

## **Texas Partnership for Family Recovery Implementation Plan**

The Texas Partnership for Family Recovery will continue the effort begun in May 2006 to establish an integrated services system for judicial, child protective services and substance abuse services. The mission of the Partnership is to:

Reduce the number of children in out of home placements, shorten time in care, and increase the number of children successfully reunited with families by building and sustaining integrated and coordinated substance abuse and mental health services, policies, protocols and tools for children and families who are involved with the judicial and child protective service systems due to substance use/abuse and related mental health disorders. Families are defined broadly so as to include foster and adoptive placements, relative caregivers, adolescents in congregate care, and other non-traditional family structures.

Five agencies have joined together to achieve this mission. They are: Child Protective Services (CPS) Division of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Division of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Court Improvement Project (CIP), Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Office of Court Administration (OCA).

The Partnership has completed the groundwork for implementation of integrated services by developing a Guide, which incorporates protocols for each of the systems involved, as well as completing guidance and/or plans for evaluation, training and marketing implementation. Two communities – Nueces and Tarrant Counties – have agreed to be the first two counties to implement this new integrated services system.

### **Operational Structure**

- The basic structure established during the Partnership's initial developmental phase will continue. However, in recognition of the importance of employment to successful family recovery, Texas Workforce Commission will join the Core Team.
  - DSHS will continue as the Partnership's convener. In compliance with the Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the OCA and CIP Executive Committee members will serve on both the Executive Committee and Core Teams:
    - Executive Committee will meet quarterly and as needed
    - The Core Team will meet monthly
  - The Executive and Core Teams will:
- Support infrastructure for the Partnership
- Assist with problem solving
- Facilitate implementation of Partnership goals
- Promote use of the Evaluation Plan to develop a database for planning and qualify improvement assessment

- Market the Partnership Guide
- Act as a resource for information on conferences, research, federal, state, and local initiatives and resources, inquiries and policy recommendations

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 The Advisory Committee will continue to convene annually to review and provide guidance on work to date and future plans. They will also, individually and collectively, act locally to promote the Partnership, direct inquiries to the Core Team and provide other support as needed.

## Implementation Plan

The Texas Partnership has identified a series of action steps to ensure the effective implementation of the Guide and Evaluation Plan developed. Those action steps are listed below. Those that are already underway or completed are listed first. Others will continue throughout the life of the Partnership or have longer range completion dates. These latter action steps are grouped by areas of focus.

### *Steps in Process or Completed*

Action Step	Responsible Party/Agency	Completion Date
Include the Texas Partnership for Family Recovery and commitment to integrated services and Family Drug Treatment Courts as part of the CIP Strategic Plan.		<i>Completed</i>
Meet with Commissioner James regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role(s) of substance abuse specialists in relation to Texas Partnership</li> <li>• Family Based Safety Service staffing and use of court ordered home based services model</li> </ul> If feasible, modify protocol immediately.	Gail Blackwell, Judy Brow, Carl Reynolds, Tina Amberboy	June 27, 2007
Finalize working copy of the protocol & submit for legal review as required.	Judy Brow	June 29, 2007
Request CPS ITS to add family court participant marker and timeframe for inclusion in data system	Gail Blackwell	July 30, 2007
Approach the Governor's office for involvement and support	Carl Reynolds & Dave Wanser	June 25, 2007
Develop a new/expanded MOU to strengthen the Texas Partnership	Judy Brow, Mena Ramon, Tina Amberboy	November 1, 2007

### *Next Steps by Focus Area*

Action Step	Responsible Party/Agency	Completion Date
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<p><b>Executive Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain Executive (Department) level commitment and buy in to the Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop position paper on the downside for children without an integrated system</li> <li>○ Identify a champion(s) for the Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider approaching a foundation</li> <li>• Identify the key players in the community</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Schedule a meeting with the identified foundation(s) and/or key players to outline a plan</li> <li>○ Clarify the role of identified and potential champions; develop a short list of actions needed from them to implement an integrated system</li> <li>○ Schedule a meeting with cabinet member(s) to present position paper, share the Guideline and present action needed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Core Team & Executive Committee	December 2007
<p><b>Partnership Roll out communities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain feedback on Guide for future updates</li> <li>• Provide sufficient TA and other support</li> <li>• Contact the roll out communities and set timeframes for next steps (<i>see specific steps for each below</i>)</li> </ul>	Core Team	On-going
<p><b>Cluster courts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request establishment of a committee to work with Core Team on benefits, barriers and feasibility of developing integrated services and family drug courts.</li> </ul>	Mena Ramon	August 30, 2007
<p><b>Public Defenders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research models for public defenders working with a FDTC</li> <li>• Develop marketing &amp; outreach plan to educate and engage in public defenders in working with integrated services and FDTC's</li> </ul>	Core Team	October 15, 2007
<p><b>Family Lawyers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research models to train Family Lawyers in working with a FDTC</li> <li>• Develop marketing &amp; outreach plan to educate and engage with public defenders in working with integrated services and FDTC's</li> </ul>	Core Team	October 15, 2007
<p><b>Supreme Court Hearing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas Partnership will have opportunity to provide testimony or submit written comments</li> <li>• Comments will focus on the CIP/OCA/Partnership efforts and commitment</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	Carl Reynolds, Tina Amberboy	September (date)
<p><b>Court Administrators –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight the Partnership efforts next quarter by briefing the Urban Court Administrators Group at their next meeting.</li> </ul>	Carl Reynolds & Mena Ramon	( October 30, 2007
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify/establish measures of proficiency, accountability for integrated system</li> <li>• Establish indicators to trigger TA</li> <li>• Design and evaluate the Partnership process itself</li> </ul>	Judy Brow, Core Team	December 31, 2007



Action Step	Responsible Party/Agency	Completion Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review identified TA needs</li> <li>○ Review training provided, training gaps and opportunities</li> <li>○ Obtain roll out community feedback</li> <li>● Distribute plan update to Executive Committee for review and update</li> </ul>		

**Roll Out Communities** - Key to the implementation of the Partnership’s activities will be the activities of the two roll out communities – Nueces and Tarrant Counties. Each county has a different approach and is at a different stage of development in their efforts to establish and integrated services system. The Partnership will work with each community independently to establish a timetable for next steps. The following issues have been identified as immediate priorities:

Nueces County:

- Cross training needs: CASA, substance abuse, CPS, legal and judicial
- Opportunities for cross-training via participation in trainings already scheduled
- Data needs: judicial, legal, substance abuse, CPS and evaluation plan implementation
- Design & implement process evaluation
  - Outcome measures
  - Accountability measures
  - Process review
- Design, review & implementation of policies & procedures
- Role of Substance Abuse Specialist
- Problem identification & resolution as needed
- Investigate possible funding through CIP Basic grant.
- Participate in monthly Advisory Committee Meetings via conference call or attendance
- Attend regular meetings with Judge Lewis for planning, quality improvement, development and other purposes

Tarrant County:

- Update on planning grant review conducted by the NCDP
- Current grant applications
- Investigate possible funding through CIP Basic grant.
- Cross training needs: CASA, substance abuse, CPS, legal and judicial
- Opportunities for cross-training via participation in trainings already scheduled
- Data needs: judicial, legal, substance abuse, CPS and evaluation plan implementation
- Design & implement process evaluation
  - Outcome measures
  - Accountability measures
  - Process review

- Design, review & implementation of policies & procedures
- Role of Substance Abuse Specialist
- Problem identification & resolution as needed
- Schedule regular face to face and/or conference call meetings