



TEXAS
JUVENILE  JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT

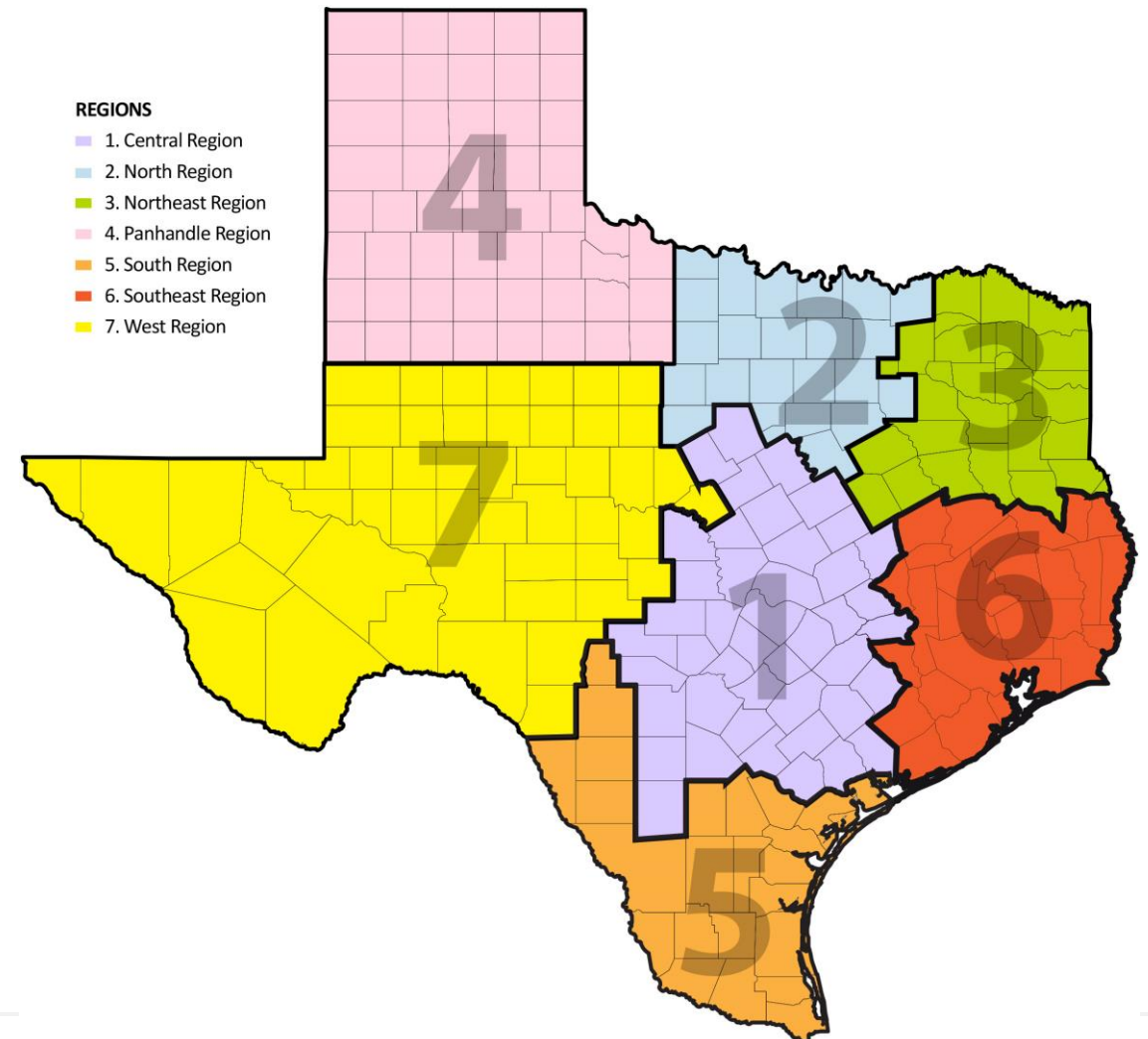
Diversion Opportunities for Justice-Involved Youth

