



# Children's Commission

SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS PERMANENT JUDICIAL  
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



## Children's Commission Meeting Notebook

November 15, 2024



**Supreme Court of Texas**  
**Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families**

November 15, 2024

Meeting Notebook  
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SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS PERMANENT JUDICIAL  
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

## Virtual Meeting

Friday, November 15, 2024  
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

### Meeting Agenda

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- 9:30 Commencement / Opening Remarks  
First Order of Business – Adopt Minutes from September 13, 2024
- 9:40 Incoming Commission Members
- 10:25 Office of Court Administration Update
- 10:40 Department of Family & Protective Services Update
- 11:10 Children's Commission Projects
- 11:20 Collaborative Council Member Announcements
- 11:30 New Business / Adjourn

#### Meeting Schedule:

- Feb 7, 2025 (in person)
- May 9, 2025 (virtual)
- Sept 26, 2025 (in person)
- Nov 14, 2025 (virtual)



**INSERT - TAB 1**









**INSERT - TAB 2**



# Supreme Court of Texas Children’s Commission Meeting Minutes

**Friday, September 13, 2024  
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

## ATTENDANCE

| <b>Commissioners</b>  | <b>Attended</b> | <b>Did Not Attend</b> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Chair</i> , Hon. Debra Lehrmann, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas, Austin   | ✓               |                       |
| <i>Deputy Chair</i> , Hon. Rebeca Huddle, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas, Austin   | ✓               |                       |
| Hon. Rosie Alvarado, Judge, 438 <sup>th</sup> District Court, San Antonio   | ✓               |                       |
| Karla Baker, Parent Liaison, Region 4, Parent Collaboration Group Representative, Chandler  |                 | ✓                     |
| Erica Bañuelos, Associate Commissioner for Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin                                      |                 | ✓                     |
| Chantel Bedlington, Supervisor of the Kinship Navigator Program, ACH Services, Fort Worth   |                 | ✓                     |
| Corey Benbow, Chief Executive Officer, The Tax Box, Austin  |                 | ✓                     |
| Dr. Gary Blau, Senior Advisor for Children, Youth and Families; Office of the Assistant Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Houston |                 | ✓                     |
| Hon. Susan Brown, Presiding Judge, 11 <sup>th</sup> Administrative Judicial Region, Houston   | ✓               |                       |
| Hon. Darlene Byrne, Chief Justice, Third Court of Appeals, Austin   |                 | ✓                     |
| Hon. Julie Countiss, Justice, First Court of Appeals, Houston   | ✓               |                       |
| Sheila Craig, Consultant and Director (ret.), Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Austin  | ✓               |                       |
| Hon. Roy Ferguson, Judge, 394 <sup>th</sup> District Court, Alpine  | ✓               |                       |
| Hon. Bill Harris, Chair, State Bar of Texas Child Protection Law Section, Paris   | ✓               |                       |
| Anne Heiligenstein, Senior Director Strategic Consultant, Casey Family Programs, Austin   | ✓               |                       |
| Hon. Selina Mireles, Associate Judge, 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Admin. Judicial Regions Child Protection Court, Laredo                                      | ✓               |                       |
| Hon. Robbie Partida-Kipness, Justice, Fifth District Court of Appeals, Dallas   |                 | ✓                     |
| Sasha Rasco, Associate Commissioner for Family Support Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Austin   |                 | ✓                     |
| Hon. Isaac Roldan, Tribal Court Judge, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Tribe, El Paso   |                 | ✓                     |
| Hon. Randy Shelton, Judge, 279 <sup>th</sup> Civil District Court, Beaumont   | ✓               |                       |
| Luanne Southern, Chief Strategist for Behavioral Health, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin   | ✓               |                       |
| Vicki Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer, Texas CASA, Austin  |                 | ✓                     |
| Terese Stevenson, Vice President, Grants, The Rees-Jones Foundation, Dallas   | ✓               |                       |
| Hon. Thomas Stuckey, Associate Judge, Centex Child Protection Court South, Seguin   | ✓               |                       |
| Hon. Royce West, Texas Senate, District 23, Dallas  |                 | ✓                     |
| <b>Jurists in Residence</b>   |                 |                       |
| Hon. Rob Hofmann, Judge, 452 <sup>nd</sup> District Court, Senior Jurist in Residence, Mason  |                 | ✓                     |
| Hon. Piper McCraw, Judge, 469 <sup>th</sup> District Court, Jurist in Residence, McKinney   | ✓               |                       |
| <b>Attending Committee Members &amp; Guests</b>   |                 |                       |
| Dr. Brock Boudreau, Deputy Commissioner, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services   |                 |                       |
| Sierra Fischer, Director of Analytics for Change and Enhancement, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services  |                 |                       |
| Brenda Kinsler, Managing Attorney Regions 4,5,6, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services   |                 |                       |
| Emily Johnston, Staff Attorney, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid   |                 |                       |
| Kellie Price, Special Projects Attorney, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services   |                 |                       |
| Jennifer Sims, Deputy Commissioner, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services  |                 |                       |
| Sarah Worthington, Director, Texas Foster Youth Justice Project   |                 |                       |
| <b>Office of Court Administration Staff</b>   |                 |                       |
| Marcus Crosby, Children’s Court Program Manager   |                 |                       |
| Jeffrey Tsunekawa, Director of Court Services   |                 |                       |

