



SUNSET SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

**Submitted to the Sunset Advisory Commission
September 1, 2025**

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Texas Juvenile Justice Department Self-Evaluation Report

Note: HB 1545 (89R) limits the scope of TJJD's FY2026-27 Sunset review to assessing the administration of the agency's regionalization duties aimed at prioritizing the use of local levels of the juvenile justice system over placement or commitment to state-level secure facilities. TJJD's Self-Evaluation Report is similarly limited to topics related to regionalization. Thus, some sections in this report are left blank, as Sunset staff determined their completion was not required. To review TJJD's comprehensive Self-Evaluation Report that was submitted on September 1, 2021, for the FY2022-23 review cycle, select the link to [The Sunset Advisory Commission website](#).

I. Agency Contact Information

A. Please complete the following table.

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 1: Agency Contacts**

| | Name | Address | Telephone | Email Address |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Board Chairman | Hon. Manny Ramirez | 6713 Telephone Road, Suite 301, Fort Worth, TX 76135 | 817-238-4400 | Manny.ramirez@tjjd.texas.gov |
| Agency Head | Shandra Carter, Executive Director | 1801 N. Congress Ave., Ste. 13.140, Austin, TX 78701 | 512-490-7130 | Shandra.carter@tjjd.texas.gov |
| Sunset Liaison | Nathan McDaniel, Chief of Staff | 1801 N. Congress Ave., Ste. 13.140, Austin, TX 78701 | 737-393-7959 | Nathan.mcdaniel@tjjd.texas.gov |

Table 1 Exhibit 1 Agency Contacts

II. Key Functions and Performance

Provide the following information about the overall operations of your agency. More detailed information about individual divisions and programs will be requested in Section VII.

A. Provide an overview of your agency's mission, objectives, and key functions.

Mission, Objectives, & Vision

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department's mission is to transform young lives and create safer communities. To do so, TJJD serves as the state's standalone juvenile justice agency that coordinates along the continuum of services including county probation and detention services, community services, and state-level care. Local county governments, courts, and communities, along with state-level systems, promote public safety, including accountability and rehabilitation opportunities, by providing a range of effective supports and services to youth. This single-system support prioritizes keeping youth "shallow" in the juvenile justice system through empowering local officials to incorporate innovative processes, promoting programs and services that follow best practices, and providing safety and security for the youth and public by operating secure facilities to rehabilitate youth who cannot be served in another less-restrictive setting.

Section 201.003, Texas Human Resources Code, provides six goals for the department:

1. Support the development of a consistent county-based continuum of effective interventions, supports, and services for youth and families that reduce the need for out-of-home placements;
2. Increase reliance on alternatives to placement and commitment to secure state facilities, consistent with adequately addressing a youthful offender's treatment needs and protection of the public;
3. Locate the facilities as geographically close as possible to necessary workforce and other services while supporting the youths' connection to their families;
4. Encourage regional cooperation that enhances county collaboration;
5. Enhance the continuity of care throughout the juvenile justice system; and
6. Use secure facilities of a size that supports effective youth rehabilitation and public safety.

Vision: To be a team of difference-makers working together to transform lives.

Pillars:

1. Safety: We take every measure to protect staff, youth, and communities from physical and psychological harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
2. Accountability: Everyone is responsible and recognized for their actions. We collectively own our outcomes.
3. Transparency: We communicate directly, honestly, accurately, and proactively.

Values:

1. Teamliness: Working together with trust, shared purpose, and selfless commitment to achieve our mission.
2. Integrity: Prioritizing honesty and courage over ego and perfectionism.
3. Excellence: Showing up each day with energy and pride so we can be our best and make a difference together.
4. Growth: Stretching our systems, skills, and selves so we can move forward collectively.

Regionalization Key Functions

Public Safety & Youth Rehabilitation

The most important function TJJD provides is increasing public safety through youth rehabilitation.

Public safety. Public safety entails both ensuring that delinquent conduct by juveniles is appropriately addressed at the right level of the system for the right amount of time to maintain the safety of communities and providing adequate services to meet the specific risks and needs of youth so they have the knowledge and skills to contribute as productive members of society and contribute to a safe community. This requires collaboration at every level of the single juvenile justice system to make certain that local entities have the resources required to meet the needs of youth as much and as frequently as possible, that the state can help when commitment is necessary, and that reentry is supported to reduce the likelihood of recidivism in local communities.

Accountability. The Office of Inspector General operates a 24-hour hotline for calls and complaints involving allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation (ANE) in juvenile justice programs and facilities across Texas. It also receives reports of critical and serious incidents that occur in those facilities and programs. The OIG investigates these allegations and those incidents it deems raise concerns of ANE. Finally, it provides 24-hour entry and confirmation of TJJD Directives to Apprehend (warrants for escape, absconds, and parole violations) for law enforcement throughout Texas and beyond to enhance public safety.

Prevention and intervention services

Early intervention and prevention allow county juvenile probation departments to intervene with youth at risk for further involvement in the juvenile or criminal justice systems. These services reach youth at their earliest stage of system involvement and are built to provide targeted interventions for the youth without formal involvement on juvenile probation or in a post-adjudication residential setting.

Juvenile probation

Juvenile justice system reforms enacted in Texas over the past decade have emphasized evidence-based practices and creating better outcomes for juveniles, their families, and their communities. To successfully meet these legislative charges, youth must receive the proper level of services and interventions for their individual needs. For nearly 99 percent of youth involved in the juvenile justice system, probation departments operated by local juvenile boards provide the best structure, treatment, and support closer to the youth's home. As of August 2025, 164 juvenile probation departments provided prevention, diversion, detention, community supervision, community-based intervention, and post-adjudication residential services to all 254 counties in Texas.

State assistance to local juvenile probation

Juvenile probation is the largest segment of the juvenile justice system in Texas. While each department operates under the direction of a local juvenile board, TJJD is statutorily responsible to provide guidance, technical assistance, and support to the juvenile probation departments across Texas. Multiple agency divisions engage with probation departments through various activities. Since the last Sunset review, TJJD has expanded the role that each division has in providing support to the county probation departments.

Probation & Re-Entry support. This division is currently undergoing a restructuring that will be finalized in September 2025. Probation and Re-Entry will develop innovative initiatives and programs and provide strategic assistance on policy, programming, and operations designed to improve outcomes for youth. In 2015, the 84th Legislature instructed TJJD to develop and adopt a regionalization plan, in consultation with juvenile probation departments, for keeping children closer to home in lieu of commitment to the secure facilities operated by the agency. In 2023, the 88th Texas Legislature updated requirements for the plan to expand stakeholder engagement in the development process and bolster the agency's capacity-building efforts across the juvenile justice continuum. This division includes the team responsible for drafting and implementing the agency's regionalization plan in partnership with the Regionalization Task Force.

Standards and regulations. TJJD's Policy Division develops the standards that regulate Texas probation departments. The Office of General Counsel and Juvenile Justice Training Academy oversee probation officer certification processes, implement disciplinary procedures, and provide general technical legal assistance to probation departments. These divisions work closely with the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services, the Monitoring and Inspections Division, and the Probation & Re-entry Support Division to create, update, and disseminate agency standards that ensure the probation system meets statutory requirements and uniform standards of supervision and rehabilitation for youth across Texas. The officer certification and discipline structure ensures that staff working in probation departments meet and maintain minimum education, training, background, ethics, and performance standards. The legal help desk assists probation departments in finding the appropriate legal resources to address their questions.

Monitoring. The Monitoring and Inspections Division monitors probation department adherence to set standards governing the probation system and provides technical assistance to probation departments on implementation of the standards. Through these activities, this division ensures probation facilities meet life safety and other operational standards, and probation departments maintain uniform operational procedures. Following the 88th regular legislative session, the Monitoring and Inspections Division was charged with developing risk-based monitoring for county facilities and programs.

Investigations. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigates incidents to ensure the safety and security of juveniles served by probation departments. OIG may investigate alleged crimes and allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation committed by probation department employees and works with local law enforcement and prosecutors in support of this goal.

Independent oversight. The Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO) works to investigate, evaluate, and secure the rights of post-adjudicated youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Independent Ombudsman is appointed by the Governor and employs a staff to support OIO's mission separately from TJJD.

Technology and case management systems. TJJD's Information Technology (IT) Division supports numerous technology applications that, in turn, support probation system activities. The Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS) and Juvenile Case Extract (JCE) support case management and program evaluation, Grant Manager supports funding, the Integrated Certification Information System (ICIS) maintains training and certification status, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Tracking System (COMETS) documents grant and standards monitoring activities, and various other applications support special programs. IT provides access and application support to all probation departments.

Training. The Juvenile Justice Training Academy provides initial certification and recertification courses, certification course verification, and professional development training opportunities for all certified officers and probation department employees.

Reporting and statistics. The TJJD Legislative Reporting and Statistics Division collects and monitors the quality of data received from juvenile probation departments, produces legislatively mandated statistical and narrative reports, responds to public information requests for data, provides data analysis to agency and probation decision-makers, offers technical assistance with data and program evaluation, and publishes statistical profiles for probation system use.

B. What clear and ongoing objective(s) do the agency's key functions serve? Explain why each key function is still needed.

TJJD provides critical services that both protect the public and provide resources to high-risk, high-needs youth at all levels of the system. The functions subject to this limited scope Sunset review serve the following objectives:

- Public safety and youth rehabilitation
- Prevention and intervention services
- Juvenile probation
- Youth services contract program facilities
- Victim services & sex offender registration technical support
- State assistance to local juvenile probation
- Education and workforce development for youth
- Treatment services

As a result, the key functions of public safety and youth rehabilitation continue to serve ongoing objectives. Through the agency's regionalization efforts, the juvenile justice system supports the need to keep youth shallow in the system and provide the proper dosage of treatment and services that are necessary for public safety and meet the risk, needs, and responsivity of the youth. Family Code 51.01 outlines the public purposes of the juvenile justice system as:

- Provide for the protection of the public
- Promote the concept of punishment for criminal acts
- Remove, where appropriate, the taint of criminality from children committing certain unlawful acts
- Provide treatment, training, and rehabilitation that emphasizes the accountability and responsibility of both the parent and the child for the child's conduct
- Provide for the care, the protection, and the wholesome moral, mental, and physical development of children
- To protect the welfare of the community and to control the commission of unlawful acts by children
- To achieve the foregoing purposes in a family environment whenever possible, separating the child from the child's parents only when necessary for the child's welfare or in the interest of public safety and when a child is removed from the child's family, to give the child the care that should be provided by the parents; and
- To provide a simple judicial procedure through which the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Code are executed and enforced and in which parties are assured a fair hearing and their constitutional and other legal rights recognized and enforced.

These functions can only be provided by a statewide juvenile justice system that is focused on empowering local officials, validated programming, and wraparound services for youth who stay in or reenter their community. When a youth becomes involved in the juvenile justice system, it is ultimately because other systems of support—whether familial, educational, mental health, or other—have lacked the resources or ability to appropriately redirect the trajectory of the youth's conduct. By this point in their lives, youth often have highly acute needs, and the juvenile justice system is often the last opportunity for proactive intervention, accountability, and protection of public safety before the youth potentially enters the adult criminal justice system.

C. Does your agency's enabling law continue to correctly reflect your mission, objectives, and approach to performing your functions? Does statute present any barriers or gaps in authority for your agency to carry out its mission? If so, please describe.

The agency's enabling legislation related to regionalization is a correct reflection of our overall mission, objectives, and approach to performing these functions. Of note, the last Sunset review added requirements in TJJD's enabling legislation to require TJJD to identify resource gaps impacting justice-involved youth and update the agency's regionalization plan biennially. The last Sunset review also led to changes in risk-based monitoring of local juvenile probation departments and their facilities.

D. Have you recommended changes to the Legislature to improve your agency's operations in recent years? If so, briefly explain the recommended changes, whether they were adopted, and if adopted, when.

Since the last Sunset review and the 88th regular legislative session, TJJD has not recommended any statutory changes to the Legislature regarding the administration of regionalization duties aimed at prioritizing the use of local levels of the juvenile justice system over placement or commitment to secure facilities operated by the TJJD.

In support of the agency's regionalization efforts, TJJD requested the following exceptional items during the 89th legislative session.

| Request | Biennial Amount Requested | Funded? |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pre/Post Adjudication and Regionalization Placements | \$26,030,694 | Partially funded - \$6,507,674 |
| Expand Community-Based Programming Capacity | \$5,000,000 | No |
| Transitional Living Expansion | \$3,593,876 | No |
| One-time Funding for JPD Detention, Prevention and Intervention | \$36,000,000 | No |
| Regional Residential Vocational Program | \$64,500,000 | No |
| Risk-Based Funding Formula | \$49,100,000 | No |

E. Do any of your agency's functions overlap with those of another local, state, or federal agency? If so, how do you coordinate to avoid duplication of efforts? Explain if, and why, each of your key functions is most appropriately placed within your agency.

No other local, state, or federal agency provides technical assistance or funding in support of local juvenile probation departments keeping appropriate youth closer to home over placement or commitment to secure facilities operated by TJJD.

Shared functions

TJJD's key functions are not duplicated by any other state agency. However, the framework of the juvenile justice system provides a continuum of care from local county probation services to state-level care with some duplication for youth with high needs who have similar offenses and risk levels but may result in either commitment to TJJD or detention and services at the local level.

TJJD works closely with the juvenile probation departments to ensure youth are appropriately served at the proper level in the system given the youth's risk, needs, and responsivity; severity of the youth's offense; and the necessary rehabilitation for the youth. Due to the variety of services provided by juvenile probation departments throughout the state, similarly situated youth who may be properly served in one county with existing resources might be committed to TJJD's care and custody from another county. This is not a duplication of agency functions, but instead an illustration of how the system is currently designed and functions.

Department of Family and Protective Services

TJJD and county juvenile probation departments coordinate with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to provide services for youth who are involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. While TJJD is not a child placement agency for youth needing a placement outside of their home, TJJD may place youth in facilities licensed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) that provide services to youth involved with DFPS. County departments also use these placement options as an opportunity to divert youth from deeper system involvement, including commitment to state custody. However, TJJD cannot keep youth in secure or non-secure facilities solely due to the youth's lacking an out-of-home placement.

To further serve these needs, TJJD works with the Judicial Commission on Mental Health, the Supreme Court Children's Commission, and other cross-agency work groups.

Health and Human Services Commission and Local Mental Health Authorities

The number of justice-involved youth with mental health needs has grown over time. The provision of mental health care and crisis stabilization services overlaps with other agencies that provide such services as a core mission, such as local mental health authorities and the state hospitals operated by HHSC. TJJD and juvenile probation departments work directly with these entities to staff complex individual cases, connect youth to service and placement opportunities, and identify gaps in service. In April 2025, TJJD and HHSC also began partnering on the development of TJJD's long-term strategic plan, which aims to fill these gaps that contribute to deeper involvement in the juvenile justice and behavioral health systems.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

TJJD and TDCJ overlap certain services provided to persons under the age of 19 who are involved in the justice system. For example, youth who are at least 14 years of age can be certified by a court as an adult, and youth with determinate sentences can be transferred to an adult prison by their committing court at age 16 or after. The age of criminal responsibility in Texas is 17; however, youth who commit their offenses while in TJJD before their 17th birthday may remain under TJJD jurisdiction until their 19th birthday. TJJD and TDCJ do not overlap functions related to this limited scope review.

F. In general, how do other states carry out similar functions?

Agency structure

In terms of operating agency type, as of 2025, 13 states operated independent juvenile corrections agencies, 9 were divisions of child welfare agencies, 14 fell under broader human services agencies, 12 were combined with adult corrections, and 2 were housed under Division of Homeland Security or the Attorney General. California transitioned to a locally operated juvenile justice system.

Age of criminal responsibility

Currently, Texas is one of only a few states with 17 as the age of adult criminal responsibility. Most other states set this age at 18; as a result, 17-year-olds who commit an offense are served within the juvenile justice system, not the adult system. States handle individual exceptions to the age of criminal responsibility in different ways, including certification to adult court and practices such as determinate sentencing laws.

State and county partnerships

There are varying degrees of state and county coordination among states with independent juvenile justice agencies. Some provide oversight and quality assurance, others handle only a portion of the continuum, and some operate a mix of local, state, and private service providers. Florida's agency administers a privately run system.

G. Discuss any changes that could impact your agency's key functions in the near future (e.g., changes in federal law or outstanding court cases).

- In 2021, the Department of Justice (DOJ) launched an investigation into TJJD's state facility operations. TJJD is actively engaged with the DOJ reviewing findings from this investigation. TJJD's OGC and the Texas Attorney General have worked with DOJ lawyers since the report was published, but the agency is uncertain how or when this will proceed.
- TJJD has no pending court cases that could impact our agency's key functions.
- During the 88th regular session, the Texas Legislature appropriated funds for the construction of two new state secure facilities that will house youth with the highest mental health and violent behavior treatment needs. These targeted service models align with the trending risks and needs of youth entering TJJD's care, and reflect the agency's commitment to increasing safety for the youth, staff, and Texas communities. The new builds are scheduled to open in 2028 and will decrease the current backlog of committed youth waiting in county facilities for an available state bed.

H. Overall, how does the agency monitor and measure its effectiveness in carrying out its functions and objectives?

In addition to the performance measures below, during the 89th legislative session, TJJD's performance measures were updated to include examination of the rate of juveniles released from secure programs to non-secure settings, transitioned to parole, or discharged to the community who were subsequently rearrested or referred to juvenile probation within one year for any offense that was at least as severe as the juvenile's original committing offense. This information will assist TJJD in understanding progress towards the agency's goal of reducing future delinquent or criminal behavior.

In the following table, provide information regarding your agency's performance measures, including outcome, output, efficiency, and explanatory measures. *See Exhibit 2 Example.* Please provide both key and non-key performance measures set by the Legislative Budget Board and any other performance measures or indicators the agency tracks. For any particular measures the agency has not been able to meet, please explain or provide context as needed about why.

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 2: Performance Measures — Fiscal Year 2024**

| Performance Measures | Calculation (if applicable) | FY 2024 Target | FY 2024 Actual Performance | FY 2024 % of Annual Target |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Rate of Successful Completion of Deferred Prosecution</i> | | 84.00% | 86.10% | 102.50% |
| <i>Rate of Successful Completion of Court-ordered Probation</i> | | 82.00% | 83.10% | 101.34% |
| <i>Re-Referral Rate</i> | | 14.00% | 13.70% | 97.86% |
| <i>Adjudication Rate</i> | | N/A | 6.60% | N/A |
| <i>Referral Rate/Juveniles Served by Prevention and Intervention Programs</i> | | N/A | 5.10% | N/A |
| <i>Number of Absconders from Basic Supervision</i> | | N/A | 214.00 | N/A |
| <i>Completion of Prevention and Intervention Programs</i> | | N/A | 96.60% | N/A |
| <i>Total Number of New Admissions to JJD</i> | | 604.00 | 578.00 | 95.70% |
| <i>Diploma or High School Equivalency Rate (JJD-operated Schools)</i> | | 45.00% | 25.26% | 56.13% |
| <i>Percent Reading at Grade Level at Release</i> | | 12.00% | 1.50% | 12.50% |
| <i>Turnover Rate of Juvenile Correctional Officers</i> | | 35.00% | 69.06% | 197.31% |
| <i>Industrial Certification Rate in JJD-operated Schools</i> | | N/A | 21.58% | N/A |
| <i>Rearrest/Re-referral Rate</i> | | 45.00% | 48.30% | 107.33% |
| <i>One-year Rearrest/Re-referral Rate for Violent Felony Offenses</i> | | 15.00% | 16.42% | 109.47% |
| <i>Reincarceration Rate: Within One Year</i> | | 23.00% | 21.51% | 93.52% |
| <i>Reincarceration Rate: Within Three Years</i> | | 41.00% | 35.21% | 85.88% |
| <i>Rearrest Rate/Re-Referral: Juveniles Receiving Specialized Treatment</i> | | N/A | 75.35% | N/A |
| <i>Average Math Gain Per Month of Instruction</i> | | N/A | 0.05 | N/A |

| Performance Measures | Calculation (if applicable) | FY 2024 Target | FY 2024 Actual Performance | FY 2024 % of Annual Target |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Average Reading Gain Per Month of Instruction</i> | | N/A | 0.01 | N/A |
| <i>Constructive Activity</i> | | N/A | 68.91% | N/A |
| <i>Number of Juveniles Served by Prevention/Intervention</i> | | N/A | 1,457.00 | N/A |
| <i>Cost Per Day for Basic Supervision</i> | | N/A | 9.93 | N/A |
| <i>Cost Per Formal Referral</i> | | 1,612.18 | 1,371.74 | 85.09% |
| <i>Total Number of Delinquent Referrals</i> | | N/A | 43,910.00 | N/A |
| <i>Total Number of Formal Referrals</i> | | 51,944.00 | 50,127.00 | 96.50% |
| <i>Total Number of Felony Referrals</i> | | N/A | 20,827.00 | N/A |
| <i>Number of Juveniles Receiving Title IV-E Services</i> | | N/A | 0.00 | N/A |
| <i>Total Number of Crisis Intervention Referrals</i> | | N/A | 375.00 | N/A |
| <i>ADP: Juveniles Supervised under Conditional Release</i> | | 4,084.00 | 4,267.10 | 104.48% |
| <i>ADP: Juveniles Supervised under Deferred Prosecution</i> | | 5,916.00 | 6,164.43 | 104.20% |
| <i>ADP: Juveniles Supervised under Adjudicated Probation</i> | | 8,812.00 | 8,682.24 | 98.53% |
| <i>Number of County Juvenile Probation Depts Utilizing Federal Title IV-E Dollars</i> | | N/A | 0.00 | N/A |
| <i>Average Daily Population of Juveniles in Basic Supervision</i> | | N/A | 19,113.77 | N/A |
| <i>Cost Per Day/Community Non-residential Program</i> | | N/A | 17.55 | N/A |
| <i>Number of Juveniles Served-Community Non-Res Programs</i> | | N/A | 23,888.00 | N/A |
| <i>Cost Per Day Per Youth for Residential Placement</i> | | 82.06 | 89.41 | 108.96% |
| <i>Average Daily Population of Residential Placements</i> | | 1,000.00 | 833.90 | 83.39% |
| <i>Cost Per Day: Commitment Diversion</i> | | 66.57 | 114.79 | 172.44% |
| <i>ADP: Commitment Diversion Initiatives</i> | | 800.00 | 688.34 | 86.04% |
| <i>Number of Mandatory Students Entering JJAEPs</i> | | 2,050.00 | 1,423.00 | 69.41% |
| <i>Mandatory Student Attendance Days in JJAEP During the Regular School Year</i> | | 96,350.00 | 63,844.00 | 66.26% |
| <i>Number of Regional Diversion Placements</i> | | 236.00 | 279.00 | 118.22% |
| <i>Average Daily Population: Regional Diversion Placements</i> | | 137.00 | 152.58 | 111.37% |
| <i>Assessment and Orientation Cost Per Juvenile Day</i> | | N/A | 81.12 | N/A |
| <i>Total Residential Intakes</i> | | N/A | 671.00 | N/A |
| <i>Average Daily Population: Assessment and Orientation</i> | | 48.00 | 59.17 | 123.27% |
| <i>CPD: State-Operated Secure Correctional Facility</i> | | 204.80 | 214.00 | 104.49% |
| <i>Juveniles Under JCO Direct Supervision Per Shift</i> | | 8.00 | 6.56 | 82.00% |
| <i>Juveniles Per Direct Supervision Staff Per Shift</i> | | N/A | 6.56 | N/A |

| Performance Measures | Calculation (if applicable) | FY 2024 Target | FY 2024 Actual Performance | FY 2024 % of Annual Target |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Average Daily Population: State Operated Secure Correctional Facilities</i> | | 721.00 | 701.94 | 97.36% |
| <i>Education and Workforce Cost in JJD Operated Schools</i> | | N/A | 128.32 | N/A |
| <i>Percent Reading at Grade Level at Commitment</i> | | N/A | 0.00% | N/A |
| <i>Average Daily Attendance in JJD-operated Schools</i> | | 766.00 | 663.01 | 86.55% |
| <i>Number of Industrial Certifications Earned by Juveniles</i> | | N/A | 101.00 | N/A |
| <i>Halfway House Cost Per Juvenile Day</i> | | 316.33 | 340.89 | 107.76% |
| <i>Average Daily Population: Halfway House Programs</i> | | 60.00 | 42.34 | 70.57% |
| <i>Cost of Health Care Services Per Juvenile Day</i> | | 35.83 | 36.40 | 101.59% |
| <i>Average Daily Population: Health Care</i> | | N/A | 744.28 | N/A |
| <i>Cost of Psychiatric Services Per Juvenile Day</i> | | 2.95 | 2.25 | 76.27% |
| <i>Average Daily Population: Psychiatric Services</i> | | N/A | 744.28 | N/A |
| <i>General Rehabilitation Treatment Cost Per Juvenile Day</i> | | 24.55 | 34.74 | 141.51% |
| <i>Specialized Treatment Cost Per Juvenile Day</i> | | 45.51 | 49.56 | 108.90% |
| <i>Average Daily Population: General Rehabilitation Treatment</i> | | 809.00 | 657.72 | 81.30% |
| <i>Average Daily Population: Specialized Treatment</i> | | 510.00 | 375.68 | 73.66% |
| <i>Capacity Cost in Contract Programs Per Juvenile Day</i> | | 216.98 | 294.38 | 135.67% |
| <i>Average Daily Population: Contract Programs</i> | | 80.00 | 7.96 | 9.95% |
| <i>Change Orders and Add-ons As a Percentage of Budgeted Project Construction Costs</i> | | N/A | 3.00% | N/A |
| <i>Parole Supervision Cost Per Juvenile Day</i> | | 30.59 | 41.28 | 134.95% |

| Performance Measures | Calculation (if applicable) | FY 2024 Target | FY 2024 Actual Performance | FY 2024 % of Annual Target |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Average Daily Population: Parole</i> | | 228.00 | 165.28 | 72.49% |
| <i>Average Daily Population: Contract Parole</i> | | N/A | 8.53 | N/A |
| <i>Average Daily Population: Aftercare Services</i> | | N/A | 74.00 | N/A |
| <i>Number of Juvenile Served through the Office of Independent Ombudsman</i> | | N/A | 2,290.00 | N/A |
| <i>Number of Officers Certified</i> | | N/A | 3,827.00 | N/A |
| <i>Number of Local Facility Inspections Conducted</i> | | N/A | 88.00 | N/A |
| <i>Number of Annual Comprehensive Monitoring Reviews</i> | | N/A | 112.00 | N/A |
| <i>Juveniles Served Through Interstate Compact</i> | | N/A | 1,758.00 | N/A |
| <i>Number of Allegations Reported to the Office of the Inspector General</i> | | N/A | 15,953.00 | N/A |
| <i>Number of TJJD Juveniles Apprehended by OIG</i> | | N/A | 31.00 | N/A |
| <i>Number of Completed Criminal Investigative Cases</i> | | 2,750.00 | 2,822.00 | 102.62% |
| <i>Number of Child Abuse Claims Investigated</i> | | N/A | 223.00 | N/A |
| <i>Number of Completed Administrative Investigative Cases</i> | | N/A | 722.00 | N/A |

