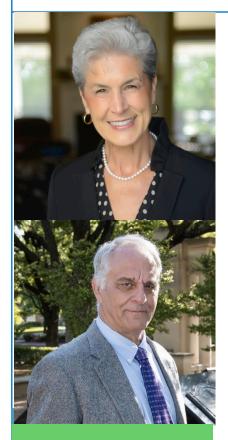
Travis County Collaborative for Children



Presented by: TCU Institute of Child Development



Year in Review: 2015



2015

The TCCC is led by the TCU Institute of Child Development; specifically, Drs. Karyn Purvis, David Cross, & Casey Call.

Guidance and support for the collaborative is provided by Mission Capital (formerly Greenlights for Nonprofit Success), the TCCC Steering Committee, and the TCCC Advisory Council.

The TCCC Steering Committee serves as the primary work group that steers information-gathering and stakeholder engagement, as well as advises the ICD team on strategic decision-making related to the initiative.

The TCCC Advisory Council helps guide the TCCC by providing feedback on implementation questions, giving advice on strategic decisionmaking, and providing guidance on ways to allow for scalability.

Letter from the Directors

Karyn Purvis, Ph.D.
Rees-Jones Director, TCU Institute of Child Development
David Cross, Ph.D.
Co-Director, TCU Institute of Child Development

This year marks our 10th anniversary and we are excited and humbled to have been able to serve so many children and families! We have had a lot to celebrate over the past decade, and we look forward to expanding programs to meet the needs of more children in the decade ahead.

As we look back over this last year, we are especially thankful to be transforming child welfare programs and reaching vulnerable children with a strong message of hope. Our primary goal when starting the Collaborative was to promote healing and ensure permanent placement for children in Travis County as quickly as possible, in addition to helping establish a ground-breaking foster care system that could be replicated and used across the country.

In 2015 we made great strides in accomplishing this goal. Through ongoing training and support we expanded the TCCC, and are now disseminating TBRI® to more than 180 partnering agencies and teaching practical interventions that anyone can use to help children heal and reach their greatest potential. Professionals and parents have a better understanding of effective trauma-informed interventions and our trainings and resources are empowering them to bring children to dramatic levels of healing.

Current programs continue to strengthen our voice in advocating for trauma-informed policies and practices on behalf of children who are victims of abuse and neglect or have experienced trauma. We are honored to be partnering with each of the organizations in Travis County and proud of the collaborative effort to serve vulnerable children and youth!

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Sincerely,

TCU Institute of Child Development

The Institute of Child Development is a program of the Department of Psychology, College of Science and Engineering, at TCU in Fort Worth, Texas. Its mission is research, education, and outreach to improve the lives of children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and/or trauma. Our research and interventions are empowering parents, professionals, and students with trauma-informed strategies that meet the needs of the children and youth who rely on their decisions.

History

The Institute of Child Development was created as an outgrowth of The Hope Connection®, a research and intervention project developed in 1999 by Dr. David Cross and Dr. Karyn Purvis. Through a rich partnership between researchers and adoptive parents, the Institute has been able to develop the Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) model for at-risk children that has made remarkable changes in the lives of many families and their adopted children. For example, 50% of undesirable behaviors exhibited by the children, including disruptive, aggressive and violent behaviors, disappear in the first weeks of The Hope Connection® summer camp. This constitutes far greater change than the parents have seen in their children over the course of years of therapy and intervention.

Programs

TBRI® is implemented in the context of The Hope Connection® summer camps, home programs, professional training workshops, and organizational training programs. The Institute also provides training for parents, professionals, and students through on-campus workshops speaking engagements, conferences, university courses, scientific publications, articles, and educational videos.

Research

During the past 15 years, research conducted by the Institute of Child Development has substantially pushed forward our understanding of the complex needs of children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and/or trauma. Current research studies aim to advance scientific knowledge regarding the impact of early maltreatment, as well as to develop trauma-informed interventions that encourage healthy social development.



TBRI® Evaluation Study Conducted in 2014-15

Serving the Foster and Adoptive Community

Replicating the Pilot Project

We continued to conduct the TBRI® Evaluation Study in 2015, and the Institute is working with participating organizations to evaluate the efficacy of the TBRI® model for improving outcomes for at-risk children and adolescents.

The Institute launched the pilot project with Methodist Children's Home (MCH) in 2011, and started to replicate the training program in 2012 with ACH Child & Family Services (ACH) in Fort Worth, Centers for Children & Families (CCF) in West Texas, and the Independence Public School District (IPSD) in Missouri. IPSD withdrew from the study and additional participants that have been folded into the study include Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services in Waxahachie, TX, The Baby Fold in Normal, IL, the 323rd Family District Court in Tarrant



County (Fort Worth, TX), and the 321st District Court in Smith County (Tyler, TX).

The Institute continued to provide customized follow-up training for participants through site visits, focus groups, and specialized training sessions. For example, the Institute conducted Case Reviews that have helped participants improve their own processing of very difficult cases. The Institute is continuing to work closely with each organization to answer questions, and monitor and evaluate progress.

Positive Feedback and Results

Evidence collected from the study continues to support the efficacy of the TBRI® model in producing positive behavioral outcomes for children and youth. For example, calls for service at MCH decreased by 64% from 2010 (the year before TBRI® was implemented) to 2013. "Calls for service" involve on-duty staff members calling MCH security officers to report criminal activity that doesn't necessarily warrant an arrest. Physical containments of residents (used when youth are in immediate danger to themselves or others) also decreased by 45% from 2010 to 2013.

In addition, the number of incident reports for aggressive and disruptive behavior at MCH's charter school significantly decreased. After two years of implementing TBRI®, school data showed a **68% decrease in office referrals for physical aggression; an 88% decrease in referrals for verbal aggression; and a 95% decrease in referrals for disruptive behavior**. Overall, the school reported a combined total of 902 referrals in 2010-2011 and only 59 in 2012-2013, resulting in a 93.5% decrease in these types of incidents after the first two years of the implementation process. This positive trend has continued with MCH and its charter school reporting reduced behavioral problems.

Applying for Evidence-Based Practice: Update

Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®)
Therapeutic Camp is recognized by the
California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for
Child Welfare (CEBC) and recently published
studies are being reviewed to update its scientific
rating.

