

WORK SESSION

May 28, 2009

Travis County Commissioners Court

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
County Judge

RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Pct. 1

SARAH ECKHARDT
Commissioner, Pct. 2

KAREN L. HUBER
Commissioner, Pct. 3



MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4

Travis County Administration Building, 314 W. 11th, Commissioners Courtroom, 1st Floor, Austin, Tx 78701

AGENDA
TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WORK SESSION
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009, AT 1:30 P.M.

1. RECEIVE PRESENTATION AND UPDATE FROM THE TRAVIS COUNTY CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES BOARD.
2. RECEIVE COUNTY AUDITORS OFFICE UPDATE ON GRANTS.
3. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON INTEGRIAN DIGITAL PATROLLER ISSUES.
4. RECEIVE DRAFT PRESENTATION ON DRAFT PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE FOR COMMISSIONERS COURT SPACE NEEDS.

ADJOURN



Travis County Children's Protective Services Board

2007-08 Annual Report

A Report on the Goals and Accomplishments
of the Travis County CPS Board and the
Welfare of Children in Travis County

Purpose of This Report

This report reviews the goals and accomplishments of the Travis County Children's Protective Services (CPS) Board during Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2008, as well as the welfare of children in substitute care in Travis County. This report also shows relevant welfare and expenditure data and trends across time for cases of alleged and confirmed child abuse and neglect in Travis County.

Travis County is the largest of the 30 counties that comprise Region 7 of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The local DFPS office, which provides services and protection to abused and neglected children and their families in Travis County, has 18 investigation units, 9 conservatorship units, 2.5 family-based safety services units, and one regional foster and adoptive home development unit.

The Travis County CPS Board supports children in substitute care (foster care, kinship care, group homes, and/or residential treatment centers) and their caregivers by providing financial assistance to pay for such items as clothing; extraordinary medical and dental expenses; psychological evaluations; life skills training; and educational needs which are not otherwise provided for by other local financial resources.

When children are placed in substitute care in Travis County, the Travis County CPS Board can be called upon to help them, mainly by DFPS, when the children's needs exceed CPS' Budget. Children served in 2007: 1,595 (unduplicated) and in 2008: 1,127 (unduplicated).

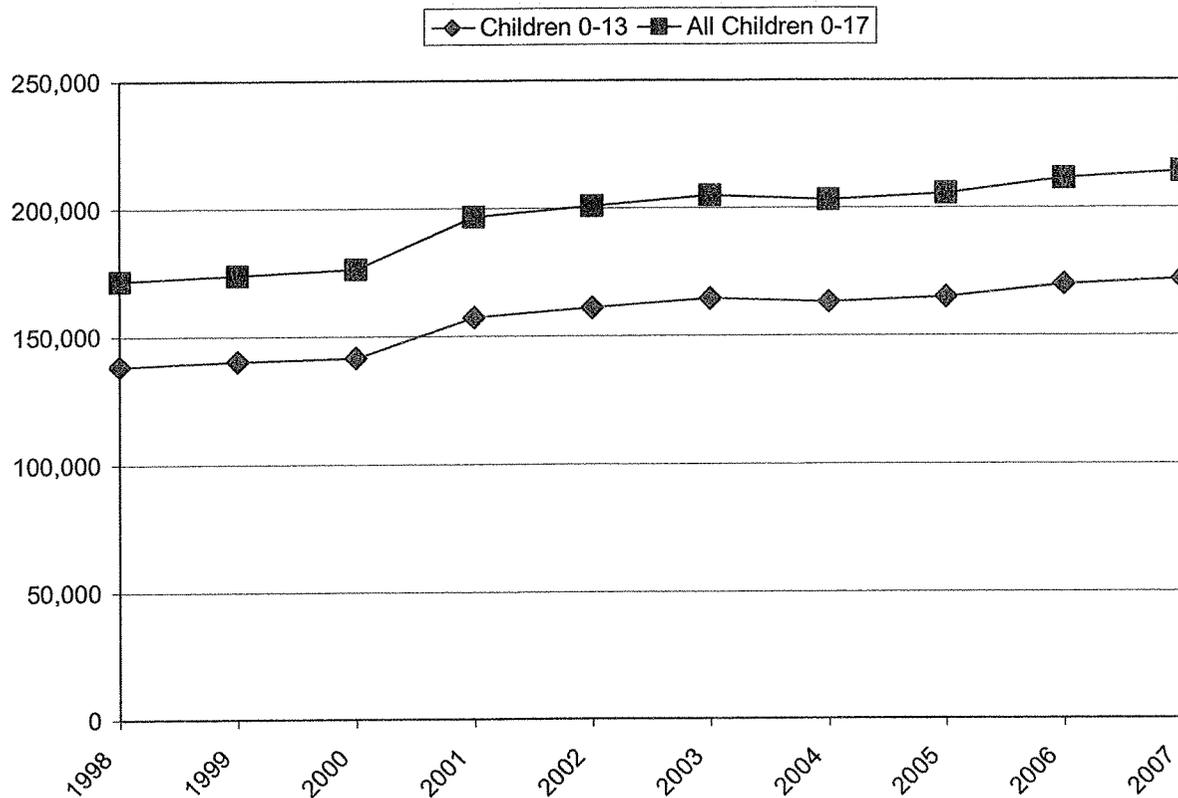
Child abuse and neglect occur every day in our community. Because countless cases of suspected child abuse and neglect remain unreported, the actual number of abused and neglected children is understated. It is generally believed that current data-collection methods produce conservative estimates of the problem.

DFPS aims to keep children within their homes and communities if possible, but when it is not safe for a child to remain at home, DFPS places the child in foster care. In this report, the terms *foster care*, *substitute care*, and *DFPS legal responsibility* are used just as they are in the DFPS FY 2007 Data Book, which is available online. Definitions for these terms, taken from that data book, appear in the appendix to this report. It should be noted that the state's FY2007 extended from September 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007 while the county's fiscal year spanned October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007.

State of Children in Travis County

Travis County's child population is the seventh largest in the state. In the decade from 1998 to 2007, the number of children ages 0-13 increased fairly steadily from about 138,600 to about 172,200, which equates to a 24 percent increase. The number of all children ages 0-17 increased almost 25 percent, rising fairly steadily during the same period from nearly 171,800 to 214,124. See Figure 1 below.

Last Updated 5-21-09 at 4:40pm **Figure 1: Child Population in Travis County**



State of Children in Travis County Alleged to be Abused or Neglected

In FY 2007, the child population (ages 0–17) in Travis County was 214,124, and of those children, 11,975 were alleged to be abused or neglected while 2,280 were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect (see Figure 2 below). Of those confirmed, 362 were removed from their homes upon completion of the investigation, which is down considerably from 479 removals in FY 2006. On average, then, almost 33 children per day were alleged to be abused or neglected, 6–7 per day were confirmed victims, and one child per day was removed from his or her home. Some children alleged but not confirmed actually may have been abused or neglected; not confirming abuse or neglect is not the same as proving that no abuse or neglect occurred.

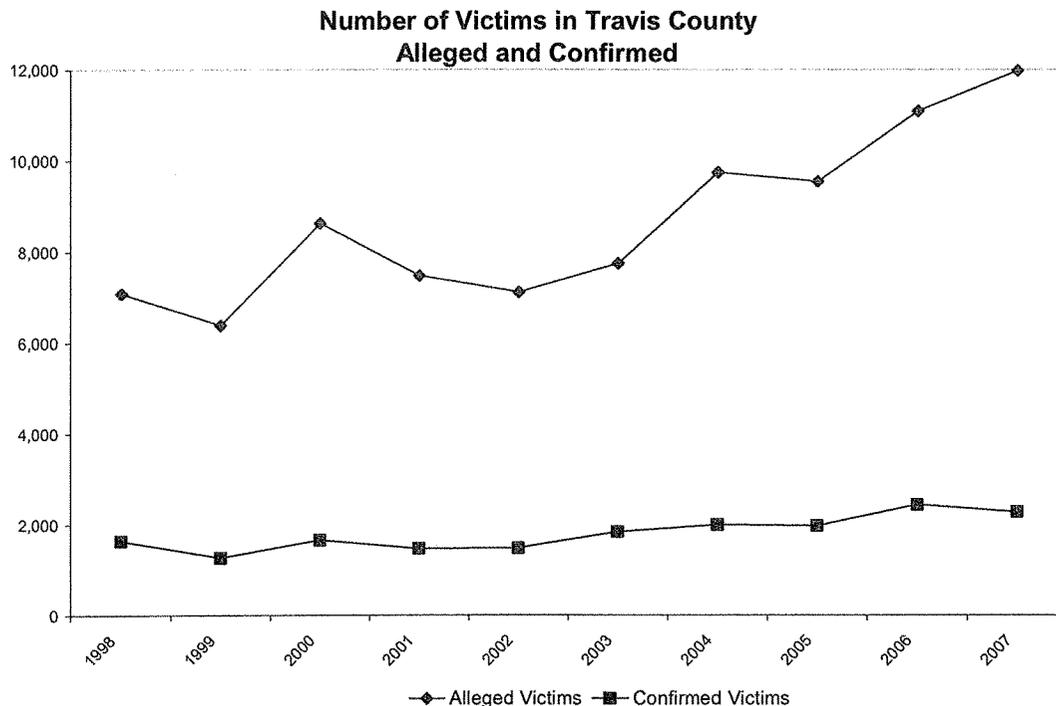
Figure 2: Child Abuse and Neglect in Travis County in FY 2007

There were 214,124 children living in Travis County in FY 2007	→	There were 11,975 <i>alleged</i> victims of child abuse or neglect.	→	There were 2,280 <i>confirmed</i> victims of child abuse or neglect.	→	There were 362 children removed from their homes upon completion of the investigation.
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(Source: DFPS FY 2007 Data Book)

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 With increases in the county's child population, one would expect concomitant increases in the number of alleged and confirmed victims of abuse or neglect. Figure 3 below verifies that such increases have occurred across time.