### **Attending Children’s Commission Staff**

Jessica Arguijo, Communications Manager  
Jamie Bernstein, Executive Director  
Renée Castillo-De La Cruz, Staff Attorney  
Aimee Corbin, Staff Attorney  
Tiffany Edwards, Executive Assistant  
Chelsea Martinez, Program Specialist  
Dylan Moench, Legal Representation Director  
Patrick Passmore, Finance Manager  
Milbrey Raney, Assistant Director  
Andrea Vicencio, Program Specialist

### **CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS**

Justice Rebeca Huddle called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the September 2024 Children’s Commission meeting. Justice Huddle expressed her gratitude to the Commissioners, Committee, and Collaborative Council members for their continuing partnership and engagement at Children’s Commission meetings.

### **Commission, Committee, and Staff Member Changes**

Justice Huddle announced that as the current Chair of the State Bar of Texas Child Protection Law Section, Hon. Bill Harris will serve as a Commissioner. She also shared that Ms. Luanne Southern is no longer at the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium but will continue to serve on the Commission as the Chief Behavioral Health Strategist at the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Ms. Katie Olse, previously with the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, left her role and will no longer serve on the Children’s Commission. Ms. Madelyn Fletcher left her role at the Governor’s Office and will no longer serve in an *ex officio* capacity. Justice Huddle expressed her thanks to these individuals for their significant contributions to the Commission.

Justice Huddle also announced that Ms. Natalie Taylor left her role as Director of Permanency at DFPS State Office and will no longer serve on the Systems Improvement Committee. Texas CASA Data Manager Mr. Sub Uppaluri joined the Data Committee.

Lastly, Justice Huddle reported that Mr. Dylan Moench would soon leave his role as Director of Legal Representation at the Children’s Commission. He accepted a position as Chief Counsel at the Travis County Office of Child Representation. Justice Huddle expressed her gratitude for Mr. Moench’s many contributions during his nearly eight-year tenure and for his enduring legacy at the Children’s Commission.

During the meeting, outgoing Commissioner Hon. Selina Mireles and Mr. Moench were honored with certificates of service and acknowledged for their leadership and vision during their tenure with the Children’s Commission.

### **Adoption of May 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Justice Huddle directed members to the May 17, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes behind Tab 2 of the Meeting Notebook, distributed in advance of the meeting.

**ACTION:** Justice Huddle asked if there were any questions or edits to the minutes as written. Hearing none, after a motion and a second the Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes for the May 17, 2024 Children’s Commission meeting.

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES (DFPS) UPDATE**

Dr. Brock Boudreau expressed his gratitude for the partnership between the Children’s Commission and DFPS, which supports the positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children in Texas. Dr. Boudreau reported that the federal Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) evaluates the functioning of the child welfare system through identified outcomes and systemic factors. Once the final CFSR report is received, DFPS will have 90 days to respond and initiate the development of a Program Improvement Plan (PIP). Dr. Boudreau commended the legal/judicial involvement with the CFSR process, especially in the area of case review and engaging stakeholders; he noted that Texas is a national model.

