1. **Boys to Men Shop Talk Mentor Program**

**Purpose:** This boys program, provided at the Youth Service Center, addresses issues related to self-awareness, health and hygiene, positive role models, social skills and healthy relationships, educational goals, and career education in order to empower boys to become successful men in the future.

**Eligibility:** Males ages 10-17 – Deferred Prosecution (DP180), Deferred Adjudication (DP6), TRIAD/Intake Program

**Program:** Specialized services include:
- Self-awareness and self-esteem building.
- Positive role models.
- Anger management.
- Health and hygiene.
- Social skills and relationships.
- Career education and pre-employment counseling and readiness.
- Community service.
- Educational services.
- Counseling for the male and his family.

**Service Area:** Harris County

**Capacity:** Unlimited

**Time Frame:** One (1) contact per month (minimum)


**Purpose:** This girls program, provided at the Youth Service Center, addresses issues related to self-awareness, health and hygiene, social skills and healthy relationships, educational goals, and career education in order to empower girls to become successful women in the future.

**Eligibility:** Females ages 10-17 – Deferred Prosecution (DP180), Deferred Adjudication (DP6), TRIAD/Intake Program

**Program:** Specialized services include:
- Self-awareness.
- Positive role models.
• Self-esteem building exercise and projects.
• Health and hygiene.
• Social skills and relationships.
• Career education and pre-employment counseling and readiness.
• Community service.
• Etiquette – Charm School.
• College and educational field trips.
• Educational services.
• Counseling for the female and her family.
• RealCare® Baby – computerized infant simulator that requires realistic care and reports on exactly how it was cared for to provide powerful, hands-on experiences, and teach valuable lessons about motherhood and parenting.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: Unlimited
Time Frame: Two (2) contacts per month (minimum)

3. **Juvenile Tracking Program**

**Purpose:** Youth will be monitored, in their homes and at school, to ensure compliance with their conditions of release from detention, adherence to the law, and appearance in court.

**Eligibility:** Males and females ages 10-17

**Program:** Intensive community-based supervision.

**Service Area:** Harris County

**Capacity:** 25 youth at any given time

**Time Frame:** Average – 30 days (Up to two contacts per-day until disposition of pending case.)

4. **Kinder Emergency Shelter**

**Purpose:** Through a collaborative effort with Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults, the Kinder Emergency Shelter provides a community-based residential alternative to secure detention for those youth whose significant family conflict prevents immediate return home.

**Eligibility:** Pre-adjudicated youth

**Program:** Services include:

• Behavioral health assessment.
• Community service linkage.
• Wraparound services.
• Preparation for Adult Living.
• Excel Academy educational services.
Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 12 beds
Time Frame: 15-30 days

**Institutions Division (Pre-Adjudication)**

1. **Juvenile Detention Center (JDC)**

   **Purpose:** Secure facility providing detention to youth pending court or awaiting transfer to a post-adjudicated facility.

   **Eligibility:** Males and Females – Ages 10-17

   **Program:** Provides six housing floors with private sleeping rooms, multi-purpose activity rooms, gymnasiums, visitation, and counseling areas. There are also facilities for medical, dental, ophthalmologic, psychological and social services. Programs include:
   - Physical and psychological assessments and evaluations.
   - Education – provided by Juvenile Probation’s Charter School.
   - Volunteers provide presentations, tutoring, religious services, art, health awareness, visitation, and other programs.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 250
Time Frame: Variable

**Institutions Division (Post-Adjudication)**

1. **Burnett Bayland Reception Center (BBRC)**

   **Purpose:** Secure placement facility providing general population and specialized treatment programming to males who have been adjudicated delinquent.

