

July 10, 2020

# PPP Meeting Notes

## Attendance:

Table 1: PPP Committee Members

Present	Name	Title	Organization
Yes	Glenn Scruggs	Director/Program Administrator	The Giocosa Foundation
Yes	Andy Homer	Director of Public Affairs	Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
Yes	Judge Rob Hofmann	Judge	452nd District Court
Yes	Deneen Dryden	Associate Commissioner Director for CPS/PPP Co-Chair	Department of Family and Protective Services
Yes	Wayne Carson	CEO	ACH Child and Family Services
Yes	Christine Gendron	Executive Director	Texas Network of Youth Services
Yes	Hector Ortiz	CPS Director of Conservatorship Services	Department of Family and Protective Services
Yes	Katie Olse	Executive Director	Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services
Yes	Jenifer Jarriel	President/PPP Co-Chair	DePelchin Children's Center
Yes	Scott Lundy	CEO	Arrow Children and Family Ministries
Yes	Michael Redden	Executive Director	New Horizons Ranch and Center
Yes	Anne Heiligenstein	Director of Texas Strategic Consulting	Casey Family Programs
Yes	Jean Shaw	Associate Commissioner for CCL	DFPS Child Care Licensing
Yes	Judge Melissa DeGerolami	Judge	Child Protection Court of South Central Texas
Yes	Michael Loo	President & CEO	Upbring
Yes	Leslie Strauch	Supervising Attorney	Children's Rights Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law
Yes	Denise Blakney	President	Building Future Families
Yes	Allicia Frye	CEO	Jonathan's Place
Yes	Prince Hayward	Youth Policy Specialist	Texas Network of Youth Services
Yes	Jimmy Moore	President	Children's Home of Lubbock

## Other Attendees:

Meeting held virtually. Multiple public and DFPS in attendance.

## Welcome New Members: Deneen Dryden and Jenifer Jarriel

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Prince Hayward (TNOYS), Jimmy Moore (Children's Home of Lubbock), Michael Loo (Upbring) and Anne Heiligenstein (Casey Family Programs).

## Agency COVID-19 Update: Deneen Dryden

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- Personal Protective Equipment, Screening Questions, Hygiene management, Physical Distancing
- Visits have resumed with safety practiced
- Family visitations have resumed
- Virtual visits are supplementing the in-person visits
- Two videos: One for is for staff and one is for parents, to reinforce safety practices for in-person visits
- Prior to the in-person visit, there is coordination
- Resumed sibling visits
- Reporting COVID-19 cases, DFPS COVID-19 Test reporting mailbox (name, DOB, date of results); if suspect also report and DFPS medical team can follow-up/

## Foster Care Litigation Update: Audrey Carmical (DFPS), Tiffany Roper (DFPS)

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- Summary: March 2011; Trial Dec. 2014 District court, Jan 2018 final order, 5<sup>th</sup> circuit—Opinion July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019; Litigation moved into a compliance stage versus a litigation; Remedial Orders: DFPS actively working to comply with, June 15<sup>th</sup>—first report: public report July 6<sup>th</sup>, DFPS HHSC and Governor filed objections to the monitors of reports, 17 remedial orders.
- A couple of motions pending in district court; Heighten-monitoring; FAQs

## Catchment Area Updates

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### Update from Region 3b (Our Community Our Kids): Dr. Wayne Carson (CEO) and George Cannata (Region 3W RD)

- Started Stage II March 2020, good start
- 100% staffed; Targeted workload size is 14, currently have 139 Permanency Specialists—
  - 73% fully case assignable, rest is toward working fully case assignable,
  - 1:19 average; goal is 1:14
- George spoke to the great partnership, “couldn't have a better partner”
  - When OCOK took case management over it was smooth as can be
  - The community recognizes OCOK as the Foster Care provider; have given technical assistance along the way
  - Next steps are oversight reads on critical tasks: new removals in the last 45 days and cases that were already in case management when the transition occurred

### COVID-19 Response:

- Demonstrated the power and benefit of a CBC model: connection with providers and relationships, foster homes and families impacted the same as the rest of the community

- Worked on a fund to assist the network and family during this short-term economic hardship by helping with rents, bills, mortgages, playground sets, etc.
- There was a great need for accurate information about the disease; getting good info to our providers was critical
- Due to great relationships with hospitals/medical providers, had a doctor share his knowledge; direct access to medical professional and get information immediately to the network
- Close collaboration, relationship and coordination—takes problem solving local; DFPS leadership has been there to assist along the way

## **Update from Region 2 (2INgage): Shirley Dwyer (CEO), Linda Garcia (Senior Vice President) and Sheryl Russell (Regions 1/2 Acting RD)**

- Transition from Stage I to Stage II in total virtual reality
- Dec. 2018 Stage I serving 800 and now serving over 1500.
- Shortage of homes for youth and siblings
- Hoping to expand treatment foster care placements
- 100% attendees on Foster Care Training, may look at continuing this delivery method
- Stage II: June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020; 150 employees hired all virtually;
  - 113 Permanency Case Managers, 1/3 of DFPS tenure, former CPS employees and in the community with child welfare experience
- Hector and Linda highlight the amazing partnership/communication that it has required and occurred to transition into Stage II in the midst of COVID-19.
- According to Hector, 2INgage has done a great job at partnering with DFPS; innovative ideas for engaging families;

