



Quarterly Report

Office of Community-Based Care Transition Implementation Status

March 2023

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Introduction

As required by Texas Family Code, Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, Section 264.172 (f), 87th Texas Legislature, the Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) “shall report to the legislature at least once each calendar quarter regarding the implementation of Community-Based Care in the state.” Status reports shall be provided on September 30th, December 30th, March 31st, and June 30th of each year to the Texas Legislature.

Background

Community-Based Care (CBC) changes the way the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based grant agreement, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community (also known as “catchments” or “community areas”). 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. SSCCs also support adoption recruitment, matching, and home studies. 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. In Stage III, the SSCC continues the provision of all Stage I and II services and is awarded with financial incentives and disincentives for permanency outcomes and additional performance measures for child safety and well-being. For information and data on the performance of SSCC contractors, see the [DFPS Rider 15 Report](#).

Office of Community-Based Care Transition Organizational Structure

The 87th Texas Legislature, as part of Texas Family Code, Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, Section 264.172, formally established the OCBCT in 2021. The OCBCT is a state agency independent of, but administratively attached to, DFPS. OCBCT and DFPS, along with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), work together to implement CBC. The Statewide CBC Director, George Cannata, has three directors who have key roles in moving CBC forward in Texas: Community Outreach and Legislative Relations Director, and two Directors of Implementation and Operations. Based on the current funding methodology, as CBC expands into new areas, OCBCT will receive one Community-Based Care Administrator (CBCA) per new community area, and one Program Specialist VI (PSVI) per four community areas to help assess and develop a plan for implementation. See Appendix A for the current OCBCT organizational structure. Below you will see an update for initiatives, accomplishments, and opportunities in each CBC area throughout the state.



THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY-BASED CARE TRANSITION

Update on Community-Based Care Expansion

As appropriated by the 87th Texas Legislature, OCBCT and DFPS, in partnership with HHSC, completed contract negotiations for Community-Based Care in the following communities: Metroplex East (Region 3E), Piney Woods (Region 4), and Deep East (Region 5). A contract was awarded in Metroplex East to EMPOWER, a division of Texas Family Initiative, LLC, service area includes all counties in Region 3E. In the Piney Woods service area, a contract was awarded, to include all counties in Region 4, to 4Kids4Families, a division of Arrow Child and Family Ministries. In the Deep East community area, a contract was awarded to Family Care Network, a division of Pressley Ridge, to include all counties in Region 5. In March 2023, a Request for Application (RFA) was posted for the Metroplex West community, which includes all ten counties in the former DFPS Region 3W area; this RFA will close on April 20, 2023 and it is anticipated that the SSCC partner in this area will begin serving children and families in September 2023.

As of August 20, 2022, the process for unsolicited proposal submission was formalized and posted to the [HHSC webpage](#). For the purposes of bidding for a CBC contract, data may be requested from DFPS by completing the [external bidder data request form](#). To date, data requests have been received for several communities in the state. Visit the [CBC webpage](#) to see the status of the current and any future submissions of unsolicited proposals in real-time.

Over the 2022-23 biennium, OCBCT and DFPS will re-solicit the SSCC contract for Metroplex West to include all ten counties and anticipates the SSCC partner in this community area will begin serving families and children in September 2023.

Community Outreach

OCBCT has placed a lot of focus and emphasis on community outreach to provide information and awareness of CBC and what it means for the communities across Texas. OCBCT collaborates with community stakeholders and leaders to share information and answer questions regarding the implementation of CBC. OCBCT outreach staff participated in CBC readiness and education discussions in the Permian/Concho, Bexar County, and Central Texas/Waco communities during the last quarter. Additionally, in an effort to network, educate, and share information, the OCBCT has attended and participated in the following meetings/conferences to gather information and hear other innovative ideas and implementation processes:

- The Bexar County Foster Care Community Summit, hosted by The Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS), November 29, 2022
- The Harris County Bench Bar, hosted by the Harris County Coalition of Child Serving



Sectors, December 2, 2022

- The Region 7 CBC Readiness Group, hosted by TACFS, December 12, 2022
- Public Private Partnership Meeting, January 12, 2023

