



DFPS Rider 15 Report for Community-Based Care

Office of Community-Based Care Transition

March 2024

Table of Contents

- Introduction 1
- Background..... 1
- Using the Rider 15 Report to Assess Performance 3
 - Report Sections 3
 - Performance Populations 3
 - Limitations of SSCC Performance Data in the Transition from Stage I Start-up to Full Post-Transition Stage II 5
- State of the Community-Based Care System..... 5
 - Implementation Status..... 5
 - Current Trends and Impact to Legacy and Community-Based Care Systems..... 5
 - Foster Care Capacity (Stage I Objective – Section B)..... 6
 - Permanency (Stage II Objective - Sections A and C) 7
 - Saint Francis Community Services Inc. – Panhandle 7
 - 2INgage – Big Country & Texoma 9
 - Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) – Metroplex West 11
 - EMPOWER- Metroplex East..... 13
 - 4Kids4Families- Piney Woods..... 13
 - Texas Family Care Network (TFCN)- Deep East..... 13
 - Belong- South Central & Hill Country 14
- Appendix A: Current Community-Based Care Community Areas 16
- Appendix B: Limitations of SSCC Performance for Stage I and Post-Transition to Stage II..... 17
 - Stage I Transition..... 17
 - Post-Transition to Stage II 18

Introduction

As required by the General Appropriations Act, 88th Texas Legislature, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Rider 15, the agency shall, on March 31st and September 30th of each year of the biennium, "report selected performance measures identified by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) that will allow for comparative analysis between the Legacy foster care and the Community-Based Care (CBC) systems." The report "shall contain the most recent data for the selected comparative performance measures, an analysis of the data that identifies trends and related impact occurring in the Community-Based Care system, identification and analysis of factors negatively impacting any outcomes, recommendations to address problems identified from the data, and any other information necessary to determine the status of the Community-Based Care system." The Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) collaborates with DFPS to complete this report.

Background

CBC changes how DFPS procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based contract, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community area. In Stage I, the 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. SSCCs also support adoption recruitment, matching, and home studies. In Stage II, the SSCC expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements and services to parents, and the SSCC has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. In Stage III, the SSCC continues the provision of all Stage I and II services and DFPS is statutorily authorized to provide SSCCs with financial incentives or remedies for permanency outcomes.

The OCBCT and DFPS continue to work with the Center for Child Welfare Data, affiliated with Chapin Hall of the University of Chicago, to support the SSCC outcome evaluation. Chapin Hall provides independent data analysis of each SSCC's performance on placements within 50 miles and paid foster care days, the latter of which is the basis for the fiscal model and incentive payments in Stage III. Chapin Hall, DFPS, and the OCBCT have finalized the Stage III parameters to move eligible SSCCs into Stage III.

The CBC Quality Indicators, often referred to as guiding principles and developed by the DFPS Public Private Partnership (PPP), provides a shared vision for quality services and outcomes under CBC. The achievement of quality indicators is the first major deliverable in the SSCC contract and guides the performance-based contract. CBC contract performance measures reported in Sections B and C of the Appendices align to the quality indicators, where aggregate

data is available in DFPS' automated case management data system, IMPACT (Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas), for measurement. CBC contract performance measures are not a part of the outcome evaluation contracted out to the Center for Child Welfare Data.

DFPS and OCBCT host multiple implementation calls and coordination meetings with SSCCs to address issues and challenges and provide support. In addition, Regional DFPS Case Management Oversight and Technical Assistance staff perform case reads to oversee critical case activity during early implementation and offer technical assistance. DFPS and OCBCT recognize that some slow-down in case activity and documentation may temporarily occur with workforce changes and the potential for a more significant proportion of the workforce made up of new hires early on, dependent on the ability to attract and retain DFPS staff. This stabilizing period is needed as SSCCs devote resources to improving outcomes.

DFPS and OCBCT assess contract performance measures quarterly as part of formal contract monitoring and a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. Through this process, DFPS, OCBCT, and each SSCC review performance measure results each quarter, along with other data used to identify potential trends and performance drivers. Performance drivers may include changes to the population of children, trends specific to those populations, placement utilization practices, and other data. The CQI process enables DFPS and OCBCT to understand the significance of performance measure trends and assess the strategies each SSCC has in place to maintain or improve performance. Whenever DFPS and the OCBCT identifies performance concerns or compliance issues, the Department will intervene as indicated in the contract progressive intervention process, which includes a range of required actions the SSCC will take to reverse the trend or address the area of non-compliance. The progressive intervention plan for the SSCCs can be found in the [Annual CBC Implementation Plan](#), which is released at the end of each calendar year.

