



# **Quarterly Report**

## **Office of Community-Based Care Transition Implementation Status**

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June 2023

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# Introduction

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As required by Texas Family Code, Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, Section 264.172 (f), 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, the Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) “shall report to the legislature at least once each calendar quarter regarding the implementation of Community-Based Care in the state.” Status reports shall be provided on September 30<sup>th</sup>, December 30<sup>th</sup>, March 31<sup>st</sup>, and June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year to the Texas Legislature.

## Background

Community-Based Care (CBC) changes the way the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based grant agreement, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community (also known as “catchments” or “community areas”). 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. SSCCs also support adoption recruitment, matching, and home studies. 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. In Stage III, the SSCC continues the provision of all Stage I and II services and is awarded with financial incentives and disincentives for permanency outcomes and additional performance measures for child safety and well-being. For information and data on the performance of SSCC contractors, see the [DFPS Rider 15 Report](#).

## Office of Community-Based Care Transition Organizational Structure

The 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, as part of Texas Family Code, Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, Section 264.172, formally established the OCBCT in 2021. The OCBCT is a state agency independent of, but administratively attached to, DFPS. OCBCT and DFPS, along with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), work together to implement CBC. The CBC Director, George Cannata, has three directors who have key roles in moving CBC forward in Texas: Community Outreach and Legislative Relations Director, and two Directors of Implementation and Operations. Based on the current funding methodology, as CBC expands into new areas, OCBCT will receive one Community-Based Care Administrator (CBCA) per new community area, and one Program Specialist VI (PSVI) per four community areas to help assess and develop a plan for implementation. See Appendix A for the current OCBCT organizational structure. Below you will see an update for initiatives, accomplishments, and opportunities in each CBC area throughout the state.



# Update on Community-Based Care Expansion

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CBC continues to develop throughout the state. The March 2023 CBC Quarterly Report noted that there were three new SSCC partners that will be providing CBC in their communities- EMPOWER in Metroplex East, 4Kids4Families in Piney Woods, and Texas Family Care Network in Deep East. EMPOWER began Stage I readiness activities on March 1, 2023 and is anticipated to go live for Stage I in September 2023. On March 1, 2023, 4Kids4Families began Stage I readiness activities and is anticipated to go live for Stage I in November 2023. Family Care Network began Stage I readiness activities on April 1, 2023 and is anticipated to go live for Stage I in October 2023; stage II for these community areas is planned for the next biennium.

In March 2023, a Request for Application (RFA) was posted for the Metroplex West community, which includes all 10 counties in the former DFPS Region 3W area. This RFA closed on April 20, 2023 and it is anticipated that the SSCC partner in this area will begin serving children and families in Fall 2023.

Additionally, with funding received by the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, OCBCT and DFPS, in partnership with HHSC, are preparing to release four new Request for Applications (RFAs) to expand CBC in the Harris County (Region 6a), Bay Area/Montgomery (Region 6b), Bexar County (Region 8a), and El Paso (Region 10) communities. The anticipated timeframe to release the new RFAs is the Fall of 2023.

## Community Outreach

OCBCT has placed a lot of focus on community outreach to provide information and awareness of CBC and what it means for the communities across Texas. OCBCT collaborates with community stakeholders and leaders to share information and answer questions regarding the implementation of CBC. OCBCT outreach staff participated in CBC readiness and education discussions in the Metroplex East, Piney Woods, Deep East, Harris County, Capital Area, Bexar County, South Texas/Corpus Christi, and Rio Grande Valley communities during the last quarter. Additionally, in an effort to network, educate, and share information, the OCBCT has attended and participated in the following meetings/conferences to gather information and hear other innovative ideas and implementation processes:

- The Coalition of Child Serving Sectors Community Advisory Meeting, hosted by The Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS), February 15, 2023
- The Texas Council on Child Welfare Boards, February 23, 2023



- The Region 11 CBC Summit, hosted by TACFS, March 6, 2023 and March 7, 2023
- CPS Staff CBC Readiness Presentation, hosted by the Coalition of Child Serving Sectors in Harris County, March 20, 2023 and March 21, 2023
- Region 4 Child Welfare Board Meeting, March 24, 2023
- The Bexar County Children and Youth Behavioral Health System of Care, hosted by Kronkosky Charitable Foundation, March 24, 2023
- The Office of the Texas Governor Human Trafficking Division, March 27, 2023
- Region 7 Education Service Center, April 12, 2023
- The Agency Collective Meeting, hosted by Fostering Collective, April 19, 2023
- DFPS Contract Oversight and Support Conference, hosted by DFPS, April 19, 2023
- The Texarkana External Provider Meeting, hosted by For the Sake of One, May 2, 2023
- District 13 Education Consortium Meeting, May 3, 2023
- The Gregg County Child Welfare Board Meeting, May 9, 2023
- The Rusk County Child Welfare Board Meeting, May 10, 2023

