



Judicial Trauma Institute

Developing A Trauma Informed Court

Hon. Carole Clark
Hon. Rosie Alvarado
Hon. Katrina Griffith
Hon. Carlos Villalon



TEXAS CENTER
FOR THE JUDICIARY

Hon. Carole Clark Retired Judge 321st District Court



Hon. Katrina Griffith
Associate Judge

Harris County Child Protection Court

Starting From Scratch



Non-Adversarial Hearings

- Round Table style hearings.
- Ask all statutory questions from the bench.
- Allow open participation from all present.
- Have children present during a portion of the hearing.

Create A Fun Place For The Kids



Feed The Body To Feed The Mind



Create Different Themes



Celebrate Their Successes



Remember Your Staff's Well Being



Hon. Rosie Alvarado

PEARLS Restorative Foster Care Court

438th Civil District Court



THE HISTORY

THE NEED

- 70% of girls in foster care have a baby while still a teenager.
- 30% graduate from high school.
- 33% are homeless after a year outside of foster care.
- Of those who go to college, only 3% graduate.

SOLUTION

- PEARLS Court
- Founded in 2015 by Judge Renee Yanta
- Started with 6 female participants, ages 14-18 in PMC, 6 community mentors, and no staff.

IMPLEMENTATION

Through grants and the PEARLS Foundation, a 501(c)3, PEARLS Court was able to provide:

- therapy,
- case management, and
- life skill curriculum and mentoring program.

This three-pronged approach has proved very successful, and the outcomes have been heartwarming.

In January 2019, Judge Rosie Alvarado and Judge Angelica Jimenez became the judicial leaders of PEARLS Court.



**Presiding Judge
Angelica Jimenez**



**Presiding Judge
Rosie Alvarado**



**Founding Judge
Renee Yanta**

Court Overview

Judicial Oversight

PEARLS Court provides a comprehensive continuum of responsive services through case management:

Therapy

Therapeutic Care is provided by two licensed clinicians using DBT and TBRI.

- Therapeutic Group Counseling
- Individual Counseling
- Crisis Mediation
- Placement Mediation
- Family Therapy

Mentorship

One-on-one time with a mentor who is trained in trauma-informed mentoring.

Life Skills Training

Resiliency training through life skills lessons.

- Guest speakers
- Community activities
- Service projects
- College days
- Curriculum & CAPSTONE

These services address: trauma, mental health treatment, domestic violence prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, substance abuse prevention, and resiliency and self-esteem building.

Volunteers



72

**Volunteer
Hours Donated**



\$25,489.80

Youth Reached



67

**Youth
Service Hours**



244.5 hours

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

PEARLS Court is blessed to have deep and consistent relationships throughout the Bexar County community. Dedicated mentors and volunteers are the foundation of this program.

PEARLS'
OUTCOMES

<i>National Outcomes</i>		<i>PEARLS Outcomes</i>
50% High school graduation rate	vs.	86% High school graduation rate
45% Attend college	vs.	86% Attend college
3% College graduation rate	vs.	92% successfully complete first year of college
70% Pregnancy rate	vs.	4% Pregnancy rate

PEARLS Funding Sources

Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VOCA)

Covers: Personnel, Contractual & Professional Services, Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses

Total: \$279,873

Term of Grant: October 1, 2017- September 30, 2019

AmeriCorps Grant, One Star Foundation

Covers: AmeriCorps Position
Total: \$8,700

Expensed through Bexar County PEARLS Account

Term of Grant: July 1, 2018 – July 1 2019

PEARLS Foundation

Covers: Programming Supplies, Dinner Expenses, Mentor and Volunteer Training, Days of Service and Opportunity Expenses, Emergency Funds, End of Year Celebration

PEARLS' COURT TEAM

**Please contact us if you have any questions!
We look forward to partnering with you!**

Presiding Judge
Judge Angelica Jimenez

Presiding Judge
Judge Rosie Alvarado

PEARLS Court Manager
Kimberlee Morrison
pearls1@bexar.org
210.335.1009

PEARLS Court Therapists
Stephanie Ramos & Brianna Rodriguez



Links

- <https://www.ksat.com/news/2019/06/07/local-program-teaching-teen-girls-in-foster-care-life-skills/>
- <https://animoto.com/play/1jsUuMvQxrsROQ4buXZTiw>
- <https://animoto.com/play/547L8g1TopTulsDZZ5xfnQ>
- <https://animoto.com/play/xSg7iU8icomcBQeCC1COAw>

Articles

- <https://txicfw.socialwork.utexas.edu/at-the-center-are-the-relationships-we-are-building-the-pearls-therapeutic-foster-care-court-in-san-antonio/#:~:text=The%20PEARLS%20Court%20in%20San,were%20placed%20in%20foster%20care>

Hon. Carlos Villalon, Jr.
Child Protection Court of
Rio Grande Valley West

JUNE 4, 2012 – FIRST DAY ON THE JOB

2012 Judicial Child Welfare Conference

What am I getting into?