Over the course of fiscal year 2023, a workgroup comprised of DFPS and OCBCT reviewed each performance measure and discussed methodological enhancements to existing SSCC performance measures, the creation of new ones, and the removal of less effective ones to the stated goals of CBC. In addition, the workgroup clarified and standardized compliance thresholds for each performance metric that will support when progressive interventions may be necessary. These enhancements were presented to the SSCCs and were effective beginning fiscal year 2024.

Using the Rider 15 Report to Assess Performance

Report Sections

The Rider 15 Attachment reports three sets of performance data:

- **Section A** of the Attachment includes select Legislative Budget Board (LBB) agency performance measures for children in DFPS conservatorship. For designated community areas in Stage II of CBC, Section A shows how SSCCs perform on DFPS measures. Performance calculations for Stage I communities include both children in foster care served by the SSCCs in Stage I and children served in substitute care settings, like kinship, not served by the SSCC, except where the measure specifically references only children in foster care. For these areas, case management services remained a function of DFPS. The measures are intended to show outcomes of case management activity but are not performance measures for SSCC contracts.
- **Section B** includes CBC contract performance measures that apply to children in foster care. For SSCCs in Stage I, performance is limited to children in SSCC-contracted foster care placements. For SSCCs in Stage II, performance measures include all children from the community in foster care, whether the contract is in the SSCC network or with a legacy provider.
- **Section C** reports CBC contract performance measures that are specific to Stage II, applying to all children in conservatorship for designated community areas.
- **Sections D-F** reports Community-Based Care actual and projected expenditures for prior and current fiscal years, as the Rider 15 Report also requires.

Performance Populations

The format identified by the LBB for reporting data supports comparative analysis of performance trends for the state as a whole, non-CBC communities (also known as legacy), and individual SSCCs.

DFPS defines performance populations as follows:

- **Statewide Population** - The statewide population reports the performance of the entire state population of children. In Section B, the statewide population is limited to children in paid foster care settings. "SSCC Eligible" placements are foster care placements that would be within the scope of an SSCC contract in Stage I. In Section C, all children and placements for children in Conservatorship are counted.
- **Statewide Legacy Population** - The statewide "Non-CBC" population reports the aggregated performance for community areas where CBC has not been implemented.

Again, Section B is narrowed to children in “Non-CBC” communities in “SSCC Eligible” foster care placements, as described in the bullet point above.

- **Community SSCC Population (Section B)** – The community “SSCC” population reports the performance for each SSCC individually for children in paid foster care settings. SSCC performance in Stage I reflects a partially-transitioned population of children. The performance, therefore, cannot be compared to the historical performance of all eligible children in the community over a full fiscal year (eligible population).
- **Community - Eligible Population (Section B)** – The eligible population reports the performance for children in paid foster care settings identified as “SSCC Eligible” in the community prior to implementation. During the transition, the eligible population reports performance for children not yet transferred to the SSCC. During transition, this population should be reviewed with the lens of how it could affect future SSCC performance once these children are transferred to the SSCC. Ongoing after transition to Stage II, the eligible population includes the small population of children not transferred, such as children in adoptive homes or placed with out-of-area providers who opted not to contract with the SSCC. The performance of this small number of remaining children should no longer be compared to historical performance.
- **Community Population (Sections A and C)** The community population reports the performance for children in conservatorship in both foster care and relative/kinship placements and other “substitute care” settings. It is applicable for SSCCs who have fully implemented Stage II of CBC. The community population shows the historical performance, performance during the fiscal year in which the SSCC transitioned to Stage II, and ongoing performance. For Section C, SSCC performance in the transition year of Stage II reflects shared performance with DFPS since all measures are calculated year to date.

As CBC progresses through staged implementation, the data can be used to help inform the following questions.