Ashley Kintzer, Director of Probation

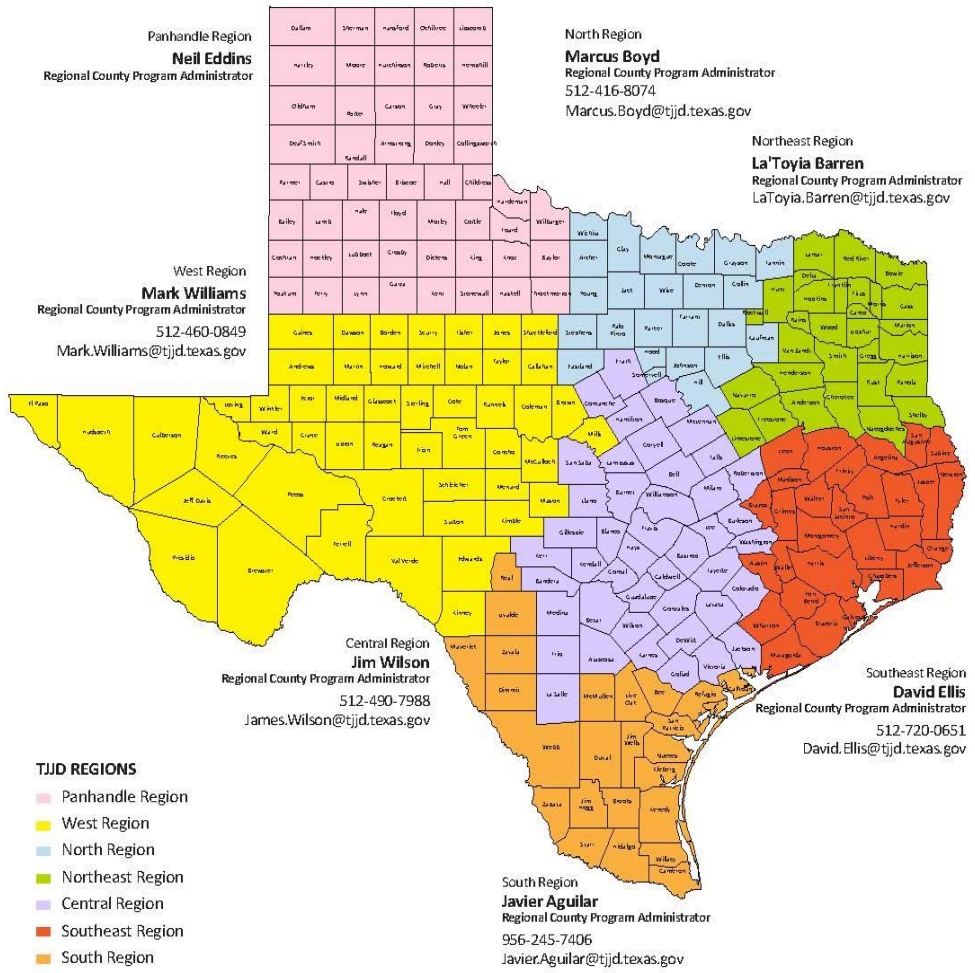
Susan Scott Palacios, PhD, LPC, Manager of Community Interventions and Supports

Overview

- Diversion Opportunities
- Regional Diversion Alternatives (RDA)
- Resources for the Field



TJJD Region County Program Administrators



Deborah Harris-Wiggins
 Manager of Regionalization
 254-722-2450
 Deborah.Harris-Wiggins@tjtd.texas.gov