TBRI® is listed on the CEBC website as a program designed to meet the needs of children, youth, and families receiving child welfare services. The CEBC provides information to identify and disseminate information regarding evidence-based practices relevant to child welfare.





TBRI® received the highest rating on the CEBC child welfare system relevance scale, but was given the classification of "NR – Not able to be Rated" for the scientific rating. When TBRI® was originally reviewed by the CEBC it lacked the type of published, peer-reviewed research that meets the CEBC criteria for a scientific rating of 1-5. The Institute's TBRI® parent training study meets the criteria and articles published in 2014-2015 are currently being evaluated on the scientific scale.

The Institute also submitted TBRI® to the Research Committee of the Foster Family-based Treatment Association (FFTA) for its Evidence-based & Emerging Practice Resource Library. This FFTA resource will catalog and share evidence-based and emerging practices that are successful in treatment foster care and family-based treatment settings. The library will promote best practices in treatment foster care for the benefit of its over 400 member agencies (providing treatment foster care services to over 50,000 children and youth each year and other child welfare and mental health services for over 600,000 children and youth.)



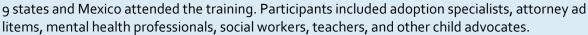
At the request of Spaulding for Children, the Institute also submitted TBRI® to the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption & Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG) as an effective intervention in child welfare. The QIC-AG is a five-year cooperative project that will develop evidence-based models of support and intervention to achieve long-term, stable permanency in adoption and quardianship homes.

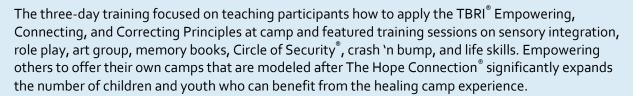
The QIC-AG is a program funded through the US Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children & Families (Children's Bureau) in partnership with Spaulding for Children, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



More children benefiting from healing camp experiences

In 2015, the Institute offered another TBRI® summer camp training at TCU for organizations serving at-risk children and youth. Twenty-eight participants (representing 21 organizations) from





In addition, eight children participated in a five-day, custom summer camp for ACH. These children from ACH's Behavioral Care Unit all had extensive childhood trauma experiences and exhibit the most challenging behaviors. Fourteen foster and adopted children also participated in a four-day overnight custom summer camp for PCHAS in Waxahachie in July 2015.

The camps were modeled after The Hope Connection at TCU, and TCU faculty/staff and students provided coaching and support. These experiences provide different types of situations for agency staff to practice applying TBRI strategies and enhanced their ability to conduct camp programs.



Academic Programs





New Master of Science in Developmental Trauma

The first three students have been accepted to the Developmental Trauma master's program. The Master of Science in Developmental Trauma is designed to educate students about the scientific and applied aspects of developmental trauma, and the goal is to prepare students for advanced academic study and/or professional practice.

New Developmental Trauma Capstone Course

The new Developmental Trauma Capstone course will be offered for the first time in Spring 2016. This course will be the capstone course for the Master of Science in Developmental Trauma program. Students will complete a treatise and several professional development activities under the advisement of a faculty member in the program.

Child Life Internships

The Internship in Child Development course offers students advanced opportunities to work with children through highly regarded internship positions, and TCU Child Development students are currently completing very competitive Child Life Specialist practicums at Texas Children's Hospital (Houston), Children's Medical Center (Dallas), and Children's Hospital (San Antonio).



Transforming Foster Care in Travis County!



Travis County Collaborative for Children

We are excited to have expanded the Travis County Collaborative for Children (TCCC) to bring system-wide change to the way foster children in Travis County are cared for during and after their time in state custody. The TCCC is a multi-year collective-impact and collaboration initiative that is designed to produce dramatic healing in harmed foster children and ensure their permanent placement in nurturing families more quickly than the state average.

The TCCC originally planned to include 50 professionals and agencies and is now working with almost 200 partner/affiliate organizations. The number of agencies and partners more than doubled in the first year of the project in order to build a stronger network of support for foster families and the professionals that serve them. This ambitious research and training initiative has the potential to establish a foster care system that is unparalleled in success, replicable in other locations, and a model for state and national foster care reform.

TCCC Strategy Roadmap

Travis County Collaborative for Children Strategy Roadmap







Pillars of Success 2013 -

Effective Collaboration A highly-coordinated, sustainable, broad, and effective local collaboration that supports its partners well and ensures fidelity to TBRI

Trauma-Informed Organizations

A broad group of child welfare, educational, faith-based, and public organizations that implement practices known to heal children and promote safe, consistent relationships

Trauma-Informed **Public Policy**

CPS, court system, and other policies embrace trauma-informed practices that heal children and that support and incentivize agencies and families who pursue trauma-informed healing

Healing Families

Reaming ramilles Sufficient fraumo-informed families (foster, adoptive, and biological) are available in Travis County and equipped to care for and heal our children

Cast vision and define objectives Develop common language &

Distribute TBRI education

Encourage stakeholder participation

Establish Fostering Hope Austin **Build awareness** through conferences and sessions

Provide **ongoing support** to partners Engage the full **spectrum of individuals and organizations** who impact children in the child welfare system

Strengthen organizations as they implement TBRI with fidelity

Promote standardized guidelines for assessing whether an organization is trauma-informed

Advocate for TBRI integration into CPS practices **Promote** alignment of funding with TCCC goals **Make** the TCCC a model for state-wide implementation

Empower parents with TBRI principles, practices, and mentorship

Increase families available and equipped to care for and heal children

Improve the healing and overall well-being of children

Reduce the average number of placements prior to permanency

Safely reduce the average time to achieve positive permanency

Create a traumainformed culture which values and achieves positive permanency

Since the Collaborative began, a total of 1,006 professionals, representing 181 organizations in Travis County, have been trained in TBRI®. 453 NEW professionals, representing 94 organizations, were trained in Year 2.





The organizations represented can be categorized as 1 of 15 types—advocacy/training, community support & mentoring, consulting, CPA, higher education, faith-based, government, legal, medical, philanthropic, project management, RTC, schools, therapeutic, or other.

