VULNERABLE ADULTS

Improving Structure and Practice
✓ Guardianship Program Transfer
  • Charter signed June 2006
  • DFPS and DADS workgroup

✓ Quality Assurance and Performance Management
  • APS Performance Management System in place
  • Fourth quarter performance report submitted to Legislature – 100% of tasks completed

✓ Risk Assessment
  • Client Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CARE) tool in place
  • University of Texas final evaluation report on CARE showed the tool is effective

✓ Complex Cases
  • Subject matter experts hired to assist with complex cases
    • 9 experts in exploitation and evidence-driven investigations hired statewide
    • 9 experts in self-neglect hired statewide

Increasing Capacity
✓ Enhancing Staff Qualifications
  • 897 pre-employment screening tests conducted
  • 18 APS staff approved for educational stipends

✓ Caseload Reduction Plan
  • 179 additional workers being phased-in statewide

✓ Training
  • New basic training has been expanded from three to eleven weeks and includes web-based, classroom, and on-the-job training

✓ Technology
  • Tablet PC user survey conducted
  • Cultural change management plan developed to offer training and other job aids
Working with Community Partners

✓ Public Awareness Campaign
  • “It’s Everybody’s Business” yearlong public awareness campaign in effect

✓ Special Task Units
  • All 19 required counties with population of 250,000 or more have created Special Task Units
  • Two additional counties, not required by SB 6, are creating Special Task Units

✓ Community Engagement
  • Community satisfaction survey sent to 2,450 stakeholders across the state
  • Finalized report will be published in December 2006

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Strengthening Investigations

✓ Improved Screening
  • 41 Screeners have reviewed more than 24,000 reports
  • Nearly 25% of these screened reports have been closed resulting in more caseworker time spent on cases needing attention

✓ New Investigations Structure
  • Investigations division in place
  • 131 Special Investigators, with law enforcement background, hired statewide to assist in complex cases
  • 7 Law Enforcement Liaisons hired to build partnerships between DFPS and law enforcement in local communities and to assist in hiring special investigators

✓ Child Safety Specialists
  • 20 Child Safety Specialists hired bringing the total to 43
  • Risk assessment training developed and delivered to staff
  • Risk and Safety Sub-committee established to better address risk and safety tool

✓ Response Time Reduction
  • Began pilot program in Dallas/Ft.Worth region

✓ Joint Investigations and Training
  • Joint investigations guidelines in place
  • Working with law enforcement at local level to provide joint training
  • Contract with Shaken Baby Alliance in place to provide advanced training on abuse/neglect investigations

✓ Parental Notification of Child Transfer
  • New policy and form in place

Supporting Quality Casework

✓ Hiring
  • CPS hired over 2,200 direct-delivery staff since September 2005

✓ Staffing and Workload Distribution Plan
  • Functional units established and workload measurement tools in place to allocate new staff to regions
  • Average daily caseloads for investigative caseworkers
• Sept 05 – 38.9
• Sept 06 – 27.8
• Average daily caseload for conservatorship caseworkers
  • Sep 05 - 42.6
  • Sep 06 - 44.2

✓ Casework Documentation
  • IMPACT modifications to facilitate documentation
  • Mobile dictation service extended

✓ Training
  • New caseworker training expanded from a six-week to twelve-weeks
  • Additional training expanded and enhanced including:
    • cultural, kinship program, medical consent, Tablet PC, educational portfolio, and more
  • Joint training with law enforcement allows for CPS and law enforcement to effectively conduct joint investigations

✓ Technology
  • 1,794 Tablet PCs were distributed to CPS investigators by October 2006
  • An additional 424 will be supplied to new CPS investigative staff by close of the biennium
  • Tablet PCs have replaced the desktop computers allowing full computing capability in the field; this includes a wireless service for communication and information access

Improving Services & Child Outcomes
✓ Outsourcing Substitute Care and Case Management Services
  • Request for Information released October 2005
  • Stakeholder meetings held around the state Fall 2005 – Spring 2006
  • Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) released February 2006
  • Transition plan released March 1, 2006
  • RFP for first region (Region 8) Independent Administrator released May 1, 2006
  • Transitional Regional Advisory Committee established in Region 8 July 2006
  • Evaluation of RFP proposals conducted Fall 2006
  • Procurement remains open

✓ Relative Caregiver Program
  • Kinship caregiver program implemented March 2006
  • The number of children placed with relatives has increased 82% from 2004 to 2006.

