



*Presentation on Senate Charge Two relating to the DFPS Prevention  
and Early Intervention Division*

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Presented to:  
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

April 14, 2010

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## DFPS - PEI Division

- The Division of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) within DFPS was created to consolidate prevention and early intervention programs.
- The goals of PEI include:
  - helps communities enhance services provided through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services;
  - assists communities in identifying prevention and early intervention needs, and
  - supports the development of, and modifications to, new and existing programs designed to improve outcomes for children, youth and their families.
- PEI contracts with community-based agencies and organizations to provide services designed to prevent the abuse, neglect, delinquency, and truancy of Texas children.
- Services are voluntary and provided at no cost to participants.

## Current PEI Programs

### Child abuse and neglect prevention

- Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
- Community-Based Family Services
- Family Strengthening
- Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR)
- Tertiary Child Abuse Prevention
- Texas Families: Together and Safe

### Juvenile delinquency prevention

- Community Youth Development (CYD)
- Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR)
- Youth Resiliency
- Statewide Youth Services Network

## Performance Assessment

All PEI Contracts include Performance Measures:

- **Output Measures** include the number of unduplicated clients served in the contract period and average number of clients served monthly
- **Outcome Measures** include no confirmed abuse/neglect or referral to juvenile probation while receiving prevention services, increased caregiver or youth resiliency following program participation

In addition, the programs' **Efficiency** or cost per client is reviewed and reported to the Legislative Budget Board to assess the cost effectiveness of programs

## **Performance Assessment**

PEI conducts periodic program evaluation:

- Evaluation of Community Youth Development program by Criminal Justice Policy Council (2002)
- Evaluation of the Services to At-Risk Youth program by Criminal Justice Policy Council (2003)
- Evaluation of abuse/neglect programs' effectiveness and cost efficiency by University of Houston (2009)
- Evaluation of Community Youth Development program by Prairie View A&M University (currently underway)

Results of the evaluation help shape the procurement and program for the future.

## Performance Assessment

Child abuse and neglect prevention programs assess that children in the families served by the PEI program remain safe while participating in the program.

PEI primary caregivers not confirmed as perpetrators by program in FY09:

- STAR - family conflict registrations 99.58%
- Community Based Child Abuse Prevention 99.43%
- Family Strengthening 98.67%
- Texas Families: Together and Safe 98.20%
- Community Based Family Services 96.36%
- Tertiary Child Abuse Prevention 93.74%

## Performance Assessment

Juvenile delinquency prevention programs assess that youth ages 10-16 served by the PEI program do not engage in juvenile delinquency during the period the youth was registered in and receiving services from the PEI program.

Target youth 10-16 not referred to juvenile probation by program in FY09:

- Community Youth Development (CYD) 98.9%
- Statewide Youth Services Network 98.8%
- Youth Resiliency 96.9%
- STAR -- truancy/runaway/delinquency reg. 96.4%

## Internal Coordination

- Prevention planning in consultation with CPS leadership to focus on serving those children and families with the highest need
- Cross-program training involvement to increase caseworker knowledge of PEI resources
- Coordination with regional CPS staff in serving clients
- Continuum of services – PEI “up front” prevention through CPS prevention of removal and recidivism
- PEI/CPS/Interagency efforts such as public awareness campaigns



## External Coordination

PEI works with other agencies on efforts to support safe and healthy youth and families. Examples are:

- Texas Integrated Funding Initiative
- HHSC Colonias Initiative Workgroup
- Texas State Incentive Program
- Interagency Coordinating Council for Building Healthy Families
- Texas Council on Domestic Violence
- State Child Fatality Review Team
- Child and Family Service Review Team
- Participating on other legislative created task forces, councils and committees

## **Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Building Healthy Families**

- The 79<sup>th</sup> Legislature established the ICC in 2005. It is being continued with an MOU between participating agencies.
- The ICC facilitates communication and collaboration among state agencies whose programs and services promote and foster healthy families.
- An inventory was conducted of the ICC-member agency policies, programs, and activities regarding child abuse and neglect prevention and early intervention.
- The ICC provided support and input to the DFPS Strategic Plan for child abuse and neglect prevention services and developed recommendations for the implementation of plan.
- An evaluation was completed of state-funded child abuse and neglect PEI programs and services addressing program effectiveness and cost efficiency and means to transition to greater reliance on evidence-based practice.

## Barriers to Coordination

- Limitations to data sharing between agencies
- Challenges related to federal funding and reporting requirements that make it difficult to coordinate resources
- Lack of resources to ensure prevention services are available where needed with capacity to meet local at-risk needs.
- Lack of resources for services that address: mental health needs, substance abuse, and domestic violence.

## Recommendations for Improvement

- Continue to look at ways to share data between agencies.
- Continue to evaluate programs designed to prevent abuse and neglect in order to determine which are the most effective in increasing resiliency.
- Explore options for a coordinated intake and referral process so that clients can access a broad array of needed services by initiating contact with one provider.

## Questions?

More information on DFPS PEI programs is available online at: [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)