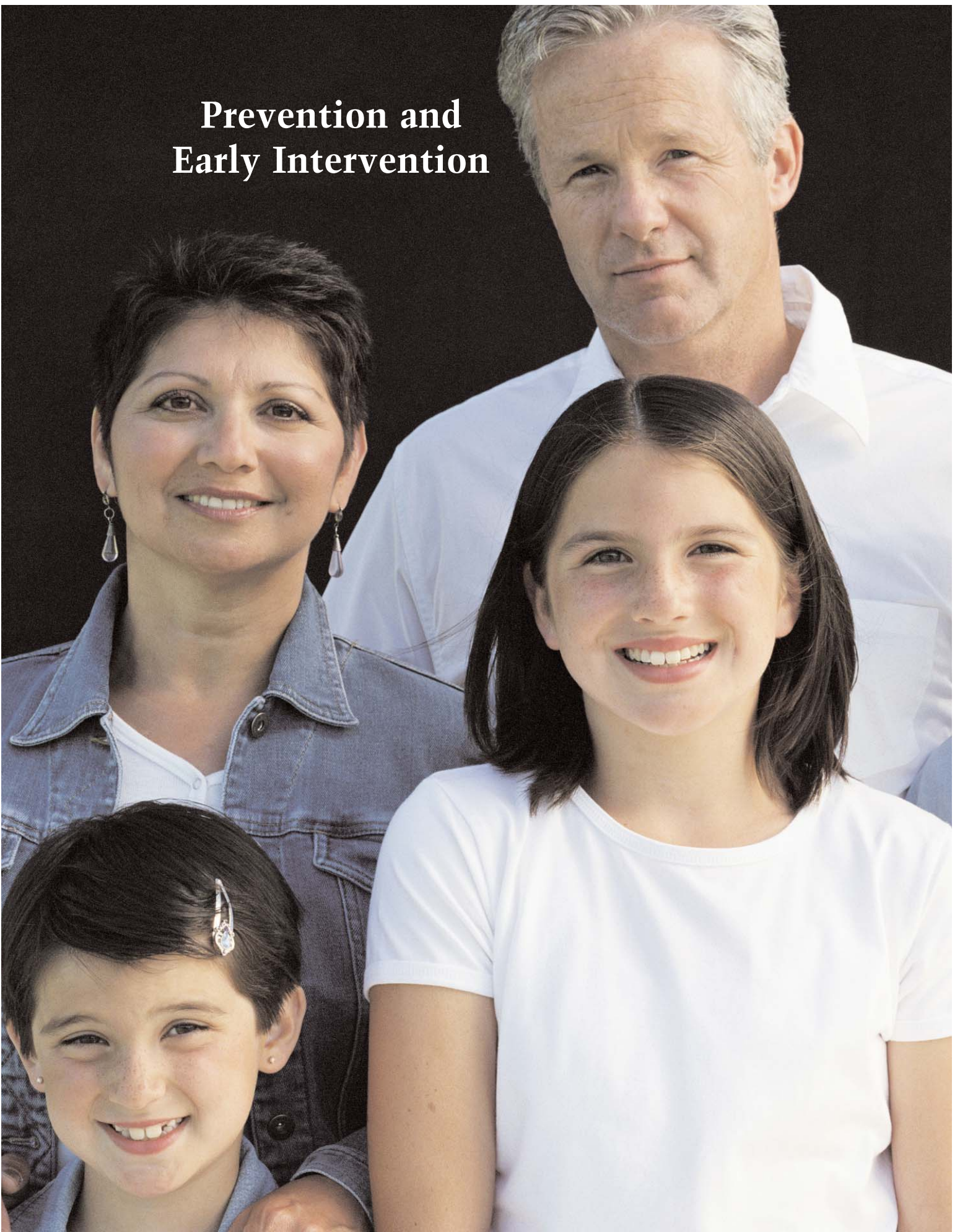


Prevention and Early Intervention





Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)

Responsibilities

- ◆ Work with Texas communities to develop services for preventing child abuse and neglect, delinquency, running away, and truancy.
- ◆ Develop and maintain a statewide inventory of prevention programs aimed at preventing child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency.
- ◆ Plan, develop, and administer a comprehensive and unified approach to deliver prevention services to avoid fragmentation and duplication of services.

Accomplishments

- ◆ PEI worked in conjunction with the Contract Performance division to continue to develop and refine client outcome performance measures for PEI programs to ensure that the services provided accomplish the goals of the programs and make a positive difference in the lives of those served. Outcome measures were incorporated in FY 2005 contract renewals, and are being further developed for subsequent procurements.
- ◆ PEI continued to improve and streamline division policy and procedure, including implementation of a new program summary report provided to contractors twice a year with data on contract performance, development of further efficiencies in the contract renewal process, and institution of a feedback process for contractors associated with on-site monitoring.
- ◆ Funds appropriated to PEI in FY 2005 will allow the Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) and Community Youth Development (CYD) programs to be restored to FY 2003 levels during the FY 2006-2007 biennium. Increased funding also allows the procurement of additional at-risk prevention services.

