

October 9, 2020

PPP Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Table 1: PPP Committee Members

Present	Name	Title	Organization
Yes	Glenn Scruggs	CEO/Executive Director	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	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
No	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
No	Denise Blakney	President	Building Future Families
Yes	Alicia 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.

PPP Committee Reflection: Deneen Dryden and Jenifer Jarriel

- Desire to use the time during the PPP meeting to result in the best benefit.
- Many PPP members are also on numerous other committees where similar information is shared.
- Reviewed TAC 702.509 that outlines purpose of PPP.
- Today's meeting agenda reflects some of the changes to the structure. Additional feedback and recommendations regarding future changes is welcome.
- If committee members did not have opportunity to share suggestions for the meeting structure and topics, reach out to Deneen Dryden, Jenifer Jarrell, or Ellen Letts.

Foster Care Litigation Update: Tiffany Roper (DFPS)

- DFPS is still waiting for order to be rendered by court after the recent hearing.
- Also anticipating a compliance hearing in the future as this was identified by the court as a next step.

PPP Committee Member Appointment Process: Cheryl Gomez, DFPS Council Liaison

- Commissioner Masters requested that a standard process to select a diverse and representative group of committee members be established.
- Guidance for selection comes from TAC Rules 702.509 related to the PPP.
- When looking for future applicants' specific characteristics that are needed to add diversity to the committee may be shared.
- Members serve 2-year appointments and can serve consecutive appointments.
- Some organizations will always need to have representation on the PPP due to their role in the child welfare system, such as Texas CASA.

Agency COVID-19 Update: Deneen Dryden

- Staff remain positive attitudes during this difficult time.
- Personal Protective Equipment and social distancing continue to be used to ensure safety of children, youth, family members and staff.
- Face to face visits and family visitation continue except for medically fragile children as advised by medical providers.
- 3-day medical exams continue to be completed.
- Telehealth options are being used for CANS assessments for children of all ages. DFPS has requested that telehealth remain an option moving forward.
- EPDST checkups are encouraged to be in person when possible but allow exceptions when needed. In person check up should be priority for children under age 2.
- Dental exams have resumed.
- HHSC and Medicaid have expanded options for telehealth that can reduce barriers and expand capacity where needed.

DFPS Legislative Appropriations Request: David Kinsey, DFPS CFO

- New LAR request is posted on DFPS public website and high-level overview was presented.

- LAR request reflects current fiscal climate in the state because of COVID-19.
- Base Request: 4.5 Billion in all funds which is a 1.2% increase driven by growth in entitlement programs such as foster care.
 - HHSC has contracted with Public Consulting Group to complete a rate study to evaluate the current methodology for foster care rates for the legacy system and the community-based care system.
- Exceptional items:
 - Sustaining CPS services. Funding needed to maintain level of services and staffing.
 - Continuing CBC for 2 years.
 - CVS Staff to meet LBB targets based on caseloads for 2022 and 2023.
 - Comply with Federal Court Orders in MD Lawsuit
 - Heightening Monitoring
 - Court monitors
 - Staffing for Child Care Investigations
 - May be updates to requests moving forward based on MD Lawsuit decisions/orders
 - Expand Community-Based Care
 - 4 new catchments in Stage I
 - 2 current areas to Stage II
 - Expand Prevention and Early Intervention Services
 - Implement Family First Prevention Services Act
 - Federal transition funds of 16 million currently available for FFPSA implementation that have been used to do system upgrades in preparation.
 - Still 34 million available for the legislature to determine how they should be used.
- DFPS is continuing to work on details of how the payment will work in Stage III of CBC and will continue to seek input from Chapin Hall.
- DFPS asked for more flexibility to move funds between strategies as needed to manage the budget.

Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA): Heather Thorp, FFPSA Division Administrator and Sasha Rasco, PEI Associate Commissioner

- The Family First Prevention Services Act: The Changing Landscape of Texas Child Welfare Strategic Plan was posted to the DFPS website on 9-1-2020.
- High level review FFPSA implementation options presented as part of strategic plan include:
 - CBC Options
 - Include FBSS services into existing CBC model as 4th stage of implementation
 - Contract for FBSS services in existing catchment areas under new (non-SSCC) contract
 - FFPSA Prevention Services
 - Expansion of home visiting program
 - Expand Helping through Intervention and Prevention (HIP) Services for pregnant and parenting foster youth
 - Expand capacity for FFPSA prevention In-Home Parenting Programs
 - Use HOPES model so that it could be community driven and different for each community.
 - QRTP Pilot and it was approved extend grants to GRO's so that recommendations could be made to the 88th leg session. Enter into contracts by April 2022 for QRTP.

Regional CBC Updates Q & A

- Judge Hoffman brought concerns to the group related to the SSCC preparedness to assume court related responsibilities during Stage II and several examples were provided.
- A follow up meeting between CPS Leadership and PPP members that represent our legal stakeholders will be scheduled to discuss further.
- Request for SSCC's to include more information about their performance measures in their presentations.
- Request that the SSCC's continue to share information about their innovations and programs in their presentations.

CBC Implementation Updates: Ellen Letts

Region 8b

- New RFA released on September 1, 2020 and closes on December 1, 2020
- Anticipated Stage I start-up in February 2021 and go-live in August 2021

Process Evaluation

- CBC Stage I Process Evaluation in Regions 1, 2, and 8a
- CBC Stage II Process Evaluation in Regions 2 and 3b
- Evaluation draft reports expected in November and will be published before Legislative session

CBC Annual Implementation Plan

- CBC Annual Implementation Plan will be released by December 31, 2020.
- Plan will include announcing new catchment areas that will be requested during 87th legislative session.

Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics: Deneen Dryden and Jenifer Jarriel

- Introduction to Community-Based Care computer-based training created for internal stakeholders will be released by the end of October. CBC team plans to identify a solution to make available to external stakeholders review as well.
- Recommendation to explore if what Texas is currently experiencing in relation to internal and external response to the culture change related to the implementation and expansion of community-based care is like what has been experienced in other states that have implemented similar change.

Next Meeting: Friday, January 8, 2021