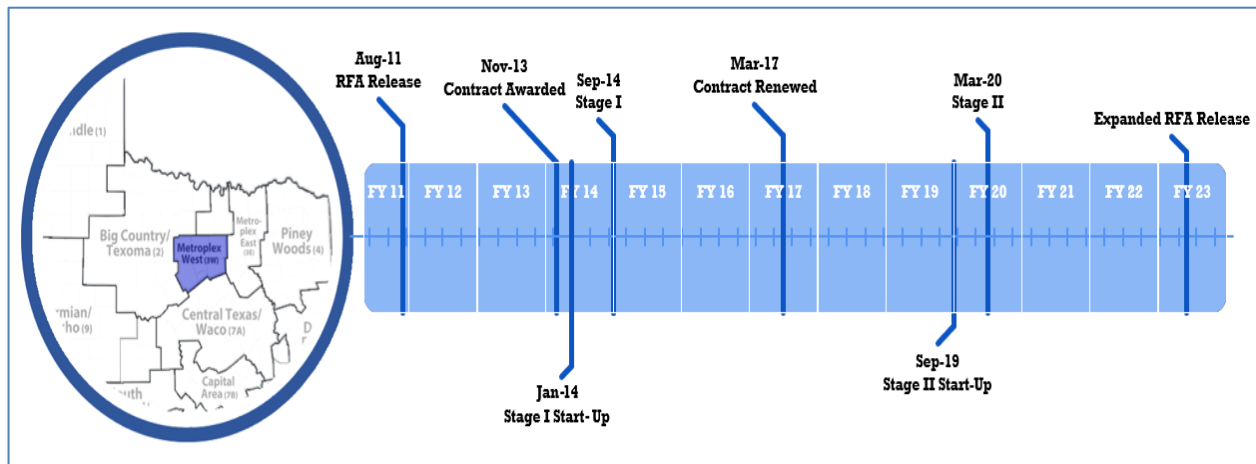
OCBCT continues to provide information and keep DFPS staff informed on CBC and any updates. OCBCT hosted monthly lunch and learn sessions for DFPS staff regarding CBC from September 2022 through December 2022. OCBCT staff are assigned to each area not currently in CBC to provide outreach, educate, and support community providers to be prepared to move to CBC. The OCBCT Outreach Team is committed to educating and supporting community stakeholders as they move through the readiness process of CBC, and has recently shared a [CBC Outreach Request](#) form for stakeholders, community members, staff, or any interested party to be able to request information and presentations on CBC. This form can be found on the external CBC website.

OCBCT has been working diligently to ensure all communities in areas under current procurement are aware of the concept of CBC and what to expect during the implementation process. The Community-Based Care Administrators (CBCAs) have sent newsletters updating external stakeholders including but not limited to judges, attorneys, CASA programs, Community Resource Coordination Groups (CRCGs), Foster Care Consortiums, child welfare boards, child advocacy centers, and Fostering Collective teams. These essential community partners were provided the contact information for the CBCA assigned to their region as well as opportunities for meetings to answer any outstanding questions related to CBC. Many presentations have been given to the community in each region both to these external officials and internal DFPS employees with the most up-to-date information on the procurement process and next steps.



Update for Metroplex West - Our Community Our Kids (OCOK)

The Metroplex West (previously known as Region 3B) area is comprised of Tarrant, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, and Somervell counties in DFPS Metroplex West. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



Holiday Cheer

OCOK directly served 396 youth through the help of their community partners to provide specific holiday wishes for youth. Additionally, the Christmas Wish Project served foster and kinship families in Region 3B with a gift of each youth’s choice. Through this program over 750 youth were served. Many child welfare boards in Region 3B also supported their youth by fulfilling wishes for their county’s youth in care.

Siblings Together

OCOK recently created a strategic plan with a heavy focus on placing siblings together. While there is still great work to do, OCOK saw significant increases in their ability to maintain sibling connections. Through kinship and other placement strategies, OCOK will continue this focused work.

A Heightened Focus on Adoption for Youth in Permanent Managing Conservatorship

The OCOK adoption unit is evolving from a support function to case-carrying permanency specialists. OCOK has seen positive movement with moving youth to permanency, but new strategies are being implemented to ensure they are driving cases for their youth who remain in



Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC). This change will support approximately 50 children who are ready for adoption.

