

★ Letter from the Chairs ★

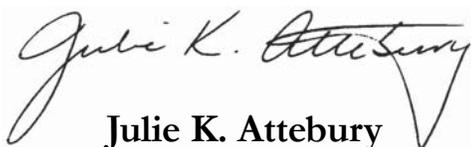
On behalf of the Governor's Commission for Women, we are pleased to present the 2001-2003 Biennial Report. The report provides an overview of our important work on behalf of Texas women. Over the past two years, the Commission has addressed issues affecting women through community outreach, education, research, and referral services.

The Commission has done a great deal to further our initiatives of preventing domestic violence and raising immunization rates. Our accomplishments include: a published statewide study on law enforcement's response to domestic violence, a domestic violence public awareness campaign, and immunization press events and public service announcements.

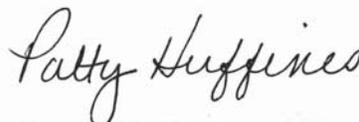
The Commission is especially proud of the establishment of the Texas Women's Hall of Fame permanent exhibit. The Hall of Fame was created in 1984 to honor the achievements of notable women, but it has never had a permanent home. Now, biographies and photographs of each inductee are displayed in Hubbard Hall on the campus of Texas Woman's University for future generations to enjoy.

In addition to our projects, the Commission provides resource and referral information to women across the State. The Commission's staff handled more than 150 constituent requests on a variety of topics such as entrepreneurship, employment, and social services.

The Commission would like to thank Governor Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry for the opportunity to advance the status of women throughout the State of Texas.



Julie K. Attebury
Co-Chair



Patty Huffines
Co-Chair

★ History ★

1967-1969

- ◆ Governor John Connally established the Texas Commission on the Status of Women in 1967.
- ◆ The commission prepared a report on women in Texas, which focused on education, home and community, employment practices, and legal treatment.

1970

- ◆ Governor Preston Smith established the Texas Status of Women Commission to serve as a liaison between Texas women and their state government and to encourage the advancement of women's causes.
- ◆ The Commission sponsored the first statewide conference on the status of women in August of 1970.

1972-1976

- ◆ The work of the Commission ceased for four years due to a conflict between legislators over the establishment of a permanent state-wide commission on the status of women.

1977-1979

- ◆ Policies were developed to foster equal treatment of women in all areas.
- ◆ The Commission produced a manual on family violence.

1983-1985

- ◆ The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse was created, which coordinated victims' assistance programs and provided information about available services.
- ◆ The staff traveled around the state with keynote speakers and explained the roles of various state agencies. This tour helped create local commissions for women throughout Texas.
- ◆ Commissioners focused on voter registration of low income, female wage earners and urged the Secretary of State to collect statistics on voter registration by gender.
- ◆ The Commission established the Texas Women's Hall of Fame to honor notable Texas women.

1985-1987

- ◆ More than 14,000 women were surveyed to identify the five most important issues affecting women.
- ◆ The Commission sponsored 16 regional forums state-wide to track issues of importance to Texas women and gather ideas for programs.
- ◆ Legislation was reviewed to determine its impact on women.

1987-1989

- ◆ The Commission studied the economic advancement of women and created a state-wide displaced homemakers network.

1991-1993

- ◆ The Commission examined health insurance coverage for women and wrote a “Patient’s Bill of Rights for Women.”
- ◆ A database of women’s organizations located throughout the state was created.

1993-1995

- ◆ Model programs were identified across the state that successfully addressed community needs.

1995-1997

- ◆ First Ladies Laura Bush and Barbara Bush recorded public service announcements on breast cancer and methods of early detection. Announcements also ran in newspapers state-wide.
- ◆ A committee monitored legislation affecting women, sponsored a legislative workshop, and published *The Layman’s Guide to the Legislative Process*.
- ◆ The Commission established the Beacon State Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit, to fund various activities.

1997-1999

- ◆ The Commission hosted The Carole Kneeland Awards, which recognized reporters who aired stories on women’s health issues.
- ◆ A bilingual video series was developed that focused on women’s health issues.

1999-2001

- ◆ The Commission created a physical fitness awareness campaign for fourth grade students and their parents. The program encouraged the participants to exercise daily to reduce health risks posed by obesity and encouraged women to be physically active.

★ Goals ★

- ◆ Promote issues concerning Texas women and their families
- ◆ Reduce the incidence of domestic violence
- ◆ Increase childhood immunization rates
- ◆ Provide resource information in response to constituent requests
- ◆ Highlight the accomplishments of notable Texas women



Commissioners (L to R): Diana Garza, Sue Chiang, Christie Leedy, Sonny Messiah-Jiles, Lisa de la Garza, Keely Appleton, Pam Sibley, Patty Huffines, Julie Attebury, Vivien Caven, Suzanne Azoulay, Jimmy Westcott, Valorie Burton, Julie Straus, Peggy Hairgrove, Connie Weeks

★ Commission ★

Organization

The Governor's Commission for Women was re-authorized through an executive order issued by Governor Rick Perry on August 15, 2001. Sixteen commissioners were appointed to two-year terms and meet on a quarterly basis. The Commission has one full-time staff member.

