



SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS PERMANENT JUDICIAL
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

**Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial Commission for
Children, Youth and Families**

**September 27, 2013
MEETING NOTEBOOK**

**The State Bar of Texas - The Texas Law Center
Hatton W. Sumners Meeting Room
1414 Colorado Street
Austin, Texas 78701**

**Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families**

**September 27, 2013
Meeting Notebook**

Table of Contents

Minutes from May 3, 2013 Commission Meeting..... 1

Commission, Committee and Collaborative Council Member List..... 2

September 27, 2013 Report to Commission 3

Committee Meeting Minutes..... 4
Basic Projects
Training Projects
Technology Projects

FY2014 Budget..... 5

Award Statements 6

Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families
State Bar of Texas Hatton-Sumners Room

Austin, Texas

September 27, 2013

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

- 9:30 Commencement / Opening Remarks – The Honorable Eva Guzman

- 9:45 First order of business – The Honorable Eva Guzman
 - 1. Adopt Minutes from May 3, 2013 Tab 1

- 9:50 Commissioner Updates

- 10:45 Executive Director Report – Tina Amberboy/Commission Staff, Tab 3

- 11:15 Data/Technology Committee Report – Vicki Spriggs, Tab 4, (*page 49*)

- 11:25 Basic Committee Report – Hon. Bonnie Hellums, Tab 4, (*page 53*)

- 11:35 Training Committee Report – Hon. Camile DuBose , Tab 4, (*page 59*)

- 11:45 Vote on FY2014 CIP Plan & Budget

- 12:00 Lunch

- 12:45 Psych Meds - HB 915 Implementation Workgroup – Hon. F. Scott McCown

- 1:00 Trial Skills Workgroup – Justice Michael Massengale, PPT?

- 1:15 Texas Blueprint Implementation Task Force – Judge Rob Hofmann, PPT?

- 1:30 Hearing Observation Project – Judge Robin Sage, PPT?

- 1:45 Tittle IV Waiver Update – Judge John Specia, DFPS Staff

- 2:00 DFPS Update – Judge John Specia, Audrey Deckinga

- 2:15 Office of Court Administration – David Slayton

- 2:30 New Business/Comments from Collaborative Council

- 2014 Meeting Schedule Commission meeting

- 2:45 Adjourn

INSERT - TAB 1

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 3, 2013

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Supreme Court of Texas Courtroom

Austin, Texas

ATTENDANCE

Members in attendance:

Chair-Emeritus, Hon. Harriet O'Neill, Law Office of Harriet O'Neill, Austin

Chair, Hon. Eva Guzman, Justice, The Supreme Court of Texas, Austin

Vice-Chair, Hon. Darlene Byrne, Judge, 126th District Court, Austin

Judge Karin Bonicoro, Associate Judge, Child Protection Court of Central Texas, New Braunfels

Audrey Deckinga, Assistant Commissioner for CPS, Dept. of Family and Protective Services, Austin

Stewart Gagnon, Partner, Fulbright and Jaworski, LLP, Houston

Hon. Bonnie Hellums, Judge, 247th District Court, Houston

Hon. Rob Hofmann, Associate Judge, Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, Mason

Joyce M. James, Associate Deputy Commissioner, HHSC Center for Elimination of Disproportionality & Disparities, Austin

Hon. Patricia A. Macías, Judge, 388th District Court, El Paso

Dr. Octavio Martinez, Executive Director, The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, UT Austin, Austin

Hon. Michael Massengale, Justice, 1st Court of Appeals, Houston

Carolyne Rodriguez, Dir. of Texas Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs, Austin

Hon. Dean Rucker, Presiding Judge, 7th Region, 318th District Court, Midland

Fairy Davenport Rutland, Director, Appeals Div., Texas Health & Human Services Commission, Austin

Hon. Cheryl Lee Shannon, Judge, 305th District Court, Dallas

Vicki Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer, Texas CASA, Inc., Austin

Terry Tottenham, Of Counsel, Fulbright and Jaworski, L.L.P., Austin

G. Allan Van Fleet, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery L.L.P., Houston

Members not in attendance:

Hon. Camile Glasscock DuBose, Judge, 38th District Court, Uvalde

Bruce Esterline, Vice President for Grants, The Meadows Foundation, Dallas

Gabriela Fuentes, Office of the Governor, Austin

Hon Helen Giddings, Texas Representative, District 109, Dallas

Hon. Judy Warne, District Judge, 257th Family Court, Houston

Staff in attendance:

Tina Amberboy, Executive Director, Children's Commission

Katie Brown, Staff Attorney, Children's Commission

Simi Denson, Office of Court Administration
Tara Grigg Garlinghouse, Intern, Children's Commission
Casey Kennedy, Director IRM, Office of Court Administration
Tim Kennedy, TexDECK Project Manager, Office of Court Administration
Mena Ramón, Office of Court Administration
Milbrey Raney, Staff Attorney, Children's Commission
Hon. Robin Sage, Jurist in Residence
David Slayton, Interim Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration
Kristi Taylor, Project Manager, Children's Commission
Rashonda Thomas, Grant Account Specialist, Children's Commission
Mari Aaron, Executive Assistant, Children's Commission
Mary Mitchell, Executive Assistant, Children's Commission

Collaborative Council Members in attendance:

Irene Clements, President, Texas Foster Family Consultant, Butterfly Marketing, LLC, Pflugerville
De Shaun Ealoms, Parent Program Specialist, Dept. of Family and Protective Services, Austin
Barbara Elias-Perciful, President, Texas Loves Children, Dallas (proxy Debra Wilson)
Laura Figueroa, The Arbitrage Group, Inc., Katy (attendance via webcast)
Mike Foster, Executive Director, Neighbor to Family, Austin
Helen Gaebler, Sr. Research Attny, William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law, Austin
Mike Griffiths, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Austin (proxy Brett Broy)
Sandra Hachem, Sr. Assistant County Attorney, Houston (attendance via webcast/teleconference)
Rebecca Lightsey, Executive Director, Texas Appleseed, Austin
Diana Martinez, Director of Public Policy and Education for TexProtects, Austin
Judy Powell, Communications Director, Parent Guidance Center, Austin
Johana Scot, Executive Director, Parent Guidance Center, Austin
Janet Sharkis, Executive Director, Texas Office of Developmental Disabilities, Austin
Jeanne Stamp, Sr. Program Coordinator, The Charles A. Dana Center, Austin
Armin Steege, Vice President of Programs, Austin Children's Shelter, Austin
Gloria Terry, Coalition President, Texas Council on Family Violence, Austin
Larry Williams, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Livingston

Collaborative Council Members not in attendance:

Emy Lou Baldrige, Co-Founder, Greater Texas Community Partners, Dallas
Roy Block, Executive Director, Texas Foster Family Association, San Antonio
William B. Connolly, Attorney, Connolly & Shireman, LLP, Houston
Elizabeth Cox, foster and adoptive parent, San Antonio
Kevin Cox, foster and adoptive parent, San Antonio
Susan Hopkins Craven, Executive Director, Texas Alliance for Infant Mental Health, Austin
Debra Emerson, CPS Director of Permanency, Dept. of Family & Protective Services, Austin
Paul E. Furrh, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Lone Star Legal Aid, Houston
Eileen Garcia, Chief Executive Officer, Texans Care for Children, Austin

David Halpern, Director, Promise Mentor Program, Seedling Foundation, Austin
Robert Hartman, Executive Vice President and COO, DePelchin Children's Center, Houston
Leslie Hill, Managing Attorney, Travis County Office of Child Representation, Austin
Chris Hubner, Staff Attorney, Travis County Juvenile Probation, Austin
Shannon Ireland, Executive Director, Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, New Braunfels
Bruce Kendrick, Director of Outreach, Embrace Texas, McKinney
Lori Kennedy, Managing Attorney, Travis County Office of Parental Representation, Austin
Alicia Key, Deputy Attorney General for Child Support, Office of the Attorney General, Austin
Richard Lavallo, Legal Director, Disability Rights Texas (formerly Advocacy, Inc.), Austin
Stephanie Ledesma, Assistant Professor, TSU Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston
Tracy Levins, Manager, Prevention/Early Intervention, Texas Juvenile Justice Dept., Austin
Madeline McClure, Executive Director, The Texas Association for the Protection of Children, Dallas
Hon. F. Scott McCown, Executive Director, Center for Public Policy Priorities, Austin
Dr. Sandeep Narang, Fellowship Director, Child Abuse and Neglect Division, Pediatrics Department, UT-San Antonio
Lisa Ramirez, Women's Substance Abuse Services Coordinator, Dept. of State Health Services, Austin
Leslie Strauch, Clinical Professor, University of Texas School of Law, Austin
Chadwick Sapenter, CEO and Founder, Little Book of Words, former foster youth, Austin
Kenneth Thompson, Fatherhood Program Specialist, Dept. of Family & Protective Services, Austin
Arabia Vargas, Chair, Bexar County Child Welfare Board, San Antonio

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS, Justice Eva Guzman

Justice Guzman called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Recognition of Guests

Justice Guzman acknowledged the 5 year anniversary of the Children's Commission and recognized Chair Emeritus Harriet O'Neill and her efforts to establish the Children's Commission. Justice Guzman directed members to the Children's Commission Annual Report. In addition, she recognized the work of the Commissioners and the key role played by the members in the success of the Children's Commission.

Justice Guzman reported on the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas' 3rd Annual Judicial Symposium, held in Livingston, Texas on April 25, 2013. Justice Guzman, Judge Darlene Byrne, Ms. Audrey Deckinga, Ms. Tina Amberboy and Ms. Kristi Taylor attended the symposium. The event provided an opportunity to build ongoing collaboration with the tribe and discuss child welfare issues.

Justice Guzman welcomed Diana Guariglia, Associate Judge, 245th Family Court, Harris County. Judge Guariglia serves as the Co-Chair of the Children's Commission Psychoactive Medications Workgroup. Judge Guariglia will provide an update on the work of the group later during this meeting.

Commissioner Membership Changes

Justice Guzman announced that Ms. Sharayah Stiggers will fulfill the parent representative position on the Commission vacated by Ms. Selina Mireles in January 2013.

Justice Guzman noted that Ms.Carolyn Rodriguez leaves her appointment as Commissioner effective June 1, 2013. She is in attendance today at her final Commission meeting. Justice Guzman expressed appreciation to Ms. Rodriguez for her dedication and work on behalf of the Children's Commission.

Ms. Rodriguez noted that her role as a Commissioner provided an opportunity to build relationships and connections with judges and others in the child welfare community and has been highly rewarding.

Collaborative Council Membership Changes

Justice Guzman announced a new member to the Children's Commission Collaborative Council, Ms. Lauren Donder, Director of Public Affairs, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. Ms. Donder succeeded Ms. Meghan Weller on the Collaborative Council.

CIP Committee Member Changes

Justice Guzman announced that there are three news members on the CIP Training Committee. The new members are: Judge Mark Atkinson, Executive Director, Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ). Judge Atkinson succeeds Mr. Randy Sarosdy at TCJ. In addition, Mr. Tymothy Belseth has joined the CIP Training Committee. Mr. Belseth is a Youth Specialist for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Ms. Elizabeth Watkins, Assistant District Attorney, Anderson County Texas has also joined the CIP Training Committee.

Staff Member Changes

Justice Guzman introduced Ms. Tara Grigg Garlinghouse who will intern for the Children's Commission beginning today through July 1st. Following her work with the Commission, she will begin an internship with John Odam in the Harris County Attorney's Office. Ms. Garlinghouse is earning a joint degree in Law from Pennsylvania State and Public Administration from Harvard.

Justice Guzman announced that Mr. Ron Clark, Business Analyst for the Office of Court Administration (OCA) has left OCA. Mr. Clark provided support on the OCA child protection case management system (CPCMS).

ADOPTION OF JANUARY 11, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Justice Guzman commented that members have had the opportunity to review the minutes and asked for any corrections or discussion. There were no corrections or any discussion.

ACTION: Justice Guzman asked for a motion to adopt the meeting minutes of the January 11, 2013 meeting of the Supreme Court of Texas Children’s Commission. Stewart Gagnon made a motion and Judge Hellums seconded. The attending members adopted the meeting minutes unanimously.

COMMISSION MEMBER UPDATES

Hon. Harriet O’Neill, Law Office of Harriet O’Neill, Austin and Chair Emeritus of the Supreme Court of Texas Children’s Commission, remarked on the progress and accomplishments of the Children’s Commission in the past five years as well as the preliminary planning work that took place prior to the formation of the Commission.

Hon. Bonnie Hellums, Judge, 247th District Court, Houston, provided an update on the Infants and Toddlers Court and the Drug Court in Harris County. The results of the work continues to show progress. Efforts are underway to establish a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) program that will educate ob-gyns, pediatricians and judges about the problems associated with mothers who consume alcohol during their pregnancy. Dr. Ira Chasnoff is working with the court as well to implement the program. The Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe (KITS) Conference is upcoming on June 20-21, 2013 in Houston. Judge Len Edwards will be a featured speaker. Judge Hellums commented on the challenges associated with the transition of her court to a paperless system and the impact of technology on her docket.

Dr. Octavio Martinez, Executive Director, The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, UT Austin, Austin, highlighted a publication by the Hogg Foundation, “A Guide to Understanding Mental Health Systems and Services in Texas 2012” (the ‘green book’). The guide has been widely distributed throughout the state. A copy of the guide was made available to the Commissioners in attendance at this meeting. Dr. Martinez noted that additional copies will be provided upon request to either the Children’s Commission or the Hogg Foundation. The document provides a valuable resource for information on mental health services and will be updated and released every other year, to reflect changes enacted by the Texas legislature.

Audrey Deckinga, Assistant Commissioner for CPS, Dept. of Family & Protective Services, Austin, noted that topics to be addressed include the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the legislative update and these will be addressed later in the meeting. Ms. Deckinga deferred her update at this time.

Carolyn Rodriguez, Dir. of Texas Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs, reported that Casey Family Programs have recently begun program planning for 2014. The planning efforts will focus on new approaches to work around targeted, focused, regional-level matters. While statewide work is important, the fiscal climate dictates increased targeted and focused activities. Ms. Sarah Abrahams will be filling in as acting director while the search for her successor is underway. Ms. Sarah Abrahams will serve as the point person for the Children’s Commission work. Ms. Rodriguez noted that Casey Family Program has focused extensively on permanency and will continue to do so. Full

implementation of the Permanency Round Tables is underway. In addition, Casey will collaborate with Child Protective Services and the model that is under development that will focus on alternative response at the front end of the system. Casey Family Programs brings experience and expertise to the development efforts for the model. Ms. Rodriguez commented on Casey Family Programs efforts around judicial engagement to address permanency and the ongoing strategy to engage interested judges.

Judge Rob Hofmann, CPC Judge, Child Protection Court of the Hill Country, Mason, noted that there is time on the agenda later this afternoon to highlight the work of the Texas Blue Print Implementation Task Force and deferred his update at this time.

Judge Patricia A. Macías, retired, noted that her retirement from the bench occurred on December 31, 2012. Following a brief break, she accepted a project with Casey Family Programs working on judicial engagement. Eight states are identified for this work. Judge Macías addresses the importance of the judiciary and review of data to establish common goals with CPS and frequently references work done in Texas. She recently attended a panel in California and spoke about the history and genesis of the Children's Commission. Judge Macías will continue to provide updates to the Commission as her work with Casey Family Programs continues.

Joyce M. James, Associate Deputy Commissioner, HHSC Center for Elimination of Disproportionality & Disparities (CEDD), Austin, reported on the work underway at the CEDD. Efforts continue at the regional and local levels. The CEDD received a grant from CTA to work with Texas Education Service Centers around the issue of disproportionality and mandatory reporting. CEDD was on the schedule at the Education Summit held in Austin in February 2013 and has leveraged the contacts from the education system made at the Summit to schedule nearly all of the 20 training sessions planned for the Education Service Centers around the state. While the focus is examination of mandatory reporting through the lens of disproportionality, the trainings will provide the opportunity to include discussion of disproportionality as it pertains to discipline, special education and the achievement gap. During the Dallas training session held this week, a panel of youth was facilitated by the former youth specialist, Zoe Conley. Involving people actually impacted by the system to speak with educators is highly impactful. The CEDD is involved in a partnership with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department – Prairie View Criminal Justice Center to begin development of strategies to implement the model as a way to address disproportionate minority contact in juvenile justice. Ms. James attended a meeting this week in Washington, DC with the Center for Study of Social Policy, part of the Annie E. Casey program. The focus of the meeting was strategy development to improve outcomes in child welfare for children, youth and families of color. Discussion centered on how to lift up a new message and develop a new conversation to address the issue. Ms. James would like to discuss with the Commission plans to replicate a similar forum in Texas. Attendees at the meeting were charged with developing strategy and determining ways to implement the strategy upon return to their home states that will sustain the conversation. CEDD continues to work with Casey Family Programs to partner to address disproportionality and systems leadership that aligns with increasing permanency for youth. Ms. James highlighted a training effort will involve the UT Law School and

focus on health disparities and ensure that the curriculum that is developed will incorporate the content to provide understanding for students to take into communities with insight with regard to those who suffer most from health disparities.

Fairy Davenport Rutland, Director, Appeals Div., Texas Health & Human Services Commission, Austin, reported on behalf of the State Bar Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect and activities of the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA). The Children's Commission has provided funding for the Child Welfare Law Conference and the State Bar Committee has partnered with Judge Hellums and groups from Harris and Fort Bend Counties for the KITS Conference that will take place in June 2013. On the first day of the conference, June 19, the State Bar Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect will present on issues vital to child abuse. Judge Specia will be the keynote speaker. Breakout sessions are scheduled for parent attorneys, child attorneys and CPS attorneys. The day will conclude with a panel discussion that will feature Judge Specia and Judge Len Edwards. Scholarships for attorneys who practice in the child welfare area will be provided by CIP. The Committee has selected the recipient of the award for service to children and families and the announcement of the person and presentation of the award will be made at the Advanced Family Law Course on August 5, 2013 in San Antonio. Attorney scholarships will be provided by CIP for this course as well. Ms. Rutland acknowledged the 5 year anniversary of the Children's Commission and commented that the opportunity to bring this diverse membership together has had a profound impact on the practice of child welfare law.

Terry Tottehnham, Of Counsel, Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P., Austin, reported on Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) and encouraged members to visit the TYLA website. The site contains numerous resources that provide information on the many issues that concern everyone present at this meeting. Mr. Tottenham provided an update on the Veterans Initiative. The servicemen returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are a young cohort and many have families with children. The Access to Justice Commission gala, held a few weeks ago, raised \$335,000. These funds will be used for grants and support for the Veterans Initiative. At the ABA mid-year meeting held in Dallas last December, Mr. Tottenham and Ms. Jo Ann Merica, the current Director of the State Bar of Texas and current chair of Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans, presented to the ABA Committee on Homelessness and Poverty. This was an opportunity to address stakeholders from throughout the county who concern themselves with veteran and veteran family issues and the Texas program was well received. The Texas model continues to be adopted by numerous other states. The Veterans Initiative is working with the ABA to hold a summit on veterans advocacy. The summit will address the multiple issues faced by veterans and their families. An additional project update by Mr. Tottenham focused on a partnership with the Council on Mental Health and Mental Retardation to network with the Veterans Initiative lawyer group and provide resources to veterans in need of mental health services. The mental health professionals offer pro bono assistance to veterans in need.

Stewart Gagnon, Partner, Fulbright and Jaworski, LLP, Houston, reported on his efforts to help the courts and the Bar understand the program that they are increasing facing which involves special immigrant juveniles. This group includes those youth who have been abandoned in the United States or arrived as refugees and become involved in the family court system as a means to access the

immigration system. Mr. Gagnon commented on a training program in Harris County with the Associate Judges and he hopes to see the training expanded to other locales with the intent to educate lawyers and judges about this evolving issue affecting the family courts. Mr. Gagnon is also working with two law schools in the Houston area to establish a clinic to provide assistance to third parties who are involved in the CPS process. As he noted at the January 11, 2013 Commission meeting, many of our courts are seeing parties who are relatives of children, but not parents, and who have children placed with them by CPS. CPS then informs them to locate counsel on their own to assist them with the custodial issues involved with the child placement. Mr. Gagnon would like to see the law schools provide some voluntary assistance to these relatives so they can participate in the hearings with representation.

Mr. Tottenham took the opportunity to acknowledge Mr. Gagnon's receipt of an award from the Access to Justice Commission that was given in recognition of his pro bono service. Justice O'Neill added that the award is a lifetime achievement award. Justice Guzman joined in the congratulations to Mr. Gagnon.

G. Allan Van Fleet, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery L.L.P., Houston, expressed his appreciation to be a member of the Children's Commission.

