**Shandra Carter – Executive Director**

Shandra Carter was named the Executive Director of TJJD in December 2022. Prior to that she served as TJJD’s Interim Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for State Services. An accomplished professional with over 25 years of experience in corrections and juvenile residential care, she has dedicated her career to promoting public safety and specialized in child development, abuse and neglect, and sexual violence treatment. During her tenure at TJJD, Shandra has championed the implementation of the Texas Model, collaborated with county probation chiefs at an unprecedented level to create a unified juvenile justice system, and has worked with legislators to increase critical staff salaries and begin the process of building two new TJJD secure facilities. Shandra brings a wealth of knowledge to the agency and in 2021 she was named the Texas female agency leader of the year. She is a sought-after speaker at national and international conferences focusing on trauma-informed care and  rehabilitative services for Texas’ youth.

Originally from Montana, Shandra earned her bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Law, Societies & Justice from the University of Washington. She went on to earn her master’s degree in Social Work at Eastern Washington University. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker Supervisor in Texas, as well as a Licensed Childcare Administrator.

When not on the job, Carter enjoys spending time with her husband, trying to keep up with her energetic teenager, and playing with the family’s four dogs.