

# The Texas Response to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

---

WEBINAR

JANUARY 20, 2022



# Judicial Workgroup on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

---

- Background
- Purpose & Road Map for Webinar
  - Presentations
    - Office of Governor Greg Abbott
    - Department of Family and Protective Services
    - Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services
    - Texas CASA
    - Texas Juvenile Justice Department
  - Panel Discussion



Office of Governor  
Greg Abbott

ALAN SCHONBORN



**Office of the Texas Governor  
Child Sex Trafficking Team**

***Texas' Response to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth***

*Alan Schonborn  
Child Sex Trafficking Team  
Office of Governor Greg Abbott*

*January 20, 2022*

**[www.gov.texas.gov/csstt](http://www.gov.texas.gov/csstt)**

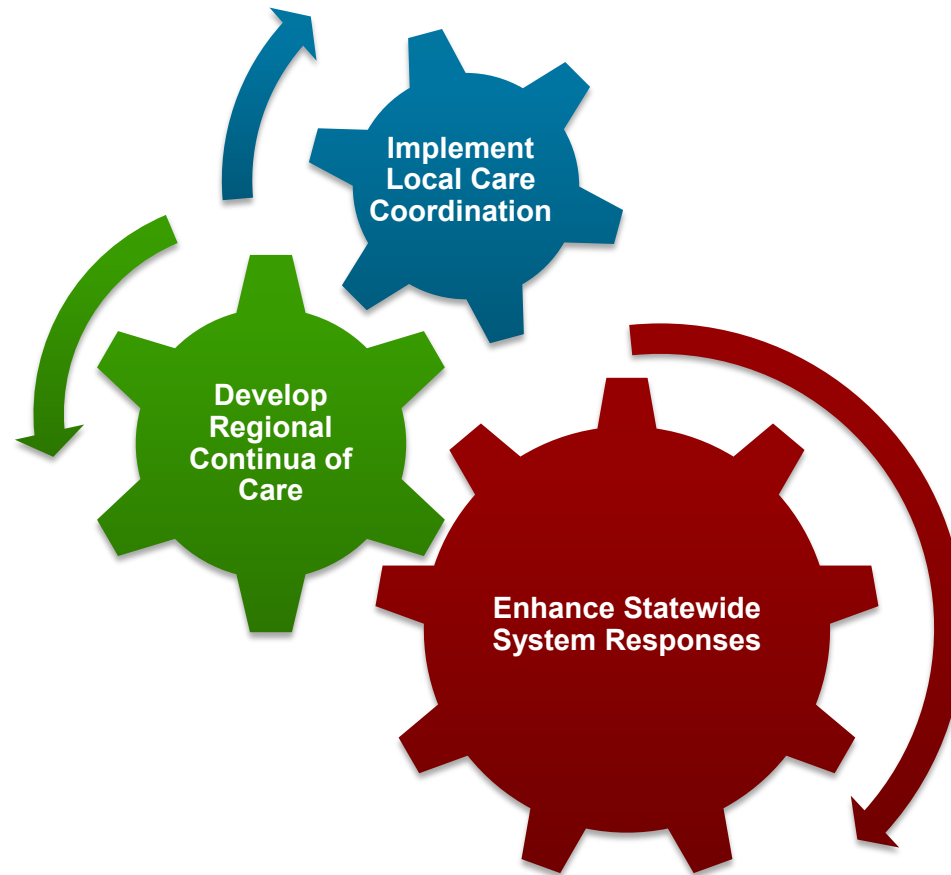
# CSTT Goals

Based on Legislative Mandates. Child and Youth Centered.



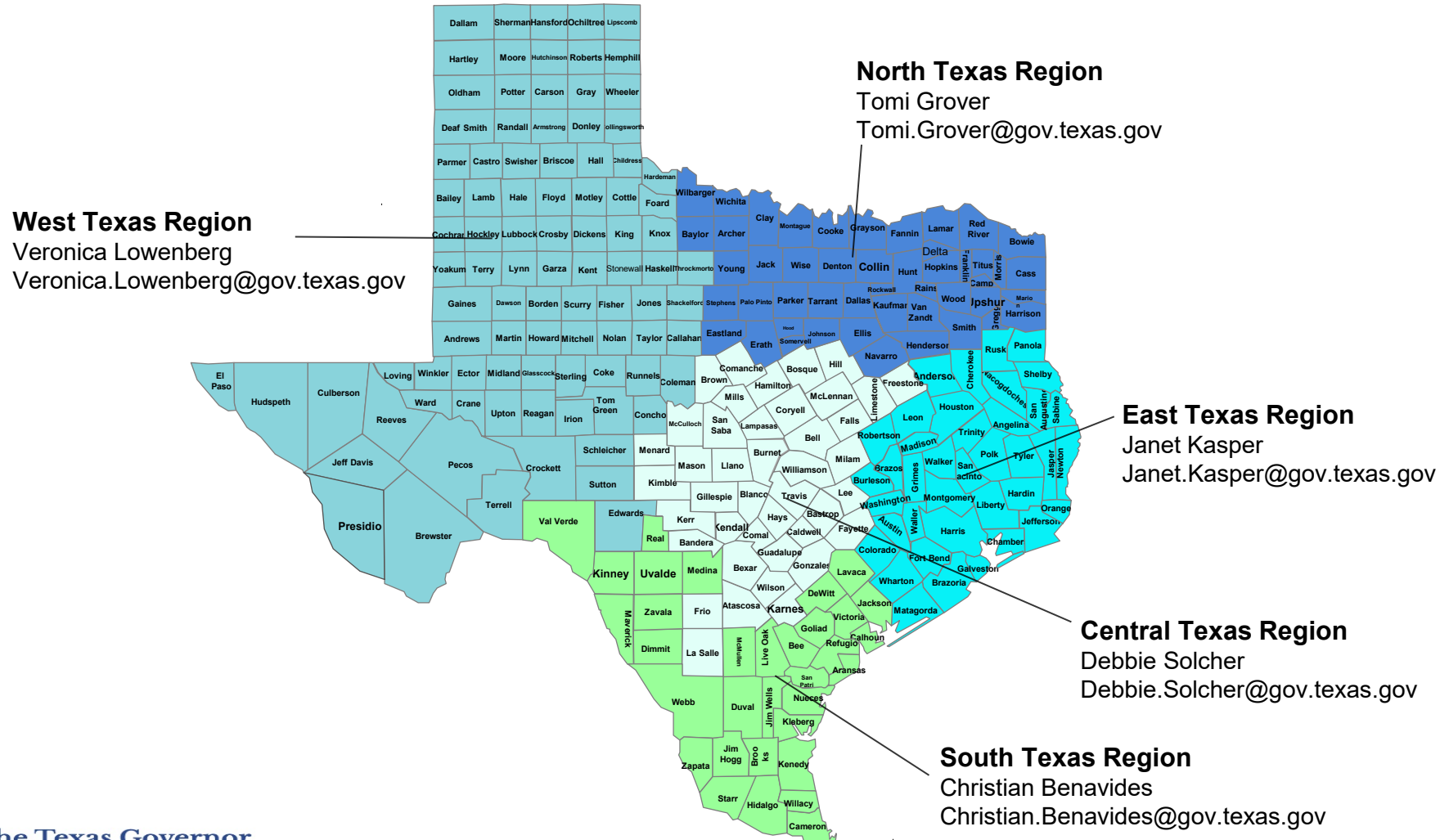
# Texas' Size, Diversity, and the Enormity of Needs Necessitates a Concurrent Approach

We work **statewide** to improve system responses, **regionally** to develop regional continua of care, and **locally** to implement the coordination of care for survivors.

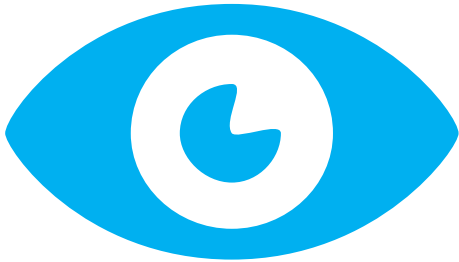


# Developing Regional Continua of Care

Regional Administrators work to develop and sustain a variety of services in their regions and support prevention, awareness, and justice activities.



