

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. Funding for the Community Youth Development and Services to At-Risk youth programs was restored to fiscal year 2003 levels for the FY06-07 biennium. In addition, two new programs were implemented in fiscal year 2006, the Family Strengthening Program and the Youth Resiliency Program.

PEI began moving programs to evidence based services as is required by the Texas Family Code §265.004. Evidence-based services are those defined as having evidence of prior program effectiveness, meaning programs that have been previously evaluated and determined effective in preventing child maltreatment or juvenile delinquency. Recently procured programs now funding evidence based services include: Community Youth Development, Family Strengthening, Youth Resiliency and Texas Families: Together and Safe. As PEI programs come up for re-procurement they will be required to implement evidence-based services/programs.

- **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)** – CBCAP seeks to increase community awareness of existing prevention services, strengthen community and parental involvement in child abuse prevention efforts, and encourage families to engage in services that are already available. In addition, CBCAP funds support short-term respite services in two communities and the Infant Mortality Prevention Education program.
- **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.
- **Family Strengthening** – These services have been evaluated and proven to effectively increase family protective factors (At-Risk Family Strengthening Services) or have utilized best practices and sound research in program design (Innovative Family Strengthening Services). A variety of services are available across the state that are designed to increase family resiliency while preventing child abuse and neglect.
- **Services To At-Risk Youth (STAR) Program** - These services are offered to youths under the age of 18 who are runaway and/or truant, living in family conflict, have allegedly been involved in, or committed delinquent offenses, or 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. In addition, universal child abuse prevention services are provided within the community.

- **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.
- **Youth Resiliency** - These services have been evaluated and proven to effectively increase youth protective factors (At-Risk Youth Resiliency Services) or have utilized best practices and sound research in program design (Innovative Youth Resiliency Services). A variety of services are available across the state that are designed to increase youth resiliency while preventing juvenile delinquency.
- **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.
- **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 recurrences of child maltreatment by strengthening families.

Fiscal Year 2006 Expenditures and Staffing

Prevention and Early Intervention

Staff Cost \$3,196,772

35.9 Total Staff

Contracted Services \$35,474,024

- Services To At Risk Youth
- Community Youth Development
- Texas Families: Together and Safe
- Family Strengthening
- Youth Resiliency
- Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
- Dan Kubiak Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program
- Tertiary and Secondary Child Abuse Prevention