Dr. Boudreau shared that DFPS Commissioner Stephanie Muth is hiring additional staff to address children without placement (CWOP) efforts. DFPS will focus on ensuring that the new staff have the support and resources they need to work with children in need of placement. He also highlighted the agency’s work on Texas Child-Centered Care (T3C) as an improved mechanism to assess individualized service needs. T3C will replace the service level system and update the service array and rate methodology.

Finally, Dr. Boudreau reported that the number of CWOP decreased dramatically since 2020. He shared that Associate Commissioner for Child Protective Services Ms. Erica Bañuelos implemented new solutions to reduce the number of CWOP from 50-60 to 10 children by conducting daily meetings to address each child’s specific needs. Dr. Boudreau shared that DFPS also implemented new measures to prevent CWOP experiences for children and youth in care.

**CHILDREN’S COMMISSION UPDATE**

Ms. Jamie Bernstein directed members to the Report to the Commission behind Tab 3 in the Meeting Notebook for updates on FY24 projects. She expressed her gratitude to everyone who provided feedback about the slate of projects and activities for FY25 and referenced a related PowerPoint that is available on the Children’s Commission website. The Children’s Commission then laid out the key strategies that are new or updated in the coming fiscal year. The other strategies that were not addressed during the presentation remain unchanged from FY24.

For the Collaboration Goal in the Strategic Plan, Ms. Bernstein noted that the Commission’s website will be updated in the coming fiscal year and invited future input regarding content and functionality. Ms. Bernstein also reported that CFSR Round 4 includes increased emphasis on legal and judicial involvement. During this process, the commission will likely partner with DFPS to develop pilots related to caregiver engagement and termination of parental rights.

For the Systems Improvement Goal in the Strategic Plan, Ms. Aimee Corbin announced that the commission recently initiated the Consortium for Trauma Informed Court Practices. The consortium is designed to be an informal space for judicial discussion and education focused on trauma-informed and trauma-responsive court practices. Ms. Corbin also reported that DFPS and

the commission partnered to educate the legal community and other child welfare professionals on the Texas Family First (TFF) pilot and on the law regarding reasonable efforts. These trainings will continue throughout every region of Texas. Ms. Corbin added that the commission, with the assistance of Education Reach for Texans, also plans to update the Higher Education Foster Care Liaison Guide. Ms. Bernstein shared that she would continue to serve on the Partners for Children and Families Committee (PCFC) which is an advisory body to DFPS on Community-Based Care. The Commission will also support the legal community in the continued expansion of CBC through regional trainings, including one in the Rio Grande Valley this winter. Lastly, Ms. Bernstein reported that the Juvenile Justice Committee was created in FY24 and that the Commission requested support from the Legislature to develop resources and training on juvenile justice issues.

For the Legal Practice & Process Goal in the Strategic Plan, Mr. Moench shared that the Legal Representation Committee plans to focus on pre-petition legal representation programs in FY25. Ms. Renée Castillo-De La Cruz announced that the DFPS Representation Subcommittee will help design the child welfare track at the Texas District and County Attorney Association's biennial Prosecuting Crimes Against Children Conference. She also shared that release of the Pre-Litigation Guide will occur after the 89th Legislative Session to ensure that the resource contains the most up-to-date information. Additionally, the Parent Resource Workgroup will update the Parent Resource Guide and develop a parent voice videos project. Mr. Moench shared that the Mediation Workgroup plans to finalize mediation-related checklists for attorneys and mediators and create webinar content on topics such as nonparty participation in child welfare mediations and special considerations for mediations involving incarcerated parents.

For the Training Goal in the Strategic Plan, Ms. Castillo-De la Cruz announced that the Trial Skills Training (TST) Contested Hearing Practices Pilot would take place in September 2024 in Dallas. The commission plans to further develop and hone this pilot in FY2025. Additionally, some of the TST lectures will be offered as webinars so that attorneys throughout the state have access to training related to courtroom practices. Ms. Castillo-De La Cruz reported that the Assistance to Local Jurisdictions is now included as a training strategy. Assistance to Local Jurisdictions support could extend to planning, financial, MCLE, and/or other support needed for local jurisdictions to provide training on child welfare related matters. Ms. Milbrey Raney discussed plans to offer general judicial scholarship funds to reimburse conference registration fees for judges who need financial support to attend recognized state and national trainings on child welfare matters. Ms. Raney also announced that the Commission will also expand educational offerings through a podcast series called "Children's Commission Conversations."