# CSTT Strategies for Recognizing Victims

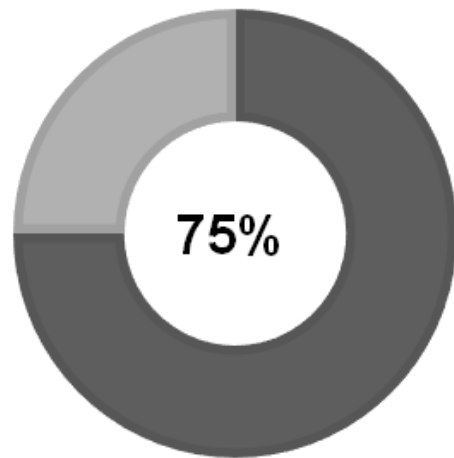


- Raise public awareness
- Provide targeted training and outreach to recognize victims
- Implement proactive screening tool in youth serving agencies
- Support data collection and research to better recognize and understand sexual exploitation of youth

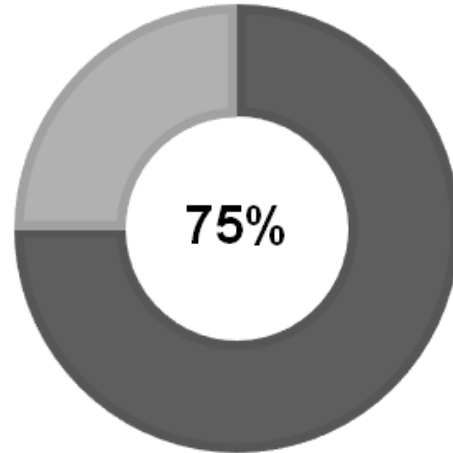


# CSEY Generally Don't Make Outcries

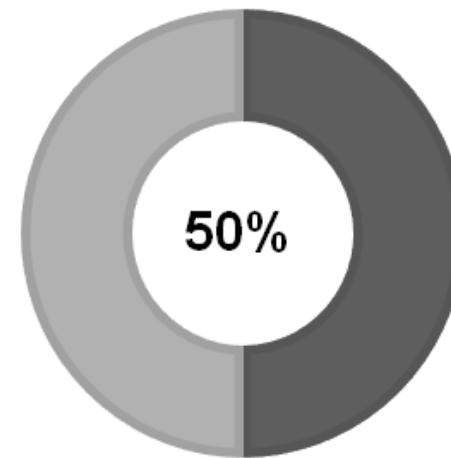
A study of exploited youth in 10 different non-profits serving CST victims found that:



Exploitation ongoing for two or more years



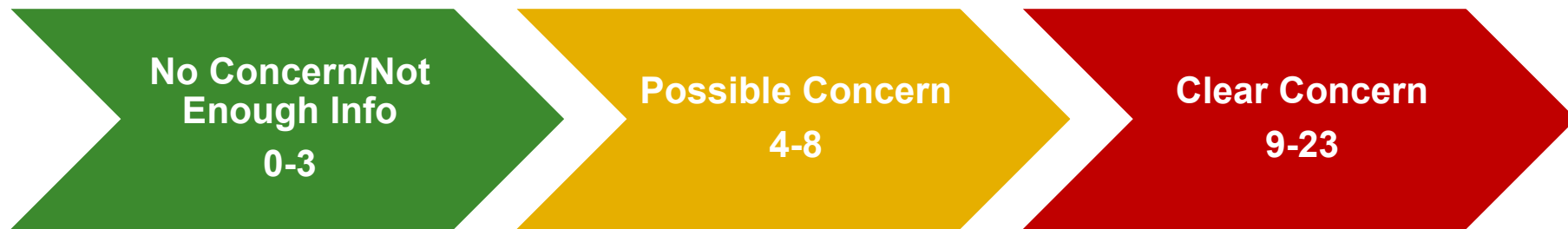
Don't see themselves as being exploited



14 or younger when exploitation started

# Implementing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT)

Complete online scoring sheet with information gathered (5-7 minutes).

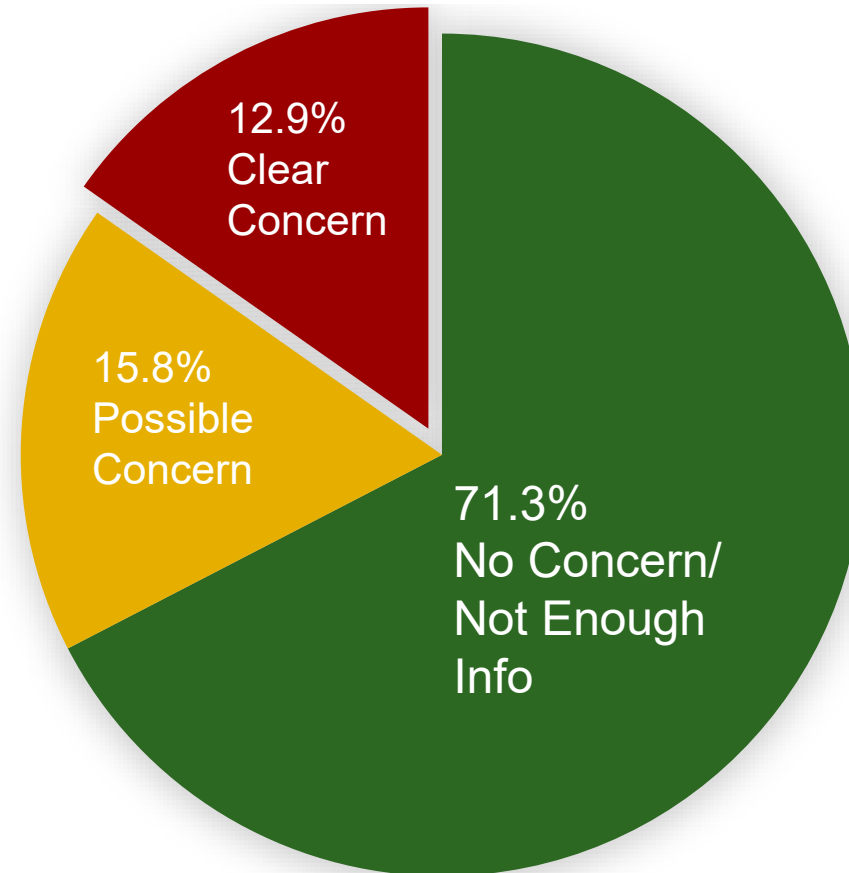


A “clear concern” score means that the youth is very likely a victim and is eligible for services to address trauma, including a full needs assessment.

# CSE-IT Results So Far in Texas

Texas child serving agencies\* have conducted 55,000+ screenings of youth 10-24 years of age.

Most of those screened are high risk youth.



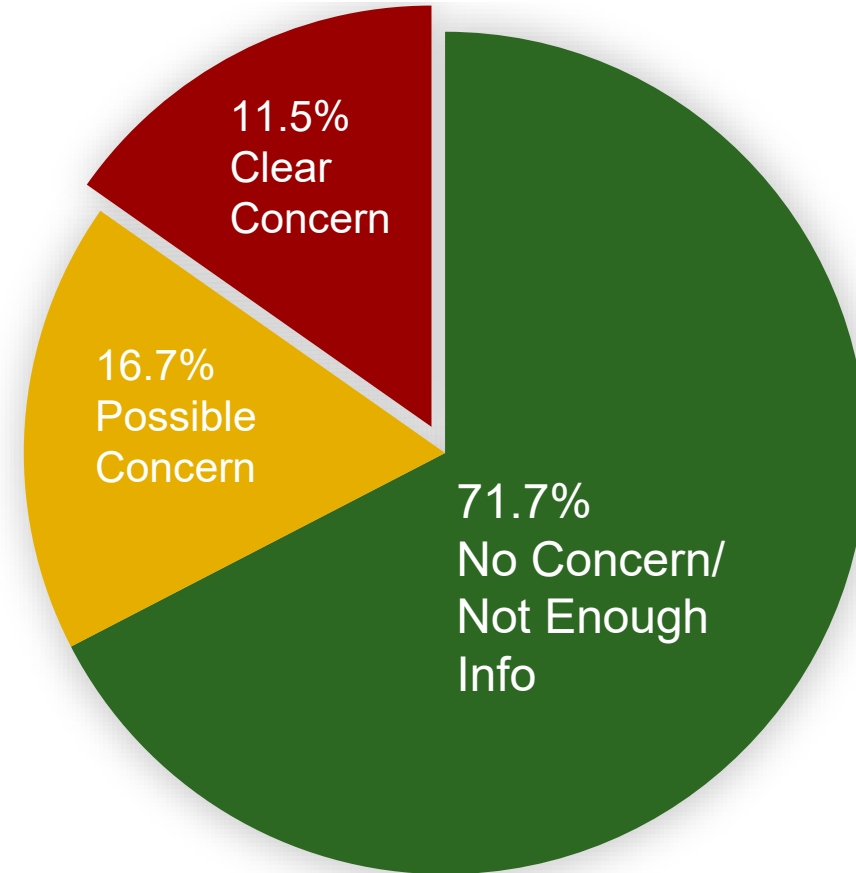
(Date Range as of  
2016-October 2021)

\*This total does not include screenings  
completed by the Texas Department of  
Family & Protective Services

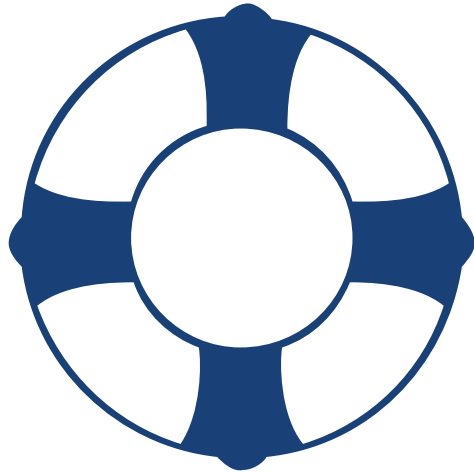
# CSE-IT Results So Far Nationally

As of October 2021, 121,170 youth screened across the United States and Canada.

