

Texas Network of Youth Services

2016

Annual Report



TNOYS
TEXAS NETWORK OF
YOUTH SERVICES

THEIR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS.

www.tnoys.org

Executive Statement

TNOYS fulfills its mission to strengthen, support, and protect critical services for Texas youth and families through a three-pronged approach encompassing policy, practice and participation. In 2016, those three aspects of our work came together in new and exciting ways we haven't seen before, allowing us to take a truly comprehensive, systems change approach to fulfilling our vision of a Texas where all young people are valued, their strengths are recognized, and they have access to the resources, support and opportunities they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

What is perhaps one of our greatest accomplishments this year – our work on the *Youth Count Texas!* survey – is also one of the best examples of how we brought together the three aspects of our work. Youth participation was critical for implementing the survey tool used to conduct the first-ever statewide count of youth experiencing homelessness in Texas, which resulted in new experiences and resources to inform the practice of youth service providers across the state and produced findings that have important implications for Texas' policy on the issue. By releasing our *Youth Count Texas!* process evaluation report at an event celebrating youth voice, we were able to further incorporate participation by having youth speakers truly bring the findings of the report to life for key stakeholders.

Another example is our addition of a youth and family track to our annual conference. For the first time in over 30 years, youth and families were invited to network and learn in workshops and events alongside youth service providers, enhancing the experience for both types of attendees. It was a huge success and we plan to keep the youth and family track as a key part of our conference in coming years.

In the second half of 2016, Texas' child welfare system began to receive a level of attention from lawmakers, the media, and the general public that we haven't seen in many years. This attention created an opportunity for us to advocate for the providers and their youth clients that we represent. We gladly seized the opportunity by sharing our expertise with the media and with lawmakers looking for solutions to the issue, bringing youth service providers to the Capitol to engage directly with legislators, and laying the groundwork to further share youth and provider voices with legislators during the 85th Texas Legislative Session in 2017.

TNOYS is truly a network and all of this is accomplished not just by our staff but also by the many members and member organizations across the state who inform our work and are a crucial part of our efforts. Without our network of members, donors, and supporters, we would not have the expertise, access, and resources to achieve our mission of improving, supporting, and protecting critical services for Texas youth and families in crisis so they can meet their potential. We are truly grateful to all of you and we hope that you enjoy reading through the accomplishments in this report that you have helped make possible.

We look forward to building on all we have achieved in 2016 as we go forward into this important coming year.

Sincerely,



Christine Gendron
Executive Director

"We urge our state's leaders to pay close attention to [the Youth Count Texas!] findings during the upcoming legislative session and press even further to learn more about this unique and vulnerable population."

- TNOYS Executive Director Christine Gendron in the San Antonio Express-News



Completed the implementation of *Youth Count Texas!*, the **first-ever statewide count of youth experiencing homelessness** and co-authored the final report and **strategic plan for ending youth homelessness** that was delivered to the Texas Legislature in December 2016.

Hosted a **Youth Safety Summit** in December 2016, in which state government leaders shared resources and policy efforts that can help youth service providers fight the trafficking of youth in Texas.

Hosted an exclusive event for TNOYS members to meet new **DFPS Commissioner Hank Whitman**.

Engaged with legislators, state leaders, and the media on high-profile child welfare issues in preparation for the **85th Texas Legislative Session**.

Released "**Understanding Youth Rights**," a guidebook for youth service providers to navigate laws and policies affecting homeless youth.

Represented TNOYS members on the key state-level committees, including the **Public Private Partnership** that oversees Foster Care Redesign and the **Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless**.

"[The opening keynote was] probably one of the most powerful, relevant, inspirational, and motivating keynotes I've heard."

– TNOYS 2016 Annual
Conference attendee



Hosted **38 trainings and events** virtually and in locations across Texas for youth service providers to learn best practices in areas including trauma informed care, crisis intervention, motivational interviewing, teambuilding, managing public crises, cultural competency, ethics, normalcy, preventing abuse and trafficking, youth worker self-care, and more.

Provided **individualized consultation** to youth service providers in areas including strategic planning, youth and family engagement, and trauma informed care.

Hosted a second annual membership meeting in March 2016, with training, networking, and an opportunity to talk with **former DFPS Commissioner John Specia**.

Offered **two conference pre-institutes and over 40 training workshops** for hundreds of administrators, clinicians, and youth workers from across Texas during our three-day **"Stronger Together" TNOYS Annual Conference** in August 2016.