1. **Are there statewide changes which could also affect SSCC performance?** Examine trends over time in statewide performance. If there are trends upward or downward across the state, this may point to statewide factors influencing performance.
2. **How is the CBC system performing over time?** Over time, compare SSCC performance to the performance of the “Non-CBC” population. If the SSCC designated community areas are improving more than the legacy catchment areas, the changes made to the foster care system under CBC may be effective.
3. **How is a particular SSCC performing over time?** Compare individual SSCC performance across fiscal years. Improvement may take time as services are transitioned to each SSCC, and the SSCC works to build the network of services in the area.

4. **Are some SSCCs performing better than others?** Compare SSCC performance one to another. While each area has unique strengths and challenges, if a specific SSCC is improving outcomes compared to historical performance at a faster rate, the strategies implemented by the SSCC may be more effective.

Limitations of SSCC Performance Data in the Transition from Stage I Start-up to Full Post-Transition Stage II

Performance data reported for SSCCs before most of the children in foster care are transferred has several significant limitations. These limitations are explained in Appendix B: “Limitations of SSCC Performance for Stage I and Post-Transition to Stage II.” The below data is reported only for SSCCs where the current fiscal year data year to date reflects the performance of just the SSCC.

State of the Community-Based Care System

Implementation Status

DFPS and OCBCT are working toward full implementation of CBC statewide. DFPS and OCBCT have implemented CBC in seven community areas. The current Stage I SSCCs are Arrow Child and Family Ministries and their SSCC division, 4Kids4Families, in Piney Woods and Pressley Ridge and their SSCC division, Texas Family Care Network (TFCN), in Deep East. The Stage II SSCCs are Saint Francis Community Services Inc (SFCS) and their SSCC division, Saint Francis Community Services, Inc, in the Panhandle, Texas Family Initiative (TFI) and their SSCC division, 2INgage, in Big Country and Texoma, ACH and their SSCC division, Our Community Our Kids (OCOK), in Metroplex West, Texas Family Initiative (TFI) and their SSCC division, EMPOWER, in Metroplex East, and St. Jude’s Ranch for Children (SJRC) Texas and their SSCC division, Belong, in South Central and Hill Country. See Appendix A for a map of the CBC community areas.

Current Trends and Impact to Legacy and Community-Based Care Systems

An important factor in assessing the performance of individual SSCCs is the time each has had to complete the transition process and to establish innovative change strategies to improve performance over historical trends. The first fiscal years post-transition to Stage II, where the SSCC alone provides all services (as opposed to shared DFPS-SSCC service provision in the data) are summarized below.

First Fiscal Year of Non-Shared Performance

Community	Stage II Start	Fiscal Year of 1 st Non-Shared Performance
Metroplex West (OCOK)	FY20 Q3*	FY21
Big Country and Texoma (2INgage)	FY20 Q4*	FY21
Panhandle (Saint Francis)	FY22 Q3	FY23
South Central and Hill Country (Belong)	FY23 Q1	FY23
Metroplex East (EMPOWER)	FY24 Q3**	FY25**
Piney Woods (4Kids4Families)	FY24 Q3**	FY25**
Deep East (TFCN)	FY24 Q3**	FY25**

* Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

** Stage II Start and First Fiscal Year Post Transition are estimated on this report

Given that the data for fiscal year 2024 quarter 1 does not reflect fully transitioned performance in Stage II for EMPOWER, 4Kids4Families, TFCN, and OCOK’s three northern counties of Denton, Cooke and Wise, their data is exempt from the below summaries as they are not comparable to any of the current comparison populations.

Foster Care Capacity (Stage I Objective – Section B)¹

The performance indicator most reflecting the foster care capacity challenge is the percentage of children placed close to home, defined in the metric as within 50 miles of removal. The percentage of children placed close to home increased by 1.0% compared to FY23 for the state as a whole. It has increased for two of the four CBC regions in FY24 Q1 compared to FY23.

The ability to place siblings in foster care together is another area impacted by system-wide foster care capacity challenges. No SSCC providers show performance improvements in keeping siblings together. Statewide Non-CBC areas have decreased by 2.5% in FY24 Q1 compared to FY23.

Statewide, children are spending fewer placement days in a home setting. All CBC regions saw a decrease in children placed in home settings in the most recent Fiscal Year (FY). Statewide Non-CBC areas have decreased by 0.5% in FY24 Q1 compared to FY23.

