

Legal Responsibilities for the Division of Prevention and Early Intervention

Statutory References

- ◆ Federal: Title XX, Social Security Act
- ◆ Federal: Title IV-B, Part 2, Social Security Act
- ◆ State: Texas Family Code, 264.301
- ◆ State: Senate Bill 1574, 76th Legislature
- ◆ State: Human Resources Code, 40.0561

With the passage of Senate Bill 1574, the 76th Texas Legislature created the **Division of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)** to consolidate prevention and early intervention programs within the jurisdiction of a single state agency. Consolidation of these programs is intended to eliminate fragmentation and duplication of contracted prevention and early intervention services for at-risk children, youth, families, and vulnerable adults.

- ◆ **Community Youth Development Program** - This program assists communities in designing comprehensive approaches to support families and enhance the positive development of youth. Using legislative appropriations, grants are made available for developing juvenile delinquency prevention approaches in communities with high incidences of juvenile crime. Thirteen communities are being served.
- ◆ **Services To At-Risk Youth (STAR) Program** - These services are offered to 7 to 17 year old youths who are runaways and/or truants, 7 to 17 year-olds living in family conflict, 7 to 9 year-olds who have allegedly been involved in, or committed delinquent offenses, and 10 to 16 year-olds who have allegedly committed misdemeanor or state felony offenses but have not been adjudicated delinquent by a court. Contracted community agencies offer family crisis intervention, short-term emergency residential care, individual and family counseling, and other support services.
- ◆ **Texas Families: Together and Safe** - Grants are allocated for family support services to community based prevention programs. The services are designed to alleviate stress and promote parental competencies and behaviors that will increase the ability of families to successfully nurture their children; enable families to use other resources and opportunities available in the community; and create support networks that enhance child-rearing abilities of parents.
- ◆ **Texas Youth and Runaway Hotlines** - Hotline staff and volunteers work closely with social service agencies and juvenile delinquency prevention programs. Their goal is to provide callers with 24-hour crisis intervention and telephone counseling; information and referral for callers in need of food, shelter and/or transportation home; conference calls to parents and shelters; and a confidential message relay service between runaways and parents.

- ◆ **Community Partners** - Community Partners is a public/private partnership that develops local boards to support Child Protective Services staff by creating projects such as Adopt-A-Caseworker and Rainbow Rooms. Adopt-A-Caseworker pairs community groups with CPS caseworkers. The adoptive sponsor assists the caseworker in providing goods and services to CPS children and families on the worker's caseload. Rainbow Rooms stock emergency items needed by children and families such as diapers, formula, clothes, toys, and cleaning supplies.
- ◆ **Young at Heart** - Young at Heart is an intergenerational program that encourages older Texans to volunteer and spend time with young children in child care settings. A grant for Volunteers In Service To America (Vista) has enabled the agency to implement the program. The project includes recruitment, training, media materials, and volunteer recognition.
- ◆ **Family Outreach** - Family Outreach is an all volunteer organization that works to recruit successful parents to work with at-risk families under the supervision of a PRS case manager. Trained volunteers provide services to at-risk families, parenting classes, "warm lines" for parents in crisis, and other services as determined by the local center.
- ◆ **Healthy Families** - This voluntary, comprehensive and intensive home visitation program focuses on families with children who are assessed to be at risk of abuse, neglect or other poor childhood outcomes. Services begin around the time of the baby's birth and can continue until the child is 5 years old. As a primary prevention program, services are designed to prevent infant mortality, premature birth, disease, developmental delays, child maltreatment, school failure, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, and other negative outcomes for children, youth, and families.
- ◆ **Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Project** - Three state agencies--PRS, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, and the Texas Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation--have pooled resources to develop a model treatment program for juvenile sex offenders. The project provides community-based treatment to Galveston County children and youth who have committed sex offenses. Services are also provided to the offender's families, victims and victims' families. The project is scheduled to end in FY 2001.
- ◆ **Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)** - The HIPPY program builds on the basic bond between parents and their children. Three to five year old children learn, with their parents, from trained paraprofessionals who make home visits. As such, parents learn to prepare their children for success in school and beyond. The HIPPY program recognizes the role parents play in a child's transition from preschool to kindergarten.
- ◆ **Second Chance Teen Parent Program** - In cooperation with the Texas Department of Human Services, the Governor's Office, and the Texas Workforce Commission, PRS manages this program. Services are provided to teen parents who qualify for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), their children and pregnant teens eligible for Medicaid. Services include counseling, parenting classes, pregnancy prevention training, mentoring case management, child care, educational assistance, and residential support.
- ◆ **Community Based Family Resource and Support (CBFRS)** - Originally managed by the Children's Trust Fund, CBFRS was transferred to PRS at the request of the Governor's Office in September 1999. The program seeks to develop community and state provider networks and involve parents in preventing

