



**The following provides additional information on innovative programs being implemented through the Travis County Juvenile Probation Department.**

**C.O.P.E.**  
**Collaborative Opportunities for Positive Experiences**

**COPE is a Deferred Prosecution Program:**

- Specialized mental health court for children in the juvenile justice system.
- Serves those children who have a mental health disorder that has contributed to the commission of a criminal offense.

**Mission of COPE:**

- Divert youth with specific mental health diagnoses from further involvement in the justice system
- Improve access to mental health services for juvenile offenders
- Facilitate collaboration between the juvenile justice and mental health systems
- Provide the youth with motivation, oversight, and accountability

**COPE is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance:**

- 2-year grant
- Amount of \$246,662
- Beginning September 1, 2006 to February 28, 2009
- Serve a total of 140 children during the grant period

**COPE CORE Team:**

- COPE Project Judge (Associate Judge John Hathaway)
- Travis County Assistant District Attorney
- Travis County Juvenile Public Defender
- COPE Coordinator

- 2-DPU Juvenile Probation Officers

**COPE Program Structure:**

- Juveniles are primarily referred to the program by the TCJPD Assessment Center, but also by probation officers, attorneys, and judges.
  - All youth receive a mental health assessment prior to admission to determine program appropriateness.
- A youth who is accepted into and enters the program participates in COPE for a minimum of 6 months (assuming compliance with the program) and a maximum of 1 year.
- A juvenile progresses through the program based on a level system with decreasing levels of supervision.
- In addition to supervision, juveniles in COPE also receive needed mental health services, such as psychiatric evaluation and individual and family therapy (in-home and out-of-home).

## **Special Needs Diversionary Program**

**TCOOMMI (Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments) is a special needs diversionary program for youth on probation.**

- TCOOMMI is a grant-funded intensive, home-based mental health program for juvenile offenders with mental health concerns.
- In conjunction with ATCMHMR, the program provides 4-6 months of intensive probation supervision along with in-home counseling services for youth diagnosed with a mental health disorder.
  - Individual and family counseling services in the family's home
  - Supervision by a juvenile probation officer
  - Three to five contacts with the child and family per week, including 2 in the home
  - Access to psychiatric services
  - Assistance obtaining other services through schools and other agencies
- The purpose of the program is to stabilize youth and connect them with community resources in order to divert them from residential placement.