All safety performance below 100% is an area to target for improvement. Safety has increased statewide by 0.2% in FY24 Q1 compared to FY23. Three SSCC provider(s) show performance improvements in keeping children safe in care. Statewide Non-CBC areas have decreased by 0.1% in FY24 Q1 compared to FY23.

¹ DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

Permanency (Stage II Objective - Sections A and C)²

The goal of Stage II is to improve exits to permanency, including both the number of children exiting to permanency and the speed at which they exit. Placement with kin generally improves child outcomes, including permanency, either with exits to kin or by facilitating connections to parents and placement stability, which are positively related to permanency.

Texas has historically performed well in placing children in state conservatorship with relatives or kin early on for children in care, with placements of children with kin at 60 days ranging from 43% - 47% within the last 7 years. The kin performance measure is important to ensure SSCCs sustain or improve upon these trends. Kin performance increased statewide by 2.4% in FY24 Q1 compared to FY23. In “Non-CBC” regions statewide, kin placement at 60 days has increased by 2.4% in FY24 Q1 compared to FY23. One SSCC provider shows performance improvements in placing children with kin at 60 days.

With four designated community areas in Stage II as of fiscal year 2024 quarter 1, performance metrics related to permanency, such as reunification, adoption, or a PMC exit to a relative, become relevant. This report will not, however, give detailed attention to Section A exit measures because the focus of this report is the CBC contracted performance measures. The intended audience for the measures in Section A is the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), and so these measures are not discussed in this report. As such, permanency measures were added to Section C: time to permanency, time to reunification (a subset of overall permanency), and CPS reinvolverment (which includes children later confirmed as victims, removed from home, or in a case opened to a new family preservation stage) within 12 months of permanency SSCC Contract Performance Measures

Performance measure data referenced below reflects performance through the first quarter of FY24, which is provisional and subject to change.

Saint Francis Community Services Inc. – Panhandle³

The Panhandle designated community area (DFPS Region 1) is served by Saint Francis Community Services, Inc (SFCS), and their SSCC Division Saint Francis Community Services, Inc, and has been served by this SSCC since FY20. Saint Francis is currently in Stage III for all 41 counties in the Panhandle and transitioned to Stage III on March 1, 2024. Beginning in FY22 Q3, Saint Francis transitioned to Stage II of CBC to include the provision of case management and kinship services for all children in conservatorship in the Panhandle designated community area. This designated community area faced significant capacity challenges prior to CBC

² DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

³ DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

implementation. The average performance for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the two years prior to Stage II implementation, is used as the historical average for comparison.

- **Safety in Foster Care** - 99.8% of children were safe in Panhandle foster care placements as of FY24 Q1. Performance below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Placement Stability in Foster Care** - Current performance is 1.20 placements per child in FY24 Q1. This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.
- **Family-Like Placement Setting** - 75.4% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 2.2%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 80.9% by 5.4%.
- **Foster Care Placement within 50 miles** - 38.9% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of as of FY24 Q1 is an increase from FY23 by 0.3%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 41.7% by 2.8%.
- **Sibling Groups Placed Together in Foster Care** – 56.8% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 4.9%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 62.3% by 5.5%.
- **Kinship Placement** - 30.9% of children were placed in kinship placements within 60 days of removal for FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 5.8%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 34.0% by 3.1%.
- **Driver's License or ID** - 15.1% of youth age 16 or older who have a driver's license or a TX ID card in FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 0.3%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 17.2% by 2.0%.⁴
- **Preparation for Adult Living** - 58.8% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL and FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 15.1%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 92.9% by 34.1%.
- **New CPS Intervention within 1 Year of Exit to Permanency** - 6.7% of children who exited to permanency during the fiscal year prior and who were confirmed victims, removed from home or in a new FPR stage within 12 months of their exit to permanency is a decrease from FY23 by 2.6%. Current performance has improved and is below the baseline rate of 7.6% by 0.8%.⁵

⁴ Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

⁵ DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

Exits to Permanency*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ⁶
FY22	Within 1 Year	+3.9%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+3.4%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+0.7%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	-1.2%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q1; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.
 ** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