What is all this about “Trauma?”

THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY

What does the dawn of a new day mean?

A **new** beginning; a **fresh** start; an important, promising turning point.

[dawn of a new day - Wiktionary](#)



THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY – AFTER THE STORM



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ASSESSING THE DAMAGE

The Good

- Time Certain Docketing
- Children in court

The Bad

- Court known for all of the wrong reasons
- Toxic environment extremely adversarial
- Inherited a court (in abandoned, mold-infested county judge's office)
- No security of having a Bailiff



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RESEARCH AND ASK FOR HELP

- Texas Children's Commission
- Nation Counsel of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
- Colleges and Universities
- TCJ Conference Materials
- State Bar Online CLE



JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP

You MUST BE DEDICATED TO CHANGE

You will get push back

You CANNOT do this by force

You CANNOT do this alone

You need BUY-IN from your stakeholders.

You MUST bring the stake holders together

BE PATIENT



CHANGE IS A LONG PROCESS

August 1, 2021

- Meeting with the County
- Meeting with attorneys (fees)
- Meeting with DA's
- Establish a connection with CASA

January 1, 2013

- County approved permanent bailiff

March 1, 2013

- Unit Based Docketing

June 2013

- Attended CANI

December 9, 2013

- Appointed to Children's Commission

June 2014

- Selected as an NCJFCJ Implementation Site

October 2014

- Selected a Court Team

July 2016

- Expanded Team and Partnered with UTRGV to a conduct stakeholder survey

IT IS A LONG PROCESS

September 2016

- Creation of Coalition for Empowering Children and Families in partnership with Dr. Cynthia Jones and UTRGV

June 2017

- NCJFCJ Courtroom Trauma Assessment

July 2017

- TBRI Overview for Coalition Members

December 2017

- 2-day overview of TBRI with all stakeholders

April 2018

- Empowered to Connect Simulcast – Mandatory for Court-Appointed Wheel (Hosted by Calvary Baptist Church)

April 2019

- Empowered to Connect Simulcast – Emphasis on Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers

June 12, 2019

- Statewide Collaborative on Trauma-Informed Care Task Force

December 2019

- Initial Meeting of the Hidalgo County Bar Association's Child Welfare Bar Section

February 17, 2021

- Judicial Trauma Institute – YAY!

WHAT DOES CHANGE LOOK LIKE?

Bookshelf Project



WHAT DOES CHANGE LOOK LIKE?

The Courtroom



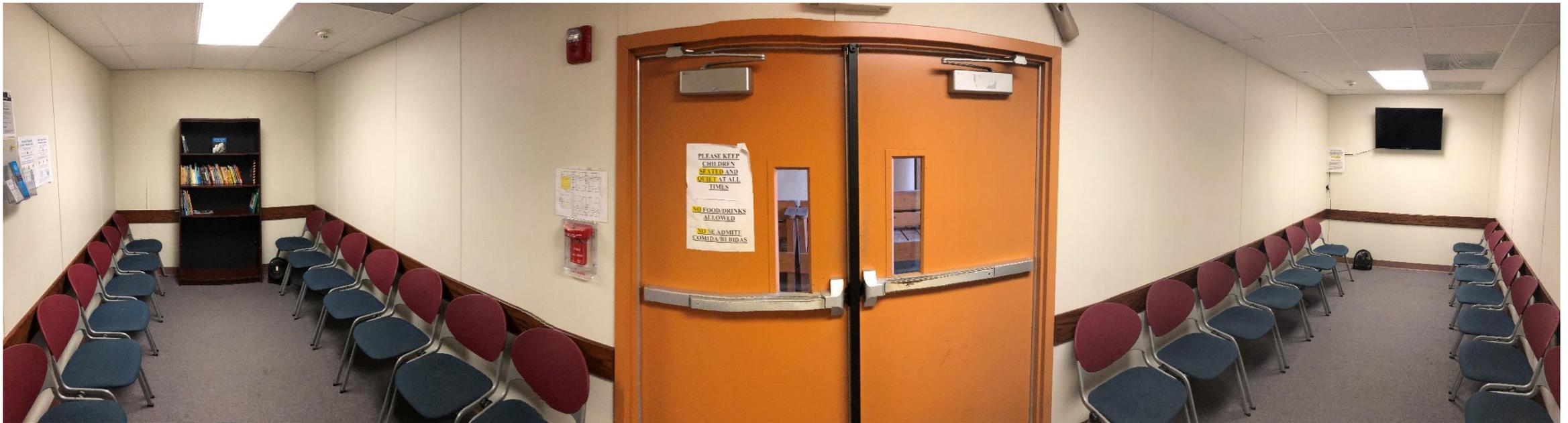
WHAT DOES CHANGE LOOK LIKE?