child abuse and neglect. The CBFRS program also supports respite care programs and the development of a parent education resource network.

- ◆ **Parents As Teachers (PAT)** – This program was transferred to PRS’ Division of Prevention and Early Intervention during September 1999, having been previously managed by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. PAT is a primary prevention program designed to enhance the parent’s role as a child’s first and most important teacher. Using the national Parents As Teachers model, the program serves expecting parents and parents of 0 to 5 year old children. Parents receive home visits by certified parent educators and attend group meetings and developmental screenings.
- ◆ **At-Risk Mentoring (ARM)** – ARM is one of two newly developed prevention and early intervention programs. Youths between the ages of 7 and 17 who are at risk of substance abuse, educational failure, dropping out of school, juvenile delinquency, gang activity, running away, or other factors that may lead to any of these at-risk behaviors can receive services from 11 programs across Texas. Funding for this program is used to expand existing or new community-based programs that focus on creating supportive mentoring relationships between youths and adults.
- ◆ **Dan Kubiak Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program** - The Buffalo Soldiers Heritage program was established in 1996 and managed by the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission until September 1, 1999. At that time, the program was transferred to PRS’ Division of Prevention and Early Intervention. This program operates in five counties and provides services to develop honor, pride, and dignity in minority and at-risk 10 to 17 year old youths. Service components include mentoring, tutoring, Buffalo Soldier history classes, character development, self-esteem and life skills training, field trips to state parks, encampments, and community service.
- ◆ **Communities In Schools (CIS)** - Funded by the State of Texas since 1989, the Communities In Schools program was managed by the Texas Workforce Commission until September 1, 1999. At that time, it was transferred to PRS’ Division of Prevention and Early Intervention. The goal of the program is prevent and reduce school dropout and prepare students for life by coordinating community resources in school settings. The program offers tutoring, individual and group guidance counseling, pre-employment activities, recreational activities, and cultural activities.
- ◆ **Facility-Based Youth Enrichment Activities** – This is another newly developed prevention and early intervention program. Contractors provide after-school, weekend, and summer facility-based enrichment programs for youths, ages 6 to 17. Program services are available at least six days weekly and target youths in at-risk situations.
- ◆ **Parents Anonymous** - The Parents Anonymous program seeks to strengthen families and stop child maltreatment through the development of volunteer-based services at the community level. CPS supported the program until August 1999. Thereafter, PEI began assisting the Parents Anonymous program through a contract with Parents Anonymous of Texas, Inc.

Fiscal Year 2000 Expenditures and Staffing

Prevention and Early Intervention

Staff Cost \$4,547,964

- ◆ 29 Direct Delivery Staff
- ◆ 70 Total Staff

Contracted Services \$ 53,483,035

- ◆ Services To At Risk Youth
- ◆ Community Youth Development
- ◆ Texas Families: Together and Safe
- ◆ Healthy Families
- ◆ Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- ◆ Juvenile Sex Offender Program
- ◆ Second Chance Teen Parent Program
- ◆ Parents As Teachers
- ◆ At-Risk Mentoring
- ◆ Dan Kubiak Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program
- ◆ Communities In Schools
- ◆ Facility-Based Youth Enrichment Activities