Profile

Age

Average: 47.3

Range: 30-55

Ethnicity

10 Caucasian

2 African American

1 Chinese

2 Hispanic

Education

15 bachelor's degrees

9 advanced degrees

Occupations*

Business: 3

Dentist: 1

Education: 4

Government: 2

Homemaker: 2

Media: 3

Philanthropist: 3

* some Commissioners have more than one occupation



Julie Attebury, Co-Chair

Julie K. Attebury is a financial manager, working for a limited partnership and Rockrose Development. She previously worked for A&S Steel Buildings and Thiokol Corporation. Mrs. Attebury graduated from Rice University with a bachelor of arts in biochemistry and received her master of business administration from West Texas A&M University in finance. She currently serves on the board of the Amarillo Area Foundation and recently finished terms with the Amarillo I.S.D. School Board, the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Community Health Initiatives Committee, and the Texas Tech Medical School Women's Health Research Institute. In addition, Mrs. Attebury is a member of the ACE Coordinating Committee, Amarillo Museum of Art, Symphony Guild, Panhandle Plains Historical Society, and Friends of the Library. Awards received include *Parent of the Year for Region XVI* by the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented in 1995, *Outstanding Sustaining Member* by the Junior League of Amarillo in 2001, *The Distinguished Service Award* by The Amarillo Women's Forum in 2002, and *Women of Distinction* by the Soroptimists International in 2003.



Patty Huffines, Co-Chair

Patty Huffines is a long-time resident of Austin and a familiar face in the city's business and volunteer community. Mrs. Huffines previously served as the Vice President of University Relations at St. Edward's University. Prior to her position at St. Edward's, she worked for the Zachary Scott Theatre Center and Austin I.S.D as a sixth grade math teacher. Mrs. Huffines graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education with honors. She is a community activist, having served as chair of the 2000 Symphony Ball, president of Les Amis de Hospice Austin, and chair of the Ronald McDonald Bandana Ball. Mrs. Huffines is currently involved in the Junior League of Austin, Ronald McDonald House Advisory Board, Leadership Austin, and the Women's Symphony League of Austin.



Keely Appleton

Keely Appleton is a community activist, group fitness instructor, and publicist. She graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor of arts in political science. Mrs. Appleton serves on several boards including Cooks Children's Hospital, the Fort Worth/Tarrant County A&M Club, and the Texas Federation of Republican Women. She is also a member of the Arlington Republican Women, the National Federation of Republican Women, the Texas A&M 12th Man Foundation, the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America, and the American Quarter Horse Association. Mrs. Appleton's civic commitments have included The National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, the Speakers Bureau for the Bass Performing Arts Hall, the Fort Worth Zoo Ball committee, the North Texas Cancer Research Foundation, and Genesis Women's Shelter.



Suzanne Azoulay

Suzanne Azoulay worked as a high school and college professor of French and English as a Second Language for more than 20 years. She received a bachelor of arts in French from Montclair State University and her master of arts in linguistics from the University of Texas at El Paso. Mrs. Azoulay's involvement in several professional organizations included the El Paso Foreign Language Teachers Collaborative, the Texas Foreign Language Association, the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching, and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. She was active in the El Paso community for 25 years and served on the boards of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, IMPACT, and the Seymour Edwards Foundation—J.P. Morgan Chase Bank of El Paso. Mrs. Azoulay and her family recently relocated to Dallas.



Valorie Burton

Valorie Burton is the best-selling author of *Rich Minds, Rich Rewards: 52 Ways to Enhance, Enrich and Empower Your Life*. She has a daily radio feature, *The Good Life*, which airs on 30 stations nationwide and is a columnist for *Heart & Soul Magazine*, a national women's lifestyle publication. Ms. Burton is the on-air life coach for NBC5 (KXAS-TV/Dallas-Fort Worth) and the lifestyle columnist for BlackAmericaWeb.com. She has engaged in more than 200 radio, print, and television interviews, appearing on various stations. In 2001, she founded *Valorie Burton Unlimited*, a life enrichment company in which she coaches entrepreneurs and professionals to their next level of success, fulfillment, and balance. Ms. Burton is the creator of the annual Texas Trailblazer Award Luncheon and serves on the board of directors of The Family Place. She is also a member of the International Coach Federation and the National Association of Black Journalists. Ms. Burton received her undergraduate degree from Florida State University and her master of arts in journalism from Florida A&M University.



Vivien Caven

Vivien Caven is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor of science in education. Upon graduation, she worked for Joske's of Texas as a publicist and event coordinator. She then spent several years as a math, science, and social studies teacher, working for Alief I.S.D. and then River Oaks Baptist School in Houston. Mrs. Caven is a founding member of VICTORY, an arm of the American Cancer Society, which sponsors the Cattle Baron's Ball. Other community involvements include the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, TIRR Family, the River Oaks Garden Club, Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumna Association, and the Houston Symphony League. Mrs. Caven recently completed a term as president and is currently a Board Member of the River Oaks Country Club Women's Association. She also has served as an active parent volunteer for Episcopal High School and St. John's School in Houston, as well as teaching Sunday School and serving on the Altar Guild of Christ Church Cathedral.