PEI Services

PEI manages and contracts with community-based programs to prevent the abuse, neglect, delinquency, and truancy of Texas children. PEI programs are administered through contracts with local community agencies or organizations. All services are not available in all Texas communities. To find out if your community has services available, visit our department's web site at www.dfps.state.tx.us.

PEI Programs

Community Youth Development Grants (CYD)

The CYD program contracts with fiscal agents to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes that have a high incidence of juvenile crime. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency include mentoring, parenting skills, tutoring, youth employment, career preparation, and alternative recreation activities. Communities prioritize and fund the specific prevention services identified as needed locally. In 2005, the agency funded contracts to serve 15 specifically targeted ZIP codes. Currently, DFPS provides ongoing training and technical assistance for all local CYD programs. DFPS also supports an annual youth conference, the Teen Summit, to promote youth leadership and provide training and activities.

Dan Kubiak Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program

This program helps to develop honor, pride, and dignity in at-risk youth. The goal is to reduce and prevent risky behavior, truancy, and juvenile delinquency among at-risk youth ages 10 to 17. The program strives to increase youth volunteer work, community service, leadership, and cultural activities. Referrals are received from juvenile probation departments, schools, churches, and civic groups. In 2005, three projects were located in Bexar, Dallas, and Tarrant counties.

Services To At-Risk Youth (STAR)

Through contracts with community agencies, STAR offers family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency residential care, and individual and



family counseling to youth up to age 17 who experience conflict at home, have been truant or delinquent, or have run away. PEI has 41 STAR contracts that provide services in all 254 Texas counties. In 2005, each STAR provider made universal child abuse prevention activities available, ranging from local media campaigns to informational brochures and parenting classes.

Texas Families: Together and Safe (TFTS)

TFTS funds community-based programs designed to alleviate stress and to promote parental skills and behaviors that increase the ability of families to successfully nurture their children and work toward family self-sufficiency. The goals of TFTS are to:

- ◆ improve and enhance access to family support services;
- ◆ increase the efficiency and effectiveness of community-based family support services;
- ◆ enable children to remain in their own homes by providing preventive services; and
- ◆ increase collaboration among local programs, government agencies, and families. During 2005, there were 11 programs that provided services in 36 counties.

Texas Youth and Runaway Hotlines

The toll-free Texas Runaway Hotline (1-888-580-HELP) and the Texas Youth Hotline (1-800-98YOUTH) offer crisis intervention, telephone counseling, and referrals to troubled youth and families. In 2005, a volunteer workforce of about 60 people answered the phones. Many callers faced a variety of problems including family conflict, delinquency, truancy, and abuse and neglect issues. The program increased public awareness through television, radio, billboards, and other media efforts. Hotline telephone counselors received 39,680 calls during fiscal year 2005.

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)

The federal CBCAP grant is made available to states through the National Office of Child Abuse and Neglect, in accordance with Title II of the Child

Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. The Texas CBCAP program increases community awareness of existing prevention services, strengthens community and parental involvement in child abuse prevention efforts, and encourages families to engage in services that are already available. This program also supports respite services and community-based services to families of children who are at risk or have been abused and/or neglected. In response to new federal guidelines, a new initiative called Community Partnerships for Strengthening Families was introduced in 2005. Contracts were developed with local entities in Abilene, Austin, Dallas, Port Arthur, San Angelo, and San Antonio to develop Community Partnerships, comprised of parents, community members, community and faith-based organizations, and government agencies working to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. The Partnership model places a high priority on parental involvement and participation in the design, delivery, and evaluation of community-based programs and activities designed to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Tertiary/Secondary Child Abuse Prevention

DFPS contracts with Family Outreach of America to provide community-based, volunteer-driven services for prevention, intervention, and aftercare for children who are at risk or have been abused and/or neglected. The goals of the program include reducing child maltreatment and the number of families reentering the Child Protective Services system. Additional goals are improving the quality and availability of aftercare services for abused children and enhancing a statewide network of tertiary child abuse prevention programs. For 2005, services were provided in Midland and Bryan/College Station.