Figure 3
Number of Alleged and Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse or Neglect in Travis County



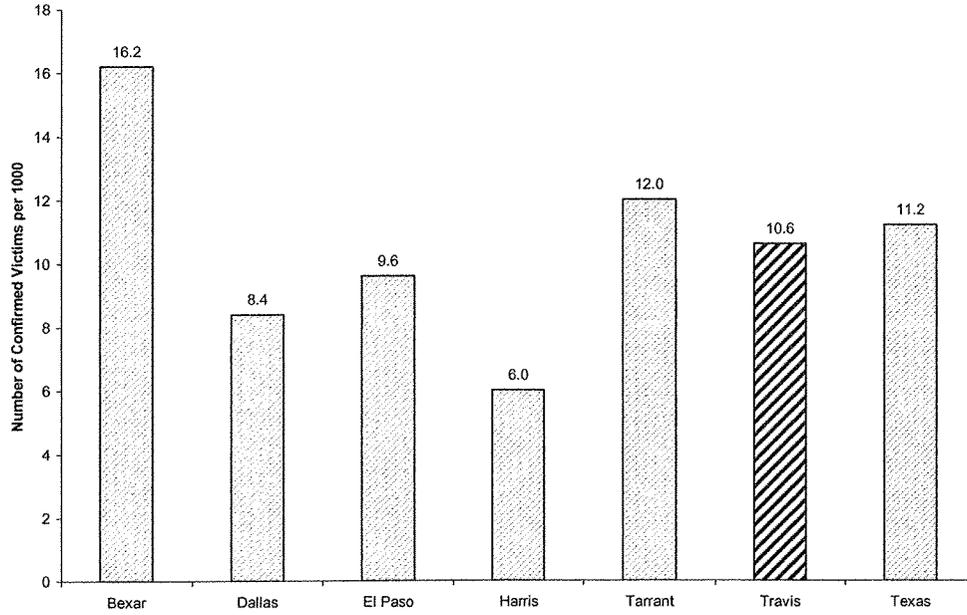
(Source: DFPS FY Data Books 1998–2007)

Although Travis County's child population increased by 1.3 percent from 211,343 to 214,124, the other indicators shown above in Figure 3 decreased during this last fiscal year. In particular, the number of children removed from their homes declined by almost 25 percent (24.4 percent) from 479 in FY 2006 to 362 in FY 2007. This decline in the number of removals, which we view as a positive outcome, is attributable at least in part to Family Group Conferencing, in which DFPS involves a child's relatives in making decisions about the best placement for the child and the types of support the relatives can provide for the child in that placement.

When compared to other large counties throughout the state, Travis County had the third-highest number of confirmed victims per 1000 children in its child population, as shown in Figure 4 below. Travis County had 10.6 confirmed victims per 1,000 in FY 2007; this figure is down by almost 8 percent compared to 11.5 per 1,000 during the previous fiscal year. Travis County also moved from having the second-highest rate of confirmed victims during FY 2006 (11.5), which was above the state average of 10.8, to the third-highest rate in FY 2007 (10.6), which is below the state average of 11.2.

Figure 4

Prevalence of Confirmed Victims of Child Abuse or Neglect per 1,000 Children for the Six Largest Texas Counties and for Texas as a Whole

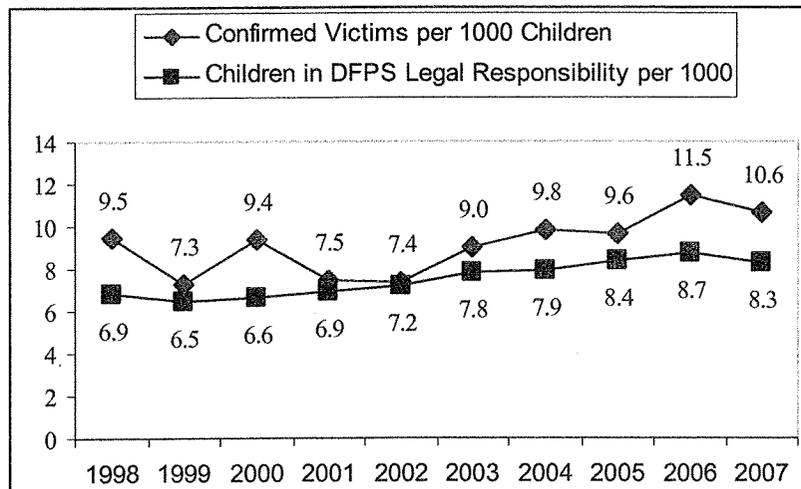


(Source: DFPS FY 2007 Data Book)

Figure 5 below shows the number of confirmed victims *per 1000* children in Travis County over the last decade. Despite ups and downs, the overall trend in this prevalence rate is upward. Figure 5 also shows the prevalence rate of children *in DFPS legal responsibility* per 1000 in the child population. It had increased steadily in Travis County from FY 1999 to FY 2006. Compared to FY 2006, however, both prevalence rates declined slightly in FY 2007. Note that a prevalence rate, by definition, factors out the effects of population growth, because it is a rate *per 1000* children in the population.

Figure 5

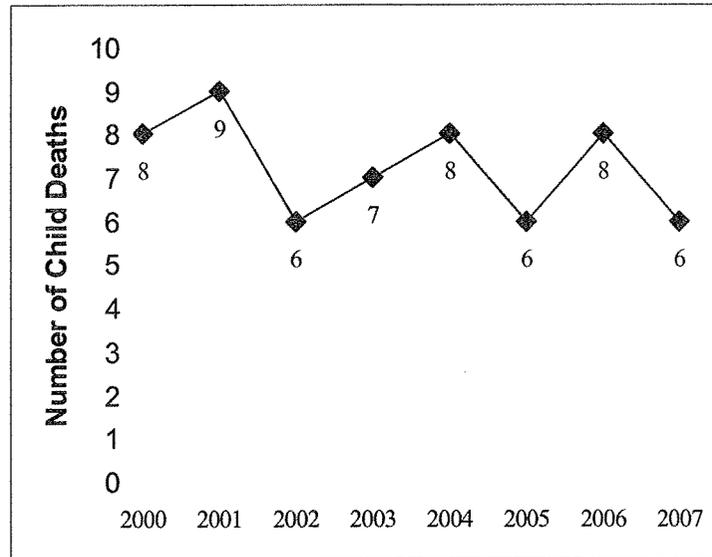
Prevalence of Children in DFPS Legal Responsibility per 1,000 Children in the Child Population



(Source: DFPS FY Data Books 1998–2007)

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 From FY 2000 to FY 2007, Travis County lost 58 children to abuse or neglect—6 in FY 2007 alone (see Figure 6 below). Because very young children are totally dependent on their caretakers to keep them safe, they face the greatest risk of death from abuse or neglect in comparison to other age groups. Fortunately, the number of such deaths has remained low in Travis County. If anything, the trend across time is slightly downward.

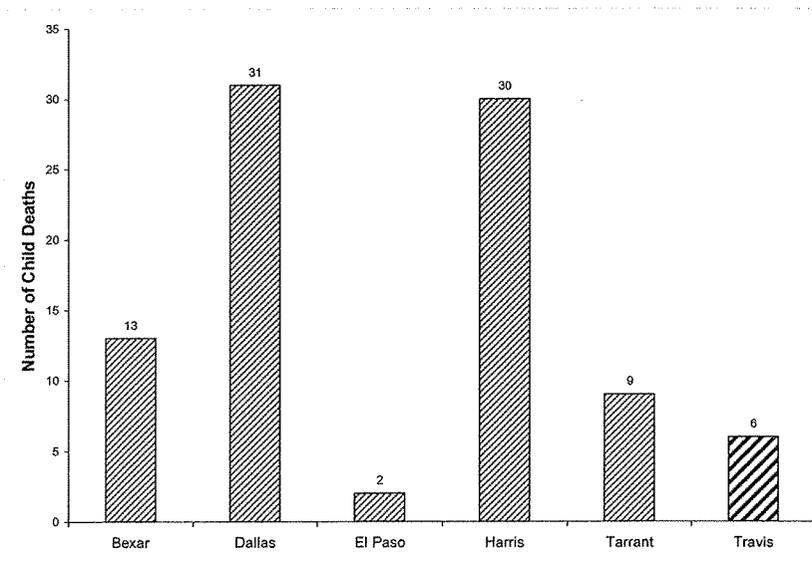
Figure 6
Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect for Travis County



(Source: DFPS FY Data Books 2000–2007)

In Figure 7 below, the number of child deaths related to abuse or neglect is given for the six largest counties in Texas. The number of fatalities in Dallas County increased considerably from 13 in FY 2006 to 31 in FY 2007, while the number in Harris County decreased from 41 to 30.

Figure 7
Child Deaths from Abuse or Neglect for the Six Largest Counties in Texas



(Source: DFPS FY 2007 Data Book)

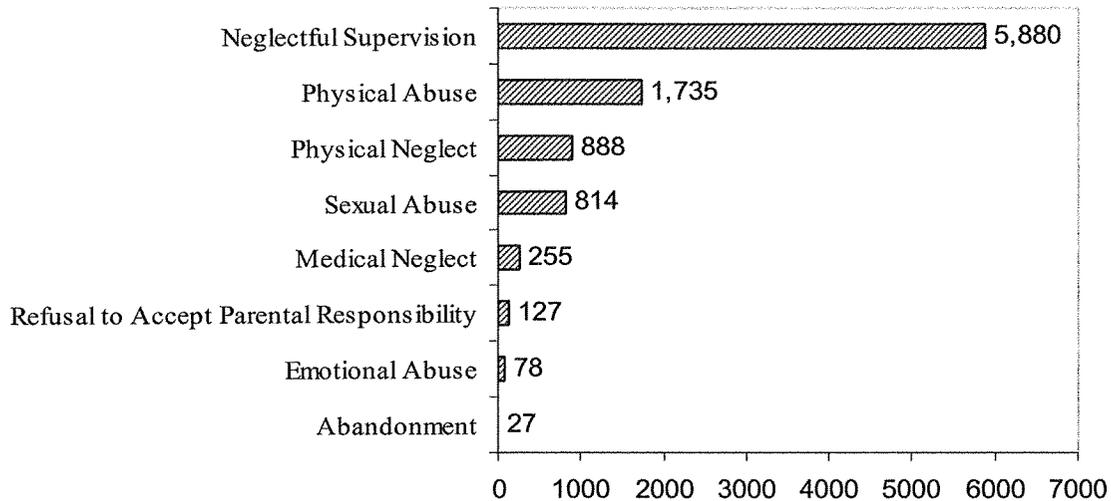
The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) defines “child fatality” as the death of a child caused by an injury resulting from abuse or neglect, or where abuse or neglect was a contributing factor. NCANDS reported an estimated 1,460 child fatalities in 2005, which translates to a rate of 1.96 child deaths per 100,000 children in the general population. If the number of fatalities in Travis County during FY 2007 (six) is divided by its child population (214,124), the county’s rate is 2.80, thus a bit higher than the national figure. From 2001 to 2004, the rates that NCANDS reported were 1.96, 1.98, 2.00, and 2.03, respectively. Travis County’s rate therefore exceeded the national rate during all five years.¹ The NCANDS data further revealed that one or both parents were involved in 76.6 percent of the fatalities in 2005, and almost 45 percent of the deaths were attributable to neglect, including medical neglect. Mothers are most often responsible for deaths resulting from child neglect, while fathers and other male caretakers are most often responsible for deaths caused by physical abuse.

Nationwide, 76.6 percent of the children are three years of age or younger at the time of death.

Types of Abuse or Neglect in Region 7

Figure 8 below shows the most common types of abuse or neglect for Region 7. Neglectful supervision is by far the most common, followed by physical abuse and physical neglect.