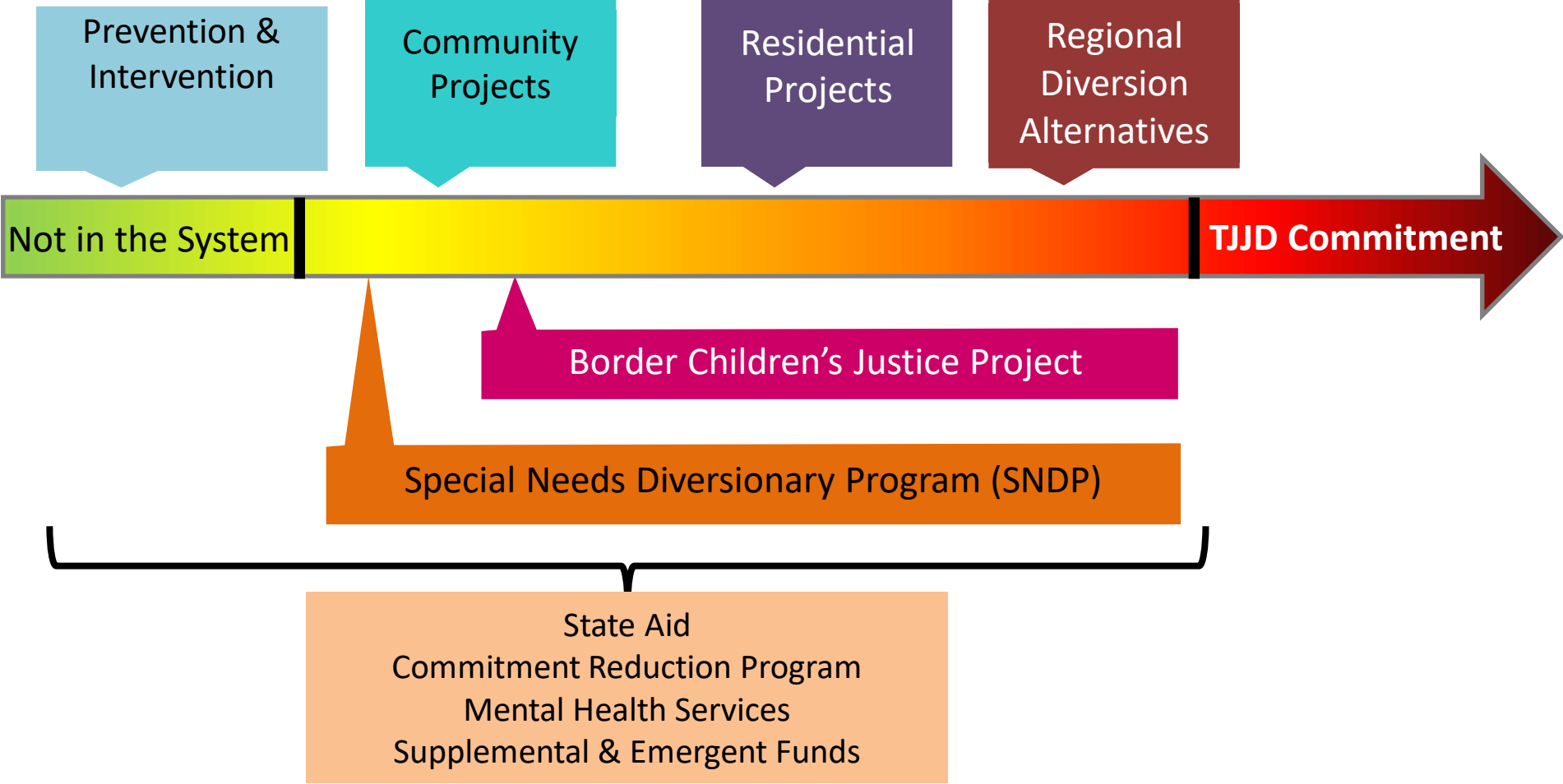
(as of October 2023)

Regional Probation/Parole Map

Importance of Diversion

- Trauma Response
 - Trauma in utero
 - Abuse/Neglect
- Neurodivergence
 - Sensory needs
 - Underdeveloped skill
 - Ability/Expectation discrepancy

Grants Continuum of Services



Community Options

- Local Mental Health Authority vs Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority
- Sequential Intercept Mapping
- Community Resource Coordination Groups (CRCG)
- School Supports/Services

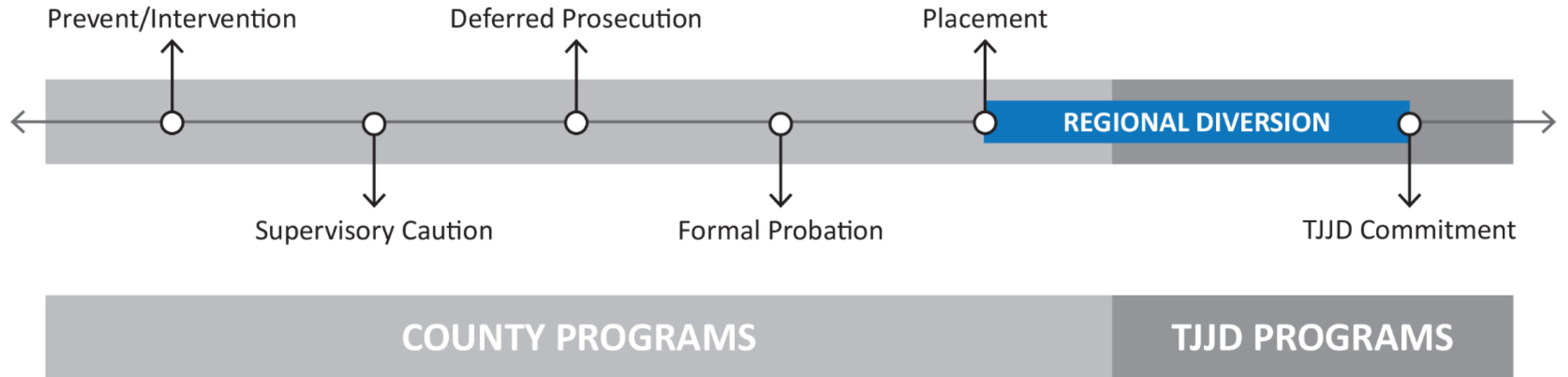
Diversion Options

- Residential Placement Assistance
 - CRCG
 - HHSC
 - School
 - Probation
 - Expansion Residential Projects
- Regional Diversion Alternatives

Regionalization Overview

- In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature instructed TJJJ to develop and adopt a regionalization plan.
- August 2015 the Regionalization Task Force was established.
- Regionalization Division created March 1, 2016.
- Initial targets set for diversions: 30 diversions in 2016, 150 diversions in 2017, 2018, and 2019.
- Fiscal year 2020, 2021, 2022 - 220
- Contributing documents: Closer to Home Report, Improving Outcomes in the Texas Juvenile Justice System, and Core Principles for Reducing Recidivism and Improving Other Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System.