- No concern: 86,924 youth
- Possible concern: 20,265 youth
- Clear concern: 13,981 youth



# CSTT Strategies for Recovering CSEY



- Supporting Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocates
- Supporting Emergency Shelters and Stabilization and Assessment Centers for child and youth victims
- Supporting drop-in centers to provide for immediate needs and engagement in services for youth who are at elevated risk to have been victimized
- Developing and supporting care coordination teams and their Advisory Councils

# Specialized Services to Recover Youth



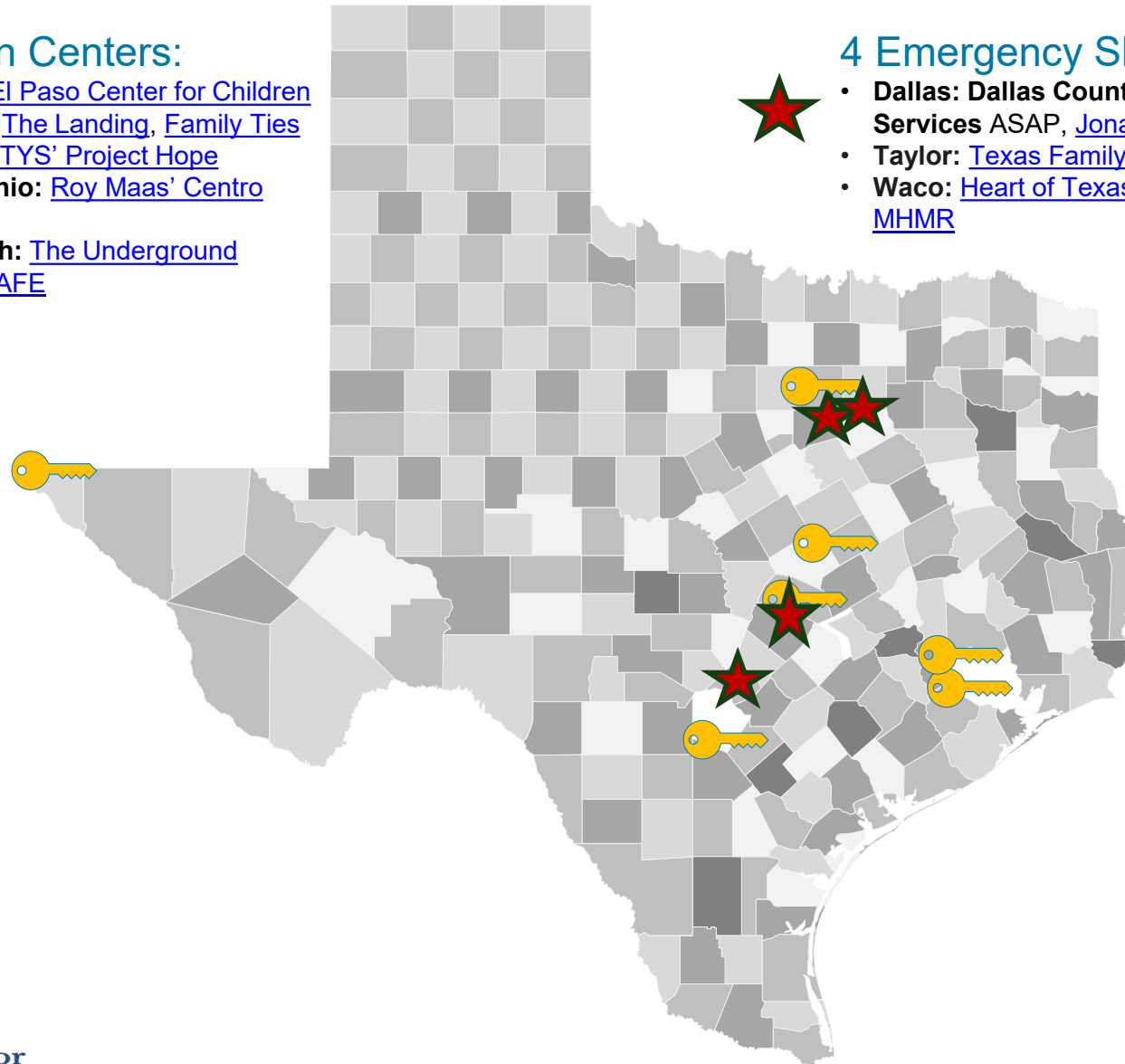
## 7 Drop-In Centers:

- El Paso: [El Paso Center for Children](#)
- Houston: [The Landing](#), [Family Ties](#)
- Killeen: [CTYS' Project Hope](#)
- San Antonio: [Roy Maas' Centro Seguro](#)
- Fort Worth: [The Underground](#)
- Austin: [SAFE](#)



## 4 Emergency Shelters:

- Dallas: [Dallas County Juvenile Services ASAP](#), [Jonathan's Place](#)
- Taylor: [Texas Family Initiative](#)
- Waco: [Heart of Texas Region MHMR](#)



# CSEY Advocacy Agencies Providing Crisis Response & Long-term Supportive Relationships & Case Mgmt

## NORTH

- [Traffick911](#) (Dallas & 4 nearby counties)
- [Unbound North Texas](#) (Tarrant & 2 nearby counties)

## SOUTH

- [BCFS Common Thread](#) (Cameron & 12 nearby counties)
- [Refugee Services of Texas](#) (Cameron & 5 nearby counties)

## EAST

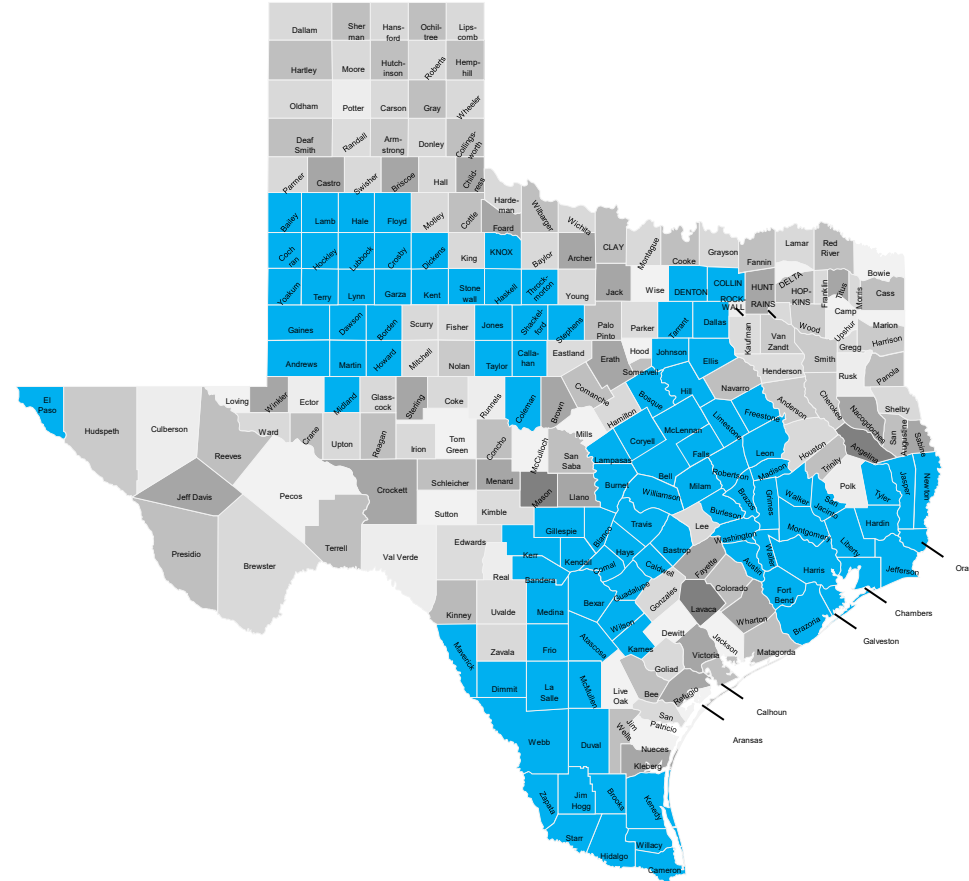
- [BCFS Common Thread](#) (Harris & 9 nearby counties)
- [Harvest House](#) (Jefferson & 5 nearby counties)
- [Sojourn Landing](#) (Harris & 7 nearby counties)
- [Unbound Bryan College Station](#) (Brazos & 6 nearby counties)
- [Unbound Houston](#) (Brazoria & 3 nearby counties)
- [YMCA International](#) (Harris & 7 nearby counties)

## WEST

- [Paso del Norte Center of Hope](#) (El Paso)
- [Regional Victim Crisis Center](#) (Taylor & 10 nearby counties)
- [Voice of Hope](#) (Lubbock & 21 nearby counties)