Figure 8
Number of Confirmed Victims in Region 7 for Each Type of Abuse or Neglect

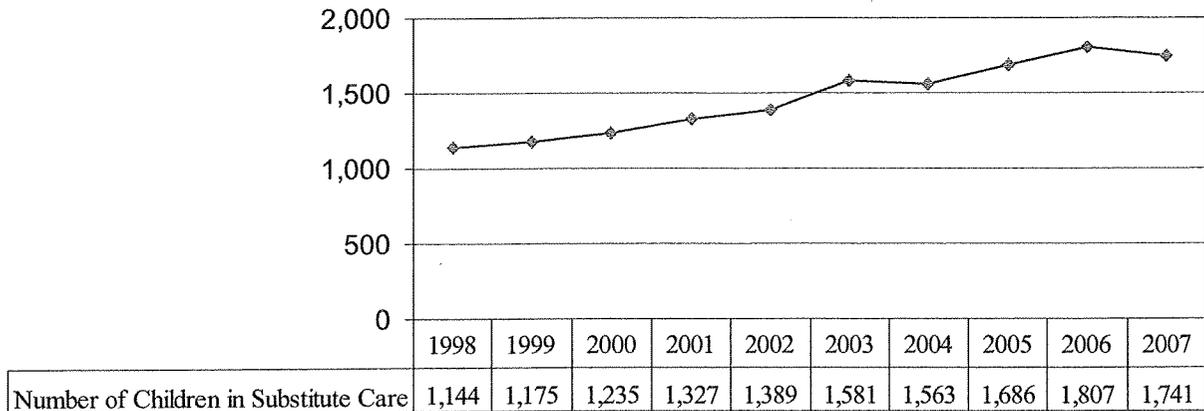


(Source: DFPS FY 2007 Data Book)

Children in Substitute Care

As Figure 10 below shows, the number of children in substitute care has increased fairly steadily in the decade since 1998. The number has increased 52 percent from 1,144 to 1,741, which is an increase of almost 600 children (597 to be exact), or about 60 children per year. Fortunately, the number in substitute care decreased slightly by 3.65 percent from 1,807 in 2006 to 1,741 in 2007. In other words, 66 fewer children were in substitute care in FY 2007 compared to FY 2006. Dispositions for children in substitute care include (but are not limited to) foster homes developed and managed by DFPS or Child Placing Agencies, kinship care with relative caregivers, emergency shelters, Residential treatment centers, juvenile detention centers, and independent living programs.

¹ “Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities: Statistics and Interventions,” Numbers and Trends. Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2008. <http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/fatality.cfm#backfn2> referenced May 29, 2008

Figure 9**Number of Travis County Children in Substitute Care from 1998–2007**

Source: DFPS 2007 Data Book

The Direct Cost of Child Abuse in Travis County

The general increase over time in the number of alleged and confirmed victims of abuse or neglect and the number in substitute care affect local resources and, specifically, the Travis County CPS Board budget. In general, the greater the number of investigations and the more children in substitute care, the greater the need for line items such as urine analyses done on the parents in the CPS system and clothing that usually require county funds.

According to DFPS, foster care expenditures for Travis County decreased by 11 percent from \$15,813,647.32 in FY 2006 to \$14,007,807.87 in FY 2007—a decrease of \$1,805,839.45, or nearly \$2 million. As Figure 10 above shows, there were 1,741 Travis County children in substitute care in FY 2007. Of these Travis County children, 1,096 children received substitute-care *purchased* services at a cost to DFPS of \$1,349,703.57. Although 2,224 Travis County children received in-home services, only 136 received in-home *purchased* services, which cost DFPS \$41,528.57 (DFPS FY 2006 Data Book).

The table below presents FY 2006 and FY 2007 cost figures side by side for comparison purposes.

	2006	2007	Change	Percent Change
Children in substitute care	1,807	1,741	-66	-3.7%
Children receiving sub-care <i>purchased</i> services	1,078	1,096	18	1.7%
Expenditures for sub-care <i>purchased</i> services	\$1,250,731.70	\$1,349,703.57	98,972	7.9%
Children receiving in-home services	1,553	2,224	671	43.2%
Children receiving in-home <i>purchased</i> services	136	156	20	14.7%
Expenditures for in-home <i>purchased</i> services	\$41,528.57	\$51,944.19	10,416	25.1%

While the number of children in substitute care decreased somewhat, all the other figures increased, including the number receiving sub-care *purchased* services and the cost of these services. Since the number in substitute care decreased, it is not surprising that the number receiving in-home services increased, but it increased dramatically by 43.2 percent. By comparison, the number receiving in-home *purchased* services increased a modest 14.7 percent and the cost of their services increased 25 percent.

The Indirect Cost of Child Abuse in Travis County

Outside of the DFPS system, it is estimated that each incident of child abuse costs at least \$75,000. This figure includes medical and mental health care services, police time, lost wages for family members, emergency child care services, and social services. It does not include, however, the costs of

investigation, prosecution, incarceration, offender counseling or treatment, or family member services (source: Community Action Network (CAN) Community Assessment – Victim Services, June 2003).

As reported in our FY 2006 annual report, children subjected to abuse or neglect are more likely to have problems later on with drug use, delinquency, poor school performance, and other adjustment-related issues. According to Prevent Child Abuse Texas, 50 percent of abused children have school-related problems, 22 percent suffer from learning disabilities requiring special education, 60–80 percent of adult drug or alcohol abusers have a history of child abuse, and 90 percent of convicted murderers were physically abused as children. Child abuse often creates a “cycle of violence” in which abused children grow up to be abusive adults themselves or pair up with abusive partners.

Adoption and Permanency

The table below shows favorable comparisons between FY 2006 and FY 2007 with regard to adoptions and permanency. The number of adoptions that were finalized improved dramatically, and the number of children free for adoption increased by nearly the same amount as the number of children *not* free for adoption decreased. These are all positive outcomes.

	2006	2007	Change	Percent Change
Adoptions Finalized	234	322	88	37.6%
Permanent Managing Conservatorship: Free for Adoption	299	317	18	6.0%
Permanent Managing Conservatorship: <i>Not</i> Free for Adoption	51	36	-15	-29.4%

In recent years, DFPS has emphasized family group decision-making conferences in all phases of a case, from investigation through substitute care, to adoption. A “Circle of Support” (COS), according to DFPS, is “a youth-focused and youth-driven meeting with the primary purpose of developing a transition plan for older youth as they move from foster care to adulthood.” The youth’s support network participates in the circle of support, which may address other issues the youth may have. The COS is the preferred model for developing or reviewing a transition plan (Source: DFPS 2007 Data Book).

Aging Out of the Foster Care System

According to DFPS, there were 419 youth across the state over the age of 18 who had “aged out” of the legal conservatorship of DFPS but remained in foster care. Support services and benefits are provided to eligible youth ages 16 to 21, and in some cases up to age 23 for certain educational or vocational needs, to assist them when they leave foster care (Source: DFPS 2007 Data Book).

The number of youth residing in Travis County who emancipated from DFPS conservatorship increased from 51 in FY2004 to 84 in FY2007, a 65% increase over four years (Source: data received from DFPS). Outcome data following “aging out” is not collected at the county level, however we know from multiple national and regional studies that these young people have significantly higher risks of negative life outcomes, such as homelessness, poverty, unemployment, teen pregnancy, incarceration, and utilization of public benefits.

Duties and Functions of the Travis County Children’s Protective Services Board

The 15-member Travis County CPS Board is appointed by the Travis County Commissioners’ Court primarily to evaluate expenditure requests and to distribute as appropriate an annual budget comprised of the county’s general fund for children and families involved in the CPS system. CPS Board members must be residents of Travis County, and the four commissioners and the County Judge each have three appointments to the board. Board members serve three-year terms and operate under bylaws approved by the Commissioners’ Court. Ex-officio members include the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, a youth member, a member of the Capital Area Foster Parents Association, and the Executive Manager of Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Services. Additionally, DFPS representatives attend board meetings and provide regular reports on the status of the agency and the children and families it serves. County staff regularly attend board meetings as well.

Oversee and properly administer the county-appropriated funding for children in Child Protective Services' care.
Assist and cooperate with DFPS in interpreting CPS' role and resources to the community and encouraging high standards of casework.
Advocate for appropriate services and support for vulnerable children and families in Travis County.
Assess and plan for the needs of Travis County children in substitute care in Travis County.
Create and present an annual report about the status of children in Travis County CPS' care to the Commissioners' Court.
Consult with the Commissioners' Court and DFPS and advise the local community about the welfare of Travis County's vulnerable children and their families.

DFPS, the County, and the Travis County CPS Board

The Travis County CPS Board was established in 1963 under a contract with what is now DFPS. It was created per the state statute that allows counties to create child welfare boards. According to the statute, the board "is an entity of DFPS for purposes of providing coordinated state and local public welfare services for children and their families and for the coordinated use of federal, state, and local funds for these services." The statute also states that the board "shall work with the Commissioners' Court." The structure and bylaws of the Travis County CPS board are similar to those of other county CPS boards across the state.

Originally, the board's purpose was to oversee Children's Protective Services and to allow foster care funds from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program to pass through the state to the county by way of the county CPS Board. As of FY 1997, federal foster care reimbursements no longer pass through the county; the funds are paid directly to foster homes. Therefore, county child welfare boards no longer serve as a conduit for these federal funds. The relationship has evolved into a collaborative effort in which DFPS, the county, and the Travis County CPS Board work together to address the needs of Travis County children and families in the CPS system, including children placed in foster care outside of Travis County.

Counties across Texas support their local DFPS departments in various ways: by funding a portion of DFPS staff salaries; by providing flexible funds to support the needs of children and caregivers involved in the CPS system; and by supporting internal county positions and programs that enhance the work of DFPS. DFPS and Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Services have a contract to facilitate Title IV-E reimbursement of the county's general funds spent on behalf of children and families involved in the CPS system. County staff often collaborate with local DFPS staff on initiatives and issues facing Travis County children and their families. And DFPS staff play an integral role in reporting to the Travis County CPS Board on issues and legislation affecting DFPS and the children and families it serves.

Travis County supports the CPS system through direct funding of legal positions in the Travis County District Attorney's office that are dedicated to the CPS docket at a cost of \$200,000. (These positions previously were funded as state positions through a match contract with DFPS.) The county also dedicates \$252,944 in general funds to the Children F.I.R.S.T. (Families, Intervention, Referral, Support, and Training) Unit, which provides in-home support to children and families involved in the CPS system and referred by DFPS. Additionally, Travis County supports the CPS system through:

1. local judges who manage the CPS docket,
2. the Family Services Division of the District Attorney's office, which prosecutes the legal cases,
3. the constable's office, which facilitates the serving of petitions, and
4. Domestic Relations Office, which provides statistical analysis and oversight of CPS cases.

Finally, the county funds a portion of the social service contracts with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and with the Austin/Travis County Children's Shelter. The Center for Child

Protection is funded by the District Attorney's office and the crime victims' fund. These agencies provide direct support to children involved in the CPS system.

