students, and community students who have been expelled to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program by their local school district.

To plan classes for this juvenile facility serving the largest number of school districts in the state, Tara Stewart, new principal at the Juvenile Justice Center, has been meeting virtually for weeks with the school's registrar, administrative assistant and 16 teachers.

To operate the Juvenile Services school requires a budget of over \$1 million, to which every school district contributes based on student attendance. Typically, the highest number of students attending are from the Round Rock school district, as it is the largest district.

Most in the juvenile system tend to be middle and high schoolers, but ages can range from 10 to 18.

For the first three weeks of school beginning Aug. 17, students expelled from their school districts but at home will participate in distance learning. In-person learning for these students is scheduled to start Sept. 8.

Since teachers share teaching spaces, Stewart said the Georgetown district

has provided noise-cancelling headphones, hotspots and laptops for all students, both residential and those distance learning at home.

Students will be using Google Classroom to complete assignments and submit them. Instruction will be synchronous, and students will have independent work time that may be away from a computer.

Getting kids to complete their coursework is challenging. Most of these students are already behind academically, so keeping them engaged in learning is difficult.

The overall goal is ensuring students remain within the scope and sequence of their home district, so they will return to their home school prepared to thrive.

If non-residents aren't making progress, the center sends case managers to their homes and also offers virtual counseling to help them overcome their setbacks.

On Aug. 13, the center hosted three virtual open house sessions so that students and their families could learn about distance learning expectations.

Since COVID-19, the number of detention students has reduced while virtual community supervision and family involvement has increased.

Juvenile Court Judge Stacey Mathews, a former educator, focuses on school and family involvement, trying to ensure students have the support system to succeed. When students refuse to participate in school, Mathews can order them to attend in-person school, where they can re-engage in their education.

Some of the kids in the non-resident group began working when schools were ordered to close and face the dilemma of how to keep their jobs while in school. Case managers can advocate for these students with their employers, so they'll allow them to continue working and attend classes.

Those enrolled in the residential treatment program receive robust education, behavioral health and case management services for an average of six to nine months so they can focus on the root cause of their involvement with the system — childhood adversity.

However, once they understand that the teachers — who also offer tutoring — and staff want to help them and accept them for who they are, many of these kids succeed.

Stewart said every teacher and counselor has a passion to work with these troubled youths and wants them to feel safe and wanted. There is very little turnover of teachers at Juvenile Services, thus strong, trusting bonds are formed between the teachers and students.

They teach four classes per day on a block schedule that includes social studies, English, service learning and physical education one day, and math, science and two electives the next day.

The facility even offers a GED program for students who have fallen behind and want to finish high school, especially those turning 18 and about to be released.

Despite the mounting challenges, Williamson County Juvenile Services and the Georgetown school district, collaborating with other Wilco school districts, remain steadfast in their mission to rehabilitate the whole child and return students to their homes and communities as healthy and engaged learners.

If you'd like to donate school supplies — especially Microsoft 10-compatible laptops — please call or email Julie Watts at 512-943-3207 or jwatts@wilco.org.

Terry Cook is county commissioner of Precinct 1, which includes Round Rock, Brushy Creek and Northwest Austin.

Residential

In 2017, Williamson County Juvenile Services refined its residential program and created a new trauma-informed treatment program called C.O.R.E., replacing Academy, Triad, and Trinity.

C.O.R.E. is a secure post-adjudication residential treatment center housed within the Williamson County Juvenile Justice Center located in Georgetown, Texas. C.O.R.E. utilizes a multi-disciplinary team and therapeutic model approach to understand and address resident needs. The team includes a consulting psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, consulting psychologist, licensed nurses, licensed professional counselors, licensed clinical social workers, case managers, GUSD educational staff, and a team of Youth Engagement Specialists. The C.O.R.E. team welcomes constructive participation from the resident's immediate and extended family members in the treatment process. This residential treatment program offers youth the time to heal, grow, and transform into healthy and successful young adults. C.O.R.E. offers youth the opportunity to explore new ways of thinking, feeling, and responding to stressors such as neglect, trauma, and adversity, with hopes of redirecting them on a path of success and providing a brighter outlook on life.

C.O.R.E. STANDS FOR CONNECT, OVERCOME, RESTORE, AND EMPOWER. THESE 4 PRINCIPLES ARE IMPORTANT WHEN SETTING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR POSITIVE CHANGE.

Connect refers to the importance of healthy relationships with adults and peers. In CORE, Youth Engagement Specialists work alongside youth throughout the program with the sole purpose of helping them succeed. Their peers in the program, will be helping to mentor newcomers. Through these supporting and trusting relationships, positive change can occur.

Overcome refers to the things youth must look at in their own life that have held them back, caused problems, or created hindrances to their success. Youth explore barriers to their own success. In this program, youth identify these struggles and work through them, where they no longer hinder their ability to succeed.

Restore means looking at things youth may need to "make right" in their lives outside of the program such as family and community relationships that need to be mended. Youth learn to forgive themselves and others. At this stage, youth explore all the areas in their life that need restoration.

Empower refers to the experience that when youth work through the program and experience success and positive change, no one can take that away from them. What they learn becomes part of them and who they are. Youth build confidence and strengthen their ability to navigate life challenges, leaning on their support system when needed.



CORE ALL-STAR TOURNAMENT

A collage of four basketball game action shots. The top left shows a player in a green jersey with the number 42 jumping for a shot. The top right shows a player in a white jersey with the number 50. The bottom left shows a referee in a black and white striped shirt holding a basketball. The bottom right shows a player in a green jersey with the number 42. The text "Thank You!" is written in a large, green, cursive font across the bottom of the collage.

Thank You!

For your support & encouragement!

The logo for Williamson County Juvenile Services is located in the bottom left corner of the collage. It is a circular seal with a star in the center and the text "WILLIAMSON COUNTY" and "JUVENILE SERVICES" around the perimeter.

TBRI® Practitioner



Shannon Morning
Facility Senior Supervisor
Facility TBRI® Coach

TBRI® Practitioner



Ryan McDowell
Director of Facilities

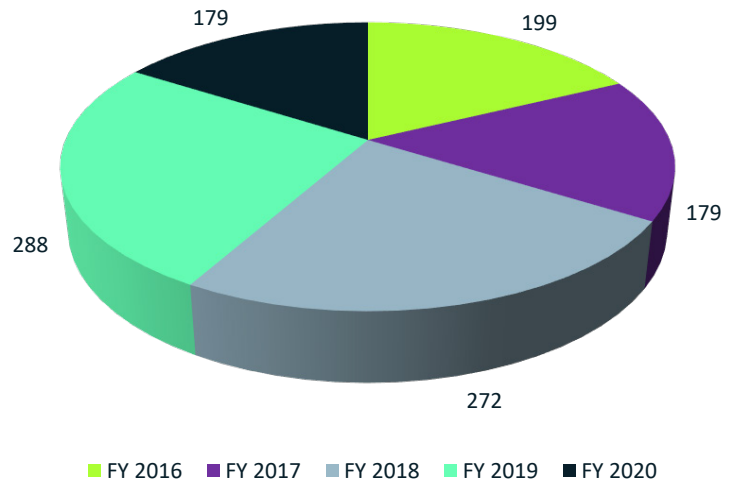
TBRI® Practitioner



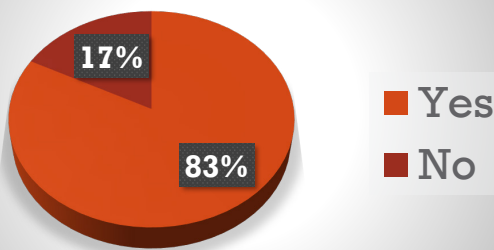
Matt Milliken
Facility Senior Supervisor

The C.O.R.E. Program is designed to support positive change, helping Youth become stronger and more successful Young Adults. Success in the C.O.R.E. Program is measured by a Youth's treatment progress and growth, not by the passage of time. Regardless of how long a Youth may remain in C.O.R.E. they are expected to make good use of this treatment opportunity and this generous gift of a second chance.