Hiring/Retention of Staff

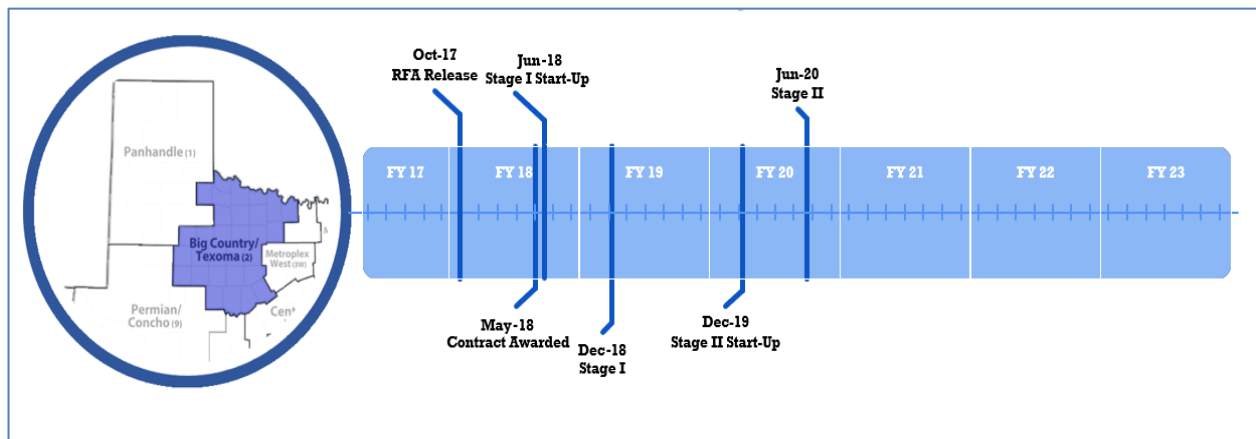
Recruitment and retention efforts have increased to ensure OCOK is hiring and retaining quality staff. OCOK leadership has been responsive to creating greater work/life balance for staff by creating an on-call unit and implementing other strategies to enhance the work experience.

Texas Family First Pilot

OCOK began receiving referrals in November 2022. They have received six referrals; one of the referrals resulted in removal. OCOK currently has five active cases: two in Tarrant, one in Hood, one in Somervell, and one in Johnson.

Update for Big Country & Texoma- 2INgage

The Big Country & Texoma (previously known as Region 2) area is comprised of 30 counties in northwest Texas around Abilene and Wichita Falls. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



Team Merger

2INgage has merged the family finders and kinship teams into a single program, resulting in a strong partnership between the units. The family finder unit promptly launches an intensive search for relatives immediately following any new removals, with team members directly contacting interested relatives for potential placement. Once a relative expresses interest, the kinship program begins the preliminary home assessment process without delay, leading to several children being reunited with family before the adversary hearing.



As a result of these efforts, the kinship program has disbursed almost 18 percent of the allocated Kinship Support Service (KSS) Grant, and around 27 children have been placed with kinship caregivers who have benefited from KSS funds. Kinship caregivers receiving assistance have received various items, such as home repair materials required for licensing, chrome books for Child Placing Agency (CPA) electronic trainings and documents, and other necessary licensing requirement items. During the reporting period, 2INgage successfully completed the licensing process for 18 kinship homes.

Sibling Groups

2INgage has made significant strides in their efforts to reunite sibling groups, demonstrating a strong commitment to family preservation. The organization's Intake and Placement team has worked collaboratively with permanency staff to identify sibling groups and has worked with permanency directors to determine their legal status. As a result, 2INgage has seen an increase in the number of sibling groups that have been successfully reunited. Furthermore, 2INgage has engaged in meaningful conversations with providers to expand their ability to keep sibling groups together. These efforts demonstrate the organization's dedication to providing comprehensive services that support and strengthen families. By prioritizing sibling relationships and working tirelessly to keep families together, 2INgage is making a positive impact in the lives of countless children and families.

Wraparound to Stepdown

The Wraparound to Stepdown Services helps youth transition from residential care to lower levels of care using the evidence-based High-Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) model. The program integrates treatment planning with permanency planning and connects youth and families to community services for ongoing support. It is part of the agency's Targeted Case Management (TCM) services through the Texas Clinical Services Program at 2INgage. The program successfully reduces the length of stay in residential care, stabilizes youth, and helps them safely return home. In the pilot program, 77 percent of youth were discharged to live with parents or kin, highlighting the importance of wraparound services and community support. The program aims to connect families to ongoing support to help them maintain their children at home safely.

