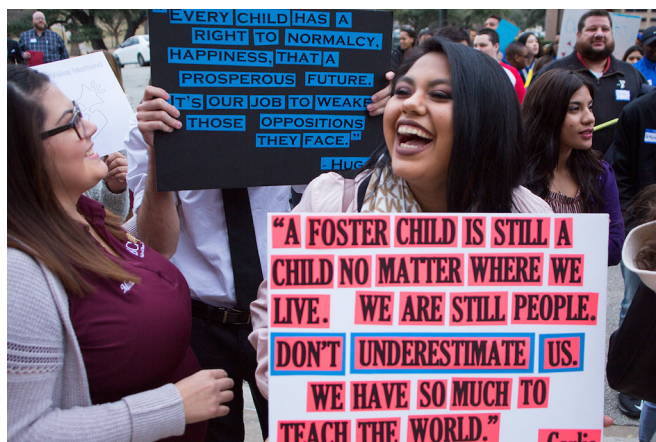


# Texas Network of Youth Services

# 2017

# Annual Report



**TNOYS**  
TEXAS NETWORK OF  
YOUTH SERVICES

THEIR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS.

[www.tnoys.org](http://www.tnoys.org)

# Executive Statement

Without collaboration from our network of amazing member organizations across Texas, TNOYS would not be able to accomplish our mission of strengthening, supporting, and protecting critical services for Texas youth and families. This year, we were proud to see our network grow, share learnings, and overcome obstacles together. By working together and learning from each other, we were able to accomplish great things to strengthen services across the continuum of care through our approach of policy, practice and participation.

We were particularly excited this year to grow our work geographically, by officially establishing TNOYS' operations in Houston and further emphasizing our commitment to Texas' largest city by hosting our annual conference there for the second year.

Just as all of this exciting work was getting off the ground, Houston experienced the most devastating disaster in its history: Hurricane Harvey. We were inspired to see so many in our network who worked diligently to ensure the safety of youth and families they serve, even while their own homes and belongings were at risk. We were also inspired to see our members from across Texas come together to support those in Houston, through effort such as providing evacuation sites, contributing financially, and offering moral support. And we were pleased to discover that the storm didn't derail our efforts to grow our work in Houston. In fact, we are excited to report that TNOYS now has even more Houston-area members!

Another area where our network was impactful this year was during the 85th Texas Legislative Session. The regular legislative session in 2017 was one of the most active for child welfare issues in recent years, with strengthening Child Protective Services (CPS) flagged by the Governor as one of just four emergency items for lawmakers. TNOYS was pleased to accomplish many of our legislative priorities, including helping to secure increased funding for critical prevention and early intervention and foster care services. We were also pleased to raise significant awareness of the issue of youth homelessness among policymakers. We would not have had these successes without our members coming together to help us advocate. Our Member Advocacy Day, Youth in Action Capitol Day, and Innovation and Excellence in Child Welfare event were all examples of providers and young people sharing their voices at the Capitol to help achieve our collective policy goals.

We are also grateful that we had the opportunity to host many events this past year through which our member organizations didn't just learn from outside experts, but also from each other's own experiences. We launched a new series of trainings called Recovery Through Participation in Central Texas that featured many experts from organizations within our network as well as youth partners, who provided insight on strengthening youth voice in youth-serving organizations. We also hosted tours of eight member organizations to provide members a chance to learn first-hand about fellow providers' best practices, and launched member advisory groups to help our members learn about and get involved in our programs. Additionally, we re-launched our Emergency Shelter Task Force in the Dallas area to support Texas' emergency shelters as they respond to the capacity crisis at CPS while weathering a changing child welfare climate.

TNOYS is truly a network and it showed this year through our work together and the results we were able to achieve. We hope you enjoy reading about these accomplishments in more detail on the following pages, and we look forward to growing stronger together and making an even greater impact in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Christine Gendron  
Executive Director

“WHILE WE APPLAUD EFFORTS BY STATE LEADERS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND [YOUTH HOMELESSNESS], IT IS TIME TO ACT: STUDIES HAVE ARMED US WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO EFFECTIVELY TACKLE THIS PROBLEM.”