What youth are appropriate for diversion?



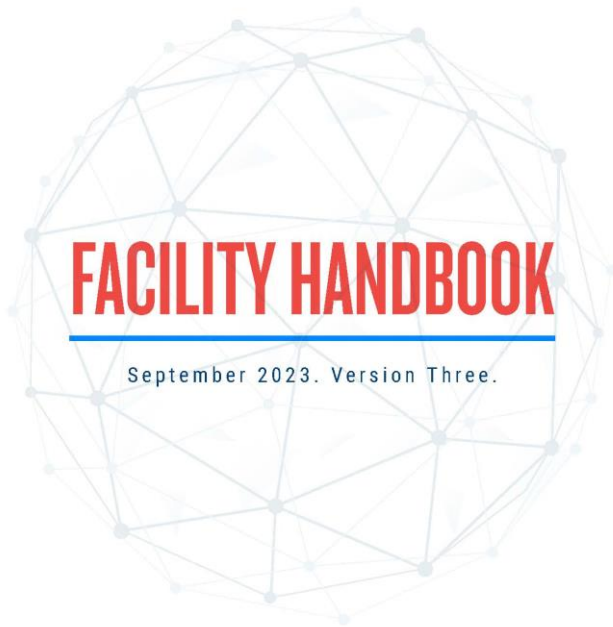
Changes to RDA Priority Population

- The initial target population of youth appropriate for diversion under the RDA Program grant includes all youth who are eligible, and under consideration, for commitment to TJJD.
- Youth in the *priority* population:
 - ✓ Younger offenders (those between the ages of 10-14);
 - ✓ Youth with a serious mental illness;
 - ✓ Youth with a developmental or intellectual disability;
 - ✓ Youth with only non-violent offenses;
 - ✓ Youth with low- to moderate- risk to reoffend levels;
 - ✓ Youth who scored “Clear Concern” on the CSE-IT;
 - ✓ Youth who have four or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) or any of the synergistic pairs of ACEs;
 - ✓ **Youth who are/will be parenting;**
 - ✓ **Female youth with a specialized treatment need; and/or**
 - ✓ **Older youth in need of vocational or educational services.**

What Are We Looking For When We Staff an Application?

- Have department interventions been appropriate? In order to qualify, the juvenile probation department must demonstrate a prior effort to provide appropriate intervention with priority given to the treatment needs of the youth. Intervention should be commensurate with county resources.
- As provided by the department and reviewed by the assigned administrator - can the identified treatment needs be met at the recommended facility?
- If outside the region - why?
- Is the recommended length of stay and cost per day appropriate?

Facility Handbook



The Facility Handbook:

- has been developed to assist the probation field in finding appropriate residential treatment programs for identified youth;
- includes residential treatment programs that have been used by departments through the Regional Diversion Alternatives Program (RDA); and
- is divided three ways: by region, by available specialized treatment, and by special populations.

Contact Information

Mental Health Assistance

Community Interventions and Supports Manager

Dr. Susan Scott Palacios, PhD, LPC

512-420-3923

Susan.Palacios@tjjd.texas.gov

Community Mental Health Program Specialist

Amanda D. Peters Britton, M.Ed., LPC, NCC

737-990-9232

Amanda.Britton@tjjd.texas.gov

Contact Information

Regionalization Team

Deborah Harris-Wiggins

Manager of Regionalization

254-722-2450

Deborah.Harris-Wiggins@tjtd.texas.gov

Jim Wilson (Central)

Regional County Program Administrator

512-490-7988

James.Wilson@tjtd.texas.gov

Marcus Boyd (North)

Regional County Program Administrator

512-416-8074

Marcus.Boyd@tjtd.texas.gov

La'Toyia Barren (Northeast)

Regional County Program Administrator

LaToyia.Barren@tjtd.texas.gov

Mark Williams (Panhandle and West)

Regional County Program Administrator

512-460-0849

Mark.Williams@tjtd.texas.gov

Javier Aguilar (South)

Regional County Program Administrator

956-245-7406

Javier.Aguilar@tjtd.texas.gov

David Ellis (Southeast)

Regional County Program Administrator

David.Ellis@tjtd.texas.gov

512-720-0651

Ashley Kintzer

Director of Probation

512-484-9094

Ashley.Kintzer@tjtd.texas.gov

Questions