The number of organizations and professionals representing each type are listed below –

Organization Type	# of Organizations	# of Professionals
Advocacy/Training	15	94
Community Support/Mentoring	4	17
Consulting	2	2
CPA	18	186
Higher Education	12	21
Faith-Based	17	43
Government	9	67
Legal	18	46
Medical	9	17
Philanthropic	3	3
Project Management	1	3
RTC	8	67
Schools	29	278
Therapeutic	29	71
Other/Unidentified	7	91

TCCC Steering Committee & Advisory Council



TCCC Steering Committee Members

- ~Nichole Aston, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
- ~Melissa Chavez, UT University Charter School
- ~Darcie DeShazo, Settlement Home
- ~Ted Keyser, Helping Hand Home for Children
- ~Julie Kouri, Church & Community Equipping
- ~Judge Martinez Jones, Travis County District
 Court
- ~Sarah Mercado, Caring Family Network/ DePelchin Children's Center

- ~Irina Meza, Child Protective Services Region 7
- ~Joan Peterson, Travis County District Attorney
- ~Julie Remde, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
- ~Carol Self, Department of Family and Protective Services
- ~Randy Spencer, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
- ~Laura Wolf, CASA of Travis County

In 2015 there were:

- -11 monthly Steering Committee Meetings held, January December (skipped November)
- -3 quarterly Advisory Council Meetings held in April, September, & December

The end of year meeting will be a Joint Steering Committee & Advisory Council Meeting on December 1, 2015.

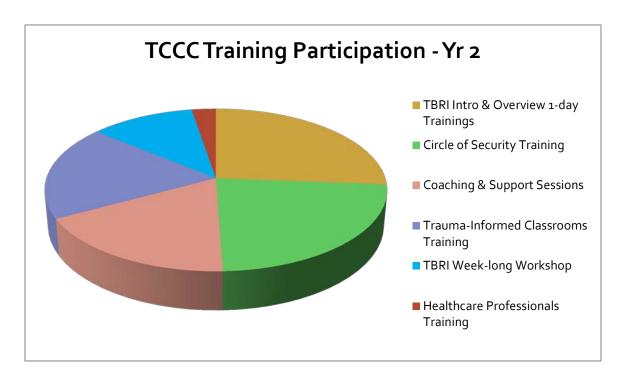
Starting in **2016**, the Steering Committee will meet **bi-monthly** (instead of every month). The steering committee decided that with resources readily available, like the Travis County website, bi-monthly coaching & support sessions, and frequent updates sent via email, they are able to stay up-to-date and engaged without meeting every month.

TCCC Trainings

Since the end of 2014, the TCCC has presented a number of professional trainings in Austin to improve caregiver understanding of the impact of early maltreatment and teach effective interventions. These trainings included:



- 4 x TBRI[®] Coaching & Support sessions (Feb., Apr., Aug., & Oct. 2015)
- Special presentation by Dr. Randy Naidoo on pediatric care based on holistic principles on January 23, 2015 (oneday training for direct healthcare providers)
- TBRI® Introduction & Overview (one-day training) on February 25, 2015
- Five-day TBRI® Professional Training workshop from May 11-15, 2105 (participants completed five two-week pretraining modules prior to attending the on-site training)
- Circle of Security Introduction (one-day training) on June
 1, 2015
- Circle of Security Parent Training[©] and DVD (four-day training) from June 2-5, 2015
- Trauma-Informed Classrooms (two-day training) on August 4-5, 2015



More TCCC-Related Trainings

 Model Court for Children & Families in Austin, TX (special presentation for juvenile justice professionals) – October 21, 2014

- CASA Child Welfare Primer, Nuts & Bolts of Trauma-Informed Care February 11, 2015
- A Future and A Hope Adoption & Foster Care Conference presented by Fostering Hope Austin (attended by approximately 150 professionals on day one and 400 parents on day two) – February 20-21, 2015
- 11th annual Special Education, Child Welfare and the Juvenile Justice System Course (special presentation with the Honorable Judge Darlene Byrne) June 12, 2015



Additional customized training for TCCC partners is scheduled through 2016 and data collection is scheduled to extend for three years, through 2017.

Child Welfare Primer & CASA Day at the Capitol



Dr. Purvis presented the afternoon keynote address "The Nuts and Bolts of Trauma-Informed Care" at the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Child Welfare Primer in Austin on February 12, 2015. The one-day event was designed to prepare CASA members for CASA Day at the Capitol and address the key issues to be discussed with legislators.

More than 200 CASA volunteers, staff and board members, child welfare advocates, legislative staff and state agency staff attended the event along with other stakeholders.

This session presented a dynamic opportunity to increase awareness about the impact of trauma and about how to create trauma-informed systems of care that make a difference for children and youth in care.







Evaluation Study of TBRI® Implementation in Travis County



In order to evaluate the implementation of TBRI® within the TCCC, interviews, focus groups, and site visits were conducted, and artifacts were collected, to gain insight for strategic growth and evolution. The research strategy and the focus of the evaluation were based on 5 anthropological concepts – culture, holistic perspective, contextualization, micro- and macro-level study, and operationalism.







23 TCCC participants were interviewed, representing 9 organizations – Travis County District Court, Churches, Texas CASA, Disability Rights Texas, Clearfork Elementary/Lockhart ISD, Caring Family Network/DePelchin Children's Center, CASA of Travis County, Helping Hand Home for Children & The Settlement Home for Children.

In addition to interviews, focus groups and site visits were completed with 4 organizations – Caring Family Network/DePelchin Children's Center, CASA of Travis County, Helping Hand Home for Children, and The Settlement Home for Children.

The semi-structured interviews included the following four questions:

- 1. What is the one thing that most stands out to you about the implementation of TBRI at your organization? What makes it stand out? Is this the most impactful aspect of the implementation?
- 2. What's going well with the implementation? What have been your successes? Can you share some specific examples (or stories or data)?
- 3. What's been tricky with the implementation? What have been your challenges? Can you share some specific examples (or stories or data)?
- 4. What do you need to keep moving forward? What would remove some of the obstacles you and your organization face? What would your perfect world look like? What do you need to get there?

Site Visits, Interviews & Focus Groups: Positive Feedback from TCCC Partners

Partner organizations have reported positive results from implementing TBRI® including: improved organizational culture, decrease in serious incidents, better collaboration, and an increase in staff recognition of and response to trauma in children. Attorneys, child advocates, and child welfare staff have reported an increased understanding of the effects of trauma on children and the expanded use of a common language.