Sue Chiang

Sue Chiang is a marketing representative for Chiang, Patel, and Yerby, Inc. Previously, Ms. Chiang taught public school for more than 30 years. She graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor of science in education. Ms. Chiang is the chair of the Texas Asian Republican Caucus and a member of the Republican Women on the Go and the Spirit of Freedom Republican Women Clubs. Other civic commitments include the Organization of Chinese Americans, the Chinese American Citizen's Alliance, the Asian-American Coalition, the Asian-American Family Council, and the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council. Ms. Chiang serves on the boards of the Fort Bend Education Foundation, the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, and the Sugar Land Methodist Hospital. She also is an advisory member of the Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Board, the Sugar Land Mayor's Advisory Committee, and the Fort Bend County Judge Advisory Committee. Ms. Chiang was named *Citizen of the Week* by *La Vita* in 2001 and received the *Reach for the Stars* award from the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials in 2003.



Lisa de la Garza

Lisa de la Garza is a partner and owner of Bahman Realty, Inc. She attended college at University of Texas at Pan American. Mrs. de la Garza is a Harlingen native and active in her community. She is the past president of Beta Sigma Phi, the Harlingen Lioness Club, and the Harlingen Jaycee Women's Club. Mrs. de la Garza has held various leadership positions with Harlingen Communities in Schools, Harlingen Arts and Entertainment Membership Drive, the Harlingen Lions Club, and the Junior League of Harlingen. She is also involved in her church, serving as a Sunday school teacher and chairman of Vacation Bible School.



Diana Ramirez Garza

Diana Ramirez Garza is a counselor for Weslaco I.S.D and has worked for this school district for more than ten years. She earned a bachelor of arts in criminal justice from St. Edward's University and a teaching certification from University of Texas at Pan American. Mrs. Garza received a masters degree in guidance and counseling from UT Pan Am. She is very involved in her community; she has served as P.T.O. vice-president, participated in the Mercedes Food Pantry Walkathon and her church's Angel Tree program, and prepared meals for elderly citizens of her town during the holidays.



Peggy Hairgrove

Peggy Hairgrove is a child protective services specialist for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Previously, Mrs. Hairgrove worked as a teacher for more than twenty-five years, teaching various ages and subjects. She received an undergraduate degree in education from Texas Tech University and graduate degrees in education and family studies at Texas Tech and Abilene Christian, respectively. Mrs. Hairgrove is active in her church, where she has worked as a pianist and Sunday School teacher. In addition, she is involved in Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. On weekends, Mrs. Hairgrove works with her husband at their veterinary clinic.



Christie Leedy

Christie Leedy is the co-owner of Abilene Dental—The Centers for Implant Dentistry and Cosmetic Dentistry. Dr. Leedy attended college at Tarleton State University Western Texas College and received her doctor of dental surgery degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She is a board member of the 17th District Dental Society and the Texas Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Her community involvement includes the Junior Achievement Board of Directors, the Junior League of Abilene, the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, and coaching a youth basketball team. She is also the founder of the Angel Smiles program. Dr. Leedy has won several awards, including the *Small Business Salute* in May 1996, the *Women in Business Salute* in July 1999, and *West Texas Business Woman of the Month* in March 2000.



Sonceria (Sonny) Messiah-Jiles

Sonny Messiah-Jiles is the publisher of the *Houston Defender*, Houston's leading black newspaper. She serves as chair of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, an organization of more than 200 African-American newspapers across the country. Mrs. Messiah-Jiles was the first African-American female board member of the Greater Houston Partnership and an advisory board member of J.P. Morgan Chase-Houston. She received an undergraduate degree from the University of Houston and completed postgraduate work at Texas Southern University. Mrs. Messiah-Jiles is a member of the M.D. Anderson Board of Visitors, NAACP-Houston, JobPlus, and Hester House. She has served on the boards of the United Way Texas Gulf Coast, the March of Dimes Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, American Diabetes Association, and American Leadership Forum. Mrs. Messiah-Jiles has received many awards including the *Phenomenal Woman Award*, *American Civil Liberties Freedom of Speech Award*, *YWCA Outstanding Woman of the Year*, *Outstanding Texan* from the Jaycees, *Publisher of the Year* by the NNPA, and the *Civil Rights Award* from the National Dental Association.



Pam Sibley

Pam Sibley is a homemaker and retired high school English teacher. She formerly taught in McKinney, Irving, and Hewitt. Mrs. Sibley received her undergraduate degree from Baylor University. She is active in her church, serving as a Sunday school teacher and participating in Bible study fellowship. Mrs. Sibley currently serves on the board of Hillcrest Baptist Hospital and the advisory board of the McClennan County Collaborative Abstinence Project. She is also involved in the Care Net Pregnancy Auxiliary and the Republican Women.



Julie Straus

Julie Straus has worked as a government relations consultant for USAA since 1994. Previously, she worked for Union Pacific Corporation, Bank of San Francisco, the George Bush for President Campaign, the United States Department of Treasury, the Fiftieth American Presidential Inaugural Committee and Prescott Bush for U.S. Senate. She has also held various White House positions. Mrs. Straus graduated from the College of William and Mary with a bachelor of arts in government. Her activities include the San Antonio Children's Museum, of which she is a founding member, and Planned Parenthood, where she serves on the Advisory Board.