Vicki Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer, Texas CASA, Inc., updated the members on activities since the January 2013 meeting. She directed members to look at the 2012 Annual Report for Texas CASA and a calendar produced by Texas CASA. Ms. Spriggs noted that CIP grant funding has enabled training that will take place in June 2013. These regional, two-day trainings will be presented around the state and will involve stakeholders that include CPS workers, attorneys, judges, foster parents, therapists, CASA staff and volunteers. The primary focus will be facilitating trauma-based education of families and meeting the special needs of children in RTC settings. Information on the dates for the training throughout the regions in Texas can be obtained from Ms. Spriggs. Texas CASA is mindful of presenting all training with an awareness of disproportionality in the systems that impact foster children. Texas CASA remains current with the Casey curriculum of 'Knowing Who You Are'. Other training initiatives for Texas CASA will be on trauma informed care and quality advocacy. Texas CASA will hold a focus group later this month in central Texas that will target strategies around the Hispanic recruitment campaign.

Hon. Cheryl Shannon, Judge, 305th District Court, Dallas, provided an update to the Commission on the continuing work in Dallas on the cross over youth program model. Meetings have occurred with the Department and have resulted in creation of joint plans and identification of specific persons within agencies who are resource contacts for issues involved with cross over youth. There is activity around a proposal from Texas Lawyers for Children to have specific lawyers to partner with permanent guardians and serve as educational advocates. Training for the educational advocates for children in permanent care is planned. Judge Shannon commented on her participation this week in a training for the Department's permanency round table. At a preliminary meeting, Judge Shannon

provided her input on issues she felt appropriate to consider as the launch of the permanency round table model progresses.

Hon. Robin Sage, Senior District Judge and Jurist in Residence, noted that she will be on the agenda later this afternoon and chose to defer her report at this time.

Judge Karin Bonicoro, Associate Judge, Child Protection Court of Central Texas, New Braunfels, provided an update on a lecture opportunity she gave to students at Texas State. She spoke on Cluster Courts and was able to answer many of the student's questions with regard to the system and the courts. Judge Bonicoro commented on her participation in the Trial Skills training presented by the Commission. The first faculty training took place in April in Austin. Judge Bonicoro has started to encourage a practice in her court for older youth. Although PAL and other services are available for youth age 16, there are frequent behavior issues among this population that result from their frustration at their placements. Although this is not a sizeable population, their issues are troublesome and she is seeking a way to provide more successful outcomes and resolutions. In her court, she will ask these youth to formulate what their own plan is and articulate what their alternative is to their current placement. Once the youth provides the information, Judge Bonicoro will work with the youth to identify the steps that will help them attain their goal. Judge Bonicoro noted that it is also important to manage the youth expectations with regard to the amount of time it will take to accomplish their goal. The intent is to get the youth invested in the process and realize that they have support. She is unsure at this point what the outcome will be, but the intent is to change from an entirely reactive situation to a managed one.

Hon. Michael Massengale, Justice, 1st Court of Appeals, noted that the first session of the faculty component of the Trial Skills training was very enlightening. His update on the Trial Skills training will occur later in the meeting.

Justice Massengale provided a follow up from the January 11, 2013 Children's Commission meeting on the efforts to get additional judicial resources in Harris County. He sees some encouragement coming from the legislature but details are yet to be determined. Justice Massengale added his voice to those congratulating the Children's Commission on the accomplishments of the past five years and noted that the success is attributable to the leadership of Justice O'Neill and Justice Guzman. He acknowledged the staff and the professionalism and experience that allows us to accomplish the goals of the Commission.

Hon. Dean Rucker, Presiding Judge, 7th Region, 318th District Court, Midland, concurred with Justice Massengale's acknowledgement of the Children's Commission staff. He then provided a report on the Cluster Courts, the child protection associate judges. The program is now over fifteen years old and has been notably successful. In order to ensure continued success, an evaluation of the program is in progress. The nine Presiding Regional Judges, of which, Judge Rucker is one, began a review process in January 2013. There is consensus that reaffirmed the idea that the program is designed to serve the rural areas where elected trial judges encounter significant geographical distances. The process to

review the program will be lengthy. In addition to the constraints caused by physical distances, a factor that must be considered include the significant growth of caseloads. Many of the associate judges have caseloads that far exceed reasonable capacity. The Presiding Regional Judges are looking at ways to address the issues and the work is continuing. Locally in Judge Rucker's area of Midland and the Permian Basin, the oil economy is currently very strong. However, as a consequence, there are difficulties with meeting the associated infrastructure requirements. Although incoming revenues are high, there are problems with adequate affordable housing, essential services delivery, that result in an immediate effect on child welfare. The Department is experiencing high turnover of workers and difficulty with recruitment of workers. Judge Specia has acknowledged the issues and recently conducted a listening tour for the Department workforce. Judge Specia is committed to an ongoing effort to address the issues in Midland. Lastly, Judge Rucker commented on the progress of the Children's Commission on the occasion of it's fifth year. Judge Rucker noted that his involvement extends over the past eight years during his collaboration with Justice O'Neill and Judge Specia in the development of the Commission. The Children's Commission has demonstrated how collaboration along with development of judicial leadership can accomplish remarkable results.

Hon. John Specia, Commissioner, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin, noted that there was an incident involving an assault on a caseworker in Harris County earlier in the week during a routine visit to the home. Judge Specia asked members to be mindful of the dangers inherent in doing the necessary field work as well as the risks associated with others working in the area of child protection. Judge Specia recalled the early days of the Children's Commission and complimented the successful transition of leadership from Justice O'Neill to Justice Guzman.

Hon. Darlene Byrne, Judge, 126th District Court, Austin, noted that during 2012, over 2,000 children appeared in the Travis County child welfare court. At the end of April 2013, there were 53 new lawsuits. There are two judges who handle these cases. Judge Byrne noted that the severity of the cases she is seeing causes her great concern. Although the courts struggle with limited resources, the Children's Commission has brought great vision to the work. Judge Byrne reminded members about the national conference of the NCJFCJ that will take place in Seattle from July 14-18, 2013. Judge Byrne plans to attend with Ms. Helen Gaebler, a member of the Children's Commission Collaborative Council and Ms. Sheila Brown, CPS and members of the local CASA group. The Model Court team will be in Seattle prior to the conference to meet with the King County court about some issues and initiatives that are underway that pertain to education. Information on parenting partners and parenting coaching services will be obtained from King County. Judge Byrne hopes to return to her jurisdiction and implement education collaboration between the Department, the court and the education system and build resources for the parents that will involve one-on-one peer-coaching and mentoring. Judge Byrne will report back at the September Children's Commission meeting. Judge Byrne provided an update on the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and the Third Judicial Symposium. The Symposium, held on April 25, 2013 in Livingston, Texas, hosted Justice Guzman, who provided keynote remarks as well as Ms. Tina Amberboy and Ms. Kristi Taylor. Judge Byrne recalled that several years ago, NCJFCJ began to emphasize ICWA, although only 1% of Texas' children in foster care are affected. Judge Bryne has benefitted from learning about ICWA and working with representatives of the tribal nations and

has learned how to become part of the solution with regard to issues involving ICWA. Judge Byrne noted the progress with the tribe that has resulted over the past 3 years and attributes the momentum to the collaborative emphasis stressed by the Children's Commission.

Justice Guzman acknowledged the arrival of Ms. Sharayah Stiggers.

Ms. Stiggers provided brief introductory comments about her work as a parent liaison in Region 8, Bexar County.

BREAK: Justice Guzman recessed the meeting at 10:37 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:42 a.m.

Justice Guzman opened the floor to Ms. Amberboy who provided brief introductory comments about the Indian Child Welfare Act video, produced by the National Council in partnership with the State of Mississippi Court Improvement Program. Judge Byrne noted that once her learning was underway about ICWA, she began asking questions from the bench about applicability and discovered that the numbers of ICWA qualifiers began to increase.

The six-minute video can be accessed at:

http://courts.ms.gov/trialcourts/youthcourt/webhelp/videos/yc_process/icwa/index.html

Children's Commission staff are available to assist those interested in viewing the video.

Following the conclusion of the video, Judge Byrne remarked that in the past year, there were 4-5 ICWA hearings in Travis County. Each time a child is found to be eligible for the ICWA protections and the child's tribal nation becomes involved, she sees impressive resources brought forth to ensure that the child can reconnect with their heritage and culture. Judge Byrne noted that in these cases, when the tribal nation representatives are at the table early on in the proceeding, the outcome can be quite positive. She encouraged judges to ask the ICWA questions in their courts.

Ms. James commented that Judge Thorne attended a meeting of the Center for Study of Social Policy and Mississippi is looking at improvement outcomes for all children of color in child welfare. A representative from the national office on Indian Child Welfare was present and participated. Resource information is likely to become available as we go forward to decide if Texas wants to replicate the work. The work recognizes the disproportionality and disparate outcomes for American Indian children.

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION, Ms. Tina Amberboy, Executive Director

Ms. Amberboy noted that many of the Commissioners in attendance at the meeting today will report on many of the topics contained in the Report to the Commission. Ms. Amberboy acknowledged the support of the Supreme Court for the Children's Commission over the past six years. She provided an update on the CIP grant funding. The federal funds that support the projects and operations of the Children's Commission have been affected by the sequestration. There is a 6% reduction in the funding appropriation for FY2013 and may be reduced further for FY2014. The FY2013 funds have not been deposited but are expected soon. Ms. Roper is in Washington D.C. today attending the 2013 State CIP Grantee Meeting. The distribution for FY2014, normally disbursed in the fall of 2013, may be delayed

until April 2014. The fund distribution cycle has been delayed by approximately six months, meaning that the CIP projects, programs and operations funding has utilized funds in reserve. The expenditures of the reserve funds will not be recovered because of the ongoing delay in the disbursement cycle. Ms. Amberboy will meet with Justice Guzman and the Children's Commission Executive Committee later this month to discuss planning and ongoing strategies for the Children's Commission projects. Ms. Amberboy provided an update on the work initiated following the parent leadership forum on September 11-12, 2012. An item on the action plan developed after the forum was to improve family visitation policies. Studies indicate that when families can remain connected and bonded through visitation, the chances for reunification and return to the home are improved. In March 2013, the Children's Commission, in collaboration with DFPS, reviewed family visitation policies at a Family Visitation Round Table. A review of internal policies was already underway within the Department. During the Round Table, discussion addressed ways to revamp the visitation policies, with a final goal to develop a plan and model that would produce a written visitation plan or guidelines that would be developed in collaboration with families and promote frequent and regular visitation in a home-like setting and include appropriate supervision. Ms. Amberboy acknowledged that there are barriers that include funds, personnel and transportation. The visitation guidelines are intended as a first step in making improvement to the visitation model. The Family Visitation Round Table report is expected to be complete by mid-summer 2013. In October 2012, the Children's Commission met with a number of jurisdictions in Rockwall, Texas for the first Permanency Summit. The summit provided the opportunity for judges, CPS supervisors, caseworkers, district or county attorney, parent and/or child attorney to meet as teams and assess how courts could provide leadership and drive permanency outcomes, particularly for children in long-term care. Each jurisdiction team developed an action plan. All were asked to return to their jurisdictions and devise a method to involve youth in their court hearings, which include how to get the youth to court. Three jurisdictions requested a video to present to foster youth that provides information about what happens when they go to court and why attendance at their hearing is important to them. The Texas Center for the Judiciary and Texas Appleseed, partners in the Permanency Summit, began work to produce a video for foster youth that would de-mystify appearing in court allow them to feel comfortable and prepared. Ms. Amberboy presented the video to the members and noted that the final version is near completion. Once final, the Children's Commission will work with the Department to post to various websites. Any members interested in obtaining a link or CD of the video can do so by contacting the Children's Commission.

RECESS FOR LUNCH Justice Guzman adjourned at 11:20 a.m. for lunch. The meeting reconvened at 12:19 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND VOTING MATTERS

Data/Technology Committee Report

Ms. Vicki Spriggs acknowledged the members of the CIP Data/Technology Committee. The committee met by conference call on April 9, 2013. Ms. Spriggs directed members to the meeting minutes in Tab 4 of the meeting notebook that contain detailed status information about the Data/Technology Committee projects. Ms. Spriggs commented on the Videoconferencing project, which allows local courts presiding over child protection cases to have children participate in their placement or

permanency hearings through the videoconference interface. As of April 1, 2013, forty-five RTCs are able to link to the videoconferencing service. Six courts currently use the technology. During FY2012, fifty-six hearings took place. OCA is working to add more court participants during FY2013. Ms. Spriggs commented on the Notice and Engagement project, that involves non-confidential case data, to build a system that will allow notice of statutory hearings and other court-related events that require notice to parties and interested persons can be provided electronically. The proposed pilot region for the project is Region 8 – San Antonio. The pilot is schedule to launch with CPCMS courts by early June. Another project, the attorney billing system, continues with development. OCA has built the project plan and identified a common set of data fields to allow development of a common billing document/form. Work on this project is deferred at this time to focus time and effort on the Notice and Engagement project requirements. There are no new activities with regard to the CPCMS at this time other than regular maintenance and efforts linked to the Notice and Engagement project noted above.

Basic Committee Report

Judge Hellums provided an update on the activities of the CIP Basic Committee. The committee met via conference call on April 2, 2013. The meeting minutes in Tab 4 of the meeting notebook contain detailed status information about the Basic Committee projects. Judge Hellums commented on the Child Protection Law Judicial Bench Book and the efforts by OCA to convert the links to Texas Legislature Online (TLO) site and the anticipated completion of the conversion is October 2013. Copies of the Bench Book continue to be available online through OCA. A printed version will be provided upon request to the Children’s Commission. The Bench Book was distributed to new judges at the January 2013 training. Judges who will attend the Child Welfare Judicial Conference this May will also receive a copy of the Bench Book. Judge Hellums turned the update over to Ms. Amberboy who provided status on the two Round Tables presented by the Children’s Commission. One was on Psychotropic Medications in July 2012. The final report from that Round Table was issued and Judge Guariglia will provide a more detailed update later in this meeting on the output of the report and the subsequent legislation filed as a result of the highly collaborative efforts of the Psychoactive Medications Workgroup. Ms. Amberboy reminded members that the update on the Family Visitation Round Table occurred earlier during this meeting. Judge Hellums commented on the status of the Legal Representation Study. Judge Rucker noted that the workgroup will commence meetings in September 2013.

Judge Robin Sage provided an update on her work as Jurist in Residence. She is presently working on several regular, ongoing projects. These include the Trial Skills Training project, the CPS Judges Conference, scheduled in May, and the second Permanency Summit. In addition, Judge Sage is working with Texas Appleseed and Ms. Tara Grigg Garlinghouse on a project that will have her traveling throughout the state to observe at least ten different courts and 100 different cases and assess what is occurring in the regular CPS hearings. An example of the elements will be to identify out of the 100 hearings, how many addressed educational issues, how many address psychotropic medications, etc., and measure what is taking place, judicially, across the state. There will also be some measures developed with guidance from the ABA and the federal CIP programs that will include surveys of parents and of the lawyers involved in these cases. The survey information will be compared to Judge Rucker’s Legal Representation Study work. The level of satisfaction of parents with regard to their legal representation will be assessed as well as the quality of the representation. Information will be collected from the lawyers in the cases to determine what they believe their judges expect from them and whether they are in compliance with the requirement to visit with their client prior to each

hearing, etc. The project will provide the opportunity to obtain objective measurements of these important elements. Sitting judges will receive a letter with a request to schedule a time for the observation. The data will be compiled with other statewide data to generate an overall statewide perspective.

Judge Hellums then reported on the Judicial Disproportionality Workgroup (JDW) and the Tribal Initiatives. The JDW met in San Antonio on March 25, 2013 prior to the Implicit Bias Conference. The efforts of the workgroup continue the goal of expanding the awareness of disproportionality among members of the judiciary and systems. Planning is underway on how best to approach the new judges schools, the Advanced Family Law Conference and the annual judges conference. The JDW also continues to build relationships with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas as well as the Kickapoo Tribes. The Implicit Bias Conference included a presentation by Dr. Kate Ratliff that included information on her research with Project Implicit.

Judge Hellums noted that during the CIP Basic Committee conference call on April 2, 2013, the committee reviewed the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas grant request in the amount of \$3,000.00 from FY2013 funds to cover speaker travel fees and supplies for the 3rd Annual Judicial Symposium that took place on April 25, 2013 in Livingston, Texas. The CIP Basic Committee members voted unanimously on April 2, 2013 to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$3,000.00.

ACTION: Justice Guzman asked for any additional discussion pertaining to the request by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas for FY2013 CIP Basic funds in the amount of \$3,000.00. The members voted to unanimously ratify the request by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas for FY2013 CIP Basic funds in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Justice Guzman introduced Judge Diane Guariglia and requested that she provide an update on the Psychotropic Medications Round Table and HB915. Judge Guariglia is the Co-Chair of the Psychoactive Medications Workgroup. She noted that Dr. James Rogers, Medical Director of DFPS serves as the Chair of the group. She provided an overview of the workgroup accomplishments over the past two years. Judge Guariglia expressed her appreciation to Ms. Kristi Taylor for the work and support on behalf of the efforts. In March 2011, Judge Guariglia contacted Justice Guzman regarding the issue of overmedication of psychotropic medications for foster children. Her past experiences in pharmaceutical law informed her concern. The call to Justice Guzman led to her involvement with the workgroup. The collaboration achieved by the members of the workgroup is significant given the diverse positions regarding the issue. Early on, Judge Guariglia's goal was education of the judiciary as well as the attorneys ad-litem involved in CPS cases and provide information to them in order that the appropriate questions could be asked in court. Judge Guariglia worked to encourage judges and AALs to obtain information about psychotropic medications, their classifications, dosage, side-effects and what reporting actions were available to assist in cases where a child had fallen through the cracks in the system. The process to initiate a Psychotropic Medications Utilization Review (PMUR) needed to be provided to judges and AALs. In her court, she ensures that the AALs possess the appropriate reference charts. The collaborative efforts of the Children's Commission, Texas CASA, DFPS, judges and attorneys, child and adolescent psychiatrists and pediatricians, STAR Health and Cenpatico staff have lead to significant accomplishments in the area. Judge Guariglia comments on HB915, currently pending in the Texas Senate. Nearly nine bills were filed during this session that concerned psychotropic medications. HB915 consolidated the best elements of the various bills that were filed as well as capturing many of the suggestions contained in the Children's Commission 'Psychotropic Medication and Texas Foster Care' report published on July 6, 2012. If enacted, HB915 will change the requirements for prescribing a psychotropic medication to a foster child and will modify the legal and

medical oversight of a foster child's medical care. For the first time, there will be a statutory definition of psychotropic medication as well as a definition of informed consent. The bill will require the prescribing physician to conduct 90-day med checks to determine whether or not the medication is helping the child and whether continued use is appropriate. The courts will be required to review the child's medical care at every permanency hearing and placement review hearing. This practice has been underway for nearly two years in Judge Guariglia's court in the 245th Family Court in Houston. The practice ensures that the court reviews the child's medical care and ensures that the child is provided the opportunity to comment on the medical care being provided and determine whether other age-appropriate psychosocial therapies and non-pharmacological interventions are being attempted. For adolescent age children, HB915 will require the ad litem to advise the child of their right to request that the judge allow them to be their own medical consentor with regard to psychoactive medications. The bill will require the Department to train individuals to become authorized consentors on informed consent for psychotropic medications. Judge Guariglia expressed personal appreciation to Texas CASA, One Voice Texas, the Parent Guidance Center, DFPS and the numerous other stakeholders who provided input on the bill.