Table 2 Exhibit 2 Performance Measures

I. Please list all “mission critical” data resources (e.g., spreadsheets, databases, IT systems, and cloud-hosted applications) your agency maintains to collect, track, or display agency program data. By “mission critical,” we mean the main systems necessary for the day-to-day functioning of core and/or client-facing agency functions and services. Please do *not* include any statutorily required data collection upon which agency funding is contingent but which does not impact daily program functionality. As a companion to the list below, please provide additional information on each data resource using the template provided for Attachment 21 in that section of the instructions.

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 3: Mission Critical Data Resources**

| Data Resource Name | Associated Program(s) or Division(s) | Description | Data Owner |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Administrative Investigations Manager (AIM) | OIG | Used for Historical Purposes only - | Lesley Jacobs Shalini Kesava |
| Apex Learning | Education | Education – Learning Management System | Shelley McKinley Shalini Kasava |
| Ascender | Education | Software suite designed for K-12 school districts & charter schools | Mary Perez Sebastian Estades |
| BWC – Axon Sync | Secure Facilities | Body Worn Cameras – Upload files to evidence.com | Alan Michel Sebastian Estades |
| BWC – Evidence.com | Secure Facilities | Body Worn Cameras – cloud-based digital evidence management system | Alan Michel Sebastian Estades |
| Connect Application | Secure Facilities | An Onboarding and Case Management tool used by case managers and parole officers | Evan Norton Shalini Kesava |

| Data Resource Name | Associated Program(s) or Division(s) | Description | Data Owner |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Correctional Care System (CCS) | Secure Facilities | Used for Historical Purposes only - | Crystal Drew Shalini Kesava |
| CRIMES – OIG | OIG | Application which manages case management for OIG, OIO, Youth grievance, and Forms manager | Daniel Guajardo |
| CRIMES – OIO | OIO | Application which manages case management for OIG, OIO, Youth grievance, and Forms manager | Sean McCleskey |
| CRIMES – Youth’s Rights | OIO | Application which manages case management for OIG, OIO, Youth grievance, and Forms manager | Sean McCleskey |
| Criminal Investigation (CID) | OIG | Used for Historical Purposes only - | Lesley Jacobs Shalini Kesava |
| Criminal Records Checks (CRC) | Human Resources | Criminal records checks for potential employees and contractors | Elizabeth Boston Shalini Kesava |
| Decode Management System | Probation | County-translation table used for EDI code definitions | Ashley Kintzer Shalini Kesava |
| Detainer Automation | Youth Movement | Compile and maintain list of directives to hold youth at their time of release | Evan Norton Shalini Kesava |
| External User Profiles (EUP) | Probation | Allows for creation and maintenance of user accounts for all external applications | Ashley Kintzer Shalini Kesava |
| Financial Reports – USAS | Finance | Provide monthly, quarterly, dae-range reports compiled from the financial information received from Comptroller | Ashley Neamtz Shalini Kesava |
| Fixed Asset System (FAS) | Purchasing | Mainframe application for tracking assets. | Kellie Love Shalini Kesava |
| Fluxx | Operations | Tool for grant management | Emily Anderson Shalini Kesava |
| Incident Reporting Center (IRC) | OIG | Used for Historical Purposes only - | Lesley Jacobs Shalini Kesava |
| Incident Reporting Form | OIG | Incident Report Form for sending an email to submitting an incident to the OIG IRC | Lesley Jacobs Shalini Kesava |
| Joomla | Communications | Web Content Management | Nathan McDaniel Shalini Kesava |
| Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program System (JJAEP) | Probation | Collects both juvenile and summary data for reporting and analysis on JJAEP programs. | Alawan Thomas Shalini Kesava |
| Juvenile Medicaid Tracker (JMT) | Probation | Facilitate the exchange of information between HHSC & juvenile justice agencies to ensure each youth is assessed for Medicaid and/or CHIP eligibility prior to transitioning back into the community from out-of-home placement | Ashley Kintzer Shalini Kesava |
| Mainframe Security (SEC) | Secure Facilities | M204 CCS user management | Evan Norton Shalini Kesava |

| Data Resource Name | Associated Program(s) or Division(s) | Description | Data Owner |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Office of Independent Ombudsman – Case Manager (OIOCM) | OIO | Used for Historical Purposes only - | Sean McCleskey Shalini Kesava |
| Organization Management Information System (OMIS) | Probation | Overall data management system for tracking staff and systems in relation to the various entities within each county that the agency interacts with | Ashley Kintzer Shalini Kesava |
| PMI Evidence Tracking | OIG | Maintain & report data regarding evidence of criminal investigations performed by OIG | Lesley Jacobs Shalini Kesava |
| Psychological Services Manager | Secure Facilities | Framework application to eventually house all psychological Services | Evan Norton Shalini Kesava |
| Public Grievance | Human Resources | Used to track grievances that arrive from the public at-large or terminated employees | Elizabeth Boston Shalini Kesava |
| Reading Horizons (Web) | Education | Reading program for students | Shelley McKinley Shalini Kesava |
| Security Intelligence System | OIG | Database used to provide reports and intelligence to OIG command staff, TJJD board, secure facility administrators, and outside law enforcement entities | Daniel Guajardo Shalini Kesava |
| Statistical Reporting System (SRS) | Probation | Collection of programs which upload data from Juvenile Probation Departments for analysis | Ashley Kintzer Amanda Zamarron |
| Suicide Alert Database | Secure Facilities | Track youth placed on suicide alert | Evan Norton Shalini Kesava |
| Tests of Adult Basic Education Online (TABE) | Education | Comprehensive academic assessment product in adult basic education | Shelley McKinley Shalini Kesava |
| Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (TLETS) | Human Resources | Law enforcement database access | Elizabeth Boston Fernando Leal |
| Volgistics | Operations | Tracks and reports on background and work assignments for volunteers | Shalini Kesava |
| Website – Public | Communications | Public website used to communicate information to the general public | Nathan McDaniel Shalini Kesava |
| Youth Grievance Manager | OIO | Used for Historical Purposes Only (CRIMES) | Mayra Garza Shalini Kesava |
| Youth Grievance Manager | OIO | Used for Historical Purposes Only | Mayra Garza Shalini Kesava |

Table 3 Exhibit 3 Mission Critical Data Resources

J. Does the agency use any analytics software or platforms to collect, store, transform, or analyze agency data?

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 4: Data Analytics Platforms**

| Analytics Platform | Associated Data Resource(s) |
|---------------------------|--|
| PowerBI | Analyze, view, and store data, Reporting |
| SQL Server | Store and Manage Data |
| SSIS | Manage Data |
| SSRS (Retiring) | Reporting |

Table 4 Exhibit 4 Data Analytics Platforms

III. History and Major Events

1887-1948. Juvenile corrections efforts began in Texas in 1887 when the Legislature created the House of Correction and Reformatory, which opened in Gatesville in 1889 and later became the State Juvenile Training School. In 1913, the Legislature authorized a girls' facility in Gainesville, which opened in 1916 and is currently operated by TJJD as the Gainesville State Juvenile Correctional Facility. In 1945, the Legislature approved the establishment of the State Training School for Delinquent and Dependent Colored Girls, which opened in Brady in 1947.

Until 1920, each school was operated by a separate board of directors that reported directly to the governor. The Texas State Board of Control was created by the Legislature in 1919 and took over management of the three schools from 1920 to 1949. In 1947, the Legislature created a commission to study the state schools for delinquent children and the problem of juvenile delinquency, with the purpose of improving the administration of the schools and enable them to better accomplish their objectives.

1949. Texas State Youth Development Council was founded following the passage of the Gilmer Aiken Act by the 51st Legislature. The original purpose of the Council was to assist in coordinating community services available to Texas children as well as overseeing correctional facilities for delinquent children aimed at providing supervision, rehabilitation, and successful reintegration into society. The Council took over control of the correctional schools managed by the State Board of Control.

1957. The Texas State Youth Development Council was restructured as the Texas Youth Council by the 55th Legislature. It had the same duties as the prior agencies but also had the additional mandate to provide parole supervision. Additionally, the agency was directed to operate the existing institutions for the dependent and neglected children (Corsicana State Home for Orphans, Waco State Home, and the Texas Blind, Deaf, and Orphan School).

1970. The Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Facility in Brownwood began operations.

1972. The Giddings State Juvenile Correctional Facility began operation.

1973. Title 3 of the Family Code was codified by the 63rd Legislature, which remains the legal foundation for the juvenile system in Texas.

1974. A federal district court ruled on the landmark case, *Morales v. Turman*, which was the result of a lawsuit filed on behalf of juveniles under the supervision of the Texas Youth Council. This led to a settlement in 1984 that reformed the way confined juveniles are treated, including access to care and education, appropriate due process disciplinary procedures, and objective criteria for release. It also addressed due process requirements to be committed to TYC. The settlement applied to all future children committed to the Texas Youth Commission.

1975. The Legislature appropriated funds within the Texas Youth Council that were dedicated to Community Services Administration, which later became the Community Assistance Program. This was a county juvenile probation subsidy program.

1981. The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) was established to replace the Community Assistance Program portion of the Texas Youth Council. The founding of TJPC as a stand-alone entity represented a significant increase in the availability of probation services.

1983. The Texas Youth Council was renamed the Texas Youth Commission (TYC).

1984. Continued expansion of operations under TJPC and the proliferation of juvenile boards allowed probation services to become available to all juveniles in Texas. After reaching settlement in the *Morales v. Turman* case, the Texas Youth Commission remained under federal supervision by a three-member committee for four years.

1987. Determinate sentencing was created by the Legislature.

1990. The Evins State Juvenile Correctional Facility in Edinburg began operations.

1995. The 74th Legislature made significant revisions to Title 3 of the Family Code, most notably with the omnibus legislation HB 327. Included among these changes were: lowering the age for certifying juveniles as adults from 15 to 14 for certain violent offenses (e.g., only for capital, first-degree, and aggravated controlled substance felonies); requiring most violent juvenile offenders and those with mental illness to be sent to TYC; the creation of the Juvenile Justice Information System managed by DPS; adding certain offenses to determinate sentencing eligibility; and changing the method of determining if a youth would be paroled or transferred to adult prison. The probation field also saw many statutory changes during the 74th session, including increased supervision and program capacity for departments, the creation of the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, and the introduction of progressive sanctions.

1999. The 76th Legislature expanded the statutory use of determinate sentencing to allow for supervision under probation.

2000. The Mart State Juvenile Correctional Facility in McLennan County began operations.

2003. The Prison Rape Elimination Act was signed into law to provide a framework for a sexually safe environment for inmates (adult and youth) and staff in correctional settings and to establish national standards for prevention, response, training, reporting, and investigations, among other requirements, for correctional facilities.

2006. DOJ informed then-Governor Perry there would be an investigation of TYC's Evins facility. This investigation consisted of on-site inspections of the facility, interviews of youth and staff, and the review of documents. In 2007, DOJ informed the State of its findings that the Evins facility was unable to adequately protect youth from violence by other youth and staff.

2007. Throughout the early 2000s, repeated and significant operational, care, abuse, and safety concerns and allegations of sexual misconduct, coupled with the failure of high-ranking facility staff to appropriately respond to allegations and substantial efforts by these staff to cover up the misconduct, resulted in significant legislative changes to and increased operational oversight of TYC. During the 80th session specifically, TYC faced allegations of sexual misconduct at some of the secure juvenile facilities operated by the state at that time. The agency was placed under conservatorship by the governor, and investigators from the Texas Rangers, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, and the Office of Inspector General for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice were sent to each of the facilities and halfway houses. Over a period of months, these entities investigated thousands of complaints and allegations and worked with prosecutors to address the criminal violations found.

In light of these systemic issues, the 80th Legislature set a course for reform with SB 103, which ended the practice of committing youth to state care for habitual misdemeanor offenses, lowered the age of state jurisdiction to 19 years old from 21 years old, allowed youth with determinate sentences to get credit toward the minimum period of confinement (release eligibility) for time spent in detention pending adjudication and commitment, and established the Release Review Panel to determine if youth without a determinate sentence should be discharged, paroled, or remain in a TYC facility after completing their TYC-assigned minimum length of stay. The Legislature established the Office of Inspector General as a division within TYC to investigate criminal activity by TYC employees and TYC youth at TYC facilities. A new statute required the agency to operate a 24-hour hotline for the purpose of receiving information concerning the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children in TYC custody. The Legislature also created an exogenous oversight entity over TYC through the Office of the Independent Ombudsman.

In FY 2007, there were 3,651 youth in state secure facilities. In FY 2009, that number dropped to 2,027, a 44 percent decrease.

2009. TYC and TJPC underwent Sunset review. The Sunset Advisory Commission recommended the agencies be abolished and their functions merged into a single agency. Instead, the agencies remained intact with certain changes through HB 3689. One such change was the appropriation of probation funding of approximately \$48 million for Community Corrections Diversion Programs, to include programs, treatment, and services, to divert more juveniles from state care. Other changes included requirements for more transition planning for youth in TYC care and a

clarification on which facilities TJJC was responsible for registering and which DFPS was. Both agencies were slated for Sunset review again the following session.

2011. After the Sunset Advisory Commission recommended keeping the agencies as separate entities, the Legislature through SB 653 abolished the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and transferred the powers and duties of those agencies to the newly created Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). In FY 2011, youth in state secure facilities dropped to 1,399, a further 31 percent decrease.

2015. SB 1630 created the Regionalization Plan to further reduce commitments to state care by reimbursing counties for the costs of keeping youth shallow in the system in lieu of commitment to TJJD. It also required courts to enter a special commitment finding when committing a youth to TJJD without a determinate sentence. The special commitment finding must state that the youth has behavioral health or other special needs that cannot be met with the resources available in the community. Additionally, statute was amended to provide that the court should consider the findings of a validated risk and needs assessment and any other appropriate professional assessment available to the court.

2017-2018. OIG investigated a significant number of sexual misconduct allegations at TJJD. Working with the Special Prosecutions Unit (SPU), staff members at some of the state secure facilities were arrested by OIG for sexual misconduct and prosecuted by SPU. In late 2017, Governor Abbott requested the Texas Rangers investigate the scope of misconduct in juvenile facilities. Within the scope of their investigation spanning into 2018, the Texas Rangers conducted a review of the OIG investigations of sexual misconduct and excessive use of force allegations at TJJD, conducted a safety and security assessment at the state facilities, and assisted OIG in the investigation of cases. The Rangers concurred with OIG on its investigative findings and assisted OIG by arresting some former staff members accused of criminal misconduct while employed at the Department.

In 2018, Governor Abbott asked TJJD to continue to explore ways to reduce the number of youth in state secure facilities, as the daily population in state secure facilities continued to decline. The agency began a concerted effort to actively review youth on an ongoing, rather than periodic, basis and to streamline processes to ensure that youth would be able to leave secure care as soon as they met the appropriate criteria.

2019. TJJD implemented the Texas Model of Intervention, a key part of the overall Texas Model, to provide more treatment and intervention-focused care, including better responses to the effects of childhood trauma. TJJD developed the Texas Model as the vehicle to achieve its mission of creating safer communities by transforming young lives. The model aspires to reduce recidivism and enhance public safety by targeting criminogenic risk for rehabilitation. This is achieved through fostering internal change and equipping youth with lifelong skills. It is TJJD's foundational rehabilitation approach emphasizing structure, accountability, trauma-informed care, and evidence-based interventions like Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) to support youth in achieving lasting behavioral change. The Texas Model addresses emotional and behavioral challenges by teaching mindful awareness, interpersonal effectiveness, distress tolerance, emotion regulation, and problem-solving within

a structured, real-world environment. Through immersive staff development, family involvement, and individualized treatment plans, the model aims to reduce high-risk behaviors such as aggression, self-harm, and substance use while preparing youth for successful reintegration into their communities.

OIG's enabling statute was updated in HB 3689 to include new roles and responsibilities that were previously under the purview of TJJD's executive director. At the request of the executive director, these changes codified moving the responsibility of conducting Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (ANE) investigations from the executive director to the oversight of the Chief Inspector General, as well as the Office of Inspector General assuming the responsibility of secure facility gatehouse operations.

2020. From the early 2000s to present day, there has been a significant reduction in youth involved with the juvenile justice system, both in terms of population in state facilities as well as referrals to probation. In FY 2005, there were 4,127 youth in state secure facilities, and in FY 2019, the average daily population for state operated secure facilities was 770, representing an 81 percent decrease. Referrals to juvenile probation departments dropped from 106,358 in FY 2005 to 53,783 in FY 2019, a 49 percent decrease. Population numbers for secure facilities and probation referrals continued to decrease in FY 2020, to 750 and 40,392 respectively, although the COVID-19 pandemic artificially decreased these figures.

2021-2022. In July 2021, Governor Abbott ordered the Texas Rangers to investigate allegations that certain TJJD staff engaged in potentially illegal behavior with youth. The Rangers collaborated with the OIG and reviewed and assisted OIG in the investigations of cases. The Rangers' investigation yielded five criminal violations but concluded the actions did not represent a wider pattern at the department. Later that year, in October 2021, the Department of Justice (DOJ) also began an investigation of TJJD's secure facilities. At the same time, Sunset staff began their comprehensive review of the agency's functions. The Sunset Advisory Commission released its staff report on findings and recommendations in May 2022, which (among other topics) outlined the profound impacts that chronic staffing shortages have on operations. During the summer of 2022, Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature approved pre-session raises for TJJD's direct-care staff, resulting in record hiring gains that allowed the agency to increase facility safety, enhance programming opportunities, and decrease the state bed waitlist.

2023. During the 88th legislative session, lawmakers passed TJJD's Sunset bill (SB 1727). Key elements of the bill related to the current review's scope included:

- *Updated requirements for the state's Regionalization Plan.* The bill required TJJD to update its plan biennially before each legislative session and expanded the stakeholders TJJD must consult while developing the plan. It also expanded the topics TJJD must include in the plan (e.g., analyses of local commitment rates and actionable steps to enhance regional capacity).
- *A directive to inventory and map local resources.* The bill required TJJD to partner with institutions of higher education and other stakeholders to better identify resources

available for youth in the juvenile justice system. The agency may then use this information to inform its grantmaking priorities, application criteria, and awards.

- *Clear authority to incentivize diversion.* The bill authorized TJJD to update its basic probation funding formula and discretionary grant funding protocols to include factors that encourage diversion.
- *Updated diversion application requirements.* The bill required TJJD, in consultation with the Advisory Council, to adopt rules requiring juvenile probation departments to apply for Regional Diversion Alternatives (RDA) funding before a local court committed a youth to state custody.
- *The adoption of a risk-based inspection schedule.* The bill removed prescriptive annual inspections of county-level facilities and instead directed TJJD to allocate inspection resources according to facility risk.

2021-2024.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, TJJD staff worked diligently with stakeholders on ensuring compliance with recommendations adopted by the Sunset Advisory Commission and 88th Texas Legislature. Overall, TJJD was responsible for implementing 45 Sunset actions (3 funding, 28 statutory, and 14 management actions), many of which involved multiple requirements and coordination with county juvenile probation departments. Throughout the compliance process, TJJD revamped various processes related to board governance and administration, staff recruitment and retention, regionalization, officer certification, and monitoring. As of August 2025, TJJD's board members and staff had fully implemented all but four Sunset recommendations. Those still in progress included:

1. Construct new state facilities (funding change). TJJD has been working closely with TFC, state leadership, and county officials to secure sites in Ellis and Brazoria counties for the construction of two 104-bed facilities. The 89th Texas Legislature appropriated additional funds to the agency to complete the project. TJJD and TFC anticipate opening the new facilities in early 2028.
2. Map local resources (statutory change). TJJD received an 18-month federal grant in 2024 to map local resources and better identify opportunities for enhancing local capacity. In partnership with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, TJJD aims to complete the grant and finalize a report on service gaps contributing to juvenile justice involvement by December 2025. This report will serve as the foundation for the agency's 10-year strategic plan, which TJJD is developing in direct partnership with the Health and Human Services Commission.
3. Adopt a risk-based inspection schedule (statutory change). TJJD staff have developed a data-driven matrix to conduct risk-based inspections, starting in county-level pre- and post-adjudication facilities. During FY26, the agency will continue working with the probation field to hone the matrix and ensure implementation aligns appropriately with known risks in the juvenile justice field.

4. Implement legal sufficiency reviews of investigative findings (statutory change). TJJD staff have developed procedures for these reviews and are conducting them for certain confirmed findings. The agency requested and received additional resources during the 89th regular session to fully implement the statutory change.

