

1995 Annual Report



A Window on PRS Fulfilling the Public Trust

Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services

To the
Governor

The Honorable George W. Bush
Governor of Texas
State Capitol
Austin, Texas

Dear Governor Bush:

The 1995 Annual Report of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) is an accounting of expenditures and a review of services provided during the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1995. The report describes major developments of the 1995 fiscal year with charts, graphs, and tables reflecting costs, services, and people served.

The report covers the department's operation and administration as required by the Human Resources Code, Section 42.023, as amended, and Section 50, Article V, Senate Bill 5, 73rd Legislature, Regular Session.

We are pleased to submit this summary of the department's third year of service and assistance to the people of Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

Texas Board of Protective and Regulatory Services



J.P. Beaumont, Member, Bryan



Jon M. Bradley, Member, Dallas



Catherine Clark Mosbacher, Member, Houston



Bill Sheehan, Member, Dumas





Charts show actual data for fiscal year 1995. Data for fiscal years 1996-97 are projected on the basis of trend analysis of current service levels.

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Chairman's Message

Chairman's Report

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elcome to A Window on PRS, the 1995 Annual Report of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

Texas is among the leading states in the quality of life and opportunities it offers its people. Yet, tragically, too many of our most vulnerable citizens are in danger. Every year, tens of thousands of children suffer from abuse and neglect. Youth in troubled families and neighborhoods run away or turn to gangs and crime. Elderly and disabled persons are at risk of exploitation, maltreatment, and neglect.

The 6,000 employees and 8,000 volunteers of PRS are committed to finding solutions to the incidence of abuse and neglect. Every day, in every part of the state, our workers go into difficult and sometimes dangerous situations to investigate reports of abuse. Along with a dedicated support staff and volunteers, they work with parents, foster parents, teachers, law enforcement, and

medical professionals to protect children and vulnerable adults, putting their commitment—and sometimes their safety—on the line. They work in the community to develop innovative programs to help clients and their families and to promote prevention. Through all of this, they cope with the challenges of limited resources, heavy caseloads, and emotionally demanding work. They are the front-line in the battle against abuse and neglect. They are the heart and soul of this agency.

The Board of PRS has renewed the Department's focus on our fundamental mission. Service to clients is our top priority. In pursuit of this objective, we have reorganized much of the agency's administrative structure to better support front-line staff and decentralized many management functions so that local staff can better address community needs.



Our mission is a public trust. We have a special responsibility not only to carry out this mission in a fiscally responsible manner, but also to be responsive to the concerns of the people of Texas. In the past year, PRS has significantly increased the involvement of advocates, providers, foster parents, families, and other stakeholders in policy-making. We are working in cooperation with other agencies. And we are improving communication with legislators, officials, and the public.

Our automation project, known as the Child and Adult Protective System, is nearing completion. In field tests begun in mid-year, the system won rave reviews from staff. The project is on time and within budget, and when it is completed in August 1996, it will link caseworkers and information throughout the state.

I am especially pleased that PRS is an active participant in the Community Youth Development program created by the 74th Legislature. The program is a cooperative effort of an interagency council. Grants totalling more than \$10 million will be awarded throughout the state to develop comprehensive programs in cooperation with community groups to alleviate conditions which lead to juvenile crime. Communities will design the programs to fit their own needs, targeting troubled areas with support for families and creating alternatives to gangs and crime.

There will be many challenges facing PRS in the coming year. The full impact of block grants, managed care, and federal funding reductions is uncertain. But change also brings opportunity. Working in partnership with our stakeholders, the community, and our clients, and making the most of the resources available to us, we can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable Texans. Our hope for a better future in Texas lies in the power of individuals and communities to work together to solve our problems. □



Maurine Dickey, Chairman
Texas Board of Protective and Regulatory Services

