

# TNOYS

## TEXAS NETWORK OF YOUTH SERVICES

TNOYS TODAY: A Quarterly Newsletter



### SUMMER 2016 ISSUE

TNOYS Collaborates on Trauma-Informed Care

TNOYS' 4-Year Strategic Plan

TNOYS Leads Teens in Weekend of Fun & Learning

Hats Off to TNOYS Supporters!

Member Spotlight: Austin Child Guidance Center

Upcoming Events: "Stronger Together" Conference

Why Your Support Matters

**THEIR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS.**



## TNOYS COLLABORATES ON TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

More and more, youth services workers are seeing the effect past traumatic experiences can have on young people in their care. But for many years, standard practice in caring for youth at risk involved practices such as seclusion and restraint, which can cause further trauma and harm.

In June, TNOYS collaborated with six other groups from the State of Texas and the University of Texas in an effort to tackle this problem. Together, they hosted over 150 youth services professionals in Austin for the symposium "Shifting Cultures Through Trauma-Informed Care."

The goal of symposium organizers, who are all participants of the Seclusion and Restraint Leadership Group, was to share local and national best practices on how culture change can help improve services to

those who have experienced trauma and reduce harmful practices that can re-traumatize.

Diverse perspectives on the issues were presented, with speakers including both national experts and individuals who shared their personal experiences with trauma.

But it wasn't just the speakers who contributed to the event -- interactive sessions among attendees of various backgrounds, including administrators, policymakers, and those who work directly with children, allowed people to learn from each other about common challenges and solutions.

As one attendee said, "It was good to see so many people from so many agencies and disciplines who are focused on improving experiences for families."



# GETTING TO KNOW TNOYS: 4-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

After working diligently over the last three years to build internal capacity, TNOYS is excited to launch and implement a new strategic plan. This plan focuses on external goals, including growth through increased engagement and representation, new and stronger partnerships, increased public awareness, and enhanced capacity for assessment and evaluation.

The goals outlined in this strategic plan will position TNOYS to support Texas youth service agencies as they reach new heights in programming and services for Texas' young people.

## REPRESENTATION & ENGAGEMENT

1. Ensure that the TNOYS Board of Directors adequately reflects the population of the state of Texas and is representative of the statewide Network.
2. Build an increasingly robust membership program that actively engages a diverse pool of Texas youth service agencies.
3. Develop and strengthen connections with youth service agencies and stakeholders across Texas through consultation and support services.

## DELIBERATE PARTNERSHIPS

1. Effectively engage community leaders/stakeholders in supporting our work.
2. Cultivate and grow deliberate partnerships to support TNOYS' programs, including partnerships with youth.
3. Explore opportunities for strategic collaboration with other similar statewide organizations.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

1. Enhance TNOYS outreach and grow our audience to increase awareness of the importance of investing in services for youth and their families.
2. Establish TNOYS as the "go to" organization for information on youth services.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

1. Enhance TNOYS' internal capacity for self-assessment and evaluation of our own programs/services.
2. Provide services and support to promote the rigorous assessment and evaluation of youth services and their continued improvement based on evidence and research.



## TNOYS LEADS TEENS IN WEEKEND OF FUN AND LEARNING



What do drumming, juggling and tie-dye have to do with leadership? A group of 30 Galveston teens and adult chaperones from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Houston found out at the Youth on the Rise summit organized by TNOYS in May.

The group gathered in Wimberley for the three-day event led by TNOYS Program Coordinator Elizabeth Flint. Elizabeth arranged for a variety of facilitators to lead sessions – from interactive drumming to help the teens understand communication and teamwork, to a juggler who used his skills to illustrate the importance of following your dreams. TNOYS Director of Training and Program Development Lara O'Toole also facilitated problem-solving activities and guest speaker Zell Miller III led a session on healthy relationships.

While the group enjoyed the scenic beauty of their surroundings in Wimberly, they also took advantage of the proximity to Austin to visit Huston-Tillotson University as part of the event's focus on college readiness.

In keeping with TNOYS' focus on training for the adults who provide youth services, the event promoted youth-adult partnerships, with the teens and their adult chaperones participating as equals in all activities.



## HATS OFF TO TNOYS SUPPORTERS!



*Derby Hat Party hostesses Kym Olson, Cissy Sanders Stasio and Rue Olson Dwyer enjoy the first annual fundraiser in support of TNOYS.*

At TNOYS, our work shows us the power of community on a regular basis. This spring, we were grateful to have our own community of friends and supporters come together for our benefit with the first annual Derby Hat Party fundraiser.