Residential: Average Length of Stay in Days



HISTORIC CPS CONTACT



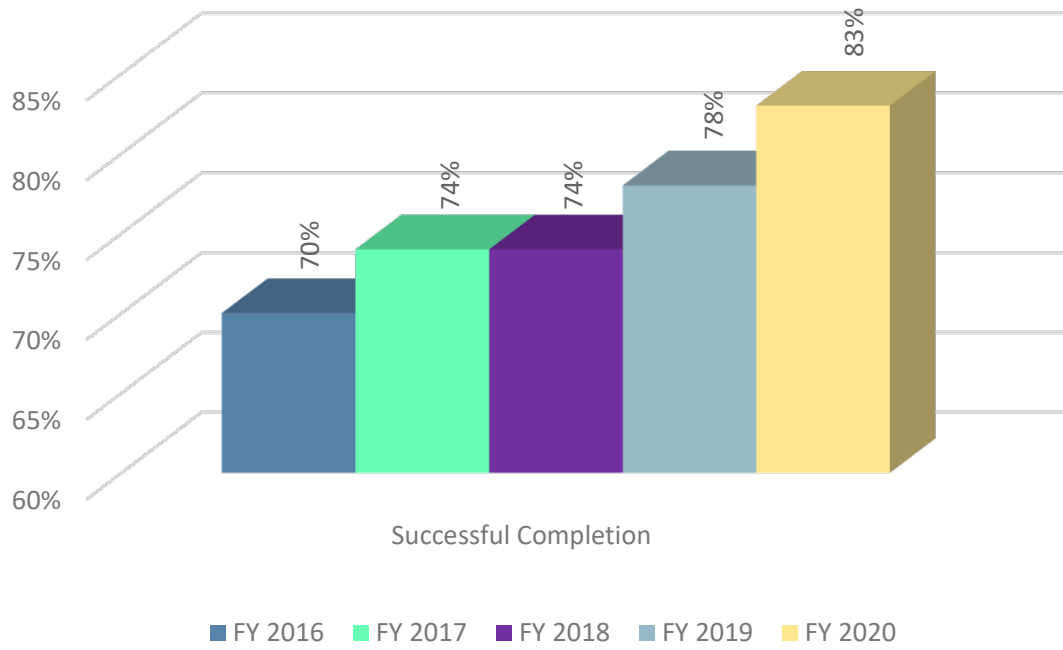
Dual Sysytem Involved Youth

In FY 2019, WCJS studied historic contact with Child Protective Services for 52 unique youth residents in the CORE Residential Treatment Program. The study revealed that more than 4 out of 5 residents had been referred at least once, over half had a case opened for services, and more than one quarter had been previously removed from their home by CPS. This data was shared with the Dual Status Task Force of the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission to highlight the prevalence of youth who are served by both systems.

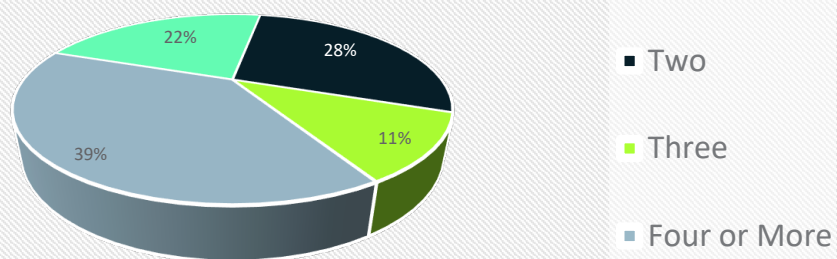
52 Unique Youth CORE Residents FY 2019

83%	Referred to CPS at least once for Maltreatment
56%	Substantiated Report of Maltreatment
56%	Case Opened for Services by CPS
28%	Removed From their Home Due to Abuse or Neglect

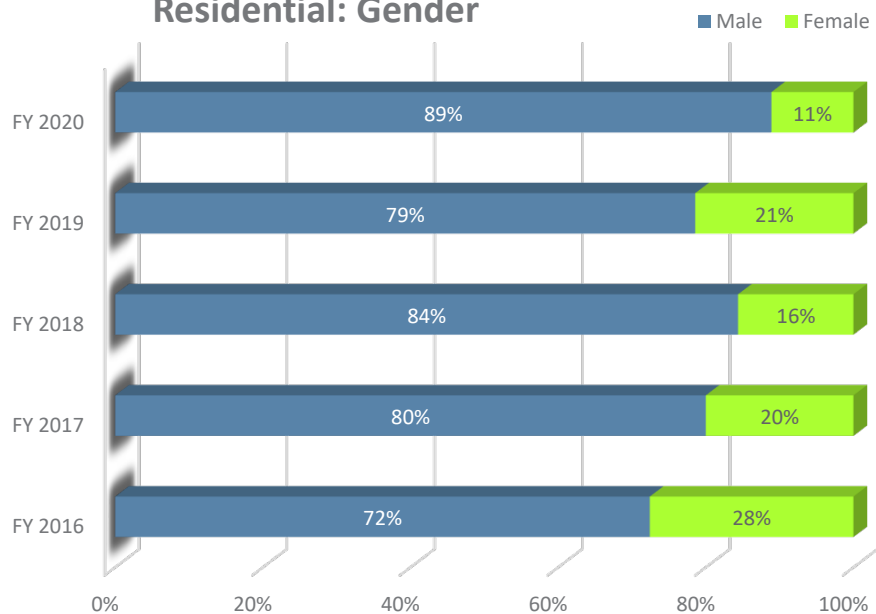
Residential: Program Outcomes



FY 2020 Referrals/Violations of Probation Prior to Placement



Residential: Gender



REDUCING “OUT-OF-COUNTY” PLACEMENT/COMMITMENT TO TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION/TJJJD STATE FACILITIES

In 2015, the Council of State Governments Justice Center published the Closer to Home report, an analysis of the state and local impact of recent Texas juvenile justice reforms. The analysis revealed that youth placed closer to home had better outcomes than youth committed to the state or placed in facilities far from home.

In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature instructed TJJJD to develop and adopt a regionalization plan, in consultation with local juvenile probation departments, for keeping children closer to home instead of a commitment to the secure facilities operated by the agency.

In response to the report, WCJS initiated a strategic plan to keep Williamson County youth “closest to home” by overhauling residential services and outside placement practices.

The goal was to increase capacity and successful outcomes in WCJS residential services so youth are not placed or committed outside of the county. A close look at residential outcomes revealed many of the youth who were being placed outside of the county or committed to TJJJD were youth in need of intensive behavioral health services. At this time, many of these youth were not able to successfully navigate their way through the rigors of the military structure of the largest residential program, the Williamson County Academy. The local analysis also revealed that youth were transitioning from one internal program to another frequently, often with lengthy detention stays in between, interrupting progress, and increasing length of stay.

At the time, WCJS operated three separate residential programs, all housed within the Juvenile Justice Center in Georgetown, TX. TRIAD was the secure male residential treatment program, TRINITY was the secure female

residential treatment program, and Academy was the non-secure residential program with a blend of therapeutic services and a military-style discipline structure.