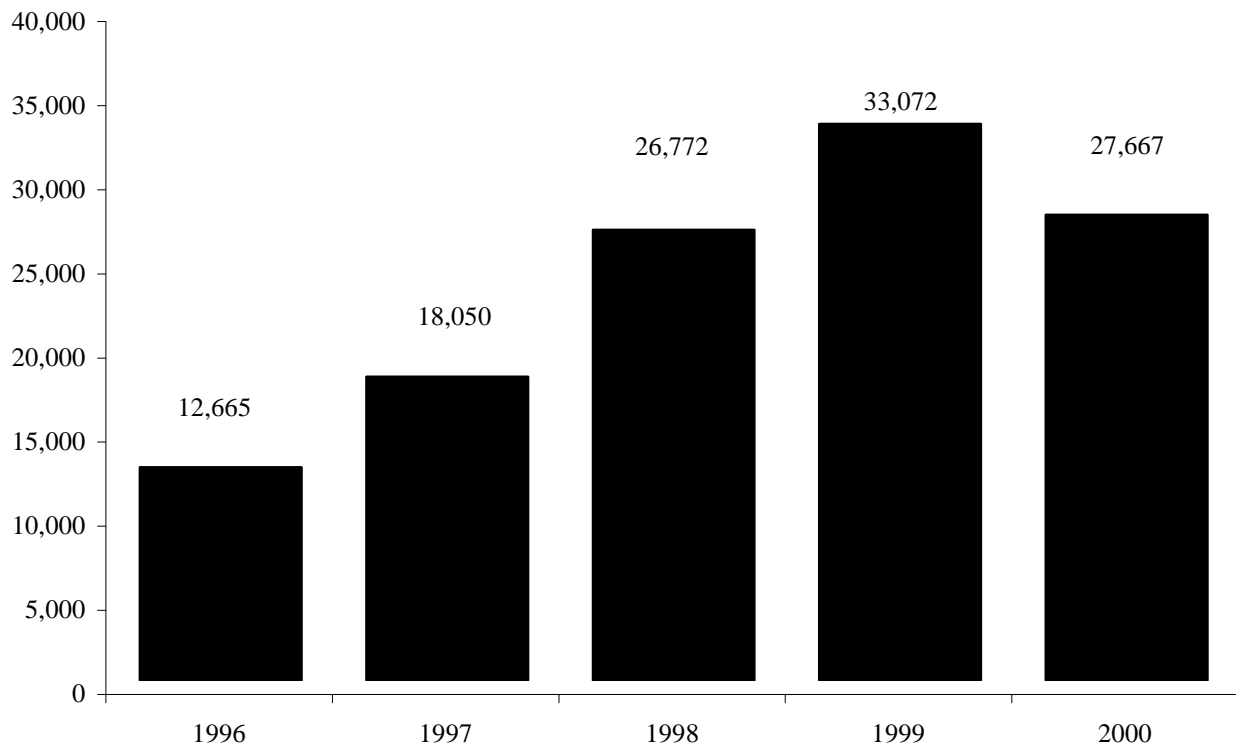
Community Youth Development Average Monthly Clients Served Fiscal Year 2000

| County | City | ZIP Code of Site | Average Unduplicated Youth Served per Month |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|--|
| Potter | Amarillo | 79107 | 466 |
| Travis | Austin | 78744 | 365 |
| Cameron | Brownsville | 78520 | 677 |
| Nueces | Corpus Christi | 78415 | 437 |
| Dallas | Dallas | 75216 | 191 |
| El Paso | El Paso | 79924 | 256 |
| Tarrant | Fort Worth | 76106 | 330 |
| Galveston | Galveston | 77550 | 367 |
| Harris | Houston | 77081 | 287 |
| Lubbock | Lubbock | 79415 | 215 |
| Hidalgo | McAllen | 78501 | 419 |
| Bexar | San Antonio | 78207 | 332 |
| McLennan | Waco | 76707 | 78 |
| State Average | | | 4,420 |

