



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Capacity Strategic Plan

Region 07

October 1, 2018

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Introduction

As outlined in Chapter 264.1261, of the Texas Family Code, “appropriate management personnel from a child protective services region in which community-based care has not been implemented, in collaboration with foster care providers, faith-based entities, and child advocates in that region, shall use data collected by the department on foster care capacity needs and availability of each type of foster care and kinship placement in the region to create a plan to address the substitute care capacity needs in the region.” The statewide foster care needs assessment was completed in August 2018 and helped to inform the goals and objectives outlined in this plan, which specifically addresses the needs of region 07.

Foster Care Placement Forecast and Assessment of Capacity Need

The Foster Care Needs Assessment can be accessed [here](#).

A stakeholder/provider meeting for Region 7A and 7B occurred on August 27, 2018 where the Foster Care Needs Assessment was reviewed and a Power Point of regional/catchment data was presented focusing on historical analysis and forecasted capacity needs for Fiscal Year 2019.

While DFPS is honored to submit this plan on behalf of the community, the goals and strategies contained herein belong to us all. DFPS would like to thank the following organizations for participating in the development of the Regional capacity strategic plan:

Angelheart, Arrow, Starry, Upbring, A World For Children, Depelchin Children’s Center, Presbyterian Children’s home and Services, The Payton Foundation, Texas Baptist Children’s Home, Hope House, Pathways Youth and Family Services, Therapeutic Family Life, Safe – Foster In Austin, Giocosa, Lighthouse Family Network, Circles of Care, Central Texas Children’s Home, Helping Hand Home, Renaissance, Lifeworks, Settlement Home, Whispering Hills Achievement Center, Central Texas Table of Grace, Option House, and Safe shelter.

The following strategies were identified by stakeholders and the DFPS regional leadership team:

Regional Plan to Increase Capacity

Goal 1: Increase support for existing caregiver/placement capacity

Fostering youth is hard and emotional work. Families find navigating the system difficult.

The Foster Care Needs Assessment forecasts an increase number of youth who have specialized and intense needs. As a result of increased youth needs, it is important to educate and empower caregivers to access resources to assist in meeting the youth's needs while maintaining a stable placement.

Catchment	Authorized Service Level	Living Arrangement	Forecast FY19 Demand	FY17 Supply	% Increase Supply to meet Demand	Capacity Need	Adjusted Capacity Need
7A	Specialized	FH	45	67	-33%	-22	-21
7A	Specialized	GRO Basic/RTC	156	98	59%	58	23
7A	Intense	All	66	66	0%	0	0
7A	IPTP	RTC	12	0	NA	12	NA
7B	Specialized	FH	32	20	60%	12	9
7B	Specialized	GRO Basic/RTC	129	154	-16%	-25	-12
7B	Intense	All	49	33	48%	16	5
7B	IPTP	RTC	14	3	NA	11	NA

Objective 1.1: Education on Star Health Services

Star Health offers extensive services and complex case management services; however, case managers and families are not aware of all the services available.

- CPS Staff will arrange for Star Health Services to provide training to all Child Placing Agency case managers at a Regional Provider Meeting.
- CPS Staff will continue to invite Star Health Representatives to all provider meetings.

Objective 1.2: Identification of Local Mental Health Authority Resources

It is important for families to understand the support and services that the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHAs) can provide for families and foster youth.

- CPS Staff will have a “Yes Mentor” provider attend a Regional Provider Meeting to explain their services to all Child Placing Agency Case Managers.
- CPS Staff will work with Child Placing Agency Case Managers and LMHAs to create a county specific list of resources and contact phone numbers to provide families.

Goal 2: Increase Kinship Caregivers becoming verified caregivers at the onset of the legal case

Family is one of the strongest advocates and youth experience less trauma and increased stability when placement is with safe kinship caregivers. Many caregivers are not financially prepared to take on additional youth in their home and need ongoing support. While families now receive a nominal stipend from the Department, the families are eligible for a more robust financial support as well as additional case manager for crisis intervention support when they are verified.