Connie Weeks

Connie Weeks is a freelance educational consultant and artist. Previously, she worked as an art teacher in Round Rock for four years and in Austin for two. Mrs. Weeks received her undergraduate degree from Baylor University and her graduate degree from Hardin Simmons University. Her volunteer commitments include Tarrytown United Methodist Church, fundraising for Hospice and Alzheimer's disease, and serving as treasurer for the Beacon State Fund. Mrs. Weeks was also appointed to the 2003 Governor's Inaugural Committee.



Jimmy Westcott

Jimmy Westcott is extremely active in the Dallas community. A full-time volunteer, she was the first woman chairman of the board of The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Dallas, chairman of the board of the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, and is an active member of the Crystal Charity Ball. Mrs. Westcott has chaired events for Family Gateway, The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Center for Non-Profit Management. She serves on many boards including Children's Health Services of Texas, the United Way, Greenhill School, The Child Care Group, the Dallas Arboretum, the Dallas Symphony, and the Dallas Center for Performing Arts Advisory Council. Awards received include the Pi Beta Phi *Unsung Angel Award* (1998), the United Way *Above and Beyond Award* (1999), the Dallas for Children *Children's Champion Award* (2000), and Campfire USA's *On Behalf of Kids Award* (2003).

★ Funding ★

The Governor's Commission for Women is funded by two sources: the State of Texas through the Office of the Governor and the Beacon State Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Office of the Governor pays for all administrative costs, including salaries, travel, and general operating expenses, while the Beacon State Fund pays for public awareness campaigns and community outreach efforts.

Office of the Governor

Fiscal Year 2001

Total Budgeted- \$73,513.33

Total Expended- \$70,968.20

Fiscal Year 2002

Total Budgeted- \$68,140.00

Total Expended- \$62,072.41

Fiscal Year 2003 (as of June 23, 2003)

Total Budgeted- \$65,987.62

Total Expended- \$51,264.47

Beacon State Fund

Fiscal Year 2001

Total Revenue- \$0

Total Expenditures- \$240

Expenditure	Total Expended (\$)	% of Budget
Communications	240.00	100

Fiscal Year 2002

Total Revenue- \$58,840

Total Expenditures- \$42,204

Expenditure	Total Expended (\$)	% of Budget
Domestic Violence Ad Campaign	12,194.00	29
Hall of Fame Ceremony	13,664.00	32
Hall of Fame Permanent Display	15,242.00	36
Bank Fees	65.00	.2
Professional Fees	825.00	2
Printing and Postage	214.00	.5

Fiscal Year 2003 (as of June 23, 2003)

Total Revenue- \$32,410.26

Total Expenditures- \$23,224.16

Projected Total Expenditures - \$28,724.16

Expenditure	Total Expended (\$)	% of Budget
Domestic Violence Campaign	12,293.52	43
Public Relations Display Booth	2,130.64	7
Domestic Violence Research Study	3,000.00	10
Immunization Campaign	2,000.00	7
Texas Conference for Women Booth	1,200.00	4
Conference Scholarships*	4,000.00	14
Commission Brochures*	3,800.00	13

* indicates planned expense

★ State Agency Council ★

Purpose

The State Agency Council was established in 1983 by Governor Mark White to support the goals of the Governor's Commission for Women, while providing state agency representatives with professional development opportunities and a forum to discuss women's issues.

Organization

On August 15, 2001, Governor Rick Perry signed Executive Order 3, continuing the State Agency Council. Members of the State Agency Council are appointed by the director of each state agency at the request of the Governor. Each agency may appoint one member and one alternate to serve a two-year term on the Council. Currently, there are 109 members and 90 alternates, and the Governor's Commission for Women appoints an Executive Board from the general membership.

Executive Board

Chair: Mary Baldeschwiler, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Vice-Chair: Avis M. O'Reilly, Texas Workforce Commission

Membership Director: Raette Smith Hearne, Texas Department of Agriculture

Awards Director: Marjorie Wilson Ford, Texas Woman's University

Special Events Chair: Shelley Harris-Curtsinger, Texas Commission on Fire Protection

Treasurer: Gabriela Klein, Texas Public Finance Authority

Secretary: Tanya Kelly, Adjutant General's Department



The State Agency Council Executive Board, the Outstanding Women in Texas Government (OWTG) Awards' keynote speaker Beverly Lyles, and Commission Director Lesley Guthrie gather at the OWTG Awards Ceremony.

Projects

Women's History Month Exhibit

- ◆ Sponsored the exhibit, "Citizens at Last: The Woman Suffrage Movement in Texas," which was displayed in the Capitol Rotunda during Women's History Month in March of 2002.

SafePlace Donation Drives

- ◆ Sponsored a holiday gift drive in 2001, which generated \$10,000 in donations.
- ◆ Sponsored a children's book drive in 2002, which collected more than \$150 in book donations for the SafePlace Charter School.

Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest

- ◆ Sponsored a professional women's clothing drive, which collected 5,000 items for the financially disadvantaged who are trying to re-enter the workforce.

Tell-a-Friend Friday

- ◆ Participated in the Tell-a-Friend program sponsored by the American Cancer Society in which volunteers reminded female friends and family over the age of forty to schedule an annual mammogram. E-mails, designed by the Texas Department of Health, were sent to encourage breast examinations and mammograms.

Texas Conference for Women

- ◆ Sponsored scholarships for state employees to attend the annual conference, which draws thousands of women from across the state and nation and addresses numerous women's issues including professional development, health care, and personal growth.



State Agency Council members sort items for the Safeplace Holiday Gift Drive.

Outstanding Women in Texas Government

Background

The State Agency Council created the Outstanding Women in Texas Government Awards in 1984 to honor women working in state government who have made significant contributions to the State of Texas. State agency directors submit nominations to an independent selection committee. Nominees may not hold elected or appointed positions. The awards ceremony took place on November 1, 2002, at the University of Texas at Austin Alumni Center.

2002 Awards

Judges

- ◆ Margarine Beaman, owner of Beaman Accounting and Consulting and part-owner of Beaman Metal Company, Inc.
- ◆ Elizabeth Snapp, retired director of libraries at Texas Woman's University
- ◆ Mayor Pro Temp Ralph McCloud, Mayor Pro Tempore of the City of Fort Worth
- ◆ Rose Batson, president of the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas
- ◆ John Etchieson, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau-Central Texas

Award Recipients



Cathy J. Williams—Texas Department of Transportation—Outstanding Professional Development

Cathy J. Williams is employed at the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) as assistant executive director for support operations. In this capacity, she oversees most of TXDOT's non-engineering areas, including nine divisions and offices. Ms. Williams has a bachelor's degree in personnel and human resource management and a master of business administration. In a male-dominated agency, Ms. Williams is a mentor and role model for other women in male-dominated fields.



Peggy W. Perry—Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation—Outstanding Management

Peggy W. Perry is employed at the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation as assistant director for state mental health facilities. Her management career began in 1971 and has impacted the delivery of mental health care and services in Texas. Ms. Perry's management skills and tireless energy have benefited the agency by improving patient services.



Cynthia Medlin—Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation—
Outstanding Leadership

Cynthia Medlin is employed by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation as a program coordinator for the surrogate decision-making program. Ms. Medlin is a registered nurse and holds a bachelor of science in nursing. She implemented legislation enacted in 1993 to protect the rights of consumers with mental retardation by providing treatment consent alternatives for people who did not have guardians but needed assistance. She developed operational guidelines and trained volunteers to serve on committees throughout Texas. Ms. Medlin has been a registered guardian since 1998 and is a past-president of the Guardianship Association of Texas.



Elissa "Lisa" Benford—Texas Legislative Council—Outstanding Community
Involvement

Elissa "Lisa" Benford is a research specialist with the Texas Legislative Council. She is the founder and director of Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest, a non-profit charitable organization that provides professional clothing and accessories free of charge to disadvantaged women and men in Central Texas. Ms. Benford has served on the advisory council of Region 7 of the Texas Department of Human Services and on the boards of Family Pathfinders, Association of Retarded Citizens, Leukemia Society, Central Texas Blood and Tissue Center, and the Gift of Life Foundation.



Rhonda Masters—Texas General Land Office—Outstanding Customer Service

Rhonda Masters has been employed at the Texas General Land Office since 1989. She is a team leader in administrative services in the Information Systems Division overseeing a group with highly diverse functions. Her determination to consistently provide excellent customer service has earned her the respect of her supervisors, colleagues, and staff.



Susan Cranford—Texas Department of Criminal Justice —State Pioneer Spirit

Susan Cranford recently retired after 28 years with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). During her tenure with TDCJ, she impacted the lives of countless women and men working in the corrections field. Her career was devoted to opening the way for women in a male-dominated profession. She has gained a national reputation as an expert on women in corrections. Since her retirement, Ms. Cranford has served as a consultant to a number of national and state correctional agencies on professional women's issues.