PEI Special Initiatives

Child Abuse Prevention Kit

Each April, Child Abuse Prevention Month activities raise awareness about the problem of child abuse and most importantly, about what each of us can do to help prevent the abuse and neglect of children. For the past several years, DFPS has joined forces with other agencies to increase public awareness about



abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children through the Child Abuse Prevention Kit. DFPS produced the 2005 Child Abuse Prevention Kit with help from Prevent Child Abuse Texas and Early Childhood Intervention. The theme was "Children First Safe and Secure." A total of 30,000 kits were distributed to DFPS district offices, schools, crisis centers, and licensed child care centers across the state. These kits serve as a resource for parents, teachers, and communities. Previous versions of the kit can also be downloaded from the department's web site at www.dfps.state.tx.us or at www.itsuptoyou.org.

Partners in Prevention Training Conference

From November 17–19, 2004, DFPS hosted the 4th Annual Partners in Prevention Training Conference in Austin. The conference brought together social services providers, community advocates, and experts in the field of child abuse prevention who were interested in improving programs and sharing expertise. The conference was open to prevention and early intervention agencies that contract with DFPS, as well as all other prevention service providers and interested parties. There were more than 400 people in attendance. Agency co-sponsors for the conference were the Office of the Attorney General, Texas Department of State Health Services, and Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

"See and Save" Public Water Safety Awareness Campaign

Due to the drowning of numerous Texas children during the summer months, DFPS developed the "See and Save" public awareness prevention campaign. The campaign educated child care owners and staff, parents, adult caregivers, teenage caregivers, and the general public on the dangers of children drowning due to lack of adult supervision. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental injury deaths for children younger than the age of 14. Thirty thousand "See and Save" prevention packets went out to day care operations and foster homes across Texas. The general public was educated through the use of billboards and radio spots, which raised public awareness of the number of child fatalities due to drowning.



Every other Monday for about the last six years, Richard Bolton has left his day job as an IBM financial analyst in Austin a little early so he can put in a three-hour shift as a volunteer at the Texas Runaway Hotline and Texas Youth Hotline. Richard, who found out about the hotlines through a search on the Internet, says he likes volunteering there because it's rewarding work.

"One of the things that caught my attention is the extensive training," says Richard. "It helped me learn how to feel a lot more at ease and confident in my ability to talk to strangers. We learned not only how to refer people to local resources, but how to help guide them in the decision making process so that they could help themselves. Sometimes they're looking for shelter. Sometimes they're looking for ways to survive. There are ways for us to guide them to make the best decisions they can given their circumstances."

Richard says the busiest time is usually late afternoon and early evening. "Kids come home from school and the day's problems add up. It's a time of day when family problems are more likely to lead to people to call the hotline. Volunteer Coordinator Amanda Frazier says Richard is one of their most experienced volunteers. "He is always very dependable, knows a lot, and is a calming influence who doesn't get flustered. Richard is excellent on the phone, whether he is talking to a 10-year-old or an adult. He is very good about helping clients identify problems, what they can do, and coming up with a plan of action."

DFPS operates the 24-hour, toll-free Texas Runaway Hotline (1-888-580-HELP) and Texas Youth Hotline (1-800-98-YOUTH). Both include a workforce of about 50 volunteers and offer crisis intervention, counseling services, and information and referral to youths and families. In fiscal year 2005, they received a combined total of 39,680 calls.



Hotlines and Online Resources

Texas Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400

<https://www.txabusehotline.org>

Report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.

Foster Care and Adoption Inquiry Line 1-800-233-3405

Provides information on how to become a foster or adoptive parent.

Child Care Information 1-800-862-5252

Delivers information about child care in Texas.

Office of Consumer Affairs 1-800-720-7777

Make an inquiry about an existing DFPS case or make a complaint.

Texas Runaway Hotline 1-888-580-HELP

Provides peer counseling to runaways and family members.

Texas Youth Hotline 1-800-210-2278

Provides peer counseling to youth and family members for family conflicts, delinquency, truancy, and running away.

APS Facility Investigations 1-800-647-7418

Report abuse, neglect, or exploitation in facilities.

DFPS Web Sites

www.dfps.state.tx.us

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

<https://www.txabusehotline.org>

Report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children, the elderly, or people with disabilities

www.adoptchildren.org

Adopt Children Through the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange

www.texasrunaway.org

Texas Runaway Hotline

www.texasyouth.org

Texas Youth Hotline

www.itsuptoyou.org

Child Abuse Prevention

www.notforgotten.org

Adult Abuse Prevention

www.txchildcaresearch.org

Search Texas Child Care

www.rainbowrooms.org

Rainbow Rooms

www.volunteerdfps.org

Volunteer Opportunities through DFPS

www.lookbeforeyouleave.org

Cars Are Not Babysitters

www.seeandsave.org

Safety for Children Around Water

Agency Address

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
P.O. Box 149030
Austin, TX 78714-9030

701 W. 51st St.
Austin, TX 78751
(512) 438-4800



DFPS Organizational Chart

