



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear TCJC Supporter,

This 81st State Legislative Session may have gotten off to a slow start, but after months of hard work, successful collaboration with our partners, and strong bipartisan leadership among key committee members, we are fortunate to see the enactment of so many critical policies!

Through various measures, our state policy-makers chose to continue their support of cost-effective, smart-on-crime practices put in place during our last state session in 2007. These public safety strategies are imperative in creating an infrastructure focused on saving taxpayers money and boosting the strength of our communities. We commend the leadership and hard work of members on the **House Corrections Committee, Senate Criminal Justice Committee, and Appropriations Committee**, as well as **those who have historically advocated for just policies** throughout the years, for their commitment to socially responsible policies that benefit all Texans.

Texas now has fundamental strategies in place that span the criminal and juvenile justice systems – policies that address the turbulent juvenile justice system by better protecting our youth; improve defense and compensatory practices to ensure fairer treatment in our legal system; bolster treatment services and increase funding for community supervision in efforts to reduce prison overcrowding; and eliminate various re-entry barriers that had been leading formerly incarcerated individuals back inside prison walls.

In the next few pages, you will find additional information about the policies that passed this session, as well as more on the work we have ahead of us. **I am grateful for the extraordinary work ethic and commitment of our TCJC team**, and in the coming months we will continue to work towards smart-on-crime strategies that can make our criminal and juvenile justice systems more responsible, just, safe, and cost-effective. Because we urge all invested in these issues to join us in support of sustainable solutions that will address the root causes of criminal behavior and help people become and stay law abiding, productive members of our communities, we will be contacting you during the interim for your input on our future policy efforts.

Sincerely,



Ana Yáñez-Correa
Executive Director

AROUND THE OFFICE

We are thrilled to welcome our newest team member, Erica Surprenant, Special Projects Director, as well as our summer interns: Tram Dinh, Emily Fenves, Cristina Gonzalez, Dyana Limon-Mercado, Tiffany Nguyen, and AJ Prebensen.

If you are interested in interning or volunteering with us in the coming months, please call Leah Pinney at (512) 441-8123, ext. 114.

Love and luck to our previous team members who have moved on: Jazmin Acuña, Sam Gunter, and Katherlene Levels.

Please note: We've moved offices! Our new address is 510 S. Congress, Suite 104, Austin, TX 78704

TCJC's work could not be done without the great support of our Board members: Scott Belshaw, President; Jennifer Rogers, Treasurer; Mark Mederson, Secretary; Andrea Keilen; Lisa Luna; Andrea Marsh; and Deborah P. Small.

Protect Youth and Communities by Improving Juvenile Justice

► Highlights from Texas' 81st Legislature

The 81st legislative session was another busy one for juvenile justice policy reform. With the Sunset review, a very dynamic budgetary process, and a variety of bills impacting system-involved youth under consideration, juvenile justice stakeholders had their plates full.

- **HB 3689** (McClendon, Kolkhorst, Isett, Madden): This is the **Sunset Bill** for the Texas Youth Commission (TYC), the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC), and the Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO).— ***Signed by the Governor; effective immediately!***

Beginning in mid-2008, Texas' juvenile justice agencies began undergoing Sunset review. The Sunset process works by setting a date on which an agency will be abolished unless legislation is passed to continue its functions; this statutorily mandated comprehensive review of a state agency arises only once every 12 years and offered a unique opportunity for a systemic evaluation of the administration of juvenile justice in Texas.

Throughout late 2008, Sunset Commission staff accepted feedback about the system from a broad range of stakeholders, including local juvenile probation chiefs, juvenile judges, county commissioners, and advocacy groups, specifically the Texas Juvenile Justice Roundtable. The Commission's final recommendations about the state juvenile justice system were presented on January 14, 2009, the day after the start of the 81st legislative session.

We commend the efforts of stakeholders, who were passionately engaged in the Sunset process from start to finish. Though the policy discussion occasionally became contentious, it was clear throughout the process that all stakeholders had a shared dedication to improving the lives of Texas' most troubled youth, families, and communities.

