



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

*Mission: Transforming young lives and
creating safer communities.*

29th Annual Juvenile Law Conference
February 22-24th, 2016
San Antonio, Texas



Texas Juvenile Justice System Overview

“The big picture...”

Philosophical Comparison



Juvenile & Adult Systems

- The objective of the **Adult** Criminal System is to ensure public safety by imposing penalties proportionate to the crime; to deter criminal behavior through correctional and rehabilitative measures.
- A primary objective of the **Juvenile** Justice System is to promote accountability, public safety and treatment. The system strives to remove the taint of criminality, provide rehabilitation and reduce the number of future victims. Confidentiality is paramount.

MISSION

Transforming young lives and creating safer communities.

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

CORE VALUES

Transforming young lives and creating safer communities.

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.

VISION

An effective and integrated juvenile justice system that:

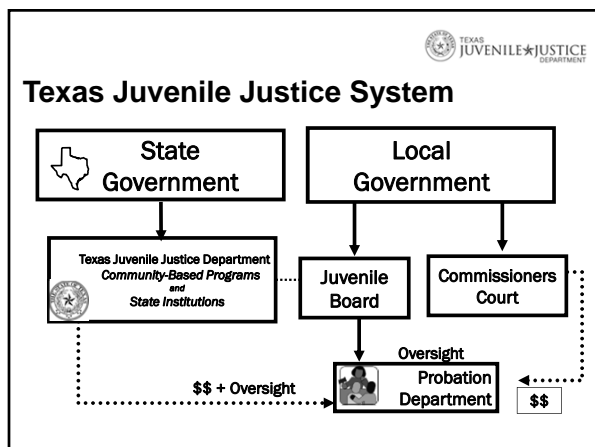
1. Advances public safety through rehabilitation.


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.