In addition, parents and families have reported feeling hopeful and experiencing gains in affection from children. These represent dramatic changes for improving outcomes for children and youth in care and make this program a worthwhile endeavor.

Some specific positive results that were reported during the focus groups and interviews include:

- Children using good words and discussing feelings
- Students and teachers solving problems through compromise
- Advocates for children asking more informed questions
- More playful engagement with children
- A reduction in power struggles and an increase in compromises
- Staff are calmer, listening to the children, and offering options.

4 main elements of success for the TCCC were identified in the results of the study -

4 Main Elements/Levels of Success		
Personal	 TCCC provides opportunity to advocate effectively for children 	
	 Staff have renewed focus & energy from TBRI trainings 	
Child	 Effectiveness of TBRI's holistic view of the child 	
	 Children are able to verbalize their feelings to peers and adults 	
	 Children feel more warmth & acceptance in their organization 	
Colleague	 Employees who embrace TBRI are doing well and show excitement & 	
	positivity in work environment	
Executive	 Organizations want more connections with other facilities & the court 	
	system to achieve greater collaboration	
	 Consistent desire for more – more information, resources & support 	

TCCC – Letters of Support



Dr. David Cross Co-Director TCU Institute of Child Development TCU Box 298921 Fort Worth, TX 76129

August 5, 2015

Dr. Cross,

Our agency has required staff members in our residential program to read <u>The Connected Child</u> for several years now. The principles in that book have laid a foundation for how we begin to understand children from hard places. I attended the week-long TBRI training in Fort Worth, TX in September, 2013 to deepen my understanding of TBRI, and sent several staff members to Empowered to Connect in October, 2013. This learning transformed the way our team understood the children and families we were supporting. Implementing the principles improved trust and relationship, reduced fear, reduced incidents of conflict and power struggle, and increased staff empathy while lowering feelings of frustration.

Our agency expanded its foster care and adoption services into the Austin area in January, 2014. I accepted a position that provided the opportunity to incorporate TBRI in every aspect of our work with families. Our staff began participating in the Travis County Collaborative for Children, which has been an invaluable resource. We were provided an opportunity to attend a second full week of TBRI training, completed the post-training curriculum, and have attended the ongoing TBRI support meetings. We have also gotten involved with a local agency support group to share ideas and discuss TBRI implementation. Over the past eighteen months, I have witnessed an incredible grassroots movement in the Austin area. Agencies, foster and adoptive parents, CASA and court professionals are all working toward learning a common language and approach to improve outcomes for children through trauma informed care (TBRI). We are incredibly grateful for all that the TCU-Institute of Child Development team has done through the Travis County Collaborative for Children. They have provided training in TBRI and Circle of Security, shared resources for schools and families, and have provided DVDs to use for ongoing training and learning. None of this would have been possible within our agency budget. The hundreds of hours of education and costly support resources would have been very expensive, making it nearly impossible for an entire staff to participate together. Because of the TCCC and the amazing TCU staff,

Our mission: to provide Christ-centered care and support to children and families in need.

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our entire team was able to attend the highest quality training from the researchers themselves! We are able to ask specific questions and receive prompt, thoughtful replies from those researchers who know and understand TBRI through their research and practice. The TCCC has provided this training to many agencies like ours, creating a like-minded professional network in the Austin area that supports collaboration. I cannot express enough gratitude for what this initiative has given to our program, the families we serve, and to my professional development.

We receive updates on the progress being made toward TBRI training at each TCCC TBRI Coaching and Support session. While so much progress has been made toward training many professionals, there is much work to be done to train other professionals who interact with the children we serve. Specifically, we need more TBRI education for schools, medical professionals, legal professionals, and CPS workers. I am looking forward to the day when every professional working with a child has the same framework for understanding behavior. Thank you for all of your efforts toward that goal!

With gratitude,

Ty Cliffel, MA, LCPAA

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Darcie DeShazo Executive Director Marilyn Willson Development Director Andi Kelly PR & Marketing Director



1600 Payton Gin Road Austin, TX 78758-6506

phone: (512) 836-2150 fax: (512) 836-2159 www.settlementhome.org

Dr. David Cross Co-Director TCU Institute of Child Development TCU Box 298921 Fort Worth, TX 76129

Dr. Cross,

I am writing on behalf of the clinical team at The Settlement Home to say thank you for including us in TCU's Travis County Collaborative for Children project. We are honored to be working with your team and have found your Trust Based Relational Intervention model to fit well with the work we do to help young people heal from past hurts.

During the year and a half that we have been in partnership with The Collaborative, we have seen significant progress in our staff's ability to use specific skills and techniques to connect with the girls that we work with. I think this area of growth is in direct correlation to the 5 week training that TCU has provided our therapists and administrators. I am hopeful that additional 5 day trainings will be provided so that more of our Direct Care staff can benefit from this intensive training. Additionally, the materials (workbooks, videos, handouts, charts, research examples, etc.) provided by TCU to assist us in thoroughly training our staff have been invaluable. The expense of these items would be too costly for our non-profit organization to purchase; therefore, TCU's ability to provide these materials is very helpful.

I have thoroughly appreciated the regular bi-monthly meetings in Austin to further develop trainings, interventions, updates, networking, and continued advancements that TBRI and The Collaborative can provide our young people. The involvement of interdisciplinary teams including, yet not limited to, CPS, the school district, the legal system, churches, and families, is invaluable to the overarching support needed to help our young people heal from their traumas.

Our restraints have decreased; our successful use of sensory items has increased; we have a deeper awareness of the importance of the empowering tools (hydration, muscle stimulation, healthy snacks every two hours, etc.); our staff's response to how much more connected they feel to the girls has grown; our girls' responses to our deeper level of commitment to attachment and connection is verbalized on a regular basis; and our upper management's commit has increased. Overall, we have seen an inordinate amount of positive impact with the work we are doing to heal past hurts; furthermore, I truly believe that these successes are directly related to our partnership with The Collaborative and the invaluable teachings and implementation of TBRI.

Respectfully.

