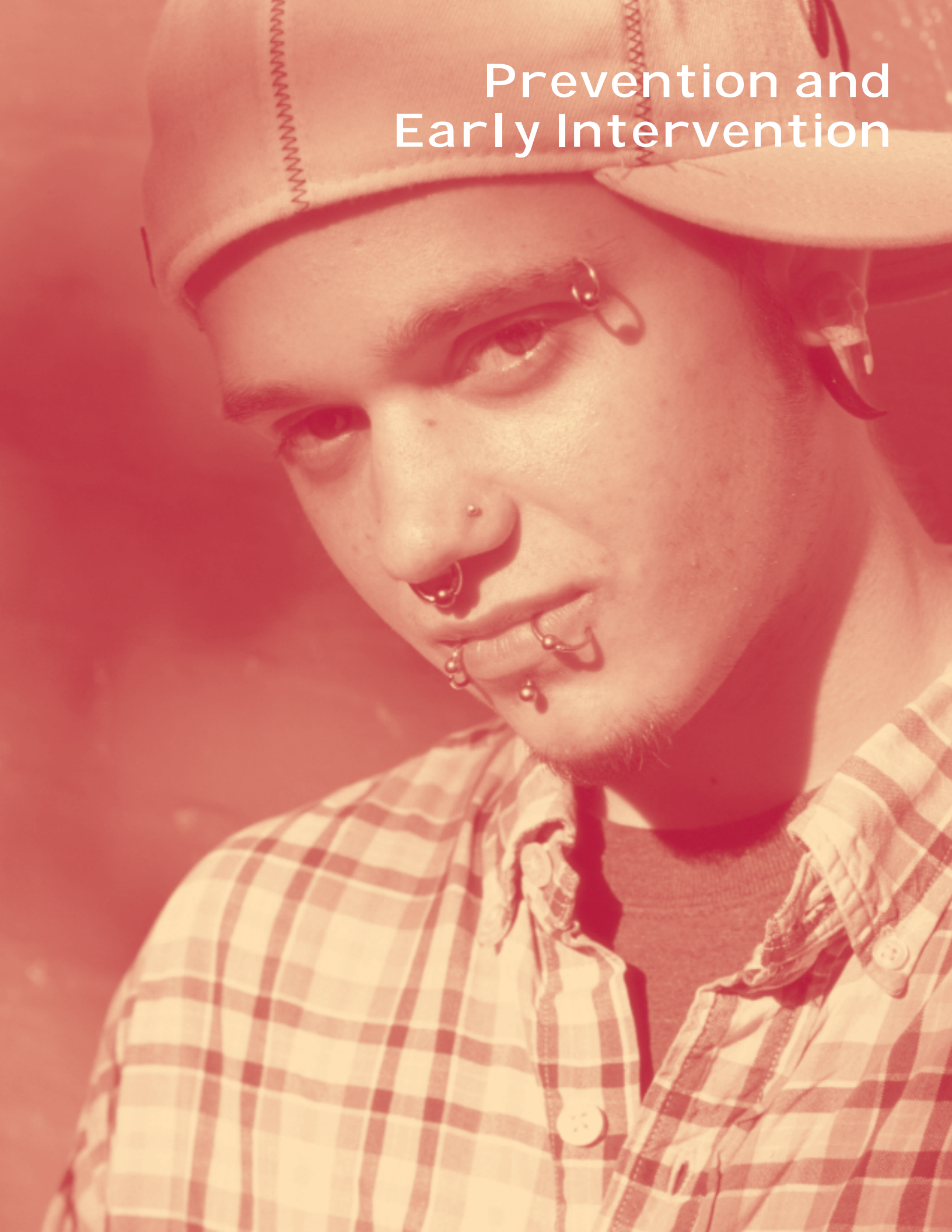


# Prevention and Early Intervention



## Prevention and Early Intervention

### Responsibilities

- ◆ Work with Texas communities to develop services for preventing child abuse and neglect, delinquency, running away, and truancy.
- ◆ Develop and maintain a statewide inventory of prevention programs aimed at preventing child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency.
- ◆ Plan, develop, and administer a comprehensive and unified approach to deliver prevention services to avoid fragmentation and duplication of services.