As a Region, we have the highest numbers of youth placed in Kinship homes at time of removal and within the first 60 days. In an effort to strengthen the support we provide for our youth and families we need to assist with having kinship homes become verified homes for increased support and stability.

Catchment	Children removed in FY17	Percent change in removals from FY16 to FY17	Percent of removals placed in a verified or unverified relative/kin placement at 60 days, FY17	Change in percent of removals placed in a verified or unverified relative/kin placement at 60 days FY16 to FY17
7A	1,727	17%	59%	13%
7B	1,106	-12%	57%	1%

Objective 2.1: Caregiver Education

The first step to increase kinship caregivers becoming licensed caregivers is to make sure they are educated on what this means for them and how they can benefit from this service. The benefits being explained, both supportive and financial benefits can ensure the families make informed decisions.

- Kinship Caseworkers will provide caregivers an explanation of benefits. This will include a table explaining the financial support they will receive as a kinship caregiver and the end date as well as what the average compensation rate would be if they were to become verified through a Child Placing Agency.
- Kinship caregivers who are caring for children with specialized needs and behaviors will be encouraged to seek foster parent verification through a Child Placing Agency who can support treatment level youth.
- If the caregiver has declined to engage with FAD or a Child Placing Agency at the 4th month, a local FAD worker will visit with the family to talk them through the process, benefits, and discuss the family concerns.

Objective 2.2: Legal Team Education

In order to increase the number of kinship caregivers who become licensed caregivers, all legal parties and child advocates need to understand the benefits families receive. As the advocates and legal team understand the benefits they will also be able to encourage families to become verified caregivers.

- CPS will meet with local advocates, attorneys, and Judges to explain the process and benefits of becoming licensed caregivers.

Goal 3: Increase prepared families who are willing to accept emergency placements for teen youth who have significant arrest or behavioral history

Youth we struggle to place tend to be teenagers who have significant behavioral history which includes arrest history, untreated mental health concerns, substance abuse history, and significant traumatic experiences.

Foster Care Needs Assessment identifies a forecasted capacity need for shelter placements that will need to be built in FY 2019.

Catchment	FY19 Foster Home/ GRO Basic Forecast	FY17 Foster Home/ GRO Basic Supply	Foster Home/ GRO Basic Capacity Need	FY19 RTC/ GRO Basic Forecast	FY17 RTC/ GRO Basic Supply	RTC/ GRO Basic Capacity Need	FY19 Shelter Forecast	FY17 Shelter Supply	Shelter Capacity Need
7A	1106	1379	-20%	228	163	40%	252	415	-39%
7B	755	785	-4%	197	192	3%	284	200	42%

Objective 3.1: Targeted Recruitment

We will focus on recruitment of individuals who have history working with our youth in different capacities.

- Recruitment will be a team effort by the local adoption collaborative and all agency partners.
- Present information sessions to professional groups with history working in juvenile detention, hospitals, schools, and from the law enforcement community. Information sessions will be provided by multiple agency representatives.
- Utilize FosterCommunity.org to assist with streamlining information to match families with the best agency to work through.

Objective 3.2: Specialized Caregiver Training

In order to ensure families are prepared to meet the needs of our youth it is imperative they have the training and knowledge on how to respond and care for youth with significant traumatic history and triggered responses.

- Each family who goes through the licensing process will be able to serve treatment level youth and be trained in Emergency Behavior Intervention as supported by their Child Placing Agency.
- Each family who becomes licensed will receive Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) or another Trauma Informed Caregiver training.
- Each agency participating in this specialized recruitment effort will also build an internal agency support system for Crisis Intervention

Objective 3.3: Intensified Household Support

In order to ensure families are prepared to meet the needs of our youth it is imperative they have community and agency.

- Each agency participating in this specialized recruitment effort will build an internal support system for Crisis Intervention to help support families.
- Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA) will be engaged at the immediate time of placement and respond to the home for support and to assess the needs of the youth.