The Courtroom



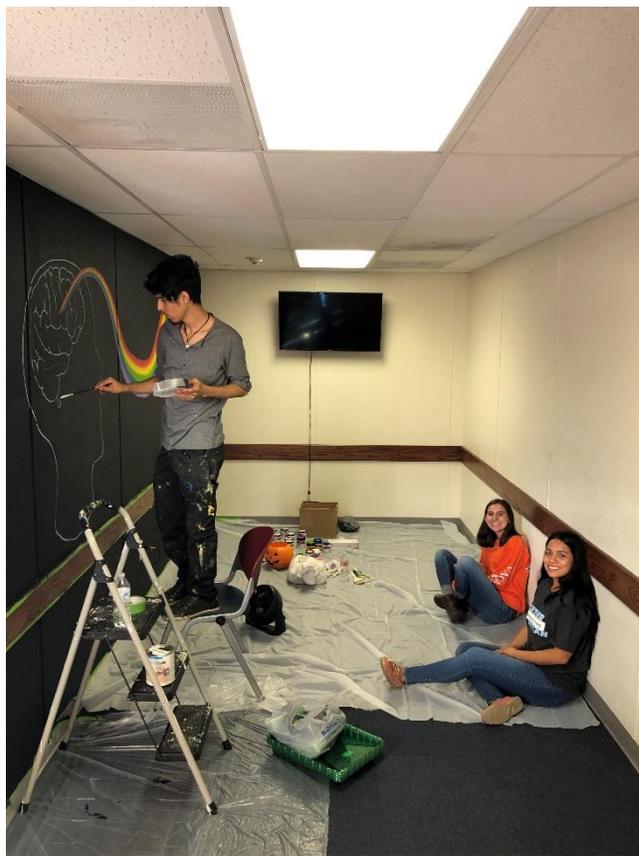
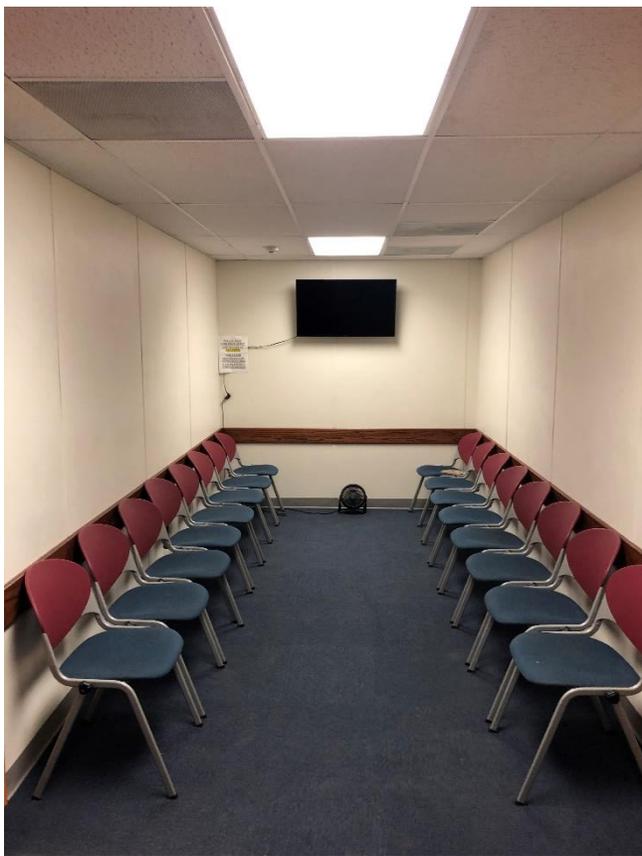
WHAT DOES CHANGE LOOK LIKE?