Travis County is one of 68 Texas counties that invest flexible dollars to support the children and caregivers who are involved with the CPS system. These dollars are spent in various ways (see the table and Figure 11 below), and a percentage of the dollars spent are Title IV-E reimbursable.

Table 1
Expenditures with Travis County Flexible Dollars Ranked by Amount Expended

Clothing	\$167,356
Medical care-Indigent	\$70,596
Child Care	\$15,372
Children's Shelter	\$9,624
Gifts (Foster Children)	\$11,125
School Supplies	\$5,350
Medical Services/Medicine/Dental	\$3,337
Transportation	\$2,175
Psychiatrists/Psychologists	\$9,970
Other Purchased Services	\$3,902
Human Services (Camps, Driver's Ed, Enrichment)	\$3,596
Adoption	\$258
Volunteer Recruitment	\$71
Medical Exams-Victims	\$120
Total	\$298,950

Travis County Children's Protective Services Board Annual Budget

Table 2 below shows the Travis County budget for staff and direct services to children and families involved in the CPS system, overseen by the Board for the last eight years.

Table 2
Original and Revised Budgets Overseen by the Travis County CPS Board since FY 2000

Fiscal Year	Original Budget	Revised Budget
FY 2000	\$585,253	\$477,753
FY 2001	\$483,492	\$484,790
FY 2002	\$483,492	\$531,520
FY 2003	\$483,492	\$483,492
FY 2004	\$483,492	\$503,885
FY 2005	\$472,492	\$527,030
FY 2006	\$449,272	\$394,416
FY 2007*	\$222,353	\$418,212
FY 2008	\$322,353	\$298,950

* The original budget decrease between FY 2006 and FY 2007 is due to moving the funding the CPS positions to the District Attorney's office.

The Travis County CPS budget increased in FY 2008. The combined resources of CPS, Travis County and non-profits have struggled to keep up with the increasing need for services to Travis County children in the CPS system. The population growth in the County only adds to the needs.

The numbers don't tell the compelling, individual stories behind the requests. Funds were approved by the Travis County CPS Board for use by the young child who has shaken baby syndrome to pay for a specially fitted protective helmet. Children whose needs are so complex that they need neuropsychological exams to help determine the best placement and treatment plan. The foster child who has worked hard and excelled in high school was helped so she could go on an educational trip with her peers. The bus fare paid for a parent who needs to visit her child who is in residential treatment out-of-town.

Goals and Accomplishments of the Travis County Children's Protective Services Board

The Travis County CPS Board has continued to provide stewardship of county dollars to support children placed in substitute care by DFPS and their caregivers. In addition, it has evolved in the past year to take a more active role in responding to the needs and concerns noted by CPS representatives and the community. This was an outgrowth of strategic planning at our Board Retreat in June of 2008 as well as the enthusiasm and activity of new board members.

The Travis County CPS Board had a Board retreat in June of 2008 for the purpose of strategic planning. We revised our committees and developed a work plan based on the two identified priority areas of Youth Aging Out of Foster Care and Outreach and Advocacy (see Appendix for the Work Plan). Following are descriptions of the concerns, goals and accomplishments of these two priority areas along with a description of our ongoing, permanent Executive and Budget Committees.

Committee	Responsibilities
Executive Committee	Oversee the board, leadership, annual report, and recruitment; serve as officers on the CPS Board and on the board of the Capital Area Safe Kids Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit discussed below; oversee the progress of committees; take emergency action in the absence of the full board.
Budget Committee	Advise the Board on expenditure requests, oversee the budget for the Travis County CPS Board and the Safe Kids Fund concerning accounting, public policy, awards and appreciation, and resource distribution.
Youth Aging Out Committee	Collaborate with community organizations and entities working to assure that youth aging out of foster care in our county are prepared for adulthood on par with youth who are not in foster care and that they have access to supports and services they need to live independently.
Outreach and Advocacy Committee	Collaborate with complimentary agencies in the community to better serve CPS children, their caregivers, and caseworkers; advocate for support of Travis County children placed in substitute care by DFPS; advocate for support of the caregivers of those children (kinship providers, foster and adoptive parents); educate the community and Commissioners' Court; support legislative efforts that could positively affect children in Travis County; create board messages and materials.

The board continues to be a strong and viable organization. Following are some of the major accomplishments and goals of the Travis County CPS Board:

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

1. Collaborated with other community groups in the Prom Project, which provides foster teens with attire and other items they need to attend their high school proms.
2. Conducted quarterly recognition ceremonies for outstanding DFPS staff, and solicited donations from local businesses for staff appreciation.
3. Participated in the Celebration of Families during the month of April with an information booth.
4. Helped organize picnic festivities for Foster Parent Appreciation Month in May.

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supported the DFPS Adoption Day in November.

6. Sponsored a holiday luncheon for DFPS staff in December.
7. Participated in the Child Fatality Review Team.
8. Participated in the Region 7 Council of Child Welfare Boards.
9. Participated in the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards.
10. Participated in a collaborative kick-off event to raise awareness that April was Child Abuse Prevention Month.
11. Facilitated the April Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation.
12. Collaborate with complimentary agencies in the community to better serve CPS children, their caregivers, and caseworkers.
13. Helped prepare and present the 2007-2008 Annual Report to the Travis County Commissioners Court.

Community Collaboration

Beginning in the Spring of 2008, the Board has made a special effort to bring together local agencies and non-profits to discuss sharing and enhancing our community resources for children in substitute care and for families in need of education and assistance with child abuse and neglect issues. Our outreach has brought together representatives from several local advocacy groups for networking purposes on behalf of Travis County's abused and neglected children. These groups include the CPS Board; the Department of Family and Protective Services; Casey Family Foundation; Center for Child Protection; a representative from the City of Austin; and Partnerships for Children. We have held a series of meetings with these partners. Our shared goal at these meetings is to strengthen our ties and to determine the best way to respond promptly and effectively to ongoing and emerging needs of children in substitute care in Travis County, and to the CPS caseworkers who assist them.

The Board expects these helpful discussions to continue, and to expand the partners in the Community Collaboration group. We are currently working on creating a one-page reference sheet of community resources for CPS caseworkers to use, especially in emergency situations. This guide will help caseworkers quickly assess which local agency or non-profit has the item or services that a child needs, whether that is a car seat or financial assistance for the fingerprinting requirement of adoptive family.

Creation of Travis County CPS Board Website

In the Fall of 2008, and in conjunction with the Casey Family Foundation's launch of the Raise Me Up Campaign, the Travis County Child Protective Services Board created its own website: www.co.travis.tx.us/cps. The purpose of the website is to educate the community about the Board's mission and responsibilities, and to provide further information about local resources in the areas of prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

Budget Committee

1. Reviewed expenditure requests on a semi-monthly basis and made recommendations to the Board as to whether or not the Board should approve the expenditures.
2. Reviewed and updated spending guidelines that guide the Board's spending decisions and determine when expenditures require Board approval.
3. Raised funds for the Capital Area Safe Kids Fund and monitored its expenditures (see below).

Youth Aging Out Committee

The Youth Aging Out committee of the Travis County CPS Board developed out of concerns expressed throughout the community (e.g. through Board contacts with Austin's Community Action Network) and Region 7 CPS and PAL (Preparation for Adult Living) staff about the gaps in supports and

services for youth aging out in our community. In addition, recent research studies and regional and national outcome data have illuminated the high risk for poor life outcomes that youth aging out of foster care face.

This committee's goals include assuring that youth aging out of foster care in our county are prepared for adulthood on par with youth who are not in foster care and that they have access to supports and services they need to live independently. We have developed the following steps to reach these goals:

1. Identify the current services and supports for older youth in care and those that age out of care.
2. Identify areas where services and supports are not coordinated or continuous.
3. Identify best practices around the country, compare them to local practices and investigate how they might be implemented in our community.
4. Raise public and policymaker awareness about the plight of youth aging out.
5. Develop relationships with local agencies, service providers and policymakers to improve coordination and harness the power of coalition in promoting change.

On April 17 of 2008, the Board presented to the Commissioner's Court and submitted a report encompassing work on the first several of these steps. We have continued to work on these and the remaining steps toward our goal of becoming a county where youth "age in" to a supportive community rather than "aging out" on their own. Following is a summary of the primary activities and developments.

Texans Care for Children's Walk A Mile Project

Dr. Seremetis of the Travis County CPS Board volunteered to write the Fundraising proposal and help with planning for this project, which was coordinated by Texans Care for Children and occurred in June and July of 2008. This program matched policymakers with constituent foster youth and alumni in order to create a forum for sharing their stories. It "provides policymakers with an authentic opportunity to understand what growing up in the foster care system means and the challenges that the youth face as they age out of care. Simultaneously, the experience provides former foster youth the opportunity to have their voices heard and to access policymakers who make decisions about youth in the state's care." (Source: http://www.texanscareforchildren.org/files/June_Newsletter_08.pdf)

Youth Aging Out Subcommittee of the Ready By 21 Coalition

The Travis County CPS Board Youth Aging Out lobbied the Austin-Travis County Community Action Network to create a broader community coalition specifically dedicated to addressing the needs of youth aging out of foster care. This led to the creation of a new subcommittee of the Ready By 21 Coalition, an Issue Area Group of the Community Action Network that has broad representation among city and county agencies (e.g. AISD, Travis County Health and Human Services), nonprofits (e.g. United Way Capital Area, Foundation Communities), and businesses (e.g. the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce). This allows the issues facing youth aging out to have a "permanent home" and connection with relevant agencies to increase public awareness and assure that the needs of these multiply-at-risk youth are on the agenda at an ongoing, systemic and community-wide level.

In addition to reporting to and participating in the Ready By 21 coalition, the new Youth Aging Out of Foster Care subcommittee of Ready By 21 started monthly meetings in September of 2008 under the leadership of Dr. Seremetis of the Travis County CPS Board as well as Elaine Carter from Casey Family Programs and Scott O'Brien and Peg Gavin of Lifeworks. We surveyed the community and foster youth and alumni on the subcommittee, identified 3 priority areas, and developed work groups to work in each area: 1. Safe and affordable housing, 2. Education and workforce development, and 3. Advocacy. These are action oriented work groups, and the coalition has already made progress in harnessing coalition support to address problems and gaps in these areas. For example, we are in the process of starting a program that would expand financial literacy training for youth and starting a pilot Children's Savings Account for youth, with the goal of comparing outcomes for youth with these services to those who receive "treatment as usual." Two examples of the strength of coalitions is that we now have access to an excellent Youth Resource Guide for youth aging out that we didn't know existed through Texas Rio

Raise Me Up Campaign

The Casey Foundation chose Austin as a pilot for a substantial public awareness campaign regarding the fate of youth who age out of foster care. The Travis County CPS Board was a local partner on this campaign, and is linked to the raise me up campaign's website, www.raisemeup.org. This is an exciting opportunity not only to increase awareness, but to expand support for youth aging out through the interest generated in potential volunteers and donors. In responding to this interest, we have been working with Austin's Partnerships for Children to start a long-awaited mentoring program for youth aging out of care. This has already received support from community partners (e.g. CASA of Travis County, Lifeworks, Accenture) and will be developed over the next 6 months.

