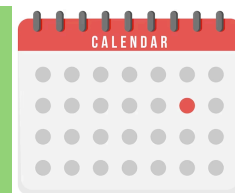


# CWREC NEWSLETTER

## The Quarterly Guide



### Upcoming Advisory Meeting

**6/5/24 & 8/21/24**

### Town Hall - Know Your Rights - DTBD

Help us plan the  
next town hall.



## Welcome to the CWREC Newsletter

Welcome to the May 2024 edition of our organization's newsletter! As we continue on this exciting journey of communication and collaboration, we're thrilled to use 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 well-being. Together, we can make a difference!

Email [CWREC@traviscountycps.com](mailto:CWREC@traviscountycps.com) to contribute to future newsletters.

**1**

**DATA SHARING**

**2**

**AWARENESS**

**3**

**CO-CREATING**

### Save the Date!

**CWREC 2nd  
Annual  
Statewide  
Convening**

**DTBD**

## The Travis County Child Welfare Outcome Brief

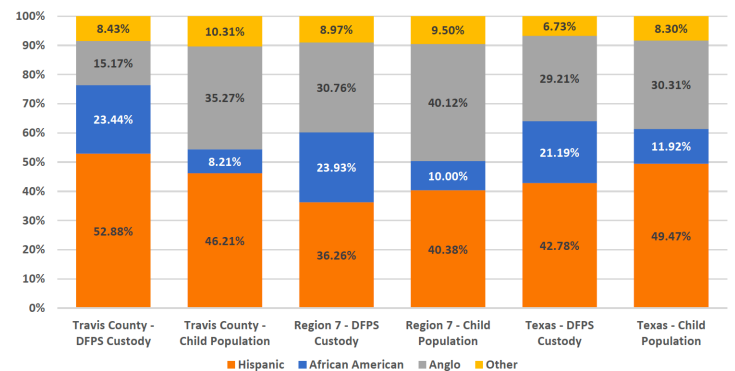
### Co-Creating Shared Data

The Travis County Model Court's Re-Imagining Child Welfare Pilot contracted with Dr. Mijin Choi, Texas State University School of Social Work, to evaluate child welfare outcomes in Travis County and compare outcomes to Region 7 and Texas. This evaluation consists of two parts and the first part was released in April 2024. "This research brief presents the child welfare outcomes in Travis County, Texas. It summarizes the safety and permanency indicators from the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS). Data includes a point-in-time review of process and outcome measures." The Travis County Child Welfare Outcome Brief found the following:

- Consistently, in Travis County, Region 7, and Texas overall, neglectful supervision accounts for the majority of both allegations and substantiations.
- The data utilized in this brief indicates that a substantial proportion of investigations and confirmed allegations involve cases related to family violence
- In Travis County, the percentage of relative substitute care was higher among the Hispanic and African American populations compared to others
- The data utilized in this brief indicates that African American children were overrepresented in substitute placement, signifying racial disproportionality

Figure 6

Percent of DFPS Custody Granted, by Race/ethnicity, FY 2022



## June is Family Reunification Month

The American Bar Association (ABA) Center on Children and the Law and other national partners created the National Reunification Month in 2010, in acknowledgement of the most desirable and positive legal permanency option for children.

In 2023, Aysha E. Schomburg, former ACF Associate Commissioner, wrote "In a perfect world every family would have what it needs, whether that is concrete supports such as housing and cash, or even access to culturally appropriate mental health services. In that same perfect world, all families would stay together safely and be supported by their extended families and communities...Whenever children are reunited with their families—their parents, siblings, tribes, communities—something in our world shifts and becomes a little less imperfect."

Read Associate Commissioners full remarks [here](#).

## REMOVALS ARE DOWN BUT DISPARITIES ARE NOT

***"Unfortunately, when we start weeding out cases that shouldn't have been involved in the system, the policing of families is still only happening in certain communities" ~ Judge Aurora Martinez Jones***

Judge Martinez Jones was recently interviewed for an [Imprint article](#). The article stated that "the state's systemic reforms have kept more families intact and fewer kids from entering foster care." Judge Martinez Jones reiterated the reality of families of color despite the reduction in removals. In 2023, Black children were 1.9 times more likely to be reported, 2.1 times more likely to be investigated and 1.8 times more likely to be removed than white children.



## May is Foster Care Awareness

### Awareness

Foster Care Awareness Month serves as a reminder of the thousands of children who navigate the complexities of the foster care system. It's a time to reflect on the challenges children and youth face and the support they need to thrive. However, amid the conversations about foster care, it's essential to address a critical issue often overlooked: the disparities deeply ingrained within this system. Let us also use the time to reflect on the fact that we live in a state and nation where y'all does not mean all. As we observe Foster Care Awareness Month, let us not only celebrate the resilience of children and youth in foster care but commit ourselves to addressing persistent systemic inequities. **President Biden's Foster Care Month Proclamation**

*"The impact of separating children from their families creates a much larger problem that isn't often considered by the Child Welfare System. The years of pain I endured as I struggled with finding my bio-brother... finally, after 40 years, that dream became my reality."*  
- Mosley Hobson, Former Foster Youth



## Resources

**[Texas Youth Helpline](#)**

**[Office of Consumer Affairs Hotline](#)**

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

**[Travis County Model Court](#)**

## CWREC IS SEEKING NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CWREC's mission is tied to our ability to co-create with people impacted by systems, the Travis County community, system employees, and other interested parties. To achieve this mission, CWREC is always seeking new members. The membership application will be released at our next meeting.