### Accomplishments

- ◆ PEI updated the statewide inventory of prevention service providers in March 2004. The inventory contains the names and contact information for hundreds of organizations and agencies that provide services to prevent child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, and academic failure.
- ◆ Staff developed new outcome measures for PEI programs to ensure that the services provided accomplish the goals of the programs and make a positive difference in the lives of those served. Staff will incorporate these new measures into the contracts starting in fiscal year 2005.
- ◆ PEI streamlined many of the processes undertaken in contracting with community agencies. As a result, DFPS and these agencies will be able to collaborate more efficiently and effectively.
- ◆ As a result of an overall 24 percent reduction in funding for PEI programs in 2004, the division lost eight programs, reduced funding to several remaining programs, and underwent a major reorganization. The result included elimination or transfer of programs funded by the agency that address school preparedness.

### PEI Services

PEI manages and contracts with community-based programs to prevent the abuse, neglect, delinquency, and truancy of Texas children. PEI programs are administered through contracts with local community agencies or organizations. All services are not available in all Texas communities. To find out if your community has services available, visit our agency's web site at [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us).

### PEI Programs

#### Community Youth Development Grants (CYD)

The CYD program provides grants to develop juvenile delinquency prevention programs in ZIP codes that have a high incidence of juvenile crime. Approaches used by communities to prevent delinquency include mentoring, parenting skills, tutoring, youth employment, career preparation, and alternative recreation activities. Communities prioritize and fund the specific prevention services identified as needed locally. In 2004, the agency awarded grants to serve 15 targeted ZIP codes. Currently, DFPS provides ongoing training and technical assistance for all local CYD programs. DFPS also supports an annual youth conference, the Teen Summit, to promote youth leadership and provide training and activities.

#### Dan Kubiak Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program

This program helps to develop honor, pride and dignity in at-risk youth. The goal is to reduce and prevent risky behavior, truancy, and juvenile delinquency among at-risk youth ages 10 to 17. The program strives to increase youth volunteer work, community service, leadership, and cultural activities. Referrals are received from juvenile probation departments, schools, churches, and civic groups. In 2004, three projects were located in Bexar, Dallas, and Tarrant counties.

#### Services To At-Risk Youth (STAR)

Through contracts with community agencies, STAR offers family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency residential care, and individual and family counseling to youth up to age 17 who experience conflict at home, have been truant or delinquent, or have run away. STAR services are available in all 254 Texas counties. During 2004, due to changes in federal funding policies through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, STAR providers became responsible for delivering community-wide child abuse prevention and public awareness activities for all interested parties.

#### Texas Families: Together and Safe (TFTS)

TFTS funds community-based programs designed to alleviate stress and to promote parental competencies and adoption of behaviors that will increase the ability of families to successfully nurture their children and work toward family self-sufficiency. 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;





**G**oing through a divorce can be a trying time, especially if there are children involved. Clint Miller (left) of Brownwood wasn't sure at first how he and his daughter would emotionally navigate a divorce, but he's glad they ended up at the Family Services Center.

The agency, which has been around since 1994, provides services such as social skills training, parenting support and training, case management, counseling, and emergency resources for qualifying families. It receives funding from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the United Way, the Office of Attorney General, and others.

"I think the counseling at the Family Services Center really helped get my daughter through all this," says Miller. "She opened up to Vance Marcum (the counselor) unlike she'd ever done before. In fact, she looked forward to coming here every time. I think the counseling helped my daughter learn not to blame herself for what was going on."

