

HARRIS COUNTY DUAL STATUS/CROSSOVER INITIATIVE

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OJJDP PRIORITIES

- TREATING CHILDREN AS CHILDREN
- SERVE CHILDREN AT HOME, WITH THEIR FAMILIES, IN THEIR COMMUNITIES
- OPEN UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

TEXAS FAMILY CODE - DELINQUENCY

- SET OF LAWS GOVERNING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT OUTLINES THE PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY WHEN SUPERVISING JUVENILES.
- A PRIMARY GOAL OUTLINED IN THE TEXAS FAMILY CODE IS JUVENILE REHABILITATION, AT HOME IF POSSIBLE, AND TERMS USED WITHIN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM OFTEN REFLECT THIS.
- DEFINES A CHILD AS A PERSON WHO IS:
 - 10-YEARS-OLD AND UNDER 17-YEARS-OLD OR 17-YEARS-OLD OR OLDER BUT UNDER 18-YEARS-OLD
 - WHO IS ALLEGED OR FOUND TO HAVE ENGAGED IN AN ILLEGAL ACT PRIOR TO AGE 18
- AUTHORIZES A RANGE OF CONDITIONS WHICH MAY BE ORDERED BY THE COURT DURING A DISPOSITION HEARING

See foot notes

TEXAS FAMILY CODE – CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONT'D

- **FEDERAL LAW**

- CPI AND CPS ARE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, GOVERNED BY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND FEDERAL LAW RELATED TO CHILD WELFARE. STATE LAWS AND AGENCY RULES ARE DESIGNED TO ENSURE PROTECTIONS OF FEDERALLY MANDATED RIGHTS. THESE RIGHTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE RELATING TO:
 - THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP.
 - DUE PROCESS.
 - THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM UNREASONABLE SEARCHES AND SEIZURES.
 - OTHER BASIC RIGHTS THAT ARE AT STAKE WHEN DFPS IS INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD, FAMILY, OR PERPETRATOR.

TEXAS FAMILY CODE – CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONT'D

- IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, THE PRIMARY FEDERAL LAWS UNDER WHICH DFPS OPERATES ARE THE FOLLOWING:
 - CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA).
 - TITLES IV-B AND IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.
- DFPS PRACTICES ARE ALSO GOVERNED, IN PART, BY FEDERAL LAWS SUCH AS THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) AND THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT (PIA).
- TITLES IV-A, IV-B, AND IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT PROVIDE FEDERAL FUNDING TO STATES, LIKE TEXAS, WITH APPROVED STATE PLANS FOR PROVIDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES. BECAUSE DFPS RECEIVES TITLES IV-A, IV-B, AND IV-E FUNDING, IT MUST COMPLY WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AND THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978.

TEXAS FAMILY CODE – CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONT'D

- STATE LAWS GOVERNING DFPS COVER A VARIETY OF TOPICS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:
 - DEFINING ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND DFPS'S INVESTIGATORY AUTHORITY.
 - DFPS'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO VICTIMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND TO CHILDREN UNDER DFPS CONSERVATORSHIP.
 - DFPS'S RULE-MAKING, REGULATORY, AND INVESTIGATORY AUTHORITY.
 - NECESSARY SERVICES FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, AND OTHER ALLEGED PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT.
 - ADOPTION AND INTERSTATE PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN.

TERMS FREQUENTLY USED

- HCJPD – HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION / JPO – JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER
- DFPS – DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES – ALSO KNOWN AS CPS (TDFPS)
- INVESTIGATIONS = CPI – CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVESTIGATION –NOT IN CPS CUSTODY.
 - CVS = CONSERVATORSHIP – YOUTH IS IN CPS CUSTODY
 - TMC – TEMPORARY MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP
 - JMC – JOINT MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP
 - PMC – PERMANENT MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP
 - FBSS – FAMILY BASED SAFETY SERVICES
 - FTM – FAMILY TEAM MEETING
 - FGC – FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE
 - DH – DETENTION HEARING
 - JPO – JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER

DUAL STATUS VISION

- TO ENSURE THAT ALL DUALY-INVOLVED YOUTH ARE ABLE TO THRIVE IN THE AREAS OF WELLNESS, EDUCATION, AND SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD.
- IN THE SUPPORT OF THE VISION, WE AIM TO CREATE AN ALIGNED AND DATA-DRIVEN SYSTEM THAT IS INCLUSIVE OF FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS, COMMITTED TO EQUALITY, AND RESPONSIVE TO YOUTH'S INDIVIDUALIZED NEEDS.