Brandi Winters, LCSW
RTC Director
The Settlement Home for Children

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Dr. David Cross Co-Director **TCU Institute of Child Development** TCU Box 298921 Fort Worth, TX 76129

Richard Singleton 1300 North Mays St. Round Rock, TX 78664 July 30, 2015

Dr. Cross:

I am the Executive Director of STARRY, Inc., a non-profit agency that serves children and families through Foster Care, Emergency Shelter, Counseling and Runaway/Homeless programs (www.STARRY.org).

For several years leading up to the Travis County Collaborative for Children (TCCC), STARRY envisioned a need for a robust implementation of trauma-informed care for the children and families entrusted to our care.

Little did we know how influential and impactful Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) would be to the mission and vision of STARRY.

Since having several of our staff becoming TBRI® Educators and STARRY taking an active role in the TCCC, there have been exciting and empowering for staff, families and children alike.

Importantly, the STARRY staff member responsible for implementation of TBRI® across our agency, programs, staff and consumers reports these important successes:

- Staff now have a deep understanding of the neurobiology of
- Attachment focused activities and bonding with parents and foster parents are increasing

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- Staff look for the meaning behind the behavior and encourage parents to do the same
- · Our programs have taken a more therapeutic approach with children
- STARRY encourages connection
- We now screen for sensory processing disorder and make appropriate referrals when necessary
- Our parenting programs have changed to have a more trauma-informed approach
- Staff understand the attachment cycle and the importance of parents meeting needs
- Our programs now focus on teaching new behaviors and providing opportunities for proactive learning
- We screen for trauma, rather than assuming all child and parenting issues are strictly behavioral
- Our training process has improved; all staff now receive TBRI® training
- Staff and foster parents understand that to discipline is to teach and offer ways that
 parents can have connection be the goal of correction
- We now see kids who "just want attention" as needing connection. This makes meeting that need much more doable.
- · Our programs now teach self-regulation skills
- We help kids to understand their story so that they can have a cohesive life narrative
- STARRY staff ask clients about their pregnancy and childbirth experience because we know the importance of prenatal and birth experiences on the brain
- We look for learning disabilities, rather than blaming bad grades on "bad kids"
- We understand that what looks like ADHD is often PTSD or complex developmental disorder
- STARRY staff are able to explain the effects of the toxic stress on the minds of developing brains and bodies

For these reasons and many others, STARRY heartily supports TBRI® and the future of this model for children and families.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Richard Singleton DN: on =Richard Singleton, o=STARRY, ou=Counseling, email=richard:Singleton@starryonline.or

Richard Singleton,

Executive Director, STARRY, Inc.

TCCC – Letters of Support



July 28, 2015

To Whom it may concern,

In thirty years of practice in the child welfare industry, I have never seen a more important body of work then Trust Based Relational Interventions (TBRI). TBRI is providing breakthrough information about childhood trauma and how it impacts the brain, body and subsequent behaviors of adults, teens and children. PCHAS Caregivers are learning about their own unresolved trauma and how that can negatively impact their ability to nurture and love children. TBRI also provides practical tools for supporting and equipping children. When our care givers utilize the TBRI concepts and techniques, the children respond by calming themselves and by slowly but surely healing from their trauma. An example is a child who was very guarded and reactive in adult interactions is now talking, smiling and exploring his environment when around those same adults.

PCHAS has whole heartedly embraced TBRI as the guiding principles that equip foster parents, group home parents and case managers who care for children and families in need. The agency is promoting an agency wide implementation of these strategies and has already seen significant improvement in the confidence of staff and in the responses of children and families. The TCU Institute for Child Development has led the charge to train and equip hundreds of professionals around Texas to learn TBRI and to practice it as children progress through the child welfare system. This body of work has the potential to forever change the quality of care for children from hard places. PCHAS is honored to be part of the movement and will do all we can to continue learning and promoting this extraordinary information.

Randy Spence, LCSW, LCCA, LCPAA

Vice President of Organizational Impact

TCCC – Letters of Support



August 10, 2015

To the TBRI Team:

We really appreciate the opportunity to be participating in the Travis County Collaborative for Children and for the positive impact it is having in the community. When we first learned of the initiative we were most excited by the plan to include the broader community, schools, treatment providers, CASA, CPS, the courts etc. Including all of the folks involved in a child's life and care in a consistent and holistic approach gives a much better chance for the child's success. The Collaborative has been incredibly generous and inclusive by hosting several weeklong intensive trainings free of charge for providers and others. They have also been available for ongoing consultation following these trainings with quarterly scheduled day-long meetings as well as on an as needed basis when providers have asked.

The model and teachings behind Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) are based on decades of research in attachment, neurobiology and other clinical quantitative and qualitative research. The model is an elegant one that does not try to re-invent treatment but seeks to pull together the research and experience of leaders in the field such as Dr. Dan Siegel, Dr. Bruce Perry, Dr. Vincent Felitti the founders of Orcle of Security, Theraplay and others. Dr. Purvis and Dr. Cross have added their own expertise and have developed an approach that not only stays true to the findings of these leaders but adds an emphasis on developing skills in the people who care for children from hard places on a day-to-day basis. During these trainings the TBRI team brings the research to life so that those of us working with the most vulnerable and traumatized children better understand their needs and can meet those needs in a caring, skillful and trauma informed way.

Thanks so much for this opportunity. We look forward to a continued partnership with TBRI and the Travis Co. Collaborative!

Sincerely,

Micki Marquardt, LCSW
Director of Clinical Services
mmarquardt@helpinghandhome.org

New Resources developed by the TCCC

One of the identified pillars of success for the Travis County Collaborative for Children is producing trauma-informed organizations—a broad group of child welfare, educational, faithbased, and public organizations that implement practices known to heal children and promote safe, consistent relationships.

One way the TCCC has worked towards accomplishing this goal in the past year is by producing new resources that promote standardized guidelines for assessing whether an organization is trauma-informed and to strengthen organizations as they implement TBRI® with fidelity.

Defining a Trauma-Informed Organization, Program or System

"Defining a Trauma-Informed Organization, Program or System" was created within the TCCC to help establish a common language among professionals, agencies, and caregivers, and promote standardized guidelines for assessing whether an organization is trauma-informed.