## **Update from Region 8a (Family Tapestry): Raquel Garza-Martinez (COO) and Erica Banuelos (CPS Director of Field)**

### **Stage I, year one performance measures**

- Youth fully prepared for adulthood: 100% compared to 88.1% baseline
- Placement proximity: 82.1% compared to 75% baseline
- Least Restrictive Placement: 72.3% compared to 70.1% baseline
- Maintaining Connections: 66% compared to 64% baseline
- Placement Stability: 1.3 compared to 1.47 baseline
- Safety: 99.27% compared to 100% baseline

### **Areas for growth:**

- Need more homes for children with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities, medically fragile, Primary Medical Needs, Mental health needs, sibling groups of more than four children, and residential treatment centers for children with higher acuity needs
- Need comprehensive services for youth age 18+ returning to foster care and choosing to stay in foster care

### **Sucesses and Innovation:**

- Foster Excel Coaching Program
- Family Tapestry Heat Map Project
- Bexar County Fostering Educational Success Program

- Family Tapestry Virtual Match Event [shared a story on giving the child a real voice and sharing this with potential adoptive parents; moving away from “paper” and allowing the child to speak for themselves as to what they desire in their adoption and their family]

#### **COVID-19 Response:**

- 31 correspondences to network providers to keep them informed
  - Emails to providers with updates and resources
  - Surveys
  - Webinars with public health experts
  - PPE distribution
- Support from the Office of Senator Jose Menendez and Representative Ina Minjarez to support the network

## **Update from Region 1 (Saint Francis Community Services): Cristian Garcia (Regional Vice President) and Sheryl Russell (Regions 1/2 Acting RD)**

#### **Key Information**

- Stage I went live on January 6, 2020
- Focused on keeping children in the community
- Serving 1,008 children as of June 2020
- 73% of children in the SFCS system are placed in the region
- 68% of children are placed with at least one sibling

#### **Capacity**

- Carl Farley’s Boys Ranch has joined SFCS
  - Focused on large sibling groups and older teens
  - Has been around for over 75 years
  - Licensed capacity of over 430 beds
- Sondra’s Song
  - Founded in 2011
  - Supervised Independent Living program for young adults, ages 18-24
  - 13 specialty beds
  - Designed to help youth and young adults who are aging out of foster care transition into independent living
- Continued work on building capacity (i.e. SIL placements)

#### **Highlighting Success and Innovation :**

- Cecilia who had been in over 41 placements is now in the process of being placed with a great aunt
- Ellen has been in care for over 3 years and in 12 placements, is now pending adoption
- Jaime has been in 42 placements, Arrow targeted case management referred to wraparound services; placed with an aunt
- Using TARE Broadcasts and Social Media Campaigns to innovate and continue to reach out to the community on behalf of the children ready for adoption. Share the example of John and Jason, who are pending adoption with their teacher.
- Scoring high in employee satisfaction survey
- 4% turnover rate
- Emphasis on positive work and office experience (“our team” not “our staff” approach)
- Special events and team competitions
- Seeking local news and outreach to make more connections with the community
- Social media and digital recruitment efforts

- Profession Foster Parent Model
- Involved in community-wide events for awareness months, Child Abuse Prevention and National Foster Care

#### COVID-19 Response

- Partnering with the community
- Reaching out to the network to ensure they have PPE
- Providing PPE where needed

## CBC Implementation Updates: Ellen Letts

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### Region 8b

- RFA released on May 2, 2019 and closed on August 2, 2019
- Procurement officially closed in July 2020
- Plan to release new RFA in August 2020 and will remain open for 90 days
- Anticipated Stage I start-up in February 2021 and go-live in August 2021

### Foster Care Rate Evaluation

- Foster care rate evaluation and study, required by Special Provision, Sec. 32 from 86th Legislative Session. HHSC leads the procurement process.
- Procurement released on May 5th
- Procurement closed on June 4th
- HHSC is now in the vendor selection phase
- Questions related this open procurement should be directed to Stacy Kerns at HHSC at [stacy.kerns@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:stacy.kerns@hhsc.state.tx.us).

### Process Evaluation

- CBC Stage I Process Evaluation in Regions 1, 2, and 8a
- CBC Stage II Process Evaluation in Regions 2 and 3b
- Evaluation reports due this fall before Legislative session

### Data Access & Standards Governance Council

- Council met on July 8, 2020
- Stage II Rollouts completed in Regions 3b and 2
- Stage I Rollout completed in Region 1
- Stage I and II IMPACT enhancements completed in November 2019 and February 2020 respectively
- Stage I Interoperability IMPACT enhancements completed in April 2020; the SSCC system must be compatible with DFPS system, so in short it can speak to IMPACT. SSCC want the flexibility to use their system to manage their network effectively as opposed to using IMPACT 2.0 and Legacy IMPACT.
- Planning for future CBC IMPACT enhancements and interoperability data sets in FY 21

## Closing/Agenda Items for Next Meeting

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Questions: Performance Measures; only available Rider reports; Q3 data has been gathered and is being reviewed; has not been shared with SSCC yet

- Kinship numbers have gone down in general across the state; 48%; some regions are doing exceptionally well; looking at those regions to see what they're doing well
- COVID-19; Stage II incentives and remedies; planning around something like COVID-19 that could affect permanency and dramatically financially impact the SSCC for something that they have no control over

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

- CPS LAR
- FFPSA – status
- CBC Implementation Schedule
- CBC Readiness around the state

Next Meeting: October 9, 2020