## CENTRAL

- [Alamo Area Rape Crisis Center](#) (Bexar & 3 nearby counties)
- [AWARE Central Texas](#) (Bell & 4 nearby counties)
- [BCFS Common Thread](#) (Bexar & 18 nearby counties)
- [Refugee Services of Texas](#) (Travis & Williamson)
- [SAFE](#) (Travis & 5 nearby counties)
- [Unbound Global](#) (McLennan & 5 nearby counties)



# CSEY Advocates Fill Gaps Across Systems

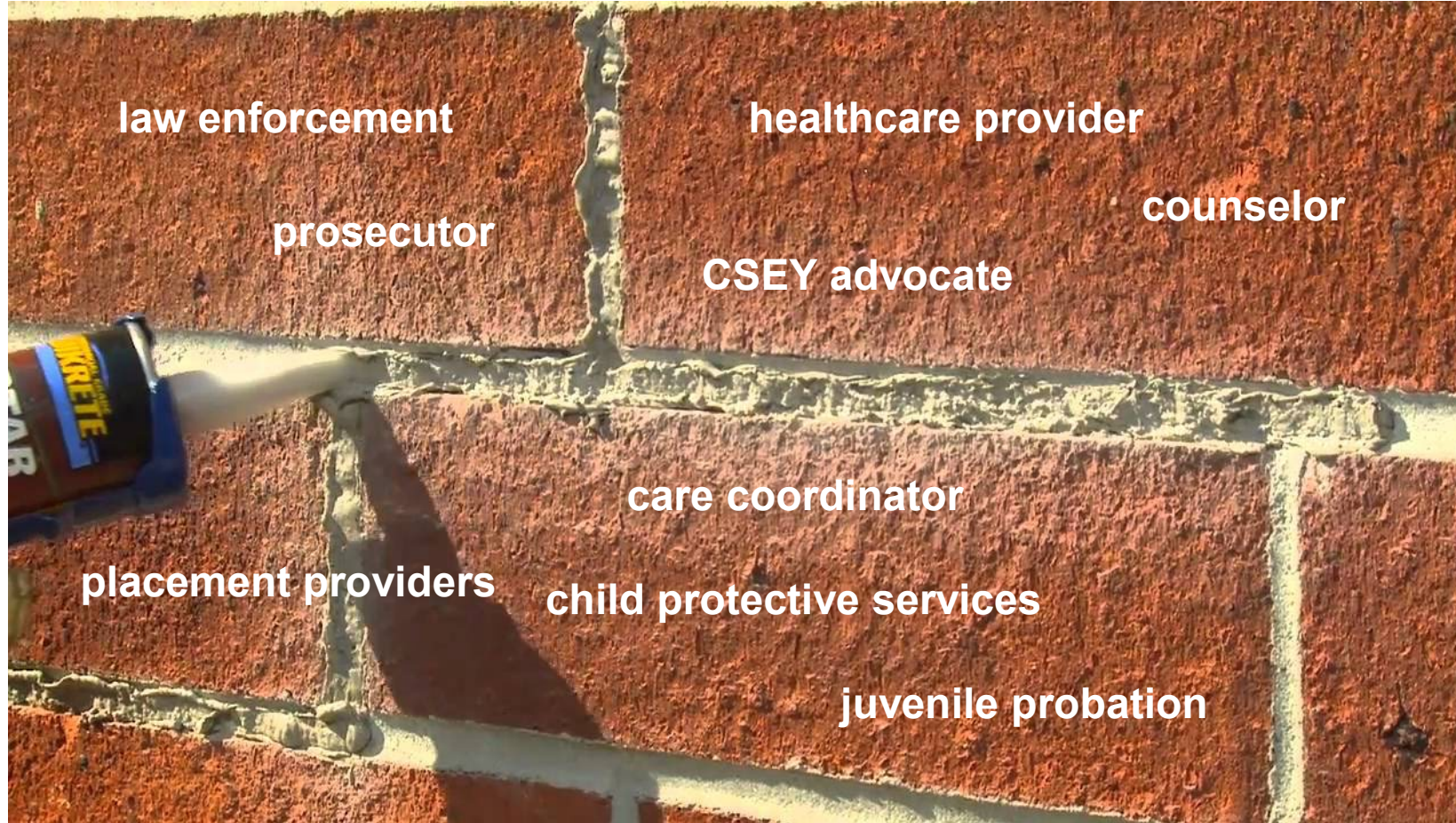
Long-term, flexible case management and advocacy to support and optimize other conditional case management/advocacy services.



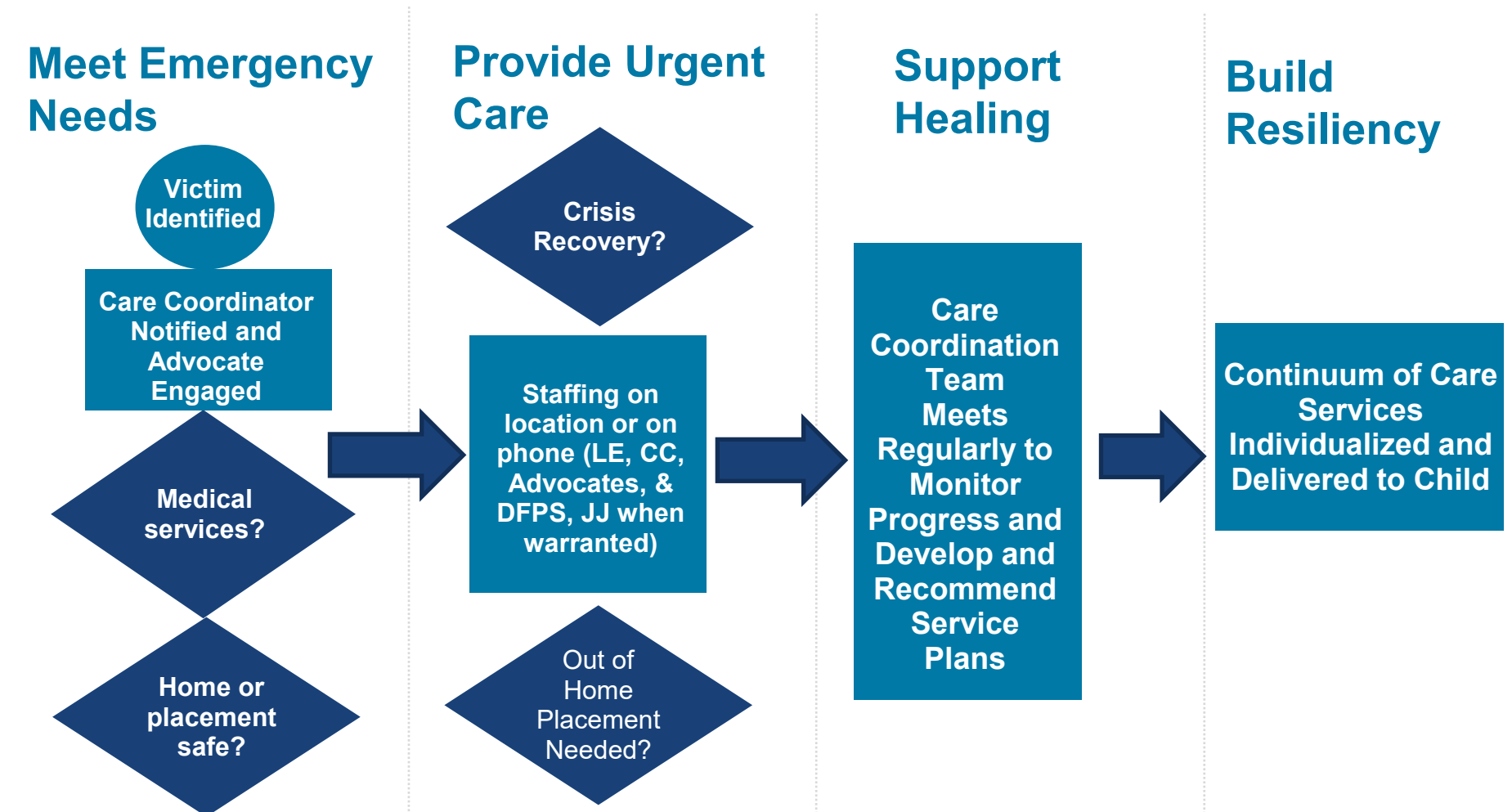


# Survivor Care Coordination

Multidisciplinary collaboration to ensure survivors don't slip through the cracks



# Survivor Care Coordination



Care Coordinator: point of contact, notifies & convenes CCT and communicates plans & decisions

