



Texas Juvenile Justice Department:

An Overview

30th Annual Robert Dawson Institute

Juvenile Law Conference

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{ 1 }



AGENDA

- Juvenile Justice System Overview
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department
 - Intake and Programming
 - MLOS and MPOC
 - Placements and Parole
- Probation Departments and Regionalization
- Other Initiatives

{ 2 }



Juvenile Justice System Overview

{ 3 }

Philosophical Comparison Juvenile & Adult Systems

Adult Criminal Justice

- public safety
- penalties proportionate to the crime
- deter criminal behavior through correctional and rehabilitative measures
- age 17+ when offense takes place OR 14-16 and certified by the court

Juvenile Justice

- accountability, public safety and treatment
- remove the taint of criminality
- provide rehabilitation and reduce the number of future victims
- age 10-16 when the offense takes place

{ 4 }

Texas Juvenile Justice System

State - TJJD

- Operates state secure correctional facilities and halfway houses
- Provides rehabilitative treatment and specialized treatment to youth
- Serves youth 10-18 who have committed felony offenses
- Partners with 166 juvenile probation departments, providing:
 - grant funding to local probation departments (26%* funding as a whole)
 - oversight of minimum standards for county juvenile probation
 - technical assistance to juvenile probation departments

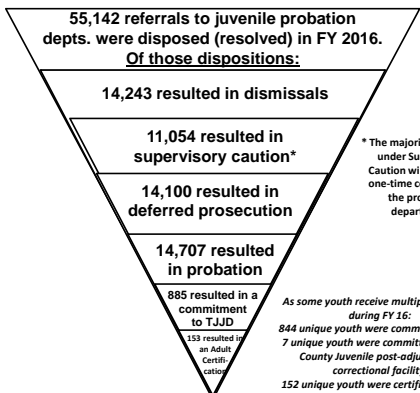
Counties – Juvenile Probation

- Serve about 98% of youth engaging in delinquent conduct
 - Misdemeanors and felonies
 - Ages 10-17
- All together contribute 73%* of total local juvenile justice funds
- Provide services to youth, including behavior health, commitment diversion, residential placement, family engagement and many others
- Governed by local juvenile boards

{ 5 }

*1% funded by federal sources

TEXAS UNIFIED JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



{ 6 }

Commitment

- Less than 1.5% of juvenile referrals result in commitment to TJJD.
- Youth are committed through a court order of the juvenile court and the new “Special Commitment” standard will apply 9/1/17.
- Juvenile courts commit only the most **SERIOUS** and/or **CHRONIC** offenders (felonies only).
- Short of certifying a youth as an adult, commitment to TJJD is the most serious sanction within the Juvenile Justice System.



{ 7 }

Determinate Sentenced Offenders vs. Indeterminate Offenders

- The vast majority of youth committed to TJJD have “indeterminate sentences.” They are released:
 - when their treatment is complete,
 - after they have reached their minimum length of stay (MLOS),
 - no later than their 19th birthday.
- For very serious crimes, a judge or jury can give a youth a “determinate sentence” which is sometimes called blended sentencing.
- They are referred to as “sentenced offenders” because they were given a specific sentence.
- Sentenced offenders admitted to TJJD are given a Minimum Period of Confinement (MPC).

{ 8 }

Sentenced Offenders Eligible Offenses

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Murder | ■ Felony Deadly Conduct |
| ■ Capital Murder | ■ Aggravated or First-Degree Controlled Substance Felony |
| ■ Attempted Murder | ■ Criminal Solicitation |
| ■ Manslaughter | ■ Second-Degree Felony Indecency w/ a Child |
| ■ Aggravated or Attempted Aggravated Kidnapping | ■ Criminal Solicitation of a Minor |
| ■ Aggravated Sexual Assault | ■ First-Degree Felony Arson |
| ■ Sexual Assault | ■ Habitual Felony Conduct |
| ■ Attempted Sexual Assault | |
| ■ Aggravated Assault | |
| ■ Aggravated or Attempted Aggravated Robbery | |
| ■ Felony Injury to a Child, Elderly, or Disable Person | |

{ 9 }



TJJD

TJJD Mission

Transforming young lives and creating safer communities.