Juvenile Probation Departments

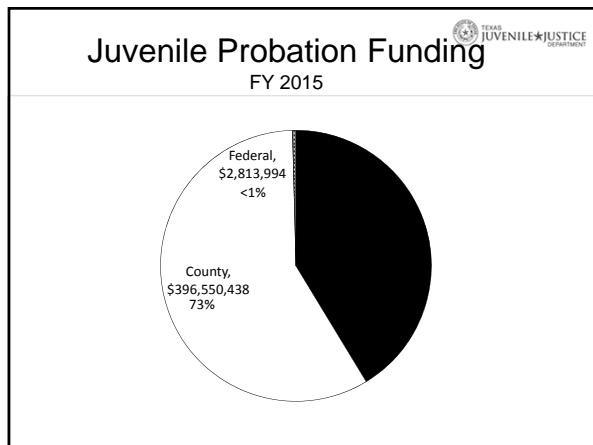
Human Resources Code Title 12

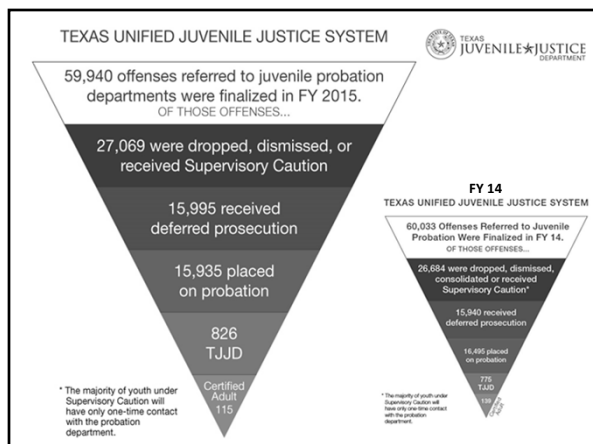
Juvenile Probation Departments


- 166 Probation Depts.
- 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

Programs & Services

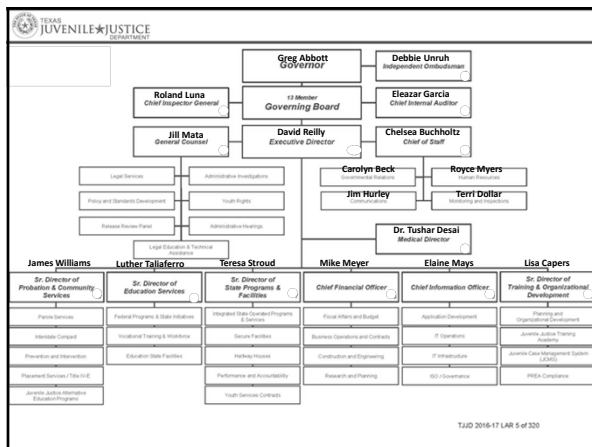
- Probation Services
- Specialized Offender Caseloads
- Family Preservation Programs
- JJAEPs & Education Programs
- Counseling, Life Skills, Parenting Programs
- Community Service Restitution Programs
- Prevention Programs








Texas Juvenile Justice Department Overview






TJJD Population

On February 10, 2016, the youth population receiving state services included:

TJJD YOUTH POPULATION BY TYPE OF PROGRAM	
Secure Facilities:	1,082
Halfway Houses:	131
Contract Care:	118
Parole / ICJ:	394
TOTAL:	1,725



Organizational Structure

Youth Programs and Services


- State Programs and Facilities: Secure Facilities, Halfway Houses, Contract Services
- Probation and Community-Based Services
 - Parole
 - County Probation
 - Interstate Compact
 - Prevention and Intervention
 - Placement Services / Title IV-E
 - Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs (JJAEP)
- Education Services / Vocational Training
- Medical Services



Organizational Structure

Support Functions

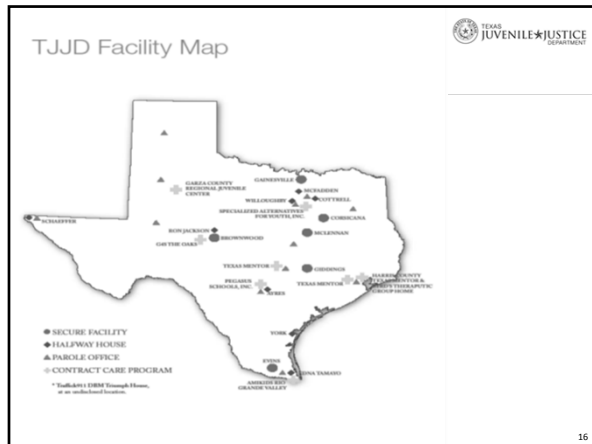
- Human Resources, Finance and IT Divisions
- Office of General Counsel
 - Legal Services
 - Policy
 - Administrative Hearings
 - Legal Education and Technical Assistance
- Training and Organizational Development
- Governmental Relations, Communications

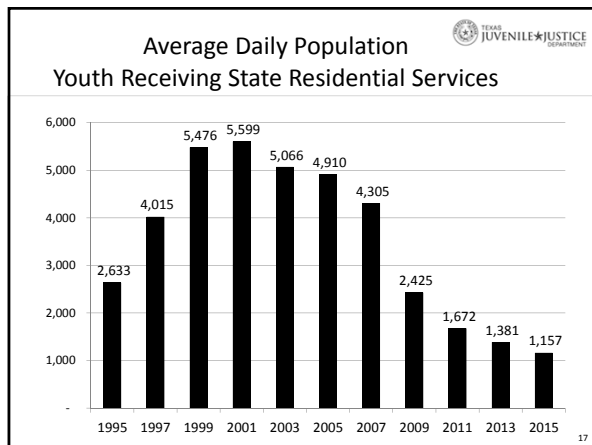


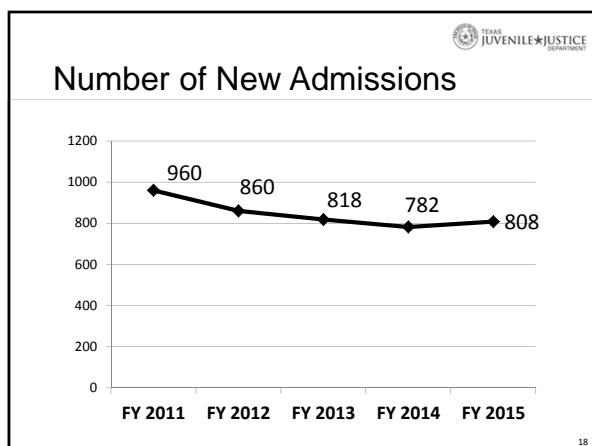
Organizational Structure

Oversight


- Internal Audit Division
- Monitoring and Inspections
 - State, County, State Contract Facilities
 - Policy and Standards Compliance
- Youth Rights – youth grievance system
- Administrative Investigations Division / OGC
 - State and County Facilities, Some Contract Facilities
 - Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
- Office of Inspector General
 - Youth and Staff Criminal Violations – State Facilities
- Office of the Independent Ombudsman