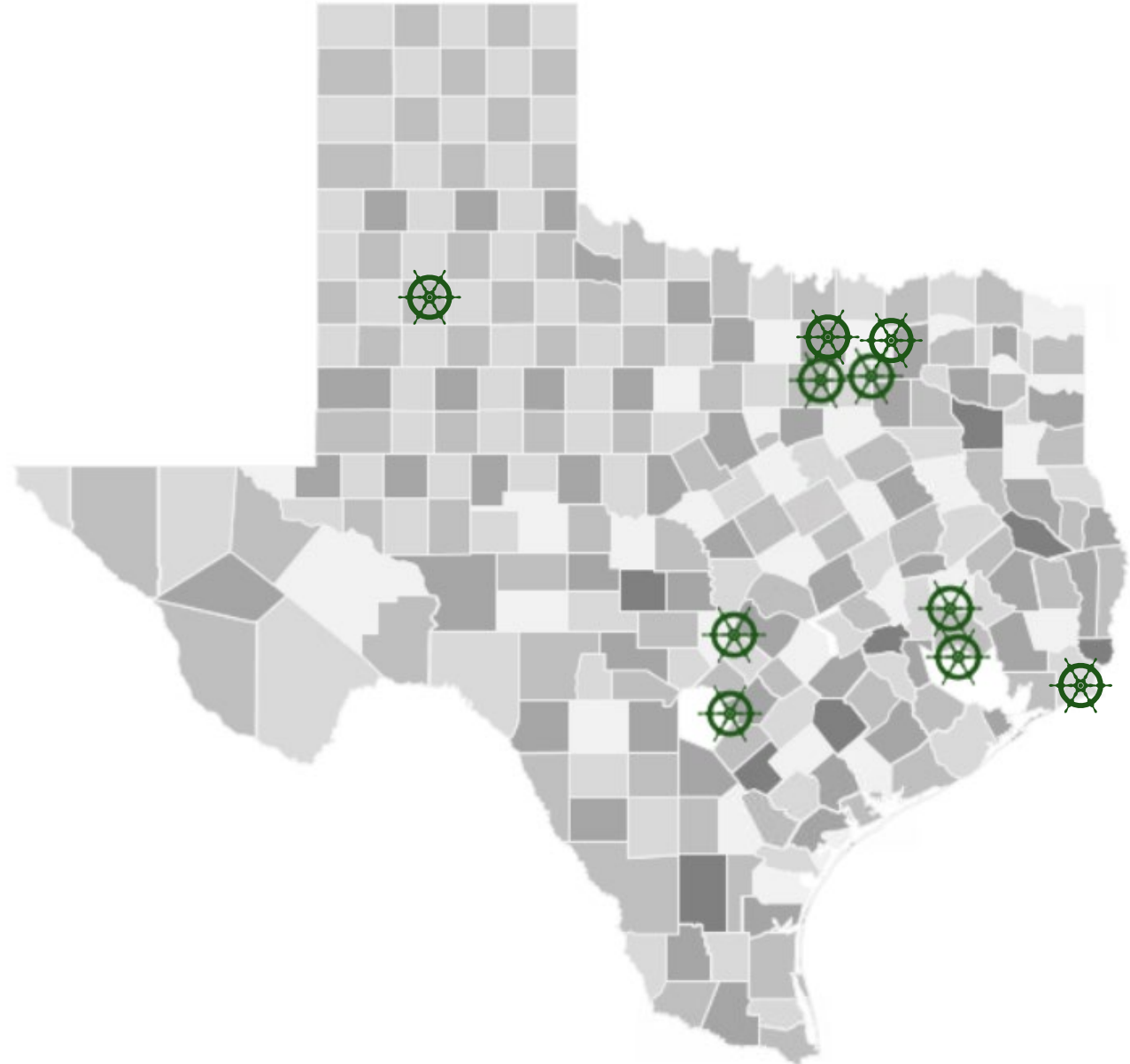
CSEY Advocate: engages with child immediately upon recovery, maintains supportive, trust-based relationship and contact throughout healing and aftercare

# Care Coordination Teams So Far



## Care Coordinators:

- Harris County Protective Services
- Dallas Children's Advocacy Center
- Alliance for Children (Tarrant County)
- CAC of Comal County
- ChildSafe (Bexar County)
- Children's Safe Harbor (Montgomery County)
- Collin County CAC
- Garth House (Jefferson County)
- CAC of the South Plains (Lubbock County)
- CAC for North Texas (Denton County)
- Abilene/Taylor County CAC
- Williamson County CAC
- Center for Child Protection (Travis County)
- Ellis County CAC



# CSTT Strategies for Supporting Healing



- Equipping stakeholders to provide trauma informed responses and ongoing services
- Developing long-term residential and community services for victims, including adult victims to provide ongoing support and build resiliency
- Engaging regional administrators to work with public and private partners to identify and fill gaps in regional continuum of care

# Trust Based Relational Intervention®



- TBRI is a trauma-informed intervention that equips **first responders and caregivers** to meet the needs of traumatized children and help them to better control their own trauma responses.
- It includes 3 core elements:
  - **Empowering Principles** to address physical (including brain) needs,
  - **Connecting Principles** for attachment needs, and
  - **Correcting Principles** to disarm fear-based behaviors.

<https://child.TCU.edu>



# Specialized Services to Support Healing



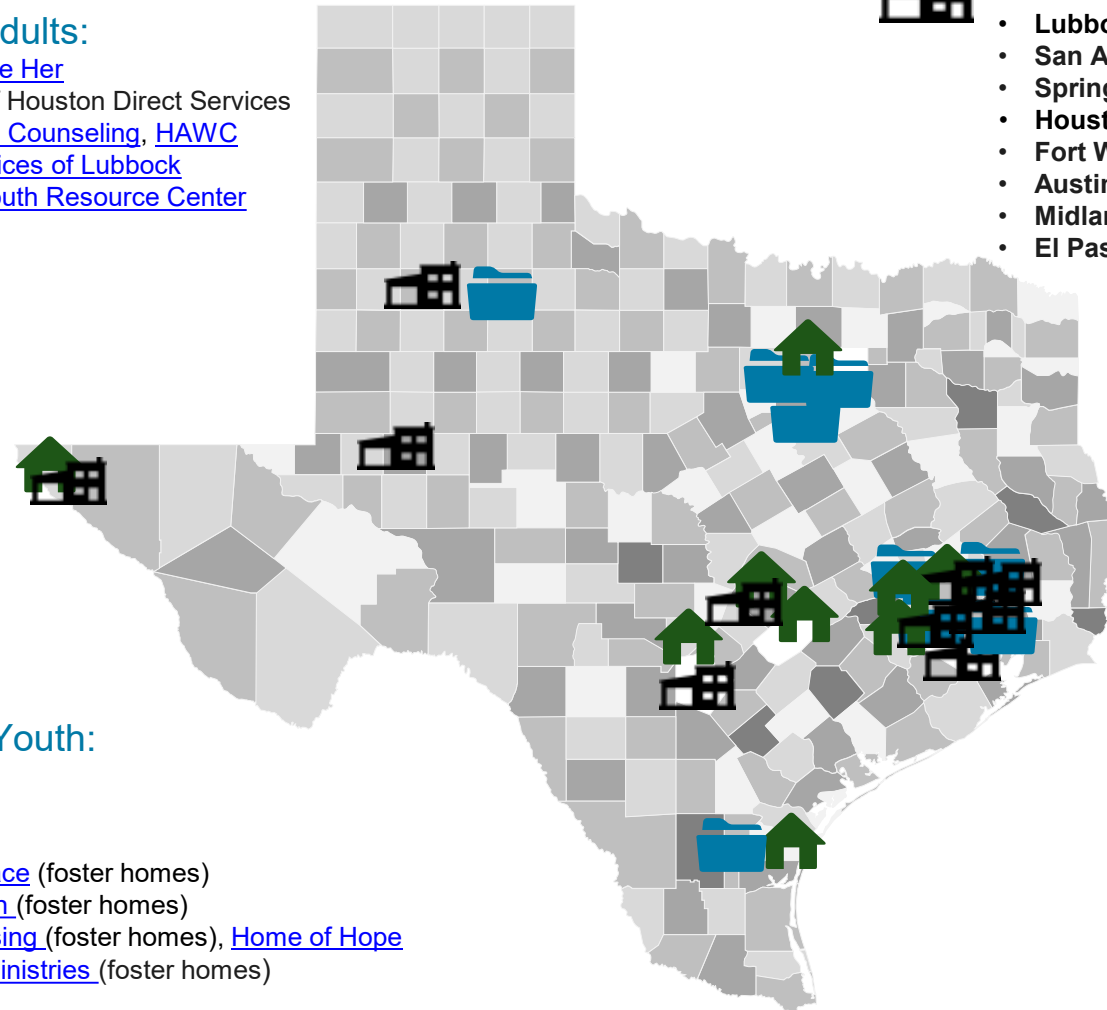
## 9 Community Case Management and Counseling Programs for Adults:

- **Fort Worth:** [Valiant Hearts](#), [Rescue Her](#)
- **Houston:** [Rescue Houston](#), City of Houston Direct Services for HT Victims, [YMCA International Counseling](#), [HAWC](#)
- **Lubbock:** [Family Counseling Services of Lubbock](#)
- **Dallas:** [New Friends New Life's Youth Resource Center](#)
- **Alice:** Project Juntos