All residential youth received an array of behavioral health services including case management, individual counseling, family counseling, and skills training. Based on identified needs, youth may also receive substance abuse treatment, sex offender treatment, and medication management.

In March 2017, WCJS blended the three pre-existing programs into one large secure trauma-informed residential treatment facility – CORE Residential Treatment Program. CORE is an acronym that stands for Connect, Overcome, Restore, Empower. CORE uses TBRI® as the intervention framework; the military components of the Academy transitioned to an ROTC elective track. Remedial PT and traditional military approaches were eliminated; however, a blend of structure and nurture are still integral to program success.

Youth in CORE are expected to progress to less restrictive living units with increased community programming and privileges. The blending of the existing programs was designed to reduce overall lengths of stay, eliminate youth detention stays during the transition from one placement to another, make better use of current facility and resources, provide a trauma-informed environment where youth feel safer and are better able to heal and thrive, and allow for more individualized treatment planning and service delivery for youth. Trauma-informed treatment modalities include TBRI®, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy.

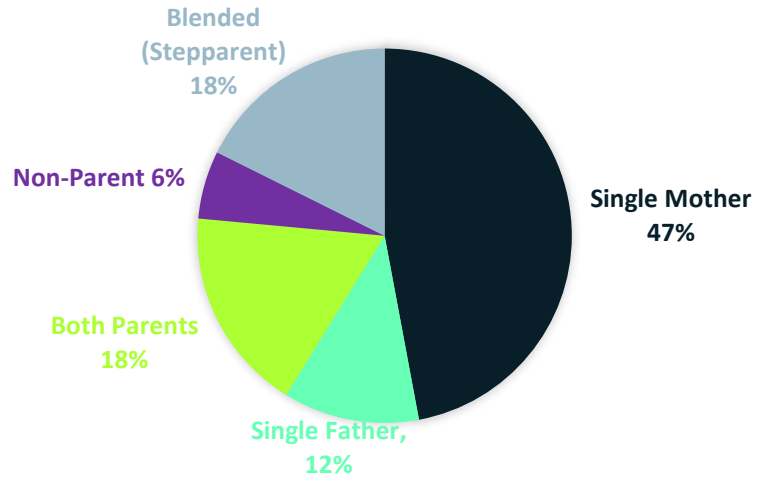
Reduction in TJJJD Commitment



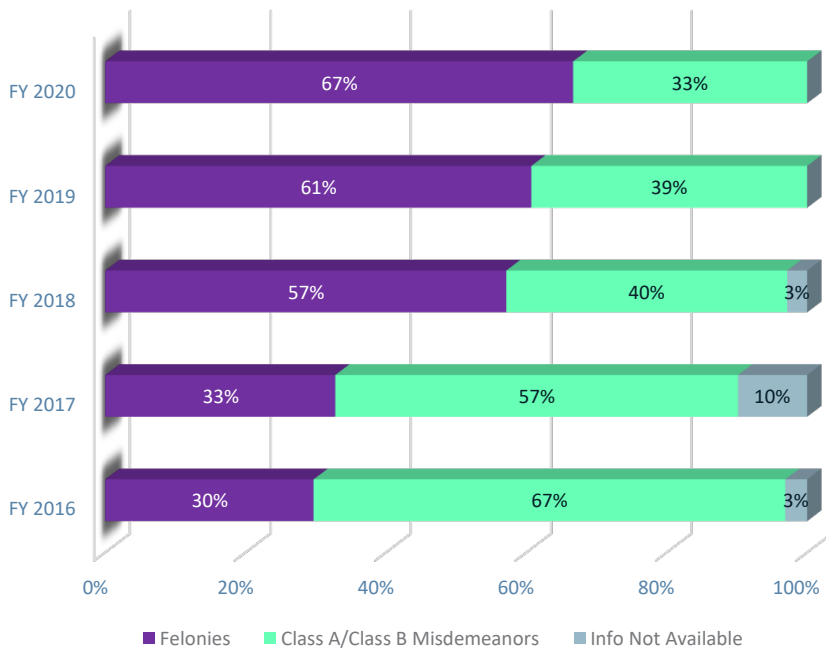
Over the past 6 years, WCJS has reduced the number of youth committed to TJJJD state facilities.

WCJS IS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE TJJD REGIONALIZATION EFFORT TO REDUCE COMMITMENT TO TJJD STATE FACILITIES. SINCE TJJD INITIATED A PRACTICE OF DIVERTING YOUTH THROUGH FUNDING RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT OF COMMITMENT ELIGIBLE YOUTH, WCJS HAS DIVERTED A TOTAL OF 5 YOUTH.

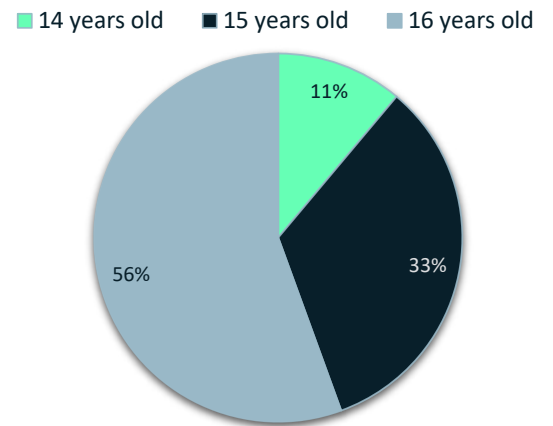
FY 2020 CHILD LIVES WITH



Residential: Degree of Offense

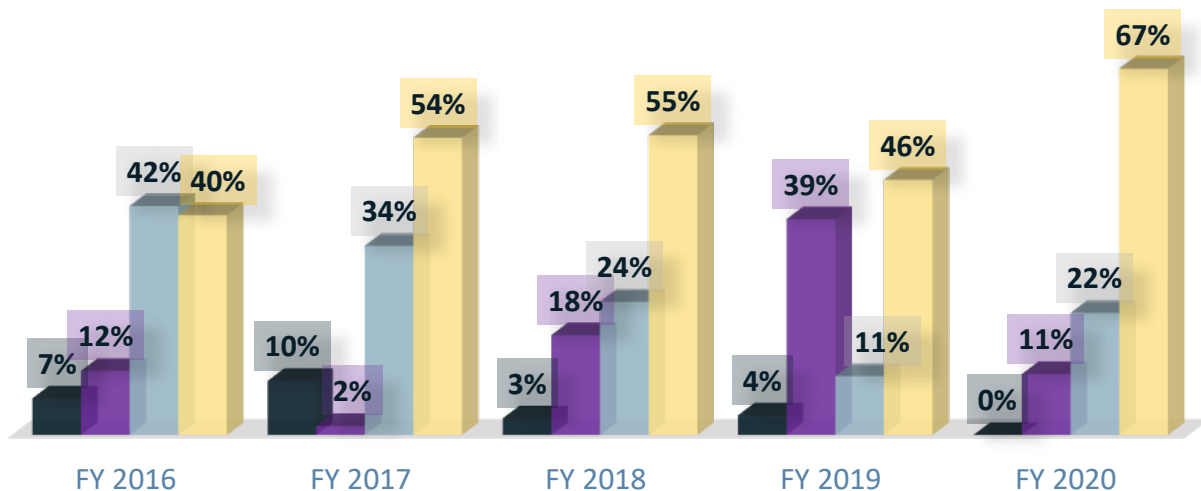


FY2020 Placement Age



RESIDENTIAL: RACE

Other Black White Hispanic



JUVENILE JUSTICE SETTING THE STANDARD, AGAIN



Advocate Newstx.com
By Ann Marie Kennon
March 23, 2017

The Williamson County Juvenile Justice Center recently implemented a new and groundbreaking program that, according to District Judge Stacey Mathews, is already being looked to for duplication state-wide.

