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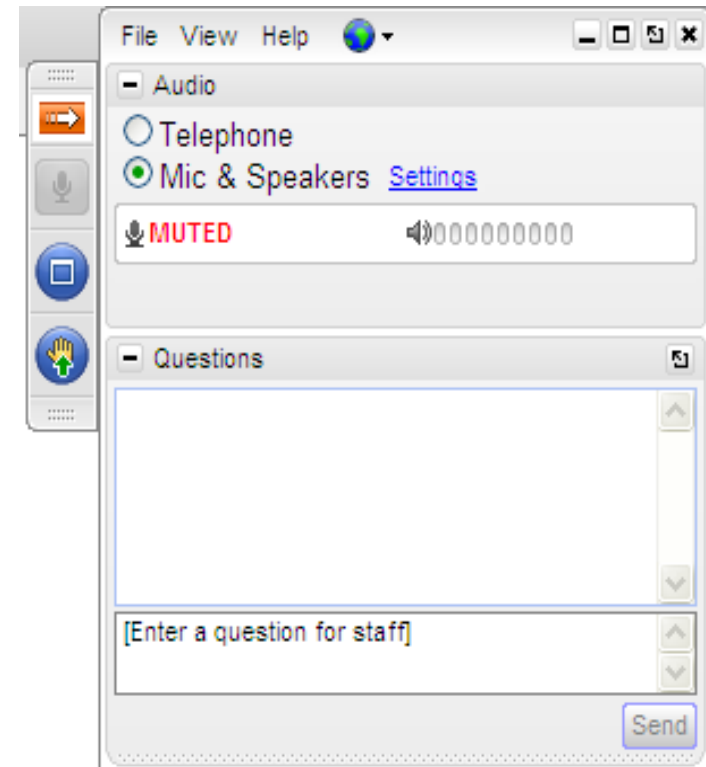


Working Collaboratively: Lessons Learned From the Texas Juvenile Justice Department

October 22, 2015

Logistics

- Use the **questions box** to ask a question
- An archive of this webinar will be posted on the PREA Resource Center website: prearesourcecenter.org



Presenter and Agenda

Opening Remarks

Emily Niedzwiecki, Policy Advisor
PREA Management Office
Bureau of Justice Assistance

Presenter

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Texas Juvenile Justice Department
DOJ Certified PREA Auditor

Agenda

- Juvenile Justice in Texas
- Texas Statewide PREA Compliance Initiative
- Questions and Answers



Juvenile Justice in Texas

Agency Nuptials

Creation of Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Pursuant to Senate Bill 653 passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature and signed by the Governor

- Existing Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) and Texas Youth Commission (TYC) to be abolished
- Created the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)

Changeover occurred December 1, 2011

Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)

TJJD Mission

The mission of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department is to create a safer Texas through the establishment of a continuum of services that promotes positive youth outcomes through:

- Organizational excellence and integrity that earns and promotes public trust;
- Evidence-based performance and accountability that produces results;
- Collaboration and teamwork that builds on partnerships with youth, families and local communities; and
- Innovation and technology that results in efficient systems and services.

Texas Juvenile Detention

TJJD Services

- Manages
 - State-operated secure facilities
 - Halfway houses

Provision of treatment services to:

- Youth with chronic delinquency problems and who have exhausted county options
- Youth who have committed the most serious offenses requiring specialized treatment services not available at the county level

Probation and Community Services Division

Probation & Community Services Division

- Works with probation departments across the state to enhance the many services offered to local youth
- Endeavors to be a resource for the continued success of those departments and TJJD
- Acts as a liaison between the TJJD and the field, and serves as a resource to assist them when problem solving or when seeking innovative approaches

Regulatory Oversight and Funding

Prevention and Early Intervention Services

Texas Human Resources Code Section 203.0065
Prevention and Early Intervention Services authorizes
the TJJD to provide prevention and early intervention
services

TJJD works in partnership with local juvenile board and
juvenile probation departments to support and enhance
juvenile probation services throughout the state

TJJD provides the following funding:

- Juvenile boards for the operation of their
probation departments' programs and services for
troubled youth and their families
- Community-based juvenile justice system
programs and services are channeled to the
counties



Texas Statewide PREA Compliance Initiative

Texas Juvenile Detention (cont.)

Overview

254 Texas Counties

- 166 Juvenile Probation Departments
- 99% initially believed that PREA did not apply to them

Facility Breakdown

- Approximately **2,966** youth held in local facilities
- 51 Pre-Adjudication Secure Juvenile Detention Facilities
- 34 Post-Adjudication Secure Correctional Facilities
- 12 Post-Adjudication Non-Secure Correctional Facilities
- 2 Short-Term Detention Facilities (holdover)

Let the Diplomacy Begin...

Three Step Approach to Diplomacy

Active Listening

- Extended the proverbial olive branch
- Listened to and responsive to requests and apprehensions

Availability

- Attended several Regional County Juvenile Board meetings to inform and educate them on how the PREA Standards **do** apply to county facilities

Training

- Hosted webinars, conferences, and participated in their county juvenile detention conferences
- Provided technical assistance on understanding the PREA Standards while providing “pre-audit” trainings

TJJD's PREA Efforts

Accomplishments

- Posted on TJJD's website the 1st county juvenile detention facility's Final Audit Report (Victoria County 8/21/2014) and publically acknowledged them during our Board meeting
- Creation of the PREA Compliance Department and position of Director with responsibilities to assist the counties in becoming PREA compliant
- PREA Technical Request Assistance Form was sent to all of the Chief Probation Officers to facilitate TJJD's commitment to providing assistance

TJJD's PREA Efforts (cont.)

Accomplishments

- Began receiving TA Requests for assistance, pre-audit and PREA trainings, presentations before their Juvenile Boards, and scheduling for PREA audits
- 15 county PREA audits scheduled from August 3rd, 2015 through August 31st, 2016
 - 20 county facilities on waitlist for PREA audits
- TJJD released a Request for Proposal and selected 5 auditors to contract with to complete audits of the 20 waitlist facilities

Types of Assistance

Range of Offerings

- PREA Technical Assistance
- PREA Pre-Audit Training
- Sample Forms, Video and Policies to Review:
 - Dorm Census Log (INS 400)-Tracking Form
 - Sexual Abuse Review Board Minute
 - Sample Written Institutional Plan
 - Secure Facility Vulnerability Assessment
 - Safe Housing Assessment and Re-assessment
 - Intake Screening for Potential Sexual Aggressive Behavior and Victimization
 - Safeguarding Your Sexual Safety Video and Instructor's guide
 - Zero Tolerance for Sexual Abuse, Sexual Activity and Sexual Harassment Policy



Next Steps

TJJD Next Steps

Collaboration Continues

- Continued county-level engagement
- Assistance
 - Technical assistance
 - Training
 - Statewide conference
 - Audits
- Overcoming obstacles
 - Future funding
- Suggestions and Recommendations
 - Reach out to local jurisdictions
 - Serve as a leader



Questions & Answers

For More Information

For more information about the **National PREA Resource Center**, visit www.prearesourcecenter.org.

To request assistance visit:

<http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/training-technical-assistance/request-for-assistance>

Direct questions to: <http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/about/contact-us>

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