   **Eligibility:** Adjudicated Males – Ages 10-17

   **Program:** Programs include:
   - Assessment and evaluation.
   - Education – provided by Juvenile Probation’s Charter School.
   - General Programming.
   - Sex Offender Program.
   - Psychiatric Stabilization Unit (provided by MHMRA staff).
   - Drug Dependent Treatment Program.
   - 30-day Intense Impact Program.
   - Crisis Intervention.
   - Love U2 Groups – provided by Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA).
• Sexual Victimization Counseling – provided by The Children’s Assessment Center.
• Writers in Schools.
• “Success at Work” – provided by the Rotary Club
• Volunteers provide presentations, tutors, religious services, art, and other programs.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 144 males
Time Frame: Variable

2. **Harris County Leadership Academy (HCLA)**

**Purpose:** Secure residential correctional placement facility providing a strong structured and discipline-oriented program.

**Eligibility:** Adjudicated Males – Ages 13-16

**Program:** Focus is to redirect the thinking and behavior patterns of youthful offenders through a sound foundation embracing a healthy self-concept, respect for self, others and authority, and personal accountability. Programs include:

- Assessment and evaluation.
- Education – provided by Juvenile Probation’s Charter School.
- REAL COLORS
- DART (Discipline, Accountability, Redirection, and Transition).
- Counseling.
- Education.
- Anger management.
- Mental health services – provided by MHMRA.
- Vocational Education Program – provided by San Jacinto College.
- Alcohol and drug treatment – provided by Turning Point of Houston.
- Religious programs – provided by special Youth Services and Youth Exchange.
- Gardening program.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 96 males
Time Frame: Variable

3. **Harris County Youth Village (HCYV)**

**Purpose:** Non-secure lakefront residential placement facility providing a strong structured program focused on re-habilitation and vocational education.

**Eligibility:** Adjudicated Males and Females – Ages 10-17
Program: Lakefront campus located in the Clear Lake area are providing a behavioral program targeting personal responsibility, appropriate expression of anger, positive decision-making, leadership, and, ultimately, self-management of behavior. Programs include:

- Assessment and evaluation.
- Education – provided by Juvenile Probation’s Charter School.
- Drug education and therapy.
- Parent and/or guardian involvement.
- Volunteers provide coaching, mentoring, advising, and tutoring.
- Electrical or automotive repair vocational programs – provided by San Jacinto College.
- GED preparation and testing.
- College preparation assistance.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 170
Time Frame: Variable

Field Services Division (Post-Adjudication)

1. **Drug and Alcohol Use/Abuse Assessment and Education**

   **Purpose:** The Council on Alcohol and Drugs – Houston provides Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors to all youth on probation to identify, educate, and intervene with those who have substance abuse.

   **Eligibility:** Youth on probation.

   **Program:** Alcohol and drug abuse screening, education, and intervention.

   **Service Area:** Harris County

   **Capacity:** 4,644 screening (2009)

   1020 youth received substance abuse education services (2009)

   **Time Frame:** Variable

2. **Drug Testing**

   **Purpose:** Random urinalysis drug testing is conducted at all CUPS offices.

   **Eligibility:** Youth on probation.

   **Program:** Preliminary testing is done via 5 panel tests administered by the Juvenile Probation Officer in the office. Subsequent urinalysis samples may be sent to a local lab for further testing and meets the chain of custody requirements necessary for court action.

   **Service Area:** Harris County

   **Capacity:** 1,100 samples submitted to lab for testing (2009)

   **Time Frame:** Variable
3. **Education Services**  
**Purpose:** Educational specialists advocate for juveniles to keep them in school, reinstate them if expelled, or to arrange completion of GED requirements and/or career planning.  
**Eligibility:** Youth on probation.  
**Program:** Testing is conducted to verify the youth’s proper grade level placement and/or need for special programming in the educational setting.  
**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** 1,048 youth (2009)  
**Time Frame:** Monday -- Friday

4. **Educational Workshops**  
**Purpose:** Provides educational workshops to probationers and their families.  
**Eligibility:** Youth on probation.  
**Program:** Workshop topics include the following (additional topics added as available/needed):  
- Peer pressure.  
- Decision-making and life skills.  
- Prohibited weapons.  
- Anger management.  
- Shoplifting prevention.  
- Anti-gang activities.  
- Victim impact panels.  
**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** 5,683 probationers attended educational workshops (2009)  
**Time Frame:** 1 – 2 hours