For the Data Goal in the Strategic Plan, Mr. Moench reported that the Data Committee will meet on October 25, 2024, to review how members can use the Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS) and other data sources to enhance existing Children's Commission projects. He also shared that there will be a data presentation at the annual Child Welfare Judges Conference that will address key topics of safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes at the statewide level. Additionally, the CPCMS Advisory Council will continue to meet quarterly to discuss enhancements to the system.



Mr. Patrick Passmore directed members to the Financial Report and Grant Summaries behind Tab 4 of the Meeting Notebook and outlined the anticipated expenditures for the proposed FY25 projects.

**ACTION:** After discussion, Justice Huddle asked for a motion to approve the projects and associated expenditures. After a motion and a second, the Commissioners voted to approve the FY25 Strategies and Budget.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON DATA TRENDS**

Justice Debra Lehrmann welcomed the following staff from DFPS: Ms. Sierra Fisher, Director of Analytics for Change and Enhancement, and Ms. Jennifer Sims, Deputy Commissioner of Operations. Discussion centered around the recently released DFPS Quarterly Data Report. The presentation is available on the Children’s Commission website.

### **LEGISLATION & POLICY RESOURCE COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

Justice Lehrmann shared that the Children’s Commission recently created the Legislation and Policy Resource Committee (LPRC). Mr. Moench provided an overview of the committee’s work. Mr. Moench shared that Commission staff presented the LPRC’s eight legislative recommendations to the Texas Judicial Council’s Civil Justice Committee on September 9, 2024. Following the presentation, Commissioners discussed the LPRC recommendations. After discussion, the recommendation related to least restrictive setting will be reconsidered before being presented at the Texas Judicial Council meeting in late September. The presentation is available on the Children’s Commission website.

### **OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION (OCA) UPDATE**

Mr. Jeffrey Tsunekawa introduced Mr. Marcus Crosby, the new Children’s Court Program Manager at OCA. Mr. Tsunekawa then reported that OCA completed their Legislative Appropriations Request which includes funding for “docket rangers” to assist clerk’s offices with new data reporting practices and requirements; a raise for children’s courts court coordinators; TIDC’s request to fund expansion of public defense offices and the Family Protection Representation Project; and a case management system for specialty courts. Mr. Tsunekawa also shared that OCA is implementing HB 1182 (88<sup>th</sup> Leg. Session), which requires reporting on case-level data such as the numbers of cases assigned, cases cleared, number of pleas, and cases tried before visiting judges in the seven areas with a population over one million. He noted that OCA is also focused on implementation of HB 2384 (88<sup>th</sup> Leg. Session) that requires case level data for every court (regardless of population) including the clearance rate information, average time from filing to disposition of a case, and the age of the active caseload.

Mr. Tsunekawa announced that OCA staff were actively engaged with launching the new Texas Business Courts and 15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals. Both new courts went into operation on September 1, 2024. The 15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals is located in Austin, Texas and there are currently 5 operating business courts around the state with the goal of reaching 11 total. He also shared that OCA is finalizing the court and clerks staffing study in partnership with Texas A&M University. This

report is due on December 1, 2024, and will address the staffing needs and the appropriate salary needed for court staff.

Mr. Tsunekawa also shared that OCA recently contracted with eCourtDate for the text reminder program. This program will be free for any court to use and will be set up within the next 4-6 weeks. Lastly, Mr. Tsunekawa announced that the Texas Judicial Council meeting will be accessible via YouTube on September 27, 2024, for those who are interested. All committees will submit their recommendations during this meeting.

**COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES**

Ms. Sarah Worthington shared that the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project received a grant from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation that allowed them to hire two new project attorneys, a paralegal, and a project manager. Additionally, Ms. Worthington guided Commissioners to the flyer included behind Tab 5 in the Meeting Notebook with details about the availability of free drivers’ education classes for youth in foster care and youth who aged out of care. She added that driving schools must be registered with the Texas Workforce Commission to be eligible.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Justice Lehrmann announced that the last Children’s Commission Meeting of the year will be held virtually on November 15, 2024. The 2025 Commission Meeting schedule is as follows:

- Friday, February 7, 2025 (in person)
- Friday, May 9, 2025 (virtual)
- Friday, September 26, 2025 (in person)
- Friday, November 14, 2025 (virtual)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

**INSERT - TAB 3**



Children's Commission  
FY 25 Strategic Plan

GOAL I (COLLABORATION)

Administer the Court Improvement Program (CIP) funds to assess current and future needs of the courts, provide a forum for meaningful collaboration, encourage continuous quality improvement, and promote best child welfare and court practices to improve the child welfare system.

1. Strategy: Provide regular updates to the Children's Commission and the Systems Improvement, Legal Practice & Process, Training, and Data Committees about Commission initiatives.
2. Strategy: Engage with the Collaborative Council and participate in and provide forums and opportunities for child welfare stakeholders to partner and to share information about child welfare practices, policies, needs, and strengths.
3. Strategy: Develop, maintain, and enhance usability and function of the Children's Commission website, social media, print and online materials, and other communication mediums.
4. Strategy: Confer with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) on the Child and Family Service Reviews, Program Improvement Plans, Child and Family State Plans, and the Court Improvement Program Strategic Plans.

GOAL II (SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT)

Execute innovative projects aimed at ensuring equity, fairness, and justice for children, youth, and families; promoting judicial leadership in courts and communities; and expanding court and child welfare system capacity to support continuous, systemic improvement.

5. Strategy: Utilize Jurists in Residence to promote best practices to the judiciary and support the legal and child welfare systems through judicial leadership and expertise.
6. Strategy: Engage stakeholders in the child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health systems to apply principles of trauma-informed care and address gaps in services for children, youth, and families with complex mental health needs.
7. Strategy: Identify and promote data-driven, cross-disciplinary opportunities to address disproportionality and disparities among children, youth, and families involved in child welfare cases.
8. Strategy: Emphasize the importance of engaging children and youth in the case planning and court process as well as promote normalcy and the inclusion of young adults with lived experience in statewide system improvement efforts.
9. Strategy: Engage judges and lawyers in systemic efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect and address occurrences of child abuse and neglect while maintaining family preservation.

# Children's Commission

## FY 25 Strategic Plan

10. Strategy: Identify opportunities to develop sustainable partnerships between legal, child welfare, and education stakeholders in an effort to identify and address the educational needs and goals of children and youth who experience foster care.
11. Strategy: Partner with national, state, and local leaders to better support children, youth, and families with specialized needs such as addressing sexual abuse and complex medical cases.
12. Strategy: Work with DFPS and other child welfare stakeholders to identify critical and urgent topics for Round Table discussions and hold Round Table events as needed.
13. Strategy: Engage stakeholders in the legal system in statewide efforts to develop and expand placement capacity, including kinship care and the rollout of Community Based Care.
14. Strategy: Prioritize areas in need of improvement in the handling of juvenile justice cases as well as recommendations developed by the Dual Status Task Force.

### GOAL III (LEGAL PRACTICE & PROCESS)

Assist trial and appellate courts, judges, and legal advocates to ensure that children, youth, and families involved with child welfare experience a legal system in which they have access to justice and their rights are protected.

15. Strategy: Convene and support a Legal Representation Committee to sustain efforts to ensure high-quality legal representation for parents, children, and DFPS.
16. Strategy: Support development and adoption of Standards of Representation for attorneys representing parents, children, and DFPS in child welfare cases.
17. Strategy: Assist the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS) Advisory and Exam Committees in efforts to certify Texas attorneys as specialists in child welfare law.
18. Strategy: Convene and support a Parent Resource Workgroup and maintain parent resource guides to sustain efforts to increase parental understanding and engagement in the child welfare system.
19. Strategy: Support efforts to provide early and reliable access to information and resources for Texas families through programs such as the Texas Legal Services Center Family Helpline.
20. Strategy: Establish and support meaningful relationships with federally recognized Tribes and promote awareness, education, and application of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).
21. Strategy: Maintain a comprehensive Bench Book for judges hearing child welfare cases.
22. Strategy: Maintain tool kits for attorneys representing parents, children, and DFPS in child welfare cases.
23. Strategy: Support increased child and family engagement through the use of technology, including the use of the Office of Court Administration (OCA) Notice and Engagement tool.
24. Strategy: Establish an understanding and framework regarding availability and cost of

# Children's Commission

## FY 25 Strategic Plan

mediation services and promote the training and support necessary to raise the quality and usefulness of mediation in child welfare cases.

