

**The Dream Center has a DIRECTOR!**



**Elizabeth Esparza has taken on the roll of FJC Dream Center Director.**

Sharing in the vision of the Dream Center and the sustainability services it provides at the Family Justice Center, City Manager Sheryl Sculley, after touring the Center in April, made the decision to dedicate an additional staff position to the Family Justice Center. Elizabeth Esparza from the Department of Community Initiatives (DCI) joined the Family Justice Center team this month. We are thrilled to have her here!

Elizabeth is passionate about the purpose of the Dream Center - to help empower Survivors to choose a life free of abuse, become self-sufficient, and make dreams a reality. As a designated Field Instructor with the MSW program at UTSA, she will supervise students placed in the Dream Center who will also assist Survivors. Using her in depth knowledge on the sustainability services offered at the City's Department of Community Initiatives, Elizabeth will work to connect clients to programs and services ranging from basic needs to higher education and employment. Through a financial empowerment program established through a grant with Capital One Bank, Elizabeth will also oversee a program for Survivors who will receive one-on-one assistance in developing the basic money management skills needed to establish financial independence, then work towards obtaining assets such as a car, home or college education.

Elizabeth first joined the Department of Community Initiatives in 2000 to complete an internship and stayed on to work in various programs serving youth, families and the elderly. Currently, Elizabeth is support staff for the City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs and Chairperson of the DCI Diversity Council. Elizabeth holds a BSW (Bachelor of Social Work) from Texas Woman's University as well as a MSW from Southwest Texas State University. Currently the City provides a Crisis Response Team, a Child Therapist and now a Dream Center Director to the Center. Special thanks to the City of San Antonio for the continued commitment to the Family Justice Center.

**AGRILIFE STIRS THE POT at the FJC!**



**Connie Sheppard with AgriLife facilitates the weekly cooking classes.**

A nutritional cooking program at the FJC with moms and kids in the kitchen started this month and takes place every Thursday for the next ten weeks. The goal of the class is to establish positive rituals between parents and children over the course of a lifetime – who doesn't like to eat? Who doesn't have good memories of the aroma of your favorite dish when you walked in your mom or grandma's kitchen as a child or eating around the dinner table with your family? We hope to help our families here establish such rituals and learn to eat healthy too. Children under 5 can stay with grandma Sylvia in the Childcare room during meal prep, then join their moms when it is time to eat. All classes are

free, and participation certificates are provided. Staff and Partners can sign up for the classes too! If you are interested in attending these classes please contact Irene Longoria at (210) 208-6800.



**[WWW.BCFJC.ORG](http://WWW.BCFJC.ORG)**

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**July Training**

**JULY 23, 2010**  
**MARIA FALCON**  
 will present on  
**Suicide Assessment & Prevention: A simple model to assisting those in need.**

**11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**  
**FJC BOARD ROOM**  
**527 N. LEONA,**  
**2ND FLOOR, BLDG C**

**Convocation of Partners Meeting**  
**July 6th, 2010**

**UHC-Downtown Foundation Room**  
**527 N. Leona,**  
**3rd Floor, Bldg B**  
**9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.**

## TEXAS RIOGRANDE LEGAL AID AND THE FJC JOIN FORCES TO IMPROVE DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) met with the FJC Administrative team to review procedures for legal aid referrals and to discuss implementation of new procedures that will help improve the delivery of legal aid services to better assist victims of domestic violence.

In addition to developing a new model for referrals, the TRLA team met with Michael Maul, FJC IT Systems Program Manager, to discuss the implementation of this new model into our new client tracking system Efforts to Outcomes (ETO.)



**Pictured to the Left:**  
Kevin Dietz (TRLA) leads discussion with TRLA staff and FJC Staff about improving the delivery of legal services at FJC.



**Pictured to the Right:**  
Michael Maul, Kevin Dietz, Cheryl Gafford, Karen Bill, Bea Palacios, Joseph Resseureccion, and Tami Maldonado discuss the new referral model for legal services and ETO.

### TEEN CHALLENGE OF TEXAS PROVIDES FJC JUNE TRAINING

Representatives of Teen Challenge of Texas, Brittany Greer and Sarah Everett (Pictured Below), provided an informational training at the FJC. FJC Staff, Partners and Volunteers were educated on the programs and services available through Teen Challenge.

Teen Challenge began in 1958 in the heart of a young minister named David Wilkerson. Teen Challenge came to Texas in 1968 with the San Antonio campus (originally called the Westwood Center). Teen Challenge operates Adult & Family programs at seven campuses across the state. Their purpose is to provide adults and families with an effective and comprehensive Christian faith-based solution to life-controlling drug and alcohol problems in order for them to become productive members of society.



### SER SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM PROVIDES STAFFING HELP TO FJC

Workforce Solutions Alamo, operated by SER Jobs for Progress, Inc., has provided the FJC with four Office Technicians for a period of ten weeks from their Summer Employment Youth Program (SEYP).



**Along with Michael Maul (FJC Systems Program Manager) are SEYP employees: Brittaney Conaway, Destiny Long, Maurice Huntley, and Audra Olveda.**

They will work fulltime at the FJC helping with data entry as they upload 'paper' client files into our new electronic database ETO, helping to navigate clients around the center, and filling many other clerical needs of the center.

The SEYP program is designed to provide employment to youth between the ages of 20-24 to provide practical on the job training and instruction.

### BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**  
527 North Leona, Second Floor  
San Antonio, Texas 78207  
(210) 208-6800

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