



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS - EXTENSION PARENTING IN RECOVERY (PIR)/PIRII

LEAD AGENCY: Travis County Health and Human Services/Veteran Services

LOCATION: Austin, TX

PROGRAM OPTION: Two-Year Extension

GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED:
25th Congressional District; Urban

NUMBER SERVED: Children: 256 | Adults: 162 | Families: 162

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Parenting in Recovery (PIR) program aimed to address parental substance use disorders and child safety, permanency, and well-being among families involved in the child welfare system. The project brought together a coalition of community service providers to deliver a flexible, comprehensive continuum of services to drug/alcohol dependent women with children under the age of five who were involved in the child welfare system. The core objectives of the PIR program were to assist mothers of young children in recovery from substance dependence, maintain or regain custody and establish a safe and healthy home for their child(ren). In the second year of RPG I, the program merged with the new Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC), which started concurrent with RPG I and funded with Access to Recovery (ATR) funding. PIR mothers were admitted to a comprehensive residential care program for up to 90 days. Up to two children under the age of five were allowed to attend treatment if the mother had custody at that time. They were also required to participate in the FDTC, attending weekly FDTC sessions and interacting with the judge, the drug court team, their case manager, and other FDTC participants.

The grantee was awarded a Two-Year Extension with a primary focus on enhancing and expanding services to support child well-being, enhancing data collection to respond to data requests from partners and key stakeholders, and ensuring sustainability of the program post-grant funding. During these two years, the grantee refined services provided to mothers while expanding to include fathers into the program. They also added wraparound services for children, including medical and dental care and therapeutic services to address children's social-emotional and behavioral concerns. The grantee and partners also focused on developing a more trauma-informed and trauma-responsive continuum of care for parents and children.

TARGET POPULATION

The target population for the PIR/PIR II project included women with young children under the age of five who resided in Travis County, were identified as substance dependent, and had an open investigation with CPS. Mothers who gave birth to a substance-exposed newborn were automatically eligible for the program even if they were not involved with CPS at that time.

MAJOR PROGRAM SERVICES

Case Management and In-Home Services

- Intensive/Coordinated Case Management
- Family Group Decision Making/Family Case Conferencing
- Wraparound/Intensive In-Home Comprehensive Services

Parenting/Family Strengthening

- Standard Parenting Skills Training/Education or Parenting Classes
- Enhanced Parenting Services
- Evidence-Based Parenting or Family Strengthening Program – Nurturing Parent

Visitation Services

- Supervised Visitation
- Therapeutic Visitation

Mental Health and Trauma Services for Adults

- Mental Health Services and Psychiatric Care Including Medication Management
- Trauma-Informed Services
- Trauma-Specific Services - Seeking Safety, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing

Substance Abuse Prevention Services

- Information Dissemination
- Prevention Education

Substance Abuse Treatment for Adults

- Long-Term Residential/Inpatient (more than 30 days)
- Residential/Inpatient Treatment – Specialized for Parents with Children
- Intensive Outpatient
- Aftercare/Continuing Care/Recovery Community Support Services

Specialized Outreach, Engagement, and Retention

- Recovery Coach/Specialist
- Family Team Meetings

Family-Centered Substance Abuse Treatment

Screening and Assessment – Child Welfare and Other Children’s Issues

- Screening and Assessment for Child Welfare Issues
- Screening and Assessment for Trauma
- Other Specialized Child Screening and Assessment – Developmental

Screening and Assessment – Substance Use and Other Adult Issues

- Screening and Assessment for Substance Use Disorders
- Other Specialized Adult Screening and Assessment – Parenting, Psycho-Social

Children’s Services

- Early Intervention
- Developmental Services
- Trauma Services for Children/Youth – Child Parent Psychotherapy, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy

Cross-Systems Collaboration

- Clinical and Program Training
- Cross-systems Policies and Procedures
- Regular Joint Case Staffing Meetings
- Cross-systems Information Sharing and Data Analysis
- Partner Meetings – Regional Partnership and Program Management

Housing Services

- Housing Support and Assistance Services
- Transitional, Interim, or Temporary Short-Term Housing
- Permanent Housing

Other

- Educational Counseling
- Vocational/Employment Services
- Domestic Violence
- Health Care Need for Adults – Dental/Eye
- Financial Counseling

Family Treatment Drug Courts/Dependency Drug Courts

MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

- Goal 1:** Advance the service delivery system for the children/youth of the project by providing assessments, individualized supports and services, and consistent legal representation in court
- Goal 2:** Further develop the existing collaboration through the implementation of a self-sufficient shared data collection system with an emphasis on performance indicators at the local level
- Goal 3:** Conclude the sustainability plan for project; additionally, during the extension grant PIR II will collaborate with two organizations to bring additional training to the local workforce

KEY PARTNER AGENCIES

The RPG encouraged service providers to develop and/or strengthen cross-system linkages between substance abuse treatment, child welfare, dependency court, and other service systems. The PIR II project included the following partners:

Child Welfare

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Substance Abuse

Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)

Austin Recovery

Courts

Family Drug Treatment Court

Travis County Civil Courts

Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Legal and Related Organizations

Travis County District Attorney

Travis County Office of Child Representation

Other Community and Child and Family Services

Safe Place, Domestic Violence Services

Communities for Recover, Recovery Support

Bridges the Gap, Recovery Support

Health

Long Star, Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC)
Mano de Cristo, Dental Services
Eye Site Family Vision and EyeMart Express – Vision Services

Housing

Foundation Communities

Mental Health and Health Services

Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service
Austin Travis County Integral Care (Children’s Services)
Austin Child Guidance Center
Capitol Area Counseling
The Children’s Continuum

Education/Employment

Texas Workforce Solutions

Other Evaluation and Training

University of Texas at Austin
Encompass

Other**EVALUATION**

This project proposed an experimental design. The treatment group consisted of clients receiving PIR II services. The control group consisted of clients receiving typical child welfare and substance abuse services during the RPG grant period but not the RPG enhanced services.

Grantees measured performance indicators in the following domains: safety, permanency, child and adult well-being, and adult recovery. For additional information regarding program outcomes, please contact key personnel.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

Travis County was successful in securing resources to sustain completely their RPG efforts and services beyond the Federal grant period. The grantee successfully marketed the benefits and accomplishments of their RPG program to the Travis County Commissioners Court, which announced full allocation of their service dollar request to sustain the program. Collaborative partners also came to the table with funding and other resources to sustain their efforts following RPG grant funding.

KEY PERSONNEL INFORMATION

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

Laura Peveto

*Office of Children Services
Travis County Health and Human
Services/Veteran Services*

100 N IH 35 Ste 3000

P.O. Box 1748

Austin Texas 78767

Phone: (512) 854-7874

laura.peveto@co.travis.tx.us

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Chuck Roper, PhD

*Parenting In Recovery Office of Children
Services / Travis County Health & Human
Services*

P O Box 1748

Austin, Texas 78767

Phone: (512) 854-5903

Fax: (512) 854-5907

chuck.roper@co.travis.tx.us

OTHER SUPPORT

Sanna Thompson

8009 Dark Valley Cove

Austin, TX 78737

Phone: (512) 731-1679

sannathompson@gmail.com

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