

Resolution

ORDER NO. 2014-1299

DATE: September 23, 2014

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §



BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 23rd day of September, 2014, on a motion made by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner for District 4 and seconded by John Wiley Price, Commissioner for District 3, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the general purpose of the Dallas County Child Welfare Board is to work with the local office and lead program director of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), known as Child Protective Services (CPS), to help provide coordinated state and local public welfare services for children and their families and coordinated use of federal, state and local funds for these services; and

WHEREAS, foster children experience situations that no child should have to encounter and continue to face many challenges in life, including low self-esteem, behavior problems, low expectations, and inadequate life-skills training, and ultimately the difficult transition from state care into adulthood at age 18; and

WHEREAS, the Dallas County Child Welfare Board, in collaboration with CPS, coordinated and sought out donors and volunteers to make the CPS Visitation Room Project possible. The idea for the project was originated by Angela Rivers, DFPS Community Coordinator, back in October of 2012. The first room was refurbished in October 2013 and the last room was refurbished and final touch ups were made to all of the rooms in September 2014; and

WHEREAS, the CPS Visitation Room Project consisted of refurbishing the 24 visitation rooms located in the CPS office on Stemmons Freeway in Dallas. The work included painting and refreshing each room with colorful and cheerful murals and providing sturdy, age-appropriate furniture for young children, youth and parents. Educational toys and books were also supplied based on the theme of the room; and

WHEREAS, the object of the program is to provide a calming, cheerful environment for children and youth in foster care while visiting with their parents. Studies have revealed that experiences are enhanced by color, whether positively or negatively. Changing a person's environment using color can change their outlook on the circumstance dramatically; and

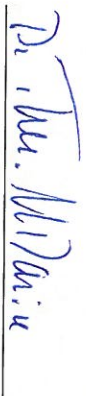
WHEREAS, approximately 250 children enter foster care each month in Dallas County, a total of 3,000 per year. The project will serve approximately 900 children of all ages and 700 parents each week with an annual total of over 46,000 children visits and 36,000 parents visits; and

WHEREAS, the completion of this project would not have been possible without Ms. Rivers and the assistance of the Dallas County Child Welfare Board, DFPS, elected officials, non-profit organizations, businesses, clubs, community groups, churches, and individuals who donated time and money;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize and appreciate the Dallas County Child Welfare Board, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services staff, donors and volunteers for making the CPS Visitation Room Project a great success and creating a warm and comforting atmosphere for the children and their families.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 23rd day of September 2014.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Mike Cantrell, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4