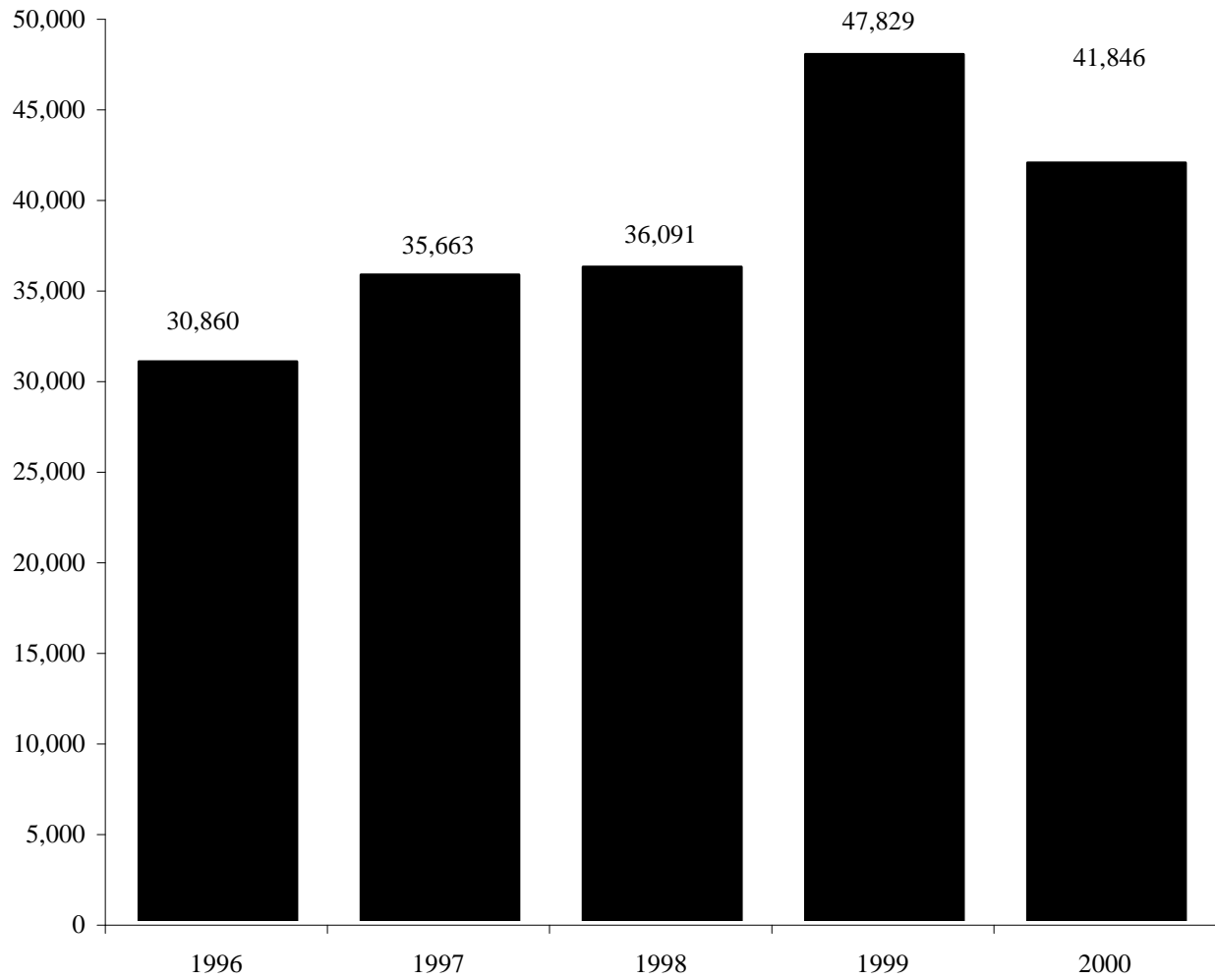
Services To At-Risk Youth (STAR)

The Services To At-Risk Youth (STAR) program was developed to assist local communities in serving youth who often fall between the cracks of the service delivery system. Their problems are not severe enough to receive services from traditional systems such as Child Protective Services or Juvenile Probation. Therefore, the STAR program has established 46 contracts around the state with local agencies who make crisis counseling, emergency short-term residential care, and training available to at-risk youths and their families. The STAR program serves all 254 Texas counties.

STAR Youth Who Are Registered and Received a Service by Fiscal Year



Runaway Hotline Incoming Calls by Fiscal Year



Notes: