



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

DFPS Rider 29 Report on Community-Based Care Implementation Status

October 2019

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Introduction

As required by the General Appropriations Act, 86th Texas Legislature, DFPS Rider 29, DFPS shall provide status reports on the implementation of Community-Based Care into Regions 1 and 8B and into Stage II in Regions 3B, 2, and 8A. Status reports shall be provided on October 1 and April 1 of each year to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor.

Background

Community-Based Care (CBC) changes the way DFPS procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under CBC, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated geographic catchment area. In Stage I, this Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) is responsible for ensuring the full continuum of paid foster care placements and other services for children in the state's legal conservatorship. In Stage II, the SSCC expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements, services to parents and the SSCC has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. The model requires competitive procurement of performance-based SSCC contracts with financial incentives and disincentives for permanency outcomes and additional performance measures for child safety and well-being.

Implementation Update

Update for Region 3b

The 3b catchment area is comprised of Tarrant, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell counties in DFPS Region 3W. DFPS executed an SSCC contract with ACH Child and Family Services (ACH) on January 1, 2014. As the SSCC, ACH formed Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) and began placing children on September 1, 2014. DFPS renewed its contract with OCOK to continue services under Stage I (foster care and services for children) and added requirements for community-based care and transition of kinship and legal case management services on September 1, 2018.

As of September 16, 2019, approximately 1,260 children and youth were receiving services through the OCOK continuum of care. Stage II implementation is anticipated in the spring of 2020. Formal announcement of the Stage II six month start-up period is anticipated imminently.

Although the Stage II six month start-up period has not been officially announced, DFPS and OCOK have engaged in preparations including:

- DFPS and OCOK leadership presentations to internal and external stakeholders.
- OCOK human resources presentations to regional CPS staff.

- Discussions between OCOK and CPS staff who are interested in applying for a position at OCOK once case management transitions to the SSCC.
- Development of Communication and Community Engagement plans.
- Drafting of DFPS resource and case management transition plan.
- Development of Case Management Oversight and Technical Assistance job descriptions. Posting these positions for hire is anticipated in late September 2019.

Update for Region 2

DFPS awarded a contract to Texas Family Initiative, LLC to serve as the SSCC for the Region 2 catchment area in May 2018. Texas Family Initiative formed a partnership with New Horizons Ranch and Center Inc., and created 2INgage. On November 30, 2018, children and youth already in foster care began transitioning into the new system. On December 1, 2018, 2INgage began accepting placement referrals for children new to DFPS conservatorship and those requiring a subsequent placement.

As of September 16, 2019, approximately 750 children and youth were receiving services through the 2INgage continuum of care. Implementation of Stage I will be ongoing during fiscal year 2020, with a focus on building the local network of foster care and services. Stage II start-up activities are anticipated to begin in December 2019. DFPS and 2INgage will formally announce the six month start-up period for Stage II. Implementation of Stage II is anticipated in the summer of 2020.

Update for Region 8a

The Region 8a catchment area includes all of Bexar County. DFPS awarded a contract to The Children's Shelter in San Antonio to serve as the SSCC for the Region 8a catchment area in August 2018. The Children's Shelter created Family Tapestry, which began accepting placement referrals for children new to DFPS conservatorship and those requiring a subsequent placement on February 1, 2019. On February 15, 2019, children and youth already in foster care began transitioning into the new system.

As of September 16, 2019, approximately 1670 children and youth were receiving services through the Family Tapestry continuum of care. Implementation of Stage I will be ongoing during fiscal year 2020, with a focus on building the local network of foster care and services. Stage II start-up activities are anticipated to begin in spring 2020. DFPS and Family Tapestry will formally announce the six month start-up period for Stage II. Implementation of Stage II in 8a is anticipated in late summer 2020.

Update for Region 1

DFPS awarded a contract to St. Francis Community Services in Texas, Inc. to serve as the SSCC for the Region 1 catchment area on July 1, 2019. DFPS and St. Francis Community Services are

currently in a six-month start-up period. The Stage I “go-live” date is anticipated in January 2020.

Start-up activities to date include:

- St. Francis held a meet and greet with Child Protective Services staff across the region on July 19th.
- St. Francis attended monthly meetings with residential childcare providers on July 18th and August 15th and transitioned to leading the networking meetings in September.
- Protocol sessions held August 15-16, 22-23, September 9-10 and 20th to develop the joint DFPS-SSCC operations manual.
- Career fairs held September 10th (Amarillo) and September 11th (Lubbock)
- DFPS and St. Francis held multiple stakeholder meetings including presentations to the United Way, CASA, faith communities, and members of the judiciary.

Update for Region 8b

The Region 8b catchment area is made up of all counties in DFPS Region 8 excluding Bexar County. DFPS released a Request for Application for the Region 8b catchment area on May 2, 2019. The procurement closed on August 2, 2019. Evaluation of responses is underway and will be followed by contract negotiations. A contract award is anticipated in the fall of 2019. Stage I implementation is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2020, following a six month start-up period.

Conclusion

DFPS and stakeholder partners continue to work diligently to implement Community-Based Care in the five current catchment areas and to lay the foundation for a successful statewide rollout. DFPS has begun adapting its organization to support both implementation and ongoing oversight as more sites begin to provide services. DFPS is committed to transparency and will continue to meet legislated requirements for sharing implementation plans, implementation updates, and performance data.

