



House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Trevor Woodruff, General Counsel, DFPS

Angela Goodwin, Director of Investigations, CPS

Sasha Rasco, Associate Commissioner, PEI

George Cannata, Regional Director: Region 3, CPS

September 7, 2016

The mission of the Department of Family and Protective Services is to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by involving clients, families, and communities.



House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues: Charge 6

Trevor Woodruff, General Counsel, DFPS

September 7, 2016

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- As of July 2016, 5,709 of the 12,186 children in kinship placements are placed with grandparents*
- For Fiscal Year 2016, of the 16,498 children exiting the foster care system, 7,515 children exited to a relative/fictive kin through adoption or Permanent Managing Conservatorship**

***FY 2016 is subject to change pending year-end data refresh.*



House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues: Charge 1

Angela Goodwin, Director of Investigations, CPS

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Human trafficking: to transport, entice, recruit, harbor, provide or otherwise obtain another person by any means

- Protocols for locating children
- Licensed long-term facilities which support trafficking victims
 - Freedom Place (Houston)
 - Refuge of Light (East Texas)



House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues: Charge 2

Angela Goodwin, Director of Investigations, CPS

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Memorandums of Understanding between DFPS, TJJD, and probation departments

- Information Sharing
- Probation Conditions
- Research



House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues: Charge 3

Sasha Rasco, Associate Commissioner, PEI

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- Funding and HB 2630
- Current community-based parenting programs
- New programs
- Five-year strategic plan



House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues: Charge 7

Trevor Woodruff, General Counsel, DFPS
George Cannata, Regional Director: Region 3, CPS

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- Lawsuit filed in 2011, alleges that Texas is violating the constitutional rights of children in Texas' permanent managing conservatorship
- In December 2015, U.S. District Court Judge Janis Jack issued an opinion finding for the Plaintiffs on all but one issue. In her opinion, she ordered:
 - The appointment of a Special Master; and
 - An injunction preventing the further placement of children in foster group homes (more than 6 children) that do not have 24-hour awake supervision.
- Texas sought a stay of the special master appointment, but was denied.
- On March 21, 2016, two Special Masters were appointed; they will issue recommendations to the Court to accomplish the Court's listed goals and objectives, after which the State intends to appeal the Court's final ruling
- The State is working to address issues identified in the ruling through CPS Transformation, Foster Care Redesign, and other efforts

- The main priority of Child Protective Services is CPS Transformation
- CPS Transformation has three main priorities:
 - Ensure child safety, permanency and well-being;
 - Establish effective organization and operations;
and
 - Develop a professional and stable workforce.