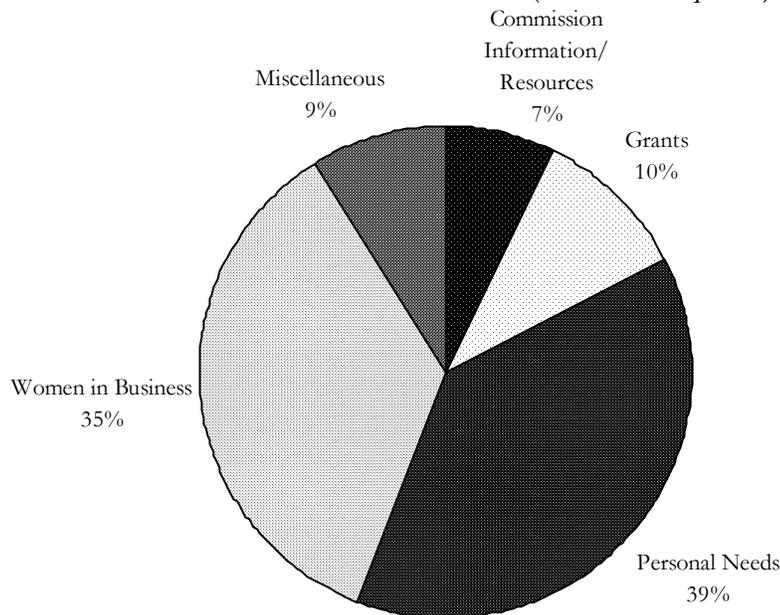


Constituent Casework

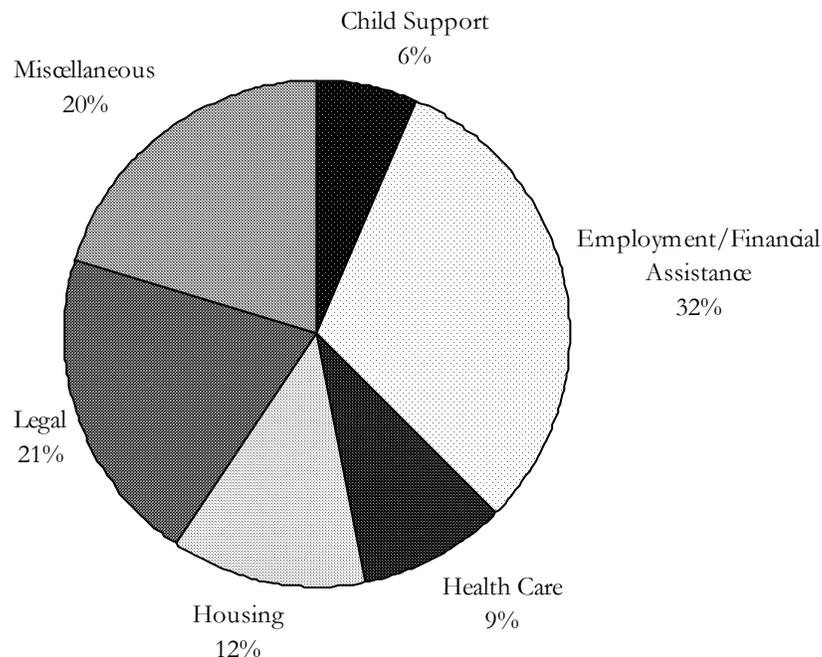


The following graphs provide an overview of the 167 constituent requests received by the Commission office between January 2001 and August 2003. As you will note, the majority of calls concern personal needs, with the most common need being employment or financial assistance. The Commission staff typically responds to each inquiry by referring the individual to the appropriate state agency or non-profit organization.

Constituent Casework 2001-2003 (167 total requests)



Personal Needs Breakdown 2001-2003 (64 total requests)



★ Texas Women's ★ Hall of Fame

History

The Texas Women's Hall of Fame was created by the Governor's Commission of Women in 1984 to honor women who have made significant contributions in fields such as arts, education, leadership, and health and social services.

New Home

In 2003, the Governor's Commission for Women collaborated with Texas Woman's University (TWU) to establish a permanent Hall of Fame. This exhibit, located in Hubbard Hall on the TWU campus, contains plaques which feature the photograph and biography of each of the 114 women who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since its inception. The creation of an exhibit space where these prominent women could be honored has long been a dream of the Commission. The Hall of Fame became a reality thanks to the support of TWU and the Beacon State Fund.



The Hall of Fame permanent exhibit

General Information

The inductees are selected by the following criteria:

- ◆ Nominees must be native or current residents of Texas.
- ◆ The service or achievement must have been performed in Texas.
- ◆ Former nominees are eligible; former winners are not eligible.
- ◆ Nominees must have been active within the past five years in the category for which they are nominated.
- ◆ A statement must be submitted describing the nominee's contribution to the State of Texas as well as biographical information and honors or awards received by the nominee.

Judges

Readers

Honorable Geanie Morrison, Victoria
Elizabeth Snapp, Denton
Patricia Shipton, Austin
Lori Cizon, Amarillo
Bob Cook, El Paso
Dr. Victor Alvarado, Edinburg
Dian Graves Owen, Abilene

Blue Ribbon Panel

Honorable Robert Puente, San Antonio
Debbie Francis, Dallas
Honorable Windy Sitton, Lubbock
Michael Levy, Austin
Blair Fitzsimmons, San Antonio



Governor Rick Perry with Texas Hall of Fame inductees
Sister Angela Murdaugh, Dr. Mae Jemison, and Ann Williams



Dr. Mae Jemison

Dr. Mae Jemison is a chemical engineer, scientist, physician, teacher, and astronaut. She is the president of BioSentient Corporation and the Jemison Group, but she is best known for her time spent at NASA. On September 12, 1992, she was the first American science mission specialist on the STS-47 Space Lab J flight and the first African-American woman to go into space.

Her commitment to women stretches beyond the State of Texas. She was an Area Peace Corps Medical Officer for Sierra Leone and Liberia and spent a medical clerkship on Thailand at a Cambodian Refugee Camp. In the United States, Dr. Jemison conducted research in the Bone Cell Research experiment.