In August 2024, DOJ released its report. The investigation is ongoing and TJJD's Office of General Counsel is working with the Texas Attorney General to be responsive and handle discussions with DOJ. The TJJD Executive Team has made information and briefings available to board members, legislators, and county probation chiefs who have requested information.

2025. In April 2025, as directed by the Board Chairman, TJJD launched a ten-year strategic plan effort in conjunction with Juvenile Justice Professionals Day at the Capitol. Over 100 representatives from county probation departments joined in Austin to be recognized by the House and Senate and concluded the day with a strategic planning session in which county representatives discussed about local gaps in service and other needs. Representatives from HHSC, DFPS, and Meadows also joined to provide input on youth services from their perspectives. The agency aims to have the Board vote on the final version of the strategic plan by the end of 2026.

Also in late 2025, TJJD will begin the process of assembling the Regionalization Task Force and developing the next Regionalization Plan, reflecting updates and department reorganizations mentioned throughout this report.

IV. Policymaking Structure

A. Complete the following table to provide information on members of your policymaking body.

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 5: Policymaking Body**

| Member Name | Current Term / Appointment Dates / Appointed By (e.g., Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker) | Previous Terms Served (if applicable) | Qualification (e.g., public member, industry representative) | City |
|---------------------|--|--|---|--------------|
| Hon. Manny Ramirez | 12/19/2023 - 2/1/2027 / Governor | N/A | Commissioner Court | Ft. Worth |
| Edeska Barnes | 12/19/2023 - 2/1/2029 / Governor | 2 Previous Terms | Chief JPO – Small County | Jasper |
| Dr. Joe Barton | 2/27/2025 - 2/1/2031 / Governor | 1 Previous Term | Mental Health Provider | Canyon |
| Hon. Will Durham | 12/19/2023 - 2/1/2027 / Governor | N/A | Juvenile Prosecutor | Huntsville |
| Dr. Stephanie House | 2/27/2025 - 2/1/2031 / Governor | 1 Previous Term | Educator | Liberty Hill |
| Hon. Cyndi Wheless | 12/19/2023 - 2/1/2029 / Governor | 1 Previous Term | Juvenile Judge | McKinney |
| Hon. Shawn Thierry | 1/13/2025 - 2/1/2029 / Governor | N/A | Public Member | Houston |
| Luis Leija | 12/19/2023 - 2/1/2027 / Governor | N/A | Chief JPO – Medium | Port Lavaca |
| Matthew Marick | 2/27/2025 - 2/1/2031 / Governor | N/A | Chief JPO - Large | Krugerville |

Table 5 Exhibit 5 Policymaking Body

B. Describe the primary role and responsibilities of your policymaking body.

The Texas Juvenile Justice Board is the governing body of the department. The board must develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policymaking responsibilities of the Board from the management responsibilities of the executive director and TJJD staff. The governing body must also establish the mission of TJJD with the goal of establishing a cost-effective continuum of youth services that emphasizes keeping youth in their home communities while balancing the interests of rehabilitative needs with public safety and to establish funding priorities for services that support this mission and that do not provide incentives to incarcerate youth (Human Resources Code 203.001). The Board appoints and directly supervises the executive director, chief internal auditor, and chief inspector general.

The Board is required to adopt reasonable rules that provide the minimum standards for personnel, staffing, caseloads, programs, facilities, record keeping, equipment, and other aspects of the operation of a juvenile board that are necessary to provide adequate and effective probation services as well as standards for juvenile justice facilities. The Board is also required to adopt and enforce a code of ethics for certified officers as well as appropriate education, training, and certifications standards for them (Human Resources Code 221.002).

The Board is responsible for the review and approval of all policies and is mandated to make rules appropriate to the proper accomplishment of TJJD's functions and for ensuring they are operated according to law and the Board's rules. The Board is authorized to delegate to the executive director the Board's responsibility for the adoption of certain policies as appropriate for the proper accomplishment of the agency's functions relating to state-operated facilities and the agency's personnel (Human Resources Code 242.003).

C. How is the chair selected?

The chair of the Texas Juvenile Justice Board is appointed by the Governor from among the appointed membership of the Board (Human Resources Code 202.001(c)).

D. List any special circumstances or unique features about your policymaking body or its responsibilities.

The Board has the responsibility of overseeing both state and local juvenile justice operations. This is unique from the adult system, in which the Texas Department of Criminal Justice operates prison facilities and parole, the TDCJ Community Justice Assistance Division oversees adult probation departments, and the Jail Standards Commission provides oversight to local jails.

Human Resources Code 202.001 requires the TJJD Board to be comprised of:

- One member of a county commissioners' court who has juvenile justice experience;
- One prosecutor in juvenile court;
- Three chief juvenile probation officers (one from a small juvenile population county, one from a medium juvenile population county, and one from a large population county);
- One district court judge of a court designated as a juvenile court;
- One licensed adolescent mental health treatment professional or a representative from a local mental health authority who has experience working with children;
- One educator or a juvenile justice professional with certain facility management experience; and
- One member of the general public.

This composition means that there are certain Board members who are regulated by the Board and who provide funding to the entities they represent (chief juvenile probation officers and those who serve on juvenile boards, including the judge and county commissioner).

E. In general, how often does your policymaking body meet? How many times did it meet in fiscal years 2020 through 2024? Explain if the policymaking body met in-person or virtually during this time.

The Board is required to meet quarterly per Human Resources Code 202.008. These meetings occur in person, though staff provide a virtual option to members who otherwise would not be able to attend. At times, the board must convene outside of its typical schedule to ensure members perform critical functions on time. For example, in CY 2024, the board met two additional times — once in August to approve the agency's legislative appropriations request and once in December to approve a location for new facility construction.

F. Does the policymaking body broadcast and archive its meetings?

Yes, the live broadcast and archived videos can be found on TJJD's website.

G. Briefly describe all the training the members of the agency's policymaking body receive. How often do members receive this training or updated materials?

Following the FY2022-23 Sunset review, the Board and staff revamped member training requirements and procedures to ensure initial and ongoing education opportunities aligned with member needs. Once appointed to the Board, members work with TJJD staff to receive the training necessary to prepare for their responsibilities, including but not limited to rulemaking, disciplinary action, and financial approvals. This orientation may occur in-person or virtually. For example, in January 2024, newly appointed members attended an in-person, three-day public meeting to complete their training as a group. As additional members have joined the body, they have met with staff individually to receive the same information.

At a minimum, orientation covers information on topics outlined in Sec. 202.006(b) of the Human Resources Code. Example topics include:

- Introductions to key staff members;
- Introductions to fellow board members;
- An overview of the juvenile justice system and TJJD's role throughout that system;
- An overview of oversight structures that monitor, inspect, investigate, or otherwise regulate the juvenile justice system;
- A review of TJJD's history, functions, budget, and relevant stakeholders including the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services, Presidents' Council, and Regionalization Task Force;
- A review of TJJD's most significant statutes, legislative directives, and most recent key documents, including internal and external audits, Sunset reports, and strategic plans;
- An analysis of justice-involved youth populations;
- A review of key rules, rulemaking duties, and TJJD's rule review plan; and
- An overview of key facility operations, programs, and procedures, including principles and processes related to the Texas Model;
- A breakdown of the Board's role, membership qualifications, duties, priorities, and projects; and
- A discussion of the Public Funds Investment Act and financial reporting requirements.

TJJD staff compile relevant orientation materials into a manual that each member receives. In addition to receiving initial training and materials directly from TJJD staff, Board members must also complete various online trainings provided by other agencies. At a minimum, these trainings include:

- Texas Open Meeting Act training provided by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG);
- Public Information Act training provided by OAG; and
- Ethics training provided by the Texas Ethics Commission.

At the beginning of each fiscal year, TJJD staff provide each Board member with an updated training manual. To continue building expertise about evolving needs and processes within the state's juvenile justice system, Board members may also take advantage of various continuing education opportunities, such as member-requested webinars, systemwide trainings, and relevant conferences.

G. What information is regularly presented to your policymaking body to keep them informed about the agency's operations and performance?

At each meeting of the TJJD Board, members receive reports on agency operations and performance from the Executive Director, Chief Inspector General, and Independent Ombudsman. The agency's Deputy Executive Directors and other internal and external stakeholders also provide the Board with regular updates related to their specific areas of responsibility. Additionally, the Board reviews and approves contracts over a certain value, acceptance of gifts to the agency, matters involving the discipline of certified officers, and many other items. The TJJD Board also meets in Closed Executive Session to consult with counsel, deliberate regarding real property, hold discussions regarding personnel, or discuss other matters as allowed by the Government Code.

Internal Audit presents their reports on results of their internal audits on various functions and controls related to financials, grants, state facilities, information systems, human resources, complaint handling, youth rights, and other agency functions and processes.

Additionally, TJJD Board members make up committees found in Exhibit 6 that meet during the weeks before every quarterly board meeting.

H. How does your policymaking body obtain input from the public regarding issues under the agency's jurisdiction? How is this input incorporated into the operations of your agency?

The TJJD Board obtains input from the public through public comment and briefings during Board meetings and through the Texas Register during the rulemaking process. Input may be used to develop policies and practices. TJJD also solicits input from stakeholders on key topics like Texas Model implementation, grantmaking, and youth movement, whether formally through groups such as the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services, or informally through discussions with prosecutors, chief probation officers, etc. This information is used to inform and make recommendations to the TJJD Board.

I. If your policymaking body uses subcommittees, advisory committees, councils, or other groups to carry out its duties, fill in the following table. *See Exhibit 6 Example*. For any advisory committees established in statute, please note the date of creation for the committee as well as the abolishment date as required by Texas Government Code, Section 2110.008.

In addition, please attach a copy of any reports your agency filed under Texas Government Code, Section 2110.007 regarding an assessment of any statutory advisory committees as Attachment 28.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 6: Committees and Advisory Committees

| Name of Committee or Advisory Committee | Size / Composition / How are members appointed? | Purpose / Duties | Legal Basis for Committee (statute or rule citation) | Creation and Abolishment Dates |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Executive and Governance Committee | Size: 4 members Manny Ramirez – Chair, Edeska Barnes, Cyndi Wheless, Will Durham | With the Board Chair serving as Committee Chair, the Executive Subcommittee reviews high-level agency matters, such as strategic planning, required rulemaking, and personnel matters when needed (e.g., evaluations of the board’s direct reports – ED, Inspector General, Chief Auditor). The committee also monitors compliance with Sunset recommendations related to board policies, procedures, and governance. | NA | 2024/NA |
| Finance and Audit Committee | Size: 4 members Edeska Barnes – Chair, Manny Ramirez, Shawn Thierry, Stephanie House | The Finance and Audit Committee focuses on TJJD’s budget and fiscal affairs, such as the biennial legislative appropriations request and contracting matters. The committee also monitors findings from and responses to audits and reviews performed by the Internal Audit Division, State Auditor’s Office, and other relevant entities, and provides an opportunity for the Executive Director (and designee, if needed) to discuss audit findings and corrective actions. | NA | 2024/NA |
| Probation, Parole, and Reentry Committee | Size: 4 members Luis Leija – Chair, Joe Barton, Matt Marick Shawn Thierry | The Probation, Parole, and Reentry Committee focuses on front- and back-end juvenile justice processes, including diversion and grantmaking procedures with county juvenile probation departments and coordination with local entities as youth are reintegrated into their communities. | NA | 2024/NA |
| Mental Health, Treatment, and Education Committee | Size: 3 members Joe Barton - Chair, Matt Marick, Stephanie House | The Mental Health, Treatment, and Education Committee focuses on treatment and programming services provided to youth in the juvenile justice system, implementation of Texas Model initiatives, evolving service needs of youth committed to state care, and the provision of educational and vocational services to youth. | NA | 2024/NA |

| Name of Committee or Advisory Committee | Size / Composition / How are members appointed? | Purpose / Duties | Legal Basis for Committee (statute or rule citation) | Creation and Abolishment Dates |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Safety, Security, and Accountability Committee | Size: 3 members Cyndi Wheless – Chair, Luis Leija, Will Durham | The Safety, Security, and Accountability Committee focuses on findings, trends, and data provided by OIG, OIO, and the Monitoring and Inspections Division. The committee may also consider and make recommendations regarding discipline against certified officers and TJJD employees, as appropriate. | NA | 2024/NA |
| Advisory Council on Juvenile Services | Size: 15 members Composition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TJJD Executive Director or designee TJJD Director of Probation Services or designee TJJD Director of State Programs and Facilities or designee HHSC Commissioner or designee DFPS Commissioner or designee One representative of county commissioners courts Two juvenile court judges Seven chief juvenile probation officers How appointed: Nominated by the Council and approved by the Board | The Advisory Council assists the department in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining the needs and problems of county juvenile boards and probation departments; Conducting long-range strategic planning; Reviewing and proposing revisions to existing or newly proposed standards affecting juvenile probation programs, services, or facilities; Analyzing the potential cost impact on juvenile probation departments of new standards proposed by the board; Assessing and developing recommendations to improve the sharing of information between agencies that serve children, including agencies serving children in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems; and Advising the Board on any other relevant matter on the request of the Board. | Section 203.0081, Texas Human Resources Code | Created: September 1, 2011 No abolishment date set. The Advisory Council on Juvenile Services is not subject to Chapter 2110, Texas Government Code. |

| Name of Committee or Advisory Committee | Size / Composition / How are members appointed? | Purpose / Duties | Legal Basis for Committee (statute or rule citation) | Creation and Abolishment Dates |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Youth Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee | <p>Size: 11 members</p> <p>Composition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One representative from the Texas Education Agency • One representative from the Texas Workforce Commission or a local workforce development board who has experience with programs for youth or young adults • One representative from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation • One representative from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services • Two county juvenile probation chiefs • One certified educator • Two members with professional experience in an occupation relevant to TJJD's vocational training programs • One representative from a post-secondary education entity who has experience in the administrative, training, or coordination functions of a CTE program • One representative from an advocacy group with a primary function to improve education outcomes, safety, or well-being of youth <p>How appointed: Appointed by the Board</p> | <p>The advisory committee assists the department in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing the vocational training needs of youth committed to state custody. • Identifying barriers to the success of vocational training programs for youth committed to state custody. • Engaging in long-range strategic planning to assist TJJD in establishing goals and actionable plans for expanding the use of vocational training for youth committed to state custody, including opportunities to successfully transition youth from programming in secure facilities to training and employment in the community. | Sec. 203.0083(c), Texas Human Resources Code | <p>Created: August 9, 2024</p> <p>Abolishment Date: August 9, 2028</p> |

Table 6 Exhibit 6 Subcommittees and Advisory Committees

V. Funding

A. Provide a brief description of your agency's major sources of funding.

| Funding Source | Amount – FY 26 | Amount – FY 27 | Biennial Total | Percent of Budget |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| General Revenue Fund | \$459,132,930 | \$448,338,011 | \$907,470,941 | 95.2% |
| Federal Funds | \$7,838,159 | \$7,838,159 | \$15,676,318 | 1.6% |
| Other Funds (subtotal) | \$14,963,544 | \$14,963,544 | \$29,927,088 | 3.1% |
| Appropriated Receipts | \$1,169,465 | \$1,169,465 | \$2,338,930 | |
| Interagency Contracts | \$691,000 | \$691,000 | \$1,382,000 | |
| Interagency Contracts – Transfers from Foundation School | \$13,103,079 | \$13,103,079 | \$26,206,158 | |
| | Total, All Method of Funding | | \$953,072,347 | |

B. List all riders that significantly impact your agency's budget.

Riders specifically related to the Sunset review's limited scope include:

- Rider 17: Appropriation: Refunds of Unexpended Balances from Local Juvenile Probation Departments
- Rider 24: Reporting Requirements to the Legislative Budget Board.
- Rider 25: Commitment Diversion Initiatives
- Rider 26: Mental Health Service Grants
- Rider 31: Prevention, Intervention, and Commitment Diversion
- Riders 32, 34, and 44: County-level Multisystemic Therapy Teams (MST) Programs
- Rider 33: Urban County Admissions
- Rider 36: Appropriation for Salary Increase for Local Juvenile Probation Departments

C. Show your agency's expenditures, including transfers, broken down into clear and easy-to-understand categories, as shown in the examples provided. This information forms the basis of the "Agency at a Glance" section of Sunset's reports. See Exhibit 7 Example. Please ensure the totals provided for Expenditures and Sources of Revenue are equal.

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 7: Expenditures — Fiscal Year 2024 (Actual)**

| Category | Amount Spent | Percentage of Total | Contract Expenditures Included in Total Amount |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| Prevention and Intervention | \$ 3,012,177 | 1.33% | These are grant funds distributed to Juvenile Probation Departments. Each Department is under contract with TJJD to receive and expend these funds. |
| Basic Probation Supervision | \$ 83,742,964 | 36.87% | Same as above. |
| Community Programs | \$ 43,679,896 | 19.23% | Same as above. |
| Pre & Post Adjudication Facilities | \$ 30,032,157 | 13.22% | Same as above. |
| Commitment Diversion Initiatives | \$ 19,492,500 | 8.58% | Same as above. |
| Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs | \$ 5,937,500 | 2.61% | Same as above. |
| Mental Health Services Grants | \$ 14,178,353 | 6.24% | Same as above. |
| Regional Diversion Alternatives | \$ 22,029,232 | 9.70% | Same as above. |
| Probation System Support | \$ 5,042,653 | 2.22% | 0% |
| GRAND TOTAL: | \$ 227,147,432 | 100% | \$ 227,147,432 |

Table 7 Exhibit 7 Expenditures

D. Show your agency's sources of revenue broken down into clear and easy-to-understand categories, as shown in the examples provided. This information forms the basis of the "Agency at a Glance" section of Sunset's reports. Include all local, state, and federal appropriations; all professional fees (for licensure and certification) and operating fees (charged to agency customers for services); and all other sources of revenue collected by the agency, including taxes and fines. See Exhibit 8 Example. Please ensure the totals provided for Expenditures and Sources of Revenue are equal.

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 8: Sources of Revenue — Fiscal Year 2024 (Actual)**

| Source | Amount |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| General Revenue | \$217,200,436 |
| Federal Funds | \$2,859,496 |
| Appropriated Receipts | \$1,150,000 |
| IACs FSF | \$5,937,500 |
| TOTAL | \$227,147,432 |

Table 8 Exhibit 8 Sources of Revenue

E. If you receive funds from multiple federal programs, show the source agency and type of federal funding. *See Exhibit 9 Example.*

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 9: Federal Funds — Fiscal Year 2024 (Actual)**

| Source/Type of Fund | Description of Fund | State / Federal Match Ratio | State Share | Federal Share | Total Funding |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Federal Funds | Title IV E | N/A | \$39,796,566 | \$2,733,330 | \$43,679,896 |
| Federal Funds | Title IV E | N/A | \$4,916,487 | \$126,166 | \$5,042,653 |
| Federal Funds | OJJDP | N/A | \$0 | \$825,000 | \$825,000 |
| TOTAL | | | \$44,713,053 | \$3,684,496 | \$49,547,549 |

Table 9 Exhibit 9 Federal Funds

F. If applicable, provide detailed information on the fees your agency collects. Please explain how much fee revenue is deposited/returned to the General Revenue Fund and why, if applicable. *See Exhibit 10 Example.*

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 10: Fee Revenue — Fiscal Year 2024
Not Required Under Limited Scope Review**

| Fee Description/ Program/ Statutory Citation | Current Fee | Fees Set by Statute or Rule? | Statutory Maximum or Minimum, if applicable | Number of Persons or Entities Paying Fee | Fee Revenue | Where Fee Revenue is Deposited (e.g., General Revenue Fund) |
|--|-------------|------------------------------------|--|---|-------------|---|
| (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Number) | (Number) | (Text) |
| (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Number) | (Number) | (Text) |

Table 10 Exhibit 10 Fee Revenue

VI. Organization

A. Provide an organizational chart that includes major programs and divisions and shows the number of FTEs in each program or division. Detail should include, if possible, division heads with subordinates and actual FTEs with budgeted FTEs in parentheses.

See Attachment A: TJJD Organizational Charts

B. Complete the table below listing the agency's headquarters and number of FTEs and, if applicable, field or regional offices.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 11: FTEs by Location — Fiscal Year 2025 (as of SER submission)

| Headquarters, Region, or Field Office | Location | Number of Budgeted FTEs FY 2025 | Number of Actual FTEs (as of SER submission) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Headquarters | Austin | 314 | 286 |
| Secure Facility | Brownwood | 404 | 225 |
| Secure Facility | Mart | 556 | 425 |
| Secure Facility | Gainesville | 369 | 265 |
| Secure Facility | Giddings | 438 | 267 |
| Secure Facility | Evins | 422 | 348 |
| Halfway House | Ayres | 28 | 26 |
| Halfway House | Schaeffer | 35 | 31 |
| Halfway House | Tamayo | 33 | 31 |
| Regional Office | Fort Worth | 16 | 16 |
| Regional Office | Amarillo | 1 | 1 |
| Regional Office | Lubbock | 2 | 2 |
| Regional Office | Tyler | 2 | 2 |
| Regional Office | Harlingen | 2 | 2 |
| Regional Office | San Antonio | 16 | 14 |
| Regional Office | El Paso | 5 | 5 |
| Regional Office | Houston | 18 | 15 |
| OIG | Field (Various) | 95 | 91 |
| TOTAL | | 2,756 | 2,052 |

Table 11 Exhibit 11 FTEs by Location

C. What are your agency's FTE caps for fiscal years 2023-27?

FY2023: 2,499.2

FY2024: 2,205.3

FY2025: 2,205.3

FY2026: 2,216.3

FY2027: 2,216.3

D. How many temporary or contract employees did your agency have in fiscal year 2024? If use of contractors is significant, please break out totals by program or department. Please provide a short summary of the purpose of each position type, amount of expenditures per position type, and procurement methods used.

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 12: Temporary/Contract Employees — Fiscal Year 2024**

| Type of Temporary/ Contract Employee | Purpose of Position | # of These Employees | Amount Expended | Procurement Method |
|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Contractor Sreeni Bobba | To provide technical expertise to manage the TJJD SAS reporting environment and maintain reports | 1 | \$199,402 | TSS through DCS |
| Contractor Reddy Rajandala | Development support to the TJJD team for the development of Connect | 1 | \$291,952 | ITSAC |
| Contractor Sam Mahsen | Development support to the TJJD team for the development of Connect | 1 | \$260,700 | ITSAC |
| Contractor Noam Fein | Development support to the TJJD team for the development and updates to JCMS | 1 | \$65,870 | ITSAC |
| Contractor Chima Oforeh | Development support to the TJJD team for the development and updates to JCMS | 1 | \$53,460 | ITSAC |
| Contractor Brad Stafford | Database support for CCS data migration into Connect and other data management needs for reporting. | 1 | \$182,788 | ITSAC |
| Contractor Robert Waggoner | Mainframe support for M204 and CCS ongoing maintenance and support data migration from M204 into the new Connect database | 1 | \$112,000 | ITSAC |
| Contractor Peter Hunte | TJJD network and firewall management support. This was a temp to perm candidate that transitioned to FTE after contracting | 1 | \$41,699 | ITSAC |
| Contractor Jim Foster | Provide database architecture support for all TJJD data. Specific focus was with M204 data migration into Connect. This was a temp to perm candidate that transitioned to FTE after contracting | 1 | \$42,840 | ITSAC |
| | | TOTAL: 9 | TOTAL: \$1,250,711 | |

Table 12 Exhibit 12 Temporary/Contract Employees

E. List each of your agency's key programs or functions, along with expenditures and FTEs by program. *See Exhibit 13 Example.* (If you have already completed the "Agency Program Information" spreadsheet in advance, you do not need to replicate any duplicative information below.)