Training Committee Report

Judge Camile DuBose was unable to present the update at today's meeting because of a jury trial. Ms. Tina Amberboy and Ms. Milbrey Raney provided the project updates to the Children's Commissioners. Ms. Raney commented on the work that pertains to training efforts for attorneys in child welfare. There are several focal points in the Training Committee. She commented on the status of a major project since the January 11, 2013 meeting, the training of faculty through the Trial Skills Workgroup as part of the Trial Skills training efforts. Justice Massengale will provide detailed information on the project following the Training Committee update. The committee has provided support to the Trial Skills Workgroup. An additional focal point of the Training Committee is to educate attorneys through child protection webinars. This is an ongoing effort by the commission to provide accessible, widespread and affordable CLE opportunities on child protection issues to all attorneys in the courtroom. In May 2012, a series of discussions among attorneys were videotaped at the State Bar of Texas. Three separate parts have been produced, called Best Practice Topics and are available online. Work has been ongoing with the State Bar of Texas to create a new category of CLE so that efforts to build the mentor series are easily accessed online. The category created is called CPS. On the State Bar website, under online classroom, under the CPS link, there are currently seven CLEs. Out of the seven, five are supported or coordinated by the commission. A taping is scheduled for a new webinar, "Transition Your CPS Case From Trial to Appeal". This webinar is in response to a request from Judge Darlene Byrne to place more online information and make it available quickly to attorneys in CPS cases that gives them information about preparing their case for appeal in trial and the steps that the attorney must take afterwards if the case does go to appeal. Another effort in the Training Committee for attorney education is scholarships. At present, the announcement to the 21 qualified attorneys that they have received a scholarship for 1 of the 2 ABA Conferences in July 2013 in Washington DC is deferred pending finalization of the FY2013 CIP fund distribution. The ABA is hosting these annual conferences with one for parent and one for child attorneys. The scholarship will cover the attorney conference registration and three nights lodging at the conference hotel. The committee plans to offer limited scholarships to the Child Abuse and Neglect track at the Advanced Family Law Seminar in San Antonio this summer. The committee plans to offer scholarships to the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia this August. Ms. Raney reiterated that all scholarship availability is contingent on receipt of federal funding. The Commission emphasizes that attorney training for those in the child protection courtroom be of the highest caliber possible and the scholarship opportunities are a means to accomplish this goal. Ms. Raney noted that Judge Hellums and Ms. Rutland previously mentioned the CIP funding that will support the KITS

Conference and the Child Abuse and Neglect Committee's one-day CLE that will take place on June 19, 2013. The committee continues to work with NACC to complete the grant application for the reimbursement of the certification exam fee. The total number of exam fees eligible for reimbursement is subject to reevaluation by the commission as a result of the sequestration impact on the CIP funding stream. The issue of prioritizing expenditures will be discussed in the near future by the Training Committee members. Ms. Raney noted that during her most recent conversation with her contact at NACC regarding the child welfare specialization exam, she learned that Texas has more child welfare law specialist judges than any other state. Currently there are thirty-three applicants for the exam, meaning they have passed the qualifications and are preparing to sit for the exam. An additional update will be provided at the September 27, 2013 meeting of the Children's Commission.

Ms. Amberboy provided an update on judicial education. Judge Hofmann will provide a detailed update later during the meeting on the Education Summit held last February 2013 in Austin. In July 2013, twenty-five judges will receive CIP scholarships from the Texas Center for the Judiciary to attend the NCJFCJ Annual Conference that will be held in Seattle, Washington. On May 21-23, the annual Child Welfare Judges Conference (CWJC) will be held at the La Cantera Resort in San Antonio, Texas. Eighty-one judges are registered to attend this conference. DFPS Commissioner Judge John Specia will attend as well as the CPS Assistant Commissioner, Ms. Audrey Deckinga. During the CWJC, additional meetings will be held with the Child Protection Court Judges, as well as the judges who attended the inaugural Permanency Summit last October in Rockwall, Texas. New CPS judges will have the opportunity to attend a lunch meeting and hear from Judge Rucker and Judge Sage and receive information on the top ten things a new judge should know. Agenda preparation is underway for the second Permanency Summit that is scheduled for October 2013. Although similar to the initial summit, invitees from different jurisdictions will be asked to attend the second summit and work on practices that will move children into permanent homes.

TRIAL SKILLS TRAINING, Justice Michael Massengale

Justice Massengale reported on the status of the Trial Skills Project. The project involves preparation and planning of a trial skills training program that will be made available to lawyers who represent all parties involved in CPS cases. The intent is to provide a NITA-style trial skills training program that will focus on basic but essential courtroom trial skills and will involve actual practice of these skills in the way that the NITA trial training program does. A preliminary challenge in getting ready to start to present this type of training is the acquisition and creation of a case scenario that is the basis for the skills training that will be delivered. Justice Massengale reported that there is substantial forward progress on the case scenario. A copy of the scenario is available on request. He commented that the scenario, from his viewpoint, is like a mini version of what he sees as an appellate record. It also includes documents that are representative case filings and documents that could ultimately become exhibits in a trial. Witness summaries and other general information necessary for participants in the skills training to understand the fact scenario that is being used for the training exercises are also included. The electronic forms were presented to the members on a projected screen and can be provided on request to the Children's Commission. Justice Massengale reviewed a pleading, the original petition in this case and a page from a family service plan. The materials developed are very detailed and involve 3 children, 1 mother and 3 different fathers as well as interesting factual features. These are designed to facilitate either discussions about different things that can arise during trial of a CPS case or the planning groups' anticipation that additional types of training exercises can be based on the same scenario. Justice Massengale discussed the level of detail and what the group anticipates to be able to do in the skills training through a review of the sample medical reports. The example report depicts some bruising on the child in this scenario when taking into custody. This is significant

in a couple of respects, one being that participants will practice things like moving exhibits into evidence. The exhibits are real-life, quality ones that will be part of the training. The planning group anticipates that they will have available people who are training to be medical practitioners in this area and serve as witnesses in the training. Dr. Sandeep Narang is a member of the Trial Skills Workgroup and is helping to provide these materials and also supply the witnesses who will participate in the training. The initial faculty training meeting was held in Austin, Texas on April 11-12, 2013. The group had the opportunity to work through the materials, and identify areas that can be improved or expanded. Justice Massengale noted that the materials are currently still in the advanced drafting stage. He reviewed a component of the case materials, a textual summary of something that happened in the life of the case that would assist the lawyers' preparation. The group is also looking for opportunities to include practice tips, pointers and best practice suggestions. While the materials are not intended on their own to be any kind of practitioners manual or a forms guide, per se, the design continues with the thought in mind that they can be used for instruction beyond merely teaching trial skills and that the documents included in these materials may provoke ideas about how to model pleadings and court filings. After the first day of the faculty training, the next day included a full day session with Professor Peter Hoffman. This day focused entirely on training of the faculty and providing them with the tools required to be able to teach trial skills to lawyers. The session was highly productive and participants commented favorably about Professor Hoffman. For those who have had no prior NITA training, the basic idea of this training is that the instructor will teach a skill giving some lecture-style instruction and some demonstration style content. The most valuable aspect of this is that the participants then have the opportunity to practice the skill in front of the instructors and receive immediate critique and feedback of their performance. Participants then take a video recording of their own performance and review it in a separate room with a different instructor. The person being trained then has the opportunity to see themselves and obtain additional critique. Professor Hoffman delivered training on how to think about performing the critiques and time was allocated for practice. Ms. Leslie Strauch provided some students who had prepared on the case scenario and were able to do some direct and cross examination, which then the faculty practiced critiquing, finishing with Professor Hoffman's critique of the faculty who critiqued the students. The exercise provided an opportunity to move ahead and provided a realistic adjustment to the timeframe for training delivery. The faculty will need some additional time to refine the content of their curriculum and also some additional time to practice. The logistics to conduct this type of training are challenging since it involves movement of people from place to place and getting everyone sited appropriately for the practice opportunities. Facilities are already secured for late June and although initially intended for the first training program, the decision is to assemble the trial skills faculty for an additional dry run of how the program will run and additional planning and practice time. This follow on faculty meeting will precede the October 25-26, 2013 pilot training date. Adjustments will be made as to the number of skills that can be taught in a 2 day timeframe. The work with Professor Hoffman has provoked the workgroup to reconsider how much we can accomplish in 2 days. Justice Massengale expects that this will lead to further planning about other kinds of training or more specialized training for other types of skills. Justice Massengale recognized Ms. Raney for her efforts in shepherding the case materials as well as putting on the live program with the faculty in April. He also expressed appreciation to Justice Guzman for delivering remarks to the faculty. Justice Massengale acknowledged the other Children's Commission staff whose efforts helped to advance the training. Ms. Raney commented that there are twelve faculty members. Three are judges, Sandeep Narang, J.D., M.D., parent and child attorneys as well as two district attorneys. In addition, there is an appeals attorney for DFPS. The faculty is very well-rounded that will ensure that people who come to the training find it relevant to their area of practice. This training is intended to be thoughtful and uniform and relevant to those who come to participate in it. Information will be presented that will be helpful

not just in general trial skills but also from the perspective of the faculty members. A list of faculty is available on request to the Children's Commission.

Justice Guzman expressed her appreciation to Justice Massengale for the presentation content and commented on the depth of the training.

Ms. Rodriguez commented that the model is very sound and could be shared with other jurisdictions and she believes Casey Family Programs will be interested in continuing to follow the training development. Judge Hellums noted that there is a Family Trial Institute that will take place at South Texas College of Law in Houston in mid-June. They utilize similar procedures such as the videotaping and critiquing. Justice Guzman noted that the course is quite intensive.

EDUCATION SUMMIT AND TEXAS BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE, Judge Rob Hofmann

Judge Hofmann provided a presentation on the Education Summit held in Austin, Texas in February 2013. Over 200 people were in attendance. Justice Guzman and DFPS Commissioner Judge John Specia participated, as well as the TEA Commissioner Michael Williams. Judge Hofmann expressed his appreciation to Judge Macías for her participation as well. Of the 200 attendees at the Education Summit, 29 were judges. One-fourth of the participants were from the education field. Participants provided positive feedback and the evaluations received were quite favorable. School districts and courts across the state are giving extra emphasis to the education issues that pertain to foster youth discussed during the summit. Following the summit, the TEA Commissioner met with the foster care and education policy coordinator and initiated a process for them to assist with improving education outcomes for youth in foster care. During the summit, six interdisciplinary breakout sessions were held and the work they did helped the Texas Blue Print Task Force focus on how to move ahead with the implementation process. Judge Hofmann noted that the commission's foster care and education website is now live. He then moved to providing information about the work of the Texas Blue Print Implementation Task Force and implementation of the Blue Print recommendations. The Task Force was created by court order of the Supreme Court of Texas in December 2012. Following the conclusion of the Education Summit, the efforts of the Task Force are focused on how to move forward and implement the 150 recommendations found in the Texas Blue Print. During a meeting of the group in April 2013, with input from Casey Family Programs and the ABA, the focus was on prioritizing and organizing the process in order to move forward. Since April 2013, Ms. Roper created the initial draft of the implementation plan, and can be accessed behind Tab 5 in the meeting notebook prepared for this meeting. During the April meeting of the Task Force, three initial work groups were created. The scope of these workgroups will not encompass all 150 recommendations but will focus on those emphasized during the Task Force planning process. The three workgroups are the Data Workgroup, chaired by a representative from TEA, the Training Workgroup, chaired by a representative from Casey Family Program and a School Stability Workgroup, chaired by Joy Baskin of TASB and Jenny Hinson from DFPS. The accomplishments of the Task Force includes continuation of cross-disciplinary training, sustaining the ongoing working relationship with DFPS and a revision to court reports to include more information on education. There have been requests to the commission for help with legislative matters. Ms. Roper has been working diligently to assist the legislature with all requests for legislative assistance. Upcoming activities include maintenance and updates to the education website,

development of tools for advocates and ongoing collaboration between courts and education stakeholders. Judge Hofmann and Ms. Roper will speak at the Child Welfare Judicial Conference in San Antonio on May 21-23, 2013. There is an additional new member of the Texas Blue Print Implementation Task Force. Judge Hofmann introduced Mr. Ian Spechler, Disability Rights Texas. This summer, Judge Hofmann, Mr. Spechler and Ms. Lori Duke, Clinical Professor, Children's Rights Clinic at UT Austin will speak at the ABA Child Representation Conference in Washington D.C. In addition, they will present, along with Ms. Jenny Hinson, CPS Division Administrator for Permanency, DFPS, at the NACC Conference in August 2013.

Ms. Rodriguez provided comments about a national summit, the Attach Conference held throughout the country. The next one is scheduled for September 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. The conference will feature a track dedicated to education and foster youth as a result of input from people from the education field who attended the Education Summit in February. Ms. Rodriguez will provide contact information about the Attach Conference to Judge Hofmann.

Judge Macías commented that one of our concerns is sustainability. There were concerns at the beginning of the Education Committee that the report would be deliberate but might not have life. What she has heard today confirms for her that there is continuation.

Justice Guzman acknowledged the founding work of Judge Macías and the Education Committee.

Legislative Update, Judge Dean Rucker

Judge Rucker reported on bills that affect judicial processes. He noted the report provided earlier by Judge Guariglia on HB915 that pertains to psychotropic medications. He then commented on SB1759. The bill was a result of components of the Legal Representation Study published by the Children's Commission. Senator Carlos Uresti filed the bill. The bill was passed out of the Senate and is now referred to the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee. The bill makes several amendments, primarily to Chapter 107 and 262-263 of the Family Code. The highlights include imposition of an ongoing CLE requirement of 3 hours of training each year in child protection law for attorneys who represent children and parents. Presently the requirement is 3 hours unless the local jurisdiction has some type of continuing program. The bill will clarify that once an AAL appointed to represent an alleged father has completed his or her duties, the court shall dismiss that attorney from the responsibility of the case. The bill will clarify that an indigent parent who is opposed to the suit whether for termination or conservatorship is entitled to representation if they are indigent. The duties of the attorney appointed to represent a parent cited by publication are spelled out and provides for the dismissal of the AAL once their duties have been satisfied. This is a due diligence attorney. When the parents are served by publication since no one can provide information to contact them, the attorney performs the due diligence contact work to locate the parent and then makes a report to the court. In the event the parent cannot be located, the attorney can then be discharged. If the parent is located, the process for determining the parent indigent status is conducted and whether they are entitled to the appointment of counsel. The bill requires any emergency order authorizing possession of the child to state in boldface, capital letters that the parent has the right to be represented by an attorney if indigent. It will allow for an extension of time to hold the adversary hearings so that the court can advise the parent who appears in opposition to the suit that they have the right to an attorney. It allows an additional 7 days to prepare for trial if the attorney is appointed

at that time and allows for an extension of the ex parte order in effect for that period. Finally, the bill required the court to advise each parent not represented by a lawyer at each status hearing and subsequent permanency hearing of their right to be represented by an attorney. This ensures that this will be an ongoing process.

Judge Rucker provided an update on SB886. This extended jurisdiction legislation was also filed by Senator Uresti. It has passed the Senate and was referred to the House Human Services Committee. The bill is primarily a cleanup and clarification bill. Clarification of the definition of extended foster care is address and the term trial independence. The bill is scheduled for a hearing next week.

Judge Rucker provided an update on HB165, filed by Representative Dan Flynn. The bill deals with the standing of foster parents to intervene in cases and will reduce the standing requirement for foster parents to intervene from 12 months to 6 months under some limited circumstances.

Judge Rucker provided an update on an education bill, SB1404, filed by Senators Uresti and Patrick. The bill has passed out of the Senate and referred to the House Public Education Committee. The bill provides for excused absences for court ordered appointments. It also requires the Texas Education Agency to create policies for awarding of partial credit to students in foster care who must move during mid-grading period. The bill allows high school students to graduate from a previous high school if not eligible to graduate due to the new school districts requirements. It then requires schools to provide high school students in care obtain information about the tuition and fee waiver opportunity for which they may qualify.

Judge Rucker acknowledged Judge Darlene Byrne and her diligent work on the family visitation bill as well as some legislation involving permanency issues. Judge Rucker considers Judge Byrne to be a trusted resource to the Commission, its partners, our collaborative partners and also to the legislature. Judge Rucker noted that this is the third legislative session that the Children's Commission has been involved in and noted the progression of perception by the legislators over that time. The Commission is now viewed as a source by the legislature for resource materials, resource papers and guidance.

Judge Bonicoro inquired about HB165 and commented that she believes it will create some significant problems in TMC cases where parents are working to reunify with their children. The bill has the potential to create some unintended conflict in the case that may undermine the parents. The children may end up being influenced by their placement because of the foster parents agenda in the case.

Judge Rucker noted that the Commission does not have a position on the legislation but is serving as a resource to the legislature on the matter. The effects of those types of changes have been shared with the legislature. The committee substitute bill is watered down from the original version that was filed.

Justice Guzman commented that a copy of the resource paper that highlights each side of the matter can be provided by the Children's Commission on request.

DFPS Update, Commissioner, Judge John Specia, Ms. Audrey Deckinga, CPS Assistant Commissioner
Judge Specia remarked on the legislature and the 24 days remaining. SB1 is the one bill that is constitutionally required to pass. The bill contains funding for everything. Judge Specia reported that he has had nearly uniform support for the Department's initiatives in the legislature. Both the Senate Appropriations and the House Appropriations have been supportive. The Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House as well as their staffs have been supportive. The Chair of both the Senate and the House have been supportive. Initiatives were set around the priorities of caseload growth to ensure a solid foundation, strategies to improve staff retention and the focus on child safety and decrease delinquencies (cases open >60 days) and ensure that illegal child care operations were addressed as

well as infrastructure issues and improvements to the DFPS computer system. Use of kinship care was included and increased prevention services. The legislature has granted much of what the Department requested. In order to keep up with current caseloads associated with the population growth in Texas, the Legislative Budget Board appropriated \$41 million. The House approved 360 full time equivalent (FTE) positions tied to reducing delinquencies (cases open >60 days) to 15%; the Senate funded 459 FTEs to reduce delinquencies to 10%. At the beginning of the year, the tolerance level was 30% and with the additional FTEs the expectation is that the rate will decrease significantly. The budget for improvements to the computer infrastructure was increased by an additional \$5 million by Senator Williams in response to input from Texas CASA's request for external access capability for child welfare partners and stakeholders who legally have the right to the information. A number of items received funds for the career ladder at the Department. An across the board pay raise for both workers and supervisors is anticipated. The House increased the amount available for relative caregivers. There is a substantial increase in the amount allocated for prevention funding. The final decisions by the conference committees will conclude on May 21, 2013. Judge Specia anticipates the hiring of 1,000 workers across the program to improve investigations, conservatorship, kinship and have the infrastructure to support these items. Judge Specia is aware of his responsibility to provide prudent oversight with regard to expenditures. He has traveled throughout the state and met with staff in an effort to listen to the concerns and issues of the workforce. He focuses on the need to embrace collaboration during his visits to the DFPS offices. There will always be areas of fiscal need in the programs but collaborative efforts and partnerships with community groups and stakeholders can accomplish favorable impact and results. Judge Specia commented on the Wait No More Conference held in Houston, Texas last week. The conference is presented by Focus on the Family from Colorado Springs, Colorado. They are actively working to recruit people to adopt foster children or serve as foster parents. The group honestly acknowledges the challenges inherent in bringing foster youth into their homes. Of the 570 who attended the Houston conference, 108 families initiated the process of adoption or foster care. The churches are wrapping services around families for kinship care, foster families and adoptive families to provide support assistance. The initiative is gaining momentum and promises over time to have an impact on the foster home capacity numbers.

Ms. Audrey Deckinga provided an update on the status of the new catchment area for Foster Care Redesign. It is likely that the announcement will be posted to the Department's website by the end of the day. Foster Care Redesign is changing the way the Department procures, contracts and pays for foster care services in order to meet outcomes since the enactment of ASPA (?) in 1997. The goals include keeping children placed close to home, placed with siblings and in the same school district. These goals promote frequent visitation with parent(s) and improves the timeliness of reunification as well as the rate of reunification. Under the old system, these goals were difficult to achieve. The systemic change in the contract procure and pay process was vital. Provident Service Corporation is the provider for Regions II, IX (non-metro areas of the state). The RFP process for the metro award is informed by parent input and the Public Private Partnership entity. Ms. Deckinga commented on faith led partnerships. She acknowledged Ms. Carolyn Rodriguez' role along with Casey Family Programs in development of the faith led partnerships. The Department has been working for many years on outreach to churches to request help with foster parenting and adoption for children in the system.

Success was sporadic and limited. The Advisory Committee on Promoting the Adoption of Minority Children provided input. Ms. Deckinga, along with Ms. Joyce James have worked to move the outreach forward, but systemic success remained an unrealized goal. Recently, there have been encouraging signs of progress. The current chair of the advisory committee is Bishop Aaron Blake from Brownwood, Texas. His involvement in prevention and permanency efforts over the past twenty years makes him an outstanding advocate. In partnership with Casey Family Programs, a series of adoption forums were held around the state. The first one took place in Houston, Texas. The participation of pastors proved critical. The data on disproportionality was presented along with the goals of the committee. A result of the Houston forum was the decision by the pastors to do kinship care. The Department has been working with them on a cooperative effort with the Center for the Elimination of Disparities and Disproportionality (CEDD) on kinship care. In addition, adoption forums were held and the work was publicized by word of mouth. Ms. Deckinga was called by Superintendent Richard Boze, who oversees the northeast district of the Assemblies of God churches that are composed over 550 congregations. Data on numbers of children in care along with the numbers of investigations conducted by the Department were provided to him along with numbers of children waiting for adoption and the additional statistics from the Department's Data Book. His response was to convene his 1,500 pastors and their families for a presentation by Bishop Blake and Ms. Deckinga. The following day, he proposed a breakfast for the first fifty who signed up to attend. The momentum continues to build and covers not only foster care and adoption but prevention and permanency also. Locally, the Austin Stone Church is involved as well as 2 churches in Wichita Falls. The faith led collaborations are continuing to expand and Ms. Rodriguez has documented and chronicled these efforts. Ms. Deckinga commented that members have previously provided updates on most of the relevant legislative bills. There are nine bills that pertain to psychotropic medications and the Department continues to work with the authors and the advocates on each and monitoring progress of the legislation. There were four bills that pertain to foster parent standing. Two wanted to decrease the timeframe when foster parents could intervene in a case and the others restated what is currently in the Department's rules to make statutory or would allow an expanded pool of relatives to file interventions. {inaudible}, another way to do investigations at the front end of a case. There are two bills on that moving forward in both the House and the Senate. Funding for changes to the IMPACT system looks promising and will allow implementation of alternative response. This will be a way to conduct assessments instead of investigations in order to offer services as needed to families instead of making a disposition on whether or not abuse or neglect occurred and who is responsible. She emphasized that safety is the primary consideration in the process. During this session, the Department has served as resource contacts for over 600 bills out of the 6,000 filed. Interest in issues involving children in the child welfare system is a topic of significant interest to many.

