

Jennifer Erschabek retired from the Texas Department of State Health Services after more than 29 years of service. She worked in the fields of laboratory science, computer technology and training, public health research, and program and grant management. In the 6 years before she retired she worked in emergency preparedness doing disaster planning for bioterrorism, hurricane and natural disasters, and pandemic flu. She contributed to federal grant applications for emergency preparedness, hospital preparedness and Biowatch. Jennifer developed grant processes and approved grant applications for Texas local communities and councils of governments, being a part of the facilitation, approval and auditing process. Her most memorable event was being one of the co-managers of the ESF 8 Emergency Operations Center during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Jennifer is a lifetime student and has earned a BS from Abilene Christian University with a focus in microbiology, chemistry and computer science. She started her graduate work at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Galveston and later transferred Texas State University. There she studied program development and management, public health research and statistics.

Jennifer Erschabek has been involved with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for the last 12 years as a mother of an offender. She has been a member of TIFA on and off since 2002. She has served on several boards, including the TIFA board and has been the Executive Director of TIFA since Nov 2012. Her experience in state government has helped her negotiate the large TDCJ agency and helped her to organize TIFA's statewide operations into regions and grow the association. Her networking and facilitation skills have strengthened relationships between TIFA and other criminal justice advocates. Her goal is to bring the families involved with the Texas criminal justice system out of the shadows and give them the voice that they deserve. Jennifer is a native Austinite, is married to Robert Erschabek, has 3 children and 6 grandchildren.