Mentoring Program for Youth Aging Out

As referenced above, Partnerships for Children is in the process of creating a mentoring program for older youth in foster care who are likely to age out of the system, and the Travis County CPS Board is a partner in this effort. This responds to the requests of youth in care, CPS and aftercare staff, and community partners to provide more one-on-one support to youth aging out. The goals of this mentoring program are to improve the (average) negative outcomes of youth aging out of care by providing emotional and practical support to help youth bridge the gaps in the transition to adulthood.

Capital Area Safe Kids Fund

Children's Protective Assistance, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation doing business as (dba) the Capital Area Safe Kids Fund, or the Safe Kids Fund for short. It is the nonprofit arm of the Travis County CPS Board, and the members and officers of the Travis County CPS Board comprise the board of the Safe Kids Fund as well. The Safe Kids Fund raises funds to supplement state and Travis County funding for children and families in the CPS system. Its activities are conducted entirely by volunteers.

The funds are used for items that may not be eligible for state or Travis County funding or for payments for urgent needs that must be made quickly. During the year, the Safe Kids Fund funded items such as:

1. Support for former foster children through LifeWorks
2. Travel for parents to visit children who are in out-of-county placements
3. Gifts for foster children graduating from High School
4. Court fees for adoptive parents
5. Support for public awareness events during Child Abuse Prevention month (April)
6. The prom project for foster teens
7. Events to recognize and encourage foster parents and CPS staff

Summary

As the figures set forth above indicate, incidences of child abuse and neglect in our community occur far too often, and often with tragic results. However, the Travis County Child Protective Services Board, in conjunction with DFPS, continued to take successful steps to assist children in CPS' care and to form alliances in our local community to benefit vulnerable families. During the FY 2007-2008, there were some enheartening improvements in the statistics on child abuse and neglect, namely the reduction of children removed from their homes due to successful Family Group Conferencing by CPS, and a decrease in the number of children in substitute care. Also, FY 2007-2008 saw an increased awareness of older youth in foster care, and a focus on what those older children would need to be successful at the time of their emancipation from the state's care.

The Travis County Child Protective Services Board was very productive during FY 2007-2008. During that time, we served the children and their families in CPS' care with appropriate financial support based on caseworkers' requests, community needs, and court orders. Additionally, the CPS Board assisted other related agencies with community activities related primarily to foster youth and child abuse prevention. Finally, we took initiatives to create two ambitious Committees: Youth Aging Out and Community Collaboration. The far-reaching work of both of these Committees has developed and strengthened our ties in the local community towards a shared goal of helping vulnerable families.

Current Members of the Travis County Children's Protective Services Board

The table below lists each member of the Travis County Children's Protective Services Board as of May 15, 2009 plus the precinct the member represents and the current county commissioner for that precinct.

Member and Role	Precinct and Current County Commissioner	Term Ends
*Deborah Risovi, Chairperson	Precinct 3, Huber	Dec. 2010
*Milbrey Raney, Vice-Chairperson	Precinct 2, Eckhardt	Feb. 2010
*Ron Hubbard, Treasurer	At large, County Judge Biscoe	April 2010
*David Williams, Secretary	Precinct 3, Huber	June 2010
*Lynn Perkins	Precinct 4, Gomez	Jan. 2012
*Robert Hendee, M.D.	At large, County Judge Biscoe	Dec. 2011
*Melissa Miller	Precinct 1, Davis	June 2010
*Laurie Seremetis, M.D.	Precinct 2, Eckhardt	March 2010
*Nikki Simms	Precinct 1, Davis	May 2011
*Jeanne Stamp	Precinct 4, Gomez	Dec. 2011
*Nancy Williams	Precinct 2, Eckhardt	Dec. 2010
*Lindsay P. Hale	At large, County Judge Biscoe	Dec. 2011
*Ronda Schultz	Precinct 1, Davis	Feb. 2012
Vacant	Precinct 4, Gomez	
Vacant	Precinct 3, Huber	
Kirsten Moody		
Nancy Bellow, Ph.D.		

*Designates current Board Member

Ex-officio Members

pending, Youth Member

Sherri Fox, Capital Area Foster Parents Association

Barbara Swift, Juvenile Probation Officer

Sherri Fleming, Executive Manager, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran Services

Staff Liaisons

Jim Lehrman, Director, Office of Children Services, Travis County Health and Human Services

Lisa Hill, Office of Children Services, Travis County Health and Human Services

Carol Self, Conservatorship Program Director, Travis County, DFPS

Jenny Hinson, Program Administrator, Travis County, DFPS

Board Members	
Deborah Risovi, Board Chairperson Executive Director, Partnerships for Children	Chair, Travis County CPS Board Executive Director, Partnerships for Children Board Member, Prevent Child Abuse Texas Member, Collaborative Council of the Travis County Model Court for Children and Families
Milbrey Raney, J.D. Vice-chair	Thomas J. Watson Fellow Graduated UT Law 1995 Private Family Law Practice 1996 - 2008, including numerous cases on CPS Docket in Travis County representing parents and children Former Austin Bar Association Family Law Bar Board Member and Secretary Former Court Appointed Family Law Advocates Board Member and Secretary Collaborative Council Member for Travis County Model Court
Ron Hubbard, Treasurer Early Childhood Coordinator Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, City of Austin	Treasurer for CPS Board and Capital Area Safe Kids Fund Chairperson of CPS Board's Budget Committee 30+ years experience in child care and child care related work in Austin
David Williams, Secretary	
Nancy Bellows, Ph.D. Adjunct Professor, Mathematics and Psychology Austin Community College	Was the board's secretary for part of FY 2007. Worked in Children's Protective Services for five years, 1986-1991. Was, for a time, on the board of Prevent Child Abuse Texas. Also currently on the board of Ecology Action.
Robert Hendee, M.D. Retired Neurosurgeon	Also currently on the board of the Child Fatality Review Team, Prevent Child Abuse Texas, and Texas Protects. Worked with Dr. Kemp, the first physician to describe the battered child syndrome.
Jeanne Stamp, LCSW, LMFT, LCDC Senior Program Coordinator Texas Homeless Education Office The Charles A. Dana Center The University of Texas	Represents the Travis County CPS Board at meetings of the Region 07 Council of Child Welfare Boards and, at times, at meetings of the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards.
Laurie Seremetis, MD	Practiced general psychiatry for 11 years. Has been a Community Council member of the Austin Community Action Network and a Board member of the Austin Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility for the past several years. Started a Youth Aging Out subcommittee of the Ready By 21 coalition in the Fall of 2008. Will complete a Masters degree in Public Affairs in May 2009.

Last Updated 5-21-09 at 4:40pm	Will start a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship in the summer of 2009.
Nikki Simms	Experience working with children in a child-care center, the children's shelter and currently has a family child-care home .
Nancy Williams	
Melissa Miller	Graduate of the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Has nearly twenty years of experience with the State of Texas as a business and systems analyst, as well as an evaluator. Works with Austin's Ending Community Homelessness (ECHO) Coalition, serving as the chair of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Subcommittee.
Lynn Perkins	
Lindsay P. Hale	
Ronda Schultz	

Terms

The following definitions for terms used in this report appear in the DFPS FY 2006 Data Book.

Children in Foster Care – All children in DFPS legal responsibility who are in a placement paid by DFPS or other public facility. These placements include foster homes, foster group homes, institutions, residential treatment facilities, and juvenile facilities. This is a subset of Children in Substitute Care.

Children in Substitute Care – Children under 18 years of age in DFPS legal responsibility who are placed outside their own home (home of origin). This includes foster homes, foster group homes, institutions, residential treatment facilities, juvenile facilities, hospitals, adoptive homes, relative home placements, and independent living arrangements. Also included are the youth who age out of DFPS' legal responsibility and continue in foster care placements to complete vocational training by age 19 or to graduate from high school before they turn 20 years old.

Children in the Legal Responsibility of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services – All children for whom the courts have appointed the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services legal responsibility by temporary or permanent managing conservatorship or other court-ordered legal basis. These children may be residing in an out-of-home placement or may have been returned to their own home (home of origin).

When there is an immediate danger to the physical health or safety of a child, the Texas Family Code(TFC) provides three options for intervention by DFPS into a family:

- (1) emergency removal of the child from the home prior to obtaining a court order;
- (2) removal of the child after obtaining an ex parte order; or,
- (3) removal of the child after notice and hearing.

Within 14 days from the date the child is taken into possession, a full adversary hearing is held at which time the child is either returned home or if there is a continuing danger, temporary orders for managing conservatorship are issued. Within 12 months from the order appointing DFPS as the child's temporary managing conservator, the court must return the child to the parent and dismiss the suit; appoint a parent, relative, or DFPS as managing conservator on a permanent basis; or grant a one-time extension of the lawsuit, not to exceed 180 days.

Note:

Substitute care and foster care include children ages 0 to 20. Children age out of DFPS legal responsibility at age 18 but may remain in foster care. Youth ages over 18 who are in foster care are counted in substitute care. It is possible for a client to receive foster care in more than one county. (Source: DFPS 2007 Data Book).

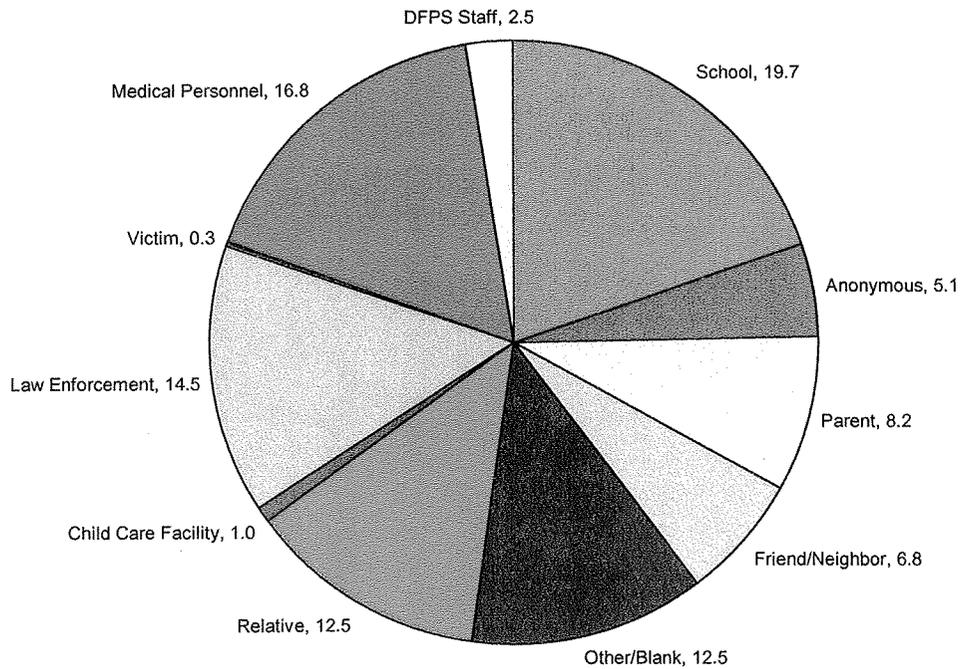
Characteristics of Perpetrators in Texas and Sources Reporting Abuse or Neglect across Texas

The perpetrator of child abuse or neglect is more often female (58.1 percent) than male and is the child's parent in the majority of cases (78.4 percent). But in 5.5 percent of the cases, the perpetrator was the parent's "paramour" or partner. Altogether grandparents, siblings, and other relatives were the perpetrators in 12.6 percent of the cases. The perpetrator was another substitute caregiver in the remaining 3.4 percent of the cases. A high percentage of perpetrators are married (30.7 percent) and relatively young; 37.9 percent fall in the age range, 26–35.

