

Texas Network of Youth Services

2015

Annual Report



TNOYS
TEXAS NETWORK OF
YOUTH SERVICES
www.tnoys.org

Executive Statement

TNOYS strengthens, supports, and protects critical services for Texas youth and families who are struggling, so they can meet their potential. Our work is guided by a comprehensive systems change approach, in which we work with our network to improve policies at the highest levels of state government as well as influence practice at the organizational level. We also engage young people as partners in our work, in order to strengthen services and demonstrate what youth are capable of when people invest in them.

Last year with your support, we effectively lobbied for increases of tens of millions of dollars to serve young people who are in foster care, youth who are homeless, and those who are at risk of both, in order to keep youth safely at home with their families. We also helped secure improved services and supports for youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

At the practice level, we concluded a four-year project in which we provided intensive support services to Texas residential treatment centers as they reduced their use of seclusion and restraint practices, in order to prevent the re-traumatization of youth. We also provided training and consultation services for an array of youth service agencies and hosted an annual conference that provided key training and networking opportunities to more than 300 youth service professionals from across the state.

In addition, we took our partnerships with youth to the next level by developing new partnerships with young people, as well as with their families. Through our role as the coordinator for the Hogg Foundation's Transition-Age Youth and Families Initiative, we had the opportunity to support Houston-area mental health service providers with implementing plans to increase youth and family engagement and better serve transition-age youth and their families.

I am excited to share our 2015 annual report with you, as it is filled with information about what we were able to accomplish with your support over the last year. We owe many thanks to our members, donors, and supporters. What makes TNOYS successful and distinguishes us most from other organizations is that we are truly a network. Our members are unified by a shared commitment to youth who are struggling in Texas and we speak with one voice about the importance of investing in young people so that they can meet their potential.

It is an honor and a privilege to support our member agencies. Each time I visit one of your programs and see first-hand the work that you do day in and day out, I leave energized. Thank you for all that you do to ensure that Texas youth and families have access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Thank you also to our donors and supporters, without whom our work would not be possible. Thank you to the TNOYS staff and Board of Directors, for your hard work. We are lucky to have so many skilled, dedicated people on our team. It was a pleasure to work with each and every one of you.

I am looking forward to all that we will accomplish together in 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Gendron". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Christine Gendron
Executive Director

TNOYS HOSTED THREE MEETINGS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND ACH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES, TO HELP SERVICE PROVIDERS PREPARE FOR FOSTER CARE REDESIGN IN REGIONS ACROSS THE STATE.



Successfully lobbied to protect important Prevention and Early Intervention services that keep children and youth safe at home with their families and out of expensive government systems, and to increase funding for these services to **\$117 MILLION.**

Successfully lobbied for an increase of **7%** for foster care services. Funding for foster care services still does not meet need, but this increase will help to ensure that services keep children safe and are of high quality.

Successfully lobbied for **HOUSE BILL 679**, which calls for a statewide study on youth homelessness in Texas. TNOYS was later contracted by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to design a Homeless Youth Survey Tool, which will be used to survey youth experiencing homelessness in order to complete the study.

Successfully lobbied for **SENATE BILL 1494**, which makes it easier for students who are experiencing homelessness to complete high school and participate in extracurricular activities.

“WE HAVE HAD MAJOR
PROGRESS IN A TOTAL
PARADIGM SHIFT, AND IT HAS
DECREASED RUNAWAYS AND
INCREASED STAFF MORALE.”

— STAFF FROM CREATING A CULTURE OF CARE
INTENSIVE SITE

Practice



Culminated a four-year project to support **11** residential treatment centers with reducing seclusion and restraint practices. Successful sites reduced their use of these potentially traumatizing practices by **34%** to **100%**.

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

Coordinated an annual conference which brought together **300** professionals in San Antonio, Texas, to network and learn about creating cultures of care in programs that serve Texas' young people.

Partnered with the Austin Child Guidance Center to host the Cross-Discipline Trauma Conference of Central Texas, a two-day conference that provided expert guidance and education on the effects of trauma on children, as well as evidence-based practices in recognizing and treating trauma.

TNOYS PARTNERED WITH
YOUTH AS CO-TRAINERS,
PROGRAM PLANNERS,
CONFERENCE PRESENTERS,
AND ADVOCATES.



Supported **8**
Houston-area
service provider
organizations in
their efforts to
increase youth and
family engagement
in order to improve
services.

Collaborated
with more than
40 Houston-area
organizations
to support the
meaningful
engagement of
transition-age
youth and their
caregivers/family
members.