WHO ARE DUAL STATUS YOUTH ?

- YOUTH WHO ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY INVOLVED WITH HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION AND CPS AT THE SAME TIME.
- YOUTH INVOLVED IN AN INVESTIGATION (CPI) WITH CPS ARE IDENTIFIED AS DUAL STATUS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT ASSIGNED A “DUAL STATUS TEAM” UNLESS CPS TAKES CUSTODY OF THAT YOUTH.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A DUAL STATUS TEAM?

- IDENTIFY YOUTH INVOLVED WITH BOTH SYSTEMS – DFPS AND HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION COMPUTER SYSTEMS ARE NOT LINKED, SO THERE IS NOTHING THAT IS AN IDENTIFIER FOR YOUTH INVOLVED WITH BOTH AGENCIES.
- WORKING WITH TWO, LARGE AGENCIES THAT HAVE DIFFERENT GOALS AND OUTCOMES, THIS WORK ASSURES THAT YOUTH ARE NOT RECEIVING DUPLICATE TESTING OR SERVICES THAT COULD POTENTIALLY CAUSE CONFLICTING DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT. THEY ARE NOT BEING ASKED THE SAME QUESTIONS OVER AND OVER AND ARE NOT RE-EXPERIENCING TRAUMA.
- WE WORK TOGETHER TO ALIGN OUR PROVIDERS AND HAVE MOU'S (MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING) IN PLACE TO ENSURE WE CAN EXCHANGE INFORMATION SECURELY.
- WE ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE YOUTH WITH THE SAME COURT FOR THEIR DELINQUENCY AND CPS CASE TO ASSURE THAT BOTH THE JUDGES AND LEGAL PARTIES ARE ALL AWARE OF THE YOUTH'S HISTORY, BACKGROUND, TRAUMA, ACHIEVEMENTS, IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A DUAL STATUS TEAM?

(CONT'D)

- OUR APPROACH TO MEETING YOUTH'S NEEDS AND ADDRESSING THEIR BEHAVIOR IS MORE TRAUMA FOCUSED AS MANY OF THEIR BEHAVIORS DERIVE FROM PRIOR AND CURRENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT.
- THE DUAL STATUS "TEAM" APPROACH ASSURES THAT WE ARE MAKING PLANS AND TAKING STEPS FOR AND **WITH** A YOUTH THAT INCLUDES PERSPECTIVES FROM MANY DIFFERENT AREAS OF EXPERTISE– AAL, GAL, EDUCATION DECISION MAKERS, MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADVOCATES, CASEWORKER'S AND JPO'S.
- THE "TEAM" APPROACH INCLUDES THE YOUTH IN PLANNING FOR THEIR FUTURE. INSTEAD OF TALKING **TO** A YOUTH, WE TALK **WITH** THE YOUTH AND ENCOURAGE THEIR PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK. WE GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A VOICE IN DECISIONS THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT THEM & GIVE THEM THE ABILITY TO TELL US WHAT MOTIVATES THEM OR WAYS THEY WORK/LEARN/COPE BEST.

HOW WE WORK WITH DUAL STATUS YOUTH?