5. **Evening Reporting Center (ERC)**  
**Purpose:** An alternative to detention providing educational, recreational, counseling, and supervision to probationers between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. who otherwise would be returned to court and may be placed in detention.  
**Eligibility:** Youth, either on probation or as an alternative to detention for non-adjudicated youth, within the geographic area served.  
**Program:** Youth are transported from school to the ERC and at the end of the day (9:00 p.m.) transported home. Youth have access to the following services:  
- Intensive supervision.  
- Educational support – evaluation, tutoring, homework assistance, GED preparation, credit recovery, educational plan.  
- Cognitive skills-building activities.
• Recreational and cultural arts activities.
• General assessments, mental health screenings and referrals.
• Community service.
• Connecting youth to community partners/resources.
• Legal advocacy.
• Discharge planning and transitional services.
• Aftercare.

Service Area: Alief and far southwest Harris County
Capacity: 25 youth (began December 2009)
Time Frame: 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Monday—Friday) – 30 day maximum

6. **Equine Therapy**

   **Purpose:** Combines traditional therapeutic intervention with an innovative component involving relationships and activities with horses.

   **Eligibility:** Female Intervention Program and Institutional Aftercare Program youth.

   **Program:** Youth receive therapy and counseling involving caring for and riding horses.

   **Service Area:** Harris County
   **Capacity:** 12 per group
   **Time Frame:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (twice a month on Saturdays)

7. **Female Intervention Program (FIP)**

   **Purpose:** As part of Intensive Supervision Program, FIP is a community-based program providing specialized services to female probationers and her family.

   **Eligibility:** High-risk Females

   **Program:** Two contacts (minimum) per week with females in the home, school, or probation office. Specialized services include:

   • Self-awareness.
   • Health and hygiene.
   • Social skills and relationships.
   • Career education.
   • Community service.
   • Job fairs.
   • College campus tours.
   • CPR classes.
   • Counseling for the female probationer and her family.
   • RealCare® Baby – computerized infant simulator that requires realistic care and reports on exactly how it was cared for to provide powerful, hands-on experiences, and teach valuable lessons about motherhood and parenting.
8. **G.E.D. Program**

**Purpose:** Preparing youth for the General Educational Development test.

**Eligibility:** Youth on probation.

**Program:** The program will provide laptop computers and GED instructors to assist youth with preparation to be able to pass the GED test.

**Service Area:** Harris County

**Capacity:** 409 (2009)

**Time Frame:** Variable

9. **Institutional Aftercare Program (IAP)**

**Purpose:** Provides intensive supervision for youth leaving residential placement during the weeks following their release from out-of-home placement.

**Eligibility:** Youth recently released from placement outside the home.

**Program:** Youth participate in:

- Drug testing.
- Parent-Child reunification workshops (2 sessions).
- ROPES (Reality Orientation Through Physical Experience).

**Service Area:** Harris County

**Capacity:** 209 per month (2009 monthly average)

**Time Frame:** Until probation term expires

10. **Intensive Supervision Program (ISP)**

**Purpose:** Court-ordered diversion program providing high-risk youth with close supervision and rehabilitation. These youth are diverted from out-of-home placement or commitment to the Texas Youth Commission.

**Eligibility:** High-risk youth

**Program:** Juvenile Probation provides a minimum of two contacts per week with juvenile in the home, school, or probation office.

**Service Area:** Harris County

**Capacity:** 569 per month (average in 2009)

**Time Frame:** 4 – 6 months

11. **On BELAY**

**Purpose:** On BELAY (Building Engagement, Leadership, and Assets for Youth), provided by The Baylor College of Medicine, is an experiential youth leadership and development program designed to create youth leaders as the primary means of fostering community change.
Eligibility: Youth on probation.
Program: Guided by research-based healthy youth development principals and inclusive of evidence-based violence prevention curricula, program goals include increased competency in:
• Culturally competent leadership skills.
• Numerous development assets.
• Non-violent problem-solving.
• Meaningful contribution to community.
• Positive connections with adults.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 365 youth (2009)
Time Frame: Variable

12. **P.A.C.E. (Project Self-Esteem, Academics, Character, and Empowerment)**

Purpose: The P.A.C.E. Program (Project Self-Esteem, Academics, Character, and Employment) is an educational and training program.