New Admissions by Counties with 20 or more Commitments				
COUNTY	FY 14	%	FY 15	%
Harris	119	15	144	17.8
Hidalgo	57	7	52	6.4
Dallas	48	5.9	51	6.3
Tarrant	57	7	47	5.8
El Paso	27	3.3	35	4.3
Bexar	52	6.4	31	3.8
Cameron	--	--	25	3.1
Fort Bend	--	--	23	2.8
Montgomery	--	--	20	2.5
TOTAL	360	44.1	428	52.8



Who are the kids sent to TJJD?

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Common Characteristics

- Age 15-17;
- Male;
- Lives with single parent or relative;
- Poor academic performance;
- Prior interventions;
- Experienced traumatic events;
- Has symptoms of trauma;
- Home plagued by violence and substance abuse; and
- Home perceived as lacking structure, nurturance, social normalcy.

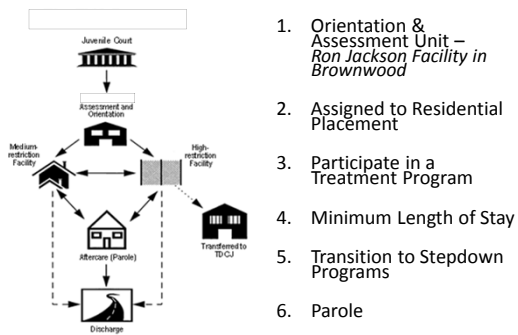
New Admissions in 2015

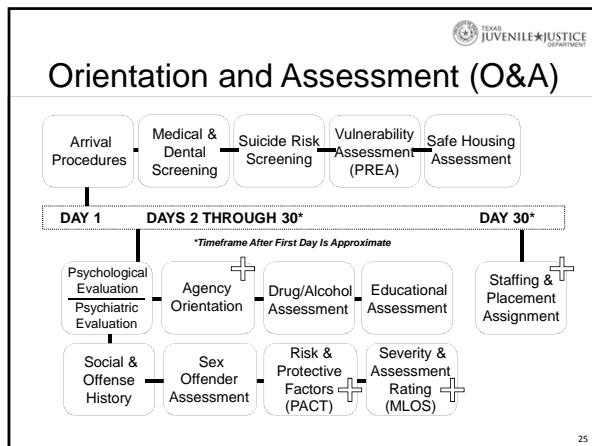
- 100% committed for felony offenses
- 64% had two or more prior felony or misdemeanor adjudication
- 90% are male
- 85% are committed with an indeterminate sentence
- 15% with a determinate sentence
- 82% have an IQ of less than 100
- 30% are special education eligible
- 67% have had at least one prior placement outside the home
- 38% have suspected history of abuse or neglect
- 54% have families with criminal histories


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How Youth Move Through TJJD

How Youth Move Through TJJD








Length of Stay


Computing Minimum Length of Stay
(Indeterminate Sentencing)

		SEVERITY OF CRIME RATING		
		HIGH	MODERATE	LOW
RISK ASSESSMENT RATING	HIGH	24 MONTHS	15 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
	MEDIUM	18 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	9 MONTHS
	LOW	15 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	9 MONTHS



Specialized Treatment Assessment

- **DETERMINED BY:**
 - Comprehensive risk assessment
 - Adjudicated offense
- **TYPES**
 - Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment (82%)
 - Mental Health (50%)
 - Sexual Behavior Treatment (15%)
 - Capital and Serious Violent Offender or Aggression Replacement Program (75%)
 - Any Specialized Treatment Need (99%)
 - Multiple Specialized Treatment Needs (83%)



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Placement Criteria

GENDER
AGE

TREATMENT
NEEDS

SECURITY

LOCATION

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State Institutions & Halfway Houses

Five State Institutions

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

- Ron Jackson in Brownwood
- Evins in Edinburg
- Gainesville
- Giddings
- McLennan County in Mart

Eight Halfway Houses

TJJD halfway house treatment facilities assist youth in making a gradual transition home.