- TNOYS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRISTINE GENDRON AND TEXAS APPLESEED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEBORAH FOWLER IN THE TEXAS TRIBUNE



## POLICY



Engaged with legislators, state leaders, and the media on high-profile child welfare issues during the 85th Texas Legislative Session, which resulted in successes such as securing critical funding for prevention and early intervention and foster care services and raising substantial awareness of youth homelessness at the Legislature.



Hosted Innovation and Excellence in Child Welfare, an event held in Austin during the legislative session where leading youth service providers from across the state shared best practices with legislators and other decision-makers working on policy to enhance Texas' youth and family services.



In cooperation with Texas Appleseed, released "Young, Alone, and Homeless in the Lone Star State," the most comprehensive study to date of youth homelessness in Texas, which also included policy recommendations for addressing the issue.



Secured coverage in 12+ media articles published in outlets across the state, on important topics including our youth homelessness report and Youth in Action Capitol Day.



“RECOVERY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IS AN EXCITING, INNOVATIVE PROGRAM MODEL THAT BRINGS TOGETHER TNOYS’ LONGSTANDING WORK TO ELEVATE YOUTH VOICE WITH RESEARCH ON COLLABORATIVE AND TRAUMA-INFORMED YOUTH SERVICES APPROACHES.”

- TNOYS DIRECTOR OF TRAINING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT LARA O’TOOLE

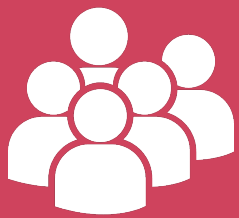


## PRACTICE

- ◆ Relunched the Emergency Shelter Task Force, which provides representation, networking, and support for Texas’ emergency shelter providers.
- ◆ Kicked off our Recovery Through Participation initiative on integrating youth engagement and trauma-informed care, training 112 youth service providers and providing resources to 68 organizations in Central Texas.
- ◆ In response to the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, provided updates to our network on impacted youth services organizations and assisted the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services with gathering information about needs related to the storm.
- ◆ Offered 40+ training workshops for hundreds of participants at our annual conference in June, and hosted 32 virtual and in-person trainings and events throughout the year on topics including normalcy, youth engagement, ethical decision-making, and more, as well as eight tours of member organizations to share best practices.
- ◆ As coordinator of the Seclusion & Restraint Reduction Leadership Group, completed an environmental scan of statewide efforts to reduce use of traumatizing seclusion and restraint practices in all settings.

“PEAKS CAMP HAS HELPED ME WITH LIFE BATTLES, FROM A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER TO TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE. I LEARNED TO NOT BE AFRAID OF NEW CHALLENGES AND UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS OKAY FOR CHANGE.”

- PEAKS ADVENTURE CAMP PARTICIPANT



## PARTICIPATION

- ◆ Invited youth and families to participate in our annual conference for the second year in a row, with a track specifically for them to learn alongside providers and other conference participants.
- ◆ Contracted with young people to support and advise on the Recovery Through Participation initiative and other TNOYS programs, including coordinating a youth planning committee to provide input on annual conference planning.
- ◆ Coordinated the third year of our TAYF initiative, through which providers engage youth and their families as partners for service planning and delivery.
- ◆ Hosted for the 31st year PEAKS Adventure Camp, which uses a traditional camp setting to help youth develop leadership skills and adult partners value youth contributions.
- ◆ Hosted our biennial Youth in Action Capitol Day, during which 350 youth from across Texas who have been part of the foster care system, are experiencing homelessness, or are otherwise at risk traveled to Austin to learn more about the policymaking process and make their voices heard.