25. Strategy: Build capacity in the legal system to implement the Texas Family First Pilot and improve practice regarding Reasonable Efforts determinations.
26. Strategy: Track and assess the impact of changes in law, policy, and rule affecting the legal process in child welfare cases.

### GOAL IV (TRAINING)

Oversee and develop judicial and legal training efforts at all levels of practice that identify and promote best practices to improve outcomes and establish and maintain a well-informed judiciary and bar.

27. Strategy: Plan, fund, conduct, and evaluate judicial training through conferences, online content, and events.
28. Strategy: Support specialized training for the Child Protection Court (CPC) program, judges, and support staff.
29. Strategy: Provide practical, experiential trial skills training that offers attorneys an opportunity to develop their skills in a small-group, low-stakes environment.
30. Strategy: Create and maintain online content that offers information and guidance on relevant child welfare law issues.
31. Strategy: Partner with the State Bar of Texas, DFPS, and other organizations to offer training to attorneys and advocates who serve children and families in child welfare cases throughout Texas.
32. Strategy: Develop and distribute information to judges and attorneys that communicates best practices or changes in law, policy, or practice and informs judges and attorneys of trainings and other relevant events.
33. Strategy: Support attendance at state and national judicial and legal conferences and training events.
34. Strategy: Provide training and technical assistance to and collaborate with local jurisdictions.

### GOAL V (DATA)

Operationalize data-driven decision-making through continuous quality improvement and an analysis of publicly available child welfare and court data to identify legal processes and practices that produce desired outcomes, as well as which practices need improvement.

35. Strategy: Apply data-driven decision-making to Children's Commission projects, initiatives, deliverables, and areas of focus.

## Children's Commission

### FY 25 Strategic Plan

36. Strategy: Utilizing all available data sources, analyze trends in child welfare data such as referrals, investigations, removals, and exits.
37. Strategy: At the annual judicial conference, partner with DFPS to provide a statewide data presentation as well as tailored data presentations on state, regional, and local challenges and opportunities and encourage data-driven systemic improvements and collaborative efforts.
38. Strategy: Partner with OCA to support the maintenance, enhancements, data collection, impact, and usability of the Child Protection Case Management System (CPCMS), including integrating CPCMS with other data systems.



**INSERT - TAB 4**



Children's Commission Meeting  
Collaborative Council Announcements  
November 15, 2024

- Texas Lawyers for Children





**Texas  
Lawyers for  
Children**

**“ASK AN EXPERT”  
COMING 1/23/25!**

Texas Lawyers for Children is excited to announce our newest **“Ask an Expert” live Q&A** webinar featuring Ana Gomez, MC, LPC, who has decades of experience successfully helping children in foster care heal from trauma. TLC will **also be launching a new Communication Tool** in our Online Center, allowing judges and attorneys to seek guidance from experts about the mental health needs of children in the child protection system.



**ANA M GOMEZ, MC, LPC**

**JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS --**

get your questions ready that relate to the mental and behavioral health needs of the children you serve. While these will not be case consultations (since Ana Gomez will not know all of the specifics of each case) this will be a time to discuss solutions and advocacy points in children's cases to ensure children receive the correct diagnosis and treatment to help them find healing from the trauma they have experienced.

**January 23, 2025**

**12:00 P.M. - 12:45 P.M.**

**MCLE & Family Violence CJE Credit  
Anticipated**

**Announcing a new Communication Tool in the  
[www.TexasLawyersforChildren.org](http://www.TexasLawyersforChildren.org) Online Center**

**NEW!**

This webinar will also be a KICKOFF for a new feature we are adding to our Online Center, where judges and attorneys can ask experienced mental health professionals questions about the unique mental health needs of children in the child protection system on an ongoing basis!

**Email Kristen Bell at [kristen@texaslawyersforchildren.org](mailto:kristen@texaslawyersforchildren.org) with questions.**

