

**MINUTES****of the****WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING****August 19, 2003**

THE STATE OF TEXAS     )(

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON)(

BE IT REMEMBERED that at 9:38 a.m. on August 19, 2003, a SPECIAL SESSION of the Commissioners' Court of Williamson County, Texas, was held with the following being present, to-wit:

JOHN C. DOERFLER, County Judge  
MICHAEL L. HEILIGENSTEIN, Commissioner, Precinct 1  
GREGORY W. BOATRIGHT, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
DAVID HAYS, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
FRANKIE LIMMER, Commissioner, Precinct 4  
EUGENE D. TAYLOR, County Attorney  
NANCY E. RISTER, County Clerk

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

Hear any interested person and consider forming the next agenda or adding items to today's agenda.

Diane Howell, President of the Williamson County Child Welfare Board, introduced Kristene Blackstone, Program Director for Williamson County Child Protective Services. Ms. Blackstone spoke to the court regarding the job responsibilities of the support position that the County provides funds for.

**Judge Doerfler** mentioned that John Willingham, John Maspero, Deborah Hunt and John Sneed met regarding the possible reclassification of employees. Sheriff Maspero spoke regarding a proposed timeline that would give a recommendation to the court in February. Deborah Hunt spoke regarding the court considering a 2½% merit increase for the non-tenured employees only. She also discussed the salary comparisons for local city governments.

John Willingham handed out and discussed the draft proposal of what was discussed in the group meeting regarding the reclassifications.

Cathy Johnson, Director of the Taylor Pregnancy Resource Center, addressed the court for consideration for the county to include \$30,000 in the budget for the pregnancy center.

&lt;Attachment&gt;

Williamson County Child Protective Services

CPS Investigations

Fiscal Year 2003

Receive an average of 174 referrals monthly.  
We conduct an average of 142 investigations monthly.  
There are 10 Williamson County CPS investigators.  
There are 2 CPS Investigative Supervisors.

Family Preservation Cases

We are working with an average of 117 children monthly.  
We are working with an average of 43 families monthly.  
There are 4 Williamson County in-homes caseworkers.  
There is one supervisor covering these workers. She also has additional assignments.

Conservatorship (Foster Care)

There are currently 171 children in the legal conservatorship of CPS.  
There are 10 CPS conservatorship caseworkers. They have an average of 17 children  
(in addition to the parent cases that accompany the children).  
There are 2 CPS Conservatorship Supervisors.

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## COUNTY PAID POSITIONS

The County and the Williamson County Child Welfare Board provide 2 Human Services Technician positions. These 2 positions provide invaluable support to the caseworkers, and the families and children that we serve.

Their job responsibilities include:

Providing transportation and supervision of parent-child visitation for children in foster care. Depending on specific case circumstances these visits occur anywhere from twice weekly to monthly for children in foster care.

Transportation of children for sibling visits when sibling groups are separated.

Providing transportation for children to medical and dental appointments, psychological and developmental assessments, and therapy.

Maintaining tracking systems for medical/dental appointments for children in foster care.

Sending reminder notices to caregivers regarding children's annual physicals and twice yearly dentals.

Obtaining school and medical records as children enter foster care or as needed for investigation purposes.

Handle requests/routing for homestudies on relatives in Williamson County from our caseworkers and caseworkers from around Texas and out of state.

Filing of legal paperwork. Delivery and pick-up of legal records.

One of these positions is filled with a bilingual person who provides translation on Spanish-speaking cases.

Data entry.

Completing paperwork needed for obtaining services for children and families through state contract dollars.

Providing some transportation to services for parents.

Providing supervision for children when parents are meeting with caseworkers for interviews.

These primary duties don't begin to fully detail the innumerable small tasks that both of these positions complete for caseworkers. These two positions provide support for a total of 30 Williamson County staff and the families and children on those workloads.