Exits to Reunification*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ⁷
FY22	Within 1 Year	-0.4%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+2.4%
FY21	Within 2 Years	-1.0%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+5.3%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q1; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.
 ** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

2INgage – Big Country & Texoma⁸

The Big Country and Texoma designated community area (DFPS Region 2) is served by Texas Family Initiative and their SSCC division 2INgage and has been served by this SSCC since FY19. Beginning in FY20 Q4, 2INgage transitioned to Stage II of CBC to include the provision of case management and kinship services for all children in conservatorship in the Big Country & Texoma designated community area. 2INgage is currently in Stage III for all 30 counties in Big Country & Texoma as they moved to Stage III on March 1, 2024. This area covers a large rural area with historical capacity challenges. The average performance for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 is used as the historical average for comparison. The performance reflected in the baseline is that of the SSCC’s own performance.

⁶ Change refers to the change in the rate of permanency for one entry cohort versus the prior entry cohort (where "entry cohort" is the children who are removed in that fiscal year); a positive change indicates the rate increased over the prior year, while a negative change indicates the rate decreased from the prior year.

⁷ DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

⁸ Ibid.

- **Safety in Foster Care** - 99.7% of children were safe in Big Country and Texoma foster care placements as of FY24 Q1. Performance below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Placement Stability in Foster Care** - Current performance is 1.13 placements per child in FY24 Q1. This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.
- **Family-Like Placement Setting** - 84.3% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 2.4%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 88.2% by 3.9%.
- **Foster Care Placement within 50 miles** - 34.2% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of as of FY24 Q1 is an increase from FY23 by 1.5%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 39.3% by 5.1%.
- **Sibling Groups Placed Together in Foster Care** – 58.9% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 8.0%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 64.2% by 5.3%.
- **Kinship Placement** - 40.0% of children were placed in kinship placements within 60 days of removal for FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 9.2%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 43.3% by 3.3%.
- **Driver's License or ID** - 51.9% of youth age 16 or older who have a driver's license or a TX ID card in FY24 Q1 is an increase from FY23 by 9.4%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 36.4% by 15.5%.
- **Preparation for Adult Living** - 100.0% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL and FY24 Q1 is an increase from FY23 by 4.4%. Current performance is at the baseline rate of 100.0%.
- **New CPS Intervention within 1 Year of Exit to Permanency** - 6.1% of children who exited to permanency during the fiscal year prior and who were confirmed victims, removed from home or in a new FPR stage within 12 months of their exit to permanency is a decrease from FY23 by 1.5%. Current performance has improved and is below the baseline rate of 11.5% by 5.4%.¹⁰

Exits to Permanency*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ¹¹
FY22	Within 1 Year	+4.0%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+5.0%

⁹ Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

¹⁰ Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

¹¹ Change refers to the change in the rate of permanency for one entry cohort versus the prior entry cohort (where "entry cohort" is the children who are removed in that fiscal year); a positive change indicates the rate increased over the prior year, while a negative change indicates the rate decreased from the prior year.

FY21	Within 2 Years	+7.1%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+0.9%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q1; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

Exits to Reunification*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ¹²
FY22	Within 1 Year	-1.3%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+5.0%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+4.7%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+3.2%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q1; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) – Metroplex West ¹³

ACH and their SSCC division Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) has been the SSCC in the Metroplex West designated community area since January 1, 2014 that contract expired in August 2023 Through the competitive procurement process DFPS awarded ACH/OCOK with the SSCC contract for all 10 counties in Metroplex West on November 1, 2023. OCOK will continue in Stage II within the seven current counties and will go live in Stage I on April 1, 2024, and Stage II on May 1, 2024 for the three northern counties Denton, Cooke and Wise. Additionally, ACH/OCOK began Stage III for the seven southern counties on March, 1, 2024. Beginning in FY20 Q3, OCOK transitioned to Stage II of CBC to include the provision of case management and kinship services for all children in conservatorship in the designated community area Metroplex West, made up of the 7 counties around Fort Worth. The average performance for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 is used as the baseline average for comparison. With the exception of the Stage II measures, the performance reflected in the baseline is that of the SSCC’s own performance.

- **Safety in Foster Care** - 99.4% of children were safe in Metroplex West foster care placements as of FY24 Q1. Performance below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Placement Stability in Foster Care** - Current performance is 1.20 placements per child in FY24 Q1. This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.