The final version of HB 3689 puts into place a variety of elements to improve the function of the juvenile justice system at state and local levels, as detailed below:

System-wide reforms:

- Continues TYC and TJPC as separate agencies until 2011. Requires the Sunset Commission to evaluate (a) both agencies' compliance with the provisions of SB 103 (the omnibus legislation reforming TYC in 2007); (b) requirements enacted by the most recent legislature; and (c) joint initiatives in coordinating activities and services, including strategic planning, sharing of youth data across youth

agencies, assessments and classification of youth, and the collection of data on probation outcomes.

- Creates the Coordinated Strategic Planning Committee with members appointed by the directors of TYC and TJPC for the purpose of agency collaboration on a variety of initiatives, including implementation of a common data source and data sharing among TYC, TJPC, and various other state agencies that serve youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Requires TYC, TJPC, and various other state agencies to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) for continuity of care for juvenile offenders with mental impairments. Requires TCOOMMI, in coordination with TYC, TJPC, and other participating state and local agencies, to collect data and report on the outcomes of the MOU.

TYC reforms:

- Requires TYC to provide information regarding a youth's progress to the committing court upon request.
- Requires TYC to provide the committing court with notice of a youth's release no later than the 30th day before the release date.
- Requires TYC to provide the committing court or the county or state to which the youth is being released with the youth's re-entry and reintegration plan and a report on the youth's progress.
- Requires TYC to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce recidivism and ensure the successful re-entry of juveniles into the community upon release from state facilities.

OIO reforms:

- Continues the OIO until 2011, and requires the Sunset Commission to evaluate the OIO's compliance with requirements enacted by the most recent legislature.
- Requires the OIO and TYC to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the development of formal procedures to help ensure timely and informative communication between the two agencies on OIO reports and areas of overlapping responsibility. (Note: This reflects a recommendation we made in an April, 2008, policy memo to TYC.)
- Authorizes the OIO to withhold information concerning matters under active investigation from TYC and to report the information to the Governor.

TJPC/County-operated Juvenile Probation Department reforms:

- Requires TJPC to regulate, and local juvenile boards to inspect and certify, all non-secure correctional facilities that accept only youth on probation. (Note: These facilities were previously not monitored by any state agency.)
- Requires TJPC to ensure that its rules related to minimum standards for confined juveniles are in keeping with constitutional standards, federal law, and state law.
- Requires juvenile probation departments to complete a risk and needs assessment prior to disposition, using a validated risk and needs assessment instrument.
- Requires TJPC to adopt rules for the use of both the mental health screening and risk-needs assessment instruments. Requires juvenile probation departments to report data from the use of both instruments to TJPC.



- **HB 1630** (Naishtat); Ensures that youth are assessed for Medicaid and CHIP eligibility prior to their release from a TYC institutional or a secure juvenile probation facility. – ***Signed by the Governor; effectively immediately!***
- **HB 1688** (Castro); Makes the process for appealing juvenile adjudications the same as in adult trials in order to eliminate confusion for attorneys, youth, and families. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **CSHB 2386** (Castro); Gives a juvenile judge the discretion to seal a youth’s juvenile record after s/he has completed a court-ordered drug treatment program. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **HB 3316** (McClendon, Madden, Hodge); Authorizes prosecution of offenses by staff against youth in the custody of TYC in either the county where the offense happened or in Austin, so that no criminal acts perpetrated against youth in TYC facilities go unprosecuted because of a lack of local resources. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **CSHB 4451** (McReynolds, Miller, S., Marquez); Ensures that youth discharged from TYC because of severe mental health issues are able to access needed mental health services through TCOOMMI. – ***Signed by the Governor; effectively immediately!***
- **SB 518** (Harris); Increases the amount of time that defense and prosecuting attorneys have to review a youth’s case prior to a transfer hearing to criminal court (rather than juvenile court). – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **CSSB 839** (Hinojosa); Eliminates life without parole as an option for youth who have been certified as adults. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **CSSB 1374** (West); Requires TJPC to include additional information in their annual reports regarding the effectiveness of community-based programs. – ***Signed by the Governor!***

▷ **Work Ahead**

Our Juvenile Justice Initiative will continue to stay involved in the upcoming Sunset review of TYC and TJPC as required by HB 3689, specifically by monitoring and providing feedback on the implementation of legislative mandates for juvenile justice reform.

In addition, we hope to look at other issues impacting system-involved youth in Texas, such as the intersection of juvenile records, juvenile confidentiality and data sharing, and the treatment of youth who are certified as adults or given determinate sentences.