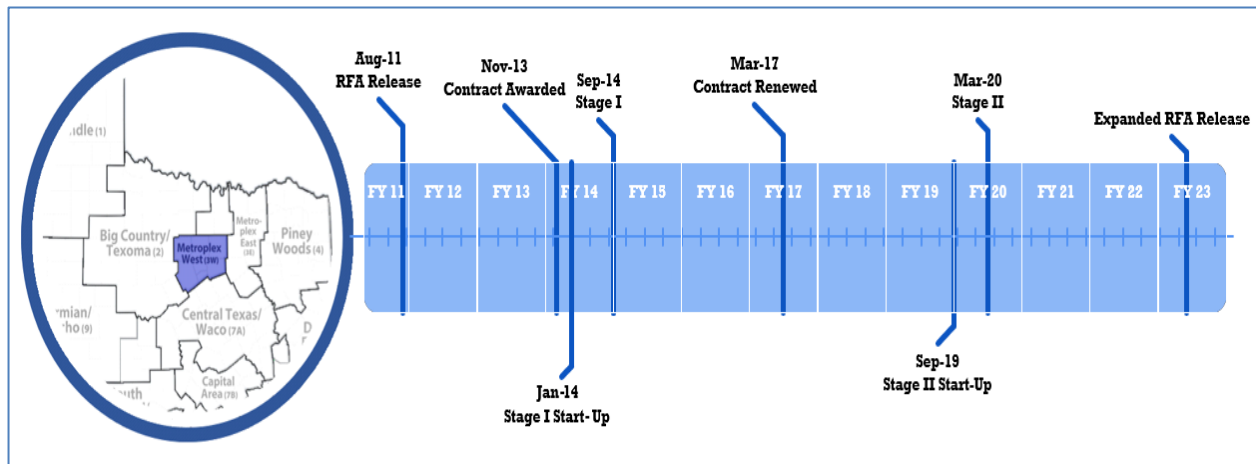
OCBCT continues to provide information and keep DFPS staff informed on CBC implementation updates. OCBCT staff are assigned to each area not currently in CBC to provide outreach, educate, and support community providers to be prepared to move to CBC. The OCBCT Outreach Team is committed to educating and supporting community stakeholders as they move through the readiness process of CBC, and has recently shared a [CBC Outreach Request](#) form for stakeholders, community members, staff, or any interested party to be able to request information and presentations on CBC. This form can be found on the external CBC website.

OCBCT has been working diligently to ensure all communities in areas under current procurement are aware of the concept of CBC and what to expect during the implementation process. Newsletters are being sent quarterly to provide CBC implementation updates to external stakeholders. Many presentations have been given to the community in each region to external partners and internal DFPS employees with the most up-to-date information on the procurement process and next steps.



# Update for Metroplex West - Our Community Our Kids (OCOK)

The Metroplex West community, previously known as Region 3b, is comprised of Palo Pinto, Parker, Tarrant, Erath, Hood, Somervell, and Johnson counties near Fort Worth. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



## Kinship

Kinship remains an important area of focus for OCOK and they continue to work toward placing youth with kinship by the 60<sup>th</sup> day, using immediate and intensive family finding, and engaging and promoting licensure for those families who are eligible. Additionally, Kinship staff are offering professional development sessions for stakeholders to learn about how they work as a community to better promote kinship placements and connections for youth.

## Intensive Permanency Services

Partnering with national expert, Alia, OCOK worked to hire two units that consist of Connection Specialists. The Connection Specialists will work on promoting healing and belonging, while performing extensive family finding and engagement for youth who have experienced extensive trauma that is preventing their positive permanency. To inform the OCOK staff and community members about their mission, Alia’s CEO, Dr. Amelia Franck Meyer, hosted a training in Fort Worth titled, “Building a better way together: Transforming our system keeping children safely with their families.” Over the next two years, Alia will work with OCOK by providing training, coaching and specialty consultation to ensure that OCOK Connection Specialists are best equipped to help youth by connecting, healing trauma, healing relational trauma, and supporting and



integrating healthy relationships.

## **Siblings Together**

OCOK has utilized data and strategies to bring more of their siblings together. Committing resources to focus specifically on siblings, OCOK was able to reach their baseline goal of 65.9 percent of their siblings together. Efforts continue to ensure that their siblings are not only being placed together initially but are brought together as soon as possible if initial placement is not found that keeps them together.

## **Community Engagement**

OCOK staff partnered with local community partners to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month across Metroplex West. Child Welfare Boards, CASA, Children's Advocacy Centers, and other child welfare stakeholders joined together to raise awareness in their communities about the issues that face the families they serve.

## **Texas Family First Pilot Project**

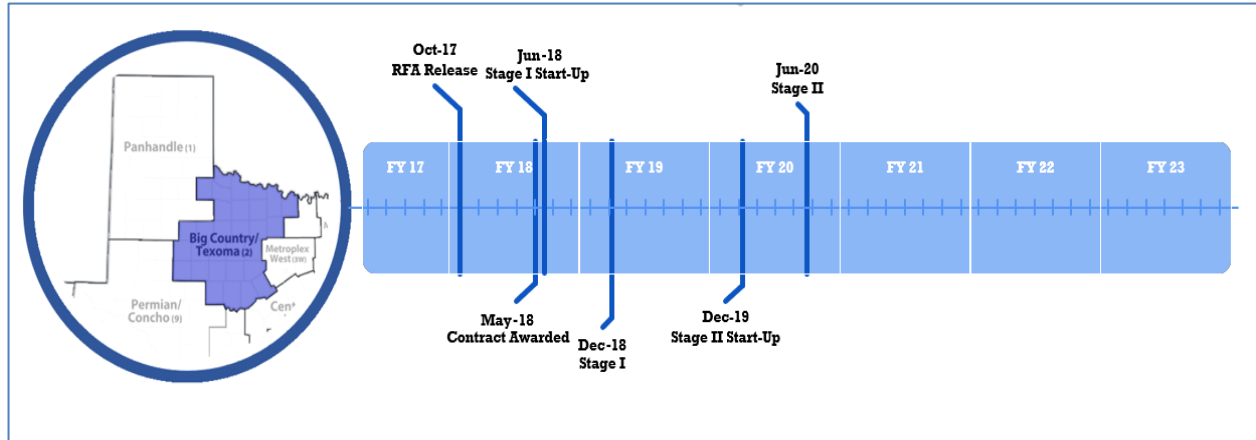
OCOK continues to provide evidence-based services to families who are in court ordered services cases through the Texas Family First Pilot Project. Currently there are seven families being served. There are three in Tarrant County, one in Hood County and three in Johnson County. To date, two families have graduated from the program. They are now stronger and better equipped to parent their children and promote healthy childhoods.