- FTM'S (FAMILY TEAM MEETING'S)
- FGC'S (FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE)
- INTRODUCTORY CALLS
- PROFESSIONAL'S ONLY CALLS
- DUAL STATUS DOCKET WITH THE JUDGE AND YOUTH
- ELIMINATING DUPLICATION OF TESTING, ASSESSMENTS & SERVICES
- INFORMATION SHARING
- JOINT PARTICIPATION IN COURT HEARINGS – CPS ATTENDS DELINQUENCY AND JPO'S ATTEND CPS HEARINGS
- JOINT YOUTH CONTACTS

IDENTIFIED BARRIERS

- PLACEMENT (OR LACK THEREOF)
- WORKING WITH THE TRAUMA THESE YOUTH HAVE ENDURED COUPLED WITH THEIR ALLEGED OFFENSE
- BEST INTEREST VS. CHILD'S WISHES
- TWO AGENCIES WITH DIFFERENT GOALS & RESTRICTIONS
- TWO AGENCIES WITH DIFFERENT TIMELINES & POLICIES THAT DON'T MATCH.
- MULTIPLE COUNTY DELINQUENCY INVOLVEMENT
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- CELL PHONES
- YOUTH TURNING 17 & ENTERING ADULT SYSTEMS

METHODS OF SUCCESS

- INCLUDING YOUTH IN THE DUAL STATUS DOCKET
- PROFESSIONAL'S ONLY STAFFINGS
- ABILITY TO SHARE INFORMATION
- SHARING OF RESOURCES
- FAMILIARITY AND EXPERIENCE OF TEAM – NOT JUST JPO'S AND CPS STAFF, BUT ATTORNEYS AND JUDGES WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE BARRIERS THE YOUTH HAVE AS WELL AS HOW BOTH SYSTEMS (PROBATION & DFPS) WORK.
- EARLY ACCESS TO PAL (PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIVING) RESOURCES, TRAINING & PLANNING.
- REALISTIC AND APPLICABLE OPTIONS FOR NEXT STEPS IN ADULTHOOD

WAYS A YOUTH IS IDENTIFIED AS DUAL STATUS

CPS OR JUVENILE PROBATION IDENTIFY A YOUTH AS BEING DUAL STATUS
(CPI – NO CUSTODY)

- EITHER A CPS WORKER OR A JPO LEARN THAT A YOUTH IS INVOLVED WITH BOTH SYSTEMS & SHAMIA & LINDSEY ARE CONTACTED TO CONFIRM & DETERMINE NEXT STEPS.

JULIE

CPS OR JUVENILE PROBATION IDENTIFY A YOUTH AS BEING DUAL STATUS
(YOUTH IS IN CPS CUSTODY)

- A YOUTH IS DETAINED OR RECEIVES A CHARGE AND IT IS LEARNED THE YOUTH IS IN CPS CUSTODY & SHAMIA & LINDSEY ARE CONTACTED TO CONFIRM & DETERMINE NEXT STEPS.

JAMES

WAYS A YOUTH IS IDENTIFIED AS DUAL STATUS

CPS OR JUVENILE PROBATION IDENTIFY A YOUTH AS BEING DUAL STATUS (CPI – NO CUSTODY)

CONFIRMED YOUTH IS INVOLVED WITH BOTH AGENCIES

1. COORDINATORS PROVIDE THE IDENTIFIED TEAMS FOR EACH AGENCY.
2. CPS COORDINATOR REQUESTS A FTM – IF THE FAMILY DECLINES OR THERE ARE A LOT OF CONCERNS/BARRIERS, CPS COORDINATOR ALSO SENDS EMAIL REQUESTING A PROFESSIONAL'S ONLY CALL

JULIE

FOLLOWING FTM OR PROFESSIONAL'S ONLY CALL

1. IF A FOLLOW UP CALL WAS SCHEDULED, THE TASKS IDENTIFIED IN THE FIRST CALL ARE WORKED ON AND AN UPDATE IS PROVIDED AT FOLLOW UP CALL. (USUALLY TIMED BEFORE NEXT DH).
2. IF CPS DETERMINES THEY ARE TAKING CUSTODY, CALLS ARE USUALLY CONTINUED UNTIL CUSTODY IS GRANTED.

JULIE

CPS CASE CLOSURE VS. CPS CUSTODY

1. IF CPS DETERMINES THE INFORMATION RECEIVED AS PART OF THEIR INVESTIGATION DOES NOT WARRANT FURTHER ACTION, THEY COMMUNICATE THEY WILL CLOSE CASE.
2. IF CPS DETERMINES THEY ARE TAKING CUSTODY, BOTH AGENCIES WORK TOGETHER TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND PREPARE FOR YOUTH TRANSITION TO DFPS CUSTODY & NEW CPS & JPO TEAM.

