



**COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

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**Grant to fund new county juvenile intervention center**

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*NEW BRAUNFELS* — A \$75,000 state grant will allow the Comal County Juvenile Probation Office to open a new intervention center aimed at preventing truancy in New Braunfels.

The New Braunfels Intervention Center will be the first of its kind in the city. It will provide tutoring, homework assistance, cognitive and life-skill training, individual therapy, and parental training for children ages 12-17 and their families.

“This is a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to keep kids in school and away from the influences that could lead them down the wrong path,” said Kris Johnson, chief juvenile probation officer for Comal County. “By helping them now, we hope to keep them from needing our help later.”

The center will be similar in scope to the Canyon Lake Evening Reporting Center, which provides many of the same services to juveniles who have been prosecuted or are awaiting prosecution. The New Braunfels facility will serve those who have been referred by their school because of attendance problems or who have been cited for status offenses – activities that are illegal because of the child’s age, such as drinking or smoking.

The two centers are part of a larger effort by Juvenile Probation to offer programs that aim to reduce juvenile detention and recidivism, including equine therapy and even fishing lessons.

“If we can change the course of a child’s life without locking them up, we prefer to do that,” Johnson said. “Even if a juvenile does require detention, the services and programs we offer help them make different choices when they are released.”

The New Braunfels Intervention Center will be an evening-reporting facility housed in the Head Start offices on West San Antonio Street, across from Lone Star Elementary School. It is expected to open in January with a 16-person capacity.

The grant to establish the NBIC comes from the Texas Criminal Justice Planning Fund, which is collected from court costs and fees paid by defendants; it will help pay for programming in the center, while the county will pay for two employees to staff it.

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