Eligibility: Youth on probation.
Program: This multiple week education and training program provides moral, educational, and spiritual values through a comprehensive life skills program. The curriculum addresses the following:

• Building character and self-esteem.
• Improved communication and problem-solving between youth and parent.
• Matching adult coaches with youth and parents to form a bonded team.
• Establishing individual and educational goals for youth.
• Job readiness training.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 217 youth (2009)
Time Frame: Variable

13. **Project 17**

Purpose: As part of Institutional Aftercare Program, Project 17 focuses on preparation for independent living and permanent job placement.

Eligibility: 16 and 17 year old youth
Program: 6-week series of sessions providing skill development in the following:
• Goal setting.
• Vocational assessments.
• College tours.
• Job readiness and job fairs.
• Interviewing techniques.
• Employment and Educational exposure/opportunities.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 85 youth (2009)
Time Frame: Until probation term expires

14. **ROPES Challenge Course**

**Purpose:** Provides outdoor educational activities to increase self-esteem, communication skills, problem-solving skills, and build individual and team responsibility.

**Eligibility:** Intensive Supervision and Specialized Program Unit Youth and other eligible youth on probation.

**Program:** Youth participate in ROPES (Reality Orientation Through Physical Experience) Program – low and high element challenges to build confidence and promote teamwork.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 40 youth (2009)
Time Frame: 2 days during the summer

15. **Shoplifting Prevention Program**

**Purpose:** The National Association for Shoplifting Prevention provides The Youth Educational Shoplifting Program (Y.E.S.) a unique program for juveniles who have been involved in shoplifting.

**Eligibility:** Youth on probation who have been involved in shoplifting.

**Program:** The Y.E.S. Program is an at home study course consisting of two audio CDs and a workbook to be completed by the youth and his/her parent.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 250 youth (2009)
Time Frame: Variable

16. **Specialized Program Unit (SPU)**

**Purpose:** Providing intensive supervision for two separate and unique caseloads – sex offenders and gang-involved probationers.

**Eligibility:** Sex Offenders

Gang-Involved Youth

**Program:** Sex offender specialized services include:

• State registration.
• Specialized sex offender treatment.
• Polygraph testing (as needed).
- Drug testing.
- ROPES Program.
- Electronic monitoring (as needed).

Gang involved youth specialized services include:
- Gang Awareness Program.
- Anger management.
- Decision-making.
- Tattoo removal (City of Houston’s D-Tag Program).
- ROPES Program.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: Sex Offender Program – 129 per month average (2009)
Gang Involved Youth – 125 per month average (2009)
Time Frame: Variable

17. **Therapeutic Counseling**

Purpose: Professional, licensed therapists provide individual, family, and group counseling to probationers and their families.

Eligibility: Youth on probation.

Program: Individual, family, and group therapy in English and Spanish.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 4,000 youth (2009)
Time Frame: Variable

18. **Youth Advocate Program (YAP)**

Purpose: Provides community-based mentors/advocates to prevent costly and unnecessary placement of youth who are, have been, or may be removed from their home.

Eligibility: Youth on probation.

Program: The YAP advocacy model is based on the development of a trusting relationship between a supportive, trained, skilled adult advocate, the young person, and their family.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 500 youth (2009)
Time Frame: Variable
Health Services Division

1. **Burnett Bayland Psychiatric Stabilization Unit (PSU)**

   **Purpose:** Provide intensive psychiatric interventions to youth with significant mental health problems.

   **Eligibility:** Adjudicated males age 10-17

   **Program:** A 12-bed unit for post-adjudicated youth who show signs of severe mental illness or have demonstrated poor adjustment to other county institutions. Program is a short-term psychiatric stabilization unit offering:
   - Psychiatric assessment.
   - Medication monitoring.
   - Individual, group, and family therapy.
   - Skills training.
   - Behavioral modification.