For the last 20 years, Dr. Jemison has committed herself to ensuring diversity in the fields of science and technology by encouraging women and minorities to pursue careers in science. She has worked diligently to advocate the public school system and contributed to children's education with her television series "World of Wonders." In 1994, Dr. Jemison created *The Earth We Share*, an annual international science camp for 12 to 16 year olds from around the world where students learn to solve current global dilemmas. The program works to build critical thinking and problem solving through an experimental curriculum.

Dr. Jemison is a professor-at-large at Cornell University and a former professor of environmental studies at Dartmouth College where she directed the Jemison Institute for Advancing Technology in Developing Countries.



Ann Williams

As a young girl, Ann Williams had never seen an African-American dancer. Despite the lack of an early role model, she worked hard to cultivate her passion, becoming the first African American to earn a master of arts in dance in Texas. She is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University and an honorary doctorate of humanities from Northwood University.

Today, Mrs. Williams is the founder and artistic director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Dallas' oldest continuously operating professional dance company. The company celebrated its 25th anniversary season this year. The Dallas Black Dance Theatre has grown from a modest beginning in 1975 to a dance company that has performed at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Kennedy Center, on Broadway, and in Europe, Africa, and South America. Her company gives back to the community by participating in youth education programs, which benefit 40,000 youth each year.

Mrs. Williams and the Dallas Black Dance Theatre provide strong role models for budding young artists. Her Summer Youth Enrichment Camp features motivational talks by community leaders and activities that build self-esteem and self-discipline, qualities Ann believes carry over into the classroom. As Mrs. Williams once said, "If you can give young people the opportunity to discover their strengths, they will go places they never thought they could go."



Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes served as counselor to President George W. Bush until July of 2002 and was the highest ranking woman ever to serve in the White House. She is one of the President's closest confidants and is responsible for shaping the agenda and public discourse that has dominated the headlines since President Bush took office. As counselor to the President, Mrs. Hughes provided strategic advice to President Bush and had oversight over every public word uttered by the White House.

Mrs. Hughes's career began in 1977 as a reporter in Dallas/Fort Worth where she had a reputation for being thorough and fair. Within seven years, she was named Texas press coordinator for the 1984 Reagan/Bush campaign. Following the successful efforts of the 1984 campaign, Mrs. Hughes became a public relations and media consultant in Dallas, where she proved to be a highly effective political and communications strategist. In 1992, she served as executive director of the Republican Party of Texas where she led the party through an intense redistricting battle and helped shape a message that appealed to Texas voters, which contributed to the party's exponential growth in the early 1990's.

George W. Bush handpicked Mrs. Hughes to be his director of communications in 1994 when he decided to run for Governor of Texas. Since then, she has been by his side shaping his message and agenda, setting the tone in the White House, and elevating other women to positions of authority within the Bush Administration.

Although deeply committed to her role as a presidential advisor, Mrs. Hughes's family is her first priority. In fact, it is her commitment to family that led to her decision to step out of the spotlight in Washington and return home to Austin where her son could lead a normal life and finish high school with his friends. Although missed in the White House since her departure in July, she remains a close advisor to the President.



Sister Angela Murdaugh

After training at Columbia University, Sister Angela Murdaugh went to the Rio Grande Valley. She was appalled to discover that women were forced to travel at least 25 miles to receive basic prenatal and childbirth care, so she established the first freestanding birth center in Texas in 1972. In 1983, after returning from Washington, D.C. where she was president of the American College of Nurse Midwives, Sister Angela created the Holy Family Birth Center in Weslaco.

In addition to providing prenatal care and delivery services, the Holy Family Birth Center focuses on childbirth education, postpartum home visits, social services, clinic transportation, and childhood immunizations. Sister Angela, a Franciscan Sister of Mary, created partnerships that allow her staff to visit local schools and factories to teach general health concepts, as well as healthy pregnancy and baby classes. Nineteen years later, the birthing center has cut the infant mortality rate in Hidalgo County in half. Her model has been so successful that it has been emulated nationally.

The center is a place where midwives can improve traditional clinical skills. As an accredited, premier freestanding birth center, the midwifery clinical fellowships at Holy Family are highly sought after from students across the nation. Nearly 100 nurses and 100 clinical nurse midwives have received training at the center.

Sister Angela's vision of improving health services has led her into legislative and administrative arenas as well. She was instrumental in obtaining an Attorney General's opinion that defined the legal basis for midwifery practice in Texas. She also served on the Texas Department of Health's advisory committee that authored the Texas Birth Center Rules and Regulations in 1986. Sister Angela also helped write the National Association of Childbearing Center's "Standards for Birth Centers." Her tireless determination has led to the recognition of nurse-midwives as qualified Medicaid providers, and in 1989 she received the first Medicaid provider number issued to a certified nurse midwife in the state.

★ Outreach Activities ★

Breast Cancer Awareness

- ◆ Co-sponsor annual press event during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October with the American Cancer Society, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the Texas Cancer Council, and the Texas Department of Health. The goal of the event is to increase awareness of the importance of women receiving a mammogram and clinical breast examination at regular intervals.
- ◆ Displayed a wreath in the Capitol Rotunda decorated by breast cancer survivors.

