



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 25, 2018

Mrs. Camille Cain  
Executive Director  
Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
P.O. Box 4260  
Austin, Texas 78765-4260

Dear Mrs. Cain:

As I expressed in my letter dated December 13, 2017, I am concerned about the pressing challenges facing the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). The State of Texas must ensure the safety and welfare of young offenders committed to its care.

We have made improvements toward our safety and security goals, and I am pleased with the progress. The spirit of cooperation between TJJD's Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Texas Rangers is encouraging; however, more can be done. To that end, I have directed my Criminal Justice Division (CJD) to provide funds to OIG to digitize all paper offense records in order to assist and expedite the ongoing Texas Rangers' investigation into sexual and violent misconduct in TJJD facilities. Additionally, I have directed CJD to partner with the Texas Department of Public Safety to extend the Texas Crime Stoppers program to all TJJD facilities effective immediately. The implementation of this new program will provide TJJD employees and members of the public the ability to anonymously report information pertaining to suspected misconduct, abuse, corruption, improper activity or violations of civil rights of individuals in the state's custody.

My office will also assist in strengthening the investigatory and safety enforcement efforts of OIG by providing training funds for the agency's gang investigators to receive certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. This certification will ensure that these officers have the ability to open and address needed criminal investigations of violent gang activity in youth detention centers.

Furthermore, in an effort to identify young offenders who are victims or potential victims of sexual exploitation, I have directed CJD to award TJJD the funds necessary to implement a child sex trafficking screening tool. This tool will integrate with the existing Juvenile Case

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Management System and will enable the sharing of information between local juvenile probation departments, prosecutors, treatment providers and TJJD staff. Ensuring that juvenile justice professionals have the tools they need to make informed diversion and treatment decisions will lead to better outcomes for both the youth and the system.

TJJD faces many long-term problems that will require legislative reform. At the same time, I urge you to look for immediate, meaningful changes to shift the culture across the agency. Therefore, I request that you develop short-term solutions and long-term goals as the focus of significant change under your leadership at the agency. As you develop these goals, convene a variety of stakeholders, including legislators, juvenile justice professionals and legal experts, to provide input and keep all options on the table to safeguard the young offenders in state custody.

Thank you for your service to the state. I look forward to receiving your plan of action as we work together to confront these challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

GA:sck