Core Values

- Justice – We do the right thing, in all things, with all people.
- Safety – We commit to a culture that protects youth, employees, and the public.
- Integrity – We build trust through transparency and ethical behavior.
- Partnership – We achieve best results through collaboration with counties, stakeholders, youth and their families.
- Innovation – We proactively create opportunities to improve the juvenile justice system.

TJJD Vision

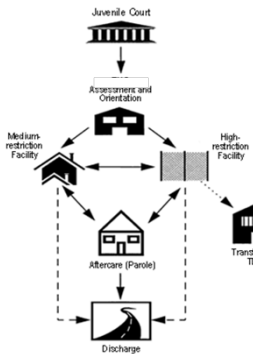
An effective and integrated juvenile justice system that:

1. Advances public safety through rehabilitation.
2. Equitably affords youth access to services matching their needs to enhance opportunities for a satisfying and productive life.
3. Employs a stabilized and engaged workforce fully empowered to be agents of change.
4. Operates safe and therapeutic environments with positive peer cultures emphasizing mutual accountability.
5. Is a model system with innovative, data-driven, and successful programming.

Intake: Orientation and Assessment

{ 13 }

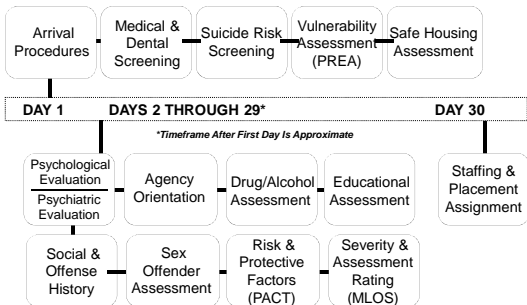
How Youth Move Through TJJD



1. Orientation & Assessment Unit – Ron Jackson Facility in Brownwood
2. Assigned to Residential Placement
3. Participate in a Treatment Program
4. Minimum Length of Stay
5. Transition to Stepdown Programs
6. Parole

{ 14 }

Orientation and Assessment



{ 15 }

Placement Criteria



**GENDER
AGE**



**TREATMENT
NEEDS**



SECURITY



LOCATION

{ 16 }

State-Level Correctional Facilities

TJJD youth are placed in state-level correctional facilities **according to risk, treatment needs and proximity to home.**

Five State Institutions

TJJD manages five secure correctional institutions.

Eight Halfway Houses

TJJD's medium restriction halfway houses assist youth in making a gradual transition home.

Eight Contract Facilities

TJJD has contracts with privately-run facilities where youth can be placed. Three of the eight are secure facilities.

{ 17 }

Secure Institutions

Ron Jackson State Correctional Facility

- Alcohol or Other Drug Treatment
- Sexual Behavior Treatment Program
- Mental Health Treatment Program
- Capital and Serious Violent Offender Treatment Program for Females
- Aggression Replacement Training
- ◆ Pairing Achievement With Success (PAWS)
- ◆ Young Male Offenders Program
- ◆ Female Offenders Program
- ◆ Orientation and Assessment Unit
- ◆ Crisis Stabilization Unit for Females

Evins Regional Juvenile Center

- Alcohol or Other Drug Treatment
- Mental Health Treatment Program
- Aggression Replacement Training

Gainesville State School

- Alcohol or Other Drug Treatment
- Sexual Behavior Treatment Program
- Mental Health Treatment Program
- Aggression Replacement Training
- ◆ Violent Offender Program
- ◆ PAWS

McLennan County Juvenile State Correctional Facility

- Alcohol or Other Drug Treatment
- Sexual Behavior Treatment Program
- Mental Health Treatment Program
- Aggression Replacement Training
- ◆ Violent Offender Program
- ◆ Residential Treatment Center
- ◆ Crisis Stabilization Unit
- ◆ Phoenix Program for Aggressive Youth

Giddings State School

- Alcohol or Other Drug Treatment
- Sexual Behavior Treatment Program
- Mental Health Treatment Program
- Aggression Replacement Training
- ◆ Capital and Serious Violent Offender Treatment Program
- ◆ Violent Offender Program

{ 18 }

◆ Indicates programs that are unique to that particular facility.