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 13: List of Program FTEs and Expenditures — Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025

| Program | Actual FTEs FY 2024 | Budgeted FTEs FY 2025 | Actual Expenditures FY 2024 | Budgeted Expenditures FY 2025 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Probation System Support | 15 | 15 | \$1,983,125 | \$1,747,853 |
| Training | 4 | 4 | \$279,536 | \$347,459 |
| Office of Inspector General | 13 | 13 | \$645,731 | \$642,718 |
| Finance | 1 | 1 | \$70,374 | \$77,216 |
| Information Technology | 6.5 | 6.5 | \$1,426,626 | \$1,209,773 |
| General Counsel | 3 | 3 | \$312,330 | \$327,773 |
| Monitoring and Inspection | 10.4 | 10.4 | \$720,123 | \$753,476 |
| TOTAL | 52.9 | 52.9 | \$5,437,845 | \$5,106,268 |

Table 13 Exhibit 13 List of Program FTEs and Expenditures *estimated expenditures for FY 2025*

VII. Guide to Agency Divisions and Programs

Community Mental Health Program

A. Provide the following information at the beginning of each description.

Name of division or program: Community Mental Health Program

Location within the agency: Regionalization and Diversion/Probation Services

Contact name: Matthew Smith

Statutory citation: Health and Safety Code Chapter 533. Powers and Duties of Department of State Health Services; Texas Government Code Chapter 531.055.

Memorandum of Understanding on Services for Persons Needing Multiagency Services; Human Resources Code, Chapter 203.

Regionalization Plan; Health and Safety Code Chapter 614.018.

Continuity of Care for Juveniles with Mental Impairments; Human Resources Code 223.001

B. What is the objective of this division or program? Describe its major activities.

The Community Mental Health Program's primary objective is to ensure juvenile justice-involved youth receive the most responsive and appropriate services possible to meet their unique mental health needs. To meet this objective, the program has evolved, placing building effective and reciprocal relationships with other agencies that serve youth at the forefront of its work, while simultaneously working to support the local probation departments and other members of the TJJD team to meet the increasingly complex mental health needs of the youth we serve.

Providing local department support. Probation departments receive easily accessible individual case consultation from the Community Mental Health Program to determine appropriate community or residential services and assistance to find non-secure or secure placement options for youth with complex needs who present unique challenges.

Special Needs Diversionary Program. This division coordinates the Special Needs Diversionary Program (SNDP), which was created in 2001 to provide mental health treatment and specialized supervision in order to rehabilitate juvenile offenders and keep them as shallow in the juvenile justice system as appropriate. The program is administered in a collaborative model by TJJD and the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI).

Initiating and participating in interagency collaboration. To effectively meet the needs of youth, the Community Mental Health Program makes intentional efforts to build relationships with other state agencies including, but not limited to, HHSC, DFPS, and TDCJ. These relationships allow appropriate systems to engage when needed to meet the needs of children and their families. Participating in regular meetings with these agencies helps break down historical silos that have been barriers to implementing systemic changes that directly affect our stakeholders.

Supporting regional diversion efforts. The Community Mental Health Program supports other agency staff who, in turn, support the field by reviewing all regional diversion applications in which the youth has a history of significant mental illness, a history of trauma, or suicidal/self-harm behaviors. The program also consistently provides mental health expertise to all projects and endeavors of the agency's diversion efforts to ensure the mental health needs of youth are met while addressing criminogenic risk.

TJJD probation and stateside services collaboration. The Community Mental Health Program consistently communicates with individuals in TJJD State Services to ensure the needs of the youth who transition from probation to a secure facility and parole services are met. In addition, the Community Mental Health Program works with TJJD State Services on trainings for professionals and members of the community. The Community Mental Health Program also provides weekly information, education, and resources on various mental health disorders and treatment strategies to all TJJD employees.

C. What information does the agency collect/use to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of this division or program? If applicable, briefly note any LBB performance measures (from Section II, Exhibit 2) but also provide any other metrics of program effectiveness and efficiency. Please provide the data source and/or methodology behind how each statistic or performance measure was determined. If you do not track measures of effectiveness for a given division, department, or program, please explain why.

This division provides mental health resources to probation departments, TJJD personnel, HHSC personnel, and JJAEP professionals to help bring awareness and greater knowledge about the mental health issues our youth may have. The program also assists with the review of applications for diversion of youth. The effectiveness of this division is demonstrated by utilizing available resources to prevent commitments to the state. The more counties utilizing regional diversion alternatives (RDA) funding and diverting kids away from TJJD while appropriately matching their service needs is a measurement of efficiency for the juvenile justice system as a whole.

This program assists local juvenile probation departments in finding resources for youth with more specialized needs. The scope of these needs identified at the time of referral from FY 2020 to FY 2024 show that on average:

- 26% of juveniles presented with a suspected or confirmed substance abuse need; and
- 38% of juveniles presented with mental health needs.

Probation departments use a common screening instrument for all juveniles (MAYSI) that indicates active concerns at the time of referral. Results of this instrument from FY 2020 to FY 2024 showed that on average:

- 8% of juveniles had a warning for alcohol or drug use;
- 13% of juveniles had a warning for anger and irritability;
- 11% of juveniles had a warning for depression and anxiety;
- 15% of juveniles had a warning for suicidal ideation;
- 12% of male juveniles had a warning for thought disturbance; and
- 61% of juveniles had a warning for traumatic experiences.

D. Describe any important history regarding this division or program not included in the general agency history section, including how the functions or services have changed over time. If the response to Section III of this report is sufficient, please leave this section blank.

During the 84th legislative session, SB 1630 directed TJJD to “create a new division of the department responsible for administering the regionalization plan and monitoring program quality and accountability” (Sec. 203.017, Human Resources Code). The regionalization team is comprised of various support staff with expertise in juvenile justice, evidence-based programming, and program implementation who actively assist stakeholders within each of the seven probation regions in Texas. In 2016, the agency expanded the regionalization team to include community mental health experts who could help the state’s 164 juvenile probation departments triage complex individual cases and identify gaps in services. This resulted in the

cross-collaboration with other juvenile service state agencies to further the mission of case continuity and coordination for each individual referred to the system. In 2025, the agency continued to expand the team by developing seven Regional Continuum of Care Coordinator (RCCC) positions that could further the system's efforts to identify and fill local service gaps.

E. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected by this division or program (e.g., licensees, consumers, and landowners). Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.

N/A

F. Describe how the division or program is administered, including a description of key processes involved. If you have existing documentation (e.g., flowcharts, timelines, and other illustrations) to describe agency policies and procedures, please include them as attachments. Indicate how field/regional services are used, if applicable.

Enhance communication between probation departments and the state. This program increases cross-collaboration with other state agencies, including, but not limited to, HHSC and DFPS, to strengthen case coordination and communication. These efforts have included frequent meetings with HHSC and DFPS to brainstorm ways to enhance the current systems to meet the complex mental health needs of our dual-status youth and youth with complex mental health needs. Various members of local probation departments are included in those meetings when appropriate. In addition, program staff serve as liaisons to link local probation departments with state agencies equipped to assist with mental health needs as they arise. These conversations have initiated various system reviews and modifications by HHSC to better respond to youth needs. This can be particularly helpful in efforts to expedite admission for youth needing psychiatric placement or admission under a Chapter 55 (Family Code) commitment. TJJD has partnered with HHSC to provide assistance to probation departments regarding case staffing, complex mental health needs, and risk, needs and responsivity-based interventions. These additional supports enhance regionalization's mission to divert individual youth from commitment to TJJD and keep youth closer to home.

Assist in regional diversion efforts. The Community Mental Health Program staff review applications for diversion and provide consultation to other regional support employees when a juvenile has a history of or active psychosis, suicide attempts requiring hospitalization in the previous two years, a current or recent history (in the past six months) of suicidal ideation, a significant mental illness requiring psychiatric hospitalization in the last two years, an intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) diagnosis, or a history of significant trauma. The consultation includes initial vetting of potential placements for youth and the locating of services or resources for youth who are difficult to place. Efforts to heighten the regional model include assisting with the development of a handbook to outline services provided by different facilities, creating resources for commercially sexually exploited youth, and providing evidence-based tools for community supervision of youth.

Support Local Probation Departments. The Community Mental Health Program supports local probation departments by consulting and collaborating on youth with complex mental health needs; activating inter-agency case collaboration for youth who are served by multiple agencies; assisting in locating appropriate placements for youth with complex mental health needs; building bridges between systems that are able to meet the needs of the youth and the probation departments; and providing weekly information, education, and resources on various mental health disorders and treatment strategies.

Continued Engagement with TJJD State Services Division. As an integral part of regionalization team, program staff support and understand the language and culture of both local juvenile probation departments and TJJD State Services. Regionalization work builds a bridge between the local and state levels of the juvenile justice system, which strengthens continuity of care, improves quality communication, and fulfills the underlying goal of the 82nd Legislature’s SB 653, “creating a unified state juvenile justice agency that works in partnership with local county governments, the courts, and communities to promote public safety by providing a full continuum of effective supports and services to youth from initial contact through termination of supervision.”

Provide Training on Best Practices. Training is an essential role of TJJD, and as part of the agency’s regionalization efforts, program staff collaborate with the Juvenile Justice Training Academy to provide training that is responsive to the needs of probation departments. Program staff have participated in the development of training curricula and worked with juvenile probation departments and juvenile justice professional organizations to provide webinars and in-person trainings.

Assist in Research-Based Program Development. Program staff are available upon request to conduct customized department-specific technical assistance and trainings (e.g., data entry training, data analysis, case management best practices, and program performance).

G. If key to understanding the division or program, identify funding sources and amounts, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. Please specify state funding sources (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, and fees/dues). (If you have already submitted funding source info through the “Agency Program Information” spreadsheet, please limit your response to funding formulas or funding conventions.)

Mental Health Services Grants. Included in the amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.7, Mental Health Services Grants, is \$14,178,353 in FY2026 and \$14,178,353 in FY2027 to fund mental health services provided by local juvenile probation departments. Funds shall be used by local juvenile probation departments only for providing mental health services to juvenile offenders.

H. Briefly discuss any memoranda of understanding (MOU), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts the agency uses to coordinate its activities and avoid duplication or conflict with other entities that provide similar or identical services or functions to the target population.

- Memorandum of Understanding on Services for Persons Needing Multiagency Services; Human Resources Code, Chapter 203

I. If the division or program works with local, regional, or federal units of government, include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.

As a part of the agency's regionalization efforts, the Community Mental Health Program works with the 164 juvenile probation departments that cover 254 counties in Texas to facilitate a one-system approach to juvenile justice. In addition to probation departments and TJJD State Services, the Community Mental Health Program regularly collaborates with:

- HHSC, IDD and Behavioral Health Services: Consistent collaboration on individual cases and regular meetings to review, address, and enhance systems; assist with trainings/presentations; and review current youth-serving systems in an effort to enhance those systems to better meet need.
- HHSC, YES Waiver: Consistent collaboration on individual cases and regular meetings to review, address, and enhance systems.
- HHSC, Office of Coordinating Council: Consistent collaboration on individual cases and regular meetings to review, address, and enhance systems. Primarily working to efficiently expedite movement of children needing psychiatric hospitalization or youth pending Chapter 55 (Family Code) commitments.
- HHSC, Office of Mental Health Coordination/CRCG: Initiate and attend regular meetings to review, address, and enhance systems; collaborate on statewide summits to increase collaboration with youth-serving agencies on a local level; and collaborate with TxSOC to integrate relevant stakeholders into TJJD's work.
- State Behavioral Health Coordinating Council: Two TJJD Executive team members serve on the SBHCC.
- Office of the Governor (OOG) Child Sex Trafficking Team: Assist in developing and creating resources for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY).
- Texas Judicial Commission of Mental Health (JCMH): TJJD's Executive Director serves as a Commissioner on JCMH, and two additional members of the executive team are on the collaborative council. Multiple agency representatives contribute to the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book and the Juvenile Law Bench Book committees. TJJD is also present on inter-agency collaboration at their annual conference.
- DFPS: Consistent collaboration on individual cases and regular meetings to review, address, and enhance systems and assist in communication with local probation departments.
- Texas Family Voice Network: Collaborate to ensure family voice is heard and valued within TJJD and local probation departments.

- Texas Institute of Excellence in Mental Health: Regularly collaborate on outreach projects.
- TDCJ: Initiate and attend regular meetings to address ongoing concerns regarding the TCOOMMI program.

J. Are there any barriers or challenges that impede the division or program's performance, including any outdated or ineffective state laws? Explain.

Reorganization implementation. The Community Mental Health Program is an integral support arm to the TJJD Regionalization Team. As of the SER's submission, two FTEs were assigned to this unit — the Manager of Community Interventions and Supports (licensed mental health professional) and a Community Intervention Program Administrator. During the previous Sunset review, it was noted that with additional funding, the program could be expanded to meet the ever-increasing demand for youth mental health services. Heading into FY 2026, TJJD will complete a substantial re-organization to the agency's parole and probation divisions that will increase the number of employees dedicated to mental health service coordination — from two to seven FTEs (Regional Continuum of Care Coordinators (RCCC); more on this position below).

The probation and parole divisions both support youth success in the community. The probation division provides technical support to ensure youth success in the community, pathways for diversion from TJJD placement, and discretionary state aid grant facilitation for innovation to aid county juvenile probation departments. The parole division provides supervision, therapeutic re-entry work, and sanctions for misconduct for youth currently on parole supervision. As both of these divisions work with re-entry, the agency has merged them under one executive leader, re-organized positions, and removed roles to create new ones with the intent to increase support for youth in the community before adjudication (probation) and after release from TJJD's secure facilities (parole).

The agency has created two roles designed to support the youth justice continuum at all intervention points for each region. These roles are the Regional Manager of Probation and Re-Entry Support (RM) and the Regional Continuum of Care Coordinator (RCCC). The RM is responsible for helping county probation departments find opportunities for diversion from TJJD adjudication, providing technical support, and supervising parole officers responsible for the youth currently in the community on parole status. The RCCCs are a regional role as well, developed to provide support and intervention services to youth on parole and their families, aid probation departments in their long-term strategic planning around resource development in the communities, and serve as an accelerant in the partnership and collaboration with other state agency partners. While we anticipate positive outcomes from reorganization and updated positions, equipping new staff with the training, resources, and expertise they need to succeed, as well as assimilating the field to the revamped structure, will take time.

Medicaid coverage. A continued barrier to care for justice-involved youth is the federal law that prohibits children in secure settings from having their Medicaid coverage reinstated when mental health services are needed. Progress was made through the passage of HB 1664 during the 87th legislative session, which required HHSC to reinstate Medicaid eligibility for children hospitalized in inpatient medical facilities. However, the law does not extend to mental health or psychiatric

facilities. This creates a gap for youth in detention who require mental health treatment. As a result, youth are often disconnected from their most trusted and effective providers at a time when they need support the most. Those with established relationships with mental health professionals cannot continue care, as current law prevents Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) from billing Medicaid for services provided in secure settings.

A step forward came at the federal level with the passage of Section 5121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. Though not yet implemented, this provision allows states to use Medicaid to cover certain services, including targeted case management, for youth up to 30 days before release from incarceration. TJJD is currently working with HHSC to implement this provision, which has the potential to reduce recidivism by connecting youth with critical services before reentry. Still, without complementary reforms such as Section 5122, which would allow Medicaid coverage to continue when mental health needs arise during detention, the system will continue to leave many youth without access to essential services from trusted members of their community care teams.

TCOOMMI. Two major initiatives supporting justice-involved youth are currently coordinated with or funded by the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI), a division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). TCOOMMI's primary mission focuses on coordinating probation and parole services in the adult system, which limits its capacity to adequately address the specific needs of the juvenile population. While the adult system may have been best suited to manage these responsibilities when the laws were originally enacted, years of juvenile justice reform and a growing understanding of adolescent brain development suggest that these efforts would be more appropriately led by an agency deeply rooted in juvenile justice research and practice.

Special Needs Diversionary Program (SNDP) is a Discretionary State Aid (DSA) grant established under Section 223.001(c) of the Texas Human Resources Code. Managed by TJJD, SNDP partners with TCOOMMI and designated mental health providers to increase access to effective services for juveniles with mental health needs. Operating in 21 counties, the program offers comprehensive community-based support as a part of a youth's conditions of release. Services include anger management therapy, life skills training, family and individual counseling, medication management, psychological counseling, drug or alcohol abuse intervention and treatment, group therapy, and other mental health services.

Although it has tangible benefits, there are also limitations. Because TCOOMMI funds the LMHA staff, local probation departments have limited influence over the type and scope of services provided. Additionally, youth must be transferred onto the caseloads of SNDP-funded staff when probation begins and removed when probation ends, leading to disrupted care and inconsistent service delivery. Furthermore, the availability of SNDP is limited to only 12 of the 40 LMHAs with a TCOOMMI contract, making the program inaccessible to most of the juvenile justice system. Collaborative efforts are underway to expand these services to also serve departments without an SNDP grant. Seven local probation departments have been chosen as pilot sites to house an LMHA position, funded through TCOOMMI, dedicated to continuum of care services for justice-involved youth. While this effort is a step in the right direction, we still recommend that both

coordination and funding for the juvenile justice initiatives below be transferred to TJJD to ensure a youth-focused approach.

While efforts to expand RCCCs to seven mental health coordination professionals will significantly help bridge service gaps, these positions are intended as coordinators of support, not as long-term providers of the comprehensive, rehabilitative care offered through programs like SNDP. Access to SNDP and other intensive in-home service delivery is currently limited to the departments with an active SNPP grant, and not inclusive of youth on parole, creating disparities in care. Statewide implementation is necessary to ensure all justice-involved youth receive the necessary level of support and opportunity for successful outcomes.

Texas Health and Safety Code 614.018, Continuity of Care for Juveniles with Mental Impairments, requires several agencies, including TJJD, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of State Health Services, DFPS, the Texas Education Agency, and local juvenile probation departments to adopt an MOU outlining their respective responsibilities in supporting a continuity of care program for juveniles with mental impairments. TCOOMMI is directed to coordinate and monitor the MOU's development and implementation. Although the MOU is required to be renewed every two years, it is currently outdated. Both TJJD and TCOOMMI have agreed to amend the MOU as additional information becomes available regarding new initiatives, including those related to TCOOMMI and Section 5121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

CRCG MOUs and participation. Finally, Texas Government Code 531.005 directs nine state agencies to enter into a memorandum of understanding that develops a community-based approach to provide better coordination of services for people with complex multi-agency needs. The MOU requires each state agency to ensure participation in the process at the local level through its representatives across the state. There is a consistently reported lack of engagement by some agencies, resulting in several local Community Resource Coordination Groups (CRCG) being led by juvenile probation representatives with little to no representation from some agencies. With the state agencies directly involved in the care of youth not occupying their seat at the table, fewer resources are available for youth and their families in CRCG meetings. More oversight by state agencies to ensure their local representatives are present for CRCG meetings could increase services options for youth and better outcomes for Texas families.

K. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the division or program.

N/A

L. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, piece of equipment, or other entity (e.g., a facility). For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:

N/A

M. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide detailed information on complaint and regulatory actions, including investigations and complaint resolutions. The data should cover the last five fiscal years and give a complete picture of the program's regulatory activity, including comprehensive information from initiation of a complaint to resolution of a case. The purpose of the table is to create uniformity across agencies under review to the extent possible, but you may make small adjustments to the table headings as needed to better reflect your agency's particular programs. If necessary to understand the data, please include a brief description of the data source and/or methodology supporting each measure. In addition, please briefly explain or define terms as used by your agency such as complaint, grievance, investigation, enforcement action, jurisdictional scope, etc.

N/A

Probation State Aid and Targeted Grants

A. Provide the following information at the beginning of each description.

Name of Program or Function: Probation State Aid and Targeted Grants Funding

Location/Division: Finance

Contact Name: Emily Anderson

Statutory Citation for Program:

Chapter 223, Texas Human Resources Code. Sections 221.051, 221.052, 203.008, 221.008, and 223.004, Texas Human Resources Code. Section 783.008, Texas Government Code.

B. What is the objective of this division or program? Describe its major activities.

TJJD's Probation and Finance teams are responsible for developing, administering, and monitoring the state aid and targeted grants TJJD offers to all juvenile probation departments from funds appropriated for general and discretionary state aid (DSA) to the probation system, regionalization services, prevention and intervention programs, juvenile justice alternative education programs, and the Title IV-E federal program. Department functions include helping to determine grant goals and allocations; managing grant application, review, and awarding functions; administering the grant contract; designing grant programs; managing grant budgets, disbursements, and expenditures; monitoring grant compliance; and reporting grant performance. Major activities performed by this team include:

Grant Awards. TJJD uses an objective and transparent grant award process that complies with required federal and state laws and guidelines applicable to each type of grant.

Contract Administration. The State Aid and Targeted Grants Contract for each juvenile probation department is managed through a variety of activities throughout the year to ensure compliance. These activities include reviews of budgets and quarterly expenditure reports, providing

consultation on allowable grant expenses and practices, approving budget adjustment and other grant activity requests, and reviewing local county expenditures and match requirements.

Grant Financial Transaction Administration. Each probation department's grant activity, budget adjustments, and expenditures are reviewed and regular grant disbursements are recommended to the TJJD Finance Division for final payment. The team also documents de-obligations and refunds of grant.

Grant Contract Monitoring. Monitoring of probation departments is completed to review compliance with key State Aid and Targeted Grants Contract provisions and confirm there is reasonable evidence that service delivery is consistent with contract requirements.

Independent Audit Review. This team issues annual independent audit requirements and reviews the audit reports for all grant funds submitted by juvenile probation departments in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), Government Auditing Standards (GAS), and the issued requirements.

- C. What information does the agency collect/use to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of this division or program? If applicable, briefly note any LBB performance measures (from Section II, Exhibit 2) but also provide any other metrics of program effectiveness and efficiency. Please provide the data source and/or methodology behind how each statistic or performance measure was determined. If you do not track measures of effectiveness for a given division, department, or program, please explain why.**

TJJD provides funding to 164 juvenile probation departments, which supports the maintenance of a juvenile probation system that serves all 254 counties in Texas. While each individual department receives differing ratios of state to local funding, TJJD provides, on average, 25 percent of juvenile probation funding. In FY 2025, TJJD allocated just over \$208 million in funds through these grants.

TJJD targets discretionary funding toward strategic needs in the juvenile justice system. In FY 2025, TJJD received 36 grant applications for DSA Community Grants, totaling \$4.5M. The agency funded 14 county projects, exhausting the \$1.77M available and leaving 22 counties and \$2.7M worth of requests unfunded. Additionally, the agency received nine county grant applications for Residential programs across the state, totaling \$2.8M. The agency awarded residential grants to Bexar (\$295,780), Dallas (\$399,675), Lubbock (\$355,000), Harris (\$329,603), Cameron (\$159,128), and Hays (\$85,000) counties, for a total of about \$1.6M leaving three counties and about \$1.2M worth of requests unfunded.

Community Juvenile Justice Appropriations, Riders, and Special Diversion Programs Report.

TJJD is required to submit to the Office of the Governor and Legislative Budget Board an annual report providing detailed monitoring, tracking, utilization, and effectiveness information on all funds appropriated in the agency's Goal A, Community Juvenile Justice. The report includes information on the impact of any new initiatives and all programs tracked by TJJD, including prevention and intervention programs; residential placements; enhanced community-based services for serious and chronic felons such as sex offender treatment, intensive supervision, and

specialized supervision; community-based services for misdemeanants no longer eligible for commitment to TJJD; Commitment Diversion Initiatives; and Regional Diversion Alternatives. The latest report is from December 2024.

See Attachment B: Community Juvenile Justice Appropriations, Riders and Special Diversion Programs - December 2024.

D. Describe any important history regarding this division or program not included in the general agency history section, including how the functions or services have changed over time. If the response to Section III of this report is sufficient, please leave this section blank.