JULIE

WAYS A YOUTH IS IDENTIFIED AS DUAL STATUS

**CPS OR JUVENILE PROBATION IDENTIFY A YOUTH AS BEING DUAL STATUS
(YOUTH IS IN CPS CUSTODY)**

**CONFIRMED YOUTH IS
INVOLVED WITH BOTH
AGENCIES**

1. COORDINATORS PROVIDE THE IDENTIFIED TEAMS FOR EACH AGENCY.
2. A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SHEET IS REQUESTED WHICH ALSO INITIATES THE REQUEST FOR THE FGC.

JAMES

**INTRODUCTORY PHONE
CALL**

FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION THAT YOUTH IS DUAL STATUS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE, AN INTRODUCTORY CALL BETWEEN THE NEW CPS AND JPO TEAM IS SET UP TO MEET ONE ANOTHER AND ASK ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS WELL AS ESTABLISH A EMAIL THREAD TO USE FOR ONGOING COMMUNICATION.

JAMES

**ADD TO DUAL STATUS
STAFFING/DOCKET**

THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE IDENTIFICATION OF A DUAL STATUS YOUTH, THEY ARE ADDED TO THE PROFESSIONAL'S STAFFING CALL WHERE THEY WILL BE STAFFED EVERY OTHER MONTH UNTIL ONE OF THEIR CASES CLOSES. IF BOTH OF THEIR CASES (DELINQUENCY & CPS ARE IN THE 315TH COURT, THEY WILL BE ADDED EVERY OTHER MONTH TO THE DUAL STATUS DOCKET WITH ONE OF THE JUDGES.

JAMES

IDENTIFICATION



FTM AND/OR PROFESSIONAL'S ONLY PHONE CALL



FOLLOW UP CALL(S) AND/OR CASE CLOSURE BY CPS AND/OR PROBATION



CPS TAKES CUSTODY & EXCHANGE OF PHYSICAL CUSTODY TO DFPS



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, REQUEST FOR FGC & INTRODUCTORY PHONE CALL BETWEEN NEW JPO & CPS CW



ADD TO FOLLOWING MONTH'S PROFESSIONAL STAFFING/DOCKET TO INCLUDE FULL "TEAM"

DUAL STATUS ELIGIBILITY: TDFPS VS HCJPD

TDFPS

DFPS considers all youth who are simultaneously involved with Juvenile Probation and DFPS as Dual Status.

However, youth who are identified as being TMC, JMC or PMC to the agency are youth who are assigned a Dual Status Team to work collaboratively with.

HCJPD

Youth is in TDFPS custody under TMC, JMC, or PMC and are involved with HCJPD through one of the following pathways:

- Pending court
- Deferred Adjudication
- Formal Probation

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JULIE

- Youth is adjusting well in current placement.
- Youth is participating in trauma informed therapy weekly and meeting with psychiatrist monthly.
- Youth is pending acceptance into the Peal's Foundations program for pro-social activities for female youth in TDFPS custody, which will include a mentor.
- Youth recently attended the Cactus Jack Foundation Celebrity Softball Game with her Caseworker, JPO, and other Dual Status youth.

JAMES

- Youth is living independently in an apartment complex in Houston, Texas for young adults who have aged out of care.
- Youth is seeking employment with assistance from community resources.
- Youth has re-engage with mental health services in the community.

WHAT IS NEXT FOR THE FUTURE?

- MORE EVENTS, FIELD TRIPS, COLLEGE, TRADE SCHOOL & HOUSING TOURS.
- EXPAND ON MENTORS & RESOURCE PROVIDERS.
- ASSISTING OTHER COUNTIES IN THE STATE WITH DEVELOPING THEIR DUAL STATUS/CROSSOVER PROGRAMS.
- EXPANDING THE WORK WE DO WITH THE ADULT SYSTEM.
- TRAINING FOR OUR TEAMS TO BETTER EQUIP US FOR WORKING WITH DUAL STATUS YOUTH.
- CONTINUE TO EXPAND & IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OUR AGENCIES.
- IMPROVE TIMELINES AND HAVE QUICKER TURN AROUND TIMES.

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