Texas Family First Pilot

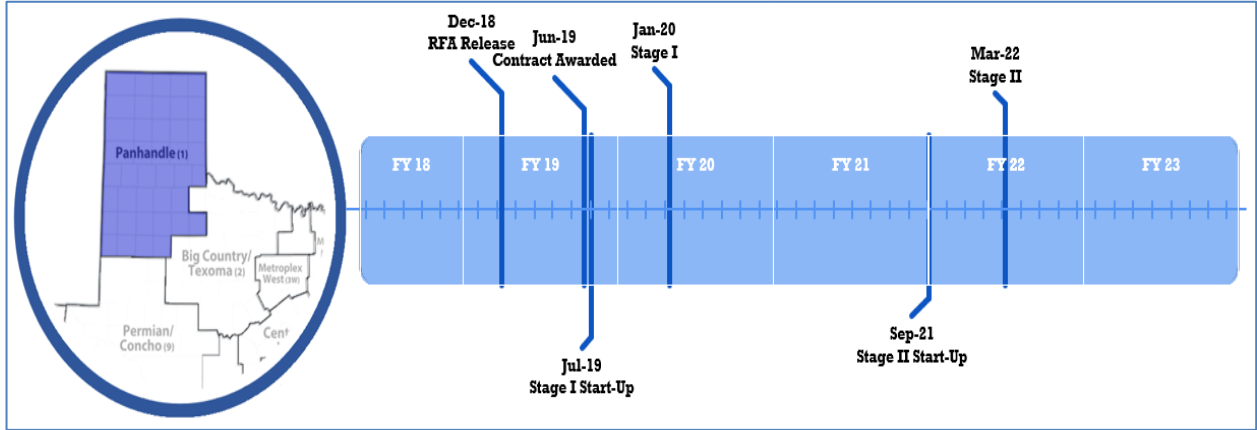
The Texas Family First Pilot is currently serving seven families who are going through different modalities of treatment services. 2INgage's team of dedicated professionals has worked closely with these families to develop personalized care plans that address their unique needs and circumstances. Through their evidence-based approach, 2INgage has been able to support families as they navigate the challenges of substance abuse, mental health disorders, and other issues. Their



team has been able to provide these families with a range of services, including in-home therapy, skill-building exercises, and trauma-focused treatment. As a result of 2INGage’s efforts, they have seen significant improvements in the lives of these families, including improved family functioning, better communication, and increased overall wellbeing.

Update for Panhandle- Saint Francis Community Services, Inc (SFCS)

The Panhandle (previously known as Region 1) area is comprised of 41 counties in the Texas Panhandle around Lubbock and Amarillo. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



Capacity Building

Saint Francis rolled out their new capacity plan for the fiscal year (FY) 2023. Saint Francis identified multiple priorities to grow capacity for FY 2023, including supporting treatment foster care providers by providing grants to support enhancement of program services, by supporting kinship families through continuing funding for kinship licensing support, and developing the provider network and caregiver supports so they can provide stability to children and their families. Saint Francis has already begun disbursing money to their network providers, which include bringing new Treatment Foster Care models to the Panhandle. Additionally, the capacity building effort is working in collaboration with One Voice Home to bring a treatment foster care model for sex trafficking victims.

Community Engagement

Making and nurturing community partnerships and relationships is what Community-Based Care is all about. The Saint Francis Community Engagement team continues to work tirelessly to make connections and nurture relationships.



In November, Saint Francis partnered with First Baptist Church of Borger for a dedication ceremony of their “Haven House,” which now hosts their supervised visitations in Borger. The church is now also providing local foster care informational meetings and trainings that are open to the community. Saint Francis has partnered with the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) of Lubbock, Lubbock Dream Center, Lubbock Impact, Broadway Church of Christ, and First Baptist Church of Lubbock’s Global Mission Center to begin moving all Lubbock supervised visitations out into the community. Saint Francis has joined Networking 4 Kids (N4K), hosted by Therapy 2000 locally, to share the work Saint Francis is doing with other community partners. Also, Saint Francis has integrated into the Kinship Alliance, which is hosted by Catholic Charities, to share the work of the organization within the kinship community.