Essentially, their job description is to provide support as requested.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PROTECTIVE AND REGULATORY SERVICES  
355 TEXAS Ave, Ste 200  
Agency Mail Code 367-2  
1811 Gattis School Rd, Suite 410  
Round Rock, Texas 78664  
Office: (512) 388-6280



**Kristene Blackstone**  
CPS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

# Teen pregnancy: An unsettling upward trend

Programs help young parents achieve school, work goals

## health & well-being in taylor

Pregnancy and childbirth are major events in any woman's life, no matter her age. But for teens who face motherhood and the people close to them, the feelings can be bittersweet.

"It was hard just because it's never a good thing," said Donna, who asked that her real name not be used.

The Taylor mother, now in her mid-20s, had her only child when she was 16 years old. She said telling her parents about her pregnancy, with the assistance of a school counselor, was difficult, and the reaction from community members was not always positive.

"Now, if you get pregnant, it's 'Oh, congratulations.' But I said, 'I'm pregnant,' and people would say, 'Oh, I'm sorry that happened to you,'" she said.

Dealing with the stigma of teen parenthood is only one of the problems young women face when they become pregnant. Whether they are able to finish high school and go to col-

lege is not always an easy choice.

Many teens leave school to work and support their children.

"I hate when people say, 'Oh well, you know, she had a child and she'll probably drop out of school and probably won't amount to much.' That's crap," Donna said.

Although some people outside her family encouraged her to drop out and take night classes for fear she might set a bad example for other students, she thinks one of the best decisions she made was to continue high school on schedule, earning her degree in

three years.

It was not easy, she said.

"With the teachers, there were no exceptions for being pregnant," she said.

"You had to do just as much work as everyone else."

A statistical "snapshot" of Taylor residents shows Donna is not alone in her experience with early motherhood.

A 2003 Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) study shows the number of girls in Taylor who had a child while they were under the age of 18 rose 2 percent between 2000 and 2001. The percentage of teen mothers in Williamson County, how-

### Teen Pregnancy

Percentage of mothers under age 18

<b>Taylor:</b>	2000	2001	2002
	6%	8%	8%

### Williamson County:

2000	2001	2002
3%	3%	3%

### Texas:

(to mothers 17 or younger)			
2000	2001	2002	
6%	5%	6%	

Source: Williamson County and Cities Health District's 2003 Taylor Snapshot

ever, remained steady during that same period. Statewide, the number of births to teens

■ TEEN, Page 10

teran each day



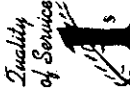
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# TAYLOR PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

JULY 2003

## Center set to open August 11

After nearly two years of planning, we are finally ready to announce an official opening date for the Pregnancy Resource Center. The doors will open on Monday, August 11.

In July, the board signed a rental agreement with John Jones to lease his property at 716 North Main Street. The PRC will be renting two of the three units in the building and John has allowed some significant remodeling to take place in order to make the facility better suit the PRC's needs.

With new carpet, new AC, a fresh

paint job, some decorating and landscaping, our new facility should be picture-perfect by the big day.

An Open House is scheduled for September to allow the public to see what the Pregnancy Resource Center is all about.



### OUR BOARD

Byron Reese, Chair

Robert Cavo, Vice Chair

Doris Randig, Treasurer

Harry Zeplin, Secretary

Cindy Wehling

Catherine Krenzke

Cathy Johnson, Director

### MISSION STATEMENT

To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing for spiritual and physical needs of women and their unborn children. Because all human life is sacred, we exist to bring compassionate help and hope to women who are unprepared for pregnancy; to present abstinence as a positive lifestyle for singles; and to provide opportunity for healing and restoration through Jesus Christ to those who have been hurt by abortion.

## Volunteer training August 9

Volunteers for our new Center will be trained on Saturday, August 9, at our new building. The training will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

This training is for anyone who wants to serve in a volunteer capacity in the Center, whether answering the phone, folding newsletters, washing baby clothes, or counseling clients.

Catherine Krenzke, the former director of the Pregnancy Help Center of Williamson County will be the

leader for the training session. Each person will receive a volunteer manual and Catherine will be able to answer whatever questions you may have regarding being a volunteer.

Another training session will be offered in October and there will also be online training available.