✓ Cultural Awareness and Disproportionality
  • Disproportionality Policy Evaluation and Remediation Plan submitted to the Legislature on June 30, 2006

✓ Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)
  • FGDM model established and policy developed
  • As of August 2006 3,075 FGDM Conferences conducted
  • FGDM evaluation submitted to the Legislature October 2006
    • Parents and relatives more satisfied with FGDM over traditional services
    • FGDM increases reunifications and relative placements and decreases foster care placements
    • Higher rate of positive outcomes for African American and Hispanic children

✓ Initial Assessments
  • DFPS and HHSC working to develop a new health and behavioral health care program including initial assessment by professionals
Education Passport
- Policy and procedures in place to ensure the educational needs of children in care are being met
- Educational portfolio training has been conducted with stakeholders and staff
- Education portfolios distributed to regions for every child in care

Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)
- 1,091 Circles of Support conducted for youth age 16 and older
- Expansion of Transition Centers and transition services
  - Transition Centers operating in Regions 3, 6, 7, 8
  - Regions 1, 2, 10, 11 have varying levels of services available and are exploring community interest in opening up a Transition Center
- Youth aging out of foster care are now provided with continuous Medicaid coverage through a single application process up to the age of 21

Medical Services
- Comprehensive Healthcare Delivery System for Children in Foster Care procurement in evaluation phase
  - Scheduled implementation September 2007
- Resources made available to CPS workers including:
  - Forensic medical consultation available via Forensic Assessment Centers
  - Regional nurses hired to provide medical consultation
- Medical Consent training available online for staff
  - Training for youth and external medical consenters will soon be available online

Building Community Partnerships
Community Engagement and Co-location
- Community engagement staff in each region coordinates community-based and public awareness activities
- Volunteer programs in place – currently 3,729 CPS active volunteers
- Stakeholder meetings being held around the state
- DFPS is co-located with other community entities at 43 sites around the State; in most of these sites DFPS is co-located with Children’s Advocacy Centers, law enforcement or schools

Preventing Maltreatment
Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)
- Community-Based Family Services Program
  - Rules have been developed and approved, will be effective December 1, 2006
  - A Request for Proposals is in development; the initial contract will be effective March 1, 2007
- Evidence-based prevention services
  - The new Family Strengthening and Youth Resilience programs, funded through budget strategy A.2.16, procured evidence-based services
  - The Community Youth Development (CYD) and Texas Families: Together and Safe (TFTS) programs were re-procured to require evidence-based services

Drug-Related Initiatives
- Drug Endangered Child Protocols and methamphetamine protocols incorporated into training
- 9 substance abuse specialists hired statewide
LICENSING AND REGULATION

Ensuring Child Safety

✓ Background Checks
  • Implemented a 2 working-day turnaround to the child care facilities for the requested checks.

✓ Drug Testing Requirements
  • As of January 1, 2006, a residential child care operation must have a drug testing policy and inform DFPS within 24 hours after becoming aware that a person who directly cares for or has access to a child in the operation has abused drugs within the past 7 days.

✓ Additional Child Care Licensing (CCL) Staff
  • 63 additional CCL staff hired

✓ Foster Home Inspections
  • Residential Child Care Licensing staff began random sample monitoring of foster homes in all DFPS regions as of June 2006
  • As of August 31, 2006, more than 800 random inspections of foster homes have been conducted
  • By the end of FY 2007, RCCL will be monitoring 1/3 of all agency foster homes yearly

✓ Revision of Minimum Standards for Residential Child Care Operations and Child Placing Agencies
  • More than 2,300 comments received from stakeholders
  • Rules adopted and to be effective January 1, 2007