Through an anonymous donor, Saint Francis gave away 75 full Thanksgiving meals, complete with 12-15 lb. frozen turkey, pie, rolls, and all the trimmings at the Monterey Church of Christ. Additionally, along with the regional child welfare boards, Rainbow Rooms, DFPS, and community partners and donors, Saint Francis was able to provide Christmas presents to around 1,000 children in conservatorship.

Texas Family First Pilot

Saint Francis continues to participate in the Texas Family First Pilot. During the months of November through January, the Saint Francis team continued to train on the Family Centered Treatment (FCT) modality. This included weekly skills labs and new employee workshops. Saint Francis continues to work towards accreditation in the FCT model and meets weekly with DFPS regional leadership, as well as state leadership, to provide weekly progress updates on the project. At the end of January, Texas FCT was working with a total of five families and has capacity in 30 counties in their community area to serve through this modality.

Permanency Supports

Clinical Utilization:

The Clinical Utilization program continues to expand to help children and youth with higher level needs that Saint Francis serves. The Clinical Utilization team is responsible for monitoring and tracking the region’s missing/runaway youth and facilitating monthly meetings to ensure that continued efforts are being made to locate and bring the youth back into care. Clinical Utilization tracks all psychiatric hospitalizations, coordinates with STAR Health to arrange for extended stay days in the hospital if needed, and ensures all temporary absences are documented. An increased focus of the Clinical Utilization team is the Treatment Foster Care program. The team meets regularly with the treatment foster care providers in the region and the Saint Francis placement team to make sure that these dedicated beds are filled with youth appropriate for the program, and aid in the discharge planning or extension of these placements when appropriate. The Clinical



Utilization team is building a training regarding levels of care, psychiatric hospitalizations, and missing youth to support continued education regarding the program.

The Clinical Utilization team also provides support to higher acuity children with a variety of meetings designed to assure their needs are being met. Discharge meetings are held when a child needs a new placement, with the focus of determining the needs to be addressed and services provided at the child's next home. Placement stability meetings are scheduled when a provider or member of the permanency team determines that a child requires additional resources to keep them stable in a placement and avoid discharge. Wraparound meetings are offered to youth who have returned from missing status. These meetings focus on understanding the reasons for the absence from placement and formulating a runaway prevention plan with the youth to help keep them stable and safe in placement. A new initiative was implemented to schedule meetings for youth who have been in a residential treatment center (RTC) for six months or more. At the six-month mark, and at least every three months thereafter, the team discusses the child's progress, the services they receive, their treatment plan, and the permanency goals of the case to determine if a continued stay in an RTC is the most appropriate and least restrictive option for the youth.

For the last quarter, Clinical Utilization has averaged 25 meeting referrals per month. During the month of January there was a significant increase, particularly in the number of wraparound and placement stability meetings requested. This is most likely due to the greater visibility of the Clinical Utilization program.

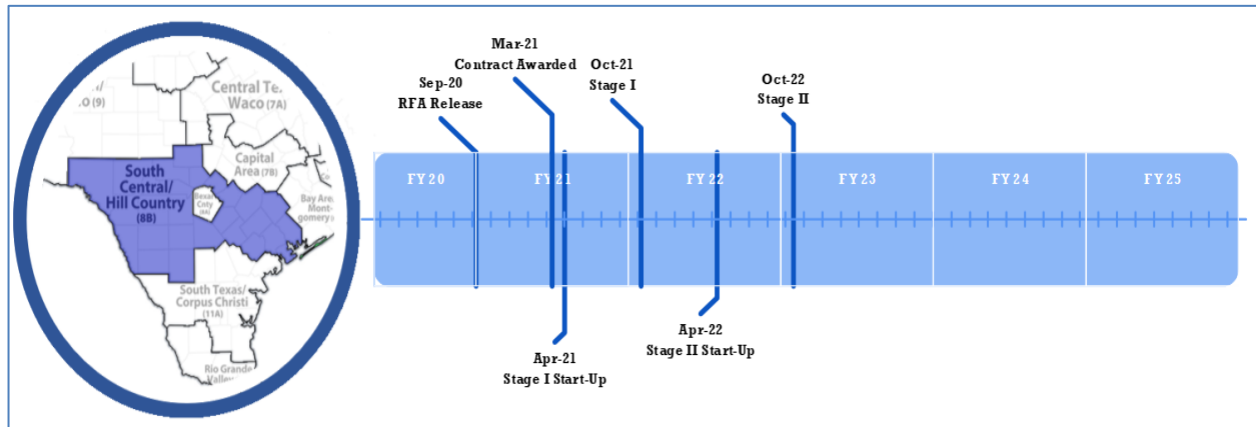
Connection Specialists:

Connection specialists in the North and South have worked in partnership with the Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) program coordinators from the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in both areas. The focus has been to work on building connections for youth who are 15 and older in PMC. During this review period, there were a total of 68 youth, with 97 connections identified.