It claims that an organization, program, or system that is trauma-informed realizes the impact of trauma, recognizes the signs of trauma, responds by applying the principles of a trauma-informed approach, and avoids re-traumatization. Each of these principles is outlined more fully in the document, and examples are provided of what "trauma-informed" looks like in various settings.

The document was presented to the Trauma-Informed Care Consortium (TICC) on July 28, 2015, to be considered as a resource for informing a state-wide survey of trauma-informed care being completed by Texas CASA.

Trauma-Informed Transitions Checklist

Another resource developed by the TCCC is the "Trauma-Informed Transitions Checklist."

Transitions can be especially hard for children who have experienced trauma, but this tool provides concrete strategies, aimed at providing predictability and appropriate levels of control, to help transitions go more smoothly, and to help caregivers start thinking more holistically about the needs of the children in their care.

New CASA - Model Court Child Level Study

TCCC: Meeting the Needs of Children in Care

The proposed study, "Meeting the Needs of Children in Care," will target children and youth who enter the child welfare system through Judge Darlene Byrne's or Associate Judge Aurora Martinez Jones' family courts, which handle Temporary Management Conservatorship (TMC) cases for Travis County, Texas. Most of the TMC cases in these family courts are assigned a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), whose role is to be the "eyes of the court," as the child moves through the child welfare system. The proposed research has the following objectives:

- 1. Document the spread of trauma-informed care (TBRI) for foster-children and youth in Travis County, Texas.
- 2. Evaluate the impact of trauma-informed care (TBRI) on the safety, well-being, and transition to permanency for foster children and youth in Travis County, Texas.
- 3. Focus the efforts of the Travis County Collaborative for Children on the gaps in traumainformed care for foster children and youth in Travis County, Texas.
- 4. Enhance the expertise of CASA staff and volunteers in regards to trauma-informed care, its nature, and its evaluation.



The proposed study will be implemented through a partnership between the Travis County Model Court for Children and Families, CASA of Travis County, and the TCU Institute of Child Development.

The proposed study was approved by Judge Byrne in early November, 2015. The project is set to begin in 2016.



Trauma can impair language, sensory processing, and coping skills, and can lead to perplexing behaviors that are often mistaken for aggression or mental illness.





Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) Training

TBRI® Professional Training

The Institute offered three TBRI[®] Professional Training programs in 2015, including a custom training for the Travis County Collaborative for Children in May 2015, a custom training sponsored by Show Hope in September 2015, and an open session in October 2015.

Participants at these trainings represented child-welfare programs (including foster care programs, adoption agencies), Texas DFPS, CASA, counseling agencies, ministries, private

practices, outreach centers, and residential treatment centers from 34 states across the nation (Texas, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.) International participants from



Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Haiti, India, Scotland, Romania, and Ukraine also attended the trainings.

More Notable TBRI® Trainings

- International Trauma Conference in Boston, MA, May 28-30, 2015
- 2x TBRI® Introduction & Overview (one-day trainings) on September 25, 2015 in New Orleans, LA and on November 18, 2015 in Fort Worth, TX
- Trauma-Informed Classrooms Training for Fort Worth ISD, October 12-13, 2015 –
 24 school counselors and administrators from FWISD learned about TBRI® and how to apply its' principles and practices in a school setting
- 2-hour TBRI® Snapshot Training at Texas Child Care Administrators Conference in Houston, TX on October 20, 2015

New TBRI® Educator Program Coming Soon

In order for TBRI® to continue expanding with fidelity, the ICD is creating a new online training that will be offered to professionals who have successfully completed the TBRI® workshop (pre and on-site).

To help guide the planning of this training, the TCU ICD staff met with a group of MCH staff and executives at their Waco, TX campus on April 22, 2015. Part of the day was spent learning about the Stanford Training Model, led by Jeff Clark, an experienced Stanford Model trainer. The rest of the day was spent discussing and strategizing how to use the Stanford Model to inform how we train TBRI®.

On October 7, 2015, the TCU ICD held a TBRI® Post-Workshop/Fidelity Retreat, which focused on two goals: 1) identifying a plan for the TBRI® post-workshop experience, and 2) identifying a strategy for implementing our outreach efforts with fidelity and impact. In addition to ICD staff, 10 of our partners/consultants from various organizations were asked to attend. At the retreat, the morning was spent sharing individual perspectives on the questions at hand, followed by an open space format in the afternoon, where participants could join one of four focus groups. It was a very productive day that elicited many powerful thoughts and ideas, as well as concrete action steps for the Institute to take on immediately after the meeting.



This new "Train the Trainer" model will be called the "TBRI[®] Educator" Training and will involve 10 weeks of online coursework. Graduates of the training will be designated as TBRI[®] Educators and given access to TBRI[®] training presentations, trainer and participant workbooks, and online modules in order to conduct in-house trainings for their organizations.

In addition to deepening participants' understanding of TBRI® and how to apply it, this training will focus on teaching how to *train* TBRI®, so participants are familiar and adept at using the training materials. Participants will develop training tools and practice skills while receiving ongoing feedback, assessment, and evaluation from Institute staff.

Continuing Education will be offered to help ensure fidelity and keep professionals up-to-date on trauma-informed care and practices. Continuing Education will be required in order to maintain status as a "TBRI" Educator."

TBRI® Educational Resources



TBRI® for Teens DVD & TBRI® Pocket Guide Now Available



TBRI® for Teens was released in April 2015. It is the Institute's first video to provide practical strategies that can be used by caregivers and parents with challenging teens. This video follows a dozen youth, ages 11-18, and a dozen staffers from MCH in Waco, TX as they start to implement TBRI®. Remarkable changes in the teens and the adults are seen as they put it into practice during a four-day summer camp.

The camp was led by the Institute as part of its ongoing collaboration with MCH to demonstrate the success of TBRI® in residential and group home settings. In addition to practical tips and tools for working with adolescents, this video offers insights into the changes that typically happen at organizations that choose to implement TBRI®. Additional Master Lecture Series DVDs that present TBRI® strategies were also released in 2015.

Although *Trust-Based Caregiving:* A *TBRI*[®] *Pocket Guide* was created in 2013, it wasn't widely available for purchase until April 2015. This convenient, pocket-sized reference guide is ideal for caregivers and professionals seeking to use TBRI[®] to meet the needs of children and youth from "hard places." Included in the guide are practical strategies for Empowering, Connecting, and Correcting through activities, reflective questions, and sample situations and responses.