¹² DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

¹³ Ibid.

- **Family-Like Placement Setting** - 82.0% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 1.0%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 82.5% by 0.5%.
- **Foster Care Placement within 50 miles** – 71.6% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of as of FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 0.4%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 71.4% by 0.5%.
- **Sibling Groups Placed Together in Foster Care** – 60.0% of sibling groups were placed together on the last day of FY24 Q1 is an decrease from FY23 by 5.0%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 63.1% by 3.1%.
- **Kinship Placement** - 34.9% of children were placed in kinship placements within 60 days of removal for FY24 Q1, the same as in FY23. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 32.2% by 2.7%.
- **Driver's License or ID** - 18.3% of youth age 16 or older who have a driver's license or a TX ID card in FY24 Q1 is an increase from FY23 by 1.8%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 15.2% by 3.1%.
- **Preparation for Adult Living** - 88.9% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL and FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 7.1%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 95.7% by 6.8%.
- **New CPS Intervention within 1 Year of Exit to Permanency** - 4.5% of children who exited to permanency during the fiscal year prior and who were confirmed victims, removed from home or in a new FPR stage within 12 months of their exit to permanency remains relatively stable compared to FY23.¹⁴ Current performance has improved and is below the baseline rate of 5.0% by 0.6%.¹⁵

Exits to Permanency*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ¹⁶
FY22	Within 1 Year	+11.1%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+6.3%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+9.3%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+0.4%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q1; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

¹⁴ Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

¹⁵ DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

¹⁶ Change refers to the change in the rate of permanency for one entry cohort versus the prior entry cohort (where "entry cohort" is the children who are removed in that fiscal year); a positive change indicates the rate increased over the prior year, while a negative change indicates the rate decreased from the prior year.

Exits to Reunification*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ¹⁷
FY22	Within 1 Year	-0.5%
FY21	Within 18 Months	-0.8%
FY21	Within 2 Years	-0.2%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+2.1%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q1; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

EMPOWER- Metroplex East

DFPS awarded a contract on February 22, 2023 to Texas Family Initiative, LLC (TFI) to serve as the SSCC for the Metroplex East designated community area. TFI partnered with CK Family Services, Jonathan’s Place, The Bair Foundation, and Pathways Youth and Family Services creating EMPOWER. EMPOWER began serving children in Metroplex East on September 1, 2023. DFPS certified Stage II readiness and EMPOWER began providing case management and all substitute care services to children and families in the Metroplex East designated community area on March 1, 2024.

4Kids4Families- Piney Woods

DFPS awarded a contract on February 22, 2023 to Arrow Child and Family Ministries. Arrow Child and Family Ministries formed 4Kids4Families to serve as the SSCC for the Piney Woods designated community area. 4Kids4Families began serving children in the Piney Woods on November 1, 2023. Stage II start-up also began on November 1, 2023 with an anticipated Stage II go-live date on May 1, 2024, dependent upon readiness certification.

Texas Family Care Network (TFCN)- Deep East

DFPS awarded a contract on March 15, 2023 to Pressley Ridge. Pressley Ridge formed Texas Family Care Network (TFCN) to serve as the SSCC for the Deep East designated community area. Texas Family Care Network began serving children in Deep East on November 1, 2023. Stage II start-up also began on November 1, 2023 with an anticipated Stage II go-live date on April 1, 2024, dependent upon readiness certification.

¹⁷ DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

Belong- South Central & Hill Country¹⁸

DFPS awarded a contract on March 29, 2021 to St. Jude's Ranch for Children (SJRC) Texas. SJRC Texas formed Belong to serve as the SSCC for the South Central & Hill Country designated community area. Belong is currently in Stage II for all 27 counties in South Central and Hill Country and will transition to Stage III on June 1, 2024. The average performance for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the two years prior to Stage II implementation, are used as the historical average for comparison.