“Being at the forefront of juvenile rehabilitation and care is nothing new for Williamson County and this is the part of my job as Judge that makes me most proud. This program is so beneficial for the kids and will certainly find support from the community.”

The concept for the “Core” program was developed by Assistant Chief and Director of Mental Health Services Matt Smith. Judge Mathews, who has been the Juvenile Judge since November 2015, was instrumental in its approval and initiation. Executive Director Scott Matthew is responsible for implementation of all Center programs and therapy, and is well-known and respected state-wide for compassionate and effective rehabilitation.

THE CORE PROGRAM

The Center previously managed three residential programs with different philosophies and security levels under the same roof.

Core absorbed all three into one secure

program that takes a holistic approach to the kids’ care by identifying and addressing what possible trauma or abuse may have led them to be in the justice system in the first place.

The program breaks down existing services to an individual level and provides customized therapy and rehabilitation. Just a few weeks in, they are already seeing results. Smith says, “We are expanding on a program from the TCU Institute of Child Development. They use an evidence-based framework for how to intervene with kids who have experienced trauma.

“Our Core program is based on Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) and it is all about looking beneath the surface of our kids’ behavior or their offense and find out what their true need is.”

Smith began working on the concept several years ago with Triad, a secured unit program that went alongside the non-secure Academy program, begun in 1992. “It was time to morph them all into one secure program in an effort to keep kids closer to home. In the past if we had kids who didn’t perform well in our program, we didn’t have a space for them and had to transfer them to another facility. Now we have the services and the appropriate space to keep them all here in Williamson County.”

Executive Director Scott Matthew agrees, “Much of the research comes out of the foster care system because all of these kids share similar backgrounds of neglect, abuse and trauma. Now, instead of the boot camp approach, we are looking at the whole child to find out what needs we can address. Treating the root causes related to trauma rather than just the symptoms and behavior results in more long-term, internally-driven positive change.”

A “CAFETERIA” PLAN

All of the kids in the Center will continue to receive standard care; counseling, education and physical activity, but the Core program breaks down

services to the individual level. Much like public schools create Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for every student, the Center will do the same based not only on offenses, but also the background and circumstances that led to detention.

The Center boasts a robust treatment team that works with the kids. In addition to direct care providers—counselors, officers, etc.—who are with them all day, each has a case manager to assess, develop and tweak program initiatives during recovery.

“All of us have the same goal,” Matthew says, “to never see these kids again. The intent of these custom services is to shorten the length of stay for each kid and to reduce or remove the chance of recidivism.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Previously, varying levels of security required that when a resident got in trouble and had to be removed to a more secure environment, it meant a trip back to see the Judge. Now, the Core program is under one roof with a single level of security. As well, the perks kids receive as they graduate through each level toward release are fluid. “We control the processes better and it’s less additional stress for the kids,” Smith says.

“It’s easier and more efficient for everyone to be able to remove a privilege than to have to go through the process of seeing the Judge again. If a kid doesn’t want to participate in an activity, or gets into a fight, we don’t have to have any lockdowns. He or she can just stay in a private room because it is all secure; we don’t have to go back to the Judge or make any substantial changes to his or her program. We can keep everyone safe but continue to move forward to going home.”

While the Center has removed the “boot camp” aspects of detention, they are maintaining the ROTC program for those kids who can benefit from the structure and discipline.

Smith says, “Some kids thrive in a military structure while others crumble; we don’t want to put everyone into the same mold. They still have all the problems they did before, but we can use a Montessori approach to putting them in a plan where they will flourish and recover; they simply get whatever it is that they need.

“For some kids, addiction is what led them to be here so we provide drug counseling. For others it might be a sexual offense, so in addition to school, they will receive specialized therapy for that. Or maybe they need both, and now we don’t have to relegate them to any particular track at one time. We can provide either or both.”

In the new program, kids work through “leveling” toward release and they receive custom services via case management. They also earn privileges along the way. “Everyone gets school,” Matthew says. “Some kids are here for very serious things and rehab is critical but they also still have to earn simple things like wearing jeans instead of a uniform. Once they accomplish certain things they can earn a furlough for a day or a weekend. If someone is having a hard time adjusting or leveling up, we can move him or her into a more or less structured environment and re-evaluate the services depending on that person’s IEP.”

Matthew says they will also continue with their many therapeutic activities; art, culinary arts, sports, music, construction and more. They are always open to community members who have skills to share. “Anyone is welcome to work with our kids, whether it’s basic auto maintenance or photography, we try everything we can in hopes we will stumble upon the one thing that will light that spark and turn a kid around.”

COMMUNITY AND COMMITMENT

Judge Mathews is the program’s biggest advocate outside the Center. “This is what I fought for as a teacher and it is why I went to law school; to meet kids where they are, focus on their strengths and address their needs. Caring for children carries over from

home through a classroom and into the justice system.”

The Judge recalled the case of a girl in the system who had been trafficked at a very young age. “She was so damaged and came from a home where drug abuse was normal. I want to think that we have the right tools to take care of her here when, in other places, she might just be thrown away.”

Smith agrees, “With the intervention training we are providing to our staff, they are even more committed and invested in positive outcomes for these kids. We’re doing more than just removing these kids from society and hoping they won’t be a threat again. We are making lasting change to create successful adults with job and independent living skills.”

SPECIAL ADVOCATES

Another new aspect of Core is that each person will have an advocate attorney. Attorneys will guide kids through the system, be on their side and make sure they don’t get “stuck.”

“Having attorney advocates is unique to us across the nation right now. When kids arrive here and suddenly there are a half-dozen grownups managing everything they do, even in their best interests, they can sometimes feel like they are being ganged up on. Attorneys will be intentionally and professionally on their side so it is our hope kids, and their parents, will have more hope and trust throughout the process,” Matthew says. “The attorneys will be physically here as well rather than having the kids travel to and from court so it saves time and tax dollars too.”

They are applying for a grant from the Indigent Defense Commission to fund the fees for the attorneys as a judicial best practice.

THE NUMBERS

The Juvenile Justice Center will maintain the same number of beds, 55 for males and females. Each person arrives in a secure setting with individual rooms and secure activity pods. They then progress through

the program, achieving less and less security and more incentives as part of a phased reintegration back home.

Each resident will be assessed up front to determine which services will be most effective in breaking down and recovering from past trauma or abuse.

“It’s a work in progress,” Smith says, “and we know we will make changes along the way. Right now each person stays an average of six to seven months and we hope to reduce that. It will take about six months to cycle through a good number of kids and look at the outcomes but right now it is working. Meanwhile we are watching the state legislature for changes to the laws regarding age of criminal responsibility, which will allow us to make changes again in our casework.”

Director Matthew says, “Basically we want to give kids hope for a better future through programming. I am committed to and care about these kids but for people who are not in a position to see behind the walls, I always say that with kids you can pay now or pay later. We are always much better off providing education now than incarceration later. Spending a dollar today to teach ethical behavior and how to be good parents will save two dollars when that person grows up to contribute and give back rather than being any kind of drain on the system. The implications of doing it right, now, are always our most desirable outcome.”



WCJS EXECUTIVE TEAM ENGAGED IN LOCAL BOARD MEMBERSHIPS & COLLABORATIVES

In order to strengthen the coordinated system of care in the community, WCJS leadership encourages engagement on local and state boards and collaboratives.



Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) Board of Directors

Georgetown Health Foundation Board of Directors

The Georgetown Project Board of Directors

CMIT Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University

Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors

Texas Juvenile Justice Department Transition Team

Office of the Governor Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

Resilient Wilco

Williamson County Youth Behavioral Health Taskforce

Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

Texas Supreme Court Children's Commission Foster Care & School Discipline Workgroup

Youth Recovery Network Steering Committee

Texas Motivational Interviewing Cooperative Steering Committee

Trauma-Informed Care Collaborative (TICC)

The Christi Center Board of Directors

Williamson County Benefits Committee

Texas Probation Association



Georgetown Health Foundation



WCJS has long been a leader in the field and a model for others to follow. The Texas Juvenile Justice Department pilots new initiatives and practices in Williamson County and refers other departments around the state to WCJS for training and technical assistance. WCJS is monitored and audited annually by several agencies included but not limited to TJJD Secure Facilities, TJJD JJAEP, TJJD Financial Audit, Independent Financial Audit (Weaver & Tidwell), Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention grant audits, monthly visits by the Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO). WCJS consistently receives exemplary ratings on audits. Recent secure facility audits have revealed only minor clerical errors among thousands of standards reviewed. In 2017, WCJS received a 100% rating on the JJAEP audit. TJJD Financial Audits consistently disclose no findings, acknowledging that all finances have been accounted for and spent accordingly. To date, the OIO inspections have revealed no findings during monthly facility inspections.

TBRI® Training & Consulting

In partnership with KPICD, WCJS assists other departments and organizations in understanding how to implement the TBRI® framework. The following agencies have attended WCJS TBRI® Implementation workshops, tours, and meetings:



Bell County Juvenile Probation

Bexar County Juvenile Probation

Cameron County Juvenile Probation

Comal County Juvenile Probation

Grayson County Juvenile Probation

Harris County Juvenile Probation

Harris County Youth Collective

Juvenile Justice Association of Texas (JJAT)

Oklahoma County Juvenile Services

Tarrant County Juvenile Probation

Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH)

Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)

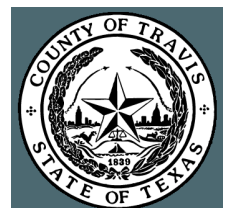
Travis County Child Protective Services

Travis County Juvenile Probation

Various agencies attending KPICD TBRI® Practitioner Trainings



TEXAS
JUVENILE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT



Non-profits, social service and government agencies, elected officials, and advocacy groups schedule tours and informational meetings at the Juvenile Justice Center in Georgetown. Below is some of the groups who have visited in recent years to learn and understand the innovative ways that WCJS are supporting and reaching youth and families.



news & announcements

WCJS is regularly featured in positive press in local newspapers and publications including the Georgetown Advocate, the Williamson County Sun, Community Impact, the Austin American Statesman, and Williamson County Press Releases. The following are just a handful of events that have taken place over the past years involving WCJS.

WCJS developed a social media presence through the development of a WCJS Facebook Page in 2016. WCJS connects with the community through the Facebook page highlighting youth activities, employee spotlights, and departmental milestones. WCJS uses Facebook to help connect to the community and faith-based agencies interested in supporting youth and families.



<https://www.facebook.com/WilliamsonCountyJuvenileServices>



In 2015, WCJS, in partnership with Bell County Juvenile Services and the Texas Attorney General's Office, led Central Texas in hosting a documentary screening of *In Plain Sight: Stories of Hope and Freedom* at Georgetown City Lights event and fundraiser to raise awareness about Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. Proceeds from the event benefited local non-profits Traffick 911 and Redeemed Ministries.

<http://austin.eventful.com/events/inplainsight-fundraiser-/E0-001-078135031-9>

In 2015, WCJS Asst. Executive Director Matt Smith was featured on KVUE morning news discussing mental health issues affecting children and promoting the Williamson County Children's Mental Health Awareness Day event at Dell Diamond benefiting local non-profit *Sandbox at Madeline's Place*.



<https://www.kvue.com/article/news/local/williamson-county/2-years-after-daughters-suicide-couple-helps-other-teens/269-309938618>

In 2016-2017, WCJS participated in a JJ-TRIALS, a comprehensive research initiative conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). JJ-TRIALS is NIDA's juvenile justice translational research on interventions for adolescents in the legal system.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/researchers/research-resources/justice-system-research/jj-trials-cooperative-research-centers>

In 2017, WCJS was featured in a promotional video in collaboration with local non-profit STARRY highlighting STARRY's leadership in training WCJS and other local agencies in Trust-Based Relational Intervention – the video features Asst. Executive Director Matt Smith and WCJS Facility Supervisor Troy McPeak.

<http://www.starry.org/Site/Sharing-Good-News/videos.aspx>



news & announcements

In 2017, WCJS, in partnership with local collaborative Youth Recovery Network, hosted separate parent, youth, and professional listening sessions in Williamson County surrounding youth substance use. These listening sessions revealed valuable insights into existing gaps and needs in the community. The long-term purpose of these listening sessions is to get youth and parent voice in designing a centralized hub of information and support for youth and parents seeking youth recovery services and support.

In 2017, WCJS, in partnership with local non-profit Catalyst Collective, hosted a screening of the recent documentary Screenagers, followed by a youth panel. The event provided a window into local youth belief systems and experiences related to screen time, cyberbullying, and the effects of social media.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfPMBNBm2z0>



In 2018, WCJS was selected as one of 6 counties for a study conducted by the Council of State Governments researching community-based supervision strategies in juvenile justice. This research is ongoing.

JUVENILE SERVICES HONORS GATTIS



Advocate Newstx.com
By Ann Marie Kennon
May 7, 2019

The Williamson County Juvenile Services staff and Board honored retired County Judge Dan Gattis in April with a special luncheon and award ceremony.

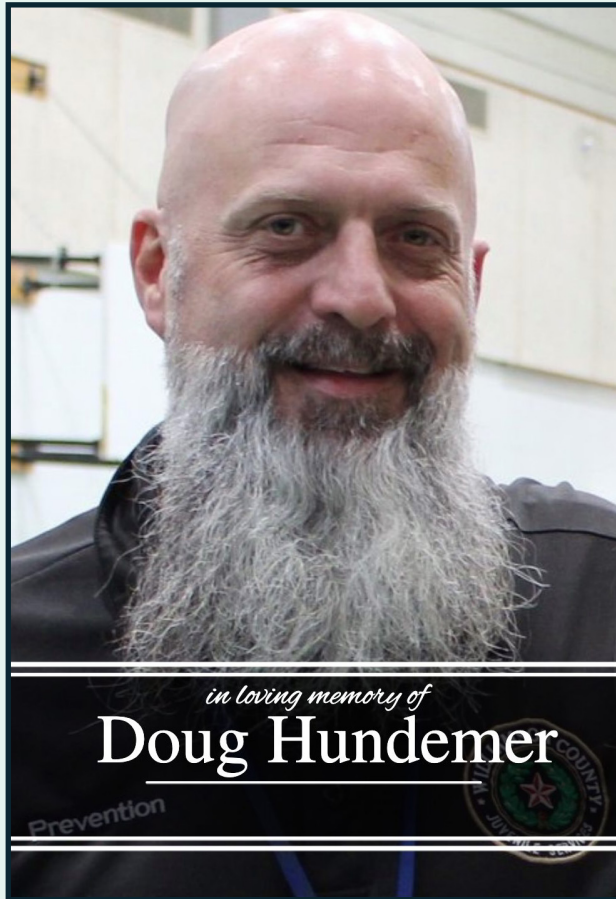
Executive Director Scott Matthew presented Judge Gattis with his

portrait, which will hang in the main hallway alongside previous Chiefs, Board Members and Division Directors. Matthew said, “He was always a huge advocate. He has always taken care of this job and publicly supported our mission and our work. We were fortunate to have Judge Gattis and Director Charly Skaggs on our board during so many times when we were struggling. They both helped us grow and continue our mission. It is amazing to see the kind of people who are committed to juvenile services in this county and Judge Gattis is one of the best.”