Office of Court Administration (OCA) Update

Mr. David Slayton, Administrative Director reported on the budget for child protection courts across the state. The Senate version currently provides for funds to establish an associate judge child protection court in Harris County. OCA is working with the legislature as well as the Harris County judges to plan how the court will function. If approved by the legislature, the court will be established by the fall of 2013. OCA has also been provided in the budget funding to address three other courts. The biggest issue identified is that a number of courts across the state are simply overtaxed with

regard to workloads with associated impacts on the health of the judges and staff. OCA is looking to use the proposed resources to provide relief to these judges and ensure that they have adequate time and resources to spend on the cases as they work through the system. OCA is working on a transition plan that ultimately will allow future expansion of the program across the state to more counties. The legislation is currently in conference and Mr. Slayton will provide additional updates as additional information becomes available. Additional issues that pertain to the budget for child protection include salary increases for court coordinators for child protection courts that are contained in the Senate version but not in the House version. Salary increases for associate judges were also requested. The court coordinators nor the associate judges have had salary increases in over ten years. Mr. Slayton commented that the increase in caseworkers for the Department will impact the workload of the courts and warrants monitoring. Mr. Slayton also updated the members on a budget request by OCA for restoration of a court consultant position that was cut during the previous legislative session. Restoration of the position would allow work with courts on issues related to child protection matters along with other types of case matters. This request is currently in the Senate version. At present, OCA has 140 pending requests from courts for assistance and has no staff assigned to respond to the requests. The percentage of the OCA budget that the judicial branch takes is mostly staff dependent. In the House version, there was scant support for addition of any FTEs. With regard to strategic planning, as mentioned previously by Judge Rucker, the regional presiding judges met in January 2013 and discussed how to begin to think about how to address the workload issues of judges and if the legislature approves appropriation of funding, how to best allocate the resources across the state. The process is ongoing and discussion continues among the regional presiding judges. The final matter Mr. Slayton reported on is the project that OCA is beginning to embark upon that deals with elderly. During the State of the Judiciary address in March 2013, Chief Justice Jefferson raised the issue of the aging population and how these cases and issues are handled, specifically with regard to guardianship. Mr. Slayton noted that the awareness of children's issues began to emerge 8-10 years ago and elderly issues are at the nascent stage of awareness at this time. The intent is for the judicial branch to get ahead of the issue. The aging population over 65 years in the state of Texas is expected to increase by 50% by the year 2020. The national impacts that are observed with cases involving elderly are cause for concern and include elder abuse and other issues. The Chief Justice has established a special committee of the Texas Judicial Council, the Elders Committee, that will meet over the next eighteen months to review the issues across the state and determine how to address them and prepare recommendations to the Judicial Council and the legislature. As part of that matter, Mr. Slayton announced that the Supreme Court of Texas and OCA applied for a grant from the ABA and the National Guardianship Network to establish a working interdisciplinary network of guardianship stakeholders – a 'WINGS' group. This will support collaboration among all the individuals who deal with the elder population. Texas was one of four states to receive the award. The success of the Children's Commission model will serve to guide the work since the issues are common and there are numerous entities who work with the elderly population making collaboration vital.

Judge Specia acknowledge that the Department also works with Adult Protective Services (APS) and he will ensure that the Department is supportive and engaged.

Judge Specia had the opportunity to announce that the next catchment area for Foster Care Redesign will be part of Region III (Dallas-Fort Worth), split into 3 different parts, the southwestern part that includes Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Summerville and is the hub. Over the summer, an RFP will be rolled out.

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL REPORT

Justice Guzman expressed appreciation to the members of the Collaborative Council for their efforts.

Ms. Irene Clements, President, Texas Foster Family Association, Austin, commented the May is National Foster Care month. There is a resolution in the Texas Senate that highlights the Texas Foster Family Association and their work in support of foster families and advocates in the state of Texas. Ms. Clements also provided remarks on SB1404, a bill brought to light by the Texas Foster Family Association. SB1404 is based on a bill passed in the state of Missouri. The legislation was reviewed by the Child Protection Round Table. Ms. Clements believes the bill will be particularly helpful for older youth in the child welfare system. She primarily wanted to highlight her invitation to provide expert witness testimony next week in Washington, D.C., at the House Ways and Means Commission Human Resources subcommittee. The hearing on 'Letting Kids be Kids' will focus on balancing safety with opportunity for foster youth. Speakers will address normalizing foster care for children in care and what it means to the children in care as well as the families. How this will affect the agencies who develop the rules and regulations that impact these children and families will be reviewed. Ms. Deckinga reviewed some information provided by Ms. Clements. Ms. Clements noted that Texas is ahead of other states with regard to the issue. An example of the affect on a foster youth in care is a policy in another state that prohibits the child from riding a ride at an amusement park because of safety concerns for the child. Ms. Clements noted that overly restrictive laws and regulations such as these impact a foster child's ability to exit care with the experiences and tools to function in adulthood.

Mr. Ian Spechler, Attorney, Disability Rights Texas, Austin, provided an update on the Dually-Managed Youth project funded by the Children's Commission as well as the Meadows Foundation. Attorneys for Disability Rights Texas travel throughout the state to provide representation to youth who are involved in the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) system or who are at risk of involvement in the system. Since April 2, 2013, Disability Right Texas attorneys have appeared in courts in El Paso, North Texas, Amarillo, San Antonio, and the Hill Country. Trainings were presented in Fort Bend County, Fredericksburg and other conferences. Mr. Spechler noted that it is his experience that the judges he practices before are including questions about education and psychotropic medications. Disability Rights Texas does have concerns with regard to ongoing funding for the project. At present, funds will be exhausted by October 31, 2013. Grant applications have been submitted to the Caruth Foundation. The intention is to expand the project scope to look not only at youth involved in the justice system or at risk of becoming involved in it, but also provide representation to children and youth who are in long term residential treatment centers (RTCs). He provided some statistics on this specialized population. As of August 2011, there were 1,568 children and youth in RTCs in the state of Texas. Many are there for months or years at a time. Disability Rights Texas intends to expand the scope of their work to provide trauma-informed care to these children and youth as well as medication advocacy in the treatment centers in order to exit them into the

community into family based settings and environments that will give an opportunity to them to begin to establish attachments and connections to nurturing and supportive people. Mr. Spechler encouraged members to forward suggestions for funding opportunities to him.

NEXT MEETING

Justice Guzman announced that the final 2013 meeting of the Children’s Commission is scheduled on September 27, 2013 at the State Bar of Texas – Texas Law Center.

Prior to adjournment, Justice Guzman presented a certificate of service to Ms. Carlyne Rodriguez in acknowledgment of her service to the Children’s Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2: 17 p.m.

INSERT - TAB 2

CHILDREN'S COMMISSION MEMBERS

<p>Hon. Eva Guzman, Chair Hon. Harriet O'Neill, Chair Emeritus Hon. Darlene Byrne, Vice Chair Hon. Jo Ann Battise Hon. Karin Bonicoro Audrey Deckinga Hon. Camile G. DuBose Bruce Esterline Gabriela Fuentes</p>	<p>Fairy Davenport Rutland Hon. Cheryl Lee Shannon Luanne Southern Vicki Spriggs Sharayah Stiggers Terry Tottenham G. Allan Van Fleet Hon. Judy Warne</p>
--	--

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<p><u>EXECUTIVE</u> Hon. Eva Guzman, <i>Chair</i> Hon. Harriet O'Neill, <i>Chair Emeritus</i> Hon. Darlene Byrne <i>Vice Chair</i> Audrey Deckinga Hon. Bonnie Crane Hellums Hon. Camile G. DuBose Hon. Dean Rucker</p>	<p><u>BASIC PROJECTS</u> Hon. Bonnie Crane Hellums <i>Chair</i> Gabriela 'Gaby' Fuentes Colleen McCall Hon. Peter Sakai Judge Virginia Schnarr Hon. Cheryl Lee Shannon Hon. Olen Underwood Hon. Doug Warne <i>Staff: Tina Amber-boy Kristi Taylor</i></p>	<p><u>TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS</u> Vicki Spriggs, <i>Chair</i> Dan Capouch Jason Hassay Hon. Gilford Jones Octavio Martinez Robert Nolen D.J. Tessier G. Allan Van Fleet Bryan Wilson <i>Staff: Tina Amber-boy</i> <i>OCA Advisory Darrell Childers Simi Denson Casey Kennedy Tim Kennedy David Slayton</i></p>
<p><u>TRAINING PROJECTS</u> Hon. Camile G. DuBose <i>Chair</i> Hon. Mark Atkinson Tymothy Belseth Cathy Cockerham Barbara Elias-Perciful Alice Emerson Debra Emerson Hon. Richard Garcia Tracy Harting Joyce M. James Hon. Lamar McCorkle Sandeep Narang Shaneka Odum Pam Parker Fairy Davenport Rutland Hon. Ellen Smith Elizabeth Watkins <i>Staff: Milbrey Raney</i></p>	<p><u>COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS</u></p>	<p><u>STAFF</u> Tina Amberboy, Executive Director Tiffany Roper, Assistant Director Kristi Taylor, Program Manager Milbrey Raney, Staff Attorney Rashonda Thomas, Grants & Finance Specialist Mary Mitchell, Executive Assistant Jessica Arguijo, Administrative Assistant Hon. Dean Rucker, Jurist in Residence <i>Office of Court Administration</i> Hon. Robin Sage, Jurist in Residence <i>Office of Court Administration</i></p>

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

<p>Bruce Kendrick Lori Kennedy Alicia Key Kelly Kravitz Richard Lavallo Stephanie Ledesma Tracy Levins Rebecca Lightsey Madeline McClure Hon. F. Scott McCown, ret. Sandeep Narang Anu Partap Shannon Ireland</p>	<p>Judy Powell Lisa Ramirez Chadwick Sapenter Johana Scot Janet Sharkis Jeanne Stamp Armin Steege Leslie Strauch Gloria Terry Kenneth Thompson Arabia Vargas Larry Williams</p>	<p>Bruce Kendrick Lori Kennedy Alicia Key Kelly Kravitz Richard Lavallo Stephanie Ledesma Tracy Levins Rebecca Lightsey Madeline McClure Hon. F. Scott McCown, ret. Sandeep Narang Anu Partap Shannon Ireland</p>
---	--	---

INSERT - TAB 3



SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS PERMANENT JUDICIAL
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial Commission for
Children, Youth and Families

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION
September 27, 2013

201 W. 14th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families
Report for September 27, 2013

MINUTES –May 3, 2013 meeting (adoption pending), **TAB 1**

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, **TAB 2**

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, **TAB 2**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES, **TAB 2**

STAFF CHANGES, **TAB 2**

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Basic Committee

The Basic Committee held a conference call on August 20, 2013. For minutes regarding the full discussion at the meeting, please see **Tab 4.**

1. Child Protection Law Judicial Bench Book

The Children’s Commission recently updated the Bench Book (BB) with 2013 legislative changes and some topical additions, including education. The Commission will reconvene the BB workgroup in FY2014 to focus on redesigning the hearing checklists. In October, the BB will be connected to a citation service through its relationship with the Texas Center for the Judiciary. New topics are planned for FY2014 and 2015. CC staff will also begin tracking distribution of the BB, and its usage through Google Analytics.

2. Appleseed / Permanency Workgroup

Texas Appleseed has been a long-time partner working with the Children’s Commission (CC) on identifying and resolving barriers preventing or delaying children from exiting long-term foster care. In May 2013, several of 17 jurisdictions attended the Annual Child Welfare Judicial Conference in San Antonio to discuss various efforts undertaken in the six months since the October 2012 conference. In August, the Children’s Commission and Texas Appleseed put the finishing touches on a foster youth video aimed at helping foster youth overcome fear and anxiety associated with attending court hearings.

In FY2014, Texas Appleseed will continue to partner with the Children's Commission to identify innovative and creative practices that lead to better stability, permanency and wellbeing for youth in long-term care.

3. Round Table Series

Family Visitation: On March 1, 2013, with the help of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP), and Casey Family Programs, the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission) held a round table discussion on family visitation in Child Protective Services (CPS) cases. The round table brought together judges from across the state, representatives of DFPS and CPS, prosecutors, attorneys, former foster youth, foster parents, biological parents, and parent advocates involved in CPS cases. The purpose of the round table was to advise DFPS on how to move from its traditional one-size-fits-all approach to one that serves the child and family in a more individual manner. The discussion focused on why we have visits between parents and the children who have been removed from their care, the motivation and punishment aspects of visitation, the frequency, supervision, location of visits, and who develops the plan that embodies the elements that families and advocates rely on to guide them toward an outcome that serves the child's best interest while acknowledging their parents' rights. The Commission issued the final report on July 19, 2013 and it is located on the Commission's website at [Family Visitation in CPS Cases](#).

In FY2014, the CC will work with DFPS to identify RT topics, and staff a RT workgroup that will determine the goal, format and agenda. CC will staff the workgroup meetings to develop materials, data required, and identify speakers. CC will also handle meeting location, invitations, attendee lists, travel and match forms and produce a written report from the Round Table.

4. Legal Representation Study (LRS)

The Children's Commission created a 30-member multidisciplinary LRS Workgroup in 2011 to implement the study's recommendations. The LRS Workgroup met several times during FY2012, and was on hiatus during FY2013 due to the legislative session. Legislation passed in response to the work of the LRS included amendments to Chapters 107, 262 and 263. Sections 107.004 and 107.0131 were amended impose an ongoing CLE requirement of 3 hours of instruction each year in child protection law for attorneys representing children and parents; Section 107.0132 to clarify that once an AAL appointed to represent an alleged father has completed his/her their duties, the court shall dismiss the attorney; Section 107.013(a) to clarify that an indigent parent who is opposed to the suit, whether for termination or conservatorship is entitled to an attorney, if indigent and it repeals 107.013(c); Section 107.014 is new and spells out the duties of an attorney appointed to represent a parent cited by publication and

provides for the AAL dismissal once his/her duties have been satisfied; Section 262.102 to require any emergency order authorizing the possession of a child to state in boldface type and capital letters that the parent has the right to be represented by an attorney, if indigent; Section 262.201 allows for an extension to the time to hold a full adversary hearing so that the court can advise a parent who is indigent and who appears in opposition to the suit that they have a right to an attorney, and it allows the parent and their attorney up to seven days to respond to the petition and prepare for the adversary hearing. All sections governing the expiration of temporary restraining orders are also amended to accommodate any extension of time granted under new 262.201 (a-3); Section 263.0061 to require the court to advise each parent not represented by an attorney at each Status Hearing and each subsequent Permanency Hearing of their right to be represented by an attorney, if indigent.

In 2014, the LRS Workgroup will continue to examine whether compensation can be reformed at a statewide level, whether standards of representation should be adopted, and will support efforts of the State Bar Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect in its efforts to establish a Child Welfare and Protection specialization through the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. The CC will also work with McLennan County as it transitions from an appointment list system to a contract system for parent representation. Also, as referenced under the Attorney Education section, the CC will staff a workgroup focused on developing an online resource center for parents that will operate similarly to the Texas Foster Youth Justice project. The Children's Commission will continue to staff and support the LRS Workgroup by hosting and facilitating meetings, reimbursing travel expenses for workgroup members, develop agendas and meeting materials, and collecting federal match information.

5. Jurist in Residence

The Jurist in Residence (JIR) position was created to foster judicial leadership and promote greater expertise among child protection judges. In 2013, the Commission published JIR newsletters on the Permanency Summit held in October 2012, Permanency Care Assistance, changes at the Texas Education Agency, Specificity in Court Orders to Satisfy Federal Requirements, Opioid and Opiate Usage in Pregnant Women, and a Back to School issue highlighting legislative changes related to education of foster students from the 83rd Texas Legislature. For FY2014, the JIR will continue to assist the Commission as consultant, trainer, and speaker to provide expert judicial advice on matters affecting the courts and legal system in handling child welfare cases and issues. The JIR will continue to attend conference calls, meetings, and conferences as requested and will publish communiqués and letters on emerging, highly pertinent, and changing policy, laws, and practice that may be of interest to judges hearing CPS cases. The Children's Commission will assist with

writing and formatting JIR communiqués, distribute JIR letters to the CPS judges' listserv, and post the JIR letters on Commission website promptly.

Link to JIR letters here: <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/jir.aspx>

6. Hearing Observation Project

Judge Sage recently completed a court observation project aimed at collecting data regarding court and judicial processes and handling of CPS cases, legal representation for parents, and parent satisfaction with legal representation. This project was in an effort to help determine whether parties are receiving adequate legal representation and due process with regard to hearings in Texas and to assess the breadth and depth of issues discussed at court reviews. The Children's Commission developed an observation tool and two surveys that were utilized for pre- and post- hearing activities. Parents and parent attorneys were surveyed following the conclusion of their cases.

The Children's Commission is in the process of compiling results that will include a review and assessment all parent and parent attorney responses. The CC staff will offer a preliminary review at the September 27, 2013 Commission meeting and will issue a final report by year end. The Report will also identify training issues indicated from the evaluation; make a presentation to all judges attending the state child welfare judicial conference in 2014, and post report on its website.

6. Judicial Disproportionality Workgroup (JDW) and Tribal Initiatives

The JDW will continue to work toward raising awareness and understanding of disproportionality among judges and key stakeholders involved in the legal system by developing and promote judicial and attorney training on how to apply tools designed to reduce institutional racism and bias. The Children's Commission and JDW members will be available to provide technical assistance regarding statewide and jurisdiction-specific disproportionality data, help connect judges and lawyers to their communities to develop disproportionality efforts at the local level, liaise with the State Interagency Advisory Council, staff and monitor the JDW meetings, help execute its strategies, timelines, and work product for FY2014, and include updated information about Disproportionality and bias in its CPS Judicial Bench Book.

7. Psychoactive Medications / HB915 Consent to Medical Care

Psychotropic Medication Utilization Parameters (Parameters) were created in 2005 to encourage the appropriate use of psychotropic medications in foster children. The Parameters have been considered successful, leading to a significant reduction in the

overall use of psychotropic medications and decreases in the use of multiple medications for the same purpose. In FY2013, the Commission hosted a Round Table, issued an Report on Psychotropic Medication and Foster Care and worked with many stakeholders during the 83rd legislative session on House Bill 915, which addressed consent for psychotropic medication, provides children the right to provide an opinion on their medical care, allows foster youth 16 and older to act as their own medical consentor, requires attorneys and guardians to evaluate medical care, elicit their client's view on medical care being provided, and mandates that the youth transition plan provided to each child 16 and older include provisions and instructions regarding medical care and psychotropic medications). Following the close of the 83rd Session, the Children's Commission facilitated the HB915 Implementation Workgroup, which was charged with soliciting input and collaboration from approximately 60 stakeholders. The group was charged with identifying practices and policies in place to support HB915, making recommendations regarding new policies required to support the implementation and ongoing execution of DFPS's duties under the new bill, identifying training needs required to support new practices, expanded collaboration and communication to support the objectives and mandates of HB915, and with meeting regularly to ensure stakeholder involvement and communication about implementation progress. The HB915 Implementation Workgroup met three times over the summer: 6/11/13, 7/23/13, and 8/27/13. Please link here to the HB915 Implementation Workgroup meeting materials: [June 11, 2013](#); [July 23, 2013](#); [August 27, 2013](#).

On September 9, 2013, the Commission hosted a training review session to enable stakeholders to evaluate and comment on the DFPS's updated medical consentor and psychotropic medication training. The training lasted over 7 hours with meticulous review by several stakeholders.

8. Trauma Informed Care Project

The Children's Commission will continue to support DFPS's shift to a trauma-informed care system on the many levels of the organization, with its partners, and its staff, therapists, foster/kinship parents, residential contractors, judges, attorneys, CASA volunteers, youth and foster alumni, and STAR Health (the managed care HMO that provides physical and behavioral health to all foster youth in the state's conservatorship).

FY2014 activities will include: developing and promoting judicial and attorney training about trauma- informed care; updating information about trauma informed care in its CPS Judicial Bench Book; participating on the varied DFPS trauma-informed workgroups in existence and yet to be created as a collaborative partner; monitoring

the trauma informed care workgroups, meetings, strategies, timelines; and providing reports to the Children's Commission and other stakeholders as appropriate.