Update for South Central & Hill Country- SJRC Texas and their Division, Belong

The South Central & Hill Country (previously known as Region 8B) area is comprised of 27 counties, excluding Bexar County. The visual below depicts the timeline of this community’s CBC progress.



Treatment Foster Care

SJRC Texas | Belong is currently in the planning stage of a treatment foster care initiative and is looking internally at financials/budget for this project. The next step will be to release a Request for Application within the South Central & Hill Country Region to providers interested in contracting with Belong for Treatment Foster Care (TFC) services, to also include Kinship TFC.

Wendy’s Wonderful Kids

SJRC Texas | Belong is in the final stage of planning with Wendy’s Wonderful Kids. This initiative will allow SJRC Texas to bring seven recruiters online under Belong that will be responsible for child-focused recruiting. The recruiters will seek permanency for the youth in their community area that fall into categories that make it difficult to find placement. Belong is hopeful that over the coming years, this initiative will help them decrease the time youth spend in care, and therefore increase the likelihood of success after foster care.

Signs of Safety

Every child and family are unique. The challenges permanency workers face are complex, making the job of assessing information, making connections and decisions about care profoundly difficult. Front-line staff need support and skills to approach situations with an open mind, analyze complex relationships within their cultural context, and respond creatively. Signs of Safety will



focus on child safety by assisting the family in creating a safety net utilizing friends and family they can rely on to ensure safety for their child(ren). The goal is for their safety network to remain in place during the time Belong is working with the family and after the children have been reunified. SJRC Texas | Belong has determined that Signs of Safety is the practice model with the rigor, depth, and flexibility necessary to address these very real challenges and will be spending the next 12 to 18 months implementing this model with Belong program staff. It is their plan to eventually roll this out to other SJRC Texas programs.

SSCC Joint Capacity Building Projects

There are several joint projects that have been initiated to help build capacity. The project to create new capacity for higher needs adolescents will provide the clarity and information needed for existing Texas providers to strengthen, expand, and/or develop programs to serve higher needs youth. SJRC Texas | Belong has released a Request for Proposal for new and/or expanded services, with an initial focus on residential treatment, sex-offender treatment, and stabilization and assessment programs.

The specialized consultation and support for providers initiative will develop tools for network providers to create better environments and improved outcomes for children and families. Support services are being offered to providers who may experience challenges with licensing/contract compliance or therapeutic enhancements. The SSCCs have conducted a survey to identify supports and services providers would find helpful. Using information from this survey, service options will be developed. SJRC Texas | Belong piloted this project with Touchstone in September 2022 as their first provider to receive individualized consultation and support from the SSCC. The assessment that was completed provided a wealth of information to the provider that identified areas for growth and improvement, as well as opportunities for SJRC Texas | Belong to improve the assessment process going forward.

The SSCCs are working to expand kinship and reunification services through specific community area plans to enhance these services throughout Texas. Improving kinship and reunification services, while reducing recidivism for children in care, is not only in the best interest of children but will free up existing placements by reducing the need for non-relative foster care. Through this initiative, the SSCCs will support best practices, share learning experiences, promote stakeholder support for kinship work, and measure impact. The first step of this initiative was to procure assessments, technical support and consultation services for each community area through a third-party.

The Recruitment Blitz is a targeted and focused foster parent recruitment model with all SSCCs, Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS), and Daley Solutions working as a collective. Through this project the multiple entities are working together to share resources and



aggressively recruit, license, and retain families in each SSCC community. The project is focused on the recruitment of potential families, referral to SSCC provider networks, and tracking of referral status. Since the foster parent recruitment started in May 2022, Belong has received 143 referrals. Of these 143 referrals, 44 have been referred to CPA's within Belong's 27 counties.