## Update for Big Country & Texoma- 2INgage

The Big Country & Texoma community, previously known as Region 2, is comprised of [30 counties](#) in northwest Texas around Abilene and Wichita Falls. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community's CBC progress.



### Wendy's Wonderful Kids

The startup phase for the Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA) continues to be on target. DTFA has provided outstanding support through the assigned Adoption Program Manager (APM). The APM has provided 2INgage ongoing and frequent contact as they learn the mechanism and fidelity requirements of the child-focused recruitment model. WWK program staff completed face-to-face training in Ohio in February 2023 and traveled back to Ohio for the summit in May 2023. 2INgage is building graduated caseloads with six children currently assigned to each recruiter. Full caseloads, 12 children per recruiter, are anticipated to be assigned in June 2023. The Adoption Recruiters have begun completing case record reviews, monthly face-to-face visits, diligent searches, and are facilitating staffing meetings with the children's network of support. 2INgage has seen some early success with three possible matches that appear promising. The program is targeting recruitment efforts for children that have been in care the longest.

### Solution-Based Casework Practice Model

2INgage has adopted the Solution-Based Casework (SBC) practice model. SBC is an evidenced-based casework practice model that prioritizes working in partnership with families, focusing on pragmatic solutions to difficult situations, and celebrating change. This partnership with the family allows 2INgage permanency case managers to create realistic action plans for families to be successful. All permanency case managers are trained in the model and complete further fidelity



training to become certified. Sixty percent of eligible 2INGage permanency case managers are SBC certified. This practice has helped increase the overall percentage of exits over the last five fiscal years. The percentage of reunifications is displayed below.

<b>FY18</b>	879 exits and 311 reunifications: 35% reunified
<b>FY19</b>	843 exits and 318 reunifications: 37% reunified
<b>FY20</b>	847 exits 312 reunifications: 36% reunified
<b>FY21</b>	894 exits 359 reunifications: 40% reunified
<b>FY22</b>	862 exits 341 reunifications: 39.5% reunified

*\*Data source: DFPS Data Warehouse Report PP\_20*

## **2INGage in the Community**

2INGage partnered with local community providers to share awareness about Child Abuse Prevention Month across the Texoma & Big Country Region. In April 2023, 2INGage participated in proclamations in Wichita, Brown, Eastland, and Comanche counties. In other areas of the region, 2INGage joined efforts to host an Annual Awareness Event in Abilene, a Fun Fair in Sweetwater, a County Cookout in Eastland, a Run for the Children in Graham, and a Party for Prevention in Wichita Falls. 2INGage and local Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) hosted the first annual Foster Parent Appreciation event in Wichita Falls. They also hosted the first of four rural town hall meetings on May 11, 2023. The first meeting was held in Nolan County; many community leaders and potential partners attended to learn more about child welfare.

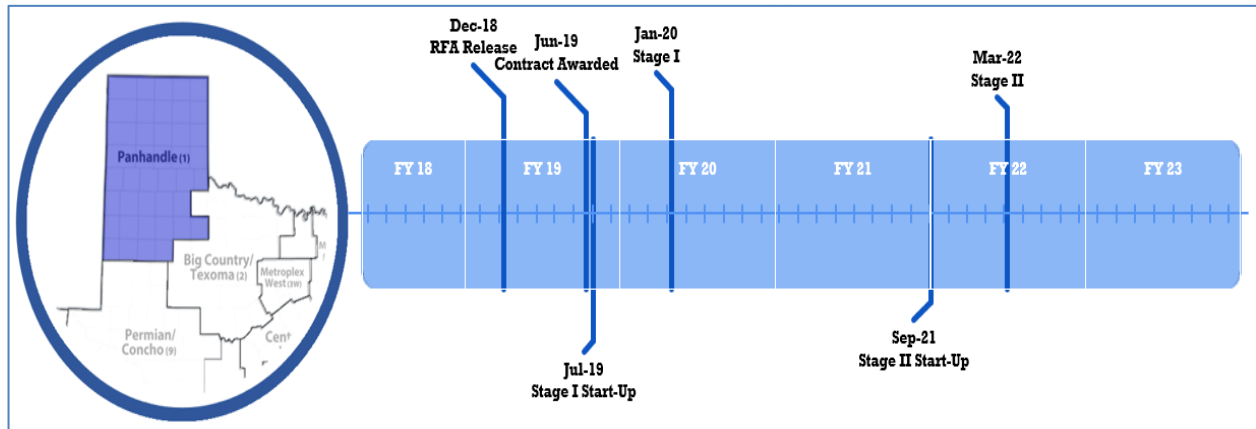
## **Texas Family First Pilot**

2INGage has chosen Motivational Interviewing, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trust Based Relational Intervention, and Functional Family Therapy for their Texas Family First Pilot service models. As of May 18, 2023, 2INGage is serving 13 active cases with one successful completion. Three current cases are near completion and two are currently awaiting court approval to begin services. While Texas Family First serves all of the Texoma & Big Country Region, the majority of their families are located within Taylor County. In conjunction with the therapeutic modalities, Texas Family First addresses the everyday necessities of their clients by providing a multitude of resources.



# Update for Panhandle- Saint Francis Community Services, Inc (SFCS)

The Panhandle community, previously known as Region 1, is comprised of [41 counties](#) in the Texas Panhandle around Lubbock and Amarillo. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



## Capacity Building

A key initiative Saint Francis continues to focus on is supporting the region’s Treatment Foster Care (TFC) contracts, as well as continuing to grow the necessary capacity to increase children remaining in their communities, creating permanency options, and transitioning children back to their families. Saint Francis began the process, in collaboration with Texas Family Initiative, to bring the Professional Foster Parent Model to the Panhandle. They are collaborating with the Texas Girls and Boys Ranch and One Voice Home to develop a TFC model that focuses on survivors of human trafficking. Saint Francis is also focused on recruiting out of state providers who have a proven, evidence-based program for TFC; negotiations are currently underway to bring this service delivery model to the Panhandle.

