

TACFS Director of Research and Policy

The Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS) is a nonprofit, statewide organization that supports foster care, child protection, adoption and family service providers. Our members contract with the State to provide high quality services and foster care to children and families.

Need: TACFS members represent the majority of capacity for children in foster care. As a member of TACFS, they're able to stay connected to the changing landscape, develop relationships to expand their networks, and information about the State's need and requirements.

TACFS sees a need for a full-time position with TACFS with expertise in research, data and policy development. With this position, TACFS will be better positioned to support members in elevating their foster care programming and growing capacity with a position dedicated to research, data and policy. This position will elevate advocacy efforts and allow TACFS to be targeted in advancing provider's ability to meet the State's foster care and other services need.

And, this position can support members through research of best practices to meet the needs of the growing number of children requiring specialized kinds of care, such as child sex trafficking or IDD populations.

Position responsibilities could include:

- Gather and analyze data on child welfare programs, best practices and research that can help TACFS members plan in a more strategic way.
- Oversee the partnership with UT School of Social Work to track the Legislature's investment (funding) for foster care so that we can demonstrate the value of investing in foster care services.
- Establish a baseline of current TACFS member programs to identify where there may be gaps and how TACFS can help support filling those gaps in services/capacity.
- Access and monitor national and state data to identify trends and to assess the impact on TACFS members and partners.
- Use information gathered to help with business and capacity planning, identify opportunities for technical assistance for members
- Tap into national best practices, resources, what is working in other States, compile and share with TACFS members as appropriate
- Help TACFS members understand CPS Capacity Needs Assessment and provide TA to members, based on needs assessment and national trend information
- Prepare policy papers identifying public policy issues, their impact on serving children
- Identify opportunities for trainings such as: furthering trauma-informed care within an organization, transitioning to serving higher needs children, and connecting caregivers with Medicaid services to stabilize placement and support caregivers in caring for higher needs children.
- Identify and seek grant opportunities to support the work of TACFS.

- Participate and support advocacy efforts – including stakeholder and partner meetings, Legislative events and meetings, and other communication opportunities.
- Represent the Executive Director as needed with TACFS events and meetings

TACFS feels a sense of obligation to help support the State's great need for high quality services for children in foster care and their families. With a position dedicated to identifying through research and policy, the opportunities to support members, we believe we can advance our ability to grow capacity and enhance quality.

Interested applicants may contact: kolse@tacfs.org with their resume, including educational background.