Last Updated: 5/21/09 at 1:40 pm
Sources Reporting Abuse or Neglect

As shown in Figure 9 below, schools were the most common source across the state of reports that were investigated in FY 2007. Other frequent sources were medical personnel, law enforcement, and relatives. Somewhat less common sources were parents, friends or neighbors, and anonymous callers. Comparatively few reports that were investigated came from child care facilities, DFPS staff, or the victims themselves. These data closely match those of FY 2006.

Figure 10
Source of Report of Abuse or Neglect
for Investigations in Texas in FY 2007



Source: DFPS 2007 Data Book

Priority Area I: Youth Aging Out

Goal 1: Children who age out of the foster care system are prepared on par with children who are not in the foster care system.

ACTION STEPS (specific actions needed to accomplish this goal)
1. Gather information on foster parent training (CPS & private agencies) and on service plans.
2. Gather more information about the PAL program.
3. Identify best practices and gaps.
4. Identify ways to support/implement, specifics TBD based on research.

Goal 2: Children who age out of the system have more ongoing supports.

ACTION STEPS (specific actions needed to accomplish this goal)
1. Info gathering: What supports already exist (who runs them, how long, what's offered etc.?)
2. Explore how the Board could help coordinate County supports (that may be disconnected).
3. Identify gaps/what's missing.
4. Based on gaps that are identified, identify solutions.

Priority Area II: Outreach and Advocacy

Goal 1: Increase influence, resources and support from the community for child protection and abuse prevention.

ACTION STEPS (specific actions needed to accomplish this goal)
1. Develop talking points and a clear mission statement.
2. Identify board member connections to resources and request support and/or make connections (expand).
3. Revamp website and link to DFPS Website.
4. Contact Andrea Ball (AAS) and Chronicle re: license plates.
5. Explore possibility of developing a billboard re: license plates.
6. Explore possibility of a donated ad campaign through Tate Austin or other company.

Goal 2: Travis County Commissioner's Court is engaged in and supportive of the CPS Board's focus and activities.

ACTION STEPS (specific actions needed to accomplish this goal)
1. Utilize Citizen's Communication to have a quarterly presence at TCCC. (Topics: CPS/TCJP collaboration, prom project, license plates)
2. Continue to produce and present annual report to TCCC. Possibly add special topic focus to presentation.
3. Arrange additional work sessions to present on special topics.

Goal 3: The judges and courts are aware of the impact of their decisions.

ACTION STEPS (specific actions needed to accomplish this goal)
1. Educate judges on how child welfare board funds are spent and limitations on money.
2. Advocate for flexible dollars for non-traditional services (see goal 4).
3. Talk with Judge Byrne.
4. Talk with Judge Hurley.

Goal 4: Increase flexible dollars for non-traditional services.

ACTION STEPS (specific actions needed to accomplish this goal)
1. Develop talking points re: need for more flexible dollars.
2. Personal advocacy with Travis County delegation
3. Connect with statewide advocacy groups/other CWB to create a stronger voice on this issue.

Reference

The FY 2007 Data Book for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) can be found online at:

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2007/databook/default.asp

Child Abuse/Neglect Allegation Dispositions

The categories used to record the findings and initial assessment/investigation of child abuse/neglect are defined as:

Confirmed Investigations

- **Reason to believe** - Based on a preponderance of evidence, staff concluded that abuse or neglect occurred.

Unconfirmed Investigations

- **Ruled out** - Staff determined, based on available information, that it is reasonable to conclude that abuse or neglect has not occurred.

- **Unable to complete** - Before staff could reach a conclusion, the persons involved in the report moved, could

not be located or refused to cooperate.

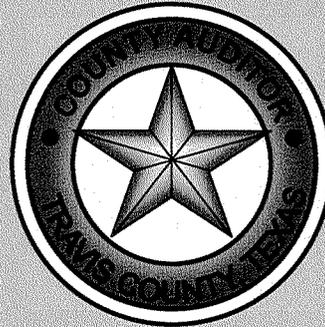
- **Unable-to-determine** - Staff concluded that none of the other dispositions were appropriate.



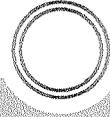
Grants Update



TRAVIS COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE
MAY 2009



Grants Update



- Grants Overview
- Grant Complexity
- Travis County Grants
- Growth due to ARRA
- Growth of Complex Grants
- Recovery Act (Stimulus) Grants
- Status of Grants Support

Grants Overview



- **Federal, State and sometimes, Local assistance**

- Usually grants are discretionary

- Government usually competes for the funds or the amount of funds

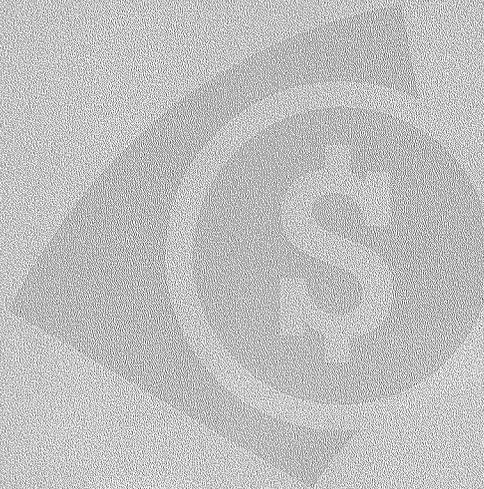
- Selection is based upon projects and budget presented in application



Grants Overview



- **Generally requires commitment of grantee resources**
 - Cash Match
 - In-kind Match
 - Partner Match



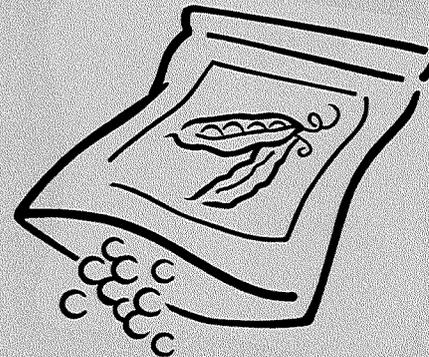
Grants Overview



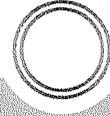
- Often grants are seed money toward ongoing programs

Phase out in last years of multi-year grant

Some require commitments to locally fund after grant ends for a specified period of time



Grants Overview



- Require additional compliance above that of County appropriations

Examples:

- Davis Bacon Act
- Supplanting
- Suspension and Debarment
- Other “assurances”

Grants Overview



- Require Single Audit or Program Specific Audits
- Require special handling due to specific requirements of each grant
- Can vary in complexity

Grant Complexity

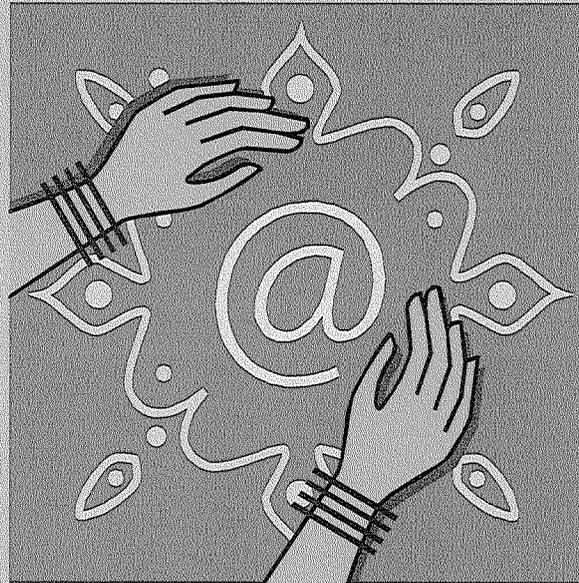


- Travis County has a mix of grants

Simple

Moderately Complex

Extremely Complex



Grant Complexity



- **Many Factors determine a grant's complexity**

- Number of transactions

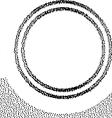
- Number of reports

- Sub-recipients

- Program with multiple funding sources

- Number of grant employees

Grant Complexity



- **Complex Grants Require**
 - More resources to manage
 - Specialized skills to manage
 - Additional internal controls to ensure compliance

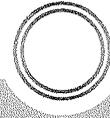


Travis County Grants



- **Approximately 165 grants for 2008**
 - 49 – Simple
 - 57 – Moderate
 - 59- Complex
 - 7 of the complex grants are extremely complex including sub-recipient monitoring or multiple funding sources.
- **Estimating growth to 172 grants in FY2009 and 180 grants in FY2010**

Travis County Grants



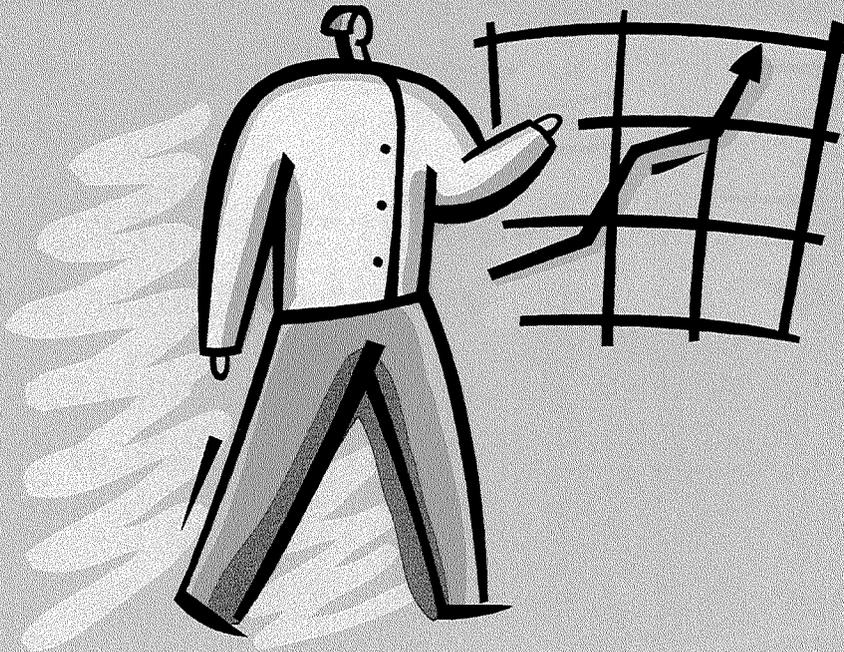
- **Grants staffing -**
 - Six County Funded positions in County Auditor's Office
 - Numerous staff in offices/departments
- **Grants provided \$43.9 million in revenues in FY08, and total of over \$150.5 million between FY05 and FY08**

Travis County Grants



- Grants expected to continue to grow in amount and complexity with economy and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant activity

2007	157
2008	165
2009	172
2010	180



Growth Due to ARRA



- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed in February 2009**

Includes competitive grants and allocations

Grants will be awarded quickly for programs

Federal Agencies are required to have plans in place for their funds by early May

Many agencies have already placed programs out for competitive bid, with deadlines which have passed or are near

Some funds will be allocations based on current programs, coming through the State. Information to be forthcoming.