The CC will also partner with CASA and provide CIP funding support to engage with the TCU Institute of Child Development and Dr. Karyn Purvis to develop a Train the Trainer Program to help establish TBRI as an effective and widely used intervention plan for children in foster care. The goal is to train 100 trainers over two years. CASA will establish a workgroup that includes representatives from DFPS, the Children's Commission, and other child welfare advocates to assist with planning the Train the Trainer program. CIP funding will support Dr. Purvis and the TCU Institute training program and travel for TBRI facilitators and materials to support training.

9. Mediation Project

In April 2013, the NCJFCJ endorsed the national Child Protection Mediation Guidelines, which were developed by a national group of experts. The next step for this national group is putting together training standards for child protection mediation. Over the course of FY 2014, commission staff will work with Cynthia Bryant of the University of Texas School of Law Mediation Clinic and others to determine whether to develop a mediation project for Texas, which might look at mediation data or standards for training for those involved with Texas CPS mediations. Part of the discussion will include the parameters of such a mediation project and what funding might be needed.

10. Texas Blueprint: Implementation Task Force, formerly Education Committee

Since the last commission meeting, the Texas Blueprint Implementation Task Force finalized its membership and held its fourth meeting. As mentioned in the last report to the commission, the Task Force prioritized the *Texas Blueprint* recommendations and formed three workgroups based on these priorities:

- Training and Resources, Workgroup Chair: Sarah Abrahams, Casey
- School Stability, Workgroup Chairs: Joy Baskin, TASB, and Jenny Hinson, DFPS
- Data, Workgroup Chair: Julie Wayman, TEA

The workgroups all met for the first time in July 2013 and established action plans. Each action plan includes the applicable *Texas Blueprint* recommendations as benchmarks. Many of these benchmarks will be met by the end of the Task Force's duration. For those benchmarks requiring a longer period of time to meet, the Task Force, based on input from the three workgroups, will make recommendations about how those benchmarks might be met in the future.

Like the Education Committee and its subcommittees, the Task Force and its workgroups are multi-disciplinary in nature, with each having representatives from the

court, child welfare, and education systems. The workgroups will continue to meet periodically for the rest of the year; the next task force meeting will be held on December 6, 2013.

Some recent accomplishments of Texas' initiative to improve education of foster students include:

- Judicial checklist developed and disseminated to judges through a JIR letter and online
- JIR Back to School Letter, which highlighted new legislative changes and resources for courts
- New Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book chapter regarding education
- Updates to the Children's Commission education website
- Collaborative work between the courts, education and child welfare continues to expand on the state and local levels
- Education Summit Final Report released
- Texas team applied for the Information Sharing Certificate Program at Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

Between now and the next commission meeting, commission staff will continue to support the task force and its workgroups as well as work on some of the benchmark items, including developing resources regarding education of foster students for multiple stakeholders and collaborating with Texas CASA in the creation of an education toolkit for local CASA programs and develop resources regarding education of foster students.

Texas TRIO Grant (Education)

In October 2011, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), in partnership with DFPS and the Children's Commission, received a 17-month grant to support collaboration between education, child welfare, and the courts in Texas. As part of this grant, Commission staff has participated in weekly conference calls and monthly in-person meetings with its partners. The grant period ended on July 31, 2013. After the conclusion of the grant, the Texas TRIO partners produced a guide for education stakeholders about foster care, the unique needs of children in care, and how to support foster students in the school setting, available at: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/FosterCareStudentSuccess/resource-guide.pdf>

Although the grant concluded, commission staff continues to collaborate with TEA and DFPS to support the foster care liaisons which each school district and open-enrollment charter school is required to appoint. Along with Judge Cheryl Shannon,

commission staff will participate in training for school district liaisons in the Dallas area in early October.

Training Grant Committee

The Training Committee met by conference call on August 14, 2013. For minutes regarding the full discussion at the meeting, please see **Tab 4**.

1. Attorney Education

Attorney Practitioner Manual: The Attorney Practitioner Manual was not updated in FY 2012 as planned for lack of staff time, but is on the agenda for fall 2013 after the 83rd Legislative Session will have concluded. Staff will assess whether updates can be completed internally or whether staff will partner with another organization to draft the update.

Attorney Ad Litem Appointment Eligibility Online Training

The State Bar offers online courses to court-appointed attorneys or state attorneys at no charge on the following topics:

- Advocating for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
 - Resources and Processes for Representing Crossover Youth with Disabilities
 - Special Education Advocacy for Kids in the Foster Care System
 - Representing Teen Parents in CPS Cases
 - Practice Tips on Representing Children
 - Representing Parents in CPS Cases
 - Preserving Error and Appeals Issues in CPS cases
 - Representing Children in CPS Cases, Updated June 2013
-
- Online before year-end: Trial Skills in the CPS Case

Attorney Scholarships

Commission staff has coordinated the application process to award the following scholarships to three summer conferences. Applicants were required to submit a judicial letter of approval along with their application for the ABA and NACC conferences. For the 1-Day CAN Workshop, the Commission staff verified with the applicant's appointing judge that the applicant was currently receiving appointments or represented the state and was in good standing with that judge. Approved applicants to all 3 summer conferences included Ad Litem; Parent Attorneys; and attorneys for the state, including CAs, DAs, and regional attorneys for DFPS.

- **NACC Child Welfare Law Conference** – The NACC annual conference offers nationally known expert speakers on multi-disciplinary topics related to legal representation in child abuse and neglect cases. Commission scholarships usually cover registration for the conference, and may cover preconference sessions on various topics such as Red Book training for NACC Child Welfare Law Certification. Commission staff works with NACC to develop the grant award statement, which describes the purpose of the program, NACC's deliverables and a training evaluation component. Staff also verifies and approves attorney applicants by confirming their good standing with the State Bar, and verifying with a sponsoring judge that they accept appointments to represent children, parents or DFPS. NACC's annual summer conference was held in Atlanta, during the last week of August; 12 scholarships awarded for the cost of conference registration, at \$490 apiece.
- **Scholarships for Child Abuse and Neglect Track at Advanced Family Law (AFL)** – The AFL conference offers a day-long Child Abuse and Neglect training each year at the annual State Bar of Texas Advanced Family Law Conference. Commission scholarships cover the \$100 registration fee for the one-day session, or for subsequent video replays of the training. SBOT Advanced Family Law Seminar's 1-Day CAN track was held on Wednesday August 7th: 50 scholarships awarded, 34 of whom attended the live CLE and 8 of whom will attend one of the two video replays of the CLE (otherwise would have cost \$125 apiece).
- **American Bar Association Center for Children and the Law Parent Attorney Conference and Child Law Conference** – this conference is held every other year and brings together experienced child and parent attorneys, foster alumni, parents, judges, child welfare agency representatives, and other key stakeholders to receive not only substantive training, but also tips for returning to their home states to work on ways to improve the quality of legal representation for children and parents. ABA Conferences for Parents' Attorneys and for Children's attorneys (mid-July): 21 awarded and 18 attended. Commission scholarships covered the cost of the conference registration and 3 nights' stay at the conference hotel, up to \$990 apiece.

Surveys are being tracked and results will be shared at the next Commission meeting.

Trial Skills Training

Trial Skills Training faculty met in mid-April to discuss all aspects of the Trial Skills Training Curriculum and was trained by Peter Hoffman on how to present the curriculum to participants. To further prepare for our eventual Pilot Trial Skills Training, the Commission held a Faculty Development Training on June 29th & 30th. Faculty prepared power points and presented on all areas of trial preparation: Case

Theory; Opening Statement; Direct Examination; Cross Examination; Foundations; Objections; Impeachment; Experts; Closing Argument; and discussed how to present on Jury Selection and Jury Matters. The Department provided three caseworkers and Dr. Sandeep Narang provided two fellows to participate in trial skills exercises with the faculty, based on exhibits and trial skills exercises created from the fact pattern. Faculty also did a walk-through of the facility and discussed the logistics of the videotaping of the skills practice sessions.

The pilot project for this hands-on Trial Skills Training will follow on October 23-25, 2013, in Austin. The faculty has revised their June presentations based on the group's feedback and also submitted 30 names of potential Pilot participants. The Commission has confirmed 19 attorneys for the October Pilot in Austin. These participants will be comprised of new or less-experienced child, parent, and state attorneys from different areas of the state.

NACC Fee Waivers for Child Welfare Specialist Exam

NACC has sent a draft Grant Application for reimbursement of the Certification Exam Fee for Texas attorneys and judges who have qualified to sit for the Child Welfare Specialist Exam. The Children's Commission approved this project last fiscal year. Commission staff will continue to work with NACC to complete this Grant so that the funds can be allocated as approved.

Parent Attorney Leadership Initiatives

This training held September 11-12, 2012 in Oklahoma City, was a joint project of federal Court Improvement Program leaders, and multidisciplinary teams from LA, NM, OK, AK. The conference was intended to help Texas strategize about how to improve the level of legal representation for parents as well as improve respect for and self-esteem of attorneys who chose to represent parents; demonstrate how quality parent representation is tied to improved outcomes through a review of current data; understand what is needed at a minimum to achieve quality parent representation, both in and out of the courtroom and at the policy level; and empower parent attorneys to be leaders, trainers, mentors and system reformers. Texas continues to participate with the Region VI states and ABA staff to develop resources for states interested in holding similar conferences or further supporting parent attorneys in their jurisdictions including a white paper that outlines how to plan a joint-sponsored event. The conference states have also collaborated on an ABA publication titled "Indicators of Success in Parent Representation," which is still not final.

The Action Plan developed at the conference included: 1. Design and convene a statewide Child Welfare Law Conference; 2. Adopt Standards of Representation for Parents' Attorneys; 3. Identify organization that can develop and operate a parent-focused resource such as an Information Packet or Guide for Parents, including parent

client's rights, attorney duties, remedies for ineffective assistance, and grievance process; 4. Design and convene Family Time Round Table to discuss child welfare agency's current policies and practices regarding family visits and visitation; 5. Improve Family Placements at Beginning of Conservatorship Case.

A Round Table of Family Visitation was held on March 1, 2013 in Austin and the final report was issued in July 2013. The Commission provided financial support to the "Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe (KITS) Conference, and have entered discussions around forming a Parent Online Resource Center in partnership with the Texas Legal Services Center and the University of Texas. The online resource center will operate similarly to the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project operated by Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid and will likely include the production of a printed and online version of a Parent Resource Guide.

Also on the horizon for FY2014

Commission staff will assist DFPS with an upcoming training for the DFPS regional attorneys. The Commission would act as a host/facilitator only and would not be responsible for content.

Following the October Pilot Trial Skills Training, the Commission staff anticipates scheduling an additional Trial Skills Training in March, 2014. Future trainings will be scheduled thereafter when Commission staff and the faculty has had a chance to confer.

Commission staff will also create a judicial survey to inquire whether attorneys sent to conferences on Commission scholarships have improved their courtroom performances and are using best practices in and outside of the courtroom.

Commission staff will be reviewing surveys from the attorneys who received scholarships this summer as part of the CQI process and to measure the impact of training projects.

2. Judicial Education

The Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ) – At the August joint committee meeting, FY2013 funding was approved by the Training Committee for TCJ to continue its CIP projects, including the following:

Judicial Scholarships to Attend the NCJFCJ National Conference – TCJ awarded 25 scholarships to attend the annual NCJFCJ conference in Seattle in July. Each judge who attended also attended the Child Welfare Judicial Conference in San Antonio in late May. Evaluations from the NCJFCJ conference are pending.

Permanency Summit (replaced Beyond the Bench Conference in FY 2012) – The 2nd Permanency Summit was scheduled for October 2013 in San Antonio, however, due to budget constraints, the conference will be postponed. Content will be incorporated into the 2014 Child Welfare Judges Conference. Several judges instituted changes in practice after the October 2012 Permanency Summit and shared those practices with judges at the 2013 Child Welfare Judicial Conference that was held in May 2013 in San Antonio. Texas Appleaseed will be working with Casey Family Programs to implement mini-permanency summits in certain regions of the state in FY2014.

Examples of practice changes include: 1) Youth more involved and attending their court hearings (several courts); 2) Holding family group conferencing earlier (Collin County); 3) Videoconferencing and rolling court for child with disabilities (Jefferson County); 4) Contact with kids leading to better attorney interaction, increase in relative placement, and knowing when psychotropic medication issues exist (Jefferson County); 5) Education hearings being held in RTCs through videoconferencing (Bexar County); 6) Holding initial staffing at courthouse immediately after 262 hearing, capturing relatives because everyone there, including attorneys and ADA and convener or CPS supervisor; leave with top 3 things supposed to do and contact information/location of where to go (Bexar County); 7) PMC docket every Tuesday p.m.; resources for teenage/transitioning kids (Tarrant County); 8) CPS internal transfer staffing when child moved to PMC unit (Tarrant County); 9) CVS and PMC workers develop new permanency goal together (Tarrant County); and 10) Motions filed to move forward with home studies, even if criminal history exists (Tarrant County).

Implicit Bias in Judicial Decision-Making Conference– The 5th Annual Implicit Bias Conference is also being deferred due to budget uncertainties. Content will be incorporated into the 2014 Child Welfare Judges Conference. Also, the Commission will provide funding to Texas CASA to bring “Race: The Power of Illusion” to Texas in the second half of FY2014. This training is an interactive training that focuses on the idea of race in biology, science and history. This training will be made available to child welfare stakeholders including judges and attorneys in the regions where the training is held.

Child Welfare Judicial Conference – This year’s Child Welfare Judges Conference was held May 21-23, 2013 in San Antonio. It was attended by 61 judges and 13 child protection court coordinators. Judge Specia was present and gave his vision for DFPS. Other topics included a lunch for new judges with experienced judges, legislative update, sessions on criminal convictions and relative placements, legal requirements of ICWA, permanency and well-being, courtroom

management, and vicarious trauma (of judges and court staff). Also during the conference, a breakfast for judges who attended Permanency Summit was held to find out what changes they had made in their jurisdictions after the summit. The 2014 Conference is scheduled for May or June of 2014 in Bastrop.

Other Judicial Conferences – TCJ may be able to offer scholarships to the NCJFCJ and other national conferences, depending on funding.

Judicial Technical Assistance –TCJ also facilitates the provision of judicial technical assistance to improve moving children to permanency, as funding permits.

Office of Court Administration (OCA) Judicial Education – The OCA Judicial Education was merged with the Child Welfare Judges Conference in FY2013 and will again be held in conjunction with the 2014 conference in May or June of 2014.

Technology Committee Report

The Data/Technology Committee conferred via email on the committee projects. The annotated agenda and feedback from the committee is under **Tab 4**.

Notice & Engagement Web Application

The project involves using non-confidential case data to build a system whereby notice of statutory hearings and other court-related events requiring notice to parties and interested persons can be distributed electronically (via text or email). OCA built webscreens in FY2013 inside CPCMS to accommodate a Pilot for Region 8. The project involves web screens that will be populated with hearing date information from the Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS). The search tool will allow an interested person to search for case information by last name of the mother and county of jurisdiction. The user will be given the option to associate their name and contact information with a particular case and to receive notice of hearings at various dates in advance of the hearing (eg. 1 day, 7 days, 14 days, 30 days). There are still unresolved issues concerning exact court location and contact information for the user who might have questions.

The Children’s Commission will work on an announcement about the service and will create a distribution plan to let stakeholders know about the new system. Children’s Commission will also develop a survey tool to assess the usefulness, effectiveness and accuracy of the system. OCA will work with the Children’s Commission on tracking or logging the number of users and hearings.

Video Conferencing

The video conferencing project enables children involved in child abuse and neglect cases to participate in permanency and placement review hearings without them being physically present in the courtroom. OCA hosts and supports the hardware and software required to facilitate VTC between courts and residential placements. OCA will develop a draft set of procedures and protocol between OCA and DFPS and Courts and is in the process of developing a one-page set of instructions for participation. OCA will maintain a list of Residential Treatment Centers with VTC capability as well as a list of courts with VTC capability. OCA will maintain a log of all hearings conducted, including the date, time, participating court, type of hearing, participating placement, length of hearing, any problems with the transmission quality or technical difficulties. OCA and Children's Commission will issue a Jurist In Residence Letter to judges regarding VTC availability, how to use it, and who to contact. OCA will work with DFPS on expanding capability and feasibility for use beyond court hearings.

Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS)

CPCMS is a case management system that is unique to Child Protection Courts. It has been in use since 2009. OCA will provide project management, programming and testing services for CPCMS. OCA will determine whether there are bug fixes or enhancements required based on input from CPCMS users. OCA will use its CPCMS Advisory Group to determine the nature and priority of CPCMS enhances and bug fixes. OCA will consult with the Children's Commission on the appropriate percentage of time to allocate to CPCMS enhancements.

Children's Commission Website Support and Maintenance

Children's Commission will maintain a website for the Commission and for Education. The websites will inform and apprise stakeholders about the Commission and the offerings and services available from the Children's Commission and Texas Court Improvement Program. CC staff and OCA will periodically monitor both websites to ensure items are added, deleted, and information is maintained in a current and accurate manner.

INSERT - TAB 4

**Supreme Court Children's Commission
Data/Technology Committee
September 3, 2013 via conference call**

Toll free: 1-877-820-7831
Participant Passcode: 629943#

MEETING AGENDA

12:00 Call to Order **Vicki Spriggs**

12:05 Note about April committee meeting minutes **Vicki Spriggs**

The meeting minutes were sent to the committee members after the April meeting requesting comments. No comments or objections were received and the minutes were incorporated into the Report to the Commission at the May Commission meeting. The minutes are included for your reference only.

12:05 Update about grant funding **Tina Amberboy**

FY 2013 distribution of funds from the Children's Bureau occurred in May 2013. Commission staff will submit FY 2014 CIP application no later than August 30, 2013. It is still unclear about when states will receive FY 2014 funding and it may be as late as May 2014. Due to the uncertainty about when FY 2014 funding will be received, Commission staff recommends moving forward cautiously with projects detailed below.

12:10 Update on data/technology projects **Vicki Spriggs / Tina Amberboy
Tim Kennedy / Casey Kennedy**

Notice & Engagement Web Application

1. The project involves using non-confidential case data to build a system whereby notice of statutory hearings and other court-related events requiring notice to parties and interested persons can be distributed electronically (via text or email).
 - a. OCA will maintain web screens built in FY2013.
 - b. Web screens will be initially populated with hearing date information from the Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS).
 - c. OCA will build a search tool that will allow an interested person to search for case information by last name of the mother or the child.
 - d. OCA will build the alert function to enable an interested person to associate their name and contact information with a particular case.
 - e. Children's Commission will work on an announcement about the feature and a distribution plan to let stakeholders know about the new system.
 - f. Children's Commission will develop a survey tool to assess the usefulness, effectiveness and accuracy of the system.
 - g. OCA will work with the Children's Commission on tracking or logging the number of users and hearings.

Video Conferencing

1. The video conferencing project enables children involved in child abuse and neglect cases to participate in permanency and placement review hearings without them being physically present in the courtroom.
 - a. OCA will host and support the hardware and software required to facilitate VTC between courts and residential placements.
 - b. OCA will develop procedures and protocol between OCA and DFPS and Courts.
 - c. OCA will develop a one-page set of instructions for participation.
 - d. OCA will maintain a list of Residential Treatment Centers with VTC capability.
 - e. OCA will maintain a list of courts with VTC capability.
 - f. OCA will maintain a log of all hearings conducted, including the date, time, participating court, type of hearing, participating placement, length of hearing, any problems with the transmission quality or technical difficulties.
 - g. OCA and Children's Commission will issue a Jurist In Residence Letter to judges regarding VTC availability, how to use it, and who to contact.
2. OCA will work with DFPS on expanding capability and feasibility for use beyond court hearings.
 - a. OCA and Children's Commission will work with DFPS to consider additional entities that may benefit from VTC capabilities (foster parents and homes, biological parents and relatives, CASA volunteers, therapists, caseworkers).

CPCMS

1. CPCMS is a case management system that is unique to Child Protection Courts. It has been in use since 2009.
 - a. OCA will provide project management, programming and testing services for CPCMS.
 - b. OCA will determine whether there are bug fixes or enhancements required based on input from CPCMS users.
 - c. OCA will use its CPCMS Advisory Group to determine the nature and priority of CPCMS enhances and bug fixes.
 - d. OCA will consult with the Children's Commission on the appropriate percentage of time to allocate to CPCMS enhancements.

Children's Commission Website Support and Maintenance

1. Children's Commission will maintain a website for the Commission and for Education.
 - a. Website will inform and apprise stakeholders about the Commission and the offerings and services available from the Children's Commission and Texas Court Improvement Program.
 - b. CC staff and OCA will monitor both websites on an ongoing basis to ensure items are added, deleted, and information is maintained in a current and accurate manner.