# Staff

**Christine Gendron**

Executive Director

**Lara O'Toole**

Director of Training & Program Development

**Dr. Katherine Barillas**

Director of Child Welfare Policy

**Elizabeth Flint**

Program Coordinator

**Beth Duke**

Administrative Specialist

# Board

**Kellie Stallings**, Chair

**John Bracken**, 1st Vice Chair

**Joel Levine**, 2nd Vice Chair

**Erin Whelan**, Treasurer

**Melissa Opheim**, Secretary

**Dr. Julie Strentzsch**

**Richard Singleton**

**Allicia Frye**

**Christa Rose**

**Candreas Jones**

**Alan Schonborn**

**Dr. Ashley Lind**

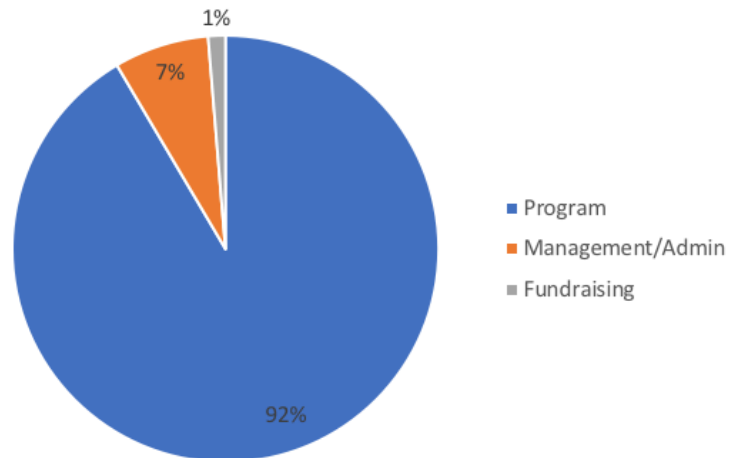
**Leslie Bourne**

**Jeffrey Reed**

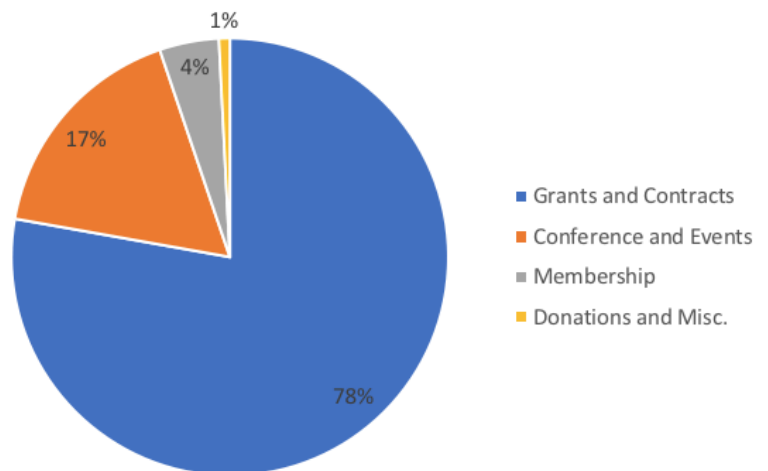
**Kym Olson**

**Robert Ellis**

# TNOYS Expenses



# TNOYS Income



# Member Organizations

ACCESS, Jacksonville; ACH Child & Family Services, Fort Worth; Alternative Resident Management Services, Goldthwaite; Angel Reach, Conroe; Andrews Center, Tyler; Athletes for Change, Plano; Baptist Child and Family Services, San Antonio; Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, Amarillo; Catholic Charities, Lubbock; CCD Counseling, Denton; Central Texas Table of Grace, Round Rock; Central Texas Youth Services, Belton; Children's Aid Society, Wichita Falls; City House, Inc., Plano; Colorado County Youth & Family Services, Columbus; Community Healthcare, Longview; Connections Individual and Family Services, New Braunfels; Covenant House Texas, Houston; Deep East Texas Council of Governments, Jasper; East Texas Open Door, Marshall; Ebby House, Dallas; El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission, Austin; El Paso Center for Children, El Paso; Family Service Center of Galveston, Galveston; Greater San Marcos Youth Council, San Marcos; Gulf Bend MHMR Center, Victoria; Gulfwinds RTC, Bay City; Harmony Family Services, Abilene; Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults, Houston; High Sky Children's Ranch, Midland; Hope's Path, Spring; Houston Community College, Houston; Houston reVision, Houston; Jonathan's Place, Garland; K'Star, Marble Falls; LifeWorks, Austin; Montgomery County Youth Services, Conroe; Orphan Care Solutions of Texas, Spring; Pamela Walker; Parks Youth Ranch, Sugarland; Pegasus Schools, Lockhart; Promise House, Dallas; Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives, San Antonio; SAFE Alliance, Austin; Salvation Army YARC, Houston; SCAN, Laredo; Spirit Reins, Liberty Hill; STARRY, Round Rock; Stepping Stones RTC, Houston; Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, Austin; Texas Homeless Education Office, Austin; SAFE Alliance, Austin; Upbring, Austin; Twin City Mission, Bryan; Williams House Emergency Shelters, Goldthwaite