When you connect to the heart of a child, anything is possible.



Texas Judicial Summit

Trauma-Informed Judicial Decision-Making

We were honored to present the fourth Texas Judicial Summit: Understanding Trauma, Improving Outcomes for Children & Youth in Care from November 3-5, 2014. With over 65,000 victims of child abuse and neglect in Texas last year, our courts have a profound impact on the lives of thousands of at-risk children and families.

The three-day conference for the judicial system was hosted at the Cendera Center in Fort Worth, and was open to all judges and stakeholders across the state of Texas. Over 300 judges, attorneys, CPS workers, CASA volunteers, mental health professionals, foster parents, and other advocates for children in protective custody in Texas attended the training.

Nationally recognized speakers presented current research findings, and provided strategies for making trauma-informed decisions and recommendations. In addition to the Institute's trainers, speakers included:

- Darlene Byrne, Judge, 126th District Court, Travis County, Texas
- Gigi Edwards Bryant, Former Foster Youth, Business Owner, Inspirational Speaker
- Moe Dozier, Vice President for Programs and Services, Methodist Children's Home
- Deborah Harris, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation & Training
- Richard LaVallo, Legal Director, Disability Rights Texas
- Anu Partap, MD, MPH, Children's Medical Center in Dallas

Sessions focused on improving outcomes for children and youth in care and explored topics such as: collective impact, innovative court practices, reducing systemic trauma through transitions, academic needs of children in foster care, breaking the cycle of abuse, medical needs of children in foster care, and creating and advocating for trauma-informed systems of care.

We have already started planning the next Judicial Summit, which is scheduled for November 2016.







Introductory Presentations for Community Agencies and Professionals

Throughout the year, we provided shorter presentations on child development issues to community agencies and professional associations. These introductory level trainings provide a dynamic opportunity to improve caregiver awareness about the impact of early maltreatment and promote effective trauma-informed interventions. Professionals who work with at-risk children and youth including counselors, psychologists, social workers, teachers, lawyers, judges, and other child advocates participated in the program.

As a result of what they learned at our trainings, parents and professionals developed a better understanding of important child development issues such as attachment, sensory processing, and developmental risk factors. By gaining insight into the impact of trauma, caregivers have much more compassion for the children and youth they serve.

Parents and professionals also learned how to reduce their children's problematic behaviors and gained confidence in their ability to apply effective intervention practices. They learned strategies to help build bonds of affection and trust and to discipline without making children feel threatened. The Institute's trainings are in high demand because they present research-based models for practical interventions that anyone can use to help children heal and reach their greatest potential.



New TBRI® Training Projects

TBRI® Pre-Service Foster Care Training Package

We are currently collaborating with ACH Child & Family Services, Presbyterian Children's Home & Services, Methodist Children's Home, DePelchin Children's Center, and Occupational Therapists in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, to develop a Pre-Service Foster Care Training Manual based on TBRI®. While following the Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies promulgated by the Licensing Division of DFPS, our goal is to deliver a training manual that captures the advancements made, along with the recent research from the TCU ICD on children suffering from childhood trauma.

Using the Stanford Training Model, the TBRI® Foster Manual will be designed to train prospective foster and adoptive parents. The manual will cover the state-required training topics such as grief and loss, child safety, roles and responsibilities, and normalcy, while also highlighting why traditional caregiving approaches fail with this population. One result of failed placements is an exceedingly high number of adoption and foster care disruptions, exposing the children to even more trauma, and ultimately costing the state of Texas millions in tax dollars every year, while thousands of children are left without suitable homes or proper caregivers.

Notable New Training Opportunities

We are collaborating with Texas CPS to develop a model of Secondary Trauma & Compassion Fatigue Training for CPS supervisors, managers, and caseworkers across the state. The training is designed to teach CPS staff on how to utilize self-care practices for themselves and for coworkers, and to encourage them to integrate self-care into everyday practice. Promoting resilience and reducing secondary trauma will better equip CPS workers to serve children and families and will reduce high employee turnover rates.

The Institute is developing the curriculum for CPS and will teach CPS' CHLOE trainers how to use the materials starting in the new year. CHLOE trainers will then conduct in-house trainings for CPS supervisors, caseworkers, and other staff using the training packets developed by the Institute. Approximately 45 CHLOE trainers from across Texas are expected at the first training which will be held in 2016.

The Institute is also working with the Child Life specialists at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth. Child Life services has asked the Institute to evaluate their playrooms and the Institute will be presenting its feedback and recommendations to the Child Life staff.

New Training & Conferences for the Faith-Based Community

Show Hope

Show Hope sponsored 137 professionals from foster/adoption care agencies to attend a specialized TBRI® Professional Training in Fort Worth, TX from September 28-October 2, 2015. Show Hope is a non-profit organization established by Contemporary Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman, and his wife Mary Beth to mobilize individuals and communities to care for orphans. Sponsorship participants who also complete the post-workshop training are given access to online training presentations in order to conduct in-house trainings.



Empowered To Connect (ETC)

ETC has partnered with Show Hope to present *Empowered to Connect (ETC) Conferences*. The last ETC Conferences were hosted in Costa Mesa (CA), San Antonio (TX), and Minneapolis (MN) with over 700, 400, and 800 people respectively. An additional 22,000 were also able to watch the conference in San Antonio via live simulcast. The next ETC conference will be April 8 & 9, 2016 in Nashville (TN).

Christian Alliance for Orphans' Summit CAFO2015

Presented Attachment & Trauma and Connecting While Correcting sessions at the Christian Alliance for Orphans' (CAFO) annual summit, hosted at Long Hollow Baptist Church in Nashville TN from April 30 – May 1 2015. This high-profile conference is a national hub for Christians committed to adoption, foster care and global orphan initiatives rooted in the local church. CAFO brings together more than 140 Christian organizations and a national network of churches.



A Movement To Care For Orphans

Awards & Recognition



Dr. Karyn Purvis received the Project 11:1 Award presented by Show Hope at the 2014 Show Hope Banquet on November 8th in Nashville, TN. More than 600 people attended the annual fundraising banquet. The award is presented to an individual who has shown excellence in caring for orphans and vulnerable children.