- **Safety in Foster Care** - 98.6% of children were safe in South Central and Hill Country foster care placements as of FY24 Q1. Performance below 100% is an area for improvement.
- **Placement Stability in Foster Care** – Current performance is 1.17 placements per child in FY24 Q1. This metric is cumulative and requires a comparison of like quarters.
- **Family-Like Placement Setting** - 71.9% of placement days spent in a family setting (defined in Stage II as a family foster home, kinship home, adoptive placement, or return to parents) as of FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 4.2%.¹⁹ Current performance is below the baseline rate of 83.9% by 12.0%.
- **Foster Care Placement within 50 miles** - 39.2% of children placed within 50 miles of their removal address on the last day of as of FY24 Q1 is a decrease from FY23 by 2.1%. Current performance is below the baseline rate of 47.1% by 7.9%.
- **Kinship Placement** - 56.8% of children were placed in kinship placements within 60 days of removal for FY24 Q1 is an increase from FY23 by 7.1%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 48.8% by 8.1%.²⁰
- **Driver's License or ID** - 39.4% of youth age 16 or older who have a driver's license or a TX ID card in FY24 Q1 is an increase from FY23 by 0.4%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 29.5% by 9.9%.
- **Preparation for Adult Living** - 100.0% of youth turning 18 (includes youth in foster care, kinship care and other settings in Stage II) completed PAL and FY24 Q1 is an increase from FY23 by 10.5%. Current performance is above the baseline rate of 91.3% by 8.7%.
- **New CPS Intervention within 1 Year of Exit to Permanency** - 4.5% of children who exited to permanency during the fiscal year prior and who were confirmed victims, removed from home or in a new FPR stage within 12 months of their exit to permanency is an increase from FY23 by 0.2%. Current performance has improved and is below the baseline rate of 5.2% by 0.7%.

¹⁸ DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

¹⁹ Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

²⁰ DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

Exits to Permanency*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ²¹
FY22	Within 1 Year	+19.5%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+4.2%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+1.3%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+6.0%

* For Exit data as of FY24 Q1; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

Exits to Reunification*

Removal Year	Timeframe	Change from Previous Fiscal Year ²²
FY22	Within 1 Year	+13.7%
FY21	Within 18 Months	+4.7%
FY21	Within 2 Years	+8.8%
FY20**	Within 3 Years	+1.5%

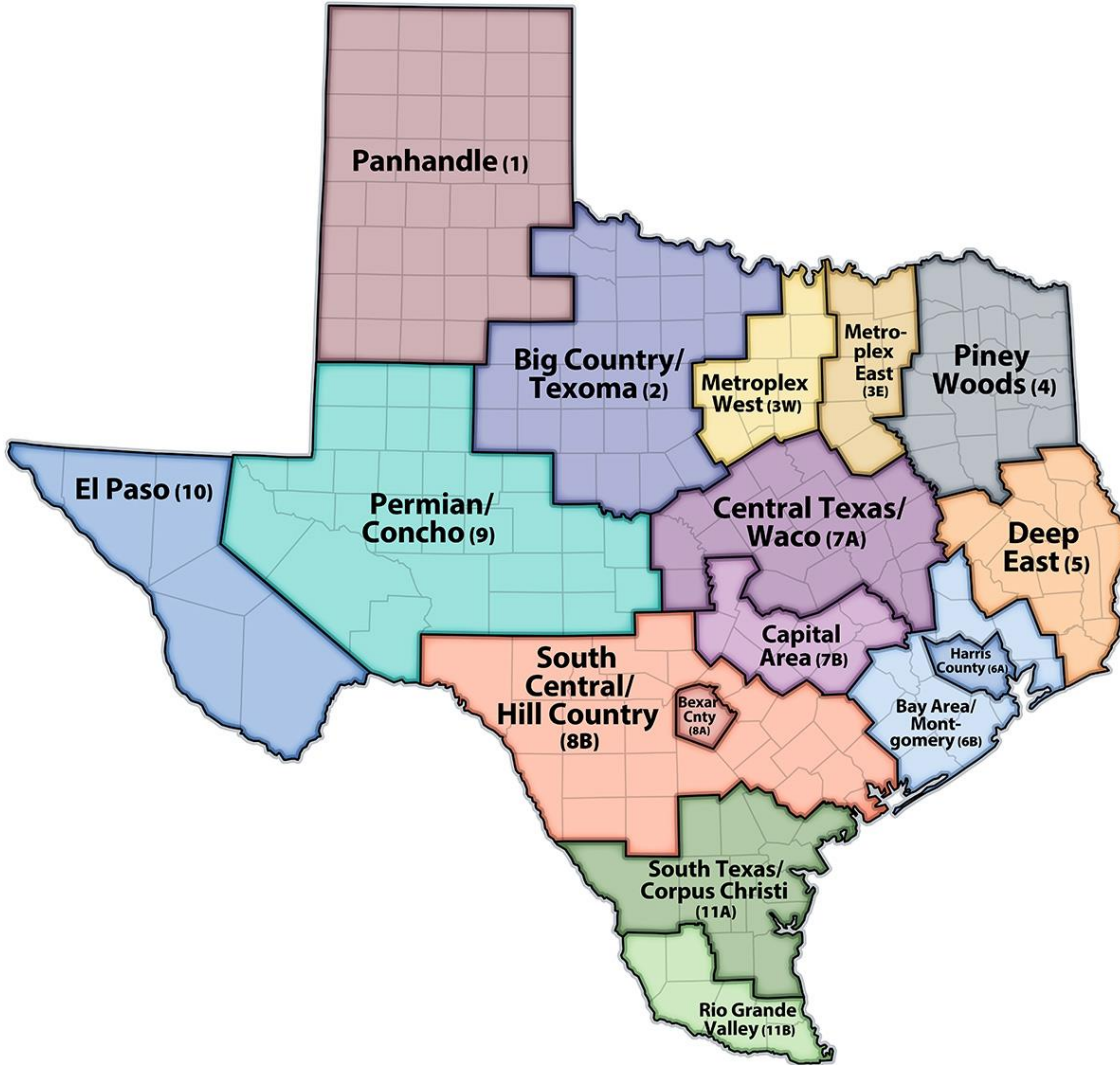
* For Exit data as of FY24 Q1; details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