   **Service Area:** Harris County

   **Capacity:** 150 youths annually

   **Time Frame:** 20 – 40 days

2. **Court Resource Coordinator**

   **Purpose:** Ensure that mental health issues are brought to the court’s attention and taken into consideration in the disposition of the case.

   **Eligibility:** Youth with mental health diagnosis.

   **Program:** Court Resource Coordinator works with juveniles with mental health issues who are involved in any of the juvenile district courts to advise the court and family of potential mental health implications and treatment alternatives.

   **Service Area:** Harris County

   **Capacity:** Variable

   **Time Frame:** Not applicable

3. **Dental Services**

   **Purpose:** Provides general dental services to all youth for basic preventative services and essential treatment procedures based upon the occurrence of oral disease, significant malfunction, and/or injury.

   **Eligibility:** Youth in Juvenile Probation Department residential facilities.

   **Program:** Youth are provided with routine dental screenings, at least every 6 months, by a contracted dental provider. The dentist assures equitable access. Priorities of treatment categories are:
   - Emergency/urgent – treatment for conditions that will worsen or become life threatening or acute without immediate intervention.
• **Interceptive** – intermediate treatment for asymptomatic advanced hard or soft tissue disease, or loss of masticatory function.

• **Rehabilitative** – definitive treatment for chronic hard or soft tissue disease or loss of masticatory function.

**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** Approximately 4000 youths annually  
**Time Frame:** Variable/Ongoing

4. **General Medical/Physical Health Care Services**

**Purpose:** Provide medical services to all youth for the prevention, treatment, and management of acute and some chronic illnesses or conditions.

**Eligibility:** Youth in Juvenile Probation Department facilities.

**Program:** Application of current best practice standards and recommended clinical pathways established for pediatric medicine in the community and the disease management guidelines governing the care provided to the youth in custody. The goal of all patient engagements is to ensure that consistent, cost effective, and safe care are provided and available equally to all and that patient outcomes demonstrate that the needs of the patient population are being met. Services provided include:

- Physical examinations and treatment.
- Dental examinations and treatment.
- Vision examinations and treatment.
- Treatment of injuries.
- Immunizations.
- Laboratory and diagnostic tests.
- Administration of prescription and/or non-prescription (over the counter) medication for an illness or condition.
- Nursing services available in departmental alternative education programs.

**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** Approximately 5000 youths annually  
**Time Frame:** Variable/Ongoing

5. **Forensic Unit**

**Purpose:** Provides information to the court and treatment providers regarding youth’s needs and risk factors associated with their delinquency.

**Eligibility:** Youth involved with the juvenile justice system.

**Program:** Psychological and psychiatric assessments provided to pre- and post-adjudicated youth to determine the mental health needs and to answer specific legal questions. Services include:
6. **Functional Family Therapy (FFT)**

**Purpose:** Evidenced-based, outcome driven model of intervention and prevention treatment program.

**Eligibility:** Youth on probation.

**Program:** A community-based family intervention program for high-risk youth and their families. FFT is an evidence-based program that provides an alternative to out-of-home placement and helps youth transition from placement to home.

- Reduce intense/negative behavioral patterns.
- Improve family communication.
- Improve parenting practices, and problem solving skills.
- Increase the family’s ability to access community resources and services.

**Service Area:** Harris County

**Capacity:** 95 youths annually

**Time Frame:** 4 months

7. **Mental Health Care Teams**

**Purpose:** Provide wrap-around services to juveniles and families who are involved in both the juvenile justice and mental health treatment systems.

**Eligibility:** Youth on probation.

**Program:** A Case Manager and Parent Partner, working as a team, to link families with appropriate community based services.

**Service Area:** Harris County

**Capacity:** 48 youths annually

**Time Frame:** 4-6 months
8. **Mental Health Docket/Court**

**Purpose:** Judge John Phillips, 314th District Court, provides a therapeutic approach to juvenile offenders who are significantly impacted by a serious emotional problem. Emphasizing rehabilitation over punishment, the program's goal is to ensure public safety by facilitating coordinated mental health interventions.

**Eligibility:** Pre-adjudicated youths whose mental health diagnosis is directly related to their delinquency history.

**Program:** Intensive community-based program that focuses on the entire family. The goal is to effectively address underlying mental health issues related to offending behaviors, while emphasizing public safety and personal responsibility. Services include:
- Intensive behavior monitoring.
- Wrap-around services.
- Multidisciplinary team approach.
- Psychiatric and psychological interventions.

**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** 80 youths annually  
**Time Frame:** Minimum of 6 months

9. **Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)**

**Purpose:** Provide intense behavioral interventions for youth who are at risk for out of home placement.

**Eligibility:** Youth involved with the juvenile justice system.

**Program:** An evidence-based community treatment approach that views adolescent's behavior as being influenced by multiple systems (family, peer, school, and neighbors) around them. MST targets factors known to contribute to delinquency across the key systems/settings within which the youth live. The MST program is designed to:
- Decrease family conflict.
- Improve school performance.
- Decrease association with negative peers.
- Develop a natural support network.

**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** 90 youths annually  
**Time Frame:** 4 months

10. **Psychiatric-Medication Management**

**Purpose:** Provide psychiatric care and medication management to youth in county facilities or transitioning back into the community.

**Eligibility:** Pre and post adjudicated youth with psychiatric needs.
Program: Psychiatrist located at all county facilities provide mental health services to youth with acute and chronic symptoms.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: All youth on psychotropic medications (approx. 35% of youth).
Time Frame: Variable

11. **Psychological & Social Services Department**

   **Purpose:** To provide crisis management, as well as supportive counseling, to youths that are experiencing a stressful response to being detained.

   **Eligibility:** All juveniles in the Juvenile Detention Center.

   **Program:** Master level therapists meet regularly with youth, both individually and in groups, to improve coping. Services include:
   - Assessment.
   - Individual and group counseling.
   - Coordination of medication referrals.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: Variable
Time Frame: Variable

12. **Special Needs Program (TCOOMMI – Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments)**

   **Purpose:** To provide coordinated probation and mental health services to at-risk youth within the community.

   **Eligibility:** Pre and post adjudicated juveniles with mental health diagnosis.

   **Program:** Four teams of Juvenile Probation and Mental Health Professionals provide intensive “in-home” monitoring and interventions for youth with chronic mental health problems in an effort to divert further delinquent behavior. Services include:
   - Psychiatric assessment.
   - Medication management.
   - Community referrals and linkage.
   - Educational evaluations as needed.
   - Intensive supervision.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 130 youths annually
Time Frame: 6 months

13. **Systems of Hope (SOH)**

   **Purpose:** Provides wrap-around services to juveniles and their families who are involved with multiple agencies and suffer from mental illness.
Eligibility: Youth 10-16 years of age with a mental health diagnosis who are on probation.

Program: SOH employs teams comprising of a Parent Partner and a Case Coordinator and seeks to promote the full potential of every youth by supporting the family with wrap-around services to address their physical, emotional, intellectual, cultural, and social needs. Services include:

- Community referrals and linkage.
- Parent/family involvement.
- Advocacy.
- Youth groups.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 40 youths annually
Time Frame: 6 months

14. **Sub-Acute Program at the Harris County Psychiatric Hospital**

Purpose: Provides intensive psychiatric care for youth with mental needs that cannot be met in one of the county facilities.

Eligibility: Pre and post adjudicated youth with significant mental health problems.

Program: 16-bed behavioral management program located at the Harris County Psychiatric Hospital that serves both male and female juveniles. The program is based on a behavioral management system. It emphasizes self-disclosure of significant psychiatric and emotional issues. Services include:

- Psychiatric assessment.
- Daily psychiatric monitoring.
- Constant nursing care.
- Individual, group, and family counseling.
- Community linkage and referral upon discharge.

Service Area: Harris County
Capacity: 150 youths annually
Time Frame: Variable

15. **TRIAD Prevention Program**

Purpose: A collaborative among Harris County’s Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS), the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County (MHMRA), and Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD) to coordinate services for at-risk youth.

Eligibility: Youth with juvenile justice involvement.

