



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner
Jaime Masters, MS, MFT

DFPS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:
Committee on Advancing Residential Practices (CARP)
Friday, October 14, 2022, 11:15 am
4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78751
Brown-Heatly Building, Public Hearing Room

Meeting Minutes

CARP Committee Members Present:

Sandra Daniels, Executive Director	Youth in View
Jenifer Jarriel, CEO	DePelchin Children's Center
Karen Lund, Executive Director	CK Family Services
Scott Lundy, CEO	Arrow Child & Family Ministries of Texas
Melissa Opheim, COO	ACH Child & Family Services
Candice Matthews, Executive Director	Children of Diversity
Katie Olse, Executive Director	Alliance of Child & Family Services
Glenn Scruggs, CEO	The Giocosa Foundation
Jennifer Maddox, Director of Foster Care and Adoption	Jonathan's Place

Joint PPP and CARP Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11:15am by one of the PPP Committee Co-Chairs Jenifer Jarriel, and the CARP Committee Chair Scott Lundy, who introduced themselves. There was an introduction of the new format of the PPP meeting followed by a joint PPP and CARP session, followed by the CARP meeting.

Corliss Lawson, DFPS Deputy Commissioner, gave an update on Foster Care litigation related to the Children's Rights lawsuit. The next scheduled status hearing will be on January 27, 2023 in Dallas, followed by another status hearing in May, 2023. The next report by the Court Monitors will be released in December, 2022. Heightened Monitoring has had it's second annual run of the court's methodology resulting in some additions of new operations, and

a current count of 65 operations, 37 CPAs and 28 GROs. There are currently 8 CPAs and 10 GROs in Post-Plan Monitoring, and 10 CPAs and 2 GROs have exited Heightened Monitoring. Of a recent review of 264 Investigations, 86% correctly had a disposition of all allegations Ruled Out. There is a 99% compliance rate with CSA Training. 81% of Priority 1 Investigations are initiated timely. 86% of Priority 2 Investigations are initiated timely. 72% of Investigations are completed timely.

Hector Ortiz, DFPS Director of Conservatorship, and Jillian Bonacquisti, DFPS Director of Placement Services, gave an update on the posted Open Enrollment residential contracting opportunities for Treatment Foster Family Care (TFFC) and Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), which can be found on the [Texas HHS Open Enrollment Opportunities](#) website. There are operations actively applying for TFFC, but none for QRTP yet, although the fact that the no eject-no reject requirements have changed has caused some renewed interest. They were joined by Bill Walsh, DFPS Director of Purchased Client Services, to talk about the Supplemental Rate Increase, which will be effective as of 9/1/2022, but information on the relevant contract changes are still being prepared, and should go out to Contractors by the end of October. The funding for the increase is partially from Senate Bill 5 to target Specialized, Intense, and Intense Plus Levels of Care.

Sarah Abrahams, DFPS Deputy Chief Officer for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), presented on the makeup of the Prevention and Community Well-Being division, and the service offerings through [PEI](#), as well as the current funding sources. The [Community Maltreatment Risk Maps](#) have been recently updated. The Kinship Navigator pilot is currently in the formal evaluation stage, and the Early Intervention Court Liaisons demonstration project is underway. PEI has partnered with the Texas Youth Helpline to add advice to the Helpline's service by providing concerned parents with information on dealing with and getting help for children who are running away, suicidal, etc. and with information on concrete services.

A PEI Advisory Council is being assembled, and the first meeting should be held in December. Heather Thorp, DFPS Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Manager, gave an overview of FFPSA and how it is influencing DFPS currently, including the necessity of changing PEI programs to follow models listed in the FFPSA Clearinghouse. Texas has not yet submitted our prevention plan to the federal Administration for Children and Families due to [various challenges and decisions that are still pending](#), including that the Texas Legislature will need to appropriate funds to specific qualifying programs to trigger the draw down of federal funds, and decisions about how to define children who are a candidate for foster care. Rider 48 related to Senate Bill 3041 from last session did allow transition projects to be initiated as Texas Family First (TFF) pilots, which are currently all SSCC areas. In addition to the linked websites above, slides are available under the [PPP archive](#).

CARP Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 2:01pm by the CARP Committee Chair Scott Lundy, who welcomed all of the attendees, and the Committee members present introduced themselves. Committee Chair Scott Lundy inquired if the committee members liked the new format with the joint session, and the conclusion was that it was a successful change, although holding the meeting on a Thursday would be preferable, and it was determined that there was no need for a scheduled lunch break in between the joint session and the start of the CARP meeting.

Kason Vercher, DFPS Residential Child Care Contracts Director, explained how according to DFPS contracts policy, residential child care operations selected for the [Client Services Specialized Monitoring Plan](#) each fiscal year are determined by a score, obtained as a result of a contract [Risk Assessment Instrument](#) (RAI) that is completed by the Residential Contract Manager. After the operation crafts and implements their plan to address the findings identified in the risk-based monitoring, a follow-up monitoring may

be performed to assess the success of implementation, which is usually a desk review, but could be on-site. In response to a request from the providers, contracts leadership will discuss with Contract Oversight and Support about whether the completed RAI can be released to the providers for their records.

Bill Walsh, DFPS Director of Purchased Client Services, did an update on the status of the House Bill 5 Capacity Building Grants, which should be awarded in November. There were over 20 applications, so it has taken time to review them all. \$19 million will be distributed, with \$1 million held back for administrative purposes. Temporary staff have been hired, separate from a provider's regular Residential Contract Manager, to oversee the grants.

Bill Walsh, DFPS Director of Purchased Client Services, did an update on the DFPS response to the Provider Workgroups. A [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document was created to address residential provider's questions about 3 in 30, which is posted on the DFPS website, and will be sent out to providers soon. The added incentives for CPAs of sibling groups and older youth were a previous result of the Provider Workgroups, and the recent addition of the older youth incentive to Emergency Shelters will be another. Another response to a workgroup is that the wait times for ARIF and SOA are dropping, which will be elaborated on more later in the meeting regarding the CPI QA process. There was a request that the next time that the Residential Provider Report Cards are issued, that they include the benchmarks used to evaluate the providers.

Bill Walsh, DFPS Director of Purchased Client Services, did an update on the Senate Bill 11, Incentives and Remedies, and how challenges with the timing of certain aspects of the PACES process, such as needing to complete all appeals for one quarter before the next quarter can be uploaded and initiated, are causing issues. The committee also brought up concerns regarding the current process whereby contractors who are waiting on RTB

Administrative Reviews and/or SOA Hearings have to pay in for the Safe In Care remedy, and don't get that money back until after the appeals process is complete. A request was made by Commissioner Masters for the committee to gather and submit examples of issues, and after looking into them, a follow-up presentation could be done at the next meeting.

Cameron Garza, DFPS Child Care Investigations Deputy Director, introduced Jose Martinez, the first head of the newly created separate office to implement the RCCI Quality Assurance Process, including the Administrative Review first line appeals process. They are currently in the process of transitioning and training staff under the new program, and hiring to address projected needs, as well as reviewing and updating policies and procedures.

The committee indicated that it would like to review a breakdown of the methodology for calculating operations going on Heightened Monitoring at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm.