

# MEMBERSHIP



SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS PERMANENT JUDICIAL  
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

## **Collaborative Council**

Membership  
Directory

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SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS PERMANENT JUDICIAL  
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

## Children's Commission Collaborative Council Membership Directory

The Collaborative Council assists the Children's Commission by informing commission members and staff of local and statewide activities, events, and issues that affect attorney and judicial practices in CPS cases.

The Collaborative Council is composed of child welfare stakeholders and advocates from across Texas, including child/youth and parent advocates. There are currently 37 Collaborative Council members.

### COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tymothy Belseth  
M. Lynn Chamberlin  
Irene Clements  
Bill Connolly  
Sarah Crockett  
Teal De La Garza  
De Shaun Ealoms  
Barbara Elias-Perciful  
Debra Emerson  
Mike Foster

Will Francis  
Sadie Funk  
Fedora Galasso  
Sandra Hachem  
David Halpern  
Lisa Harst  
Félix Herrera  
Alex Hunt  
Kerrie Judice

Bruce Kendrick  
Knox Kimberly  
Norman Ladd  
Tracy Levins  
Gabriella McDonald  
Dr. Jill McLeigh  
Kate Murphy  
Judy Powell  
Mary Christine Reed

Carolyne Rodriguez  
Tanya Rollins  
Johana Scot  
Janet Sharkis  
Andrea Sparks  
Hon. Ian Spechler  
Jeanne Stamp  
Gloria Terry  
Kenneth Thompson

Updated November 2020

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## **Tymothy Belseth**

Research Coordinator

Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing

[www.txicfw.socialwork.utexas.edu](http://www.txicfw.socialwork.utexas.edu)

3001 Lake Austin Blvd.

Suite 1.204

Austin, Texas 78703

tymothy.belseth@austin.utexas.edu

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing connects communities to research, training, and programs that promote the wellbeing and resilience of children, families and the people who serve them.

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## **Lynn Chamberlin**

Senior Assistant County Attorney

Harris County Attorney's Office

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

1019 Congress, 17th Floor

Houston, Texas 77002

Lynn.Chamberlin@cao.hctx.net

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## **Irene Clements**

Executive Director

National Foster Parent Association

<https://nfpaonline.org/>

14508 Owen Tech Blvd, #129

Austin, Texas 78728

irenecllements17@gmail.com

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## **Bill Connolly**

Attorney

Connolly & Shireman, LLP

[www.connollyshireman.com](http://www.connollyshireman.com)

2930 Revere, Suite 300

Houston, Texas 77098

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## **Sarah Crockett**

Public Policy Coordinator

Texas CASA

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

1501 W Anderson Lane, Suite B-2

Austin, Texas 78757

[scrockett@texascasa.org](mailto:scrockett@texascasa.org)

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Texas CASA's mission is to support local CASA volunteer advocacy programs and to advocate for effective public policy for children in the child protection system.

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## **Teal De La Garza**

Associate Attorney

Bill De La Garza & Associates

[www.billdelagarzapc.com](http://www.billdelagarzapc.com)

17050 El Camino Real

Houston, Texas 77058

[teal@bdlg.com](mailto:teal@bdlg.com)

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Our firm provides counsel and representation in many areas of the law, but our primary focus is in divorce and family law. We understand these matters are intensely personal and have both immediate and long-term ramifications. Our goal is to protect our clients in the process through sound legal advice, creative solutions and staunch courtroom advocacy.

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## **De Shaun Ealoms**

Parent Program Specialist

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

[www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)

701 W. 51st Street

Austin, Texas 78751

P.O. Box 149030

Austin, Texas 78714

aundrea.ealoms@dfps.state.tx.us

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The mission of The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by involving clients, families, and communities.

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## **Barbara Elias-Perciful**

Director

Texas Lawyers for Children

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

3131 Turtle Creek Blvd, Suite 1018

Dallas, Texas 75219

Barbara@TexasLawyersforChildren.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

TLC's mission is to improve court case outcomes for abused and neglected children by enhancing the quality of legal services they receive, by raising public awareness, and by facilitating improvement in systems that serve children and families. The most important decisions about an abused or neglected child's future are made in court. TLC exists to help ensure that those decisions are the best possible for the child.

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## **Debra Emerson**

CPS Director of Permanency, Family and Youth Services

Department of Family and Protective Services

[www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)

701 W. 51st Street

Austin, Texas 78714

debra.emerson@dfps.state.tx.us

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## **Mike Foster**

Administrator

Central Texas Table of Grace

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

P.O. Box 52

Round Rock, Texas 78680

fostermh@outlook.com

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## **Will Francis**

Government Relations Director

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter

<https://www.naswtx.org/>

810 W. 11th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

wfrancis.naswtx@socialworkers.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

NASW/TX is committed to advancing professional social work practice and the profession; and to promoting human rights, social and economic justice, and unimpeded access to services for everyone. Its members work in a broad range of settings including child welfare, hospitals and other health care settings, community agencies, government, academia, business, nursing homes, schools, and private practice.

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## **Sadie Funk**

Executive Director

First3Years

[www.first3yearstx.org](http://www.first3yearstx.org)

15851 Dallas Parkway, #106

Addison, Texas 75001

sfunk@first3yearstx.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

We educate, advocate, and collaborate to advance the healthy development of infants and toddlers.

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## **Fedora Galasso**

Executive Director

Texas Network of Youth Services

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

P.O. Box 26855

Austin, Texas 78755

fgalasso@tnoys.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The mission of TNOYS is to strengthen, support, and protect critical services for Texas youth and their families.

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## **Sandra Hachem**

Senior Assistant County Attorney

Harris County Attorney's Office

<http://www.harriscountycAo.org/>

1019 Congress, 17th Floor

Houston, Texas 77002

sandra.hachem@cao.hctx.net

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Fulfill statutory duties and oath of the office of Harris County Attorney.

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## **David Halpern**

Assistant General Counsel

Texas A&M

Moore/Connally Building

301 Tarrow, 6th Floor

College Station, Texas 77840

dhalpern@tamus.edu

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## **Lisa Harst**

Strategic Partnerships Associate  
Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX)

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

1501 W. Anderson Lane, Building B-1  
Austin, Texas 78757  
lharst@cactx.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The mission of CACTX is to restore the lives of abused children by supporting children's advocacy centers (CACs) in partnership with local communities and agencies investigating and prosecuting child abuse.

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## **Félix Herrera**

Consul for Protection and Legal Affairs  
Consulate General of Mexico in Austin

<https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/austin/>

5202 E. Ben White Boulevard, Suite 150  
Austin, Texas 78741  
fherrera@sre.gob.mx

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## **Alex Hunt**

Attorney & Counselor at Law  
Hunt Law Firm, P.L.L.C.

23212 Red River Drive  
Katy, Texas 77494  
achunt@gmail.com

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## **Kerrie Judice**

CPS Research and Policy Analyst  
TexProtects

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

512 E. 11th Street, Suite 201  
Austin, Texas 78701  
kerrie@texprotects.org

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## **Bruce Kendrick**

Director of Life Initiatives

Watermark Community Church

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

7540 LBJ Freeway

Dallas, Texas 75251

bkendrick@watermark.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Calling all people to be fully devoted followers of Christ.

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## **Knox Kimberly**

SVP - Advocacy and Stakeholder Relations

Upbring

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

8305 Cross Park Drive

Austin, Texas 78754

knox.kimberly@upbring.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Breaking the cycle of child abuse by empowering children, families and communities.

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## **Norman Ladd**

Attorney

Ladd & Thigpen, P.C.

<https://www.ltlawfirm.com/>

223 S. Bonner Avenue

Tyler, Texas 78702

nladd@ltlawfirm.com

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## **Tracy Levins**

State Development Specialist

Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health

<http://sites.utexas.edu/mental-health-institute/>

1717 W. 6th Street #310

Austin, Texas 78703

t.levins@austin.utexas.edu

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## **Gabriella McDonald**

Pro Bono & New Projects Director

Texas Appleseed

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

1609 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 201

Austin, Texas 78701

gmcDonald@texasappleseed.net

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Texas Appleseed's mission is to promote social and economic justice for all Texans by leveraging the skills and resources of volunteer lawyers and other professionals to identify practical solutions to difficult systemic problems.

