



Laura Hinojosa

Hidalgo County *District Clerk*

New Work Habits...A New Attitude

On July 8th and 9th the district clerk office hosted Nancy Baird, M.Ed., of Training Strategies, Inc., who presented "New Work Habits, A New Attitude," a training designed to change the way people think. Our office was first introduced to Nancy at a Law Enforcement Conference in Galveston, Texas. Those in attendance were completely taken by the workshop which proved to be energetic, uplifting and empowering. Soon there after, we were able to utilize Nancy's training skills in facilitating a strategic planning retreat and then invited her back to conduct this creative management training/team building workshop.

The focus of our session centered around one question: Why do some people, who face all of the problems associated with working with people, tackle their work with enthusiasm, energy, and optimism? Its no secret that there exists many "optimists" who are un-phased by the "bureaucratic hassles," "organizational changes," "co-worker dramas," "shrinking resources," and "increasing workload." Yet these "leaders" are able to perform their work successfully with creative, realistic goals, while at the same time influencing others to maximize productivity.

Through this training we hope to empower our staff to become leaders who have the ability to look at the same thing as everyone else and see something different – to see the possibilities. Leaders that are able to manage conflict with win-win solutions and easily adapt to change. Furthermore, we hope that by defining and incorporating dynamic leadership qualities our staff will increase personal and organizational productivity . We look forward to utilizing our identified positive attitude strategies for the accomplishment of our personal and professional goals in the future.



HB2730

Establishment of Local Data Advisory Board



In accordance with HB 2730, Article 21, the commissioners court of any Texas county that has an average disposition completeness percentage, including both juvenile and adult dispositions, of less than 90 percent will be required to establish a local data advisory board no later than November 1, 2009.

This data advisory board will include: the sheriff of the county or designee; an attorney who represents the state in the county courts and district courts of the county; the clerk for the district courts of the county or designee; the clerk for the county courts or designee; the police chief of the municipality with the greatest population; and a representative of the county's automated data processing services or entity with whom the county contract with for automated data processing services.

The board will be responsible for implementing a data reporting improvement plan that will insure the improvement of the county's disposition completeness percentage and will include a strategy by which the county will permanently maintain that percentage above the required amount.

The district clerk office in conjunction with the Texas Department of Public Safety has coordinated a Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Regional Meeting for October 20, 2009 at the Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Conference Room. The regional meeting is intended to assist counties in complying with HB 2730 and providing technical assistance in generating the data reporting improvement plan. The Counties of Willacy, Cameron, Starr, Zapata, Jim Wells, Jim Hogg, Brooks and Webb were invited to attend.

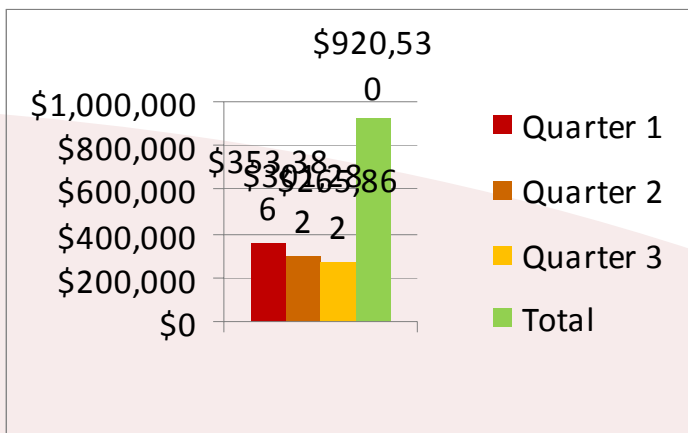
Texas AG — Child Support Division



The Office of the Attorney General of Texas, Region 3 Child Support Division, is proud to announce this year's total collection of \$82,906,088.69 in child support payments on cases with Hidalgo County court orders. Child support collections in 2008 totaled \$75,451,659.31.

The district clerk office is pleased to play a role in this achievement and looks forward to our continued collaboration in supporting children and families in the County of Hidalgo.

Collections



District Clerk Collection Specialists assist in maximizing the collection of court costs, fines, fees, and outstanding balances under the direction and supervision of the County Clerk's Office.

In 2008 they collected a total of \$1,294,001 and anticipate exceeding those in 2009.