Other efforts to build quality capacity for children with high-acuity needs include:

- Work with their partner network to identify areas of training, development, and evidenced-based practices that ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, and disbursing funds to Panhandle providers for these quality improvement efforts.
- Providing leadership training to their provider network, with 100 members in attendance.

## Community Engagement

Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities included:



THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY-BASED CARE TRANSITION

- Hale County Go Blue Day, March 31<sup>st</sup>
- Pinwheel Ceremony– Amarillo Children’s Advocacy Center, March 31<sup>st</sup>
- Pinwheels for Prevention, April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Amarillo Angels’ Mom Prom, April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Partnered with DFPS in Amarillo to paint Cadillac Ranch blue, April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Lubbock Chamber Go Blue Kick-Off and Proclamation, April 4<sup>th</sup>
- 10th Annual Child Abuse Conference, April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Attended city proclamations and staff appreciation luncheons hosted by Castro, Hutchinson, Lamb, Terry, Swisher, Sherman, and Lubbock Counties.

## **Texas Family First Pilot**

Saint Francis utilizes the Texas Family Centered Treatment (FCT) Modality for their Texas Family First Pilot. The Texas FCT team meets weekly, and each quarter (January and March 2023), the FCT consultant spends two days providing assistance to the team to work towards accreditation in the FCT model. Saint Francis meets weekly with DFPS regional leadership and state leadership to provide progress updates on the pilot, and as of May 15, 2023, Saint Francis is working with 10 families, with the ability to serve families in all 41 counties as of April 3, 2023.

## **Permanency Supports**

### **Clinical Utilization:**

The Clinical Utilization program works jointly with the Saint Francis Permanency and Placement programs in a continued effort to support the youth with higher level needs. The Clinical Utilization team is responsible for monitoring and tracking the region’s missing and runaway youth and facilitating monthly meetings to ensure that continued efforts are being made to locate and bring the youth back into care. All Clinical Utilization staff are working to become trained to complete the Child Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT). The CSE-IT will be utilized to better determine which youth may have suffered from trafficking while on runaway and ensure that they are referred to appropriate services.

The clinical team facilitates the following meetings:

- Discharge meetings when a child needs a new placement, focusing on the needs and services to be addressed and provided at the child’s next home.
- Placement stability meetings when a provider or member of the permanency team determines that the child requires additional resources to keep them stable in a placement



and avoid discharge.

- Wraparound meetings offered to youth who have returned from missing status.
- Residential Treatment Center (RTC) placement review meetings for youth who have been in an RTC for 6 months, with follow-up meetings every 3 months after.
- Out of state placement review meetings every 60 days to determine if placement continues to be appropriate, or if a less restrictive, in state option is available.
- Shelter staffings for youth that have been in an emergency shelter for 60 days to determine what actions need to be taken to move the child to a more permanent placement.
- Meetings for any youth that are in a Home and Community-based Services (HCS) placement to ensure the youth are receiving services needed.

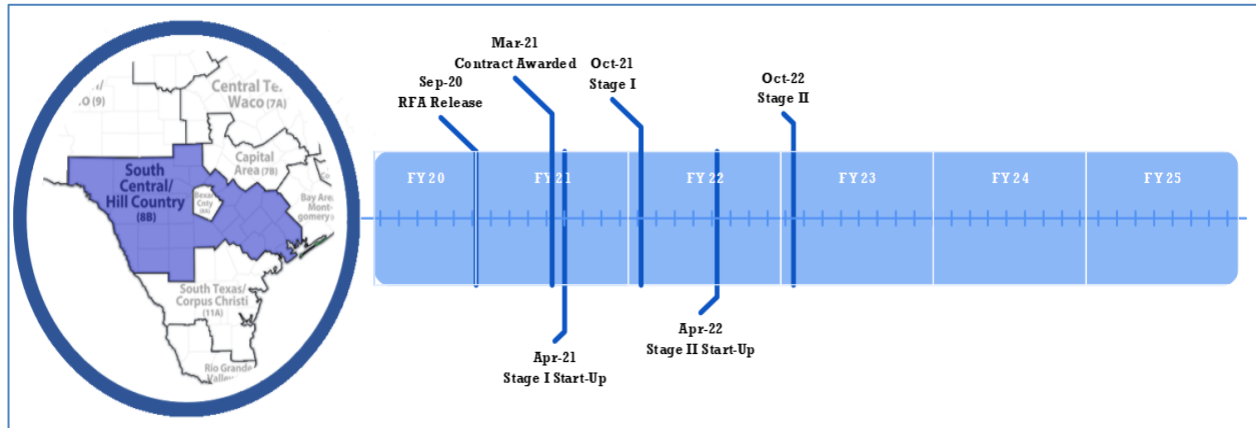
### **Connection Specialists:**

Connection Specialists in the north and south continue to build the program in partnership with the Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) program coordinators at CASA. The focus has been to work on building connections for youth who are 15 and older in permanent managing conservatorship (PMC) of DFPS.



# Update for South Central & Hill Country- SJRC Texas and their Division, Belong

The South Central & Hill Country community, previously known as Region 8b, is comprised of [27 counties](#), excluding Bexar County. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



## SSCC Joint Capacity Building Projects

As a result of the survey sent to providers at the beginning of this project, there was a request from Belong’s provider network to understand the regulatory climate better. In response to this request, they are partnering with the Texas Center for Child and Family Studies, as well as Ladd Law Firm PLLC, and the other SSCCs to offer a training they are calling: “A Deeper Dive into Oversight.” Belong is hopeful that their provider network will see this as a resource to help them become the best possible partners when interacting with all the regulatory bodies they encounter.