FY2013 Data / Tech Project Wrap

1. Children's Commission will no longer staff or provide funding for the following projects.
 - a. Spanish Interpreter – OCA will assume 100% of funding for this position.
 - b. Child Protection Court Strategic Planning – OCA will assume 100% of the funding for this effort, which will focus more on CPC reforms based on the strategic planning accomplished in FY2013.
 - c. Bench Book – this project will continue, but will transition to Tiffany Roper and will be managed as part of the Judicial Education work / committee.
 - d. Event Management – Cvent is in place and functioning. No further committee oversight required.
 - e. Attorney Billing – This project is unfinished, but is being deferred due to funding and resource constraints.

12:40 New Business / Adjourn

Data / Tech Membership for FY 2014

Ms. Vicki Spriggs, Chair
Mr. Dan Capouch, Member
Mr. Jason Hassay, Member
Hon. Gilford Jones, Member
Dr. Octavio Martinez, Member
Mr. Robert Nolen, Member
Ms. D. J. Tessier, Member
Mr. G. Allan Van Fleet, Member
Mr. Bryan Wilson, Member

OCA Technical Advisory Staff (non-voting)

Mr. Casey Kennedy
Mr. Tim Kennedy
Mr. Darrell Childers

Children's Commission Staff

Ms. Tina Amberboy
Ms. Mary Mitchell
Ms. Jessica Arguijo

INSERT COLORED SHEET

**Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families
CIP Basic Committee**

**August 20, 2013
via conference call**

Toll free: 1-877-820-7831
Participant Passcode: 629943

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS

Members Present

Members Absent

Name		Name
Judge Bonnie Hellums, Chair	Teleconference	Judge Virginia Schnarr, Member
Ms. Gabriela Fuentes, Member	Teleconference	Judge Olen Underwood, Member
Judge Peter Sakai, Member	Teleconference	Judge Doug Warne, Member
Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon, Member	Teleconference	
Ms. Colleen McCall, Member	Teleconference	

Ms. Kristi Taylor, Staff	In Person
Ms. Tiffany Roper, Staff	In Person
Ms. Mary Mitchell, Staff	In Person
Ms. Jessica Arguijo, Staff	In Person

The Committee had a quorum present for this meeting.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

II. Adoption of Minutes

The meeting minutes were sent to the committee members after the April meeting requesting comments. Minutes were found absent of comments or objections and approved at the May 2013 Commission meeting.

III. Update on Grant Funding

Ms. Taylor began by expressing that this meeting was intended to be the annual in-person, all-committee meeting, but budget constraints required that the in person meeting be replaced by a conference call. This past May 2013, the Commission received its federal funding for FY2013, 8 months late. The Administration for Children, Youth and Family (ACYF) stated they are unclear when states will receive FY 2014, and that it may be May 2014. Due to this funding uncertainty, the Commission is moving forward cautiously with recommended projects according to a statewide approach through training and technical assistance. Ms. Roper added that the Commission's federal grant has been reauthorized through 2016, but that the Sequester has created significant delays. Ms. Roper noted that states were advised at the Annual Court Improvement Meeting by the ACYF to expect delays and plan accordingly. Ms. Fuentes expressed agreement with the Commission's approach to funding, adding scholarships can be implemented as funding is received. Judge Sakai asked if the Commission is able to sustain the

extended time frame between funding to which Ms. Roper stated yes, that while funds will be tight, the Commission does not anticipate a crisis.

IV. Update on Basic Projects

Ms. Taylor resumed the agenda citing the FY 2014 CIP Application is due the end of August which has established 2014 goals. Ms. Taylor advised that some projects may be moved from Basic Committee to Training according to the focus.

A. Texas CASA

Child welfare stakeholder training events:

- a. Permanency Values Training will be offered in five child welfare regions focusing on rural counties and will include CASA staff and volunteers, attorneys, judges, CPS caseworkers, faith communities, local stakeholders.
- b. Race the Power of Illusion training will be provided on 2 separate dates. Training will be coordinated with the Children's Commission's Judicial Disproportionality Workgroup. Ms. Taylor elaborated on this identifying the distributors as a national training group.
- c. Trust Based Relational Intervention training by the Texas Christian University Institute of Child Development will be coordinated with DFPS, the Children's Commission, TCU, Texas CASA, and members of the judiciary.
- d. Advanced Case Advocacy will be a one-day training focused on children in permanent managing conservatorship and will use the CASA Permanency Planning Toolkit, Family Engagement information, and will be developed in collaboration with DFPS, the CC, and Texas Appleseed.

B. Child Protection Law Judicial Bench Book

The Bench Book is being updated to reflect the 2013 legislative changes.

Ms. Taylor lead a brief Commission Staff update and highlight to the agenda followed as introductions were made to Judge Hellums who joined the call.

C. Texas Appleseed Project

2nd Annual Permanency Summit: Due to delay in receiving FY 2013 funds and no definite date for receiving FY 2014 funds, the 2nd Annual Permanency Summit has been indefinitely postponed.

Texas Appleseed is working with Casey Family Programs to implement *mini*-permanency summits in some regions next year according to a creative and cost-efficient measure.

Children's Commission Core goals for the project are as follows:

- a. More kids in court and scheduling family group conferencing earlier
- b. Mobile court for children with disabilities
- c. Contact with kids leading to better attorney interaction; increase in relative placements; understanding psych medicine issues better
- d. Education hearings held in RTCs via videoconferencing
- e. More kids attending hearings via videoconferencing
- f. Holding case staff meetings at the courthouse immediately following 262 hearings to capturing relatives, attorneys, CPS, and families so they may leave with proper contact information and the top three agenda items going forward
- g. PMC docket every Tuesday PM; with resources for teenage/transitioning kids

- h. CPS internal transfer staffing when child is moved to PMC unit and the CVS and PMC workers develop the new permanency goal together
 - i. Moving forward with home studies even if criminal history exists
- Judge Sakai asked the results of the Legal Representation Study, to which Ms. Taylor obliged and moved ahead in the agenda.

D. Legal Representation Study (LRS)

The LRS Workgroup is on going after serving as a key resource during the last legislative session. The legislation filed in response to the work of the LRS during the 2013 legislative session includes amendments to Chapters 107, 262 and 263 to:

- Impose an ongoing CLE requirement of 3 hours of instruction each year in child protection law for attorneys representing children and parents. Ms. Taylor clarified the previous requirement was initial while the amended requirement is on-going and must be renewed;
- Clarify that once an AAL appointed to represent an alleged father has completed his/her their duties, the court shall dismiss the attorney;
- Clarify that an indigent parent who is opposed to the suit, whether for termination or conservatorship, is entitled to an attorney. Ms. Roper defined the provisions and noted the sections were combined;
- Spell out the duties of an attorney appointed to represent a parent cited by publication and provides clarification when AAL dismissal once his/her duties have been satisfied;
- Require any emergency order authorizing the possession of a child to state in boldface type and capital letters that the parent has the right to be represented by an attorney, if indigent;
- Allow for an extension to the time to hold a full adversary hearing so that the court can advise a parent who is indigent and who appears in opposition to the suit that they have a right to an attorney;
- Allows the parent and their attorney up to seven days to respond to the petition and prepare for the adversary hearing;
- Accommodate any extension of time granted under new **262.201 (a-3)**; and
- Require the court to advise each parent not represented by an attorney at each Status Hearing and each subsequent Permanency Hearing of their right to be represented by an attorney, if indigent.

Ms. Roper noted the aforementioned will be added to the Bench Book.

E. Round Table Series (RTS)

Ms. Taylor moved to the Round Tables Series noting recent topics include Family Visitation RTS, and Psychoactive RTS; the goal is to bring together subject matter experts, judicial and executive branch leaders, and key policymakers to discuss issues affecting child welfare in the State of Texas. The Psychoactive Medications Round Table resulted in a published report that was circulated widely during the legislative session and informed eight bills regarding psychotropic medications. The final report for Family Visitation RT was recently released and will be at the September 27 Children's Commission meeting and is currently available online.

F. Psychoactive Medications

Ms. Taylor addressed the Commission's work to improve practices and communication to ensure comprehensive evaluations and appropriate treatment of children prescribed psychoactive medications, including to:

- a. Assist with implementation of HB915: HB915 increases the youth and medical consentor awareness of alternatives to prescribed psychotropic medication, provides children the right to provide an opinion on their medical care, allows foster youth 16 and older to act as their own medical consentor, requires attorneys and guardians to evaluate medical care, elicit their client's view on medical care being provided, and mandates that the youth transition plan provided to each child 16 and older include provisions and instructions regarding medical care and psychotropic medications;
- b. Host and facilitate implementation meetings with Judge McCallum, which have resulted in identifying issues in initial stages;
- c. Host and facilitate ongoing HB915 workgroup meetings;
- d. Staff and monitor the Children's Commission Psychotropic Medications Workgroup meetings, strategies, timelines, and work product for FY2014;
- e. Provide education and training to judges and legal system stakeholders on the best practices regarding children prescribed psychotropic medications; and
- f. Include information about psychotropic medications, the laws, policies, practices, and judicial tools available in its CPS Judicial Bench Book.
- g. Update
 - July 23rd HB915 Workgroup Meeting
 - August 27th HB915 Workgroup Meeting

G. Trauma-Informed Care Workgroup (TIC)

During numerous discussions among the Psychoactive Medications Workgroup and the HB915 Workgroup, many stakeholders requested more emphasis on Trauma-Informed Care. The Children's Commission will support the systemic shift of DFPS to become a trauma-informed care system on the many levels of the organization and partners including its own staff, therapists, foster/kinship parents, residential contractors, judges, attorneys, CASA volunteers, youth and foster alumni, and STAR Health (the managed care HMO that provides physical and behavioral health to all foster youth in the state's conservatorship.)

Ms. Taylor identified two supporting professionals: Dr. Watt of San Marcos, as an advocate of "the medical home", and Dr. Partap of Dallas who manages a foster care clinic as proponents of a comprehensive approach to Trauma-Informed Care.

Judge Shannon cited her work with Dr. Partap and awareness of the program roll-out.

Judge Hellums noted the program sounds comparable to "One child, one judge"; Ms. Taylor agreed noting the value of medical professionals in Trauma-Informed Care.

H. Judicial Disproportionality Workgroup (JDW)

Ms. Taylor cited the Workgroup will need to reconvene due to funding measures. There was discussion noting the value of the training concept but a need to find the most effective methods of delivery.

Judge Sakai spoke of the spring Implicit Bias Committee meeting, noting the strong leadership of Judge Olnier, Judge Walker, and Joyce James.

- 2014 - Implicit Bias in Judicial Decision-Making Conference: Due to delay in receiving FY 2013 funds and no definite date for receiving FY 2014 funds, determined necessary to indefinitely postpone Implicit Bias Conference

I. Tribal Initiatives

The Children's Commission continues to develop mutually respectful and ongoing relationships with Texas' three federally-recognized tribal nations. Goals include to:

- a. Work with Alabama-Coushatta in the development of Texas' first tribal model court.
- b. Continue to attempt connections with Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Kickapoo tribes.
- c. Promote ongoing knowledge and understanding of the ICWA and its importance
- d. Update
 - April 16, 2013 - US Supreme Court heard Adoptive couple v. Baby Girl (Baby Veronica case)
 - June 25, 2013 - U.S. Supreme Court reversed and remanded to South Carolina Supreme Court under ICWA
 - July 31, 2013 - South Carolina Supreme Court awarded custody to adoptive parents
 - August 2013 - The Commission has extended an invitation to tribal member Peacemaker Battise with the Alabama-Coushatta to be a Commissioner

Ms. Taylor stressed the importance of reaching out to the tribal community and requested the support of the Committee to this issue going forward. Ms. Fuentes noted she may have a contact with the Kickapoo tribe.

J. Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM)

The Children's Commission will continue to support the CYPM:

- a. The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute has been involved with Travis County in implementing its Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) since 2010.
- b. Casey Family Programs and the CJJR began spreading the CYPM to other counties in Texas in 2012. The CYPM is designed specifically to improve outcomes for "crossover youth" (youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems) by creating greater efficiencies and levels of effectiveness through the collaborative efforts of these two systems.

K. Jurist in Residence (JIR)

Judge Robin Sage and Judge Dean Rucker now serve as Jurists in Residence for the Children's Commission. Ms. Taylor noted that the Hearing Quality Project has been completed by Judge Sage over a six-week period to gain a comprehensive understanding of the practices and procedures in Texas CPS hearings. Children's Commission will compile the results through a review and a recording of all observation results collected. The Commission will issue a preliminary report for the September 27, 2013 meeting and a final report by year end.

V. New Business

No new business was brought forth or addressed.

VI. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

INSERT COLORED SHEET

**Supreme Court of Texas
Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families
Training Committee**

**August 14, 2013
via conference call**

Toll free: 1-877-820-7831
Participant Passcode: 629943

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS

Members Present		Members Absent
Name		Name
Judge Camile DuBose, Chair	Teleconference	Judge Mark Atkinson, Member
Ms. Cathy Cockerham, Member	Teleconference	Mr. Tymothy Belseth, Member
Ms. Barbara Elias-Perciful, Member	Teleconference	Ms. Debra Emerson, Member
Ms. Alice Emerson, Member	Teleconference	Ms. Tracy Harting, Member
Ms. Pam Parker, Member	Teleconference	Ms. Joyce James, Member
Ms. Fairy Davenport Rutland, Member	Teleconference	Ms. Shaneka Odom, Member
Judge Ellen Smith, Member	Teleconference	Judge Lamar McCorkle, Member
Justice Michael Massengale, Guest	Teleconference	Dr. Sandeep Narang, Member
Judge Richard Garcia, Member	Teleconference	Ms. Elizabeth Watkins, Member
Ms. Heidi Penix, Guest	Teleconference	
Ms. Tina Amberboy	Teleconference	
Ms. Tiffany Roper, Staff	In-Person	
Ms. Milbrey Raney, Staff	In-Person	
Ms. Mary Mitchell, Staff	In-Person	
Ms. Jessica Arguijo, Staff	In-Person	

The Committee did not have a quorum present for this meeting.

I. Call to Order

Judge Dubose called the meeting to order at 12:08

II. Adoption of Minutes

The meeting minutes were sent to the committee members after the April 4 meeting requesting comments. Minutes were found absent of comments or objections and approved at the May 2013 Commission meeting.

III. Update on Grant Update

Judge Dubose provided an update on FY 2013 and FY 2014 grants. Distribution of the FY2013 CIP grant funds from the Children’s Bureau occurred in May, 2013. Commission staff will submit FY 2014 CIP application by the end of August, 2013 and was advised to anticipate budget projections through May, though it is unclear when states will receive FY 2014 funding. Ms. Amberboy concurred and explained funding is subject to sequestration and appropriations in the federal budget. Due to the uncertainty of FY 2014 funding distribution date, the Commission is moving forward cautiously with recommended projects, as discussed below.

IV. Update on Training Projects

a. Attorney Practitioner Manual

Judge DuBose recalled the attorney education Attorney Manual, written in 2009 as part of National Association Counsel for Children (NACC) Texas trainings, is available online and in print. Now that the 83rd Legislative Session has finished, staff will assess whether the update can be completed internally or as a contract partnership. Ms. Raney reported due to competing top priorities, the direction of this project has yet to be determined.

b. Attorney Appointment Eligibility Training

Judge DuBose briefed members on the attorney eligibility training update. The 2008 Attorney Ad Litem Training was updated by a live webinar at the State Bar by Ms. Amberboy and Ms. Roper on Tuesday, July 2. This will meet the statutorily required 3 hours minimum of CLE for attorneys seeking to be qualified to take CPS appointments. The training is available on-line and free of charge to attorneys seeking appointments.

c. Child Protection Webinars

In addition to the updated Attorney Ad Litem Training CLE, the CPS Mentor Series has grown by one CLE since our last call. The new series is called “Transitioning Your CPS Case From Trial To Appeal” was taped as a live webinar on June 25th by Trial Skills faculty member, Rob Galvin.

On the horizon, Staff has reserved a 3-hour block at the SBOT recording studio on the morning of October 23rd, 2013, for as many Trial Skills faculty members to tape their lectures on CPS trial skills as possible. Topic was noted to later revisit.

d. Attorney Scholarships

Judge DuBose briefed that Commission staff coordinated the application process to award the following scholarships to this summer’s conferences:

- American Bar Association (ABA) Conferences for parents’ attorneys and for children’s attorneys was held in mid-July where 18 scholarship awardees attended. Most surveyed said they would not have been able to attend had they not received a scholarship from the Commission.
- State Bar of Texas (SBOT) Advanced Family Law Seminar’s 1-Day Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) track was on Wednesday August 7th in which 50 registration scholarships were awarded.
- NACC’s Annual Summer Conference is August 23-26, 2013 in which 16 scholarships were awarded for the cost of conference registration.
- Applicants were required to submit a judicial letter of approval along with their application for the ABA and NACC conferences. For the 1-Day CAN Workshop, the Commission staff verified with the applicant’s appointing judge that the applicant was in good standing with that judge.
- All approved applicants to all 3 summer conferences included Ad Litem, Parent Attorneys, and attorneys for the state; CAs, DAs, and regional attorneys for DFPS. Judge DuBose thanked Barbara Elias Perciful and Beth Page for helping publicize these scholarships. Judge Smith added that the attorneys who have received scholarships over the last few years greatly appreciate the award, have learned so much, and spoke to the quality of the trainings.

e. Trial Skills Training

- Ms. Raney provided a training skills status update. Members of the Trial Skills Workgroup met in mid-April to review all Trial Skills Training Curriculum and were trained by Peter Hoffman on how to present the curriculum to participants. Afterward, in order to better prepare for the Pilot Trial Skills Training, the Commission held a “Dress Rehearsal”/ Faculty Development Training on June 29th & 30th, 2013
- For the Faculty Development Training, Faculty prepared and presented power points on all areas of trial preparation: Case Theory; Opening Statement; Direct Examination; Cross Examination; Foundations; Objections; Impeachment; Experts; Closing Argument; and discussed how to present on Jury Matters.
- Commission staff partnered with Trevor Woodruff of DFPS to have 3 caseworkers participate, along with Dr. Sandeep Narang to have two Fellows act as witnesses in the trial skills exercises based on exhibits created from the fact pattern. Faculty practiced their teaching and critique methodology, and was able to perform a walk-through of the facility and discuss the logistics of the presentations.
- The Pilot Trial Skills Training project is scheduled on October 23-25, 2013, in Austin at the Child Advocacy Center, Texas (CACTX) facility. Commission staff continue to prepare for this Pilot Training.
- Justice Massengale concurred with Ms. Raney’s update adding the importance and positive effect of the dry-run.
- Judge DuBose confirmed the date of the training with Ms. Raney as October 23, 24, 25. Ms. Raney assured faculty are revising presentations according to the feedback and are submitting names of potential Pilot participants to ensure that an equal capture of state, parent, and child attorneys will participate.

GOAL: Take 21 new or less-experienced attorneys for the first Pilot Training.

f. NACC Grant: Fee Waiver for Child Welfare Specialist Exam

Judge DuBose informed that NACC has sent a draft Grant Application for reimbursement of the Certification Exam Fee for Texas attorneys and judges who have qualified to sit for the Child Welfare Specialist Exam. Commission staff will work with NACC to complete the application so that funds can be allocated as approved.

g. SBoT CAN Committee Multi-disciplinary Training in FY2012

Judge DuBose stated the Conference was held as part of the “Keeping Infants and Toddlers Safe (“KIDS”)” conference on June 19-21, 2013. Ms. Elias-Perciful was in attendance and added that she estimated 250 people were present on Wednesday, and consisted mostly of attorneys. She noted, of those surveyed, 100% agreed the conference was useful and would attend or recommend future trainings.

V. On the Horizon 2014

- The Commission will act as host/facilitator for the Trial Skills Training for the DFPS regional attorneys at CACTX. Judge Dubose informed the Committee they would not be

required to work on agenda development or content and at this juncture, there is no role for the training committee to be actively involved.

