Joint Hearing of the House Committees on Public Health and Human Services
Charge 6: Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse

Hank Whitman
Commissioner, Department of Family and Protective Services
August 9, 2018
Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children

Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children involved in Investigations or Alternative Response

- Children with Substance Abuse Issues and No Mental Health Issues
- Children with Mental Health Issues and No Substance Abuse Issues
- Children with Mental Health Issues and Substance Abuse Issues
- Children with Mental Health Issues or Substance Abuse Issues

FY 2016:
- 3,319
- 4,624
- 115

FY 2017:
- 8,058
- 3,058
- 114

FY 2018 YTD:
- 8,161
- 2,606
- 95

Total:
- 7,145
Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children

Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children involved in Family-Based Safety Services

- Children with Substance Abuse Issues and No Mental Health Issues
- Children with Mental Health Issues and No Substance Abuse Issues
- Children with Mental Health Issues and Substance Abuse Issues
- Children with Mental Health Issues or Substance Abuse Issues

FY 2016:
- 1,282 Children
- 886 Children
- 18 Children
- 18 Children

FY 2017:
- 2,186 Children
- 1,194 Children
- 911 Children
- 18 Children

FY 2018 YTD:
- 2,123 Children
- 853 Children
- 598 Children
- 12 Children
Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children involved in Conservatorship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018 YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children with Substance Abuse Issues and No Mental Health Issues</td>
<td>2,683</td>
<td>2,589</td>
<td>2,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with Mental Health Issues and No Substance Abuse Issues</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with Mental Health Issues and Substance Abuse Issues</td>
<td>4,668</td>
<td>4,638</td>
<td>4,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with Mental Health Issues or Substance Abuse Issues</td>
<td>7,534</td>
<td>7,411</td>
<td>6,838</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Substance Abuse as a Factor in Removals

[Graph showing the comparison of all removals and removals with substance abuse factor from FY '07 to FY '18.]
Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers

Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers involved in Investigations or Alternative Response

- FY 2016:
  - Caregivers with Mental Health Issues: 13,932
  - Caregivers with Substance Abuse Issues: 25,295

- FY 2017:
  - Caregivers with Mental Health Issues: 18,220
  - Caregivers with Substance Abuse Issues: 33,977

- FY 2018 YTD:
  - Caregivers with Mental Health Issues: 16,475
  - Caregivers with Substance Abuse Issues: 29,674
Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers involved in Family-Based Safety Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Caregivers with Mental Health Issues</th>
<th>Caregivers with Substance Abuse issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2016</td>
<td>4,986</td>
<td>10,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>6,115</td>
<td>13,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018 YTD</td>
<td>4,460</td>
<td>9,926</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Green: Caregivers with Mental Health Issues
- Purple: Caregivers with Substance Abuse issues
Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers involved in Conservatorship (Removals)

- **Caregivers with Mental Health Issues**
  - FY 2016: 1,600
  - FY 2017: 1,476
  - FY 2018 YTD: 1,136

- **Caregivers with Substance Abuse issues**
  - FY 2016: 12,424
  - FY 2017: 13,512
  - FY 2018 YTD: 11,473
Of 52,180 unique children enrolled in STAR Health in FY 17, 53% had a mental illness or substance use disorder.

Source: HHSC STAR Health Data
Substance Abuse as a Factor in Fatalities

Risk factors such as substance abuse, mental health concerns, and domestic violence were common factors in confirmed child abuse and neglect fatalities:

– In FY 17, **52%** of fatalities caused by abuse or neglect involved a parent or caregiver actively using a substance and/or under the influence of one or more substances that affected their ability to care for the child.

– Almost **23%** of fatalities caused by abuse or neglect involved a parent or caregiver with reported or confirmed mental health concerns.

– Active domestic violence concerns were identified in **17%** of fatalities caused by abuse or neglect, but **40%** of these fatalities had a history of domestic violence.
Efforts for Family Preservation

• **FBSS Pilot (SB 11)**
  – Performance based contract to provide evidence based or promising practices case management services to reduce recidivism and removals of children.
  – Coordination with local OSAR, LMHA and local treatment providers, similar to CPS Legacy.
  – Working to establish telemedicine program to serve rural families

• **Post-Adopt/Post-Permanency Support**
Increasing Capacity for High-Needs Kids

- Community Based Care Expansion (SB 11)
- Therapeutic Foster Care Program
- Intense Plus Rate
- Temporary Emergency Placements Program
- Least Restrictive Placements (HB 1542)
Barriers to Treatment for Parents

Access to substance abuse treatment
– Availability/Location of services
– Waiting lists/Insurance coverage

Parent-Specific Challenges
– Employment challenges
– Child-care availability/frequency
Solutions & Alternatives

- County-led initiatives like Bexar County and other specialty courts to sustain families through innovative treatment and judicial solutions

- Improved collaboration between agencies that serve similar populations

- Education of Judiciary and stakeholders on the challenges of substance abuse and use

- Enhanced services to support parent’s sobriety when children are returned home