The structure and methods of providing grants to local probation departments have shifted through the years with changes in appropriation structure, statute, general appropriations rider requirements, and various audit findings. Key changes that impact current grants include:

- Legislative adjustment of appropriation strategies for grant funds during the 83rd legislative session;
- The creation of a new appropriation strategy during the 85th legislative session — Regional Diversion Alternatives (RDA) designed to divert juveniles from TJJD commitment. Corresponding changes were adopted in Human Resources Code 203.017 directing TJJD to create and implement a regionalization plan and direct state cost savings generated by resulting reductions in TJJD commitment to probation departments beginning in fiscal year 2018;
- An amendment of Human Resources Code 223.001 during the 85th legislative session to require that TJJD set aside a portion of state aid for DSA grants;
- Creation of a new funding formula that was implemented in FY 16 and updated for FY 22;
- Amendments to the state formula funding for basic probation service during the 88th legislative session to provide appropriations based on total number of youth referred to juvenile probation departments rather than for only youth that are placed under county supervision;
- A reorganization to bring the grant team together into one department within TJJD's Finance division in FY 23; and
- Updated grant monitoring protocols in FY 25.

E. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected by this division or program (e.g., licensees, consumers, and landowners). Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.

TJJD grants are provided as pass-through funding from the Legislature to the 164 probation departments operating across the state and non-governmental entities that may support services to youth at risk of referral to or already involved in the juvenile justice system. Probation departments operating under the direction of a juvenile board in Texas are eligible to receive

grants awarded by formula, competitive application, or reimbursement for eligible services provided by the departments. Grants may be renewed for additional fiscal years to probation departments that meet grant performance criteria. All probation departments must execute a State Aid and Targeted Grants Contract with TJJD and submit an approved grant budget before receiving funds each fiscal year.

F. Describe how the division or program is administered, including a description of key processes involved. If you have existing documentation (e.g., flowcharts, timelines, and other illustrations) to describe agency policies and procedures, please include them as attachments. Indicate how field/regional services are used, if applicable.

Grant Awards. State aid formula funding (SAFF) is awarded annually upon TJJD Board approval of staff funding recommendations. Appropriated funds are entered into the formula calculation spreadsheet and resulting allocations for each of the five categories of SAFF and flexible funds to be budgeted into the five categories by probation departments are presented to the Board in the summer before the funded fiscal year for review and approval before being issued to probation departments. Discretionary grant allocation programs are awarded through a competitive selection process, with applications solicited when grant funds are available. These grants are renewable each year, depending on grant performance, for up to six years. Discretionary grant reimbursement programs provide replacement funds for probation department expenditures to provide specifically approved programs or services to approved juveniles.

Contract Administration. The State Aid and Targeted Grants Contract is reviewed and edited in the fiscal year between each legislative session and finalized by TJJD immediately after each session is completed to implement any changes needed as a result of legislative actions. The final draft of the contract is presented to the TJJD Board for approval, with a request to grant the agency executive director authority to execute and amend the contract, as needed, for the next biennium. Fully executed contracts, signed by each chief juvenile probation officer, probation department fiscal officer, juvenile board chair, and TJJD's executive director are required before a probation department receives grant funding. Contracts are in effect for a full biennium and may be amended, as needed.

Grant Financial Transaction Administration. In the summer before each fiscal year, TJJD staff present proposed probation grant allocations to the TJJD Board for approval that outline the recommended allocation of SAFF, direct grants, and DSA grants for each department and the amounts and methods of allocation proposed for any remaining discretionary grant funds and reimbursement grants. Each juvenile probation department has an assigned grant coordinator who is responsible for regularly reviewing and approving that department's grant financial transactions. Probation departments submit their grant budgets after receiving initial grant allocations, and the grant coordinator must approve their budget before the probation department is able to receive a disbursement of grant funds. The grant coordinator monitors grant activity, approves requests for budget adjustments or other grant waivers or amendments allowed by contract, ensures timely expenditure reporting, reconciles expenditure reports with grant budgets, and recommends monthly grant disbursement amounts to the TJJD Finance

Division for payment throughout the fiscal year. At the end of the year, the grant coordinator ensures any allocated funds not expended are de-obligated or refunded back to TJJD.

Grant Contract Monitoring. Probation department grant activity is monitored at regular intervals for compliance with key contract provisions in accordance with procedures set out in internal procedures. The agency grant manager completes a risk assessment of factors such as amount of funds granted, number of different grant programs, previously identified issues with grants for that department, and amount of time elapsed since last annual monitoring at the beginning of each biennium. The schedule for monitoring is determined based on the risk assessment results, with all high-risk departments receiving a full annual monitoring, all medium-risk departments receiving a quarterly monitoring, and 25 percent of low-risk departments receiving a quarterly monitoring during the biennium. All departments receive a full annual monitoring at least once every four years, and departments receiving \$750,000 or more per year in grant funds receive a full annual monitoring each biennium. Special monitoring may be completed at the discretion of TJJD.

Independent Audit Review. The State Aid and Targeted Grants Contract requires departments receiving grant funds to undergo an independent audit review unless granted a waiver from the requirement by TJJD. Independent audit waivers may be granted to departments receiving \$750,000 or less in funds every other year, depending on the results of TJJD's eligibility assessment that includes factors such as timely submission of contractually required reports, issues identified in the department's most recent independent audit, and results of the department's most recent grant monitoring. The grant contract monitors issues independent audit instructions and reviews submitted audit reports in accordance with probation services division internal procedures. concerns are noted in the review, the grant monitor communicates with the probation department to gain additional clarifying information or a plan of action to correct the issue noted through changes in procedure and, if necessary, refunds to TJJD.

- G. If key to understanding the division or program, identify funding sources and amounts, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. Please specify state funding sources (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, and fees/dues). *(If you have already submitted funding source info through the "Agency Program Information" spreadsheet, please limit your response to funding formulas or funding conventions.)***

In FY2024, TJJD expended approximately \$5.4M and allocated approximately 53 FTEs to support juvenile probation activities. The agency provides support in many areas, including regional probation assistance, training, finance, information technology support and systems, legal, monitoring and inspections, and OIG.

TJJD general revenue appropriations found in Goal A, strategies A.1.1. through A.1.8., of the agency's General Appropriations Act section provide the funding for all TJJD grants except the Title IV-E reimbursement program, which is supported by federal funds.

| Probation State Aid and Targeted Grant Programs | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| State Aid Funding Formula | \$ 163,088,379 | \$ 163,479,934 | \$ 167,134,364 | \$ 168,591,515 |
| Prevention and Intervention | \$ 3,012,177 | \$ 3,012,177 | \$ 3,012,177 | \$ 3,012,177 |
| Special Needs Diversionary Program | \$ 1,895,175 | \$ 1,895,175 | \$ 1,895,175 | \$ 1,895,175 |
| Direct Grants from GAA Rider | \$ 2,350,000 | \$ 2,350,000 | \$ 3,660,000 | \$ 2,950,000 |
| <i>Harris County Leadership</i> | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 |
| <i>MST El Paso</i> | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| <i>MST Harris</i> | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| <i>MST Williamson</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 600,000 | \$ 600,000 |
| <i>Border Justice</i> | \$ 100,000 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 100,000 |
| <i>Body Scanners</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 710,000 | \$ - |
| <i>Vocational Pilot</i> | \$ 250,000 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 250,000 |
| Mandatory JJAEP | \$ 5,637,500 | \$ 5,637,500 | \$ 5,637,500 | \$ 5,637,500 |
| Discretionary JJAEP | \$ 300,000 | \$ 300,000 | \$ 300,000 | \$ 300,000 |
| Regional Detention | \$ 4,000,000 | \$ 4,000,000 | \$ 4,000,000 | \$ 4,000,000 |
| Salary Grant | \$ 17,058,987 | \$ 34,302,034 | \$ 47,713,793 | \$ 47,713,793 |
| Title IV - Reimbursement | \$ 2,733,329 | \$ 2,733,329 | \$ 2,733,329 | \$ 2,733,329 |
| Total Probationstate Aid and Targeted Grants | \$ 200,075,547 | \$ 217,710,149 | \$ 236,086,338 | \$ 236,833,489 |
| Method of Finance for Probation Grant Programs | | | | |
| General Revenue | \$ 190,254,717 | \$ 207,889,319 | \$ 226,265,508 | \$ 227,012,659 |
| Federal Funds | \$ 2,733,330 | \$ 2,733,330 | \$ 2,733,330 | \$ 2,733,330 |
| Appropriated Receipts | \$ 1,150,000 | \$ 1,150,000 | \$ 1,150,000 | \$ 1,150,000 |
| IAC (Foundation School Fund) | \$ 5,937,500 | \$ 5,937,500 | \$ 5,937,500 | \$ 5,937,500 |
| Total MOF | \$ 200,075,547 | \$ 217,710,149 | \$ 236,086,338 | \$ 236,833,489 |

State Aid Formula Funds Grant. This grant provides over 80 percent of TJJD funding to probation departments. Funding derives from the basic probation supervision, community programs, pre- and post-adjudication facilities, commitment diversion initiatives, and mental health services strategies. Funding for each department is determined using a funding formula adopted by the TJJD Board. The main factors in the formula are:

- Estimated juvenile age population for the funded fiscal year;
- Referral history for the previous full three fiscal years;
- Previous years expenditure to allocation percent;
- A funding rate based on size of the department (with smaller departments receiving slightly more per referral); and
- Floor and ceiling levels set to regulate shifts in state funding year over year.

Discretionary State Aid. Discretionary grants comprise about 10 percent of TJJD funding to probation departments. The prevention and intervention and discretionary juvenile justice alternative education programs are funded through separate appropriation strategies, with the other four programs being funded through a blending of money set aside from the five state aid appropriation strategies, Regional Diversion Alternatives, and state cost savings from lowered commitments to TJJD. The six discretionary state aid programs are:

- Regional, Community and Residential Projects;
- Regional Diversion Alternatives;
- Prevention and Intervention Projects;
- Special Needs Diversionary Program;
- Discretionary Juvenile Justice Education Programs; and
- Border Children Justice Projects

Additional Programs.

- Mandatory Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs are funded through money appropriated to Texas Education Agency and directed to TJJD by rider in the General Appropriations Act. The total appropriation in FY2024 was \$5.9 million, with \$5.6 million to mandatory JJAEPs as outlined in Riders 13, 14, and 15 and \$300,000 to discretionary programs.
- Title IV-E funds are secured through submitting applications for federal foster care placement reimbursement to DFPS. It is not funding provided by the state, but it is estimated in the annual funding allocation recommendations TJJD provides to its Board because TJJD provides the administrative apparatus to review, approve, and submit the reimbursement applications. For FY2024, this program did not reimburse any expenditures.
- In FY2024, TJJD was directed by rider in the General Appropriations Act to set aside \$1,000,000 out of its pre- and post-adjudication facilities appropriation for the Harris County Leadership Academy. Additional riders also require TJJD to set aside and additional \$1,250,000 from its community programs strategy to fund vocational pilot programs in Cameron, Harris, and Hidalgo counties and front-end Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) programs in El Paso and Harris counties. The Legislature added an MST rider for Williamson County during the 89th legislative session.

H. Briefly discuss any memoranda of understanding (MOU), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts the agency uses to coordinate its activities and avoid duplication or conflict with other entities that provide similar or identical services or functions to the target population.

N/A

I. If the division or program works with local, regional, or federal units of government, include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.

This program works with the 164 juvenile probation departments that serve all 254 counties in Texas. State law requires each department to have a juvenile board. Some of these boards govern multiple counties. Each board, consisting of district and county judges, is responsible for overseeing the operation of the juvenile probation system in that county. This includes designating juvenile judges, appointing the chief juvenile probation officer, and setting the policies and budget for the juvenile probation department. The juvenile probation departments provide prevention, intervention, and diversionary services and programs to rehabilitate youth engaging in criminal activity and enhance public safety. TJJD provides regulatory oversight, funding, and technical assistance to juvenile boards and partners with them develop and maintain an effective juvenile justice system in Texas.

J. Are there any barriers or challenges that impede the division or program's performance, including any outdated or ineffective state laws? Explain.

The lack of increased funding for prevention and intervention programs as well as stagnant inflation adjustments to appropriation funding are the two major barriers facing TJJD's appropriation structure for juvenile probation support. The Legislature passed juvenile justice reforms in the past decade to prioritize the use of evidence-based practices to keep youth as shallow in the system as appropriate. Additionally, during the 88th legislative session, the Legislature amended the way in which probation departments receive funding; now, the state provides appropriations based on total number of youth referred to juvenile probation departments rather than for only youth that are ultimately placed under county supervision. The increased funding has greatly assisted local departments in keeping as more youth closer to home. However, funding for prevention and intervention programs has not increased to match county needs. Local probation departments work with community programs, schools, and other partners to intervene as early as possible in a youth's life to completely divert them from ever entering the justice system. Several counties have successfully worked with early intervention truancy programs which connect youth, their families, schools, and local law enforcement to build foundational relationships benefitting youth development.

Stable funding is required to maintain the current probation system that serves all 254 counties in Texas. Failure to maintain funding at adequate levels could result in counties opting out of providing juvenile probation services, leaving the state responsible for probation cases in those counties.

State appropriations for juvenile probation funding recognize statewide trends in rehabilitation and treatment needs and corresponding spending patterns that may not hold true for each individual department. There are six appropriation strategies supporting the basic state aid formula funding that compose more than 80 percent of the annual grant allocations TJJD provides to probation departments; prevention and intervention, basic probation, community programs, commitment diversion, mental health, and regional diversion. In FY 2018 and FY 2019, probation departments refunded 1.35 percent of all basic state aid formula grant funds to TJJD, but not all strategies were refunded at the same level. The commitment diversion and mental health services strategies had refunds almost double the overall level, 2.41 percent and 2.69 percent respectively. To that end, we recommend organizing funds into fewer strategies, combining commitment diversion, mental health, and prevention and intervention strategies into one, to provide probation departments more flexibility to fully utilize resources and serve more juveniles at the local level.

K. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the division or program.

N/A

L. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, piece of equipment, or other entity (e.g., a facility). For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:

TJJD's Monitoring & Inspections Division conducts risk-based inspections of Juvenile Probation Departments; Secure Juvenile Pre-Adjudication Detention and Post-Adjudication Correctional Facilities; Short-Term Detention Facilities; and Non-Secure Correctional Facilities.

- Scope includes reviews of physical plant conditions, staffing ratios, training records, health and mental health services, incident reporting, grievance procedures, education, case management practices, and supervision.
- Procedures involve both announced and unannounced site visits, document and file reviews, interviews with staff and youth, and direct observation of daily operations. Standardized checklists aligned with Texas Administrative Code requirements are used to ensure consistency.

Follow-up Activities Conducted When Non-Compliance is Identified

When a facility is found non-compliant:

- TJJD issues a Non-Compliance Citation Report (NCCR) outlining the violated standard and supporting evidence.
- Facilities must submit a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) detailing corrective actions and timelines.
- Monitoring staff review and verify corrective actions through follow-up documentation, desk audits, and, when necessary, re-inspections.
- Continued or repeated non-compliance may result in escalated oversight and increased monitoring frequency.

Actions Available to Ensure Compliance

TJJD has a range of graduated enforcement tools, including:

- Issuing formal citations and requiring corrective action plans.
- Sending a suitability determination notice to each juvenile court judge presiding in the county where the facility is located, in accordance with Texas Family Code §§51.12, 51.125, and 51.126.
- Withholding or suspending state funding for placements in the facility.
- Placing restrictions on program operations (e.g., admissions moratorium).
- Revoking the facility's registration.

These enforcement mechanisms are designed both to correct deficiencies and to safeguard the welfare of youth in custody or supervision.

Procedures for Handling Consumer/Public Complaints Against Regulated Entities

- Public complaints may be submitted via email to tjjd-publiccomplaints@tjjd.texas.gov.
- TJJD addresses complaints regarding services provided to youth in TJJD's care, as well as complaints involving alleged violations of the TJJD Code of Ethics or allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation involving juvenile probation department or facility personnel and juvenile boards.
- TJJD does not handle complaints about local juvenile boards or probation department personnel unrelated to abuse, neglect, or exploitation; such complaints should be directed to the local chief juvenile probation officer or board chair.
- To report suspected criminal behavior or abuse, the TJJD Abuse Hotline is available at (866) 477-8354.
- The Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO) provides independent oversight and serves as an additional avenue for youth and families to raise concerns.

M. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide detailed information on complaint and regulatory actions, including investigations and complaint resolutions. The data should cover the last five fiscal years and give a complete picture of the program's regulatory activity, including comprehensive information from initiation of a complaint to resolution of a case. The purpose of the table is to create uniformity across agencies under review to the extent possible, but you may make small adjustments to the table headings as needed to better reflect your agency's particular programs. If necessary to understand the data, please include a brief description of the data source and/or methodology supporting each measure. In addition, please briefly explain or define terms as used by your agency such as complaint, grievance, investigation, enforcement action, jurisdictional scope, etc.

N/A

Regionalization and Diversion

A. Provide the following information at the beginning of each description.

Name of division or program: Regionalization and Diversion

Location within the agency: Probation Services

Contact name: Ashley Kintzer and Matthew Smith

Statutory citation: Sections 203.017, 2232.001(d), and 2232.001(f), Texas Human Resources Code.

B. What is the objective of this division or program? Describe its major activities.

Regionalization staff's basic function is to divert youth from TJJD and develop programs and services that best meet the needs of local juvenile probation departments. Strengthening a one-system approach, regionalization has evolved and expanded, adding probation supports to the Texas juvenile justice system for the first time since the 2011 merger of the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) and Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC). Regionalization staff have successfully developed strong collaborative relationships between TJJD, other youth-serving agencies, and local juvenile probation departments. This partnering has fostered enhanced cooperation across the juvenile justice continuum.

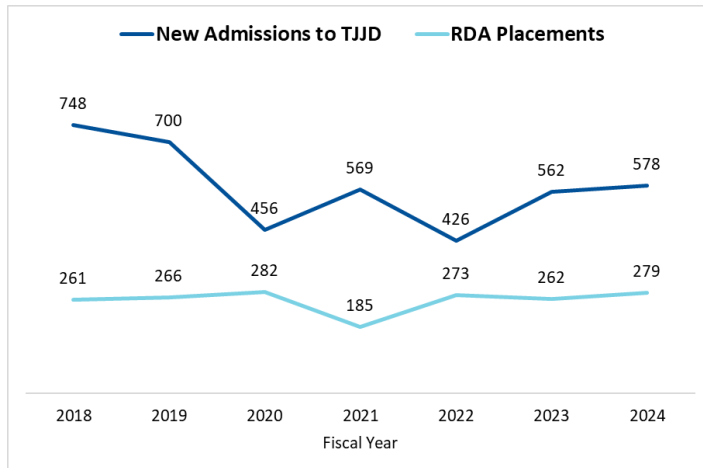
The work of the regionalization team transcends traditional youth-serving agencies. The department engages new partners to increase resources for youth and respond to evolving referral trends. Continued support of the regionalization concept is necessary to maintain the reduction in commitments to TJJD and strengthen the overall juvenile probation field to create better outcomes for youth throughout Texas.

The regionalization team is trained to support and understand both the local juvenile probation departments and TJJD State Services. Building a bridge between these two entities has strengthened the continuity of communication to ensure the underlying mission to achieve a one-system approach to juvenile justice in the state of Texas.

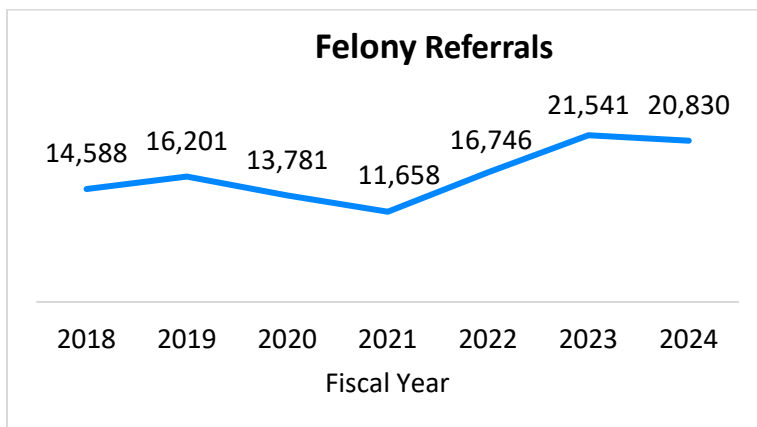
TJJD created a regionalization team to:

- Approve applications and related protocols to administer a regional service model;
- Provide training on best practices for local probation departments;
- Assist in research-based program development;
- Monitor grant contract and program measures;
- Analyze department data to provide clear guidance to local probation departments on outcome measures;
- Report on performance of specific programs and placements to assist in implementing best practices and maximize the impact of state funds;
- Aid probation departments regarding case staffing, complex mental health needs, and risk, needs, and responsivity-based interventions;
- Collaborate with other state agencies, including but not limited to HHSC and DFPS, to strengthen case coordination and communication; and
- Enhance communication between the local juvenile justice programs and the state.

- C. What information does the agency collect/use to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of this division or program? If applicable, briefly note any LBB performance measures (from Section II, Exhibit 2) but also provide any other metrics of program effectiveness and efficiency. Please provide the data source and/or methodology behind how each statistic or performance measure was determined. If you do not track measures of effectiveness for a given division, department, or program, please explain why.



TJJD created the regionalization team in 2016 to implement SB 1630. Between 2018-2024, the number of youth committed to TJJD has declined by 23 percent. The efforts of the regionalization team coupled with cooperation and investment from the field have assisted toward this decline.



While commitments to state facilities have declined over time, felony referrals to the juvenile justice system have increased, surpassing pre-pandemic levels by 2022. To support our county partners in addressing this increase, the regionalization team's focus on expansion of front-end services and enhancement of existing residential placement capacity within Texas.

TJJD began providing opportunities to 164 juvenile probation departments through Regional Diversion Alternatives (RDA) in June 2016. This funding is intended to provide alternatives to commitment to TJJD. There was a 186 percent increase in the participation by the juvenile probation departments between fiscal years 2016 and 2025. As participation in regionalization diversion increases, Texas experiences cost savings that are reinvested into the field.

| Fiscal Year | Number of RDA- Participating Departments |
|--------------------|---|
| FY 2016 | 29 |
| FY 2017 | 73 |
| FY 2018 | 96 |
| FY 2019 | 95 |
| FY 2020 | 93 |
| FY 2021 | 82 |
| FY 2022 | 81 |
| FY 2023 | 89 |
| FY 2024 | 85 |
| FY 2025 | 83 |

D. Describe any important history regarding this division or program not included in the general agency history section, including how the functions or services have changed over time. If the response to Section III of this report is sufficient, please leave this section blank.

In 2015, the 84th Legislature passed SB 1630, requiring TJJD to finalize a regionalization plan by August 31, 2016, that would keep more adjudicated youth within their home regions, by accessing available local post-adjudication facilities and other county-level services. The regionalization plan was required to include sufficient mechanisms to divert 30 juveniles from TJJD commitment in fiscal year 2016 and 150 youth in fiscal year 2017. SB 1630 also required TJJD to establish a new division to administer the regionalization plan and monitor program quality and accountability. Regional associations, lines of communication and collaboration, and programmatic resources existed to facilitate this initiative; however, significant planning efforts utilizing the regional association started immediately after the bill was passed.

In August 2015, the first Regionalization Task Force was established as a mechanism to consult with juvenile probation departments and other stakeholders on the development of the plan. The task force included representatives from the seven Texas juvenile probation chiefs' associations, the Juvenile Justice Association of Texas and the Texas Probation Association, members of the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services, a juvenile prosecutor, a juvenile court

judge, a representative of a coalition of youth advocacy groups, and a representative from the provider community. Additionally, internal TJJD subject matter experts continue to support the task force. TJJD has maintained and expanded this task force over time. The most recent iteration completed an updated regionalization plan between January and December 2024. The agency will begin convening the group again by January 2026 to complete its next biennial plan before the 90th legislative session.