Building Bridges Initiative- Youth Advisory Council

SJRC Texas | Belong was chosen by the Building Bridges Initiative, in partnership with TACFS, to participate in a Quality Improvement Cohort with other providers and SSCCs. The focus for this project was youth voice. As a result of this initiative, Belong has developed the outline for their Youth Advisory Council. Their first in-person planning meeting will take place in March 2023 with representation from community stakeholders, youth with lived experience, and staff from their network providers.

UT Health and Wellness 360

The partnership with UT Health and Wellness 360 allows youth and families within Belong's 27 counties to access quality, reliable healthcare. With the first hub opening at their Touchstone Campus in Bulverde, they have quickly learned what an asset this service could be to their community. A second location has been added at their Family Resource Center in New Braunfels with plans to expand to other locations across their community area.

Family Resource Center - New Braunfels

SJRC Texas | Belong officially opened the doors of their first Family Resource Center in Comal County. Utilizing the National Family Support Network Quality Standards, their new resource center serves as a community hub for families to be connected to local resources, services, classes and basic needs assistance. Their facility features a Valero Donation Station, a Recharge Zone, a UT Health Community Clinic, a family-child visitation room, and a Resource Lobby. A ribbon cutting and grand opening is scheduled for this April in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Kinship Family Support

Kinship families often want to provide a home for youth in need but do not have the resources necessary to meet the youth's basic needs. Belong provides needed support to kinship families so that they can be successful in meeting the needs of youth placed in their home. In order to provide individualized kinship support, Belong has organized a Kinship Family Support Initiative which calls upon local organizations, businesses and churches to be part of the solution. Community sponsors will be matched with a kinship family in need and will make a year-long commitment to supporting the kinship family through concrete services and resources based on the family's needs.



House Bill 3041 - Texas Family First Pilot

Belong, in partnership with DePelchin's Children's Center, went live with the Texas Family First Pilot in November 2022. Since that time, they have received seven referrals within six different counties. Of the seven referrals, they currently have six families actively engaged in services, and one pending a court order. Of the seven referrals, six have been referred to Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) and one has been referred to Parents as Teachers (PAT). Families have been referred to the pilot for issues related to intimate partner violence, substance abuse, and mental health concerns.



Legislation Implementation Updates

Senate Bill 1896

The 87th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1896, which is an omnibus bill that impacts many divisions within DFPS, including OCBCT. This bill created the OCBCT and appointed a Statewide CBC Director.

The OCBCT is charged with 10 duties:

1. assess CBC areas in this state where Community-Based Care services may be implemented,
2. develop a plan for implementing Community-Based Care in each community area in this state, including the order in which Community-Based Care will be implemented in each community area and a timeline for implementation,
3. evaluate Community-Based Care providers,
4. contract, on behalf of DFPS, with Community-Based Care providers to provide services in each community area in this state,
5. measure contract performance of Community-Based Care providers,
6. provide contract oversight of Community-Based Care providers,
7. report outcomes of Community-Based Care providers,
8. identify the employees and other resources to be transferred to the Community-Based Care provider to provide the necessary implementation, case management, operational, and administrative functions and outline the methodology for determining the employees and resources to be transferred,
9. create a risk-sharing funding model that strategically and explicitly balances financial risk between this state and the Community-Based Care provider and mitigates the financial effects of significant unforeseen changes in the Community-Based Care provider's duties or the population of the community it serves, and
10. require the annual review and adjustment of the funding based on updated cost and finance methodologies, including changes in policy, foster care rates, and community service usage.

For charges one through three, OCBCT's outreach efforts help promote and support these charges through interactions with current and potential future CBC providers to plan for CBC in communities across Texas. OCBCT continues to partner with DFPS to plan CBC roll out in the remaining community areas and ensures that innovation in planning the next areas of CBC is supported. Additionally, modification of the CBC timeline for stage I to stage II with a reduction



from 18 months to 12 months was approved and implemented in the South Central and Hill Country community through the readiness process, and will also be utilized in Metroplex East, Piney Woods, and Deep East communities and all subsequent communities. OCBCT continues to look at the timeline for flexibility based on the SSCC and community readiness.