Austin Women's Business Forum

- ◆ Co-sponsored a pilot project with St. Edward's University, the Austin Commission for Women, and eWomenNetwork. The forum is comprised of prominent leaders in the Austin community who are committed to helping female entrepreneurs succeed and is designed to examine the challenges facing entrepreneurs and increase the number of women-owned businesses in Austin.

Texas Conference for Women

- ◆ Sponsoring organization for the state-wide conference, which draws a wide variety of speakers to discuss the myriad of issues that face women today.



Governor Rick Perry speaks at a breast cancer awareness event at the Capitol.

★ Initiatives ★

The 2001-2003 Commission primarily focused on increasing immunization rates among Texas children and preventing family violence. These initiatives were selected to compliment the work of Texas First Lady Anita Perry, who developed a special interest in these issues during her 17-year nursing career. Over the past two years, the Commission has had the opportunity to collaborate with the First Lady on these important initiatives.



Texas First Lady Anita Perry is pictured at an immunization clinic and participating in the Donate A Phone Campaign.

“More than 550 cases of whooping cough, including four infant deaths, have been recorded in Texas this year...These cases are tragic, but the greatest tragedy is that they are preventable. A simple schedule of vaccinations at two, four, six, and twelve months can protect our tiny Texans and set a precedent for timeliness on future vaccinations during their lives.”

- Texas First Lady Anita Perry, August 8, 2002

The Problem

- ◆ 2001 National Immunization Survey data ranks Texas as being 42nd in the nation for immunization rates among 19 to 35-month-old children.

Steps Toward a Solution

Creating a Unified Plan

- ◆ Collaborated with representatives from the Texas Department of Health, organized medicine, consumer and parent groups, and the pharmaceutical industry to publish an eight-point plan, “Immunizing Texas: A State Plan to Increase Immunization Rates in Texas,” released in September of 2002.

Stakeholder Meetings

- ◆ Attended regional stakeholder meetings held to discuss the immunization problem in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and McAllen.

Funding for Public Service Announcements

- ◆ Partnered with McDonald’s, the Caring for Children Foundation, and Lopez Advertising to develop informational materials and fund public service announcements that encourage parents to follow the recommended immunization schedule.

National Infant Immunization Week

- ◆ Attended press events with Texas First Lady Anita Perry designed to promote awareness of the urgent need to boost immunization rates across the State.

“Family violence is often an issue without a face, without a voice. Many times when a story hits the news, it’s too late, or a victim is too afraid to speak out. It’s my hope that I can be that voice for those who are unable to speak out on their own.”

- Texas First Lady Anita Perry, October 10, 2002

The Problem

- ◆ Two women are killed by their intimate partner every week in Texas.

Texas Dept of Public Safety, 2001

- ◆ 59 percent of all Texans have personal experience with domestic violence.

Texas Council on Family Violence Public Awareness Campaign Polling Results, 2002

Steps Toward a Solution

Public Awareness Campaign

- ◆ Launched a public awareness campaign in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex which included dozens of bus signs, two kiosks, and six benches, which promoted the toll-free domestic violence hotline number.

Bumper Stickers

- ◆ Distributed 20,000 bumper stickers with the slogan “No Excuse for Abuse” and a national domestic violence hotline number to various Texas cities including Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Weslaco.

Donate a Phone Campaign

- ◆ Collected more than 3,800 used wireless phones that were refurbished and distributed to domestic violence shelters for victims to use in emergency situations.

Law Enforcement Survey

- ◆ Commissioned *Research Systems and Solutions, Inc.* to survey law enforcement officers to assess the prevalence of domestic violence and ascertain the resource needs within each department. The 1139 departments surveyed across the state included city police, county sheriffs, and large campus police departments. Respondents indicated that they would be most interested in receiving batterer and domestic violence information pamphlets, bumper stickers, multi-lingual materials, and contacts to respond to children at the scene. This data will be used to direct the efforts of future Commissions.

Silent Witness Initiative

- ◆ The Commission co-sponsored a press conference with the Texas Council on Family Violence and the Junior League of Austin which featured the display of 86 “silent witnesses”—red female silhouettes that each bear a plaque telling the story of how a woman was killed as a result of domestic violence. The silhouettes were unveiled by Texas First Lady Anita Perry and the TCFV on October 16, 2001. This project was part of a National Silent Witness Initiative, which has reported a decline, after two decades of stability, in domestic violence homicides since the project’s inception.



This bus tail and kiosk were part of the Dallas/Fort Worth public awareness campaign.

★ Commissions ★ for Women

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P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 475-2615

Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas
P.O. Box 26051
Austin, Texas 78755
(512) 476-7140

Austin Commission for Women
City of Austin Human Resources Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767-1088
(512) 499-3215

Fort Worth Commission on the Status of Women
City Manager's Office
1000 Throckmorton
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
(817) 871-8552

Laredo Commission for Women
City Hall
1110 Houston Street
Laredo, Texas 78040
(956) 791-7466

Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966
(210) 207-7060

Wichita Falls Mayor's Commission on Human Needs
c/o City Manager's Office
P.O. Box 1431
Wichita Falls, Texas 76307
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