- **HB 1232** (Menendez); Creates a pilot program in San Antonio to focus on early treatment of youth with behavioral problems. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **CSHB 1629** (Naishtat, Madden); Ensures that foster youth who have been committed to TYC, often referred to as “dually dependent” youth, do not fall through the cracks of either system. – ***Signed by the Governor; effectively immediately!***

Rebuild Confidence in the Criminal Justice System & Ensure Innocent Individuals Are Not Sent to Prison

► Highlights from Texas' 81st Legislature

This session, policy-makers eliminated various obstacles to truth and justice in Texas' criminal justice system, especially for individuals with limited resources. We must commend the efforts of the Innocence Project of Texas and the Justice Project for their outstanding dedication to preventing wrongful convictions and for spearheading this effort, as well as the work of the Task Force on Indigent Defense, the Texas Fair Defense Project, the Texas Defender Service, and others.

We would also like to acknowledge how disheartening it must have been for advocates of great pieces of innocence legislation, as well as those directly impacted, to see many key bills die – especially in light of much needed attention brought to the issue by Timothy Cole's recent posthumous exoneration. We are confident that next session, these critical efforts will continue.

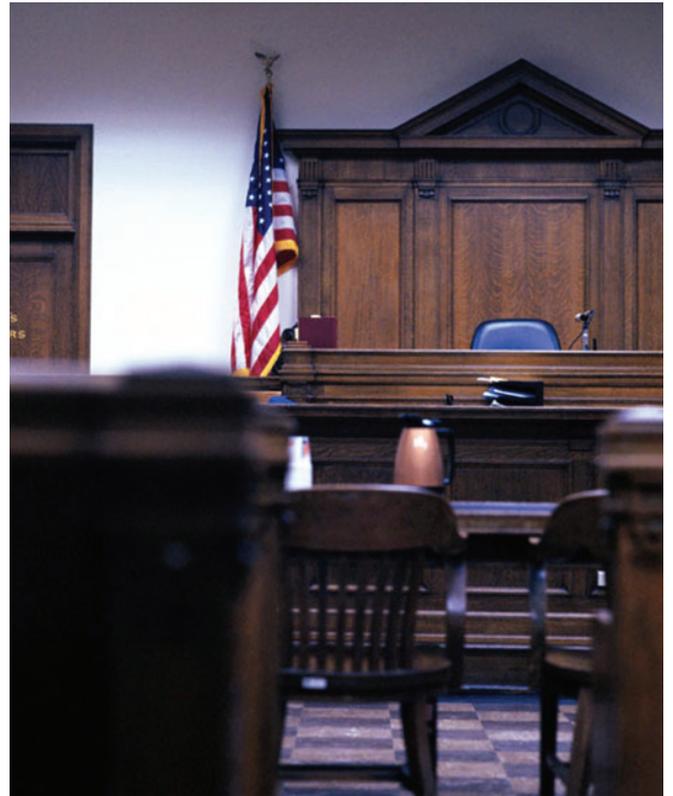
- **HB 498** (McClendon, Thompson, Gallego, Hodge, Pierson); Examines whether a state innocence commission should be created in efforts to prevent wrongful convictions. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **HB 1736** (Anchia, Y. Davis, Branch, Hodge, Isett); Increases compensation, provides state-level, lifelong insurance, and pays for up to 120 hours of tuition for wrongfully incarcerated individuals. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **HB 2058** (Gallego, Miklos, Hodge, Lucio III, Christian); Increases attorney qualification standards for those appointed as lead appellate counsel representing indigent defendants in capital cases. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **SB 1091** (Ellis, Duncan); Creates an Office of Capital Writs and a Capital Writs Committee that would address the needs of indigent defendants with a capital case requiring help with a writ. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **SB 1681** (Hinojosa); Protects defendants by requiring the corroboration of in-custody testimony to support a criminal conviction. – ***Filed without the Governor's signature.***

► Work Ahead

- We are interested in conducting further research on how the state supports the establishment and maintenance of public defender offices, and how such offices can continue to be funded beyond allotments provided per current state funding mechanisms.

NOTE: Texas' per capita spending on indigent defense is \$43-44, meaning indigent defense is grossly under-funded. The state has a significant interest in ensuring that counties have the funds to remain open and serve populations in need, as well as have the necessary funds to provide a constitutional level of representation to defendants.

