

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

The **Division of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)** was created 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, and families.

- **Community Youth Development (CYD) 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. Fifteen 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 Initiatives for Child Protective Services** - Increasing public awareness about child abuse prevention and early intervention through community mobilization is the goal of Community Initiatives for Child Protective Services. One such program, Greater Texas Community Partners represents a successful public-private partnership that serves CPS caseworkers and clients through Rainbow Rooms and the Adopt-A-Caseworker program.
- **Community Initiatives for Prevention and Early Intervention** - Community Initiatives for Prevention and Early Intervention develop and implement special projects and initiatives across all PEI program areas. Projects and programs have been developed that focus on prevention of child abuse, juvenile delinquency, and academic failure. One such project is a Child Abuse Prevention Media Campaign. Public service announcements were developed referring people to a website -- www.itsuptoyou.org -- dedicated to offering the community resources to help them keep kids safe.
- **Family Outreach** - Family Outreach is an all volunteer organization that recruits 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 Texas 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.
- **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)** – 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)** –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** - This program 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 is designed to 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** – 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.
- **Children’s Trust Fund (CTF)**-CTF provides funding to community-based organizations seeking to prevent child abuse and neglect through primary prevention programs that strengthen parents, children, and families.
- **Tertiary and Secondary Child Abuse Prevention** – This program provides services to families who no longer require the support of Child Protective Services. The program is volunteer-driven and seeks to prevent incidences of child maltreatment by strengthening families.