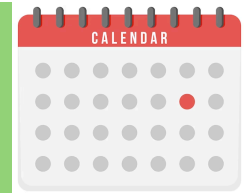


CWREC NEWSLETTER

The Quarterly Guide



Next Advisory Meeting

April 3, 2024

Town Hall - Know Your Rights



Help us plan the next town hall.

Welcome to the CWREC Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our organization's newsletter! As we embark on this exciting journey of communication and collaboration, we're thrilled to introduce you to a platform designed to foster connection, share insights, and celebrate the achievements within our vibrant CWREC community. Together, let's inspire, inform, and empower one another in our journey to liberation. Thank you for your dedication to our community's

Email CWREC@traviscountycps.com to contribute to future newsletters.

1

DATA SHARING

2

AWARENESS

3

CO-CREATING



CWREC Data Analysis & Mapping Report 2023

Co-Creating Shared Data

Over the last year, several collective efforts were executed to launch the newly published Child Welfare Race Equity Collaborative (CWREC) Data Analysis & Mapping Report. The CWREC Planning Committee teamed up with Partners, and the Strategy Committee which consists of majority BIPOC Grassroots Community Organizations and People impacted by the Child Welfare System to co-design the [CWREC Executive Summary](#). The CWREC Data Committee along with our partners at the United Way co-created the [Data Analysis Mapping Report](#). On October 2, 2023, CWREC shared a 2023 [PRESS RELEASE](#) and results with the community. A report like this has not been done in several years, much less with a process to include the collective wisdom and experiences of an ecosystem of people in various roles. The *Austin Monitor* reported on the finding. You can read the article [here](#).

These findings make it clear: we must continue daily efforts to promote equity and



support families in Travis County. We've analyzed the data, and now it's time for collective action. The Child Welfare Race Equity Collaborative is calling on our entire community, including government, businesses, nonprofits, faith-based groups, and individuals, to join hands.

"We're still healing from what the child welfare system did to our families. It's time for change."

NURTURING FREEDOM DREAMS OF JUSTICE, LIBERATION, & BELONGING

In August 2023, CWREC gathered with interested parties from across the state. We engaged in simulation, team building, and improv with the purpose of accelerating the meaning of "impact before outcome." [Mining for Gold](#) facilitated discovery, learning, playing, and moving in rhythm with one another so that we may move into transformational co-design and community organizing (the NEW way). We gathered to experience what is required for us to "nurture freedom dreams" of justice, liberation and belonging. Check out the [convening webpage](#).



CPS/CPI Policy

Policy Impacts Families

The 2023 Legislative session was one for the books. In addition to banning DEI on college campuses and continuing the attack on transgender youth, the Texas Legislature passed key laws impacting persons involved or potentially involved in the child welfare system. While there were multiple pieces of legislation, we want to highlight three of them here.

HB 730 Notification of Parental Rights

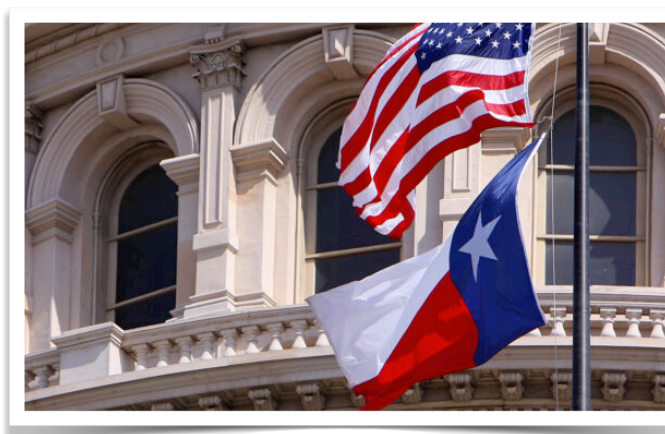
This bill requires DFPS to notify parents of their rights at the onset of the investigation.

HB 63 Anonymous Reporting

This bill eliminates anonymous reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect.

SB 2120 Legal Representation

This bill provides legal representation and services to parents who are impoverished and named in a suit filed by DFPS.



Resources

[Texas Youth Helpline](#)

[Office of Consumer Affairs Hotline](#)

[Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid Family Defense Project](#)

[Travis County Model Court](#)

DFPS Rider 33 Report on Racial Disparities

SXSW EDU 2023

In March 2023, CWREC members (Eloise Sepeda, Judge Aurora Martinez Jones, Tanya Rollins, and Cortney Jones) presented at SXSW EDU. They seized the opportunity to share their collective knowledge on the impact of the child welfare system on the national stage. Participants were reminded that **Black Families Matter**.