Esmeralda Riojas (right), the agency's resource coordinator, says the staff takes a team approach to look all the facets of what happens when a family goes through a divorce, and tries to bring together the necessary services. "There is a lot of initial turmoil," she says. "In Clint's case, he was taking care of his daughter the best he could without help from the child's mom."

Miller has lived in the Brownwood area all his life. Although he knew about the Family Services Center, he never thought he and his family would benefit from its services. "They did miracles for my daughter," said Miller.

- ◆ Enable children to remain in their own homes by providing preventive services; and
- ◆ Increase collaboration among local programs, government agencies, and families. During 2004, there were 11 programs that provided services in 33 counties.

### **Texas Youth and Runaway Hotlines**

The toll-free Texas Runaway Hotline (1-888-580-HELP) and the Texas Youth Hotline (1-800-210-2278) offer crisis intervention, telephone counseling, and referrals to troubled youth and families. In 2004, a volunteer workforce of about 70 people answered the phones. Many callers faced a variety of problems including family conflict, delinquency, truancy, and abuse and neglect issues. The program increased public awareness through television, radio, billboards and other media efforts. Hotline telephone counselors received 35,197 calls during fiscal year 2004.

### **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)**

In 2004, the program formerly known as Community-Based Family Resource and Support was renamed at the federal level as Community Based Child Abuse Prevention. The name change came in conjunction with changes in federal funding policies through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, whose impact will be seen in fiscal year 2005. Through this program, DFPS entered into agreements that enabled local communities and state networks to plan and coordinate family resource and support programs aimed at increasing awareness of child abuse and neglect. During 2004, DFPS had contracts with 10 lead agencies to provide family support and prevention awareness services.

### **Tertiary/Secondary Child Abuse Prevention**

DFPS contracts with Family Outreach of America to provide community-based, volunteer-driven services for prevention, intervention and aftercare for children who 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 reentering the Child Protective Services system. Additional goals are improving the quality and availability of aftercare services for abused children, and enhancing a statewide network of tertiary child abuse prevention programs.

### **PEI Special Initiatives**

#### **Child Abuse Prevention Kit**

Each April, Child Abuse Prevention Month activities raise awareness about the problem of child abuse - and most

importantly, about what each of us can do to help prevent the abuse and neglect of children. For the past several years, DFPS has joined forces with other agencies to increase public awareness about abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children through the Child Abuse Prevention Kit. DFPS produced the 2004 Child Abuse Prevention Kit with help from Prevent Child Abuse Texas and Early Childhood Intervention. The Texas Education Agency and the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards supported the agency with statewide distribution of the kit. This year's theme was "Helping to Strengthen Texas Families." A total of 30,000 kits were distributed to DFPS district offices and licensed childcare centers across the state. These kits serve as a resource for parents, teachers and communities. Previous versions of the kit can also be downloaded from the agency's web site at [www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us) or at [www.itsuptoyou.org](http://www.itsuptoyou.org).

#### Partners in Prevention Training Conference

From November 19-21, 2003, DFPS hosted the 3rd Annual Partners in Prevention Training Conference in Austin. The conference brought together social services providers, community advocates, and experts in the field of child abuse prevention who were interested in improving programs and sharing expertise. The conference was open to prevention and early intervention agencies that contract with DFPS, as well as all other prevention service providers and interested parties. There were more than 450 people in attendance.

#### "Look Before You Leave" Media Campaign

During the summer of 2003, 10 Texas children, most of them infants, died after being left in vehicles in which they had been riding. In fact, the Lone Star State led the nation for the number of such fatalities. None of these children would have died if their adult caregivers had remembered to remove them from their vehicles once they arrived at their destination. Although no single entity can prevent such tragedies, DFPS decided to take a proactive approach. Three of the agency's divisions—Prevention and Early Intervention, Child Protective Services, and Child Care Licensing developed a statewide public awareness campaign on the dangers of leaving children in hot cars. The campaign, called "Look Before You Leave" ([www.lookbeforeyouleave.org](http://www.lookbeforeyouleave.org)), included statewide news conferences, billboards, and radio public service announcements and ran from Memorial Day to Labor Day 2004. 🌸



Over the years, the old Central 6 Building at 901 Avenue B in Brownwood has meant many things to many people. Built in 1917, it once served as an elementary school and a high school. Some say back in the 1950s, Elvis Presley performed there, perhaps before putting on a show at the Soldier's & Sailor's Memorial Hall.