Board Chair Judge Stacey Matthews addressed the Judge directly; “You and the commissioners have been phenomenal to us and

we have a lot to be thankful for; sometimes we don’t say it enough. It is awesome to see when I do a presentation and I can talk about how great Williamson County is. The reason is because we stand on the shoulders of Charly Skaggs and Judge Gattis and all who served before us. We are able to do the work we do because of them.”

Director Scott Matthew was also honored for his re-appointment to the Texas Juvenile Justice Board for six years. He is the only remaining appointee of the Perry administration and was recently chosen by Governor Abbott to continue providing guidance and program support across the state.



The Williamson County Juvenile Services family mourns the loss of one of its finest officers. Juvenile Probation Officer Doug Hundemer passed away suddenly at his home in Cedar Park on 12-2-2019. Doug served many roles in Juvenile Services over his 16-year tenure. Most recently, Doug was serving as a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program Expulsion and Re-Entry Specialist. He consulted with 12 county school districts and youth and families to coordinate expulsions to our programs, as well as transitioning the juveniles back to the ISD with warm hand-offs and continued supervision and support until youth were fully acclimated back into their home campus. In addition, Doug served the organization as the Department Orientation START Program Coordinator where he met with countless youth and families on Saturday mornings to educate them on the programs and services provided by the organization. For many, Doug was the face of Juvenile Services. As an organization we are heartbroken by his sudden passing, however, we will forever be grateful for Doug's selfless contributions and for all the lives he positively impacted over the past 16 years. The following is a quote by Doug not too long ago, in his last interview, which highlights his heart for service. When asked about his goals working at juvenile services, Doug replied - "Keep making meaningful connections with the youth and the families I work with every day." Doug stayed true to this motto to the end and will leave a legacy for those who had the honor of serving beside him.

Our hearts go out to his son Corey and all the family as they mourn their loss. We pray for grace and mercy on all and peace from our Father.

— Honoring our Retirees FY 2016 - FY 2020 —



Lou Ann Kornblum
Office Specialist
18 years



Mike Loney
County Peace Officer
22 years



Jose Bado
Juvenile Supervision
Officer, 20 years



Nate Bonner
Juvenile Supervision
Officer, 20 years



Rhonda Cox
Juvenile Probation
Supervisor, 23 years



Steven Hehman
Detention Supervisor
19 years



Gerold Johnson
Court Process Officer
24 years



Deborah Roeglin
Administrative Tech
11 years



Allen Bijou
Director of Facilities
32 years



Nancy Chisum
Office Specialist
10 years



John Gordon
Senior Supervisor
14 years



John Holbert
Facility Treatment Co-
ordinator, 9 years



Frances Jansen
Data/Records Co-
ordinator, 26 years



Luisa Lerma
Juvenile Probation
Supervisor, 21 years



Linda Straley
Senior Office Specialist
22 years



Sherry Graves
Senior Office Specialist
23 years



Rudy Williams
Court Process Officer
17 years

— Honoring our Retirees FY 2016 - FY 2020 —

WILLIAMSON COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGE MIKE JERGINS TO RETIRE



Austin American Statesman
By Claire Osborn
September 23, 2016

Tough. Compassionate. Brilliant.

This is how other judges describe Williamson County District Judge Mike Jergins, who announced this week that he is retiring this year. Jergins, 59, has presided over family law and juvenile justice cases in the 395th District Court since it was created in 2000.

Williamson County Court-at-Law Judge John McMaster said he still remembers practicing as a lawyer in Jergins' court. "At times he would let you know he was aggravated and didn't like your client," said McMaster, who also became one of Jergins' friends. "He was gruff, rough and tough, and I respected him."

Jergins said Tuesday he is retiring to spend more time with his wife and adult children. He also said he hasn't decided whether to go into

private practice as a lawyer or do mediation and be a visiting judge.

The most challenging part of his job as a judge, he said, has been presiding over the family law cases.

"You are dealing with extremely emotional situations with people and their kids," he said. "I try to impress on people the seriousness of how their choices can impact children, and sometimes it's important to get that point across."

Handling juvenile justice cases has been the favorite part of his job, Jergins said. "The kids are young enough and not so entrenched in their conduct that if you give them the right resources and they want to change, they can do it and become very successful people," he said.

Jergins said he will retire after Gov. Greg Abbott appoints a replacement.

He has served as the longest continuous juvenile judge in Williamson County history, said Scott Matthew, the director of Williamson County Juvenile Services.

"Over the past 10 years, Judge Jergins has managed the juvenile court docket with discernment, balancing compassion with accountability, guiding countless youth and families to make positive life changes," Matthew said.

Jergins "just understands the trials and tribulations of kids and has a heart for them," said Judge Billy Ray Stubblefield, the presiding judge of the Third Administrative Judicial Region, which oversees Williamson County and 25 other counties.

Jergins has also helped advise other judges on legal issues, said McMaster. "He has this incredible memory for facts and figures and statutes and cases," McMaster said.

After graduating from the University of Texas law school in 1981, he was an assistant district attorney for Tarrant County and then became an assistant U.S. attorney from 1990 until 1993. He started working for Williamson County as a prosecutor in 1993.

Before he was appointed judge of the 395th District Court by then-Gov. George W. Bush, he was in private practice in Round Rock. He ran for re-election and won in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012.

CELEBRATING A LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO THE YOUTH OF WILCO



Advocate Newstx.com
By Ann Marie Kennon
February 8, 2019

Williamson County Juvenile Services held a special ceremony during their January board meeting. Director Scott Matthew recognized retiring Director of Facilities Allen Bijou, who spent the entirety of his 32-year career with the county in service to the Juvenile Center.

With family, friends and colleagues in attendance, Matthew said “I never had to worry about this place with Allan because he was on top of everything. He gave it everything and, at one point, even told the Commissioners’ Court that he would work for nothing.”

Former Juvenile Director Charly Skaggs spoke and reflected on the successes among the “hundreds and probably thousands of kids over [Bijou’s] 32-year career here whose lives were made better.” Assistant Director Matt Smith added, “No matter what was going on and when times were tough, there was no one I’d rather see coming down the hall than Allen.”

Matthew unveiled Bijou’s official

portrait, which was placed in the main hall, unique in that Bijou is the only non-director to be honored in that way.

Mr. Bijou was humble and said while he didn’t have time to thank everyone, he was especially grateful to Skaggs and Matthew. “It was an honor, privilege and pleasure to work here. If i had to do i tall over again, I would.

County Judge Bill Gravell also honored Mr. Bijou at Commissioners’ Court for his service to and example for the County.



Celebrating his lifetime career with Allen Bijou were County Judge Bill Gravell, Judges Stacey Mathews, Betsy Lambeth, Rick Kennon and Donna King; and Juvenile Executive director Scott Matthew. At right, Allan readies his portrait.