Components of the plan and the team's ongoing work include:

- Defining the target population and eligibility requirements;
- Identifying and profiling regions to utilize for regionalization;
- Establishing funding protocols for individual diversions and start-up funding establishment for expanding programing;
- Assessing current and future regionalization capacity, in terms of available resources and identifiable needs;
- Outlining a simple diversion process for implementation by the counties;
- Developing actionable steps to enhance regional capacity, coordination, and collaboration at the county level of the system; and
- Analyzing commitment rates by region and county.

See Attachments C, D, E for 2016, 2023, and 2024 Regionalization Plans

In 2016, TJJD created four new positions to support the regionalization department: three regional county program administrators assigned to support and carry out the mission of the division and one regional planner to assist in monitoring contracts, tracking and processing diversion applications, and providing general support services for the division. At the start of FY 2026, the regionalization team grew again, now consisting of seven regional support staff and seven regional continuum of care coordinators, among other key county-focused positions.

E. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected by this division or program (e.g., licensees, consumers, and landowners). Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.

N/A

F. Describe how the division or program is administered, including a description of key processes involved. If you have existing documentation (e.g., flowcharts, timelines, and other illustrations) to describe agency policies and procedures, please include them as attachments. Indicate how field/regional services are used, if applicable.

Approve applications and related protocols to administer the regional model.

- Divert individual youth from the TJJD by administering the regional diversion alternatives (RDA) grant:
 - Establishing grant priorities based on known service gaps and needs in the probation field;
 - Reviewing individual applications submitted by juvenile probation departments;
 - Approving applications that align with the summary requirements of the RDA grant; and
 - Working with probation departments to help them find resources for hard-to-place youth.
- Continued heightening of the regional model by:
 - Developing and Publishing the Facility Handbook;
 - Developing and disseminating resources for commercially sexually exploited youth (CSEY); and
 - Enhancing the juvenile justice field's physical resources, adding state-funded but county-operated post-adjudication beds for system use, and developing evidence-based tools to enhance the community supervision of youth placed.

Provide training on best practices. Training is an essential role of TJJD, and the regionalization team collaborates with the Juvenile Justice Training Academy to ensure the training is responsive to the needs of the field. The regionalization team conducts model training throughout the state to assist juvenile probation departments with the development of programs. The team has participated in the development of training curricula and worked with juvenile probation departments and juvenile justice professional organizations to provide webinars and in-person trainings.

Assist in research-based program development. Staff are available upon request to conduct customized department-specific technical assistance trainings (e.g., data entry training, data analysis, case-management best practices, and program performance).

Analyze department data to provide guidance and maximize the impact of state funds. Agency staff provide direct support to the seven juvenile probation regions throughout Texas and monitor trends in statewide and county-specific referral and commitment data. This regular review enables the regionalization team to anticipate and act upon needs of the field.

Support best practices in juvenile justice. The regionalization team aids probation departments with the development of individual case resources, programs and placements for youth with complex mental health needs, and risk, needs, and responsivity-based interventions.

G. If key to understanding the division or program, identify funding sources and amounts, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. Please specify state funding sources (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, and fees/dues). (If you have already submitted funding source info through the “Agency Program Information” spreadsheet, please limit your response to funding formulas or funding conventions.)

| Regionalization and Diversion Grant Programs | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Discretionary State Aid Grants | \$ 10,200,000 | \$ 10,200,000 | \$ 10,200,000 | \$ 10,200,000 |
| Regional Diversion Alternatives - Reimbursement | \$ 10,704,232 | \$ 10,704,232 | \$ 12,081,059 | \$ 12,081,059 |
| Risk and Needs Assessment Tool | \$ 1,125,000 | \$ 1,125,000 | \$ 1,125,000 | \$ 1,125,000 |
| Total Regionalization and Diversion Grants | \$ 22,029,232 | \$ 22,029,232 | \$ 23,406,059 | \$ 23,406,059 |
| Method of Finance for Regionalization and Diversion | | | | |
| General Revenue | \$ 22,029,232 | \$ 22,029,232 | \$ 23,406,059 | \$ 23,406,059 |
| Total MOF | \$ 22,029,232 | \$ 22,029,232 | \$ 23,406,059 | \$ 23,406,059 |

The RDA grant is funded from TJJD’s appropriation strategy A.1.8, and state cost savings generated by reduced commitments to TJJD. Since regionalization’s first full year of implementation in FY 2017, \$7 million to \$10 million per year has been dedicated to this grant.

H. Briefly discuss any memoranda of understanding (MOU), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts the agency uses to coordinate its activities and avoid duplication or conflict with other entities that provide similar or identical services or functions to the target population.

N/A

I. If the division or program works with local, regional, or federal units of government, include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.

The regionalization team regularly engages other youth-serving agencies to ensure that these agencies are aware of and have access to effective services for justice-involved youth. Other state agencies that we engage include:

- Office of the Governor (OOG) Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) to facilitate the utilization of tools and programs for youth identified at risk of sex trafficking within the juvenile justice system of Texas;
- HHSC to collaborate on individual cases and hold regular meetings to review, address and enhance systems, assist with trainings/presentations, and review current youth-serving systems in an effort to enhance those systems to better meet youth need;
- DFPS to engage in consistent collaboration on individual cases, hold regular meetings to review, address and enhance systems, and assist in communication with local probation departments;
- Texas Supreme Court Children’s Commission;

- Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health;
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice; and
- Texas Judicial Commission of Mental Health.

J. Are there any barriers or challenges that impede the division or program's performance, including any outdated or ineffective state laws? Explain.

Texas Family Code §54.04013, Special Commitment to TJJD, lays out that “the court should consider the findings of a validated risk and needs assessment and the findings of any other appropriate professional assessment available to the court.” The language is passive using the word “should” when Human Resource Code 221.003 clearly outlines the importance of this tool being validated in accordance with best practices and before the disposition hearing. Updating this language to read “the court shall consider the findings of a validated risk and needs assessment” would inform judicial findings in the same way that HRC §221.003 intends to inform a juvenile probation department in the development of a dispositional recommendation, providing consistency across the juvenile justice system.

Additional barriers are addressed in greater detail in the Major Issues section.

K. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the division or program.

N/A

L. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, piece of equipment, or other entity (e.g., a facility). For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:

N/A

M. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide detailed information on complaint and regulatory actions, including investigations and complaint resolutions. The data should cover the last five fiscal years and give a complete picture of the program's regulatory activity, including comprehensive information from initiation of a complaint to resolution of a case. The purpose of the table is to create uniformity across agencies under review to the extent possible, but you may make small adjustments to the table headings as needed to better reflect your agency's particular programs. If necessary to understand the data, please include a brief description of the data source and/or methodology supporting each measure. In addition, please briefly explain or define terms as used by your agency such as complaint, grievance, investigation, enforcement action, jurisdictional scope, etc.

N/A

Policy, Rule, and Standards Development and Interpretation

A. Provide the following information at the beginning of each description.

Name of division or program: Policy Division

Location within the agency: Executive Office

Contact name: Cameron Taylor

Statutory citation: Human Resources Code §242.003(a)

B. What is the objective of this division or program? Describe its major activities.

The Policy Division is responsible for facilitating the review and approval of all policies, rules, and standards needed to accomplish TJJD's mission. The creation and maintenance of administrative rules and policies, as well as the interpretation thereof, is necessary to fulfill TJJD's state- and county-level responsibilities. Major functions of the Policy Division include:

- Coordinating with agency divisions and other stakeholders to identify concerns with existing policies, rules, and standards;
- Determining the need for revisions or new standards, and facilitating their review, revision, and implementation throughout the policy development process;
- Providing analysis of proposed changes to assess their potential impact on juvenile justice programs and facilities, and compiling supporting documentation for consideration by TJJD executive management and the TJJD Board;
- Communicating revision notices and related education/technical assistance communications to relevant stakeholders, and assisting agency personnel effectuating proposed revisions;
- Preparing written summaries of applications requesting temporary waivers or permanent variances from agency standards for review by TJJD executive management and the Board;
- Evaluating active and proposed state and federal legislation to determine its potential effect on agency and local justice system policies, practices, and standards, and researching best practices, model standards, and current trends in juvenile justice;
- Providing interpretation and technical assistance to internal and external stakeholders regarding policies and rules to ensure consistent application and communication across all agency divisions;
- Coordinating the submission of Texas Administrative Code proposals with the Secretary of State's Office; and
- Preparing, maintaining, and cataloging division records.

- C. What information does the agency collect/use to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of this division or program? If applicable, briefly note any LBB performance measures (from Section II, Exhibit 2) but also provide any other metrics of program effectiveness and efficiency. Please provide the data source and/or methodology behind how each statistic or performance measure was determined. If you do not track measures of effectiveness for a given division, department, or program, please explain why.**

The Policy Division evaluates policy proposals for both their impact on furthering the agency's mission and goals (e.g., Executive Director priorities, strategic plan action items, ensuring statutory compliance, etc.) and the difficulty/technicality of implementation. Projects with the most difficult or technical implementation are prioritized the highest.

In project management, the Policy Division utilizes Microsoft Suite tools such as Microsoft Forms and Lists to enhance effectiveness and efficiencies and track project completion.

The Policy Division also ensures TJJD's compliance with statutorily required rule review, through which the agency evaluates whether the original reason for adopting rules continues to exist and whether rules should be readopted by the Board. Since January 1, 2021, TJJD's Board has approved the repeal of 17 rules identified by the rule review process. TJJD began the rule review process by examining agency rules that affect state programs and facilities; staff, in collaboration with local stakeholders, are now examining standards that affect county operations. These review efforts provide a coordinated process for the ongoing development and review of the standards, and are intended to prioritize necessary revisions while ensuring standards remain relevant and current.

- D. Describe any important history regarding this division or program not included in the general agency history section, including how the functions or services have changed over time. If the response to Section III of this report is sufficient, please leave this section blank.**

From the inception of TJJD, agency staff tasked with supporting the probation field had facilitated the agency's review of existing standards and development and adoption of new standards. In FY 2021, a position within the probation support team was created to organize these efforts. In FY 2024, the position was reassigned to the Policy Division to emphasize a broader focus on the entire juvenile justice system.

- E. List any qualifications or eligibility requirements for persons or entities affected by this division or program (e.g., licensees, consumers, and landowners). Provide a statistical breakdown of persons or entities affected.**

N/A

F. Describe how the division or program is administered, including a description of key processes involved. If you have existing documentation (e.g., flowcharts, timelines, and other illustrations) to describe agency policies and procedures, please include them as attachments. Indicate how field/regional services are used, if applicable.

With regard to administrative rules and policies governing TJJD, the Policy Division helps establish priorities for the agency with executive guidance and is responsible for facilitating the proposed revisions through the policy development process. This includes drafting necessary changes to all rules, policies, and forms impacted by proposed changes, facilitating the approval of the revisions, and promulgating the approved revisions to relevant staff and stakeholders. The Policy Division also helps to ensure changes are consistent with laws and settlement agreements applicable to the agency, in coordination with TJJD's Office of General Counsel.

When a division wants to initiate a policy change, divisional leadership submits an electronic Policy Proposal form to the Policy Division. Policy Division personnel work with the subject matter experts to draft the requested change, which includes determining if additional policies need to be changed. The Deputy General Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel typically aids the Policy Division in determining if requested changes are consistent with laws that govern the agency. Sometimes, convening stakeholder workgroups is necessary for policy drafting. The process involves multiple discussions and draft exchanges between the Policy Division and the division requesting the changes to get the best possible version. The proposal then goes through additional review for final editing by the Policy Director before it is sent to the appropriate staff for approval. Administrative rules are presented to the Board for approval to post in the *Texas Register*. The Board typically gives conditional approval to adopt the rules after posting as long as no comments are received and no substantive changes are made after posting. Otherwise, the rules are presented to the Board in a subsequent meeting for approval to adopt. Policies that do not require Board approval receive final approval from the Executive Director.

With regard to standards (administrative rules) governing juvenile probation departments and facilities regulated by TJJD, revisions are developed in partnership between the agency, juvenile probation departments, and other relevant stakeholders. The Policy Division works with TJJD's Office of General Counsel, internal agency experts, and members of the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services to draft changes to existing standards, as well as adopt new standards when required by statute. These standards are ultimately approved by the Board in the aforementioned rulemaking process.

In some instances, when a standard is identified for revision or creation, the Advisory Council on Juvenile Services' Standards Committee identifies people to serve on a workgroup. The agency also identifies appropriate TJJD employees to serve on the workgroup. These typically include subject matter experts like probation support staff, attorneys in the Office of General Counsel, and members of the Monitoring & Inspections Division, with coordination and support from the Policy Division. These are in-person or videoconference workgroups that methodically move through the standard, working together to evaluate necessary revisions and draft language. A TJJD attorney, typically the Deputy General Counsel, serves on the workgroup and helps to ensure the standards are consistent with relevant statutes. After approval from the workgroup and

appropriate agency staff, the standards are presented to the Board and follow the same process as internal administrative rules that are presented to the Board. In other instances, a TJJD policy attorney works together with various employees of juvenile probation departments and facilities to propose revisions without the need for a formal workgroup.

While not a common occurrence, TJJD has established emergency rules on several occasions. TJJD's Board may adopt emergency rules to expedite the effective date of the changes if certain criteria are met. Emergency rules take effect without a public comment period and are initially in effect for up to 120 days, with a possible 60-day extension if the Board approves. TJJD quickly coordinates the standard process to follow any emergency rulemaking action, which does include the public comment period.

- G. If key to understanding the division or program, identify funding sources and amounts, including federal grants and pass-through monies. Describe any funding formulas or funding conventions. Please specify state funding sources (e.g., general revenue, appropriations rider, budget strategy, and fees/dues). (If you have already submitted funding source info through the "Agency Program Information" spreadsheet, please limit your response to funding formulas or funding conventions.)**

The Policy Division consists of four FTEs funded by General Revenue divided among budget strategies, as the Division supports the entire agency. The total annual salary amount for these FTEs is \$344,119.44.

- H. Briefly discuss any memoranda of understanding (MOU), interagency agreements, or interagency contracts the agency uses to coordinate its activities and avoid duplication or conflict with other entities that provide similar or identical services or functions to the target population.**

N/A

- I. If the division or program works with local, regional, or federal units of government, include a brief description of these entities and their relationship to the agency.**

With regard to standards, the Policy Division coordinates with employees of the juvenile probation departments and facilities the agency regulates. This helps to ensure the standards are actionable and revisions are driven by consensus to the extent possible.

- J. Are there any barriers or challenges that impede the division or program's performance, including any outdated or ineffective state laws? Explain.**

N/A

- K. Provide any additional information needed to gain a preliminary understanding of the division or program.**

N/A

- L. Regulatory programs relate to the licensing, registration, certification, or permitting of a person, business, piece of equipment, or other entity (e.g., a facility). For each regulatory program, if applicable, describe:

N/A

- M. For each regulatory program, if applicable, provide detailed information on complaint and regulatory actions, including investigations and complaint resolutions. The data should cover the last five fiscal years and give a complete picture of the program's regulatory activity, including comprehensive information from initiation of a complaint to resolution of a case. The purpose of the table is to create uniformity across agencies under review to the extent possible, but you may make small adjustments to the table headings as needed to better reflect your agency's particular programs. If necessary to understand the data, please include a brief description of the data source and/or methodology supporting each measure. In addition, please briefly explain or define terms as used by your agency such as complaint, grievance, investigation, enforcement action, jurisdictional scope, etc.

N/A

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
(Regulatory Program Name)
Exhibit 14: Information on Regulated Population; Complaints Against Regulated Persons,
Businesses, or other Entities; and Disciplinary Actions
Fiscal Years 2020 to 2024
Not Required Under Limited Scope Review

| *Number Within Total Regulated Population (Active Credentials Only) | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 | Fiscal Year 2022 | Fiscal Year 2023 | Fiscal Year 2024 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Number of (License / Certification / Registration / Permit Holder) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |

Table 14 Exhibit 14 Information on Complaints Against Persons or Entities

| Complaints Received by Source | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 | Fiscal Year 2022 | Fiscal Year 2023 | Fiscal Year 2024 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Complaints Received | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Initiated by Agency (originating from criminal history checks)* | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Initiated by Agency (not originating from criminal history check) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Originating from Public (including other regulated persons or entities) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Originating from Other Agencies | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |

Table 15 Exhibit 14 Information on Complaints Against Persons or Entities

| Disposition of Complaints | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 | Fiscal Year 2022 | Fiscal Year 2023 | Fiscal Year 2024 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Complaints Received* | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Found Jurisdictional | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Found Non-Jurisdictional | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Total Complaints Dismissed (no investigation) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Dismissed for Lack of Evidence (no investigation) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Dismissed Due to No Violation Alleged (no investigation) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Total Complaints Sent for Investigation | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |

Table 16 Exhibit 14 Information on Complaints Against Persons or Entities

| Complaints Resolved | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 | Fiscal Year 2022 | Fiscal Year 2023 | Fiscal Year 2024 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Complaints Resolved After Investigation | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Dismissed for Lack of Evidence Found in Investigation | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Complaints Dismissed Due to No Violation Found in Investigation | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Total Complaints Resolved Through Informal Action | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Total Complaints Resolved Through Formal Action | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |

Table 17 Exhibit 14 Information on Complaints Against Persons or Entities

| Disciplinary Actions Taken | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 | Fiscal Year 2022 | Fiscal Year 2023 | Fiscal Year 2024 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Complaints Resolved Through Final Orders (Formal and Informal)* | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| <u>Number</u> of Administrative Penalties Issued | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| <u>Total Amount</u> of Administrative Penalties Issued | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| <u>Total Amount</u> of Administrative Penalties Collected | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| <u>Average Amount</u> of Administrative Penalties Issued | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| <u>Average Amount</u> of Administrative Penalties Collected | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Warnings | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Reprimands | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Suspensions | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Probated Suspensions | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Revocations | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Remedial Plans (if applicable) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| (Other Disciplinary Action – Specify)** | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |

Table 18 Exhibit 14 Information on Complaints Against Persons or Entities

| Disciplinary Actions Appealed | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 | Fiscal Year 2022 | Fiscal Year 2023 | Fiscal Year 2024 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total Hearings at SOAH | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Agency Prevailed at SOAH | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Agency Did Not Prevail at SOAH | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Total Appeals by Respondent to District Court | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Agency Action Affirmed by District Court | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Agency Action Overturned or Changed by District Court | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Total Appeals by Agency to District Court | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Agency Action Affirmed by District Court | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Agency Action Overturned or Changed by District Court | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |

Table 19 Exhibit 14 Information on Complaints Against Persons or Entities

| Timelines for Enforcement Actions | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 | Fiscal Year 2022 | Fiscal Year 2023 | Fiscal Year 2024 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Final Resolution = complaint dismissed or final order entered; does not include time in appeals to district court</i> | | | | | |
| Average Days from Complaint Received to Final Resolution | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Maximum Days from Complaint Received to Final Resolution | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Average Days from Complaint Received to Dismissed | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Average Days from Complaint Received to Dismissed (no investigation) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Average Days from Complaint Received to Investigation Finished | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Average Days from Start to Finish of Investigation | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Number of Complaints Open for More than One Year (as of August 31 st of Fiscal Year) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Percentage of Complaints Resolved within Six Months | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |

Table 20 Exhibit 14 Information on Complaints Against Persons or Entities

VIII. Statutory Authority and Recent Legislation

A. Fill in the following tables, listing citations for all state and federal statutes that grant authority to or otherwise significantly impact your agency. Do not include general state statutes that apply to all agencies such as the Public Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, or the Administrative Procedure Act. Provide information on Attorney General opinions from fiscal years 2020-2024 or earlier significant Attorney General opinions that affect your agency’s operations.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 15: Statutes / Attorney General Opinions
Not Required Under Limited Scope Review

Statutes

| Citation / Title | Authority / Impact on Agency <i>(e.g., “provides authority to license and regulate nursing home administrators”)</i> |
|------------------|---|
| (Text) | (Text) |

Table 21 Exhibit 15 Statutes

Attorney General Opinions

| Attorney General Opinion No. | Impact on Agency |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| (Text) | (Text) |

Table 22 Exhibit 15 Attorney General Opinions

B. Provide a summary of significant legislation regarding your agency by filling in the tables below or attaching information already available in an agency-developed format. Briefly summarize the key provisions. For bills that did not pass but were significant, briefly explain the key provisions and issues that resulted in failure of the bill to pass (e.g., opposition to a new fee or high cost of implementation). Place an asterisk next to bills that could have a major impact on the agency. See Exhibit 16 Examples.

**Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 16: 89th Legislative Session**

Legislation Enacted

| Bill Number | Author, Sponsor | Caption | Summary of Key Provisions |
|--------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| HB 6 | Leach, Perry | Relating to discipline in public schools. | <p>Makes a variety of changes regarding when youth may or shall be removed from class, suspended, or expelled from public schools, including when they may be required to attend a juvenile justice alternative education program (JJAEP). For information on updates to the offenses involved in mandatory and discretionary JJAEP placements, contact TJJD. Other key bill provisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes school board trustees to place an expelled student in a virtual expulsion program if the district is located in a county without a JJAEP, the district does not contract with another county that operates a JJAEP, or if the relevant JJAEP partnering with the district rejects the student's admission or returns the student before the expiration of the discipline assignment. Imposes safeguards regarding how virtual placements will operate (e.g., ensuring each student is reviewed at least every 45 days to determine if continued program placement is appropriate). • Prohibits TEA from withholding state funding or imposing a penalty on a school district based on the number of students removed from the classroom, placed into in-school or out-of-school suspension, placed in DAEPs and JJAEPs, or expelled. • Authorizes school board trustees to adopt a policy for parental involvement in school disciplinary placements, which if adopted, shall provide involvement opportunities that may reduce the period of a student's disciplinary placement. • Authorizes a school district to make mental health services available to students if the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium makes these services available to the district through the Texas Child Health Access through Telemedicine program, and expands the consortium's reporting requirements. |

| Bill Number | Author, Sponsor | Caption | Summary of Key Provisions |
|-------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| HB 451 | Thompson, S., Paxton | Relating to a screening for the risk of commercial sexual exploitation of certain children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifies that the risk assessment juvenile probation departments use before a youth's disposition must include a screening for risk of commercial sexual exploitation using a validated, evidence-informed tool selected by the Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit. Adds a similar screening requirement for youth in DFPS conservatorship, if developmentally appropriate for the youth and concerns of commercial exploitation exist. However, specifies DFPS is required to implement the provision only if the Legislature appropriates funding to do so. |
| HB 500 | Bonnen, Huffman | Relating to making supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supplemental appropriations bill for the 89th legislative session. Among other things, appropriates TJJD \$104M to complete the construction of new facilities in Ellis and Brazoria counties; \$13.3M to reimburse counties for the cost of housing youth on the waitlist; and \$5M for life safety preventative maintenance. |
| HB 1545 | Bell, K., Parker | Relating to the sunset review process and certain governmental entities subject to that process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjusts the schedule of reviews conducted by the Sunset Advisory Commission during upcoming biennia. Adjustments related to TJJD include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes TJJD's abolishment date from September 1, 2027 to September 1, 2031. Requires Sunset to conduct a limited-scope review during the FY2026-27 biennium focused on the administration of regionalization duties, and specifies OIO will not be reviewed at the same time. Requires TJJD to submit a report to the Lt. Governor, Speaker, Sunset, and committees of jurisdiction by September 1, 2026, covering progress on the DOJ investigation, waitlist information, staff turnover, and the construction of new state facilities. Other relevant agencies under review during the FY2026-27 biennium include HHSC, DFPS, DSHS, and TWC. |
| HB 1778 | Thompson, S., Huffman | Relating to human trafficking, prostitution, and child pornography and to the prosecution of sexual or assaultive offenses or the prosecution of a failure to stop or report those offenses; amending and harmonizing certain statute of limitations provisions; creating a criminal offense; increasing a criminal penalty. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among other provisions, adds various agencies, including TJJD, to those that must report certain information to OAG about investigations of offenses that may involve human trafficking. With this information, requires OAG to establish a statewide human trafficking data repository that allows OAG to evaluate and make recommendations regarding improvements to the efficacy of state-funded anti-trafficking initiatives. Revises various offense provisions related to trafficking of persons, prostitution, child pornography, and sexual or assaultive offenses or failure to stop or report those offenses (e.g., amends the offense of trafficking of persons to specify that, for offenses involving a child or person with a disability, the actor would not be required to know the victim's age or disability status). |

| Bill Number | Author, Sponsor | Caption | Summary of Key Provisions |
|-------------|-------------------|---|--|
| HB 3153 | Kerwin, Kolkhorst | Relating to hiring and employment requirements for persons in direct contact with children at certain facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires certain governmental entities (TJJD, HHSC, municipalities, and counties) to review state criminal history record information and conduct an employment verification for individuals who: 1) are selected for or serving in an employment position, a volunteer position, or a contractor position; and 2) may be in direct contact with a youth receiving services in an applicable residential treatment facility, group home, detention facility, or shelter. To conduct employment verifications, requires facilities to contact previous employers (to the extent possible) and obtain electronic updates from DPS on arrests and convictions involving employees, volunteers, and contractors. Prohibits facilities from offering opportunities for employment, volunteering, and contracting based on certain results of the review or verification, and prohibits separation agreements from including a provision that does not allow disclosure to a prospective employer of certain conduct. Requires applicable facilities to train relevant employees, volunteers, and contractors on recognition of abuse, reporting requirements, and methods for maintaining appropriate relationships with children. |
| HB 4263 | Cook, Perry | Relating to the employment practices of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and to the eligibility of a person to be appointed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's release review panel and the authority of a panel member. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands eligibility for employees who may serve on TJJD's Release Review Panel to include staff who do not work in the agency's central office. However, specifies a panel member may not participate in any determinations involving a youth about whom the panel member made previous supervisory decisions. Removes the requirement for TJJD to develop procedures allowing an employee to elect to participate in an independent dismissal mediation if they are recommended for dismissal. Instead, requires TJJD to establish procedures governing grievances challenging disciplinary termination of employment. |
| HB 4885 | Moody, Zaffirini | Relating to the disclosure of confidential juvenile records to a managed assigned counsel program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows TJJD and other entities (e.g., juvenile courts, juvenile probation departments, prosecuting attorneys, and court clerks) to share confidential youth records with a managed assigned counsel program responsible for appointing an attorney to represent the youth in a proceeding to determine indigence or to fulfill the program's duties in appointing counsel when such a request is made. Exempts from redaction requirements certain information shared with a managed assigned counsel program. |

| Bill Number | Author, Sponsor | Caption | Summary of Key Provisions |
|-------------|---------------------|--|--|
| SB 1019 | Huffman, Hull | Relating to the admissibility of certain hearsay statements in the adjudication of certain sexual or assaultive offenses committed against a child or a person with a disability. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifies the law in juvenile hearings that allows for hearsay to be admitted in certain instances if it meets criteria as an “outcry statement.” |
| SB 1171 | Perry, Gonzalez, M. | Relating to compensation leave, and physical fitness programs and standards for certain employees of the office of inspector general of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires TJJD to ensure that OIG’s peace officers are compensated according to Schedule C of the position classification salary schedule prescribed by the General Appropriations Act. Entitles certain OIG employees to hazardous duty pay and injury leave. Adds TJJD’s OIG to the law enforcement agencies that are required to adopt certain physical fitness programs, standards, and incentives for officers. |
| SB 1437 | Bettencourt, Noble | Relating to the eligibility of certain individuals for certification as certain juvenile officers or employees of a juvenile facility. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes TJJD to designate certain uncertified individuals (i.e., those employed by, contracted with, or volunteering for TJJD, juvenile probation departments, or registered private facilities) as permanently ineligible for certification. Specifies ineligibility may be determined if the individual violated relevant statute or TJJD rules; they demonstrated unsuitability for certification; or a panel of TJJD board members determined their certification would threaten youth in the juvenile justice system. Clarifies that a person is entitled to a hearing before the State Office of Administrative Hearings if TJJD proposes to designate them as permanently ineligible for certification |
| SB 1728 | Perry, Lalani | Relating to the participation of certain juvenile justice entities in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands eligibility for the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program to TJJD, juvenile boards, and county juvenile probation departments. <i>Note, these grants support the development of career and technical education courses and programs.</i> |
| SB 1737 | Huffman, Geren | Relating to the eligibility for custodial officer service in the Employees Retirement System of Texas by certain juvenile correctional officers and caseworkers employed by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds certain TJJD employees (JCOs, caseworkers, and others with primary duties that include the custodial supervision of or other close, regularly planned contact with youth) to the definition of custodial officer, allowing these TJJD staff to access service credit benefits and service retirement annuities that already apply to TDCJ’s direct supervision staff (e.g., COs, parole officers, case workers). Requires TJJD to adopt standards in rule determining eligibility for service credits based on the need to encourage early retirement of persons whose duties are hazardous. |

| Bill Number | Author, Sponsor | Caption | Summary of Key Provisions |
|-------------|---------------------|---|---|
| SB 2177 | Hagenbuch, Little | Relating to the creation of a grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies in solving violent and sexual offenses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the Governor's Criminal Justice Division to establish and administer a grant program through which a law enforcement agency may apply for funding designed to improve clearance rates for violent and sexual offenses. Specifies funding awarded through the grant may be used for a variety of purposes, including hiring, training, and retraining personnel to investigate violent and sexual offenses; acquiring, upgrading, or replacing technology related to evidence collection and forensic testing; or updating relevant record management systems. |
| SB 2776 | Hinojosa, A., Lujan | Relating to the disclosure of certain information by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes TJJD to disclose information (including personally identifiable information) about a person who was committed to the department if they have been discharged, are at least 18, and have given consent for the disclosure. Specifies TJJD may not disclose any information for which the person does not provide consent. |
| SB 2878 | Hughes, Leach | Relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures related to proceedings in the judicial branch of state government, including court security, court documents and arrest warrants, document delivery, juvenile boards, and youth diversion; increasing a criminal penalty; authorizing fees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Omnibus judicial court bill for the 89th legislative session. Among other provisions, conforms statute to align with key bills passed during the 88th legislative session (HB 3186 on youth diversion; SB 24 on the transfer of certain DFPS duties to HHSC), and expands diversion requirements for youth are residing in a general residential operation. |

Table 23 Exhibit 16 Legislation Enacted 89th Legislature

Legislation Not Passed

| Bill Number | Author | Caption | Summary of Key Provisions / Reason Bill Did Not Pass |
|-------------|--------------|--|---|
| HB 31 | Thompson, S. | Relating to procedures related to juvenile justice proceedings and to the treatment of children detained in or committed to a juvenile facility. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits community supervision for defendants who committed a felony when they were at least 17 years old while they were committed to TJJD, placed in a state halfway house, or placed in a secure pre- or post-adjudication facility. Prohibits the use of chemical dispensing devices against pregnant youth in state- and county-level juvenile justice facilities. Requires TJJD to conduct an annual audit on use of force incidents in state- and county-level facilities, and requires TJJD to deliver to state leaders and post online an annual report on audit findings. Restricts the use of solitary confinement (defined broadly) in state- and county-level facilities, and requires facility administrators to report certain information regarding the use of solitary confinement, which TJJD must regularly audit. Amends the offenses for which a youth may be certified, and revises the procedures that juvenile courts must implement regarding waivers of jurisdiction. Authorizes juvenile courts to commit a youth to TJJD without a determinate sentence only if they engage in "serious felony conduct," which the bill defines. Authorizes the Special Prosecution Unit to participate in parole revocation hearings. Mirrors penalties in place for adults who tamper with their electronic monitoring device while on community supervision or parole. <i>Placed on House General State Calendar on 05/14/25.</i> |
| HB 355 | Craddick | Relating to the period within which the Texas Juvenile Justice Department must accept custody of a person committed to the department and to the consequences for the failure of the department. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires TJJD to accept custody of a youth committed to its care not later than the 30th day after the judge signs the commitment disposition. Specifies that, if TJJD does not take custody of the youth in this timeframe, TJJD must compensate the county for the cost of detaining the youth. Specifies that compensation must be equal to the amount that would have been incurred by TJJD to detain the youth for that period. Specifies that, beginning on the 31st day after the youth is committed to TJJD, TJJD shall give credit toward the MLOS of a youth spent in detention before transfer to state care. Companion was SB 468 (Sparks). <i>Referred to Senate Criminal Justice on 05/05/25.</i> |
| HB 437 | Swanson | Relating to the placement of children in a detention or correctional facility according to biological sex. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes TJJD to deny, suspend, or revoke the registration of any facility that fails to comply with the following new requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TJJD and juvenile boards must place youth in a detention or correctional facility according to the youth's biological sex. Requires TJJD and juvenile boards to, in accordance with PREA, consider the unique safety needs of each youth and take appropriate action to ensure health and safety. <i>House Criminal Jurisprudence committee report sent to Calendars on 05/10/25.</i> |

| Bill Number | Author | Caption | Summary of Key Provisions / Reason Bill Did Not Pass |
|-------------|--------------|---|---|
| HB 1461 | Frank, Perry | Relating to the confinement or detention of certain individuals in a county jail or other facility operated by or for the county and to the compensation of to the county for the costs of that confinement or detention. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires TJJD to accept custody of a youth committed to its care not later than the 45th day after the judge signs the commitment disposition. Specifies, if TJJD does not take custody of the youth in this timeframe, TJJD must compensate the county for the cost of detaining the youth. Specifies compensation must be equal to the amount that would have been incurred by TJJD to detain the youth for that period. Adds similar requirements for other agencies (HHSC, TDCJ) in comparable situations. <i>Referred to Senate Finance on 05/05/25.</i> |
| HB 1631 | Gamez | Relating to the duration of a child's detention following a detention hearing and a study on the effects of detention orders in a juvenile court proceeding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortens certain timeframes related to county-level detention hearings (e.g., requiring these hearings to occur every 5 days, instead of 10; or every 7 days, instead of 15, for counties without a detention facility). Requires TJJD to conduct a study regarding the effects of detention orders in a juvenile court proceeding. Companion was SB 2757 (Cook). <i>Left pending in House Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice on 03/20/25.</i> |
| HB 2040 | King | Relating to the required number of minutes of instructional time to be provided by a juvenile justice alternative education program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revises operations of a juvenile justice alternative education program to require the provision of at least 43,200 minutes of instructional time per year, rather than operation at least seven hours per day and 180 days per year. Companion was SB 301 (Perry). <i>Referred to Senate Education K-16 on 05/06/25.</i> |
| HB 2234 | Dutton | Relating to the age of criminal responsibility and to certain substantive and procedural matters related to that age. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raises the age of criminal responsibility from 17 to 18, and makes conforming changes across various codes. Companion was SB 1306 (Cook). <i>Received from the House on 05/19/25.</i> |
| HB 2814 | Plesa | Relating to providing children committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and prisoners serving a sentence in county jail with certain documents on discharge or release; authorizing a fee. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires TJJD to submit a request to DPS and/or DSHS for certain documents upon the intake of a youth – rather than as soon as practicable – to ensure the issuance of the youth's license (or personal identification certificate), birth certificate copy, and social security card copy upon their release or discharge from custody. Specifies TJJD may not delay the release or discharge of a youth because the agency has not received requested documents from DPS and/or DSHS. <i>Referred to Senate Criminal Justice on 05/19/25.</i> |

| Bill Number | Author | Caption | Summary of Key Provisions / Reason Bill Did Not Pass |
|-------------|--------|--|--|
| HB 4923 | Moody | Relating to status offenses committed by a child, including the repeal of the status offense of a child voluntarily running away from home. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes “running away from home” as a status offense or example of conduct indicating a need for supervision under the Texas Family Code. Specifies a youth who is accused only of a status offense may only be detained in a juvenile processing office, place of nonsecure custody, or a nonsecure correctional facility; they may not be placed in other settings like a secure detention facility. Sets limits on the time periods for which a youth accused only of a status offense may be detained, and entitles these youth to a detention hearing if they are not released within these time periods. · Companion was SB 1752 (Johnson). <i>Left pending in House Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice on 04/14/25.</i> |
| SB 300 | Perry | Relating to the exchange of certain information between the Department of Family and Protective Services or certain foster care services contractors and a state or local juvenile justice agency. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires DFPS or a contractor providing foster care services to immediately (rather than within 14 days) share with juvenile justice agencies certain information about multi-system youth. Includes youth for whom parental rights have been terminated with respect or one or both parents in the list of youth about whom DFPS and contractors must provide information. <i>Referred to Senate Health and Human Services on 02/03/25.</i> |
| SB 430 | Miles | Relating to the age of a child at which a juvenile court may exercise jurisdiction over the child and to the minimum age of criminal responsibility. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Education Code, and Penal Code relating to the minimum age of criminal responsibility and relating to the age at which a juvenile court exercises jurisdiction over the child. Largely increases the minimum age from 10 to 12. <i>Referred to Senate Criminal Justice on 02/03/25.</i> |
| SB 433 | Miles | Relating to the expunction of records and files related to certain conduct or offenses committed by a child. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes a person adjudicated by a juvenile court for a misdemeanor to apply to the court to have the adjudication expunged on or after their 18th birthday. Requires TJJD to develop the application process by rule. <i>Referred to Senate Criminal Justice on 02/03/25.</i> |
| SB 661 | West | Relating to the creation of the Office of Youth Health and Safety. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates the Office of Youth Health and Safety within HHSC’s Office of Forensic Coordination. Establishes a 21-member board to oversee the office. Tasks the office with developing a plan to improve the juvenile justice system (due Jan. 1, 2027). Requires the plan to include a detailed list of procedures and strategies to accomplish various tasks by Sept. 1, 2028, including ending commitments to TJJD facilities; reducing TJJD’s current population; establishing local infrastructure to provide services to youth who are unable to stay at home; and ending racial and disability disparities for youth in the system. Specifies the plan must also include strategies to conduct a study on the feasibility of staggered closures of TJJD facilities. Companion was HB 2489 (Talarico). <i>Referred to Senate Criminal Justice on 02/03/25.</i> |

| Bill Number | Author | Caption | Summary of Key Provisions / Reason Bill Did Not Pass |
|-------------|-------------|--|---|
| SB 1727 | Perry, Cook | Relating to the protection and detention of a juvenile who engages in delinquent conduct or commits a felony offense while committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department; changing the eligibility for community supervision; redefining habitual felony conduct. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits community supervision for defendants who committed a felony when they were at least 17 years old while they were committed to TJJD, placed in a state halfway house, or placed in a secure pre- or post-adjudication facility. Amends the definition of habitual felony conduct for youth from two prior felony adjudications to one. Adds first-, second-, and third-degree felonies committed while a youth was committed to TJJD, placed in a state halfway house, or placed in a pre- or post-adjudication facility to the list of offenses eligible for a determinate sentence. Authorizes juvenile courts to modify determinate sentence probation and sentence a youth to TDCJ or transfer them to the appropriate adult court at any time after the youth turns 18. Clarifies time credit provisions for determinate-sentenced youth. Authorizes the Special Prosecution Unit to participate in parole revocation hearings. Lowers the age at which TJJD may request that the committing court transfer a youth with a determinate sentence to TDCJ from 16 to 15. Prohibits TJJD from releasing and/or discharging certain youth with pending charges for felony conduct committed while in TJJD's custody, and alters the burden of proof required for Release Review Panel decisions. Mirrors penalties in place for adults who tamper with their electronic monitoring device while on community supervision or parole. <i>Placed on the House General State Calendar on 05/14/25.</i> |
| SB 1778 | Miles | Relating to the use of telemedicine services in the juvenile justice system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codifies current practice by requiring TJJD to contract for telemedicine services to be available when a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant is not present. <i>Referred to House Criminal Jurisprudence on 05/16/25.</i> |
| SB 2693 | Perry | Relating to the role of advocacy and support groups in the juvenile justice system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes, rather than requires, TJJD to allow certain advocacy or support groups to provide onsite information, support, and services to youth in state facilities. However, specifies TJJD shall allow these groups into facilities if doing so is required by federal law or a federal court order to perform the specific functions authorized by federal law or by a federal court order. Requires TJJD to deny facility admission to an advocacy or support group that has filed: 1) a complaint with the federal government regarding the agency while the investigation is pending; or 2) a lawsuit against the agency while the lawsuit is pending. Companion was HB 5409 (Cook). <i>Referred to House Criminal Jurisprudence on 05/02/25.</i> |

Table 24 Exhibit 16 Legislation Not Passed 89th Legislature

IX. Major Issues

A. Brief Description of Issue

Regionalization Expansion – TJJD’s regionalization program has been an unequivocal success over the last 10 years. State-level investment and local coordination have allowed nearly 2,100 youth to remain closer to home in lieu of state commitment. Overall, this effort lowers recidivism and cuts costs, creating opportunities to reinvest savings into more safety-focused programming. As the system enters its second decade of regionalization work, TJJD and counties must collaborate to expand positive outcomes. Doing so will require stakeholders to continue operations that we know work, while also tackling long-standing issues like rising youth acuity, limited local capacity, misaligned incentives, and workforce shortages to reach new levels of impact by 2035.

B. Discussion

Background - For a decade, lawmakers, juvenile justice practitioners, and community partners have implemented regionalization reforms to efficiently and effectively divert youth from state commitment. In 2015, the Texas Legislature passed SB 1630 (84R, Whitmire/Turner), requiring TJJD to develop a plan for keeping youth closer to home. The original plan divided the state into seven probation regions and created mechanisms through which regional stakeholders could work with TJJD to identify state-funded commitment alternatives. In 2023, the Texas Legislature expanded on existing regionalization directives to ensure the state updated its plan biennially and included new information on steps to enhance regional capacity, create incentives for local resource-sharing, and maximize the use of existing services, among other requirements.

Program Success - Since regionalization reforms began in 2015, these efforts have improved public safety and cut costs across the state. Over 10 years, TJJD and local departments collaborated to divert nearly 2,100 youth from state care using regionalization dollars and infrastructure. Without the Legislature’s reform directives and investment, all of these diverted youth would have entered TJJD’s care — an outcome that would have also placed greater pressure on short-staffed, deep-end facilities. As Sunset noted in its 2022 report, research shows youth served at the local level of the system are 21 percent less likely to be rearrested within one year than comparable peers supervised at the state level. Diversion from state care also saves critical resources. As reported by the LBB, the average cost per youth per day is around \$175 in a county post-adjudication facility compared to about \$770 in a state secure facility.

Barriers to Expansion - Recognizing these benefits, TJJD and its partners have taken steps to expand regionalization opportunities. For example, the state worked with county departments to increase the number of TJJD-funded local beds; through this program, certain counties (Travis, Randall, Garza, Nueces, Harris, and El Paso) receive state dollars to fund the operations and treatment associated with beds reserved for youth from other jurisdictions. County departments may use these beds free of charge to place youth who otherwise would be committed to a state facility. Additionally, counties are prioritizing innovative programming to decrease the need for residential placements in the first place. One example of this innovation is in Bandera County, where county leaders have used state grant dollars to provide community-based mental health

services not only to local youth but also to those in need across 22 counties; after receiving additional state grant dollars in fiscal year 2026, the county plans to expand certain services to youth statewide. These residential and community diversion programs benefit individual youth while also building capacity more generally, ensuring state dollars can stretch farther and support more juvenile probation departments.

Despite regionalization's successes, various interconnected challenges jeopardize TJJD's ability to maximize program outcomes safely and efficiently. Addressing these barriers is critical, as the Legislative Budget Board projects referrals to the juvenile justice system will increase by 12 percent between fiscal years 2025 and 2030. Diverting more and more youth to the appropriate level of care requires a concerted intergovernmental effort to address rising youth acuity levels, expand local capacity, incentivize collaboration, and support a stable workforce.

- **Evolving youth population.** More youth are entering state care with higher-level offense histories and treatment needs, reflecting a service gap that stakeholders must fill before additional youth can stay closer to home. Since the pandemic, referrals to the juvenile justice system for violent felonies have rebounded after a brief decline, but some offenses have increased more than others. Between fiscal years 2018 and 2024, referrals for homicides doubled and offenses involving firearms increased by 58 percent. Nearly 1 in 12 youth admitted to TJJD in fiscal year 2024 had committed murder, compared to only 1 in 100 in 2018. During the same timeframe, youth admitted with a need for high-level mental health treatment grew by 135 percent, those with a need for high-level violent behavior treatment grew by 106 percent, and those with three or more treatment needs grew by 53 percent.

Youth belonging to a highly specialized population or with complex or multiple treatment needs represent a large and ongoing financial investment for probation departments. Young offenders often present with multiple needs and require long-term aftercare and support services to prevent recidivism and ultimate commitment to TJJD. Those with complex medical needs, trafficking histories, and other highly specialized treatment needs are hard to serve because of economies of scale. Departments may choose to serve a broader range of needs within one program to create the cost benefit of serving more youth, thereby failing to fully meet the needs of these more specialized populations and causing poorer outcomes. In order to fully serve the needs of these type of youth, departments must invest in more costly services that often are not financially sustainable. In regional inventories completed in fiscal years 2020 and 2025, sexual behavior treatment, programs for trafficked youth, female offender programs, and services for IDD/Autism were most often identified as gaps in service across the seven probation regions.

- **Limited local capacity.** Serving additional youth with intensifying needs will require greater local capacity across the entire spectrum of youth services. However, increasing private provider capacity remains difficult, with only one contractor currently available to serve the state's highest-risk youth. While other providers in the state may serve lower-risk youth, the cost of doing so is greater than the compensation offered for this critical

work – typically by hundreds of dollars per youth, per day. This keeps private providers out of a market where their services and expertise are greatly needed. As a result, the state’s remaining county-operated, post-adjudication facilities must shoulder the vast majority of the residential care burden. While these facilities offer effective care, they too operate at a cost deficit, where counties are carrying approximately 70% of the cost for both pre- and post-adjudication expenses. Additionally, local stakeholders do not have access to the comprehensive information they need to make decisions about youth placements. The system lacks up-to-date data on staffing, bed, and programming availability to ensure existing facility resources are maximized and youth are not unnecessarily funneled deeper into the juvenile justice continuum.

Beyond facility capacity, county partners have repeatedly expressed the need for “shallower” programming — that is, prevention and early intervention opportunities in schools or community-centric options within the behavioral health system. For example, during the fiscal year 2026 Discretionary State Aid (DSA) grant cycle, TJJD received a total of 36 DSA community applications totaling \$4.5 million in requested funding. TJJD exhausted available funding by approving 14 applications equating to roughly \$1.75 million, only 40% of total funds requested. Unfortunately, TJJD is not able to fund the remaining 22 applications totaling \$2.75 Million (60%). As a comparison, in fiscal year 2024, TJJD received a total request of \$2.6 million for DSA community applications from 24 applications; that year, TJJD awarded \$1.3 million in these applications.

Last legislative session, local requests for additional resources to support prevention and early intervention initiatives, community-based programming, and county-level vocational courses in residential settings remained unfunded. These appropriative decisions are difficult, as finite resources are often directed first to the highest-risk, deep-end juvenile justice environments. However, without iterative and consistent development of shallow-end diversion options — essentially, off ramps to state commitment — the state misses critical chances to safely reduce justice involvement and ultimately shrink its direct-care footprint over time.