- Following the October 2013 Pilot Trial Skills Training, the Commission anticipates an additional Trial Skills Training in March, 2014. Future trainings will be scheduled thereafter once Commission staff and faculty have had a chance to confer and future trainings are contingent on continued funding.
- Commission staff will create a judicial survey to inquire whether attorneys sent to conferences on Commission scholarships have improved their courtroom performances and are using best practices in and outside of the courtroom.
- Commission staff will be soliciting and reviewing surveys from attorneys who received scholarships as part of the internal Control Quality Initiative (CQI) process; CQI is the method to measure the impact of training projects. Ms. Raney affirmed the federal requirement to continue evaluating and measuring the impact of training according to both parties.
- Plan to use FY 2014 funding for following attorney training projects:
 - i. Attorney scholarships for CAN track at Advance Family Law (AFL) and NACC as well as support of training of DFPS attorneys.
 - ii. Trial Skills Training
 - iii. NACC certification support.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Child Welfare Judges Conference (in partnership with the Texas Center of Justice)

Judge DuBose cited this year's Child Welfare Judges Conference was May 21-23, 2013 in San Antonio at La Cantera and was attended by 61 judges, including Judge DuBose, and 13 child protection court coordinators. Judge Specia gave his vision for DFPS, to which Judge DuBose noted as an excellent session. Other topics included a lunch for new judges, a legislative update, sessions on criminal convictions and relative placements, the legal requirements of ICWA, permanency and well-being, courtroom management, and vicarious trauma (of judges and court staff). There was also a breakfast for judges who attended the Permanency Summit to find out what changes were made in their jurisdictions after the summit. Several judges instituted changes in practice after the summit, especially including more children and youth in court hearings. Some examples:

- Moved up family group conferencing (Collin County)
- Videoconferencing and rolling court for child with disabilities (Jefferson County)
- Contact with kids leading to better attorney interaction, increase in relative placement, knowing when psychotropic medication issues (Jefferson County)
- Education hearings being held in RTCs through videoconferencing (Bexar County) – next step should be foster placements
- Hold initial meeting including attorneys, ADA and Convenor or CPS supervisor at the courthouse immediately after 262 hearing in order to capture relatives who are present. The purpose is to leave with the top 3 next steps along with contact and location information of where to go (Bexar County)
- PMC docket every Tuesday afternoon; resources for teenage/transitioning kids (Tarrant County)-Judge Smith concurred adding Judge Kim Brown keeps close watch of this in order to move children under permanent care with family that wasn't identified in the initial case..
- CPS is conducting internal transfer staffing when a child is moved to a PMC unit; CVS and PMC workers now develop a new permanency goal together (Tarrant County)
- Moving forward with home studies, even if there is criminal history (Tarrant County). Judge Smith added there is now one prosecutor who manages this docket.

National Counsel of Juvenile & Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Annual Conference

The conference was held July 14-17, 2013 in Seattle, WA, where Judge DuBose was in attendance. Judge Smith added she enjoyed the speaker of the presentation, "Vicarious Trauma," to which Judge DuBose noted the Texas Center has invited the speaker to attend additional judicial conferences. Ms. Elias-Perciful concurred and noted appreciation for recognizing trauma informed issues and judicial practice.

Region VI Parent Representation Forum

In September 2012, the Texas team in attendance at the Region VI Parent Representation Forum recommended holding a Family Visitation Round Table, which was held on March 1, 2013. A final report resulting from the discussion should be available online and at the Children's Commission meeting on September 27. For 2014, the Texas Legal Services Center and the University of Texas are looking to develop an online Parent Resource Center comparable to the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project operated by Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid. This will likely include the production of a printed and online version of a Parent Resource Guide.

FY 2014 PROJECTS:

Plan to use FY 2014 funding for following judicial education projects:

- Plan to continue funding for TCJ to hold the Child Welfare Judges Conference and to support judicial technical assistance projects.
- There will be a limited pool of judicial scholarships for conferences and therefore will be unable to send a large group of judges to the NCJFCJ annual conference in 2014 as have in the past.
- Mediation project, which will be in development during FY 2014.

2014 Child Welfare Judges Conference

Confirming dates for 2014 conference with TCJ, possibly May or June 2014

2nd Annual Permanency Summit, On Hold

2nd Annual Permanency Summit is indefinitely postponed due to the delay in receiving FY 2013 funds and no definite date for receiving FY 2014 funds. The plan is to incorporate content in next year's Child Welfare Judges (CWJ) Conference. Ms. Roper noted the Children's Bureau informed the CIPs that funding might be delayed until May, 2014, so state CIP programs should proceed cautiously. The Commission projects not more than \$120,000 on the CWJ Conference and \$20-30,000 for the Trial Skills trainings.

Judge DuBose asked the cost of last years' CWJ Conference to attest to its quality going forward and it was noted \$120-125,000 was spent in the past. Ms. Amberboy added since the ABA Conference is not taking place next year and should funding be given in 2013, the Commission may be able to provide more scholarships for NCJFCJ.

Mediation Project

Ms. Roper spoke of the Mediation Project. In April 2013, Child Protection Mediation Guidelines were developed by a group of national experts, including Cynthia Bryant of the UT Law Mediation Clinic. Upon Ms. Bryant's return to Austin in September, she and Ms. Roper plan to put together a mediation project, which may include training standards for child

protection mediation. Ms. Roper added Judge Scott McCown is the Director of the Children's Rights Clinic at UT and may contribute to the project.

VI. New Business

Judge DuBose noted her six year term is finished and this will be the last meeting she chairs.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

INSERT - TAB 5

Children's Commission

FY 2014 Budget Projection

Est. Beginning Budget for FY14	\$	1,032,547
FY 2014 Approved Budget Amount	\$	1,643,738
Total	\$	2,676,285

Obligated Amount \$ 1,280,039

PROJECTED BUDGET	
Indirect Cost	
Salaries	\$ 487,000.00
Payroll Taxes/Retirement/Health & Benefits	\$ 122,000.00
Overhead Cost	\$ 17,500
Operating Cost	\$ 28,000
Commission Travel	\$ 15,000
	\$ 669,500
Direct Cost	
Staff Directed Projects	
Publication Reprints	\$ 1,800
RoundTable	\$ 5,000
Education Committee	\$ 2,500
Legal Representation Study	\$ 1,500
Psych Meds WG/Trauma Informed	\$ 1,500
Judge In Residence	\$ 25,000
JDW / Tribal Initiative	\$ 5,000
Trial Skills	\$ 15,000
	\$ 57,300
Grants	
OCA - CIP Technology Project	\$ 249,289
DRTX (NCE)	\$ 38,771
Texas CASA	\$ 110,450
Texas Center for the Judiciary (TCJ)	\$ 133,229
	\$ 531,739
Scholarships	
DFPS Regional Attorney Training	\$ 1,500
AFL	\$ 5,000
NACC (exams waivers/scholarships)	\$ 15,000
	\$ 21,500

9/20/2013

INSERT - TAB 6

**STATEMENT OF GRANT AWARD
COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FY 2014**

Grant Number: 201-14-00047
Grantee Name: Texas Office of Court Administration
Program Title: CIP Technology Projects
Grant Period: 10/01/2013 – 09/30/2014
Grant Award Amount: \$249,289.00

The Supreme Court Children's Commission has awarded the above-referenced grant from the Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP). The individual authorized to apply for and accept grant funds (subgrantee) must sign this Statement of Grant Award and return it to the CIP Grant Director. The signed Statement of Grant Award must be on file with the CIP Grant Administrator in order for the subgrantee to receive reimbursements for authorized expenditures. Disbursement is subject to the availability of funds, and disbursed monthly on a reimbursement basis unless otherwise stated in the subgrantee's Award Activities. Applicant understands that projects funded by CIP must involve meaningful and on-going collaboration of local or statewide stakeholders.

The subgrantee agrees to:

1. Abide by all terms and conditions of this CIP Award Activities Statement (Exhibit A).
2. Comply with the terms of the CIP Program Instructions incorporated into this Statement of Grant Award by reference for all purposes (Exhibit B).
3. Acknowledge that a violation of any term of the CIP Award Activities Statement or CIP Program Instructions or any applicable OMB Circular may result in Grantor placing a temporary hold on grant funds, and subject to Commission approval, permanently de-obligating all or part of the grant funds, requiring reimbursement for funds already spent, or barring the organization from receiving future grants.

Signature of Subgrantee

David Slayton, Administrative Director
Office of Court Administration

Date

Signature of CIP Grant Director

Tina Amberboy, Executive Director
Children's Commission

Date

Grant Certifications: CIP subgrantee certifies to the best of their knowledge and belief that the subgrantee will comply with the certifications listed below.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion

- (1) The subgrantee certifies that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) If the subgrantee is unable to certify to the statement above, such subgrantee shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Certification Regarding Environmental Tobacco Smoke

Public Law 103227, the Pro Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in any portion of any indoor facility owned, leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly to provide health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law does not apply to private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in a fine of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

Additional Certifications

Applicant understands that CIP grants awarded to a governmental entity are governed by OMB Circular A-87 and that CIP grants awarded to a non-profit organization are governed by OMB Circular A-110. Applicant understands that CIP funds expended must be reasonable and necessary to carry out the objectives of the program for which funding is sought. Applicant understands that CIP funds are paid on a reimbursement basis and must be supported by appropriate documentation.

Subgrantee certifies to all of the above

Signature

FY2014 AWARD ACTIVITIES

1. Notice & Engagement Project

The project involves using non-confidential case data to build a system whereby notice of statutory hearings can be distributed electronically (via text or email) to interested persons and parties.

- a. OCA will maintain web screens built in FY2013
- b. OCA will build a search tool that will allow an interested person to search for case information by last name of the mother involved in the case.
- c. Web screens will populate with hearing data once users have chosen cases from the search tool.
- d. The alert function will enable an interested person to associate their name and contact information with a particular case.
- e. The interested person will receive an email in advance (1 day, 3 days, 1 week, 2 weeks) with the date, cause #, Style of Case, Hearing Type, County, and Court.
- f. Children's Commission will develop an announcement about the notice system and features and a distribution plan to inform stakeholders.
- g. Children's Commission will develop a survey tool to assess the usefulness, effectiveness and accuracy of the system.
- h. OCA will work with the Children's Commission on tracking or logging the number of users and hearings.

2. Video Conference Technology Project

The video conferencing project enables children involved in child abuse and neglect cases to participate in permanency and placement review hearings without them being physically present in the courtroom.

- a. OCA will host and support the hardware and software required to facilitate VC between courts and residential placements.
- b. OCA will develop procedures and protocol between OCA and DFPS and Courts.
- c. OCA will develop a one-page set of instructions for participation.
- d. OCA will maintain a list of Residential Treatment Centers with VC capability.
- e. OCA will maintain a list of courts with VC capability.
- f. OCA will maintain a log of all hearings conducted, including the date, time, participating court, type of hearing, participating placement, length of hearing, any problems with the transmission quality or technological barriers.
- g. Children's Commission will issue a Jurist in Residence letter to the JIR listserv (judges) to advise of the VC project and how to participate.
- h. OCA will work with DFPS on expanding capability and feasibility for use beyond court hearings (foster parents and home, bio parents and relatives, CASA volunteers, therapy appointments, caseworker visits/appointments).
- i. OCA and Children's Commission will work

3. Website Support and Content Development

- a. Children's Commission will maintain a website for the Commission and for Education efforts to inform and apprise stakeholders about the Commission and the offerings and services available from the Children's Commission and Texas Court Improvement Program

- b. CC Staff will monitor both websites on an ongoing basis to ensure items are added, deleted, and information is maintained in a current and accurate manner.

4. Child Protection Case Management System

CPCMS is a case management system that is unique to Child Protection Courts. It has been in use since 2009.

- a. OCA will provide project management, programming and testing services for CPCMS
- b. OCA will determine whether there are bug fixes or enhancements required based on input from CPCMS users
- c. OCA will use its CPCMS Advisory Group to determine the nature and priority of CPCMS enhances and bug fixes
- d. OCA will consult with the Children’s Commission on the appropriate percentage of time to allocate to CPCMS enhancements.

Activity Assessment and Continuous Quality Improvement

Notice & Engagement Project	Partners	Goal of N&E Project	Target
	OCA, Children's Commission, DFPS, Child Placing Agencies, Other Child Welfare Stakeholders.	To help ensure notice of court activity and hearings is provided and to increase opportunities for interested persons to receive notice, and to participate in the judicial process.	Foster Parents, Relative Caregivers, Caseworkers, Attorneys, Advocates
N&E Outcomes (what will be accomplished in FY2014)	Outputs / Activities associated with the project	What is measured / What evidence or data	Dates / Events / Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Interested persons will have the ability to associate their name and contact information with a particular case. ➤ Children's Commission will provide information to users about the notice system notice system and features and a distribution plan to inform stakeholders. ➤ Children's Commission will determine usefulness, effectiveness, and longevity / sustainability . 	<p>System will allow user to search for case information by last name of mother in case.</p> <p>Notice will populate with hearing data once user has chosen case from search results.</p> <p>An email will be sent to system users in advance of posted hearing date.</p> <p>Email notice will include pertinent hearing data (court, county, date, time).</p> <p>CC will develop a notice about features, including a distribution plan.</p> <p>CC will develop a survey to assess use, usefulness, accuracy.</p> <p>CC will track the number of users and hearings.</p>	<p>System login and search information is monitored.</p> <p>Notices are examined to evaluate whether the correct hearing data is populating according to the search criteria.</p> <p>Emails timely and accurately sent.</p> <p>Emails contained accurate information.</p> <p>Notice to users developed.</p> <p>Survey developed.</p> <p>Users and hearings tracked.</p> <p>Project evaluation developed.</p> <p>Reports / documents produced.</p>	

Video Conference Project	Partners	Goal of Video Conf	Target
	OCA, Children's Commission, DFPS, Child Placing Agencies, Other Child Welfare Stakeholders.	To increase participation of children and youth in court hearings and other important events and meetings when they cannot be physically present.	Judges hearing CPS cases, children and youth, advocates, relatives, caseworkers, foster parents, attorneys, others.
VC: Outcomes (what will be accomplished in FY2014)	Outputs / Activities associated with the project	What should be measured?	Dates / Events / Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children and Youth will be able to participate in court hearings when they cannot be physically present. ➤ OCA and DFPS will follow an established protocol for determining which hearings qualify / are suitable. ➤ There will be a protocol and procedural document describing the relationship between OCA/CC and DFPS. ➤ There will be a one-page set of instructions for participation and use. ➤ Courts and other stakeholders will be made aware of the project and be updated on any progress and changes. ➤ Additional Courts will be added. ➤ OCA will understand when and whether additional users can be added to the project. 	<p>VC used in permanency and placement review hearings.</p> <p>A protocol and procedures document will be produced.</p> <p>Instructions for participation will be developed and made available to users.</p> <p>CC will assist in the distribution of the instructions and will produce a Jurist in Residence Letter.</p> <p>OCA will track # of hearings using VC and maintain a log that tracks date, time, type of hearing, court participating, age of youth.</p> <p>OCA will maintain list of Residential Treatment Centers and Courts with VC capability.</p> <p>CC will evaluate the project.</p> <p>CC will produce a final</p>	<p>VC used in hearings.</p> <p>Document produced.</p> <p>Instructions developed and disseminated.</p> <p>CC distributed the instructions and produced a JIR.</p> <p>OCA tracked # of hearings.</p> <p>OCA maintained a list of RTCs and Courts with VC capability.</p> <p>CC evaluated the project and issued a year-end report using CQI.</p>	

➤ The hardware and software will be hosted and kept under a maintenance agreement.	project report.		
Website Support and Content Development	Partners	Goal of Website Support and Content Development	Target
	Children’s Commission and OCA.	To develop a plan on how to establish a train the trainer program around TBRI principles to increase availability of TBRI interventions to children in foster care.	
Website: Outcomes (what will be accomplished in FY2014)	Outputs / Activities associated with the project	What should be measured?	Dates / Events / Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children’s Commission will maintain a website for the Commission. ➤ Children’s Commission will maintain a website for Education Stakeholders. ➤ Website will inform and apprise stakeholders about the Commission and the offerings and services available from the Children’s Commission and Texas Court Improvement Program. 	CC Staff will monitor both websites on an ongoing basis to ensure items are added, deleted, and information is maintained in a current and accurate manner.	Website is maintained and updated as needed.	
CPCMS	Partners	Goal of CPCMS	Target
	OCA, Children’s Commission, Child Protection Courts, DFPS	To help CPC judges manage cases, parties, duties related to CPS cases.	CPC Judges
CPCMS: Outcomes (what will be accomplished in FY2014)	Outputs / Activities associated with the project	What should be measured?	Dates / Events / Notes
➤ CPCMS will be consistently available to CPC judges for case /	OCA will utilize a process to identify system maintenance,	Process developed. Advisory Committee	

<p>docket management in handling their CPS cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPCMS will be enhanced and maintained according to input from CPCMS users. ➤ CPCMS will be repaired supported, updated, and tested to ensure enhancements and bug fixes benefit CPCMS users. ➤ Judges will be connected to CPCMS at all times to enable docket management at or after hearings. 	<p>enhancements, and bug fixes.</p> <p>OCA will consult with the CPC Advisory Committee for direction on CPCMS maintenance, enhancements, and bug fixes.</p> <p>OCA will utilize a plan that sets out the maintenance, enhancements, and bug fixes.</p> <p>OCA will consult with the Children’s Commission regarding CPCMS priorities.</p> <p>Judges and coordinators will use CPCMS to enter case data</p>	<p>meetings held and Advisory Committee consulted.</p> <p>Children’s Commission consulted.</p> <p>Project Plan developed and used.</p> <p>CPCMS maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>Court access to ensure routine data entry into CPCMS</p>	
---	---	--	--

Budget Narrative

Personnel – CIP Technology Project manager’s annual salary (\$82,015) – Programmer’s annual salary (\$74,978).

Fringe Benefits – Insurance, retirement, and state share of OASI and Medicare benefits expense for the CIP Technology Project Manager and Programmer (calculated at 30.96% of annual salary).

Salary and fringe costs of the CIP Grant are allocated to the activities listed above, according to time spent on each activity.

Travel - Project Manager to conduct 7 field site visits (in-state) to provide technical support to courts participating in the video conferencing project (\$2,964). Project Manager and Programmer to attend 2 days of the Annual Judges Conference for Child Protection Courts in Lost Pines, Texas (\$59 – mileage only).

Supplies –

- Web subscription services (\$2,859)
- Programmer software tools (\$1,852)
- Maintenance for the LifeSize ClearSea video server (\$5,833).
- Purchase of 60 web cameras (\$80/unit = \$4,800).
- Annual use fee – (1) USB data modem / aircard (\$480).
- Shipping and Postage (\$720).
- Phones, long distance and conference call service (\$1,456).
- Miscellaneous supplies (\$300).
- Staff training (\$1,200).

Contractual –

- Workers Assistance Program (\$48)
- Data Telecommunication Services (21,120: 44 aircards @ 40.00 per month x 12 months)

Construction (Not allowed / applicable)

In-Kind match will be accrued by OCA and stakeholder staff as they participate (i.e., plan, design, develop test, supervise, account, and report) on the project. Timesheets documenting the In-Kind effort will be collected during the course of the project.

Budget detail for full FY2014 Grant

	Texas CIP Grant	Requested			
		Total Program	Amount of CIP Funds Requested	Cash Match	In-Kind Match
A	Personnel	\$168,223	\$156,993	\$0	\$11,230
B	Fringe Benefits	\$52,026	\$48,605	\$0	\$3,421
C	Travel	\$3,023	\$3,023	\$0	\$0
D	Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
E	Supplies	\$40,620	\$40,620	\$0	\$0
F	Contractual	\$48	\$48	\$0	\$0
G	Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
H	Other	\$68,445	\$0	\$0	\$68,445
I	Total Direct Charges (sum a-h)	\$332,385	\$249,349	\$0	\$83,096
J	Indirect Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
K	Totals	\$332,385	\$249,289	\$0	\$83,096

INSERT COLORED SHEET

**STATEMENT OF GRANT AWARD
COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FY 2014**

Grant Number: 201-14-0001
Grantee Name: Texas CASA
Grant Period: 10/01/2013 – 09/30/2014
Grant Award: \$110,450.00

The Supreme Court Children's Commission has awarded the above-referenced grant from the Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP). The individual authorized to apply for and accept grant funds (sub grantee) must sign this Statement of Grant Award and return it to the CIP Grant Director. The signed Statement of Grant Award must be on file with the CIP Grant Administrator in order for the sub grantee to receive reimbursements for authorized expenditures. Disbursement is subject to the availability of funds, and disbursed monthly on a reimbursement basis unless otherwise stated in the sub grantee's Award Activities. Applicant understands that projects funded by CIP must involve meaningful and on-going collaboration of local or statewide stakeholders.

The sub grantee agrees to:

1. Abide by all terms and conditions of this CIP Award Activities Statement (Exhibit A).
2. Comply with the terms of the CIP Program Instructions incorporated into this Statement of Grant Award by reference for all purposes (Exhibit B).
3. Acknowledge that a violation of any term of the CIP Award Activities Statement or CIP Program Instructions or any applicable OMB Circular may result in Grantor placing a temporary hold on grant funds, and subject to Commission approval, permanently de-obligating all or part of the grant funds, requiring reimbursement for funds already spent, or barring the organization from receiving future grants.