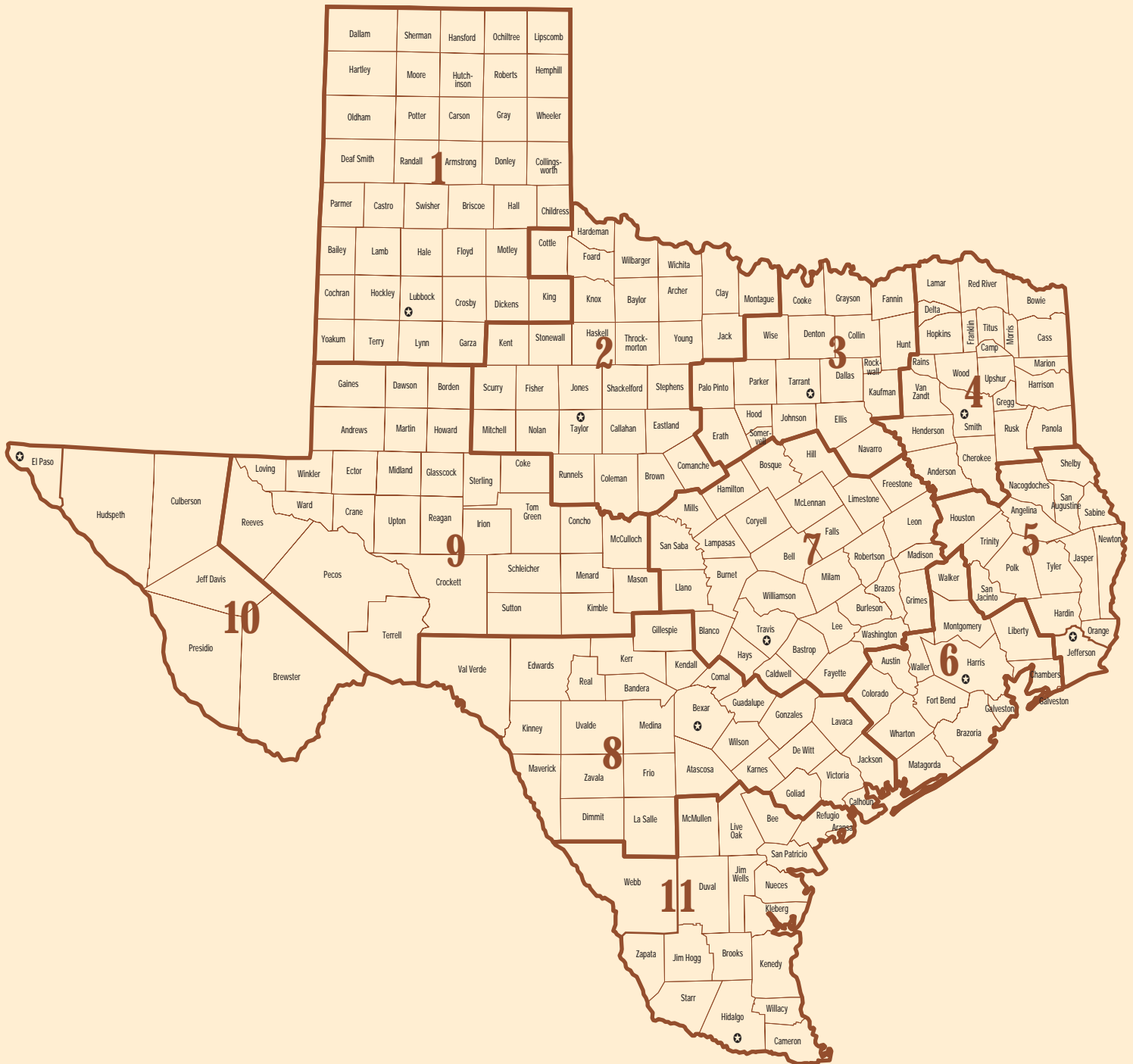
Today, it houses several social services agencies that provide area residents with a one-stop-shop. Family Services Center, Inc., which has been around since 1994, provides information and referrals, case management, counseling, literacy and GED programs, child care, and more. The agency receives funding from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the Brown County United Way, the Office of Attorney General, and others.