- **Missing and misaligned incentives.** Even with adequate capacity available for high-risk youth, the juvenile justice system lacks an incentive structure that rewards diversion and prioritizes collaboration. During the 88th regular session, the Legislature changed the way juvenile probation departments received funding, focusing their allotment on system referrals rather than supervisions. This shift was an excellent step toward ensuring departments have the resources they need to operate successfully without creating perverse incentives for deeper system involvement. Still, funding formulas that the Legislature and agency use fail to emphasize, and thereby reward, preventative work that can simultaneously cut costs and increase safety in the long run. At worst, existing funding structures can even disincentivize this work, as robust preventative programs decrease referrals. This decrease may then impact a department’s ability to maintain the staff and operations that fill service gaps across systems, connect youth to support when other service mechanisms fail, and keep communities safe.

Regionalization depends on local departments working across county lines to divert youth from state commitment whenever appropriate, but the resources saved through this process represent a collective benefit, not a local one. At times, individual local risks and costs — such as facility strain created by serving out-of-county youth, dollars needed to jumpstart a new program, or difficulties managing various appropriation strategies — can quickly outweigh the systemwide benefit of keeping youth out of state custody. The impact of this imbalance is made more challenging by current funding shares across the system; while the state funds 64% of adult probation costs, it covers only 25 percent of juvenile probation costs. TJJD has attempted to counter misaligned incentives by incorporating regional collaboration as a priority when judging grant applications and by reinvesting about \$20 million in state savings caused by decreased commitments back into county operations. However, significant growth in regional capacity and collaboration will likely require more significant shifts in incentives and greater funding flexibility to ensure cross-county sharing of risk and resources becomes the rule, not the exception.

- **Workforce shortages.** Finally, to best serve the youth in our state at whatever level of intervention they require, we must employ safe, capable, and qualified adults. As described in Sunset’s last report on TJJD, recruiting and retaining staff has been and remains the juvenile justice system’s greatest struggle. Local, state, and federal adult and juvenile justice entities across the nation continue to face vacancies among correctional staff. Further, all but eight counties in Texas lie within a mental health provider shortage area; specialized providers who serve youth with sexual behavior and substance use treatment needs are particularly difficult, if not impossible, to find in some areas of the state. Together, these correctional and provider staff shortages make it challenging to implement data-driven, research-based initiatives that effectively emphasize accountability and drive the development of skillful behavior.

The Legislature has given multiple raises to juvenile justice professionals in recent sessions, which provided game-changing boosts to staffing strength. For example, at the height of the staffing crisis during the summer of 2022, state secure facilities functioned at roughly 200 percent of their capacity; by August 2025, this dropped to 133 percent, even with an increase in the facilities’ average daily population by 200 youth. Still, juvenile justice work is increasingly strenuous and risky, requiring deeper focus on developing safe and productive workplace cultures.

C. Possible Solutions and Impact

Possible solutions. There are a variety of potential solutions that could be selected or combined to provide more sustainable services at the county level:

- An increased state share, more similar to adult system, for juvenile probation departments to provide greater overall sustainability of services and ability to build and sustain new services.

- Concerted efforts across state agencies and county partners to reallocate resources and invest additional dollars in programming and placements across the entire continuum of youth services, particularly in areas identified as regional gaps, such as prevention and intervention services and high-acuity mental health support.
- Development and expansion of crisis stabilization opportunities, including stepdown programs, that add diversion options for youth with the highest-level mental health and aggressive behavior treatment needs.
- Increased and varied incentives for, daily rates provided to, and general access to private program and placement providers who are able to serve high-risk youth.
- Increased and varied incentives for juvenile probation departments, particularly those in urban areas, to provide contract services and placements to other departments.
- State investment in and assistance to develop more regional infrastructure, services, and placements that county partners may use as an off-ramp to state commitment.
- Development of a transparent, statewide database through which county partners may access up-to-date data on staffing, bed, and programming availability at private and county-operated facilities to maximize efficient and timely use of resources across regions.
- Updates to the legislative and agency funding formulas that allocate funding to juvenile probation departments to better reward successful initiatives that prevent deeper system involvement, thereby increasing savings and public safety.
- Revisions to existing appropriation strategies to streamline funding allocations and enable juvenile probation departments to spend finite resources more efficiently.
- Implementation of a risk-based funding model for counties, private providers, and state facilities to better align the costs of serving high-acuity youth with the formulas used to disseminate resources.
- Implementation of evidence-based retention strategies, such as housing stipends, tuition reimbursement, student loan forgiveness, transportation assistance, and childcare services to reduce employee shortages among direct care positions in the juvenile justice field.
- Development of and investment in regional positions for certain professionals (e.g., mental health providers) to expand access to qualified experts in provider shortage areas.
- Increased and varied incentives for institutions of higher education and workforce development programs to create pipelines to employment in the juvenile justice field.

Impact and benefits. The overall impact of focusing on the risks, needs, and responsiveness of the youth, expanding county capacity, and incentivizing effective programming and workforce solutions is that more youth will be able to receive needed services in their communities. This will result in less youth being committed to the state, reducing the cost of and stress on the juvenile system, leading to less likelihood of youth recidivating.

Unfortunately, there is not an individual solution that will lead to these positive outcomes, instead it is a combination of these solutions that must be enacted over time. TJJD is currently drafting a 10-year strategic plan that will outline how these solutions could be implemented in a phased approach over the next five legislative sessions.

Fiscal impact. The fiscal impact of solutions will require further study to adequately compare upfront costs with long-term savings realized by fewer commitments, improved staff retention, and reduced recidivism.

D. What key obstacles impede your agency’s ability to achieve its objectives?

The key obstacles are described in detail throughout the Major Issues section of this report.

E. What, if any, agency or program functions does your agency perform that are no longer serving a clear and ongoing purpose? Could any agency functions be eliminated so agency resources could be better directed elsewhere? If so, which?

All agency functions related to Regionalization serve a clear purpose.

F. Aside from acquiring additional staff or funding, what are your agency’s biggest opportunities for improvement in the future? For example, are there other programs or duties the agency could take on to better carry out its mission?

Various state entities, including HHSC, DFPS, TEA, and TCOOMMI, provide critical services to youth. While our specific functions differ, our overall goal to ensure the health, safety, and success of young Texans is the same. Across our bill patterns, the Legislature provides us funding to address similar needs, particularly within local communities where youth can remain shallow in — or completely outside of — the criminal, juvenile, and child welfare systems. While we work effectively together to deliver impactful programming and avoid duplication of effort, additional opportunities exist to assess our funding streams and align our strategic planning so each appropriated dollar can stretch even further. For example, increased collaboration and consultation between TJJD and HHSC on grant programs that support prevention, intervention, and community-based services could expand our local stakeholders’ ability to serve youth efficiently. As noted previously in this report, TJJD partnered with HHSC on developing our long-term strategic plan, and we anticipate our final product will address opportunities for using existing funds to enhance cross-agency, capacity-building efforts.

X. Other Contacts

A. Fill in the following tables with updated information on people with an interest in your agency. Be sure to include their most recent email address.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department Exhibit 17: Other Contacts

Interest Groups

(groups affected by agency actions or that represent others served by or affected by agency actions)

| Group or Association Name/ Contact Person | Address | Telephone | Email Address |
|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| Right on Crime Nikki Pressley, Director | 901 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701 | 512-472-2700 | npressley@rightoncrime.com |
| Texas Criminal Justice Coalition Alycia Castillo, Policy Analyst | 1714 Fortview Rd, Suite 104, Austin, TX 78704 | 512-441-8123 Ext. 107 | acastillo@texascjc.org |
| Texas Appleseed Brett Merfish, Director of Youth Justice | 1609 Shoal Creek, Suite 201, Austin, TX 78701 | 512-473-2800 | bmerfish@texasappleseed.org |
| Disability Rights Texas Aaryce Hayes, Policy Specialist | 2222 W. Braker Ln., Austin, TX 78758 | 512-454-4816 | ahayes@disabilityrightstx.org |
| Texans Care for Children Kate Murphy, Senior Child Welfare Policy Associate | 1016 La Posada Dr., #240 Austin, TX 78752 | 512-473-2274 | kmurphy@txchildren.org |
| American Civil Liberties Union Nick Hudson, Policy & Advocacy Strategist | P.O. Box 12905 Austin, TX 78711-2905 | 512-478-7300 | nhudson@aclutx.org |
| Texas Network of Youth Services Lauren Rose, Director of Public Policy | P.O. Box 26855 Austin, TX 78755 | 512-815-3299 512-775-7745 | info@tnoys.org lrose@tnoys.org |
| Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas Justin Wood, Vice President of External Relations | 1501 West Anderson Lane, B-1, Austin, TX 78757 | 512-906-2931 | jwood@cactx.org |
| Lone Star Justice Alliance Elizabeth Henneke, Executive Director | 3809 S. 1 st St. Austin, TX 78704 | 512-394-5791 | ehenneke@lsja.org |

Table 25 Exhibit 17 Interest Groups

Interagency, State, or National Associations*(that serve as an information clearinghouse or regularly interact with your agency)*

| Group or Association Name/ Contact Person | Address | Telephone | Email Address |
|---|---|--------------|--|
| Texas Probation Association Christopher Thomas, President Cory Burgess, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Travis County | George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX 773412296 | 936-294-1640 | cory.burgess@traviscountytexas.gov |
| Juvenile Justice Association of Texas William A. Carter II, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Lubbock County | P.O. Box 98715 Lubbock, TX 79499 | 806-939-8737 | jjatx@gmail.com |
| National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Michelle DeLaune, President, Chief Executive Officer | 333 John Carlyle St., Suite #125, Alexandria, VA 22314- 5950 | 703-224-2150 | mdelaune@ncmec.org |
| Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators Michael Dempsey, Executive Director | 350 Lincoln St., Suite #2400, Hingham, MA 02043 | 781-843-2663 | michael.dempsey@cjia.net |

Table 26 Exhibit 17 Interagency, State, and National Associations**Liaisons at Other State Agencies***(with which your agency maintains an ongoing relationship, e.g., the agency's assigned analyst at the Legislative Budget Board or attorney at the Attorney General's office)*

| Agency Name / Relationship / Contact Person | Address | Telephone | Email Address |
|---|--|--------------|--|
| Department of Family and Protective Services Elizabeth Farley, Chief of Staff | P.O. Box 149030, Austin, TX 78714-9030 | 512-954-4416 | elizabeth.farley@dfps.texas.gov |
| Texas Health and Human Services Commission Jonathan Connors, Director of Government & Stakeholder Relations | P.O. Box 132247 Austin, TX 78711-3247 | 512-487-3300 | jonathan.connors@hhs.texas.gov |
| Texas Legislative Budget Board Haley Ewing | 5 th Floor, 1501 N. Congress, Austin, TX 78701 | 512-463-1046 | haley.ewing@lbb.texas.gov |

| Agency Name / Relationship / Contact Person | Address | Telephone | Email Address |
|--|---|------------------|--|
| Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families Jamie Bernstein, Executive Director | 201 W. 14 th St., Room 104, Austin, TX 78701 | 512-463-5393 | children@txcourts.gov |
| Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health Kristi Taylor, Executive Director | P.O. Box 12248, Austin, TX 78711 | 512-463-1312 | jcmh@txcourts.gov |
| University of Texas Medical Branch – Correctional Managed Care Denee Robison | 301 University Blvd., Galveston, TX 77555-1206 | 806-438-7966 | jdrobiso@utmb.edu |
| Texas Facilities Commission Andy Carlson, Director of Government Relations and External Communication | P.O. Box 13047, Austin, TX 78711-3047 | 512-463-3446 | andy.carlson@tfc.texas.gov |
| Department of State Health Services Jordan Hill-Shepherd, Director of Government Affairs | P.O. Box 149347 Austin, TX 78714-9347 | 512-776-7263 | jordan.hill@dshs.texas.gov |
| Texas Division of Emergency Management Seth Christensen, Chief of Media and Communications | 1033 La Posada, Suite 300 Austin, TX 78752 | 512-217-8159 | seth.christensen@tdem.texas.gov |
| Texas Department of Public Safety Kevin Cooper, Chief of Government Relations | P.O. Box 4087 Austin, TX 78773-0001 | 512-424-7272 | kevin.cooper@dps.texas.gov |
| Texas Department of Criminal Justice Kate Blifford, Director of Government Affairs | P.O. Box 12084 – Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-3084 | 512-463-8195 | kate.blifford@tdcj.texas.gov |
| Special Prosecution Unit Jack Choate, Executive Director | 1300 11 th St., Ste. 520, Huntsville, TX 77340 | 936-291-2369 | jchoate@sputexas.org |

| Agency Name / Relationship / Contact Person | Address | Telephone | Email Address |
|---|--|--------------|--|
| Rice University School of Social Sciences – Texas Policy Lab Christina Triantaphyllis, Director of Government Partnerships | 6100 S. Main St., MS 272, Greenbriar Bldg., Suite 130, Houston, TX 77005 | 712-348-0000 | texaspolicylab@rice.edu |
| Prairie View A&M University Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center Kareem L. Jordan, Ph.D., Executive Director | P.O. Box 519 – Prairie View, TX 77446 | 936-261-5205 | kljordan@pvamu.edu |
| Texas Education Agency Hunter Thompson, Director of Government Relations | 1701 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701 | 512-463-9734 | hunter.thompson@tea.texas.gov |
| Texas Commission on Jail Standards Brandon Wood, Executive Director | P.O. Box 12985 Austin, TX 78711-2985 | 512-463-5505 | brandon.wood@tcjs.state.tx.us |
| Texas State Fire Marshal Debra Knight, State Fire Marshal | P.O. Box 12030, Austin, TX 78711 | 512-676-6800 | fire.marshall@tdi.texas.gov |
| Texas House of Representatives, Juvenile Justice Subcommittee Sara Trott, Chief of Staff & Committee Director, Chairman David Cook | P.O. Box 12910, Austin, TX 78711-2910 | 512-463-0374 | sara.trott@house.texas.gov |
| Texas Senate Committee on Criminal Justice Mike Ward, Committee Director | P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711 | 512-463-0345 | mike.ward_sc@senate.texas.gov mike.ward@senate.texas.gov |
| Office of the Texas Governor – Public Safety Office Aimee Snoddy, Executive Director | P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711 | 512-463-1919 | aimee.snoddy@gov.texas.gov |
| Sam Houston State University – Correctional Management Institute of Texas Doug Dretke, Executive Director | Correctional Management Institute of Texas George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX 77341-2296 | 936-294-1676 | djd007@shsu.edu |

| Agency Name / Relationship / Contact Person | Address | Telephone | Email Address |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| Texas Workforce Investment Council Kaki Leyens, Executive Director | 1100 San Jacinto Blvd., Ste. 1.100, Austin, TX 78701 | 512-936-8100 | twic@governor.tx.gov |
| Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Courtney Harvey, PhD, Mental Health Statewide Coordinator & Associate Commissioner | P.O. Box 13247 Austin, TX 78711-3247 | 512-424-6500 | mentalhealth_sbhcc@hhsc.tx.gov |
| University of Texas – LBJ School of Public Affairs JR DeShazo, Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs | Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin, 2315 Red River, MC# E2700, Austin, TX 78712 | 512-471-3200 | dean.jrdeshazo@austin.utexas.edu |

Table 27 Exhibit 17 Liaisons at Other State Agencies

XI. Additional Information

A. Texas Government Code, Section 325.0075 requires agencies under review to submit a report about their reporting requirements to Sunset with the same due date as the SER. Include a list of each agency-specific report the agency is required by statute to prepare and an evaluation of the need for each report based on whether factors or conditions have changed since the statutory requirement was put in place. Please do not include general reporting requirements applicable to all agencies, reports that have an expiration date, routine notifications or notices, posting requirements, federally mandated reports, or reports required by G.A.A. rider. If the list is longer than one page, please include it as an attachment. *See Exhibit 18 Example.*

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 18: Evaluation of Agency Reporting Requirements
Not Required Under Limited Scope Review

| Report Title | Legal Authority | Due Date and Frequency | Recipient | Description | Is the Report Still Needed? Why? |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Text) |
| (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Text) | (Text) |

Table 28 Exhibit 18 Agency Reporting Requirements

B. Does the agency's statute use "person-first respectful language" as required by Texas Government Code, Section 325.0123? Please explain and include any statutory provisions that might supersede or create challenges in implementing these changes.

C. Please describe how your agency receives and investigates complaints about the agency and its operations.

Complete the following table detailing information on complaints received about your agency and its operations. Do not include complaints received about people or entities the agency regulates, if applicable.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 19: Complaints Against the Agency — Fiscal Years 2020-24
Not Required Under Limited Scope Review

| | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 | Fiscal Year 2022 | Fiscal Year 2023 | Fiscal Year 2024 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Number of complaints received | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Number of complaints resolved | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Number of complaints dropped / found to be without merit | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Number of complaints pending from prior years | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |
| Average time period for resolution of a complaint | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) |

Table 29 Exhibit 19 Complaints Against the Agency

D. Fill in the following tables detailing your agency's historically underutilized business (HUB) purchases. Sunset is required by law to review and report this information to the Legislature. If your agency has set specific goals and not statewide goals, please provide the goal percentages and describe the method used to determine those goals. (TAC Title 34, Part 1, Chapter 20, Rule 20.284)

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 20: Purchases from HUBs
Not Required Under Limited Scope Review

Heavy Construction

| Year | Total \$ Spent | Total HUB \$ Spent | Percentage of Total Spent on HUB | Agency Specific Goal* | Statewide Goal |
|------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 11.2% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 11.2% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 11.2% |

Table 30 Exhibit 20 HUB Purchases for Heavy Construction

Building Construction

| Year | Total \$ Spent | Total HUB \$ Spent | Percentage of Total Spent on HUB | Agency Specific Goal | Statewide Goal |
|------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 21.1% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 21.1% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 21.1% |

Table 31 Exhibit 20 HUB Purchases for Building Construction

Special Trade

| Year | Total \$ Spent | Total HUB \$ Spent | Percentage of Total Spent on HUB | Agency Specific Goal | Statewide Goal |
|------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 32.9% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 32.9% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 32.9% |

Table 32 Exhibit 20 HUB Purchases for Special Trade

Professional Services

| Year | Total \$ Spent | Total HUB \$ Spent | Percentage of Total Spent on HUB | Agency Specific Goal | Statewide Goal |
|------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 23.7% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 23.7% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 23.7% |

Table 33 Exhibit 20 HUB Purchases for Professional Services

Other Services

| Year | Total \$ Spent | Total HUB \$ Spent | Percentage of Total Spent on HUB | Agency Specific Goal | Statewide Goal |
|------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 26.0% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 26.0% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 26.0% |

Table 34 Exhibit 20 HUB Purchases for Other Services

Commodities

| Year | Total \$ Spent | Total HUB \$ Spent | Percentage of Total Spent on HUB | Agency Specific Goal | Statewide Goal |
|------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 21.1% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 21.1% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | (Number) | 21.1% |

Table 35 Exhibit 20 HUB Purchases for Commodities

F. Does your agency have a HUB policy? How does your agency address performance shortfalls related to the policy? (Texas Government Code, Section 2161.003; TAC Title 34, Part 1, Rule 20.286c)

G. For agencies with contracts valued at \$100,000 or more: Does your agency follow a HUB subcontracting plan to solicit bids, proposals, offers, or other applicable expressions of interest for subcontracting opportunities available for contracts of \$100,000 or more? (Texas Government Code, Section 2161.252; TAC Title 34, Part 1, Rule 20.285)

H. For agencies with biennial appropriations exceeding \$10 million, answer the following HUB questions:

- 1. Do you have a HUB coordinator? If yes, provide name and contact information. (Texas Government Code, Section 2161.062; TAC Title 34, Part 1, Rule 20.296)**
- 2. Has your agency designed a program of HUB forums in which businesses are invited to deliver presentations that demonstrate their capability to do business with your agency? (Texas Government Code, Section 2161.066; TAC Title 34, Part 1, Rule 20.297)**
- 3. Has your agency developed a mentor-protégé program to foster long-term relationships between prime contractors and HUBs and to increase the ability of HUBs to contract with the state or to receive subcontracts under a state contract? (Texas Government Code, Section 2161.065; TAC Title 34, Part 1, Rule 20.298)**

I. Fill in the tables below detailing your agency's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statistics. Sunset is required by law to review and report this information to the Legislature. Please use only the categories provided below. For example, some agencies use the classification "paraprofessionals," which is not tracked by the state civilian workforce. Please reclassify all employees within the appropriate categories below.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Exhibit 21: Equal Employment Opportunity Statistics
Not Required Under Limited Scope Review

1. Officials / Administration

| Year | Total Number of Positions | Percent African-American | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Hispanic | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Female | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Percent) | 9.1% | (Percent) | 26.5% | (Percent) | 41.3% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Percent) | 9.1% | (Percent) | 26.5% | (Percent) | 41.3% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Percent) | 9.1% | (Percent) | 26.5% | (Percent) | 41.3% |

Table 36 Exhibit 21 EEO Statistics for Officials/Administration

2. Professional

| Year | Total Number of Positions | Percent African-American | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Hispanic | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Female | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Percent) | 11.7% | (Percent) | 23.3% | (Percent) | 53.8% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Percent) | 11.7% | (Percent) | 23.3% | (Percent) | 53.8% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Percent) | 11.7% | (Percent) | 23.3% | (Percent) | 53.8% |

Table 37 Exhibit 21 EEO Statistics for Professionals

3. Technical

| Year | Total Number of Positions | Percent African-American | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Hispanic | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Female | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Percent) | 15.3% | (Percent) | 36.7% | (Percent) | 62.8% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Percent) | 15.3% | (Percent) | 36.7% | (Percent) | 62.8% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Percent) | 15.3% | (Percent) | 36.7% | (Percent) | 62.8% |

Table 38 Exhibit 21 EEO Statistics for Technical

4. Administrative Support

| Year | Total Number of Positions | Percent African-American | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Hispanic | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Female | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Percent) | 15.2% | (Percent) | 39.3% | (Percent) | 73.7% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Percent) | 15.2% | (Percent) | 39.3% | (Percent) | 73.7% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Percent) | 15.2% | (Percent) | 39.3% | (Percent) | 73.7% |

Table 39 Exhibit 21 EEO Statistics for Administrative Support

5. Service / Maintenance

| Year | Total Number of Positions | Percent African-American | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Hispanic | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Female | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Percent) | 12.6% | (Percent) | 55.10% | (Percent) | 51.7% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Percent) | 12.6% | (Percent) | 55.1% | (Percent) | 51.7% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Percent) | 12.6% | (Percent) | 55.1% | (Percent) | 51.7% |

Table 40 Exhibit 21 EEO Statistics for Service and Maintenance

6. Skilled Craft

| Year | Total Number of Positions | Percent African-American | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Hispanic | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Female | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Percent) | 10.8% | (Percent) | 53.0% | (Percent) | 12.4% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Percent) | 10.8% | (Percent) | 53.0% | (Percent) | 12.4% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Percent) | 10.8% | (Percent) | 53.0% | (Percent) | 12.4% |

Table 41 Exhibit 21 EEO Statistics for Skilled Craft

7. Protective Service (if applicable)

| Year | Total Number of Positions | Percent African-American | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Hispanic | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent | Percent Female | Statewide Civilian Workforce Percent |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2022 | (Number) | (Percent) | 24.0% | (Percent) | 33.6% | (Percent) | 25.4% |
| 2023 | (Number) | (Percent) | 24.0% | (Percent) | 33.6% | (Percent) | 25.4% |
| 2024 | (Number) | (Percent) | 24.0% | (Percent) | 33.6% | (Percent) | 25.4% |

Table 42 Exhibit 21 EEO Statistics for Protective Service

J. Does your agency have an equal employment opportunity policy? If yes, please provide an attachment. How does your agency address performance shortfalls related to the policy?

XII. Agency Comments

The following information serves to provide a general understanding of how youth move through Texas' juvenile justice system, starting with their first interaction with law enforcement.



Required Attachments can be found on TJJD's website.