## 11 Residential Programs for Adults:

- **Lubbock:** [Lubbock Open Door](#)
- **San Antonio:** [Youth Center of Texas](#)
- **Spring:** [Redeemed Ministries](#)
- **Houston:** [Elijah Rising](#), [One Voice Home](#), City of Houston, HAWC
- **Fort Worth:** [Valiant Hearts](#)
- **Austin:** [Red Oak Home](#)
- **Midland:** [Reflection Ministries](#)
- **El Paso:** [Paso del Norte Center of Hope](#)



## 9 Residential Programs for Youth:

- **Austin:** [Nicole's Place](#)
- **Bastrop:** [The Refuge](#)
- **Bulverde:** [SJRC](#)
- **Dallas/Forth Worth:** [Jonathan's Place](#) (foster homes)
- **El Paso:** [El Paso Center for Children](#) (foster homes)
- **Houston:** [Freedom Place](#), [Hope Rising](#) (foster homes), [Home of Hope](#)
- **Corpus Christi:** [New Life Refuge Ministries](#) (foster homes)



# CSTT Strategies for Bringing Justice



- Providing training and resources to criminal justice systems to hold exploiters accountable and empower victims
- Combatting emerging methods of exploitation
- Shifting cultural norms from blaming victims to empowering them and holding exploiters accountable
- Providing long-term support and empowerment for survivors

# CSTT Supported Trainings

Training Criminal Justice System and Other Stakeholders to Address CSEY More Effectively





# Research Resources and Best Practices Webinars

Relevant research updated, curated, and summarized



## Research Resources

Child Sex Trafficking Team  
Office of the Texas Governor

[gov.texas.gov/cstt](http://gov.texas.gov/cstt)

CSTT webinars are on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
from 1PM to 2 PM.



# Governor Abbott's Child Sex Trafficking Team

<https://gov.texas.gov/cstt>

Hillary England, Director of Trafficking and Sexual Violence Prevention Programs

[Hillary.England@gov.Texas.gov](mailto:Hillary.England@gov.Texas.gov)

Todd Latiolais, Administrator of Prevention and Policy

[Todd.Latiolais@gov.texas.gov](mailto:Todd.Latiolais@gov.texas.gov)

Alan Schonborn, Administrator of Strategic Development

[Alan.Schonborn@gov.texas.gov](mailto:Alan.Schonborn@gov.texas.gov)

Jordann Jezek,  
Program Coordinator

[Jordann.Jezek@gov.texas.gov](mailto:Jordann.Jezek@gov.texas.gov)

Janet Kasper, **East Texas** Regional Administrator

[Janet.Kasper@gov.texas.gov](mailto:Janet.Kasper@gov.texas.gov)

Tomi Grover, **North Texas** Regional Administrator

[Tomi.Grover@gov.texas.gov](mailto:Tomi.Grover@gov.texas.gov)

Debbie Solcher, **Central Texas** Regional Administrator

[Debbie.Solcher@gov.texas.gov](mailto:Debbie.Solcher@gov.texas.gov)

Veronica Lowenberg, **West Texas** Regional Administrator

[Veronica.Lowenberg@gov.texas.gov](mailto:Veronica.Lowenberg@gov.texas.gov)

Christian Benavides,  
**South Texas** Regional Administrator

[Christian.Benavides@gov.texas.gov](mailto:Christian.Benavides@gov.texas.gov)



# Department of Family and Protective Services

ADA MCCLOUD



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

# Human Trafficking



## Commissioner Masters'

### Vision on Human Trafficking

DFPS has made the fight against human trafficking a priority – it must be eradicated.

Foster youth who age out of state care face many challenges and can be at a higher risk of human trafficking because of homelessness.



**TEXAS**  
**Department of Family  
and Protective Services**

---

***Human Trafficking***

## Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation (HTCE) Division

### Focus

For the children and youth served by DFPS, the DFPS HTCE division strives to:

- Strengthen continued compliance with all federal and state human trafficking mandates,
- Develop best practices in the prevention of trafficking, and
- Improve DFPS capacity to identify, report, recover and support victims of trafficking in their restoration journey.

# Texas Family Code Definitions

## Sex Trafficking

Compelling or encouraging the child to engage in sexual conduct as defined by Section [43.01](#), Penal Code, including compelling or encouraging the child in a manner that constitutes an offense of trafficking of persons under Section [20A.02\(a\)\(7\)](#) or (8), Penal Code, solicitation of prostitution under Section [43.021](#), Penal Code, or compelling prostitution under Section [43.05\(a\)\(2\)](#), Penal Code

- Texas Family Code [§261.001\(1\)\(G\)](#)

## Sex/Labor Trafficking

- Knowingly causing, permitting, encouraging, engaging in, or allowing a child to be trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under Section [20A.02\(a\)\(5\)](#), (6), (7), or (8), Penal Code, or the
- Failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent a child from being trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under any of those sections

- Texas Family Code [§261.001\(1\)\(L\)](#)

# Jurisdiction

## DFPS

In accordance with Texas Family Code [§261.301](#), DFPS investigates allegations of child abuse or neglect when abuse or neglect, including sex and labor trafficking, is allegedly committed by a person responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare, such as a family member or an adult living in the home of an alleged minor victim.

Specifically for human trafficking, DFPS investigates if a person traditionally responsible for the children's care, custody, and welfare does either of the following:

- Knowingly causes, permits, encourages, engages in, or allows a child to be trafficked, or
- Fails to make a reasonable effort to prevent a child from being trafficked.



# Definition: Person Responsible

Texas Family Code [§ 261.001\(5\)\(A\)-\(D\)](#) defines a person responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare as:

- Child's parent(s);
- Guardian appointed by the probate court;
- Managing or possessory conservator;
- Member of child's family or household;
- Person with whom child's parent(s) lives; and
- School personnel or volunteer.

**Person NOT Responsible includes:**  
neighbors, a pimp, and an adult boyfriend or girlfriend of child, even if child has moved in with that person.



## Definition

# Child's Household

### 40 Texas Administrative Code [§707.451\(a\)\(8\)\(A\)](#)

- Child's family's household (i.e., parents' household or both parent' households if they reside separately);
- Household in which parent has arranged for or authorized placement of child (for ex- parental child safety placement or when parent sends child to live with relatives during summer break); or
- A household in which child is legally placed by parent or the court (i.e., household of a managing conservator or guardian).

# Jurisdiction and Protective Parents

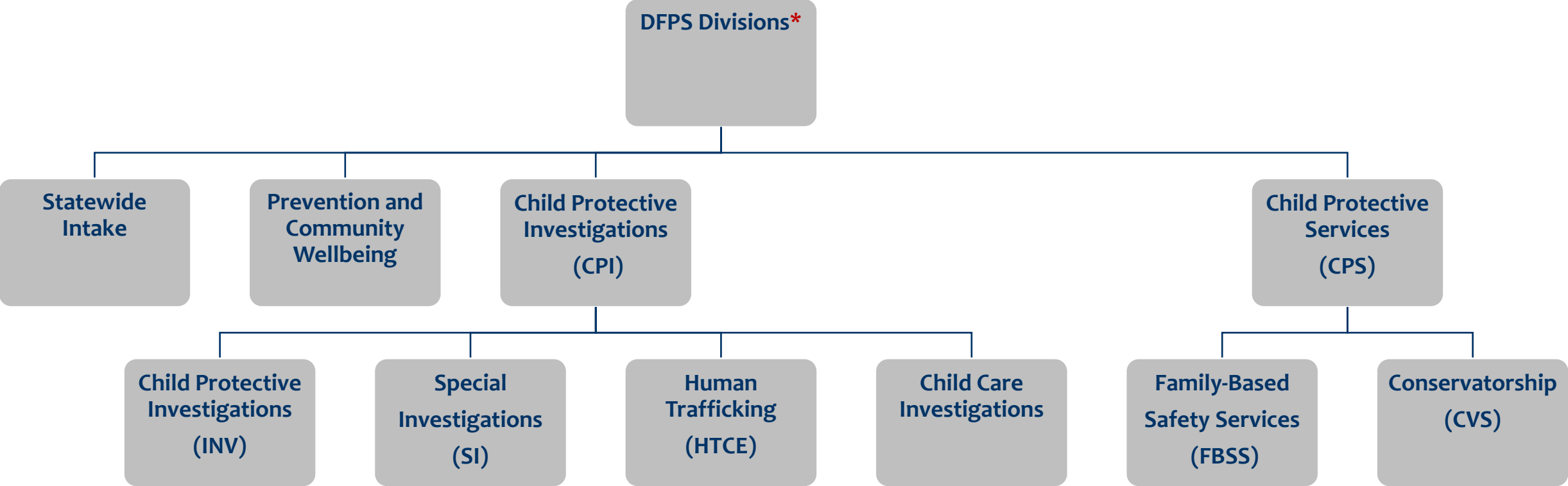
DFPS firmly believes that protective parents should have the right to advocate for their children who have been victimized.

DFPS' involvement is inappropriate when a child or youth has protective parents who can and will intervene for their child.