In partnership with The Texas Center for Child and Family Studies and the other SSCCs, Belong is in the final planning stages for the Symposium on Strengthening Therapeutic Care in Texas General Residential Operations. This in-person symposium on June 7, 2023 will benefit executives, administrators, clinical directors, and other key leadership staff working in RTCs and GROs serving therapeutic children. They are invited to come together for a day of shared learning about the changing environment of residential/therapeutic treatment in Texas, ways to elevate quality, and a day of discussion around challenges and solutions to meeting the needs of youth with complex trauma.

## Kinship Family Support

In order to provide individualized kinship support, Belong has organized a Kinship Family Support Initiative, which calls upon local organizations, businesses, and churches to be part of the



solution. Belong is seeking assistance through gift cards and sponsorship opportunities where the local community can sign up to assist a kinship family for a full year. They currently have three families that are sponsored regularly. Belong has received gift cards that they have been able to use to assist 10-20 families through this initiative.

### **Texas Family First Pilot**

As part of the Texas Family First (TFF) Pilot, Belong, in partnership with DePelchin’s Children’s Center, is currently providing evidence-based preservation services to nine families across six different counties. Of the nine referrals, six are participating in the Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) Model, and three are participating in Parents as Teachers (PAT). Families have been referred to the pilot for issues related to intimate partner violence, substance abuse, and mental health concerns. In addition, Belong saw the first successful discharge of a TFF Pilot family on May 8th. The family was officially reunified and their DFPS case was dismissed.

### **April: Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Over 15 cities and counties participated in Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamations throughout the month of April. Additionally, through the “Paint the Town Blue” initiative, communities were encouraged to “paint” their town blue by participating in the following activities: wearing blue for Go Blue Day on April 7<sup>th</sup>, wearing blue and joining Belong in prayer for Blue Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, changing their light bulbs to blue, painting their storefronts blue, planting blue flowers, and sharing information about child abuse prevention.

### **Tuesday Treasures**

Belong’s Adoption units are actively recruiting for all youth who are available for adoption in their units. Tuesday Treasures is a broadcast sent out to their paid adoption home providers with key information about the youth so that homes can inquire if they are interested in adoption.

### **Collaborative Family Engagement**

Belong is working with Texas CASA to implement Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) across their region. They had five members of their leadership team attend the CFE Symposium in May 2023, with plans to fully roll out training for all their staff with a projected date of January 2024.

### **Permanency Round Tables**

In partnership with Casey Family Services, Belong is working on implementing Permanency Round Tables for PMC children in their counties that are contiguous to Bexar County. All staff are completing Permanency Values Training, and key staff are being trained to eventually facilitate



Permanency Round Table meetings internally. Permanency Round Table training is scheduled to be concluded in August 2023.

## **Supervisor Credentialing Program**

During this reporting period, Belong has been in the final planning stage of this initiative. Belong will have 20 supervisors that will be participating in this cohort. The training is set to begin in June 2023 and will conclude in early August 2023. The end goal is to increase supervisor proficiency and develop leadership skills, which in turn will increase staff retention within their units. Staff retention will allow for cases to be closed quicker and more efficiently.

## **South Texas Alliance for Orphans (STAFO): Caring for Permanency Specialists**

In partnership with STAFO, Belong’s goal is to have each of their Permanency Units “adopted” by churches. Each church will provide snacks, meals, encouraging letters, and anything else they come up with together to provide support to their workers. Thus far, Belong has one unit in their north subregion that has been adopted by a church in Boerne.

## **Trauma Informed Care Certification**

SJRC Texas continues to work toward becoming a trauma-informed care agency. The certification process will require SJRC Texas to look internally at policies and practices around trauma-informed care and will be making some changes to better their agency. The process to become certified will take several months. The Ecumenical Center is the certifying entity, and they will be closely guiding them toward certification.

## **Council on Accreditation (COA) Re-Accreditation**

SJRC Texas is currently working through the steps to be re-accredited through the COA. This year has been spent reviewing each of their practices within the agency and making changes where needed to exceed the standards. They will have their on-site re-accreditation visit at the beginning of 2024 and will spend the next several months preparing for this process.

## **SJRC Texas Practice Model**

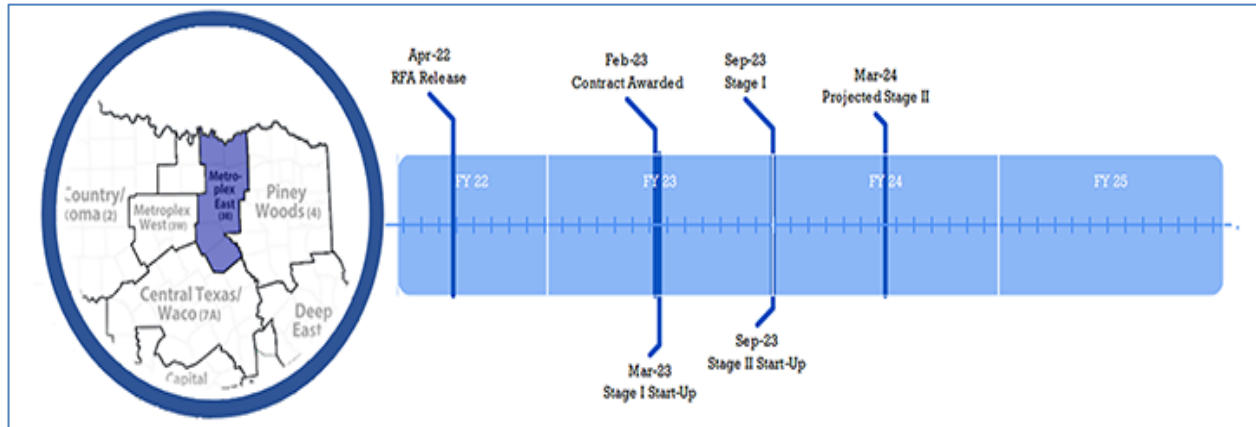
With Belong moving into Stage II, they have reset this initiative to integrate the new programs and staff that have come on board. There will be representation from the new programs as they develop a robust practice model. SJRC Texas | Belong has plans to reconvene with Casey Family Programs in July 2023 to move this project forward.