COVID-19

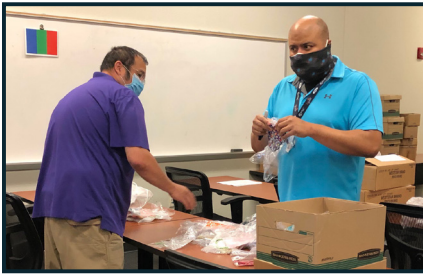
In FY 2020, the world was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Williamson County Juvenile Services stepped up and offered critical services to the community. Members of Williamson County Juvenile Services assisted in the Williamson County Mask Brigade, operated the Williamson County Call Center, called Williamson County Veterans, and scheduled COVID-19 tests for community members in need.



Williamson County Juvenile Services began overseeing the coordination of delivery and receipt of masks on April 17, 2020. Volunteers in churches, retirement homes, and citizens in the community began making masks. Masks were then sanitized by Reid’s Cleaners and then delivered to Juvenile Services and Celebration Church for special packaging. Tens of thousands of masks were then inventoried and distributed throughout the county to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Mask Brigade was led by District Judge Donna King.



WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASK BRIGADE STARTS PRODUCTION OF MASKS TO HELP WITH COVID-19 RESPONSE



FOX 7 Austin
By Elizabeth Evans
April 10, 2020

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, Texas - The Williamson County Mask Brigade is starting production on masks to help provide an extra layer of protection for first responders and healthcare professionals.

The Mask Brigade is a group of people of all ages, genders and abilities brought together with a common goal to make cloth face coverings to help with the COVID-19 response.

“The response from the community to join the brigade has been overwhelming so far,” says the county.

“Groups have been forming within a variety of organizations and pledging their support of this noble cause.”

The county says the YMCA in Round Rock and the Austin Disaster Relief Network are making 50 masks each, and the Celebration Church has pledged to make 100 masks by April 10. They’re also working on maximizing production using the assembly line approach where workers cut the fabric and pass the material to be sewn into masks, which are then sent to Reid’s Cleaners for sanitizing and distribution.

“The Mask Brigade will make masks as long as the pandemic is ongoing and there is a demand for them. We are grateful for any support people can provide. Our goal, starting next week, is to produce 2,000 masks per week,” said Judge Donna King.

The Covid Rangers, a group of volunteers supporting medical professionals with covers for N95 masks, had five seamstresses and by Wednesday, four more had joined them.

The county says as of April 10, the brigade has 539 masks ready for distribution.

The Mask Brigade is providing PDF files with step-by-step instructions on how to make the masks for interested volunteers. Anyone with a computer, a sewing or embroidering machine and a desire to help can follow the pattern. The brigade says it is also working on “how-to” videos for the public.

For more information, go to the county’s website and click on the Mask Brigade or email COVID-19Masks@wilco.org.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED 19,493 MASKS TO DATE. OF THE MASKS DISTRIBUTED, 16,699 WERE PERSONALLY DELIVERED BY THE JUVENILE SERVICES TEAM.



Jerry Castillo
Court Process and
Transport Officer



Michael Decker
Data/Records
Coordinator



Rudy Rada
JPO II - Taylor



Julie Watts
Taylor Field Office
Supervisor

COVID-19 CONTINUED

In addition to assisting with the Mask Brigade, Williamson County Juvenile Services Administration Team along with Probation Services, provided support staff to operate the initial opening of a call center operating six days a week to answer Stay Home Stay Safe Order questions. The call center was staffed by English and Spanish-speaking representatives that were answering more than 100 calls a day.



Crispin Betak
Admin Support Staff
Taylor



Mariah Edwards
Volunteer/Intern
Coordinator



Lee Janecka
Certification Specialist



Gracy Lopez
JPO II - Intake



LaSheena Love
JPO I -
Prevention Specialist



Anja Martin
Juvenile Admin. Tech



Dawn Morris
Part-Time Records
Coordinator



Kimberly Nesmith
Reception Coordinator



Angel Romero
JPO I- Intake



Becky Schaefer
Admin Support Staff
Round Rock



Secoiya Shariff-Bey
Senior Office Specialist
CORE/JJAEP

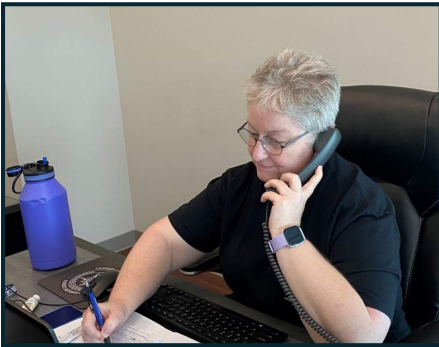


Roxan Young
Senior Office
Specialist

In addition to taking calls, the Call Center also began calling Williamson County Veterans to ensure their needs were met during the pandemic.

As cases of COVID-19 rose and questions about Stay Home Stay Safe Orders subsided, the Williamson County Call Center transitioned to scheduling members of the community for drive-thru COVID-19 tests.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY CONTINUES TO CALL VETERANS DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Community Impact Newspaper
By Ali Linan
6:25 AM April 25, 2020 CDT

The Williamson County call center, which was created to answer residents' concerns over coronavirus, has called more than 5,200 veterans living in the county to check on them during the coronavirus

pandemic, an April 23 news release said.

The center began making calls April 1 in between receiving calls from the public, the release said.

"Our goal is to lift their spirits by providing support and information that can help fulfill any needs," said Holly Justice, who is currently supervising the call center, in the release. "They appreciate hearing a friendly voice checking on them."

The eight-person call center aimed to make about 300-plus calls per day, Monday through Friday, in between answering dozens of calls from residents regarding the coro-

navirus, the release said. County employees leave a voicemail with information if they are unable to directly connect with the veteran, it said. The center estimates all veterans who live in Williamson County and are on the Williamson County Veterans Services office data base will receive a call by next week, it said.

For more information on services provided by the Williamson County Veterans Services office, visit www.wilco.org/vetservices.

Due to Stay Home Stay Safe orders during the initial spread of COVID-19, WCJS Court and Field Services made several changes to continue to serve WCJS youth and families.

- Fast-tracking plan to move to paperless filing system.
- Transitioned to a virtual intake process completed via video conference. Transitioned court to virtual hearings coordinating with the parent, youth, County Attorney's Office, Defense Counsel, WCJS staff, Judge Mathews, and court staff.
- Converted to virtual meetings with youth and families in services. The team began virtually teaching skills training, creating safety plans, and providing interventions
- Converted classes and programs to include a virtual format where youth and families can still receive educational and preventative services. These classes include the START Program, Drug Education, Teen Dating and Sexting Program, Gang Intervention and Prevention, Trauma-Informed Parent Support (TIPS), Victim Impact, and Chaperone Training.

Due to various safety measures put in place to protect the community, several divisions within WCJS developed plans of action to support the youth we serve as effectively as possible.

Facilities assigned dedicated staff to manage cleaning duties and ensure all areas of the facility are disinfected daily. Detention and CORE implemented virtual visitation to ensure that safe contact between youth and their families. In addition to virtual visits with family, several community organizations offered virtual classes and services.

THE ANNUAL AGAPE MEAL WAS FACILITATED VIRTUALLY BY
LOCAL CHURCHES.