# Human Trafficking Division

## Agency Efforts



\*Not all inclusive

**Blanca Denise Lance**  
**Human Trafficking Director**

[Blanca.Lance@dfps.texas.gov](mailto:Blanca.Lance@dfps.texas.gov)

512-944-5582

**Ada McCloud**  
**Prevention Practitioner**

[Ada.McCloud@dfps.Texas.gov](mailto:Ada.McCloud@dfps.Texas.gov)

512-552-1361



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services



**Thank You**

[HumanTrafficking@dfps.texas.gov](mailto:HumanTrafficking@dfps.texas.gov)

# Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services

SARAH HALL



**TEXAS ALLIANCE OF  
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**



---

# CSEY Services Overview

Sarah Hall, LPC-Associate, Commercially Sexually  
Exploited Youth Project Coordinator

[shall@tacfs.org](mailto:shall@tacfs.org)

737-444-5730

---



# Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services / Texas Center for Child and Family Studies

- The Alliance: 501(c)(6) Membership Organization, comprised of between 150-200 child and family serving organizations across Texas
- The Center: 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization that supports the efforts of TACFS
- Advocates for policies at local, state, and national levels that support high-quality care, evidence-based practices, and increased capacity in the child welfare system
- Supports child welfare professionals through education, training, research, and technical assistance to promote and develop best practices

## Structure

TACFS is composed of approximately 20 child welfare professionals on 5 teams, each cross-supporting our varied initiatives across the state

- Systems Advancement
- Public and Legislative Affairs
- Legal and Regulatory Affairs
- Finance and Administration
- Learning

# CSEY Services – Building and Sustaining Capacity

As part of the Learning Team, our CSEY services for child-serving professionals include:

- Consultation: clinical, regulatory, communication, engagement, survivor-informed policies and procedures, growth, and sustainability
- Training:
  - Facilitation of a wide variety of free-to-participant trainings on CSEY topics from state and national partners
  - In-house development and provision of advanced, survivor-informed CSEY topic trainings and customized CSEY trainings
- Technical Assistance
- Legislative advocacy
- Learning collaboratives
- Research

# Tools We Support

Prevention

- Love146's Not a Number Prevention Program (community youth or youth with few risk factors)
- My Life My Choice's Exploitation Prevention Program (mixed-risk groups or youth with trafficking history)

Screening

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) [3 trainers on staff]

Trauma-  
Informed  
Care

- Trust Based Relational Intervention®: an attachment-based model of care for youth with trauma [6 practitioners on staff to provide training and support]

Program  
Development

- Texas Framework for Residential CSEY Services

Evaluation

- Outcomes for Human Trafficking Survivors (OHTS)

## Referrals

When contacted by professionals about youth needing resources, our staff:

- Engages in mandated reporting, if the youth is under the age of 18 or is an adult under guardianship
- Helps identify what types of resources are appropriate (law enforcement, CSEY advocates, Children's Advocacy Centers, CPS, residential housing programs [youth age 18-24], food banks, shelters, drop-in centers, etc.)
- Helps referring sources determine which agencies provide those resources at a county or municipal level
- Connects referring sources to appropriate agencies that serve the youth's community

## Points of Contact:

For training needs, technical assistance, consultation, case-specific questions, or assistance in understanding conceptual questions around trafficking, please contact:

Sarah Hall, CSEY Project Coordinator: [shall@tacfs.org](mailto:shall@tacfs.org)

Tiffany Greco, VP of Learning: [tgreco@tacfs.org](mailto:tgreco@tacfs.org)



---

Sarah Hall, LPC-Associate, Commercially Sexually  
Exploited Youth Project Coordinator

[shall@tacfs.org](mailto:shall@tacfs.org)

737-444-5730

---

Texas CASA

CANDICE DOSMAN  
RHONDA KUYKENDALL



# Hello!



**Candice Dosman,  
CFE Director**



**Rhonda Kuykendall,  
CASA ACT Consultant**



# Who We Are

## IMPACT NUMBERS



**10,920**  
CASA  
Volunteers



**28,543**  
Children Served  
by CASA



**2,000,000+**  
Hours of  
Volunteer Service



**44,116**  
Children in  
Foster Care\*



**72**  
Local  
CASA Programs



**38**  
Legislative  
Advocacy Teams

\*only includes counties served by a CASA program



**A- Anti**

**C- Child**

**T- Trafficking**

*It's not enough to care,  
we need to ACT.*






# What We Hope to Do

- Develop CASA advocacy framework
- Support local programs to be on MDTs
- Develop best practices for CSE-IT use
- Offer more trainings and support
- Be good partners in the trafficking community
- MOU with DFPS



# Points of Contact

-  Case specific > Local CASA Program
-  Rhonda, CASA ACT Consultant >  
[casaacts@texascasa.org](mailto:casaacts@texascasa.org)
-  Candice, CFE Director >  
[cdosman@texascasa.org](mailto:cdosman@texascasa.org)



Texas Juvenile Justice  
Department

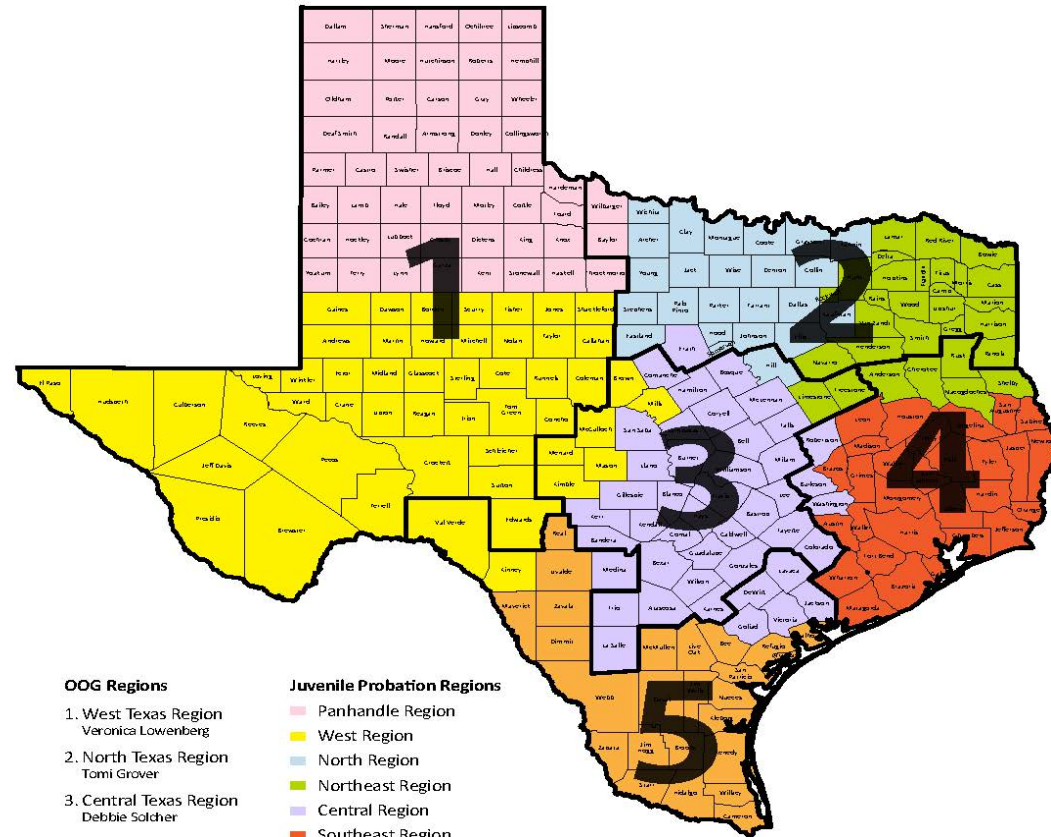
RYAN BRISTOW



# TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT



## Juvenile Probation Regions with OOG Regions



### OOG Regions

1. West Texas Region  
Veronica Lowenberg
2. North Texas Region  
Tomi Grover
3. Central Texas Region  
Debbie Solcher
4. East Texas Region  
Janet Kasper
5. South Texas Region  
Christian Benavides

### Juvenile Probation Regions

- 1. Panhandle Region
- 2. West Region
- 3. North Region
- 4. Northeast Region
- 5. Central Region
- 6. Southeast Region
- 7. South Region

(as of September 2020)