Through the Safe Exchange program, Chris Willet (right) and his children participated in supervised visits with his ex-wife. Willet also benefited from Texas Families: Together and Safe, a community-based program funded by the DFPS Prevention and Early Intervention division that alleviates parental stress, promotes parental competency, and increases child nurturing while working toward family self-sufficiency.

"Taking the classes helped us get along during our situation," says Willet, who grew up in the area and remembers attending school in the building. "I was iffy when I first came up here, but I learned we could all make progress taking one step at a time. We learned how our negativity could affect the children. I found the services helpful."

Windy Cardenas (left), the agency's parenting advocate, says the program helps parents stay child focused. "A lot of times, when people go through a divorce they can get caught up in their emotions and forget about how their children feel," says Cardenas. "The program educates parents about things like how to keep children out of the middle, how to handle hot button issues, and how to work through problems."

## DFPS Regional Boundaries





## Hotlines and Online Resources

### **Texas Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400**

Report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children, the elderly or people with disabilities.

### **Foster Care and Adoption Inquiry Line 1-800-233-3405**

Provides information on how to become a foster or adoptive parent.

### **Child-Care Information 1-800-862-5252**

Delivers information about child care in Texas.

### **Office of Consumer Affairs 1-800-720-7777**

Make an inquiry about an existing DFPS case or make a complaint.

### **Texas Runaway Hotline 1-888-580-HELP**

Provides peer counseling to runaways and family members.

### **Texas Youth Hotline 1-800-210-2278**

Provides peer counseling to youth and family members for family conflicts, delinquency, truancy, and running away and situations where youth are delinquent, truant or have run away.

### **Abuse in MHMR Facilities 1-800-647-7418**

Report abuse, neglect, or exploitation in MHMR facilities.

### **Agency Web Sites**

<a href="http://www.dfps.state.tx.us">www.dfps.state.tx.us</a>	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
<a href="http://www.adoptchildren.org">www.adoptchildren.org</a>	Adopt Children Through the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange
<a href="http://www.texasrunaway.org">www.texasrunaway.org</a>	Texas Runaway Hotline
<a href="http://www.texasyouth.org">www.texasyouth.org</a>	Texas Youth Hotline
<a href="http://www.itsuptoyou.org">www.itsuptoyou.org</a>	Child Abuse Prevention
<a href="http://www.notforgotten.org">www.notforgotten.org</a>	Adult Abuse Prevention
<a href="http://www.txchildcaresearch.org">www.txchildcaresearch.org</a>	Search Texas Child Care
<a href="http://www.rainbowrooms.org">www.rainbowrooms.org</a>	Rainbow Rooms
<a href="http://www.e-provider.org">www.e-provider.org</a>	Residential Child Care
<a href="http://www.volunteerfyps.org">www.volunteerfyps.org</a>	Volunteer Opportunities through DFPS
<a href="http://www.lookbeforeyouleave.org">www.lookbeforeyouleave.org</a>	Cars Are Not Babysitters

### **Agency Address**

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services  
P.O. Box 149030  
Austin, TX 78714-9030

701 W. 51st St.  
Austin, TX 78751  
(512) 438-4800

## DFPS Organizational Chart

