



Executive Director
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Matthew "Kyle" Dobbs

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HON. CHRISTIAN BECERRA
HON. ROBERT ROLNICK
HON. KALI MORGAN
HON. KP. GEORGE

April 25, 2022

To: OJJDP
Administrator

RE: Letter of Commitment for Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children (O-OOJDP-2022-171233)

As the Executive Director of the Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Fort Bend County (FBC) proposal to the OJJDP for funding under the FY 2022 *Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children*. Fort Bend County is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States with a current population of approximately 850,000 and one of the most ethnically diverse counties in all of America. As the population grows, so does the number of children and families involved in our justice systems. We know that without services and support, incarcerated parents and their children are more likely to become involved in justice system and have poorer outcomes, including educational, mental health and substance abuse problems.

We support Fort Bend County Behavioral Health Services' application to develop and implement a coordinated system for the provision of programs and services that support the needs of incarcerated parents and their children. We understand and support this work that strives to reduce crime and recidivism, while improving outcomes for the children of incarcerated parents, by mitigating the adverse effects of parental incarceration and providing services that support the parent-child relationship. This program builds on the work that has been done in FBC by the Sheriff's Office, BHS Department, courts, juvenile probation department, behavioral health providers, and many others to reduce the number of individuals in our in our justice system and to connect them to the needed services.

Fort Bend has a long history of working with other county partners to address the needs of children and adults that become involved in our legal system. The requested funding would provide a significant opportunity to focus and intervene on a much "at risk" population, mitigate the negative impact of having a parent that is incarcerated,

enhance a parent's ability and responsibility to care for their children, and break the intergenerational cycle of criminality. .

We are pleased to be a partner, participate, and support this needed work that clearly addressing a significant gap in current systems and services. The Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Department will play a key role in the planning and implementation of this project. The Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation Departments mission is to rehabilitate delinquent youth as well as come up with ways of keep youth from becoming delinquent. We have adopted the attitude of "whatever it takes". We, as an agency, are serious about turning young lives around and strive to do so in every department division and at every position level. Professionalism, creative program development and implementation, all come together in a synergistic manner to give our youth the best possible opportunity to make a lasting positive change in their lives. We know that having a incarcerated parent is a large risk factor for youth and will work with our partners to ensure that parents, whatever their circumstances, are able to play a key positive role in the lives of their children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyle M. Dobbs".

Matthew "Kyle" Dobbs
Executive Director
Fort Bend County Juvenile
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