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## **Dr. Jill McLeigh**

Director, Policy, Advocacy and Research

Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence, Children's Health

[www.childrens.com/fostercare](http://www.childrens.com/fostercare)

1935 Medical District Drive

Mailstop ST7.03

Dallas, Texas 75235

Jill.McLeigh@childrens.com

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

To ensure children in foster care receive the highest quality healthcare and necessary community support for full recovery and future success.

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## **Kate Murphy**

Senior Child Welfare Policy Associate  
Texans Care for Children

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

1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 111w  
Austin, Texas 78723  
kmurphy@txchildren.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

We are a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue children's policy organization. We develop policy solutions, produce research, and engage Texas community leaders to educate policymakers, the media, and the public about what works to improve the well-being of Texas children and families.

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## **Judy Powell**

Communications Director  
Parent Guidance Center

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

9600 Escarpment Blvd.  
Suite 745-255  
Austin, Texas 78749  
judy@parentguidancecenter.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Advocating for parents involved in the child welfare system and supporting parental rights.  
"Help a parent and you've already helped a child."

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## **Mary Christine Reed**

Attorney-Project Director

Texas Foster Youth Justice Project-Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

<http://texasfosteryouth.org/>

4920 N. IH 35

Austin, Texas 78751

info@texasfosteryouth.org

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

The Texas Foster Youth Justice Project helps current and former foster youth in Texas. We provide legal advice, assistance, guidance and representation in enforcing foster youth rights and supporting the successful transition to independence. We also provide guidance and training to those that work with foster youth, publish "A Guide to Aging Out of Foster Care in Texas," available for free distribution to foster youth and maintain resources found at TexasFosterYouth.org.

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## **Carolyn Rodriguez**

Independent Consultant

carolyn001r@gmail.com

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## **Tanya Rollins**

CPS Disproportionality Manager

Department of Family and Protective Services

[www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)

701 W. 51st Street

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tanya.rollins@dfps.state.tx.us

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## **Johana Scot**

Executive Director  
Parent Guidance Center

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

9600 Escarpment Blvd.  
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Austin, Texas 78749

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

Advocating for parents involved in the child welfare system and supporting parental rights.  
"Help a parent and you've already helped a child."

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## **Janet Sharkis**

Director of Strategic Health Alliance  
Texas Center for Disability Studies, University of Texas

[www.disabilitystudies.utexas.edu](http://www.disabilitystudies.utexas.edu)

10100 Burnet Road  
Suite 1.154, Bldg. 137, L4000  
Austin, Texas 78758  
sharkisjanet@utexas.edu

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

To optimize well-being and brain health. Strategic Health Alliance bring the voices of the community together as agents of change. Specialty content areas include prenatal exposures, complex brain based disabilities, such as co-occurring mental health conditions and intellectual disabilities, and the impact of experiences on our well-being. Our alliance of volunteers collaborate on public policy, system change, research, strategic planning, education, and community action.

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## **Andrea Sparks**

Director, Child Sex Trafficking Team  
Office of the Governor

[www.gov.texas.gov](http://www.gov.texas.gov)

1100 San Jacinto Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78701

andrea.sparks@gov.texas.gov

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

To prevent child sexual exploitation, help identify and recover survivors, provide coordinated services to help them heal and thrive, and bring them justice.

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## **Hon. Ian Spechler**

Hearing Officer  
State Office of Administrative Hearings

[www.soah.state.tx.us](http://www.soah.state.tx.us)

300 W. 15th St

Austin, Texas 78701

ian.spechler@soah.texas.gov

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## **Jeanne Stamp**

Consultant  
Texas Homeless Education Network

<http://www.thn.org/then>

1713 Fortview Road

Austin, Texas 78704

jeannestamp@utexas.edu

Primary Purpose/Mission of Your Organization:

To provide guidance, technical assistance and training to educators, service providers, families and students to ensure the identification, enrollment, attendance and school success of highly mobile students.

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## **Gloria Terry**

Chief Executive Officer

Texas Council on Family Violence

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

P.O. Box 161810

Austin, Texas 78716

gterry@tcfv.org

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## **Kenneth Thompson**

Fatherhood Specialist

Department of Family and Protective Services

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