Lobby Project – OVAVP (Texas Bar Foundation Grant)



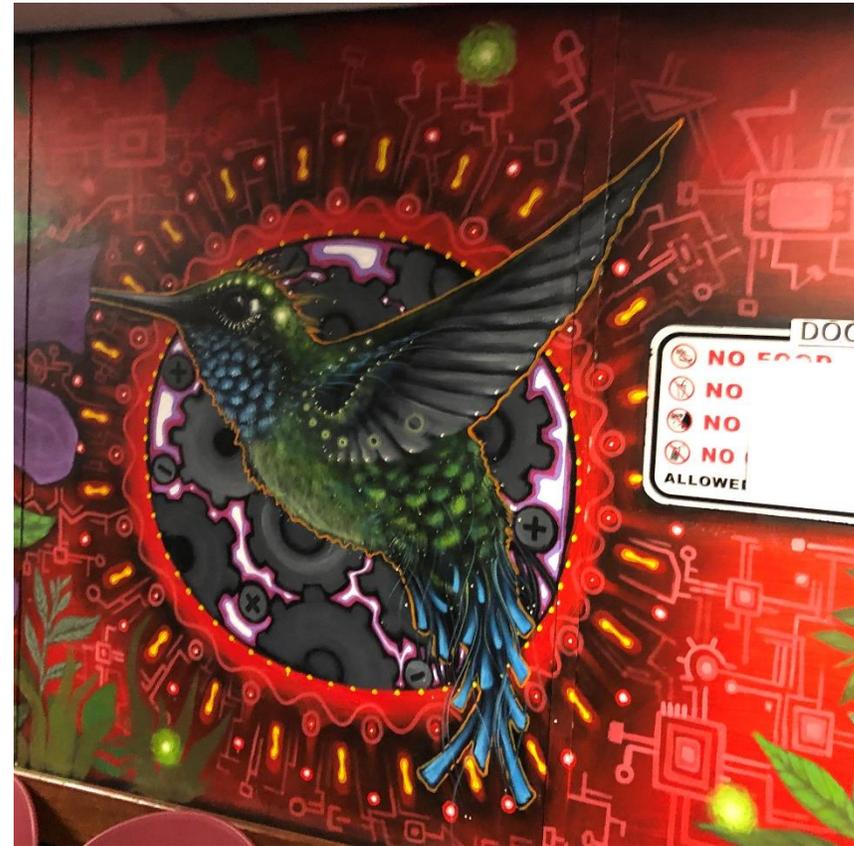
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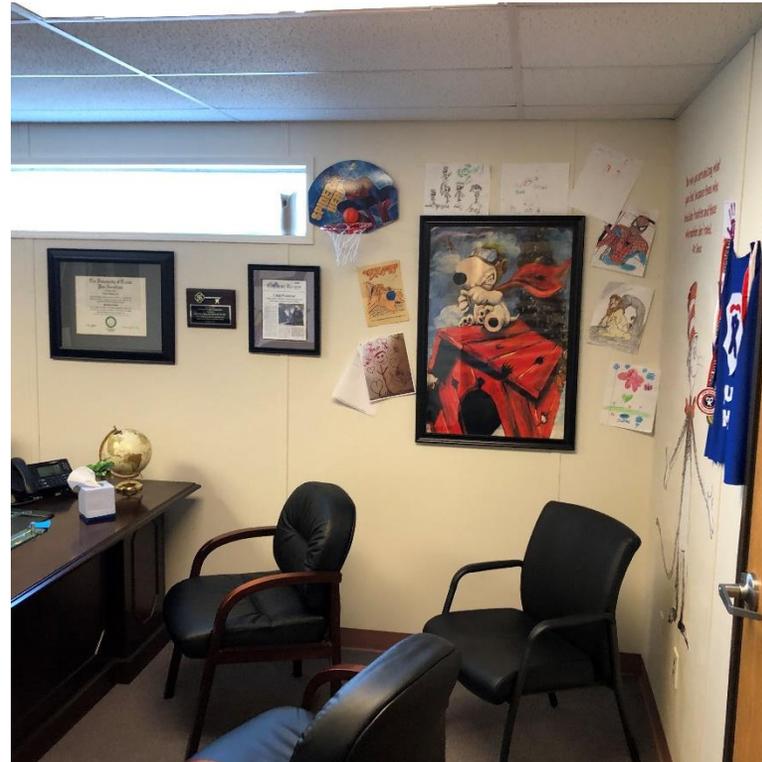
WHAT DOES CHANGE LOOK LIKE?

Lobby Project – OVAVP (Texas Bar Foundation Grant)



WHAT DOES CHANGE LOOK LIKE?

The Office



WHAT DOES CHANGE LOOK LIKE?

Partnerships



Registration Deadline: December 6

SAVE

THE

TBRI® Overview

Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®), a holistic, evidence-based, attachment-based, and trauma-informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children.

December 15th

UTRGV Edinburg Campus

DATE

CEU's Offered



KARYN PURVIS INSTITUTE
of
CHILD DEVELOPMENT
EST. 2005

OVAVP

Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

For information and Registration
contact: OVAVP@utrgv.edu
956-665-8287

Free and open to all interested stakeholders

WHAT DOES CHANGE LOOK LIKE?

Organization



This Is NOT How It Is Done



Contact Information

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Thank You!