Program: TRIAD provides prevention and early intervention services to divert youth and families who are involved with HCPS, MHMRA, and/or HCJPD. Services include:
- Family therapy.
- Stay in school programs.
- Justice of Peace court interventions.
- Diversion programs.

**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** Variable  
**Time Frame:** Variable

16. **Vision Services**

**Purpose:** Provide general vision screening services to all youth for basic care and any additionally medically required vision services.

**Eligibility:** Youth in Juvenile Probation Department residential facilities.

**Program:** Vision screening and basic care/services are provided to the youth through contracted service provider. All youth are provided vision screenings and eye examinations once a year or as needed.

- Corrective lenses are provided to the youth when deemed medically necessary.
- Consultation services to physician.
- Referrals for assessment/evaluation and treatment may be made internally to facilitate rapid access to care.

**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** Approximately 500 youths annually  
**Time Frame:** Variable/Ongoing

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**Educational Services**

1. **Excel Academy Charter School**

**Purpose:** Provides services to meet the educational needs of youth placed in HCJPD Institutions.

**Eligibility:** Youth residing in Juvenile Probation pre and post-residential facilities (JDC, BBRC, HCYV, Leadership Academy) and HCPS Kinder Shelter.

**Program:** Educational programs in the following areas are available to all students:

- Educational assessment within 48 hours to determine educational needs.
- Individualized student planning.
- Competency-based curriculum that stimulates learning and promotes academic proficiency.
- Computer assisted instruction and computer competency development.
Life skills’ training that introduces and reinforces positive behaviors, healthy decision-making, and problem-solving skills.

- Special education and limited English proficiency programs.
- Vocational skills development and employability enrichment – Basic Electrical and Automotive Repair provided at San Jacinto College.
- TAKS test preparation at every grade level.
- GED exam preparation (if determined appropriate).
- Assessment of student progress ongoing during enrollment and prior to release.
- Writers in Schools (WITS) engaging students in the pleasure and power of reading and writing.
- Transitional services, before and after discharge, to facilitate school, family, and community reintegration to sustain academic gains made during their period of confinement.

**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** Variable (Served 2,666 students 2008-09 school year)  
**Time Frame:** Variable

2. **Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)**

**Purpose:** Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs (JJAEP) serve the educational needs of juvenile offenders and at-risk youth who are expelled from the regular classroom or the school district disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP). The Harris County JJAEP provides a quality alternative educational setting for expelled youth with a focus on discipline, behavior management, and academic achievement.

**Eligibility:** Juveniles served in JJAEPs have been either expelled from their home school campus, or have been placed by local agreement.

**Program:** The JJAEP offers students a variety of services, in addition to the required educational programming. These program components include:

- Individual, group, and family counseling services.
- Substance abuse counseling.
- Life skills classes.
- Community service.
- Service learning.

Students may participate in one or all of the services offered within the program. Harris County JJAEP provides additional on-campus services through collaboration with the following agencies:

- Community Youth Services (CYS).
- Phoenix House.
• Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA).
• Unlimited Visions.
• Baylor College of Medicine.

**Service Area:** Harris County  
**Capacity:** Variable (722 served in the 2008-2009 school year)  
**Time Frame:** Variable

## Service Needs – Gaps in Services

1. **Independent Living Program**  
   Circumstances in the home and the parents’ unwillingness to cooperate can prevent the older probationer from being successful in school, on probation, and in the home. A program supporting youth transitioning from the juvenile justice system to independent living is needed to enable eligible youth to achieve maximum self-sufficiency and independence. This type of program would ideally provide life skills training, educational assistance, employment preparation, advocacy, housing, and health care.

2. **Bilingual (Spanish-English) Staff**  
   The Latino population continues to increase throughout Harris County and there is a significant gap in the ability to communicate proficiently with the youth and parents who speak Spanish as their primary language.

3. **Mental Health Services**  
   There are limited mental and behavioral health services for youth that are easily assessable. Lack of services in the following areas include:
   - Child Psychiatrists who provide Medicaid services.
   - Substance abuse treatment.
   - Evidence-based behavioral intervention therapy.