Planned and
hosted a weekend-
long leadership
program for **40**
youth receiving
Community Youth
Development
program services
through the Boys
and Girls Club in
Galveston.

Coordinated our
biennial Youth in
Action event at the
Capitol, through
which more than
300 youth in at-
risk situations
traveled to Austin
to share their
stories and policy
recommendations
with policymakers.

Staff

Christine Gendron

Executive Director

Sondra Lehmann

Director of Development & Operations

Lara O'Toole

Director of Training & Program Development

Jack Nowicki

Senior Program Development Specialist

April Ferrino

Senior Evaluation & Policy Analyst

Elizabeth Flint

Program Coordinator

Beth Duke

Administrative Specialist

Board

Kellie Stallings, Chair

John Bracken, 1st Vice Chair

Steve Wick, 2nd Chair

Cathey Lowe, Treasurer

Scurry Miller, Secretary

James Aldrich

Tony Castillo

Daryl Hart

Joel Levine

Robert Marshall

Kym Olson

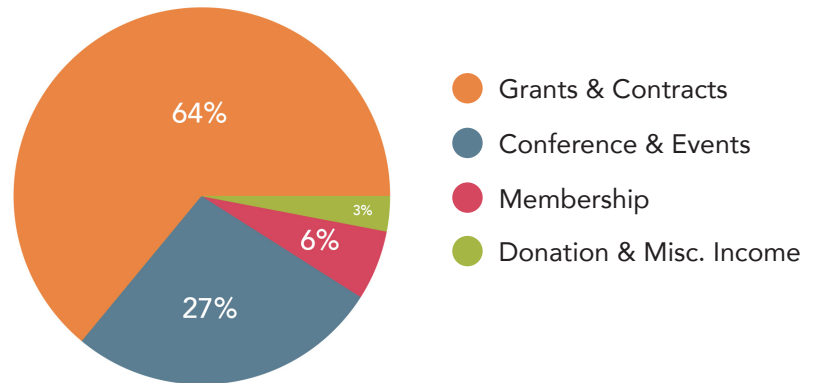
Joseph Papick

Alan Schnoborn

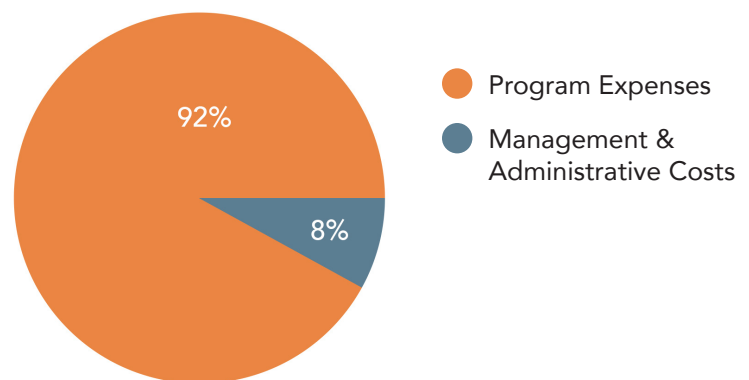
Richard Singleton

Alison Johnson Sterken

TNOYS Income



TNOYS Expenses



Member Organizations

ACH Child & Family Services, Fort Worth; Alternative Residential Management Services, Goldthwaite; Andrews Center, Tyler; Angel Reach, Conroe; Annunciation Maternity Home, Georgetown; Austin Child Guidance Center, Austin; Austin Children's Services, Austin; Boys' Haven of America, Beaumont & Driftwood; Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, Amarillo; Catholic Charities, Fort Worth; CCD Counseling, P.A., Denton; Central Texas Youth Services Bureau, Belton; Children's Aid Society, Wichita Falls; Children's Hope Residential Services, Lubbock; Community Healthcore STAR Program, Longview; Connections Individual and Family Services, New Braunfels; Covenant House Texas, Houston; East Texas Open Door, Marshall; Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Houston; El Paso Center for Children, El Paso; Greater San Marcos Youth Council, San Marcos; Harmony Family Services, Abilene; Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults, Houston; High Sky Children's Ranch, Midland; K'Star, Marble Falls; Kid Net Foundation (Jonathan's Place), Garland; LifeWorks, Austin; Montgomery County Youth Services, Conroe; Rainbow of Love, Missouri City; Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives, San Antonio; STARRY, Round Rock; Texas Homeless Education Office, Austin; Texas Homeless Network, Austin; Twin City Mission Youth and Family Services, Bryan; Williams House Emergency Shelters, Lometa; WREM Literacy Group, Prairie View