For charges four through seven, OCBCT works closely with DFPS and HHSC to ensure procurement regulations are followed, adherence to state and federal statutes regarding the administration of the foster care program, and compliance with the federal foster care remedial orders. This collaborative approach ensures that the SSCCs are set up for success. OCBCT collaborates and partners with DFPS and the SSCCs to resolve any case work or contractual concerns. The CBC Quarterly Report and the Rider 15 Report help to ensure that outcomes are reported to internal and external stakeholders. Information is also shared in the quarterly public private partnership (PPP) meetings, where the public and private sectors come together to advise DFPS and OCBCT about CBC. In January 2023, the PPP meeting was combined with the Committee on Advancing Residential Practices (CARP) meeting to further tap into the provider knowledge base as CBC moves forward. The OCBCT's outreach efforts support the completion of this function of the office. The OCBCT is committed to transparency and will continue to meet statutory requirements for sharing implementation plans, implementation updates, and performance data and measures.

For the final charges, eight through 10, OCBCT continues to work alongside DFPS and HHSC to evaluate financial implications of CBC. The OCBCT collaborated on the CBC Rate Modernization Project with DFPS, HHSC, and their contractors. OCBCT continues to work with external partners such as Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, the University of Texas, and Chapin Hall to ensure the best methods of supporting the SSCCs and Community-Based Care.

Data Access and Standards Governance Council

Senate Bill 1896 updated the definition and requirements of the existing Data Access and Standards Governance Council (DASGC), which was established by the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019. To conform to Senate Bill 1896, the Council established a quarterly meeting schedule; the last meeting was held on March 23, 2023. Quarterly Council meetings continue in addition to monthly meetings that are scheduled as needed. The OCBCT and SSCCs continue to partner with DFPS ITS, Data and Systems Improvement (DSI), and Management Consulting Group (MCG) to develop a roadmap towards full interoperability that will provide a standardized information infrastructure. Beginning in FY 2023, SSCC Information Technology (IT) and Data leads started participating in monthly DFPS Information and Technology Services (ITS) meetings. These meetings review current projects, discuss obstacles in current system, and go over future schedules. The OCBCT continues to advocate for a long-term solution to interoperability and still has the three substantial interoperability projects submitted in FY21, pending funding availability.



CBC Model, Process Evaluation, and Continuous Quality Improvement

The OCBCT continues to evaluate whether the staged approach is the best approach to implement CBC statewide. OCBCT and DFPS contracted with Texas Tech University to conduct a process evaluation of each stage of CBC. The process evaluation is a tool used by the OCBCT and DFPS to assess implementation of CBC in each community area, identifying the key successes and barriers, and course correct as needed. The CBC process evaluation was completed in November 2020 and can be found on the [CBC website](#). On-going process evaluations through Texas Tech University will continue, and work is underway with the DFPS Office of Data and Systems Improvement and the SSCCs, to make a long-term sustainable plan for statewide Community-Based Care. An updated process evaluation is planned to be released by Texas Tech University in FY23.

The OCBCT and DFPS continue to work with the Center for Child Welfare Data, affiliated with Chapin Hall of the University of Chicago, to support the outcome evaluation. Chapin Hall provides independent data analysis of each SSCC's performance on placements within 50 miles and paid foster care days, the basis for the fiscal model, and incentive payments in Stage III. Chapin Hall and the OCBCT, with the input of the SSCCs, will be finalizing Stage III in the next year. OCBCT, in tandem with DFPS, is working to refine the baseline and thresholds for performance, to ensure that the criteria for financial incentives and remedies for Stage III are sound and accurate.

Conclusion

OCBCT, DFPS, and stakeholder partners are committed to successfully implementing and sustaining CBC in the seven current communities: Panhandle, Big Country & Texoma, Metroplex West, South Central & Hill Country, Metroplex East, Piney Woods, and Deep East. The potential award of unsolicited proposals lays the foundation for an expedited rollout statewide. In this biennium, one SSCC has moved into Stage I with the anticipation of three additional SSCCs moving into Stage I. Two SSCCs have moved into Stage II. This timeline could be accelerated due to unsolicited proposal awards. At a minimum and based on funding, the next biennium would include four SSCCs in Stage I and four SSCCs in Stage II, with the goal of statewide Community-Based Care by 2029. View the latest [CBC Implementation Plan](#) for additional details; it is updated annually and will include new requirements passed during the 88th Texas Legislature.



Appendix A: Organizational Structure for the Office of Community-Based Care Transition



Appendix B: Current Community-Based Care Communities