- We would also like to identify strategies that may assist the Task Force on Indigent Defense in obtaining all resources necessary to continue its important role in the provision of indigent defense services in Texas, as well as other responsibilities placed upon the Task Force by law.



Save Money by Providing Alternatives to Incarceration & Increase Public Safety Through Policy Reform

► Highlights from Texas' 81st Legislature

Texas policy-makers have realized that the expensive and ineffective “lock-em-up” approach has not increased public safety, nor addressed the root causes of crime head on. Their efforts during this difficult session to continue to reverse decades of costly, irresponsible policies and spiraling prison growth will prevent taxpayers from having to shoulder the costs of additional prison construction and maintenance, and will boost public safety while strengthening communities.

We would like to thank all of the specialty court judges, probation directors and practitioners, and others who were instrumental in advancing smart-on-crime strategies.

- **HB 93** (Hodge, Guillen); Encourages an inmate to engage in good behavior by restoring good conduct time forfeited during a term of imprisonment. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **HB 666** (Gutierrez, Moody, Hodge, Leibowitz); Increases funding for drug court programs. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **SB 112** (Ellis) [**amended to SB 1940** (Van de Putte)]; The amendment creates a Veterans Diversion Court Program for defendants who can demonstrate that their criminal conduct was affected by brain injuries or mental illnesses resulting from military service. – ***Signed by the Governor; effective immediately!***
- **SB 633** (Seliger); Lowers the number of counties or municipalities needed to establish regional drug court programs. – ***Signed by the Governor; effective immediately!***
- **SB 1557** (Duncan); Identifies criminal defendants who may have a mental illness or mental retardation earlier in the legal process, and authorizes the use of such information during the punishment phase. – ***Signed by the Governor!***

► Bills That Were Vetoed

- **SB 1206** (Hinojosa); Allows the parole panel to consider the release of an inmate who has successfully completed a rehabilitation program up to 45 days earlier than his or her initial release date. – ***Vetoed.***



► Work Ahead

- We will continue to concentrate on diversion implementation, including the need for an established, designated funding stream for substance abuse treatment.

In addition, we would like to examine and feature specialty courts. We are interested in researching the tools that specialty court judges need for successful implementation of these courts, and we are interested in learning the impact that an investment in these specialty courts can have on recidivism and public safety.

- To complement our diversion efforts, we would like to research the administrative/policy and legislative barriers to the implementation of best practices in probation. Specifically, our end goal is to assist the probation system in developing and utilizing both an appropriate funding formula (to reduce the system's over-reliance on probationer fees as a means of income), as well as an appropriate risk-assessment tool (which will strengthen supervision by identifying probationers' needs while meeting the community's own public safety needs).
- Finally, we would like to further our research on contributors to prison overcrowding, including penalty enhancements for criminal offenses, as well as the over-use of prison for those suffering from substance abuse and mental health issues.

Likewise, we would like to identify strategies that will reduce county jail overcrowding, which is draining local budgets and increasing the costs to taxpayers.

Strengthen Criminal Justice Practices

► Highlights from Texas' 81st Legislature

Texas has put in place cost-effective measures that will increase the efficiency of – and better provide more just and humane – criminal justice practices for the tens of thousands of Texans entering and exiting criminal justice facilities every year.

- **HB 2289** (Madden, McReynolds, Marquez): Requires TDCJ to release a prison inmate from either the facility in which s/he served the sentence or a regional release facility nearest to the facility in which s/he served the sentence. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **HB 3649** (Marquez, Hodge, Madden): Allows certain non-profit, religious, or civic organizations to send inmates books and educational materials. – ***Signed by the Governor; effectively immediately!***
- **HB 3653** (Marquez, Olivo, S. King, Madden, Ortiz Jr.): Requires TDCJ to restrict the use of restraints on women when they are pregnant, in labor or delivery, or in recovery. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **HB 3654** (Marquez, Olivo, S. King, Ortiz Jr.): Requires county jails to establish standards of care and classifications for pregnant inmates. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **SB 1120** (West) [amended to HB 3389 (Harper-Brown, Merritt)]; The amendment establishes an independent statewide repository for law enforcement racial profiling reports at TCLEOSE. – ***Signed by the Governor!***

For both HB 3653 and HB 3654, we would like to commend the efforts of the Texas Jail Project and its partnership with the ACLU of Texas.