TJJD Population

- On January 26, 2017, the youth population receiving state services

TJJD YOUTH POPULATION BY TYPE OF PROGRAM	
Secure Facilities:	1018
Halfway Houses:	135
Contract Care:	120
Parole / Interstate Compact:	407
TOTAL:	1680





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Education and Vocational Training

Education Services at All Facilities

- Must comply with TEA rules
- Operate year-round
- Teach students 21st century technology skills while maintaining security
- Students and teachers engage in Project Based Learning experiences throughout each school year.
- Students attend dual-credit high school / college classes in real time with an instructor via a Polycom system.



Special Education / ESL Services

- Services like special education and ESL are provided for all eligible students.
- 35%-40% of TJJJ students are eligible for special services, compared to public schools, which average 11-13%.
 - This includes Special Education, ESL and "504" services.
- Approximately a fourth of TJJJ students have multiple disabilities.



{ 22 }

Extracurricular Activities

- Some TJJJ schools participate in competitive athletics such as volleyball, football, basketball, and track.
- The agency conducts academic and fine art competitions within the district, e.g. spelling bee, illustration, writing, performance, and various academic contests.



{ 23 }

Vocational Training

Career & Technology Education (CTE) Courses

- Courses are aligned with TEA courses for students in high school or working towards a GED to receive credits.
- Provide youth with skill development and information about career pathways
- Afford opportunities for industry certifications that enhance the likelihood of future employment
- Dual-credit courses allow students to earn credit towards high school graduation while also earning college credit towards an associate's degree or technical education program certificate.

- Course options include:
- Business information management
 - Digital design and media production
 - Video game design
 - Computer maintenance
 - Telecommunications and networking
 - Welding and agriculture metal fabrication
 - Horticulture
 - Construction technology, mill and cabinetry
 - Culinary arts
 - Automotive technology

{ 24 }

Re-Entry / Parole



The Focus

- Facilitate successful transition to the community
- Hold youth accountable
- Provide enhanced services for youth and their families

Multi-Prong Effort

- Comprehensive transition planning with the residential facility
- Making scheduled/unscheduled visits to monitor youth activity
- Collaborating with stakeholders in the community to meet youth needs, e.g. housing, medical, behavioral health, education, work

{ 25 }



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Recent Agency Initiatives

{ 26 }

Youth In Custody Practice Model

- An 18-month technical assistance partnership with the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CCJR)
- Working to implement a comprehensive and effective service delivery approach to youth in residential care
- Includes site visits, gap analysis and implementation support
- Will identify next steps in reform efforts to improve youth outcomes

{ 27 }

Safety and Security

- Developed plan in October 2015 to address youth and staff safety in secure facilities
- Aspects of the plan include:
 - Increased accountability for youth and expanded incentives
 - More appropriate staffing
 - Streamlining the hiring process
 - Empowering superintendents to maintain facility safety
- Identifying gaps to include in the LAR

{ 28 }

Expansion of Positive Programming

- Establishment of Flexible School Schedule
- PAWS Expansion
- Intramurals Expansion
- Yoga Program
- Tablets on the Dorms
- PBIS Expansion
- Equine Program



{ 29 }

Regionalization – SB 1630

- Keep more adjudicated youth out of TJJ and closer to home.
- Regional diversions begin June 1, 2016.
- TJJ probation regionalization plan due August 31, 2016.
- Goal is to divert 30 juveniles from TJJ commitment in FY 2016 and 150 in FY 2017.
- TJJ is providing start-up funds to each region to expand programming to serve youth in the counties.
 - Tele-counseling
 - Contracting for wrap-around services

{ 30 }

Regionalization SB 1630 and County Probation Departments

166 Juvenile Probation Departments

- 51 Pre-Adjudication Detention Facilities
- 36 Post-Adjudication Secure Correctional Treatment Facilities
- 12 Post-Adjudication Non-secure Treatment Facilities
- Approx. 2,700 Juvenile Probation Officers
- Approx. 4,100 Juvenile Supervision Officers
- Approx. 22,300 Youth on County Supervision

{ 31 }

Technical Assistance

How to Access the Legal Help Desk ...

- Normal Business Hours
- Not a "HOTLINE"
- **Email**
 - Is the most efficient
 - legalhelp@tjjd.texas.gov
- **Voice Mail**
 - FULL NAME
 - COUNTY
 - CONTACT INFO --Tel. # or Email Address
 - DETAILS --- State your question, issue or relevant statute you'd like to discuss.



32

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**Many thanks for her work on this presentation to
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{ 33 }