Thus far, collections specialists have totaled \$920,930 through the third quarter.

Odyssey: District Clerk Office Goes Live



The district clerk office has gone live on Odyssey with its Master Courts. The courts & justice management software is a product of Tyler Technologies, a government based solutions company providing technical solutions exclusively to the public sector. Odyssey, an upgrade of the software previously known as AbleTerm, will help to organize and integrate a document management system that is supposed to be secure and easy to use. Other capabilities of the new Odyssey software include the ability to track cases from filing through disposition, automatically create court-generated documents, utilize integrated calendaring and scheduling, automatically download court sessions to a third-party calendaring system and synchronize with your personal digital assistant (PDA), configure table-driven financial assessments and integrated cashing for a variety of financial transactions, track bond, warrant and protective order statutes, and generates appeal records from imaged documents. The district clerk office, under the direction of the IT Department and Tyler Technologies, will proceed with the software's full implementation once all technical and logistical issues have been addressed to ensure uninterrupted services.

The district clerk office, under the direction of the IT Department and Tyler Technologies, will proceed with the software's full implementation once all technical and logistical issues have been addressed to ensure uninterrupted services.

Passport Update



As of June 1, 2009 U.S. citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry are required to present a passport, passport card, or other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security, as part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative's efforts for strengthening U.S. border security and providing quick and reliable identification of travelers. Since becoming a designated Passport Acceptance Facility in February 2009, the district clerk office has processed a total of 9,464 passport applications and has collected approximately \$274,230 in passport fees for the county.

In an effort to better serve the community, the district clerk office will host its final passport fair of the year on Saturday, November 7th from 9am till 2pm on the first floor of the county courthouse in Edinburg. We encourage the public to join us at the fair to process their applications. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 956.318.2200 ext. 6270. Passport information is also available at www.travel.state.gov.

Blues for Bucks



The Blues for Bucks Workplace Fundraising Campaign allows district clerk department staff to wear jeans on Friday in exchange for a \$5 donation to benefit local charitable organizations. This quarter, proceeds will go to the Upper Valley Humane Society, Palm Valley Animal Center in Edinburg. Palm Valley Animal Center is a private, non-profit, open-door animal welfare agency

serving the needs of animals, pet owners and the community at large. As the only Animal Shelter serving Hidalgo County, more than 40,000 animals enter Palm Valley Animal Center's doors annually, making it one of the largest sheltering operations in Texas. The district clerk office most previously presented a \$3000 check to the American Diabetes Association.

Contact Information

Laura Hinojosa

Hidalgo County District Clerk

PO Box 87

Edinburg, Texas 78540

p: 956.318.2200

f: 956.318.2251

e: districtclerk@co.hidalgo.tx.us

We encourage your honest assessment of our services as we continue to evolve and improve through your valuable input. Our team of outstanding and hardworking individuals is ready to assist you as it is our priority to provide exemplary service while preserving and maintaining the records of the Hidalgo County Judicial System. Please contact our office if you have any questions or require additional information.

You can also visit www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/districtclerk

Office Hours

Monday—Friday

7:30am—5:30pm

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities every October to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention and cure. The campaign also offers information and support to those affected by breast cancer, as well reminding women and men to be breast aware for earlier detection. In recognition of Breast

Cancer Awareness Month, the district clerk office and other departments throughout the county, hosted nurses from Doctors Hospital at Renaissance who provided education and literature on the important issue. Additionally, district clerk staff showed their support by wearing pink ribbon shirts every Friday for the month of October.

District Clerk Conservation Efforts



In conjunction with the county's efforts, the district clerk office introduces its eco-friendly practices in the workplace. They consist of simple but important measures that can reduce the amount of energy and wasted recyclables used in the office.

- Closing written procedures require staff to shut down all computers, monitors, lights and electrical equipment at their stations, in addition to placing all copiers/printers on "energy saver" mode.
- Written policy requires district clerk staff to utilize technology as the principle form of communication in an effort to reduce the amount of paper used in day to day operations. Memos, notices and faxes are now processed and circulated electronically. Furthermore, the district clerk office has launched a pilot "electronic copy service" which allows law offices and potentially other petitioners to request copies via email.
- District clerk office ensures appropriate recycling of toner/ink cartridges and all paper products.