► Work Ahead

We are interested in identifying strategies that will assist the Texas Commission on Jail Standards in continuing its important role in monitoring and regulating county jails, as well as in providing technical assistance and training to local officials and jail staff. This agency is crucial in maintaining safety, order, and professionalism, as well as in assisting in the education of jail administrators about standards which, in turn, prevents lawsuits.

In addition, we will continue to improve our inmate correspondence system, which will allow us to identify patterns of systemic practices that must be addressed – largely with regards to conditions of confinement. Many prisoners and families have brought to our attention their problems with the criminal justice system; we will continue to use this information to inform the development of our own research and suggestions for reform.



If you are a youth, adult, or practitioner looking for re-entry services, please check out our Tools for Re-Entry project at www.criminaljusticecoalition.org/tools_for_re_entry.

This page offers information on available educational training opportunities, housing, job opportunities, voting information, and other information necessary for those seeking to successfully re-integrate back into our communities. Also, if you are a provider of these services and would like us to update your information or include your information on our site, please do not hesitate to email us at info@criminaljusticecoalition.org.

Encourage Economic and Workforce Development by Reducing Re-Entry Barriers

► Highlights from Texas' 81st Legislature

This session, our policy-makers made an historic, bipartisan showing of support for policies that will assist men and women in their re-integration efforts, providing those who are returning to our communities with resources for personal responsibility that will more successfully avert them from the criminal justice system in the future. With the tools to effectively and healthily manage their lives, formerly incarcerated individuals will be empowered to participate in society in a fulfilling and productive way, to the benefit of public safety, family cohesion, local economies, and public health.

We would like to commend the work and support of the Re-entry Roundtables throughout the state (Austin, Bexar, and Tarrant), as well as the efforts of other county advocates from Bexar and Tarrant Counties and the Texas Conference of Urban Counties.

- **HB 963** (Guillen); Allows formerly incarcerated individuals to confirm their eligibility status for an occupational license before committing to and preparing for an educational program. Note: This bill includes an amendment that will increase employment opportunities for nonviolent, non 3-g offenders if they are eligible to obtain an occupational license and if their past crime is not related to the occupational license they are trying to obtain. – ***Signed by the Governor; effective immediately!***
- **HB 1711** (S. Turner, Guillen, A. Martinez, Veasey, Marquez); Creates a comprehensive statewide reintegration program for individuals transitioning from prison back into our communities. Note: An amendment was added to this bill that will establish a Reentry Task Force, which would also take into consideration county and city reentry efforts, as well as improve the state's likelihood of obtaining federal Second Chance funding. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **HB 2161** (S. Turner, Marquez); Gives individuals re-entering society a personal identification certificate provided by TDCJ, allowing individuals to more easily obtain an ID or drivers license. – ***Signed by the Governor!***
- **HB 2808** (Thompson); Prohibits a licensing authority from considering a person to have been convicted of an offense if the person entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or if the judge deferred and ultimately dismissed the proceedings. – ***Signed by the Governor; effective immediately!***

- **HB 3226** (Madden, Edwards, McReynolds, Christian); Establishes a housing voucher program to address the lack of housing that many paroled individuals face when leaving prison. – ***Signed by the Governor; effective immediately!***

► Bills that were vetoed

- **HB 3481** (Veasey, Hodge); Allows individuals to have their records expunged if the charges against them are dismissed or if they are no-billed by a grand jury. – ***Vetoed.***
- **SB 223** (West); Expands the Governor's authority to grant pardons for defendants placed on deferred adjudication community supervision. – ***Vetoed.***

► Work Ahead

Despite the great successes of this session, there is still much to be done in the area of re-entry. We will actively monitor and provide feedback on the implementation of legislative mandates for re-entry reform.

We would also like to expand our research in the following key areas:

- the identification of additional re-entry barriers (specific to women or men), as well as localized best practices that can address the particular needs of communities attempting to implement successful and cost-effective re-entry practices and programs;
- the impacts of requiring certain offenders to enroll in continuum of care programs as a condition of their release on parole;
- general parole revocation practices in Texas and their relationship to prison overcrowding; and
- how and why to improve the current process for sealing adult records post-conviction.

Finally, we will continue to update our free website resource on our Tools for Re-Entry page that offers a "one stop shop" of current, comprehensive services in housing, employment, education, and treatment for both juveniles and adults.