Continued our facilitation of the **Hogg Foundation's Statewide Leadership Group for Reducing Seclusion and Restraint Practices**, through which we engaged more than 200 stakeholders across Texas in leadership programming focused on reducing seclusion and restraint practices.

“The best part of my day
has been learning from and
alongside youth participants.”

– TNOYS 2016 Annual
Conference attendee



Invited **100 youth and families**, including youth who are homeless and in foster care, to participate in our annual conference for the first time in its 30+-year history, **creating a track specifically for them** to learn alongside providers and other conference participants.

Released a **youth engagement toolkit**, compiling in one place some of TNOYS' best resources to help organizations launch and/or enhance their engagement efforts.

Provided **individualized event planning and facilitation** services for youth service organizations, including a weekend-long **'Youth on the Rise' summit** for a group of teens and chaperones from the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston.

Engaged youth in ending youth homelessness through the development of a **PSA video to support the Youth Count Texas! project**, as well as **"My Voice Matters,"** a public event in Austin that promoted the importance of youth voice by featuring a panel of four formerly homeless youth speakers.

Staff

Christine Gendron

Executive Director

Lara O'Toole

Director of Training & Program Development

Jack Nowicki

Senior Program Development Specialist

Elizabeth Flint

Program Coordinator

Beth Duke

Administrative Specialist

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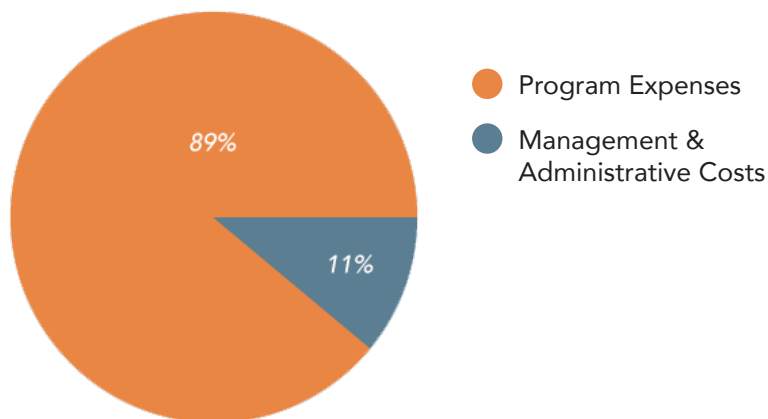
Melinda Oster

Joseph Papick

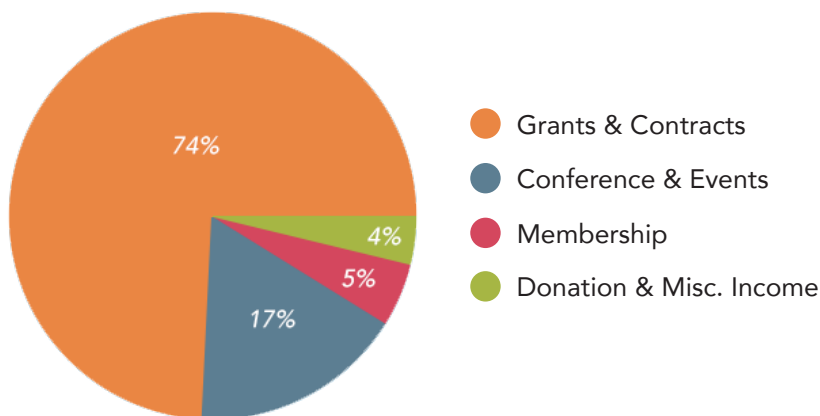
Christa Rose

Alan Schonborn

2016 TNOYS Expenses



2016 TNOYS Income



2016 Member Organizations

ACH Child & Family Services, Alternative Resident Management Services, Andrews Center, Angel Reach, Athletes for Change, Austin Child Guidance Center, Boys Haven of America, Boys Town Texas, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, Catholic Charities of Lubbock, CCD Counseling, Central Texas Youth Services, Children's Aid Society, Connections Individual and Family Services, Covenant House, East Texas Open Door, Easter Seals of Greater Houston, El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission, El Paso Center for Children, Greater San Marcos Youth Council, Gulf Bend Center, Harmony Family Services, Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults, High Sky Children's Ranch, Homeless Gay Kids, Jonathan's Place, LifeWorks, Montgomery County Youth Services, Parks Youth Ranch, Promise House, Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives, SAFE Austin, Sinclair Children's Center, Spirit Reins, STARRY, Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), Texas Homeless Network, Twin City Mission, Upbring, Williams House Emergency Shelter, Youth & Family Counseling Services