



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** February 21, 2012

**Prepared By/Phone Number:** David A. Salazar, 854-4107

**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Sherri E. Fleming,  
County Executive for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

### **AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on the Cooperative Agreement between The Children's Partnership of the Office of Children Services Division, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service, and the Office of Program Coordination for Children and Youth, Texas Health and Human Services Commission-Community Demonstration for System of Care Expansion-Achieving Successful Systems Enriching Texas (ASSET).

### **BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:**

Since the Court first approved acceptance of the grant and implementation of the System of Care Model for Travis County in 1998, the programs have provided an array of services throughout the Travis County communities by partnering and sharing the tenets of the System of Care model for service delivery. All partners are trained on this philosophy and Travis County has been a leader of this endeavor. The model is promising practice which has proven to be effective in addressing the complex needs and opportunities that our families face. This is an excellent opportunity to continue to have a lead role in shaping the model on a statewide level. Travis County's System of Care programs under the Office of Children's Services has received National recognition and has been invited to present at National conferences such as the National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare, and the Courts (September 2011) and the National Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse (April 2012).

**AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE:** All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, [Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us) by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

As a follow-up to action taken by the Court during its January 10, 2012 Voting Session, Staff recommends approval of the Cooperative Agreement between the Office of Program Coordination for Children and Youth of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and The Children's Partnership of the Office of Children Services Division, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service and authorize the County Judge to sign the proposed cooperative agreement (attached) on behalf of the Court.

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

Please see attached memo.

**FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Approving this request will not increase the County Budget.

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

Mary Etta Gerhardt



**TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES  
And VETERANS SERVICE  
502 E. Highland Mall Blvd  
P. O. Box 1748  
Austin, Texas 78767**

**Sherri E. Fleming  
County Executive  
(512) 854-4100  
Fax (512) 854-4115**

**DATE:** February 13, 2012

**TO:** Members of the Travis County Commissioners Court

**FROM:** *Sherri E. Fleming*  
Sherri E. Fleming, County Executive  
Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

**SUBJECT:** The Children's Partnership has been named a Community Expansion Site for System of Care Expansion-Achieving Successful Systems Enriching Texas (ASSET).

**Proposed Motion:**

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on the Cooperative Agreement between The Children's Partnership of the Office of Children Services Division, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service, and the Office of Program Coordination for Children and Youth, Texas Health and Human Services Commission-Community Demonstration for System of Care Expansion-Achieving Successful Systems Enriching Texas (ASSET).

**Summary and Staff Recommendations:**

Staff recommends approval of the Cooperative Agreement between the Office of Program Coordination for Children and Youth of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and The Children's Partnership of the Office of Children Services Division, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service.

**Budgetary and Fiscal Impacts:**

Approving this action will not increase Travis County's budget. The Cooperative Agreement does not include the receipt of any funding nor does it obligate funding from the County.

### **Issues and Opportunities:**

The State of Texas, by and through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), requests that communities that have been selected to partner with and collaboratively work on and support a service delivery approach within a System of Care framework for children and youth with complex mental health needs and their families sign a Cooperative Agreement. As a selected community the Children's Partnership will be agreeing to receive in-state and national technical assistance to demonstrate System of Care practices that may be used to develop an overall strategic plan for statewide expansion of System of Care. The Cooperative Agreement outlines the following responsibilities of The Children's Partnership:

1. Actively participate in the statewide planning and implementation of wraparound training in partnership with the ASSET Team and the National Wraparound Initiative.
2. Participate in ASSET webinars as scheduled by the ASSET Team.
3. Participate in implementation steps toward strengthening youth involvement and development within the community.
4. Participate in one or more focus groups or individual interviews with ASSET Team Leaders for the purpose of assessing and strengthening TCP's governance structure.
5. Work with the ASSET Team in strategies to strengthen TCP's governance structure.
6. Develop a community communication plan in partnership with the ASSET Team.
7. Participate in one or more focus groups or individual interviews to inform statewide strategic planning activities of the ASSET Team.
8. Participate in efforts to document and evaluate changes in community implementation of SOC.

The ASSET Team which is a partnership between Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the Center for Social Work Research at The University of Texas at Austin agrees to the following:

1. Assess strengths, opportunities for improvement and develop recommended strategies for strengthening TCP's governing body. Facilitate agreements among community, state and national consultants for targeted technical assistance within a System of Care framework to be delivered to TCP and their community partners to improve the community infrastructure to more effectively serve children and youth with complex mental health needs and their families.
2. Negotiate contractual agreement(s) with the National Wraparound Initiative and the Department of State Health Services to construct a statewide wraparound plan that includes development of an in-state coaching component.
3. Assist with the development of a community communication plan with an identified TCP point of contact.
4. Provide targeted feedback on any evaluation activities to facilitate decision making and/or quality improvement.

Authority to conduct this demonstration is through a federal grant project through the Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant opportunity #SM-11-008.