Growth in Extremely Complex Grants



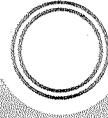
- In the past three years, we have added several extremely complex grants and are applying for more of this nature
- Previously, Travis County did not have grants of this nature
- CDBG and Parenting in Recovery were added in 2007 and 2008

Growth in Extremely Complex Grants



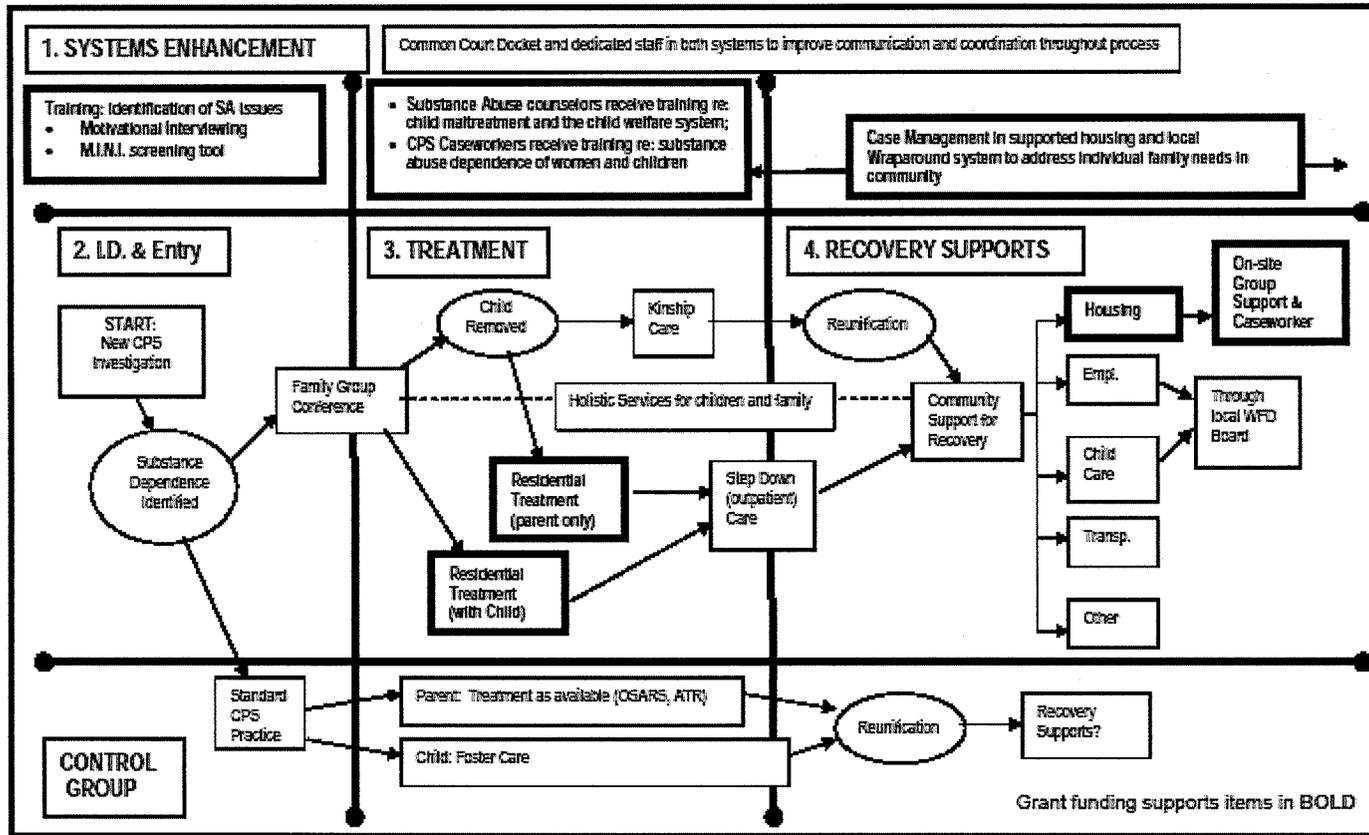
- **Characteristics of these grants**
 - Multiple funding sources
 - Interwoven grants and programs
 - Sub-recipients
 - Complex agreements
 - Often Federal direct grants

Growth in Extremely Complex Grants

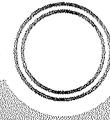


- **Example of Complex Grant – Parenting in Recovery**
 - Includes multiple sub-recipients
 - Funded by General Fund, two grant funds and a donation
 - Includes a partner entity (CPS) which performs grant activities but has no financial responsibility
 - Feeds into other County grants and programs
 - Requires substantial monitoring time from both program and financial perspectives
 - See attached diagram

Parenting in Recovery Grant



Growth in Extremely Complex Grants



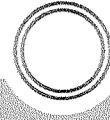
- As a result, these extremely complex grants require more resources than other grants
 - Average Workload hours for County Auditor's Grants Staff
 - ✦ Simple – 29 hrs. per grant
 - ✦ Moderate – 68 hrs. per grant
 - ✦ Complex – 130 hrs. per grant
 - Extremely complex can be as much as 500 hrs. per grant

Growth in Extremely Complex Grants



- **Why do the complex grants require so much more time for the grants staff?**
 - Review applications
 - Review/collaborate on contracts prior to finalizing
 - Coordination and fact finding meetings
 - Sub-recipient interaction
 - ✦ Preliminary meetings
 - ✦ Thorough review of all documents
 - ✦ On-site visits
 - ✦ Frequent contact and issue resolution
 - ✦ External Auditor and monitor coordination

Growth in Extremely Complex Grants



- Cont'd
- Generally more legal issues in documents
- Higher risk to the County because County is responsible for all aspects of the sub-recipient's performance as if the County was doing the work themselves.

ARRA (Recovery Act) Grants



- New funding available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Rules and requirements still being written
- Federal agencies required to develop plans for Recovery Act programs by May 1st –
 - some of these deadlines are sliding
- Recipients must begin reporting on their use of funds starting October 15th
 - However, information must be available starting July 15th
- Reporting is accelerated – due ten calendar days after quarter end

ARRA (Recovery Act) Grants



- Both financial and program information will be reported such as:
 - Total amount of recovery funds received from each agency
 - Amount of recovery funds that were obligated and expended
 - Detailed information on any subcontracts or subgrants awarded by the recipient (no specific requirements available at this time)
- Reporting will be on Federal Agency site which will be viewable by general public
- Federal agencies will accelerate grant monitoring and increase frequency to comply with act

ARRA (Recovery Act) Grants



- Many will have sustainability clauses – require the recipient to continue to fund program for a specified period of time after grant ends
 - If not required, grants we have seen say sustainability will be given preference
- Travis County is in the process of applying for, or has already applied for six or more direct grants
 - State agencies are also talking about allocations available to the County from their funds
- Turn around for these grants is extremely fast
 - All County processes will need to be expedited
- Some ARRA grants allow only one application from the County
 - If more than one dept. applies, efforts must be coordinated

Status of Grants Support



- **Currently Offices/Departments are responsible for grants**

- Identification of opportunities

- Applications

- Program design and execution

- Compliance

- Programmatic reporting

- Programmatic monitoring

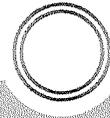
Status of Grant Support



- **County Auditor's Office serves as Chief Financial Officer for most grants**
 - Responsible for financial reporting
 - Reviews applications, contracts and other documentation for consistency with County financial policies and grant financial regulations
 - Works collaboratively with Offices/Departments on financial issues
 - Coordinates annual external audit/Single Audit and financial monitoring visits
 - Performs financial monitoring of sub-recipients
 - Processes transactions for grants (AP/Payroll)
 - Chief Financial Officer signs most grant contracts and financial reports

Note: Some Offices/Depts. have chosen to take responsibility for the financial administration of their grants. County Auditor's participation is limited to review

Status of Grant Support



- In 2007, the Commissioners' Court authorized the addition of one grant analyst to support sub-recipient grants
 - This has enabled us to support CDBG and Parenting In Recovery grants
 - Additional sub-recipient grants are currently in application process



Status of Grant Support



- Can currently adequately support grant activity, however, as new grants are added, additional resources will be required

Operational departments will require funds and fte's
County budgetary contributions as Match or other support

Possible County sustainability after grant ends

Additional County Auditor resources including grants, payroll
and disbursements resources

Status of Grant Support

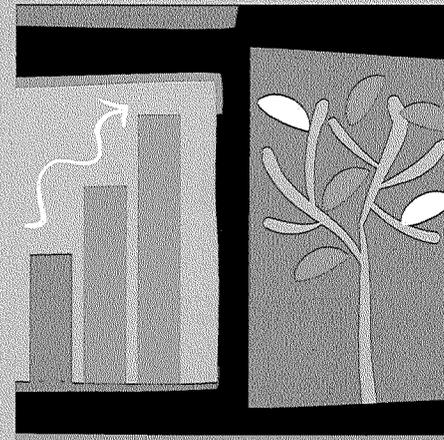


Year	# of Grants	Workload Hrs.	# of Transactions	# of Reports	Eq. FTEs w/out Overtime	Eq. FTEs with 20% Overtime
2007	157	11,787	43,955	707	6.3	5.2
2008	165	12,617	49,913	654	6.7	5.6
2009	172	13,157	54,445	682	7.0	5.9
2010	180	14,225	60,097	761	7.3	6.3

Status of Grant Support



- Growth projected to increase workload by FY2010 to or beyond maximum capacity
- Additional resources will be required to continue to service grants as the number and/or complexity increases both in the County Auditor's Office and the Offices/Departments



Status of Grant Support



- **Challenges to Consider**

- Additional FTEs will be required to handle additional workload
- Additional facilities space and resources required
 - Additional FTEs will require facilities space in County Auditor's Office
 - Currently at full capacity
- Increased Additional Single Audit Costs
 - New significant grants will generate more "major" programs to be audited, increasing external audit costs
- Reimbursement grants will require the County to utilize increased funds to pay expenses until reimbursements are received
 - Source – reserves

Suggestions to Expedite Process



- Contact the County Auditor's Office as soon as possible in the grant application stage
- Keep the County Auditor's Office informed about contract issues during the drafting and negotiation stage to ensure timely resolution
 - Involvement in contracts while in draft stage reduces the possibility of contracts being delayed when put on agenda for approval
 - Additionally, involve other support departments in the planning stage to ensure resources are available for the grant, such as:
 - ✦ County Attorney's Office
 - ✦ ITS
 - ✦ Purchasing
 - ✦ PBO

Suggestions to Expedite Process



- **Ensure deadlines are met for current process**
 - Application and contract review submissions should be received for review well before last day
 - Involve support departments in issues early on for support
 - Involve the grantor in issues voluntarily to resolve as efficiently as possible
- **In summary, we have good, functional process in place and if all procedures are followed and deadlines are met, we will be able to ensure grants are handled as efficiently as possible for the best possible outcomes.**

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT
AGENDA REQUEST

RECEIVED
COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE
09 MAY - 5 PM 1 2008

Please consider the following item for Work Session on: Thursday, May 28, 2009

- I. A. Request made by: Sheriff Greg Hamilton Phone No. (512) 854-9788
- B. Requested Text: Update status / progress on Integrian Digital patroller issues, see prior report from Commissioner Court Agenda Item 32 on December 23, 2008.

