

Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries, Inc. (ACAM)  
 Association for Family and Community Integrity, Inc.  
 Behavioral Health Alliance of Texas  
 Bering Omega Community Services  
 Care for Elders  
 Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.  
 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
 CHILDREN AT RISK  
 Children's Defense Fund  
 Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris Co., Inc.  
 Coalition of Behavioral Health Services  
 Collaborative for Children  
 Communities In Schools  
 Community Family Centers  
 Community Health Choice, Inc.  
 Covenant House of Texas  
 DePelchin Children's Center  
 Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance Greater Houston (DBSA)  
 Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc.  
 Family Services of Greater Houston  
 Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, Inc.  
 Good Neighbor Healthcare Center  
 Greater Houston Healthconnect  
 Harris County Healthcare Alliance  
 Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston  
 Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children  
 Houston Area Community Services  
 Houston Area Women's Center  
 Houston Food Bank  
 Houston Methodist Hospital  
 IntraCare Behavioral Health  
 Jewish Family Service  
 League of Women Voters Houston  
 Legacy Community Health, Services Inc.  
 Lesbian Health Initiative  
 March of Dimes  
 Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)  
 Memorial Hermann Healthcare System  
 Mental Health America of Greater Houston  
 NAMI Greater Houston  
 National Association of Social Workers-Houston  
 Neighborhood Centers, Inc.  
 New Hope Housing, Inc.  
 Northwest Assistance Ministries  
 Phoenix Houses of Texas, Inc.  
 Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast  
 Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services  
 Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.  
 SEARCH Homeless Services  
 Spaulding for Children  
 Spring Branch Community Health Center  
 Springfield College School of Human Services  
 St. Joseph House  
 Texas Children's Hospital  
 Texas Health Institute  
 Texas Hunger Initiative  
 The Arc of Greater Houston  
 The Council on Alcohol & Drugs Houston  
 The Immunization Partnership  
 The Living Bank  
 The Network of Behavioral Health Providers  
 The Rose  
 The Walk for Mental Health Awareness-Houston  
 The Women's Home  
 United Way of Greater Houston  
 Vita-Living, Inc.  
 Wesley Community Center  
 Worklife Institute  
 YMCA of Greater Houston



**Children and Youth**  
**Coordination of State Level Prevention Efforts**

**Position Statement Approved by One Voice Texas: December 10, 2014**

**Issue/Concern:**

Evidence-based prevention services strengthen families, ensuring that parents and children stay together and out of costly systems such as children's protective services, outpatient and inpatient substance abuse and mental health facilities, homeless or family violence shelters, and juvenile detention or adult prison facilities. Currently, Texas prevention programs are fragmented and buried under disparate state agencies. This structural disconnection creates barriers to providing existing resources most efficiently to the highest-need populations. The fragmented system inhibits the ability to effectively keep children and families safe, well-functioning, and together as a unit. A new model for prevention presents the opportunity to develop a more comprehensive delivery system that strengthens families, reduces costly redundant overhead, and improves outcomes.

**Specific Policy Recommendations:**

- Establish a Prevention and Family Strengthening (PFS) unit under the Health and Human Services Commission;
- Merge three prevention programs (recommended for move under DFPS) and two other prevention programs into one program under PFS: (HHSC's Texas Home Visiting Program and Nurse-Family Partnership; DFPS's Prevention and Early Intervention Unit; DSHS PPI and PADRE programs; HHSC's and the Attorney General's (AG) family violence prevention programs; TOPDD fetal alcohol prevention and injury prevention programs);
- Designate the following as PFS responsibilities:
  - Coordinating the development, funding and evaluation of this unit;
  - Merging IT systems to create seamless referral and communications for a coordinated service delivery system;
  - Developing a coordinated state strategic plan;
  - Establishing coordinated intake, measurement, outcomes and data collection and analysis.

**What Can Be Accomplished?**

Consolidating the various prevention services will ensure that Texas provides efficient and effective services that save money and prevents families from going into more costly systems including child protective services and juvenile justice.

**How Will This Impact State Funding?**

By consolidating these programs, Texas will increase the probability of drawing down additional federal funding, will reduce duplicative overhead costs and will save money on more costly systems such as foster care, inpatient treatment and prison.

**Supporting Facts/Research Resources:**

- ✓ 2013 DFPS Databook available at:  
[https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About\\_DFPS/Data\\_Books\\_and\\_Annual\\_Reports/2013/cps.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2013/cps.asp)

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