Led by TNOYS board member Kym Olson, a group of Austin-based women came together to host the Kentucky Derby-themed party at popular Austin bar and restaurant Dine on May 7. Attendees donned colorful hats as they viewed the horse race, sipped on mint juleps, and listened to the music of Hilary York and the Peterson Brothers Band.

The event raised nearly \$10,000, which will make a huge difference in our efforts to improve Texas youth services through advocacy, training and engagement. We're grateful to the event organizers and everyone who attended, as well as event sponsors Casa Mechanical Services and Independence Title.

Our board continues to work on enhancing community support and awareness of TNOYS, including through a new organization called Friends of TNOYS that brings people together for fun and informative happy hours and other events.

If you missed the hat party this year, don't worry – it's going to be an annual event, so stay tuned for next year's details. In the meantime, if you're interested in Friends of TNOYS events, contact us at [info@tnoys.org](mailto:info@tnoys.org) to be added to our mailing list.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

AUSTIN

CHILD

**GUIDANCE CENTER**

Communicate. Learn. Grow.

For 65 years, Austin Child Guidance Center (ACGC) has been providing outpatient mental health services to children and families in the Austin area – it opened its doors in 1951, and was responsible for bringing the first child psychiatrist to the city.

ACGC first became a member of TNOYS about ten years ago, at a time when they were focused on bringing more evidence-based treatments to the center and benefited from on-site trainings by TNOYS staff. Today, they find their membership in TNOYS to be particularly helpful in their work on trauma-informed care.

"Many of our clients have suffered abuse or some kind of traumatic past. We have adjusted our work based on that to include screening for trauma, offering evidence-based treatments including trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, and adopting policies to reduce re-traumatization of clients," said Seanna Crosbie, Director of Program & Trauma-Informed Services at ACGC.

ACGC took the lead three years ago in forming the Trauma-Informed Care Consortium of Central Texas, made up of nearly 70 organizations in Central Texas focusing on educating the community about trauma and its impact on children.

"Last year, ACGC planned the first Cross-Discipline Trauma Conference of Central Texas. TNOYS was integral in helping us plan and market it," said Crosbie. "TNOYS has really led the effort in the state of doing work around trauma-informed care and reducing restraint and seclusion in residential and other settings."

"We love TNOYS," said Crosbie. "They've been a wonderful partner and we've definitely benefited from our partnership."





## UPCOMING EVENTS



# Stronger Together

Youth ● Families ● Providers ● Advocates

## *33<sup>rd</sup> Annual TNOYS Conference on Services to Youth and Families*

TNOYS' 33rd Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families is taking place August 9-12 in Houston. The four-day event will offer exciting keynotes and interactive workshops that will incorporate our theme, "Stronger Together," and show the importance of collaboration and youth and family engagement. Workshops will be focused on, but not limited to, research and evidence based practices, new and innovative practices from the field, collaboration, relevant policies and laws, and organizational capacity.

We are happy to announce that we are inviting youth and families to join us for the conference this year. The youth and family track will include opportunities for experiential learning and content on leadership and self-advocacy. We will also offer pre-institute sessions free of charge to anyone interested in attending. Visit our website at [www.tnoys.org/annual-conference](http://www.tnoys.org/annual-conference) to learn more and register to attend!



## WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

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 to improve policies at the highest levels of state government as well as influence practice at the organizational level -- and throughout our work, we engage the young people we serve as valued partners.

More than 90% of TNOYS budget is spent on program expenses, meaning that dollars donated are going directly toward support of Texas youth and those who serve them. Those dollars have allowed us to accomplish everything from effectively lobbying the Texas legislature in 2015 for \$117 million in increases to services for youth who are homeless or in foster care, to completing a four-year project in which we supported 11 residential treatment centers with reducing seclusion and restraint practices.

**Help us continue this important work. Visit [www.tnoys.org/donate](http://www.tnoys.org/donate) to donate today.**

## STAFF LIST

Christine Gendron  
*Executive Director*

Lara O'Toole  
*Director of Training and  
Program Development*

Jack Nowicki  
*Senior Program  
Development Specialist*

Elizabeth Flint  
*Program Coordinator*

Beth Duke  
*Administrative Specialist*

[www.tnoys.org](http://www.tnoys.org)  
512-815-3299  
P.O. Box 26855,  
Austin, Texas 78755