Mary Beth and Steven Curtis Chapman (Show Hope's President and Vice-President respectively) hosted this year's event. Guest speakers also included bestselling Christian author and preacher Max Lucado, and Robin and Joyce Hill of the New Hope Foundation, who shared about their work with orphans in China. Chapman closed the evening with a musical performance.





CCAI Senate Caucus on Foster Youth

Dr. Purvis also served as a panelist at the CCAI Senate Caucus on Foster Youth congressional briefing in Washington DC on May 27, 2015. The panel highlighted the importance of trauma-informed care.

Senator Chuck Grassley and Senator Debbie Stabenow co-hosted the briefing. Other panelists included Dr. Ellen Gerrit, foster care advocate Donna Flenroy, and Ammoni Myers, alum of the CCAI Foster Youth Internship Program.



These high-profile invitations enabled the Institute to promote effective interventions and advocate for trauma-informed policies that can make a difference in the foster/adoptive community.



A Decade of Difference

The TCU Institute of Child Development Celebrates its' 10th Anniversary

On Friday, October 9, 2015, over 150 special guests attended a celebration for the ICD's 10th anniversary. The event was held on the TCU campus, with the day portion inside the Dee J Kelly Alumni Center, followed by dinner and celebration on the Campus Commons Lawn, overlooking Frog Fountain.





Important stakeholders who have shaped the Institute to date were invited to this pivotal day in its history, to help focus on the future. The day was designed to:

- Challenge, inspire & focus our thinking with interesting perspectives from around the world
- Invite the whole-hearted insights & ideas of our stakeholders to inform the future course of the Institute
- Celebrate the remarkable difference the ICD has made in the lives of children in our first decade of existence

A Decade of Difference



SALWE The DALTE

TCU INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Friday, October 9th, 2015

TCU CAMPUS, FORT WORTH, TX

— 10 A.M.— Guest speakers and charting the future

__ 6 P.M. __ Anniversary dinner & Celebration

By invitation only

Formal invitation to follow

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ANNALISE MADSEN at 817-257-4385 or a.m.madsen@tcu.edu.





For the morning portion of the event, we invited 4 powerful guest speakers to inform and engage our guests.

Gigi Edwards Bryant, a business owner, inspirational speaker & community volunteer from Austin, TX, started the day with, "Giving Children in the Foster Care System the OK to Dream!"; Gigi was followed by Dan & Terri Coley, founding board members of Show Hope from Nashville, TN, who presented "Our Journey of Hope: The Coley Family Adoption Story"; Yannick Tona, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide and a current TCU student, presented "Lessons from Rwanda: Yannick Tona's Story of Survival & Activism"; and Carl Wilkens, Co-Founder of World Outside My Shoes and the only American to stay and help during the Rwandan genocide, finished off the morning with "Respect/Empathy/Inclusion – Rwandan's Courageous Children."

The afternoon portion of the day was an open space format that focused on "Charting the Future." Using the momentum generated by an inspiring morning, facilitator Ian Chisholm, founding partner of Roy Group, proposed a single question to participants:

"For the Institute to fully thrive and maximize the difference it makes in the decade ahead, we will need to pay attention to..."

Immediately following the open space, guests were invited to a reception on the Kelly Center patio with purple margaritas and hors d'oeuvres. The dinner was set-up under a tent on the Campus Commons Lawn, with catering provided by Reata Restaurant - a local favorite, and music played by Trey & the Tritones. Trevor Rees-Jones, founder of the Rees-Jones Foundation and the Institute's biggest funder to date, spoke about his involvement with the ICD, followed by Dr. Purvis, who received a heartfelt gift from her staff, and a standing ovation from the audience. The TCU Provost, Dr. Nowell Donovan, closed out the evening with a toast to the next 10 years.



Throughout the day and evening, short video clips were shown of testimonies given by those who have been impacted by the ICD, including Deborra Lee-Furness and husband, Hugh Jackman. These heartfelt testimonies provided a snapshot of the impact the Institute and the work of Drs. Purvis & Cross, have had in the past 10 years.



Expanding Our Outreach to Serve More At-Risk Children and Youth



The Rees-Jones Foundation Extends Our Reach Around the World!



In 2015, The Rees-Jones Foundation supported the fourth year of the Institute of Child Development's evaluation study of the TBRI® model, ongoing programs, and new research, education and outreach initiatives that serve more children and families.

In our efforts to promote trauma-informed interventions for at-risk children and youth, the Institute has:

- Exponentially increased the number of children and youth served
- Improved caregiver understanding about the impact of trauma and trauma-informed interventions
- Collected data on the effectiveness of the TBRI® model
- Published research findings in reputable scientific journals
- Enhanced academic coursework and programs

Our training programs and educational resources are reaching more parents, professionals, and students than ever before!

National Adoption Awareness Week (NAAW) in Australia

Dr. Casey Call, Assistant Director of the TCU Institute of Child Development and Dr. Amanda Howard traveled to Australia for National Adoption Awareness Week (NAAW) in November 2014. They conducted TBRI® trainings in Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne, as well as an interactive, nationally televised webinar. They were also invited to a conference with Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who kicked off NAAW by reaffirming the government's commitment to reform foster and adoption policies in Australia.



NAAW raises community awareness, encourages reform, and empowers all Australians to engage with issues affecting adoption. Founded in 2008, NAAW re-emerged in 2014 as Adopt Change to enable year-round advocacy and campaigning for adoption reform.



THE ICD IS GROWING!



SARAH CRONIN

Administrative Assistant

The TCU Institute of
Child Development has
added 4 new administrative staff
members in the past year, to help provide
support for projects and ongoing programs.



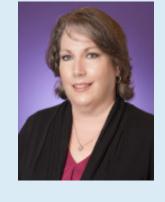
MISSY FRALIA



ROBIN SHELANDER

Administrative Assistant

Administrative Assistant



JONI STALDT

Assistant to the Director

Looking forward to next year!

As we expand ongoing projects for year three of the Travis County Collaborative for Children, we are deeply thankful for the opportunity to improve outcomes for so many children and youth in Travis County; Texas; and around the world. The TCCC is making a profound difference in creating trauma-informed systems of care, and helping children to reach their greatest potential!



Thank you for your generous support!



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