Anyone who is interested in attending this training session is urged to contact Cathy Johnson at 352-1200 or [cathy@taylorprc.org](mailto:cathy@taylorprc.org).

Would you prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry, either as a financial supporter, a prayer partner, or a volunteer?

## *Wish list for our new Center*

- Fax machine
- Scanner
- Conference table and chairs
- Retail quality clothing racks
- 2 love seats
- 2 chairs (to go with love-seats)
- End tables
- Bookshelves
- TV tables
- 2 TVs
- 2 VCR/DVD combo players
- Shelving
- Brochure holder/display
- Dry erase board
- Wall decor
- Coffeemaker
- Stereo with CD changer
- Instrumental Christian music
- Plants
- \$ donations to purchase literature and videos



## **THANK YOU TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS!!**

**Bill and Sherry Biggs, Amber and Bobby**

**Ann Brueckner**

**Mike Brueckner**

**David and Cathy Johnson, Jennifer**

**Doris Randig**

**Byron Reese**

**Mike Townsend**

**Bo Wilson**

**Black and Cindy Wehling**

**Harry and Laura Zeplin, Jonathan**

**These dedicated people spent 150 man-hours sanding, painting, remodeling, and mowing. Thank you for all you've done. You are a God-send!**

**Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.  
I Corinthians 10:31**



## Thank you for supporting life!

Bigon Implement Co.

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First Mexican Baptist Church of Taylor

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Taylor Auto Credit

Taylor Brethren Church

Town West Church of Christ

Trinity Lutheran Church

Williamson Baptist Association

Zion Chapel Baptist Church

*Mark your calendar -*

### **Barbeque Dinner**

*Furnished by Catering by Mopsie*

**Tuesday, September 9**

**5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**American Legion Hall**

**Takeout only**

**Whole pecan pies will also be for sale**

**Proceeds to benefit Pregnancy Resource Center**

### **Save your stuff!**

The PRC will sponsor a yard sale next spring or summer to raise funds for the Center. You can help by beginning now to clean out your drawers and closets of any unwanted items. You can drop off donated items at the Center after August 11.



# TAYLOR PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

716 North Main Street  
PO Box 693  
Taylor, TX 76574

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**BEFORE I FORMED  
YOU IN THE WOMB I  
KNEW YOU, BEFORE  
YOU WERE BORN I  
SET YOU APART.**

**JEREMIAH 1:5**



# TAYLOR PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

## *From the Director . . .*

Two years ago when I met with a group of people to discuss the possibility of opening a pregnancy help center in Taylor, I never dreamed I would end up being the director for such a ministry! I confess that the prospect of directing this ministry often seems extremely daunting to me. Then I am reminded of God's faithfulness over these many months, and I know He will lead me as well!

It has been such a blessing to me to see how God has brought people and circumstances together over the last two years to work out His will. God has called out people at just the right time with just the right expertise to help this fledgling ministry on its way. It has been a privilege to hear people's stories of how God called them to this ministry of life. God has brought people from different walks of life, from different Christian denominations, with different gifts and talents, in order to achieve His purpose for a ministry to women in this community.

I want to thank the Board, which has spent countless hours in preparation for this Center; I want to thank all the many volunteers who have helped make the vision a reality. I want to thank those of you who have already expressed your call to this ministry; how encouraging that is!

I believe God has great things in store for the Taylor Pregnancy Resource Center. I don't think we can even begin to imagine all that God will do as a result of our obedience in this walk of faith.

*Cathy*

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

Read and approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Moved: **Judge Doerfler**

Seconded: **Commissioner Limmer**

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 12, 2003 meeting.

Vote: **5 - 0**

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

Hear County Auditor concerning invoices and bills submitted for payment and take appropriate action including, but not limited to approval for payment provided said items are found by the County Auditor to be legal obligations of the county.

Moved: **Commissioner Hays**

Seconded: **Judge Doerfler**

Motion: To authorize the payment of bills totaling **\$1,177,863.55** in computer printout from the proper line items, if found by the County Auditor to be legal expenses as appropriated in the 2002/2003 County Budget.

Vote: **5 - 0**

< Attachment >