Appropriations

▷ Juvenile Justice

The budget process for state juvenile justice spending was spirited and dynamic, with final decisions still up in the air until late May.

Ultimately, approximately **\$48 million** in new money was provided to the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) for distribution to juvenile probation departments in order to divert youth from placement in TYC facilities. Juvenile probation departments that receive a portion of the diversion funding will be required to report a variety of information to TJPC about their use of the new state funding, including details about the kinds of programs that will be developed or expanded, and outcomes for all youth placed in the diversion programs as an alternative to TYC commitment.

▷ Criminal Justice

In the state budget, policy-makers chose to continue and strengthen previous smart-on-crime reforms, once again proving their commitment to hardworking practitioners and ensuring the fidelity and success of responsible crime-reduction best practices – particularly diversions and other programs to reduce recidivism.

Specifically, prison diversions through probation and community-based programs were allocated more than \$280 million for FY 2010 and \$286 million for FY 2011, out of TDCJ's total allotment of \$2.9 billion for FY 2010 and \$3 billion for FY 2011.

Diversions funding is as follows: more than \$111 million in FY 2010 and nearly \$113 million in FY 2011 for Basic Supervision; nearly \$119 million in FY 2010 and \$123 million in FY 2011 for diversion programs; nearly \$39 million in both FY 2010 and FY 2011 for community corrections; and nearly \$12 million in both FY 2010 and FY 2011 for the Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration Program.

This investment in diversions through probation and community-based programs is especially important: When the probation system is under-funded and breaks down, our prisons fill up needlessly with low-level, non-violent offenders. A lack of treatment resources is an additional source of prison overcrowding. A continued financial commitment to community supervision and treatment beds will save taxpayers millions of dollars in prison construction costs while giving individuals the tools to live responsibly.

Included in the budget is:

□ General Funding for Community Supervision and Corrections

- Approximately \$11.1 million was allocated for projected community supervision population growth.
- \$13.1 million was allocated for a 3.5% pay increase in FY 2010 and an additional 3.5% salary increase in FY 2011 for community supervision officers and direct care staff. A similar increase (about 3.5% in each year of the biennium) was also provided to correctional and parole officers.

□ Treatment and Services Funding for Community Supervision and Corrections Departments

- \$20 million was allocated to fully operationalize the Intermediate Sanction Facility and Substance Abuse Felony Punishment beds funded during Texas' previous legislative session.
- \$4 million was allocated for the Serving for Success diversion program.

□ Riders Impacting Community Supervision

- The "Medically Targeted Substance Abuse Treatment Rider" was introduced during the previous session and specifically targeted \$2 million towards "physician supervised acute medical treatment for methamphetamine and/or cocaine-addicted offenders." The rider has been revised so that it would allow this \$2 million to be used to provide out-patient substance abuse aftercare treatment.
- The "Community Supervision Officers and Direct Care Staff Salary Increases Rider" appropriates \$13.1 million over FY 2010-2011.

□ Other Criminal Justice Funding

- \$5.2 million was allocated for 64 full-time Reentry Coordinators.
- \$92.6 million above the FY 2008-2009 base funding levels was allocated for Correctional Managed Care.

□ Related Health & Human Services Funding

- \$55 million was allocated for Community Mental Health Services.

The above information was provided in the "Conference Committee Report on SB1 - (May 2009)," created by the Legislative Budget Board and available at www.lbb.state.tx.us/Bill_81/5_Conference/Bill-81-5_Conference_0509.pdf. Additional information was provided by TDCJ and the Community Justice Assistance Division. If you are interested in finding out more about the budget or would like a fuller picture of what was appropriated, please visit the Legislative Budget Board's website at www.lbb.state.tx.us.

Special Mention: Honoring Individuals who Pursued Smart on Crime Policies

The Legislature recognized several of TCJC’s friends for their outstanding work to improve the criminal justice system.

□ **HR 2406** (McReynolds); Honoring the directors and staff of the Community Supervision and Corrections Department for their notable public service.

