

PEI (Prevention and Early Intervention) Division of DFPS

PEI was created to consolidate prevention and early intervention programs within the jurisdiction of a single state agency. Consolidation of these programs is intended to eliminate fragmentation and duplication of contracted prevention and early intervention services for at-risk children, youth, and families.

- **Community Youth Development (CYD)**-The CYD program contracts with community-based organizations to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes with high juvenile crime rates. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency have included mentoring, youth employment programs, career preparation, youth leadership development and recreational activities. Communities prioritize and fund specific prevention services according to local needs. CYD services are available in 15 targeted Texas ZIP codes.

- **Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR)**-The STAR program contracts with community agencies to offer family crisis intervention counseling, short term emergency respite care, and individual and family counseling. Youth up to age 17 and their families are eligible if they experience conflict at home, truancy or delinquency, or a youth who runs away from home. STAR services are available in all 254 Texas counties. Each STAR contractor also provides universal child abuse prevention services, ranging from local media campaigns to informational brochures and parenting classes.

- **Texas Families: Together and Safe**-TFTS funds evidence-based, community-based programs designed to alleviate stress and promote parental competencies and behaviors that increase the ability of families to become self-sufficient and successfully nurture their children. The goals of TFTS are to: improve and enhance access to family support services; increase the efficiency and effectiveness of community-based family support services; enable children to remain in their own homes by providing preventative services, and to increase collaboration among local programs, government agencies, and families.

- **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention**-The CBCAP program seeks to increase community awareness of existing prevention services, strengthen community and parental involvement in child abuse prevention efforts, and encourage families to engage in services that are already available. CBCAP funds a variety of contracts with community based organizations to provide child abuse and neglect prevention services. These include the Relief Nursery, Family Support and Rural Family Support programs, as well as various special initiatives and public awareness campaigns.

- **Family Strengthening** - A variety of Family Strengthening services, available across the state, have

been evaluated and proven to effectively increase family protective factors. These services are designed to increase the resiliency of families and prevent child abuse and neglect. Programs must also foster strong community collaboration to provide a continuum of family services.

- **Youth Resiliency** - Youth Resiliency Programs provide services proven to increase protective factors for youth. A variety of services are available across the state designed to increase youth resiliency and prevent juvenile delinquency. These programs must foster strong community collaboration to provide a continuum of services for participating youth.

- **Community Based Family Services** – This program serves families who were investigated by CPS but whose allegations were unsubstantiated, through community and evidence-based services. Services include home visitation, case management, and additional social services to provide a safe and stable home environment.

- **Tertiary Child Abuse Prevention** – Community based, volunteer-driven prevention, intervention, and aftercare services are provided for children who are or have been, or who are at risk of being, abused and/or neglected. The goals of the program include reducing child maltreatment and the number of families re-entering the Child Protective Services system. Additional goals are to improve the quality and availability of aftercare services for abused children and enhance a statewide network of tertiary child abuse prevention programs.

- **Statewide Youth Services Network**- The Statewide Youth Services Network contracts provide community and evidence-based juvenile delinquency prevention programs focused on youth ages 10 through 17, in each DFPS region.

- **Texas Youth and Runaway Hotlines**-The toll-free Texas Runaway Hotline and the Texas Youth Hotline offer crisis intervention, telephone counseling, and referrals to troubled youth and families. Volunteers answer the phones and interact with callers facing a variety of problems including family conflict, delinquency, truancy, and abuse and neglect issues. The program increases public awareness through media efforts that may include television, radio, billboards and other printed materials.