## Update for Metroplex East- EMPOWER

The Metroplex East community, previously known as Region 3E, is comprised of the following 9 counties in and around Dallas: Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, and Rockwall. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community's CBC progress.



### Town Halls

EMPOWER has been part of the process to help move CBC implementation forward. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, EMPOWER participated in a Virtual Town Hall to introduce the agency to DFPS in Metroplex East on their first day of Stage I readiness. There have been various platforms available for DFPS staff to speak with EMPOWER, and for staff to receive updates about the work being completed to implement CBC. EMPOWER presented at DFPS town hall sessions held May 9-11<sup>th</sup> in Dallas, Plano, Rockwall, and Waxahachie to help prepare staff for the transition to Stage I. They are currently working through Stage I readiness to ensure the staff and community are ready to go-live in Fall 2023.

### Community Engagement

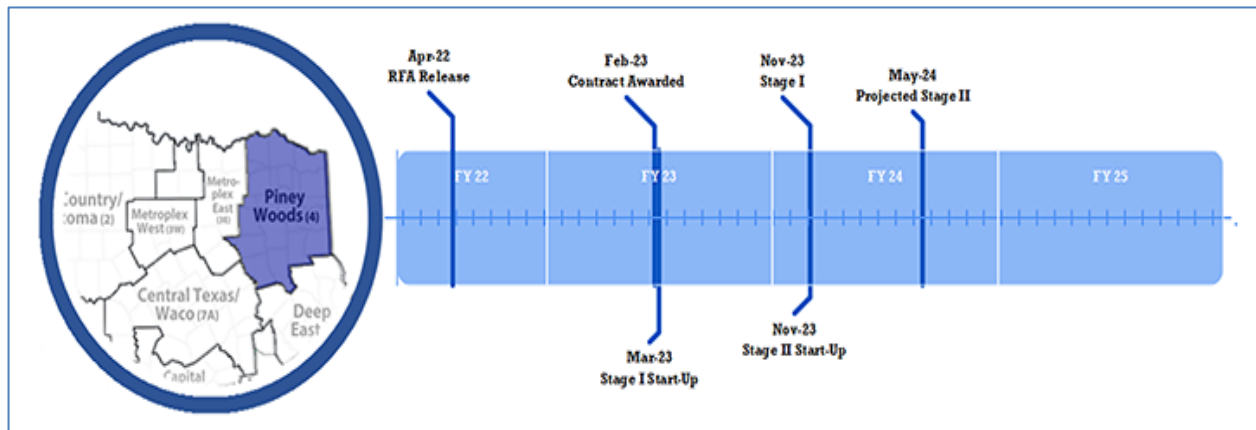
EMPOWER has focused on community engagement to provide information about CBC to the community stakeholders. Communication is occurring early on regarding implementation. EMPOWER has attended and participated in the following meetings:

- April 5, 2023, hosted and presented at an EMPOWER provider meeting.
- April 26, 2023, attended the Collin County Judges Roundtable.
- May 4, 2023, presented at a North Texas Foster Care Consortium.
- May 9, 2023, presented at a DFPS provider meeting.
- May 9, 2023, presented at the Grayson County CASA Conference.
- May 11, 2023, presented to the Dallas County Juvenile & Family Court Judges.



## Update for Piney Woods- 4Kids4Families

The Piney Woods community, previously known as Region 4, is comprised of [23 counties](#). The visual below depicts the timeline of this community's CBC progress.



### Community Engagement

4Kids4Families held various town halls across the region, including four community town halls in Region 4 during this quarter. The town halls were open to the public and were promoted across social and traditional media to reach as many interested community members, foster families, business leaders and faith-based leaders as possible. 4Kids4Families leadership spoke at each town hall providing information about CBC, 4Kids4Families and their model, as well as answering questions from the attendees. The town hall meetings were held in various areas of the region including Tyler on March 28<sup>th</sup>, Paris on April 8<sup>th</sup>, Texarkana on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Palestine on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, town halls were held for DFPS staff and providers in Tyler on March 28<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup>. Multiple individual and group meetings were held to include CASA, judges, Child Welfare Boards, and various non-profits interested in child welfare.

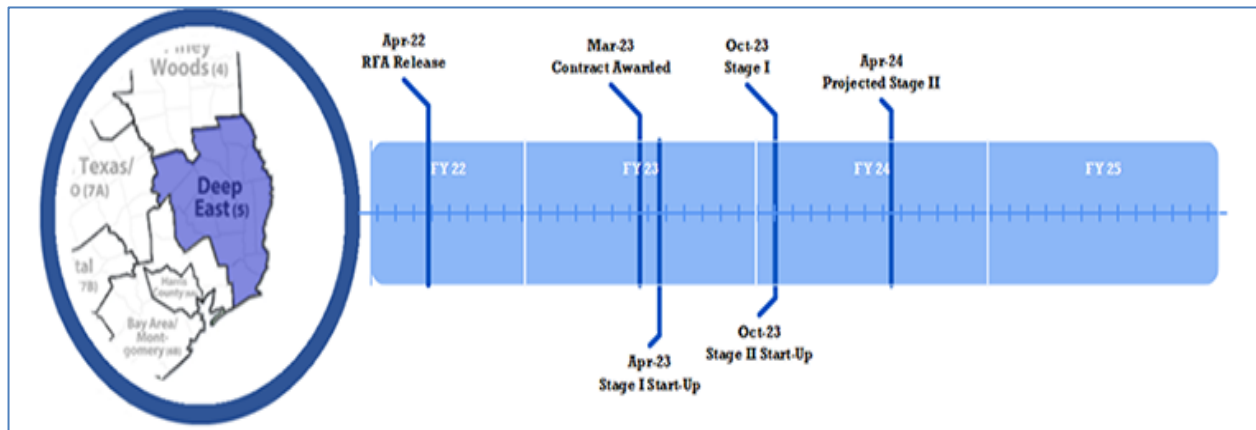
### Hiring of 4Kids4Families Leadership

4Kids4Families hired its Senior Vice President of CBC, Jon Mark McMullen, who is overseeing 4Kids4Families. He has been with Arrow in other capacities for a decade. They have also hired four directors who will oversee the four sections of 4Kids4Families. They joined the team on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. 4Kids4Families has also recently posted several new positions, including community relations coordinator, quality and compliance specialist, quality and compliance supervisor, and a behavioral health services supervisor and specialist. 4Kids4Families.org will post the most up-to-date news, job positions, and continue to serve as a resource for those needing more information.