Young Offenders

YOUNG MALES

Under age 14 at commitment

- Up to 20 beds at Ron Jackson facility
- Middle-school educational programming
- Developmentally appropriate
- Resources for specialized treatment
- Will move to other facilities between ages of 14 and 15 if not released

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Pairing Achievement with Success

- **PAWS** – pairing achievement with Success. Youth paired with rescue dogs from the Humane Society to teach them Canine Good Citizen Skills making them eligible for adoption.



Aftercare / Parole: Monitoring Youth

- The parole program is designed to increase accountability and reduce recidivism.
- Parole officers verify a youth's location, daily schedule, and required activities.
- Youth on parole have regularly scheduled office appointments with their parole officer plus unscheduled visits by staff at school, work, and home.
- Parole Officers require youth to account for 40 hours of constructive activity per week to include school, work, community service, and counseling programs.



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Education and Vocational Training

2015				
	State Secure	Other Residential	Parole	Total
High School Diplomas	32	11	4	47
GEDs	229	18	1	248
Industrial Certifications	263	4	0	267

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.



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Education Services at All Facilities

- Services like special education and ESL are provided for all eligible students
 - 35%-40% of TJJD students are eligible for special services, compared to public schools, which average 11-13%
 - Approximately a fourth of TJJD students have multiple disabilities



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Education Services at All Facilities

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



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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
- Students attend dual-credit and college classes in real time with an instructor via a Polycom system.

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

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Career Academies



- For youth who have already earned their high school diploma or GED, TJJD provides an opportunity to develop vocational skills through the Career Academy.

- Giddings, Mart, and Brownwood have offered graduates Career Academy tracks in Business Management, Technology, Construction, Culinary Arts, and Automotive.
- A Career Academy in welding will be established this year at Gainesville.
- Developing a Career Academy at Evins



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Overview of Determinate Sentence Commitment Release and Review Process





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.”
- They are referred to as “sentenced offenders” because they were given a specific sentence.
- This is sometimes referred to as “blended sentencing.”
- Sentenced offenders admitted to TJJD are given a Minimum Period of Confinement (MPC).



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 | |



Determinate Sentenced Offenders

- Sentenced offenders who can complete the MPC prior to age 19 may be paroled by TJJD – their age at parole determines which agency supervises the parole.
- TJJD may request a court hearing for transfer to TDCJ-ID after 6 months in TJJD if certain other criteria are met.
- Sentenced offenders who cannot complete the MPC prior to age 19 require a court hearing.
- TJJD will make a recommendation at that hearing – prison or parole.
- The Judge will either authorize the placement on TDCJ (adult) parole, or the youth will be transfer to TDCJ-ID (prison) at age 19.




Current Initiatives

- Probation Grant Redesign
- Regionalization
- Capstone Project
- Management Action Plan
- Legislation Implementation
 - IOSX Task Force
 - JRAC Task Force
 - Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan




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Youth in Custody Capstone Project

- Assisted by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University.
- Goal: To improve the daily life and activity of certain youth who have reached certain milestones while at TJJD.
- Traditionally, TJJD youth with high school diplomas or GEDs have been required to continue to attend school every day.
- They see no value and often become behavior problems in the classroom.

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Capstone Pilot at Ron Jackson and Gainesville

- Youth with diplomas or GEDs, who do not cause behavioral problems and are at the highest stages will be allowed to work during the day in meaningful off-campus employment to develop marketable skills that will help them find employment upon leaving TJJD.
- Youth with diplomas or GEDs who continue to cause disruptions or exhibit behavioral issues will be allowed to work on-campus during the day as well as devote more time to non-school programming to assist them in stage advancement.

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Thanks!

Call or email if you have any questions:

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