This opportunity will also allow the Travis County System of Care to enhance our current practices for the children, youth and families served by the Travis County System of Care Initiatives. It will further allow us the opportunity to participate in the potential development of a System of Care statewide and ensure that our experience and expertise is utilized to shape future services that could impact the citizens of Travis County.

The current System of Care management team will integrate the responsibilities of this Cooperative Agreement into their existing duties and the requirements and complementary to their current work assignments and positions.

**Background:**

The Children's Partnership, a SAMHSA funded community from 1998-2005, is the sustained organization leading the Travis County System of Care community. The Children's Partnership focuses primarily on providing services to children and youth with complex needs and their families, particularly children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances (SED) and on "changing the way business is done" in child , youth, and family serving organizations. The Children's Partnership is committed to expanding Systems of Care efforts and promoting the wraparound approach to culturally appropriate, community based and family driven service delivery, as a means to achieving mental health transformation that will result in long-term recovery and success for our communities' children, youth, and families. The other Travis County System of Care initiatives are: TRIAD, Child Protective Services Reintegration Project (CRP), Community for Partners Bridge Coordination (CPC Bridge Services), Youth and Family Assessment Center – Communities in Schools Care Coordination (YFAC-CIS), and Family Support Services (YFAC-FSS). Through the TCSOC initiatives, we serve approximately 200 families a year whose children and youth are experiencing significant challenges. TCSOC management staff oversees the structure, flexible funding, access and service delivery. The Travis County System of Care has been in existence for 13 years and originated with a federal grant in 1998. The Commissioner's Court has supported the System of Care Initiatives throughout that period.

cc: Mary Etta Gerhardt, Assistant County Attorney  
Andrea Colunga-Bussey, Director, Office of Children's Services

**System of Care Expansion – Achieving Successful Systems Enriching Texas (ASSET)**

**Community Expansion Site**

**Between The Children’s Partnership (TCP) of the Office of Children Services Division, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran Services and the Office of Program Coordination for Children and Youth, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

This document describes the agreement between The Children’s Partnership (TCP) of the Office of Children Services Division, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran Services, and the Office of Program Coordination for Children and Youth, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) in partnership with the Center for Social Work Research at The University of Texas at Austin hereafter referred to as the “ASSET Team.” This agreement outlines roles and responsibilities of each party in supporting a community expansion site for the statewide system of care plan.

**The objective of this agreement is to provide a clear expectation of state and community roles and responsibilities toward supporting a service delivery approach within a System of Care framework for children and youth with complex mental health needs and their families. The period of this agreement is February 21, 2012 through September 29, 2012.**

**The Children’s Partnership (TCP) agrees to the following:**

1. Actively participate in the statewide planning and implementation of wraparound training in partnership with the ASSET Team and the National Wraparound Initiative.
2. Participate in ASSET webinars as scheduled by the ASSET Team.
3. Participate in implementation steps toward strengthening youth involvement and development within the community.
4. Participate in one or more focus groups or individual interviews with ASSET Team Leaders for the purpose of assessing and strengthening TCP’s governance structure.
5. Work with the ASSET Team in strategies to strengthen TCP’s governance structure.
6. Develop a community communication plan in partnership with the ASSET Team.
7. Participate in one or more focus groups or individual interviews to inform statewide strategic planning activities of the ASSET Team.
8. Participate in efforts to document and evaluate changes in community implementation of SOC.

**The ASSET Team agrees to the following:**

1. Assess strengths, opportunities for improvement and develop recommended strategies for strengthening TCP’s governing body. Facilitate agreements among community, state and national consultants for targeted technical assistance within a System of Care framework to be delivered to TCP and their community partners to improve the community infrastructure to more effectively serve children and youth with complex mental health needs and their families.
2. Negotiate contractual agreement(s) with the National Wraparound Initiative and the Department of State Health Services to construct a statewide wraparound plan that includes development of an in-state coaching component.
3. Assist with the development of a community communication plan with an identified TCP point of contact.
4. Provide targeted feedback on any evaluation activities to facilitate decision making and/or quality improvement.

Agreed to in form by:

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Sonia Hartman  
The Children’s Partnership  
[Sonia.Hartman@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Sonia.Hartman@co.travis.tx.us)  
(512) 854-5022

Date

Approved by:

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Sherri Fleming Date  
Executive Manager  
Health and Human Services & Veteran Services

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Honorable Samuel T. Biscoe Date  
Travis County Judge  
Travis County Commissioner's Court

Approved by

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Sherri Hammack Date  
ASSET Team Lead, HHSC  
[Sherri.Hammack@HHSC.state.tx.us](mailto:Sherri.Hammack@HHSC.state.tx.us)  
(512) 420-2858

Please return this completed Agreement **by February 21, 2012** to:  
Sherri Hammack, OPCCY, HHSC  
[Sherri.Hammack@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:Sherri.Hammack@hhsc.state.tx.us)