RESET
MENTORING

- VIRTUAL CLASSES -

Cooking Classes

Game Nights

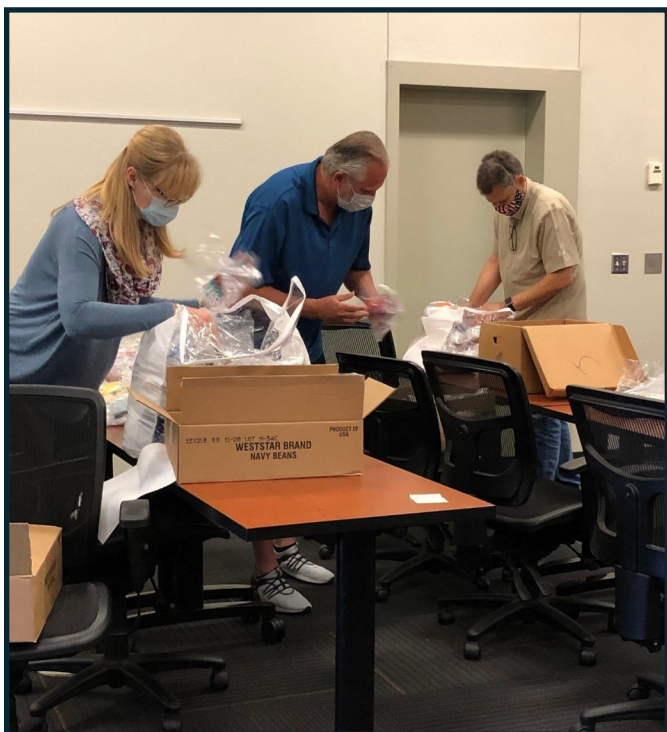
Exercise Classes

Paint/Art Class

Weekly Church and Bible Study

Home Repair Classes

Residents and Youth Engagement Officers made over 200 masks to be donated and used by the community.



The Juvenile Detention Center has continued to work to ensure the safety and security of the residents and staff remains the #1 priority. The staff have tirelessly and wholeheartedly worked day in and day out to continue floor operations and sanitation protocols. Regular operating procedures were modified to include temperature checks upon entry into the facility, additional precautions during the intake process, virtual visitations, virtual court hearings, virtual schooling, cleaning protocols, adding hand sanitizing stations, implementing a mask requirement and modifying new hire training.

The mental health team provided essential treatment services through virtual platforms. The therapists worked diligently to help families get these technologies set up at home to continue to participate in therapy.

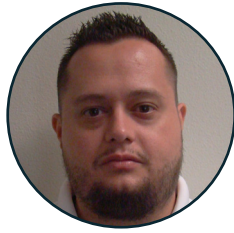
The team also worked with clients through their hesitancy to feel comfortable in a virtual counseling session through the use of interactive games, usage of videos, and other fun activities.



WCJS Employees



Derick Abernathy



Christopher Adams



Kristen Adams



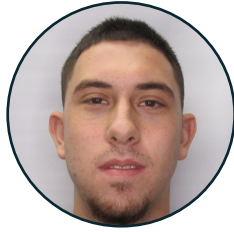
Tashona Aday



William Alexander



David Ash



Joshua Bailey



Thea Barragan



Kaylah Battle



Antwaine Bellamy



Crispin Betak



Natalie Bott



Ardell Bradley



Logan Bradshaw



Brandey Branam



Freddie Braxton



Misty Brotzman



Kaitlyn Bruch



Eric Bunch



Albert Burditt



Albert Burkart



Marla Burns



Travis Burns



Julie Calhoun-Bijou



Jamie Cantu



Denise Carlson



Jennifer Castillo



Jerry Castillo



Rebekah Castillo



Melanie Cochran

WCJS Employees Continued



Garrett Collins



Cameron Cooper



Jessica Corley



Samuel Cortez



Victoria Cortez



Ashley Culin



Anthony Davenport



Michael Decker



Thomas Denius



Eric Denmark



Julius Desoto



Andrew Diaz



Charles Edwards



Mariah Edwards



Erica Estrada



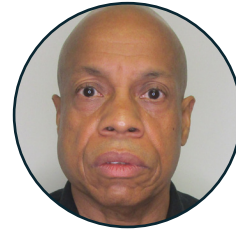
Jeremy Fermin



Alyssia Garcia



Guadalupe Garcia-Mar-
tinez



Kirk Garvin



Abigail Gomez



Evan Gomez



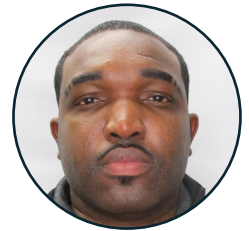
Julie Gough



Marianna Guzzy



Brooke Hall



Denver Harper



Thelma Hill



James Hilliard



Dominique Howard



Kurt Hundl



Danielle Jackson

WCJS Employees Continued



Jamor James



Lee Janecka



Rebecca Jaramillo



Timothy Jernigan



Leisa Jones



Amy Jordan



Bryan Jordan



Gregory Kaintz



Ryan Kallus



David Kerr



Lynn Kessel



Cacey Knue



Winnie Lee



Roberto Lopez



Salvador Lopez



Lasheena Love



Juan Maldonado



Kendra Mallory



Justina Mandell



Scott Matthew



Elza McDonald



Ryan McDowell



Kevin McLain



Dominique Messer



Sarah Miller



Matt Milliken



Kenyatta Mitchell



Rebecca Mitchell



Kay Moore



Shannon Morning

WCJS Employees Continued



James Morrison



Daniel Mosier



Kaitlyn Muench



Kimberly Nesmith



Daniel Oberwegner



Bamikole Olasenhinde



Anthony Oslover



Derrick Parker



Gerald Parker



Phillip Pati



John Pelczar



Daniel Perez



Genevieve Pineda-De Vries



Rodolfo Rada



Saul Ramos



Jennifer Ramirez



Cydney Reeh



Celeste Rendon



Emma Rhoades-Hernandez



John Rinn



Christina Roberts



Alaina Robinson



Emmanuel Robinson



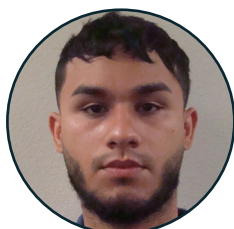
Patricia Robinson



Jacob Rodriguez



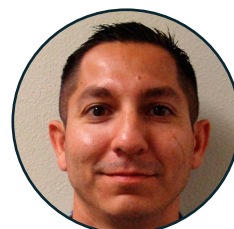
Lindsey Rodriguez



Mario Rodriguez



Marc Ruiz



Stephen Saldivar



Rebecca Schaefer

WCJS Employees Continued



Secoia Shariff-Bey



Deontre Sheffield



Stacy Sheneman



LeAundrae Shepherd



Charles Simpson



Sabrina Simpson



Matt Smith



Sean Smith



Alan Songer



Mercedes Soriano



Kevin Sullivan



Colby Taylor



Stephanie Teinert



Lindsey Tobin



Keith Tubbs



Tyler Tubbs



Daniel Tuiasosopo



Vanessa Villegas



Julie Watts



Codi Werner



Capricia West



Shannon West



Angelique Wetherelt



Carmen Williams



Scott Winn



Thomas Yacopino



Roxan Young



LeJuandro Zeigler

Contract Staff



Courtney Bearden
Psychiatric Nurse
Practitioner



Dr. Stephen Benold
Medical Director



Jon Briery
Substance Use
Counselor



Kali Campbell
Occupational
Therapist



Dr. Nicholas Carrasco
Licensed Sex Offender
Treatment Provider



Wendy Castillo
Spanish Language
Counselor



Joe Elliot
Mentor Program
Coordinator



Dr. Eric Frey
Psychologist



Lorie Goggin
Mentor Program
Coordinator



Shelley Graham
Licensed Sex Offender
Treatment Provider



Leslie Lang
Licensed Sex Offender
Treatment Provider



Ann Seeker
JJAEP
Counselor



Tommy Schmitt
Substance Use
Counselor



Rose Thompson
Licensed Sex Offender
Treatment Provider



Ashley Wyllis
JJAEP
Counselor

WELCOMING AND ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF OFFICE
TO OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS.