C. Approved by: _____
Signature of Commissioner or Judge

- II. A. Is backup material attached *: Yes No

*Any backup material to be presented to the court must be submitted with this Agenda Request (Original and eight copies).

- B. Have the agencies affected by this request been invited to attend the work session? Yes No

Please list those contacted and their phone numbers:

Joe Harlow, ITS (854-9372)
David Lamp'l, ITS

Rodney Rhoades, PBO (854-9106)

Tenley Aldredge, Assistant County Attorney (854-9513)
Lori Clyde, Purchasing (854-4205)

- III. PERSONNEL
A change in your department's personnel (reclass., etc.).

- IV. BUDGET REQUEST:
If your request involves funding for your department please check:

_____ Additional funding for your department

_____ Transfer of funds within your department budget

_____ A change in your department's personnel

The County Personnel (854-9165) and / or the Budget and Research Office (854-9171) must be notified before submission of this agenda request.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE

All Agenda Requests and supporting materials must be submitted to the County Judge's Office in writing by 5:00 p.m. on Monday for the next week's meeting.

32. RECEIVE BRIEFING FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY REGARDING REMEDIES TO CONSIDER FOR PRODUCTS RECEIVED FROM INTEGRIAN, INC. AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION. ¹ (2:41 PM) (3:30 PM)

Clerk's Note: Judge Biscoe announced that Item 32 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

Members of the Court heard from: John Hille, Assistant County Attorney.

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Davis that we authorize Staff to keep negotiating with Integrian, Inc., regarding the sixty-five DP2 systems, to give them an opportunity to basically replace those systems we have with working systems, and ask Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent to continue, consistent with our discussions.

Motion carried:

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	absent
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

33. RECEIVE LEGAL BRIEFING AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON REQUEST FROM AUSTIN KENNEL CLUB TO LICENSE THE TRAVIS COUNTY EXPOSITION CENTER. ¹ (9:17 AM)

Clerk's Note: Judge Biscoe announced that Item 33 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

Item 33 pulled from the Agenda.

"THIS POINT PAPER HAS BEEN PREPARED BY TRAVIS COUNTY STAFF FOR COUNTY'S INTERNAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY. IT MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL AND/OR PROPRIETARY. ACCORDINGLY, PLEASE DO NOT DISSEMINATE THIS POINT PAPER TO NON-TRAVIS COUNTY INDIVIDUALS OR ENTITIES."

Point Paper for Integrian history April 27, 2009

- March 2007
 - Received DP2 systems from Integrian which did not allow automatic software updates from the server and required manual connection of a monitor (required 120v), keyboard, and mouse to update the DVR from a flash drive for all 60 units (per Integrian Field Engineer)
 - Received 60 DP2 systems but only DP1 (older generation) monitors.
 - County probably should have returned all 60 systems at that time but were attempting to make the received units work. The manual update process took 2 individuals over 6 months to complete with the one adapter available.
- July 2007
 - Started noticing 'Drive not found' errors on many DVRs, as well as other problems such as, transmission failures to server, no video on MDC (however, camera control was working)
- October 2007
 - TCSO assigned an officer indefinitely to the digital video project.
 - Continuing to receive software updates from Integrian but process still requires manually update for the units.
- Nov-Dec 2007
 - Continued to receive updates from vendor each month to try to fix problems. An engineer was on-site for each of these upgrades. None of the updates received were correcting the problems, only minimizing symptoms.
 - County continued to manually update units.
- January 2008
 - Met with Dave Childers and VP of sales for Integrian to discuss situation about DP2 Monitor upgrade, DP1 to DP2 migration and problems with the DVRs.
 - VP offered to pay for installation of DP2 Monitor, and upgrade all DP1 systems to DP2.
 - VP offered to provide 5 DVRs to assist with the manual upgrades. Units arrived in March 2008.
 - VP offered to give us 2 USB adapters to connect blades to PC to download video in an emergency.
 - County continued to manually update units.
- April 2008
 - April 1st: President of Integrian met with TCSO, ITS, and Purchasing to discuss issues and Integrian commitment to make the solution work.

- VP of Operations and a network partner met with TCSO, ITS, and Purchasing to discuss issues and Integrian commitment to make the solution work. The network partner indicated that the infrastructure provided in the initial DP1 solution was not adequate for the DP2 systems to download video to the server(s) or perform automatic software updates from the server to the DVR units. However, during the same discussion, the network partner recommended wireless transmission of the video and updates which has less bandwidth than our current DP1 infrastructure. County requested documentation for the minimum specifications of infrastructure required for the DP2 system. Never received.
- Received another update and Integrian provided an engineer for assistance. County notified of a modification for the DVRs to assist with the “Drive Not Found” errors. Units received through the RMA process had the modification installed.
- May 2008
 - County beginning to see numerous “over heat” indications from DVRs
- Oct 2007 – Jun 2008
 - 29 DVR units returned and replaced for problem resolution
- Jun 2008 – July 2008
 - Integrian sent an engineer and contracted installer to County for problem resolution. County schedule to have all 60 vehicles
 - DVRs moved from truck to cab of vehicles
 - DVR modification kit installed to correct “Drive Not Found” issues (2nd attempt to correct and County still has units, that have had maintenance performed, that are not working properly)
 - DP2 monitors installed
 - Server and DVR software upgrades installed. All units still cannot get automatic updates. This continues to be a problem.
- July 2008
 - After all 60 vehicles were brought in for maintenance, Integrian states that a production flaw in the DP2 DVRs has been detected and that County will need to schedule all 60 vehicles back through the maintenance area for further testing.
 - County estimates that 29 of the 60 DP2 installations are still not working properly.
 - During the Integrian server upgrade to version 4.5.8 of their software a problem was encountered. Integrian released version 4.5.8A. The problem was that any units that had already been upgraded had to be connected to a laptop and upgraded manually. The seven units took two additional days for the upgrades.
 - A new GPS data issue was discovered causing incorrect metadata readings. The problem exists when the GPS receiver is handed from one satellite to another and causes discrepancies in the speed and location information recorded with the video. This problem could bring into question any video and metadata used. As of the date of this paper, Integrian has not offered resolution for this issue.
- August 2008
 - On August 15th, there were 22 of 60 installed DP2 systems with problems. Many of these issues have not been resolved as of this paper.

- August 20th – Travis County TCSO, Purchasing, and ITS met with the President of Integrian and Dell representatives to discuss correction of the issues. During the meeting, Integrian agreed to replace all DVRs and provide software upgrades during a maintenance phase.
- Received and installed two DVRs that Integrian said were “new production” DVRs and would correct the drive seating and drive not found errors.
- September 2008
 - Started working with Integrian Product and Project Management to provide a Statement of Work for correction of the problems.
- October 2008
 - One of the two “new production” units began failing. Identified the problem to Integrian help desk. Sent audit logs from the failing unit.
 - Two weeks later, had not received a reply from the Integrian Help Desk on resolution of the failing new production line unit. During a Thursday morning planning conference call (October 30) with the Product and Project management team, they were not aware that one of the two “new production” units was failing.
- November 2008
 - November 7th: Currently, there are six failed units awaiting replacement. These units were sent to Integrian on October 1st. This means six TCSO vehicles do not have DVRs.
 - Integrian stated that an upgrade to the server and DVR software was needed to address the failing “new production” unit. During a November 6, conference call with Integrian, David Lamp’l mentioned that a SW upgrade would not correct that on-going “Drive Not Found” errors being experienced in the “new production” DVR. The Integrian product manager took a minute and stated that another hardware change had been made to the DVR units after production of the two test units. If that is true, why didn’t Integrian notify us until we had identified another failure?
 - Travis County, after reviewing the logs that were sent to the Integrian help desk, discovered that an error that used to be displayed on the monitor to the officer was logged but no longer displaying. This means the errors were still occurring but the notification to the officer had been discontinued.
 - At this point, with the DVRs, whether older or “new production line” units experiencing drive failures, we have been told yet again, that there are more corrections needed. I do not believe that the problem and resolution is permanent and any further attempts to correct these issues will meet with more frustration and non-working units in the TCSO patrol vehicles.
 - The project team has worked with Integrian Product and Project management to develop a SOW and time line to install new DVRs in all TCSO DP2 vehicles. However, one of the “new production line” units that were sent for testing is already failing, the problem is not corrected.
 - To date, the SOW has not been signed or agreed to and a start date not scheduled. County and Integrian have both taken several attempts at editing the SOW but cannot agree on the terms.
- December 23, 2008

- County Attorney members briefed Commissioner's Court about Integrian and Digital Patroller issues. Commissioner's Court said to keep working with the vendor to find a solution.
- January 2009
 - Integrian performed another server upgrade to solve the problems with the recorders. The upgrade was pushed to all DP2 units.
- February 2009
 - Prior to agreement on the SOW and replacement of the 60 DP2 units Integrian assets were sold and a new company called Digital Safety Technologies was created. The new company assumed no liabilities for the current issues.
 - After the last server upgrade, recorder units continue to fail. Ten more units were returned for maintenance.
- March 2009
 - Digital Safety Technologies will no longer allow TCSO and ITS to send bad DP2 units back for repair. They now require telephone assisted troubleshooting prior to returning the units and charge \$125.00 per hour.
- April 2009
 - Currently, 29 of the DP2 recorders and 10 microphones are not working.

David Lamp'l, Travis County ITS Project Manager