# TJJD Guide

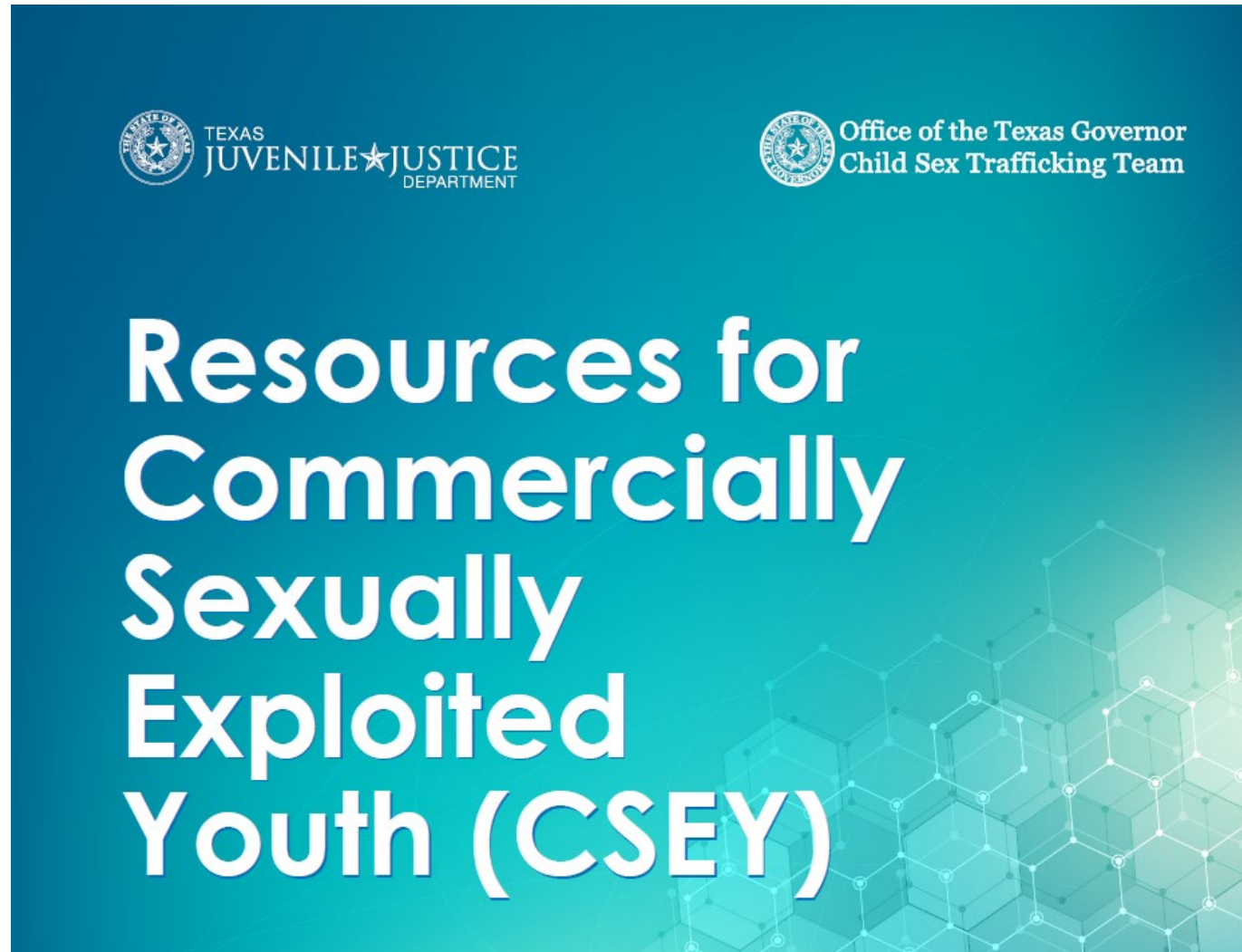
## Field Resource - TJJD and Juvenile Probation Departments

- Pursuant to Senate Bill 1356 (83rd Legislative Session), TJJD began developing a training relating to human trafficking for juvenile correctional officers.
- In 2018, TJJD received a grant for implementation of the CSE-IT throughout the 165 individual juvenile probation departments, as well as within TJJD.
- At the end of 2021, 153 departments had been trained and had activated the tool, and 50,990 CSE-IT screenings had been completed.
- TJJD mission is *Transforming young lives and creating safer communities*, with the following core values:
  - Justice: We do the right thing, in all things, with all people.
  - Safety: We commit to a culture that protects youth, employees, and the public.
  - Integrity: We build trust through transparency and ethical behavior.
  - Partnership: We achieve best results through collaboration with counties, stakeholders, youth, and their families.
  - Innovation: We proactively create opportunities to improve the juvenile justice system.



# TJJD Handbook

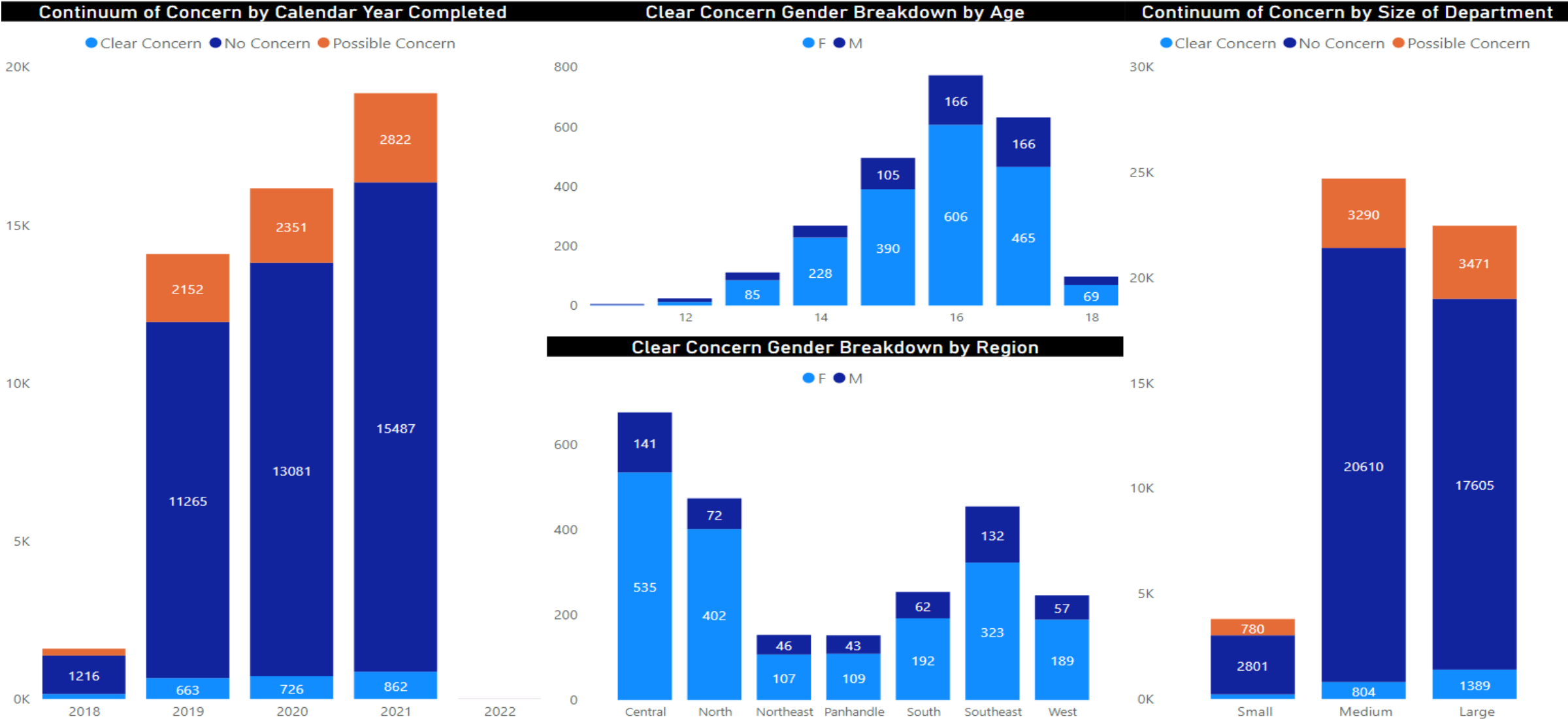
Field Resource - TJJD and Juvenile Probation Departments



# Data from CSE-IT screenings

## Aggregate data from TJJJ

Calendar Year 2021 State of Texas County Juvenile Probation CSE-IT Snapshot



# TJJD Regionalization Contact Information

<p><b>Ashley Kintzer</b> Manager of Regionalization and County Grants 512-484-9094 Ashley.Kintzer@tjtd.texas.gov</p>	<p><b>Ryan Bristow (North and Northeast)</b> Regional County Program Administrator 512-460-0946 Ryan.Bristow@tjtd.texas.gov</p>
<p><b>Deborah Harris-Wiggins (Southeast)</b> Regional County Program Administrator 254-722-2450 Deborah.Harris-Wiggins@tjtd.texas.gov</p>	<p><b>Mark Williams (Panhandle and West)</b> Regional County Program Administrator 512-460-0849 Mark.Williams@tjtd.texas.gov</p>
<p><b>Jim Wilson (Central)</b> Regional County Program Administrator 512-490-7988 James.Wilson@tjtd.texas.gov</p>	<p><b>Javier Aguilar (South)</b> Regional County Program Administrator 959-245-7406 Javier.Aguilar@tjtd.texas.gov</p>
<p><b>Susan Palacios, PhD, LPC</b> Community Mental Health Program Administrator 512-420-3923 Susan.Palacios@tjtd.texas.gov</p>	

## **Panel Discussion**

Please enter your questions into the Q&A box.



# State of Bar of Texas MCLE and TBLS Credit

---



Course Number:  
174146065



# Contact Information

---

## Children's Commission

- Email: [children@txcourts.gov](mailto:children@txcourts.gov)
- Website: <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/>

Thank You!