- Paul Becker, director of Harris County CSCD
- Stephen L. Enders, director of West Texas CSCD
- George Hernandez, director of Caldwell County CSCD
- Steven T. Henderson, director of Lubbock/Crosby Counties CSCD
- Leighton Iles, director of Fort Bend County CSCD
- Todd Jermstad, interim director of Bell County CSCD
- Dr. Geraldine Nagy, director of Travis County CSCD
- Dr. Michael E. Noyes, director of Dallas County CSCD
- Tom Plumlee, director of Tarrant County CSCD
- Jim Stott, director of Jefferson County CSCD
- Rodney J. Thompson, director of Angelina County CSCD

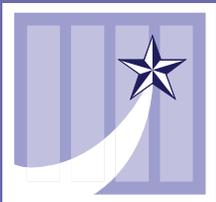
This resolution also recognizes the efforts of all other caring and hard working CSCD employees throughout Texas.

□ **HR 2801** (Veasey); Honoring Tom Plumlee on his retirement as director of the Community Supervision and Corrections Department in Tarrant County.

For the past 3 sessions, **Judge John Creuzot** has been instrumental in guiding many of TCJC’s adult policy recommendations. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his leadership and dedication to promoting and implementing smart-on-crime policies that have improved the lives of thousands of Texans.

We also want to recognize all the individuals who we have presented awards to, including policy-makers, key staff, advocates, and practitioners throughout the state. You are all an inspiration to us in our pursuit of real solutions to the problems facing Texas’ criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank **Bonita White** for the many years she has devoted to community supervision. We wish her all the best in her retirement, and we congratulate **Carey Welebob** on her position as the new CJAD Director.

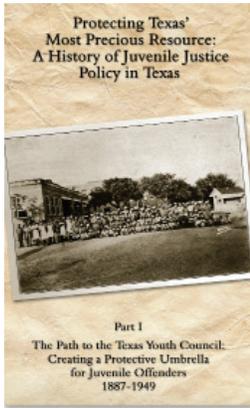


To learn more about the TCJC projects listed below, please visit www.criminaljusticecoalition.org:

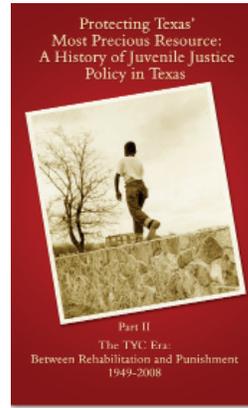
- ▷ **Juvenile Justice Initiative:** *Creating Avenues to Success for Troubled Youth and Families.*
- ▷ **Public Safety Project:** *Advocating for Fair, Effective Police Practices that Improve the Safety of Our Communities.*
- ▷ **The Fair Defense Project:** *Ensuring a Just and Accountable Judicial System by Protecting Your Right to a Lawyer.*
- ▷ **The Solutions for Sentencing & Incarceration Project:** *Researching and Advocating for Policies that Increase Public Safety While Decreasing Costly Jail and Prison Overcrowding.*
- ▷ **Tools for Re-Entry:** *Advocating for Policies that will Enable the Formerly Incarcerated to Live Responsibly and Support their Families.*
- ▷ **Tools for Practitioners:** *Featuring Best Juvenile and Criminal Justice Practices.*
- ▷ **Public Policy Center:** *Providing Non-Partisan Policy Recommendations that Embody the Principles of Effective Management, Accountability, Public Safety, and Human and Civil Rights.*

MUST READ!

TCJC’s Public Policy Center offers various policy guides and reports. In this newsletter, we would like to remind you to take a look at our 2-part report series on juvenile justice in Texas – **Protecting Texas’ Most Precious Resource: A History of Juvenile Justice Policy in Texas.**



Part I: The Path to the Texas Youth Council: Creating a Protective Umbrella for Juvenile Offenders, 1887-1949 examines the history of juvenile justice policy in Texas from the founding of Gatesville reformatory in 1889 to the formation of the Texas Youth Commission in 1949. © 2008.

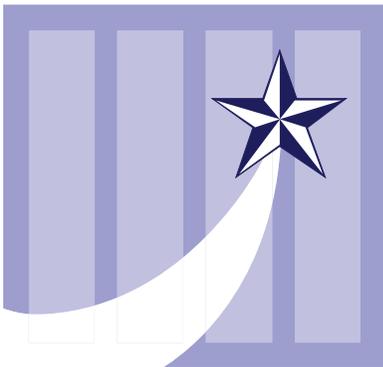


Part II: The TYC Era: Between Rehabilitation and Punishment 1949-2008 examines the history of juvenile justice policy in Texas from the formation of the Texas Youth Council in 1949 to the SB 103 reforms of 2007. © 2009.