# Update for Deep East- Texas Family Care Network

The Deep East community, previously known as Region 5, is comprised of [15 counties](#). The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



## Readiness and Stage I Start Up

Texas Family Care Network, a division of Pressley Ridge Texas, began their SSCC contract on April 1, 2023. Readiness activities have begun including town halls with DFPS, providers, and the community in various locations within the region. Judiciary and additional provider and community town halls are scheduled for the months of June and July to continue to inform and engage the community about CBC.

## Leadership Roles and Key Positions

Texas Family Care Network has begun the process of hiring its Texas leadership team.

Leading the team will be Rocky Hensarling, the Vice President of CBC for Texas Family Care Network, Shari Pulliam has joined Texas Family Care Network as the Director of Community Engagement, and Dr. Amy Strickler, Ph.D. is joining Texas Family Care Network as the Senior Director of Quality Assurance and Contracts.

## Capacity Building

Texas Family Care Network has engaged with Wendy’s Wonderful Kids to gather more information about this initiative that could help find permanency for the harder to place children in the Texas foster care system. In addition, they are reviewing various models of care to address children without placement to ensure a broad array of services is available to meet individual needs. Ongoing community engagement initiatives will continue as will various capacity building activities.



# Legislation Implementation Updates

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## Senate Bill 1896

The 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1896, which is an omnibus bill that impacts many divisions within DFPS, including OCBCT. This bill created the OCBCT and appointed a Director for the OCBCT.

The OCBCT is charged with 10 duties:

1. assess CBC areas in this state where Community-Based Care services may be implemented,
2. develop a plan for implementing Community-Based Care in each community area in this state, including the order in which Community-Based Care will be implemented in each community area and a timeline for implementation,
3. evaluate Community-Based Care providers,
4. contract, on behalf of DFPS, with Community-Based Care providers to provide services in each community area in this state,
5. measure contract performance of Community-Based Care providers,
6. provide contract oversight of Community-Based Care providers,
7. report outcomes of Community-Based Care providers,
8. identify the employees and other resources to be transferred to the Community-Based Care provider to provide the necessary implementation, case management, operational, and administrative functions and outline the methodology for determining the employees and resources to be transferred,
9. create a risk-sharing funding model that strategically and explicitly balances financial risk between this state and the Community-Based Care provider and mitigates the financial effects of significant unforeseen changes in the Community-Based Care provider's duties or the population of the community it serves, and
10. require the annual review and adjustment of the funding based on updated cost and finance methodologies, including changes in policy, foster care rates, and community service usage.

For charges one through three, OCBCT's outreach efforts help promote and support these charges through interactions with current and potential future CBC providers to plan for CBC in communities across Texas. OCBCT continues to partner with DFPS to plan CBC roll out in the remaining community areas and ensures that innovation in planning the next areas of CBC is



supported. OCBCT continues to look at the CBC implementation timeline for flexibility based on the SSCC and community readiness and will ensure that the progression through the stages of CBC are reflective of the SSCC, DFPS, and community's readiness.

For charges four through seven, OCBCT works closely with DFPS and HHSC to ensure procurement regulations are followed, adherence to state and federal statutes regarding the administration of the foster care program, and compliance with the federal foster care remedial orders. This collaborative approach ensures that the SSCCs are set up for success. OCBCT collaborates and partners with DFPS and the SSCCs to resolve any case work or contractual concerns. The CBC Quarterly Report and the Rider 15 Report help to ensure that outcomes are reported to internal and external stakeholders. Information is also shared in the quarterly public private partnership (PPP) meetings, where the public and private sectors come together to advise DFPS and OCBCT about CBC. The PPP meeting combined with the Committee on Advancing Residential Practices (CARP) meeting was held on May 25, 2023. The OCBCT's outreach efforts support the ongoing efforts to fulfil this function of the office. The OCBCT is committed to transparency and will continue to meet statutory requirements for sharing implementation plans, implementation updates, and performance data and measures. Visit our updated [CBC webpage](#) to see updates to include unsolicited proposals in real-time.

For the final charges, eight through 10, OCBCT continues to work alongside DFPS and HHSC to evaluate financial implications of CBC. OCBCT continues to work with external partners such as Texas Tech University and Chapin Hall to ensure the best methods of supporting the SSCCs and CBC, including the progression of Stage III.

## **Data Access and Standards Governance Council**

Senate Bill 1896 updated the definition and requirements of the existing Data Access and Standards Governance Council (DASGC), which was established by the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 2019. To conform to Senate Bill 1896, the Council continues to hold quarterly meetings.

The 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature appropriated \$4.8 million for three projects that support the interoperability of systems to facilitate data sharing as part of CBC. These initiatives will reduce duplication of access and entry for the SSCCs. It will also improve the quality of the SSCC's case specific documentation and overseeing performance. Projects include sending data to/from SSCCs for the Child Plan of Service, placements, and contracts.

