



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

DFPS Rider 29 Report on Community-Based Care Implementation Status

April 2020

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Introduction

As required by the General Appropriations Act, 86th Texas Legislature, DFPS Rider 29, DFPS shall provide status reports on the implementation of Community-Based Care (CBC) Stage I into Regions 1 and 8b and CBC Stage II in Regions 3b, 2, and 8a. Status reports shall be provided on October 1st and April 1st of each year to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor.

Background

Community-Based Care (CBC) changes the way DFPS procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under CBC, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated geographic catchment area. In Stage I, this Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) is responsible for ensuring the full continuum of paid foster care placements and other services for children in the state's legal conservatorship. In Stage II, the SSCC expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements, services to parents, and the SSCC has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. The model requires competitive procurement of performance-based SSCC contracts with financial incentives and disincentives for permanency outcomes and additional performance measures for child safety and well-being.

Implementation Update

Update for Region 3b

The 3b catchment area is comprised of Tarrant, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell counties in DFPS Region 3W. DFPS executed an SSCC contract with ACH Child and Family Services (ACH) on January 1, 2014. As the SSCC, ACH formed Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) and began placing children on September 1, 2014.

As of February 2020, approximately 1,200 children and youth in foster care were receiving services through the OCOK continuum of care in Stage I. In stage I, OCOK successfully expanded the local network of foster care services to meet children's needs closer to home. This included developing more placements for youth with complex needs in foster homes, placing more children in foster homes within 50 miles, and keeping sibling groups together in foster care. For more information, see the DFPS Rider 15 report.

On September 1, 2018, DFPS renewed its contract with OCOK to continue services under stage I (foster care and services for children) and added requirements for stage II community-based care and transition of kinship and legal case management services. DFPS and OCOK formally

announced start-up for stage II in October 2019 and developed an implementation plan to accomplish transition activities related to communications, human resources (staff and case transitions), technology, purchased client services, policy, training and performance / quality assurance. DFPS formally certified readiness on February 27, 2020.

On March 1, 2020, OCOK assumed responsibility for all substitute care services to children and families in the 3b catchment area. This represents approximately 1,860 children in state conservatorship in the 7 counties.

Update for Region 2

DFPS awarded a contract to Texas Family Initiative, LLC to serve as the SSCC for the Region 2 catchment area in May 2018. Texas Family Initiative formed a partnership with New Horizons Ranch and Center Inc., and created 2INGage. On December 1, 2018, 2INGage began accepting placement referrals for children new to DFPS conservatorship and those requiring a subsequent placement. Over the next six months, DFPS transferred existing placements for children and youth already in foster care into the new system. As of March 2020, approximately 750 children and youth receive services through the 2INGage continuum of care. DFPS and 2INGage formally announced the beginning of the six-month start-up period for stage II in December 2019. DFPS and 2INGage established a formal transition work plan and initiated transition workgroups and activities. Stage II implementation is anticipated in June 2020.

Update for Region 8a

The Region 8a catchment area includes all of Bexar County. DFPS awarded a contract to The Children's Shelter in San Antonio to serve as the SSCC for the Region 8a catchment area in August 2018. The Children's Shelter created Family Tapestry, which began accepting placement referrals for children new to DFPS conservatorship and those requiring a subsequent placement on February 1, 2019. Over the following six months, DFPS transferred existing placements for children and youth already in foster care into the new system. As of March 2020, approximately 1,720 children and youth receive services through the Family Tapestry continuum of care.

In October 2019, DFPS conducted an on-site monitoring of The Children's Shelter and noted concerns with the SSCC's fiscal management processes and system, which were also cited in the organizations recent single audit. The Children's Shelter submitted a plan to correct identified issues and the department has been monitoring progress with the implementation of the needed systems controls and improvement. The Children's Shelter is working toward resolution and has indicated that by May 2020 they will have refined fiscal management processes and systems fully in place, at which point DFPS will verify through on site monitoring. The Children's Shelter leadership has indicated, and the department agrees, that until this is in place, negotiations to begin Stage II implementation in 8a cannot occur.

Update for Region 1

DFPS awarded a contract to St. Francis Community Services in Texas, Inc. to serve as the SSCC for the Region 1 catchment area on July 1, 2019. Following a six-month start up period, DFPS certified readiness and St. Francis began accepting placement referrals for children new to DFPS conservatorship and those requiring a subsequent placement on January 6, 2020. Over the next few months, DFPS will continue to transfer existing placements for children and youth already in foster care into the new system. As of March 2020, approximately 740 children and youth were receiving services through the St. Francis continuum of care.

Update for Region 8b

The Region 8b catchment area is made up of all counties in DFPS Region 8 excluding Bexar County. DFPS released a Request for Application for the Region 8b catchment area on May 2, 2019. The procurement closed on August 2, 2019. DFPS anticipates a contract announcement in Spring 2020. Stage I implementation is anticipated to begin in early fall 2020, following a six-month start-up period.

Conclusion

DFPS and stakeholder partners continue to work diligently to implement Community-Based Care in the five current catchment areas and to lay the foundation for a successful statewide rollout. View the latest [CBC Implementation Plan](#) for additional details. DFPS has begun adapting its organization to support both implementation and ongoing oversight as more sites begin to provide services. DFPS is committed to transparency and will continue to meet legislated requirements for sharing implementation plans, implementation updates, and performance data.