For copies of these comprehensive reports, please email info@criminaljusticecoalition.org, or find them online at www.criminaljusticecoalition.org/juvenile_justice/publications.

REMINDER: WE’VE MOVED OFFICES!

OUR WISH LIST



TEXAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION

Our new address is 510 S. Congress, Suite 104, Austin, TX 78704. Below is a list of things we still need – and your donations would be much appreciated!

- A small fridge that works well and has two shelves
- A small microwave
- A water cooler/dispenser that has hot and cold settings
- A small red lamp

If you live in Austin, please call Leah Pinney at (512) 441-8123, ext. 114, before making a donation so we can arrange for pick up! One of our team members would be more than happy to schedule a time to get the item from you.

If you do not have a specific item we are looking for, we would also be grateful for gift cards to office supply stores or a simple donation to TCJC (see back cover of this newsletter).

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

TCJC TURNS 10 THIS YEAR!

In 1999, our parent organization – ProTex – was organized in response to a growing need to coordinate the efforts of advocacy organizations seeking systemic change in Texas’ criminal justice system, health care system, and taxation system. One of ProTex’s strongest programs was its criminal justice program, then called the Texas Criminal Justice Reform Coalition.

In 2004, ProTex closed. However, the Coalition – now called the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition – felt the need to sustain its efforts and took over ProTex’s 501(c)(3) status. Throughout our ten years of existence, TCJC has become well known for our comprehensive approach to addressing the specific policies and practices that have forced so many people into Texas prisons. Over time, we have emerged as a respected advocate of criminal justice reform. We have generated consistent media attention for our efforts, and we have become well-versed in the intricacies of criminal justice policy and the implementation of effective criminal justice practices. By providing accurate, non-partisan research, timely recommendations, and public safety-driven messages, we have won the genuine support of our current partners, as well as many unlikely allies who share our goals.

We are proud to say that we have worked successfully towards minimizing the entry points into the criminal justice system – both to reduce Texas’ over-reliance on incarceration, and to lessen the devastating impact that our state criminal justice policies and practices have on families. We have worked so hard to address (1) deficiencies in the juvenile justice system that set youth up to fail and ultimately become key contributors to the adult prison population, (2) practices that may be impeding effective, public safety-focused, value-driven police services, (3) arrest, court, and conviction practices that can lead to unequal sentencing, (4) the lack of treatment services, as well as underfunded and under-staffed probation and parole systems, that contribute to prison overcrowding, and (5) barriers to re-entry that lead many formerly incarcerated individuals back inside prison walls.

We would love to take this opportunity to thank our supporters for remaining by our side during all these years!

We have been so fortunate to have the support of probation and parole officers and directors, state and local judges, attorneys, treatment providers, re-entry specialists, members of law enforcement, formerly incarcerated persons and their family members, researchers and policy analysts, advocates for victims or those incarcerated, faith-based advocates, and Republican and Democratic policy-makers and their staff members. You have given us your trust, your expertise, your knowledge gained from years of personal experience, and your valuable time.

With your help, we hope to continue to advocate for policies and strategies that will improve Texas’ juvenile and criminal justice systems for years to come, so that some day Texas will become the leader in smart-on-crime practices!

HELP US CONTINUE OUR IMPORTANT WORK!

TCJC's work to find and advocate in favor of juvenile and criminal justice solutions is made possible by the financial support of caring individuals like you.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION – DONATE TODAY!

Your tax-deductible donation will be well spent on our public education, outreach, and research efforts. Give today by clicking on the DONATE NOW buttons found throughout www.criminaljusticecoalition.org, or by sending a check or money order to:

Name _____

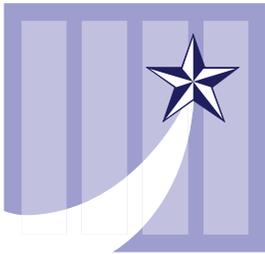
Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

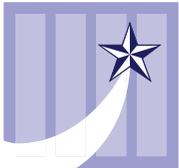
State _____ Zip _____

Email _____



Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
510 South Congress Ave.,
Suite 104
Austin, Texas 78704

**Every Little Bit
Makes A Difference!**



Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
510 South Congress Ave., Suite 104
Austin, Texas 78704