Signature of Sub grantee

Vicki Spriggs, Executive Director
Texas CASA

Date

Signature of CIP Grant Director

Tina Amberboy, Executive Director
Children's Commission

Date

Grant Certifications: CIP sub grantee certifies to the best of their knowledge and belief that the sub grantee will comply with the certifications listed below.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion

- (1) The sub grantee certifies that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) If the sub grantee is unable to certify to the statement above, such sub grantee shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Certification Regarding Environmental Tobacco Smoke

Public Law 103227, the Pro Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in any portion of any indoor facility owned, leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly to provide health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law does not apply to private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in a fine of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

Additional Certifications

Applicant understands that CIP grants awarded to a governmental entity are governed by OMB Circular A-87 and that CIP grants awarded to a non-profit organization are governed by OMB Circular A-110. Applicant understands that CIP funds expended must be reasonable and necessary to carry out the objectives of the program for which funding is sought. Applicant understands that CIP funds are paid on a reimbursement basis and must be supported by appropriate documentation.

Sub grantee certifies to all of the above

Signature

AWARD ACTIVITIES FOR FY2014

1. Permanency Values Training

- CASA will facilitate up to five trainings at the request of DFPS regional offices.
- All five trainings will be offered and completed by July 31, 2014.
- CASA will plan each of these training in collaboration with DFPS, local CASA programs and stakeholders, and the Children's Commission.
- The training will be open to CASA and other stakeholders, including attorneys, judges, CPS, community churches engaged in recruitment/support of families.
- CASA will train 30 to 45 attendees.
- Funding will support travel for facilitators and PVT materials and videos to support additional and ongoing training in the region.

2. Race the Power of Illusion

- CASA will arrange with the Center for Healing Racism to facilitate two one-day trainings in FY2014.
- The Central and Northern regional areas of Texas are the target areas.
- CASA will plan each event in collaboration with DFPS and the Children's Commission's Judicial Disproportionality Workgroup to help bring in as many child welfare and judicial system stakeholders as possible.
- Potential audience of 60– 120 persons.
- Funding will support facilitators, meeting events and supplies, and travel for facilitators.

3. Trauma Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)

- CASA will work with The TCU Institute of Child Development and Dr. Karyn Purvis to develop a Train the Trainer Program to help establish TBRI as an effective and widely used intervention plan for children in foster care.
- The goal is to train 100 trainers over two years.
- CASA will establish a workgroup that includes representatives from DFPS, the Children's Commission, and other child welfare advocates to assist with planning the Train the Trainer program.
- Funding will support Dr. Purvis and the TCU Institute training program and travel for TBRI facilitators and materials to support training.

4. Advanced Case Advocacy

- CASA will train supervisors, program directors on advocacy and best practices in working with children in the Permanent Managing Conservatorship of DFPS.
- The training will be a one-day training and will use, as guidance to develop the training, the Permanency Values Toolkit, Family Engagement information and activities from the Diligent Recruitment activities currently deployed in Regions 3, 4, and 5, Permanency Values training materials, Children's Commission Trial Skills Case Scenario materials, and other resources as appropriate.
- Funding will support training materials and facilitators for the training event.

Activity Assessment and Continuous Quality Improvement

Permanency Values Training	Partners	Goal of PVT	Target
	CASA, DFPS, Children’s Commission, Other Child Welfare Stakeholders.	To increase knowledge about the importance and value of achieving permanency for children in foster care.	Local CASA programs, attorneys, judges, CPS, community churches in an effort to recruit and support families.
PVT Outcomes (what will be accomplished in FY2014)	Outputs / Activities associated with the project	What is measured / What evidence or data	Dates / Events / Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CASA will facilitate up to five trainings at the request of DFPS and CASA regional offices. ➤ All five trainings will be offered and completed by July 31, 2014 ➤ CASA will plan each training in collaboration with DFPS, local CASA programs and stakeholders, and the Children’s Commission ➤ The training will be open to CASA and other stakeholders, including attorneys, judges, CPS, community churches engaged in recruitment and support of families. ➤ Each PVT training will train 30 to 45 attendees. ➤ Funding will support travel for facilitators and PVT materials and videos to support additional and ongoing training. 	<p>Form workgroup of DFPS staff and Texas CASA staff, and other interested parties (Casey, Texas Appleseed) to identify target areas for training and possible collaborative initiatives to support permanency</p> <p>Determine training locations, outline, facilitators and training agenda</p> <p>Coordinate PVT trainings as appropriate and recommended by Planning Workgroup with other PMC trainings/initiatives</p> <p>Develop evaluation plan for PVT trainings.</p> <p>Hold training events (Locations & Dates to be determined by November 1, 2013.</p> <p>Administer evaluation</p>	<p>Workgroup formed; meeting minutes kept</p> <p>Project Plan / Training Schedule Produced</p> <p>Evaluation Developed</p> <p>Training Events Held</p> <p>Evaluation administered</p>	<p>October 2013</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>November 2013 – July 30, 14</p>

Race The Power of Illusion	Partners	Goal of RTPI	Target
	CASA, DFPS, Children’s Commission, Other Child Welfare Stakeholders	To increase knowledge about the importance of recognizing that race matters and to help continue creating awareness about disproportionality and disparate outcomes for children of color in the child welfare system	Local CASA programs, attorneys, judges, CPS, and other child welfare system stakeholders and interested persons
RTPI: Outcomes (what will be accomplished in FY2014)	Outputs / Activities associated with the project	What should be measured?	Dates / Events / Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CASA will arrange with The Center for Healing Racism to facilitate two one-day trainings in FY2014. ➤ The Central and Northern regional areas of the state are the target areas. ➤ CASA will plan each event in collaboration with DFPS and the Children’s Commission’s Judicial Disproportionality Workgroup to help bring in as many child welfare and judicial system stakeholders as possible. ➤ Potential audience of 60-120 persons. 	<p>Small workgroup identified by CASA in planning for and engaging stakeholders in training events.</p> <p>Develop evaluation plan</p> <p>Advertise and register participants</p> <p>Hold training events (Central area – August 19 and Northern area August 21, 2014)</p> <p>Administer the evaluation</p> <p>Analyze evaluations and apply CQI</p>	<p>Planning Meetings Held</p> <p>Project Plan Produced</p> <p>Evaluation Developed</p> <p>Training Events Held</p> <p>Evaluation administered</p> <p>Evaluation was analyzed and CQI was applied</p>	<p>December 2013 and January 2014</p> <p>February 2014</p> <p>March 2014</p> <p>May – July, 2014</p> <p>August 2014</p> <p>August 2014</p> <p>September 2014</p>

Trust Based Relational Interventions	Partners	Goal of TRBI	Target
	CASA, DFPS, Children’s Commission, Other Child Welfare Stakeholders	To develop a plan on how to establish a train the trainer program around TBRI principles to increase availability of TBRI interventions to children in care. To develop a plan that uses TBRI to further efforts already underway to have the Texas child welfare system be trauma informed with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for children.	
TBRI: Outcomes (what will be accomplished in FY2014)	Outputs / Activities associated with the project	What should be measured?	Dates / Events / Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CASA will work with The TCU Institute of Child Development and Dr. Karyn Purvis to develop a Train the Trainer Program to help establish TBRI as an effective and widely used intervention plan for children in foster care. ➤ CASA will establish a workgroup that includes representatives from DFPS, the Children’s Commission, and other child welfare advocates to assist with planning the Train the Trainer program for TBRI ➤ CASA will work with Dr. Purvis and workgroup members in the development of a strategic plan that integrates TBRI principles into the training competencies identified by current DFPS workgroups on trauma ➤ Goal is to train 100 persons in TBRI over a 2 year time frame. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Strategy Workgroup members Hold strategy meetings with Dr. Purvis Develop meeting agendas and produce meeting minutes, or tasks lists Produce preliminary strategic plan Provide Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members identified Strategy meetings held Agendas Developed Minutes, notes or task lists produced Preliminary strategic plan developed Training Provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2013 Monthly meetings beginning October 2013 March 2014 March – August 2014 August, September 2014

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Determine number of persons to target for training in first year ➤ Determine number of persons to target for training in second year. 			
Advanced Case Advocacy	Partners	Goal of ACA	Target
	CASA, DFPS, Children’s Commission, Other Child Welfare Stakeholders	To help hone strategies and skills to urgently seek permanency for PMC children. To help hone strategies to address a child’s well- being needs in PMC.	CASA supervisors and Program Directors
ACA: Outcomes (what will be accomplished in FY2014)	Outputs / Activities associated with the project	What should be measured?	Dates / Events / Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CASA will train CASA staff on best practices in working with and advocating for children in the Permanent Managing Conservatorship of DFPS. ➤ CASA will coordinate with DFPS, the Commission and other stakeholders in the development of the training agenda, outline, materials and critical objectives related to achieving permanency and addressing well-being. CASA plans to utilize existing resources – Permanency Planning Toolkit: A Framework for working with older Youth in Care, Permanency Values Training information and videos, Family Engagement information from the Diligent Recruitment grant activities in Regions 3, 4, and 5, and the CASA Training video, the Harris Case and materials from the Children’s Commission Trial Skills training based on the Harris Price case. 	Hold conference calls and/or planning meetings to develop critical issues and advocacy strategies	Planning Meetings Held	January – May 2014

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CASA will produce and provide training resources to facilitate further training in local areas with a collaborative stakeholder audience ➤ The training will be one-day training. 	<p>Develop training evaluation</p> <p>Hold training events</p> <p>Evaluate Training</p>	<p>Evaluation developed</p> <p>Training Events Held</p> <p>Evaluation administered</p>	<p>May 2014</p> <p>June 2014</p> <p>June and July 2014</p>
--	---	--	--

Budget Narrative

Personnel/Fringe (Applicant must submit a job description for each person who will be paid with CIP funds and timekeeping records must be submitted for reimbursement)

Permanency Values Training - 6% salary and fringe for Training and Outreach Manager

Race the Power of Illusion - 8% salary and fringe for Training and Outreach Manager

Trauma Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) - 8% salary and fringe of Training Director; 8% salary and fringe of Training Manager

Advanced Case Advocacy – 8% salary and fringe of Training Director; 5% salary and fringe of Training Specialists

Travel (All travel receipts are required for reimbursement)

Permanency Values Training travel, lodging and per diem for 1 Texas CASA staff for 5 trainings.

Race the Power of Illusion travel, lodging and per diem for 4 Texas CASA staff for the Dallas area training.

Equipment & Supplies (All receipts for equipment and supplies are required for reimbursement)

Supplies in the amount of \$3,000 for Permanency Values Training; \$1,800 for Race the Power of Illusion; \$1,800 for Advanced Case Advocacy; \$2,000 for TBRI training.

Supplies include supporting DVDs, toolkits, manuals, other materials and printing for all training events.

Contractual (Evidence of contracts, rates paid to speakers and other contracts may be required for reimbursement). Permanency Values Training for \$4,250 to support 5 training events meeting charges; Race the Power of Illusion for \$9,210 to support training event meeting charges and facilitator fees; Advanced Case Advocacy to support event meeting charges and facilitator fees; TBRI training collaboration with Dr. Karyn Purvis for \$70,500.

Budget detail for full FY2014 Grant

Texas CIP Grant		Requested			
		Total Program	Amount of CIP Funds Requested	Cash Match	In-Kind Match
A	Personnel	29,495	22,124	7,371	
B	Fringe Benefits	7,373	5,530	1,843	
C	Travel	7,395	5,548	1,847	
D	Equipment				
E	Supplies	9,152	6,880	2,272	
F	Contractual	93,852	70,368	23,484	
G	Construction				
H	Other				
I	Total Direct Charges (sum a-h)	147,267	\$110,450	\$36,817	
J	Indirect Charges				
K	Totals	\$147,267	\$110,450	\$36,817	

INSERT COLORED SHEET



SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS PERMANENT JUDICIAL
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Justice Eva Guzman, Chair

Tina Amberboy, Executive Director

**FY2014 STATEMENT OF GRANT AWARD
COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Grant Number: 201-14-0007
 Grantee Name: Texas Center for the Judiciary
 Program Title: Judicial Education for Child Protection
 Grant Period: October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014
 FY2014 Request: \$133,229.00

The Supreme Court Children's Commission has awarded the above-referenced grant from the Texas Court Improvement Program (CIP). The individual authorized to apply for and accept grant funds (subgrantee) must sign this Statement of Grant Award and return it to the CIP Grant Director. The signed Statement of Grant Award must be on file with the CIP Grant Administrator in order for the subgrantee to receive reimbursements for authorized expenditures. Disbursement is subject to the availability of funds, and disbursed monthly on a reimbursement basis unless otherwise stated in the subgrantee's Award Activities. Applicant understands that projects funded by CIP must involve meaningful and on-going collaboration of local or statewide stakeholders.

The subgrantee agrees to:

1. Abide by all terms and conditions of this CIP Award Activities Statement (Exhibit A).
2. Comply with the terms of the CIP Program Instructions incorporated into this Statement of Grant Award by reference for all purposes (Exhibit B).
3. Acknowledge that a violation of any term of the CIP Award Activities Statement or CIP Program Instructions or any applicable OMB Circular may result in Grantor placing a temporary hold on grant funds, and subject to Commission approval, permanently de-obligating all or part of the grant funds, requiring reimbursement for funds already spent, or barring the organization from receiving future grants.

Signature of Subgrantee

Judge Mark Atkinson
Executive Director

Date

Signature of CIP Grant Director

Tina Amberboy
Executive Director

Date

Grant Certifications: CIP sub grantee certifies to the best of their knowledge and belief that the subgrantee will comply with the certifications listed below.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion

- (1) The subgrantee certifies that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) If the subgrantee is unable to certify to the statement above, such subgrantee shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Certification Regarding Environmental Tobacco Smoke

Public Law 103227, the Pro Children Act of 1994, prohibits smoking in any portion of any indoor facility owned, leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly to provide health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law does not apply to private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in a fine of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

Additional Certifications

Applicant understands that CIP grants awarded to a governmental entity are governed by OMB Circular A-87 and that CIP grants awarded to a non-profit organization are governed by OMB Circular A-110. Applicant understands that CIP funds expended must be reasonable and necessary to carry out the objectives of the program for which funding is sought. Applicant understands that CIP funds are paid on a reimbursement basis and must be supported by appropriate documentation.

Subgrantee certifies to all of the above

Signature

AWARD ACTIVITIES FOR FY2014

- 1.** Child Welfare Judicial Conference
 - TCJ will plan and host a judicial conference that targets judges throughout the state who hear cases involving child welfare.
 - The training will be completed by June 30, 2014.
 - TCJ will plan the training in collaboration with the Children’s Commission.
 - TCJ will train between 60 and 100 judges.
 - TCJ will conduct an evaluation of the training in collaboration with the Children’s Commission.
 - The conference will include a specialized session for CPC judges, and may include a session for new or less-experienced judges on the basics of child protection cases or may include tracts for urban and rural judges or other specialized courts, as needed.
 - TCJ will coordinate dates for the 2015 Child Welfare Judges Conference with the Children’s Commission.

- 2.** Judicial Technical and Administrative Assistance – The Texas Center will work with the Commission throughout the year to discuss and develop additional trainings, project support and meeting facilitation, as needed.

- 3.** TCJ may provide judicial scholarships to national and statewide conferences as funding permits.

Activity Assessment and Continuous Quality Improvement			
Child Welfare Judges Conference	Partners	Goal of CWJC	Target
	TCJ, Children's Commission	To increase knowledge of Texas Judiciary about the law, policy and best practices in handling child abuse and neglect cases.	Judges who hear child abuse and neglect cases.
CWJC Outcomes (what will be accomplished in FY2014)	Outputs / Activities associated with the project	What is measured / What evidence or data	Dates / Events / Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TCJ will plan and host the CWJC. ➤ The conference will be held no later than June 30, 2014. ➤ TCJ will plan the conference in collaboration with the Children's Commission. ➤ The conference will train between 60 and 100 judges and their staff. ➤ Conference will offer continuing education hours, including family violence. ➤ Judicial education credits offered. ➤ Travel, hotel, supplies, and conference related 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify / Hold planning meetings Develop meeting agendas Produce meeting minutes, notes or task lists Develop registration process Produce final project plan or conference schedule, including identification of speakers and topics Coordinate speakers' attendance and travel Hold conference Document # of judges trained, hours of continuing education and family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Meetings Held Agendas Developed Minutes / Notes Produced Project Plan / Conference Schedule Produced Conference Held Agendas, Reports, Presentations Produced Hours and numbers trained documented Evaluation was developed Evaluation was administered 	

<p>expenses for attendees, TCJ staff, and for TCJ’s planning and facilitation overhead will be supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TCJ will conduct an evaluation of the training in collaboration with the Children’s Commission. ➤ TCJ will coordinate dates for the 2015 Child Welfare Judges Conference with the Children’s Commission 	<p>violence.</p> <p>Reports, Agendas, Documents, Presentations produced before or after training</p> <p>Make reports, agendas, documents, and presentations readily available online</p> <p>Develop conference evaluation</p> <p>Administer the evaluation</p> <p>Analyze evaluations and apply CQI</p>	<p>Evaluation was analyzed and CQI was applied</p>	

Budget Narrative

Personnel/Fringe

The Executive Director directs the efforts of the Texas Center for the Judiciary to ensure fulfillment of its mission statement and achievement of all CIP grant funded objectives. The Executive Director is responsible for overall operations, general staff supervision, budget management, planning and organization of judicial education.

Program Director manages the programmatic activities related to the grant, including: (1) Working with appropriate committees and partners to plan program curriculum; (2) facilitating collaboration as necessary to steer the program; (3) facilitating all aspects of conference planning including identifying, corresponding and confirming faculty; collecting and assimilating course materials; drafting course descriptions and designing program schedules; developing marketing materials; (4) developing and implementing appropriate evaluation instruments and learning objectives; and (5) completing other assignments as needed to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the program.

The Registrar maintains the database of all Continuing Judicial Education and Family Violence records for judges as well as continuing legal education for court support personnel. This position further supports CIP grant funded programs and activities by registering and confirming all conference participants as well as working with all participants to ensure that they receive appropriate continuing education credit for conference attendance.

The Financial Officer handles most daily financial duties of TCJ in compliance with current grant rules and conditions. This includes setting up and maintaining controls and records of materials, human resources, and financial transactions. Further supporting all CIP grant funded activities, this position also uses QuickBooks Accounting, Excel, and Access database programs for accounting and record keeping.

The Conference Coordinator works with the Associate Director to plan and organize Texas Center judicial conferences. She works closely with hotel and conference staff to ensure all aspects of conference logistics including rooms for participants, meeting space, audio visual needs, and catering.

The Accounting Assistant assists in the organization of documents and recording of transactions which enables the preparation of a monthly request for reimbursement.

Fringe Benefits:

Salary and fringe costs of the CIP Grant are allocated to the activities listed above, according to time spent on each activity. The fringe benefits are set at a rate of 28% of total salaries. These include health, life, and disability insurance. Fringe benefits also include FICA, retirement benefits, and worker's compensation.

Travel (All travel receipts are required for reimbursement)

Travel expenses have been budgeted in accordance with the current per diem rates approved by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The expenses outlined in the budget are necessary to provide for participants, faculty and staff to attend the Child Welfare Judges Conference (75 participants). Participants will be reimbursed for hotel, meals, and mileage costs, or in some cases flights, as appropriate.

Budgeted travel is based on costs from previous years including estimated number of attendees. Lodging costs are based on the estimated number of nights participants will be required to stay in order to fully participate in a program as well as the predicted number of participants. Meals are based on the per diem rate (adjusted to take travel days and conference provided meals into consideration), the estimated numbers of days of training and the predicted number of participants. Flights, mileage, parking and taxi costs are based on estimates considering current reimbursement rates and past conference expenditures.

The travel line item also includes the cost of conference provided breakfasts and lunches. This estimated total has been taken into account when calculating the amount to be reimbursed to participants for their meal per diem.

Equipment & Supplies (All receipts for equipment and supplies are required for reimbursement)

Supplies include supporting DVDs, toolkits, manuals, other materials and printing for all training events.

Contractual (Evidence of contracts, rates paid to speakers and other contracts may be required for reimbursement)

For some of the training events, the Texas Center will pay negotiated speaker's fees to engage particular nationally known experts and professionals to instruct in their areas of knowledge.

Construction & Other (Not allowed / applicable)

Budget detail for full FY2014 Grant

	Texas CIP Grant	Requested			
		Total Program	Amount of CIP Funds Requested	Cash Match	In-Kind Match
A	Personnel	\$20,130	\$20,130	0	0
B	Fringe Benefits	\$5,636	\$5,636	0	0
C	Travel	\$66,013	\$66,013	0	0
D	Equipment			0	0
E	Supplies	\$9,000	\$9,000	0	0
F	Contractual	\$6,100	\$6,100	0	0
G	Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0
H	Other	\$70,760	\$26,350	0	\$44,410
I	Total Direct Charges (sum a-h)	\$177,639	\$133,229	0	0
J	Indirect Charges	0	\$0.00	0	0
K	Totals	\$177,639	\$133,229	0	\$44,410