** Years where FY20 data is represented, performance likely was impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak

²¹ Change refers to the change in the rate of permanency for one entry cohort versus the prior entry cohort (where "entry cohort" is the children who are removed in that fiscal year); a positive change indicates the rate increased over the prior year, while a negative change indicates the rate decreased from the prior year.

²² DFPS Rider Report March 2024 Appendix.

Appendix A: Current Community-Based Care Community Areas



Appendix B: Limitations of SSCC Performance for Stage I and Post-Transition to Stage II

Stage I Transition

Performance data reported for SSCCs during the Stage I transition and before most of the children in foster care are transferred has several significant limitations.

1. Some children are duplicated, meaning they are represented in both the “SSCC Eligible” and “SSCC” populations during the transition due to time spent in each population during the performance period.
2. The population “mix” is influenced by the specific transition plan implemented by the SSCC. “Mix” may refer to the proportion of children in foster homes and facilities. It may also be geographic given the trend of SSCCs to begin by transferring local providers to the network.

The limitations make interpreting specific performance measures during the time children are transitioning to the SSCC difficult as outlined below:

- Home Setting – to the extent that an SSCC transfers more children to foster homes earlier or later in the process, the percentage of care days that are least restrictive will be increased or decreased. In addition, start dates after September 1 will represent fewer care days compared to an annual baseline.
- Proximity – to the extent that a provider transfers “in area” providers before providers located farther away, the percentage of children placed close to home will be increased or decreased. Because children in foster homes are more likely to be placed closer to home, this measure is also influenced by the pace at which Child Placing Agencies transfer under the SSCC.
- Placement Stability – this measure is based on the number of placements experienced by children over the course of a fiscal year. Separating placement experience into time spent in legacy and time with the SSCC lowers the rate for both populations.
- Siblings placed together – sibling groups that are separated across legacy and SSCC populations may not be counted as placed apart for either population.
- Preparation for Adult Living - youth who began taking PAL classes prior to transfer may complete their program under the legacy DFPS contract. However, after the transition they are reported as placed with the SSCC.

Time is needed for the SSCC population to represent the full population of children in foster care in their designated community area.

Post-Transition to Stage II

For Community-Based Care providers who have transitioned to Stage II, which consists of provision of case management and services to families commensurate with DFPS services in the conservatorship stage of service, certain measures with specific tasks such as obtaining a Driver's License/ID, PAL completion, and to some extent Kin Placement at 60 Days reflect shared DFPS and SSCC performance. Early trends may be the continuation of case activity and permanency decisions that began under the Legacy foster care system.