## **CBC Model, Process Evaluation, and Continuous Quality Improvement**

The OCBCT continues to evaluate whether the staged approach is the best approach to implement



CBC statewide. OCBCT and DFPS contracted with Texas Tech University to conduct a process evaluation of each stage of CBC. The process evaluation is a tool used by the OCBCT and DFPS to assess implementation of CBC in each community area, identifying the key successes and barriers, and course correct as needed. The CBC process evaluation was completed in November 2020 and can be found on the [CBC website](#). On-going process evaluations through Texas Tech University will continue, and work is underway with the DFPS Office of Data and Systems Improvement and the SSCCs, to make a long-term sustainable plan for statewide Community-Based Care. An updated process evaluation is planned to be released by Texas Tech University in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

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 outcome evaluation. Chapin Hall provides independent data analysis of each SSCC's performance on placements within 50 miles and paid foster care days, the basis for the fiscal model, and incentive payments in Stage III. DFPS, OCBCT, and Chapin Hall, with the input of the SSCCs, will be finalizing Stage III and it is anticipated that there will be SSCCs entering into Stage III in early FY 2024. OCBCT, in tandem with DFPS, is working to refine the baseline and thresholds for performance, to ensure that the criteria for financial incentives and remedies for Stage III are sound and accurate.

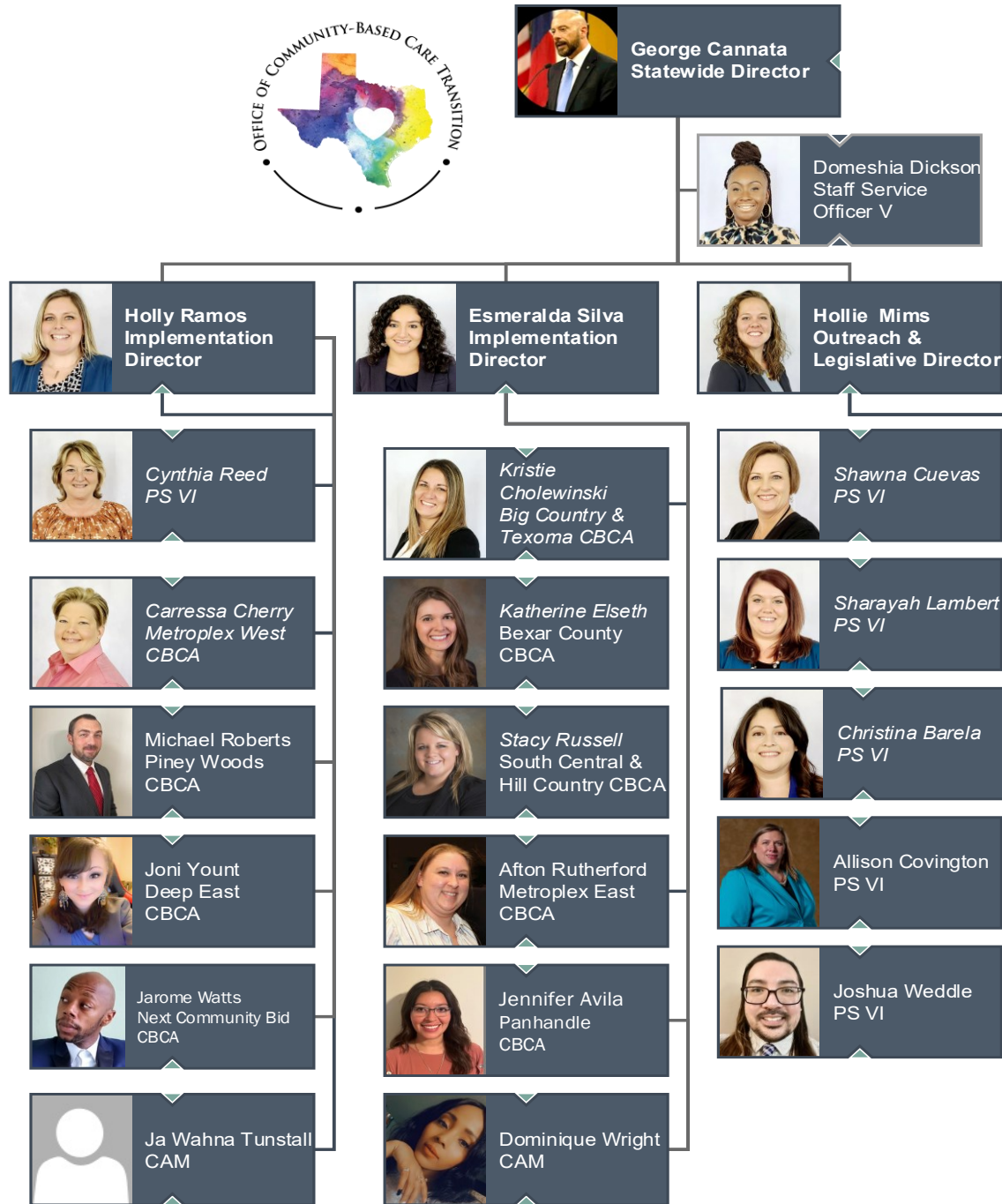
## Conclusion

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OCBCT, DFPS, and stakeholder partners are committed to successfully implementing and sustaining CBC in the seven current communities: Panhandle, Big Country & Texoma, Metroplex West, South Central & Hill Country, Metroplex East, Piney Woods, and Deep East. The potential award of unsolicited proposals lays the foundation for an expedited rollout statewide. Of the children in paid foster care, 26.4 percent are in SSCC catchments (Fiscal Year 23 year-to-date). By the end of Fiscal Year 25, 47 percent of the children in paid foster care are projected to be in SSCC catchments. View the latest [CBC Implementation Plan](#) for additional details; it is updated annually and will include new requirements passed during the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.



# Appendix A: Organizational Structure for the Office of Community-Based Care Transition



# Appendix B: Current Community-Based Care Communities

